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A 'No' uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a 'Yes' merely uttered to please, or worse, to avoid trouble." Mahatma Gandhi

NHRC 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting' at Chennai, Tamil Nadu

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC held two days 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting' to address the grievances of the people speedily at Chennai, Tamil Nadu on the 12th – 13th September, 2019. Inaugurating it, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC said that the Commission is deeply concerned about the welfare of women as well as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, mental health issues and these open hearings/camp sittings are an important mechanisms with vital roles. The objective is to take up cases of alleged human rights violation of the SC/STs and other weaker sections apart from other important cases pending with the Commission.

Mr. Shanmugam, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu assured that the State Government would fully co-operate with the Commission in protection and promotion of human rights. Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary

General, NHRC said that besides the hearing of the cases, the Government officers will also be sensitized about the issues concerning human rights.

The Commission took up 179 cases in the 'Open Hearing', which were heard by the Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Pant, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra and Dr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay. These related largely to the grievances and complaints of atrocities against the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities due to action, inaction or omission by the public authorities, bonded labourers issues, police inaction, harassment etc.. The Commission recommended monetary relief of Rs. 8 lakhs in two cases. These included a case of custodial torture and piercing of cheeks of 20 children as part of a prayer for the speedy recovery of the former Chief Minister, Ms. Jayalalitha. In four cases, the Commission has issued notices

to the Chief Secretary to show cause why compensation should not be recommended to be paid to the victims. The Commission closed 71 cases after consideration. In rest of the matters, the Commission has



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

called for further reports/or comments of the complainants.

During the Full Commission hearing, the issues pertaining to silicosis death, houses for marginalized sections of society in Villupuram district, dumping of garbage in Chennai city, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers, relief and rehabilitation for minor girl victims of sexual exploitation, denial of facilities in textile industries and garments factories in the State were raised. Out of the ten cases taken up by the Full Commission, one case was closed and in other cases action taken reports were called for.

During interaction with the NGOs, several important issues were discussed. These included, among others, Sterlite Industry atrocities, Non-functioning of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State Human Rights Commissions, improper implementation of Disability Act, police atrocities, grievances of women workers in textile industries.



NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, and Members inaugurating the Open Hearing and Camp Sitting

NHRC-GNLU National Moot Court Competition

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India organized a national moot court competition in collaboration with the Gujarat National Law University, GNLU at Gandhinagar from 26th-29th September, 2019. The theme of the Moot Court Competition was "Cultural Rights of Local Populations and influx of



NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra distributing awards to the winners

illegal Migrants & Refugees". A record number of 76 teams from different law colleges and universities from different parts of the country participated in it.

The team of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow won the first prize of Rs.50,000/- a trophy and merit certificates. The second prize went to the National University of Advance Legal Studies, Kochi. They got a cash prize of Rs. 25,000/- a trophy and merit certificates.

The award for the Best Written submissions went to Chanakya National Law University, Patna. Ms. Parnika Mishra was adjudged Best Orator-Finals; while Anand Nandakumar was awarded Best Orator preliminary rounds.

Presiding over the valedictory function as the Chief Guest and the Chief of Jury, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Member, NHRC said that the application of law is learnt in the Courtrooms and theory in classrooms; the moot courts give the participating students an experience of a courtroom.

Earlier, Mr. Justice N.V. Anjaria, Judge of Gujarat High Court inaugurated the moot court competition on the 26th September, 2019 as the Chief Guest. He described moot court competitions as a help to bridge the gap

between theoretical learning and practical application of the laws and understanding the working of legal concepts.

Addressing the gathering as the Guest of Honour, Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, NHRC said that the Commission took the initiative to raise human rights concerns through moot courts among the budding lawyers to bring them at centre stage in legal discourse. He expressed the satisfaction that from a modest beginning in 2013, moot courts with themes on human rights have become very popular. Record participation of 76 teams from different law colleges and universities at NHRC-GNLU National Moot Court competition this year is a testimony



(R - L): GNLU Director, Dr. S. Shanthakumar, Gujarat High Court Judge, Mr. Justice N.V. Anjaria, NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind and DD (M&C) Mr. Jaimini Kumar Srivastava at the inaugural function

to that. He complimented GNLU for its efforts. Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Director (Admn) and Mr. Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Director, (Media and Communications) and In-charge Training, NHRC also attended the event.

