

• Vol. 27 • No. 1 • January, 2020



HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Publication of
the National Human Rights Commission, India

ISSN 0973 - 757X



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"The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems." – Mahatma Gandhi

President of India addresses Human Rights Day Function of NHRC



The President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind addressing the gathering

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC organized a function to celebrate Human Rights Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on the 10th December, 2019. Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest of the function, the President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind said that the ideal way for the whole world to commemorate Human Rights Day is to introspect what more we need to do to live up to the letter and spirit of the sacred text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations.

Mr. Kovind said that our failings in human rights, as in the cases of violence against women, often stand from our failings in following our fundamental duties. The national discourse, besides rightly focusing on the all important question of human rights, can also make more space for consideration of our fundamental duties too.

He recalled the contribution of Ms. Hansa Mehta, who played a crucial role in the drafting of the Constitution of India as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations. It was because of her that the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Men was eventually recognised as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She was also called the "First Lady of the World" for her contributions to the

cause of human rights. He said that we can do more to commemorate the visionary leadership of Hansa Ben in the field of human rights and gender equality.

Lauding the role of the National Human Rights Commission towards the promotion and protection of human rights and the peoples' faith in it, the President of India said that it has lived upto the expectations by playing the role of

a quasi-judicial watch dog-for a quarter of century without fear or favour. However, he said that the effective strengthening of human rights at the ground level is a collective task of the whole society.

Earlier, the NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu said that UDHR is an embodiment of the aspirations of people across the world for equality, dignity and peaceful co-existence. Giving an insight into the various functions of the NHRC and its contribution at the national and international forum, including Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and Asia Pacific Forum (APF) of National Human Rights Institutions, he said that the Commission's endeavour has been to make itself as accessible to people as possible in redressal of their grievances related to human rights violations. He said that the NHRC, India is an 'A' accredited NHRI with the GANHRI and also a member of its Bureau, which is an important policy setting body.

He called upon the people to take a pledge to achieve a just and equitable society by upholding the principles and ideas enshrined in our Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for the protection and promotion of human dignity.

On the occasion, Justice Dattu also released NHRC Journals in Hindi and English as well as a DVD of seven short films on human rights selected for awards by the Commission in 2019.

The UN Secretary General, António Guterres, in his message on Human Rights Day, read out by Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator in India, said that "Every single person is entitled to all rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural. Regardless of where they live.



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

Regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, social origin, gender, sexual orientation, political or other opinion, disability or income, or any other status. On this International Day, I call on everyone to support and protect young people, who are standing up for human rights."

Prior to this, the NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind, welcoming the august gathering, said that the NHRC, India being the world's largest human rights institution has been making all efforts to promote human rights culture in the country. In the last 26 years, it has taken cognizance of over 18 lakh cases of human rights violations and over 180 crore rupees have been paid on its recommendations in thousands of cases.

Giving an outline of its various engagements with different subject specific and group specific human rights issues and various mechanism to deal with the complaints of human rights violations, Mr. Govind said that the Commission has made its functioning more transparent by uploading its orders on HRCnet portal, which is interactive. It has expanded its outreach further by linking its online complaint filing system with over 3 lakh Common Service Centres.

Besides the NHRC Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Pant, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Dr. D.M. Mulay, several dignitaries including former Chairperson and Members of the NHRC, Chairpersons and Members of State Human Rights Commissions, representatives of Central and State Governments, UN Bodies, Diplomats, Civil Society, NGOs, Media, among others, attended the function. Doordarshan



NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu presenting Commission's publications to the President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind and all India Radio, the national public broadcasters went live with the function proceedings.

NHRC Chairperson Justice H.L. Dattu Presents Commission's Short Film Awards; Prize money to be doubled from the next year

Mr. Justice H. L. Dattu, Chairperson NHRC, India presented awards to the winners of the Commission's 2019- short film competition on human rights at another function on Human Rights Day on the 10th December, 2019. They included, Mr. Vishal Kumbhar for his film 'Kumbhil Shiva', Mr. Ernest Rosario PB for his film "Transgender" and Mr. Vijeendra Syam for his film "Gulp". The winners were given Rs one lakh, 75 thousand and 50 thousand as the first, second and the third prize respectively along with certificates and trophies.

The film 'Kumbhil Shiva' by Mr. Vishal Kumbhar depicts the plight of a child rape victim and her family in getting justice. The film "Transgender" by Mr. Ernest Rosario P.B. highlights the struggles of a transgender to seek recognition in mainstream of society by chasing her dream to become a police officer. The silent film 'Gulp' by Mr. Vijeendra Syam focuses on the onslaught of development resulting in loss of natural habitat through the story of an old man.

