



• Vol. 25 • No. 6 • June, 2018

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Publication of the National Human Rights Commission, India



Inside

■ From the Editor's Desk	2	■ Compliance with NHRC recommendations	9
■ Message by Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC	2	■ From the archives of human rights cases	10
■ NHRC Open Hearing and Camp Sitting at Arunachal Pradesh	2	■ Important Judgment of the Supreme Court of India	10
■ Open Forum : "Rising incidents of sexual violence	3	■ Media Watch	11
■ National Seminar on Women Empowerment	4	■ Summer Internship Programme begins	11
■ Suo Motu Cognizance	4	■ Snippets - Visits to NHRC, India	11
■ NHRC's spot enquiries	7	■ Human Rights and NHRC in News, May, 2018	12
■ Important Interventions	7	■ Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences	12
■ Recommendations for relief	8	■ Complaints received/processed in May, 2018	12

Visit NHRC, India at: www.nhrc.nic.in

From the Editor's Desk

The month of May, 2018 was replete with several media reports of atrocities on Dalits in different parts of the country. The NHRC took suo motu cognizance of five such reported incidents during the month, which have been pegged in this edition of the Newsletter. These incidents give a indication that though we have sought to change the situation through the enabling laws and state policy but our mindsets remain a stumbling block. This needs to be taken seriously because the incidents not only indicate an element of continued malice of people towards each other on the basis of their socio, economic and cultural background but also a growing class conflict among them. This cannot be dismissed and brushed aside under the carpet just as a centuries old menace, which will take its own time to end given that enabling laws are there.

The fissiparous tendencies in our society in valuing people's existence in terms of their status viz-a-viz big and small, rich and poor, caste and class, rank and position, haves and have not, rural and urban, perhaps, led the founding fathers of our Constitution to emphasize on the importance of right to equality before law and putting in place measures as instruments of state policy doing away with discrimination on the basis of caste, class and creed.

The Constitutional provisions and state policies were devised to guide our society in leading a life wherein we, in principle, did not differentiate and discriminate between people. It would be naïve to suggest that such constitutional provisions have not brought about any changes in the outlook of our society so far: But can we ignore the worrisome continued presence of discriminatory thoughts in our subconscious, which drives us, sometimes, to behave in a manner, which cannot be termed as civilized?

How else one would explain the case of a Dalit rag picker beaten to death in Gujarat or an attack on the pre-wedding procession of Dalits in Rajasthan because the groom rode a mare, presumed to be a symbol of upper caste pride, or still the stamping of castes on the bare chests of the aspiring constables from the Dalit communities in Madhya Pradesh? Another example of unchanged mindsets could be noticed in the alleged police brutality, illegal arrest and false implication of several Dalits and their incarceration in jails without bail after their protest, how so ever misguided it was, over the Supreme Court's ruling on the SC/ST Act.

May be in the urban space, the things are changing but the youth in rural and semi urban areas appear to remain entrenched in caste and class consciousness and related conflicts till date. Why is it still so? Whether our enabling laws and policies are taking us apart instead of bringing close? We need to study whether the dynamics of caste conflicts are changing and multiplying fast also into class conflicts in India, and if so, reasons thereof and remedies to redress it?

Acts, laws and policies are introduced as forceful instruments of seeking change when we tend to fail in our resolve to change ourselves within. However, no acts, laws and policies can change the mindsets unless one resolves to change. Why do we not resolve to change ourselves us that we will do away with the notions of discrimination, on any count, among the fellow citizens? The essence of social orders and positions is to serve better not to rule each other as superiors because as human beings we are born equals.

In this backdrop, the NHRC Chairperson, Mr Justice H.L Dattu's message gains critical importance that "the increasing reports of human rights violations indicate increased awareness as well as the lack of respect for our duties. If the rights protect our interests; our duties ensure protection of others' rights. Human rights encompass all rights, which will not stand violated, if we performed our duties better. In real sense, our nation will become progressive only if we, as citizens of it, allowed such thoughts and deeds stemming out of them, which are objective and balanced; that do not undermine constitutional liberties of others. The state, constitutional and statutory bodies are there only to guide us all on this path."

"When words are both true and kind, they can change the world."

-Gautama Buddha

Message by Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC

Who will not desire to live in a society, which is free of strife and problems; but can any society ever claim to be fully immune to them? Perhaps not. So what are the options before us? We have none except reducing the causes behind problems and their chances of becoming complex. And this is not one time activity. Therefore, the only way forward is to spread awareness and work consistently towards creating an atmosphere, where people live in harmony and instead of being the reasons of creating problems become agents of resolving them.



I am confident that by imbibing respect for human rights as a way of life, we can actualize a fundamental change in our collective efforts to eradicate the scourge of poverty, ignorance, prejudices, and discrimination based on sex, caste, religion, disability and other forms, within our society. The Indian experience provides an interesting study of how despite multiple challenges, India's democratic polity has been strengthened over the years through exhaustive constitutional provisions and concerted efforts of successive governments, the judiciary, media and civil society, to ensure inclusivity and a respect for human rights.

Likewise, the NHRC, India has also consistently endeavoured to expand the sphere of its work and activities, in tune with the broad definition of human rights contained in the Protection of Human Rights Act. Even the Supreme Court of India has recognized the expansive mandate of the NHRC, India for the promotion and protection of social, economic, cultural and political rights of the people. The core fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution to the people of India together with the Directive Principles of State Policy, form the bedrock of our democracy, which we must all value and be guided in our lives for a just, happy and prosperous nation."