CISF Lifts Best Team Rolling Trophy of NHRC Debate Competition for Para- Military Forces

The Central Industrial Security Force, CISF lifted the overall best team rolling trophy winning the final round of All India Inter-Para-Military Forces' debate competition in Hindi and English, organized by the National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the Indo- Tibetan Border Police, ITBP in New Delhi on the 27th September, 2019. The topic of the debate competition was: "Terrorism & militancy in the country can be tackled effectively while observing human rights".

Among the individual honours, the first prize for debate in Hindi went to Pawan Kumar, Inspector, ITBP and in English to Devesh Tripathi, Asstt Commandant, CISF. The second prize in Hindi went to Raj Prakash Mishra,

Inspector, ITBP and in English to Mayank Bhate, Asstt Commandant, CISF. The third prize in Hindi went to Ashutosh, Sub Inspector, CISF and in English to Sahil Sharma, Major, NSG. Consolation prize in Hindi went to Khushboo Chauhan, Constable, CRPF and in English to Chinmay Nair, Major, NSG.



NHRC Member, Mr. Justice P. C. Pant flanked by Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind on his right and Director General (I) Mr. Prabhat Singh on his left

Mr. Justice P. C. Pant, Member, NHRC was the Chief Guest of the final round of the debate competition. The winners were decided by a three member panel of jury headed by Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, NHRC, comprising Mr. Sunil Krishna, Former Director General (Investigation), NHRC and Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Vajpayee, Registrar, National Law University, Delhi. There were 16 participants from 8 teams of Central Para Military Forces.

The Competition was held in eight zones of the country. The semi final round was held in Chandigarh on 30th August, 2019 in which 32 teams participated. For this year, the NHRC had entrusted the responsibility to organize this debate competition to ITBP.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 11 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during September, 2019 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of the cases are as follows:

Suicide by a rape victim due to delayed police action

(Case No. 25870/24/14/2019)

The Media reported that an alleged victim of sexual assault committed suicide in the Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh as the police allegedly delayed proceedings on her complaint. Reportedly, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Bareilly had placed the Sub-Inspector concerned under suspension and one Munshi, who had dismissed the application submitted by the victim, had also been attached. The FIR in the matter had been registered and orders were issued for a thorough probe. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the DGP, Uttar Pradesh calling for a detailed report in the matter. The Commission would like to know about the present status of the investigation of the case and whether any relief has been provided to the Next of Kin of the deceased.

Torture in police custody in Darrang district

(Case No. 219/3/3/2019)

The media reported that a woman and her two sisters were allegedly stripped and tortured inside a police station in the Darrang district of Assam. Reportedly, the incident happened while they were being interrogated by the police in connection with a case of their brother, who had, allegedly,

eloped with the girl of a different religion. The woman was carrying pregnancy of more than two months and due to injuries, she allegedly sustained at the police station, the pregnancy had to be terminated.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the DGP, Assam calling for a detailed report in the matter, including medical treatment record of the victim and present status of her health condition. The report must speak whether prior permission of the Judicial Magistrate was taken by the police team to arrest the women victims during night of 08.09.2019. The Commission would also like to know whether any steps have been taken by the state authorities to provide any kind of relief and counseling to the victims.

Gang-rape of abuse survivor from Bihar shelter home

(Case No. 2465/4/9/2019)

The media reported on 16/09/2019 that an 18-year-old survivor from the Muzaffarpur girls' Shelter Home, wherein many inmates had been abused for years, was allegedly gang-raped in a moving car, less than 14 months after being rehabilitated and reunited with her family on the orders of a local court. The Commission has issued notices to Chief Secretary and DGP, Bihar calling for a detailed report in the matter along with status of the FIR registered by the police. It has also directed to the state authorities to provide the victim, proper counseling and medical assistance to help her overcome the trauma and lead a normal life. The Commission has observed that the victimization of the girl twice, indicates towards sheer lawlessness in the State of Bihar.

Torture at Police Station

(Case No.1877/7/5/2019)

The media reported that a 30-year-old maid was detained for several hours, stripped and thrashed badly, on allegations of theft, by the police personnel of DLF-I Police Station, Gurugram, Haryana on Tuesday, 3rd September, 2019. The Gurugram Police Commissioner had, reportedly, initiated a departmental enquiry into the incident and sent the four policemen, including the SHO, to the police lines. The Commission has issued a notice to the Commissioner of Police, Gurugram, Haryana calling for a detailed report in the matter, along with action taken against the guilty police personnel.

