



NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MANAV ADHIKAR BHAWAN BLOCK-C, GPO COMPLEX, INA, NEW DELHI- 110023

Fax No.: 011-24651332 Website: www.nhrc.nic.in

(Law Division)

Case No.- 1829/90/0/2025

Date : 24/09/2026

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Sub : Complaint/ Intimation from

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Subject: Additional Information Called for(AIC) -1829/90/0/2025.

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to say that the matter was considered by the Commission on 24/09/2026 and the Commission has directed as follows.:

1.The complainant alleged that the roadside vendors and hawkers/ pottery sellers are being subjected to unnecessary and inhumane treatment/ investigation and action by the concerned Municipal authorities across various cities in India. They are being evicted with the reason being that they obstruct the path for fire brigades and ambulances. They are infact just trying to harass the shop keepers. They are being issued challans/penalties and are being extorted of their money. They are also colluding with the local shopkeepers. This is also restricting them from their earnings as they only make necessary earnings during the Diwali festivals. The complainant sought the intervention of the Commission in the matter.

2.Vide proceedings dated 17.10.2025, the Bench of the National Human Rights Commission, presided by Shri Priyank Kanoongo, Hon'ble Member, took cognizance u/s 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, in the matter. The Registry was directed to issue a notice to the Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs in India, with directions to get the allegations made in the complaint inquired into and to direct all the District Magistrates/Municipal authorities to refrain from such practices of harassing these local pottery sellers/ other footpath traders/hawkers, Kumhars, Small sweet vendors/Halwai, Malies, local vegetables sellers, rangoli colour sellers etc., as such act of the authorities is against the spirit of the VOCAL FOR LOCAL initiative by the Govt. of India.

3.The authorities shall make arrangements for the fire-fighting measures in line with the required prominent locations to access in case of any emergency in the fire-prone areas. It is also directed that these local pottery sellers/ other footpath traders/hawkers, Kumhars, Small sweet vendors, Malies, local vegetables sellers, rangoli colour sellers etc., be provided suitable substitute places, if required, in case of any displacement from the footpaths due to hurdles in access of emergency services such as fire fighting, ambulances etc. It is also directed that suitable substitute places shall also be equipped with all safety measures. No challans/penalties/ seizure of goods / any harsh action action be taken against the above mentioned poor sellers/vendors during the Deepawali festive season by the Local Administration. These directions be implemented during the Diwali festive season only and shall not be taken as a blanket misuse for the whole year. A copy of the complaint is attached herewith.

4.Pursuant to the direction of the Commission, the Govt. of Sikkim, Manipur, UT of Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Meghalaya, submitted an action taken report.

5.Further, the Superintendent of Police (HR), Uttar Pradesh, submitted report dated 07.01.2026 and 09.02.2026, along with report received from 16 (10+6) districts.

6. In addition to above communication, the Commission has received separate communications from individual districts, which are mentioned hereinbelow:

- i. **Assam:** Morigaon, Hojai, Barpeta, Sivasagar, Biswanath, Karbi Anglong District, Diphu, Jongaigaon, Tinsukia, Jorhat, and Mughalpur;
- ii. **Uttar Pradesh:** Kheri, Noida, Fatehpur, Lucknow, Ayodhya, Hathras, Pilibhit, Kusumbhi, Ghaziabad, Raibareilly, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Shamli, Unnao, Sharanpur, Deoria, Mainpuri, Jaunpur, Bhadohi, Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Chandoli, Kashganj, Balia, Moradabad, Shahjanpur, Etawah, Bulandshar, Baghpat, Frukabad, Bahraich, Mathura, Shambhal, Gorakhpur, Agra, Meerut, and Chandoli;
- iii. **Uttarakhand:** Sonbhadra, Rishikesh;
- iv. **Rajasthan:** Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Pali, Alwar, Baswara, Pratapgarh, Jaipur, phalodi, Jodhpur, Rajsamand, and Bundi;
- v. **Haryana:** Faridabad, and Ambala;
- vi. **Karnataka:** Bengaluru West City Corporation;
- vii. **Tripura:** Kailashahar;
- viii. **Delhi:** DCP of Central, Outer, and Dwarka Districts;
- ix. **Jharkhand:** Deogarh;
- x. **Telangana;**
- xi. **Andaman & Nicobar;**
- xii. **Arunachal Pradesh;**
- xiii. **Ladakh;**
- ix. **Chhattisgarh;**

- xv. Kerala;
xvi. Nagaland; and
xvii. West Bengal.

Present Directions of the Commission:

6. The Commission has considered the material placed on record. The Commission has received action taken report from the Govt. of Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, UT of Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Nagaland, and West Bengal.

7. Therefore, let direction fresh direction be issued to the Chief Secretary of all the States/UTs (except Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, UT of Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Nagaland, and West Bengal) to submit Action Taken Report, in view of observations and directions of the Commission vide its proceeding dated 17.10.2025 at Sl. No. 2 & 3, mentioned hereinabove. In addition, copy of proceeding dated 17.10.2025 is enclosed for ready reference.

8. Response within four weeks

Fresh directions for the Diwali festive season particularly Navratri, Deepawali and Chhath Puja, 2026:

In view of the approaching festive season of October–November 2026, the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs, including those which have already submitted their ATRs, are directed to ensure compliance with the following directions and to circulate the same to all District Magistrates, Municipal Commissioners, Commissioners/Superintendents of Police and other concerned authorities:

i. Protection of Livelihoods and “Vocal for Local”: During the festive season, particularly Navratri, Deepawali and Chhath Puja, street vendors, footpath traders/hawkers, Kumhars, local diya and murti makers/sellers, pottery sellers, small sweet vendors, Malies, local vegetable sellers, rangoli colour sellers and other similarly placed small/local vendors and artisans shall not be unnecessarily displaced, removed or prevented from carrying on their livelihood activities. The local administration shall facilitate their traditional trades, safeguard their livelihoods and promote locally made products in furtherance of the Government’s “Vocal for Local” initiative.

ii. Alternative Vending Arrangements: Where relocation becomes unavoidable for maintaining emergency access or for compelling fire/public-safety requirements, suitable and accessible alternative vending spaces shall be provided, as far as practicable, without adversely affecting the livelihood of such vendors.

iii. Protection Against Arbitrary Action: The local administration shall ensure that small/local vendors are not subjected to unnecessary or arbitrary seizure of goods during the festive season, and that any action, where warranted, is taken strictly in accordance with law and with due regard to their livelihood.

iv. Prevention of Harassment and Extortion: Any complaint of harassment, extortion, coercion or undue interference with vendors shall be promptly examined by the competent authority and appropriate action taken, wherever warranted, in accordance with law.

The Chief Secretaries shall ensure wide circulation and effective implementation of the aforesaid directions by all concerned authorities throughout the festive period.

2. It is therefore, requested that the additional/ complete report as directed by the Commission in the matter be sent latest by 18/10/2026, for further consideration by the Commission.

3. *Any communication by public authorities in this matter may please be sent to the Commission through the HRCNet Portal (<https://hrcnet.nic.in>) by using id and password already provided to the public authorities (click Authority Login). Any Audio/ Video CDs/ pen drives etc. may be sent through Speed Post/ per bearer. The reports/ responses sent through email may not be entertained*



Your's faithfully

[Signature]
Brijvir Singh
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (LAW)