



Human Rights Newsletter

From the Editor's Desk

Over a period of time, media has been reporting about sexual assault of girls living in residential schools for the students of Tribal communities in different States of the country. The NHRC has taken suo motu cognizance of such incidents on the basis of media reports. Such incidents have been mainly in the States, where the population of Tribal communities is relatively high and the Governments have made arrangements for the education of children from these communities.

In the recent past allegations have been made about the state of affairs in the residential schools of Maharashtra. The NHRC has been waiting for the requisite reports in the wake of these allegations from the State Government. Last month, reports also appeared about sexual assault and death of a student in a residential school in Hajipur, Bihar.

These incidents, irrespective of the States, make it clear that the innocent girls, though within the four walls of a residential school, remain vulnerable to sexual assault and that a mechanism of strict surveillance of the staff on duty needs to be ensured by the higher authorities as part of a regular drill. Otherwise, the noble idea of bringing children from Tribal communities to the main stream, through education may fall short of the set out objectives.

There is yet another incident involving policemen in gang rape, sexual assault and molestation of nine Scheduled Tribe women of Bhutia and Holibayada villages of District Dhar in Madhya Pradesh on the 25th January, 2017. In the meantime, the NHRC, prima facie, has found that several women in Chhattisgarh became victims of rape and sexual assault by police personnel and the Commission's intervention has ensured State Government's response with an 'Action Plan' to protect Human Rights. The issues have been pegged in this edition of the Newsletter.

Sure enough, we may not dismiss such incidents as exceptions. In fact, population living in areas difficult to reach is generally prone to various atrocities. The issues become more serious when public servants, deputed to protect rights and welfare of people, become instruments of their rights violation. Such incidents happen because somewhere, the perpetrators know that nobody would catch them in far flung areas, especially when people living there are ill-informed, uneducated and feel helpless to approach the State against its own functionaries.

A slightest notion of disenchantment, if any, from the State apparatus needs to be nipped in bud promptly by making a collective and common strategy by States to fix the accountability of the government functionaries deployed in various capacities in rural and far flung areas. This will not only ensure promotion and protection of human rights but also improve the delivery mechanism for social welfare schemes, which the governments form for the people. This way, if watch and ward mechanism are put in place at grass roots level and monitored rigorously, many problems relating to bonded labour, child labour, human trafficking, migration etc may also be addressed more effectively.

NHRC-SHRCs' Meeting

Justice Shri Dalveer Bhandari, Member, International Court of Justice said that there is not much appreciation of the work of the State Human Rights Commissions SHRCs by the State governments. He was addressing, as the Chief Guest, the inaugural session of the



Justice Shri Dalveer Bhandari, Member, International Court of Justice addressing the gathering

meeting of NHRC and SHRCs in New Delhi on the 17th February, 2017. He said that the NHRC should convene a meeting of Chief Ministers with the Chairpersons of SHRCs to ensure that they are effectively functioning towards promotion and protection of human rights. They need to be provided and strengthened with manpower,

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National Seminar on bonded labour

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Labour & Employment said that bonded labour may not be eliminated merely by legislation and rules; change in attitude and feudal mindset of society will be necessary to end



Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Union Minister of State (I.C.), Ministry of Labour & Employment

this scourge. He was addressing, as the Chief Guest, the two-day National Seminar on Bonded Labour organized by the National Human Rights Commission in New Delhi on the 14th February, 2017. He said that the real challenge is how to stop the rescued

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NHRC-SHRCs' Meeting Contd. from P/1

financial and infrastructural resources.

Lauding the work of the NHRC, Justice Bhandari said that it is unparalleled in the world with the number and kind of complaints of human rights violations it handles and the amount of relief paid by the governments on its recommendations. However, he said that there are still some areas, where a lot needs to be done. These are: human trafficking, homeless people living on pavements, victims of terrorism, acute problem of air and water pollution. He said that New Delhi has the dubious distinction of being one of the worst polluted cities in the world leading to death of several people.

Justice Bhandari said that like the NHRC, the International Court of Justice also does not have contempt powers but by virtue of the respect it commands, most of its directions are accepted. And in this context, he



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu addressing the gathering

underscored the significance of the judgment by the Allahabad High Court on the 8th April, 2016, wherein setting aside the challenge against the recommendation of the Commission in a case, the Government of Uttar Pradesh was told that the recommendations by the NHRC cannot be set aside with impunity merely on the ground that it is a recommendatory body.

