

## Diary Details

<b>Diary No</b>	6689/IN/2026	<b>Complainant Name</b>	ADVOCATE YENNAM BALACHANDER REDDY
<b>Address</b>	HYDERABAD		
<b>State</b>	TELANGANA	<b>District</b>	HYDERABAD

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF INDIA:  
AT::NEW DELHI**

**NHRC CASE NO.: 2026**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Grave threat to Human Rights, Constitutional Freedoms, and Minority Institutions arising from the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2026.

**COMPLAINANT:**

ADVOCATE YENNAM BALACHANDER REDDY

D.No.: 03-167, Sri Ram Nagar Colony,

IDA Jeedimetla, Hyderabad - 500055.

Mobile : 9959850723

Email id : advocate.bcreddy@gmail.com

AND

**RESPONDENTS:** The following authorities are responsible in the said case and pending disposal the case, may be directed to submit time-bound and comprehensive Action taken reports (ATRs):

1. Union of India, through the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.
2. Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, New Delhi.
3. Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
4. The Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Government of India.

**COMPLAINT FILED UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE PROTECTION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1993:**

## PARTICULARS AND LOCUS STANDI OF THE COMPLAINANT:

It is most humbly submitted that the Complainant, being a Roman Catholic Christian, an Advocate, and an active Human Rights Defender, is directly and substantially concerned with the protection of fundamental freedoms, minority rights, and rule of law, and thus possesses unquestionable *locus standi* to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Commission. The Complainant is a public-spirited citizen filing the present petition in public interest, with no personal or private motive. The complainant has filed numerous cases since 2020 before hon'ble NHRC for advancement of human rights of all religious denominations and they are part of record and the complainant doesn't want to mention it at the cost of repetition.

## SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF COMPLAINT:

### MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The present complaint is being preferred in the larger public interest to prevent imminent and irreparable harm to human rights, particularly those of religious minorities and civil society organizations, arising from the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2026 (hereinafter "the impugned Bill").
2. The Complainant, being a Roman Catholic Christian, an Advocate, and an active Human Rights Defender, is directly and substantially concerned with the protection of fundamental freedoms, minority rights, and rule of law, and thus possesses unquestionable *locus standi* to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Commission.
3. **India is a secular State**, as explicitly declared in the Preamble to the Constitution, which mandates equal respect for all religions and prohibits the State from discriminating on religious grounds. Secularism forms part of the **basic structure of the Constitution**, and obligates the State to maintain neutrality while ensuring protection and encouragement of minority institutions. Any legislative measure that disproportionately impacts religious minorities or interferes with their institutional autonomy strikes at the very core of this foundational constitutional principle.

4. The impugned Bill introduces provisions that radically alter the regulatory framework governing foreign contributions by conferring **wide, unguided, and excessive discretionary powers** upon the Central Government.
5. Of particular concern are provisions that:
  - a. Enable denial of FCRA registration or renewal on vague and undefined grounds,
  - b. Permit **state takeover, control, and vesting of assets, funds, and properties** of organisations upon cancellation, surrender, or even procedural delay,
  - c. Authorize intervention without adequate procedural safeguards or independent oversight.
6. These provisions are **manifestly arbitrary, excessive, and disproportionate**, and strike at the very root of constitutional democracy and rule of law. The power to assume control over private and institutional assets without due process or adjudication amounts to **state expropriation**, violating basic human rights norms and constitutional protections. The absence of an **independent appellate mechanism** further exacerbates the risk of abuse, leaving affected organisations remediless against executive overreach.
7. Minority institutions—particularly those engaged in education, healthcare, and charitable work—are heavily reliant on foreign contributions. The impugned Bill, if enacted in its current form, will **cripple their functioning and threaten their very existence**, thereby adversely impacting millions of vulnerable beneficiaries.
8. That the impugned Bill is liable to be struck down as a colourable exercise of legislative power. Though ostensibly enacted to regulate foreign contributions in the interest of transparency and national security, its true character and effect reveal an indirect attempt to assume control over, and stifle, independent civil society organisations and minority institutions. The doctrine of colourable legislation clearly holds that what cannot be done directly cannot be done indirectly. The sweeping powers of asset takeover, excessive executive discretion, and absence of safeguards demonstrate that the legislation, in pith and substance, seeks to achieve impermissible objectives under the guise of regulation. Such exercise of power is unconstitutional, mala fide in law, and liable to be invalidated.

9. The impugned provisions have a **chilling effect on civil society**, suppress dissent, and undermine democratic accountability by placing independent organisations under coercive state control. The proposed law is also inconsistent with India's obligations under international human rights instruments, including protections relating to freedom of association and religion. The cumulative effect of these provisions constitutes a **systemic assault on human rights**, minority protections, and the constitutional guarantee of pluralism. Hence this complaint in good faith and in larger public interest.

