



Pushpa 2 stampede: NHRC issues notice

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a showcause notice to Telangana Chief Secretary, asking why it should not recommend a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the next of kin of a woman who died in a stampede during the pre-release screening of Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa 2* at a theatre in Hyderabad on December 4 last year.

The initial report submitted by the Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), Hyderabad City, on March 20, stated that permission for the event was rejected and that allegations of lathi charge were false.

However, the NHRC, after reviewing the matter, questioned why the police allowed the crowd, Allu Arjun and the theatre management to gather for an event in the absence of permission.



NHRC supported a day-long National Conference on 'Ageing in India'

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, in partnership with NITI Aayog, Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Health & Family Welfare, supported the Sankala Foundation in organising a day-long National Conference on 'Ageing in India: Emerging realities, evolving responses', which was held in New Delhi on August 1, 2025.



THEATRE STAMPEDE

NHRC issues show cause notice to Telangana Chief Secy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ HYDERABAD

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued show cause notice to the Telangana Government Chief Secretary as to why it should not recommend a compensation of Rs five lakh to the next of kin of the woman, who died in a stampede during the screening of actor Allu Arjun's film Pushpa-2 last year.

The action came while dealing with a complaint lodged by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni, who alleged that lathi charge by the police and lack of necessary arrangements when Allu Arjun entered the theatre, resulted in death of the woman Revathi and injuries to her children. Following the Commission's direction, the city police submitted

an action taken report on March 3, 2025. During the course of enquiry, it was revealed that permission for the event was rejected and Allu Arjun did not have permission for a road show and that the allegations of lathi charge were false, the report said. The report said arrangements were made for crowd control as professionally done for new movie releases despite the rejection of permission.

The inadequate infrastructure at the theatre, including limited parking, entry and exit points, led to the crowd gathering and subsequent tragedy. The officers who were at bandobust duty on the occasion exhibited exceptional proactive response in managing and controlling the unexpected crowd and also saved the life of the woman's son and shifted him to a hospital,

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Pushpa 2 stampede: NHRC serves notice on TG Chief Secy.

The Hindu Bureau

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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a showcause notice to Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, asking why it should not recommend a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the next of kin of a woman who died in a stampede during the pre-release screening of Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa 2* at a

theatre in Hyderabad on December 4 last year.

Advocate's complaint

The action follows a complaint filed by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni regarding the death of 35-year-old Revathi and critical injuries to her son after an alleged lathi charge by the police and stampede at Sandhya 70mm theatre in Chikkadpally, Hyderabad, when actor Allu Arjun suddenly arrived for the

screening. The initial report submitted by the Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), Hyderabad City, on March 20, stated that permission for the event was rejected and that allegations of lathi charge were false.

It further submitted that during inquiry, it had come to light that the complaint was filed to divert attention from the theatre management's responsibility in this incident.



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However, the NHRC, after reviewing the matter, questioned why the police allowed the crowd, Allu Arjun and the theatre management to gather for an event in the absence of permission.

NHRC notice over stampede death at *Pushpa 2* screening



The Sandhya 70mm theatre at RTC crossroads in Hyderabad where the stampede took place last December. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
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The action follows a complaint filed by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni regarding the death of 35-year-old Revathi and critical injuries to her son after an alleged lathi charge by the police and stampede at Sandhya 70mm theatre in Chikkadpally, Hyderabad, when the film's lead actor Allu Arjun suddenly arrived for the pre-release screening. The initial report submitted by the Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), Hyderabad City, on March 20, stated that permission for the event was rejected and that allegations of lathi charge were false.

However, the NHRC, after reviewing the matter, questioned why the police allowed the crowd, Allu Arjun and the theatre management to gather for

an event in the absence of permission.

The NHRC's proceedings dated May 2 expressed concern that the police did not take legal action against the actor and management at the very first occurrence, prior to the incident itself, for breaking the law and attending unlawful events.

"The Commission fails to understand why the police allowed the crowd/accused actor/management to collect at the place for the event which did not have the permission," the notice read.

On December 5 last year, a case was registered against the theatre management, Allu Arjun and his security staff. Ten people, including the actor, were arrested. The investigation is under way.

The Commission, after considering the report on record, held that "there was a negligence and lapse in maintaining the public order in the part of police authorities in providing adequate assistance and ensure the safety when it was clear that there will be a huge crowd gathering". It also directed the Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), Hyderabad, to ensure fair investigation into the matter and submit a status report in the case within six weeks.

NHRC blames it on cops for Sandhya stampede

Srinath.Vudali@timesofindia.com

TOI

Hyderabad: The NHRC on Wednesday said Hyderabad police were negligent and failed in their duty to maintain public order during the "Pushpa-2" pre-release event at Sandhya Theatre, where a stampede in Dec 2024 claimed a woman's life and left her son severely injured.

The rights body held police responsible for failing to prevent the chaos, despite prior warnings of a large crowd. It issued show-cause notice to the chief secretary of Telangana, asking why it should not recommend a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family of the deceased, Revathi, who was killed in



A file photo of a large crowd during 'Pushpa 2' screening

the incident.

It further directed senior police officers to ensure a fair and impartial investigation into the incident and submit a detailed status report within six weeks.

► **Continued on P2**

Notice to govt over Pushpa-2 stampede

► From P 1

The commission has considered the report on record. However, it has been noted that there was negligence and a clear lapse in maintaining public order on the part of police authorities, who failed to provide adequate assistance or ensure safety when it was evident that a huge crowd would gather," the NHRC said in its official order on Wednesday.

The case reached the NHRC after Rama Rao Immaneni, a high court advocate, filed a petition accusing the Chikkadpally police of negligence that led to the stampede. The NHRC questioned the inexplicable inaction of police, asking why law enforcement failed to prevent the unauthorised gathering. "Why was the actor and his entourage allowed entry despite having no permission? Why wasn't action taken in advance to prevent this unlawful gathering?" the commission asked.

L Ramesh, ACP, Chikkadpally, stated in his July report that police refrained from intervening, as they feared any



'POLICE NEGLIGENCE'

attempt to stop the actor could result in damage to public property and disruption of public order. The NHRC, however, found this argument unconvincing. It observed that public order had already been breached due to lack of timely preventive action and failure to enforce the prohibition order.

After reviewing both reports from Hyderabad police, the NHRC directed its registry to issue a show-cause notice under Section 18 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, asking why compensation should not be awarded to Revathi's kin.

Over seven months have passed and, yet, the Chikkadpally police have not filed a chargesheet in court, raising serious questions about procedural delays and lack of accountability.

NHRC slams police for negligence in Pushpa-2 stampede

Srinath.Vudali@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: The NHRC on Wednesday said Hyderabad Police were negligent and failed in their duty to maintain public order during the “Pushpa-2” pre-release event at Sandhya Theatre, where a stampede in Dec 2024 claimed a woman’s life and left her son severely injured.



The rights body held police responsible for failing to prevent the chaos, despite prior warnings of a large crowd. It issued show-cause notice to the chief secretary of Telangana, asking why it should not recommend a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the family of the deceased, Revathi, who was killed in the incident. “The commission has considered the report on record. However, it has been noted that there was negligence and a clear lapse in maintaining public order on the part of police authorities, who failed to provide adequate assistance or ensure safety when it was evident that a huge crowd would gather,” the NHRC said in its official order on Wednesday.

It further instructed senior Hyderabad Police officers to ensure a fair and impartial investigation into the incident and to submit a detailed status report within six weeks.

The case reached the NHRC after Rama Rao Immaneni, a high court advocate, filed a petition accusing the Chikkadpally police of negligence that led to the stampede. He demanded accountability and action against officers responsible for the failure.

Hyderabad Police blamed **Allu Arjun’s** unsanctioned visit and the accompanying rally for triggering the stampede. Later, senior cops informed the NHRC that permission for Arjun’s appearance at the theatre had been officially denied, in advance, over public safety concerns. More than seven months have passed and, yet, the Chikkadpally police have not filed a chargesheet in court.



SANDHYA STAMPEDE: COPS NEGLIGENT, FINDS NHRC

Hyderabad: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has found that the police were negligent in maintaining public order during a stampede at Sandhya Theatre on December 4, 2024, in which a woman named Revathi died during a screening of Pushpa 2: The Rule. On Wednesday, the NHRC issued a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary, asking why it should not recommend a compensation of ₹5 lakh to Revathi's family. The commission took up the matter following a complaint filed by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni. Since then, the Hyderabad police have submitted two reports to the NHRC. In its initial report, dated March 20, the Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), stated that permission for actor Allu Arjun's roadshow had been denied. However, the report did not explain the grounds on which the permission was refused. A second report, submitted on July 14, clarified that permission had been granted for the pre-release screening of Pushpa 2 at Sandhya 70mm, Sandhya 35mm, Sudarshan 35mm and Devi 70mm theatres at RTC X Roads on December 4, 2024. However, police denied permission for Allu Arjun's visit to Sandhya 70mm, citing concerns over public safety and crowd management. The theatre management was reportedly informed in writing and advised to convey the same to the actor.

