



Human Rights Newsletter

From the Editor's Desk

The month of January, 2017, witnessed a major debate on the 'Right to Culture' when protests demanding continuance of the tradition of 'Jallikattu' in parts of Tamil Nadu found its echo in national media with voices of support pouring in even from Tamilians settled abroad. 'Jallikattu' is a centuries old socio-agro-economic sporting activity organised on 'Pongal', which involves human beings trying to embrace a bull which is specially reared for the occasion. The animal rights activists were opposed to this on the ground of cruelty towards the bull.

The matter was sub-judice before the Supreme Court of India, while protests to build a public opinion in favour of 'Jallikattu' continued peacefully for over a week till sensing the public sentiments, the Tamil Nadu assembly passed the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendments) Bill, 2017. After this, the State police, in order to disperse a large number of people gathered at landmark places in Chennai, reportedly resorted to beating and arresting people without any prior caution. There were also reports of police personnel damaging private property.

It was natural for the NHRC, committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, to take suo motu cognizance of the incidents of the alleged police atrocities and observe that unprovoked police action amounts to violation of human rights because, all through, the protest, reportedly, was peaceful and the protesters never exceeded their fundamental right.

Apart from this incident, the Commission took suo motu cognizance of a number of other important issues of human rights violations during the month. These included, among others, suspicious deaths of 500 Adivasi girl students in Maharashtra, non-rehabilitation of 59 families of Dalits evicted for construction of Delhi Airport, atrocities of upper caste prisoners against their Dalit inmates in Amreli Jail of Gujarat, deaths of 106 farmers in a month and hazardous water supply in Mettupalayan in Tamil Nadu etc. These have been covered in this issue.

The Commission has been unequivocal in its endeavour towards protection of human rights. The Commission found that in Chhattisgarh, 16 women were prima facie victims of rape, sexual and physical assault by the State police personnel. Even as it awaits recording of the statement of about 20 other victims, it has issued a notice to the Government of Chhattisgarh, through its Chief Secretary, to show cause why it should not recommend interim monetary relief of ₹ 37 lakh to them. This includes ₹ 3 lakh each to eight victims of rape, ₹ 2 lakh each to six victims of sexual assault and ₹ 50,000/- each to two victims of physical assault.

The Commission has also made it clear that these directions are of interim nature and a final view will be taken in respect of other victims and also with regard to other issues involved in this matter in due course of time.

The Commission's 'Open Hearings' and 'Camp Sitings' in Bhubaneswar and Port Blair and South Regional Conference on Business & Human Rights at Chennai were some of the other major activities which have been pegged in this edition of the Newsletter.

NHRC's three-day 'Camp Sitting' and 'Open Hearing' at Bhubaneswar, Odisha

A high level delegation led by Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC comprising Members, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Shri S.C. Sinha and senior officers visited Odisha to hold the 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting' of the Commission at Bhubaneswar from 9th - 11th January, 2017. In the 'Open Hearing' a total of 107 complaints, relating to violation of human rights of the people from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities, were taken up. Of these, 47 cases were finally disposed of. In two cases, the



NHRC Chairperson, Justice, Shri H. L. Dattu, Members, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Shri S. C. Sinha inaugurating 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting'

Commission directed for spot enquiries by its own team. In five cases, monetary relief of ₹4.65 lakh was recommended. In a case of prima facie violation of human rights, a show cause notice was issued. In the remaining cases, more reports and comments from the concerned authorities and the complainants respectively were called.

In the Camp Sitting, the Full Commission heard 25 important cases of human rights violation. These included cases of alleged violations in KBK districts, POSCO project,

More in this issue...

