



HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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NHRC, India Chairperson, Mr. Justice A.K. Mishra greets all the Indians on the 75th Independence of the Nation

“On behalf of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India, greetings to all the Indians on the Amrita Mahotsav, marking the 75th Independence Day today of our great Nation- Bharat.

75th Independence Day of Bharat is an important milestone in our progress towards a just and equitable society, wherein there is mutual respect for our human rights and

shared values.

Let's resolve to work for sustaining our great tradition of "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" and "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah" (the world is a family wherein all may live happily) on the way to restoring the glory and pride of Bharat in the comity of Nations.”



NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice A.K. Mishra

Meeting of NHRC Core Group on Criminal Justice System

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India organized the first meeting of its Core Group on Criminal Justice System on 18th August, 2021. Serious concerns were expressed over the slow pace of reforms in the Criminal Justice System to ensure speedy justice. It was felt that delays in disposal of cases result in human rights violations of both the under-trials and convicted prisoners and others related to the cases.

Chairing the meeting, NHRC Member, Mr. Justice M. M. Kumar said that policing is important in speedy trials in criminal justice system. He said that despite so many efforts, including the Supreme Court directions seeking Police Reforms, the ground reality hasn't changed much. He suggested that some provisions in IPC may be deleted and left for redressal under the law of Torts, as it is in England. In this context, he gave

the example of unlawful confinement. He also said that when new Legislations are passed, their Impact Assessment Report should be attached with it

depicting the estimated expenditure, manpower and infrastructure. In this context, he gave an example of cases when Section 138 was added in the Negotiable Instrument Act and cheque bouncing was made an offence. For ensuring expeditious trial, Justice Kumar suggested that there should be one Investigating Officer/ One Trial Judge for one consolidated trial on day to day basis.

Making a brief interjection, Mr. Justice A.K. Mishra, Chairperson,



NHRC Member, Mr. Justice M.M. Kumar chairing the meeting

NHRC said that the digitization of documents will help in fair and speedy investigation and trials. He said that not only the delayed trials but also the implementation of courts' orders convicting a person takes years, which is a matter of concern.

Earlier, Dr. D.M. Mulay, Member, NHRC said that poor conviction rate is a result of the lack of required police and administrative reforms. He said that there is also shortage of judges.

**“The highest form of service is to help a person who is incapable of thanking in return”-
Swami Dayanand Saraswati**

Mr. Bimbadhar Pradhan, Secretary General, NHRC, setting the agenda for deliberations said that as per an estimate there are about 4.4 crore pending cases across the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts. Since March 2020, about 70 lakh more cases have been added to the pending cases. He said that in the Criminal Justice System, the focus needs to be tilted more towards the victim's rights and smart policing.

Mr. Santosh Mehra, Director General (Investigation), NHRC said that the shortage of police personnel at various police stations in proportion to the population needs to be considered on priority in the interest of ensuring timely justice to the people.

Besides the inaugural session, the meeting was divided into three technical sessions including Police Digitization & Accountability, Specialized Training, Capacity Building & Standardization of Procedures and Community Policing & Police-Public Relationships.

Some of the important

suggestions, among others, emerged during the discussion are as follows:

- Awareness about various laws among police personnel at the lower rank of hierarchy needs to be enhanced;
- Rate of conviction of police officials and non-compliance of law by them resulting into violation of human rights needs to be looked into;
- Increase number of police personnel and police stations in proportion to the number of complaints in a demographic area they have to handle;
- Introduction of social workers and psychologists in the Criminal Justice System to ensure empathetic proceedings;
- Training programs and training modules to be introduced, especially with respect to gender sensitization, child rights, human rights and rehabilitation of victims of crime;

The NHRC Core Group members, who participated in the discussions included Mr. Justice B K Mishra, former Acting Chairperson, Odisha

