



HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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National Human Rights Commission, India



Inside

■ Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC, India to continue as a	2	■ Compliance with NHRC recommendations	9
■ National Seminar on the Role of Buddha's preaching in realization of	3	■ From the NHRC Investigation Files	10
■ Gender sensitization programme	4	■ NHRC opens entries for the fifth annual competition for short films	10
■ Meeting of the Core Group on Business, Environment and Human	5	■ Invitation for Expression of Interest for Research Projects/ Studies	11
■ Regional workshops for implementation of HRCNet portal	5	■ Human Rights and NHRC in News, March, 2019	12
■ NHRC spot enquiries	6	■ Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences	12
■ Important Interventions	6	■ Complaints received/processed in March, 2019	12
■ Recommendations for relief	7		

*"If you light a lamp for someone else, it will also
brighten your own path." - Buddha*

Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC, India to continue as a Member of GANHRI Bureau



From (R to L) : NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Member, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose and Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind at the meeting in Geneva

Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, India continues to remain a Member of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, GANHRI, Bureau. His position was ratified during the Annual Meeting of the GANHRI General Assembly at Geneva, Switzerland on the 5th March, 2019, wherein he led an NHRC, India delegation comprising Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose, Member and Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General of the Commission.

Justice Dattu was appointed to this position in 2016 after emerging as the unanimous choice of the NHRIs from the Asia Pacific region. He is representing the Asia Pacific region along with the representatives of three more NHRIs in the region at the GANHRI Bureau meetings. Justice Dattu's vast experience and legal expertise is considered useful in giving a shape to the approach

to the GANHRI on the human rights issues being faced by the international community.

The General Assembly also elected Dr. Carlos Alfonso Negret Mosquera, Ombudsman of Colombia since 2016, as GANHRI Chairperson for a three-year term from 2019 to

2021. Dr. Carlos Alfonso is a lawyer from the Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, with a specialization in International Human Rights Law from the Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio in Spain. Besides him, Dr. Ali Bin Samikh Al-Marri, Chairperson of the Qatar National Human Rights Committee was elected as GANHRI Secretary.



NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu and Member, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose at another meeting in Geneva

The GANHRI Bureau is an important human rights body, which serves as the Management Committee of the GANHRI. The GANHRI Bureau implements all the decisions of the GANHRI General Meetings and directs the operations of the GANHRI between these meetings.

The GANHRI Bureau consists of sixteen, 'A' status NHRIs, four from each region, namely, America, Europe, Africa and the Asia-Pacific. Besides the Annual General Meetings, the NHRC, India has been regularly taking part in its activities as an active Member of the GANHRI.

The Annual Meeting of Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, GANHRI and Asia Pacific Forum, APF, Regional Meetings are organized to take a stock of the activities of the different NHRIs during the year and strategize future programmes for the promotion and protection of human rights.

National Seminar on the Role of Buddha's preaching in realization of human rights

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India organized a two day National Seminar on the 'Role of Buddha's preaching in realization of Human Rights' in collaboration with the Sikkim University at Gangtok, Sikkim from the 7th–8th March, 2019.

Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Member, NHRC inaugurated the seminar as the Chief Guest on the 7th March, 2019. The presidential address was delivered by Prof. Avinash Khare, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University. Addressing the gathering, Mrs. Kalra explained how the Buddhism was born in India and spread to many parts of the world like Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Laos, Mangolia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Malasia, China and Vietnam and constitutes 9-10 % of World's total population. However, in India it is not even 1 % of the total population as per census data. Out of this 90 % joined Buddhism in Dalit movement.

She said that there were many reasons behind the decline of this religion in India. One important among them was that the society was not prepared to accept the equal, class less and caste less society as promoted by Buddhism. Gender justice and equality of all is the life and soul of Buddhism. Because of these teachings of Buddhism, Ambedkar adopted Buddhism with his many followers. The teachings of Buddhism are the essence of human

rights, a life with dignity, with equality and freedom, in fact, is the life which reflects the idea of human right.