■ Open Hearing- cum-Camp Sitting at Port Blair...	2	■ Important Intervention	5
■ South Regional Conference on Business & Human Rights ...	2	■ Recommendations for relief	6
■ Suo Motu Cognizance	3	■ Compliance with NHRC recommendations	7
■ NHRC's Spot Enquiry	4	■ Other important visits/ seminars/ programmes/conferences	8
		■ Complaints received/processed in January, 2017	8

practice of witchcraft, death of infants in hospital(s), malnutrition, child labour, deaths due to electrocution and Japanese encephalitis. In ten cases of electrocution, the Commission recommended monetary relief of ₹ 23.10 lakhs to the victims.

After the 'Camp Sitting', the Commission held discussions with the NGOs on various issues of human rights in the State. These included human rights education in school curriculum, Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in Kandhamal district, strengthening of SHRCs, monitoring of renewal of Blood Bank licenses, effective implementation of Forest Rights Act etc.

Later, the Commission discussed these issues with the senior officers of the State Government and impressed upon them to take proactive action to ameliorate the cause of human rights by submitting

reports, timely, to the NHRC. The NHRC Chairperson also briefed the media about the outcome of the 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting'.



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri H. L. Dattu, Members, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Shri S.C. Sinha and Secretary General, Dr. S.N. Mohanty at the press conference

Open Hearing-cum-Camp Sitting at Port Blair

The National Human Rights Commission organised an 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting' at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands on the 19th and 20th January, 2017. Ten cases were heard in the Full Commission sitting presided over by the NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu and Members, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Shri S.C. Sinha. These

included matters related to atrocities on Scheduled Castes and other oppressed sections of society. Later, a meeting was held with the representatives of the local NGOs, which was followed by discussion with the senior officers of the Union Territory. The media was also briefed on the outcome of the programme.

South Regional Conference on Business & Human Rights at Chennai

The National Human Rights Commission organised the South Regional Conference on Business and Human Rights at I.I.T. Madras on the 17th January, 2017. The aim of the Conference was to catalyze the efforts of the corporate sector to avoid the situation of human rights violations during the course of their activities and

Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC addressing the inaugural session of the Conference emphasized, in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles, that the corporate sector needs to take up the responsibility of respecting human rights through their policies, diligence and remediation. He said that such sort of commitment should be seen not only in words but also in the actions of the corporate entities. He said that if business activities are taken up with a human rights perspective, these will lead to more commitment from in-house human resources, resulting in enhanced risk management, sustainable relations with stakeholders, resilient supply chains and access to new markets.

The Conference divided into three sessions was addressed, among others, by experts and CEOs of the companies based on which, a draft self assessment tool was discussed in the final session.

Besides the heads of Companies, representatives of Industry Federations/Organizations/Chambers, NHRC Members, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Shri S.C. Sinha, Secretary General, Dr. S.N. Mohanty, Joint Secretary, Shri J.S. Kochher and Joint Director (Research) Dr. Savita Bhakhry, the Conference was also attended by renowned industry leaders, representatives of State Human Rights Commissions and experts.



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Members, Shri D. Murugesan and Shri S.C. Sinha and Secretary General, Dr. S.N. Mohanty and Jt. Secy. Shri J. S. Kochher

prepare a draft self assessment tool through dialogue among the stakeholders to achieve this goal. The NHRC, India has involved itself in this exercise as it has been made a focal point for the subject of 'Business and Human Rights' by the Common Wealth Forum of National Human Rights Institution (CFNHRI).

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 17 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during January, 2017 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some of the cases are as follows:

Deaths of 500 Adivasi girls in residential schools (Case No. 308/13/8/2017)

The media reported on the 14th January, 2017 that more than 500 Scheduled Tribe girls had died under suspicious circumstances in the State run Ashram Schools of Maharashtra over the past decade. Reportedly, there have been instances of sexual abuse of the girl students by the teachers and staff of these schools.

Considering the seriousness of the matter, the Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra calling for a detailed report in the matter. It also observed that it seems that the State Government has not taken any initiative to redress the issue as, it is yet to respond to its notice in a similar matter, despite a reminder on the 26th November, 2016.