Earlier, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC said that Human Rights Commissions were envisaged under the Protection of Human Rights Act with the understanding that government(s) would act on their recommendations on the complaints of human rights violations. But there are many hindrances, which, the SHRCs continue to face in discharging their mandate effectively. The most acute, perhaps, is the lack of adequate human, infrastructural, financial resources for which each State needs to work proactively. So far, 26 States have established SHRCs. However, even in these States, a lot needs to be done, including filling up of vacant positions of Chairperson and Members, to ensure their functional autonomy.

He said that the geographical expanse of India, the diversity of its population, widespread poverty, illiteracy and lack of human right awareness among civil societies

and public functionaries, make the realization of human rights an arduous endeavor. Social and economic deprivation, including lack of access to adequate healthcare, food, education and other social goods and services further exacerbate the human rights deficit in the country. These multiple challenges in the realization of human rights cannot be achieved without the cooperation of governments to the National and State Human Rights Commissions.

Justice Dattu said that the NHRC has sent its recommendations to the then Chief Ministers of and Prime Minister about the minimum basic structure manpower and financial needs of SHRCs, which it is following up.

The NHRC has also proposed to the Government of India for suitable amendments in the PHR Act, making the way for setting up of Human Rights Commissions in Union Territories also. It has also taken up the issue of changes in the Act for the setting up of human rights courts and their effective functions.

The meeting was divided into four sessions including, Amendment to PHR Act, 1993, Functional and Financial Autonomy, Issues regarding Human Rights Defenders, Training and Awareness Programmes, Complaint Management System and some other issues of common



Chairpersons and Members of SHRCs and sr. officers of NHRC and SHRCs

concern for the NHRC and SHRCs.

Besides the NHRC member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and senior officers, Chairpersons, Members and senior officers of the SHRCs participated in the discussions.

Objective of the meeting

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the ways and means to make the NHRC and the SHRCs stronger and effective for the promotion and protection of human rights, to explore the areas of cooperation and coordination between them and to assess the assistance by the Governments to them.

NHRC and SHRCs

The NHRC and SHRCs are independent of each other and autonomous bodies set up by the Centre and State Governments respectively as per the provisions of the PHR Act, 1993 passed by Parliament.

NHRC's advocacy for SHRCs

However, the NHRC, in tune with its mandate to promote and protect human rights, has been consistently impressing upon the State Governments to set up not only

National Seminar on bonded labour Contd. from P/1

bonded labourers from going back to bonded labour.

Emphasizing that the Centre is committed to eliminate bonded labour, Shri Dattatreya highlighted the decision to increase the financial assistance of ₹ 20,000/- to ₹ 1 lakh per adult male beneficiary under the Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme. He said that in order to avoid delay, the transfer of the amount to the beneficiary account will be done directly from District National Child Labour Project Society.

He said that, as per revised provisions, children including orphans or those rescued from organized and

SHRCs but also making them fully functional with infrastructural, financial and manpower resources. It has been meetings, with the SHRCs since 2004.

sector of employment including brick-kilns, stone quarries, salt fields, lather manufacturing units and so on. He said that as long as there is poverty, unemployment, underemployment, landlessness, migration, indebtedness, the pernicious bonded labour system will continue.

Giving an insight into the Constitutional and legal provisions, Justice Dattu, highlighted some of the measures taken by the NHRC towards elimination of bonded labour after the Supreme Court of India, in 1997, vested the responsibility for the monitoring and implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 to the Commission. The Commission has recommended compensation in cases of bonded labour and also amendments to several provisions in The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

Since its inception in 1993, the Commission registered 14,614 cases of bonded labour, out of which 13,266 cases have been disposed. Justice Dattu said that abolition of bonded labour requires a holistic approach in as much as it



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu addressing the gathering

forced begging rings or other forms of forced child labour and women will be treated as special category beneficiaries and given ₹ 2 lakh of financial assistance. ₹ 3 lakh will be given in cases of bonded or forced labour involving extreme cases of deprivation or marginalization such as transgender, or woman or children rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation such as brothels, massage parlours, placement agencies or trafficking, or in cases of differently able persons, or in situations deemed fit by the District Magistrate. These would be in addition to other benefits of the original scheme.

Earlier, in his inaugural address, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC said that bonded labour amounts to an outright denial of unalienable human rights and is one of the worst kinds of violation of human rights. Despite several laws, plans, policies, programmes and schemes, the records of national governance, public investment and development action yield little matching evidence of substantive work towards elimination of this menace for which radical reforms are required in administering the social service delivery mechanism.