Congratulating the winners, Justice Dattu said that the Commission appreciates the efforts put in by the short film makers behind their films, sent for the NHRC short

film competition. He said that the Commission has decided to double the prize money from the next year from rupees one lakh to two lakh, 75 thousand to 1.5 lakh and rupees 50 thousand to one lakh. He said that the objective of the scheme is to involve people, particularly the young generation, to ponder over various aspects of human rights and express their views through visual media. It is hoped that such efforts would help encourage people to stand up for each others' rights, thereby, creating an environment of rights consciousness. He called upon the film makers to make thoughtful films on human rights violations, and if possible, also suggest, the ways to deal with them.

Justice Dattu also congratulated the Chair of the Jury, Dr. D.M. Mulay, Member, NHRC and his team for short listing 12 films out of more than 80 films after a day long exercise and thus, helping the Full Commission to select the three best films out of them and the four for Special Mention Certificates.

The Special Mention films included 'To Let' by Mr. K. Jeyanchandra Hashmi, which highlights how sometimes, our peculiar preferences may result in an act of discrimination, 'A Dying Wish' by Ms. Shubhra

Dixit underscoring the struggles of an old couple seeking permission for voluntary death, "Nima" by Mr. Yangchen Thapa depicting how sometimes actions of elders, howsoever routine these may be, could result in creating a very negative impact on the child psyche and 'Do Spit Here' by Mr. R. Ravi Prasath, a comic and satirical take on those, who deliberately spoil and soil public or others' private spaces.

Earlier, giving an introduction to the NHRC's short film award scheme, Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General of the Commission said that this is the fifth consecutive award and with the increasing number of entries in this competition, the Commission is hopeful that in coming years more film makers will participate. He also thanked the two outside experts and awarded film makers, Mr. Arun Chadha and Ms. Reena Mohan for sparing their time as part of the Jury for the selection of the films.

NHRC Members, Mr. Justice P.C.Pant, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Dr. D.M. Mulay, Director General (Investigation), Mr. Prabhat Singh and other senior officers and staff and the friends and relatives of the award winners were present.

Message from Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC, India on the eve of Human Rights Day

"The world celebrates Human Rights Day tomorrow on the

10th December to mark the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights in 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The

Day reminds us that basic rights are our human rights. These include our right to live with liberty, equality and dignity, our right to health, education, freedom of speech and thoughts.

Youth always define and shape our future, and hence, it is necessary that we nurture in them the values of life, which motivate them to recognize the essentiality of mutual coexistence, wherein there is respect for the rights of others.

The United Nations' theme for Human Rights Day this year: "Youth Standing up for Human Rights", amplifies the need to call upon our youth to make this world humane, compassionate, free of strife and struggles for basic amenities.

In India, the Preamble of the Constitution and the Articles relating to the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy also make the protection of human rights a Constitutional obligation for

the citizens as well as the governments elected by them.

To continue this mission, as per its mandate, the National Human Rights Commission, India, through celebration of Human Rights Day, re-dedicates itself to raise concerns on any action, policy or law, which impinge on human rights in the country without any adversarial role to the functioning of governments.

Jai Hind!!"

Message from Mr. Justice H.L.Dattu, Chairperson NHRC, on Human Rights Defenders Day

"On this day of the 9th December, 2019, in commemoration of the day when the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders was adopted in the year 1998 by the UN General Assembly, the Commission acknowledges and appreciates the important role played by the HRDs in strengthening the human rights regime in the country and across the globe. The Commission is thankful to HRDs, on whose instance, the Commission could take cognizance of a number of incidents of violation of human rights and recommend the relief to the victim. The Commission wishes that they will not only continue to perform this holy task, but will devote themselves with more energy and enthusiasm.

HRDs have always been instrumental in fighting for the cause of human rights. However, their efforts were provided impetus through the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. NHRC, India too, right since its inception in 1993, has considered HRDs as its partners in this pious crusade for promoting and protecting the rights of common man.

In its resolve to promote and protect the human rights of the HRDs many initiatives have been taken by the Commission. The creation of Focal Point for HRDs, who is round the clock accessible to Human Rights Defenders on Mobile No. 9810298900 and e-mail: hrd-nhrc@nic.in, inclusion of chapter on HRDs in the Annual Report and publications like "NHRC and Human Rights Defenders: The Growing Synergy" are just a few of the many initiatives of the Commission. The Commission convened a meeting of Core Group of NGOs and Human Rights Defenders recently on 13th June 2019 to streamline the efforts by the Commission to address the challenges faced by them. The Commission also associates the HRDs with its 'Camp Sitzings and Open Hearings'.

