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Inside

■ National Seminar on Elimination of Bonded Labour...	2	■ Working Group Meeting on Indian Seafarers	10
■ Suo Motu Cognizance	3	■ Presentation of Research Proposal on "Human Rights..."	10
■ Cases of Human Right Defenders	3	■ NHRC Core Group Meetings	10
■ Spot Enquiries	4	■ NHRC Presents Awards to Three Writers for their...	10
■ Recommendations for Relief	5	■ Winners of NHRC Short Film Award Competition - 2019	11
■ Payment of Relief on NHRC Recommendations	6	■ NHRC Short Term Internship	11
■ Success Stories	7	■ Visit	12
■ International Conference on Migration And Bureau...	8	■ Human Rights and NHRC in News	12

**"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong."
— Mahatma Gandhi**

National Seminar on Elimination of Bonded Labour System



Union Labour Minister, Mr. Santosh Kumar Gangwar (in centre) flanked by NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Pant & Dr. D.M. Mulay and Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind

The National human rights Commission, NHRC, India organized a day-long National Seminar on 'Elimination of Bonded Labour System' at India International Centre on the 8th November, 2019. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness among the various stakeholders to eliminate the persisting menace of Bonded labour and child labour, which has found newer ways to manifest itself in varied vocations. The concern was also how to sensitize DMs/SDMs to eliminate this menace from our society. Human Trafficking and the issues of Inter-State Migrant Workers was also a part of the problem of bonded labour, which needed to be addressed.

Addressing the inaugural session, Mr. Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Union labour Minister said that the cases of bonded labour are proliferating on a daily basis and the issue requires serious attention. He said that there is a Pencil Portal for receiving complaints about Bonded Labour. He also spoke about the revised scheme by Centre under which enhanced monetary relief is provided to the rescued bonded labourers for their rehabilitation. He said that District Magistrates have to play an important role to eliminate bonded labour system.

Mr. Justice P.C. Pant, Member, NHRC said that the Commission has been consistently maintaining a dialogue with different stakeholders

to end this menace. Apart from taking cognizance of the complaints of bonded labour, the Commission has also been organizing regional workshops to build awareness about the related laws and the role of administrative machinery. He said that the real problem lies in the implementation of Bonded labour Abolition Act. Justice Pant said that the bonded labour cases should be heard in fast track courts to provide expeditious justice to the victims of bonded labour and punishment to the guilty.

Earlier, Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, NHRC said that the dimensions of bonded labour has changed. Now, it is found to be existing in both rural and urban pockets in unorganized industries such as brick kilns, stone quarries, coal mining, agricultural labour, domestic servitude, circus and sexual slavery.

The Seminar was divided into three thematic sessions-The Commitment, Review and Accountability for Eradication of the Bonded Labour System, Review of the State's Action on Implementation of Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme: Challenges and Good Practices and Review of the State's Action on Implementation of Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme: Challenges and Good Practices.

Some of the important suggestions were as follows:

- link skills with emerging demand

of the economy and make them more employable;

- Enhance or upgrade the existing skills of the rescued bonded labourers for their social and economic empowerment;
- Provide other skills such as financial literacy, communications skills, marketing skills and digital literacy to empower them under State Skill Development Programme.
- The government must ensure that the workers in the unorganized sectors receive minimum wages and Minimum Support Price;
- Proper coordination at inter-ministerial level needs to be maintained to end the menace of bonded labour;
- Bonded labour needs to be educated and made aware of his legal rights and entitlements under various laws and welfare schemes;
- The appropriate authorities, while issuing the release certificates to victims, should also provide the list of entitled schemes to the victims;
- Rescued bonded labourers should be provided immediate financial assistance along with their release certificates;
- There should be effective functioning of Vigilance Committees at the State, District and Taluka levels to identify, rescue, release, rehabilitate and reintegrate bonded and child labourers into society;
- The role of Vigilance Committees and the impact of survivors being a part of VCs also needs to be highlighted.

Chairing the Seminar, Justice Pant in his concluding remarks said that these suggestions will be taken into consideration by the Commission. He also appealed to all the stakeholders at the Seminar to work in a convergent and cooperative manner to fight these

issues and help the Commission create a more inclusive society as was dreamt by the makers of the Constitution of India.

Besides the senior officers of the

Commission, the Seminar was attended by the representatives of the concerned Ministries of the Central Government, National Commissions, SHRCs, NGOs, Secretaries/Principal Secretaries from the Departments of Labour, Rural

Development Women and Child and SC/ST and concerned senior officers and District Magistrates from Bonded Labour prone districts of all the States/UTs.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in two cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during 1-30th November, 2019, and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summary of the cases is as follows:

Death in police custody (1253/34/2019-AD)

The media reported on the 26th November, 2019 that a resident of Kedi Mau village in Hunterganj of Chatra District, Jharkhand was taken into custody by the police on 24.11.2019 on suspicion of being a supporter of Naxalites. Later he died. The family members of the deceased and the villagers, reportedly, alleged that the victim was a farmer and he had been illegally arrested, physically tortured and killed by the police personnel. Reportedly, the police team asked him to guide them in the forest to arrest some Naxalites. The victim was perfectly alright when he was arrested by the police.

