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HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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***"Set your heart on doing good. Do it over and over again,
and you will be filled with joy" - Gautama Buddha***

NHRC, India celebrates Human Rights Day

The National Human Rights Commission, India organized a function in New Delhi to celebrate Human Rights Day on the 10th December, 2018. Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest on the occasion, Mr. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Minority Affairs said that advocating for the human rights of those is not appropriate, who kill people, terrorise them and violate their rights. He questioned the moral turpitude of those who advocate for the protection of human rights of attackers on the security forces to create unrest in the country.

He said that India is the largest democracy in the world and a unique example of unity in diversity. Despite different languages and culture, the people across India, live with tolerance and harmony. The Constitution of the country is a great unifying factor, which guarantees protection of human rights.

Lauding the role of the NHRC, India, Mr. Naqvi said that it has made significant contribution towards spreading awareness about the promotion and protection of Human rights. He said that the Commission is working very strongly and effectively for the protection of human rights in the country.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC, India said that the vibrant democracy of India is guided by the principles, rights and obligations enunciated in our Constitution. Not only has India been unequivocal in its commitment to the preservation and protection of human rights nationally, but also internationally.

He said that it is a matter of great pride that NHRC, India has been throughout accredited as an 'A' status



The Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Mr. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi addressing the gathering

NHRI by the Global Alliance of NHRIs. This indicates that the Commission is fully compliant with the UN mandated Paris Principles. It is also a Founding Member of the Asia-Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF), the regional network of GANHRI, thus, playing a constructive role in the international sphere.

He said that the NHRC, India has been observing Human Rights Day each year, with a view to renew and reiterate its unwavering commitment to the cause of human rights of the people of the country. Since its establishment on the 12th October, 1993, the Commission has made significant contributions to mainstreaming a human rights centric approach in the legislations as well as Government policies and programmes.

Giving a brief insight into the various features of the functioning of the NHRC, including the handling of a large number of complaints of human rights violations, Justice Dattu said that the Commission's constant endeavour over the last 25 years has been to make itself as accessible to the people as possible. For this, it has developed a wide range of important

monitoring mechanisms to oversee the human rights situation in the country.

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, in his message on Human Rights Day, read by Ms Radhika Batra Kaul, Chief of Staff, United Nations Resident Coordinator's office, said that "For 70 years, the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights has been a global beacon – shining a light for dignity, equality and well-being ... and bringing hope to dark places. The rights proclaimed in the Declaration apply to everyone -- no matter of our race, belief, location or other distinction of any kind."

Earlier, Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Secretary General, NHRC, dwelling upon the significance of Human Rights Day, said that the Commission is committed to the cause of human rights.

Marking the Human Rights Day celebrations, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs also released two NHRC publications, which included Journals in Hindi and English respectively. The books carry articles by the eminent persons on important aspects of human rights issues.

Apart from this, he also gave away awards to the winners of the NHRC



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

Mahatma Gandhi Biennial Awards for original works of writing in Hindi on various aspects of human rights. The first prize of ₹75,000/- for the year 2014-15 was given to Prof. Usha Yadav for her Novel 'Uske Hissey ki Dhoop'. This Novel focuses on the ill effects of child exploitation and throws light on how it can possibly be stopped. The second prize of ₹50,000/- for the year 2014-15 was given to Dr. Virendra Bhati Mangal for his book 'Gharailu Hins'. The book gives an in depth analysis of domestic violence and its impact in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan.

Another second prize of ₹ 50,000/- for the year

2012-13 was given to Mrs. Rajni Gosain for her book 'Chote Chote Haath, Nanhi Nanhi ungaliyan'. The book is a detailed research analysis of the basic needs of children and their rights.

Prior to this, the Union Minister



The Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Mr. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, accompanied by the NHRC Chairperson, Members and senior officers, seeing the exhibition

for Minority Affairs also opened NHRC's photo and children's paintings exhibition showcasing the photographic depiction of the Commission's activities during the last year.