Suicide by a rape victim in police station

(Case No. 1895/7/20/2019-WC)

The media reported on 04/09/2019 that a woman committed suicide at Police Station Jathlana, Yamunanagar, Haryana alleging police inaction in her rape case. Her family members have made serious allegations against the Sub-Inspector and Police Station In-charge and demanded their suspension with the immediate effect. The Commission has issued notices to Chief Secretary and DGP, Haryana calling for a detailed report in the matter. The Commission has also directed to the DGP, Haryana to communicate the action taken against the delinquent police personnel. The Commission directed the Chief Secretary, Haryana to look into vulnerability of the family of the deceased and the protection and financial help, if not already given.

Cases of Human Rights Defenders

The Commission registered 17 cases of alleged Harassment of Human Rights Defenders during the month of September, 2019, Summary of some of these cases is as follows:

1. Case No. 1446/25/6/2019-PF

Mr. Kirity Roy, National Convener, PACTI, West Bengal has sent a complaint

to the Commission alleging victimisation of Mr. Atul Basak, a Human Rights Defender, HRD of Sangarbari village, Sitalkuchi Block, West Bengal, by the BSF. The complainant further alleged that despite complaints to the police, no action had been taken in the matter. The complaint has been urgently registered under HRD category and is placed

before the Commission for orders.

2. Case No. 26207/24/13/2019

Mr. Henri Tiphagne, National Working Secretary, Human Rights Defenders Alert-India has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that police detained a group of HRDs and prevented them from entering the

town of Ayodhya in Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh. The activists were on their way to Ayodhya to participate in a conference to promote peace and communal harmony. The matter was dealt under HRD category/fast track basis. The Commission has called for a report in the matter from the Director General of Police, U. P.

3. Case No. 25733/24/69/2019-WC

Mr. R.S. Chaurasia, Chairman, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Delhi, in his complaint to the Commission alleged that police implicated an innocent social worker in a false criminal case in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. Allegedly, an FIR was registered u/s 323, 504, 506, 452 and 354A IPC and 3(2) (va) of SC/ST Act against one Ram Dahin on serious allegations leveled by a women. However, instead of arresting the named accused, the police arrested

an innocent person. The complaint was immediately registered under HRD category. The Commission has asked its DG (I) to depute a team for an on the spot fact finding investigation and submission of the report.

Action by the Focal point on distress calls to HRDs on imminent threat

Case No. 24782/24/31/2019

Mr. Rajiv Kumar Sharma, Human Rights Defender, UP made a call to Mr. Khaleel Ahmad, the NHRC's Focal Point for HRDs alleging inaction by police in the matter of threat to his life from the accused persons. He took the matter immediately with the SSP, Ghaziabad with a request for immediate appropriate action in the matter and an action taken report be submitted to the Commission. Simultaneously, the matter was also placed before the Commission. The DG(I) was asked to collect facts and

sensitise the police officers, including Senior Superintendent of Police, District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh to take immediate appropriate action in the case.

Case No. 26787/24/41/2019-WC

The Focal Point (HRD) received a complaint in the intervening night of 28.9.2019/29.9.2019, from one Balbir of Meinather, Moradabad, UP, alleging inaction by police in the matter of disappearance of his daughter, who was being allegedly harassed by her in-laws for dowry. It was apprehended that there is an imminent threat to her life. The Focal Point immediately mailed the complaint to SP, Amroha, UP with a request that appropriate action in the matter be immediately taken and an action taken report be submitted to the Commission.

From NHRC Investigation Files

Prisoners with fractured bones Galore in Puzhal Central Jail

Case No. 969/22/13/2017

The Commission received a complaint dated 14.03.2017 from Mr. S. Sundaravelu of District Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu alleging torture in police custody causing fracture in both his legs. Allegedly, police officials also asked him to drink urine and eat human excreta. According to the complainant after coming out of jail, he had to spend one lakh rupees on his treatment.