The Commission has observed that even if, the police personnel had apprehension that the victim was involved in the Naxal activities, his death in police custody cannot be justified in any manner. Apparently, the victim died in police custody and the sequence of events is indicative of possible abuse of power by the police force, violating the right to life of the deceased. A precious life has been lost and it is indeed a matter of concern for the Commission.

Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, DGP, Jharkhand calling for a detailed report

in the matter. This should include the Inquest report, Magisterial Enquiry Report under section 176 (1a) Cr.P.C, Post-mortem examination report along with its video, record of treatment at primary health centre and the district hospital, where the deceased was, reportedly, taken before his death.

The Commission has also directed the DGP, Jharkhand to sensitize the officers concerned and submit an explanation why this matter was not reported to the Commission within the stipulated 24 hours of the occurrence of the custodial death in spite of specific directions given to all the state authorities.

32 bonded labourers at a brick kiln (1141/1/2019-BL)

The media reported on 19th November, 2019 about the painful story of 32 bonded labourers from the State of Odisha pleading for their rescue from a brick kiln at Kanumpalli Cross in Garladinne Mandal of the Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh. As mentioned in the news report, the victim labourers sent out an SOS to their relatives and friends back home for their rescue from travails they were undergoing for the past several months.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, indicate that the district authorities have failed to do their lawful duty to protect the labourers from victimization. Hence, strict action is required to be taken against the delinquent officers and appropriate legal action is also required to be taken against the brick kiln owner.

Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh calling for a detailed report in the matter.

The district authorities are expected to immediately rescue all the bonded labourers, issue release certificates and start process of the payment of the statutory relief, immediately. The authorities are also expected to ensure safe journey of the rescued labourers to their native place and in case any of them requires medical/ health care assistance that should be provided without fail.

The Commission has further observed that going by the contents of the media report, it appears to be a case of violation of human rights of the victims. The labourers were being kept under bondage including children and women without any basic amenities, which are in violation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Strict action is required to be taken against the brick kiln owner as well as the officers concerned for their negligence.

The Commission has also observed that a large number of poor labourers fall prey to violators of law across the country due to poverty and lack of education and awareness about the existing laws. It has been insisting from every platform by organising conferences and seminars at national level that the authorities concerned are required to be more vigilant and that the guilty are required to be punished without any delay, which is necessary to create a healthy environment for the labourers to work with dignity.

Cases of Human Right Defenders

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

Case No. 31891/24/31/2019

Mr. Rajhans Bansal, Director, Centre for Human Rights has stated that he is a Human Right Defender and in

pursuance of the same, has filed a PIL in High Court regarding banning of unethical and illegal Spas and Massage Parlours and an order has been passed regarding the same. The Complainant

has further alleged that as a result of this order from the High Court, the Sex racket Mafia has been threatening to falsely implicate him on rape and trafficking charges and get him killed in jail. The Complainant has further stated that all the false allegations are leading to defamation and causing a threat to his life. The Commission has asked the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh for taking requisite action and submit an action taken report to it.

Case No. 2953/4/24/2019

Mr. Henri Tiphagne, National Working Secretary, Human Rights Defenders

Alert-India has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging illegal detention and torture of RTI Activist HRD, Mr. Dhananjay Kumar @ Guddu Kumar in police custody by Bihar Police in Bihar Sharif. The Commission has called for a report in the matter from the Senior Superintendent of Police, Nalanda, Bihar.

Case No. 29418/24/64/2019

In yet another complaint, Mr Tiphagne has alleged continuous detention and harassment of Dalit Rights Activist, Mr. Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan, who is lodged in jail since long time without

any fair trial. The Commission called for a report in the matter from the District Magistrate, Saharanpur, UP and Superintendent of Police, UP.

Case No. 30958/24/21/2019

Mr. Avinash Kumar Singh, Human Rights Activist, has sent a complaint to the Commission alleging that he was attacked by some Gangsters. He has also alleged that there is an imminent threat to his life from the Gangsters and requested for police protection. The Commission has called for a report in the matter from the Director General of Police, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

SPOT ENQUIRIES

Following is the list of cases wherein the enquiries were conducted by the Commission's officers:

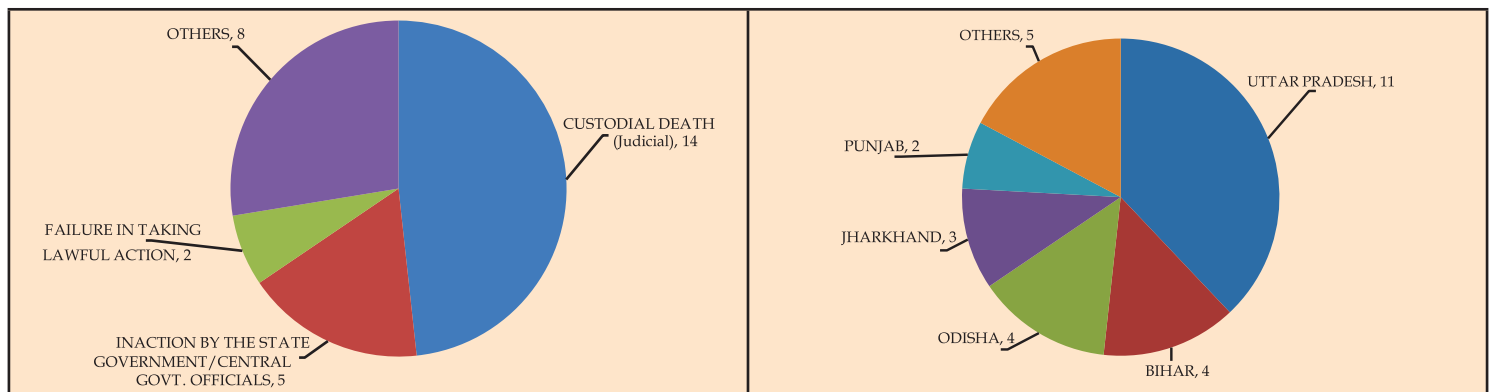
Spot Enquiry during the month of November, 2019

S. No.	Case Number	I/O's Name (S/sh./Ms.)	Date of Visit	Allegations in brief
1	27074/24/49/2019	Insp. Manoj Dahiya & Insp. Kulwant Singh	04.11.2019 - 08.11.2019	Alleged harassment by police as well as by local authorities, who demolished the house of the complainant.
2	1875/7/3/2019	DSP Kulbir Singh & Insp. Arun Tyagi	04.11.2019 - 08.11.2019	Alleged police harassment of the complainant.
3	2759/30/10/2019	DSP M.S. Gill & Insp. Manoj Dahiya	18.11.2019 - 22.11.2019	Abuse of power by police personnel of PS Kotla Mubarak Pur, New Delhi
4	1685/25/22/2019	DSP Rajendra Singh & Insp. Manoj Dahiya	25.11.2019 - 29.11.2019	Atrocities committed by police personnel of PS Keshpur, Distt. Midnapur, WB on BJP followers.
5	12105/24/1/2019	DSP Rajvir Singh & Insp. Saroj Tiwari	04.11.2019 - 08.11.2019	Illegal gratification demanded by the Dy. Jailor, on denial Dy. Jailor assaulted her husband brutally.
6	27177/24/30/2019	DSP Bimaljit Uppal & Insp. Randheer Kumar	13.11.2019 - 16.11.2019	Alleged death of complainant's son during checking by Traffic police
7	4316/30/4/2019-WC	DSP Bimaljit Uppal, Insp. Monia Uppal, Insp. Deepak Kumar & 3 Medical Experts from different hospitals	18.11.2019 - 26.11.2019	Alleged rape of mentally retarded woman in Asha Kiran Home, Delhi.
8	1686/25/22/2019	DSP Rajvir Singh, DSP Rajinder Singh, Insp. Lal Bahar & Insp. Arun Tyagi	25.11.2019 - 29.11.2019	Police Personnel of PS Keshpur, Distt. Midnapur, WB threatened to kill, caused humilitaition and lodged false cases against the complainant & his family members.
9	1745/20/14/2019	DSP I.R. Kurillose, Insp. Monia Uppal & Insp. Deepak Yadav	04.11.2019 - 08.11.2019	Non-availability of basic facilities like water, food in hostel of Maharaja College, Jaipur and threatening by hostel authorities.
10	2023/7/3/2019	Insp. Lal Bahar & Insp. Jintu Saikia	04.11.2019 - 08.11.2019	Alleged man-handling and inaction by the police.
11	35186/24/25/2017-PCD	DSP Isam Singh & Insp. Arun Kumar	04.11.2019 - 08.11.2019	Custodial death at PS Kotwali Farrukhabad, UP
12	7/26/0/2015	DSP I.R. Kurillose, Insp. Monia Uppal & Insp. Jintu Saikia	18.11.2019 - 22.11.2019	False implication and illegal arrest in Andaman Nicobar.

Recommendations for Relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 93 cases were taken up during 02 sitting of the Full Commission. On 29 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of Rs. 79,25,000/- for the victims or their next of kin, where it found that public servants had either violated human rights or been negligent in protecting them. *The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case no given in the table below:*