The National Human Rights Commission has found that the police were negligent in maintaining public order during a stampede at Hyderabad Sandhya Theatre on December 4, 2024, in which a woman named Revathi died during a screening of Pushpa 2: The Rule

NHRC issues notice to CS over Sandhya stampede

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao over lapses in the report submitted by the Hyderabad police on the Sandhya Theatre stampede case — which resulted in the death of a woman and serious injuries to her son during the screening of Pushpa-2: The Rule.

Referring to the report, the Commission said it failed to understand why the police had allowed the crowd, the accused actor, and the management to gather at the venue for the event, which did not have permission.

The police should have taken legal action against the accused actor and management at the first instance, even before the incident, for violating the law by attending and organising the unlawful

event, the Commission said in a proceeding.

“There must have been some grounds on which permission was denied for organising the event. The police might have foreseen the present accident, particular injuries, or damage, which compelled them to deny permission.

Therefore, it cannot be said that such an accident was unforeseeable. In the absence of permission, the event was unlawful. However, it is not clear whether the police warned the crowd, the management, and the accused actor to refrain from any unlawful activities, or whether the police waited for the occurrence of this unfortunate accident,” it said.

According to the NHRC, the Hyderabad police, in an action-taken report submitted on March 20, 2025, stated that during the course of the investigation, it was revealed that permission for the event

had been rejected and actor Allu Arjun did not have authorisation to hold a road-show. Further, the police said that arrangements were made for crowd control as is professionally done for new movie releases, despite the rejection of permission. They stated that inadequate infrastructure at the theatre — including limited parking, and entry and exit points — contributed to the crowd gathering and the subsequent incident.

In light of these concerns and observations, the Commission issued a show-cause notice to the Chief Secretary, asking why it should not recommend compensation of ₹5 lakh to the family of the deceased, Revathi. The Hyderabad Police Commissioner was directed to ensure a fair investigation into the matter and submit an additional status report within six weeks.



Hindustan Times

Theatre stampede: NHRC issues show cause notice to Telangana Chief Secy

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/theatre-stampede-nhrc-issues-show-cause-notice-to-telangana-chief-secy-101754500684823.html>

PTI | Published on: Aug 06, 2025 10:48 pm IST

Hyderabad, The National Human Rights Commission on Wednesday issued show cause notice to the Telangana government Chief Secretary as to why it should not recommend a compensation of ₹five lakh to the next of kin of the woman, who died in a stampede during the screening of actor Allu Arjun's film Pushpa-2 last year.

Theatre stampede: NHRC issues show cause notice to Telangana Chief Secy

The action came while dealing with a complaint lodged by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni, who alleged that lathi charge by the police and lack of necessary arrangements when Allu Arjun entered the theatre, resulted in death of the woman Revathi and injuries to her children.

Following the Commission's direction, the city police submitted an action taken report on March 3, 2025.

During the course of enquiry, it was revealed that permission for the event was rejected and Allu Arjun did not have permission for a road show and that the allegations of lathi charge were false, the report said.

The report said arrangements were made for crowd control as professionally done for new movie releases despite the rejection of permission.

The inadequate infrastructure at the theatre, including limited parking, entry and exit points, led to the crowd gathering and subsequent tragedy.

The officers who were at bandobust duty on the occasion exhibited exceptional proactive response in managing and controlling the unexpected crowd and also saved the life of the woman's son and shifted him to a hospital, it said.

However, the Commission observed that it fails to understand why the police allowed the crowd, the accused actor, theatre management to gather at the place for the event which did not have the permission.

The police should have taken legal action against accused actor, management at the very first occurrence, prior to incident itself, for breaking the law and attending the unlawful events, the Commission said.

Observing that the police might have foreseen the present accident, which compelled them to deny permission, the Commission sought an additional report from the police.

The police reported to the Commission on July 14, 2025 that permission was granted on December 4, 2024 for the pre-release screening of Pushpa-2 at four theatres at RTC X Roads in the city.

The report said police denied permission for the actor's visit to the cinema theatre citing public safety and crowd control concerns.

The theatre management was informed in writing and advised to notify the actor and production team accordingly, the police report said.

Due to the anticipated large crowd in a densely populated area, it was not possible to control or restrict the public movement prior to the crowd gathering, it said.

The report pointed out that despite prior security arrangements by police, an unexpected crowd surge occurred. Officers managed the situation promptly, though legal action at the time was not feasible, it said.

Subsequently, on December 5, 2024, a case was registered against the theatre management, actor Allu Arjun, and his security staff. Ten people, including the actor, were arrested. Arjun secured bail in the case.

The Commission has considered the report and noted that "there was negligence and lapse in maintaining public order on the part of police authorities in providing adequate assistance and ensure the safety when it was clear that there will be a huge crowd gathering".

The Commission issued a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary as to why it should not recommend compensation to the kin of the deceased. It also issued a direction to the city police to ensure fair investigation in the matter.

This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text.

Deccan Chronicle

NHRC Notice to CS Ramakrishna Rao Over Sandhya Stampede

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/southern-states/telangana/nhrc-notice-to-cs-ramakrishna-rao-over-sandhya-stampede-1895973>

DC Correspondent 6 August 2025 11:20 PM

Commission questions Hyderabad police lapses, seeks Rs 5L compensation for victim's family

Hyderabad: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao over lapses in the report submitted by the Hyderabad police on the Sandhya Theatre stampede case — which resulted in the death of a woman and serious injuries to her son during the screening of Pushpa-2: The Rule. Referring to the report, the Commission said it failed to understand why the police had allowed the crowd, the accused actor, and the management to gather at the venue for the event, which did not have permission.

The police should have taken legal action against the accused actor and management at the first instance, even before the incident, for violating the law by attending and organising the unlawful event, the Commission said in a proceeding. "There must have been some grounds on which permission was denied for organising the event. The police might have foreseen the present accident, particular injuries, or damage, which compelled them to deny permission. Therefore, it cannot be said that such an accident was unforeseeable. In the absence of permission, the event was unlawful. However, it is not clear whether the police warned the crowd, the management, and the accused actor to refrain from any unlawful activities, or whether the police waited for the occurrence of this unfortunate accident," it said.

According to the NHRC, the Hyderabad police, in an action-taken report submitted on March 20, 2025, stated that during the course of the investigation, it was revealed that permission for the event had been rejected and actor Allu Arjun did not have authorisation to hold a roadshow. Further, the police said that arrangements were made for crowd control as is professionally done for new movie releases, despite the rejection of permission. They stated that inadequate infrastructure at the theatre — including limited parking, and entry and exit points — contributed to the crowd gathering and the subsequent incident. In light of these concerns and observations, the Commission issued a show-cause notice to the Chief Secretary, asking why it should not recommend compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family of the deceased, Revathi. The Hyderabad Police Commissioner was directed to ensure a fair investigation into the matter and submit an additional status report within six weeks.

(Source : Deccan Chronicle)

Times of India

NHRC lays the blame on police for Pushpa-2 stampede

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/nhrc-lays-the-blame-on-police-for-pushpa-2-stampede/articleshow/123149715.cms>

Aug 7, 2025, 03.47 AM IST

Hyderabad: The NHRC on Wednesday said Hyderabad police were negligent and failed in their duty to maintain public order during the "Pushpa-2" pre-release event at Sandhya Theatre, where a stampede in Dec 2024 claimed a woman's life and left her son severely injured.

The rights body held police responsible for failing to prevent the chaos, despite prior warnings of a large crowd. It issued show-cause notice to the chief secretary of Telangana, asking why it should not recommend a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family of the deceased, Revathi, who was killed in the incident.

"The commission has considered the report on record. However, it has been noted that there was negligence and a clear lapse in maintaining public order on the part of police authorities, who failed to provide adequate assistance or ensure safety when it was evident that a huge crowd would gather," the NHRC said in its official order on Wednesday.

It further instructed senior Hyderabad police officers to ensure a fair and impartial investigation into the incident and submit a detailed status report within six weeks.

The case reached the NHRC after Rama Rao Immaneni, a high court advocate, filed a petition accusing the Chikkadpally police of negligence that led to the stampede. He demanded accountability and action against officers responsible for the failure.

The stampede occurred on Dec 4, 2024, when fans gathered at Sandhya 70MM theatre for a premier show of "Pushpa-2", featuring Allu Arjun. In the chaos that followed, Revathi died, and her teenage son, Sri Tej, was critically injured.