Several prominent dignitaries, including, among others, Judges of Supreme Court, High Courts, former Judges of Supreme Court, High Courts, UN representatives, diplomats, senior Government functionaries, civil society representatives, members of Para Military Forces, NHRC officers and staff attended the function.

Message from Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC, India on the eve of Human Rights Day-2018

"Tomorrow on the 10th December, the world celebrates Human Rights Day. On this day in 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations had adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is in commemoration of this Universal Declaration that a Day is dedicated to remind people to stand up for their and others' rights.

This Human Rights Day assumes special significance for the NHRC, India as it is celebrating 25 years of its existence promoting and protecting human rights in the country. The protection of human rights is a Constitutional obligation of the State as well as the duty of a citizen, which we all must value and be guided in our lives for a just, happy and prosperous nation.

I am confident that by imbibing respect for human rights as a way of life, we can actualize a fundamental change in our collective efforts to eradicate the scourge of poverty, ignorance, prejudices, and discrimination based on sex, caste, religion, disability and other forms, within our society.

Therefore, the only way forward is to spread awareness and work consistently towards creating an atmosphere, where people live in harmony, and instead of being the reasons of creating problems, become agents of resolving them.

The National Human Rights Commission, India was set up in the year 1993 for better promotion and protection of human rights of every person in the country. On the eve of Human Rights Day, we rededicate ourselves to continue this mission. Jai Hind!!"

Message from Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC, India on Human Rights Defenders Day-2018

In the year 1998, on this day of 9th December, General Assembly, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted the 'Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Organs

of society to promote and protect Universally recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms', which is popularly known as 'The Declaration on human rights defenders'.

Over the last two decades, individual or group of individuals

tirelessly and selflessly strived to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedom for all to realise and recognize the universality of human rights without distinction of any kind by defending human rights by peaceful means. The

National Human Rights Commission, unequivocally propounds and propagates that effective protection of the dignity, equality, liberty, physical and psychological integrity and security of human rights defenders is sine qua non, for the realization of the right to defend human rights. Moreover, NHRC firmly believes that a safe and enabling environment is absolutely essential for the realization of different fundamental human rights that are necessary to carry out human rights work.

The Commission, in its long 25 years' journey, to avoid marginalisation of human rights defenders, has been actively and constructively engaging with them to empower their participation by various means, including in public debates. NHRC also recognizes the relevance and importance of the contributions of human rights defenders, albeit, at times being critical of the state

authorities or even challenging them. Keeping in mind the Paris Principles, the Commission facilitates regular exchange of views between human rights defenders and state institutions by applying appropriate consultative mechanisms.

NHRC constantly encourages and facilitates human rights activities through and by the human rights defenders by putting in place practical measures aimed at creating safe and conducive environment enabling and empowering human rights defenders to pursue their activities freely and without undue limitations, including work conducted individually and collectively.

The Commission for last few years consistently persuaded the state authorities not to impose undue limitations on the dissemination of information that in practice prevent human rights defenders from carrying

out their work or providing services to their beneficiaries.

While celebrating Silver Jubilee year of its foundation, the Commission organized various events in past few months, including a memorial lecture, addressed by leading Human Rights defender, in the field of child rights, Nobel Laureate, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi. The Commission also organized a national seminar on Media's role in protection and promotion of Human Rights.

The Commission reiterates its commitment for upholding and preserving the rights of human rights defenders regardless of their profession, age or other status or whether they are carrying out their human rights activities individually or jointly with others as part of an informal group or non-government organisation, or whether they act voluntarily or professionally.

NHRC-SHRC meeting

The Secretary Level Meeting of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC and State Human Rights Commissions, SHRCs concluded in New Delhi on the 7th December, 2018. Several important suggestions emerged during the discussions to further strengthen areas of cooperation and partnerships.

Earlier, giving an overview of the NHRC's various functions, Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Secretary General, NHRC said that the aim of the meeting was to share the best practices and explore how the SHRCs and NHRC could collaborate to fill in the gaps in the system for the cause of promotion and promotion of human rights.