Non-rehabilitation of 59 families of Dalits (Case No. 434/30/7/2017)

The media reported on the 14th January, 2017 that 59 families of Dalits have not been rehabilitated even nine years after eviction from their houses at Nangal Dewat village in Delhi due to the expansion of the Indira Gandhi International Airport's Terminal-3. Reportedly, there were 122 families of Dalits residing in the area, out of which 63 got alternative accommodation but 59 families were left out.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi and the Chairman, Airports Authority of India, calling for reports on the steps taken or proposed to be taken for relief and rehabilitation of these 59 families.

Hazardous water supply from the Bhavani river (Case No. 363/22/49/2017)

The media reported on the 16th January, 2017 that potable water supplied to 1.5 lakh residents from the Bhavani river in Mettupalayam of Tamil Nadu is unfit for consumption. The residents of the area have been contracting skin diseases and also finding difficult to bear the stench of the river water. The Commission has observed that potable water and sanitation are essential to realization of basic human rights. Accordingly, a notice

has been issued to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for a detailed report.

Victimization of Dalit prisoners by upper castes inmates (Case No. 22/6/2/2017)

The media reported on the 5th January, 2017 that the prisoners belonging to lower castes are being subjected to grave injustice and discrimination inside the Amreli District jail in Gujarat. They cannot, even, drink water from the Reverse Osmosis plant installed in the jail. The prisoners from lower castes are victimized by the upper castes prisoners and complaints regarding this go unheard by the Jail Superintendent. The Commission has issued a notice to the IG (Prisons), Gujarat calling for a report.

Pregnancy and abortion of a class VI student (Case No. 128/34/7/2017)

The media reported on the 29th January, 2017 that a class VI student became pregnant in a State-run residential school for girls-Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in Garhwa district of Jharkhand. She was forced to consume abortion pills by the school administration to prevent the institution from falling into disrepute. However, the medicine was given without consulting a doctor. When the girl's condition worsened, she had to be rushed to the Garhwa Sadar Hospital, where she was diagnosed with two months' pregnancy. Doctors carried out a proper abortion to save her life.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand calling for a detailed report in the matter. He has also been asked to inform the Commission about the steps taken for relief, medical care and proper counseling of the victim.

Assault and gruesome killings of RSS and BJP workers (Case No. 52/11/0/2017)

The media reported incidents of assault and gruesome killings of the RSS and BJP workers in the State of Kerala. The Commission has observed that such gruesome killings are indicative of violation of right to life of the victims. State is duty bound to protect the Right to Life, Equality and Dignity of its citizens. Accordingly, it has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Government of Kerala calling for detailed reports in the matter, specifying the preventive steps taken by the State Government and relief, if any, granted to the victims or their families.

**14 year old AIDS patient turned around for
24 hours without treatment
(Case No. 90/36/2/2017)**

The media reported that a 14 year old boy, diagnosed with full-blown Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was made to shuttle between four State run hospitals for treatment within a period of 24 hours along with his aged grandmother as his parents are no more. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana calling for a report.

**Death of a vendor in custody
(Case No. 13/30/0/2017-AD)**

The media reported about the alleged death of a vendor in police custody after which his body was dumped by the police personnel of Adarsh Nagar Police Station in Delhi. Reportedly, the victim, Sompal was arrested by the police and was thrashed by three constables. A few hours later, his blood soaked body was lying in the courtyard outside the Police Station. The Commission has issued a notice to the Delhi Police Commissioner, calling for a detailed report.

**Poverty forces a mother to sell her newborn
(Case No. 480/18/17/2017)**

The media reported that a homeless Scheduled Tribe woman, deserted by her husband, was forced to sell her newly born male child to one of her neighbours for a sum of ₹2000/- in the Kendrapara district of Odisha. Reportedly, the woman took this step due to poverty as she was deprived of benefits of the govern-

ment run schemes. She is already having two children. The Commission has issued a notice to the District Magistrate, Kendrapara to submit a report along with the steps taken or proposed to be taken for relief and rehabilitation of the victim family.