S. No	File No	Inc. Name	Amount (in Rs.)	State
1	592/1/4/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Andhra Pradesh
2	43572/24/43/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Uttar Pradesh
3	44795/24/61/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Uttar Pradesh
4	6598/24/62/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
5	141/33/16/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Chhattisgarh
6	1050/34/6/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Jharkhand
7	1521/34/5/2018-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Jharkhand
8	1559/34/5/2018-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Jharkhand
9	1459/12/21/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Madhya Pradesh
10	1418/19/1/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	600000	Punjab
11	767/19/9/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Punjab
12	1600/20/14/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Rajasthan
13	28163/24/9/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
14	3078/24/51/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
15	16114/24/19/2018	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt.officials	500000	Uttar Pradesh
16	3516/18/30/2014	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	250000	Odisha
17	1019/18/2/2018	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	200000	Odisha
18	27804/24/55/2018	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt.officials	100000	Uttar Pradesh
19	1618/4/5/2017	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	200000	Bihar
20	2445/4/11/2011-PF	Abuse Of Power	500000	Bihar
21	389/4/39/2015	Failure In Taking Lawful Action	25000	Bihar
22	2217/18/13/2018	Miscellaneous	100000	Odisha
23	4370/18/28/2018	Death Due To Electrocution	300000	Odisha
24	17426/24/35/2018	Harassment Of Prisoners	500000	Uttar Pradesh
25	17823/24/55/2017	Atrocities On SC/ST (By Police)	150000	Uttar Pradesh
26	31045/24/62/2015-WC	Rape Outside Police Station	300000	Uttar Pradesh
27	37780/24/12/2018-AD	Alleged Custodial Deaths In Police Custody	300000	Uttar Pradesh
28	24/25/6/2018	Failure In Taking Lawful Action	200000	West Bengal
29	1435/4/30/2011	Victimisation	500000	Bihar

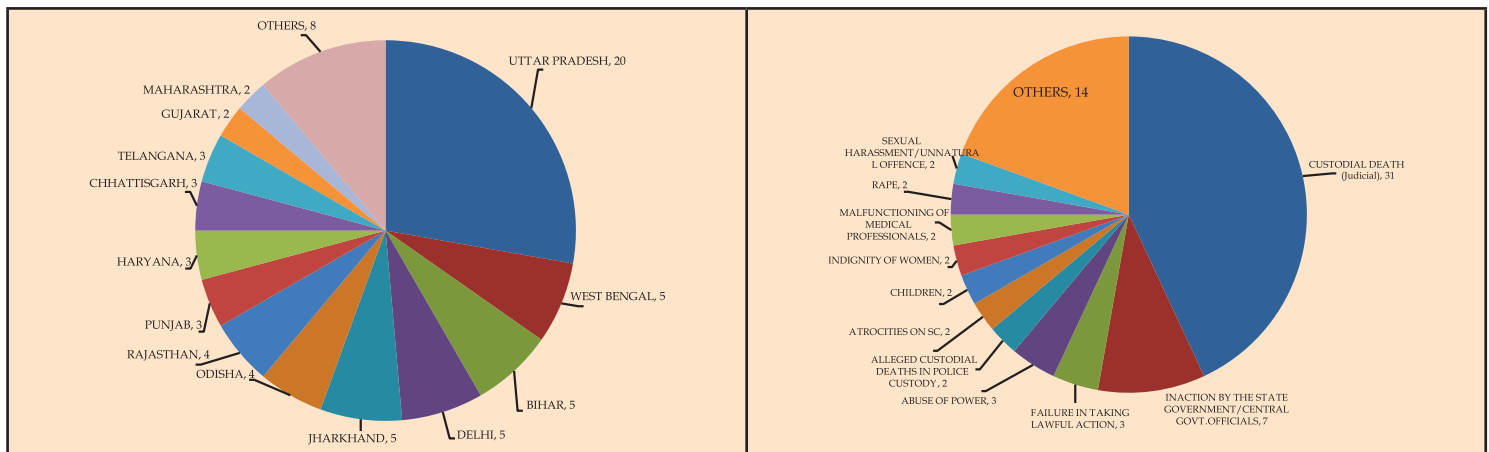


Payment of Relief on NHRC Recommendations

The Commission closed 72 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments, it had recommended, totalling Rs. 1,62,00,000/- the victim of human rights violations or their next of kin. *The specific details of these cases, closed in November, 2019, can be downloaded from the NHRC website by logging the case no given in the table below:*

S. No	File No	Inc. Name	Amount (in Rs.)	State
1	890/1/3/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Andhra Pradesh
2	222/3/24/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	500000	Assam
3	1211/4/26/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Bihar
4	2899/4/23/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Bihar
5	1452/25/9/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	West Bengal
6	231/25/5/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	West Bengal
7	77/25/13/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	West Bengal
8	1149/25/3/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	West Bengal
9	44077/24/57/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Uttar Pradesh
10	45795/24/9/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
11	46752/24/4/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
12	49482/24/4/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
13	27480/24/31/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Uttar Pradesh
14	17937/24/64/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Uttar Pradesh
15	12808/24/26/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Uttar Pradesh
16	84/20/29/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Rajasthan
17	634/22/15/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Tamil Nadu
18	25/36/9/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Telangana
19	1506/19/5/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Punjab
20	1646/19/3/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Punjab
21	1866/19/1/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Punjab
22	2424/20/14/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Rajasthan
23	36/17/1/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	300000	Nagaland
24	1658/18/28/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Odisha
25	811/34/7/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Jharkhand
26	15/8/3/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Himachal Pradesh
27	5324/30/9/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	150000	Delhi
28	345/33/14/2016-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Chhattisgarh
29	453/33/13/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Chhattisgarh
30	554/33/6/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Chhattisgarh
31	4763/30/0/2017-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	200000	Delhi
32	24745/24/5/2013-AD	Alleged Custodial Deaths In Police Custody	100000	Uttar Pradesh
33	12031/24/60/2016-AD	Alleged Custodial Deaths In Police Custody	400000	Uttar Pradesh
34	3370/4/21/2014-AD	Alleged Deaths In Judicial Custody	300000	Bihar
35	1846/12/55/2016-AR	Alleged Custodial Rape In Judicial Custody	300000	Madhya Pradesh
36	857/4/26/2015	Sexual Harassment/Unnatural Offence	30000	Bihar
37	31960/24/43/2016	Sexual Harassment/Unnatural Offence	200000	Uttar Pradesh
38	5275/30/7/2016	Abuse of Power	25000	Delhi
39	1383/34/16/2016	Abuse of Power	100000	Jharkhand
40	875/34/2/2015	Abuse of Power	25000	Jharkhand
41	5889/30/0/2013-WC	Indignity of Women	100000	Delhi
42	41657/24/53/2013-WC	Indignity of Women	10000	Uttar Pradesh
43	389/4/39/2015	Failure In Taking Lawful Action	25000	Bihar

