

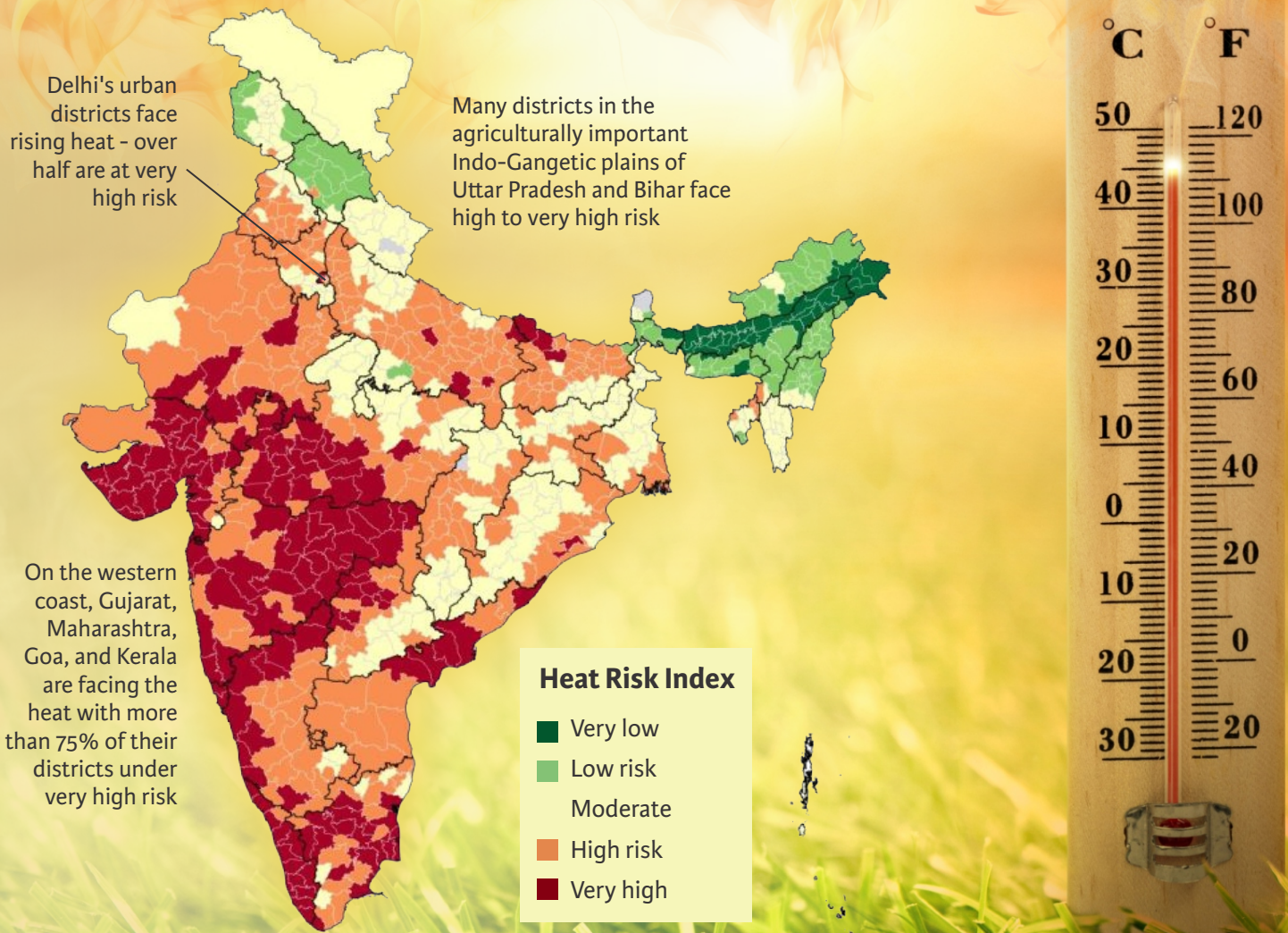


# HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter

A monthly publication of the National Human Rights Commission, India

**57% of Indian districts, home to three-fourths of the population, now face high to very high heat risk**



## Report

National Conference on Women  
Leadership Moonshot: Shaping the Future

## Article

Heatwaves: Emerging Challenges  
and Way Forward



# HUMAN RIGHTS

## Newsletter

Volume 32 | Number 06 | June, 2025

### National Human Rights Commission

#### Chairperson

Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian

#### Members

Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi

Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani

Shri Priyank Kanoongo

#### Secretary General & CEO

Shri Bharat Lal

#### Editor

Shri Jaimini Kumar Srivastava

Dy. Director (M&C), NHRC

The Newsletter is also available on the Commission's website [www.nhrc.nic.in](http://www.nhrc.nic.in). NGOs and other organisations are welcome to reproduce material of the Newsletter and disseminate it widely acknowledging the NHRC, India.



► NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian and Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal interacting with HE Ms Lindy Cameron, UK High Commissioner to India

## Contents

### Monthly recap

- 3 From the desk of the Secretary General & Chief Executive

### Report

- 4 National Conference on Women Leadership Moonshot: Shaping the Future

### Article

- 7 Heatwaves: Emerging Challenges and Way Forward
- 9 Important intervention

- 9 *Suo motu* cognizance
- 11 Recommendations for relief
- 12 Payment of relief to the victims
- 13 Case studies
- 13 Spot enquiry

### Field visits

- 14 Visits of the NHRC, India Member
- 14 Visits of Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors

### Capacity Building

- 15 Online Short-Term Internship (OSTI)
- 16 Students' exposure visits

### NHRC in the International arena

- 17 Online meetings
- 18 Delegation visit
- 18 NHRC opens entries for its 11th Short Film Competition on human rights
- 19 Tech initiatives
- 19 News from State Human Rights Commissions
- 20 News in brief
- 23 Forthcoming events
- 23 Complaints in May, 2025



► NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressing a programme on 'Fundamental rights and the role of the NHRC' at Sri Prakash Vidya Niketan, Andhra Pradesh

---

# Monthly Recap

## From the desk of the Secretary General & Chief Executive

**T**he National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India remains steadfast in safeguarding human rights through its robust complaints management system. During the month under review, the Commission received 6,510 complaints and disposed of 2,730 cases, with 15,966 complaints currently under consideration. In 26 cases, it recommended monetary relief of more than Rs 122 lakh to victims or their next of kin. The Commission also took *suo motu* cognizance in several reported cases of human rights violations.

The Commission continues to prioritize key aspects of human rights that demand attention. One such aspect is the pressing issue of the environment and its far-reaching implications for human rights. The Commission has also intensified its focus on climate-related vulnerabilities including deaths due to rising temperature. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported more than 25,000 deaths due to heat and sun strokes in the country between 1992 - 2023. In Europe, more than 70 thousand people lost their lives due to similar conditions in 2003 alone.

The Government of India has taken steps to address climate issues, including saving lives from heatwaves and sunstrokes. The NDMA has issued detailed guidelines. On 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2025 the Commission sent letters to 11 states, which are considered the most vulnerable to heatwaves, urging them to implement immediate and proactive measures, including the implementation of the detailed NDMA guidelines to safeguard at-risk population. A particular attention was drawn to the needs of economically weaker sections, outdoor labourers, gig workers, the elderly, children, and individuals experiencing homelessness - groups disproportionately affected by extreme heat due to insufficient access to shelter, healthcare, and other protective resources. This edition also features a dedicated article examining the human rights dimensions of heatwaves, underscoring the urgency of climate resilience and inclusive policy interventions.

