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““Hate the sin, love the sinner.” – Mahatma Gandhi

NHRC sends its recommendations on Juvenile Care to different Ministries for implementations



A scene from the meeting in progress

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has finalised the recommendations of its Western Regional Review Conference on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection Act), 2015, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, 2012, and Victim Compensation held in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on 17th December 2019 in Mumbai. These are being sent to the Union Ministries of Women and Child Development, Home Affairs, Human Resources Development, Health & Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs for taking necessary action to ensure their implementations. The recommendations, identified at two levels, are as under :-

I. Policy and Approach

- Developing preventive measures and addressing

early deviance and addiction among children,

- De-criminalising and de-stigmatising CCL, CNCP, and other victims of crime through the restorative justice approach,
- Including children of prisoners in legislations and schemes,
- Discussing and de-criminalising the issue of consensual sex amongst minors in the age group of 16 to 18 years,
- Reviewing mandatory reporting for school counsellors and researchers under POCSO,
- Need for NHRC to review the legislations and examine their aptness as per international instruments, as also its

impact on children.

II. Implementation Practices

A. JJ Act, 2015:

- Increased sensitization and awareness building among officials providing services and among the general public,
- Improving inter-departmental coordination and the condition of existing CCIs to make them more child-friendly,
- Including vocational training and de-addiction services within CCIs,
- Constitute Juvenile Justice Boards as per the JJ Act,
- Provide legal services to CCLs when their cases are transferred to the Children's Court,
- Streamlining the process of handling CCLs within the system,
- Need to fill vacant positions was also identified as an immediate reform measure.

B. POCSO Act, 2012:

- Increased sensitization

- and awareness about sexuality and the law among stakeholders,
- Introducing sex education and awareness of sexual offenses in schools,
- Steps to be taken for better handling of cases under the POCSO Act included better collaboration

between state services, police, and NGOs; and orientation for all stakeholders to move from paper to practice.

B. Victim Compensation Scheme:

- Need for interventions beyond financial provisions for the reintegration of victims,

- Need for suo moto cognizance of cases by the DLSAs,
- Increasing the scope of VCS to include abuses of other forms such as trafficked victims,
- Collaboration between government departments, police, and NGOs for victim rehabilitation.

Recommendations of the NHRC Core Group on Children

The National Human Rights Commission has finalised the recommendations of the meeting of Core Group on Children. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Jyotika Kalra, Member, NHRC, at office premises on 10th January, 2020. The two issues were mainly deliberated upon in the meeting which included (1) Malnutrition among Children in India and (2) Quality Education among Children in India.

The major recommendations that emerged from the deliberations are as follows:

1. The Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) should be reviewed in order to include the crucial ages of growth spurt in girls so that nutritional provisions are also assured between the age of 9 and 11 years.
2. In order to meet the nutrition needs of school-going children, Mid-Day Meal, MDM schemes may also include breakfast and meals on holiday that will cover the gaps occurring in fulfilling



A scene from the meeting in progress

- the purpose of MDM Scheme.
3. For the proper implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013, supporting data should be collected by means of survey, mapping of population for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and rural and remote areas on periodic basis for identifying the left-out potential beneficiaries.
4. The per-child budget

under Integrated Child Development Schemes, ICDS should be periodically increased over Rs. 2000/- per child so that the needs of children are met appropriately considering inflation.

5. Awareness should be generated among parents about the nutritional needs of their children pertaining to the various stages of their development. This should be done through simple and easy

- to grasp methods such as advertisements on television, radio and in schools so that even illiterate parents are able to comprehend it.
6. As the benefits of many important schemes do not reach children in institutional care due to lack of requisite documents such as family income certificate, identity proof, etc., these should not be insisted upon for children in institutional care and they be covered under various schemes by providing nutrition and education even when they do not possess the required documents.
 7. Timely inspection, follow-up action and sensitization of Child Welfare Committees should be carried out as per government guidelines so that government run Child Care Institutions (CCIs) are fully utilized and private CCIs are not overcrowded.
 8. The Right to Education Act, 2009 needs to be reviewed to cover all children including those between the ages of 0-6 years and 14-18 years apart from including provisions for children with disabilities. Further, the proposed National Education Policy, 2019 also needs to be revised with respect to children without parental care and the children in CCIs and also to include convergence of all departments concerned.
 9. School curriculum revision is required to include relevant material and weed out outdated material. Quality education should focus on building foundational skills and developing knowledge, skills and competencies beyond only textbook-learning.
 10. There should be close monitoring and implementation of schemes such as the MDM and Public Distribution System (PDS) schemes so that the benefits reach the people for whom it is devised.