NHRC gives special attention to the complaints of alleged harassment of HRDs. These complaints are registered under a separate category for proper monitoring and follow up. During the year 2019, the Commission has registered over hundred cases under

the category of harassment of Human Rights Defenders. The Commission takes all possible steps, as per law and based on merits, to provide an effective and substantive relief to the HRDs while dealing with complaints pertaining to them. Whenever a Human Rights Defender under distress, has made a call to the focal point or sent a complaint to the Commission, the Commission has promptly responded and called upon the authorities concerned to take appropriate action urgently and to provide protection to the Human Rights Defenders, if the circumstances of the case warranted so.

The Commission is of the considered view that the State is under obligation to ensure that HRDs work freely for protection and promotion of human rights without any fear and threat. The Commission, therefore, urges upon the State authorities to sensitize the field level officials and to imbibe in them the respect for human rights, as well Human Rights Defenders amongst them."

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 13 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during 1-31st December, 2019 and issued notice to the concerned authorities for reports. Summary of some of the cases is as follows:

Burning of victim of sexual assault by her tormentor in Muzaffarpur district

The media reported on 7th

December, 2019 that in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar, a person tried to outrage the modesty of a woman and when he was not successful, he poured kerosene and put her on fire. The victim woman suffered 85 per cent burn injuries and was admitted in the SKMCH Hospital where her condition was critical. Reportedly, the victim's family had approached the police five times for registration of an FIR. Neither

an FIR was registered by the police nor any action was taken against the accused.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Bihar calling for a detailed report in the matter. The report must include whether any departmental action has been taken against the guilty police officials and

whether any relief has been granted to the victim/ family.

Killing of the victim of sexual assault by her tormentor in Agartala district

The media reported on the 9th December, 2019 that a minor victim of sexual assault was set on fire by her tormentor resulting in her death in Agartala district of Tripura. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Tripura calling for a detailed report in the matter including status of the investigation and any relief granted to the NoK of the deceased. Reiterating its displeasure towards increasing incidents of sexual assault of women across the country, the Commission has said that it is awaiting reports from all the States and UTs including Union Ministry of Women and Child Development in the matter.

Delhi fire killing 43

The media reported on the 9th December, 2019 that at least 43 people

were killed at Filmistan's Anaj Mandi area in central Delhi, when a blaze caused by a short-circuit turned a five-story building into a lethal gas chamber, wherein 100 to 150 people were sleeping, choking most of the victims to death. The building housed a dozen illegal manufacturing units and warehouses, being run from ill-ventilated rooms filled with combustible material.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi; Commissioner of Police, Delhi and the Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, calling for a detailed report in the matter along with action taken against the errant officers/officials along with relief and rehabilitation provided to the next of kin of the deceased and the injured persons.

A notice has also been issued to the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India with the expectation that a Committee

of Experts may be formed to look into the matters relating to the violation of norms by the building owners/ shopkeepers/individuals/firms, who are conducting commercial activities in the residential areas by encroaching public roads in connivance with public officials of different agencies. The Committee must look into the Master Plan of Delhi and to take all adequate and appropriate measures by examining all issues of illegal construction, misuse of rules/norms and use of factory area for residential purposes, thoroughly and submit its report with their suggestions to streamline all the congested areas within Delhi to make it more safe and worth living for the citizens.

The Commission has observed that apparently, no one seems to bother about the rules/norms, which are to be followed by the building owners, authorities of the Municipal Corporations of Delhi, local administration, police and the fire safety authorities.

Cases of Human Right Defenders

The Commission registered 5 cases of alleged Harassment of Human Rights Defenders during the month of December, 2019, Summary of some of these cases is as follows:

Case No. 1879/25/5/2019

The complainant Mr. Henri Tiphange, National Working Secretary of HRD Alert- India has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that during the International Human Rights Day event, which was organised by the Benglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM) and other civil society organizations on 10-12-2019, at Ranu Chhaya Mancha, Cathedral Road, Kolkatta, Policeman from Hasting Police Station, had illegitimately restricted and harassed the MASUM members and other HRDs. Taking cognizance of the same, the Commission has called for a report in the matter from DGP, Govt. of West Bengal.

Case No. 34690/24/3/2019

The complainant Mr. Henri Tiphange, National Working Secretary of HRD Alert- India has

sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that criminal cases have been registered against 20 named and 500 other unnamed student human rights defenders of Aligarh Muslim University for peacefully protesting, on 10th December, 2019, in the Aligarh Muslim University Campus against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Complainant further mentioned that one of the victims was threatened by the local police and told that he would be charged under National Security Act, if he failed to withdraw himself from the student activism. Taking cognizance of the same, the Commission has called for a report in the matter from DGP, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.