Besides the inaugural and valedictory sessions, the seminar was spread across four academic sessions covering the subjects – 'History of Buddhism in India: Road Ahead', Challenges of Human Rights &

Ahmed, Professor of Law, Sikkim University, Prof. Jeta Sankrityayana, Gangtok, renowned Buddhist, Mr. Mithlesh Mishra, IAS, writer & sr. bureaucrat, Patna, Prof. Ananda Gopal Ghosh, renowned historian, Jalpaiguri, Dr. Subhash Sharma, IAS and eminent writer, Patna, Mr. Snehasis Sur, sr. Journalist & President,



NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra (in centre) at the National Seminar in Sikkim

Media in Twenty-First Century', 'Self-realization, Non-Violence & Growing Role of Buddhism' and 'Buddhism and Women-The Dhamma has no Gender'.

These sessions were addressed by several prominent speakers including, among others, Prof. Arun Kamal, eminent Hindi writer, poet and Sahitya Academy Award winner from Patna, Bihar, Mr. Dilip Kumar, Joint Secretary, NHRC, Dr. Imtiaz Gulam

Press Club, Kolkata, Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Giri, University of Delhi, Dr. Ranjana Kumari, Director, Centre For Social Research, Delhi, Prof. Pratibha, Dept. of History, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan and Prof. P.N. Mishra, Head, Dept. of Law, Sikkim University. The valedictory session was addressed by Mr. Justice Narendra Kumar Jain, Chairperson, State Human Rights Commission, Sikkim.

Gender sensitization programme



NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra addressing the gender sensitization programme

Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Member, National Human Rights Commission attended, as a Chief Guest, a programme on gender sensitization - "The Way Ahead – Prevention of Sexual Harassment" at Bhubaneswar, Odisha on the 18th March, 2019. The programme was organized by Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar (SAFMA), an NGO in Special Consultative Status with United Nations' ECOSOC.

Addressing a session during the programme on "Gender Sensitization of BAR – Prevention of

Sexual Harassment at workplace in the context of functioning of Local complaints Committee', Mrs. Kalra explained what possibly amounted to sexual harassment at workplace and how it is different from other forms of sexual assault on women. She said that girls working in un-organised sector like in dwelling units, shops, malls, restaurants become the most vulnerable to sexual harassment. They stand that risk more because of the closed environment of their work places.

The NHRC Member said that effective functioning of Local Complaints Committee is very important for more women to join the workforce, especially in un-organised sector. She said that the case of Bhanwari Devi, which became the basis of law on sexual harassment, is in-fact a case, which had more to do how Local Complaints Committee required to act in such matters.

The purpose of the programme was to build awareness among all the stakeholders for the successful implementation of the law to effectively deal with sexual harassment at workplace. Several eminent persons addressed the gathering. A booklet in Oriya titled 'Chuppi Todo' on sexual harassment of women at workplace was also distributed. Later in the evening, Mahila Suraksha Pad Yatra was organized to spread awareness on sexual harassment at village Palli, Golanthara Block of Ganjam District in the State. This was attended by over 100 persons. Mrs. Kalra addressed them through tele-conferencing.



A booklet in Oriya, titled 'Chuppi Todo', being released

Meeting of the Core Group on Business, Environment and Human Rights

The National human Rights Commission organized a meeting of its Core Group on Business, Environment and Human Rights at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi on the 12th March 2019. Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, NHRC chaired it.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the zero draft National Action Plan prepared by Ministry of Corporate Affairs and formulate the suggestions/comments for forwarding it to the Ministry. The meeting also served as a ground for discussion on the framework including the methodology and general overview of conducting the National Baseline Assessment (NBA), which is one of the pre-requisites for developing the National Action Plan. Post intensive discussion, the following suggestions emerged:

a) NHRC to invite research proposal on the United Nations Guiding Principles, i.e. (i) State duty to protect human rights, (ii) corporate responsibility to respect human rights and (ii) access to remedy to victims of human rights abuse;



The meeting of the NHRC Core Group on Business, Environment and Human Rights in progress

- b) National Action Plan should include** focused and realistic measures for operationalizing the business and human rights agenda;
- c) Review of complaints handled by the NHRC** in order to identify the key priority areas for government's effective implementation of the UNGPs. The review may also include number of complaints received by the Commission pertaining to violation of human rights in business.

The Commission is also promoting

research in the area of business and human rights, and has entrusted research projects on the said subject. One such project is titled **Study to understand functioning of companies' response systems vis-a-vis key Human Rights violations in Public Domain**. The Principal Investigator of the research study made the presentation at the meeting. Besides the core group members, the NHRC officers including Mr. Dilip Kumar, Joint Secretary (T & R), Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary (P&A), and Dr. M.D.S. Tyagi, Joint Director (Research) were present.