Important Interventions:

NHRC asks Centre about the arrangements made for mentally ill people roaming on streets during COVID lockdown

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India, has taken cognizance of a complaint on the alleged violation of human rights of the mentally ill people roaming on the streets across the country amid COVID lockdown. It has asked the Union Home Ministry to inform within two weeks about the arrangements made for them. The response shall include details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the authorities to address the issue raised in the complaint.

In the meantime necessary directions may be issued by them to all the States and Union

Territories, Union Territories (UTs), to ensure that persons suffering from any kind of mental ailments under their jurisdiction are provided with proper counselling towards necessary precautions for their personal care and protection from the virus and not deprived of basic amenities like food, shelter and medical care etc.

The Commission has observed that it is aware that the efforts are being made by the Central and the State governments to fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to ensure right to food and health care for the citizens but some sections of the society such as persons suffering from mental illness require specific attention as even in normal circumstances,

they are dependent on others and always need a support. Therefore, in this time of crisis, it becomes the duty of the State to ensure food, shelter and social security for the people belonging to such vulnerable classes. This becomes more necessary because not only the people suffering from mental illness may be deprived of basic amenities but also become easy carrier of the deadly virus posing life threat to many.

Therefore, it said, it was considered appropriate to forward the complaint along with its proceeding to the Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi calling for comments in the matter.

According to the complaint,

people have been restricted to remain indoors and only essential services are functional due to the countrywide lockdown announced by the Centre from 23.03.2020 onwards. The Central and the State governments have taken various steps to address the issues relating to the grievance of the daily wages workers, migrant labours and other such people who are working in the unorganized sectors to provide them food, shelter and other basic amenities during the period of lockdown. It has further stated that a large number of persons suffering from various mental illnesses are loitering on the streets and are dependent for food, shelter and other kind of help on temples, gurudwaras and other charity organisations. But the administration has not issued any specific guidelines for these people and no arrangements for their survival during this period of crisis have been made.

NHRC notice to DGP, Maharashtra over mob lynching in Palghar District

Acting on a complaint, the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has issued a notice to the DGP, Maharashtra over mob lynching of three persons in the presence of police in Palghar District on the 16th April, 2020. It has called for a detailed report within four weeks including action taken against the culprits and relief, if any, granted to the Next of Kin, NoK of the deceased persons.

Issuing the notice, the

Commission has observed that the incident is apparently indicative of negligence by the public servants. The death of three persons in such a cruel manner by the unruly mob that too during countrywide lockdown, under extra vigil by the administration and police, amounts to gross violation of the right to life of the victims.

According to the complaint as well as the media reports, the victims, Sushil Giri and Kalpavriksh Giri, belonging to a sect of Sadhus, were going to attend a funeral when they along with the driver of their car were attacked by an unruly mob on suspicion that they were thieves. The video of the attack on the deceased persons went viral, on 19.04.2020, which showed that police personnel were also present when the victims were being attacked.

NHRC asks Centre to issue suitable advisory to States and UTs to implement lock down guidelines without undermining people's right to life, liberty and dignity

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has asked the Centre, through the Union Home Ministry, to issue suitable guidelines/ advisory/Standard Operating Procedure to all the States and UTs emphasizing that while implementing Corona lock down guidelines, the public servants, including police personnel, should behave in a sensible manner with the people, particularly belonging to vulnerable sections, respecting

human rights relating to their life, liberty and dignity. A response is expected at the earliest.