Police blamed Allu Arjun's unauthorised visit and the accompanying rally for triggering the stampede. In a second report submitted on July 14, senior police officers informed the NHRC that permission for Arjun's appearance at the theatre had been officially denied, in advance, over public safety concerns.

The actor and the film crew arrived at the venue, nevertheless, leading to a massive surge in the crowd. The NHRC questioned the inexplicable inaction of police, asking why law enforcement failed to prevent the unauthorised gathering. "Why was the actor and his entourage allowed entry despite having no permission? Why wasn't action taken in advance to prevent this unlawful gathering?" the commission asked.

L Ramesh, ACP, Chikkadpally, stated in his July report that police refrained from intervening, as they feared any attempt to stop the actor could result in damage to public

property and disruption of public order. The NHRC, however, found this argument unconvincing. It observed that public order had already been breached due to lack of timely preventive action and failure to enforce the prohibition order.

After reviewing both reports from Hyderabad police, the NHRC directed its registry to issue a show-cause notice under Section 18 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, asking why compensation should not be awarded to Revathi's kin.

Over seven months have passed and, yet, the Chikkadpally police have not filed a chargesheet in court, raising serious questions about procedural delays and lack of accountability.

Hindu

NHRC issues show-cause notice over stampede death at Pushpa 2 screening

Asks why it should not recommend a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the next of kin of woman who died in the December 4 stampede

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/nhrc-issues-show-cause-notice-over-stampede-death-at-pushpa-2-screening/article69902121.ece>

Updated - August 07, 2025 12:04 am IST - HYDERABAD

The Hindu Bureau

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, asking why it should not recommend a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the next of kin of a woman who died in a stampede during the pre-release screening of Pushpa 2 on December 4 last year.

The action follows a complaint filed by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni regarding the death of 35-year-old Revathi and critical injuries to her son after an alleged lathi charge by the police and stampede at Sandhya 70mm theatre in Chikkadpally, Hyderabad, when actor Allu Arjun suddenly arrived for the screening.

The initial report submitted by the Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), Hyderabad City, on March 20, stated that permission for the event was rejected and that allegations of lathi charge were false. It further submitted that during inquiry, it had come to light that the complaint was filed to divert attention from the theatre management's responsibility in this incident. The report claimed that police had made crowd control arrangements as professionally done for movie releases, and that the officers on duty "exhibited exceptional proactive response" in managing and controlling the unexpected crowd and also rescued the deceased woman and shifted her to KIMS Hospital, Secunderabad, for better treatment.

However, the NHRC, after reviewing the matter, questioned why the police allowed the crowd, Allu Arjun and the theatre management to gather for an event in the absence of permission. The NHRC's proceedings dated May 2 expressed concern that the police did not take legal action against the actor and management at the very first occurrence, prior to the incident itself, for breaking the law and attending unlawful events.

"The Commission fails to understand why the police allowed the crowd/ accused actor/ management to collect at the place for the event which did not have the permission," the notice read.

On December 5 last year, a case was registered against the theatre management, Allu Arjun and his security staff. Ten people, including the actor, were arrested. The investigation is under way.

The Commission, after considering the report on record, held that “there was a negligence and lapse in maintaining the public order in the part of police authorities in providing adequate assistance and ensure the safety when it was clear that there will be a huge crowd gathering”.

It also directed the Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), Hyderabad, to ensure fair investigation into the matter and submit a status report in the case within six weeks.

News Drum

Theatre stampede: NHRC issues show cause notice to Telangana Chief Secy

<https://www.newsdrum.in/national/theatre-stampede-nhrc-issues-show-cause-notice-to-telangana-chief-secy-9633757>

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (PTI) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued show cause notice to the Telangana government Chief Secretary as to why it should not recommend a compensation of Rs five lakh to the next of kin of the woman, who died in a stampede during the screening of actor Allu Arjun's film Pushpa-2 last year.

The action came while dealing with a complaint lodged by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni, who alleged that lathi charge by the police and lack of necessary arrangements when Allu Arjun entered the theatre, resulted in death of the woman Revathi and injuries to her children.

Following the Commission's direction, the city police submitted an action taken report on March 3, 2025.

During the course of enquiry, it was revealed that permission for the event was rejected and Allu Arjun did not have permission for a road show and that the allegations of lathi charge were false, the report said.

The report said arrangements were made for crowd control as professionally done for new movie releases despite the rejection of permission.

The inadequate infrastructure at the theatre, including limited parking, entry and exit points, led to the crowd gathering and subsequent tragedy.

The officers who were at bandobust duty on the occasion exhibited exceptional proactive response in managing and controlling the unexpected crowd and also saved the life of the woman's son and shifted him to a hospital, it said.

However, the Commission observed that it fails to understand why the police allowed the crowd, the accused actor, theatre management to gather at the place for the event which did not have the permission.

The police should have taken legal action against accused actor, management at the very first occurrence, prior to incident itself, for breaking the law and attending the unlawful events, the Commission said.

Observing that the police might have foreseen the present accident, which compelled them to deny permission, the Commission sought an additional report from the police.

The police reported to the Commission on July 14, 2025 that permission was granted on December 4, 2024 for the pre-release screening of Pushpa-2 at four theatres at RTC X Roads in the city.

The report said police denied permission for the actor's visit to the cinema theatre citing public safety and crowd control concerns.

The theatre management was informed in writing and advised to notify the actor and production team accordingly, the police report said.

Due to the anticipated large crowd in a densely populated area, it was not possible to control or restrict the public movement prior to the crowd gathering, it said.

The report pointed out that despite prior security arrangements by police, an unexpected crowd surge occurred. Officers managed the situation promptly, though legal action at the time was not feasible, it said.

Subsequently, on December 5, 2024, a case was registered against the theatre management, actor Allu Arjun, and his security staff. Ten people, including the actor, were arrested. Arjun secured bail in the case.

The Commission has considered the report and noted that "there was negligence and lapse in maintaining public order on the part of police authorities in providing adequate assistance and ensure the safety when it was clear that there will be a huge crowd gathering".

The Commission issued a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary as to why it should not recommend compensation to the kin of the deceased. It also issued a direction to the city police to ensure fair investigation in the matter. PTI SJR VVK SJR KH

Devdiscourse

Stampede Tragedy: NHRC Questions Telangana Government Over Pushpa-2 Event

The NHRC issued a show cause notice to the Telangana government following a stampede during the screening of Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa-2', resulting in a woman's death. The Commission questioned inadequate arrangements and police negligence despite denied permissions and prior warnings, and called for fair investigation into the event.

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/entertainment/3532632-why-american-cars-struggle-to-conquer-the-streets-of-japan-and-europe>

Devdiscourse News Desk | Hyderabad | Updated: 06-08-2025 22:49 IST | Created: 06-08-2025 22:49 IST

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary of Telangana, questioning why compensation should not be recommended for the family of a woman who died during a stampede at the screening of actor Allu Arjun's film Pushpa-2.

The complaint, filed by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni, alleged police negligence and lack of crowd control due to inadequate infrastructure and unmanaged gatherings, despite permissions being denied for the event. A police report confirmed the absence of legal approvals for the road show.

Despite officers' swift action during the incident, the NHRC highlighted clear oversights by the police in understanding the potential for chaos. Subsequently, arrests were made, including that of actor Allu Arjun, and the Commission has demanded an enhanced investigation.

(With inputs from agencies.)

Siyasat

Pushpa 2 stampede: NHRC issues showcause notices to Telangana govt

The NHRC expressed its displeasure, stating that the police machinery appeared to be negligent in providing adequate security despite a large crowd gathering.

<https://www.siasat.com/pushpa-2-stampede-nhrc-issues-showcause-notices-to-telangana-govt-3255692/>

Posted by P N Sree Harsha | Published: 7th August 2025 8:27 am IST

Hyderabad: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed dissatisfaction with the report submitted by the police department regarding the stampede at Sandhya Theatre during the premiere of the film "Pushpa-2."

The commission has issued show-cause notices to the Telangana chief secretary and the Hyderabad Police Commissioner.

NHRC unhappy with police

The NHRC expressed its displeasure, stating that the police machinery appeared to be negligent in providing adequate security despite a large crowd gathering.

The commission questioned why it shouldn't order a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family of Revathi, who lost her life in the incident.

The commission has also directed the police commissioner to conduct an impartial investigation into the case and submit a report within six weeks.

The NHRC's strong stance highlights the importance of public safety and accountability from law enforcement agencies during such events.