Regional workshops for implementation of HRCNet portal

The National Human Rights Commission has been trying to bring on board all the State Human Rights Commissions for using HRCNet portal so that duplication of complaints is reduced and all have first hand information on the cases registered with the National or the State Human Rights Commissions and the progress related thereto. The portal also helps people file online complaints related to human rights violations. In this connection, the NHRC has been conducting workshops with the representatives of various State Human Rights



NHRC officers led by Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind alongwith the officers of SHRCs of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir at the HRCNet portal workshop

Commissions.

Recently, Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, NHRC interacted with the officers of SHRCs of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir and urged them to take advantage of the technology for processing the complaints of human

rights violations. Mr. Dilip Kumar, Joint Secretary (T&R), NHRC also addressed the participants.

The NHRC technical team comprising Mr. Sudhir Chandra, Sr. Technical Director, NIC, Mr. Sanjeev Sharma, SSA, NHRC, Mr. Amit

Kumar Sharma, Programmer and Mr. Nagendra Kumar, NIC configured the software and provided training to the officials of the SHRCs. Thus, as part of this continuing exercise, the NHRC has conducted workshops for 16 State Human Rights Commissions so far.

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.	408/20/2/2018	Abuse of power	25.02.19 to 01.03.19
2.	150/20/5/2015-WC	Rape	11.03.19 to 15.03.19
3.	6894/24/1/2019-wc	Rape	12.03.2019 to 15.03.2019
4.	342/12/8/2019-WC	Rape and false implication by AGP	25.03.2019 to 27.03.2019
5.	321/36/10/2017	Failure in taking lawful action	25.03.2019 to 29.03.2019

Important Interventions

₹1.8 crore paid as relief to the families of the victims of silicosis

Case No. 351/6/3/2010

On the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, the Government of Gujarat has paid ₹3 lakh each to the next of kin of 60 victims, who died due to silicosis. As no kin of one of the deceased labour was alive, hence, no payment on his behalf could be paid. The Commission while taking in record the compliance of his directions by the State Government has also asked to inform about the preventive action the State Government was recommended to check deaths due to silicosis. The recommendations were:

- i. Stop work of Agate cutting and polishing etc, in residential areas completely, on the line of Slate Industry in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh;
 - ii. Set up a Welfare Board for welfare of Agate workers and levy cess on production, sale and export of Agate as has been done for Slate Industry in Mandsaur by the Madhya Pradesh Government;
 - iii. Prohibit electricity connection in residential areas for commercial purposes, especially for Agate polishing;
 - iv. Make environment clearance compulsory for any agate cutting unit. All such units must be monitored on a continuous basis by State Pollution Control Board, after they commence manufacturing;
 - v. Fixation of piece rates by the State for Agate workers, under Minimum Wages Act and after conducting time/motion study.
- This order was part of case no. 351/6/3/2010 in which other similar complaints were clubbed.

Pending departmental proceedings or a criminal trial not acceptable as grounds to deny relief to a victim of human rights violation, says NHRC

Case No. 1035/6/25/2015

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, setting aside the contention of the Government of Gujarat has recommended that it pay

₹3 lakh each to the next of kin of fifty persons, who died and ₹ 50,000/- each to four others injured in a road accident caused by a police van at

village Tersali, Vadodara, Gujarat on the 31st August, 2015. The victims were sleeping on a pavement when a police van crushed them in the night.

In responses to the notices of the Commission, the Government of Gujarat responded that an enquiry into the incident was conducted and the allegations made in the complaint were correct. Necessary disciplinary action was taken against the erring driver. In this connection, a case No. 186/15 IPC u/s 279/304 A/337/338 IPC and u/s 177/184 of M.V. Act was registered and after investigation the charge sheet was also submitted in the Court. The State Government

contented that since the matter was already before a Court of law and a departmental enquiry was pending against the erring police official, it would not be appropriate to separately allocate any compensation and payment to the victims in the matter.

The Commission observed that going by the material on record, it is clear that the innocent people became victims of rash and negligent driving by a police official.

Therefore, the State is vicariously liable for payment of monetary relief to the victims of the road accidents. Pendency of departmental proceedings or a criminal trial against the delinquent public servant could not take away the authority of the Commission u/s 18 the PHR Act, 1993 to recommend relief to the victim of human rights violation. Hence, the reply furnished by the concerned State authority was not acceptable.