These directions have come after the Commission took cognizance of a communication from one of its Special Monitors and human rights activist, Ms Maja Daruwala alleging that in order to effectively implement the lock down guidelines, the public servants, including the police personnel, across the country, sometimes under tremendous pressure, tend to deal with the people, especially the ill-informed poor labourers, in a very harsh manner undermining their rights.

Issuing the directions, the Commission has observed that it appreciates that the Government agencies are sincerely working to deal with the unprecedented situation to fight the spread of COVID-19 virus, and it is apparently a tough challenge for the them as well as the general public. However, it found it appropriate to bring the issues raised by the complainant to the notice of the Central Government and send the same to it through the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

The complainant has also said that police are doing many good things during the lock down; chopping of a policeman's hand is unforgivable but those, among them, who are using this time to be cruel and harsh must be stopped. Allegedly, those who are illiterate and less informed mainly the poor labourers and daily wages workers etc, are

facing extreme difficulties due to shortage of food and other facilities for themselves and their families. They can be asked to stay off the streets with some

degree of compassion without being cruel and abusive using excessive force.

Recently, the Commission had also taken cognizance of a

complaint raising the issue of alleged violation of human rights of the people suffering from mental illness during lock down.

Cases of Human Rights Defenders

The Commission registered 7 cases of alleged Harassment of Human Right Defenders during the month of April 2020, Summary of some of these cases is as under:

Case No. 65/9/13/2020

The complainants, Mr. Henri Tiphagne, National Working Secretary of HRD Alert-India and Khurram Parvez, Coordinator of Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) in an online complaint to the Commission has alleged that police, in Kashmir, is abusing their powers and misusing certain provisions of the law, including the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), to intimidate and harass journalists. The Complainants have cited certain incidents which they believe are cases of reprisals against such journalists for carrying out their professional endeavours in a non-partisan manner and covering issues pertaining to human rights abuses by the State and its security agencies. It is also alleged that such acts of police are also aimed at deterring other journalists in Kashmir from pursuing such endeavours. The complainants have urged the Commission for independent assessments of the cited incidents on the

parameters of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution, more specifically Article 19 (1) (a) – freedom of speech and expression and several Supreme Court judgements on the freedom of the press. The case is under consideration of the Commission.

Case No.1672/30/0/2020

The complainant, Mr. Henri Tiphagne, National Working Secretary of HRD Alert- India in an online complaint to the Commission has made an appeal for urgent action in an issue involving arrest of Jamia Coordination Committee (JCC) member of the media wing Ms. Safoora Zargar, during this period of lockdown due to COVID-19, for her alleged involvement in organizing protests at the Seelampur – Jafrabad metro station against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). It is alleged that Delhi Police had violated all mandatory procedures of arrest as set out in the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) arrest guidelines and relevant judgements of the Supreme Court. It is also alleged that Ms. Zargar who is in her second trimester of pregnancy was lodged in 'isolation/separation' in Delhi's

Tihar Jail. The case is under consideration of the Commission.

Case No. 7297/24/72/2020

The Complainant, Mr. Lenin Raghuvanshi, Convenor CFR, PVCHR in an online complaint to the Commission has alleged that one human right activist Mangla Prasad Rajbhar r/o village Ahirani, Post Kuwar Bazar, District Varanasi who is actively working for the Musahar community in UP was arrested by Uttar Pradesh Police by falsely implicating him for ruckus which occurred during distribution of food grain in an area under Thana Rampur village under Phulpur police station, Varanasi in which several persons including the Police sub inspector were wounded. It is alleged that the arrest of the said activist was due to some conspiracy of certain police officials as the victim was not present at the place of incident which was quite far away from his native place. The case is under consideration of the Commission.

Case No. 8/14/4/2020

The Complainant, Mr. Kirity Roy, Secretary, MASUM & National Convenor, PACTI in his online complaint to the Commission has alleged about systematic attack on human

rights defenders by Govt. of Manipur and in particular by state police. He has alleged that one Dr. Roy Laifungbam alias Bobbie, head of CORE Manipur, an organisation with Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) since 2005, known human rights activist, was picked up by local police of Imphal PS from his residence. No Memo of Arrest, no Inspection Memo were prepared at the place of arrest. Police also did not disclose what were the charges against Dr. Lafungbam. Sh. Kirty Roy got information that victim was arrested by police under section 188 of Indian Penal Code for some posting in his Face Book page but despite being bailable, police did not offer him bail. The case is under consideration of the Commission.