44	32338/24/18/2016	Failure In Taking Lawful Action	25000	Uttar Pradesh
45	7057/30/4/2011	Failure In Taking Lawful Action	400000	Delhi
46	6807/7/3/2015	Atrocities on SC	25000	Haryana
47	2981/7/6/2013	Atrocities on SC	100000	Haryana
48	535/20/10/2013	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	300000	Rajasthan
49	408/34/4/2015	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	200000	Jharkhand
50	3008/18/24/2017	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	600000	Odisha
51	3206/18/14/2017	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	100000	Odisha
52	29674/24/54/2011	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	600000	Uttar Pradesh
53	10642/24/40/2014	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	100000	Uttar Pradesh
54	1095/35/5/2016	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	300000	Uttarakhand
55	16114/24/19/2018	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	500000	Uttar Pradesh
56	22512/24/19/2015	Inaction By The State Government/Central Govt. officials	200000	Uttar Pradesh
57	192/18/12/2014	Children	20000	Odisha
58	760/36/10/2017	Children	25000	Telangana
59	511/1/23/2013	Harassment Of Prisoners	500000	Telangana
60	932/13/19/2017-WC	Rape Outside Police Station	300000	Maharashtra
61	295/20/23/2016-WC	Rape of SC	25000	Rajasthan
62	19216/24/54/2014-WC	Gang Rape	300000	Uttar Pradesh
63	40/23/4/2016-WC	Rape	100000	Tripura
64	42387/24/9/2015-WC	Rape	25000	Uttar Pradesh
65	5334/24/31/2012-WC	Dowry Death or Their Attempt	25000	Uttar Pradesh
66	9430/24/9/2016	Custodial Torture	30000	Uttar Pradesh
67	1352/25/5/2017-WC	Sexual Harassment At Workplace (Govt. offices)	200000	West Bengal
68	1012/6/9/2011	Public Health Hazards	2000000	Gujarat
69	1035/6/25/2015	Police Motivated Incidents	1100000	Gujarat
70	6197/7/4/2014	Irregularities In Govt. hospitals/Primary Health Centres	100000	Haryana
71	704/34/18/2016	Victimisation	10000	Jharkhand
72	541/13/23/2015	Illegal Arrest	25000	Maharashtra



Success Stories

1) Case No. 10642/24/40/2014

The Commission had received a complaint dated 05/03/2014 from Smt. Tarawati w/o Suraj, r/o Village Imiliya, PS Raksa, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh alleging that her son Ajit aged about 17 years died due to

electrocution by coming in contact with a live wire. It was further alleged that an electricity conductor had fallen on her son resulting in his death on 23/02/2014. Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, the state authorities submitted requisite

reports wherein it was stated that an amount of Rs. 1 Lakh was sanctioned and awarded to the complainant by the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. as compensation. This Commission however observed that the said unfortunate incident happened due

to violation of the provisions of Indian Electricity Rules 1956 and due to wrongful installations by the Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. The Commission further observed and came down heavily on the public authorities for inordinate delay in registering the FIR in the incident. Therefore, a sum of additional amount of Rs. 1 lakh was recommended by the Commission in favour of the NoK of the victim, which has been paid by the public authority in compliance and the same has been brought on record vide date 5/11/2019.

2) Case No. 262.2603/4/9/2014-JCD

The Commission had received an intimation regarding custodial death of an under trial prisoner named Virendar Kumar aged about 42 years s/o Lt. Indrajeet r/o Krishnapuri, Parvatia Tola, Pashchim Champaran, Bihar on 27/06/2014 in the custody of District Jail, Bettiah. Upon examination of all relevant records submitted by the public authority, it was observed by the Commission that the deceased was assaulted in the jail, which led to his unfortunate and untimely death. This Commission has observed that the State which is responsible for protection of the life of the jail inmates, failed to exercise due care and caution due to which a life was lost. In consequence, the Commission recommended a sum of Rs. 5 lakh to the NoK of the deceased which has been paid by the public authority to the wife of the deceased and taken on record vide date 21/08/2019.