Rs six lakh as relief to the victims of police brutality

Case No. 826/30/9/2018

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, has recommended that the Delhi police pay ₹1 lakh each to the six persons, who were illegally detained, abused, tortured and harassed by the errant officials of Police Station, Mianwali Nagar, Delhi on the 21st January, 2018 and were released only after taking bribe. The Commission had registered the case on the basis of a complaint on the 7th February, 2018. In response to the notices of the Commission, the Delhi Police informed that

the allegations of assault were substantiated in an enquiry. The Station House Officer of the Police Station was transferred and two Sub Inspectors were suspended. However, the FIR against these officials was yet to be lodged as expert opinion from Senior Public Prosecutor was awaited. As the erring police personnel had already been punished, hence Commission may reconsider its recommendation for the payment of compensation of ₹1 lakh each to the victims.

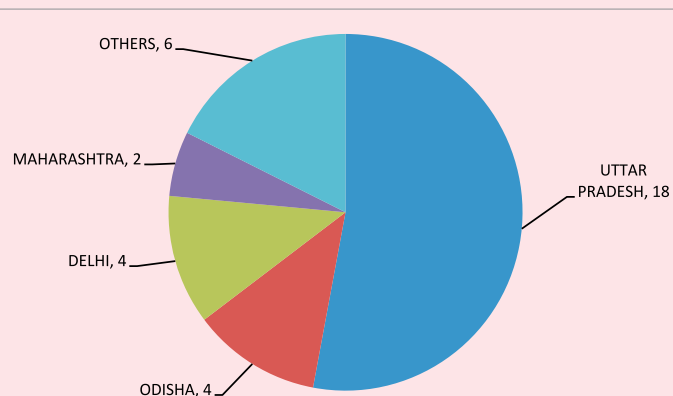
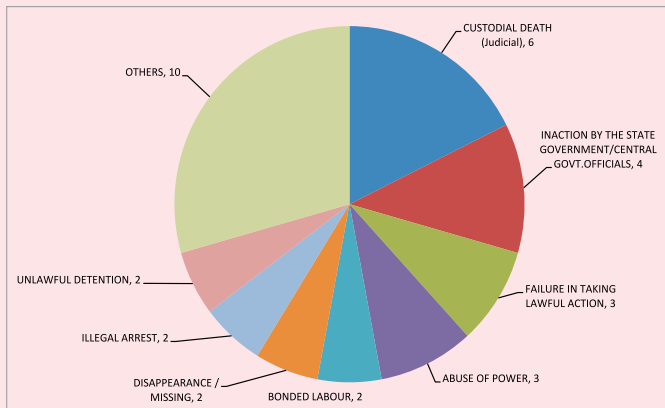
However, the Commission, on the basis of the material on record, observed that the enquiry report makes it clear that the errant police officials misused their powers. The CCTV footage also makes it evident that they did not perform their duties properly, violating human rights of the victims. Hence, it is reiterated that the Delhi Police pay the recommended monetary relief to the victims and send the proof of payments along with the details of FIR registered against the errant police officials.

Recommendations for relief

In March, 2019, the Commission recommended monetary relief in 34 cases, given in the table below, amounting to a total of ₹ 5915000/- 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 details of these cases can be downloaded from the complaints section of the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:**

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	3510/18/3/2016	EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN	300000	ODISHA
2.	12991/24/63/2014	DISAPPEARANCE / MISSING	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
3.	30746/24/10/2013	DISAPPEARANCE / MISSING	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
4.	30373/24/32/2011	PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
5.	2661/18/10/2017	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	100000	ODISHA
6.	17893/24/48/2015	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT.HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
7.	259/3/5/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	ASSAM
8.	3153/30/9/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	DELHI
9.	1658/18/28/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	ODISHA

