

HUMAN RIGHTS Newsletter



A Monthly publication of the National Human Rights Commission, India



Cover story

30th Foundation Day of NHRC, India



Contents

1. Monthly recap	
• From the desk of the Secretary General & Chief Executive	3
2. Cover story	4
• 30 th foundation day of NHRC, India	4
3. Advisories	7
• NHRC advisory to ensure the welfare and rights of persons with mental illnesses	7
• NHRC advisory on CSAM	8
4. Consultations	11
• National conference of SHRCs, Special Rapporteurs and Monitors on advancing human rights	11
• Open house discussion on sports and human rights	12
• Meeting of core group on environment ...	14
5. NHRC Interventions	15
• <i>Suo motu</i> cognizance	15
• Recommendations for relief	16
• Payment of relief to the victims	17
• Case studies	19
• Spot enquiries	19
6. Field visits	20
• Visits by Special Monitors and Rapporteurs	
7. Research	21
• Study on 'The Extent of Cyber Exploitation and Safety of Children in Kerala'	21
8. Training	21
• Human rights awareness programmes	21
9. International outreach	23
• Capacity building of the NHRC, Maldives ..	23
10. News in brief	24
11. Forthcoming events	26
12. Human rights and NHRC in news	26
13. Complaints in October, 2023	27



Maldivian delegation with the
NHRC, India Chairperson, Members and senior officers

National Human Rights Commission, India

Chairperson: **Justice Shri Arun Mishra**

Members: **Dr Dnyaneshwar M Mulay,**
Shri Rajiv Jain

Secretary General: **Shri Bharat Lal**

Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi-110 023

Editor: Shri Jaimini Kumar Srivastava,
Dy. Director (M&C), NHRC

Also available on the Commission's website
www.nhrc.nic.in NGOs and other organization are
welcome to reproduce material of the Newsletter
and disseminate it widely acknowledging the NHRC



“

The future depends on what we do in the present.**— Mahatma Gandhi**

Monthly Recap

From the desk of the Secretary General & Chief Executive

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India celebrated its 30th foundation day on 12th October, 2023 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi in the presence of eminent jurists, citizens, academicians, members of other statutory organizations, civil society, governments, human rights defenders, etc. Former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind graced the occasion as the chief guest. The foundation day of the commission served as a reflection on its journey in fulfilling its mandated objectives. The Commission's historical trajectory revealed a steadfast dedication to addressing the ever-expanding arena of human rights.

The subsequent National Conference of State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs), Special Rapporteurs & Monitors on 'Advancing Human Rights' reinforced the ancient Indian ethos of protecting and promoting human rights. The focus was also on collaborations to maximize impacts and outcomes in partnerships with NGOs and human rights defenders. Drawing from an

extensive experience, cultural ethos, finest Constitution and long-held traditions, the NHRC and the 26 SHRCs in India, are well positioned to protect and promote human rights of individuals, and are ready to share their invaluable experiences. This holds special relevance for the Global South, given the intrinsic diversity and democratic principles ingrained in these commissions. Talking of Global South brings, as a natural corollary, to the first time 5-day capacity building organized by the NHRC, India for the 20 officers of Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) in October. This was just another Indian commitment towards providing unconditional support to the people of the Maldives, their economy, institutions and capacity building in line with its long-standing historical and cultural relations and a valued neighbour.

NHRC reiterated its commitment to protection of the rights of the vulnerable groups with the issuance of an advisory on the World Mental Health Day for the welfare and rights of persons with mental issues. It was followed by

another important advisory on the protection of the rights of children against production, distribution, and consumption of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). It is a landmark document and acts as a guiding principle, offering hope and direction in addressing the serious global threat to humanity. It has been very well received by different stakeholders including media. The key components of the advisories have been highlighted in this edition of the newsletter.

The Commission also continued with its hearing of the case related to the air pollution in Delhi–NCR, aiming for a successful intervention to resolve this enduring issue. The Commission has planned to celebrate 75 years of Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10th December, 2023. This edition also carries reports on the other regular activities of the Commission to promote and protect human rights.

Bharat Lal
Secretary General &
Chief Executive, NHRC India

Cover story

30th Foundation Day of NHRC, India

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India organized a function to celebrate its 30th Foundation Day at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on 12th October, 2023. The Commission was set up in 1993. Addressing the august gathering as the chief guest, the former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind lauded the role of the NHRC in the promotion and protection of human rights and championing the rights of under-privileged and vulnerable sections of society over these 30 years. He said the Commission was an embodiment of India's concern for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind said that India has a rich ancient tradition as reflected in its various scriptures for compassion towards humanity and non-violence. Fundamental to these teachings is the belief that every individual is born free and equal, possessing reason and conscience. The acts of terrorism and violence are against the basic principles of human rights. India has consistently upheld human rights and believes in peace by never initiating any war. It condemns violence and terrorism, in all forms and manifestations. This commitment is a testament to our cultural values of empathy and compassion, especially towards those in need, underscoring our dedication to the principles of human rights.



Former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind lighting the lamp

There is no higher calling for a society than the social empowerment of its most marginalized sections of society by ensuring their human rights. This noble aspiration has now become a reality through the government's unwavering commitment, going the extra mile to ensure that the vulnerable are genuinely empowered. The government didn't just rely on administrative measures; it chose the path of legislation, to uplift those on the fringes. This legislative pursuit reflects a collective resolve, among the nation's eminent lawmakers, underlining the government's unyielding determination to elevate the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society. The Indian government is committed to the idea of 'Leaving No One Behind.' This means making sure that everyone, especially

vulnerable groups like women, children, and persons with disabilities, is included and taken care of.

Shri Kovind in his address drew attention to various welfare schemes initiated by the government to meet the basic needs of the people, uplifting their living standards. He said that in India, the constitutional right to access clean drinking water can be drawn from the right to food, the right to a clean environment and the right to health, all of which have been protected under the broad heading of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. In this direction, India has taken steps to ensure dignity of every individual and improve the quality of life of every citizen. The most significant step to protect dignity of an individual especially women and



Former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind addressing the gathering

girls, is the provision of sanitation facilities, particularly toilets.