Dr. Neeta Verma, DG, National Informatics Centre, NIC, Government of India spoke about how the concept of digital India has been put into place with the support of information technology by developing Common Services Centre portal. She appreciated

the NHRC India's initiative to utilize the MyGov and CSC portals for building awareness on human rights and reaching out to the people in far flung areas.

She also launched Human Rights Commission Network Portal, HRCnet

Giving an insight into this portal, Mr. Sudhir Chandra, Sr. Technical Director, NIC, said that this portal is also integrated with the Common Service Centers, CSCs. Common citizen can lodge a complaint through HRCnet Portal without hassles and approach NHRC or SHRC for its redressal. It also provides features to facilitate communication with various stakeholders through emails and SMS messages. It also aims at minimizing duplicity in registration of complaints. Using this application, government authorities can upload reports online. Mr. Sanjiv Sharma, SSA, NHRC demonstrated the functioning of the HRCnet portal.



Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Secretary General, NHRC (in the middle) addressing the meeting

developed by the NIC with the support of NHRC. It aims at connecting NHRC with all the States Human Rights Commissions in the country. HRCnet is a web and workflow based portal that integrates the Complaint Redressal mechanism of the NHRC and SHRCs.

The meeting also explored the possibilities of collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, DLSA, State Legal Services Authority, SLSA, as well as National Legal Services Authority, NLSA for organizing awareness workshops on human rights

and related redressal mechanism. Some of the important suggestions of the NHRC-SHRCs secretary level meeting were as follows:

1. The governments should provide financial resources at the level of police chowki and police stations as lack of resources also become a reason for human rights violations of people in custody, who require to be provided food etc.
2. The State police organizations should replicate the Kerala model for deputing woman police personnel with the victim of sexual assault till the prosecution of the accused.
3. All custodial deaths may not be due to police torture or apathy, hence, these should not be generalized in the data related to custodial deaths in the National Crime Records Bureau.
4. NHRC may support an empirical research to know the actual number of undertrial prisoners and particularly those, who, due to mental problems continued to languish in jails without hearing of their matters to find out a way forward in such cases for delivering justice.
5. SHRCs should study and recommend the best practices of their respective states towards the protection and promotion of human rights for the consideration of an award by the NHRC to recognize their efforts and promote their replication by other states.
6. NHRC may also request the concerned State Government, on the request of any SHRC, to fill the vacancies at various levels and alternatively, they can also fill the vacancies of officials with retired officials under prescribed norms after approval from the respective State Government.

Before the discussions started, Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary (P&A), gave a presentation on how

with the support of technology, the Commission was able to fast track the processing of complaints and related data. He also informed about the various activities and programmes of the Commission, including those organized to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the NHRC, India in 2018.

Mrs. Sumedha Dwevedi, SSP, Investigation Division, NHRC led by Mr. Gurbachan Singh, DG(I) and Mrs. Chhaya Sharma, DIG (I) gave a presentation on how the enquiries into the issues of human rights violations can help plug in loop holes in the police investigations for resultant reforms. Mr. Surajit Dey, Registrar (Law), NHRC spoke about providing legal aid through SLSA, NLSA on issues like Bonded Labour, Custodial Death etc.

The participants included senior officers from NHRC, SHRCs and National as well as State and District Legal Services Authorities.

NHRC West Bengal 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting'

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC held its two days' 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting' in Kolkata for the cases pertaining to the State of West Bengal from the 13th-14th December, 2018. The Commission took up 140 cases in its 'Open Hearing'. The cases were heard in three single benches, presided over by Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC and Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose and Mrs. Jyotika Kalra.

Six Lakh rupees were recommended to be paid as monetary relief in three cases. In two matters, notices were issued to the State Government to show cause why monetary relief should not be recommended to be paid in a case wherein the matter involved prima-facie violation of human rights. In some cases, reports received from authorities were ordered to be sent to the complainants for their comments and, in a few others, further reports were called. 66 cases

were closed based on satisfactory response from the State Government and redressal of the grievances of the complainants.

