Ten years of RERA: homebuyers' FPCE writes to PM, Cabinet Secretary reviews demands

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16 November 2026: A committee set up after the Supreme Court's February 2026 order has identified sites in **Nashik and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar** for **Maharashtra's first open prison colony exclusively for women**. Eligible inmates will be able to **live with their children and families, take up jobs** and gradually prepare for life after release. The committee aims to make the facilities operational next year.

The committee and the Supreme Court order

- **SC order (February 2026):** states must establish new open and semi-open correctional facilities, fill vacancies in existing ones and oversee their functioning, including transfers of eligible prisoners.
- **Committee (formed June 2026):** headed by Bombay High Court judge **Justice Bharati Dangre**; member Radhika Rastogi, Additional Chief Secretary (Home); member secretary Suhas Warke, Additional DGP (Prisons and Correctional Services).
- **Why women first:** women get the least family support after incarceration, especially when the offence arises from domestic disputes; children now in care institutions could stay with their mothers and attend nearby schools.

Open prisons: the numbers (NCRB Prison Statistics India 2024)

- **103 open prisons** nationwide, **19 in Maharashtra**; national occupancy is just **57.8%** even as regular prisons overflow.
- **For women:** only two facilities in the state - one inside Yerwada Women's Prison and one in Akola.
- **Definition:** the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023 - a place for confining eligible prisoners on prescribed conditions, giving them more liberty outside a regular prison to ease rehabilitation after release.
- **Eligibility:** period served, conduct and the circumstances of the offence; inmates work under little supervision by day and return at night.

Models: Sanganer and Atpadi

- **Sanganer (Rajasthan, 1963):** cited by the Supreme Court - over 400 prisoners, including women, live with families, run shops, pay utility bills and self-govern through **Bandi panchayats**.
- **Atpadi (Sangli, Maharashtra):** a 57-hectare open colony where inmates live with families and work on farms.
- **Challenge:** families of prisoners from other regions are reluctant to relocate, and many male prisoners hesitate to bring families - expansion stays slow.

Quiz: Test your knowledge

▶ Q1: Consider (per NCRB Prison Statistics India 2024): 1. India has 103 open prisons 2. Their average occupancy is 57.8% 3. Maharashtra has the most, at 29. Which are correct?

▶ Q2: Rajasthan's Sanganer open prison is known for which feature?

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In short: The Justice Bharati Dangre committee, formed after the Supreme Court's February 2026 order, has picked Nashik and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar for Maharashtra's first women's open prison colony; India has 103 open prisons, 19 in Maharashtra.

Question: What will be special about Maharashtra's women's open prison colony?

Eligible women inmates will live with their children and families, work and prepare for release; children now in care institutions can stay with their mothers and attend nearby schools.

Question: Which order does the plan follow?

The Supreme Court's February 2026 order directing states to set up new open/semi-open correctional facilities and transfer eligible prisoners; the Justice Dangre committee was formed in June.

Question: How do open prisons differ from regular jails?

Inmates work with little supervision; eligibility depends on conduct and time served; the Model Prisons Act 2023 treats them as liberty-oriented confinement for rehabilitation.

Sources:

- https://indianexpress.com/article/india/maharashtra-open-prison-colony-women-supreme-court-nashik-sambhajinagar-10963956/ (Indian Express, 15 November 2026; NCRB Prison Statistics India 2024 figures as quoted in the report)