



NHRC takes into notice the reported death of three children in Meerut

NHRC, India took suo moto cognisance of a media report that three children, aged 8-9 years, died due to drowning in a six-foot-deep pit left open by a builder during the construction of a building in a newly developed colony in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh on August 3. Reportedly, they fell into the pit when they were on their way back from a shop after buying chocolate. The Commission observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of the human rights.



NHRC notes incident at Nanded City township in Maharashtra

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India took suo moto cognisance of a media report that one worker died and three got injured when debris fell on them while undertaking Pune Municipal Corporation-related drainage work in a trench near Nanded City Township, Maharashtra. Reportedly, the incident happened on July 4. The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of the human rights of the victim.

NHRC BEGINS ONLINE **SHORT-TERM INTERNSHIP** PROGRAMME

OUR CORRESPONDENT

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Rights (UDHR). He also highlighted NHRC's various interventions including initiatives such as mainstreaming the rights concerns of transgender.

Earlier, NHRC Joint Secretary, Smt Saindingpui Chhakchhuak gave an overview of the internship programme. She said that the carefully designed curriculum will have 46 sessions led by serving and retired senior government officers, NHRC officers and core group members, academicians, HRDs, experts and representatives of civil society organisations. Besides, the interns will also be given exposure to various aspects of human rights through group research presentations, book reviews, declamation competitions and virtual tours to Tihar Jail, a police station and ASHA Kiran Shelter Home to have an understanding of their functioning and the human rights-related challenges.

Hans India

NHRC steps in as inquiry deepens in burial allegations

<https://www.thehansindia.com/karnataka/nhrc-steps-in-as-inquiry-deepens-in-burial-allegations-996479>

The Hans India Hans News Service | 13 Aug 2025 10:21 AM IST

HIGHLIGHTS Belthangady: The National Human Rights Commission has dispatched a team to Belthangady to review decades-long cases of unnatural deaths amid rising...

Belthangady: The National Human Rights Commission has dispatched a team to Belthangady to review decades-long cases of unnatural deaths amid rising scrutiny over claims of mass burials connected to Dharmasthala. The ongoing probe into alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala, on Tuesday, got one more dimension following the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) 's dispatch of a delegation to Belthangady taluk to collect records, interview key sources, and assess the investigation's transparency. The four-member NHRC team is meeting with local officials and examining reports from the panchayat, police, and SIT, which is central to the case.

SSP Yuvaraj, leading the team, has already obtained historic files on unnatural deaths from the police station. The team has also recorded the accounts of sanitation workers, whose testimony is considered critical in unravelling the allegations. The visit is scheduled to last four to five days. The inquiry follows explosive allegations made by a former sanitation worker who says he was coerced into burying bodies of women and minors over two decades. The SIT has since exhumed partial skeletal remains and bones from several sites. The NHRC's involvement reinforces the demand for a methodical, rights-based approach to the investigation and lends institutional weight to calls for accountability.

The Hans India

SIT deploys ground-penetrating radar in mass grave probe

<https://www.thehansindia.com/amp/karnataka/sit-deploys-ground-penetrating-radar-in-mass-grave-probe-996482>

The Hans India | Update: 2025-08-13 10:27 IST

Dharmasthala: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) looking into the alleged burial of bodies in Dharmasthala village is set to employ ground-penetrating radar (GPR) technology to examine “Spot Number 13,” a location of interest in the case.

Sources said the operation, scheduled for today, will involve the use of a large-capacity drone integrated with radar scanning equipment. The technology will allow investigators to detect anomalies beneath the surface, with live radar images helping to identify possible buried objects.

SIT chief Pranav Mohanty arrived in Mangaluru this morning and travelled directly to the SIT’s Belthangady office. He is expected to lead the inspection, accompanied by SIT officers, the Assistant Commissioner, the complainant, and the complainant’s lawyer.

Officials have emphasised that the GPR survey will be conducted in full view of the complainant and his legal representative to maintain transparency in the investigation. The exercise is part of a series of technical measures being undertaken by the SIT to verify claims made in the complaint.

“Spot Number 13” has been earmarked as a priority search area, with investigators hoping the radar scan will yield critical evidence. The alleged mass grave case has stirred considerable public attention in the region, with demands for a thorough and impartial probe.

Times of India

Dharmasthala mass burial case: No human remains found at Site no. 13; SIT goes high-tech, deploys drone-mounted radar

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/mass-burial-case-sit-deploys-drone-mounted-radar-at-dsthala-excavation-site/articleshow/123263828.cms>

TNN | Aug 13, 2025, 12.15 PM IST

MANGALURU: Site No. 13, linked to the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case, was at the focus of the special investigating team's (SIT) probe until late Tuesday evening, though no human remains were found. As part of the ongoing probe, the SIT deployed a drone-mounted ground penetrating radar (GPR) to survey the area, after calibrating the device on Monday.

DGP (internal security) Pro-nab Mohanty, who heads the SIT, over-saw the operation and gathered inputs from senior officers, including SP Jitendra Kumar Dayama. SP CA Simon, and Puttur assistant commissioner Stella Verghese were also present. Following the GPR survey, SIT opted for a manual search. The complainant-witness present at the site guided the officials to specific points for excavation. His advocates were also present. Unlike the search operation on other days, SIT chose not to cover the area from public view and deployed two earth movers for digging. At two spots, digging was done up to a depth of 18 feet and the exercise was videographed. Mud samples were also collected from the site for further examination.

Officials from National Human Rights Commission, which has taken suo motu cognizance of the case, also visited the site.

Meanwhile, SIT is cross-verifying records at multiple sources.

Attempt-to-murder case filed

A fresh complaint was filed in connection with the clash reported at Pangala Cross, Dharmasthala, on Aug 6, alleging an attempt to murder a local resident during the same episode in which YouTubers were attacked.