The NHRC Chairperson said that it would be wrong to think that bonded labour is a thing of past, as it can be found even today in not only agriculture but also in any



A section of participants at the National Seminar on bonded labour

is not the concerns of any particular ministries or department or agency but is the concerned of the whole nations.

The three thematic sessions of the Seminar were chaired by Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member, NHRC. These covered various aspects related to the prevalence of bonded labour and challenges in its elimination, relief and rehabilitation of the rescued bonded labourers in different parts of the country as well as international best practices on sustainable human development and bonded labour.

These were addressed, among others, by eminent speakers including those from International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), experts, representatives of Centre and State Governments, civil society, NGOs, NHRC officers and Special Rapporteurs as well as the representatives of State Human Rights Commissions.

Experience of the NHRC

The Commission has been receiving spate of complaints from time to time regarding exploitation and harassment of persons who have been victims of bonded labour system.

In almost all cases, the DMs rest content by filing a prosecution for non-maintenance of records and registers. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, does not permit

any compounding of the offence or reaching a compromise between the bonded labour keeper and the labourer. The action and conduct of DMs in a large number of cases would amount to abatement of an offence as defined in Section 20 of the Act.

In most cases of bonded labour, there is no clear, authentic proof of settlement of wages and related accounts. Vigilance Committees at the district and sub-divisional level are not being re-constituted.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 3 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during February, 2017 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of the two cases are as follows:

A large number of Hysterectomy for commercial reasons (Case No. 237/10/11/2017)

Notices have been issued to the Chief Secretaries of the Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra calling for detailed reports in the matter of an unusual large number of Hysterectomy procedures in Kalaburagi district of Karnataka allegedly for commercial reasons only as there were no medical justifications behind them. According to the media report, carried on the 26th February, 2017, Umarga area in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra has also emerged as a 'Hysterectomy Hub' and they are getting patients from border villages of Kalaburagi district of Karnataka. The life of unsuspecting victims was put at stake as they suffered many complications after removal of

uterus. There have been interventions in the matter by the Karnataka State Commission for Women, the Karnataka Government as well as the civil society but a concrete action is yet to be taken to stop the menace..

Non-payment of dues to the family of a deceased employee (Case No. 852/30/8/2017)

A notice has been issued to the Commissioner, SDMC, Delhi calling for a report along with details of the action taken in the matter of non-payment of dues to the family of a deceased employee of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, SDMC, who died in an accident on the 11th June, 2015. According to the media report, carried on the 20th February, 2017, numerous requests made by the aggrieved family with the Municipal Corporation, Employee Unions and several political leaders have not yielded any results and the family is now going to sit on dharna outside the SDMC Headquarters. Their unsteady income flow has meant that life remains a struggle for them.

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.	39536/24/70/2015	Police inaction in a case of physical assault in district Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh.	13 th -17 th February, 2017
2.	280/12/15/2017-WC	Police inaction on allegations of sexual assault of 4 SC women and two minor girls by police personnel in district Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.	15 th -17 th February, 2017
3.	3001/20/23/2014	Police inaction and misbehavior with the victims of violence in district Pali, Rajasthan.	20 th -24 th February, 2017
4.	681/34/15/2015-AFE	Killing 12 persons in encounter in Bakoria Village of Jharkhand.	27 th February - 3 rd March, 2017

Important Intervention

Chhattisgarh Government submits action plan to protect human rights

Senior officers of the Chhattisgarh Government, who attended the hearing of the National Human Rights Commission on Monday, 30th January, 2017 were directed to inform by Friday, 3rd February, 2017 about the Action Plan of the State Government to protect human rights in Bastar in the wake of allegations about police hostility against civil society representatives, including academicians and journalists.

In response, the Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that they have prepared a six point 'Action Plan' to ensure that human rights are adequately protected in Bastar. As an urgent measure, the State Government has given standing instructions to the Special DGP/Additional DGP (Naxal Operations) to immediately recommend action to the Additional DGP (CID) in a case of gross violation of human rights wherein the action is found to be slow, lacking or inadequate at lower levels. The other measures include:

1. Director General of Police to organise training and orientation of the police force posted in Bastar Division to ensure that human rights are not violated in the

course of their duties; be it in Naxal affected areas or elsewhere.