He said that recently, India has further extended its presence and impact on the world stage during its G20 presidency. It facilitated discussions and initiatives aimed at addressing climate-related challenges, promoting renewable energy sources, and enhancing environmental sustainability, all in the interest of human rights. India's successful effort to get the African Union included in the G20 as a full member shows that we believe that no one is left out and act on the principle of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' i.e. – the whole world is one family.

In his address, the NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra said that the objective of the celebration of foundation day is to remind each one of us about our duty and to ponder upon the new challenges humanity faces. He said that in a fast changing world, the enduring ancient Indian values of human rights, the ethos for compassion and ethical conduct remain a guiding light for a collective commitment and action to protect

them. Violent extremism threatens human rights, international peace and security and sustainable development. It is crucial to increase international collaboration in this area to raise awareness. Human rights institutions, civil society organizations, human rights defenders and other stakeholders must join hands.

Referring to the reports of the increasing number of suicides by students, Justice Mishra said that the necessity of coaching is a matter of grave concern. The New Education Policy seeks to address several

worrying features in our age-old system. At the same time, the urgency is to consider how much burden should be put on the children in the school and students opting for competitive examinations. The education system has become too mechanical and burdensome causing mental health issues among students. Considering the progress achieved, any discrimination in education should end, and education should be made compulsory at least till the graduation level, he said.

He also emphasized on developing the original thinking capacity necessary for invention. India has a diversity of languages. Our education should be geared towards promoting literature in various Indian languages and enriching our culture.

The NHRC, India Chairperson also emphasized the problems being faced by the trafficked and enslaved girls and women without access to education, healthcare and benefits of the socio-economic welfare schemes. He said that their children are the worst sufferers, who are equally entitled to the protection of rights and social dignity. Likewise, he



A section of audience at the NHRC, India foundation day function

said that the rights and the challenges of LGBTQIA+ communities also need to be addressed. Keeping this in view, the Commission issued an advisory last month for their welfare measures. These included, among others, treating their children at par with the unmarried daughters to receive pension and other benefits, inheritance in agricultural land and protection in education and employment.

In addition to this, the NHRC, India Chairperson also drew attention to several other new advisories issued by the Commission in the recent past to protect the rights of different segments of society relating to the welfare of truck drivers, mitigating impacts of climate change, protecting workers from hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks, the welfare of victims of ocular trauma, preventing suicides of prisoners, and the latest for improving mental health care. He also said that quality health services for physical as well as mental well-being are a right of every human being. However, there is no rule for non-consensual medical treatment and experimentation.

Justice Mishra said that human rights include the right to vote and elect the government. The state

must ensure violence-free elections so that citizens enjoy fundamental democratic rights. To seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through media, is part of freedom of opinion and expression. Facebook, Twitter and TV debates often result in violation of human rights. The dignity and reputation of individuals suffer. The falling standard of media debates is the cause of concern, he said. The responsibility of all concerned is to ensure that their imprint on the younger generation is not uncivil debate and dialogue. Acknowledging the progress in digital technology and innovation, Justice Mishra, however, said that the legal framework has not kept pace with protecting people's rights viola-

tions in cyberspace, relating to data privacy, e-commerce, banking fraud, business and international crime syndicates. The intermediaries need to be made accountable for posting offensive content.

Referring to a UN Report, the NHRC, India Chairperson said that alternative employment opportunities need to be ensured for the workers impacted due to the energy transition, which has to be done very carefully. The Commission is focusing on business and human rights so that efficiencies, productivity and human rights, all go hand in hand, and no one is left behind. Justice Mishra said that with migration, there are problems of internal displacement, access to education and health. The human rights of some segments get compromised in society, including beggars, Transgender, sex workers, orphans and trafficked minors. We must address the need for their documents to avail the benefits of various welfare schemes, he said. He appealed to authorities to provide Aadhaar cards to these people in mission mode.

The NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal in his address said that with the celebration of the foundation day of the Commission,



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra addressing the gathering



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



we are reminded of the pivotal role played by it in the promotion and protection of human rights during the 30 years of its existence. He added that the Commission had resolved over 22 lakh cases and recommended relief of Rs. 230 crore to the victims of human rights violations during this period.

He also threw light on various activities of the Commission including the training programmes, camp sittings, visits of Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors, various seminars and consultations, interventions for the cause of human rights. The NHRC Members Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay and Shri

Rajiv Jain, Chairperson and members of State Human Rights Commissions, members of judiciary, diplomats, NHRC Special Rapporteurs & Monitors, senior officers, civil society representatives, human rights defenders, among other national and international dignitaries, attended the function. ■

Advisory

NHRC advisory to ensure the welfare and rights of persons with mental illnesses

On World Mental Health Day on 10th October, 2023, the National Human Rights Commission issued an advisory to the Centre and state governments and UT administrations to ensure the welfare and rights of persons with mental illnesses. The Commission has observed that mental health is the foundation for the well-being of any person for a meaningful and productive life. However, despite the enactment of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 aimed at delivering mental healthcare services to individuals with mental illnesses and safeguarding their rights, there is still a cause for concern regarding its practical implementation. The advisory has focused on seven key areas for action by the centre and state governments and UT administrations to ensure the welfare and rights of persons with mental illnesses. These include implementation of existing laws and policies, infrastructure and amenities, human resources, outreach and community services, rehabilitation of recovered patients, services of

the states and mass awareness and sensitization.

The Commission, in a letter to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Welfare, Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of Union Territories, has asked for the implementation of its recommendations in letter and spirit and sought action taken reports within two months.