3) Case No. 618/4/8/2014

The Commission received a complaint from Mr. Raj Hans Bansal regarding acid attack on four girls on 09/02/2014. Pursuant to the directions of this Commission, a case vide FIR No. 56/2014 u/s 341/342/343/326/302/354/120B/34 IPC was registered at PS Ghorasahan and consequently, a charge-sheet was also filed before the court against the offenders. In pursuance of further directions of the Commission, the State authorities have filed report that a compensation of Rs. 3 lakh each was given to all four acid attack victims, which has been taken on record vide date 22/10/2019 of this Commission.

4) Case No. 17823/24/55/2017

The complainant Kirti Kamal had alleged that he and his two associates were remanded to judicial custody and taken to District Prison, Mirzapur on 16.05.2017. At the time of their search, three police personnel pocketed the money found in the pockets of his two associates. In the evening, when the complainant enquired about the money he was slapped, abused by caste names and threatened, if receipt of confiscated items and money is demanded.

In this regard, reports received from the authorities revealed that the allegations were found true against the Jail warden, and he was penalized by non-payment of increment of current year without affecting the future increments. The Commission, after

perusal of records vide its proceedings dated 25.11.2019, recommended an interim compensation of Rs.50 thousand each to the complainants Kirti, Sanjay and Kamal Kishore Singh for the violation of their human rights. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of U.P. has been directed to submit compliance report along with the proof of payment.

5) Case No. 7057/30/4/2011

It was alleged by the Complainant that a serving Delhi Police official, not only robbed gold ornaments of her husband but also shot at him inflicting fatal injuries. In an attempt to escape from the spot of crime, the accused had also shot at another public spirited person, who made an attempt to nab him. That person succumbed to injuries during treatment at a hospital.

Pursuant to the Commission's directions, DCP, North District, Delhi Police reported that the accused, who was posted as a Head Constable in 7th Bn. DAP, had been arrested and FIR no. 128/11 dated 25-9-2011 u/s 394/397/302/307 IPC and 25/27 of Arms Act was registered against him. Subsequently, the police official was dismissed from service.

The Commission recommended that the Government of NCT of Delhi pay Rs. Two Lakh each to the Next of kin of deceased victims. The Chief Secretary, Govt of NCT of Delhi has released the compensation of Rs. two lakh to NOK of both the deceased victims.

International Conference On Migration And Bureau Meeting of GANHRI

A two member delegation from National Human Rights Commission, India comprising Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Member and Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, attended the International Conference on Migration and Bureau Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, GANHRI at Medellin, Colombia from 19th to 22nd November, 2019.

The International Conference on Migration was organized by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

(OHCHR) with the participation of NHRIs from all around the world.

The Conference assumed significance in view of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the potentially crucial role that National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) can play in advocating adherence to and implementation of the same. Apart from the representatives of NHRIs from all regions of the world, representatives of Member States, international experts, representatives of the UN, civil society organizations and other stakeholders attended the Conference.

Conference on Migration

The Conference was divided into three panel discussions – (a) Human Mobility in the current World; (b) Forced Migration and International Response; and (c) Migration in the American Continent.

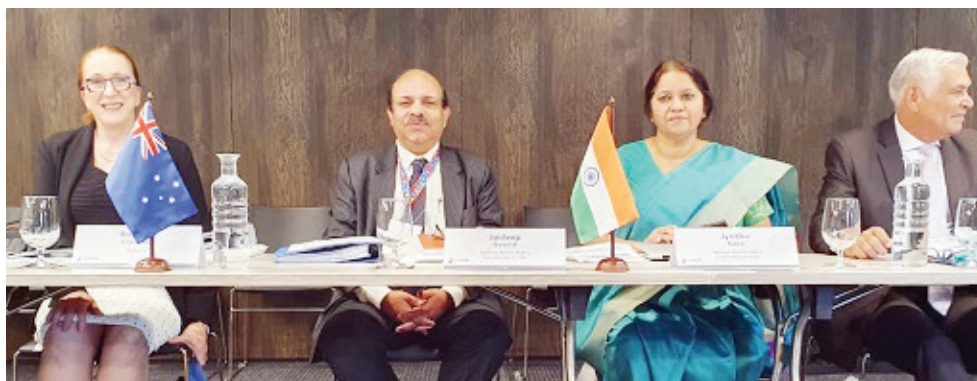
During the discussions in the Conference on Migration, Mrs. Kalra and Mr. Govind were among the panelists on the subject of 'Human Mobility in the Current World'. The entire discussion centered on the large scale influx of Venezuelan people to Colombia ever since the economic crisis that gripped Venezuela.

Mrs. Jyotika Kalra gave an account of Indian experience on the migration front. She referred to initial stages of migration right from the partition days in 1947 when the Hindus migrated from Pakistan to different parts of the country and then at the time of 1971 war from Bangladesh. She not only touched upon international migration, but also inter-State migration within the country from one State to State and city to city. She mentioned that because of migration, the city of Delhi which is almost a melting pot, where persons from all parts of the country with different cultural backgrounds and faiths live together. She mentioned that with the migration of people from all over, Delhi has become more vibrant. However, never ever, any Government will justify or welcome migration because of the limited resources. But the fact remains that migration is taking place and will continue to take place everywhere.

