

CURRENT AFFAIRS: 30.04.2026

CITU petitions ILO over 'suppression of workers' rights by Centre and Uttar Pradesh governments'

'Government of India and the Uttar Pradesh Government are in violation of fundamental ILO principles'

Updated - April 29, 2026 11:35 am IST - NEW DELHI

Source: The Hindu

CITU Approaches ILO Over Alleged Violation of Workers' Rights

Why in News?

The Delhi State Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has complained to the International Labour Organization (ILO) about the Union and Uttar Pradesh government's complicity in violations of workers' fundamental rights and the assault on trade union rights in the industrial regions of Noida and Greater Noida.



- **Violations Alleged:** The complaint was filed before the **ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association**, citing "grave, widespread and systematic" violations of freedom of association, right to organise, collective bargaining and peaceful assembly.
 - CITU cited coercive measures such as **mass arrests**, use of force, and the **criminalization of peaceful labour protests** during **worker mobilisations in April 2026**.
 - CITU has called for an **independent judicial inquiry** into police excesses, the withdrawal of criminal cases against protesters, and the restoration of **collective bargaining mechanisms**.
- **Economic Triggers:** The protests were driven by stagnant real wages, rising cost of living, and concerns over **Labour Codes**, with minimum wages in Uttar Pradesh cited as below subsistence levels.
- **International Standards:** The petition urges the ILO to ensure India complies with **ILO Convention No. 98** and the **ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles**.
 - **ILO Convention 98** sets basic principles for making collective bargaining work for workers, employers and society.
 - The **ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work**, adopted in 1998 and amended in 2022, is a global commitment by governments, employers, and workers to uphold basic human values in the workplace.
 - It mandates that all ILO member states respect and promote five core categories of principles, regardless of ratification.

- The five core labour standards of the International Labour Organization include:
 - **Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.**
 - **Elimination of forced or compulsory labour.**
 - **Abolition of child labour.**
 - **Elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation.**
 - **Safe and healthy working environment.**



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Promoting social justice and decent work for all

WHAT IS THE ILO?

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency for the world of work. We advance social justice and promote decent work by setting international labour standards, developing policies and devising programmes that promote decent work for all women and men.

KEY FACTS



**ESTABLISHED
1919**

Founded in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles. Became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946.



UN AGENCY

The ILO is the only UN agency with a tripartite structure.



TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE

Brings together governments, employers and workers to set labour standards, shape policies and design programmes.



187 MEMBER STATES

The ILO brings together 187 Member States from all regions of the world.



HEADQUARTERS

Geneva, Switzerland

OUR MANDATE

The ILO's mandate is to promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.



OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To promote decent work for all through four strategic goals:



Rights at work
Promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work.



Employment
Promote full, productive and freely chosen employment.



Social protection
Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.



Social dialogue
Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.

WHAT WE DO



Set International Labour Standards
Adopt conventions and recommendations on key labour issues.



Develop Policies and Knowledge
Produce research, data and guidelines to inform policies and actions.



Build Capacity and Provide Technical Assistance
Support countries to design and implement effective labour policies and programmes.



Promote Decent Work
Work with governments, employers, workers and partners to advance decent work for all.

OUR IMPACT



Promoting fundamental rights and principles at work

Including freedom of association, elimination of forced labour, child labour and discrimination.



Creating more and better jobs

Support policies for inclusive economic growth, sustainable enterprises and skills development.



Extending social protection for all

Promote social security, safe workplaces and protection for all workers.



Strengthening social dialogue and tripartism

Foster cooperation between governments, employers and workers for peaceful and productive societies.



Advancing decent work worldwide

Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS

The ILO has developed:



190 CONVENTIONS
Legally binding instruments.



206 RECOMMENDATIONS
Non-binding instruments that complement conventions.

Covering a wide range of issues including labour rights, employment, social protection, working conditions and more.

OUR SYMBOL



The ILO emblem symbolizes international labour cooperation and the advancement of social justice.

QUICK FACTS



5,000+ Staff members



40+ Field offices



Thousands of projects and partnerships in more than 100 countries



Millions of workers whose lives are positively impacted

What are International Labour Standards?