Case No. 7/14/4/2020

The Complainant, Mr. Henri Tiphagne, National Working Secretary of HRD Alert- India

in an online complaint to the Commission has made an appeal for urgent action in matter involving detention and arbitrary arrest of one Mr. Takhenchangbam Shadishkanta and Mr. Khangirakpam Phajatonon by Manipur Police. It is alleged that the arrested activists are members of Youth's Forum for Protection of Human Rights (YFPHR) which is working across the seven states of the Northeast Region of India, committed to address the issue of the Indigenous people rights and human rights in general. Since the recent lockdown in India, YFPHR has been vocal about several issues surrounding it and its impact on human rights. The case is under consideration of the Commission.

Case No.6/14/14/2020

The Complainant, Mr. Henri Tiphagne, National Working Secretary of HRD Alert- India in an online complaint to the Commission has made an appeal

for urgent action in matter involving illegal detention/arrest and wrongful confinement of one Konsam Victor Singh by the Manipur Police. It is alleged that the victim had shared a post on social media that allegedly 'promoted negativity against the Chief Minister of Manipur'. He was forced to delete the Facebook post and post an apology by the Manipur Police. Manipur Police's action severely infringed the victim's fundamental rights. The case is under consideration of the Commission.

Case No.1139/18/3/2020

The Complainant, Mr. Sujit Sahu in his on line complaint before the Commission has alleged that one RTI Activist and whistleblower Jitendra Sahoo was brutally beaten up by local mafia. A FIR was registered at Madhupatna, District Cuttack, Odisha but no action was taken by police. The case is under consideration of the Commission.

Major cases handled by Focal Point of HRD during Lock down

As a result of the National Lockdown due the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Commission, as per the Government guidelines did not open the office but has functioned mainly online on complaint handling till the office opened partially on 20th April, 2020. The law officers assisted the Commission with the help of online software in processing the complaints receipts online through HRCNet Portal and sent the directions of the Commission to the

concerned authorities through e-mails. These cases also included the cases of Human Rights Defenders in which the focal point for them in the Commission took up the matter to the concerned Government agencies. Some of the major complaints related to lockdown problems are as under:-

Date 1-4-2020 -Complaint for help on issue that People in Goa were genuinely facing shortage of availability of essential items. no standard format of deliveries

or availability of essential items in groceries store and medical stores.

Response – The matter was taken up with Special Secretary (Home) , Goa who informed that there was a problem for just one or two days problem due to restriction on vehicle movement. The State has afterwards submitted detail reply for the perusal of the Commission.

Date 3-4- 2020 Complaint wherein the students of the

Central University of South Bihar, District- Gaya, Bihar had alleged that the University Administration in an arbitrary manner had compelled students, both boys and girls, to vacate their hostel forcefully and closed the mess facility which is a basic hostel facility. It was submitted that they were being compelled to travel in public, so they might get infected with COVID-19. It was further alleged that the decision of university was quite arbitrary, unreasonable, mala-fide and against the dignity of students. University authorities were not listening to their pleas and threatened them that a disciplinary action would be taken against us. The students who had been asked to vacate were hungry as mess facility was suspended.

Response- The matter was taken up with DM, Gaya, Bihar but due to govt guidelines of social distancing, NHRC didn't intervene.

Date 3-4-2020 - Complaint from Mr. Kirity Roy, MASUM, West Bengal that one Dr. Roy Laifungbam @ Bobby, head of CORE residing at Imphal got arrested from his residence at 5.30 pm yesterday, 03/04/2020. Help from NHRC solicited .