Some of the important recommendations are as follows:

- Insurance policies and schemes should include treatment of mental illnesses to increase accessibility and affordability to mental health care;
- To boost accessibility to treatments for mental disorders for financially disadvantaged populations, it is necessary to include mental illness in the Ayushman Bharat scheme;
- Appropriate help be provided to patients and their family members to open their bank

accounts and they should be made aware and facilitated with various benefits and social schemes;

- Camps may be organized and set up in establishments to provide Aadhaar cards to patients and to update their details mandatorily;
- 'Mental Health' may also be included as a subject matter to which Corporate Social Responsibility Funds (CSR) may be given under Schedule VII (i) of the Companies Act, 2013;
- A person should be specified in each establishment to ensure free legal aid is provided, as mandated under Section 27 of the Act, 2017;
- Establishments be maintained and enhanced in general amenities, including the number of beds, water, sanitation, food, bedding, clothing, provision of recreational activities, etc;



- Capabilities with special care for the geriatric population with mental illness be created in addition to a separate ward for children and adolescents and increasing the number of family wards to provide better mental healthcare to the patients in proximity to their families in all establishments;
 - Expeditiously provide the halfway homes system, as mandated by Section 19 (3) of the Act 2017, rehabilitation efforts must be coordinated with multiple departments;
 - Patients should not be retained in establishments even for a day after declaring fit for discharge;
 - All fatalities on the premises of a hospital, institution, shelter home, shared housing, rehabilitation home, halfway house, mercy house, etc., must be reported to the local police within 24 hours and to NHRC within 48 hours of the death;
 - A common web portal for registering all mental health professionals be provided in the public domain to facilitate achieving the target under Section 31(3) of 10 years;
 - All states/ UTs must prioritize constituting Mental Health Authority, Mental Health Review Boards and framing rules and regulations as mandated under sections 45, 73, 121 and 123 of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 (Act, 2017);
 - A structured programme for every district called the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) may be prepared, involving community workers;
 - As envisaged in the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), State Governments may emphasize public-private partnerships in the mental health sector and public awareness generation activities to deal with social stigma, discrimination and lack of awareness about mental illness in society;
 - More PG seats be created in proportion to the requirements, including DPM, MD, DNB, Mphil., PhD in Psychiatry, Psychology, PSW, and DPN and other diplomas, degrees, fellowships, etc. As mandated under Section 31(3) of the Act, 2017, efforts must be made to meet internationally accepted guidelines for several mental health professionals based on population by 2027;
 - As a separate subject, psychiatry is included in the undergraduate medical curriculum. Every opportunity must be utilized to train doctors in basic psychiatry;
 - Training modules be developed to train non-psychiatric doctors, ASHA workers, community health officers, services providers at health and wellness centres, and other frontline workers in basic diagnosis and they be trained to acquire mental health first-aid skills;
 - The vacant positions, including doctors and other staff, in all establishments should be filled up immediately;
 - Posts of counsellors with qualified staff must be filled expeditiously at the school/ college level and also at the NMPH/ DMPH level by the Government; and
 - Mass awareness and sensitization must be carried out via campaigns, television, newspapers, and other media in all local languages to increase public awareness of issues relating to mental health.
- The detailed Advisory can be accessed from the NHRC website: www.nhrc.nic.in

NHRC Advisory on CSAM

The National Human Rights Commission has issued an advisory for action by the centre, states and UT administra-

tions to curb the menace of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). The production, distribution and consumption of CSAM are one of

the most terrible forms of sexual abuse and exploitation faced by children and, consequently, a grave violation of their human rights. The



Commission acknowledged that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has played an indispensable positive social force in modern society, however, undeniably, it has also provided optimal conditions for creating an ecosystem that supports the proliferation of CSAM causing significant harm.

Statistics indicate a colossal rise in the proliferation of CSAM across the globe. As per the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) cyber tipline 2022 report, out of the 32 million reports received by NCMEC, 5.6 million reports pertained to CSAM uploaded by perpetrators based out of India.

Therefore, effective identification and blocking of CSAM content, timely sharing of data among stakeholders and expedited prosecution of offenders is the need of the hour. In this regard, the role of various national as well as international stakeholders, including governments, law enforcement agencies, internet intermediaries and civil society, is indispensable in effectively collaborating and curbing this menace.

Keeping this in view and to supplement the efforts of the government, the four parts of the NHRC advisory include addressing the legal gaps and issues of harmonization of laws pertaining to CSAM, measures for monitoring and regulating internet intermediaries, creation of a specialized mechanism of law enforcement for detection, investigation and monitoring of CSAM and measures for capacity building and training of officials, sensitization, awareness and support to survivors of CSAM.

The Commission, in a letter to the Secretaries of Union Ministries/ Departments including, Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Personnel and Training, Women & Child Development, School Education & Literacy, Higher Education, Electronics and Information Technology, Communications, Director General of National Crime Records Bureau, Chairperson of TRAI, Director General of National Informatics Centre and Chief Secretaries, Administrators and DGPs of all States & Union Territories has asked for the implementation of its recommendations in letter and spirit. It has sought action taken reports within two months.

Some of the important recommendations, among others, are as follows:

- The phrase 'Child Pornography' in Section 2(1) (da) of the POCSO Act, 2012 should be replaced with 'Child Sexual Abuse Material' (CSAM). Terms like 'use of children in pornographic performances and materials', 'child sexual abuse material' and 'child sexual exploitation material' are to be preferred over 'Child Pornography';
- The term 'sexually explicit' needs to be defined under Section 67B of the IT Act, 2000 to ensure prompt identification and removal of online CSAM;
- The current quantum of punishment for offences pertaining to online CSAM under Section 14 of the POCSO Act and Section 67B of the IT Act (seven years or less) may be relooked or exempt the application of Section 41A CrPC by making appropriate legislative changes;
- The requirement of issuing a certificate under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 in online CSAM may be relooked in cases relating to CSAM to prevent delay in investigation;
- The generic definition of 'intermediary' under Section 2 (w) of the IT Act, 2000 should expressly include Virtual Private Network (VPN) service providers, Virtual Private Servers (VPS) and Cloud Service Providers to avoid ambiguity and reinforce compliance of the CSAM related provisions of the IT Act by them;
- Government of India should develop a uniform format to seek data from intermediaries which can be used by the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), in consultation with them in a time bound manner;
- Harmonization of laws across jurisdictions through bilateral agreements may be explored as CSAM might be created, uploaded, shared and viewed from multiple jurisdictions;
- Intermediaries, including social media platforms, over-the-top (OTT) applications and cloud service providers, must deploy technology, including content moderation algorithms, to proactively detect CSAM on their platforms and remove the same. Similarly, platforms using end-to-end encryption services may be mandated to devise additional protocols/ technology to monitor circulation of CSAM. Failure to do so to invite withdrawal of 'safe harbour' clause under Section 79, IT Act, 2000;
- Intermediaries be mandated to develop a CSAM specific policy

that clearly outlines a user-friendly in-house reporting mechanism prominently displaying the same;