The police said that in connection with the assault on YouTubers at Pangala Cross, a case was already registered at Dharmasthala police station.

On the same day, at the said incident spot, it is alleged that some miscreants assaulted and attempted to murder Jayant T, a resident of Ichilampadi, Kadaba.

Jayant T lodged a complaint at Dharmasthala police station regarding this matter on Monday.

The complaint will be examined, and further legal action will be taken accordingly, police said.

Millennium Post

NHRC begins online short-term internship programme

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/k-reers/ceo-speaks-dont-wait-for-a-career-crisis-build-your-second-skill-today-622909>

BY Team MP13 Aug 2025 11:56 PM

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Odisha Diary

NHRC, India began its two-week Online Short Term Internship Programme

<https://orissadiary.com/nhrc-india-began-its-two-week-online-short-term-internship-programme/>

By:Odisha Diary Bureau | Date: August 13, 2025

The two-week Online Short Term Internship (OSTI) of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has started in New Delhi. 80 university-level students out of 1,957 applicants of diverse academic disciplines from 21 States and Union Territories of the country have been shortlisted to participate in this programme. The two-week programme seeks to impart a deeper understanding of human rights, related laws and the institutional mechanism among the interns. In his inaugural address, NHRC Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi said that protecting human rights is intrinsic to leading a life with dignity, liberty, equality and justice. Therefore, understanding the issues related to human rights is crucial to protect the rights of others. He also mentioned that the contributions of human rights defenders (HRDs) must be valued. He expressed the hope that the interns will make the most out of this internship to learn from the subject experts about various aspects of human rights and make lifelong commitment to the cause of human rights protection.

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She said that beyond building knowledge, the programme also aims to foster sensitivity among the interns and to equip them to contribute more meaningfully to the society as ambassadors of human rights.

NHRC Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar, Director, Lt Col Virender Singh and other senior officers were present.

India Education Diary

NHRC, India began its two-week Online Short Term Internship Programme

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/nhrc-india-began-its-two-week-online-short-term-internship-programme/>

By iednewsdesk | August 13, 2025

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The Communemag

NHRC Orders Probe After Chhattisgarh Principal Beats Nursery Girl, Tapes Mouth For Saying 'Radhe Radhe'

<https://thecommunemag.com/nhrc-orders-probe-after-chhattisgarh-principal-beats-nursery-girl-tapes-mouth-for-saying-radhe-radhe/>

By The Commune - August 13, 2025

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Durg, seeking an inquiry into a case where a government-aided missionary school principal allegedly beat a three-and-a-half-year-old girl and taped her mouth shut for greeting her with the words "Radhe Radhe" instead of "Good Morning."

The incident occurred on 30 July 2025 at Mother Teresa English Medium School in Bagdumar village, Nandini area of Durg district. According to police, principal Ila Evan Colvin entered the nursery classroom during an inspection when the child, described as shy and quiet, greeted her with "Radhe Radhe." Colvin allegedly struck the girl's wrist with a stick and sealed her mouth with tape for about 15 minutes. The tape was reportedly removed by the class teacher.

The girl's father, Praveen Yadav, said his daughter returned home shaken, pressing her finger to her lips, and later recounted the assault. She also showed injury marks on her hand. Yadav approached the village sarpanch, Damini Sahu, before filing a complaint at the Nandini Nagar police station.

Police registered a case under Sections 115(2) and 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act, which covers cruelty to children and outraging religious feelings. Colvin was arrested on Wednesday but released on bail the same day.

Yadav alleged that only mild sections were applied in the FIR and expressed shock that the principal resumed her duties at the school the very next day. Fearing further trauma, he withdrew his daughter from the school.

The incident triggered local outrage, with Bajrang Dal workers visiting the police station to demand strict action.

Following a complaint filed by Swati Goel Sharma, editor of Rashtra Jyoti, NHRC Chairperson Priyank Kanoongo took cognisance of the matter, stating there were prima facie "serious violations of the human rights of the victim and the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009."

The NHRC has directed the DM and SP to:

Conduct a detailed inquiry and submit an Action Taken Report within two weeks.

Facilitate the girl's admission to a school of her parents' choice, including under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act if she falls under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category.

Provide the child with psychological counselling and ensure safe school access.

The girl's family belongs to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. Yadav said he will take time off work to secure a new school for his daughter but fears that her involvement in a police case may impact future admissions.

(With inputs from Rashtrajyoti)

The Hindu

'India's global stature is rooted in its soft power, anchored in Constitutional values'

Central University of Karnataka hosts online international conference on criminal jurisprudence

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/indias-global-stature-is-rooted-in-its-soft-power-anchored-in-constitutional-values/article69925122.ece>

Published - August 13, 2025 07:13 pm IST - KALABURAGI

The Hindu Bureau

"India's global stature is deeply rooted in its soft power, anchored in Constitutional values such as democracy, free elections, human rights and environmental conservation," said Secretary-General of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi, Bharat Lal.

He was delivering the inaugural address at the Online International Conference on From Micronarratives to Metanarratives: Reimagining Criminal Jurisprudence in a Globalised World organised by the Department of Law, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, on Tuesday.

Underscoring the relevance of these values in the contemporary legal landscape, Mr. Lal said that they resonate strongly with international legal frameworks and must guide responses to pressing challenges in the criminal justice system.

"We need to address issues such as jail overcrowding, the growing proportion of undertrial inmates and the urgent need for jurisprudence that bridges the voices of the marginalised with the pillars of Parliament," he added.

On the occasion, Karnataka State Bar Council president S.S. Mittalkod released the Book of Abstracts that compiles the diverse research contribution to the conference.

Central University Vice-Chancellor Battu Satyanarayana emphasised the urgent need to prepare "highly skilled lawyers who will stand as pillars of a progressive society, working alongside teachers to build the India we envision for 2047."