Response- Matter was taken up with SP Imphal East, who informed that Person was arrested for violating curfew norms. He was released on that day itself. Confirmed from his lawyer also. SP had informed that there was one positive case due to Nizzamudin Tabliqe in Imphal so in such situations

where even educated persons were intentionally violating norms. On that reply, NHRC as an institution had refrained from intervening in such matters.

Date 7-4-2020 – SOS: from HRDA, Human rights defenders Pranab Doley and Soneshwar Nara of the Jeepal Krishak Sramik Sangha are currently detained at Bokakhat PS, Golaghat district. They were called to the police station for a statement and taken into custody. They are detained for questioning siphoning off of 900 quintals of rice, during the COVID-19 pandemic, from the Kaziranga state cooperative. Both Doley and Nara have been active in intervening in a series of issues in and around the Kaziranga National Forest. We fear for their arrest and the police misusing the legal provisions to stifle their dissent and questions. The police has used same tactic against them in the past and in one case subjected them to torture in the custody. We kindly request you sir to please call seeking: their urgent release.

Response- The matter was taken up with SP Golaghat for report and also with Secretary, Assam HRC for immediate help in the matter. Secretary, Assam HRC had informed that with approval of Hon'ble Member, the State Commission had taken up the matter and had sought ATR from SP Golaghat within a day.

Date 10-4-2020 Complaint from one Advocate Bansal for taking immediate cognizance and action in extending help to

Mentally challenged persons during this lock down period.

Response- NHRC issued notice to Home Secretary, Govt. of India

Date – 13-4-2020 Complaint regarding assault on doctors of AIIMS, Bhopal, who were on COVID-19 duties, by Bhopal Police

Response- Matter Taken up with SP(Bhopal) who informed that an action was taken against those police officials, matter settled amicably with doctors.

Date- 15-4-2020 Complaint from Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika, CHRI (forwarded by SG, NHRC) based on news paper article <https://indianexpress.com/article/coronavirus/ahmedabad-covid-19-coronavirus-hospital-ward-6363040/>

- I call upon the NHRC to use its powers and act strongly against this reported discrimination and segregation (see below) on grounds of religion as reported in the Indian Express. This is violative of the most fundamental of rights: the right to life and also other constitutional obligations of the Indian State - non-discrimination on grounds of religion, equality and access to health. The Gujarat Divergent decision is on flagrant violation of all the above. it is also a violation of the human rights enshrined in various UN Charters, Declarations and Conventions which India has ratified. regards- we look for action from you.

Response from NHRC -

Regarding your complaint, it is to be kept in mind that MHA has given specific and elaborative guidelines for treatment of COVID-19 patients that too without any discrimination on religious grounds and the same are being implemented by states strictly.

Your attention is invited to the news clipping in issue wherein both Deputy CM and Ahmedabad Collector has denied any knowledge of any such direction issued by State Govt.

Merely on media report that too, under prevailing circumstances, we are not inclined to intervene. Needless to mention here that our experience in recent critical phase is that these media reports are being published without really ascertaining the truthfulness of what is being reported by them even in cases of reputable

newspapers, after examining the reports/discussion with the concerned State officials on so called alleged Human Rights violations. Where the need is really required for intervention, NHRC do steps in as can be seen from directions on mentally ill persons.

Date – 16-4-2020- Complaint regarding detention of minor Girl at PS in Patna

Response - Matter taken up with SP, Patna Sh. Ashok Kr. Mishra for immediate release of the girl and action. After call, the minor girl was released.

Date- 17-4-2020 – Request, forwarded by SG, NHRC, from Hon'ble Member of Telangana HRC for medical assistance and help to Muslim family stranded in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

Response- Matter was taken up with Collector, Ajmer

who conveyed that interstate movement is not allowed by State Government so curfew pass can't be issued. Moreover there are more than 4000 jairin of different states are in hotels of Ajmer so same policy is applicable to all. So, request was made to provide medical assistance through Doctor which he has assured by tomorrow.

Medical assistance was provide at 21.00 hrs through visit by doctor to that family.

Date 17-4-2020 - Complaint received at 22.00 hrs from the Commission regarding non availability of food to pregnant Muslim lady in Loni Area of Ghaziabad.