2. Human Rights violations will be inviting consequences. All police officers would also be responsible for ensuring compliance among other police personnel under their command;
3. There will be a clear, separate entry in the Annual Performance Assessment of All Indian Police Services and State Police Service Officers about their performance on human rights issues;
4. A District level Human Rights Protection Committee headed by a District Magistrate/Collector has been constituted in each of the seven Naxal affected districts of Bastar to receive complaints on human rights issues and to make suggestions to the State Government for taking necessary action.
5. A State Human Rights Protection Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, General Administration Department. This will consider only those cases which has been not been disposed off at the district level or where the complainant is not satisfy with the action by the Districts Committee.

Allegations of gang rape by police in Dhar District of Madhya Pradesh

Nine Scheduled Tribe women residents of Bhutia and Holibayada villages of District Dhar, Madhya Pradesh complained that they became victims of police atrocities including rape, sexual assault and molestation on the 25th January, 2017. They include four victims of gang rape, three of molestation and two minor girl victims of sexual assault.

The Commission has observed that the allegations raise serious issues of violation of human rights by the police personnel. It has asked Director General (Investigation), NHRC to depute a team for a spot enquiry and submit a report at the earliest.

Allegations of police excesses outside Ramjas College in Delhi University

The Commission received a complaint that police personnel attacked a female student and snatched cameras from media persons, who were recording the incident outside Ramjas College in Delhi University Campus on the 22nd February, 2017. Allegedly, some journalists, covering the clashes, were slapped, punched and kicked by the policemen. The Commission has also taken on record media reports making similar allegations, including threats to some students on social media. Accordingly, a notice has been issued to the Delhi Police Commissioner calling for a detailed report in the matter.

Recommendations for relief

Apart from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 17 cases were considered during 02 sittings of the Full Commission and 68 cases were taken up during 04 sittings of Divisional Benches in February, 2017.

On 24 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 31.8 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.	2166/4/23/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Bihar
2.	4598/4/26/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Bihar
3.	1887/7/6/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Govt. of Haryana
4.	1447/34/11/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Govt. of Jharkhand
5.	1385/13/28/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Maharashtra
6.	1454/13/9/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Maharashtra
7.	496/13/23/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Govt. of Maharashtra
8.	273/19/13/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Punjab
9.	23902/24/31/2012-AD	Alleged Custodial Deaths in Judicial Custody	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
10.	1386/13/17/09-10-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Govt. of Maharashtra
11.	3022/12/46/2014	Custodial Torture	Two lakh	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
12.	22473/24/43/2014	Custodial Torture	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
13.	27032/24/8/2014	Custodial Torture	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
14.	1066/25/13/2014	Custodial Torture	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of West Bengal
15.	841/12/23/2014	False Implications	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
16.	4345/30/0/2013	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	Two lakh	Govt. of NCT of Delhi
17.	514/34/11/2015	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Jharkhand
18.	834/12/7/2014	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	Nine lakh	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
19.	1806/18/31/2014	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	One lakh	Govt. of Odisha
20.	5027/18/31/2015	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	Sixty thousand	Govt. of Odisha
21.	29796/24/13/2013	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
22.	1831/13/13/2015	Sexual Harassment	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Maharashtra
23.	29716/24/52/2014	False Implications	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
24.	11351/18/26/2015	Abuse of Power	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Odisha
25.	17590/24/6/2014	Abuse of Power	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
26.	39429/24/57/2012	Illegal Arrest	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
27.	3007/7/3/2014-WC	Rape	Three lakh	Govt. of Haryana
28.	2971/20/9/2014	Atrocities on SC/ST/OBC	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Rajasthan
29.	12095/18/8/2015	Failure in taking lawful action	One lakh fifty five thousand	Govt. of Odisha
30.	25272/24/51/2013	Failure in taking lawful action	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
31.	13742/24/63/2013	Failure in taking lawful action	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
32.	17661/24/75/2014	Failure in taking lawful action	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
33.	2430/18/12/2014	Failure in taking lawful action	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Odisha
34.	35/14/12/09-10-PF	Alleged Fake Encounter (Para Military Forces)	Fifteen lakh	Govt. of Manipur
35.	705/18/3/2015	Irregularities in Govt. Hospitals/ Primary Health Centers	One lakh	Govt. of Odisha
36.	40361/24/55/2013	Unlawful Detention	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
37.	42848/24/31/2012	Unlawful Detention	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
38.	29370/24/56/2013-WC	Abduction/Rape	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
39.	3380/4/26/2014	Nuisance by Local Ruffians	Eight lakh	Govt. of Bihar
40.	977/19/2/2014	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	Twenty five thousand	Govt. of Punjab