By and large, the complaints raised grievances on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society. The nature of grievances included inaction of the state authorities for not providing basic amenities such as potable drinking water, all season roads, healthcare, education, old age pension etc. In some cases, the grievances related to police inaction, particularly, in cases of alleged rape, beatings by anti-social elements and illegal detention and torture in police custody.



NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose and Mrs. Jyotika Kalra at the 'Camp Sitting'

Earlier, inaugurating the 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting', the NHRC Chairperson said that these provide an opportunity to look at human rights situation in a State and recommend on the spot relief to the victims of human rights violations besides, creating awareness and helping the official machinery in improving the governance with proper implementation of socio-economic flagship programmes.

On the Second Day, the Full Commission considered ten sensitive matters involving issues of health care particularly, the deaths due to Silicosis, Arsenic contaminated water, deplorable condition of inmates in Behrampore Mental Hospital, death of 20 people in fire in a five storied building near Sealdah Railway Station, relief and rehabilitation of victims of Tiger assault in Sunderban, relief and rehabilitation of people in Bangladeshi Enclave and relief and rehabilitation of victims of sexual assaults by a school teacher on students.

After the Full Commission sitting, the Commission had an extensive interaction with NGOs,

Human Rights Defenders and LGBTI Groups, who raised issues relating to atrocities by Police and Para-military in Murshidabad District, denial of shelter homes, education, health and platform for redressal of grievances related to the rights and welfare of LGBTI community besides non-implementation of the directions of the Supreme Court in this regard. Attention was also invited to the total absence of census of LGBTI community, absence of independent Silicosis Programme, denial of Education and Health Care to tribals in 76 villages in Purulia, disturbance during programmes for creating human rights awareness, non-implementation of Section 176

(1-A) Cr.P.C., Bangladeshi Women and Children languishing in jails, starvation deaths. Misuse of Section 303/304 A IPC and rehabilitation of people, who have undergone life sentence.

After the meeting with the NGOs, the Commission had an in-depth interaction with the senior officers of the State Government on various issues related to human rights. The Chief Secretary and DGP both assured their best efforts and concerted action on the various issues of human rights faced by the people in the State. Later the NHRC Chairperson and Members also briefed the media about the outcome of the 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting'.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 05 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during December, 2018 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of the cases are as follows:

Threats to the rape victim by the State agencies

Media reported that the Unnao gang rape victim has accused the Uttar Pradesh Government of harassing her and her family members through its various agencies as she was trying to fight a case against a ruling party lawmaker. Allegedly, they had been told to withdraw the case against the MLA accused of raping her. Reportedly, the victim could not believe that the rapist is so powerful that he could manipulate the law from the prison.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, amount to serious issue of violation of the right to live with dignity of the victim and her family members. It is the responsibility of the State to ensure safe and secure environment for the victim of the sexual assault, her family members as well as the witnesses of the criminal act.

The Commission has further observed that it seems that its earlier directions given under case No.

8385/24/71/2018-AD on the 10th April, 2018, were ignored, otherwise the reports of harassment of the victim would have not come to the fore. Reiterating its directions to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, it has directed the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh to personally look into the matter and ensure that the victim's family is not subjected to any further harassment or humiliation by the accused local MLA or through his aides in any manner. It has also called for the detailed reports from the Chief Secretary and the DGP, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh on the allegations of daily threats to the victim.

Death in police custody

Media reported that a 30 year old Dalit man died in police custody at Dhanora Mandi Police Station in Amroha district of Uttar Pradesh on the 26th December, 2018. He was arrested by the police in connection with a case of theft on the 23rd December, 2018. Reportedly, the family members have alleged that police personnel had asked for a bribe of ₹5 lakh to let him off, which they could not give and after that the victim was brutally tortured.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police, Government of Uttar Pradesh to

submit a detailed report in the matter along with explanation as to why intimation with regard to this death in police custody has not been given to the NHRC in pursuance of its guidelines on the subject. The report should also indicate whether any monetary and other relief has been provided to the family in accordance with the SC/ST (PoA) Act and Rules.

