

HUMAN RIGHTS Newsletter



A Monthly publication of the National Human Rights Commission, India



Cover story

NHRC Guwahati Camp Sitting

In Focus - Consultation

National conference on advancing
human rights through local self governments

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National Human Rights Commission, India

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www.nhrc.nic.in NGOs and other organization are
welcome to reproduce material of the Newsletter
and disseminate it widely acknowledging the NHRC



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The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

— Mahatma Gandhi

Monthly Recap

From the desk of the Secretary General & Chief Executive

During November 2023, the Commission continued its global outreach in the international human rights arena. An important occasion has been the Bureau meeting of the Global Alliance of Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), a Geneva-based association of global NHRIs. The Bureau meeting was held on 5th November, 2023 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The current Chair of Asia Pacific Forum (APF) of NHRIs, South Korea requested NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra to represent and lead the APF at GANHRI Bureau meeting. The day-long meeting saw the annual review of GANHRI's work and finalization of its next year activities, plan as well as budget. Secretary General, NHRC is the Chairman of GANHRI's Finance Committee. He chaired and presented the finances of the GANHRI as well as its budget for 2024, which was accepted.

The other important international event was the 14th international conference on 'Torture and other ill-treatment: The role of NHRIs', organized by the GANHRI on 6th–8th November, 2023 at Copenhagen. It provided a forum to share the development and experiences of India in the promotion and protection of human rights of 1.43 billion people, i.e. 1/6th of humanity. In recent times, NHRC India has been reaching out and working with the most vulnerable sections of society and dispensing justice with speed and on a scale. It has taken up several initiatives to protect and promote human rights related to business, climate change.

All the participants appreciated the APF Conference organized by NHRC, India in September, 2023 in New Delhi. The work done during the G20 Presidency of India, especially on climate, poverty and inclusion of the African Union as the 21st member of the G20 has enhanced moral leadership of India. India's initiatives in various fields inspires hope, awe and admiration. The event also provided an opportunity to interact with several global NHRI representatives, fostering meaningful discussions on various issues.

Justice Mishra in the Conference on Torture and ill-treatment, emphasized the imperative of collective efforts in transforming societies to be more humane and civilized. He underscored the need to eradicate the scourge of torture, which disproportionately affects vulnerable and impoverished individuals. He stated that to provide justice to victims of torture, we need to shift from retributive jurisprudence to restitution, reparation and compensation.

NHRC, India, stands arguably as the most influential National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) globally, fully authorized to safeguard and advance the human rights of its people. The meetings provided an opportunity to highlight the best practices from India. The kind of power, systems and unique position NHRC, India has is beyond the imagination of many NHRIs. NHRC, India as well as SHRCs which are 26 in number have been empowered by the statute to discharge its responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

The 12th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights having more than 3,000 participants became yet another significant platform to highlight India's effort in streamlining human rights protection mechanisms in business. This was achieved through collaborative discussions, recommendations, and guidance provided by the Commission. Additionally, for this specific purpose, a Core Group on Persons with Disabilities has been established. Back home, the camp sitting organized by the Commission at Guwahati to hear the cases related to human rights violations in Northeast states became very fruitful in not only resolving 56 important pending cases but also sensitizing the official machinery in expediting the reports for the consideration of the Commission in the cases of human rights violations to ensure justice to the victims. Our cover story is focused on this. The Commission's endeavour to galvanize support for further strengthening the local self-government institutions in rural and urban areas in the NE States with the help of all the stakeholders viz. state governments, local bodies, civil society, academia as well as the State Human Rights Commissions to ameliorate the cause of human rights has been found extremely useful.

This edition of the Newsletter also carries reports on the other engagements and activities of the Commission even as it is preparing to celebrate Human Rights Day on 10th December, 2023 befitting the 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Bharat Lal
Secretary General &
Chief Executive, NHRC India

Cover story

NHRC camp sitting in Guwahati; 56 cases heard and compensation of Rs. 355.5 lakh to the victims

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India organized its two-day camp sitting at Administrative Staff College, Guwahati, Assam on 16th-17th November, 2023. The aim was to hear the pending cases of human rights violations in eight North Eastern (NE) States and to spread awareness about human rights amongst the officials of State Governments, its parastatal organizations and NGOs.

The NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra inaugurated the camp sitting in the presence of Members, Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay and Shri Rajiv Jain, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, Registrar (Law), Surajit Dey, Joint Secretary, Shri Devendra Kumar Nim and senior officers of various North Eastern states. Addressing the gathering, he said



NHRC, India Chairperson Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Members, Dr D. M. Mulay and Shri Rajiv Jain hearing the cases

that the Commission has a wide-ranging mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights in diverse areas and its camp sitting in the states is a unique concept aimed at reaching out to the

doorsteps of the victims of human rights violations.