State Human Rights Commission, Mr. G K Pillai, former Union Home Secretary, Mrs. Meeran Chadha Borwankar, former Director General, Bureau of Police Research & Development, Mr. Rishi Kumar Shukla, former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation, Prof. (Dr.) Geetha Oberoi, Professor, National Judicial Academy, India, Dr. B.T. Kaul, Advocate. Supreme Court of India, Prof. (Dr.) M. Srinivasan, Professor & Head of Department of Criminology, University of Madras, Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Raghavan, Professor at Centre for Criminology and Justice, TISS, Mumbai and Ms. Shanchobeni P Lotha, Panel lawyer, Wokha District Legal Services Authority, Nagaland. The ex-officio members of the core group included Mr. Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Niraj Kumar Gayagi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mr. Ashok Kumar Jain, Member Secretary, NALSA, Mr. Neeraj Sinha, Additional DG, BPR&D & Mr. Amit Garg, Joint Director, SVPNPA. NHRC Registrar (Law), Mr. Surajit Dey and DIG (I), Mrs Manzil Saini also participated.

Meeting to discuss the status of the Right to Food, Nutrition and related policies



NHRC Member, Mr. Rajiv Jain chairing the meeting

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC India organized a webinar to discuss the status of the policies to ensure the Right to Food, Nutrition, and the implementation thereof on 10th August, 2021.

Human Rights, different international Covenants as well as the Sustainable Development Goals have underlined its importance. Therefore, food grain availability, sustainability and its supply towards seeking zero hunger needs to be assessed and evaluated

Chairing it, the NHRC Member, Mr. Rajiv Jain said that the Right to Food, besides being a statutory right, also needs to be looked into with a human rights perspective. Universal Declaration of

on time to time to find gaps, if any, in policies and implementation thereof to come out with some concrete suggestions, which can be further deliberated upon by the Commission for recommendations to the Government.

Earlier, NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Bimbadhar Pradhan, triggering the discussions in the inaugural session, said that the Covid-19 Pandemic has once again drawn the attention to address different aspects of access and portability of food entitlements. The One Nation One Ration Card is a game changer in our journey of 'Right to Food' in its entirety.

Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said that despite challenges, the Centre, in coordination with all its concerned Ministries and States, is making an all-out effort to ensure food security in terms of coverage of people, quality thereof, scale of food distribution, portability of transaction etc. He said that as per the 2011 census, 81.3 crore, which constitutes bottom of 67% of population as per the National Food Security Act, 2013, has been covered. For about two crore remaining population, States need to chip in. However, he said that the real challenge on the ground lies in the use of technology for food distribution, which has been effective in identifying the real beneficiaries out of those holding bogus ration cards.

Mr. Pandey said that the Government has launched an App-“Mera Ration” in 11 languages and in 3 months it has seen 15 lakh downloads. This has been made to ensure smooth portability of transaction, especially for those, who have been migrating from one place to another. However, he said food security may not be enough unless the nutritional security is ensured for which the Government is committed. In addition to the inaugural session, the meeting was divided into three

thematic sessions, including Nutrition of pregnant women, lactating mothers and children below 6 years and 6-14 years and One Nation One Ration Card Scheme (ONORC) implementation, challenges and way forward.

Apart from NHRC Member, Mr. Justice M.M Kumar, Mr. R.K Khandelwal, Additional Secretary, senior officers and Core Group members, the participants included senior officers and representatives of the Union Ministries and departments, experts and different stakeholders.

Some of the other important suggestions that emerged during the discussions were as follows:

- There is a need to introduce a policy for the urban poor and migrants on the lines of MGNREGA;
- States need to monitor data on transferring of food grains to all the vulnerable sections, including the SC/ST;
- Strengthen ICDS in terms of expanding its reach, adequate finances and staff & their wages;
- Extend the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to the students upto XII standard from the existing VIII standard;
- Popularize benefits of breastfeeding;
- Besides Wheat and Rice,

include supply of pulses, millets and edible oil in diets, regulate junk food including labelling of high sugar and salt contents therein;

- Include all children and not just the first born for the benefits under PMGKAY;

- Open Aanganwadi centres as early as possible and allow the local guidelines to decide on the menu so that fortification of food items doesn't become counterproductive;