Case No. 1428/6/16/2019

The complainant Mr. Henri Tiphange, National Working Secretary of HRD Alert- India has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that human rights defenders and Adivasis were intimidated, harassed, illegally detained and arrested under fabricated cases in Gujarat. The complainant mentioned two separate

incidents in the complaint that happened on 30th and 31st October, 2019 wherein the victims were illegally detained without any explanation/ reasons. The Commission has called for a report in the matter from DGP, Gujarat

Case No. 1417/6/30/2019

The complainant Mr. Henri Tiphange, National Working Secretary of HRD Alert- India has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that on 24th November, 2019, one RTI Activist & HRD, Mr. Amit Parmar, Botad, Gujarat, was brutally beaten by four men allegedly for filing RTI application seeking information on details of the grants of government development projects given to the village panchayat. The Commission has called for a report in the matter from Superintendent of Police, Botad, Gujarat.

Case no. 3152/4/24/2019

The complainant Mr. Nirbhay Kumar, RTI activist of Delhi has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that one RTI Activist Dhanjay Kumar alias Guddu was illegally held in

custody and was tortured by police authorities of Nalanda District, Bihar on 5th Oct, 2019. The Commission has called for a report in the matter from Superintendent of Police, Nalanda, Bihar.

Case No. 33695/24/12/2019

The complainant Mr. Rasbihari Das, President of Chambal Ghati Peace Mission, Acharya Vinoba Bhave Sewa Sansthan has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that two workers of the Sansthan were grievously hurt by unknown persons at the behest of Girva Police and Sand mafia units for exposing their nexus in illegal sand

mining causing loss of exchequer worth lakhs of rupees to the Govt. Taking cognizance of the same, the Commission has called for a report in the matter from Senior Superintendent of Police, Banda, Uttar Pradesh.

Case No. 4075/18/26/2019

The complainant Mr. Radhakanta Tripathy, advocate & human right defender has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that one RTI activist Abhimanyu Panda was brutally murdered on 10th Dec, 2019 at Ptrasahi Baliguddy in Kandhamal district of Odisha. The Commission has called for a report in the matter from DGP, Govt. of Odisha.

Case No. 827/10/17/2019

The complainant Mr. Henri Tiphange, National Working Secretary of HRD Alert- India has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that an eminent journalist, thinker, entrepreneur and social activist, Mr. Doddipalya Nara Simha Murthy was arrested in a false case by Raichur police on 24th Oct, 2019 while he was attending a seminar on 'Alternative Media' organized by "Gauri Lankesh Balega (Fraternity)". The Commission has called for a report in the matter from DGP, Govt. of Karnataka.

Spot Enquiries

Following is the list of cases wherein the enquiries were conducted by the Commission's officers during the month of December, 2019:

S. No.	Case Number	I/O's Name (S/sh/Ms.)	Date of Visit	Allegations in brief
1	1988/20/8/2019-BL	DSP Isam Singh & Insp. Arun Kumar, Insp. Saroj Tiwari	02.12.2019 - 06.12.2019	Hanif Ur Rehman, the complainant alleges that 4 children belonging to ST community are being kept as bonded labours at a stone quarry in District Bundi, Rajasthan.
2	1274/36/2/2019-ED	SSP Manzil Saini, DSP Kulbir Singh, DSP Bimal Jit Uppal, Insp. Arun Tyagi, Insp. Deepak Kr. Yadav & Ct. Malliah	07.12.2019 - 11.12.2019	Death of 4 persons in police encounter at Cyberabad, Telangana.
3	16415/24/62/2018-WC	DSP I.R. Kurillose & DSP Monia Uppal	09.12.2019 - 13.12.2019	Inaction by police on the complaint related to exploitation of complainant & her daughter in District Rampur, Uttar Pradesh.
4	25777/24/43/2019	DSP Rajvir Singh, Insp. Neeraj Kumar & Insp. Randheer Kumar	09.12.2019 - 13.12.2019	False implication in a murder case & police torture in custody P.S.- Chaubepur, District Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
5	5630/30/0/2019	SSP Manzil Saini, DSP M.S. Gill, DSP I.R. Kurillose, DSP Bimal Jit Uppal, Insp. Lal Bahar, Insp. Neeraj Kumar & Insp. Kulwant Singh	20.12.2019	Illegal detention of students of Jamia Millia Islamia by Delhi Police.

Important Intervention

NHRC fact finding team in Jamia Millia Islamia

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India deputed a team led by its SSP, Ms. Manzil Saini to conduct an on the spot enquiry to

know whether incidents in Jamia Millia Islamia involved violation of Human Rights. The Commission has received complaints in the matter and registered a case.

The fact finding team will submit its report, which will be analysed and placed before the Commission for

appropriate recommendations in the matter.

The complaints received in the Commission include allegations of illegal detention of students of Jamia Millia Islamia by Police and denial of legal and medical access to injured students in the Police action.