The Commission heard 56 cases in the presence of concerned officers of the North Eastern States and the complainants. These included, the alleged arbitrary and unlawful division/ partition of the lands of the Chakmas at Anandapur-I and Anandapur-II, Brajapur and Bodhiasatta-II villages in district Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh, alleged rape of a 16-year old tribal girl in the area of Kokrajhar town, Assam, death of 57 persons and injuries to 18 due to the negligence of the North East Frontier Railways while executing a project entailing construction of tunnels and railway tracks to connect Jiribam with Imphal, poor condition of district Hospital at Churachandpur, Manipur due to non-availability of



Complainants and the concerned officers in the hearing



NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal and Registrar (Law) Shri Surajit Dey at the camp sitting

the State Governments to provide infrastructure to the State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) and required human resources on priority for their effective and efficient functioning.

After hearing the cases, the Commission interacted with the human rights defenders and the representatives of non-government organizations who raised a gamut of issues related to human rights. The Commission supports them in their endeavour to highlight any violation of human rights of people and appreciated the work being done by them. They were explained and sensitized about online complaint portal developed by the NHRC and being used by SHRCs to file complaints online through hrcnet.nic.in. This will make the mechanism more efficient as it empowers citizens to file complaints from anywhere and anytime. It saves time as well as help avoid duplication. ■

basic facilities, complaints regarding incidences of violence in the State of Manipur, alleged failure on part of State of Arunachal Pradesh to pay compensation to 108 Chakma and Hajong families of the Changlang district affected by Construction of 132KV T/L from Namsai to Miao project, erosion of two backward tribal Buddhist villages due to Burl Dihing River in Margherita Sub-Division of Tinsukia district in Assam, among others. With the intervention of the Commission, the states have either paid or are in the process of paying compensation of Rs. 355.5 lakh.

The Commission also held a meeting with the Chief Secretaries/DGPs of the North Eastern States and asked them to submit action taken reports on NHRC Advisories on various issues such as mental health, police encounter, bonded labour, right to food & safety, child sexual abuse material (CSAM), truck drivers, ocular trauma, prevention of suicide in

judicial and police custody, manual scavenging and others etc. The officers were directed to ensure timely submission of reports in cases pending before the Commission and in particular, the compliance reports wherein the Commission makes a recommendation in cases of violation of human rights. The Commission also stressed upon



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra interacting with the mediapersons after the camp sitting

Consultations

National Conference on 'Advancing Human Rights through Local Self Governments'

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India held a National Conference on 'Advancing Human Rights through Local-Self Governments' in North Eastern states at Guwahati, Assam on 16th November, 2023. The objective of the conference was to create awareness regarding the role of Local Self-Government (LSG) in advancing human rights as well as improving quality of life, water, sanitation, public health, and related facets of it in close coordination with community-based organizations and human rights defenders working at the grassroots level.

NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra inaugurated it in the presence of Members, Dr D. M. Mulay, Shri Rajiv Jain, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, Registrar (Law), Joint Secretary, Shri D. K. Nim, Chairpersons of the State Human Rights Commissions of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland and other senior officers. He underscored the significance of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment

Act, 1992 for emphasizing the establishment and efficient functioning of Gram Panchayats, as outlined in Article 40 of the Directive Principles of State Policy. He said that the local self-governing institutions play a major role in the social and economic development of people and thus, in the protection and promotion of human rights by ensuring quality of life, water, sanitation, public health, etc, and dignity and equality at the grassroots level.

Justice Mishra also expressed concern over the ethnic conflict in Manipur, which has caused social and political tensions besides the low intensity conflicts in the NE region, especially about violence against women, and other vulnerable groups. Referring to the healthcare challenges, he said that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental human right and it should be ensured to all individuals, regardless of their geographical location. He pointed out that the



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra addressing the National Conference



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Members, Dr D. M. Mulay, Shri Rajiv Jain, SG, Shri Bharat Lal and Assam Chief Secretary, Shri P.K. Borthakur participating in the discussions

Advisories issued by the Commission should be implemented.

The Secretary General, NHRC, India, Shri Bharat Lal emphasized the importance of understanding and learning the practices and customs related to LSG in both urban and rural areas, Autonomous District Councils, and more importantly the traditions of tribal communities in North Eastern states. He said that the elimination of corruption is the key to ensuring good governance and assured public service delivery through the Panchayati Raj system in rural areas and municipalities in urban India, introduced through the 73rd and the 74th amendments in the Constitution.