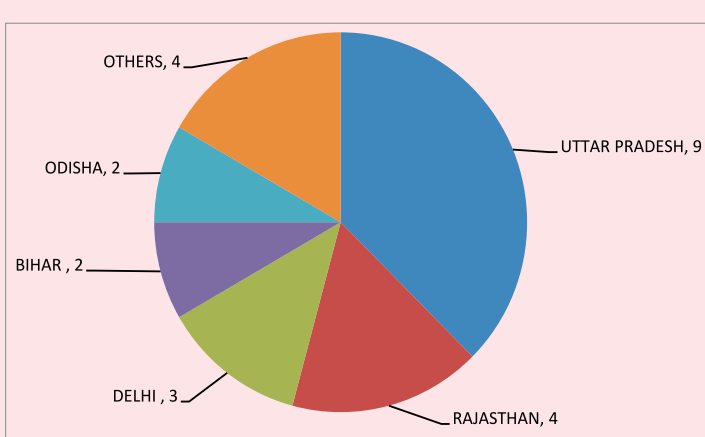
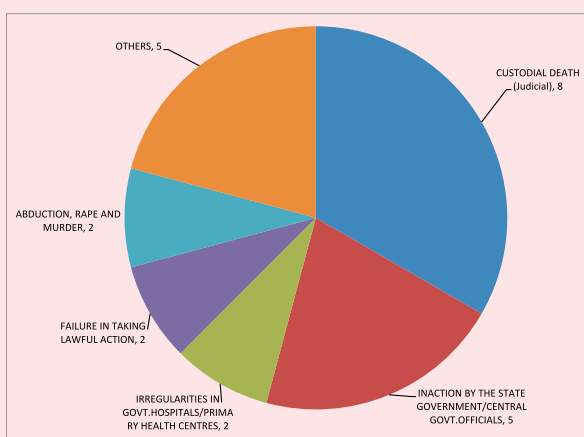
Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
10.	2150/24/57/2017-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
11.	42681/24/6/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
12.	336/25/10/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	WEST BENGAL
13.	4106/24/12/2017	HARASSMENT OF PRISONERS	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
14.	4792/24/64/2015-BL	BONDED LABOUR	225000	UTTAR PRADESH
15.	7053/24/31/2015-BL	BONDED LABOUR	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
16.	600/13/20/2016	ARBITRARY USE OF POWER	325000	MAHARASHTRA
17.	3052/30/7/2016	ABUSE OF POWER	200000	DELHI
18.	826/30/9/2018	ABUSE OF POWER	600000	DELHI
19.	68/32/1/2017	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	100000	PUDUCHERRY
20.	32338/24/18/2016	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
21.	49213/24/43/2014	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
22.	541/13/23/2015	ILLEGAL ARREST	25000	MAHARASHTRA
23.	43620/24/31/2014	ILLEGAL ARREST	20000	UTTAR PRADESH
24.	3733/24/30/2017	UNLAWFUL DETENTION	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
25.	3733/24/30/2017	UNLAWFUL DETENTION	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
26.	16121/24/61/2013	NON-PAYMENT OF PENSION/COMPENSATION	20000	UTTAR PRADESH
27.	742/24/39/2015-WC	ABDUCTION, RAPE AND MURDER	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
28.	2240/18/24/2017	MISCELLENOUS	1000000	ODISHA
29.	514/34/11/2015	INACTION BY THE STATE / CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	25000	JHARKHAND
30.	602/10/18/2017	INACTION BY THE STATE / CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	25000	KARNATAKA
31.	13540/24/48/2014	INACTION BY THE STATE / CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
32.	20415/24/18/2016	INACTION BY THE STATE / CENTRAL GOVT. OFFICIALS	500000	UTTAR PRADESH
33.	1308/30/7/2015-PF	ABUSE OF POWER	50000	DELHI
34.	295/20/23/2016-WC	RAPE OF SC/ST/OBC	25000	RAJASTHAN



Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In March, 2019 the Commission closed 24 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments, it had recommended, totalling ₹ 4054999/- to the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. Details are in the table below: **The details of these cases can be downloaded from the complaints section of the NHRC website by logging the case number given in the table below:**