Recommendations for Relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 40 cases were taken up during 03 sitting of the Full Commission and 76 cases were taken up during 05 sitting of the Divisional

Bench-I. On 24 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of Rs. 3980000/- for the victims or their next of kin, where it found that public servants had either violated human

rights or been negligent in protecting them. *The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case no given in the table below:*

S. No	File No	Inc. Name	Amount (in Rs.)	State
1	2/26/0/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Andaman & Nicobar
2	7167/24/56/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Uttar Pradesh
3	1607/25/13/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	West Bengal
4	3287/4/11/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Bihar
5	3477/4/27/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Bihar
6	979/34/16/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Jharkhand
7	740/19/9/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Punjab
8	945/36/0/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Telangana
9	1463/20/2/2016	Inaction by the State/Central Govt. officials	200000	Rajasthan
10	3187/18/6/2018	Inaction by the State/Central Govt. officials	300000	Odisha
11	4595/18/32/2018	Inaction by the State/Central Govt. officials	200000	Odisha
12	2250/4/26/2015	Inaction by the State/Central Govt. officials	5000	Bihar
13	46089/24/47/2015	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	100000	Uttar Pradesh
14	5713/18/32/2016	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	100000	Odisha
15	138/3/9/2018-AR	Alleged Custodial Rape in Police Custody	300000	Assam
16	853/4/22/2016	Abuse of Power	100000	Bihar
17	1331/7/10/2017	Illegal Arrest	50000	Haryana
18	963/34/16/2015	Exploitation of Children	50000	Jharkhand
19	2571/20/2/2017	Atrocities on SC	50000	Rajasthan
20	11376/24/48/2013	Custodial Torture	25000	Uttar Pradesh
21	17608/24/14/2013-WC	Rape	100000	Uttar Pradesh
22	30170/24/52/2015-WC	Gang Rape	100000	Uttar Pradesh
23	43035/24/35/2015	Non-Payment of Pension/Compensation	100000	Uttar Pradesh
24	45954/24/62/2015	Irregularities on Govt. hospitals/Primary Health Centres	200000	Uttar Pradesh

Payment of Relief on NHRC Recommendations

The Commission closed 51 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments, it had recommended, totalling Rs. 8016362/- to the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin.

S. No	Inc. Name	Amount (In Rs.)	State
1	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Andaman & Nicobar
2	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Andhra Pradesh
3	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Jharkhand
4	Custodial Death (Judicial)	500000	Haryana
5	Custodial Death (Judicial)	500000	Haryana
6	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttarakhand
7	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	West Bengal
8	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	West Bengal
9	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Uttar Pradesh
10	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Maharashtra
11	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Punjab
12	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Uttar Pradesh
13	Custodial Death (Police)	200000	Assam
14	Custodial Death (Police)	100000	Gujarat
15	Alleged Custodial Rape in Police Custody	200000	Chhattisgarh
16	Alleged Custodial Deaths in Police Custody	300000	Mizoram
17	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	25000	Delhi

S. No	Inc. Name	Amount (In Rs.)	State
18	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	100000	Delhi
19	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	50000	Delhi
20	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	25000	Delhi
21	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	50000	Uttar Pradesh
22	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	300000	Delhi
23	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	100000	Madhya Pradesh
24	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	25000	Uttar Pradesh
25	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	50000	Uttar Pradesh
26	Inaction by The State/Central Govt. officials	100000	Uttar Pradesh
27	Inaction by The State/Central Govt. officials	25000	Jharkhand
28	Inaction by The State/Central Govt. officials	500000	Uttar Pradesh
29	Non-Payment of Pension/Compensation	10000	Delhi
30	Non-Payment of Pension/Compensation	501362	Uttar Pradesh
31	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	50000	Odisha
32	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	200000	Uttar Pradesh
33	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	300000	Uttar Pradesh
34	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	300000	Jharkhand
35	Abuse of Power	75000	Madhya Pradesh
36	Abuse of Power	200000	Delhi
37	Custodial Torture	100000	Uttar Pradesh
38	Custodial Torture	50000	Delhi
39	Illegal Arrest	30000	Uttar Pradesh
40	Illegal Arrest	50000	Uttar Pradesh
41	Illegal Arrest	25000	Uttar Pradesh
42	Unlawful Detention	120000	Uttar Pradesh
43	Unlawful Detention	100000	Uttar Pradesh
44	Irregularities in Govt. hospitals/Primary Health Centres	200000	Maharashtra
45	Rape	100000	Uttar Pradesh
46	Gang Rape	50000	West Bengal
47	Abduction/Kidnapping	50000	Uttar Pradesh
48	Abduction, Rape And Murder	100000	Haryana
49	Bonded Labour	25000	Uttar Pradesh
50	Victimisation	200000	Haryana
51	False Implications	30000	Bihar

Success Stories

1) Case No. 514/33/12/2016-AR

Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh vide his communication dated 22.08.2016 forwarded a news clipping about an alleged rape by a Police official in the Police Station Tendukona, District Mahasamund in Chhattisgarh, on 17.08.2016. Reportedly, the victim had gone to the Police Station to lodge a report against her own husband.