The two-day event featured six technical sessions covering topics from global and comparative perspectives on criminal jurisprudence to digital criminology and interdisciplinary approaches. As many as 40 select research papers were presented by professors, scholars and practitioners from India and abroad.

Two plenary sessions brought together perspectives from eminent panellists from Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India fostering a rich dialogue on inclusive, rights-based and globally responsive justice systems.

The organisers described the event as a significant step towards rethinking and reshaping criminal jurisprudence for the challenges of a globalised world.

Live Law

DBRANLU, Deeksharambh , Law Schools, Induction Ceremony

<https://www.livelaw.in/lawschool/dbranlu-deeksharambh-law-schools-induction-ceremony-300826>

13 August 2025

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University (DBRANLU), Sonipat, marked the second day of its Deeksharambh 2025 induction program with a gathering of legal luminaries, judges, and policymakers. The event, designed to orient the incoming batch of 2025-30, emphasized the power of legal education and the responsibilities of future jurists.

Ceremonial Inauguration

The session began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the national anthem. Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Devinder Singh, and Registrar Dr. Ashutosh Mishra welcomed the students, urging them to: "This is not just an academic shift but a paradigm shift in your career. You are joining a university that stands among the best in the NCR—infrastructure is ready, but your potential is limitless." They also welcomed the other dignitaries from law field, Justice A. G. Masih, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice Rajendra Menon, Chairperson, AFT and former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court; Justice Sudesh Bansal, Judge, Rajasthan High Court, Justice B. R. Sarangi, Member, NHRC and Former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court and Mr. Surendra Tripathi, DG, IIPA

The keynote addresses were delivered by the following panel:

1. Justice Augustine George Masih:.,Judge, Supreme Court of India | Keynote Speaker at Deeksharambh 2025

From Accidental Lawyer to Supreme Court Judge

Justice A.G. Masih's revealed he never planned to study law—initially aspiring for an MBA before circumstances led him to the legal profession. With no family background in law, he faced skepticism but persevered, eventually developing a passion for constitutional law. His rise from a Punjab-based lawyer to Supreme Court judge resonated with students, proving that success in law is earned, not inherited.

Core Philosophies for Aspiring Lawyers

"Patience of a Saint, Hard Work of a Horse": Justice Masih shared his mentor's advice, stressing that legal careers demand resilience. He recounted working past midnight on cases, emphasizing that "overnight success takes years."

Ethics Over Ego: He debunked the myth that aggressive advocacy equals effectiveness. "A lawyer's duty is to assist the court, not win at all costs,"he said, citing instances where truthful arguments prevailed over theatrics.

Language as a Weapon: He warned against casual communication habits, urging students to master precise legal drafting. "A poorly worded petition can bury a strong case," he cautioned.

Landmark Perspectives on Legal Practice

Fact and Law: Justice Masih asserted that 90% of cases turn on facts, not legal technicalities. He advised students to "dig deeper than precedents—understand the human story behind each case."

Judicial Independence: He highlighted the anger of preconceived notions, sharing how young lawyers often bring fresh perspectives that challenge judicial assumptions.

Tech with Caution While acknowledging AI's utility, he warned, "ChatGPT can't replace a lawyer's conscience. Use it as a tool, not a crutch."

Unconventional Career Advice

"Don't Specialize Too Early": He encouraged exploring diverse fields—from arbitration to human rights—before narrowing focus.

Tribunals as Learning Hubs: Justice Masih praised tribunals as "laboratories of practical law," where students witness real-world impacts of legislation.

Teaching as a Noble Alternative: He acknowledged academia, noting that professors "stay young by engaging with fresh minds."

Parting Wisdom

Justice Masih closed with a Gujarati proverb: "Silence wrapped in honor is better than speech laced with regret." His message was success in law requires integrity, adaptability, and the courage to speak only when it matters.

2. Justice Sudesh Bansal, Judge, Rajasthan High Court

Practical Courtroom Wisdom: Justice Bansal, known for his expertise in civil and constitutional law, underscored the importance of courtroom etiquette and mediation skills. He shared anecdotes about how a single well-argued point could sway judgments.

Adaptability: He urged students to "unlearn classroom theories" when entering real-world litigation, noting that landmark cases often hinge on procedural nuances rather than black-letter law.

Writing & Communication: "A lawyer's pen is mightier than their voice," he said, advising students to hone their drafting skills. He criticized over-reliance on AI for legal research, warning that "algorithms lack the nuance of human judgment."

Social Responsibility: Justice Bansal linked legal practice to societal impact, citing his work in prison reforms and access to justice initiatives. He encouraged students to take up pro bono cases early in their careers.

3. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Member, **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** & Former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court

Human Rights as a Core Ethos: Justice Sarangi framed human rights as the "soul of the Constitution," urging students to study NHRC's interventions in custodial deaths, environmental justice, and gender equality.

Interdisciplinary Approach: He highlighted how environmental law intersects with tribal rights, citing the Forest Rights Act and conflicts like the Niyamgiri Hills case. "Lawyers must understand ecology as much as statutes," he remarked.

Judicial Craftsmanship: Sharing his experience, he emphasized "clarity over complexity" in judicial writing. He advised students to intern with tribunals to see "how law transforms lives on the ground."

Tech & Rights: While acknowledging AI's role in legal research, he cautioned against algorithmic bias, especially in criminal justice. "Can a machine decide bail applications fairly? Never," he asserted.

4. Shri Surendra Tripathi, Director General, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), critiqued systemic delays: "22 crore Indians await justice. Speed of delivery is as crucial as the verdict itself." He urged students to bridge the gap between policy and implementation.

5. Justice Rajendra Menon, Chairperson, Armed Forces Tribunal, shared practical insights: "Landmark judgments often hinge on facts, not just law. Internships in tribunals will teach you what classrooms cannot."

