



Maharashtra Approves Compensation Policy

Why in News?

On 15th April 2025, the **Maharashtra Cabinet** approved a comprehensive **compensation policy** for [custodial deaths](#), aligning with [National Human Rights Commission \(NHRC\)](#) recommendations to support families of inmates who die from unnatural causes in custody.

Key Points

- **Compensation Details:**
 - **Rs 5 lakh** will be paid to legal heirs if the prisoner's death results from:
 - Accidents during prison work,
 - [Medical negligence](#),
 - Assault by prison staff,
 - Violence involving fellow inmates — if proven as administrative failure after inquiry.
 - **Rs 1 lakh compensation** will be provided in **cases of suicide in custody**.
 - The policy excludes natural deaths due to aging or chronic illness, injuries during escape attempts, lack of treatment while on bail.
 - In case of [natural disasters](#), compensation will follow **existing government norms**.
- **Amnesty Scheme for Property Tax Defaulters:**
 - To improve revenue and reduce arrears, the Cabinet approved an **amnesty scheme for municipal property tax defaulters**.
 - The scheme **waives penalties (currently 2% monthly)**, which often surpass the original dues and discourage payments.
 - Legal amendments have also been approved to validate the waiver under existing municipal laws.

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.

Custodial Death

- **About:**

- Custodial death refers to a **death that occurs while a person is in the custody of law enforcement officials** or a correctional facility. It can occur due to **various causes such as the use of excessive force, neglect, or abuse** by the authorities.
- According to the [Law Commission of India](#), the crime by a public servant against the arrested or the detained person who is in custody amounts to [custodial violence](#).

▪ **Types of Custodial Death:**

- **Death in Police Custody:** Death in police custody can result from excessive force, torture, denial of medical care, or other forms of abuse or incidental cause.
- **Death in Judicial Custody:** Death in judicial custody may occur due to overcrowding, poor hygiene, lack of medical facilities, inmate violence, or suicide.
- **Death in the Custody of the Army or Paramilitary Forces:** It can happen through torture or extrajudicial killings.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/maharashtra-approves-compensation-policy>