The Indian Express

Stampede death during Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa 2' screening: NHRC asks Telangana why Rs 5-lakh damages shouldn't be recommended

The National Human Rights Commission flags negligence and lapse on the part of the police in maintaining public order during the promotional screening of Allu Arjun starrer 'Pushpa 2' at a theatre in Hyderabad last year.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/hyderabad/nhrc-telangana-5-lakh-damages-pushpa-2-10173775/>

Written by Rahul V Pisharody | Hyderabad | Updated: August 6, 2025 18:42 IST

3 min read

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a showcause notice to Telangana Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao asking why it should not recommend a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of Revathi, a woman who died in a stampede during the promotional screening of Pushpa 2 on December 4, 2024. The commission held that there was “negligence and lapse in maintaining public order” by the police.

The action follows a complaint filed by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni before the NHRC regarding the death of Revathi and injuries to her two children after an alleged lathicharge and stampede at the Sandhya 70mm theatre, Chikkadpally, Hyderabad, when actor Allu Arjun arrived for a promotional screening of the film starring him.

The initial report submitted to the NHRC by the additional commissioner of police (law & order), Hyderabad City, on March 20, 2025, stated that permission for the event was rejected and that allegations of a lathicharge were false. The report claimed that police, despite the lack of permission, made crowd control arrangements and that the officers on duty “exhibited exceptional proactive response” in managing the crowd and shifting the injured.

However, the NHRC, after reviewing the matter, questioned why the police allowed the crowd, Allu Arjun, and the theatre management to gather for an event that lacked permission. The NHRC's proceedings dated May 2, 2025, expressed concern that the police did not take legal action against the actor and management “at the very first occurrence, prior to the incident itself, for breaking the law and attending the unlawful events”.

‘Theatre informed of permission denial’

In compliance with the NHRC's subsequent direction, the additional commissioner of police submitted an additional report on July 14, 2025. This report confirmed that while permission for pre-release screenings was granted to four theatres, the police had specifically denied permission for the actor's visit to Sandhya 70mm due to public safety

and crowd control concerns. The theatre management was informed in writing of this permission denial. The police report further stated that “despite prior security arrangements by the Chikkadpally PS, an unexpected crowd surge occurred. Officers managed the situation promptly, though legal action at the time was not feasible.” It was also reported that on December 5, 2024, a case under sections 105, 118(1) r/w 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered against the theatre management, Allu Arjun, and his security staff, leading to the arrest of 10 people, including the actor. The charges are related to culpable homicide not amounting to murder and voluntarily causing hurt.

Upon considering this new information, the NHRC noted that “there was negligence and lapse in maintaining the public order on the part of police authorities in providing adequate assistance and ensuring the safety when it was clear that there will be a huge crowd gathering”.

The NHRC also directed the commissioner of police (law & order), Hyderabad, to ensure a fair investigation and submit a status report on the case within six weeks. The matter has been adjourned for six weeks.

The South First

Pushpa 2 stampede: NHRC issues show-cause notice to Telangana chief secretary

The NHRC sought an explanation on why the next of kin of a woman, who died in the stampede, should not be provided a compensation of ₹5 lakh.

<https://thesouthfirst.com/andhrapradesh/andhra-pradesh-cabinet-approves-proposal-to-raise-rs-7500-crore-loan-for-industries-development/>

South First Desk | Published Aug 06, 2025 | 7:54 PM — Updated Aug 06, 2025 | 7:54 PM

Synopsis: The NHRC observed a lapse in the management of public order and in initiating preventive measures. It directed the Commissioner of Police to submit a report in six weeks after conducting a fair probe.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the inefficiency in controlling the crowd that caused to a fatal stampede at a Hyderabad movie hall at the premier of Pushpa 2: The Rule, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a show-cause notice to the Chief Secretary of Telangana, seeking an explanation on why the next of kin of a woman, who died in the incident, should not be provided a compensation of Rs 5 lakh.

According to a complaint submitted to the NHRC, Revathi, a resident of Dilsukhnagar, died, and her two children were seriously injured during a stampede reportedly triggered by a lathi charge carried out by the Chikkadpally Police at the Sandhya theatre at RTC Crossroads on 4 December 2024.

The police resorted to a lathi charge to control a crowd surge caused by the arrival of actor Allu Arjun, the hero of the film, at the theatre.

The complaint alleged that a lack of police control and inadequate crowd management led to the chaos and the woman's death.

Additional complaints were later filed by Sujatha Eslavath, Suresh Babu, Kotha Venkatesh, Rachala Yugander Goud, Thilak Reddy, and B Chandrasekhar.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order) submitted an action taken report on 20 March. The report said the ACP of the Chikkadpally Division had investigated the incident. The inquiry revealed that the event did not have official permission and that actor Allu Arjun was not authorised to hold a roadshow. The allegations of a police lathi charge were therefore deemed false.

'Attention-diverting tactic'

The report further claimed that the complaint appeared to be an attempt to divert attention from the theatre management's responsibility in the incident. Authorities asserted that crowd control measures typical of major film releases were in place, despite the lack of event permission.

The inquiry highlighted the inadequate infrastructure of the theatre, including limited parking and entry/exit points, which contributed to crowd congestion and the ensuing chaos.

The report said the police officers assigned for crowd management acted proactively during the unexpected gathering, and even saved the deceased woman's son, who was transported to KIMS Hospital in Secunderabad for better treatment. The report also accused the complainant of attempting to damage the reputation of the police and misusing law enforcement resources by lodging false allegations.

Upon reviewing the available material, the NHRC noted that while the allegations of a lathi charge were unsupported, and the event did not have legal permission, serious concerns remained.

The NHRC expressed confusion as to why the police allowed a crowd to assemble and permitted the accused actor and management to proceed with an unauthorized event. The NHRC remarked that legal action should have been taken against the actor and the organizers at the first instance of the law being violated, well before the incident occurred.

It further noted that there must have been specific reasons for denying permission for the event, possibly the anticipation of accidents or injuries. Therefore, the NHRC held that the incident was not unforeseeable.

It also questioned whether the police had issued any warnings to the crowd, the management, or the actor about refraining from participating in unlawful activities, or whether authorities simply allowed the tragic sequence of events to unfold.

Given these unresolved concerns, the NHRC directed the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, to submit an additional report within six weeks.

The second report

In the second report submitted to the rights panel on 14 July, the police said permission was granted for previews at four theatres. It added that the actor was advised against visiting the Sandhya theatre. The report also mentioned the arrest of 10 people, including Allu Arjun, in connection with the incident.

The NHRC observed a lapse in the management of public order and in initiating preventive measures. It directed the Commissioner of Police to submit a report in six weeks after conducting a fair probe.

The commission directed its registry to issue a show-cause notice under Section 18 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, to the Chief Secretary regarding granting the compensation of ₹5 lakh to the woman's family.

The case will be reviewed after six weeks.

News Meter

Pushpa 2 stampede: NHRC slams Telangana cops over lapses, demands response on relief to victims

The commission has issued a show cause notice to Telangana Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao and sought an explanation

<https://newsmeter.in/top-stories/not-just-a-telangana-issue-cm-revanth-protests-centres-delay-in-approving-42-bc-quota-bill-753013>

By Sistla Dakshina Murthy | Published on : 6 Aug 2025 3:28 PM

Pushpa 2 stampede: NHRC slams Telangana cops over lapses, demands response on relief to victims

Hyderabad: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) pulled up the Telangana police and administration for lapses that led to the tragic death of a woman and injuries to her children during a crowd surge at a promotional event for the film Pushpa 2 at RTC X Roads on December 4, 2024.

The commission has issued a show cause notice to Telangana Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao and sought an explanation as to why compensation of Rs 5 lakh should not be recommended to the next of kin of the deceased, Revathi.

Fatal stampede during an unauthorised promo visit

The commission took cognisance of a complaint highlighting the death of Revathi and injuries to her two children during a stampede allegedly triggered by a police lathi charge when actor Allu Arjun arrived at the Sandhya 70 mm theatre without official permission.

The complainant alleged that the lack of police control and unlawful crowd management led to the chaos.

Initial denial of allegations by police

The Additional Commissioner of Police (L&O), Hyderabad, submitted a report on March 20, stating that no permission was granted for the actor's visit and denying the allegation of lathi charge.

The police argued that the incident occurred due to mismanagement by the theatre authorities and the unexpected crowd swell in a high-density area.

According to the police, the officers on duty responded proactively and shifted the injured to KIMS Hospital, Secunderabad. The report also mentioned that the complainant may have made false allegations to shift blame away from the theatre management.

Commission questions police inaction despite denied permission

However, the commission expressed dissatisfaction with the explanation, stating it was unclear why the police failed to prevent the crowd and the actor from gathering at a venue that had been denied permission.

It also questioned whether adequate warning was given to the crowd and the event organisers.

The commission pointed out that if permission was denied for public safety reasons, the police should have anticipated the risk and acted proactively before the situation escalated.

Subsequent police action and arrests

In a follow-up report submitted on July 14, the police admitted that while permission was granted for pre-release screenings at four theatres, the actor's visit to Sandhya 70mm was specifically denied. Despite informing the theatre management and the actor's team, a large crowd gathered and the actor arrived at the location.