AI, Ethics, and the Future of Law

A recurring theme was the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in legal practice. While acknowledging AI's utility, speakers warned against over-reliance. Justice Masih remarked, "ChatGPT can draft a brief, but it cannot argue with conscience." Mr. Tripathi added, "Real intelligence is declining in the age of AI—guard against becoming cognitive slaves."

Advice for Aspiring Lawyers

Justice B. R. Sarangi: Note every lecture. The habit of writing sharpens advocacy.

Justice Sudesh Bansal: Master communication—oral and written. The best lawyers are storytellers.

(Dr.) Devinder Singh: Leadership isn't titles; it's the ability to act when trusted.

Registrar Dr. Ashutosh Mishra proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the organizing team and faculty.

The Indian Express

Senior Maoist leader gunned down in Jharkhand encounter

The recovered weapon and materials have been seized, and further action is being taken in line with the National Human Rights Commission's SOPs, police said, adding that the anti-Maoist operation in the region is still ongoing.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/senior-maoist-leader-gunned-down-in-jharkhand-encounter-10187525/>

Written by Shubham Tigga | Ranchi | August 13, 2025 22:11 IST

2 min read

A joint team of Chaibasa Police and CoBRA 209 battalion gunned down a senior CPI (Maoist) leader during an encounter in the forests of Goilkera in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district Wednesday morning.

Police said the militant has been identified as Arun alias Varun alias Nilesh Madkam, an area commander of the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit, hailing from Konta police station limits in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. An official also confirmed that he carried a bounty of Rs 2 lakh on his head.

According to police, Maoist leaders including Misir Besra, Anmol, Mochu Anal, Aseem Mandal, Ajay Mahato, Sagen Angaria, and Ashwin have been actively moving with their armed squads in the Kolhan-Saranda region, allegedly plotting attacks on security forces and engaging in anti-national activities.

On August 12, intelligence inputs suggested that top Maoist leaders and various squad commanders, identified as Ravi Sardar, Jaikant, Arun, Sandeep, Shiva, Rishibh, Upton, Sanat, Amit Munda, and Bhuneshwar alias Saluka Kayam Somwari had gathered in Kolhan to execute a "major incident" ahead of Independence Day.

Acting on the input, a joint operation was launched by Chaibasa Police and CoBRA 209 battalion. Around 6 am on Wednesday, the forces came under fire in the hilly and forested areas near Dugunia, Posaeta, and Tumbagada under Goilkera police station limits, officials said. The security personnel retaliated, forcing the Maoist squad to retreat into the dense jungle.

During the subsequent search, the body of a male Maoist was recovered along with an SLR rifle, cartridges, and other daily-use items, officials said.

According to the police, Arun had a long criminal history, including involvement in multiple murders, kidnappings, attacks on security forces, extortion, and offences under the Arms Act, and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act across Goilkera, Sonua, and Tonto police station areas.

The recovered weapon and materials have been seized, and further action is being taken in line with the National Human Rights Commission's SOPs, police said, adding that the anti-Maoist operation in the region is still ongoing.

Tribune

Youth-powered Solutions Take Center Stage at BRICS CCI Youth Leadership Dialogue 2.0

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/advertorial-disclaimer/youth-powered-solutions-take-center-stage-at-brics-cci-youth-leadership-dialogue-2-0>

ANI | Updated At : 06:05 PM Aug 13, 2025 IST

NewsVair

New Delhi [India], August 13: Youth-powered solutions took center stage at the BRICS CCI Youth Leadership Dialogue 2.0, hosted by the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) from August 4 to 12, 2025. Organized under the esteemed patronage of Mr. Sameep Shastri, Vice Chairman of BRICS CCI, President of the BRICS CCI Young Leaders Vertical, and grandson of former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the seven-day program called for harnessing the ideas, energy and skills of India's youth to tackle the nation's development priorities. During the summit, engagement with leaders from politics, diplomacy, governance, entrepreneurship and business equipped participants with insights to shape their future global leadership roles.

Aligned with International Youth Day celebrations, BRICS CCI Young Leaders Dialogue 2.0 further built on the success of its inaugural edition and reaffirmed its commitment to empowering young Indians to drive national growth and global leadership. With India poised to have one of the world's largest working-age populations over the next two decades, the Dialogue emphasized the need to actively involve young leaders in shaping policy, governance and societal transformation. The summit brought together a carefully selected group of young participants from across the country, providing them with skills, insights and networks to lead with impact.

Mr. Shastri highlighted the event's transformative purpose, stating, "Empowering young leaders is not just about imparting knowledge, it is about equipping them with the confidence and networks to shape the global narrative." The summit witnessed the participation of the BRICS CCI Core Committee, including Mr. Harvansh Chawla, Chairman; Dr. BBL Madhukar, Co-Chairman & Director General; Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Vice Chairman and Mr. Ruhail Ranjan, Treasurer, BRICS CCI.

Over the course of seven days, participants engaged with a distinguished lineup of speakers and influencers. Among the notable figures were Lt. Gen D.V. Kalra (Retd.), Air Vice Marshal Rajeev Sharma (Retd.), and Rear Admiral A.S. Sethi (Retd.), who shared insights on leadership, discipline, and technological challenges. The diplomatic segment featured Mr. Mikhail Antsiferov, Third Secretary, Russian Embassy; Ms. Leticia Marranghello, Second Secretary, Political Section, Embassy of Brazil; Mr. Peter Mahafha, First Secretary, Political, South African High Commission; Amb. Amarendra Khatua, former High Commissioner of India to Argentina; Mr. Zhang Yefei, First Secretary, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, alongside senior civil servants IPS Parvez

Hayat, IPS Shashank Jaiswal, and IRS Sukhad Chaturvedi. The entrepreneurial and corporate leadership sessions included Mr. Bibin Babu, Co-Founder of Paycio; Mr. Prann Sharma, President of Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Pvt Ltd and BRICS CCI Governing Body Member; Mr. Jitendra Sharma, CEO of Hairoriginals; Mr. Vikas Dua, HR Head India, Weber Shandwick; Mr. Ankit Jhamb, Chief Learning Officer, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP; Mr. Anuj Gautam, Founder of Label-AG among others.