The Chief Secretary, Assam, Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur gave an overview of the progress the State has made in the education system, functioning of the community and the rural sector welfare schemes, like Mission Basundhara and Mission Bhumi Putra, made for the promotion and protection of the rights of the people.

Shri D.K. Nim, Joint Secretary, NHRC, emphasized on exchanging the best practices of local self-governments in ascertaining their role towards the protection and promotion of human rights in the North Eastern States. The other participants included Special Rapporteurs and Special



NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressing the participants

Monitors of NHRC, representatives of Autonomous District Councils of various states, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, senior officers of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Departments, NIRD DG, etc.

The Conference was divided into two technical sessions: 'Advancing human rights through Local Self-Governments' and 'Best practices of the Local Self-Governments of the North Eastern States.' The first session was chaired by NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra, and co-chaired by Chairperson, Assam Human Rights Commission, Justice Shri Arup Kumar Goswami. Justice Goswami emphasized on the importance of promotion and protection of human rights in North Eastern States and highlighted the significance of Local Self-Governments in NE region.

Dr Justice Indira Shah, Chairperson, Arunachal Pradesh SHRC drew everyone's attention towards the traditional ways of management of tribal people through village councils and local self governance. She also mentioned that human rights must be operationalized, i.e. understood and applied at all levels and all sectors of public life to have the necessary impact. Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary (Governance), Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj stated that LSG is the fulcrum of equality and equity of human rights in rural India. He also mentioned that the State Finance Commissions should be more responsible towards rural development. He emphasized on strengthening the gram sabhas or peoples' forum as a platform for inclusive spaces for dialogue and resolution. He also pointed out the importance of enhancing transpar-



A session during the conference in progress

ency and accountability using a mix of technology and capacity building.

Other speakers during the session, included Shri Muninder Sharma, Secretary, PR&RD Dept., Govt. of Assam; Shri Jalash Pertin, Joint Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh SHRC; Shri Amrit Sangma, Andhunik India Foundation, Assam. They pointed out the importance of participation of rural population in the development process, thereby creating a path towards participatory implementation. They discussed the evolution of LSG in the NE States, and the issues pertaining to specific States, including human right violations, ignorance of laws, and lack of awareness of various laws.

The second technical session was chaired and co-chaired by Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay, Member, N H R C and Justice Shri Songkhupchung Serto, Chairperson, Nagaland State Human Rights Commission. Initiating discussions, Dr Mulay brought attention to the Panchayati Raj awards won by the village councils of North Eastern States. He mentioned the various schemes, which are being implemented through the LSGs in the North Eastern States for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Justice Shri Songkhupchung Serto, emphasized the significance of local

self governing bodies in the tribal areas of Northeast India. During this session, various other speakers, including Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, Director General, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, Dr. R. Murugesan, Director, NIRD&PR, North Eastern Regional Centre, Dr T. Vijayakumar, Associate Professor, NIRD&PR, North Eastern Regional Centre, mentioned few of the best practices of the North Eastern states, such as *Nari Adaalat*, an alternate dispute resolution mechanism in Assam; maternity ward at mini PHCs in Assam; creation of water ATM through Gram Panchayats in Manipur; creation of village development boards for self sustaining governance, in Nagaland, among others. They also emphasized on strengthening local finances for development through the Gram Sabhas. The Gram Panchayats play a major role in creating awareness about women and child safety, and creating an environment prioritizing the development focused on women and children.

During the discussions, some of the best practices in the rural areas highlighted in the North Eastern states included *Nari Adaalat*, an alternate dispute resolution mechanism in Assam; maternity ward at mini Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Assam; creation of water ATM through Gram Panchayats in Manipur; creation of village

development boards for self sustaining governance in Nagaland, amongst others.