The Commission believes that India is at a pivotal juncture where the pursuit of inclusive leadership and responsive governance is shaping the nation's future. This vision came to life at the 'National Conference on Women Leadership Moonshot: Shaping the Future', where distinguished leaders highlighted the ongoing efforts as well as future course of action to harness the full potential of women.

From addressing gender disparities to showcasing the impact of grassroots leadership through initiatives like Start Up India, Swachh Bharat Mission, local self-governments, and Jal Jeevan Mission, the conversations underscored how sustainable growth rooted in equity, opportunity, and rights-based governance is changing the country. The report that follows delves deep into the deliberations at the conference.

These themes also resonated during my address to the Eastern Army Command, where the Indian Army's integration of human rights principles into its operational ethos stood as a model of institutional responsibility. India's commitment to upholding human rights – even in counter-insurgency contexts - is both a moral imperative and a strategic strength. It reflects the nation's civilizational values and reinforces global admiration for our institutions.

In order to seek and encourage people's participation in promoting and protecting human rights, the Commission has opened entries for its 11<sup>th</sup> edition of its flagship Human Rights Short Film Competition, 2025. It has gained remarkable traction among the Indian citizens in varied age groups in far-flung areas of the country, sharing their perspective on human rights through their creative expressions in the form and shape of likeable films over the years since it was launched in 2015. Last year, the competition received a record number of 303 entries in different Indian languages with subtitles in English. The Commission expects that the information about this competition will be spread by the readers of its Newsletter to maximize people's participation.

Besides, the Commission also completed its Online Short Term Internship (OSTI) for the month of May for university-level students. 69 students from various universities from the far-flung areas of different regions of 21 States and one UT out of a total of 1,795 applicants attended this coveted internship programme. This edition also brings you reports on the key engagements and activities undertaken by the Commission, and we hope you find it an insightful and engaging read.



[ Bharat Lal ]

Secretary General &  
Chief Executive Officer



## National Conference on Women Leadership Moonshot: Shaping the Future

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India works with various stakeholders for promoting and protecting human rights. They include the centre and state governments and their parastatal organizations, NGOs, human rights defenders, and researchers, among others. The Commission also collaborates with them for organizing national-level conferences on a wide range of human rights themes to discuss the issues and bottlenecks, and to suggest measures for improvements. With the same

The conference provided an opportunity for interaction with eminent speakers, who included, Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa of India, and former CEO at NITI Aayog; NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani; Dr Vinod Paul, Member (Health, Nutrition, Education), NITI Aayog; Dr Kiran Bedi, Former Lt. Governor of Puducherry; Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India; Prof Ashutosh Sharma, President, INSA; Prof K. Vijay Raghavan, Former Principal Scientific Advisor to the GOI; Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Former Advisor to PMO; Dr Manohar Agnani, Professor (Public Health) Azim Premji University, Shri Deepak Bagla, Former CEO, Invest India. Besides them, many other domain experts spoke about their vision for women-led development in India.

Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa and former CEO, NITI Aayog, in his inaugural address, said that women are central to the vision of Viksit Bharat. He emphasized that for India's economy to scale from \$4T to \$30T, the role of women is crucial; they are changemakers and leaders of tomorrow. He noted that women's bank account ownership rose from 18% to 78% in recent years and that female enrolment in higher education and STEM fields has significantly increased.

Addressing the inaugural session, NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani shared her personal journey of rising above societal barriers to become a voice for women's rights. Drawing on examples of iconic women leaders, she urged women to challenge limiting norms and lead with determination. She said that in Indian culture, women are always given the highest place. Referring to



► Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa & former CEO NITI Aayog delivering the inaugural address

spirit, the Commission with the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), supported the National Conference on 'Women Leadership Moonshot: Shaping the Future' organized by the Sankala Foundation, a civil society organization, which brought together policymakers, scientists, leaders and entrepreneurs in New Delhi on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025.



► NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressing the participants





► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressing the Conference

powerful leaders like Rani Abbakka, Kannagi, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Kittur Chennamma, Rani Durgavati, and Rani Rudramadevi, she said that women in India have long held roles as rulers, judges, warriors, artists, saints, writers, and household leaders, while elsewhere in the world in the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries they were struggling and pleading for their rights.

Highlighting the historic leadership and resilience of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar, she emphasized her progressive policies. She enacted laws on adoption, granted special rights to widows, decentralized justice by creating district-level courts, and allowed appeals directly to her court if people were dissatisfied with judgments. This shows that women have always been the architects of India's future.

NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, stressed that to move beyond 6–6.5% growth, India must facilitate more young women joining the workforce. He traced India's constitutional commitment to equality and recalled how Hansa Mehta and Laxmi Menon shaped the inclusive language of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). He reaffirmed NHRC's commitment to protecting the rights of marginalized groups, especially women, and noted that women constitute 46% of elected representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions, underscoring India's leadership in grassroots women's governance.



► Dr Kiran Bedi, Former Lt. Governor of Puducherry delivering the valedictory address

Delivering the Special Address, Ms Cynthia McCaffrey, Country Representative, UNICEF India, stressed that it is crucial to invest in women and girls for the development of a nation. She highlighted SDG 5 (Gender Equality) as essential to improving lives and inclusive growth.

Dr Kiran Bedi, in her valedictory address, outlined a powerful 10-point agenda to help realize the vision of Viksit Bharat, placing women at the centre of this transformation. She emphasized the need for accountable governance by having senior officials engage daily with field institutions to rebuild public trust. She proposed enhancing rural women's mobility by providing electric scooters to female sarpanchs and called for greater policy support for the care industry, predominantly run by women, to foster economic empowerment and social change.

The conference featured four special sessions focusing on women's roles in entrepreneurship, STEM research, governance, and leadership in education and healthcare. It aimed to catalyze transformative change by fostering dialogue among diverse stakeholders aligning with global commitments such as the G20 New Delhi Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Speaking during the session on 'Shaping the Future – Education and Healthcare', Dr Vinod Paul drew attention to health challenges facing women, including high rates of anaemia and osteoporosis, and the social impact of widowhood. He advocated for a comprehensive approach to women's health and emphasized the need for robust skilling and employment pathways to bridge the gap between education and workforce participation.



► A section of participants in a well attended Conference

Dr Manohar Agnani spoke on the complexities of women's health in India. He began by highlighting major achievements in reproductive health, including an 83% reduction in maternal mortality over the past three decades - well ahead of global trends. He strongly advocated for a gender-responsive healthcare

system, increased investment in research and development, and the systematic collection and analysis of sex and gender-disaggregated data.

## Article

Environment Day, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

# Heatwaves: Emerging Challenges and Way Forward

- Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India;  
Shri Raghwendra Singh, JRC, NHRC



The year 2024 was officially declared the hottest year on record globally. In the United States of America, heatwaves cause an average of 700 deaths annually. Europe

experienced over 70,000 deaths during the 2003 heatwaves, marking one of the most catastrophic incidents in recorded history. In Australia, heatwaves are statistically the most lethal natural hazard, accounting for over 3,000 deaths between 2001 and 2018. In India alone, more than 25,000 lives were lost to heatwaves between 1992 and 2023. Extreme heat is causing a public health challenge impacting human rights, socio-economic, and developmental aspects.

The summer of 2024 brought the longest and most widespread heatwaves since 2010, with over 30 consecutive days of extreme temperatures across states like Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat. Over 100 confirmed deaths and

thousands of cases of heatstroke and dehydration were reported as per the data of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), 2024.