Mr. Govind made a statement about the view of NHRC, India on the issue of migration and about the need to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration but sought to make a distinction between legal and illegal migrants.

It was stated that today's world is an increasingly interconnected one in the light of globalized world economic order. The demography of different countries have undergone drastic changes; a set of countries at variance with other countries. One part of the World is economically more prosperous and the other is yet trying to catch up. Some countries do have overflow of skilled, knowledgeable, and employable work force but there are no employment opportunities. At the same time, some countries are in dire need of skilled, knowledgeable working hands to execute their developmental projects. This situation gives rise to mobility of people from one region to the other and from one country to another.

Mr. Govind recalled what former Secretary General of UN Ban Ki Moon had stated - "Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity,



NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra & Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind, attending GANHRI meetings at Medellin, Colombia

safety and a better future. It is part of the social fabric, part of our very make-up as a human family." The world has realized that a safe, orderly and regular migration will prove to be of overall benefit to everyone. That is why a inter-governmentally negotiated agreement – the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration under the aegis of United Nations has been arrived at last year. Although it is a non-legally binding agreement, it acknowledges that no State can address migration alone and, therefore, foster international cooperation simultaneously upholding the sovereignty of the States in determining its migration policies keeping in mind the national realities and priorities. The Global Compact which has set twenty three objectives, is scheduled to be reviewed every four years beginning with 2022. The Secretary General expressed the hope that we rise to the occasion and stand true to the commitment that has been made in the Global Compact.

GANHRI Bureau Meeting

Making a presentation in the GANHRI Bureau meeting in the capacity of the Secretary of the Finance Committee of GANHRI, Mr. Govind presented a report to the Bureau for the period 1st January to 30th June, 2019. The earned revenue of GANHRI was CHF 337481. These revenues came from the payment of subscription for the current year as well as arrears of previous year by the NHRIs. The GANHRI received donations to the tune of CHF 57063. 83% of the income came from payment

of fees by the NHRIs. Updates were also given with regard to region-wise status of subscription fees paid. It was noted that America currently has the region with lowest percentage of payment with less than 50%.

It was proposed that B status NHRIs and the four regional networks should also be required to make payment of subscription fees. It was noted that out of 78 A status NHRIs, only 57 have paid the subscription fees for the year 2019. In terms of percentage, European NHRIs fared better with 89.2 per cent making payment, followed by Asia-Pacific with 81.2 percent, Africa with 62 per cent and Americas with 42.8 per cent. In view of the large number of NHRIs failing to pay the subscription fees, it was suggested that the respective regional networks should prevail upon their member-NHRIs and ensure prompt payment of the subscription fees to the GANHRI in order to ensure smooth functioning and operations.

Conclusion

The Bureau of the Global Alliance of NHRIs evaluated the progress made since March 2019 against the current strategic plan of 2017-2019 and discussed future priorities and activities. The Bureau expressed its serious concern about the threats and reprisals being faced by NHRIs in some countries and decided to maintain a close watch and give full support to such NHRIs to discharge their functions in accordance with their respective mandates.

Working Group Meeting on Indian Seafarers

The first Working Group meeting on “Human Rights of Indian Seafarers” was held on 22nd November, 2019. Mr. Surajit Dey, Registrar (Law), NHRC chaired it. The representatives of Integrated National Security, FINS and International Maritime Foundation, IMF made a presentation raising issues, challenges, abuse and harassment

faced by the seafarers. They requested the NHRC for building up proper co-ordination and leadership for making Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the protection of human rights of the Indian Seafarers. Senior officers from the Union Ministries of External Affairs, Shipping and NHRC were present.



NHRC Registrar Law, Mr. Surajit Dey chairing the meeting

Presentation of Research Proposal on “Human Rights at Sea for Indian Seafarers”



Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, NHRC chairing the meeting

Capt. L. K. Panda, Principal Investigator and Research Scholar, Maritime Security Study Group and Rewa Singh from the Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS) made a presentation on proposed research project titled,

“Human Rights at Sea for Indian Seafarers” on 5th December, 2019. Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, NHRC chaired the meeting attended by the senior officers of the Commission.

Drawing attention to the disparity in the demand and supply of seafarers, which has left

seafarers vulnerable to violation of their human rights, Capt. L. K. Panda estimated that currently around 200 Indian seafarers, who are on abandoned ships. However, these seafarers receive no redressal due to legislative conflicts leading to their criminalization. Given

the above situation and the urgent need to examine the possible remedies for the situations of seafarers, the research aims to:

1. To carry out analysis and study to confirm projections
2. To ascertain the adequacy of rules and their implementation
3. To analyse the case studies, collate the areas of violations of rights
4. To study the responsible entities and their role on such issues
5. To find pragmatic remedial measures which will address the issues of Human Rights of Seafarers in general

The Commission has sought a revised proposal based on the discussion for further examination.