Pursuant to the Commission's intervention, IGP Headquarter, Raipur submitted that on the complaint of

the victim, crime no. 93/2016 u/s 376B/34 IPC was registered and after investigation, two accused including an ASI were arrested and charge sheet had been submitted u/s 376(2)a(1) and 376B IPC on 17.10.2016 and now the matter is sub judice.

The State has accepted the recommendation of the Commission and paid Rs. Two Lakhs to the victim.

2) Case No. 618/7/20/2012

The Commission received a complaint dated 17/02/2012 from Mr.

Virender Singh Gosai, Haryana alleging that his son Bhaskar and Sachin were picked up from their house by the police and later on they found their dead bodies at the railway track on 14/02/2012.

Pursuant to the enquiry, the Commission, found that the two boys were illegally detained by the police and thereafter were found dead at the railway track. From the infirmities in the report, the Commission arrived at the conclusion that Bhaskar and Sachin

were both murdered in police custody and their human rights were violated by the police of PS Fakurpur, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana.

In response to the notice issued to the Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, to show cause why the Commission should not recommend monetary compensation to the next of kin of the two deceased persons, doubts were expressed about the jurisdiction of the Commission in view of the fact that the matter was sub-judice.

The Commission held that even if a matter is sub-judice, it does not stop the jurisdiction of the Commission for recommending payment of monetary relief u/s 18(a)(i) of PHR Act 1993 for violation of human rights by public servants. The State submitted a compliance report on payment to the NoK of the two deceased persons.

3) Case No.18355/24/74/2018

The Commission received a complaint regarding death due to electrocution of a man named Samid, Mahoba West, Amethi, Ghaziabad (U.P.). The Commission issued notice to the concerned authorities and after due investigation, recommended a sum of Rs. 5 Lakh to be paid to next of kin of the deceased, which was paid by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

4) Case No. 42387/24/9/2015

The Commission received a complaint of sexual assault, Uttar Pradesh on 12/09/2015 by the victim about Police inaction in the matter. The Commission issued notice to the concerned authorities and after due investigation, recommended a sum of Rs. 25,000/- to be paid to the victim for violation of her human rights due to police inaction which was paid by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

5) Case No. 138/3/9/2018-AR

A complainant alleged that one police official raped a woman inside the police station but no appropriate action was taken against him.

After considering the report of the State authorities, the Commission, vide proceedings dated 18.12.2019, asked the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam to pay Rs. 3,00,000/- to the rape victim and submit proof of payment within the stipulated period.

6) Case No. 2250/4/26/2015

The Commission received a complaint dated 29.6.2015 from Sh. G.Dsouza alleging that 50 school children fell sick and were hospitalized in Patna after they consumed Mid Day Meal.

The Director, Mid-Day Meal, Patna, Bihar reported that 64 students were affected due to consumption of contaminated meal. The 10% salary of Acting Principal was deducted and cooks were terminated from service. The Commission on 24.12.2019 directed Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar to pay compensation of Rs 5000/- (five thousands) each to the victims and ensure the compliance and send the proof of payment.

7) Case No. 30170/24/52/2015-WC

The Commission took cognizance of a news report in Times of India dated 17.7.2015, captioned "Mentally ill 10 year old girl gang-raped in UP hospital". On the intervening night of 15/16 July, 2015 the girl was admitted in the district hospital, Mathura for treatment. She was taken away from the hospital ward by two men and was raped.

The Commission observed that prima-facie it is established that the right to dignity and right to health of the mentally challenged minor and orphan girl was blatantly violated by public servants. The Commission on 9.12.2019 recommended to the State Govt. of U.P., to pay compensation of Rs. 1,00,000/- to the victim and submit compliance report.

Indian Armed Forces have utmost respect for human rights, says Army Chief General Bipin Rawat

The Chief of Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat addressed the interns and senior officers of the National Human Rights Commission on the topic "Preserving Human Rights in times of War and Prisoners of War" at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi on 26th December, 2019. He said that the Indian Armed Forces are much disciplined and have utmost respect for human rights laws and International human rights law. The Indian armed forces not only ensure protection of human rights of our own people but also of adversaries and deal with the prisoners of war as per the Geneva Conventions.

The Army Chief said that the driving ethos of the Indian armed forces is "Insaniyat" (Humanity)

and "Sharafat" (Decency). They are extremely secular. The challenge is the changing war fare tactics with the advent of technology. Unlike the attack by any armed forces, the terror attacks remain unaccountable in international law. Hence, the counter terrorism and anti insurgency operations have to be dealt in a manner of winning the hearts of the people by identifying and alienating the insurgents among them without collateral damage, which becomes very challenging and difficult.