Transfusion of HIV infected blood to a pregnant woman

Media reported that a teenage donor, whose blood infected a pregnant woman with HIV, attempted suicide at his home in southern Tamil Nadu as the families struggled to deal with the tragedy and more details emerged of criminal negligence on the part of public health care personnel. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for a detailed report in the matter including action taken against the guilty and relief/ counselling provided to the victims. It has observed that the contents of the media reports, if true, amount to violation of human rights of the victims of medical negligence. If proper action was taken by the authorities when the donor was first recognized as a case of HIV+, the mishap could have been avoided. Now both, the donor and the recipient woman, are

passing through a trauma.

The Commission has further observed that this reported painful incident has raised a serious issue regarding safe handling of blood samples, detection of diseases like HIV and transfusion of blood as per set standards by taking all precautions. A nationwide move is required to be taken to examination the procedures so that Right to Life of the innocent people is not violated. Accordingly, it has asked the Secretary, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, to call for a status report on the issue from all the States/UTs and submit a report to the Commission along with their comments thereon.

A patient molested at a Municipal hospital

Media reported that a 39-year-old sweeper tied the hand of a 14-year-old seizure patient to the bed and molested her inside the ICU of Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) run Kalwa Hospital. He was subsequently arrested. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra calling for a detailed report in the matter including action taken against the guilty and relief and rehabilitation/ counseling provided to the victim. The Commission would also like to know whether such incidents have occurred in the past in any of the government hospitals and, if yes, what steps were taken by the authorities to ensure safety and security of the indoor patients.

Fire at ESIC hospital and deaths of patients

Media reported that a massive fire engulfed the Employees State Insurance Corporation Hospital, locally known as Kamgar Hospital in Andheri (East) area of Mumbai in Maharashtra, resulting in the death of six persons and injuries to many others on the 17th December, 2018. Reportedly, the death toll was likely to increase. The Commission has observed that the possibility of the negligence by the hospital administration cannot be ruled out in the incident. Hence, it has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra calling for a detailed report including the outcome of the probe, reportedly mentioned by the City Mayor. The Commission would like to know whether the building had a valid 'No Objection Certificate' from the Fire Department and whether the fire audit was conducted. A report from the DGP, Maharashtra is also expected to intimate about the registration of FIR, if any and status thereof.

Employees State Insurance Corporation Hospital comes under the jurisdiction of the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment. Hence, the Commission has also issued a notice to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, calling for a detailed report in the matter, including action taken against the guilty, if any, and steps taken/ proposed to be taken to ensure that such painful incidents do not recur in future.

Deaths in the violent agitation over alleged cow slaughter

Media reported regarding the

death of two persons, including a police officer, during violent clashes over alleged cow slaughter in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh on the 3rd December, 2018. It has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh calling for a detailed report in the matter, including action taken against the miscreants and relief and rehabilitation provided to the families of the deceased persons.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media reports, suggest that even the police officers do not appear to be safe and can be easily eliminated at free will of the uncontrolled lawless elements.

A woman set ablaze by her tormentors amidst police inaction

Media reported that a woman, victim of molestation, was set ablaze by her tormentors, when she was going to lodge a written complaint at the police station against them, as suggested by the Police Control Room Van personnel in District Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh on the 1st December, 2018. Reportedly, in her recorded statement before a Magistrate at the hospital, the victim having 60 per cent burn injuries, named the two accused and narrated the inaction of the local police personnel. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh calling for a detailed report in the matter, including action taken against the alleged delinquent police officials. The Commission would also like to know about the present condition of the victim and the status of medical treatment being provided to her.

NHRC spot enquiries

Following is the list of cases wherein spot enquiries were conducted by the Commission's officers in its Investigation Division:

S. No.	Case Number	Allegations	Date of visit
1.	2854/4/1/2018	Bonded labour	09/12/2018 to 13/12/2018
2.	817/33/0/2015-ED	Death in police encounter	17/12/2018 to 21/12/2018
3.	687/11/15/2018	Abuse of power	17/12/2018 to 21/12/2018
4.	885/20/6/2016/BL	Rehabilitation/bonded labour	09/01/2019 to 12/01/2019
5.	1618/4/5/2017	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. officials	24/12/2018 to 28/12/2018
6.	7834/24/64/2018-ED	Death in police encounter	17/12/2018 to 21/12/2018

Recommendations for relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 10 cases were taken in the Camp Sitting at Kolkata, West Bengal. On 53 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 9455000/- 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.