Some of the important suggestions that emerged during the discussion about strengthening the Local Self-Government were as follows:

- Encourage the best practices of traditional methods of managing affairs of tribal people through village councils and local self governance;
- Make the State Finance Commissions more responsive towards rural development;
- Strengthen the Gram Sabhas or peoples' forum as a platform for inclusive spaces for dialogue in the development process and resolution of problems;
- Enhance transparency and accountability in the working of local self-government institutions using a mix of technology and capacity building;
- Strengthen local finances for development through the Gram Sabhas;
- Need to build awareness among rural population about various laws and welfare schemes; and
- Create an environment prioritizing the development focused on women and children.■

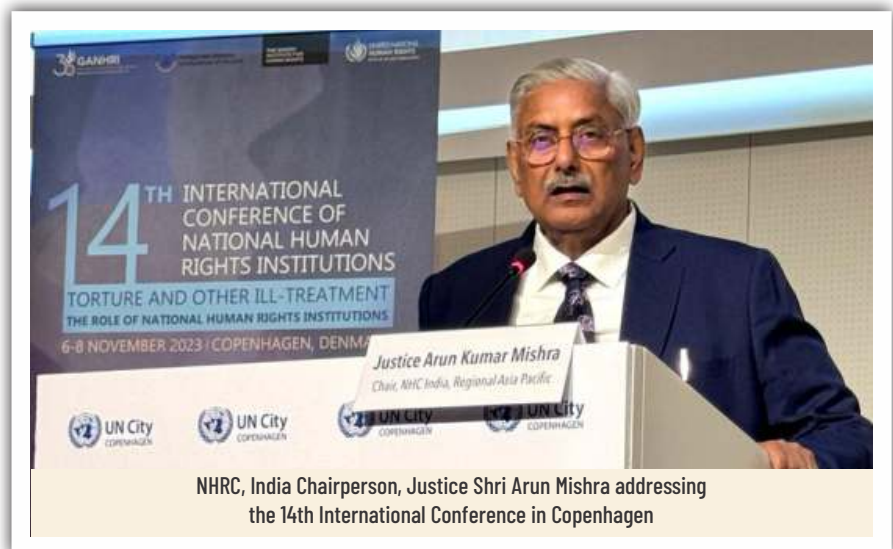


A scene from the conference

Global footprints

NHRC, India at GANHRI Bureau meeting and the conference of NHRIs on Torture and other ill-treatment in Copenhagen

The Global Alliance National Human Rights Institutions, GANHRI, held the 14th International Conference, in Copenhagen from 6th-8th November, 2023. The conference was co-hosted by the UN Human Rights Office, the Ukrainian Parliament, Commissioner for Human Rights and the Danish Institute for Human Rights. The main aim of the conference was to examine the critical role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in combating and preventing torture and other ill-treatment at a critical moment in time.



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra addressing the 14th International Conference in Copenhagen

The International Conference for National Human Rights Institutions takes place every three years and aims to develop and strengthen the cooperation between NHRIs and to discuss relevant items on their agenda. The last international conference was held in 2018 at Marrakech, Morocco and gathered more than 260 NHRIs from around the globe to explore the role of NHRIs and their contributions to expanding civic space and promoting human rights defenders, with a special focus on women human rights defenders (WHRDs). This year too, around 300 participants, including representatives from NHRIs, UN agencies and leading anti-torture NGOs, as well as international experts, took part in the 14th International Conference.

NHRC, India was represented by its Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra and the Secretary General,

Shri Bharat Lal. In the absence Mr. Doo-Hwan Song, Chairperson of the Asia Pacific Forum, APF, of NHRIs; and NHRI of South Korea, Justice Mishra also represented APF in the Conference.

Before the Conference, GANHRI held its Bureau Meeting on 5th November, 2023. In the meeting, NHRC Chairperson, Justice Mishra discussed developments, challenges and opportunities at global and regional levels in support of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). He also participated in the progress review, tracking the implementing activities. He deliberated on the forthcoming events that will drive GANHRI's work in support of NHRIs. Bureau members also discussed the strategic priorities for the upcoming year and received updates from GANHRI's Sub Committee on Accreditation (SCA), the four

regional networks, its partners, the finance committee, and its Working Groups. The Bureau also appreciated the NHRC, India organizing the 28th Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference of Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs.

In the same meeting, the Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, also the Chair of the GANHRI Finance Committee proposed the GANHRI budget and discussed the budget related activities of GANHRI. Shri Lal also participated in a session on Accreditation of the NHRIs wherein he discussed the non-transparent mechanism of accreditation of the NHRIs.

On 6th November, 2023, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal delivered a lecture on Investment opportunities in India - Harmonizing Climate Change and Human Rights in a lunch meeting, organized by the Indian

Danish Chamber of Commerce. He spoke on the efforts by India in promoting and protecting the human rights of all, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Justice Mishra chaired a session on 'Practical perspectives on protection: Complaints, Investigations, Access to Justice, and Reparations' on 7th November 2023. The objective of this session was to provide practical perspectives from the NHRIs on the said theme. In the session, Justice Mishra said that we have to work collectively to make societies more humane and civil to eradicate the menace of torture of which most of the victims are poor and vulnerable individuals. To provide justice to victims of torture, we have to shift from retributive jurisprudence to restitution, reparation and compensation. Justice Mishra gave an overview of the Indian jurisprudence and various practices that evolved over the years, both by the judiciary and NHRC. He said that Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in courts and suo motu cognizance by the NHRC are

among such unique instruments to ensure justice for the victims. Justice Mishra said that NHRC, India's complaint filing system, investigation mechanism and monetary relief in cases of human rights violations are part of a victim-centric approach to reparation.