Following the incident, a case (Cr. No. 376/2024) was registered against the theatre management, Allu Arjun, and his security staff. Ten individuals were arrested, including the actor. The investigation is ongoing to apprehend others and gather further evidence.

Commission observes negligence, demands fair probe

While acknowledging the steps taken post-incident, the commission observed a clear lapse in public order management and insufficient preventive measures. It has now directed the Commissioner of Police to ensure a fair investigation and submit a detailed status report within six weeks.

Additionally, the commission has directed its registry to issue a show cause notice under Section 18 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, to the Chief Secretary of Telangana, regarding the recommendation of Rs 5 lakh compensation to the family of Revathi.

Case adjourned for six weeks

The commission has scheduled the matter for review after six weeks, pending further reports and clarifications from the concerned authorities.

Amar Ujala

Updates: थिएटर भगदड़ में तेलंगाना के मुख्य सचिव को NHRC का नोटिस; बंगाल BJP ने 4 जिलों में अध्यक्ष किए नियुक्त

<https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/news-updates-7th-august-north-east-west-south-india-politics-crime-national-news-in-hindi-2025-08-07?pagelid=2>

न्यूज डेस्क, अमर उजाला Published by: शिव शुक्ला Updated Thu, 07 Aug 2025 12:12 AM IST

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने फिल्म पुष्पा-2 की स्क्रीनिंग के दौरान मची भगदड़ मामले में तेलंगाना सरकार के मुख्य सचिव को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया है। एनएचआरसी ने बुधवार को अधिकारी से पूछा कि मृतका के परिजनों को 5 लाख रुपये का मुआवजा देने की सिफारिश क्यों न की जाए। यह कार्रवाई वकील रामा राव इम्माननी द्वारा दर्ज कराई गई शिकायत पर की गई। उसमें आरोप था कि अभिनेता अल्लू अर्जुन के थिएटर में प्रवेश करते समय पुलिस के लाठीचार्ज और जरूरी व्यवस्थाओं की कमी से महिला रेवती की मौत हो गई और उसके बच्चे घायल हो गए।

The Print Hindi

सिनेमाघर भगदड़: एनएचआरसी ने तेलंगाना के मुख्य सचिव को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया

<https://hindi.theprint.in/india/cinema-stampede-nhrc-issues-show-cause-notice-to-telangana-chief-secretary/852316/>

भाषा | 7 August, 2025 01:18 am IST

हैदराबाद, छह अगस्त (भाषा) राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने बुधवार को तेलंगाना सरकार के मुख्य सचिव को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी करके पूछा कि पिछले साल अभिनेता अल्लू अर्जुन की फिल्म पुष्पा-2 की स्क्रीनिंग के दौरान मची भगदड़ में जान गंवाने वाली महिला के परिजन को पांच लाख रुपये का मुआवजा देने की सिफारिश क्यों नहीं की जानी चाहिए।

वकील रामा राव इम्माननी की शिकायत पर यह नोटिस जारी किया गया है। शिकायत में आरोप लगाया गया है कि थिएटर में अल्लू अर्जुन के प्रवेश करने पर पुलिस के लाठीचार्ज और आवश्यक व्यवस्थाओं की कमी के कारण रेवती नामक महिला की मौत हो गई और उसका बच्चा घायल हो गया।

आयोग के निर्देश के बाद, शहर की पुलिस ने तीन मार्च, 2025 को एक कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की थी।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि जांच के दौरान पता चला कि कार्यक्रम की अनुमति खारिज कर दी गई थी और अल्लू अर्जुन के पास रोड शो की अनुमति नहीं थी तथा लाठीचार्ज के आरोप झूठे थे।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार सिनेमाघर में सीमित पार्किंग और प्रवेश व निकास बिंदु समेत अपर्याप्त बुनियादी ढांचे के कारण भीड़ जमा हो गई और इसके परिणामस्वरूप दुर्घटना हुई।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि इस अवसर पर ड्यूटी पर तैनात अधिकारियों ने अप्रत्याशित भीड़ को प्रबंधित व नियंत्रित करने के लिए असाधारण कोशिश की और महिला के बेटे की जान बचाकर उसे अस्पताल पहुंचाया।

हालांकि, आयोग ने कहा कि वह यह समझने में विफल रहा है कि पुलिस ने भीड़, आरोपी अभिनेता, सिनेमाघर प्रबंधन को उस स्थान पर कार्यक्रम के लिए इकट्ठा होने ही क्यों दिया जबकि उसकी अनुमति नहीं थी।

आयोग ने मुख्य सचिव को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी करके पूछा है कि मृतक महिला के परिजन को मुआवजा देने की सिफारिश क्यों नहीं की जानी चाहिए। साथ ही, आयोग ने शहर की पुलिस को मामले की निष्पक्ष जांच सुनिश्चित करने का निर्देश भी दिया।

भाषा जोहेब धीरज

धीरज

यह खबर 'भाषा' न्यूज़ एजेंसी से 'ऑटो-फीड' द्वारा ली गई है। इसके कंटेंट के लिए दिप्रिंट जिम्मेदार नहीं है।

One India

एनएचआरसी ने थिएटर भगदड़ की घटना पर तेलंगाना के मुख्य सचिव को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया

<https://hindi.oneindia.com/news/india/theatre-stampede-nhrc-issues-notice-telangana-chief-secretary-011-1356717.html>

By Oneindia Staff Updated: Thursday, August 7, 2025, 0:21 [IST]

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने तेलंगाना के मुख्य सचिव को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया है, जिसमें सवाल किया गया है कि उन्हें क्यों उस महिला के परिवार को 5 लाख रुपये का मुआवजा देने की सिफारिश नहीं करनी चाहिए जिसकी पिछले साल अभिनेता अल्लू अर्जुन की फिल्म "पुष्पा-2" की स्क्रीनिंग के दौरान भगदड़ में मृत्यु हो गई थी। यह कार्रवाई अधिवक्ता रमा राव इमानेंनी की शिकायत के बाद की गई है, जिसमें पुलिस दुराचार और कार्यक्रम के दौरान अपर्याप्त व्यवस्था का आरोप लगाया गया था।

यह घटना तब हुई जब अल्लू अर्जुन थिएटर में प्रवेश कर रहे थे, जिसके कारण भगदड़ मच गई जिसमें रेवती की मौत हो गई और उनके बच्चों को चोटें आईं। शहर की पुलिस ने 3 मार्च, 2025 को एक कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की, जिसमें खुलासा हुआ कि कार्यक्रम की अनुमति शुरू में अस्वीकार कर दी गई थी। रिपोर्ट में स्पष्ट किया गया कि पुलिस लाठीचार्ज के आरोप झूठे थे और अनुमति के अभाव के बावजूद भीड़ नियंत्रण के लिए व्यवस्था की गई थी।

ढांचागत और भीड़ प्रबंधन संबंधी मुद्दे

रिपोर्ट में थिएटर में अपर्याप्त बुनियादी ढांचे पर प्रकाश डाला गया, जिसमें सीमित पार्किंग और प्रवेश बिंदु शामिल हैं, जो त्रासदी में योगदान देने वाले कारक थे। ड्यूटी पर मौजूद अधिकारियों ने रेवती के बेटे को बचाने में सफलता हासिल की और उसे अस्पताल पहुंचाया। हालांकि, एनएचआरसी ने सवाल किया कि पुलिस ने कार्यक्रम की अनुमति न होने के बावजूद भीड़ को इकट्ठा होने की अनुमति क्यों दी।

कानूनी कार्रवाई और आगे की जांच

आयोग ने कहा कि घटना से पहले अल्लू अर्जुन और थिएटर प्रबंधन के खिलाफ कानूनी कार्रवाई की जानी चाहिए थी। 14 जुलाई, 2025 को, पुलिस ने बताया कि 4 दिसंबर, 2024 को चार थिएटरों में प्री-रिलीज़ स्क्रीनिंग के लिए अनुमति दी गई थी, लेकिन सुरक्षा चिंताओं के कारण अर्जुन की यात्रा के लिए इनकार कर दिया गया था। पूर्व सुरक्षा उपायों के बावजूद, एक अप्रत्याशित भीड़ उमड़ पड़ी।

बाद की प्रगति

5 दिसंबर, 2024 को थिएटर प्रबंधन, अल्लू अर्जुन और उनके सुरक्षा कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ एक मामला दर्ज किया गया था। अर्जुन सहित दस व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया था, लेकिन बाद में जमानत मिल गई। एनएचआरसी ने सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था बनाए रखने और कार्यक्रम के दौरान सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में लापरवाही देखी। इसने शहर की पुलिस को मामले की निष्पक्ष जांच करने का निर्देश दिया है।