Cancellation process of bogus ration cards needs to be handled with sensitivity to ensure no genuine beneficiary is excluded;

- Insistence of Aadhar Card linkage with the ration card is restricting the intent of PMGKAY;

- Focus should also be on those who are not PDS beneficiaries;

- With the digitization of services, the connectivity thereof is an issue in far flung areas, which needs to be looked into to ensure proper distribution to the beneficiaries;

- Coverage under PDS needs to be increased as One Nation One Ration Card as of now covers only those whose Aadhar Cards, which have been seeded with the PDS;

- Simplify guidelines and think of a system not exclusively based on Aadhar and Smart Cards.

Meeting of the Task Force for National Action Plan on Human Rights

The Meeting with the Members of the Task Force constituted for the preparation of National Action Plan on Human Rights (NAP-HR) was held on 03rd August, 2021. Chairing it, Dr. D.M. Mulay, Member, NHRC expressed concern over the slow pace of the task. He expressed his dissatisfaction over the progress made by the Ministries/Departments on the subject. Explaining the importance of the National Action Plan on Human Rights he asked

the concerned Ministries/Departments to submit their NAP-HR by 31st August 2021 to the Commission. Senior officers of the Commission and the representatives of 12 Ministries/Departments attended.



NHRC Member, Dr. D.M. Mulay chairing the meeting

NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice A.K. Mishra says articles on human rights should ignite minds for further study

Mr. Justice A.K. Mishra, Chairperson, NHRC, India on 16th August, 2021 chaired the first meeting of the re-constituted Editorial Board of the English Journal 2021 of the Commission. Addressing the meeting, he emphasized that the articles on human rights should create awareness and ignite minds for further study, research and writings. He said that this aspect should also be kept in mind while identifying the themes for this year's English Journal of the Commission as well.

Besides, he said that the thematic areas for the articles in the NHRC English Journal should serve the

purpose of reference material in the long run for creating awareness on important aspects of human rights.

The NHRC English Journal is a prestigious annual publication of the Commission, which carries research based articles from various domain experts on different aspects of human rights to promote awareness. This is released every year on the occasion of Human Rights Day on 10th December.

The themes deliberated upon for inviting articles included, among others, Environmental Concerns and Climate Change, Right to Mental Health in the context of COVID-19,

Business and Human Rights, Technology and Right to Privacy.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Mr. Bimbadhar Pradhan, Secretary General, NHRC said that the need is to focus on contemporary issues, and invited the Board's attention on the third and fourth generation human rights.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Editorial Board including NHRC Members, Mr. Justice M.M Kumar and Mrs. Jyotika Kalra. Senior officers of the Commission, Joint Secretary, Mrs. Anita Sinha and Dr. MDS Tyagi, Joint Director (Research) also present.

Important Interventions

Suicides by the two prisoners of Mumbai and Kolkata Jails Case no. 640/13/24/2020-JCD

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC India, has taken a serious view of the deaths due to suicide by the two prisoners of Taloja Central Jail, Navi Mumbai and Dum Dum Central Correctional Home, Kolkata, and non-submission of requisite reports in the matters by the concerned authorities despite its notices.

While dealing with the proceedings related to these cases, the Commission has observed that the incidents reveal mismanagement in the jails in Maharashtra and West Bengal. There are adequate provisions in jail manuals providing for an atmosphere free from temptations, which do not give an opportunity to any inmate to commit suicide. It is for this reason that ceiling fans and hanging hooks are not provided in the prison cells.

The suicide by an under trial prisoner in the Taloja Central Jail happened on 27th May, 2020 while the convicted prisoner of Dum Dum Central Correctional Home, Kolkata, West Bengal, committed suicide at SSK Hospital on 28th April, 2020 while undergoing treatment.

In both the cases, the Commission has asked the Secretary, Legal Service authority, through the Registrars of the High Courts of Mumbai and Kolkata respectively to submit a report about the conditions in the Jail premises in Maharashtra and West Bengal, which do not give an opportunity to an inmate to commit suicide.