- Intermediaries to remove CSAM after getting information from authorities within 6 hrs instead of 36 hrs under Rule 2 (1) (d) of the Intermediary Guidelines, 2021. The de-indexed content to be removed without further authorization if it resurfaces;
- Intermediaries must explore having partnerships amongst themselves to enable sharing of real time information pertaining to CSAM content detected on their platforms in the same way as they share data for advertising;
- Intermediaries to share information regarding CSAM with National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) or any other GOI mandated authority directly;
- Internet Service Providers (ISPs), web browsers and OTT players to ensure that pop-up warning messages are displayed for searches related to CSAM;
- ISPs and intermediaries to ensure compliance with KYC norms of their subscribers and easy traceability and availability of records for use by Law Enforcing Agencies (LEA) in CSAM related crimes;
- ISPs may use deep packet inspection to analyze them passing through a network of Virtual Private Network (VPN) to identify the VPN users in cases related to CSAM particularly;

- Centre, States and UTs to have specialized State Police Units for detection and investigation of CSAM related cases and apprehension of offenders. The Government of India to assist in the setting up and equipping of such units. Besides this, a specialized central police unit to be a nodal point with LEAs of states, coordination of all-India drives against CSAM, generation of awareness and creation of deterrence. It will also keep a track of the national database of hash values of known CSAM and manage blocking of the same by intermediaries;
- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to share International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database managed by INTERPOL share with NCRB and all states for reducing delays in investigation;
- The national database on sex offenders maintained by NCRB, MHA, be expanded to include CSAM offenders convicted under Section 67B, IT Act, 2000 and Sections 14 and 15, POCSO Act, 2012;
- A separate dashboard on CSAM related offences be incorporated in the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)/ Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) database which is used by NCRB for Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO);
- The requirement of uploading a valid national ID of the victim under the 'Report and Track' feature on the reporting portal www.cybercrime.gov.in be

done away with as the identity of the victims may not be known in many instances;

- NCRB should develop software for auto-resolution of IP address, date and time from Cyber Tipline Reports (CTRs) received by it from NCMEC. Until then, one may consider using foreign software tools like the Internet Crimes Against Children Child On-line Protection System (ICACCOPS) for monitoring CSAM;
- The number of forensic investigators needs to be substantially increased because online child abuse related cases are proliferating;
- The National Cybercrime Training Centre (CyTrain) portal to devise a training course/ Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for investigation and disposal of CSAM related cases by LEAs, public prosecutors and judges. This should be regularly upgraded with evolving technology;
- Central and State Education Boards to draft and incorporate cyber curriculum in schools, including cyber safety, personal safety, relevant child care legislation (including Section 67B, IT Act, 2000 and Sections 11, 13, 14 and 15, POCSO Act, 2012), national/ local policies and legal consequences of violating the same, etc;

The detailed advisory can be accessed from the NHRC website: www.nhrc.nic.in

Consultations

National conference of SHRCs, Special Rapporteurs and Monitors on advancing human rights

The National Human Rights Commission organized a national conference of its Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors on advancing human rights in New Delhi on 13th October, 2023. Chairing it, the NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra said that both the NHRC and SHRCs are the product of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 and are independent of each other. Despite this, they can share the best practices and collaborate to work in tandem in some areas to ameliorate the cause of various human rights like ensuring the rights of workers engaged in cleaning septic tanks, rehabilitation of those displaced due to the impact of climate, spurious drug business and proper functioning of drug de-addiction centres to safeguard the well-being of younger generations.

Justice Mishra said that the SHRCs can also play a significant role in ensuring the implementation of NHRC advisories and other judicial orders by actively following up with the concerned state authorities. They should take responsibility of various NHRC advisories which have been prepared after wide consultations with experts and various stakeholders on various issues concerning the rights of some vulnerable segments of society. He also said that the NHRC may explore the option of hosting joint seminars and conferences with the SHRCs, besides, the training of staff. He also invited



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra chairing the conference

suggestions from the SHRCs on the areas in which they can collaborate with the NHRC, particularly in matters where there are gaps in the legal provisions and implementation thereof.

He mentioned that the governments do respect the intent of the Commission's interventions and recommendations emphasizing the need to actively pursue these matters with them. In this context, he cited the example of the Bihar government deciding to compensate the victims of the hooch tragedies since 2016 after the NHRC intervention. However, he reiterated that joining of HRC net portal of the Commission by the SHRCs is a key to eradicating the duplication of interventions, the situation of contradictory directions and the wastage of human resources.

The NHRC, India Chairperson said that SHRCs also need to have exposure to international forums

and participate in the conferences and workshops organized by global human rights bodies. Their presence at such forums may enhance the understanding of human rights mechanisms in various countries and they can also highlight human rights works being done in India.

Highlighting the role of the NHRC Special Monitors and Special Rapporteurs, he emphasized on the need to increase coordination between them and the SHRCs. The Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors visit several places in the states for on-the-spot assessment of human rights situations particularly with regard to prisons, shelter homes, mental healthcare institutions, observation homes, hospitals, juvenile justice homes, old age homes, and various government establishments. The SHRCs also visit such places and they can coordinate with the NHRC's Monitors and Rapporteurs to ensure more effective implementa-

tion of the legal provisions, social welfare schemes, and NHRC Advisories in close coordination with their respective state authorities.