The final day was marked by keynote addresses from Shri Rajesh Nagar, Minister of State for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Deptt. (Independent charge) and Minister of State for Printing & Stationery Deptt. (Independent Charge), Government of Haryana; Dr. Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi, Special Invitee to the National Executive of the BJP and Former Cabinet Minister of Punjab; Dr. Madhukar Gupta, Commissioner, State Election Commission, Rajasthan; Dr. Dnyaneshwar Manohar Mulay, Former Member, **National Human Rights Commission**; Mr. K.J. Alphons, IAS (Retd.), Former Union Minister for Tourism, India, and Former MLA; Air Marshal Ravi Kapoor (Retd.), Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command; Mr. Sushil Sharma, CEO and MD, Marwari Catalyst; Mr. Anku Jain, Managing Director, MediaTek India and Mr. Nishant Sama, Co-Convener, BRICS CCI Young Leaders. Also featured was a keynote session by Mr. He Meng, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the People's Republic of China. The Dialogue further saw active participation from diplomatic representatives of Bolivia, Russia, Indonesia, South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, and Iran, among others.

All participants were awarded globally recognized merit certificates in recognition of their active involvement and commitment to global leadership. By engaging with prominent figures from politics, diplomacy, governance, entrepreneurship, and corporate leadership, participants gained invaluable knowledge and perspectives to shape their future roles in global leadership. The summit successfully cultivated a dynamic and diverse cohort of future leaders prepared to drive positive change in India and across the world.

(ADVERTORIAL DISCLAIMER: The above press release has been provided by NewsVoir. ANI will not be responsible in any way for the content of the same)

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Clarion

Mushawarat Condemns Excessive Police Action Against Peaceful AMU Students

<https://clarionindia.net/mushawarat-condemns-excessive-police-action-against-peaceful-amu-students/>

Team Clarion | Date: August 13, 2025

The university EC's silence on the administration's unwanted use of force is also worrisome, the top Muslim body says

NEW DELHI — The All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat (AIMMM), the confederation of leading Muslim organisations and eminent personalities of the country, has expressed its deep shock and strongest condemnation over the recent incidents at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), where administration used excessive and unjustifiable police force against peacefully agitating students.

The AIMMM also expressed its deep concern over the AMU Executive Council's silence. The organisation said "the university's executive council's silence on the university administration's unwanted use of force is worrisome," it said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Such heavy-handed measures against students exercising their democratic right to protest are unacceptable in any civilised society", said Feroze Ahmad Advocate, President of AIMMM. He asserted that universities are meant to be safe spaces for free thought, debate, and the peaceful expression of grievances — not arenas for intimidation and violence by state authorities. "The reported baton charges, arbitrary detentions, and harassment of AMU students are a direct attack on the dignity, autonomy, and academic freedom of one of the country's most prestigious institutions," he said.

AIMMM firmly believes that differences of opinion or dissent in a university campus must be addressed through dialogue, empathy, and lawful procedures—not through coercion or brutality. Resorting to police crackdowns only deepens mistrust between students and the administration, damages the academic environment, and undermines democratic values, he said.

The Mushawarat called for an immediate and impartial judicial inquiry into the incident and identification of those responsible for the excessive force, and ensure accountability.

It asked the university administration to safeguard the rights and safety of its students and ensure that no reprisal action is taken against them for expressing their views peacefully. It also said the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) must take suo moto cognizance of the matter and monitor the inquiry process.

The Mushawarat statement said it stands in solidarity with the students of AMU in their struggle for justice and their right to dissent. "We reiterate that universities must remain bastions of learning, critical thinking, and respectful engagement — not targets of repression", the statement said.

Times of India

BJP seeks CBI probe into Godda encounter

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/bjp-seeks-cbi-probe-into-godda-encounter/articleshow/123286517.cms>

TNN | Aug 13, 2025, 11.13 PM IST

Ranchi: Dubbing the Godda encounter as 'farce', the BJP on Wednesday demanded a thorough probe by a sitting judge or from CBI. Two days ago, Godda police killed Suryanarayan Hasda (44), alias Surya Hasda, wanted in many criminal cases, in an encounter near Kamarderi Hill under Boarhijor police station of the district.

On Tuesday, a practising lawyer and bar member of Sahibganj civil court approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and raised doubts over police's version. NHRC registered the complaint for further probe.

Notably, Hasda was affiliated with different political parties, including the BJP, and had unsuccessfully contested assembly elections from Borio (Sahibganj) four times since 2009. Reacting to it, leader of opposition and state BJP president Babulal Marandi said, "Whether it's framing a tribal leader as a criminal, proving an innocent guilty, some criminal-minded individuals within the Jharkhand police have taken on these tasks. In this govt, some police officers with criminal tendencies are sheltering and protecting criminals, putting not only the general public but also leaders and their associates from both the ruling and opposition parties at risk every day." Talking to media after the incident, Godda SP Mukesh Kumar said the police resorted to firing in self defence following an ambush by his armed squad.

Social News XYZ

Bihar: 10 minor girls rescued during raid on four orchestra parties

<https://www.socialnews.xyz/2025/08/13/bihar-10-minor-girls-rescued-during-raid-on-four-orchestra-parties/>

Posted By: Gopi August 13, 2025

Patna, Aug 13 (SocialNews.XYZ) In a major crackdown under Operation Naya Savera, Saran police in Bihar rescued 10 minor girls from four orchestra parties in the district on Wednesday.

The rescue took place around 10 am following a coordinated raid led by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kumar Ashish.