- The ILO sets international labour standards with conventions, which are ratified by member states. These are **non-binding**.
- Conventions are drawn up with input from governments, workers' and employers' groups at the ILO and are adopted by the **International Labour Conference**.
- In ratifying an ILO convention, a member state **accepts it as a legally binding instrument**. Many countries use conventions as a tool to bring national laws in line with international standards.

What is the Decent Work Agenda?

- As part of its mission, the ILO **aims to achieve decent work for all** by promoting social dialogue, social protection and employment creation, as well as respect for international labour standards.
- The ILO provides **technical support to more than 100 countries** to help achieve these aims, with the support of development partners.

What is the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work?

- It was adopted in 1998, the Declaration commits member states to respect and promote **eight fundamental principles and rights** in four categories, whether or not they have ratified the relevant conventions. **They are:**
 - Freedom of Association and The Right to collective bargaining (Conventions 87 and 98)
 - Elimination of forced or compulsory labour (Conventions No. 29 and No. 105)
 - Abolition of child labour (Conventions No. 138 and No. 182)
 - Elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation (Conventions No. 100 and No. 111)

What are the Core Conventions of the ILO?

- The eight fundamental conventions form an integral part of the **United Nations Human Rights Framework**, and their ratification is an important sign of member States' commitment to human rights.
- Overall, 135 member States have ratified all eight fundamental conventions. Unfortunately, 48 member states (out of 183 member States), including member states with the highest populations, have yet to complete ratification of all eight conventions.
- The **eight-core conventions of the ILO** are:
 - Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
 - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105)
 - Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100)
 - Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111)
 - Minimum Age Convention (No.138)
 - Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182)
 - Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention (No.87)
 - Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98)
- The eight conventions, taken together, are more relevant today in the face of **global economic** and other challenges impinging on the welfare and livelihood of workers in all regions.

- Indeed, they are part and parcel of the overarching architecture for the universality of human rights, offering protection to all, and responding closely to the quest for social justice in a globalized setting.
- They are catalytic to the UN system, the international community and local communities as a whole.

India and ILO: What is the Scenario?

- India is a **founding member of the ILO** and it has been a permanent member of the ILO Governing Body since 1922.
- In India, the first ILO Office was started in 1928. The decades of productive partnership between the ILO and its constituents has mutual trust and respect as underlying principles and is grounded in building sustained institutional capacities and strengthening capacities of partners.
- India has ratified six out of the **eight-core/fundamental ILO conventions**. These conventions are:
 - Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
 - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105)
 - Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100)
 - Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111)
 - Minimum Age Convention (No.138)
 - Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182)
- India has **not ratified** the two core/fundamental conventions, namely **Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)** and **Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)**.
 - The main reason for non-ratification of ILO conventions No.87 & 98 is due to certain restrictions imposed on the government servants.
 - The ratification of these conventions would involve granting of certain rights that are prohibited under the statutory rules, for the government employees, namely, the right to strike, to openly criticize government policies, to freely accept a financial contribution, to freely join foreign organizations etc.

Ministry of Home Affairs



Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) today made a major breakthrough in securing the return of notorious drug trafficker Mohammad Salim Dola from Turkiye

Zero tolerance against Narco syndicate

Arrest of fugitive Salim Dola reflect Modi govt's firm resolve to bring all narcotics fugitives and members of organised crime syndicates to justice

Now no matter where they hide, no place is safe for drug kingpins

Our anti-narcotics agencies have extended their claws across borders through a robust network

Posted On: 28 APR 2026 2:03PM by PIB Delhi

Source: The Hindu

Narcotics Control Bureau and Operation Global-Hunt

The **Narcotics Control Bureau(NCB)** secured the return of drug trafficker **Mohammad Salim Dola** from Türkiye under **Operation Global-Hunt**, marking the **first success** under the initiative and a major step in India's crackdown on international narcotics networks.