The NHRC Chairperson also said that the human rights defenders, civil society organizations and NGOs have been playing a very important role in protecting human rights. There is no need to have any reservations about engaging with them just because a few among them may be engaged in dubious activities. He advised on identifying those who are doing good work and suggested collaborating with them.

Besides, the sharing of best practices of human rights and concerns

in some specific areas by some SHRCs, the conference also had presentations by the NHRC's Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors based on their field visits. These included the abolition of *nata pratha*, decongestion and prison reforms, improvement of living conditions in juvenile homes, improvement in mental health institutions and strategy to restrain child marriage.

In addition to the inaugural session, the conference was divided into four sessions including: 'Journey so far and emerging challenges in human rights', 'Sharing of best practices by SHRCs', 'Experience sharing by Special Rapporteurs & Special Monitors' and 'Way for-

ward: Building partnerships to advance human rights in focus areas', which were chaired by the NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Members, Dr. D. M. Mulay and Shri Rajiv Jain. While giving an overview of the functioning of the NHRC, Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General of the Commission highlighted the scope for collaboration with and between SHRCs on various issues like achieving sustainable development goals, human trafficking, cybercrime, begging and improving the conditions of Nari Niketan, capacity building of staff, and compilation of a directory of NGOs, among others. ■



Participants of the National Conference of SHRCs, Special Rapporteurs and Monitors

Open house discussion on sports and human rights

The Commission organized an open house discussion on sports and human rights in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India, Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports (SAI, NSNIS) in Patiala, Punjab on 16th October, 2023. Inaugurating it, the

NHRC, India Member, Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay said that it is not only the responsibility of government organizations, sports federations and sports organizations but also of the players to protect each other's rights. He highlighted the importance of

international norms, which serve as the guiding principles, like, the International Olympic Committee Charter and other code of conduct of international organizations. Dr. Mulay said that the principle of good governance should be followed by the sports federations,

schools and colleges for the betterment of the athletes and sports persons.

Shri Vineet Kumar, Executive Director, SAI, NS NIS, highlighted the adverse psychological impact on the sportspersons and their families. Prof. Kalpana Sharma, Director (Academics), NS NIS reflected upon the need for education and sensitization at all levels in sports. This should include educative modules for different age groups of athletes and coaches to develop a better understanding of the principles of human rights and upholding them in sports.

Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary, NHRC, in his welcome address stated that sports possess immense potential to champion the fundamental human values and rights such as equality, non-discrimination and inclusivity. He said that the NHRC is of the view that it is necessary to hold discussions with various stakeholders including the sports fraternity and come out with guidelines on how best to ensure these fundamental human values remain protected in sports. He said that with this intent, the Commission has organized the open house discussion focused on the two

themes: 'Addressing Sexual Harassment in Sports' and 'Fair Selection in Sports: Ensuring the Right for All to Participate in the Selection Process.'

Several prominent speakers shared their thoughts during the two sessions. They included, among others, Lt. Gen Dr. J. S. Cheema, Vice Chancellor, Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Punjab Sports University, Patiala and Shri Satyanarayan M, Deputy Secretary General, All India Football Federation.

Some of the important suggestions were as follows:

- All the federations must have an Internal Complaints Committee

(ICC) and the federations to ensure that a female staff/ female coach should always accompany the female athletes who attend national and international competitions and camps;

- There is a need to create awareness about the incidents of sexual harassment against women, men, and other genders in sports;
- All federations should conduct awareness programs about the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (POSH) Act 2013, its rules & procedure and rights of athletes. The complaint procedure of ICC should be displayed/ pasted in all the sports camps and in all sports federations;
- Develop a complaint procedure for reporting sexual harassment; increase awareness among athletes about the procedure to report and file complaint of sexual harassment;
- The International Olympic Committee must help boost safeguards for athletes against sexual harassment and elimi-



NHRC, India Member, Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay inaugurating the open house discussion in Patiala



NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Devendra Kumar Nim addressing the participants

nate the use of offensive language leading to their exploitation;

- More women coaches should be appointed to make the sports industry a safe space;
- There is a need to develop standardized assessment tools, predefined criteria and SOP for every step of the selection process in every sport for junior, middle and senior segments at district, state, national and international levels, which should be based on skills and

performance to ensure non-discrimination on the basis of gender, caste, creed and socio-economic status to give an equal opportunity to all;

- Use technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in making the selection a fair and transparent process;
- Players should be adequately compensated in case of injury or after retirement as everyone has the right to live with dignity and equality; and

- Make a documentary/ short movie on sports in order to bring more awareness among general public to build trust among parents to send their kids into the field of sports;

The participants included coaches, athletes and representatives of Sports Authority of India, Cycling Federation of India, All India Football Federation, Punjab State Human Rights Commission, domain experts from various Universities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).■



Participants of open house discussion in Patiala

Meeting of core group on environment

The impact of climate change and environment on human rights has been a key concern of the Commission. It has continued to hold consultations with various stakeholders on the subject besides following it up in the meetings with its core group on environment, climate change and human rights. The 4th meeting of the NHRC core group this year was held on 26th

October, 2023 with a focus on the impact of climate action on employment. It was chaired by NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra.

He said that concerns need to be addressed with concrete plans nationally and internationally to ensure employment opportunities while combating climate change as

studies show that by 2030, climate change may cost millions of jobs besides affecting various aspects of life & livelihood. The discussions were divided into three thematic sessions; i.) identification of vulnerable sectors and assessment of employment impact of climate change; ii.) impact of mitigation & adaptation on employment, and iii.) measures for climate-resilient

economy. The participants included NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, Joint Secretaries Smt. Anita Sinha and Shri D. K. Nim, experts such as Dr. Leena Srivasatava, Ashoka University; Shri Sundaram Verma, Environmentalist; Shri Niranjana Dev, Distinguished Advisor, Global Foundation for Environmental Advancement and Human Wellness; Dr. Promode Kant, Adjunct Professor, Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation, among others. ■



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra chairing the meeting of core group on environment

NHRC Intervention

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 October 2023, the Commission took *suo motu* cognizance in 7 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:

Death of a child after crushing under an iron gate

(Case No. 4727/30/6/2023)

The media reported on 31st October, 2023, that a five-year-old boy died after a damaged entry gate fell on him at a colony of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Sirasapur. Reportedly, the family members of the victim and the residents claimed that they had complained

several times to the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) and the DDA about the broken gate but no action was taken. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Vice-Chairman, DDA and the Police Commissioner calling for a detailed report.