NHRC Open Hearing and Camp Sitting at Arunachal Pradesh

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC organized a day long 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting' at Itanagar for the human rights cases related to Arunachal Pradesh on the 25th May, 2018. Inaugurating it, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC said that the 'Open Hearings and Camp Sittings' are mechanisms to monitor and review significant issues of human rights, create public awareness and provide a voice to the marginalized sections besides action against the perpetrators. He emphasized the need for proper implementation of flagship programmes and focus on human trafficking, gender sensitization and human rights education for all as vital ingredients for human rights protection.

Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Secretary General, NHRC said

that development activities should not ignore human rights. He also spoke about the initiatives taken by the Commission for encouraging the States to showcase good practices of governance, which insured protection of human rights.

The Commission considered 57 matters in three bench sittings presided over by NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose and Mr. Justice D. Murugesan. It recommended monetary relief of ₹ 14.40 lakh in two cases of prima-facie violation of human rights and in one case of death in police custody, the State Government assured that it would comply with the recommendations of the Commission made earlier for the payment of ₹ 2 lakh to the next of kin of deceased. In three cases, notices were issued to the State government to show-cause why monetary relief of ₹ 4.5 lakh may not be recommended to be paid. Four cases were closed upon receipt of the reports and in other cases, either further time was allowed for submission of reports or the reports submitted were taken on record for further consideration/examination by the Commission.

The Commission expressed concern over the delay in submission of various reports in general and, in particular, in matters pertaining to deaths in custody. The matters considered



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

included issues such as atrocities on SC/ST by Chakma and Hajong people, Health Care, dilapidated conditions of roads, non-implementation of the Right to Education Act, lack of basic amenities for villagers at Indo-China border, increase in suicide cases and lack of mental health care centres, scarcity of drinking water in Debing village in East Siang district, conditions in jails, including overcrowding, health care and denial of facilities and implementation of Central Government flagship programmes.

The hearing of the cases was followed by an interaction with the NGOs and Human Rights defenders, who raised many important issues including lack of basic infrastructural facilities in remote districts, water

crises in the Damang district, improper implementation of the PDS scheme, lack of Internet facility, and non functioning of Common Service Centres, the need for up-gradation of the FSL laboratories, increase in budget for proper health care and medicines for the population and the absence of specialists in various disciplines for proper health care. The issues of Rights of indigenous people, non supply of nutritious food at village level through Anganwadi Centres and the lack of toilets in districts and villages were raised. An important issue also raised was heavy bombing by Indian Air Force in Kamle district adversely affecting public life, environment and education of children.

Open Forum : "Rising incidents of sexual violence against children"

The National Human Rights Commission, as part of a new initiative in its silver jubilee year, decided to start 'Open Forum Discussions' to provide a platform to the people from all sections of society to give vent to their feelings and views on an issue currently being in news and debated with a human rights

perspective. It was also expected that the free and fair expressions at the open forum would help in analyzing a significant issue of human rights for finding possible solutions to the related problems so that meaningful recommendations could be sent to the concerned stake holders including the government.

The first in the series was organized on "Rising incidents of sexual violence against children" at its premises on the 15th May, 2018 in the backdrop of several such incidents reported from different parts of the country in the recent past. Chairing the inaugural open forum discussion, the NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, said that the increasing cases of sexual violence against children have shaken the conscious of the society. We would need to change the mindsets of the people to end the menace and to make the country a safe place to live in.

NHRC Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghosh, Mr. Justice D. Murugesan, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Secretary General, Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Joint Secretary (P&A), Dr. Ranjit Singh, and other senior officials, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Mrs. Astha Saxena Khatwani, besides the



'Open Forum discussions' in progress

representatives from NCPCR, NCM, DCW, DCPCR, Police Officers, UN Bodies, academia and civil society organizations/NGOs participated in the discussions.

Some of the important points which emerged from the discussions were as follows:

1. A National Action Plan, in a mission mode, needs to be drawn up to address this grave and serious issue in a time bound manner;
2. Need to have a systematic evaluation and monitoring of critical legislations impacting or concerning children so as to remove any contradictory /

ambiguous provisions, which might be hampering their proper implementation;

3. Appointment of fast track courts and code of conduct for police personnel in the matter of proper scientific investigation and review of monitoring of cases involving sexual violence against children;
4. Government may set up a strategy group for school children to come up with a comprehensive set of guidelines, within a fixed time frame, which would lay down the details of security and safety parameters/protocol to be observed

within the school premises;

5. A comprehensive 'One Stop Centre' Policy/Scheme for children related issues may be drawn up at the national level;
6. The appropriate use of technology for detection, investigation, conduct of cases, follow up of victims' rehabilitation etc., needs to be drawn up and implemented uniformly across the country;
7. A nationwide awareness scheme, in a campaign mode, particularly in rural areas, is required to create widespread awareness about this issue as well as remedial measures.

National Seminar on Women Empowerment

The National Human Rights Commission collaborated with the Manipur University to organize a National Seminar on "Women Empowerment & Human Rights: Special reference to North-East" in Imphal from the 18th -19th May, 2018. The seminar was divided into three sub themes - (a) "Violence against Women: Challenges before Law", (b) "Development, women's rights & 21st Century", and (c) "Media and Women empowerment".

Addressing the inaugural session, as the Chief Guest, the NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, stressed on the need to raise awareness among the masses and various stakeholders about their rights and freedom under the law. She also emphasized that the importance of women empowerment is inevitable in the context of the promotion and protection of human rights.