An International Labour Organization (ILO), 2019 report warns that India could lose up to 5% of its GDP by 2030 due to heat-induced productivity declines, with one-fifth of work hours already lost to humid heat. A recent study in 2025 by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) found that 57% of Indian districts — home to 76% of the population — face high to very high heat risk. The CEEW analysis highlights three alarming trends:

- The increasing frequency of hot nights,
- A sharp rise in relative humidity, and
- Expanding exposure in densely populated, economically vital districts like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Bhubaneswar.

Heatwaves are now spilling into traditionally humid monsoon months, as witnessed in Chennai in 2024, creating a



hazardous combination of high heat and humidity. Night-time heat is particularly dangerous—it disrupts the body's natural cooling process during rest hours, amplifying health risks and straining the biological clock.

The ripple effects extend to public health, agriculture, water systems, and livelihoods. With 46% of India's workforce employed in agriculture, rising temperatures during critical crop phases are cutting yields. This leads to higher irrigation demands, worsening water scarcity. By 2100, humid heat stress could reduce farmer and labourer productivity by 40%, heightening food insecurity.

Melting glaciers, altered river flows, and erratic monsoons—now arriving earlier than expected—signal broader disruptions in India's hydrological cycle, jeopardising both livelihoods and ecosystems.

### Vulnerability: Who bears the Brunt?

Vulnerability is dynamic, shaped by social, economic, and environmental inequities. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate risk emerges from the interplay of hazards, exposure, and vulnerability—and not everyone bears that risk equally.

The most affected groups include:

- Elderly, children, and pregnant women, whose biological resilience is low
- People with chronic conditions like diabetes, anaemia, and hypertension
- Residents of urban slums, where indoor temperatures can exceed 50°C
- Women, especially those spending long hours in overheated homes or informal jobs
- Marginalized communities—including SCs, STs, and economically weaker sections
- Outdoor workers such as construction labourers, farmers, and police, who often lack protective infrastructure
- Gig workers, particularly delivery drivers, face a dual burden of high heat and stringent delivery timelines, creating significant stress

Despite the known risks, critical gaps persist – inadequate mapping of vulnerable populations, lack of standardized indicators, poor urban heat island monitoring, limited integration of climate-health data, and insufficient local use of remote sensing tools.

### Heat Risk and the SDGs: A Cross-cutting Threat

Heat stress jeopardizes progress across multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), viz.

- SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being): Overburdened public health systems and rising maternal and neonatal complications;
- SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Lost productivity and rising occupational hazards; and
- SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Increased demand for water and energy, infrastructure strain.

Women, especially in informal sectors, bear a disproportionate burden. Pregnant women risk preterm deliveries; women in agriculture, construction, or domestic work endure long hours of heat exposure with minimal protection. These impacts often go unrecorded due to the invisibility of informal work in public policy.

### India's response: Heat Action Plans (HAPs)

The Government of India especially in last one decade has accorded high priority to mitigation and adaptation measure to address heatwaves. In fact, the NDMA treats heatwaves as a public health concern. Over 250 cities and districts across 23 heat-prone states have prepared and operationalized Heat Action Plans (HAPs), supported by the NDMA's advisory, technical, and institutional mechanisms. These plans underscore the role of strengthened surveillance, early warning systems, hospital preparedness, inter-agency coordination, and public awareness campaigns in significantly reducing heatwave-related mortality in the country. It has resulted into much reduced mortality. However, there is an ample scope to address some of the concerns like:

- Lack of dedicated financial and legal backing — no dedicated climate adaptation fund
- Over-reliance on voluntary local implementation
- Top-down planning with limited community participation
- Minimal integration of gendered impacts or local knowledge

To make these HAPs more effective, there is a need to further push for inclusive design and robust execution. These steps will make the HAPs quite transformative, saving precious lives and enhancing productivity.

### Institutional Action: IMD and NHRC Responses

Dr. P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, while delivering the keynote address at the Special Session on Extreme Heat Risk Governance held recently in Geneva (June, 2025), highlighted India's whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to extreme heat risk management, involving coordinated efforts across key ministries such as Health, Agriculture, Urban Development, Labour, Power, Water, Education, and Infrastructure.

---

Emphasizing a strategic transition from preparedness to long-term mitigation, Dr Mishra outlined several innovative measures being implemented in India, including:

- Promotion of cool roof technologies and passive cooling centres
- Expansion of urban greening
- Revival of traditional water bodies
- Integration of Urban Heat Island (UHI) assessments into city planning frameworks

In a significant policy announcement, Dr Mishra stated that the National and State Disaster Mitigation Funds (SDMF) are now authorized to support heatwave mitigation projects. This change enables local governments, private sector actors, NGOs, and individuals to co-finance such initiatives, fostering a model of shared responsibility and collective action in climate risk governance.

Since the deadly 1998 heatwaves, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has made major strides in forecasting, enabling a significant drop in deaths. Today, it issues district-level, colour-coded heat forecasts, reaching even rickshaw pullers and gig workers through accessible media. In 2022, IMD began forecasting exact temperature values and introduced 'Warm Night' alerts—a critical intervention following reports of night-time fatalities.

IMD also uses a 'Climate Hazard Vulnerability Index' to track heat impacts on health, water, agriculture, and livelihoods. This data-driven approach is crucial for tailoring localized responses.

Recognizing the human rights implications, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, wrote to 11 states, urging protective measures for the most vulnerable people in their zones. Drawing on the NCRB data, which reported 3,566 deaths (11 states) from heatstroke between 2018–2022, NHRC recommended:

- Establishing cooling shelters in schools and community buildings
- Ensuring access to clean water, ORS, and ventilation in informal settlements
- Rescheduling work hours for outdoor labourers
- Distributing cooling aids such as fans and cool roofing materials
- Creating standard treatment protocols for heat-related illnesses

## Way Forward

Heatwaves represent transboundary and systemic risks, particularly in densely populated urban areas, and require

the international community to enhance technological collaboration, data sharing, and joint research on heat resilience. We also require a systemic, integrated, and inclusive approach to heat resilience as isolated measures will not be sufficient.

We need to prioritise areas for immediate action, viz.:

- Developing climate-resilient, low-cost housing
- Expanding heat-risk insurance and blended finance models
- Mapping vulnerability hotspots and creating clear risk pathways
- Establishing an Environmental Health Regulatory Authority to integrate climate, health, and weather data
- Tracking non-mortality impacts, such as reduced productivity, missed immunizations, and domestic violence spikes

Due to concretization of more areas in urban pockets, heatwaves in urban areas pose a huge challenge. In fact, poor people and their families are most vulnerable. In new economy, gig workers face huge challenges to sustain their livelihood. Keeping this in view, urban heat mitigation strategies may include:

- Widespread use of cool roofs, green infrastructure and restoring urban forests
- Adjusting school and work schedules during peak heat
- Training healthcare providers to manage heat-related health risks
- Adequate facilities for construction, maintenance and gig workers.

On the energy front, India is now generating over 100 GW of solar power, but surging daytime demand poses new challenges. Rooftop solar, solar-powered agricultural pumps, and AI-driven power management systems must be scaled rapidly. Smart grids, storage infrastructure, and demand-side management are vital to ensure stability.

Nature-based solutions—like smart metering, DISCOM capacity building, and local green infrastructure—offer low-cost, high-impact opportunities to build long-term resilience. In fact, innovative insurance cover for outdoor workers affected by heatwaves, is the way forward to save their lives and livelihoods.

India's battle against extreme heat is not just a public health challenge- it impacts human rights of the people in various manifestations including its socio-economic and developmental dimensions. Protecting the most vulnerable from heat stress is not optional. It is imperative for achieving the vision of a resilient and inclusive modern and developed India i.e. Viksit Bharat.