Justice Mishra also addressed the concluding session on 8th November. He said that we owe not only to present but future generations to take effective steps to prevent torture. He said that effectively addressing the practice of torture, prosecution of perpetrators and

disciplinary action is non-negotiable. He stated that preventive mechanisms, continuous monitoring and assessment are necessary for the systematic improvement of detention centres, prisons and other places. International collaboration, sharing best practices and evolving strategies to prevent the prevailing physical and mental torture in various forms is essential. Methods of investigation by police need to be modernized.

Referring to the role of NHRIs in this context, Justice Mishra stressed the need for these institutions to be backed by suitable laws and independence in their operations with adequate resources. A culture to respect NHRIs on the lines of judiciary must be nurtured in the society and government. Follow up on the recommendations by the NHRIs and ensure accountability is concomitant with an effective remedial system, he stated.

The Secretary General, NHRC, India Shri Bharat Lal spoke about the good practices in enforcement of human rights in India. He highlighted how NHRC India has been equipped to discharge its responsibility and it has created a niche for itself. NHRC, India is a highly respected institution as it has its



NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal participating in a lunch meeting organized by Indian Danish Chamber of Commerce



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra interacting with the participants

own independent investigation wing, takes up cases *suo motu*, orders surprise inspections, has its own budget and other resources. He detailed the mechanism developed by the NHRC India for online complaint management

system, 24 hours toll free number and filing complaint from anywhere at anytime. India is focusing on quality of life by ensuring basic amenities to all and taking care of vulnerable groups. The focus is on ensuring dignity for one and all.

More than 85 NHRIs participating in the 14th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, unanimously adopted the Kyiv-Copenhagen Declaration on 8th November, 2023. ■



Participants at the 14th International Conference in Copenhagen

NHRC, India at UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India delegation comprising Member Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay and Joint Secretary, Smt Anita Sinha

attended the 12th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva from 27th -29th November, 2023. Dr

Mulay addressed a session on 27th November, 2023 focused on 'Disability rights as part of Business & Human Rights: Broadening the Discussion'. He stressed the need



NHRC, India Member, Dr D. M. Mulay and Joint Secretary, Smt Anita Sinha attending the 12th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva

for concerted efforts to ensure the protection of rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in various fields including business activities.

Dr Mulay said that the labour market data must be improved regularly, and business houses need to focus on creating awareness about the need for protection of the rights of PwDs in all their activities. He also gave an overview of the functioning of the NHRC, India Core Group on Disabilities and said that the Commission continues to make needed suggestions for their welfare. It also issued an advisory to create disable friendly atmosphere and facilities in various establishments. He said that the NHRIs must engage with their respective governments to give appropriate suggestions for specially-abled policies and programmes. According to the OHCHR, the UN Forum is the world's largest annual gathering



The conference in progress

on business and human rights with more than 2,000 participants from government, business, community groups and civil society, law firms, investor organizations, UN bodies, National Human Rights Institutions, trade unions, academia and the media.

Over three days, participants took part in sixty plus panel discussions

on topics that relate to the guiding principles on business and human rights (the United Nations protect, respect and remedy framework), as well as current business-related human rights issues. The Forum is the foremost event to network, share experiences and learn about the latest initiatives to promote corporate respect for human rights. ■

NHRC Interventions

Suo motu cognizance

The media reports have been a very useful instrument for the National Human Rights Commission to know about the incidents of human rights violations. Over the years, it has taken *suo motu cognizance* of many such issues and brought succour to the victims of human rights violations. During November 2023, the Commission took *suo motu cognizance* in 3 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by the media and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports.

Summaries of some cases are as follows:

Sexual abuse of two juveniles by fellow inmates

(Case No. 5010/30/6/2023)

The media reported on 20th November, 2023, that two juveniles lodged in the Child Protection Home in Mukherjee Nagar area of Delhi were subjected to sexual abuse by fellow inmates. Allegedly, they were threatened by their tormentors for life if they reported the

matter to any authority. The Commission has issued notices to the Delhi Chief Secretary and the Police Commissioner calling for a detailed report.