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In February, 2017, the Commission closed 31 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments, it had recommended, totalling ₹ 53.3 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.	2632/30/1/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Govt. of NCT of Delhi
2.	6040/7/10/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Haryana
3.	222/8/9/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
4.	2028/13/19/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Maharashtra
5.	2146/13/14/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Maharashtra
6.	12/19/3/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Punjab
7.	1022/20/22/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Rajasthan
8.	57/20/17/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Rajasthan
9.	1750/22/36/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
10.	300/1/7/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Telangana
11.	880/1/23/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Govt. of Telangana
12.	1027/24/51/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
13.	18844/24/3/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
14.	34239/24/7/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
15.	606/25/10/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Govt. of West Bengal
16.	568/25/7/09-10-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Two lakh	Govt. of West Bengal
17.	246/8/11/2014-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
18.	2679/18/2/2014	Custodial Torture	Five lakh	Govt. of Odisha
19.	3555/4/19/2012	Abuse of Power	Sixty thousand	Govt. of Bihar
20.	2819/24/39/2014	Abuse of Power	Fifty thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
21.	4559/24/17/2015-WC	Rape	Twenty Five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
22.	33255/24/30/2013-WC	Abduction/Rape	One lakh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
23.	2585/20/2/2011-WC	Sexual Harassment (General)	One lakh	Govt. of Rajasthan
24.	841/12/23/2014	False Implications	Twenty Five thousand	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
25.	25145/24/39/2013	Failure in taking lawful action	Twenty Five thousand	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
26.	3072/7/2/2012	Failure in taking lawful action	One lakh	Govt. of Haryana
27.	2237/12/10/2013	Failure in taking lawful action	Twenty Five thousand	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
28.	6/33/0/2011	Death in Police Firing	Five lakh	Govt. of Chhattisgarh
29.	52/14/4/2011-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Govt. of Manipur
30.	9/14/4/2010-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounters	Five lakh	Govt. of Manipur
31.	7931/30/6/2012	Victimisation	Twenty thousand	Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NHRC – ILI Media Workshop

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC in collaboration with the Indian Law Institute, ILI organised a day-long workshop for media persons on 'Media and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges' at ILI, New Delhi on

the 22nd February, 2017. Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary (P&A), NHRC and Dr. Manoj Sinha, Director, ILI, addressing the inaugural session said that the media plays an important role in the promotion and protection of human

rights. They referred to several examples in this context. The participants included media persons, officers working for media communication in the Centre and State Governments and law students.

The four thematic sessions of the workshop were addressed by Shri Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, Dy. Director (M&C), NHRC, Shri Sudhanshu Ranjan, Senior Journalist, Doordarshan, Shri Shashank Shekhar, Member, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Prof. Pushpesh K. Pant, Dean, Northcap University, Gurugram on 'Protection of Human Rights Act, NHRC & Role of Media', 'Human Rights Violations: Identifications & Reporting of Critical Concerns and Challenges', 'Media's Role in Championing Child Rights' and 'Gender Concerns: Role of Media in Facilitating Justice for Victims' respectively.



NHRC Joint Secretary, Dr. Ranjit Singh lighting the lamp

Shri P.V. Krishna Reddy joins NHRC as Director General (Investigation)

Shri P.V. Krishna Reddy joined the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC as the Director General (Investigation) on the 2nd February, 2017. Prior to joining the NHRC, Shri Reddy, a 1982 batch IPS Officer of Tripura Cadre, was working as Special DG in Central Reserve Police Force, CRPF. Apart from holding important positions in his parent cadre, Shri Reddy served in different capacities in the CRPF. He has been a recipient of a number of medals and awards including President's Police Medals for 'Meritorious Service' in 1988 and 'Distinguished Service' in 2008.



Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
Western Regional Consultation on Business and Human Rights in Mumbai on the 22 nd February, 2017	Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, Dr. S.N. Mohanty, Secretary General, and Shri J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary (Trg.)
All India Moot Court Competition, 2017 at University Law College Bengaluru on the 24 th - 26 th February, 2017	Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson and Shri J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary (Trg.)

Complaints received/processed in February, 2017 (As per an early estimate)	
Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	5464
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	8413
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	32506

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

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