---

# Important intervention

## All states urged to implement the Supreme Court's 14 directives to eliminate manual cleaning of hazardous waste

Given the continued practice of manual cleaning of hazardous waste, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, in a letter to all the Chief Secretaries and Administrators of States and Union Territories, has asked to ensure the immediate implementation of the 14 directives issued by the Supreme Court in its landmark 2023 judgment (Dr Balram Singh v/s Union of India, 2023 INSC 950), aimed at eradicating the inhuman and caste-based practice of manual cleaning of hazardous and sewer waste. The Commission has

noted that the practice constitutes a grave violation of human rights, especially the right to life with dignity and equality before the law.

The Commission has observed that despite the constitutional and legal safeguards, as well as a complete ban announced by the Supreme Court on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 in six major cities – Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad – manual cleaning of hazardous waste continues to be reported in certain parts of the country.

Therefore, the NHRC, India has recommended the immediate implementation of the following measures:

- Wide dissemination of the prohibition of manual scavenging and relevant judicial directives

among stakeholders, including local authorities, contractors, and the general public;

- Sensitization programmes for government officials, sanitation workers, and communities on the legal, social, and human rights dimensions of manual scavenging;
- Establishment of robust monitoring systems to ensure real-time compliance and deterrence;
- Regular follow-ups and review mechanisms to track progress, identify implementation gaps, and ensure accountability at all levels.
- The Commission has also asked the concerned authorities to submit an action taken report.

---

## Suo motu cognizance

**T**he media reports have been a very useful instrument for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, to know about the incidents of human rights violations. Over the years, it has taken *suo motu* cognizance of many such issues and brought succour to the victims of human rights violations. During May, 2025, the Commission took *suo motu* cognizance of the cases of alleged human rights violations reported by the media and issued notices to the concerned authorities, calling for reports. Summaries of these cases are as follows:

### Children falling ill after consuming mid-day meal

(Case No. 973/4/26/2025)

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, the media reported that more than 100 children fell ill after consuming mid-day meal in a government school, in the Mokama area of Patna in Bihar on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. Reportedly, the cook served the food to the children after removing a dead snake from it. 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

students. Therefore, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Patna, Bihar, calling for a detailed report in the matter. The report is expected to include the health status of the children.

### Police inaction in finding a missing girl

(Case No. 838/12/O/2025)

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, the media reported that the Police have no answers even

eighteen days after a six-year-old girl went missing from an under-bridge in Koh-e-Fiza area in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Reportedly, the missing girl's homeless mother with eight children suspected the involvement of one of her relatives in the disappearance of her daughter, but the police was not conducting a fair investigation, and no arrests were made in the matter.

Reportedly, this is not just one case of disappearance, as over 3,400 women and girls have gone missing in the State during the last three years, as per the

data of the Madhya Pradesh police. Allegedly, the CCTV networks are patchy, rapid-response teams are missing in action, and there is no coordination between the units. According to the media report, a drive under the name 'Operation Muskan' launched last year by the State police to rescue and rehabilitate the missing girls has not shown any results.

The Commission observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights. Therefore, it has issued notices to the state Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police calling for a detailed report in the matter.

### **Death of three workers and injuries to three others in an explosion at a propellant mixing unit**

(Case No. 343/36/30/2025)

On 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, the media reported that three workers died and three others were injured in an explosion that occurred at a propellant mixing unit of an explosives manufacturing plant at Katepalli village in the Yadadri Bhongir district, Telangana.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana and the Director General of Police, Telangana, calling for a detailed report in the matter. The report is expected to include the health status of the injured persons.

According to the media report, the explosion caused the complete collapse of the mixing unit structure of the plant. Reportedly, the company has been manufacturing explosives for both commercial and leading organizations, including DRDO.

### **Arrest and remand of a Professor**

(Case No. 661/7/19/2025)

On 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the media reported regarding the arrest and remand to custody of a Professor of Ashoka University (a deemed to be University) in Sonapat, Haryana. The Commission has noted that the report, which contained a gist of the allegations based on which he was arrested, disclosed, *prima facie*, that the human rights and liberty of the said Professor were violated. Therefore, it has deemed it a fit case for taking *suo motu* cognizance of the reported incident and has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Haryana, calling for a detailed report in the matter.

### **Murder of a journalist**

(Case No. 692/7/7/2025)

On 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the media reported that a journalist was shot dead near his residence at Luhari village in the Jhajjar district of Haryana on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. Reportedly, the journalist working with an online news portal was out for a walk after dinner when the unidentified assailants shot him and fled from the spot. The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Haryana, calling for a detailed report. It is expected to include the status of the investigation in the case.

According to the media report, the villagers took the victim to a nearby hospital, from where he was later referred to another hospital in Gurugram before succumbing to his injuries.

### **Death of three workers and another left critical while cleaning a sewage tank**

(Case No. 819/22/52/2025)

On 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2025, the media reported

that three workers died while another became critical due to asphyxiation after they entered into a sewage tank to clean it without any protective gear at a private industrial unit in Tiruppur district, Tamil Nadu on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. Reportedly, they were employed at a Dyeing Mill in the Karaipudur area of Tiruppur and asked to clean the sewage tank of the factory. The Commission has issued notices to the state Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, calling for a detailed report in the matter.

According to the media report, shortly after entering the tank, all four began to suffocate and then collapsed. The co-workers pulled them out and rushed to a private hospital, but three of them could not survive.

### **Death of a man in police custody**

(Case No. 399/34/3/2025-AD)

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025, the media reported that a man died in police custody in the Deoghar district, Jharkhand on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2025. Reportedly, he was taken from his residence to the Palajori police station for interrogation in connection with a cybercrime. The victim's family members have alleged that he was physically tortured in police custody, resulting in his death.

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. Therefore, it has issued notices to the state Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, calling for a detailed report in the matter. It is expected to include the inquest and post-mortem reports, along with the cause of death, as well as the magisterial enquiry report.

The Commission has also taken a serious view of the district police not sending any intimation about this



custodial death, required to be sent within 24 hours of the occurrence of the incident as per its guidelines to all the State and Union Territory administrations. Therefore, it has also sought an explanation for this lapse from the state Chief Secretary and DGP.

### Assault on a journalist

(Case No. 595/18/2/2025)

On 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the media reported that a TV journalist was physically assaulted by a group of people in Kulthipali village in the Balangir district, Odisha, on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. Reportedly, he was suddenly attacked by the miscreants when he went to a construction site in the village, regarding which the people are making allegations of corruption. The victim's legs and hands were tied, and he was

paraded through the village before being tied to a pole and beaten. The victim's mobile phones and video camera were also smashed by the perpetrators, and he was threatened not to report anything about the incident or the ongoing construction work to anyone. The Commission has issued a notice to the state Director General of Police, calling for a detailed report in the matter.

### Protest over the proposed construction of a dam

(Case No. 18/2/2/2025)

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2025, the media reported that the residents are opposing the proposed construction of a dam, apprehending that it may result in the displacement of several people and adversely impact livelihood and

ecology in the Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh. Reportedly, to deal with the situation, the government has deployed central armed forces in various areas of the Siang district in the State.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise issues of violation of human rights. Therefore, it has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Arunachal Pradesh, calling for a detailed report in the matter. Reportedly, a Human Rights activist and Convenor of the Siang Indigenous Farmers Forum led a protest against the dam construction in Beging village, in which approximately 400 people participated.