Manipur University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey spoke about the ground realities and the challenges of protection of human rights and women empowerment especially in North Eastern States. Other distinguished speakers included, among others, Dr. Anuja S from Bengaluru,



NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra inaugurating the Seminar

Hasina Kharbhih from Shillong, Dr Joram Anaya Tana from Arunachal Pradesh, Prof H Subodani Devi from Imphal. Three senior journalists from eastern India, Mr. Snehashish Sur from Kolkata, Mr. Pradip Phanjoubam from Imphal and Mr. Nava Thakuria from Guwahati also highlighted the role of media in the process of women's empowerment.

Addressing the valedictory function, Justice N Kotiswar Singh of Manipur High Court emphasized on a collective initiative over the process

of empowering women in the vast country. He expressed the hope that new ideas would be generated, developed and nurtured with the interactions.

Over 25 papers were presented in the seminar, wherein NHRC officers, Dr. Munidev Singh Tyagi, Joint Director, Dr. S.K. Shukla, Assistant Director and Prof. N. Lokendra Singh, Director, Centre for HRs & Duties Education, Manipur University also shared their views.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 17 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during May, 2018 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some of the cases are as follows:

Illegal detention and torture of a 14 year old girl

(Case No. 13563/24/30/2018)

The media reported on the 31st May, 2018 that a 14 year old girl was detained at a police chowki and a police station in Noida for eight days. She

was beaten, burnt with cigarettes and electrocuted there. Reportedly, the girl, a domestic help, was detained after her employer accused her of theft.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, calling for detailed report in

the matter. He is also expected to send the report about the steps taken for counselling/ rehabilitation of the victim.

Two minor girls sent to jail instead of juvenile home (Case No. 11113/24/57/2018)

The media reported on the 10th April, 2018 that in a case of alleged cow slaughter, the police sent two minor girls, aged about 12 and 16 years, to the jail along with seven others in Khatauli, district Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh instead of sending them to juvenile home, as per the law. The police officers preferred to go by their physical appearance instead of believing their Aadhar cards, which were shown to them as proof of their age. The girls could come out of the jail on bail only after spending three and half months there and now feel traumatized. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and DGP of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, calling for a detailed report in the matter.

Two policemen arrested for their involvement in a murder (Case No. 355/11/7/2018-AD)

The media reported on the 31st May, 2018 that a Dalit and two policemen were taken into custody and questioned by the special investigation team following evidence of their role in helping the gang that murdered newly married Kevin Joseph in Kottayam, Kerala. Kevin, 23, belonging to Dalit Christian community, was allegedly abducted by the family members of his wife, a day after their wedding, from the house of his cousin. His badly bruised body was found two days later in a rivulet.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Kerala calling for a detailed report in the matter along with status of rehabilitation/protection provided to the family members of the deceased.

Many protestors killed in police firing (Case No. 907/22/41/2018)

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC on the 29th May, 2018 decided to send its own team of officers for making a fact finding inquiry/investigation into the incident of police firing in Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu on the 22nd May, 2018. More than 11 protestors, demanding closure of Sterlite Copper plant, were reported killed in the firing.

The Commission has asked its Director General (Investigation) to depute a team headed by an officer not below the rank of Senior Superintendent of Police assisted by three more officers of the rank of Dy. SP and Inspectors from its Investigation Division. The NHRC team would examine all the concerned including the family members of the victims and independent witnesses as it deems appropriate and submit a report to the Commission.

The Commission has given this direction after considering the representation made by Mr. A Rajarajan under W.P. (C) 5779/2018 before the Delhi High Court and the orders of the Court passed on the 25th May, 2018, inter alia directing as follows:

“According to the petitioner, the respondent/NHRC should consider the representation made by the petitioner and trigger an independent inquiry based on the provisions of Sections 14 & 17 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993;

Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case and, given the fact that the respondent/NHRC has called for reports, at this stage, the Court is inclined, only, to give liberty to the petitioner to appear before the respondent/NHRC for obtaining suitable directions;

Accordingly, the aforementioned representation filed by the petitioner will be placed before the respondent/ NHRC on the 29th May, 2018, for appropriate directions;

It is made clear that nothing stated herein above will impact the merits of the case.”

The Commission has observed that its instant direction in the matter is independent of the directions already given by earlier to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Government of Tamil Nadu, vide its notices issued after taking suo motu cognizance of the incident on the basis of media reports on the 23rd May, 2018. They have been asked to submit detailed reports in the matter along with status of the treatment being provided to the persons who were injured in police firing.

Arrested man taken naked to police station (Case No. 2319/30/9/2018)

The media reported on the 22nd May, 2018 that Delhi police arrested a man from his house in West Delhi and

took him to police station naked in full public view, hurling insults and abuses. Reportedly, the accused requested the police to allow him wear clothes but was instead told that he would be paraded this way only.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media reports, if true, amount to inhuman and unprofessional approach of the Delhi Police personnel. Humiliating a person, by parading him naked in full public view and in front of his family members is absolutely unethical and violation of his human rights. The right to dignity of the victim has been grossly violated. Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, calling for detailed report in the matter.

Technology to locate and unite missing children with their families (Case No. 287/90/0/2018)

The media reported on the 16th May, 2018 about the issue of large number of missing children across the country; existing legal frame work and gaps and loop holes in the technology to trace and unite the missing children with their families. Appreciating the contents of the article, the Commission has observed that the proper use of technology with zeal can reunite the missing children with their families.