Response- Matter was immediately taken up with CO (Loni) for immediate assistance. Very next day ration was given to that family.

NHRC sends Mid-term Report on status of implementation of UPR-III recommendations

On 13th May, 2020, the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has submitted the Mid-term Report to the UPR Working Group on the status of the implementation by the Government of India of the recommendations of 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights situation in the country under UN Aegis. The report has also been sent to the 18 concerned Union Ministries including Ministry of Home Affairs.

In order to gauge the progress made towards

implementation of the recommendations, written inputs on the action taken were sought by NHRC from 18 Ministries in January, 2020. Thereafter, to expedite the receipt of inputs and to have a review of implementation, a series of meetings on the "Status of implementation of the UPR-III recommendations" were held by the Commission in the groups of 3-4 Ministries each in February 2020. Subsequently, the Commission held a meeting with Civil Society Organization (CSOs) also on 4th March, 2020 to obtain their

views on the implementation of recommendations of UPR-III.

The review of India under the third UPR cycle was held on 4th May, 2017 and subsequently, the outcome of the Government of India's report was adopted on 21st September, 2017. A total of 250 recommendations were made by the UPR Working Group in respect of India, out of which 152 recommendations were accepted and the remaining were noted by the Government of India.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a unique mechanism of the United

Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a process to examine and assess the human

rights situation in every UN Member State through peer review. It has assumed an

important role in advancement and monitoring of human rights.

Success stories

Case No.1922/18/19/2017

The NHRC received a complaint that on 6th March, 2017, three labourers died and two got injured at the construction site of Bagha Irrigation Project, District Boudh, Odisha due to splitting of wires of a crane. Allegedly, this accident occurred due to the gross negligence of the agency working there. On notice from the Commission, a report dated 25.05.2017 was received from the Superintendent of Police, Boudh, Odisha. It confirmed that on 06th March, 2017, due to the negligence of Hydro (JCB) Operator, machine fell inside the water as a result three persons died and another received injuries. It was also stated that a case had been registered regarding the alleged offence as Manamunda Police Station Case No. 47/2017 under Sections 279/287/288/337/338/304(A) IPC and the same was under investigation.

Subsequently, it was further informed that the Operator of the JCB Machine was arrested and released on bail. After completion of the investigation, chargesheet in case No. 47/2017 had been filed against the accused and the same was pending consideration of the Court. The Commission observed that the accused had been arrested and chargesheeted

before the Court. However, no compensation had been given to the NoKs of the deceased persons or to the injured. Accordingly, it recommended that Rs.3 lakhs should be awarded to the each of the NoKs of the three deceased persons and Rs. 1 lakh to the injured, which was paid by the State Government.

Case No. 4370/18/28/2018

The NHRC received a complaint on 29th September, 2018 alleging electrocution of the complainant's daughter when she came in contact with a tree charged with high voltage of electric wire on way back to home after school in Niladri Vihar of Bhubanewar District, Odisha on 20th July, 2012.

In response to the NHRC notice, the Addl Secretary to the Govt. of Odisha, Department of Energy, vide communication dated 12.7.2019, submitted that the incident happened due to the carelessness of the deceased while she was plucking flowers from the top of Kadamba tree under 11 KV line.

The Commission observed that it is clear from the report that 11 KV line was in contact with the said tree and had there been regular pruning and proper vigil by the officials of the concerned department, the incident could have been avoided. Thus, dereliction of duty was established. Hence, the

show cause notice was issued to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha why Rs. 3,00,000/- should not be recommended to be paid as relief to the NoK of the deceased girl.

In response Chief General Manager (Safety) CESU Odisha, vide report dated 22.01.2020 informed the Commission that the recommended compensation of Rs. 3 Lakh had been paid to the father of deceased girl vide cheque dated 07.01.2020. The copy of acknowledgement receipt was enclosed.

Case No. 37780/24/12/2018-AD

On 30th November, 2018, the Commission received a complainant regarding death of one Bablu Singh, 35 years on 27th October, 2018 in the custody of Tindwari Police Station, District Banda, U.P. due to hanging.