NHRC Core Group Meetings

Core Group on LGBTI

The Second meeting of the Core Group on LGBTI was held in the Commission on 13th November, 2019 to discuss the issues pertaining to the human rights violations of LGBTI persons, the challenges faced by them and to have views & suggestions on identification, inclusion and mainstreaming of the LGBTI community and assessment of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019. This meeting was chaired by NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, and co-chaired by Secretary General Mr. Jaideep Govind, followed by the others.

Core Group on Health and Mental Health

The first meeting of the NHRC's Core Group on Health and Mental Health was held on 26 November 2019. Mr. Justice P. C. Pant, Member, NHRC chaired it.

The deliberations focussed on the three agenda items i.e. substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and Charter of Patients' Rights. The participants included NHRC officers, Core Group Members, representatives of Union Ministries, Government institutions, and special invitees from civil society organizations, academia, international

organizations.

Some of the important suggestions included calling report on de-addiction Centres from Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, develop substance abuse treatment facilities at Juvenile Homes, Status report of National Adolescent Health Programme from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Research on orphaned children having HIV and the way forward, make display of patients' rights charter mandatory in all Government hospitals as well as on their websites, expand training facilities for health professionals on NIMHANS digital training model.

NHRC Presents Awards to Three Writers for their original Books in Hindi

The National Human Rights Commission on the 14th November, 2019 awarded the three writers under

its Mahatma Gandhi biennial Hindi writing Scheme for the year 2016-17. The first prize of Rs. 75,000/- was

given to Dr. Santosh Kumar Singh for his book “Manav Adhikar Evam Mahilaein”. The second prize of

Rs. 50,000/- was presented to Dr. Dhananjay Chopra for his book "Manavadhikar, media Aur Jan Sarokar". The third prize of Rs. 40,000/- was given to Dr. Sanjula Thanvi for her book "Mahila Adhikaron Evam Netritava Say Gram Sanchetna".

The Commission has been running the biennial award scheme for creative writing in Hindi since 1998. Its objective is to encourage original writing in Hindi on various aspects and subjects related to human rights and promote awareness about them. The awards were decided by a selection committee headed by NHRC Member, Dr. Dhyaneswar Mulay.

Addressing the gathering at the award ceremony, Dr. Mulay said that the Government of India should encourage original work in its official

functioning. Hindi cannot progress well unless our representatives use it at international forum as the leaders of the other countries speak in their respective languages. It cannot become official language of the United Nations, if we do not use it ourselves at various international forum. He said that every month 30 to 50 languages are dying; if the trend continues a danger is also lurking for Hindi.

Dr. Mulay said that a good piece of writing is the one, which makes people think. He congratulated the winners of the awards and expressed the hope that such efforts by different stakeholders will prove to be a step in right direction to promote Hindi.

On the occasion, the various officers and staff of the Commission,



NHRC Member, Dr. D. M. Mulay, Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind and another senior officers with the three award winners

who won competitions during the Hindi fortnight from 14-29 September, 2019 were also awarded. NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind, Registrar (Law), Mr. Surajit Dey and other senior officers, staff and the family members of the awarded writers were present.

Winners of NHRC Short Film Award Competition - 2019

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has announced the three winners of its Short Film Award Scheme - 2019. These are:

1. 'Kumbhil Shiva' by Vishal Kumbhar from Bhandup (W), Maharashtra has been selected for the first prize of Rs. 1 lakh. The film, in Hindi with sub-titles in English, depicts the plight of a child rape victim and her family in getting justice.
2. 'Transcender' by Ernest Rosario P.B., from Chennai, Tamil Nadu has been selected for the second

prize of Rs. 75 thousand. The film, in Tamil with sub-titles in English, highlights the struggles of a transgender to seek recognition in mainstream of society by chasing her dream to become a police officer.

3. 'Gulp' by Vijeendra Syam from Kerala gets the third prize of Rs. 50 thousand. The silent film with background score focuses on the onslaught of development resulting in loss of natural habitat through the story of an old man. The three awards will be given at a function later.

Besides these three cash awards, the Commission has also decided to give a certificate of 'Special Mention' to four films. These are: 'To Let' by Sh. K. Jeyanchandra Hashmi, 'A Dying Wish' by Ms. Shubhra Dixit, 'Nima' by Mr. Yangchen Thapa and 'Do Spit Here' by Sh. R. Ravi Prasath.

The aim of the NHRC Short Film Award Scheme is to encourage and acknowledge cinematic and creative efforts towards the promotion and protection of human rights. This is the fifth year of this competition, which received a huge response.

Editorial Board Meeting on NHRC English Journal- 2019

Mr. Justice H. L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC chaired the third Editorial Board Meeting of the

Commission's English Journal- 2019" on 15th November, 2019. Eight articles

and one book review were approved for publication.

NHRC Short Term Internship

The fifth batch of more structured Short Term Internship, STI was held from 16th to 30th November, 2019. 52 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 senior officers interacted with them. Some subject specialists, including human rights defenders, were also invited as guest speakers. All the students were given certificates on completion of their internship.



NHRC Member, Mr. Justice P.C. Pant, Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind and other senior officers with the interns