### **GROUND OF COMPLAINT:**

- A. Because the impugned provisions are flagrant violative of Article 14 of the Constitution due to arbitrariness and lack of reasonable classification.
- B. Because they infringe Article 19(1)(c) by imposing unreasonable restrictions on the freedom to form and operate associations.
- C. Because they violate Articles 25 to 30 by interfering with the autonomy and functioning of minority institutions.
- D. Because they contravene Article 21 by depriving institutions of dignity, autonomy, and livelihood without due process.
- E. Because they violate principles of **natural justice**, including *audi alteram partem*.
- F. Because they enable excessive delegation and uncanalised executive discretion.
- G. Because they result in indirect discrimination against minority communities and undermine the secular fabric of the nation.

**PRIMA-FACIE CASE:** In the light of the above it is most humbly submitted that the said complainant has demonstrated strong prima-facie case.

**LIMITATION:** The said case has running cause of action and is filed within the limitation period.

**DECLARATION:** The complainant in good faith declares that this matter is not pending before any State HRC or any other court or authority and that the information provided is based on publicly available reports and credible data.

**INTERIM PRAYER:**

Pending final disposal of this complaint, it is further prayed that this Hon'ble Commission may be pleased to:

- **Recommend that the Respondents defer or suspend** any further legislative action on the impugned Bill until a comprehensive human rights impact assessment is undertaken.

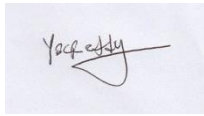
**PRAYER:**

In the premises aforesaid, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Commission may be pleased to immediately:

1. Take cognizance of the serious and far-reaching human rights implications arising from the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2026.
2. Call for detailed Action Taken reports from all the Respondents regarding the necessity, scope, and safeguards of the impugned provisions.
3. Issue urgent recommendations to the Union Government to:
  - A. Withdraw or substantially amend provisions permitting takeover or vesting of assets,
  - B. Remove or strictly limit discretionary powers lacking clear guidelines,
  - C. Incorporate a robust, independent, and time-bound appellate mechanism.
4. Recommend safeguards to ensure that regulatory mechanisms do not become tools of suppression against minority institutions and civil society.

5. Declare that provisions enabling asset seizure/control without due process are violative of human rights principles and incompatible with constitutional guarantees.
6. Direct the Respondents to ensure that any legislative framework complies with constitutional morality, rule of law, and international human rights standards.
7. Pass such other order(s) as this Hon'ble Commission may deem fit in the interest of justice, equity, and protection of human rights.

**FILED BY:**

A small rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to be 'Yennam Balachander Reddy'.

ADVOCATE YENNAM BALACHANDER REDDY

COMPLAINANT

FILED ON : 29.03.2026



# CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

CBCI Centre, 1 Ashok Place, Near Gole Dakhana, New Delhi - 110 001 India

Tel : +91 11 2334 4470 Mob.: 987 114 7838

*Ref CBCI/PR/26-16*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CBCI WARNS AGAINST ASSET CONFISCATION AND EXECUTIVE OVERREACH IN NEW FCRA BILL**

**New Delhi, March 28, 2026** – The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) expresses grave concern over the recently introduced Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2026. The proposed legislation threatens the operational survival of Minorities, and civil society organizations that depend on foreign contributions for essential social, educational, and charitable work.

The CBCI strongly objects to the bill's alarming provisions, which empower the Central Government to deny license renewals and subsequently assume control over the institutions, funds, properties, and assets of minority organizations and NGOs, by the proposed designated authority in the bill. Allowing the Union Government to takeover foreign funds and assets of the NGOs or its institutions, upon cancellation, surrender, and the mere expiry or delay in the renewal of an FCRA registration is undemocratic, unconstitutional, and contrary to the principles of natural justice.

These excessive regulatory measures grant wide discretionary powers to authorities, risking arbitrary decisions, misuse, and executive overreach into constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. Such control severely undermines democratic principles and weakens public accountability.

The CBCI urgently calls upon the Government of India to reconsider these provisions in the proposed FCRA amendment Bill. We urge the government to include setting up of an appellate authority in the Bill and the immediate removal of all contentious provisions leading to the takeover of the asset, ensuring that the fundamental rights of all citizens and minorities are protected.

### **For further information, please contact:**

Fr. Robinson Rodrigues

PRO, CBCI

Phone: +91- 8130905028

Email: [procbcil@gmail.com](mailto:procbcil@gmail.com)



[Home](#) > [News](#) > [CBCI Hosts Discussion on FCRA Amendment 2026, Raises Concerns Over Legal and Civil Implications](#)

28 March 2026

## CBCI Hosts Discussion on FCRA Amendment 2026, Raises Concerns Over Legal and Civil Implications

**New Delhi, March 28, 2026:** The Legal Cell of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), in collaboration with the Delhi Lawyers Forum, organized a discussion on the *Foreign Contribution (Regulatory) Bill 2026* at the CBCI Centre, New Delhi.