The Commission on the basis of the material on record observed that the police miserably failed in the due discharge of their obligation, because of their negligence only, the deceased managed to hang himself and the reasons were obvious. Therefore, the State was vicariously liable. In the circumstances, the Chief Secretary, Govt. of UP was directed to show cause u/s 18 (a) (i) of PHR Act, 1993 as to why monetary relief of Rs.3 lakh should not be recommended to be

paid to the NoK of the deceased.

Having received no response from the Chief Secretary,

Government of U.P., the Commission recommended that the Government of Uttar Pradesh pay Rs.3 lakh to the

NoK of the deceased and send compliance report and proof of payment.

NHRC, India Twitter Handle

During the period of lockdown in April, 2020, the Commission through its Media & Communication Wing continued to engage with the people on its Twitter Handle about its

activities. The Commission had launched its Twitter Handle on 25th February, 2020. It's followers continued to surge giving enough indications to the Twitter management for

consideration of the NHRC's pending request to accord the account and as an official account of the NHRC India with a blue tick.

Annual Action Plan

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India finalised its Annual Action Plan for 2020-21. Keeping in view, the restrictions due to COVID lockdown, the focus was on optimal utilization of the technology based activities. These included online training sessions for building awareness of human rights, e-processing of files, virtual meeting and

seminars. The attentions were also paid to strengthen the HRCNet portal. The Annual Action Plan of the year 2020-21 is a part of an enlightenment with the NHRC Strategic Plan 2018-21 and Sustainable Development Goals, SDG, which are available to the Commission's website <http://nhrc.nic.in>

The NHRC, India has written to Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, GANHRI, for preparation of road map for the virtual events, activities, meetings in the year 2020-21. Amid COVID 19 pandemic in the backdrop of postponement or cancellation of the pre-planned meeting and activities of the GANHRI for the year.

NHRC Trainings

In view of the lockdown due to COVID 19, the National Human Rights Commission decided to organise its 15 days Short Term Internship online

from 16th June to 30th June, 2020. Using a web module the experts in the NHRC will interact with the students participants online.

They would also be guided to excess training material online and watch NHRC's short film on human rights issues for awareness.

Human Rights and NHRC in News

During the month of April, 2020, the Media & Communication Wing of the Commission prepared and issued 03 press releases. News clippings related to incidents of alleged human rights violations were brought to the notice of the Commission for consideration of suo motu cognizance. Hundreds of followers joined the NHRC Twitter Handle in March which was launched in the last week of the previous month.

sends notice to Maharashtra on Palghar lynching
Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) sent a notice to the Maharashtra police chief on Tuesday in connection with the lynching of three persons in Palghar district of the state, officials said. The commission said it had called for a detailed report in four weeks, including inputs on the action taken against the culprits and relief, if any, granted to the next of kin of the deceased. It said the incident was apparent evidence of "negligence by servants".

NHRC asks govt. about steps taken to help the mentally ill
Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday asked the Maharashtra government to take steps to protect those on streets during the crisis, some of whom are suffering from mental illness, should be provided food, shelter and social security by the state.

ROBE SOUGHT INTO DEATH OF 11 KIDS
 Social activist Suresh C Khajuria on Tuesday filed a probe by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Protection of Rights (NCPCR) into the death of nearly a dozen children due to the consumption of spurious medicine in Ramnagar, Udhampur district. Eleven children between one and five years of age had died in Ramnagar, Udhampur, December 2019 and January this year. A Health team, which had visited the area in January, later found the presence of a deadly compound in a medicine bottle given to children suffering from cough and cold. The

Human rights activists write to NHRC on police excesses

'Guidelines should be laid on par with the CHRI'

STAFF REPORTER

MADRAS: As many as 48 human rights activists have written to the National Human Rights Commission raising specific concerns over cases of police excesses in the time of national lockdown announced in the wake of the spread of COVID-19.

Apart from police excesses, the activists also said that specific areas like the living conditions of non-judicial migrant workers in slums should be taken into consideration.