The victims include six girls from West Bengal, one from Odisha, one from Jharkhand, and two from Bihar, were rescued during the raid.

Police are working to contact their families for a safe handover.

Seven accused have been arrested for allegedly exploiting the minor girls.

They are identified as Neeraj Yadav (father Lalbabu Rai), Gopal Badi, Masrakh PS, Saran, Talib Khan (father Narhum Alam Mian), Khaira, Khaira PS, Saran, Shubham Kumar (father Shivnarayan Prasad), Gopal Badi, Masrakh PS, Saran, Junab Hussain (father Abdul Hussain), Sahva Nawada, Isuapar PS, Saran, Ankit Kumar (father Kanhaiya Bhagat), Mirzapur, Madhaura PS, Saran, Mohammad Bittu Hashmi (father Mohammad Minsharif Hashmi), Isuapar PS, Saran, and Chandan Kumar Tiwari (father Gautam Tiwari), Sunauli, Masrakh PS, Saran.

The interrogation is currently underway to find some clues about the other accused. The arrested men will be produced in the district court for the legal proceedings.

The raid followed instructions from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), with three squads from the Mahila Thana and one team from Isuapur police station conducting simultaneous raids targeting Rahul Orchestra, Sangeeta Orchestra, Muskaan Orchestra, and Vipin Orchestra operational in Mashrakh and Isuapur blocks of the district.

According to SSP Ashish, the minors were being tortured and forced to dance.

Police have registered an FIR (Number 74/25 in the women's police station and are continuing raids to nab the remaining accused. "The Naya Savera operation was started in August, and it will continue till August 14. We appeal to the public to share information about such activities so we can take swift action," the SSP said.

The district police are also tracking the interstate human trafficking gang operating in the area.

Source: IANS

Ommcom News

Bihar: 10 Minor Girls Rescued During Raid On Four Orchestra Parties

<https://ommcomnews.com/india-news/bihar-10-minor-girls-rescued-during-raid-on-four-orchestra-parties/>

by OMMCOM NEWS | August 13, 2025 in Nation

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(IANS)

Outlook

Ruling After Ruling For Mental Health

The courts, including the Supreme Court of India, have stepped in on multiple occasions, flagging violations of the Mental Health Act.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/mental-health/ruling-after-ruling-for-mental-health>

Outlook Reporters | Updated on: 14 August 2025 7:18 am

Summary of this article

Unlike higher courts, district courts grappling with Mental Health Act.

SC has ruled jailing the mental unwell as unconstitutional.

Aruna Shanbaug SC plea led to guidelines for passive euthanasia.

Mental health in India remains a sensitive issue for the government and courts. Despite repeated Supreme Court interventions over violations of the Mental Health Act, breaches persist. These landmark judgements highlight how institutions and authorities have been held accountable by the judiciary.

“The Supreme Court and High Courts are very proactive, but district courts require more sensitisation for the stakeholders, including the judges, because the Mental Health is a new Act. The judiciary is a major stakeholder in these matters. We must do a lot as per the sensitisation of judges and public prosecutors in the district courts,” said advocate Gaurav Bansal.

Sheela Barse v. Union of India & Ors. (1992, Supreme Court)

In the Sheela Barse case, the Supreme Court took note of mentally ill persons being detained in West Bengal prisons under the archaic Lunacy Act of 1912. Barse, a social activist, alleged that the detainees had been wrongfully confined in inhumane conditions and had not undergone any psychiatric evaluation. The court issued notice and constituted a two-member panel to look into the matter. The panel’s investigation flagged systemic lapses across jails and mental health institutions in the country, including delays in psychiatric assessments for undertrials, instances of patients being kept in chains inside prisons, and in several cases, a complete lack of medical facilities. It also found that some individuals had been incarcerated indefinitely under outdated mental health laws.

The SC said that jailing people in these circumstances was unconstitutional and mandated medical assessments of the prisoners. The top court also directed states to implement the Mental Health Act, 1987 and establish visiting boards for oversight. Most importantly, the apex court held that only mental health institutions—not jails or prisons—should hold mentally ill people.

Rakesh Chandra Narayan v. State of Bihar & Ors. (1988, Supreme Court)

In the 1980s, a PIL was initiated after insanitary and dehumanising conditions at Ranchi Mental Hospital became public. The SC took up the case suo motu and ordered inspections of the hospital along with others. The top court described the facility as a “mediaeval [torture house](#)” and criticised the hospital’s practice of chaining its patients. While calling for mandatory psychiatric evaluations, the SC said it would continue to [supervise the process](#).

Upendra Baxi v. State of UP (1983, Supreme Court)

The case of Upendra Baxi dealt with the difficult circumstances faced by inmates in protective homes and mental institutions, where they faced violence and were arbitrarily detained. The Court recognised that even institutionalised persons have rights under [Article 21](#), ordered systemic reviews and demanded updated infrastructure in such places. The Court emphasised that it was necessary to retain constitutional oversight even after the closure of such PILs. This ruling laid the groundwork for [human rights jurisprudence](#) in mental health care.

Machal Lalung Release Case (Suo Motu notice, 2005 & compensation order)

Machal Lalung spent 54 years in jail and then in a mental asylum without any charge or facing trial. The National Human Rights Commission ([NHRC](#)) and [local NGOs](#) intervened in 2003, and two years later, the Supreme Court ruled that Lalung’s Article 21 rights had been violated. The top court ordered his release and directed the State to pay him Rs 3 lakh as compensation along with a monthly stipend.

The Supreme Court in the case of Mohd. Anwar reaffirmed that it is the accused who must prove insanity when relying on it as a defence. The top court said that a simple medical diagnosis of insanity was not sufficient and that the accused had to prove their mental state was impaired at the time of the offence to such an extent that they could not understand the legality or illegality of their actions.