Drug addiction in prisons

(Case No. 1167/19/0/2023)

On 26th October, 2023, the media reported that according to a recent study, 42% of prisoners in Punjab jails are drug addicts. Reportedly, the revelation came during a meeting held by the Punjab State Human Rights Commission with prominent stakeholders and experts to deliberate on challenges within the prison systems of Punjab and Chandigarh. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Prisons, Punjab as well as the Director General of Prisons, Chandigarh calling for a detailed report.

Inaction on complaints of harassment by a stalker

(Case No. 4513/30/8/2023)

The media reported that the family of the stabbed victim in Lado Sarai, Delhi had reportedly complained to the police at least four times about the attacker's harassment and stalking but no action was taken. Reportedly, the police denied having received any complaint but also stated that the phone of the victim was yet to be unlocked allegedly containing online copies of the complaints filed by her. The 23-year-old woman was stabbed by her alleged stalker on 12th October, 2023. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government and the Commissioner of Police, Delhi calling for a detailed report.

Dumping of body in canal by policemen

(Case No. 3716/4/23/2023)

On 8th October, 2023, the media reported about the dumping of the



remains of a road accident victim in a canal by three police personnel in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar. Reportedly, the incident came to notice after the video footage of the incident went viral. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Bihar calling for a detailed report.

Deaths of several patients in state hospitals

(Case No. 2249/13/0/2023)

The media reported on 4th October, 2023 that a large number of patients had died in two state-run hospitals in Nanded and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar

districts of Maharashtra within twenty-four hours due to a lack of medical help and a shortage of essential medicines. The Commission has issued notice to the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra 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 con-

cerned authorities for relief to the victims. In October, 2023, besides the number of cases taken up daily by the Member Benches, 445 cases were heard by the Full Commission and 48 cases by the Double Member Bench-I. Monetary relief of more than ₹ 14.75 lakh was recommended for the victims or their

Next of Kin (NoK) in the 28 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 lakh)	Authority
1.	121/33/9/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Chhattisgarh
2.	930/7/18/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Haryana
3.	1715/13/14/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	07.50	Maharashtra
4.	6/16/1/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Mizoram
5.	8/17/1/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Nagaland
6.	1016/20/14/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Rajasthan
7.	2041/20/11/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Rajasthan
8.	13948/24/20/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
9.	1598/24/30/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	07.00.	Uttar Pradesh
10.	16720/24/13/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	03.50	Uttar Pradesh
11.	9154/24/32/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
12.	1039/25/15/2015-JCD	Death in judicial custody	07.50	West Bengal
13.	753/34/10/2021-PCD	Death in police custody	05.00	Jharkhand
14.	2645/18/5/2021	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha



S. No.	Case No	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Authority
15.	4270/18/19/2022	Death due to electrocution	04.00	Odisha
16.	4451/18/5/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
17.	5089/4/9/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Bihar
18.	228/20/16/2021	Death due to electrocution	30.00	Rajasthan
19.	5433/4/20/2022-WC	Rape	01.00	Bihar
20.	959/10/1/2022-WC	Rape	02.00	Karnataka
21.	20775/24/59/2022	Children	02.00	Uttar Pradesh
22.	15/33/2/2022	Children	02.00	Chhattisgarh
23.	2022/12/4/2022	Medical negligence	03.00	Madhya Pradesh
24.	340/12/16/2018	Inaction by the state/ central Govt. officials	02.00	Madhya Pradesh
25.	2836/24/18/2023	Hazardous employments	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
26.	33872/24/12/2021	Murder by anti -social elements	01.00	Uttar Pradesh
27.	33908/24/23/2021	Sexual harassment/ unnatural offence	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
28.	2111/18/3/2022	Miscellaneous	05.00	Odisha

Payment of relief to the victims

The Commission closed 40 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 ₹ 17.88 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)	Authority
1.	2970/4/26/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Bihar
2.	13/27/0/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Chandigarh
3.	2313/30/9/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Delhi
4.	5524/30/5/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Delhi
5.	6/6/5/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Gujarat
6.	1135/13/20/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Maharashtra



S. No.	Case No	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Authority
7.	8/17/1/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Nagaland
8.	10/18/28/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Odisha
9.	2330/18/17/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Odisha
10.	2863/20/19/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Rajasthan
11.	3112/18/12/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Odisha
12.	12/23/8/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Tripura
13.	10294/24/56/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	07.50	Uttar Pradesh
14.	11842/24/24/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
15.	16938/24/78/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
16.	17450/24/10/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
17.	21722/24/44/2019-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
18.	23699/24/7/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
19.	6715/24/2/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	03.00	Uttar Pradesh
20.	7396/24/54/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
21.	8954/24/15/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
22.	9154/24/32/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
23.	9795/24/3/2022-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	Uttar Pradesh
24.	692/25/5/2021-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	West Bengal
25.	731/25/1/2020-JCD	Death in judicial custody	05.00	West Bengal
26.	2559/4/32/2020-AD	Death in judicial custody	03.00	Bihar
27.	1865/20/8/2020-AD	Death in judicial custody	03.37	Rajasthan
28.	492/18/3/2023	Death in judicial custody	07.00	Odisha
29.	3109/18/5/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
30.	3707/18/17/2022	Death due to electrocution	07.00	Odisha
31.	1350/18/5/2022	Death due to electrocution	05.00	Odisha
32.	23076/24/44/2021	Death due to electrocution	01.00	Uttar Pradesh
33.	15/33/2/2022	Children	02.00	Chandigarh
34.	642/33/6/2018	Hazardous employments	06.00	Chandigarh
35.	2022/12/4/2022	Medical negligence	03.00	Madhya Pradesh
36.	2111/18/3/2022	Miscellaneous	05.00	Odisha
37.	2051/36/2/2022	Denial of degree & other certificates	00.50	Telangana