## Recommendations for relief

One of the primary responsibilities of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India is to address cases of human rights violations, listen to the grievances of victims, and recommend appropriate relief in such instances. It regularly takes up various such cases and gives directions and recommenda-

tions to the concerned authorities for relief to the victims. In May, 2025, besides the number of cases taken up daily by the Member Benches, 15 cases were heard by the Full Commission, 40 cases by Bench-I, 20 cases each by Bench-II and Bench-III. Monetary relief of more than Rs 122.75 lakh was recommended for the victims or their

next of kin (NoK) in the 26 cases, wherein it was found that public servants had either violated human rights or been negligent in protecting them. The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
1.	708/1/5/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Andhra Pradesh
2.	4408/4/8/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	3.00	Bihar
3.	1713/7/9/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Haryana
4.	90/34/15/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Jharkhand
5.	31/15/11/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	12.00	Meghalaya
6.	2954/18/10/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Odisha
7.	261/19/15/2024-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Punjab
8.	2722/20/1/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Rajasthan

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
9.	658/22/13/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Tamil Nadu
10.	17137/24/56/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
11.	20765/24/27/2018-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
12.	1449/25/22/2023-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	West Bengal
13.	1873/36/3/2020-AD	Death in Judicial custody	5.00	Telangana
14.	106/3/26/2022-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Assam
15.	1052/6/18/2017-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	Gujarat
16.	1008/25/13/2023-PCD	Death in police custody	5.00	West Bengal
17.	3531/4/6/2021-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Bihar
18.	5/16/5/2020-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Mizoram
19.	393/33/2/2024	Death due to electrocution	4.00	Chhattisgarh
20.	3225/7/6/2022	Death due to electrocution	5.00	Haryana
21.	11708/24/27/2020	Death due to electrocution	3.00	Uttar Pradesh
22.	18/19/6/2025	Abuse of power	0.75	Punjab
23.	6702/30/8/2022	Murder by anti-social elements	1.00	Delhi
24.	292/34/17/2023	Death in police custody	4.00	Jharkhand
25.	584/34/22/2023	Mob lynching	3.00	Jharkhand
26.	16697/24/28/2022	Inaction by the Centre/ State Govt. officials	7.00	Uttar Pradesh

## Payment of relief to the victims

**D**uring May, 2025, the Commission closed 08 cases, either on receipt of the compliance reports and proof of payment from the

public authorities or by giving other observations/ directions. An amount of Rs 42 lakh was paid to the victims or their next of kin (NoK) on the recommenda-

tions of the Commission. The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:

S. No.	Case Number	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Authority
1.	494/6/1/2024-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Gujarat
2.	26162/24/14/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	Uttar Pradesh
3.	4757/25/5/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	5.00	West Bengal
4.	469/34/17/2022-PCD	Death in police custody	10.00	Jharkhand
5.	383/1/22/2022-AD	Death in police custody	5.00	Andhra Pradesh
6.	1257/22/36/2021-AD	Death in police custody	7.50	Tamil Nadu
7.	1121/4/26/2023	Unlawful detention	0.50	Bihar
8.	393/33/2/2024	Death due to electrocution	4.00	Chhattisgarh



---

## Case studies

**I**n many cases, the Commission, contrary to the claims of the concerned State authorities, found that the human rights of the victims were violated due to their unlawful action, inaction, or omission. Therefore, the Commission, under the Protection of Human Rights Act, not only recommended punitive action against erring officials on a case-to-case basis but also recommended monetary relief to the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. The Commission also received reports of compliance with its recommendations by the respective state authorities. Summaries of some of these cases are as under:

### Death in Police Custody

(Case No. 469/34/17/2022-PCD)

The matter pertained to the death of a 42-year-old man under the custody of PS Taljhari, District Sahibganj, Jharkhand on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. Based on the material on record, received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission found that there were several external injuries on the body of the deceased. Even the enquiry magistrate in his report has submitted that the death of the victim in Police custody was not natural, and it appeared that he was physically harassed/ tortured severely by the police officers/officer-in-charge.

The Commission also found that the allegation of picking up the victim on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2025, and subsequently his death due to torture in police custody cannot be ruled out. Further,

the police failed to adhere to the guidelines given by the Supreme Court in the D.K. Basu case and no legal aid was provided to the victim while in police lock-up, nor medical examination of the victim was done soon after his arrest. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Government of Jharkhand pay Rs 10 lakh as relief to the next of kin (NoK) of the victim, which was paid.

### Death of Remand Prisoner

(Case No. 1112/20/29/2019-AD)

The matter pertained to the suicide of a 40-year-old Remand Prisoner while in the custody of Khadol Sub-Jail in Udaipur, Rajasthan on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. Based on the material on record, received from the concerned authorities in response to its notices, the Commission found that the prisoner hanged himself from the iron gate of

the cell with the help of his towel and died due to asphyxia. The enquiry magistrate concluded that the deceased was under stress as there was no one to look after his pregnant wife at home in his absence and he was supposed to be shifted to Udaipur Central Jail. The enquiry magistrate ruled out any negligence or foul play over the death of the prisoner.

The Commission observed that the wellness and security of the prisoners are the responsibility of the jail authorities. For any act of omission or commission on the part of jail authorities, the state is vicariously responsible. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the Government of Jharkhand pay Rs 2 lakh as relief to the NoK of the victim, which was paid. It was also informed that departmental action has been taken against the errant jail officials.

---

## Spot enquiry

### Case No. 330/7/8/2022

From 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the NHRC, India investigation team conducted a spot enquiry in the matter of a death due to torture in police custody in Jind, Haryana.

### Case No. 791/12/8/2025-WC

From 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the NHRC, India investigation team conducted a spot enquiry in the matter of alleged organized crime being committed against female students of a private

college in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The accused, allegedly, befriended the female students and trapped them in a love trap, raped them and made obscene videos.

### Case No. 343/36/26/2021-AD

From 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, and 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the NHRC, India investigation team conducted spot enquiries in the matter of a custodial death due to torture by the police in Sholapur, Maharashtra and Sangareddy District, Telangana.

### Case No. 11/3/8/2023-JCD

From 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the NHRC, India investigation team conducted a spot inquiry in the matter of a prisoner's death, who died within a day after his entry in the Hamren District Jail, Karbi Anglong, Assam.

### Case No. 102/3/9/2023-ED

From 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the NHRC, India investigation team conducted a spot inquiry into the matter of the encounter death of an accused during police action in Kamrup District, Assam.

---

## Field visits

**T**he Chairperson, Members and senior officers of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India visit various places in the country from time to time to assess the human rights situation and the status of the implementation of the Commission's advisories, guidelines and recommendations by the respective state governments and their concerned authorities. They also visit shelter homes, prisons, observation homes, etc. and sensitize the government functionaries to make necessary efforts towards ameliorating the cause of human rights. Submission of timely reports by the state authorities to help the Commission in the early disposal of cases of human rights violations is also emphasized.

### Visits of the NHRC, India Member

On 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani visited several places in Rajahmundry district, Andhra Pradesh. She addressed a programme on 'Fundamental rights and the role of the NHRC' at Sri Prakash Vidya Niketan. About 200 participants, including students, attended. Before this, she visited tribal villages in the district and met the displaced people of the Polavaram project on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. They highlighted human rights violation issues, including the lack of drinking water, healthcare, roads, transportation, hospitals, schools, toilets, etc. She asked the officers to take immediate steps to address their grievances. On the same day, she met with Anganwadi teachers in the district. They raised several issues, including low pay, no leave, and lack of safety. About 150 teachers were present.



► NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani interacting with the displaced people of the Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh

### Visits of Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has designated 15 Special Rapporteurs to monitor human rights conditions across various regions of the country. They conduct visits to shelter homes, prisons, observation homes, and similar institutions, compiling reports for the Commission that detail their observations and suggestions for future action. Additionally, the Commission has appointed 21 Special Monitors tasked with overseeing specific thematic human rights issues and reporting their findings to the Commission. Throughout May, 2025, both Special Rapporteurs and Monitors conducted visits to numerous locations.

From 26<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2025, Dr Pradeepta Kumar Nayak met the State Leprosy Officer (SLO), Bihar to assess the human rights situation and the status of welfare measures for the Leprosy-affected persons and other vulnerable groups in the State. In this connection, he also visited the Districts of Patna, Bhojpur, Arwal, and Aurangabad in the state and met the district-level officials of the Health and Leprosy programme, Social Security, Social Welfare, Mental Health, Education, Livelihood, Aajeevika, Women and Child Development, SC/ ST, Minorities and OBCs and officers in the other Departments, Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, General Communities and Leprosy Colonies.



# Capacity Building

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India is mandated to protect and promote human rights and build awareness about the same. For this purpose, it has been conducting internship programmes, collaborative training and various other activities to expand its outreach and human rights sensitization. Internships are conducted in person as well as online. The online internships are organized to ensure that students from remote areas can join without any expenses for their travel and stay in Delhi. In addition, the Commission also organizes tailored human rights training programme for the officers of various services as its mission to uphold and safeguard human rights across all institutions, ensuring that the rights and dignity of every individual are protected.

## Online Short-Term Internship (OSTI)

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India organized a two-week Online Short Term Internship (OSTI) Programme from 13<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2025. 69 students from various universities in the far-flung areas of different regions in 21 States and one Union Territory completed it. 80 students were shortlisted out of a total of 1,795 applicants for this coveted internship programme of the Commission for university-level students.

The internship was inaugurated by the NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal on 13th May, 2025. In his address, he said that youth are the torchbearers of India's 5,000-year-old civilizational ethos of empathy, compassion and justice. Earlier, inaugurating the internship, the NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, in his address, said that youth are the torchbearers of India's 5,000-year-old civilizational ethos of empathy, compassion and justice. He urged the students to serve as ambassadors of justice, equality, and dignity, and encouraged them to leverage this opportunity to understand India's constitutional framework and advocate for human rights and the dignity of all. He also urged them to focus on reflection over reaction and to learn from experts as a means to discover life's purpose. He also explained the rationale of this online

programme to expand outreach and enable students from far-flung and remote areas, who cannot travel to and stay in Delhi, to learn about various aspects of human rights.

He appealed to these students to fully utilise the opportunity to take maximum benefit of it and equip themselves to protect and promote human rights. He gave an overview of the evolution of human rights in the country, constitutional provisions, the role of the Supreme Court in the protection and promotion of human rights, the working of NHRC, India's civilizational and cultural ethos to give refuge to persecuted people.



► NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressing the inaugural session of OSTI



► A section of online interns



► NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressing the valedictory session of the OSTI programme

Addressing the valedictory session, the NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, congratulated the students on the successful completion of the internship. She expressed the hope that they would make the best use of this exposure to various aspects of human rights while urging them to embrace empathy. She said that human rights are about dignity, equality, and freedom. They are about ensuring that every individual, regardless of their socio-economic background, can live without fear, with equal access to opportunities, and with respect.

The Member underscored that achieving zero tolerance to human rights violations is a way forward. In this context, she drew attention to the plight of tribal population of 14 villages in the Alluri Sitarama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh, who were displaced due to the Polavaram project, and the poorly constructed dwelling units provided to them as an alternative were bereft of necessities of human life including drinking water, toilets, electricity. Their new surroundings continue to lack healthcare, roads, transportation, hospitals, schools, etc., despite several requests made to the authorities. She called upon the concerned authorities to address their issues at the earliest by accepting that human rights are lived realities and not abstract ideas.

NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar, presented the internship report. The students were exposed to various aspects of human rights in 35 sessions conducted by the senior NHRC officers, experts and civil society representatives. He said that they were also taken for virtual tours to the Tihar Jail, Police Station and Asha Kiran Shelter Home in Delhi to have an understanding of their functioning and related challenges in ensuring protection of human rights. He also announced the winners of the book review, group research project presentation, and declamation competition.

## Students' exposure visits

To promote human rights awareness among college-level students and their faculties, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India invites them to visit the Commission to understand human rights protection mechanism, and its functioning for this purpose in line with the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993. During May, 2025, 107 students and faculty members from seven colleges and universities visited the Commission. They were briefed by senior officers about the functioning of the Law and Investigation Divisions and the Complaints Management System. The visits were as follows:



On 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, 64 students and 3 faculty members from the Bimal Chandra College of Law, Murshidabad, West Bengal, visited the NHRC, India



On 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2025, a batch of 38 students and 2 faculty members from the Galgotias University, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, visited the NHRC, India



# NHRC in the International arena

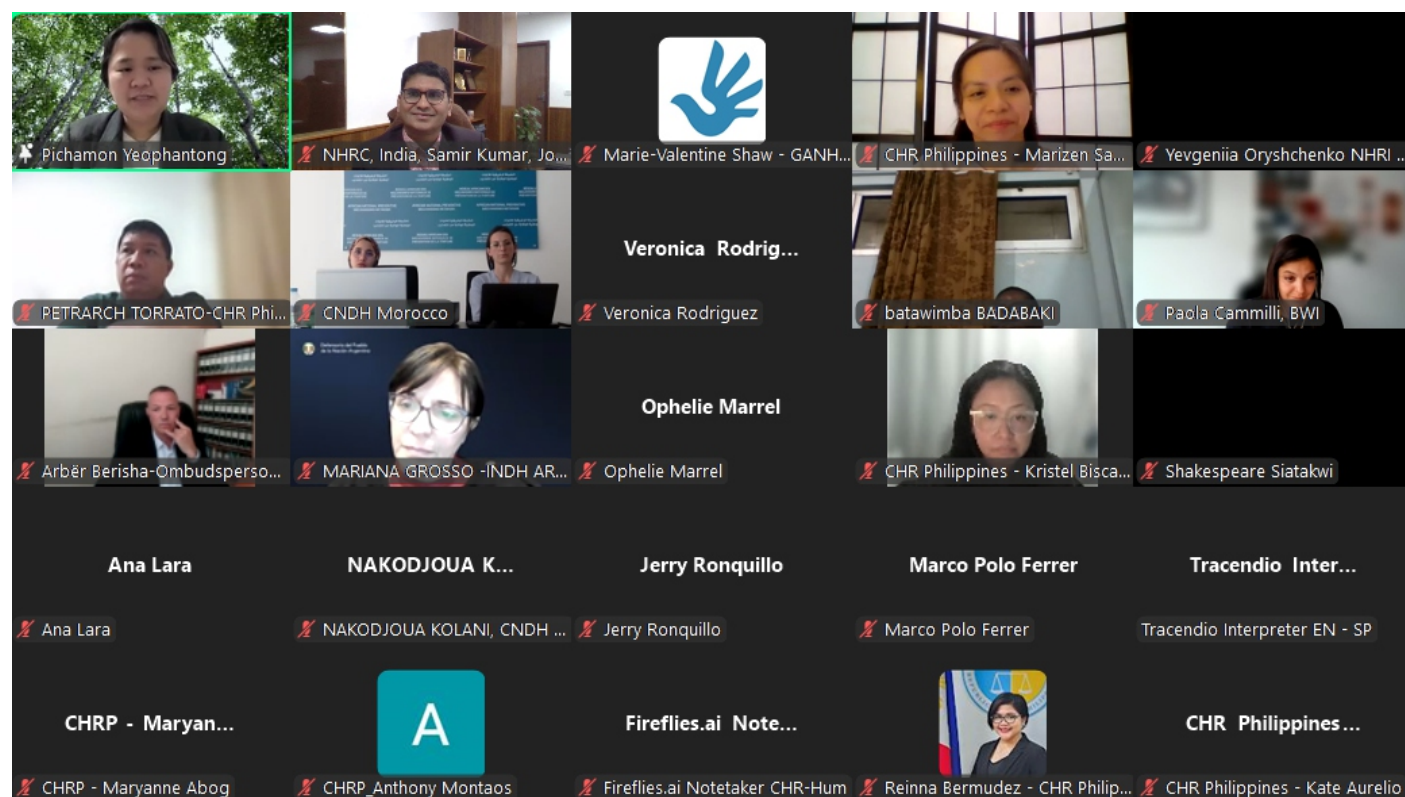
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, continues to engage with various international programmes to foster an exchange of ideas on various aspects of human rights. Several foreign institutional delegates visit the Commission and meet the Chairperson, Members and senior officers to understand the functioning of the Commission for promoting and protecting human rights. The Commission's Chairperson, Members and other senior officers also visit various international forums to share their thoughts on the achievements of the Commission, interact with other NHRIs, and discuss the challenges to human rights in the fast-evolving world.

