



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted
by States Parties under article 9 of the Convention**

List of themes in relation to the combined twentieth and twenty-first periodic reports of India

Note by the Country Rapporteur

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination decided at its seventy-sixth session¹ that the Country Rapporteur would send to the State Party concerned a short list of themes, with a view to guiding and focusing the dialogue between the State Party's delegation and the Committee during the consideration of the State Party's report. The present document contains a list of such themes. It is not an exhaustive list; other issues may also be raised in the course of the dialogue. No written replies are required.

Statistics

2. Updated statistics on the composition on the demographic composition of the population on the basis of self-identification, disaggregated by race, descent, including caste, and ethnic origin, particularly on scheduled castes, Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes, migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons. Economic and social indicators on various groups living in the territory of the State Party, disaggregated by race, descent, including caste, national or ethnic origin, gender, age and disability.²

3. Information on the conduct of the census in 2027 and measures to collect statistics on race and ethnic origin, while respecting the principle of self-identification.

The Convention in domestic law and the institutional and policy framework for its implementation (arts. 2–6)

4. Updated information on the scope and implementation of existing anti-discrimination legislative framework, including the Protection of Civil Rights Act and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.³

5. Information on measures taken or envisaged to develop and adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that includes a definition of direct and indirect discrimination and prohibits racial discrimination, in accordance with articles 1, 2 and 4 of the Convention,

¹ A/65/18, para. 85.

² CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 2; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 10–12.

³ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 3; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, paras. 6 and 12; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 28–46.



particularly on the anti-discrimination and equality bill.⁴ Steps taken to adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat racism, racial discrimination and intolerance.

6. Updated information on measures taken or envisaged to align the legislative framework with the Convention, particularly to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and the Habitual Offenders Act, and to ensure the protection of racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, and Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes.⁵

7. Measures taken or envisaged to ensure that the legislative framework prohibits and punishes racist hate speech, incitement to racial hatred or to racial discrimination, and racist hate crimes, in accordance with article 4 of the Convention. Information on measures taken or envisaged to combat racist hate speech targeting racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes, and non-citizens, including in political discourse, in the media and on the Internet.⁶

8. Information on measures taken or envisaged to ensure that law enforcement officers do not engage in racial discrimination, including racially motivated violence and practices that amount to racial profiling.

9. Updated and detailed information on complaints registered with the courts, particularly the exclusive special courts established pursuant to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, or any other national institution, including the National Human Rights Commission of India, concerning acts of racial discrimination, racist hate speech and racist hate crimes, including on the Internet and in the media, and information on the outcomes of those complaints, on investigations and prosecutions undertaken, convictions handed down and disciplinary measures imposed on perpetrators and on reparation provided to victims.⁷

10. Measures taken or envisaged to strengthen the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission of India and bring it into full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) to effectively promote human rights and to monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of the Convention in an independent and transparent manner.⁸

11. Information on the mandate and activities of governmental entities responsible for implementing and monitoring policies regarding racial discrimination and rights protected under the Convention, particularly the National Commission for Backward Classes, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.⁹ Information on measures taken or envisaged to establish the equal opportunities commission.

12. Measures taken or envisaged to ensure an open space for the operations and activities of human rights defenders and civil society organizations, in particular those working on the promotion and protection of the human rights of racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes, and non-citizens.

Situation of ethnic and ethno-religious groups and Indigenous Peoples (arts. 2 and 5)

13. Measures taken or envisaged to guarantee the full and equal enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights by members of racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, and Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes, in particular their rights to protection from violence or bodily

⁴ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 4; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 16–20.

⁵ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, paras. 11 and 12; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, paras. 8 and 9; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 49–52 and 56–59.

⁶ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, paras. 13 and 14; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 60–65.

⁷ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 26; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, paras. 27 and 28; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 148–151.

⁸ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 10; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, para. 53.

⁹ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 10; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 21–27.

harm, participation in political affairs, nationality, marriage, ownership of property, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, education, adequate housing, health and employment.¹⁰

14. Information on the implementation and impact of special measures, including the centrally sponsored schemes, to combat structural discrimination, prejudice, hate crimes and stereotypes and against members of racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, and Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes, and to guarantee their full and equal enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, particularly to address racial discrimination and segregation.¹¹

15. Updated information on measures taken or envisaged to combat acts of “untouchability”, labour exploitative arrangements and child labour and to eradicate segregation against Dalits.¹² Information on measures to prevent gender-based and sexual violence, harmful practices and exploitation against Dalit women and children.¹³

16. Information on measures taken or envisaged to guarantee the enjoyment of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion by the Dalits who convert to Christianity or Islam, and to combat structural systemic racial discrimination whereby they are excluded from the protection under the national legislative framework.¹⁴