Accordingly, the Commission has issued notices to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Secretary, Union Ministry of Women & Child Development calling upon them to inform about the present status of the technology being used to trace the missing children and unite them with their families. They have been asked to give their comments whether the tools like ‘Facial Recognition Software’ have been added to match the records of the ‘missing’ and ‘found’ children. The Commission has also asked them to inform whether its guidelines on missing children, post Nithari incident, have been circulated and are being followed by the concerned agencies or not.

46 kids languish in Odisha jails with their prisoner mothers without any facilities

(Case No. 2301/18/0/2018)

The media reported on the 20th May, 2018 about the plight of 46 boys and girls, aged between one month and six years, who were living in prisons in the State of Odisha with their mothers, including 9 convicted and 36 undertrial prisoners. Reportedly,

the children, lodged in the jails with their mothers, were neither convicts nor under trials. They are entitled to food, shelter, medical care, clothing, education and recreational facilities but nothing is being provided to them despite the Supreme Court guidelines. A particular case of a couple was referred in the news report, who were taken in judicial custody on 18th May, 2008 and how for nine years, they alongwith their child, born in judicial custody, had to suffer till their release after exoneration from all the charges last year by the court.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, amount to human rights violations of the innocent children. The guidelines set by the Supreme Court are very clear providing proper protection to such children but as reported, it appears, the ground reality is different. The instant news report is focused on the prisons in the State of Odisha. However, there could be similar cases in the jails of other States too, which have not yet been noticed.

Accordingly, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretaries and Directors Generals of Prisons of all the States and UT's calling for reports along with statistics, showing how many children are being kept with their mothers in the jails under their jurisdiction without ensuring facilities, necessary for their psychological and physical growth.

Many deaths after consuming spurious liquor

(Case No. 12033/24/43/2018)

The media reported on the 21st May, 2018 that at least 11 people had died and several others were taken seriously ill after consuming spurious liquor purchased from the licensed shops in Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat districts of Uttar Pradesh on the 20th May, 2018. According to the media reports, the victims in both the districts were sold the same batch of tainted liquor at the licensed shops. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh calling for a report in the matter.

Humiliation and harassment caused to NEET aspirants

**(Case No. 744/22/0/2018) and
(Case No. 268/11/3/2018)**

The media reported on the 6th and 8th May, 2018 regarding the alleged harassment and convenience caused

to the aspirants in the name of the security checks, while appearing for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, NEET in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country on the 5th May, 2018. It has issued notices to the Chairperson, Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE and the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for the detailed reports in the matter.

The Commission has observed that in view of the recent cases of paper leak and use of electronic gadgets by the aspirants, it is necessary to keep a strict check during the exam but putting them to such a vexatious process in the name of taking precautions, tantamount to harassment of the young aspirants. Cutting the sleeves of the shirts and tearing the pants of the aspirants etc. are unethical acts done by the staff deployed at the exam centres. This amounts to violation of the right to dignity of the aspirants.

Prior to this, the Commission also took suo motu cognizance of a media report alleging a lot of hardships to the young students, who had to travel across their State to write NEET. In one such incident, a 46-year-old man from Tamil Nadu, who had to travel a long distance of 500 Km with his son to appear in NEET at a centre in Kerala, died due to cardiac arrest. Reportedly, The CBSE in a statement had said that at least 3,685 medical aspirants from Tamil Nadu had to travel out of State to take the exam. The Commission had issued to the Chairperson, Central Board of Secondary Education and the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for a detailed report in the matter explaining why the students had to travel across the State to appear in the examination.

Police brutality, illegal arrest and false implication of several Dalits

(Case 1259/20/0/2018)

The media reported on the 18th May, 2018 that several social activists and Dalit leaders have raised their concern over police brutality and the way several people belonging to the Dalit communities were falsely implicated in criminal cases and are languishing in jails without bail in Rajasthan even six weeks after a Bandh was called on the 2nd April, 2018 in protest against the Supreme Court order regarding SC/ST (PoA) Act. The news report has mentioned several incidents of abuse of power by the police in which, even the women and

children were not spared.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan calling for a report in the matter with a further direction upon the Director General of Police, Rajasthan to submit action taken report about the alleged police brutality.

Several Dalit homes deserted due to fear of some upper caste people

(Case No. 10823/24/54/2018)

The media reported on the 8th May, 2018 that a 19 year old boy, belonging to a Dalit community and his 16 year old nephew was, allegedly, assaulted by some upper caste people at the behest of the Pradhan of their village Kamala in district Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh on the 27th April, 2018. After this incident, most of the Dalit homes in the village were deserted. The elder of the two boys was beaten so brutally that on the 7th May, 2018 he died of multiple organ failure triggered by renal trauma and septicemia. Reportedly, the youths were attacked following an affair between a Dalit man and a Gujar woman of the village.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh calling for a detailed report in the matter. It has asked them to inform about the steps taken for the relief and rehabilitation of the affected families and to maintain law and order in the area.

Attack by some upper caste people on a pre-wedding procession of Dalits

(Case No. 1097/20/6/2018)

The media reported on the 1st May, 2018 that a Dalit family was attacked in Rajasthan's Bhilwara district on the 29th April, 2018 by some people belonging to upper caste after the groom rode a mare during the traditional "Bindoli" ceremony, which is observed a day before the wedding. As per news report, four people were injured in the presence of police personnel, who stood mute witness during the attack. Reportedly, the police did nothing despite having been informed about the threat, the family was receiving from the upper caste people. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Rajasthan calling for a detailed report in the matter along with measures taken for relief and rehabilitation of the victims.