Death of woman and her child due to electrocution

(Case No. 943/10/1/2023)

On 20th December, 2023, the media reported that a 23-year-old girl and her nine months baby were electrocuted when they stepped on a live electricity wire lying



unattended on the footpath near hope farm in the Kadugodi area in Bengaluru. Reportedly, by the time people rushed to help the victims, they were charred to death. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Karnataka calling for a detailed report.

Irregularities in government hospitals

(Case No. 28812/24/23/2023)

The matter pertained to the media reports and posts on social media that around 600 patients were given substandard and over-priced pacemakers at the Government Institute of Medical Sciences in

Safai, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh due to which 200 patients lost lives. Allegedly, even the patients who did not require any pacemaker were also prescribed the same. The Commission has issued notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh calling for a detailed report. ■

Recommendations for relief

Hearing the cases of human rights violations and recommending relief to the victims in such matters, is one of the major functions of the National Human Rights Commission. It regularly takes up various such cases and gives directions and recommendations to the concerned authorities for relief to the

victims. In November, 2023, besides the number of cases taken up daily by the Member Benches, 3 case was heard by the Full Commission, 21 cases by the Double Member Bench-I, 35 cases by the Double Member Bench-II and 40 cases by the Double Member Bench-III. Monetary relief of more than ₹13.54 lakh was recommended for

the victims or their Next of Kin (NoK) in the 31 cases, wherein it was found that public servants had either violated human rights or been negligent in protecting them. The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:

S. No.	Case No	Nature of Complaint	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	State/UT
1.	1683/1/38/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Andhra Pradesh
2.	797/1/3/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Andhra Pradesh
3.	34/2/11/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Arunachal Pradesh
4.	2295/7/5/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
5.	219/8/4/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	03.00	Himachal Pradesh
6.	2284/36/26/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	04.00	Telangana
7.	2725/24/31/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	04.00	Uttar Pradesh
8.	31853/24/78/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
9.	17/15/2/2021-PCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Meghalaya
10.	21274/24/35/2021-PCD	Death in police custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
11.	3266/7/5/2021-AD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
12.	19997/24/41/2022-AD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh



S. No.	Case No	Nature of Complaint	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	State/UT
13.	308/34/11/2019-DH	Custodial death in a juvenile home	05.00	Jharkhand
14.	141/18/3/2023	Inaction by the state government/central govt.officials	02.00	Odisha
15.	2319/18/6/2020	Inaction by the state government/central govt.officials	02.00	Odisha
16.	2051/18/7/2022	Death due to electrocution	04.00	Odisha
17.	2386/18/7/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
18.	5015/25/15/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	West Bengal
19.	3311/30/0/2021	Failure in taking lawful action	00.50	Delhi
20.	2660/18/4/2021	Failure in taking lawful action	04.00	Odisha
21.	11416/24/28/2022	Failure in taking lawful action	02.00	Uttar Pradesh
22.	750/30/9/2023	Murder by anti-social elements	03.00	Delhi
23.	2768/25/22/2022	Murder by anti-social elements	05.00	West Bengal
24.	27663/24/1/2022	Intimidation/ threatening/extortion by anti-social elements	00.50	Uttar Pradesh
25.	1972/34/15/2022	Educational institutions/ technical institutions (Govt/pvt)	05.00	Jharkhand
26.	3756/18/2/2022	Children	00.50	Odisha
27.	20040/24/25/2021	Child rape	02.00	Uttar Pradesh
28.	1635/1/6/2021-WC	Gang rape	01.00	Andhra Pradesh
29.	399/33/14/2021	Deaths in a fire at a hospital due to negligence	25.00	Chhattisgarh
30.	862/33/16/2022	Lack of proper medical facilities in the state	00.40	Chhattisgarh
31.	3665/18/8/2022	Miscellaneous	07.50	Odisha

Payment of relief to the victims

The Commission closed 20 cases, either on receipt of the compliance reports and proof of payment from the public authorities or by giving other

observations/directions. An amount of ₹95.25 lakh was paid to the victims or their Next of Kin (NoK) on the recommendations of the Commission. The specific

details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:



S. No.	Case No	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	State/UT
1.	3535/4/25/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	10.00	Bihar
2.	2127/30/9/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Delhi
3.	2295/7/5/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
4.	737/34/20/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	02.00	Jharkhand
5.	295/20/14/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Rajasthan
6.	25617/24/14/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
7.	4406/18/5/2022	Custodial torture	01.00	Odisha
8.	110/3/23/2022	Custodial torture	00.25	Assam
9.	2660/18/4/2021	Failure in taking lawful action	04.00	Odisha
10.	969/22/13/2017	Failure in taking lawful action	07.50	Tamil Nadu
11.	1112/25/7/2018	Failure in taking lawful action	01.00	West Bengal
12.	3915/18/5/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
13.	4233/18/5/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
14.	399/33/14/2021	Deaths due to negligence in hospital fire	25.00	Chhattisgarh
15.	141/18/3/2023	Inaction by the state/ central Govt officials	02.00	Odisha
16.	2319/18/6/2020	Inaction by the state/ central govt officials	02.00	Odisha
17.	750/30/9/2023	Murder by anti-social elements	03.00	Delhi
18.	2737/25/25/2021	Intimidation/ threatening/ extortion by anti-social elements	01.00	West Bengal
19.	937/18/1/2022	Atrocities on media persons	00.50	Odisha
20.	285/6/23/2020	Accidents in industry/factory	06.00	Gujarat

Case studies

In many cases, the Commission received compliance reports from the respective state authorities. Summaries of some of these cases are as under:

Illegal detention and torture in police custody

(Case No. 937/18/1/2022)

The matter pertained to the illegal

detention and torture of a journalist in police custody in Odisha. Reportedly, the police officials did not take the approval of the concerned magistrate for



handcuffing the victim. The Commission held that human rights were infringed due to lackadaisical behaviour of the police personnel. The Commission recommended that the Government of Odisha pay an amount of Rs. 50,000 as relief to the victim, which was paid.

Death of newborn child

(Case No. 31227/24/11/2022)

The matter pertained to the death of a newborn child due to the negligence of medical staff at Tulsipur Community Health Centre (CHC) Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh. Based on the material on record, the Commission held that the staff nurse posted at CHC was responsible for the incident. The Commission

recommended that the Government of Uttar Pradesh pay an amount of Rs. 1,00,000 as relief to the mother which was paid.

Death of a prisoner due to torture in the Jail

(Case No. 3535/4/25/2021-jcd)

The matter pertained to the death of a prisoner at Distt. Jail Nawada, Bihar. He was taken to hospital due to ill health where he was declared dead at the hospital. Based on the material on record, the Commission held that the victim died due to inhuman treatment and torture by the jail officials. The Commission recommended that the Government of Bihar pay an amount Rs.

10,00,000 relief to the Next of Kin, which was paid.

Illegal arrest and police torture

(Case No. 4406/18/5/2022)

The matter pertained to the illegal detention and torture of a couple by police in Raikia, Odisha. Based on the material on the record, the Commission found the allegations correct and recommended that the Government of Odisha pay an amount of Rs. 50,000 relief to the victims, which was paid. The Commission has asked the State Government to expedite the departmental proceedings against the accused police officer. ■

Spot enquiry

From 6th -10th November, 2023, the NHRC Investigation team conducted a spot

enquiry in North Delhi on the allegation of ragging of a student of University of Delhi and the failure of

the concerned authorities to take appropriate action. ■

Field visits

The National Human Rights Commission has appointed 15 Special Rapporteurs to keep watch on the human rights situations in different geographical zones in the country. They visit shelter homes, prisons, observa-

tion homes, etc. and submit reports to the Commission on their observations and suggestions for further course of action. Besides this, the Commission has also appointed 18 Special Monitors who have been assigned thematic issues of human

rights to keep a watch on the related development in the country and report to the Commission accordingly. During November 2023, several places were visited by the Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors.

Special Rapporteurs

On 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th and 9th November, 2023, Smt Suchitra Sinha visited various educational institutions, including among others, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Khunti, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Kanke, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School, Bariatu, Ranchi, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Bayanbil, Jamshedpur in the state of Jharkhand. She made an assessment of the human rights situation and the various facilities available at the institutions.

From 14th-19th November, 2023, Dr Ashok Kumar Verma visited District Jail Nainital, Sub-Jail Haldwani, Observation Home for Juvenile offenders, National Association for the Blind Institute for Children, Haldwani in Uttarakhand. He made an assessment of human rights situation and the various facilities available at the institutions.

From 24th-29th November, 2023, Shri Mahesh Kumar Singla visited childrens home under the Government of NCT of Delhi and a jail in Haryana to make an assessment of the facilities and human rights situation.