Pressnote.in

बालश्रम मुक्त समाज के निर्माण हेतु योजनाबद्ध तरीके से सामूहिक प्रयास करने होंगे- क़ानूनगो

<https://www.pressnote.in/National News 518592.html>

06 Aug 25

छोटे व्यापारी नहीं कई बड़े नेटवर्क जुड़े हैं बाल दुर्व्यापार से, सख्त कानूनी कार्यवाही आवश्यक- क़ानूनगो
राज्य स्तरीय कंसल्टेशन सम्पन्न, “होप रिस्टॉर्ड: बालश्रम एवं मानव दुर्व्यापार की रोकथाम” पुस्तक का विमोचन

उदयपुर, बालश्रम मुक्त समाज के निर्माण हेतु योजनाबद्ध तरीके से सामूहिक एवं सतत् प्रयास करने होंगे, साथ ही रेस्क्यू से ज्यादा रेस्क्यू किए गए बच्चों का पुनर्वास एवं नियोक्ताओं के खिलाफ़ विभिन्न कानूनों के तहत सख्त कार्यवाही आवश्यक है। छोटे व्यापारी नहीं कई बड़े नेटवर्क के तार बाल दुर्व्यापार से जुड़े होंगे यदि तह तक जाँच की जाए इन के खिलाफ़ कानूनी कार्यवाही एवं जाँच होनी चाहिए। राजस्थान में बालश्रम की रोकथाम हेतु डॉ. शैलेन्द्र पंड्या द्वारा किए प्रयास एवं नवाचार पर आधारित पुस्तक होप रिस्टॉर्ड निश्चित ही विभिन्न हितधारकों के लिए मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगी। उक्त विचार गायत्री सेवा संस्थान, उदयपुर द्वारा जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण एवं जनार्दन राय नागर राजस्थान विद्यापीठ के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में शहर के प्रतापनगर स्थित विद्यापीठ ऑडिटोरियम में आयोजित बालश्रम एवं मानव दुर्व्यापार विषय पर राज्य स्तरीय कंसल्टेशन होप रिस्टॉर्ड:2025 एवं पुस्तक विमोचन कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में संबोधित करते हुए राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग, भारत सरकार के सदस्य एवं पूर्व अध्यक्ष, राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग प्रियंक कानूनगो ने व्यक्त किए।

क़ानूनगो ने इस प्रकार के आयोजन एवं सामूहिक संवाद को बाल अधिकारों के संरक्षण की दिशा में एक सशक्त पहल बताया।

विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में जस्टिस विजय कुमार व्यास, पूर्व न्यायाधीश, राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय ने बाल श्रमिकों की कानूनी सुरक्षा और राज्य की जिम्मेदारी पर विस्तार से चर्चा की। उन्होंने कहा कि सिर्फ़ कानून बनाना पर्याप्त नहीं, बल्कि उनके प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन हेतु प्रशासन, न्यायपालिका और समाज का समन्वय आवश्यक है।

इस अवसर पर बाल अधिकार विशेषज्ञ एवं होप रिस्टॉर्ड के लेखक डॉ. शैलेन्द्र पंड्या कहा कि यह पुस्तक न केवल एक दस्तावेज है, बल्कि उन तमाम मासूम आवाज़ों का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है, जिन्होंने बालश्रम की दासता को वर्षों तक सहा है। इस पुस्तक के माध्यम से एक नई आशा और नई चेतना का संचार होगा। यह पुस्तक बालश्रम रेस्क्यू से बेहतर पुनर्वास की पूरी प्रक्रिया एवं कानूनी प्रावधानों को सरलता से बताएगी।

कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता प्रो. कर्नल एस. एस. सारंगदेवोत, कुलपति, राजस्थान विद्यापीठ, उदयपुर ने की। उन्होंने कहा कि शिक्षण संस्थानों की भूमिका बाल अधिकारों के प्रति जनजागरूकता में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है, और इस आयोजन से छात्र-छात्राओं को वास्तविक सामाजिक चुनौतियों को समझने का सशक्त अवसर मिला है।

इस अवसर पर अतिथि वक्ता के रूप में संबोधित करते हुए जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण, उदयपुर के सचिव कुलदीप शर्मा ने दक्षिण राजस्थान और बालश्रम विषय पर चर्चा करते हुए विधिक सेवा से जुड़ी जानकारी से अवगत करवाया।

कार्यक्रम में सेवानिवृत्त भारतीय प्रशासनिक अधिकारी एवं विषय विशेषज्ञ सुमति लाल बोहरा, राजस्थान पुलिस अधिकारी चेतना भाटी, राजस्थान बाल आयोग से ध्रुव कुमार कविया, शिक्षाविद् डॉ. शरद चंद्र पुरोहित, गायत्री सेवा संस्थान के अध्यक्ष डॉ. एन. के पण्ड्या, डॉ. राजकुमारी भार्गव ने भी तकनीकी सत्र में संबोधित किया।

कार्यक्रम में होप रिस्टोर्ड पुस्तक का विमोचन करते हुए पुस्तक हेतु देश के प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा जारी शुभकामना संदेश पढ़ कर सुनाया गया।

कार्यक्रम में देशभर से आए लगभग 200 प्रतिभागियों ने भाग लिया, जिनमें विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण, बाल कल्याण समिति, पुलिस विभाग, शिक्षाविदों, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं, और विधि एवं समाजसेवा के विद्यार्थियों की सक्रिय भागीदारी रही।

सभी वक्ताओं ने अपने विचार रखते हुए बालश्रम एवं मानव तस्करी को समाप्त करने हेतु सशक्त नीति, सतत जनजागरूकता और संस्थागत सहयोग पर बल दिया।

कार्यक्रम का संचालन प्रभावी रूप से आशीता जैन द्वारा किया गया तथा अंत में गायत्री सेवा संस्थान के नितिन पालीवाल द्वारा आभार व्यक्त किया गया।

Tathya

NHRC Lauds Odisha Govt.

<https://tathya.in/nhrc-lauds-odisha-govt/>

By Tathya Correspondent - August 6, 2025

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India has lauded the Odisha Government for its successful organization of a camp sitting and open hearing in Bhubaneswar from July 21st to 22nd, 2025. The event, aimed at ensuring expeditious delivery of justice and raising awareness on human rights, proved to be a significant success, with 144 human rights cases decided during the two-day session.

In a letter addressed to Shri Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Government of Odisha, NHRC Secretary General Shri Bharat Lal expressed the Commission's satisfaction with the outcomes. The letter highlighted that compensation has been recommended for victims or their next of kin in the decided cases.

The camp sitting also facilitated meaningful interactions between NHRC officials, senior officers of the State Government, and human rights defenders. Furthermore, the engagement with media was noted as insightful and a strong means of outreach, contributing to the Commission's broader objective of ensuring that victims of human rights violations do not have to endure prolonged struggles for justice.

The NHRC's initiative to hold such camp sittings and open hearings in various states is a testament to its commitment to reaching out directly to those affected by human rights violations and fostering a greater understanding of individual human rights among various stakeholders.

The Commission specifically complimented ACS Home Shri Sahu and his team for their efforts in successfully organizing the event and for ensuring Action Taken Reports (ATRs) in various cases, which enabled the timely resolution of matters.

Indian Masterminds

Sankala Foundation Releases Landmark Status Report on Ageing in India at National Conference

The report highlights the urgent need to address the multifaceted challenges posed by a rapidly ageing population in India and across the globe.

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/sankala-foundation-releases-landmark-status-report-on-ageing-in-india-at-national-conference-135103/>

Indian Masterminds Bureau | August 6, 2025

The Sankala Foundation, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, and the National Human Rights Commission, released its comprehensive status report titled “Ageing in India: Challenges and Opportunities” at a national conference held in the capital on August 1st, 2025.

The report highlights the urgent need to address the multifaceted challenges posed by a rapidly ageing population in India and across the globe. As part of a global demographic transition marked by longer life expectancies and falling fertility rates, the world is projected to witness a surge in the elderly population, reaching 2.1 billion by 2050, or 21.1% of the global population.

India is emerging as a major focal point in this demographic shift. In 2022, the country had 149 million citizens aged 60 and above. That number is expected to more than double to 347 million by 2050, constituting 20.8% of the total population. Southern states like Kerala, Goa, and Tamil Nadu already report some of the highest old-age dependency ratios in the country.