The State Authorities through various reports reiterated a single and identical version that Sundaravelu was indeed arrested in connection with the case FIR No.102/2017 u/s 294(b) IPC and Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Women Harassment (TNPWH) Act. It was denied that he was illegally detained and tortured in police custody. A copy of the State Report, which substantially denied the allegations was sent to the complainant for comments. He reiterated his allegations and stated that he has evidence to prove his allegations. The Commission got the matter examined and analyzed through its Investigation Division. The Investigation Division of

the Commission also conducted a spot inquiry in the matter, which exposed holes in the claims of the State Police. GD entries regarding the movement of Police to arrest Sundaravelu, his arrest and accidental fall, his movement to the hospital or to the jail were not made. At the time of his arrest, no injury was found on the body of the complainant. However, after the arrest when he was taken to doctor at Chrompet Hospital for examination on 13.1.2017- the day of arrest, the doctor found swelling on both the knees and advised orthopaedic examination. But the police did not take him for any such examination. Sundaravelu was produced before the concerned Magistrate, who allegedly ignored the complainant's version of custodial torture and remanded him to police custody. When the police took him to the Central Jail, Puzhal, the Jail Authorities refused to accept Sundaravelu as he was having injuries and directed to re-examine him in the Royapettah Govt. Hospital. The medical treatment at Royapettah Hospital dated 13-14/1.2017 reveals fracture on both the knees of Sundaravelu. He was then again taken to the Central Jail, Puzhal on the night of 13/14.1.2017 where he was treated and was released on bail on 5.2.2017. The Jail Doctor stated before

the NHRC Investigation team that the victim, Sundaravelu was diagnosed with fracture and this type of fracture might be due to torture during police interrogation. The x-ray produced by Sundaravelu also confirms fracture on the knee.

During the spot enquiry, the Commission's Investigation Team also came to know that there are 91 other under-trial prisoners in Puzhal Central Jail with fracture on different parts of the body such as forehead, forearm, knees etc. at the time of their admission in the jail. The Investigation Team has procured the Health Screening Reports of these 91 under-trial prisoners at the time of their entry into prison. These Health Screening Reports reinforce the reasonable suspicion that the kind of torture causing fracture on the limbs of the prisoners is rampant, which is extremely worrisome to say the least.

The Commission accepted all the recommendation of the Investigation Division and directed as under:

(a) Issue notice to Government of Tamil Nadu through its Chief Secretary to show cause why the Commission should not recommend payment of compensation of Rs. 3 lakhs to be paid to the complainant/victim Sundaravelu

for the custodial torture that he was subjected to in violation of his human rights.

(b) Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu to ensue that criminal case is

registered against the police officials, who are alleged to have caused above custodial torture and to take necessary action as per law.

(c) Director General of Police, Tamil

Nadu to procure the initial Health Screening Reports of the prisoners in other Central Jails in the State of Tamil Nadu, which indicate "fracture" along with the list of such prisoners.

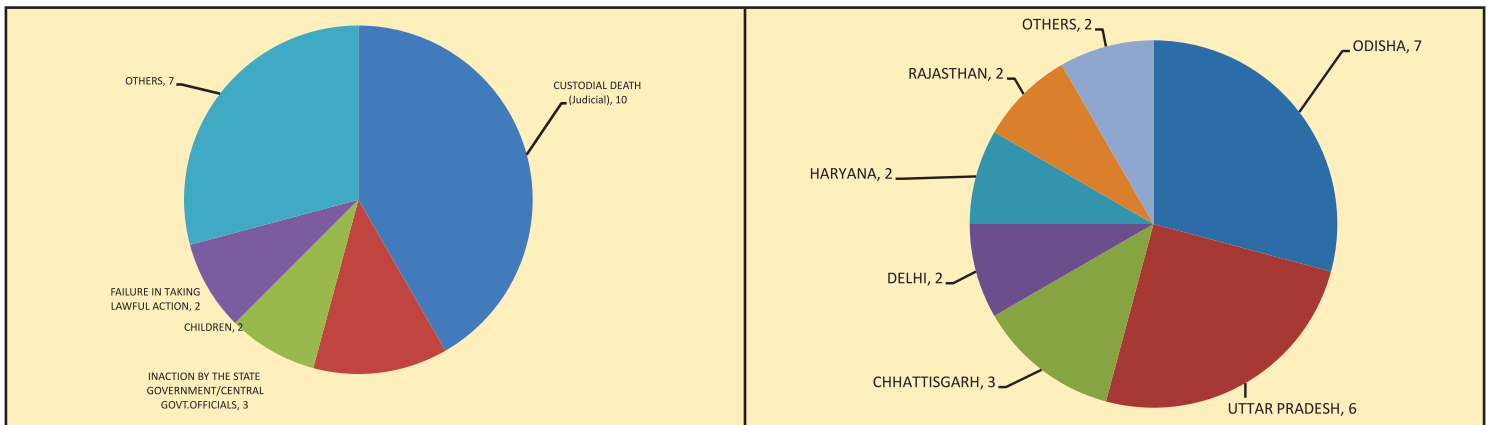
Recommendations for Relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 43 cases were taken up during 02 sitting of the Full Commission and 01 sitting of Divisional Bench in September, 2019. In addition to above, camp sitting open