General Rawat said that the Army Head Quarters had created a human rights cell in 1993, which is now being upgraded to the level of a Directorate to be headed by an Additional Director General. This will also have police personnel to address the complaints of human rights violations against

the armed forces and facilitate related enquiries.

General Rawat said that a new initiative has been taken in October this year by recruiting women Jawans in Military Police Force. He said that the Army takes along with it several police personnel in search operations, but keeping in view the concerns of women during such operations, the army has now decided to deploy lady Jawans of its Military Police Force also.

He said that keeping in view the provisions of human rights law and importance of the protection of human rights, now a court of enquiry is being held after every anti- insurgency operation and all records are maintained related to such operations.

Referring to the Armed Force Special Powers Act, AFSPA, the Army Chief said that the Act gives almost the same powers to the Army, which are also exercised by Police and CRPF in connection with search and enquiry operations. However, over the years, the Army itself has diluted its application in its own way under the ten commandments issued by the Chief of Army Staff, which are to be strictly adhered by every soldier, and particularly those deployed for operations in anti-insurgency areas. The Supreme Court guidelines on this issue are also being strictly followed by soldiers, who are all given special training before their deployment in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations.

Earlier, NHRC Member, Mr. Justice P.C. Pant gave an insight into various laws protecting human rights. He also

mentioned about some of the fundamental rights, which are not given to the armed forces in line of their duty.

NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind welcomed General Rawat and said that the Commission through its internship programmes, has started a special lecture series of eminent persons and senior officers to provide an interface between them and the interns and officers of the Commission on human rights issues & challenges in



Army Chief, General Bipin Rawat addressing the NHRC officers & interns

their respective fields.

NHRC Member, Dr. D. M. Mulay, Director General (Investigation), Mr. Prabhat Singh, Joint Secretary, Mrs. Anita Sinha and other senior officers, staff and interns were present.

NHRC-TISS Day-long Western Region Review Conference on issues related to Juvenile Justice

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India organized a day-long Western Region Review Conference on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection), 2015, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, 2012, and Victim Compensation in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), at the YMCA International House, Mumbai, Maharashtra on 17th December, 2019. Several suggestions came up during the day long deliberations among various stakeholders to remove difficulties in the way of implementation of these laws. Some of the suggestions were as follows:

Increase sensitization and awareness and develop collaborative interface between different departments for effective implementation of JJ Act and POCSO Act.; take suo moto cognizance of cases requiring victim compensation; police need to collaborate with childcare line and SLISA; fill up vacant positions with specialised staff in the concerned departments.

Earlier, addressing the gathering, NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra emphasised on the need to address

early deviance and addictions among children to prevent crimes amongst them. She said that there is a need to strengthen the existing Child Care Institutions (CCIs), while exploring alternative care options within the JJ Act like Restorative Justice. She drew attention to addressing the root of crimes amongst children through education, health, and allied services. Using the introductory film screened as a reference point, she underlined the need for social re-integration of the victims to preventing re-victimization.

NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind emphasised the need for more public discourse on the situation of children and their vulnerabilities and the way forward. Mr. Govind also emphasised on the need to create increased awareness and improving access to the Victim



NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra addressing the Conference

Compensation Scheme. The need to strengthen, empower, motivate family, school and community as important stakeholders was also recognised by Mr. Govind, as these networks have the scope of providing an inclusive environment for preparing a road-map for the self-development of children. Highlighting the role of NHRC, he invited the participants for deliberating and sharing their suggestions that NHRC can take forward as policy and practice recommendations.

Prof. Shalini Bharat, Director, TISS shared the long association of TISS related to child protection through field action projects, teaching, research, and faculty being commissioned by the

judiciary to intervene in the matters related to juvenile justice.

The participants included officials from SHRCs and Departments of Women and Child Development,

Police, State Legal Services Authorities, State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights, JJB, CWC, NGOs, etc. of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and UTs: Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli. NHRC

officers Sudesh Kumar, SRO, Dr. Seemi Azam, RO, Mr. Pallav Kumar and Ms. Ridhima Puri, Research Associates were also part of the NHRC delegation at the conference.

NHRC meeting on Rights of Refugees in India

A meeting was conducted on the Rights of the Refugees in India with respect to a complaint made by an Afghan Refugee on 17th December, 2019 in the Commission. The meeting was chaired by the NHRC Member, Dr. D.M. Mulay and was attended by various stakeholders including UNHCR, MHA, MEA and Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) along with other senior NHRC officers.