Sl. No	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	44/2/10/2017	EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN	440000	ARUNACHAL PRADESH
2.	180/4/26/2013	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT.HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	300000	BIHAR
3.	705/18/3/2015	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT.HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	100000	ODISHA
4.	2321/30/9/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	99999	DELHI
5.	470/6/22/2017-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	GUJARAT
6.	1257/12/45/2017-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	MADHYA PRADESH
7.	1413/19/1/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	375000	PUNJAB
8.	29/20/21/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	RAJASTHAN
9.	17127/24/28/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
10.	35220/24/1/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
11.	6354/24/32/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
12.	11248/24/14/2013	ABUSE OF POWER	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
13.	18848/24/55/2014	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
14.	23233/24/52/2015	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
15.	2334/4/4/2011	POLICE MOTIVATED INCIDENTS	200000	BIHAR
16.	142/20/14/2014-WC	ABDUCTION, RAPE AND MURDER	300000	RAJASTHAN
17.	10582/24/46/2013-WC	ABDUCTION, RAPE AND MURDER	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
18.	43743/24/46/2012-WC	GANG RAPE	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
19.	3434/30/2/2015	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	200000	DELHI
20.	37/30/5/2014	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	300000	DELHI
21.	2385/18/28/2017	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	400000	ODISHA
22.	1558/20/30/2016	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	100000	RAJASTHAN
23.	35446/24/19/2013	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	40000	UTTAR PRADESH
24.	2814/20/8/2015	ATROCITIES ON SC/ST/OBC	25000	RAJASTHAN



From the NHRC Investigation Files

This column will carry a story, unfolding an intricate case of human rights violations, leading to diametrically opposite revelation to the prima facie claims and findings after investigations by the NHRC team.

Death in judicial custody Case No. 49482/24/4/2015-JCD

The National Human Rights Commission received intimation from the Sr. Superintendent, Central Jail Naini, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh regarding the custodial death of under trial prisoner. He was admitted in jail on the 25th August,

2015. A case was registered in the Commission on the basis of this intimation. In response to the notices, the prison authorities maintained that the deceased died due to Amoebiasis with Liver abscess and intestinal perforation and was provided timely treatment. However, the Commission thought it more appropriate to get the expert medical opinion on the postmortem, visra, medical reports etc before making any conclusion just on the basis of the claim made by the prison authorities.

The expert opinion exposed the loop holes in the report of the jail authorities. It was found that though

the victim was a smack addict but he was not suffering from any disease at the time of his admission in the jail as per his health record. However, within a span of four months, an otherwise healthy under trial prisoner not only got serious health issues but also lost life. If he was provided timely adequate treatment, his life could have been saved. It was claimed that when his condition suddenly deteriorated, he was admitted to jail hospital on the 15th December, 2015. Three days later, he was referred to the Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, where he expired on the 20th December, 2015.

NHRC opens entries for the fifth annual competition for short films on human rights: Last date 30th June, 2019

The National Human Rights Commission has opened the entries for its fifth annual competition for short films on human rights, which has received tremendous response so far. The awards carry three cash prizes of ₹1 lakh, ₹75 thousand and ₹50 thousand for the best first, second and third film respectively along with the certificates. The entries received after the 30th June, 2019 will not be entertained.

The aim of the award scheme is to encourage and acknowledge cinematic and creative efforts of the Indian citizens, irrespective of their age, towards the promotion and protection of human rights. There is no entry fee and bar on the number of films sent by an individual for participation in the contest. However, the participants will have to send each

film separately with an application form.

The short films may be in any Indian languages with sub-titles in English or in English. Duration of the short film should not be less than 3 minutes or more than 10 minutes. The short film could be a documentary, dramatization of real stories or a work of fiction, in any technical format including animation.

The themes of the films, having a tinge of rights perspective, could be broadly-based on various socio-economic, cultural and political rights,

within the ambit of right to life, liberty, equality and dignity. The films may cover issues specific to bonded and child labour, women & children's rights, rights of elderly persons, disabled rights, right to healthcare, issues of fundamental freedoms, human trafficking, domestic violence, human rights violation due to police atrocities, custodial violence and torture, socio-economic disparities, rights of indigenous people, prison reforms, right to education, right to clean environment, right to work, right to equality before law, right to food and nutritional security, rights of LGBTI etc.

More detailed information and the application form can be accessed from the website of the Commission, www.nhrc.nic.in. For any further queries, the office of Deputy Director (Media & Communication), NHRC can also be contacted.



Invitation for Expression of Interest for Research Projects / Studies

The National Human Rights Commission, a statutory body constituted under the Protection of Human Rights (PHR) Act, 1993, intends to promote such research projects, which are more focused along the lines of applied research or action based research. The ultimate aim is to translate the research findings into an action plan so as to protect and promote human rights- civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

The Commission invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the reputed research institutions, universities, recognized NGOs devoted to the espousal of the cause of human rights, for undertaking research projects/ studies on the thrust areas/ themes listed below.