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	2982/18/9/2017	EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN	300000	ODISHA
2.	1188/25/15/2014	IMMORAL TRAFFIC ON CHILDREN	25000	WEST BENGAL
3.	1037/25/16/2018	SEXUAL HARASSMENT	300000	WEST BENGAL
4.	1268/25/6/2017	SEXUAL HARASSMENT	200000	WEST BENGAL
5.	11036/7/3/2014	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	100000	HARYANA
6.	8872/7/6/2014	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	200000	HARYANA
7.	3039/20/33/2015	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	250000	RAJASTHAN
8.	1116/25/4/2013	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	100000	WEST BENGAL
9.	87/25/13/2013	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	200000	WEST BENGAL
10.	597/7/22/2018	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT. HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	300000	HARYANA
11.	138/8/2/2014	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT. HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	200000	HIMACHAL PRADESH
12.	28312/24/15/2017	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT. HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
13.	5915/18/10/2016	LACK OF PROPER MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE STATE	200000	ODISHA
14.	890/1/3/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	ANDHRA PRADESH
15.	1211/4/26/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	BIHAR
16.	4116/4/24/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	500000	BIHAR
17.	7548/7/17/2013-jcd	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	500000	HARYANA
18.	15/8/3/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	HIMACHAL PRADESH
19.	1015/34/14/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	JHARKHAND
20.	1646/19/3/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	PUNJAB
21.	1989/19/15/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	PUNJAB
22.	61/19/1/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	PUNJAB
23.	2772/20/24/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	RAJASTHAN
24.	25867/24/48/2016	NUISANCE BY LOCAL RUFFIANS	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
25.	4097/18/30/2014	LABOUR	400000	ODISHA
26.	388/34/4/2018-WC	RAPE OUTSIDE POLICE STATION	200000	JHARKHAND
27.	1246/30/6/2018	ABUSE OF POWER	100000	DELHI
28.	48490/24/62/2015	ABUSE OF POWER	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
29.	1605/22/13/2012	ATROCITIES ON SC/ST (BY POLICE)	50000	TAMIL NADU
30.	4341/4/9/2014-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	100000	BIHAR
31.	33143/24/52/2014	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
32.	9430/24/9/2016	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	30000	UTTAR PRADESH
33.	3901/4/2/2014	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	50000	BIHAR
34.	7057/30/4/2011	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	400000	DELHI
35.	130/18/5/2015	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	ODISHA
36.	21985/24/47/2016	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
37.	42069/24/39/2013	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
38.	911/24/63/2017	VICTIMISATION	125000	UTTAR PRADESH
39.	1640/12/38/2013-AD	ALLEGED CUSTODIAL DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY	300000	MADHYA PRADESH
40.	10594/24/75/2014-WC	ABDUCTION, RAPE AND MURDER	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
41.	775/35/5/2016-WC	ABDUCTION, RAPE AND MURDER	100000	UTTARAKHAND
42.	3848/30/8/2016-WC	SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE (GOVT.OFFICES)	100000	DELHI
43.	696/34/3/2017-WC	SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE (GOVT.OFFICES)	50000	JHARKHAND
44.	147/30/7/2013	DISAPPEARANCE	100000	DELHI
45.	36224/24/56/2013	DISAPPEARANCE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
46.	8161/7/3/2013	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	200000	HARYANA
47.	13304/18/8/2015	INACTION BY THE STATE/ CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	300000	ODISHA
48.	2927/18/31/2017	INACTION BY THE STATE/ CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	300000	ODISHA
49.	3489/18/27/2017	INACTION BY THE STATE/ CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	300000	ODISHA