The Commission has also sent final reminders to the District Magistrate, Raigad, Maharashtra and District Magistrate, Kolkata to submit the requisite reports in these two instant cases, including the magisterial enquiry report. .

Reimbursement of treatment cost to a contractual doctor received Case No. 2516/30/0/2021

On the intervention of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India, the Delhi Government has reimbursed the treatment cost of Rs. 83,43,819 to Dr. Amit Gupta. He was working as a Senior Resident Doctor (Pediatrics) in the Satyavadi Raja Harishchandra Hospital, Delhi. However, being a contractual Doctor, he was not being extended any financial assistance after getting infected with Covid-19.

The Commission, on the basis of a complaint in this regard, had

issued a notice to the Union Health & Family Welfare Ministry and Delhi Government on 16th May, 2021 asking for extending immediate financial assistance and other support to the ailing Dr. Gupta. They were also asked to frame a policy for all the contractual medical and paramedical staff deployed by the Centre or State governments.

In response, the Delhi government has also informed that they have further requested the Director General Health Services, DGHS to frame a policy for providing adequate medical care to the doctors and paramedical staff hired on contract basis. This may include medical insurance for them.

Commending the quick action by the Government of NCT Delhi towards reimbursing the expenditure on the treatment of Dr. Gupta, the Commission has said that it is expected that the Delhi Chief Secretary shall ensure framing of a policy for all the contractual medical staff and submit an action taken report.

However, having received no response from the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry to its notice, the Commission has also sent a reminder to its Secretary to inform

about the action been taken in the matter.

The complainant had alleged that the contractual doctors/ resident doctors and paramedical staff in the AIIMS are getting benefits of the EHS (Employees Health Services) but the contractual doctors/ resident doctors and paramedical staff of the Delhi Government and the other Central Government hospitals were not getting the similar facilities. Allegedly, the Delhi Government has a provision for paying an ex-gratia of Rs. One Crore to the next of kin of deceased Corona warriors but not taking care of them when they fell sick during the course of their public duties.

Contradictory reports from Rajasthan on child trafficking for labour

Case No. 823/20/29/2020

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India taking a serious view of the contradictory reports from the concerned authorities in Rajasthan about the child trafficking in connection with a complaint. The Commission has observed that even after seven decades of Independence of the country; despite various laws and schemes to protect the rights of children, their bonded labour and trafficking, the existence of child labour raises a big question mark on the effectiveness of State machinery to control the menace of child labour.

The Commission noted that in 1992, India had ratified the UN Convention for Rights of Child; the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution declaring year 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, which necessitates calling for reports from all States and Union Territories.

Accordingly, it has asked the Chief Secretaries of all the States and the Administrators of Union Territories to file report about the steps taken to implement the provisions and articles of the United Nation Convention for Right of Child and the Child and Adolescent Labour (Amendment) Act 2016 in their respective jurisdiction in particular,

the position of child labours.

The Secretary, Ministry of Labour of all the State and Union Territories have been asked to file the report about the legal action taken against the companies and their management, who are employing/ employed child labour in their factory premises or use them for production activity of any kind, against the letter and spirit of United Nation Convention for Right of Child and the Child and Adolescent Labour (Amendment) Act 2016.

The instant case referred to a complaint received in the Commission on 22.12.2019 wherein it was alleged that in Udaipur, Dungarpur and Banswara districts of Rajasthan, rampant trafficking of children between 08 to 15 years going on. They are sold for Rs. 500 to Rs. 3000. Even a commission of Rs. 50 was charged on every deal. The complainant also supported his allegations on the basis of a media report, carried by a prominent newspaper on 22.12.2019 on the issue.