17. Updated information on measures taken or envisaged to combat intersecting forms of discrimination faced by members of racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, and Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes, particularly:

(a) Measures to repeal structural and systemic discrimination on the basis of intersecting grounds under the domestic legal framework;¹⁵

(b) Measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of birth registration and identity documents.¹⁶

18. Information on the situation of the Bengali-speaking Muslim ethno-religious group and measures to combat racial discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes targeting them. Updated information on the process of updating the National Register of Citizens in Assam, in particular on measures to prevent discrimination against them and the arbitrary deprivation of citizenship.¹⁷

19. Updated information on measures taken or envisaged to formally recognize all Indigenous Peoples.¹⁸ Information on measures taken or envisaged to protect their territories, to fulfil their right to own, use, develop and exercise full control over their lands, territories and resources, and to ensure the right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent on administrative and legislative procedures affecting them.¹⁹

¹⁰ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, paras. 3 and 24; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, paras. 18, 24 and 25; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 92–99 and 123–140.

¹¹ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 3; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, paras. 6, 7 and 12; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 28–48 and 56–59.

¹² CERD/C/IND/CO/19, paras. 13 and 23; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, paras. 12 and 23; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 56–59 and 110–122.

¹³ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, paras. 15 and 18; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 16; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 72–86.

¹⁴ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 21; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 7; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 47 and 48.

¹⁵ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, paras. 16 and 17; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 72–91.

¹⁶ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 17; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 87–91.

¹⁷ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 10; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 19; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 100 and 101.

¹⁸ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 5; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 21–27.

¹⁹ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, paras. 19 and 20; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 21; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 104–108.

20. Information on the situation of the Adivasi peoples in the district of Bastar in Chhattisgarh State, and measures taken or envisaged to respect and promote their rights protected under the Convention, particularly the right to security of person and protection against violence or bodily harm.

21. Information on the situation of the Shompen tribe and measures taken or envisaged to ensure the enjoyment of their rights as Indigenous Peoples, in particular their rights to life, to health, to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and to self-determination, and on measures to mitigate the adverse impact of the Great Nicobar Island Project.

22. Updated information on measures taken or envisaged to prevent and combat discrimination against members of ethno-religious groups in Jammu and Kashmir, including with regard to employment and land ownership.²⁰

23. Updated information on measures taken or envisaged to prevent and investigate allegations of human rights violations perpetrated by law enforcement officers during law enforcement operations against members of racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, and Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes.²¹

24. Updated information on measures taken or envisaged to ensure the effective participation and representation of racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, and Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes, in public and political life, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.²² Information on the Special Intensive Revision exercise in West Bengal ahead of the state elections in April 2026.

25. Information on measures taken or envisaged to ensure the enjoyment by racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes, and non-citizens of the right to health without discrimination.

26. Information on measures taken or envisaged to ensure access for racial, ethnic and ethno-religious groups, including members of scheduled castes, and Indigenous Peoples, including scheduled tribes, to quality and inclusive education.²³

Situation of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons (arts. 2, 5 and 6)

27. Updated information on the legislative and policy frameworks relating to migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons to ensure their access to justice, education, employment and health services without discrimination.

28. Information on measures taken to provide access to the State Party's territory for persons in need of international protection, to respect the principle of non-refoulement and to conduct investigations into allegations of expulsion and the excessive use of force and violence by law enforcement agents against migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.²⁴

29. Information on the situation of Rohingya who fled Myanmar to India.

30. Measures taken or envisaged to combat acts of racial discrimination and hate speech and violent attacks against migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, including by addressing the root causes, and to investigate incidents of racial discrimination and violence against migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, bring perpetrators to justice and provide victims or their families with effective remedies.²⁵

²⁰ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 11; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 54 and 55.

²¹ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 14; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 15; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 66–71.

²² CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 17; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 18; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 92–99.

²³ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 25; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 25; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 131–140.

²⁴ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 16; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 26; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, paras. 141–147.

²⁵ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 13; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, para. 64.

31. Measures taken to prevent and to protect people from statelessness, including statistics on stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness.

Human rights education to combat prejudice and intolerance (art. 7)

32. Information on measures taken or envisaged to combat the social acceptance of caste-based discrimination and racial, ethnic and ethno-religious prejudice, including campaigns to raise awareness among the general public, civil servants, law enforcement officers and judicial authorities of the importance of racial, ethnic, ethno-religious and cultural diversity and tolerance.²⁶

33. Updated information on measures taken or envisaged to promote human rights education, including ways to combat racial discrimination, in all school curricula, university programmes and teacher training programmes.²⁷

²⁶ CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 27; CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 29; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, para. 152.

²⁷ CERD/C/IND/QPR/20-21, para. 30; and CERD/C/IND/20-21, para. 153.