## Online meetings

In May, 2025, the NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar represented the Commission at various international meetings which were held online as follows:

- On 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, he attended the online expert workshop on the 'Right to a Nationality: Equality in Nationality Rights in law and in practices' organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which was attended by 135 participants.
- From 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the Joint Secretary participated in the online 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental working group on the Right to Development, which was attended by NHRIs from 25 countries.
- Besides, on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, he also attended the APF Forum Councillors Meeting was held, which was attended by the participants of 22 countries.

- On 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, Shri Samir Kumar attended the meeting of the GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights on the issues pertaining to the Rights of Migrant Workers. The meeting was organized by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines. Besides the NHRC, India, some of the other among 65 NHRIs, who attended meeting, included Morocco, France, Qatar, Argentina, Ecuador and Northern Ireland.



► NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Samir Kumar attending the meeting of the GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights on the issues pertaining to the Rights of Migrant Workers

---

## Delegation visit

On 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, HE Ms Lindy Cameron, UK High Commissioner to India, called on NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian and Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal and discussed various aspects of human rights and the functioning of the Commission. She also had an insightful discussion with Shri Bharat Lal on various issues of mutual interest to both countries. He highlighted the NHRC, India's activities and works to protect and promote the human rights of every individual in the country.



▶ NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian and Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal interacting with the UK High Commissioner to India, HE Ms Lindy Cameron

---

## NHRC opens entries for its 11<sup>th</sup> Short Film Competition on human rights

**T**he National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, has opened the entries for its 11<sup>th</sup> annual competition for short films on human rights to encourage citizens' participation in human rights awareness. The last date to receive the entries is 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2025. The prize money for the first, second and third best film will be Rs 2 lakh, Rs 1 lakh 50 thousand and Rs 1 lakh respectively. The Commission, in addition to three cash awards, certificates and trophies, may also consider giving a "Certificate of Special Mention" along with a cash prize of Rs 50 thousand each to a maximum of four (4) films, if so recommended by the jury.

The Short Film Awards scheme was instituted by the Commission in 2015. The scheme aims to encourage and acknowledge the cinematic and creative efforts of Indian citizens, irrespective of their age, towards promoting and protecting human rights. In all previous competitions, the Commission received tremendous responses from different parts of the country.

The short films may be in English or any Indian language, with subtitles in English. The duration of the short film should be a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes. The films could be documentary, dramatization of real stories, or a work of fiction made in any technical format, including animation, within the ambit of various socio-economic, cultural, and political rights based on the following themes:

- Right to life, liberty, equality and dignity
- Covering issues specific to bonded and child labour, women's and children's rights
- Rights in challenges of elderly persons
- Rights of persons with disability
- Manual scavenging, right to healthcare
- Issues of fundamental freedoms
- Human trafficking

- Domestic violence
- Human rights violations due to police atrocities
- Custodial violence and torture
- Socio-economic disparities
- Rights of Nomadic and Denotified Tribes
- Prison reforms
- Right to education
- Right to a clean environment, including environmental hazards impacting life on planet Earth
- Right to work
- Right to equality before the law
- Right to food and nutritional security

- Rights of LGBTQI+
- Human rights violation due to displacement on account of either man-made or natural calamity
- Celebrating human rights and values in Indian diversity
- Development initiatives improving life and living standards, etc.

There is no entry fee or bar on the number of entries an individual can send to participate in the contest. However, the participants must send each film separately with a duly filled-in entry form. The terms and conditions, along with the entry form, can be downloaded from the NHRC website: [www.nhrc.nic.in](http://www.nhrc.nic.in). The film, a duly filled-in entry form, and other requisite documents may be sent using Google Drive at [nhrcshortfilm@gmail.com](mailto:nhrcshortfilm@gmail.com). Any queries may also be sent to the M&C Wing of the Commission through this email address.

## Tech initiatives

**T**he National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has designed, developed, and implemented a software application for the online submission of proposals for conferences, seminars and workshops by universities/ colleges/ NGO to increase efficiency, transparency, outreach and ease in processing by users.

The Commission has also developed the Human Rights Commission's Network (HRCNet) portal (<https://www.hrcnet.nic.in>). This portal can be used by on-boarded

Human Rights Commissions in the country for the online complaints lodging/ tracking system and handling of complaints received offline, i.e., by hand, post, etc. The HRCNet portal has been enabling the NHRC in the efficient handling of complaints for many years. This software is useful in processing complaints at every stage, such as complaints diarization, case registration, entry of Commission's proceedings, etc. Most of the State Human Rights Commissions have onboarded the HRCNet Portal for complaints. Recently, the Haryana SHRC has also joined it.

## News from State Human Rights Commissions

**G**iven the ever-expanding dimensions of human life and related challenges, the promotion and protection of human rights is always a work in progress. In India, besides the democratically elected governments, constitutionally committed to ensuring the welfare of the people by protecting their basic human rights, there are institutions of legislature, judiciary, a vibrant media, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs), as well as the other National Commissions and their state counterparts working as watchdogs of rights and issues of various segments of society. This column intends to highlight the exceptional activities of the SHRCs undertaken to protect and promote human rights.

### Haryana State Human Rights Commission

During May, 2025, the Haryana State Human Rights Commission (HSHRC), led by the Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra, visited the Kaithal District Jail. The Commission emphasized the urgent need to implement an auto-generated parole system across all state prisons to ensure timely and equitable access to parole for all inmates. Justice Batra stated that parole is a fundamental human right and should not be denied due to administrative delays or lack of awareness, particularly among illiterate prisoners.



The Commission suggested developing software to automatically notify inmates of their parole eligibility without requiring manual applications. The HHRC also directed jail authorities to conduct regular counselling, improve inmate welfare, and streamline parole processing within 42 days.

The HSHRC Chairperson and Members, Shri Kuldeep Jain and Shri Deep Bhatia, met the Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, at Raj Bhavan and discussed key human rights issues. They briefed the Governor on the activities of the HSHRC, highlighting that over 3,000 cases have been heard since its reconstitution in November, 2024, with 25–30 complaints received daily by post and email. The Commission also

emphasized its outreach through bi-monthly camp courts in Gurugram for southern Haryana.