**Police excesses on peaceful protestors
(Case No. 377/22/13/2017)**

The media reported that after the passage of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, police, without any prior caution, resorted to beating, arresting and damaging private property in order to disperse a large number of people gathered at landmark places in Chennai in support of Jallikattu.

Taking a serious view of the unprovoked police excesses, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Government of Tamil Nadu and Chennai Police Commissioner calling for report.

**Deaths of 106 farmers in one month
(Case No. 105/22/0/2017)**

The media reported about the deaths of 106 farmers during a period of one month in Tamil Nadu. Reportedly, it has not rained and the level of the ground water has also shrunk at many places in the State. The Commission has observed that the issue is indicative of failure and inaction by the State agencies. It has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for a detailed report. He has also been asked to inform about the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter.

NHRC's spot enquiry

Following is the list of cases wherein spot enquiries were conducted by the Commission's officers:

S. No.	Case Number	Allegations	Date of visit
1.	235/20/14/2011-BL	Bonded Labour	02 th -06 th January, 2017
2.	4138/30/8/2014	Large scale pollution, potholes on the road and unhygienic condition in INA, New Delhi.	09 th -13 th January, 2017
3.	2565/12/38/2016	False implication and torture by police in Satna, Madhya Pradesh.	16 th -20 th January, 2017
4.	1272/20/20/2015	Chaining a person in the vicinity of Mehndipur Balaji temple in Rajasthan for treatment of evil spirits.	18 th -20 th January, 2017
5.	35711/24/22/2013-WC	Sexual assault.	30 th -31 st January, 2017

Important Intervention

16 women prima facie victims of rape, sexual and physical assault by police personnel (Case No. 823/33/17/2015-WC)

The National Human Rights Commission has found 16 women, prima facie victims of rape, sexual and physical assault by police personnel in Chhattisgarh even as it awaits the recorded statement of about 20 other victims. It has issued a notice to the Government of Chhattisgarh, through its Chief Secretary, to show cause why it should not recommend interim monetary relief of ₹37 lakh to them. This includes ₹3 lakh each to eight victims of rape, ₹2 lakh each to six victims of sexual assault and ₹50,000/- each to the two victims of physical assault.

The Commission has observed that prima-facie, human rights of the victims have been grossly violated by the security personnel of the Government of Chhattisgarh for which the State Government is vicariously liable.

The Commission has also noted the following:- (a) The NHRC Team could record the statements of only 14 victims out of the 34 victims mentioned in the FIRs. Thus, statements of 20 victims are yet to be recorded by the NHRC Team; (b) The statements u/s 164 Cr. PC have been recorded by the Magistrate only in respect of 15 victims. Thus, statements of 19 more victims are yet to be recorded u/s 164 Cr. PC; and (c) Almost all the victims in these incidents, covered under the three FIRs, are Tribals. However, the provisions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act have not been invoked in any of these cases. As a result of this, the due monetary relief has not been paid to the victims.

Therefore, the Commission has directed its DIG (Investigation) to depute a team of officials from the Investigation Division and Law Division to record the statements of 15 victims, whose statements were not recorded either by the NHRC Team or by the Magistrate u/s 164 Cr. PC.

The Additional Director General of Police (CID), Government of Chhattisgarh has been directed to ensure that SC/ST (PoA) Act is invoked in all the cases, wherein the victims belonged to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes communities.

The Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh has been directed to ensure that monetary relief, if any, under the SC/ST (PoA) Act is paid to the victims at the earliest.

The Commission has also made it clear that these directions are of interim nature and a final view will be taken in respect of other victims and also with regard to other issues involved in this matter in due course of time.