Mohd. Anwar v. State (NCT of Delhi) (2014, Supreme Court)

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State of Maharashtra v. Sindhi @ Raman (2019, Supreme Court)

Building on the Mohd. Anwar judgement, the Supreme Court said that once an accused establishes prima facie mental illness, the prosecution must meet the ‘beyond reasonable doubt’ standard of criminal law to prove they were of sound mind.

Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India (2011, Supreme Court)

[Aruna Shanbaug](#) was a woman in a persistent vegetative state for over 30 years. Her caretakers filed a plea for euthanasia before the top court. The Supreme Court set strict guidelines for passive euthanasia. While not related to mental illness per se, the ruling opened space for addressing issues such as mental capacity, dignity and bioethical choice and established the framework for evaluating cognitive consent in India.

Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018, Supreme Court)

While decriminalising consensual homosexual relations in reading down Section 377 IPC, the top court relied on the Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA) 2017's definitions to confirm that [homosexuality](#) was not a psychiatric disorder, as the state had argued. The court held that criminalising sexual orientation would violate a person's rights to equality, privacy, dignity and non-discrimination under the Constitution. The bench included in this judgement the rights of people with mental illnesses. The judgement reinforced MHCA's anti-discrimination mandate and upheld equal treatment regardless of [sexual orientation](#).

Common Cause v. Union of India (Euthanasia Reference) (2018, Supreme Court)

While overruling its ruling in [the Aruna Shanbaug](#) case, the top court clarified that the earlier judgement had deferred too much to medico-legal discretion. This judgement allowed people to have living wills (advance medical directives). The top court also recognised, in this judgement, that suicide was a sign of severe stress and prohibited its legal prosecution, thus [decriminalising suicide](#) in India.

In 2025, a PIL was filed before the Supreme Court alleging that a [faith-based care](#) home in Uttar Pradesh was chaining its mentally ill patients. The top court intervened under the MHCA 2017. The bench also added the NHRC as a party to the proceedings so it could oversee the enforcement of its orders and directed the Centre to file affidavits showing the establishment of the Central Mental Health Authority (CMHA), State Mental Health Authority (SMHA) and Mental Health Review Boards. The Court said dignified treatment, including freedom from chaining, of the mentally ill was crucial under Article 21. The judgement reaffirmed the state's responsibility towards the mentally ill.

In its August 21 issue, [Every Day I Pray For Love](#), Outlook collaborated with The Banyan India to take a hard look at the community and care provided to those with mental health disorders in India. From the inmates in mental health facilities across India—Ranchi to Lucknow—to the mental health impact of conflict journalism, to the chronic stress caused by the caste system, our reporters and columnists shed light on and questioned the stigma weighing down the vulnerable communities where mental health disorders are prevalent. This copy appeared in print as 'Safeguarding Rights'.

The Week

People's support must to remove beggars from streets Union minister Virendra Kumar

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2025/08/13/des15-beggars-minister.html>

PTI Updated: August 13, 2025 14:03 IST

New Delhi, Aug 13 (PTI) Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar has said the removal of beggars from India's streets requires strong community participation alongside government schemes, citing successful rehabilitation examples from Varanasi and Indore.

Speaking at the launch of a book, "Last Beggar", by Beggars Corporation founder Dr Chandra Mishra on Tuesday, Kumar said that in Varanasi, people quit begging after they were given business training and were linked with employment-oriented activities.

Some of them are now registered GST payers earning Rs 35,000-40,000 per month, he said. "They are not dependent on society... they are providing jobs to others."

Kumar said that in Indore, residents, NGOs and civic authorities work together to provide education, healthcare and skill training to the rehabilitated beggars.

He said that the ministry's SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme was designed to support beggars and transgender persons through identification, shelter, skill training and self-reliance initiatives.

National Human Rights Commission chairperson Justice (retd) V Ramasubramanian called the gathering "a noble cause" and suggested using alternative terms for "beggar" to protect their dignity.

(This story has not been edited by THE WEEK and is auto-generated from PTI)

Devdiscourse

Empowering Change: Rehabilitation of India's Beggars

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar discussed the community's role in rehabilitating India's beggars. Successful cases from Varanasi and Indore highlight government schemes and local support. The Ministry's SMILE initiative aids beggars and transgender individuals in self-reliance. Dignity in terminology for beggars was also advocated.

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/headlines/3539682-empowering-change-rehabilitation-of-indias-beggars>

[Devdiscourse News Desk](#) | New Delhi | Updated: 13-08-2025 14:01 IST | Created: 13-08-2025 14:01 IST

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar has emphasized the necessity of community involvement in conjunction with government initiatives to rehabilitate beggars in India. Success stories from cities like Varanasi and Indore illuminate the effectiveness of such combined efforts.

In Varanasi, former beggars have transitioned to business-oriented activities, with some now earning significant incomes and even contributing to the economy through GST payments. Meanwhile, in Indore, collaboration among citizens, NGOs, and civic bodies is fostering education, healthcare, and skill development for those previously reliant on begging.

The Ministry's SMILE scheme aims to assist marginalized individuals, including beggars and transgender people, providing necessary resources and training for self-sufficiency. Additionally, the importance of using respectful language to maintain the dignity of these individuals was underscored by National Human Rights Commission chairperson Justice (retd) V Ramasubramanian.

(With inputs from agencies.)

The Federal

Vote theft row: Rahul shows why Opposition Leader's role is vital

<https://thefederal.com/category/opinion/supreme-court-silent-on-rahul-gandhis-revelations-201605>

14 August 2025

Rahul refused to take a fresh oath, arguing that the voter data belongs to the Election Commission and that the burden of proof lies with them, not him. | File photo

The Congress leader's explosive allegations challenge EC's credibility, question SC's silence, and underscore the Leader of Opposition's vital role in safeguarding democratic integrity

In what could prove to be the most momentous public press conference in recent times, Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, last week presented evidence of massive electoral roll manipulation, which he claims played a significant role in the BJP's victory in the Bengaluru Central constituency during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka.