The programme witnessed active participation from legal experts, civil society members, and stakeholders, with around 40 participants attending in person and 65 joining online. The gathering reflected widespread concern regarding the implications of the proposed amendments to the FCRA framework.

Rev. Dr. Mathew Koyickal, Deputy Secretary General, CBCI, welcomed the participants and felicitated Mr. Sanjay Hegde, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India. In his welcome address, he underscored the importance of safeguarding constitutional freedoms while ensuring transparency and accountability in the regulation of foreign contributions, and called for continued dialogue among legal experts, policymakers, and civil society.

Mr. Sanjay Hegde, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, delivered the keynote address. He spoke on the legal implications of enhanced government powers under FCRA, offering a detailed analysis of provisions relating to registration, suspension, and cancellation, and highlighting concerns regarding possible executive overreach.

Mr. George Kallivayalil, Editor (National Affairs), *Deepika*, addressed the impact of FCRA on civil society and democratic space in India, presenting a ground-level perspective on how the regulatory changes could affect the functioning of organizations.

Mr. George Kuruvilla, Chartered Accountant, M. Thomas & Co., Delhi, spoke on audit risks and accountability in the utilization of FCRA funds. He elaborated on key changes and the emerging challenges faced by religious societies, trusts, NGOs, and institutions in ensuring compliance.

The programme concluded with an open discussion on the way forward, moderated by Fr. Adv. Joson Tharakan, IMS. The one-day discussion was coordinated by Fr. Adv. Siby, President of the Delhi Lawyers Forum; Sr. Adv. Sayujya Bindhu, Secretary of the CBCI Legal Cell; Sr. Adv. Asha Paul, Secretary of the CBCI Council for Women and a member of the Legal Cell; and Sr. Adv. Treesa, National Coordinator of HRC–CBCI.

Share:

**MORE NEWS**



28 March 2026

## CBCI Warns Against Asset Confiscation and Executive Overreach in New FCRA Bill

**New Delhi, March 28, 2026, CBCI:** The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) has expressed grave concern over the recently introduced Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2026, warning that the proposed legislation could severely impact minority institutions and civil society organizations across the country.

In a statement issued following a press conference, the CBCI stated that the bill threatens the operational survival of minority-run institutions and NGOs that depend on foreign contributions for their social, educational, and charitable activities.

The bishops strongly objected to certain provisions in the bill that empower the Central Government to deny license renewals and assume control over institutions, funds, properties, and assets of organizations through a designated authority. According to the CBCI, allowing the government to take over foreign funds and assets upon cancellation, surrender, expiry, or even delay in renewal of FCRA registration is "undemocratic, unconstitutional, and contrary to the principles of natural justice."

The statement further noted that the proposed measures grant excessive discretionary powers to authorities, increasing the risk of arbitrary decisions, misuse, and executive overreach into constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. Such provisions, the CBCI warned, could undermine democratic principles and weaken public accountability.

Calling for immediate reconsideration, the CBCI urged the Government of India to revise the proposed amendments. It specifically recommended the establishment of an independent appellate authority and the removal of provisions enabling asset takeover.

The CBCI emphasized that safeguarding the fundamental rights of citizens, especially minorities, must remain a priority while framing regulatory laws.

Share:

**MORE NEWS**



[Home](#) > [News](#) > [CBCI Raises Alarm Over FCRA Amendment Bill, Calls It 'Dangerous and Unconstitutional'](#)

26 March 2026

## CBCI Raises Alarm Over FCRA Amendment Bill, Calls It 'Dangerous and Unconstitutional'

**New Delhi, March 26, 2026:** The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India has expressed grave concern over the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha, describing the move as "dangerous and alarming" in its implications.

In a strongly worded statement, the CBCI warned that the bill, presented under the pretext of license renewal, could lead to executive overreach into constitutionally guaranteed freedoms, particularly affecting minority communities. The Conference highlighted that the proposed provisions may enable undue interference in the functioning of minority institutions and civil society organizations.

The CBCI objected to clauses that grant sweeping powers to the Central Government, allowing it to deny renewal or cancel licenses of organizations. More significantly, the proposed framework would permit a newly constituted authority to assume control over institutions, including their funds, properties, and other assets. The Conference termed such provisions unacceptable, raising serious concerns about fairness, transparency, and accountability.

Questioning the legislative process, the CBCI also expressed concern over the unilateral introduction of the bill in Parliament despite opposition protests. It called for broader consultation and meaningful deliberation, particularly on matters that impact fundamental rights.

The statement further noted that attempts to place minority institutions under a stringent regulatory regime undermine democratic principles. It warned that provisions enabling the Centre to take control of foreign funds and assets of NGOs after the expiry of their FCRA registration are undemocratic, unconstitutional, and contrary to natural justice.

Urging immediate reconsideration, the CBCI called upon the Government of India to withdraw contentious provisions from the bill and ensure that the constitutional rights and freedoms of all citizens, especially minorities, are fully safeguarded.

Share:

**MORE NEWS**