Thrust areas/ Themes of Research Projects/ Studies

- i) Reintegration and rehabilitation of acid attack victims.
- ii) Vulnerability, legal protection and work conditions of domestic workers.
- iii) Trafficking of women and children - challenges and remedies.
- iv) Role of CCIs in care, protection and rehabilitation of children.
- v) Status of rights of children of sex workers.
- vi) Issues and challenges related to child labour with reference to human rights.
- vii) Business and human rights – State's duty to protect human rights.
- viii) Business and human rights- due diligence in practice.
- ix) Business and human rights – access to remedy.
- x) Role, challenges and threats in effective functioning of HR Defenders at grassroots level.
- xi) Comparative analysis of the realization of rights of persons with disabilities in institutional care vs. community based rehabilitation.
- xii) Persons with disabilities and their access to justice.
- xiii) Role and efficacy of Maintenance Tribunals in protecting the rights of elderly persons.
- xiv) Social security and health rights of migrant workers.
- xv) Trends and patterns of deaths in prisons and in police custody: an empirical research covering atleast 4 States having higher incidence of such deaths.
- xvi) Functioning of Sentence Review Board with reference to human rights of life convicts.

Eligibility Criteria

The research grant would be made available to an institution having adequate infrastructure to execute the research project(s). An institution, which is associated in any manner with any aspect of protection and promotion of human rights, having good track record, qualified human resource and trained manpower, and which is not run for profit, shall be eligible to be considered for entrusting the research project, such as:

- (i) Research and Training Institutions set up and fully funded by the Central Government/State Government/Public Sector Undertaking;
- (ii) Institutions/ Organizations registered as professional society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860);
- (iii) Institutions registered as 'Trusts' under The Indian Trust Act, 1882;
- (iv) Registered institutions exclusively devoting itself to the espousal of the cause of human rights;
- (v) University or a Deemed University;
- (vi) College covered under Section 2 (f) and 12 B of the UGC Act, 1956;
- (vii) Private college covered under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 and affiliated to the university.

Note: In case of the institutions listed at S. Nos. (ii) to (iv) above, their eligibility for receiving assistance will be decided by the Competent Authority of the Commission after perusal/ consideration of their registration certificate, audited annual report and balance sheet of the last 3 years, etc.

The procedure for submission of the Project Proposal as per the prescribed format, selection/ sanction of the project, release of grant, and other conditions are given in the **"GUIDELINES FOR SPONSORING RESEARCH PROJECTS"**, a copy of which is available on the NHRC website.

The eligible institutions/ organizations may submit their proposal in the prescribed format to the Joint Secretary (T&R)/ Joint Director (Research), NHRC, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, C-Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023 **upto 15th May 2019 (Wednesday)**.

Human Rights and NHRC in News, March, 2019

During the month of March, 2019, the Media & Communication Wing prepared 04 press releases based on the proceedings of the Commission in different cases. Total 875 news clippings on various human rights issues were culled out from different/select editions of major English and Hindi newspapers and some news websites. 69 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.

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
International Conference on Human Rights and Prison Reforms at the Campus of Fairfield Institute of Management & Technology (Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi on 9 th March, 2019.	Dr. Ranjit Singh, JS(P&A), NHRC and Mr. O.P. Vyas, Assistant Registrar, Law, NHRC
Round Table Consultation on Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking at Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice, Tughlaqabad, New Delhi on 15 th March, 2019.	Ms. Manzil Saini, SSP, and Mr. O.P. Vyas, Assistant Registrar, Law, NHRC

Complaints received/processed in March, 2019 (As per an early estimate)	
Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	5722
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	5720
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	20118

Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:
Facilitation Centre (Madad) : 011-2465 1330 For Complaints : Fax No. 011-2465 1332
Other Important E-mail Addresses
jrlawnhrc@nic.in (For complaints), cr.nhrc@nic.in (For general queries/correspondence)
Focal point for Human Rights Defenders
Mobile No.: 9810298900, Fax No. 011-2465 1334 E-mail : hrd-nhrc@nic.in

This Newsletter is also available on the Commission's website www.nhrc.nic.in

NGOs and other organizations are welcome to reproduce material of the Newsletter and disseminate it widely acknowledging the NHRC.

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The front cover painting is by Samridhi Paul, who won the consolation prize in the NHRC Silver Jubilee Painting Competition.