S. No.	Case No	Nature of complaint	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Authority
38.	18673/24/48/2019	Atrocities by custom/ excise/ enforcement/ forest/ income-tax deptt., etc. of central/ state govts	01.50	Uttar Pradesh
39.	29865/24/22/2016	Atrocities on SC/ ST (by police)	02.00	Uttar Pradesh
40.	686/24/67/2020	Abuse of power	02.00	Uttar Pradesh

Case studies

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

Death of workers in factory

(Case No. 642/33/6/2018)

The matter pertained to the death of two workers on account of silicosis who were working with a factory operating in District-Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh in 2018. The medical opinion of the forensic expert on the panel of the Commission revealed that both cases were diagnosed with tuberculosis. The Commission held that it can't be ruled out that the workers got infected due to occupational hazards impacting their lungs. Therefore, it recommended that the

Government of Chhattisgarh pay Rs. 3 lakh as relief to the NoK of the victims, which was complied with.

Minor girls crushed under road roller

(Case No. 18673/24/48/2019)

The matter pertained to the death of two minor girls on 4th July, 2019, after getting crushed under a roller machine at a construction site in village Bari, Hardoi Road, Uttar Pradesh. Based on the material on record, the Commission held that the incident happened due to the negligence of the driver. The private contractor has paid Rs. 50,000/- each to the NoK of deceased girls. The Commission recommended the Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Planning Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh pay

an additional amount of Rs. 1 lakh each as relief to their NoK which was complied with.

Death of a 7-year-old girl resulting from collapse of a wall

(Case No. 15/33/2/2022)

The matter pertained to the death of a 7-year-old girl due to a wall collapse in her school's washroom in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. On the basis of reports received from the concerned state authorities, the school Director was found liable for negligence. The school has provided compensation of Rs. 50,000/- to the family of the deceased child. The Commission recommended that the Government of Chhattisgarh pay an additional amount of Rs. 2 lakh as relief to the Next of Kin (NoK), which was complied with. ■

Spot enquiry

- On 30th October, 2023, NHRC Investigation team conducted a spot enquiry into the allegations about Delhi Jal Board's failure to supply water to South-West

Delhi residents amounting to their human rights violations.

- On 30th October, 2023, NHRC, India investigation team

conducted spot enquiry regarding rehabilitation of patients discharged by the Regional Mental Hospital, Thane, Maharashtra. ■



A spot enquiry into water supply crisis in progress



A spot enquiry into rehabilitation of discharged patients from Thane Mental Hospital in progress

Field visits

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India 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,

observation 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 12 Special Monitors who have been assigned thematic issues

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

Special Rapporteurs

- From 9th -11th and 16th -17th, October, 2023, Smt Suchitra Sinha (Retd. IAS) visited various institutions in Jharkhand. These included residential schools (middle and higher secondary levels) for the girls and boys of Scheduled Tribes, Schedule Caste, Jaahar Navoday Vidyalaya, Mesra to assess their conditions and human rights situation.
- From 25th - 28th October, 2023, Shri Mahesh Kumar Singla (Retd. IPS) visited Child Care Institutions in Delhi to assess the facilities and human rights situation.
- From 26th -31st October, 2023, Shri Umesh Kumar (Retd. IPS) visited the de-addiction centre and one stop centre in Kamrup Metro District, Assam. He took note of the living conditions of the inmates and the facilities available inside the centres.



NHRC Special Rapporteur Smt. Suchitra Sinha inspecting the residential schools

Special Monitors

- From 15th - 20th October, 2023, Shri Veerendra Singh Rawat visited training institute prone to human rights violations in Rajasthan.
- From 16th - 21st October, 2023, Shri Prem Singh Bisht, (Retd.IPS) visited several Public Sector Units (PSUs) prone to human rights violation in Gwalior, Guna, Indore, Pitampur Dhar districts in Madhya Pradesh.



NHRC Special Monitor, Shri Veerendra Singh Rawat inspecting a training institute

Research

Study on 'The Extent of Cyber Exploitation and Safety of Children in Kerala'

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India approved a research study on 'The Extent of Cyber Exploitation and Safety of Children in Kerala' under the Research Scheme of the Commission to Bharata Mata School of Social Work, Bharat Mata College, Thrikkakara, Kochi, Kerala. Some of the major recommendations of the study, among others,

include, equipping the child with necessary knowledge and skills to handle instances of cyber exploitation by imparting age-appropriate education, orientation to parents for managing behavioral issues and Internet addiction among children. The study also found that facilitating outdoor play, awareness programmes and infrastructural support to productively engage

children was necessary. Close coordination among Government, Police, cyber cell units, schools, and community based organizations to identify offenders, victims and vulnerable groups has also been highlighted besides adopting technology and stigma reduction strategies. The detailed research study is uploaded on the NHRC website: www.nhrc.nic.in

Training

Human rights awareness programmes

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India organized various programmes to build awareness about human rights during October, 2023.

Online-short term internship

The online short-term internship was held from 9th-20th October, 2023. Addressing the inaugural session, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal exhorted the interns to

make the best use of this opportunity by learning about various facets of human rights. The Joint Secretary, Shri D. K. Nim and Director, Lt. Col. Virender Singh were present.



NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal inaugurating the online short-term internship



NHRC, India Member, Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay interacting with the interns in an online session

Later in a session, NHRC, India Member, Dr Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay interacted with the interns on various aspects of human rights and the functioning of the Commission. They were also addressed by the senior officers of the Commission and experts. In the valedictory session, Shri Lal congratulated the 74 interns for successfully completing the internship.