In the wake of these allegations, the Commission had issued a notice to the Director General Police, Rajasthan calling for a report. In response the Superintendent of Police (HR), CID (CB), Jaipur, Rajasthan informed that the news published was of old incidents, in respect of which no case had been registered. The report stated that all the boys and girls went to earn wages with their families. It said that no case of children left/missing or became handicapped from the district, after coming from Gujarat, had come to the fore in relation to the children of Rajasthan. Most of the children keep going to Gujarat for child labour and to stop the same, timely action by the police stations and anti-human trafficking units in the border areas had been taken.

The Superintendent of Police, Dungarpur informed that there was no organized gang active for human trafficking in Dungarpur. The report also stated that the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit was already working in the district to prevent such incidents. Along with this, a special team of the district had also been formed and for the prevention,

nakbandi and checking is being done continuously in the police station area bordering the state of Gujarat.

The Commission further received a letter from the Officer In-charge, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, District Baswanda, Rajasthan, whereby, it was submitted that the Anti-Human Trafficking police stopped the trafficking of children of Rajasthan to Gujarat and rescued 16 minor children and handed them to Child Welfare Committee.

The Commission observed that police reports itself admitted that there are cases of child trafficking for various reasons, both inter and intra states, facilitated by the brokers. The genesis of the present matter may be in the poverty of the parents belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community of the southern part of Rajasthan. The trafficked children, in some cases, apparently, are taken to Gujarat to work in miserable and dangerous conditions in various factories, and are exploited. There are also apprehensions that minor trafficked girl child may be sexually abused and pushed into prostitution.

The Commission also noted that in 1988, the Union Labour & Employment Ministry had initiated the National Child Labour Projects (NCLP Scheme) rehabilitate working children in 12 child labour endemic districts of the country. The scheme aimed to conduct survey of Child Labour in hazardous occupations, identify and rehabilitate them by providing especial schools syphoned health care facilities, vocational training and thus eliminate all forms of child labours.

Since then, the project has been expanded to cover 312 districts of 21 states in the country. As per 2019 data of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, maximum 52 are from Uttar Pradesh followed by 30 from Telangana, 27 from Rajasthan, 21 from West Bengal, 24 from Odisha, 23 from Bihar, 21 from Madhya Pradesh, 18 from Tamil Nadu, 16 each from Maharashtra and Karnataka. However, the rampant violation of child rights in the form of child trafficking and child labour is still going on in the country.

Cases of Human Rights Defenders

The Commission registered 03 cases of alleged harassment of Human Rights Defenders, during the month of August, 2021. Summaries of two cases are as under:-

Police Atrocity

Case no. 809/11/10/2021

Allegedly, a 17 year old

differently abled boy was assaulted by police officials while they went to arrest a human rights defender, Mr. V.S. Murugan and his Tribal Chief father, in Palakkad, Kerala. The Commission has directed the Superintendent of Police, Palakkad, Kerala, to submit an Action Taken Report.

False Implication

Case no. 31/14/4/2021

Allegedly, two human rights defenders were under National Security Act on false charges at Imphal Police Station. The Commission has asked for an action taken report from the Superintendent of Police, East Imphal

Recommendations For Relief

A part from the number of cases taken up daily, 24 cases were taken up by Double Bench in August, 2021. The Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of Rs. 71,60,000/- for the victims or their NoK in 29 cases, where it 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:*