Despite this growing elderly demographic, India’s senior citizens face deep-rooted challenges, including:

Low literacy levels

High economic dependency

Limited financial security

Increased prevalence of chronic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, and cognitive decline

What the Report Covers

The Sankala Foundation Status Report provides:

A detailed overview of global and Indian ageing trends

Economic, health, and social implications of ageing in the Indian context

A review of existing constitutional, legal, and policy frameworks

Evaluation of current government initiatives, like the Integrated Programme for Older Persons and the National Policy on Older Persons

Expert recommendations for fostering an inclusive, age-friendly society

The report is grounded in data from the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI, Wave 1) and incorporates insights from the National Seminar on 'Ageing in India: Actionable Solutions' held in December 2024. That seminar brought together stakeholders from across the policy, academic, and healthcare domains to identify pressing policy gaps and chart out a roadmap for the future.

A Call for Action

Speaking at the event, Sankala Foundation representatives emphasised the importance of timely, targeted interventions to protect the rights, dignity, and well-being of India's ageing population. "Ageing must not be seen merely as a health issue. It is a social, economic, and rights-based challenge that requires multi-sectoral collaboration and sustained political will," said one of the speakers.

With India's elderly population set to become one of the largest in the world, the report serves as a crucial call to action for governments, civil society, and the private sector alike.

Legal Maestros

Custodial Torture: A Cry for Reform

<https://legalmaestros.com/current-legal-update/custodial-torture-a-cry-for-reform/>

Sia Shah | August 6, 2025 5 min read

A few months ago, the Madras High Court in a painstaking custodial torture case made a statement claiming custodial torture to be worse than death. Custodial Torture has been a grappling issue for this country since its independence, and even before, under the British Raj. It refers to torture, including third-degree assault, negligence, and even death, resulting from extortion of confession from the accused during investigations. In a growing backdrop of making the criminal system more humane, custodial torture remains a stain on democracy and rule of law.

The recent case of the custodial torture of a police constable in Jammu and Kashmir has left the country in shock and agony. The extremities inflicted upon the constable reflect a blatant disregard for human rights and tear the very social fabric of our nation. The Supreme Court called this case “deeply shocking to its conscience” and ordered a CBI probe into the matter along with a compensation to the tune of Rs. 50,00,000.

Factual Matrix

In the present case, Khursheed Ahmed Chohan v. Union of India, the appellant is a police constable who was detained and subjected by the police and brutally tortured for 6 days. His genital organs were amputated and he was given electric shocks, which led to the fracture of his foot. Then, the police filed an FIR against him, accusing him of attempting to commit suicide. The constable’s wife, after seeing the condition of her husband, approached multiple avenues to get relief, such as filing an FIR, approaching the SSP, and even sending a legal notice, but to no avail. Aggrieved, she finally filed a writ petition before the High Court of J&K, seeking to either register an FIR and conduct a police investigation, or direct the matter to the CBI considering the potential police influence on this case.

The High Court directed that a preliminary enquiry be conducted by the SSP and if the enquiry substantiated the claims, an FIR be registered. The HC also refused to quash the FIR against the appellant, claiming it’s too soon since the investigation is in its infancy. Aggrieved by this order, the appellant further filed an SLP before the Supreme Court.

Court’s Ruling

The SC stated that the present case involves grave allegations of custodial torture which the perpetrators tried to cover up as a suicide attempt by the appellant. There has been a complete and systematic denial of justice at every level. Instead, the system orchestrated an attempt to shield perpetrators within it and tried to accuse the appellant of inflicting harm on himself, which in this case has been declared medically impossible. The SC also declared that the High Court committed a grave error in law by failing to

recognize the violation of the appellant's fundamental rights under Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution. Not only this, the High Court also flouted the principles of natural justice by appointing the SSP and DSP in charge of the investigation, when it was the SSP's office which made the call of detention. The High Court also misinterpreted multiple precedents in how to deal with cases where the primary investigative body, i.e., the police, may be exerting undue influence upon the investigation, and what these extraordinary circumstances entail.

Legality of Custodial Torture

A retired Supreme Court Justice, V.R. Krishna Iyer once said that custodial torture is worse than terrorism because it is backed by state authority. Multiple institutions, such as the Supreme Court, the Constitution of India, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), as well as the United Nations prohibits custodial torture, yet it runs rampant within the country. India may have signed the UN Convention Against Torture, but it has not ratified it, and nor has it passed any central law banning or regulating this violence.

Multiple cases, such as the Sunil Batra case, the D.K. Basu case, and Arnesh Kumar case have been decided to significantly reduce the violence faced by prisoners and accused during custody. However, these cases only lay down the procedures and rule of law in theory. The true reality of prisons in India has not seen an equivalent change, and the reason for that lies in the slow process of justice, the continual negligence of prisons and welfare of prisoners, the lowly condition of state and police machinery, the lack of scientific methods of investigation and training of personnel, and a blatant disregard of authority due to an affinity to a superiority complex caused by corruption being embedded within the very fabric of our government administration.

Way Forward

Article 21 is the most basic right that every human being deserves, irrespective of whether the accused is a state terrorist or a petty thief. The solution to this age long problem is not straight-forward. Notwithstanding the requirement of an entire upheaval of our police administration, the first step towards a drastic reduction in custodial torture and death could lie in the formulation of a central law banning or severely regulating custodial torture, along with the ratification of international conventions on custodial torture, which will further increase the pressure upon state officials to abide by the rule of law.

News Click

The Bodies Beneath Swachh Bharat

<https://www.newsclick.in/bodies-beneath-swachh-bharat>

Rahul Verma | 06 Aug 2025

If urban modernity is built on denial of dignity to those who clean it, then what kind of progress is it?

In the Indian imagination, the modern city is often equated with progress. Smart Cities, Swachh Bharat dashboards, LED-lit footpaths, and shiny Metro lines indicate development. Yet, beneath this polished surface lies a persistent and disturbing reality, Indian cities continue to be cleaned by people whose lives are devalued by birth.

Despite laws, schemes, and policy declarations, the work of cleaning sewers and septic tanks is still overwhelmingly carried out by Dalits, often through informal contracts, and often without protective gear. This is not an aberration. It is a structure.

The persistence of caste-based sanitation labour, especially in an era that claims to prioritise modernisation and inclusion, raises urgent questions. Why does this form of labour continue to be hereditary and hazardous? What explains the disconnect between legal abolition and material continuity? And what does this say about the way Indian urbanisation has been designed, financed, and imagined?

Persistence Despite Prohibition

Since the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act came into force in December 2013, the State has repeatedly claimed progress. Yet, data reveals a different picture. Between 2019 and October 2024, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment reported 419 deaths due to sewer and septic tank cleaning. This amounts to over 70 deaths per year.

However, civil society groups, such as the Safai Karamchari Andolan (SKA) and Dalit Adivasi Shakti Adhikar Manch (DASAM) record significantly higher numbers. DASAM alone documented 158 sanitation worker deaths in just 18 months between January 2024 and June 2025.

The discrepancy stems partly from semantics. The State distinguishes between 'manual scavenging' (removal of excreta from dry latrines) and 'hazardous cleaning of sewers', thereby technically avoiding violations of the law even when the work resembles banned practices. As a result, workers cleaning toxic waste with bare hands often do not fall under the category of 'manual scavengers' and hence are excluded from protection and compensation.

Furthermore, reporting mechanisms are inconsistent. For instance, the BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) in Mumbai has claimed zero sanitation worker deaths since 2017. But SKA has recorded 19 such deaths in Mumbai alone. In Delhi,

official records showed no deaths in 2023, while independent documentation listed at least eight. Such denial has real effects: it delays compensation, erases accountability, and sustains the myth of progress.

Infrastructure Without Justice

Urban India's commitment to sanitation is evident in financial terms. Since 2014, the Swachh Bharat Mission has spent over ₹62,000 crore, constructing more than 110 million toilets. Meanwhile, the Smart Cities Mission has promoted tech-driven solutions and citizen scorecards for cleanliness. But what remains missing in these schemes is a clear articulation of who does the cleaning

The NAMASTE scheme (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem), launched in 2022, aims to eliminate hazardous sanitation work through mechanisation. It received a total allocation of ₹360 crore for four years. As of mid-2025, about 91,000 sanitation workers had been profiled under this scheme. Yet only 45,871 received PPE (personal protective equipment) kits, 28,447 received health cards, and just 503 beneficiaries were given financial assistance to purchase sanitation equipment. This means less than 0.6% of identified workers accessed capital subsidy. Meanwhile, sewer deaths continue.

The declaration of over 3,300 cities as "Safai Mitra Surakshit Shehar" has not translated into measurable safety improvements. Many of these cities reported fatalities during the same period. This gap between declared policy and lived experience suggests that mechanisation is not simply a matter of budget but of political will, design compatibility, and infrastructural intent. Mechanised vehicles are sanctioned, but they are often not deployed. Technologies, like Bandicoot robots, exist but are piloted only in a few cities.

The lack of universal access to functional tools is compounded by design flaws in infrastructure. Many sewers are narrow, poorly maintained, or not built with machine access in mind. Some equipment remains unused because there is no operator training or technical maintenance support. This disconnect between capital expenditure and everyday usability undermines the promise of mechanisation.