The activists said that the police should be laid on par with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI). There must be a complete prohibition of use of force, and if warranted, bare minimum force must be used.

The Supreme Court has already taken suo motu notice of overcrowding in prisons and directed the

police, they said that guidelines should be laid on par with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI). There must be a complete prohibition of use of force, and if warranted, bare minimum force must be used.

The Supreme Court has already taken suo motu notice of overcrowding in prisons and directed the

streets. A dedicated 24-hour helpline must be set up to help these people in distress.

The State Human Rights Commission must act as a link with the local authorities and to ensure that essential commodities reach the homeless. Joint working groups at all levels must be

Palghar lynching: NHRC sends notice to Maha DGP

NEW DELHI, APRIL 21

The NHRC sent a notice to the Maharashtra police chief on Tuesday in connection with the lynching of three persons in Palghar district of the state, officials said.

The NHRC said it was concerned about the incident, the man rights commission said it was a detailed report in four weeks, including inputs on the action taken against the culprits and relief, if any, granted to the next of kin of the deceased.

Dependent on charities
 It said the issue of mentally ill persons dependent on charities, temples and gurdwaras, food and shelter on streets, but the administration has not issued any specific guidelines for the incident. The NHRC said it was concerned about the incident, the man rights commission said it was a detailed report in four weeks, including inputs on the action taken against the culprits and relief, if any, granted to the next of kin of the deceased.

No Muslim among 101 arrested for Palghar lynching, says Maha Govt
 The Maharashtra government on Wednesday said that none of the 101 persons arrested in connection with the Palghar lynching were Muslims. The state government said that the NHRC's notice was received and it was taking steps to protect those on streets during the crisis, some of whom are suffering from mental illness, should be provided food, shelter and social security by the state.

'BLOT ON HUMANITY'
 The Palghar incident is a blot on humanity, it is condemnable. A CID probe has begun into the incident and over 100 persons have been arrested. All guilty will be punished strictly



Three more Palghar cops suspended
 The Maharashtra government on Wednesday suspended three more police officers in connection with the Palghar lynching. The state government said that the NHRC's notice was received and it was taking steps to protect those on streets during the crisis, some of whom are suffering from mental illness, should be provided food, shelter and social security by the state.

Ensure safety of mentally ill people during Covid-19: NHRC

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday directed the Centre to ensure that persons suffering from mental ailments are provided with proper counselling and they do not become "easy carriers" of Covid-19, amid complaints that such people are roaming around

the streets.

It asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to inform the Commission that it has taken and proposed steps to ensure that such people within the country are taken care of and the issue is addressed by the authorities.

NHRC noti Maha Polic Palghar inci

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Tuesday sent a notice to the Maharashtra Police over the

NHRC asks Centre to protect rights
 The commission has observed that the government agencies dealing with the spread of COVID-19, however, it found it appropriate to bring the issues raised by the complainants to the notice of the Central government, the NHRC said in a statement.

The police were doing many "good things" and the government was taking steps to protect those on streets during the crisis, some of whom are suffering from mental illness, should be provided food, shelter and social security by the state.

Ensure public servant
 The direction came after the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) took cognisance of communication received from one of its Special Monitors and human rights activist Maja Daruwalla.

BJP DAY-DREAMING OF RETI TO POWER IN STATE: MAHA
 The BJP is "day-dreaming" of retaking power in Maharashtra, a senior BJP leader said. He said that the party was not even close to winning the state elections and that it was still a long way off.

THE LIST OF 101 ARRESTED IN THE PALGHAR INCIDENT
 A list of 101 persons arrested in connection with the Palghar lynching has been released by the Maharashtra government. The list includes names of police officers, private citizens, and others involved in the incident.

Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:

Facilitation Centre (Madad) Incharge: Satish

NHRC Toll Free No: 14433

For Complaints: Fax No. 011-2465 1332

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

Other Importance E-mail Addresses

jrlawnhrc@nic.in (For complaints), cr.nhrc@nic.in

(For general queries/correspondence)

Focal point for Human Rights Defenders: Debindra Kundra

Assistant Registrar (Law)

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