During the month, the HSHRC also took *suo motu* cognizance in four issues of human rights violations, including illegal mining in Panchkula, rise in abductions and missing persons in the State, abandonment of an elderly couple and assault on a student.

## Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission

During May, 2025, the Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (MPSHRC) recommended Rs 5 lakh as relief in a case of unnatural death of a man who emulated himself in the police lock-up at Katara Hills, Bhopal on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019. He died while undergoing treatment in the hospital.



► HSHRC Chairperson, Justice Lalit Batra interacting with the Kaithal District Jail officers

## News in brief

- On 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi was the Chief Guest in the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Day Celebration of the Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, Nayabazar, Cuttack, Odisha. ►

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi was the Chief Guest in the Human Rights Awareness programme organized by the Daspalla Bar, Cuttack, Odisha.



- On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal delivered a talk on 'Essence of human rights in counter-insurgency operations' in a meet organized by the Eastern Army Command, Kolkata. It was attended by over 200 senior commanding officers, and others joined online from across the North-East states. The talk was followed by Q&A wherein he addressed various issues related to the international dimensions of human rights, Protection of Human Rights Act

---

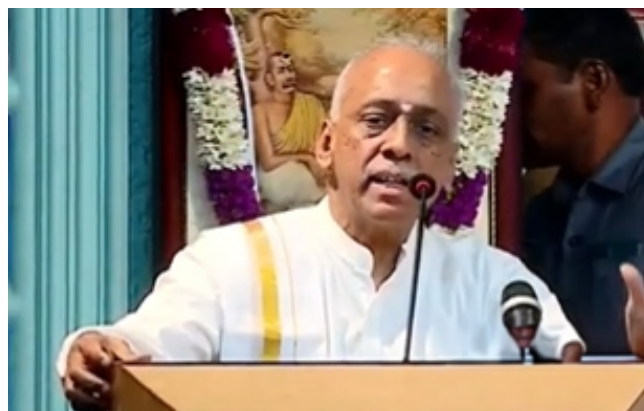
(PHRA), 1993, human rights violations redressal mechanism, etc. It was hosted by Lt Gen R C Tiwari, GOC-in-C. Dr Niten Chandra, Secretary, DESA, Union Ministry of Defence, was also present.



- 
- On 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani was the Chief Guest at the 300<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar, organized by the Samskara Bharati and Samvartini in Panchkula, Haryana. She hailed Rani Ahilyabai Holkar's administrative reforms, supporting justice for the marginalized, promoting women's rights through empowerment and skill development, social harmony and spiritual living, which profoundly impacted society. She said the NHRC's commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of women, the elderly, children and the marginalized segments of society reflects Rani Ahilyabai's rights-based approach to governance centuries ago.



- 
- From 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, attended the inaugural and valedictory sessions of the 58<sup>th</sup> Kamban Vizha, a three-day festival organized by the Kamban Kazhagam to commemorate Kamban, the Tamil poet of the Chola period, at Kamban Kalaiarangam in Puducherry, Tamil Nadu. Besides the addresses by the eminent speakers, the festival lined up events based on Kamba Ramayanam.



- 
- On 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Shri Priyank Kanoongo, attended as the Chief Guest of an awareness programme on the topic 'Human Rights for the Deprived' organized for the Nai Samaj at Government Primary School, Village Nai Nangla, Panchayat Nunera, Tehsil Sohna, Gurugram, Haryana.
  - On 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi inaugurated the 16<sup>th</sup> National Festival Satasahi Katak Nrutyotsav-2025 in Cuttack, Odisha. Later, on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, he attended the Institutional Ethical Committee Meeting of IMS and SUM-Hospital in Khordha, Bhubaneswar.



- On 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, the NHRC, India nominated its Consultant (Research), Shri Devesh Saxena and JRC, Ms Avani Verma, to attend the Street Vendor Meeting organized by the National Association of Street Vendors in India (NASVI) at the Constitutional Club of India, New Delhi. The issues raised included getting the Certificate of Vending, lack of Survey by the concerned authorities, issue in seeking loans through PM SVANidhi Yojna, mental harassment faced by street Vendors by police personnel, need for gender sensitivity, proper implementation and enforcement of the Street Vendors Act, 2014, monitoring and regulation at Vending Zones, lack of Data regarding authorized and non-authorized vendor.



- On 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal delivered a keynote address at the India Heat Summit 2025, organized by the Climate Trends at the India International Centre in New Delhi. Shri Lal spoke about heatwave-related deaths over the past 30 years and highlighted challenges such as a lack of granular data on heatwave mortality, poor socio-economic vulnerability mapping, etc. He said that the NHRC, India has always been concerned with the climatic and environmental impact on vulnerable people and especially those without shelters, and is impressing upon the concerned authorities to take preventive measures to mitigate the impact of cold and heatwaves.

Shri Lal said that recently, the NHRC wrote letters to concerned State and UT Administrations to follow the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines to mitigate the impacts of heatwaves and create proper shelters for the vulnerable, particularly the homeless. He said that it is necessary to recognize socio-economic vulnerabilities with heatwaves, leveraging remote sensing and AI for urban heat mapping, integrating Met-data into local governance to mitigate heatwave impacts and strengthening international collaboration and climate finance.



- On 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal delivered a talk on a 'Session – Human Rights: Not just legal frameworks, but a reflection of the Nation's core values' at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi. He talked about the civilizational values and cultural ethos of India, the institutional framework for the protection of human rights in India and endeavours made by the NHRC in fulfilling its mandate of protection and promotion of human rights. (Image on page no. 23)





- On 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, NHRC, India Member, Shri Priyank Kanoongo, attended the programme 'Rashtra Jyoti Samman', Bharpatiya Village, Champaran, Bihar. He met the grassroots nation-builders from marginalized communities and raised awareness among Dalit villagers about their human and constitutional rights.



## Forthcoming events

**3<sup>rd</sup> June,  
2025**

The NHRC, India will organize a Statutory Full Commission meeting of all its 6 deemed Member Commissions and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi. The meeting aims at enhancing synergy and cooperation among the Commissions to promote and protect human rights.

**16<sup>th</sup> June,  
2025**

The NHRC, India will begin its in-person month-long Summer Internship Programme for university students at its premises.

## Complaints in May, 2025

Number of fresh complaints received	6,510
Number of cases disposed of including old cases	2,730
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission	15,966



# Human rights and NHRC in news



सर्वे  
भवन्तु सुखिनः

## National Human Rights Commission

Important telephone numbers of the NHRC for filing complaints

Toll Free No.: 14433 (Facilitation Centers) • Fax No.: 011-2465 1332

For Filing online complaints: [www.nhrc.nic.in](http://www.nhrc.nic.in), [hrcnet.nic.in](http://hrcnet.nic.in), Common Service Centres

Email: [complaint.nhrc@nic.in](mailto:complaint.nhrc@nic.in) (For complaints), [cr.nhrc@nic.in](mailto:cr.nhrc@nic.in) (For general queries/ correspondence)

Focal point for Human Rights Defenders

Indrajeet Kumar, Deputy Registrar (Law)

Mobile No. +91 99993 93570 • Fax No. 011-2465 1334 • E-mail: [hrd-nhrc@nic.in](mailto:hrd-nhrc@nic.in)

Publisher & Printer: Secretary General, NHRC

Printed at Indu Cards & Graphics, 2393/221, Vidya Market, Chhatta Shahji, Chawri bazar, Delhi-110006 and

Published from National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, Block-C, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110 023



[covdnhrc@nic.in](mailto:covdnhrc@nic.in)



[www.nhrc.nic.in](http://www.nhrc.nic.in)



@India\_NHRC

RNI No. 59340/94