NHRC Special Rapporteur, Smt. Suchitra Sinha inspecting the schools



NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri Mahesh Kumar Singla inspecting jail



NHRC Special Rapporteur, Shri Mahesh Kumar Singla inspecting children home for girls

Training

Human rights awareness programmes

Workshops

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India extends supports to various institutions for organizing day-long human rights awareness workshops. During

November, 2023 four such awareness and training programmes under different themes and focus areas of human rights were conducted by the three institutions in Tamil Nadu and one in Puducherry

in collaboration with the Commission having about 100 participants in each. The resource persons were drawn from civil society organizations, NGOs, Advocates, academicians, among other subject experts.

On 2nd November, 2023, a one-day awareness programme was organized in collaboration with Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. The sessions were held on an overview of Human Rights, Women & Child Rights, Human Rights Institutions in India and Rights of other vulnerable groups including Bonded Labour, Child Labour and the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes communities.

On 9th November, 2023, another training programme on Human Rights was organized in collaboration with Shree Venkateshwara Hi-Tech Engineering College, Erode, Tamil Nadu on the Rights of Women.

On 16th November, 2023, an awareness workshop was held in Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Puducherry. It was divided into four technical sessions including Women's Rights, Human Rights Jurisprudence, Child Rights and Fundamentals of Human Rights.

On 28th November, 2023, a training programme was held in collaboration with Loyola College at Beschi Hall, Chennai, Tamil Nadu with focus on 'Practices and possibilities of achieving gender equality and empowerment of women in contemporary India.'



Visits

The Commission, besides, organizing collaborative human rights awareness workshops also facilitates the visits of students of higher studies for a day-long orientation

on human rights at its premises. On 8th, 17th and 21st November, 2023, three groups of college students accompanied by their faculties visited NHRC. They included, Royal College of Law and Asian Law College from Ghaziabad in Uttar

Pradesh and Amex Law College from Burdwan, West Bengal. They were given orientation about human rights and functioning of the Commission by senior officers.



Asian Law College



Royal College of Law



Amex Law College

News in brief

On 13th November, 2023, Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC gave a talk on - Say no to corruption, commit to the nation - a pathway to safeguard human rights and dignity organized by the Mumbai Port Trust Authority as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week.



On 13th November, 2023, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Smt Anita Sinha visited National Law School of India University, Bengaluru to discuss the issues pertaining to the NHRC Chair on human rights.

On 21st November, 2023, a four-member Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) for prevention of sexual harassment of women in the Commission was re-constituted with Smt. Anita Sinha, Joint Secretary as the Chairperson.

On 26th November, 2023, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri D. K. Nim visited Chandigarh Model Jail to assess the human rights situation and the various facilities available at the jail. He observed that the Model Jail is equipped with latest facilities. Several correctional activities are being organized by the Jail Administration to provide skill based training for the welfare of the prisoners to make them self-reliant for earning livelihood after release



from the jail. The jail administration also helps them in nurturing their individual traits and talents by providing a conducive environment. Educational facilities, recreational facilities, Radio inside prison, the state of the art kitchen and the vocational set ups such as stitching & commercial furniture making ensure the reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners.

On 28th November, 2023, Shri Arun Tyagi, Insp., Investigation Division, NHRC delivered an online lecture at STC/ Delhi Police Academy, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi to police officers about various aspects of human rights, Commission's functioning besides procedure in respect of interrogation, death in police custody, guidelines on encounter deaths.

Forthcoming events

1. On 10th December, 2023, NHRC, India will celebrate Human Rights Day in commemoration of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the UN General Assembly on this day in 1948. The day also marks 75 years of UDHR. The Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar has consented to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. The function will be attended by people from a cross-section of society, and several national and international dignitaries.
2. On 11th December, 2023 the NHRC will organize an interactive session with its Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors to review the work done and identify the focus areas for the first half of the year.
3. From 11th December, 2023, the NHRC will organize the 2nd Training of Trainers course for the officers of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and various Central Investigation Agencies.
4. From 18th December, 2023, the NHRC will begin its month-long on-site Winter Internship Programme for university-level students.
5. On 18th December, 2023, the Commission will organize its two-day National Conference in Hindi on the 'Concept of Human Rights in Indian Culture, Arts and Language,' in collaboration with the University of Calicut. ■



Complaint management in November, 2023

Complaints received	6,340
Disposed off	7,000
Under consideration of the Commission	7,513

Important telephone numbers of the NHRC for filing complaints

Toll Free No.: 14433 (Facilitation Centers)

Fax No.: 011-2465 1332

For Filing online complaints: www.nhrc.nic.in, hrcnet.nic.in, Common Service Centres

Email: irlawnhrc@nic.in (For complaints), cr.nhrc@nic.in (For general queries/ correspondence)

Focal point for Human Rights Defenders:

Indrajeet Kumar, Deputy Registrar (Law)

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