Stamping of castes on the bare chests of aspiring constables from Dalit communities

(Case No. 886/12/15/2018)

The media reported on the 30th April, 2018 about the stamping of castes on the bare chests of aspiring constables from the reserved categories during their medical examination at the Dhar district hospital in Madhya Pradesh. Reportedly, the caste stamps were used to avoid any kind of confusion among candidates, as height and chest measurement norms are different for constables belonging to general and reserved categories. However, candidates from the general

category were not labeled. The Commission has observed that the contents of the media reports, if true, amount to violation of right to equality and dignity. It has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh calling for a detailed report in the matter along with action taken against the delinquent officers.

Dalit rag picker beaten to death

(Case No. 974/6/21/2018)

The media reported that a 40 year old Dalit rag picker was beaten to death at Shapar village in Rajkot district on the 20th May, 2018, allegedly over the issue of collecting scraps in the area.

Following a complaint lodged by the victim's wife, police have registered an offence of murder and other charges against the five unidentified persons under the IPC and Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights of the victims. Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Gujarat calling for a report in the matter along with measures taken for relief to the affected families.

NHRC's spot enquiries

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

S. No.	Case Number	Allegations	Date of visit
1.	146/3/24/2016	Human Rights activist assaulted by Assam Police & CRPF Personnel in Guwahati, Assam	1 st – 4 th May, 2018
2.	907/22/41/2018	Deaths in Police firing in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu	31 st May – 5 th June, 2018

Important Interventions

₹ 2 lakh to the victim of medical apathy; one doctor and two nurses suspended

(Case No. 1902/12/46/2017)

The National Human Rights Commission took suo motu cognizance of media reports carried on the 7th September, 2017 that the doctors at the Tikamgarh District Hospital, Madhya Pradesh refused to treat a woman at an advance stage of pregnancy after they found that she was HIV positive. Instead she was referred to a hospital at Jhansi and pushed out of the maternity ward. The family begged the doctors to attend to her as they did not have the money to hire an ambulance to take her to Jhansi but they did not listen.

Even as the woman delivered twins outside the maternity ward, the hospital staff did not attend to them

as a result, the twins died after half an hour on the 6th September, 2017.

Reportedly, the Civil Surgeon said that no negligence was found on the part of the hospital administration. The patient was infected with HIV and they could not take the risk of allowing her into the hospital's labour room and hence, she was referred to Jhansi.

The Commission issued a notice to the Government of Madhya Pradesh, through its Chief Secretary calling for reports in the matter. The Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted a report dated 25.09.2017, confirming the incident. One lady medical officer and two staff nurses were found gravely negligent and insensitive in treating

the patient. They were suspended on 08.09.2017 and show cause notices were also issued to them.

On the basis of this report, the Commission held the incident as a clear case of violation of human rights for which it said the State Government was liable to compensate the victim. Having received no response to its notice to show cause why monetary relief should not be recommended to be paid to the victim, the Commission in the month of May, 2018 observed that presumably, the State Government had nothing to say in the matter and recommended that it pay ₹ 2,00,000/- to the next of kin of the deceased babies and to their mother.

NHRC to depute its fact finding team in the 17 cases of encounters in Uttar Pradesh

(Case No.10824/24/0/2018-AFE)

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC has asked its Director General (Investigation) to constitute an Investigating team of five officers including one SSP, two Dy. SPs and two Inspectors to make the fact finding enquiry in the 17 cases, wherein

alleged encounter killings had taken place in Uttar Pradesh in the recent past. Out of these 17 cases, 15 were already registered in the Commission in which reports had been called for and the remaining two cases were also registered and the Chief Secretary and

the Director General of Police, DGP, Government of Uttar Pradesh had been directed to submit reports.

The Commission has also directed the DGP, Government of Uttar Pradesh to give necessary directions to the concerned investigating officers to

submit the status of investigation and documents pertaining to all the 17 cases of alleged encounter killings. These documents must particularly include (i) FIRs registered in the cases; (ii) relevant chargesheets; (iii) General / Daily Dairy register entry of the relevant Police Station on the day of incident; (iv) Wireless log book record of the relevant PS (or district police wireless HQ, where such log is maintained) of the day of the incident; (v) log book records of the day of govt. vehicles used by all police officers engaged in the said encounters; (vi) all Details Records (CDR) of mobile phones used by the deceased, any by all police officers engaged in the encounter (date range; one week prior to date of encounter to a week thereafter).

Further, the Chief Secretary and the DGP of the Government of Uttar Pradesh have been asked to submit all the requisite reports related to 23 cases

of encounter mentioned in their report which was submitted in response to the notice of the Commission issued on 22.11.2017 after taking suo motu cognizance of media reports related to encounters in the State.

Meanwhile, the Commission has received another complaint from the families of nine victims of alleged fake encounters claiming that killings in fake encounters are continuing with impunity in Uttar Pradesh. The complaint says that according to official data, there were 1144 encounters in Uttar Pradesh from March, 2017 till January, 2018 in which 34 criminals were killed and 2744 were arrested.

It is also stated in the complaint that no protection, compensation or procedural remedies are available for the families of the victims. In 7 out of 9 cases, there were torture marks on the body of the victims. Allegedly, the

pattern of injuries received by police officials in the encounters show similar trend of minimal injuries.

Allegations of police reprisal have been mentioned in the complaints stating that neither the families' nor witness accounts or statements were recorded or investigated; Rather they were threatened. FIRs had not been registered in these cases.

The Commission has also received a separate complaint by the members of the civil society organizations against the spate of extra judicial killings in Uttar Pradesh by police in the last year. Therefore, it has clubbed both the complaints, which, prima-facie, show that there might be chances of failure on the part of the State in adhering to the guidelines issued from time to time by the Supreme Court as also this Commission with reference to encounters.