Police inaction in the murder of a class 10th student (Case No. 288/4/39/2017)

The National Human Rights Commission has taken cognizance of a communication from Ms. Sushma Sahu, Member, National Commission for Women, in the matter of the murder of a class 10th girl student of a Government residential school-'Ambedkar Awasiya Balika Uchh Vidyalaya', Dighi (Majirabad) in Hajipur district of Bihar. Her body was found in a drain near the gate of the hostel on the 8th January, 2017. It is stated that the victim student had complained that one of the teachers of the school was mounting pressure on her for sexual favours. She has observed that the police authorities are not taking proper action in the matter even as the family of the victim is being threatened.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Bihar calling for a detailed report in the matter including the steps being taken by the State Government or proposed to be taken to stop reoccurrence of such gruesome incidents in future.

The Commission has also observed that the contents of the complaint raise serious issue of violation of Right to Life and Dignity of the girl students studying in the school and residing in the hostel. Being guardian of the students, the school authorities are bound to provide safety and security to the students. Such incidents are indicative of not only negligent attitude of the authorities but require immediate action against irresponsible teachers/ staff of the school.

According to the complaint by the Member of the NCW, she had visited the school as well as the residence of the victim girl in Muzaffarpur district. She found that the school was in a very bad condition. Heaps of garbage were piled up inside the school premises. It is cleaned only by the students as there is no other arrangement. The place where the food is prepared for the students is also full of filth and foul smell. There is only one hand-pump in the school for 345 girls.

Contd...P/6

Police inaction in the murder Contd. from P/5

The students complained that the school premises is not safe. The wild animals and anti-social elements often enter the school. It is mentioned in the complaint

that some resourceful persons of the locality, in connivance with the police and administration, are trying to hush up the case and mounting pressure on the victim's family.

Recommendations for relief

Apart from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 32 cases were considered during 02 sittings of the Full Commission and 155 cases were taken up during 03 sittings of Divisional Benches in January, 2017.

On 24 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹19.05 lakh for the victims or their next of kin, where it found that public servants had either violated human rights or been negligent in protecting them.

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	801/33/1/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Chhattisgarh
2.	1012/6/6/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Gujarat
3.	21146/24/4/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
4.	2766/4/1/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Bihar
5.	40134/24/6/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
6.	49888/24/6/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
7.	100/19/10/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Punjab
8.	28080/24/39/2013-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
9.	1459/34/3/2012-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Govt. of Jharkhand
10.	3003/4/9/2012	Custodial Torture	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Bihar
11.	2372/18/16/2013	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	Sixty thousand	Govt. of Odisha
12.	22027/24/39/2013	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
13.	9071/24/57/2014	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	Two lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
14.	5105/7/22/2013	False Implications	Two lakh	Govt. of Haryana
15.	15025/24/30/2010	Abuse of Power	Twenty thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
16.	1022/10/33/2014	Abuse of Power	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Karnataka
17.	475/20/18/2014-WC	Rape	One lakh	Govt. of Rajasthan
18.	1179/35/6/2011	Unlawful Detention	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttarakhand
19.	9523/24/17/2013	Unlawful Detention	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
20.	545/12/41/2014-WC	Abduction, Rape and Murder	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
21.	13652/24/36/2013-WC	Abduction, Rape and Murder	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
22.	1324/25/11/2013-WC	Indignity of Women	Fifty thousand	Govt. of West Bengal
23.	14292/24/34/2013-WC	Dowry death or their attempt	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
24.	1350/24/4/2010	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	Two lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In January, 2017, the Commission closed 26 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totaling ₹43.5 lakh to the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. Details are in the table below:

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	1027/1/19/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
2.	1047/1/7/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Telangana
3.	1182/1/6/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
4.	1627/18/6/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Odisha
5.	2012/7/8/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Haryana
6.	33710/24/14/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
7.	37313/24/48/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Five lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
8.	44878/24/49/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
9.	7066/24/26/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
10.	394/6/6/2013-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Govt. of Gujarat
11.	1458/4/23/2015	Custodial Torture	Twenty thousand	Govt. of Bihar
12.	464/11/3/2014	Custodial Torture	Three lakh	Govt. of Kerala
13.	7351/24/30/2014	Custodial Torture	One lakh fifty thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
14.	9328/18/2/2015	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	One lakh	Govt. of Odisha
15.	48166/24/4/2011	Abuse of Power	Five lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
16.	355/34/22/2012	Abuse of Power	Five lakh	Govt. of Jharkhand
17.	1306/20/11/2013-WC	Gang Rape	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Rajasthan
18.	19607/24/41/2010-WC	Rape	Twenty thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
19.	236/12/38/2015	Failure in taking lawful action	Thirty thousand	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
20.	39116/24/30/2013	Failure in taking lawful action	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
21.	846/4/39/2014	Failure in taking lawful action	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Bihar
22.	6202/24/60/2014	Failure in taking lawful action	Ten thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
23.	19040/24/57/2014-WC	Dowry Demand	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
24.	4778/7/6/2012	Disappearance / Missing	One lakh	Govt. of Haryana
25.	3143/13/23/2013	Irregularities in Govt. Hospitals/ Primary Health Centers	Two lakh	Govt. of Maharashtra
26.	615/11/3/2016	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	Three lakh	Govt. of Kerala

NHRC's Winter Internship Programme concludes

Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC said that the most enriching experience in life would be to wipe tears of those whose rights have been violated. He was addressing the valedictory session of the month long 16th Winter Internship programme of the Commission.

Congratulating the interns on the successful completion of their internship, Justice Dattu said that they would get the real fruit of their exposure to various aspects of human rights and related laws, when they take up the issues of human rights violations of others in

the far flung areas of the country either with the State Human Rights Commissions or the National Human Rights Commission. They should spread awareness about human rights and do something for society by wiping tears of those whose rights have been violated.

Justice Dattu felt that in order to have more in-depth understanding of human rights issues like human trafficking, rights of disabled persons, women, children, bonded labourers etc, the Commission may consider increasing the duration of the internship programme by two to three months.

50 students from Universities and colleges of 18 States and Union Territories completed their internship. They included 33 girls and 17 boys. NHRC Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan gave away the awards for the best interns to four students. The NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha distributed the certificates of internship.



NHRC Chairperson, Members and senior officers with the interns

The interns were given exposure to various aspects of human rights by eminent persons and senior officers of the Commission. They were also taken for field visits.

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
'Regional Conference on Human Rights Defence Strategy' at Dhaka, Bangladesh on the 28 th January, 2017	Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson and Shri S.C. Sinha, Member
Seminar on Experience Sharing of NHRIs: Challenges and Way-Forward at Dhaka, Bangladesh on the 28 th January, 2017	Shri S.C. Sinha, Member
APF-DIMR Workshop on 'The Garment Industry and Business and human Rights - Closing the Gap' at Bangkok from 30 th -31 st January, 2017	Shri J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary (Training & Research)

Complaints received/processed in January, 2017 (As per an early estimate)

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	8379
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	8271
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	36247

Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:

Facilitation Centre (Madad) : 011-2465 1330
For Complaints : Fax No. 011-2465 1332

Other Important E-mail Addresses

jrlawnhrc@nic.in (For complaints), cr.nhrc@nic.in
(For general queries/correspondence)

Focal point for Human Rights Defenders

Mobile No.: 9810298900, Fax No. 011-2465 1334
E-mail : hrd-nhrc@nic.in

This Newsletter is also available on the Commission's website www.nhrc.nic.in

NGOs and other organizations are welcome to reproduce material of the Newsletter and disseminate it widely acknowledging the NHRC.

Printed and Published by Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Director (Media & Communication) on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission and Printed at Dolphin Printo- Graphic, 4E/7, Pabla Building, Jhandewalan Extn., New Delhi-110055 and published at National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, Block-C, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023. **Editor : Jaimini Kumar Srivastava**