hearing was held by the Commission at Chennai, Tamilnadu from 12-13 September wherein 189 cases were taken up. On 24 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of Rs. 6725000/- for the victims or their

next of kin, where it found that public servants had either violated human rights or been negligent in protecting them. *The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case no given in the table below:*

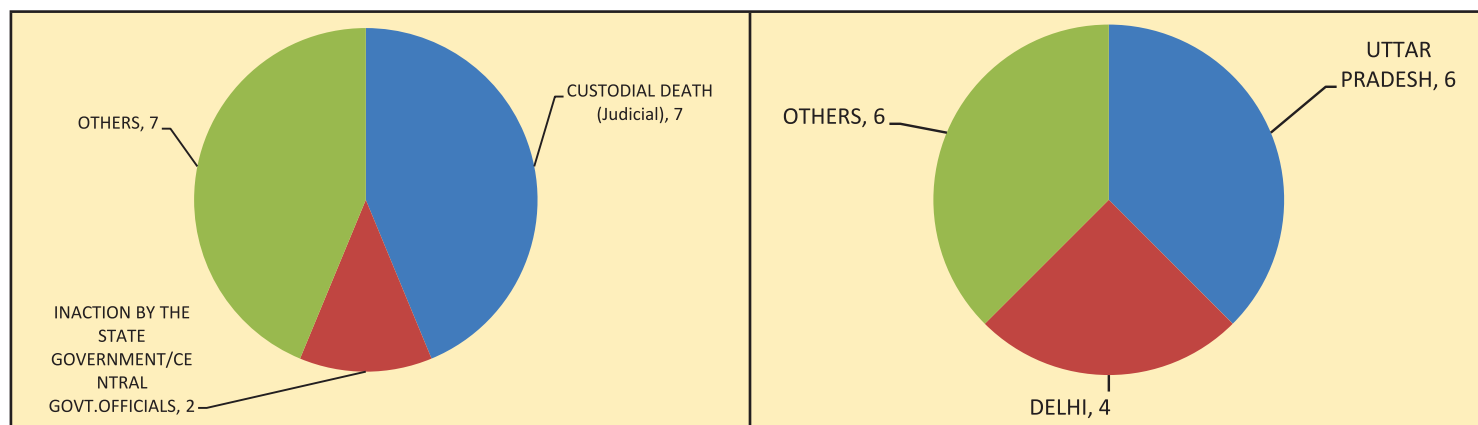
Sr. No	File No	Allegation	Amount (in Rs.)	State
1	15464/24/14/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
2	2085/20/34/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Rajasthan
3	15203/24/25/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
4	22482/24/48/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
5	720/7/5/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Haryana
6	30546/24/64/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	500000	Uttar Pradesh
7	3083/18/24/2018-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	500000	Odisha
8	235/20/7/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	150000	Rajasthan
9	40471/24/70/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
10	711/33/5/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Chhattisgarh
11	1496/12/56/2013	Failure In Taking Lawful Action	50000	Madhya Pradesh
12	685/1/3/2018	Failure In Taking Lawful Action	300000	Andhra Pradesh
13	1737/30/8/2018	Malfunctioning Of Medical Professionals	200000	Delhi
14	15540/18/3/2015	Children	300000	Odisha
15	1680/18/10/2018	Children	100000	Odisha
16	3102/18/7/2017	Inaction By The State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	200000	Odisha
17	4576/18/24/2017	Inaction By The State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	300000	Odisha
18	2931/18/24/2014	Inaction By The State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	150000	Odisha
19	172/33/5/2018	Attempted Murder	1200000	Chhattisgarh
20	15879/24/46/2018-WC	Abduction, Rape And Murder	200000	Uttar Pradesh
21	1722/7/3/2018	Sexual Harassment/Unnatural Offence	200000	Haryana
22	748/33/0/2014	Illegal Arrest	50000	Chhattisgarh
23	1359/30/1/2017-WC	Sexual Harassment At Workplace (Govt. Offices)	25000	Delhi
24	1909/18/14/2017	Atrocities By Custom/Excise/ Enforcement/Forest/Income-Tax Deptt., Etc. Of Central/State Govts.	200000	Odisha