While the Congress won seven of the eight Assembly segments in the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency, it lost in the Mahadevapura segment by over 1,14,000 votes. Citing analysis of hard-copy voter lists provided by the Election Commission, Rahul claimed that 1,00,250 fake votes were added through five fraudulent methods: duplicate voters, voters with fake addresses, bulk or single-address voters, voters with invalid photographs, and non-existent new voters. According to him, this amounted to an "election stolen" through voter list fraud, as part of a coordinated plan to give the BJP an unfair advantage in marginal constituencies across the country.

EC rejects allegations

The Election Commission rejected the allegations as baseless and a repetition of previously debunked claims. It demanded that Rahul either submit a formal, sworn complaint under the proper procedure or apologise to the nation. Subsequently, the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of three states, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Haryana, have also written to Rahul, asking him to submit an official complaint, under oath, in accordance with Rule 20(3)(b) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, to enable an official inquiry into the allegations.

Rahul refused to take a fresh oath, arguing that the voter data belongs to the Election Commission and that the burden of proof lies with them, not him. He also noted that he has already sworn an oath in Parliament to uphold the Constitution. At the same time, experts have pointed out that the EC's demand is not maintainable because Rule 20(3)(b) refers to claims and objections that are raised after the preparation of the draft electoral rolls following a revision, which are to be done within a 30-day period after the draft roll is finalised. The EC's blanket refusal to initiate even a preliminary probe, coupled with its

readiness to shift the burden entirely onto Rahul, has only reinforced long-standing suspicions among many that the poll panel is neither neutral nor transparent.

LoP's statutory standing

In the light of this unfolding drama, two major questions emerge. The first is whether a distinction needs to be drawn between Rahul Gandhi, the citizen and politician, and Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition, and whether the EC can treat the Leader of the Opposition with the kind of disdain that it has.

Who is the Leader of the Opposition, and what is his role in the democratic process and the functioning of the state machinery in India? The Leader of the Opposition, according to the Act of 1977, is the parliamentary chairperson of the largest political party not in government in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, and is officially recognised as such by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, respectively.

In other words, he is a statutory authority with the status of a Cabinet Minister and ranks seventh in the Order of Precedence of the Indian State. The LoP is a member of the selection committees for the Director of the CBI, the Director of Enforcement, the Chairperson and members of the National Human Rights Commission, the Chairperson of the Lokpal, and the audit and expenditure committees of the government.

Most importantly, he serves on the Selection Committee for the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. Whether the LoP will have any real say in these appointments is another matter, especially after a 2023 Bill reconstituted the three-member panel headed by the prime minister, replacing the Chief Justice of India with a Union cabinet minister. Nevertheless, in principle, the EC remains accountable to the LoP by virtue of his role in the committee that appointed them.

Shadow Prime Minister

Significantly, an official Parliament of India booklet published in 2012 notes that the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha is regarded as a “shadow Prime Minister,” heading a “shadow Cabinet” prepared to assume administration if the government resigns or loses a vote on the floor of the House. In accordance with democratic practice the world over, the LoP plays a significant role in the parliamentary system. This includes providing constructive criticism of government policies, decisions, and actions; ensuring accountability and transparency in governance; offering alternative policies and perspectives; maintaining the checks and balances in the parliamentary system; ensuring a robust democratic discourse; influencing the legislative agenda and shaping public opinion through his/her speeches and interventions, etc.

Though the ruling party, with its tenuous adherence to democratic norms, may prefer to portray all criticism of itself and its policies as anti-national or “echoing the voice of Pakistan,” the fact remains that the LoP's role is crucial in a parliamentary democracy. When the LoP publicly presents evidence of electoral roll manipulation, it is imperative for the Election Commission, as the constitutional custodian of free and fair polls, to act on it

immediately rather than deflect with weak legalistic arguments. However, that looks like a distant dream in the current compromised system.

Justice on hold

This is where a second major question arises: if the Election Commission is reluctant to act and appears intent on obfuscating the matter for reasons obvious to most, why is the Supreme Court not taking suo motu cognisance of the matter? In recent years, the court has done so on several occasions when issues of national importance have arisen.

Worth mentioning are the apex court's interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure proper treatment of patients and dignified handling of bodies in hospitals, as well as its monitoring of the distribution of essential supplies and services. Other notable actions include steps to control environmental degradation, suo motu cognisance of sexual violence in the Manipur conflict and the RG Kar Hospital rape and murder case, and directions to address inadequacies in criminal trials, among others.

Defining moment

The issue of electoral roll manipulation and "stolen elections" is arguably the most pressing challenge facing the nation today, for it strikes at the heart of the genuineness and survival of our democratic system. Such systemic concerns fall squarely within the purview of the Supreme Court, because without a fair democratic process to sustain it, law, order, and even the Constitution lose their meaning. The judicial system itself derives its legitimacy from democracy. One can only hope that the venerable judges of the apex court will recognise this urgency and rise to their role as guardians of democracy. That would be a proud moment not just for the nation, but for the very principle of democracy itself.

If doubts still linger, given the might of the ruling dispensation, they may recall the story of Thomas Becket, a most loyal Lord Chancellor to King Henry VIII of England, who was elevated to Archbishop of Canterbury, primarily to carry out the devious wishes of the monarch. However, once he assumed the post, Becket refused to bend to the king's wishes and steadfastly upheld the laws and canons of the Church, seeing it as the sacred duty of a shepherd to his flock. What followed is a tragic history: Becket was murdered by the king's henchmen. He knew what awaited him, yet chose martyrdom over servility, for in the former lies honour, and in the latter, only shame.

(The Federal seeks to present views and opinions from all sides of the spectrum. The information, ideas or opinions in the articles are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Federal.)