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
50.	3490/18/6/2017	INACTION BY THE STATE/ CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	200000	ODISHA
51.	4236/18/28/2014	INACTION BY THE STATE/ CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	400000	ODISHA
52.	17074/24/14/2014	INACTION BY THE STATE/ CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
53.	37678/24/72/2017-WC	RAPE OF SC/ST/OBC	25000	UTTAR PRADESH

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In December, 2018, the Commission closed 37 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments, it had recommended, totalling ₹ 5470000/- to the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. Details are in the table below:

Sl. No	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	3038/20/34/2015	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT.HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	200000	RAJASTHAN
2.	4112/4/8/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	BIHAR
3.	83/4/8/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	BIHAR
4.	3572/7/3/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	HARYANA
5.	7551/7/18/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	HARYANA
6.	1626/34/16/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	JHARKHAND
7.	1094/12/21/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	MADHYA PRADESH
8.	27/15/2/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	MEGHALAYA
9.	1080/19/3/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	PUNJAB
10.	330/19/2/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	75000	PUNJAB
11.	50/20/1/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	RAJASTHAN
12.	2314/24/4/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
13.	35398/24/57/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
14.	40331/24/26/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
15.	46268/24/43/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
16.	1558/12/44/2016	ABUSE OF POWER	200000	MADHYA PRADESH
17.	9307/24/8/2013	ABUSE OF POWER	20000	UTTAR PRADESH
18.	234/25/4/2015	ABUSE OF POWER	50000	WEST BENGAL
19.	746/1/11/2013-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	100000	ANDHRA PRADESH
20.	37/15/2/2013-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	200000	MEGHALAYA
21.	295/1/7/2014-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	100000	TELANGANA
22.	25136/24/55/2010-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
23.	1357/25/17/2014-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	500000	WEST BENGAL
24.	577/6/21/2015	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	25000	GUJARAT
25.	81/34/12/2013	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	50000	JHARKHAND
26.	464/11/3/2014	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	300000	KERALA
27.	1192/20/30/2015	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	50000	RAJASTHAN
28.	1447/20/1/2013	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	RAJASTHAN
29.	1412/22/16/2015	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	TAMIL NADU
30.	33626/24/52/2013	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
31.	24735/24/31/2014	FALSE IMPLICATIONS	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
32.	45784/24/72/2015	UNLAWFUL DETENTION	400000	UTTAR PRADESH
33.	500/20/4/2016-WC	DOWERY DEMAND	25000	RAJASTHAN
34.	9097/24/57/2015-WC	GANG RAPE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
35.	44565/24/52/2013-WC	RAPE	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
36.	5345/18/18/2016	INACTION BY THE STATE/CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	150000	ODISHA
37.	15534/18/29/2015	ATROCITIES ON SC/ST/OBC	200000	ODISHA

NHRC National Workshop on “Best Practices- Prisons”



A scene from the National Workshop on “Best Practices - Prisons”

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC organized a day long Workshop on “Best Practices- Prison” at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi on the 21st December, 2018. Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC, chaired it.

benefit of the other States.

The participants of the Workshop included DG Prisons or their representatives from the 12 States including Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,

The objective of the workshop was to have presentations on the best practices/ initiatives regarding prisons and their impact on the prison administration in the respective States so that a compendium could be prepared for the

Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh along with reputed NGOs and officials from Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Commission has made numerous valuable recommendations to bring improvements and reforms not only in the Prison administration but also in the entire criminal justice system keeping in view its mandate under Section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act. The Commission had recently organized an ‘Open House on Prison Reforms’ based on which 57 recommendations were sent to all the States and an Action Taken Report thereon was sought.

NHRC Toll free number launched; its online complaint filing system integrated with CSCs

Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, India launched the Commission’s Toll free number 14433 and integration of its online complaint filing system with Common Service Centre, CSC Portal of Government of India at a brief ceremony at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi on the 27th December, 2018. He said that these steps have been taken by the Commission to expand its outreach in line with its various Silver Jubilee initiatives.

Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Secretary General, NHRC said that as part of

the collaborative programme with the Common Service Centre team, the NHRC, to begin with, has shortlisted

phased manner.