Dr. Mulay mentioned that NHRC deals with Refugee issues only on complaint basis and asked the invitees to shed some light on the issue. Ms. Yukiko Koyama, Senior Protection

Officer, UNHCR, explained how they provide the refugee status to asylum seekers. She also mentioned that UNHCR gives out "Refugee Cards" to recognized refugees, which remain valid for 2 years. She clarified that these cards are not legal documents. Ms. Ragini Zutshi said that refugees face a lot of hardships, while living in a new country and it would be better, if they get registered with a Government authority, such as, FRRO. These offices help the refugees with their visas and work permits.

Mr. Deepak Mittal, Joint Secretary MEA and Mr. Pramod Kumar, Director

(F), MHA, clarified that the Govt. of India is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention, 1951 and the Protocol, 1967. As a result, any person coming from outside India would be treated as a foreign resident, and therefore, would be governed by the Foreigners Act, 1946 and Passport Act, 1920. Mr. Pramod Kumar said that India issues Standard Operating Procedure and Long Term Visa to foreign nationals on case to case basis and has special provision for Afghan refugees owing to the disturbed condition of their state, where they are provided with stay visa /residential permit, which can be extended on approval by MHA.

NHRC Winter Internship begins

A month long winter internship programme of the NHRC began at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi on the 17th December, 2019. A total number of 62 students from twenty States, two Union Territories and NCR, Delhi are attending it. They include 31 law students and 21 from the other disciplines of social sciences. Addressing the inaugural session, Mr.

Justice P.C.Pant, Member, NHRC gave a brief insight into the components of the internship programme and expressed the hope that the interns would make the best use of this opportunity to understand various aspects relating to human rights. Mr. Prabhat Singh, DG (I), Mr. Surajit Dey, Registrar (Law) and other senior

officers were present. The interns would be exposed to various human rights issues and laws, composition, role and function of the Commission. They would also be taken to field visits to prisons, police stations and NGOs and also guided to write dissertations on various issues and aspects of human rights.

Information and Communication Technology

HRCNet Portal

The following provisions have been added in the HRCNet Portal for effective handling of complaints. These include, auto-attachment of soft copies of reports received from Govt. Authorities with the related case files. This facilitates processing of cases,

maintaining records of letters sent to Central and State Govt. Authorities separately, facility of vernacular language for entry of Commission's proceedings and printing of letters.

E-store

NHRC has decided to computerize

its stores for maintaining records of the items procured, indented and issued. While e-Store will help the indenters in tracking the status of indents, Store Managers can get the status of stocks, information regarding repetitive indents of same items, alerts for timely procurement and other useful reports for smooth working of the Commission.

Mrs. Anita Sinha joins NHRC as Joint Secretary

Mrs. Anita Sinha, joined the National Human Rights Commission, India as Joint Secretary (P&T) on 17th December, 2019. She is a 1990 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service. She is MA (History) and LLB. Prior to joining NHRC, she was

Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) Gurugram. She has vast experience in the Training Sector having been posted at National Academy of Direct Taxes, Nagpur as a Faculty and also as Course Director Training for the newly recruited officers joining Income

Tax. Apart from holding various positions in her parent cadre, she has also worked in different departments of the Government of India including Additional Director General, Doordarshan and Director, Ministry of Culture.

• The NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind administered human rights pledge to the officers and staff of the Commission on 9th December, 2019 in run up to Human Rights Day Celebrations • Ms. Erin Duncan, New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner accompanied by Ms. Apita Basu, Policy Advisor visited NHRC	on 6.12.2019 and met Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind and other senior officers to discuss human rights issues in India and challenges. • Mr. Hilton, Deputy High Commissioner, Australia High Commission, New Delhi visited NHRC on 17.12.2019 and met Dr. D.M. Mulay, Member, NHRC and	other senior officers to discuss human rights issues in India and the role and functioning of the Commission. • Mr. Debindra Kundra, Assistant Registrar (Law) has been designated as Focal Point on Human Rights Defenders of the Commission in place of Mr. Khaleel Ahmad, Dy. Registrar (Law).
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During the month of December, 2019, the Media & Communication Wing prepared 07 press releases based on the proceedings of the Commission in different cases. Around 3000 news clippings on various human rights issues were culled out from different/select editions of major English and Hindi newspapers and some news websites. News clippings related to several incidents of alleged human rights violations were brought to the notice of the Commission, some of which it considered and found fit for suo motu cognizance. Many News stories, wherein there was a specific reference to the interventions by the NHRC can be seen at 'NHRC-in-News' on the website of the Commission.



Complaints received	6476
Disposed	6070
Under consideration of the Commission	19703

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Printed & Published by Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, NHRC on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission and
Printed at Power Printers 2/8A, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002 and published at National Human Rights Commission, Manav
Adhikar Bhawan, Block-C, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023. **Editor: Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, Dy. Director (M&C), NHRC**

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