Sr. No.	Case No.	Nature of Case	Amount (in Rs.)	Authority
1	1740/1/5/2020-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	325000	Andhra Pradesh
2	2184/4/26/2019-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Bihar
3	2924/4/8/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Bihar
4	1719/13/19/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Maharashtra
5	1573/18/3/2020-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	325000	Odisha
6	1656/22/13/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Tamil Nadu
7	715/36/8/2019-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	500000	Telangana
8	21795/24/3/2019-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Uttar Pradesh
9	28041/24/52/2018-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Uttar Pradesh
10	3197/24/53/2019-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
11	356/35/5/2020-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	350000	Uttarakhand
12	108/25/5/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	West Bengal
13	698/25/10/2020-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	275000	West Bengal
14	8/14/1/2019-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	500000	Manipur
15	23080/24/51/2019	Custodial Torture	200000	Uttar Pradesh
16	763/34/5/2020	Death Due to Electrocution	350000	Jharkhand
17	1810/18/28/2020	Death Due to Electrocution	300000	Odisha
18	23068/24/22/2019	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	100000	Uttar Pradesh
19	30596/24/25/2016	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	100000	Uttar Pradesh
20	1671/7/7/2020	Abuse of Power	100000	Haryana
21	2204/24/21/2020	Abuse of Power	50000	Uttar Pradesh
22	6541/24/35/2019-WC	Gang Rape	500000	Uttar Pradesh
23	714/25/14/2017	Harassment of Prisoners	50000	West Bengal
24	137/3/11/2019	Inaction by the State Government/ Central Govt. officials	200000	Assam
25	6616/24/61/2018	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	200000	Uttar Pradesh
26	2133/12/7/2018	Maternity Health Care	75000	Madhya Pradesh
27	17151/24/75/2019-WC	Murder	10000	Uttar Pradesh
28	30118/24/51/2018-WC	Abduction, Rape and Murder	350000	Uttar Pradesh
29	2017/18/5/2018	Children	300000	Odisha

Payment of Relief on NHRC Recommendations

The Commission closed 15 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payment, it has recommended an amount of total Rs. 44,25,000/- to the victims of human rights violations

or their next of kin. The specific details of these cases, closed in August, 2021, can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:

Sr. No.	Case No.	Nature of Case	Amount (in Rs.)	Authority
1	2184/4/26/2019-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Bihar
2	3025/18/35/2019-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	400000	Odisha
3	4174/18/3/2019-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	450000	Odisha
4	4678/18/32/2018-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	450000	Odisha
5	87/27/0/2018	Custodial Torture	300000	Chandigarh
6	1249/12/44/2016	Inaction by the State Government/Central Govt. officials	300000	Madhya Pradesh
7	20449/24/6/2016	Inaction by The State Government/Central Govt. officials	200000	Uttar Pradesh
8	34432/24/48/2015	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	300000	Uttar Pradesh
9	4075/24/48/2016	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	500000	Uttar Pradesh
10	34513/24/69/2017-WC	Indignity of Women	150000	Uttar Pradesh
11	17/30/0/2017-WC	Sexual Harassment At Workplace (Govt. offices)	25000	Delhi
12	2529/18/3/2019	Exploitation of Children	300000	Odisha
13	3542/18/30/2019	Death Due to Electrocution	350000	Odisha
14	845/22/13/2018	Atrocities on Sc/St (By Police)	300000	Tamil Nadu
15	12853/24/5/2017	Nuisance by Local Ruffians	100000	Uttar Pradesh

Success Stories

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

Non-payment of salary (Case No. 16813/24/1/2018)

An Assistant School Teacher complained to the Commission that payment of his salary and other dues were withheld by the concerned authorities in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

In response to the notice of the Commission, it was informed that the arrears of Rs. 85,830/- was paid to the complainant. In view of redressal of the complaint, the Commission closed the case.

Rape of a minor (Case No. 1696/18/17/2020)

A minor girl was raped in by the accused, the owner of a stone crusher unit, when her parents were working in the factory in Bargarh district of Odisha. Allegedly the accused was trying to suppress the matter using his influence.

In response to the notice of the Commission, it was informed by the concerned authorities that FIR No. 96 dated 22.06.2020 u/s 342/375 (3)/109/506/34 IPC r/w 6 POCSO Act, section 3(1) of SC/ST (POA) Act against the accused. He was arrested and sent to jail. On completion of the investigation in the matter, a charge sheet u/s 342/376(3)/506/34 IPC r/w Section 4 of POCSO, 3(1) of SC/ST (POA) Act was submitted in the Court. The District Welfare Officer, Bargarh paid monetary relief of Rs. 3,75,000/- to the victim. The Secretary, DLSA, Bargarh was also requested to provide legal aid to the victim.

Encroachment on the land (Case No. 860/1/24/2020)

A 90 year old man belonging to a Scheduled Caste Community complained that his land was being encroached upon by some persons in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. They were threatening him and his family members.

