



NHRC Takes Suo Motu on Food Poisoning Report

Why in News?

[The National Human Rights Commission \(NHRC\)](#) has taken [Suo Motu cognizance](#) of a media report about people dying due to [food poisoning](#) at a Patna shelter home. The shelter is funded by the Bihar government's Directorate of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Key Points

- **Human Rights Violation Concern:**
 - The NHRC observed that the media report **highlights a serious [human rights violation](#)** concerning the victims.
 - The Shelter Home authorities are responsible for providing proper care to the inmates as their lawful custodians.
- **Notice to Bihar Government:**
 - The NHRC issued a **notice to the Chief Secretary of Bihar**, requesting a detailed report within two weeks.
 - The report should include **the victims' health status and information** on whether any compensation has been provided to the victims or their families.
 - The Chief Secretary is also asked to **inform the NHRC about the steps taken or proposed to prevent such incidents from recurring** in the future.
- **Unhygienic Conditions at the Shelter Home:**
 - A media report highlighted that, during an inspection, **authorities found unhygienic conditions at the Shelter Home.**
 - The report also mentioned that **proper hygiene was not being maintained** during food preparation at the Shelter.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- **About:**
 - It ensures the **protection of [rights related to life, liberty](#)**, equality, and dignity of individuals.
 - Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution and international covenants enforceable by Indian courts.
- **Establishment:**
 - Established on 12th October 1993, under the [Protection of Human Rights Act \(PHRA\), 1993](#).
 - Amended by the **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006**, and **Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019**.
 - Established in **conformity with the Paris Principles**, adopted for promoting and protecting human rights.

NATIONAL HUMAN *Rights* COMMISSION (NHRC)

According to NHRC, Human Rights are the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India

- Watchdog of Human Rights in India
- **Estd:** 1993 (in conformity with Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- **Act:** Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993

State Human Rights Commissions

- Also constituted under the PHR Act, 1993
- **Appointment of Members:** by Governor
- **Removal of Members:** by President

Human Rights Day: 10 December

Functions

- ④ Investigates Complain of human rights violations
- ④ *Suo Moto* cognizance of cases
- ④ Reviews and recommends human rights implementation
- ④ Spreading human rights awareness
- ④ Conduct studies, publish reports on human rights issues

Powers

- ④ Summon individuals, examine witnesses, and receive evidences
- ④ Inspect prisons and other institutions to ensure conditions are humane
- ④ Intervene in court proceedings relating to human rights

Members of NHRC

Composition

- ④ 5 full-time members and 7 deemed members
- ④ **Chairperson:** Retired CJI/Judges of the SC
- ④ **Administrative Head:** Secretary-General

Tenure

- ④ 3 years / till age 70 (whichever is earlier)

Appointment

- ④ All members appointed by **President** on recommendations of a **6-member** committee (PM, Speaker of LS, Deputy Chairman of RS, Union Home Minister and Leaders of Opposition of both Houses of Parliament)

Removal

- ④ President can remove the chairman or any member
- ④ **Ground:** Charges of proved misbehaviour or incapacity

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Status

- NHRC has been accredited 'A' Status since 1999
- **Retained 'A' Status:** 2006, 2011 and 2017
- **Suspension of 'A' Status:** 2023 and 2024



Drishti IAS