Caste, Contract, and Informality

Sanitation labour is not only dangerous; it is structured through caste and informality. Most sanitation workers belong to the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. The 2024 data confirms that over 77% identified workers under the NAMASTE scheme came from historically marginalised communities.

Informality compounds vulnerability. Workers are frequently employed via contractors, with no job security or legal recognition. Many receive daily wages, have no insurance, and are unprotected by labour law. If they die on the job, employers often deny any formal relationship.

The role of the contractor is key. It allows municipal authorities to outsource risk. Even where machines are available, contract workers are asked to enter manholes manually. There have been cases of workers misclassified as security staff or temporary sweepers to evade liability. Families of the deceased often face immense hurdles in accessing compensation, which is mandated at ₹30 lakh by the Supreme Court.

This system persists because it is cheap and invisible. Manual labour costs less than mechanisation. Informal workers can be dismissed without legal proceedings. Their deaths do not show up in national databases because they are not formally employed. In effect, caste and contract combine to create a labour regime that is structurally disposable.

The invisibility of sanitation workers is sustained not only by State neglect but also by social apathy. Public discussion often celebrates the aesthetics of urban cleanliness while refusing to see or acknowledge the human cost. The metaphor of the city as a machine requires invisible hands to keep it running. But unlike machinery, these workers bleed and die.

Rural Blindness, Urban Bias

Much of the discourse on manual scavenging assumes it to be an urban problem. But recent reports, including those from **the National Human Rights Commission** and DASAM, highlight sanitation worker deaths in villages and peri-urban areas.

The rapid construction of septic tanks under the Swachh Bharat Mission in rural India has not been matched with faecal sludge management systems. As a result, new forms of hazardous work have emerged, especially in regions with weak municipal institutions. The data suggests that deaths occur in both private and public septic tanks, with rural families hiring sanitation workers informally.

This reveals a serious blind spot in policy thinking. Rural sanitation is treated as a matter of infrastructure, not labour. By contrast, urban sanitation is monitored through scorecards and dashboard metrics. The resulting neglect of rural cleaning labour has created an unregulated and dangerous ecosystem of informal service provision.

There is also a deeper irony. Swachh Bharat's rural sanitation drive may have reduced open defecation, but it has also inadvertently expanded the market for manual cleaning. New toilets without corresponding waste treatment systems shift the burden of cleanliness onto marginalised bodies. The infrastructure is new. The logic of caste remains old.

Rethinking the Problem

The continued death of sanitation workers in sewers and septic tanks is not due to a lack of awareness or laws. It is the outcome of a system that structurally avoids accountability. Technological fixes are often presented as solutions. But machines do not deploy themselves. PPE kits do not guarantee use. And schemes do not dismantle caste.

Real reform requires structural change. That includes:

- n Recognising all hazardous sanitation deaths as violations of law, regardless of classification
- n Holding contractors and municipalities legally accountable
- n Ending the outsourcing of sanitation work to unregistered firms
- n Replacing daily-wage employment with formal municipal jobs
- n Providing full access to compensation, equipment, and health services
- n Ensuring that mechanisation includes technical training, maintenance support, and universal coverage

Equally important is the need to treat sanitation work as skilled, essential labour rather than hereditary punishment. Education and skill training programmes must be designed with the aim of creating alternate livelihoods. Until sanitation work becomes a matter of public responsibility and not private suffering, the cycle of risk and erasure will continue.

But perhaps, most importantly, we must question the vision of the city itself. If urban modernity is built on the denial of dignity to those who clean it, then what kind of progress is it? Until sanitation work is decoupled from caste and made truly safe, legal, and dignified, every Swachh Bharat milestone must be read not as an achievement, but as a warning.

The writer is an independent researcher and sociology educator. The views are personal.

Hindustan Times

High-tension wires threaten 4L students in 8,309 UP gov schools

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/lucknow-news/hightension-wires-threaten-4l-students-in-8-309-up-gov-schools-101754420493718.html>

By Rajeev Mullick, Lucknow

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The issue, flagged in a state-level survey following a major accident in 2019, persists despite earlier directions. On July 15, 2019, 55 students suffered burn injuries when a high-tension wire fell on a government primary school in Utraula tehsil of Balrampur district. The incident led to a statewide identification drive of such vulnerable schools.

Over 4 lakh students studying in 8,309 government-run primary and upper primary schools across Uttar Pradesh continue to face a serious safety threat due to 11,000-volt high-tension electricity wires passing directly over their campuses.

According to official records, Prayagraj district, which houses the state's education directorate, has 289 such schools, while Gonda has 206.

The issue, flagged in a state-level survey following a major accident in 2019, persists despite earlier directions. On July 15, 2019, 55 students suffered burn injuries when a high-tension wire fell on a government primary school in Utraula tehsil of Balrampur district. The incident led to a statewide identification drive of such vulnerable schools.

Six years later, on August 4, 2025, director of basic education Pratap Singh Baghel wrote to the additional chief secretary, energy department-3, urging the removal of these high-tension wires from above school buildings.

"Due to high tension power lines passing above the primary and upper primary schools run by Uttar Pradesh Basic Shiksha Parishad, there is a possibility of accidents as the students are studying there," the official communication stated. Some schools also reportedly have transformers and electric poles installed within their premises, an official said.

An official mentioned that the district basic education officers have identified the affected schools and submitted the list to the power department. In his letter, he urged officials to "take the pain of taking necessary action" to remove the power lines passing above the school buildings.

Director general of school education Kanchan Verma informed that ₹100 crore has been allocated to power corporations for shifting the electrical infrastructure this financial year. "80% of the sanctioned amount has already been released. We are hopeful that the department will work on priority to ensure children's safety," she said.

“Very soon, no school will have this issue,” Baghel said and added that he has been pursuing the matter with the senior staff in the power department.

Teachers in affected schools have repeatedly raised safety concerns, particularly during the rainy season. A teacher from Upper Primary School Bharatpura, development block Kuravali, Mainpuri, said the fear of lightning and electric shock remains constant. “When an accident occurs, compensation is given, but no accountability is fixed. In many cases, only cover-up actions follow,” the teacher added.

In the 2019 Balrampur incident, the National Human Rights Commission had taken suo motu cognisance following media reports, after it was found that a high-tension wire had come in contact with trees on the campus, causing electric shock injuries to dozens of students.

The Mooknayak

Hope Restored: How Rajasthan is Fighting Child Labour & Trafficking Through Collective Action

Dr. Shailendra Pandya, author of Hope Restored, described the book as a voice for countless children trapped in labour, offering hope and a roadmap for better rehabilitation and legal recourse.

<https://en.themooknayak.com/society/hope-restored-how-rajasthan-is-fighting-child-labour-trafficking-through-collective-action>

Geetha Sunil Pillai | Published on: 07 Aug 2025, 12:13 am

Udaipur – A child labour-free society can only be achieved through systematic, collective, and sustained efforts, along with stringent legal action against employers and human trafficking networks. This was emphasized by Priyank Kanoongo, Member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and former Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), during the state-level consultation "Hope Restored: Prevention of Child Labour and Human Trafficking."

The event, organized by Gayatri Seva Sansthan in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority and Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, also witnessed the release of a book titled "Hope Restored" by Dr. Shailendra Pandya, documenting innovative efforts to combat child labour in Rajasthan.

Kanoongo highlighted that child trafficking is not limited to small-scale operators but involves large, well-connected networks requiring thorough investigation and strict legal action. He stressed the importance of rehabilitation over rescue, ensuring rescued children are reintegrated into society with dignity. Justice Vijay Kumar Vyas, former Judge of the Rajasthan High Court, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that effective implementation of laws, along with coordination between the judiciary, administration, and civil society, is crucial to eliminating child labour.

Dr. Shailendra Pandya, author of Hope Restored, described the book as a voice for countless children trapped in labour, offering hope and a roadmap for better rehabilitation and legal recourse. Prof. Colonel S.S. Sarangdevot, Vice-Chancellor of Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, underscored the role of educational institutions in raising awareness, while Kuldeep Sharma, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, discussed legal aid initiatives in southern Rajasthan.

The event saw participation from over 200 stakeholders, including legal authorities, child welfare committees, police officials, academics, activists, and students. Key speakers, including retired IAS officer Sumati Lal Bohra, Rajasthan Police officer Chetna Bhati, and Dhruv Kumar Kaviya from the Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, called for robust policies, continuous awareness campaigns, and institutional collaboration to end child exploitation.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Nitin Paliwal of Gayatri Seva Sansthan, reinforcing the need for united action to create a child labour-free India. Prime Minister Modi's goodwill message for the book was also read, adding momentum to the cause.