Payment of Relief on NHRC Recommendations

The Commission closed 21 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments, it had recommended, totalling Rs. 4200000/- the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. *The specific details of these cases, closed in September, 2019, can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case no given in the table below:*

Sr. No	File No	Allegations	Amount (in Rs.)	State
1	2166/4/23/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Bihar
2	4341/4/9/2014-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	100000	Bihar
3	469/33/14/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Chhattisgarh
4	3055/30/6/2017	Abuse Of Power	50000	Delhi
5	589/34/22/2012-PF	Abuse Of Power	100000	Jharkhand
6	1174/18/5/2014	Abuse Of Power	100000	Odisha
7	2078/20/5/2016	Abuse Of Power	100000	Rajasthan
8	5921/30/10/2013-WC	Indignity Of Women	100000	Delhi
9	45806/24/6/2013-WC	Indignity Of Women	25000	Uttar Pradesh
10	6839/30/5/2015	Failure In Taking Lawful Action	50000	Delhi
11	2695/12/33/2014	Inaction By The State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	25000	Madhya Pradesh
12	2926/18/17/2017	Inaction By The State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	300000	Odisha
13	3251/18/6/2014	Inaction By The State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	200000	Odisha
14	4477/18/17/2017	Inaction By The State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	600000	Odisha
15	4579/18/2/2017	Inaction By The State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	300000	Odisha
16	4601/18/2/2016	Inaction By The State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	100000	Odisha
17	430/12/32/2012	Hazardous Employments	1200000	Madhya Pradesh
18	2547/24/4/09-10-DH	Death Of Child Staying With Female Prisoner In Judicial Custody	300000	Uttar Pradesh
19	31551/24/62/2017-AR	Alleged Custodial Rape In Police Custody	200000	Uttar Pradesh
20	44748/24/28/2014-WC	Rape	25000	Uttar Pradesh
21	1188/25/15/2014	Immoral Traffic On Children	25000	West Bengal



Research Project on Domestic Workers

Mr. J.C. Pant, Member, NHRC chaired the presentation meeting of two research projects at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi on 27th August, 2019. The first proposal was made on "Domestic Workers in South India and North East: A Situational Analysis from Dignity

and Rights Perspective by Dr. Lekha D Bhatt, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Epidemiology and Public Health, Central University of Tamil Nadu. The second proposed study was on "Vulnerability, Legal Protection and Work Condition of Domestic Workers"

by Dr. Himani Gupta, Associate Professor, Jagannath International Management Institute. Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Director General (Investigation) and the other senior officers of the Commission were present.

Research project on impact, implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at work place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act

The Commission has entrusted a research project titled "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013: A Study to assess its impact, implementation issues and concerns in various Government/ Semi-Government/PSUs/Private Sectors in Delhi (NCR)" to National

Law University Delhi. The Principal Investigator of the project, Dr. Ritu Gupta made a presentation on the status of the research project in a meeting held on 8th August 2019 in the Manav Adhikar Bhawan. Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Member, NHRC chaired the presentation. It was attended by Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary

General and other senior officers of the Commission.

The study also aims at highlighting the potential role that NHRC can play in devising an operative procedure/ model procedure in effective implementation of the said Act in the circumstance where this part is found lacking.

Meetings of Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

Mr. Jaideep Govind, SG, NHRC represented the Commission at various meetings of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions organized in Seoul, South Korea from 2-5 September, 2019. These were:

(a) Government Committee of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions on 02nd September, 2019.