Now people, in addition to sending their complaints of human rights violations to the Commission by post, fax, e-mail, online through NHRC website: www.nhrc.nic.in, can also send them through the Common Service Centres. They can also contact the NHRC at the Toll free number for necessary guidance regarding complaints.

Mr. Gurbachan Singh, Director General (Investigation), Dr Ranjit Singh, J.S. (P&A) and other senior officers and staff of the Commission and the

representatives of Common Service Centre team were present on the occasion.



NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu launching the NHRC Toll Free no. and NHRC-CSC Link for filing online complaints

750 Common Service Centres with at least one each in a district. The service will be expanded to all the CSCs in a

NHRC, India launches its webcast service and advanced video conferencing system

Mr. Justice H. L. Dattu, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India inaugurated the webcast service of the Commission with the re-launch of its advanced video conferencing system at a brief

ceremony at Manav Adhikar Bhawan in New Delhi on the 31st December, 2018. The advance video conferencing system will facilitate a dialogue with various stakeholders from different parts of the country. The webcast will

be an added feature to all user friendly website of the Commission, which was launched recently by Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India on the Foundation Day of the NHRC on the 12th October, 2018. This will help the

NHRC to connect with the people through the live telecast of its various activities on time to time.

Addressing the gathering the NHRC Chairperson said that the Silver Jubilee is a milestone not only in the journey of the Commission but also a cause for celebration of human rights protection mechanism in our great nation. In this connection, the Commission organized a series of events and activities, primarily, aiming at involving people's participation in the promotion and protection of human rights. These events were also organized to emphasize the belief of the Commission that institutions can only motivate and provide support and moral courage to the people to guide them in the path of valuing human rights but efforts have to be made by themselves to walk on this path.

He said that Online Human Rights Pledge, Short Films on Human Rights Competition, Human Rights Street Theatre Festival, Walk for Human Rights, Painting, Slogan and Logo Designing Competitions, Open Forum Discussions, Dialogue with media, besides various seminars, conferences, Open Hearings and Camp Sitzings are

some of the programmes of the NHRC to connect directly with the people. Integration of NHRC's online complaint filing system with the Common Service Centres and starting of a Toll Free Number 14433 are the latest steps in line with the Commission's various Silver Jubilee initiatives to expand its outreach.

Justice Dattu said that in a



NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, flanked by Member, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose, at the launch of webcast service and advanced video conferencing system

country of about 1.3 billion people, the NHRC's humble efforts to build awareness about human rights may not be sufficient but added that he was sure that with the support of civil society, legislature, judiciary, executive as well as media, the echo of the Commission's efforts will be amplified for the betterment of society as a whole to reckon with. The NHRC Chairperson said that he was

saying so because the intent of the Commission to expand its outreach to every nook and corner of the country may fall short of its own expectations given the limited manpower, financial and infrastructure resources unless supported in good earnest by all the stakeholders.

He expressed the hope that various National and State Commissions, including the State Human Rights Commissions, catering to the requirements of protecting the rights and welfare of different segments of our society, would, by their pro-active approach, augment the efforts of the National Human Rights Commission, India. We have to work together for prevention of human rights violations by inculcating respect for them as a cultural value.

NHRC Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Secretary General, Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Director General (Investigation), Mr. Gurbachan Singh and other senior officers and staff were present. The winners of NHRC employees' badminton competition were also awarded on the occasion by Justice Dattu and Justice Ghose.

NHRC winter internship begins

A month long winter internship programme of the NHRC began at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi on the 20th December, 2018. A total number of 52 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. Ambuj Sharma, Secretary General, 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. Dilip Kumar, JS(T&R) and Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Director (Admn) 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.

Snippets

Visits to the NHRC, India

The following delegations visited the NHRC, India during the month of December, 2018.

The were as follows:

1. APF's Capacity Assessment Team Leader Prof. Chris Sidoti, on the 12th December, 2018.
2. Mr. C.K. Mathews, Special Rapporteur on the State HR Index Project on the 12th December, 2018.