Operation Global-Hunt

- **About:** Operation Global-Hunt is a **three-year strategic initiative** to dismantle around 100 international drug networks run by Indian fugitives, targeting traffickers dealing in heroin, cocaine, fentanyl and synthetic drugs through tools like **INTERPOL** notices and asset freezing.
- **Coordination:** It involves **coordinated action among Indian agencies** such as NCB, Mumbai Police, Gujarat ATS and international authorities, strengthening cross-border enforcement capabilities.
- **Policy Framework:** The initiative is part of **India's broader "zero tolerance" anti-narcotics policy**, strengthened through the **Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD)** and a planned nationwide anti-drug campaign with defined targets and monitoring up to 2029.

Narcotics Control Bureau(NCB)

- **About:** Headquartered in **New Delhi**, NCB is the apex drug law enforcement and intelligence agency in India, constituted in 1986 under the provisions of the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.
- **Functions and Powers of NCB:** Operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and coordinates with various central and state agencies for enforcement and policy implementation.
- **Major Legislation Governing Drugs:** **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, and Prevention of Illicit Traffic in NDPS Act, 1988, National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- **Global Efforts:** India is a signatory to key international conventions like **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961** (as amended by 1972 Protocol), Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971, and UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

Enhanced CAR-T therapy clears solid tumours by finding 'faint' targets

Scientists have developed a highly sensitive receptor that can detect trace amounts of proteins on solid tumours, overcoming a major biological hurdle to using CAR T-cell therapy against such cancers

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CAR-T Therapy Breakthrough For Solid Tumours

Why in News?

A study published in Science reports a breakthrough in **CAR-T (Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell) therapy**, showing that engineered immune cells can detect and eliminate previously "hidden" cancer cells in solid tumours.

What are the Key Findings of the Study on Solid Tumours?

- **Limitations of Conventional CAR-T Cells:** Conventional CAR-T therapy, though effective in blood cancers, struggles in solid tumours because it requires strong antigen signals for activation.
 - Due to **antigen heterogeneity (variation in expression of surface antigens among cells)**, many tumour cells express very low levels of target proteins or appear negative, allowing them to evade immune attack and later cause tumour relapse.
- **Pseudo-Heterogeneity in Solid Tumours:** The study found that tumour cells are **not truly antigen-negative** but express the target protein at very low levels, a condition termed pseudo-heterogeneity.
 - Scientists noted that cancer cells likely retain small amounts of the protein because it is necessary for their survival.
 - Researchers identified that the **enzyme EZH2 suppresses CD70** (a protein found in 70-80% of kidney and ovarian cancers, and about 25% of pancreatic cancers) **expression by modifying chromatin structure**, reducing protein levels and making tumour cells appear invisible to conventional therapies.
 - Around 80–90% of tumour cells previously labelled CD70-negative were found to still carry detectable levels, indicating most tumour cells remain targetable with improved sensitivity.
- **Enhanced Sensitivity through HIT Receptor:** To overcome this limitation, scientists developed the **HLA-independent T-cell (HIT) receptor**, which directly links antigen detection to the T-cell's natural activation pathway.
 - Researchers explained that this design allows T-cells to respond to much lower antigen densities, improving their ability to identify hidden tumour cells.
 - In xenograft models (*human tumours grown in mice*), conventional CAR-T reduced tumours but failed due to low-antigen (*weak target signal*) cells, while HIT T-cells eliminated them and achieved complete, lasting tumour removal.
- **Safety Concerns and Scientific Caution:** Scientists warned that higher sensitivity may attack normal cells, but CD70 is mostly absent in vital organs, side effects were temporary, and safety switches can reduce risks.

What is CAR-T Cell Therapy?

- **About:** It is a form of **immunotherapy** (a treatment that uses the body's own immune system to fight cancer).
- **The Process:**