(b) 24th Annual General Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human



NHRC Secretary General Mr. Jaideep Govind (4th from right) at Meeting of Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

Rights Institutions from 03-04 September, 2019. Making a statement in the AGM, Mr. Govind highlighted the activities undertaken during NHRCs Silver Jubilee celebrations in 2018, E-governance initiatives, roping in of the Common Service Centres located throughout the length and breadth of India, the key challenges and the lessons learnt. He also informed the international community that with the recent amendment in the Protection of Human Rights

Act, 1993, the strength of Members and ex-officio Members of the NHRC, India has been increased. A representation of a female Member has also been added. He also informed the delegates about the applicability and jurisdiction of the PHR Act in the wake of the recent J&K reorganization Act enacted by Parliament. The meeting was attended by 25 member institutions of APF. The representatives from Asian NGOs network on National Human Rights Institutions (ANNI) participated, and three NHRIs from Fiji, Pakistan and

Tuvalu attended as Observers.

(c) 2019 Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, hosted by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, on 05 September, 2019. In this meeting Mr. Govind addressed the second session on Cooperation between international organizations, government institutions, CSOs and NHRIs who Counter Hate and discrimination. He shared the ancient ethos of India, Gandhi's philosophy, practice in India and said that the

Constitutional framework and legal provisions, promoting substantive equality, including freedom from discrimination for all persons were among the key tenets of human rights, which is the basis of very first article of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the international community in 1948. He also highlighted mechanisms, which are in practice in NHRC, India to safeguard the citizens on matters concerning police action and custodial justice.

22nd Session of the Committee on the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

A delegation of the NHRC officers comprising Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Under Secretary and Mr. Nishith, Section Officer attended the 22nd session of the Committee on the Convention on "Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), at Geneva, Switzerland on 2-3rd September, 2019. The officers were nominated for the independent participation during a dialogue between the State party delegation and the Committee by making an initial statement, answering questions posed by Committee members and making final remarks. Making



(Right to Left): NHRC Under Secretary, Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Section Officer, Mr. Nishith

an oral statement, Mr. Sanjay drew attention to a whole range of positive developments taken place since India's ratification of UNCRPD for the benefit of persons with disabilities (PWD). These included, among others, the enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPD) in the year 2016, aligning of the Mental Health Care Act 2017 with the UNCRPD, Constitution of the Core Group on disability and elderly persons by the NHRC, India aligning of some domestic laws with UNCRPD.

31st Session of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers

Another delegation of the NHRC officers comprising Mr. D.M. Tripathy, Under Secretary and Mr. Mukesh, Assistant Registrar (Law) participated in the 31st session of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of all migrant Workers and Members



(Right to Left): NHRC Assistant Registrar (Law), Mr. Mukesh Kumar and Under Secretary, Mr. D.M. Tripathy

of their families (CMW) in Geneva, Switzerland from 2nd-4th September, 2019. A gamut of issues concerning the rights of migrant workers in the context of developments in different countries were discussed to address them and find ways how best to ensure the protection of their rights.

NHRC Short Term Internship

The fourth batch of more structured Short Term Internship, STI was held from 16th to 30th September, 2019. Twenty students completed it. They were exposed to various aspects of human rights including laws, jurisdiction and functioning of the Commission. They were taken for field visits and given project works on human rights issues and also participated in the declamation competition for which cash prizes were also announced for the winners. The NHRC Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Pant, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra and Dr. D.M. Mulay, and other senior officers interacted with them. Some subject specialists, including human rights defenders,



NHRC Member Dr. D.M. Mulay, flanked by officers of the Commission with interns at the valedictory session

were also invited as guest speakers to interact with them. All the students

were given certificates on completion of their internship.

NHRC Children's Painting Competition on Contemporary Issues Concerning Humanity

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India, in run up to its Foundation Day celebrations on the 12th October, 2019, organized a painting competition under various themes for children in three age group categories at its premises in New Delhi on the 28 September, 2019. Total 108 children participated. The aim was to encourage children to express their idea of the world, creatively with a rights perspective. The themes were on contemporary issues concerning humanity, which included among others, 'Save Earth', 'Clean India/Healthy India', 'Women Empowerment', 'Single Use Plastic Ban'.

Mrs Jyotika Kalra, Member, Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Director General



NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Director General (I), Mr. Prabhat Singh and other senior officers and staff with the children

(Investigation) and other senior officers and staff of the Commission were present. Mrs Kalra interacted with all the three groups of the children and motivated them to express themselves freely through their paintings.

The three winners in the first category (up to 08 yrs) were: Samridhi Rai, Vedant and Vaishnavi Gusain. In the Second category (9-13 yrs), the three

winners were: Tavishi Talwar, Krishna Rawat and Rashi Bathmi. In the senior age group (14-17 yrs), the three winners were: Yashvi Kumar, Ashish kumar and Mathangi Saji.