Recommendations for relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 24 cases were considered during 02 sittings of the Full Commission and 58 cases were taken up during 04 sittings of Divisional Benches in May, 2018. On 60 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 1,53,00,000/- 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.

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	535/20/10/2013	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	300000	RAJASTHAN
2.	1902/12/46/2017	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT.HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	200000	MADHYA PRADESH
3.	3961/4/38/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	BIHAR
4.	4910/30/9/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	50000	DELHI
5.	467/6/25/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	GUJARAT
6.	991/6/1/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	GUJARAT
7.	1134/10/28/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	600000	KARNATAKA
8.	493/11/12/2011-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	KERALA
9.	27/15/2/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	MEGHALAYA
10.	33/15/5/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	MEGHALAYA
11.	1591/19/9/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	PUNJAB
12.	298/19/15/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	PUNJAB
13.	50/20/1/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	RAJASTHAN
14.	10547/24/54/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
15.	12034/24/12/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
16.	1313/24/26/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
17.	1858/24/4/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
18.	23238/24/23/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
19.	3697/24/12/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
20.	39071/24/18/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
21.	39959/24/72/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
22.	40331/24/26/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
23.	41823/24/70/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
24.	42330/24/12/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
25.	44802/24/4/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
26.	46752/24/4/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
27.	3370/4/21/2014-AD	ALLEGED CUSTODIAL DEATHS IN JUDICIAL CUSTODY	300000	BIHAR
28.	4942/18/21/2013-AD	ALLEGED CUSTODIAL DEATHS IN JUDICIAL CUSTODY	100000	ODISHA
29.	7387/30/8/2015	ABUSE OF POWER	25000	DELHI
30.	234/25/4/2015	ABUSE OF POWER	50000	WEST BENGAL
31.	30/2/9/2015-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	100000	ARUNACHAL PRADESH
32.	108/8/5/2013-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	200000	HIMACHAL PRADESH
33.	1168/34/23/2012-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	200000	JHARKHAND
34.	1713/12/18/2014-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	300000	MADHYA PRADESH
35.	30/14/6/2016-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	500000	MANIPUR
36.	958/22/11/2014-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	200000	TAMIL NADU
37.	39236/24/28/2015-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	500000	UTTAR PRADESH
38.	1357/25/17/2014-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	500000	WEST BENGAL

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
39.	315/1/3/2013-PCR	CUSTODIAL RAPE (Police)	100000	ANDHRA PRADESH
40.	1471/34/8/2014-ED	DEATH IN POLICE ENCOUNTER	1500000	JHARKHAND
41.	1/15/0/2013-ED	DEATH IN POLICE ENCOUNTER	1000000	MEGHALAYA
42.	3729/7/21/2012-AFE	ALLEGED FAKE ENCOUNTERS	500000	HARYANA
43.	2/14/4/09-10-AFE	ALLEGED FAKE ENCOUNTERS	1000000	MANIPUR
44.	33626/24/52/2013	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
45.	5135/24/30/2015	FALSE IMPLICATIONS	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
46.	476/13/16/2012	ILLEGAL ARREST	10000	MAHARASHTRA
47.	2058/18/2/2013	UNLAWFUL DETENTION	600000	ODISHA
48.	12031/24/60/2016-AD	ALLEGED CUSTODIAL DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY	400000	UTTAR PRADESH
49.	15966/24/48/2016	NON-PAYMENT OF PENSION/COMPENSATION	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
50.	37607/24/72/2013	NON-PAYMENT OF PENSION/COMPENSATION	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
51.	1025/7/10/2017-WC	ABDUCTION, RAPE AND MURDER	300000	HARYANA
52.	11220/24/8/2014-WC	ABDUCTION, RAPE AND MURDER	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
53.	7060/18/4/2016-WC	DOWERY DEMAND	300000	ODISHA
54.	969/4/18/2017-WC	RAPE	50000	BIHAR
55.	42387/24/9/2015-WC	RAPE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
56.	11486/18/5/2015	INACTION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	75000	ODISHA
57.	3434/18/5/2016	INACTION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	300000	ODISHA
58.	594/18/5/2015	INACTION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	525000	ODISHA
59.	35446/24/19/2013	INACTION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	40000	UTTAR PRADESH
60.	424/19/22/2015	ABUSE OF POWER	100000	PUNJAB

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In May, 2018, the Commission closed 45 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments, it had recommended, totalling ₹ 61,37,500/- to the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. Details are in the table below:

Sl. No	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	2886/4/39/2013	CHILDREN	57500	BIHAR
2.	2355/4/39/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	BIHAR
3.	2695/12/45/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	MADHYA PRADESH
4.	1013/13/17/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	MAHARASHTRA
5.	176/13/16/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	MAHARASHTRA
6.	2242/13/23/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	MAHARASHTRA
7.	108/14/14/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	MANIPUR
8.	273/19/13/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	PUNJAB
9.	2185/20/14/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	RAJASTHAN
10.	855/18/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	TELANGANA
11.	14719/24/34/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
12.	24716/24/46/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
13.	2599/24/52/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
14.	26132/24/57/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
15.	26984/24/26/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
16.	480/24/46/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
17.	7876/24/54/2014	POLICE	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
18.	28929/24/30/2015	ARBITRARY USE OF POWER	400000	UTTAR PRADESH
19.	5665/30/9/2015	ABUSE OF POWER	25000	DELHI
20.	897/1/2/2014-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	100000	ANDHRA PRADESH
21.	1458/4/23/2015	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	20000	BIHAR
22.	20381/24/72/2013	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
23.	5150/24/8/2015	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
24.	40/14/4/08-09-FE	ALLEGED FAKE ENCOUNTERS	1000000	MANIPUR
25.	1481/4/3/2013	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	BIHAR
26.	2315/30/10/2013	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	75000	DELHI
27.	20689/24/68/2014	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
28.	41416/24/1/2012	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
29.	44339/24/62/2013	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
30.	48482/24/63/2015	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
31.	1361/30/9/2014	FALSE IMPLICATIONS	500000	DELHI
32.	3671/7/19/2013	FALSE IMPLICATIONS	50000	HARYANA
33.	29716/24/52/2014	FALSE IMPLICATIONS	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
34.	1397/13/13/2013	VICTIMISATION	10000	MAHARASHTRA
35.	3849/30/9/2016-AR	ALLEGED CUSTODIAL RAPE IN POLICE CUSTODY	50000	DELHI
36.	32451/24/15/2015-WC	GANG RAPE	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
37.	5306/24/55/2016-WC	GANG RAPE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
38.	6511/24/14/09-10-WC	GANG RAPE	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
39.	31499/24/31/2014-WC	RAPE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
40.	48096/24/22/2014-WC	RAPE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
41.	1492/25/10/2013-WC	RAPE	100000	WEST BENGAL
42.	5851/18/4/2016	INACTION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	100000	ODISHA
43.	40538/24/9/2014	INACTION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	75000	UTTAR PRADESH
44.	144/1/15/2015	SC/ST/OBC	100000	ANDHRA PRADESH
45.	942/20/10/2015-WC	RAPE OF SC/ST/OBC	50000	RAJASTHAN

From the archives of human rights cases

This column will carry a brief from the archives of the intricate cases of human rights violations, which became a landmark after the public authorities eventually accepted the recommendations of the NHRC.

NHRC stands up for Chakma refugees (Case No. 23/2/97-98)

In mid 90's the Chakma settlers from Bangladesh started facing heat from the locals in Arunachal Pradesh to leave the country. About 4012 Chakmas were settled in parts of Assam and NEFA now Arunachal Pradesh after their displacement due to kaptai hydel power project in 1964.

On the 9th September, 1994, the People's Union for Civil Liberties, Delhi brought this issue to the attention of the NHRC, which issued letters to the Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh and the Home Secretary, Government of India making enquiries in this regard. On September 30, 1994, the Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh faxed a reply stating that the situation was totally under control and adequate police protection had been given to the Chakmas.

On October 15, 1994, the Committee for Citizenship Rights of the Chakmas, CCRC filed a representation with the NHRC complaining of the persecution of the Chakmas. The petition contained a press report carried in "The Telegraph dated August 26, 1994 stating that the All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union (hereinafter called "AAPSU") had issued "quit notices" to all alleged foreigners, including the Chakmas, to leave the State by September 30, 1995. On October 12, 1995 and again on October 28, 1995, the CCRC sent

urgent petitions to the NHRC alleging immediate threats to the lives of the Chakmas.

After a thorough examination of the complaints received, the Commission asked the State Government to stay its hands and allow the status quo to be maintained. Its directions were communicated to the Governor, the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh and also to the Union Home Minister and the Ministry of Home Affairs separately. The Commission also filed the writ petition in the Supreme Court to ensure that the public authorities do not overlook its stand in the matter from human rights perspective.

The petition pointed out, "the aliens in India can't be denied their basic right of existence or be subjected to such treatment by the State, which is not in accordance with the law and Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Similarly, an alien can't be subjected to such hostile treatment by a private body like AAPSU, particularly when its actions are with the tacit support of the functionaries of the State of Arunachal Pradesh."

The Court held that "the first respondent, the State of Arunachal Pradesh, shall ensure that the life and personal liberty of each and every Chakma residing within the State shall be protected and any attempt to forcibly evict or drive them out of the State by organised groups, such as the AAPSU, shall be repelled, if necessary, by requisitioning the service of para-military or police force, and if additional forces are considered necessary to carry out this direction, the first respondent will request the

second respondent, the Union of India, to provide such additional force, and the second respondent shall provide such additional force as is necessary to protect the lives and liberty of the Chakmas;

Except in accordance with law, the Chakmas shall not be evicted from their homes and shall not be denied domestic life and comfort therein; the quit notices and ultimatums issued by the AAPSU and any other group which tantamount to threats to the life and liberty of each and every Chakma should be dealt with by the first respondent in accordance with law." This is how with the intervention of the NHRC, India, the Apex Court ensured that the interests of Chakmas were protected.

The background of Chakma Refugees: The Chakmas lived in the Chittagong Hill Tracts erstwhile East Pakistan in 1964-65, since they lost land to the development of the Kaptai Dam on the Karnaphuli River. In addition, they also faced religious persecution as they were Non- Muslims and did not speak Bengali so eventually they sought asylum in India. In 1960, they were accommodated in the relief camps constructed in the vacant lands of Tirap, Lohit and Subansiri districts of erstwhile North East Frontier Agency NEFA (a political division governed by the Union Government) which was renamed as Arunachal Pradesh in 1972. The locals and regional parties opposed re-settling refugees in their land fearing that it may change the demography of the State and that they may have to share the limited resources available for them.

Important Judgment of the Supreme Court of India

In this column, a brief report on an important judgment of the Supreme Court of India will be given, which has a bearing on human rights.