- **Extraction:** T-cells (a type of **white blood cell** responsible for fighting infections) are extracted from the patient's blood.
- **Genetic Engineering:** In a laboratory, these T-cells are genetically modified to produce special receptors on their surface called **Chimeric Antigen Receptors (CARs)**.
- **Multiplication & Infusion:** These modified, "supercharged" T-cells are multiplied by the millions and infused back into the patient's bloodstream.
- **Action:** The CARs act like heat-seeking missiles, enabling the T-cells to specifically recognize, bind to, and destroy cancer cells bearing a specific antigen (protein).
- **Success in Blood Cancers:** CAR-T therapy has been highly successful against "liquid" or hematological cancers like **Leukemia and Lymphoma**.
 - This is because blood cancer cells typically possess a high and uniform density of target antigens (like CD19).
- **Limitations of CAR-T Therapy:**
 - **Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS):** This is a severe, potentially life-threatening side effect where the activated T-cells release a massive amount of inflammatory cytokines, leading to high fever, dangerous drops in blood pressure, and organ dysfunction.
 - **Neurotoxicity:** Patients can experience neurological issues like confusion, delirium, or seizures (known as ICANS).
 - **High Cost:** CAR-T therapy is highly customized for each patient (autologous). Globally, it costs hundreds of thousands of dollars, making it largely inaccessible.
 - **Manufacturing Time:** The process of extracting, engineering, and multiplying cells takes several weeks, during which aggressive cancers can progress.

India's Progress in CAR-T Therapy

- In October 2023, India approved **NexCAR19**, the country's first indigenously developed CAR-T cell therapy.
 - Developed collaboratively by **ImmunoACT, IIT Bombay, and Tata Memorial Hospital**, it is designed to treat B-cell lymphomas and B-acute lymphoblastic leukemia.
- **Significance:** NexCAR19 has drastically brought down the cost of this therapy from approximately Rs 3-4 crores (imported) to around Rs 40 lakhs, democratizing access to cutting-edge cancer care in India.

Rock art site rediscovered in the Nilgiris

The site, near the famous rock art site of Vellarikombai village in Kotagiri is sacred to both Irula and Kurumba indigenous communities

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THE HINDU BUREAU

Recently, the **Yaakai Heritage Trust** reported the rediscovery of a **prehistoric rock painting** site called **Oor Pare** in the Nilgiris district of **Tamil Nadu**, highlighting its cultural and archaeological significance.

- **Location:** The site is located near **Vellarikombai village in the Kotagiri region** and lies at an altitude of around 1100 meters above sea level. The rock shelter is traditionally used by indigenous **Irula and Kurumba communities**, especially during honey collection activities.
- **Composition:** Around **30 identifiable figures**, along with several faint forms, are recorded, all executed in **red ochre forming** a monochrome composition.
- **Style:** The paintings are classified into **fine line drawings, thick stroke figures, and geometric composite forms**.
- **Depictions:** The artwork features anthropomorphic figures with **conical headdresses, elongated human forms, ladder-like body structures, and ritual symbols like dot-filled rectangular patterns**, indicating links to prehistoric ritual practices and supernatural beliefs.
- **Chronology:** Evidence of **repainting and superimposition points** to multi-phase artistic activity across different cultural periods.
- **Other Sites:** Nearby important rock art sites include **Eluthuparai and Tholikiparai**, known for similar multi-layered chronological painting traditions.

Bhimbetka Rock Paintings

- **Location:** It is located south of Bhopal in **Vidhyan ranges** of Madhya Pradesh with rock shelters having more than **500 rock paintings**.
 - The caves of Bhimbetka were discovered in 1957–58 by V. S. Wakankar
 - It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2003.
- **Timeline:** The oldest paintings are estimated to be **30,000 years old** and have survived due to its location deep inside the caves.
 - There is marked continuity in occupancy of the caves from **100,000 BC to 1000 AD** with many paintings being painted on top of another.
 - In some places, there are as many as **20 layers of paintings**, one on top of another
 - The paintings at Bhimbetka belong to Upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Chalcolithic, early historic and medieval period.
 - However, most of the paintings belong to the **Mesolithic age**.
- **Painting techniques:** Various colours like red ochre, purple, brown, white, yellow and green are used, obtained from natural resources.
 - Haematite ores were used for red colour and white probably from Limestone.
 - Green prepared from a green coloured rock called Chalcedony.

- The Brushes were made of plant fibre.
- **Themes of the paintings:** Every-day life of prehistoric men often in **stick-like human figures**.
 - Various animals like elephant, bison, deer, peacock and snake are depicted.
 - Hunting scenes and war scenes with armed men.
 - Simple geometric designs and symbols.