In response to the notice of the

Commission, the SP West Godavari informed that FIR no. 55/2020 u/s 447/506 IPC and Sec. 3(1)(r)(s) and 3(2)(v)(a) of SC/ST(POA) Act, 1989 was registered at police station Tidakalapudi and investigation is going on. Besides this, an amount of Rs. 50,000/- was paid to the complainant as compensation under the provisions of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Electrocution death (Case No. 3542/18/30/2019)

The Commission received a complaint alleging death of a laborer due to negligence on the part of an electricity distribution company in Nuapada district, Odisha. He came in contact with the 33 KV feeder electricity line passing over the house, he was whitewashing.

On the basis of the material on record, the Commission recommended that the Govt. of Odisha should pay Rs. 3,50,000/- as compensation to the next of kin of the deceased, which has been paid.

From Investigation Files

This column carries stories unfolding an intricate case of human rights violation leading to diametrically opposite revelation to prima-facie claims and findings after investigation by the NHRC team:

Death in police custody Case No. 17371/24/22/2018-PCD

Allegedly, a man died in police custody of Merapur police station; district Farukhabad, Uttar Pradesh

on 27th May, 2018. The complainant alleged that his brother died due to police torture in custody whereas the police claimed that the victim died due to an accident on road while being taken for interrogation. The NHRC Investigation into the matter led to exposing the police theory which was also questioned by the court. The police did not provide supporting documents in support of its claim that the victim was being

taken for interrogation in some matter and was hit by a vehicle, Bolero when he went out of the police vehicle for vomiting. In view of this, accepting the findings of its Investigation team, the Commission recommended Rs. 5 lakh as monetary relief to the NoK of the deceased and directed the DGP, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh to enquire the case through CB-CID including the role of police officials in the incident.

Spot Enquiry

Death due to torture of police Case No. 26453/24/78/2020-AD

A spot enquiry was carried out in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh from 23rd to 27th August, 2021 on allegations about the death of two youths due to torture by police.

Rape and torture in police custody Case No. 8500/24/75/2021-PCD

A spot enquiry was carried out

in Sambhal District of Uttar Pradesh from 10th to 14th August, 2021 on allegations of torture, molestation and rape of a woman in police custody by the SHO.

Bonded Labourers Case No. 911/7/15/2021-BL

A spot enquiry was carried out in Panipat district of Haryana from 16th to 18th August, 2021 in connection with allegations that 162 people were

kept as bonded labourers in a brick kiln. They were being forced to work 16 hours in a day.

Disposal of cases

During August, 2021, total 236 cases were processed including 03 spot enquiries, 156 Judicial Custodial Deaths, 14 Police Custodial Deaths, 25 Encounter Deaths and 41 Fact Finding Cases.

Snippets

1. On 4th August, 2021, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Member met with a delegation from British High Commission in India.
2. On 24th August, 2021, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Member, NHRC chaired the 11th meeting of the Sub-Committee on CEDAW organized by NHRC.

Human Rights and NHRC in News

During August, 2021, the Media & Communication Wing of the Commission prepared and issued 08 press releases. 1805 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 717 News Clippings wherein 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 Twitter handle' was abuzz with 45 tweets on the Commission's interventions & activities.

Complaints in August, 2021

Complaints received	11235
Disposed	7680
Under consideration of the Commission	17621

Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:

Facilitation Centre (Madad) Incharge: **Mrs. Rekha Bhalla**
NHRC Toll Free No: 14433

For Complaints: Fax No. 011-2465 1332

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

Other Importance E-mail Addresses

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

Focal point for Human Rights Defenders: C.S. Mawari

Assistant Registrar (Law)
Mobile No. +919999393570, Fax No. 011-2465 1334
E-mail: hrc-nhrc@nic.in

This Newsletter is 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 acknowledge the NHRC

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Editor's Contact Ph.: 91-11-24663381, E-mail: dydir.media.nhrc@nic.in