On the 20th March, 2018 the Supreme Court gave a landmark judgment on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in the Criminal Appeal No.416 of 2018 of Dr. Subhash Kashinath Mahajan vs. The State of Maharashtra and ANR. that there is no absolute bar against grant of

anticipatory bail in cases under the Atrocities Act if no prima facie case is made out or where on judicial scrutiny the complaint is found to be prima facie mala fide. In view of acknowledged abuse of law of arrest in cases under the Atrocities Act, arrest of a public servant can only be after approval of the appointing authority and of a non-public servant after approval by the S.S.P., which may be granted in appropriate cases, if considered necessary for reasons recorded. Such

reasons must be scrutinized by the Magistrate for permitting further detention. The court further directed that in order to avoid false implication of an innocent, a preliminary enquiry may be conducted by the DSP concerned to find out whether the allegations make out a case under the Atrocities Act and that the allegations are not frivolous or motivated. Any violation of these directions will be actionable by way of disciplinary action as well as contempt.

The 89 page judgment was delivered by two judge bench of Mr. Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel and Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit. The Court gave this judgment in the light of the Special Leave Petition filed by Dr Subhash Kashinath Mahajan against

the Bombay High Court judgment refusing to quash the FIR lodged against him under this Act.

The court examined whether the said procedure will be just and fair under Article 21 of the Constitution

of India or there can be procedural safeguards so that provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 are not abused for extraneous considerations.

Media Watch

This column will carry a brief report and analysis of the editorials, carried by major newspapers during the preceding month to understand on what issues the media most commonly commented upon, which were part of national discourse and how human rights or rights perspective reflected in them.

During the month of May, 2018, there were many issues of interest on which most of the major English newspapers commented upon in their editorials. Some of them were having direct bearing on human rights per se while others weren't. With twenty-eight editorials, the Karnataka Assembly Elections remained one of the most commonly commented upon issues and perhaps obviously so because outcome of results directly impacts the policies of the government for the welfare of the people. The comments covered the predictions for elections, floor test and finally, the formation of a coalition government by the JD(S) and Congress. The Millennium Post wrote, "Karnataka

election results will set the tone for the 2019 general elections in the country." After the results of the poll, the Indian Express wrote, "The Karnataka result affirms the organizational might of the BJP and the popularity of Prime Minister Modi." Post the floor test announced by the Supreme Court, the Congress and JD(S) formed coalition government at which The Times of India wrote, "The Karnataka polls show regional parties will have a significant impact on the make-up of the next Parliament." The Tribune wrote, "JD(S) the kingmaker awaits."

The sudden hike in fuel prices were the second most commonly comment upon issues. Ten editorials were carried on the topic. The Millenium Post wrote, "The impact of rocketing fuel prices will be felt more immediately as it is likely to push the prices of essential commodities in the short-term." The Hindustan Times wrote, "A surge in oil prices throws India's macroeconomic equation out of balance."

The World Health Organization,

WHO Report on the increased air pollution was another most commonly commented upon issues. Five editorials were carried on the topic. The Indian Express wrote, "The global health body's database should serve as a wake-up call for Indian policy makers, whose efforts to curb air pollution have, by and large, centered on big cities."

The disruptions during Namaz in Gurugram were another most commonly commented upon issues. Three editorials were carried on the topic. The Times of India wrote, "State must have uniform norms for religious expressions in public spaces." Deadly flyover collapse in Varanasi, was also carried in three editorials. The Times of India wrote, "The incident exposes serious safety shortfalls."

Apart from this, the editorial comments were a mixed bag of issues commented upon. Some of these were: the Tuticorin massacre, Nipah Virus, Healthcare Regulation, electrification in India, Walmart-Flipkart deal and P.M Modi's visit to Sochi.

Summer Internship Programme begins

The Month long summer internship programme of the National Human Rights Commission began on the 15th May, 2018. Inaugurating it, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose said that the interns should make the best use of this exposure to various aspects of human rights and contribute to society with their knowledge. Total 37 students from different parts of the country are attending the programme. Besides the class room lectures by the eminent persons in the field of human rights, they will be taken for field visits for an exposure to functioning of prisons, NGOs and police stations.



NHRC Member, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose inaugurating the Summer Internship Programme

Snippets

A delegation consisting of 27 students and 02 faculty members from the DES' Shri Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune, Maharashtra visited the NHRC on the 2nd May, 2018. They were briefed about the functioning of the Commission.

Visits to NHRC, India

During the month of May, 2018 total 18 press releases were prepared and issued based on the proceedings of the Commission in different cases. Total 1963 news clippings on various human rights issues were culled out from different/ select editions of major English and Hindi newspapers and some news websites. 186 news clippings related to various incidents of alleged human rights violations were brought to the notice of the Commission, which it considered and found fit for suo motu cognizance. 110 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.

[illegible]

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
Visit to Sanlaap and Calcutta Pavlov Mental Hospital, Kolkata from 1 st - 4 th May, 2018	Mr. Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, Member, NHRC
Moot Court Competition at Sikkim Law College, Gangtok, Sikkim on the 10 th May, 2018	Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Member, NHRC

Complaints received/processed in May, 2018 (As per an early estimate)	
Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	7700
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	8770
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	24354

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.**

Printed and Published by Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Director (Media & Communication) on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission and Printed at Dolphin Printo- Graphic, 4E/7, Pabla Building, Jhandewalan Extn., New Delhi-110055 and published at National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, Block-C, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023. **Editor : Jaimini Kumar Srivastava**

Design : Jaimini Kumar Srivastava

Editor's Contact Ph. : 91-11-24663381, E-mail : dydir.media.nhrc@nic.in