The themes for the first Category were: My Home, My Garden, Any other topic of your choice. For the II Category the themes were: My School, My Family, Jungle Scene. The themes for

the III Category were: Save Earth, Clean India/Healthy India, Women Empowerment, Single Use Plastic Ban.

The winners are given the cash awards and certificates on the Foundation Day of the Commission. Besides this, the prize winning paintings will be exhibited and also used in the cover designs of NHRC publications.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Achievements of NHRC

(i) Public Financial Management System (PFMS):

Besides using the software for

managing accounts and salary, the Commission has also implemented Public Financial Management

System for processing Pension & Provident Fund of employees and EAT Module for managing

expenditure, advances and transfer.

Before starting the use of PFMS EAT module in NHRC, a workshop was conducted for employees of NHRC from 08 to 09, Aug 2019 in its building. The workshop was inaugurated by Sh. Dilip Kumar, Joint Secretary (A&R), NHRC and attended by around 20 officials of NHRC including Sh. Sanjay Dubey, Director (Admn), Sh. Sanjeev Sharma, SSA and Sh. Manik Lal Bhattacharji, Sr. A.O.

(ii) Workshop on HRCNet Portal:

NHRC has conducted a 3-day workshop for the State Human Rights Commission who were required training on the HRCNet Portal before on-boarding. The workshop was held from 21.08.2019 to 23.08.2019 and attended by the officials from Bihar, Sikkim, Manipur, Tripura and Chattisgarh SHRCs.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, NHRC. He welcomed the officials from SHRCs and encouraged to use HRCNet Portal for reducing duplicate cases and to upload the legacy data. Mr. Dilip Kumar, Joint Secretary, Mr. Sudhir Chandra and Mr. H. S. Arora, Sr. Technical Directors, NIC & Mr.

Sanjeev Sharma, SSA attended also and addressed the workshop.

At present, **NHRC and 19 SHRCs have been on-boarded on HRCNet Portal.** While SHRCs for states Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh are yet to send their consent for on-boarding the HRCNet, there is no Chairperson/Member in SHRCs for states Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh.

(iii) Newsletter Module for Media & Communication Unit:

The Commission has been sending Newsletter to apex bodies, media houses, universities, Central Govt. Ministries/ departments, State Govts, National Commissions, State Commissions etc. NHRC has designed a computerised system to maintain the address records, print of complete/partial lists, print address labels and search. The software has been hosted on NIC Cloud and can be accessed by multiple users at a time.

(iv) Online Submission of Reports by State Authorities to NHRC:

For enabling the State Nodal Officers Human Rights (Civil & Police) to see the details of pending cases of respective states, NHRC

has made provision in its HRCNet Portal (www.hrcnet.nic.in). Through the portal, Nodal officers can see complaint details, complainant details, incident details and all orders passed by the commission in the matter and can also upload the reports to be submitted to NHRC.

(v) Integration of Online Complaint Filing System with Common Service Centres:

The media & Communication Wing of the Commission worked on a project bridging a collaboration between the Computer Cell, the Law Division of the NHRC and the Common Service Centre, Government of India to integrate NHRCs online complaint filing system with CSCs. 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, complaints can also send them through the Common Service Centres.

(vi) Human Rights Defenders cases details:

NHRC has made provision to display list of cases regarding alleged violations of human rights on Human Rights Defenders.

Snippets



NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Secretary General Mr. Jaideep Govind, Director (Admn.), Dr. Sanjay Dubey and other senior officers interacted with the visiting German delegation on 19th September, 2019.

NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Pant, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra and Dr. D. M. Mulay, S.G., Mr. Jaideep Govind, D.G.(I) Mr. Prabhat Singh, at the Full Commission meeting to finalize the award winning films from the Jury's list of recommended films. DD (M&C), J.K. Srivastava and associated staff were also present.



Special Drive for Cleanliness: The Commission organized a special drive for cleanliness as part of Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign on 30.9.2019 and 01.10.2019 to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October, 2019.

Hindi Fortnight: The Commission organized various events to promote the use of official language in its day-to-day working during Hindi Fortnight from 14th-28th September, 2019. The officers and staff of the Commission actively participated in Prashn Manch competition, General Hindi competition and Hindi Essay competition, Hindi Typing, Sulekh etc.