Workshops

Besides this, the Commission organized five human rights awareness workshops in collaboration with Shri Sanatan Dharam Girls College, Bathinda, Punjab, Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer, Rajasthan, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, U.P. Academy of Administration & Management, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Student visits

Three visits of students and their faculties from Law Centre – II, Delhi University, Voorhees College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu and Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta Institute of Technology and Management, Delhi were organized. They were given an orientation on the various aspects of human rights and the functioning of the Commission by senior officers.

Moot competitions

Two Moot Court competitions were organized in collaboration with different institutions. The NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain inaugurated the competition held in collaboration with the National

Law University, Jodhpur. Joint Secretary, Shri D. K. Nim attended the valedictory ceremony and presented the awards. Another Moot Court Competition was organized in collaboration with the Chanakya National Law University, Nyaya Nagar, Mithapur, Patna. ■



NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain inaugurating the moot court competition at the National Law University, Jodhpur and the Joint Secretary, Shri D.K. Nim presenting the awards to the winners



A group of visiting students from Voorhees College, Vellore for an orientation on human rights from senior officers of NHRC, India

International outreach

Capacity building of Human Rights Commission, Maldives by NHRC, India

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India organized a 5-day capacity building and training programme for 20 officials of the Human Rights Commission, Maldives (HRCM) at its premises in New Delhi from 16th–20th October, 2023. NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain inaugurated the programme and gave an overview of the functioning of the Commission. After this, the participants were given an in depth orientation on various aspects of the functioning of the NHRC, India by senior officers in different sessions on complaint processing, investigation, research, training, international co-ordination and media & communication.

In the valedictory session, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra highlighted that the Maldives and India share a cultural and historical spirit of friendship as valued neighbours for all times. He said that they also share many similar human rights concerns for

which exchange of knowledge is the way forward. The rising sea level due to climate change is another major human life and rights concern that India shares with the Island nation.

NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal said that this programme is yet another extension of India's endeavours in supporting, building capacity and strengthening democratic institutions in the Maldives with the innate belief that as neighbours they stand by each

other at all times. He further stressed on India's leadership of G20 and by advocating and getting African Union included as 21st member, and adopting Global South focused approach. He thanked the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for facilitating the programme. He expressed hope that the officers will utilize this opportunity and the knowledge gained during the training for the promotion and protection of human rights in their country.

The Joint Secretary, Smt Anita Sinha presented a report on the programme. The officers of HRC Maldives thanked the NHRC, India & MEA for organizing this programme and described the exposure to various aspects of the functioning of the Commission useful for their work in promoting and protecting human rights. NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain, Registrar (Law), Shri Surajit Dey and senior officers were also present.



NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain inaugurating the capacity building programme for the visiting officers of the HRC, Maldives



NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra addressing the valedictory session of the capacity building programme

News in brief

On 1st October, 2023, the NHRC team led by the Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal carried out *Swachchatta Shramdan* to further improve sanitation in the premises.



From 3rd-4th and 5th-6th October, 2023 the NHRC, India Senior Superintendent of Police along with investigation officers visited Uttar Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (UPSHRC) and Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC) to check/eliminate duplicity of cases registered in UPSHRC, MSHRC and NHRC.

From 6th-8th October, 2023, Shri Surajit Dey, Registrar (Law) attended as the Chief Guest of a human rights training programme on the rights of women in India organized by the NHRC in collaboration with Shri Sanatam Dharam Girl's College, Bathinda, Punjab.



On 19th October, 2023, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra accompanied by Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal called on the Vice President of India and requested him to grace the human rights day function as the Chief Guest on 10th December, 2023.



On 30th October, 2023, NHRC, India led by Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Members, Dr D. M. Mulay and Shri Rajiv Jain, and Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, JSs Smt Anita Sinha & Shri D. K. Nim presented awards to the employees who won various competitions during the Hindi fortnight in the Commission.



On 31st October, 2023, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra administered the *Rashtriya Ekta Diwas* pledge to the Members, officers, and staff of the Commission on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.



On 31st October, 2023, Dr. Manish Kumath, Professor Forensic Medicine, Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi, briefed the NHRC law and investigation officers about the injuries mentioned in the post-mortem report.



Forthcoming events

- From 6th – 8th November, 2023, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra accompanied by Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General will attend the 14th International Conference of NHRIs on 'Torture and other ill-treatment: The role of NHRIs' organised by GANHRI at Copenhagen. On 5th November, 2023 they will also participate in the GANHRI Bureau meeting being held at Copenhagen.
- From 16th - 17th November, 2023, the National Human Rights Commission will be holding a National Conference on advancing human rights through local self-government and a camp sitting on grievances of the general public regarding alleged violation of human rights in the North-Eastern States, at Administrative Staff College, Guwahati, Assam.
- On 10th December, 2023, NHRC, India will organize human rights day, to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN General Assembly. Vice President of India will inaugurate the event.
- The month-long in-person Winter Internship Programme for university-level students will begin from the 18th December, 2023.

Human rights and NHRC in news

During October, 2023, in all 11 press releases were issued by the Commission. 2,241 news clippings on various human rights issues were culled out from different/ select editions of major English and Hindi newspapers and some news websites out of

which in 464 news clippings a reference was made to the NHRC. News clippings related to the incidents of alleged human rights violations were brought to the notice of the Commission. News stories having specific reference to the interventions by the NHRC can

be seen at 'NHRC-in-News' on the website of the Commission. 'NHRC X handle' was abuzz with 383 posts including threads & re-posts on the Commission's interventions & activities.



Complaint management in October, 2023



Complaints received	6,110
Disposed off	6,410
Under consideration of the Commission	8,379

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

Focal point for Human Rights Defenders:

Indrajeet Kumar, Deputy Registrar (Law)

Mobile No. +91 99993 93570 • Fax No. 011-2465 1334 • E-mail: hrd-nhrc@nic.in

Publisher & Printer: Secretary General, NHRC

Printed at Viba Press Pvt. Ltd., C-66/3, Okhla Indl. Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020 and

Published from National Human Rights Commission

Manav Adhikar Bhawan, Block-C, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110 023