



The media in the month of September, 2017 was a witness to a nationwide debate, which started during the preceding month, on the reported decision of the Government of India to deport about forty thousand Rohingyas, whom it held as illegal migrants from Myanmar. Human rights groups, civil society and media pitched in for and against voices on the subject.

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC had already taken a suo motu cognizance of the media reports last month, calling for a factual report from the Union Home Ministry in the matter. Given its mandate to question the Government(s) on the issues, which impact or are likely to impinge on human rights, the Commission, through its notice, also sent a note of caution, in a way, to the Government that before taking such a big step, it had to look into every aspect of the situation related with the Rohingyas.

The Commission observed that they are, no doubt, foreign nationals but also human beings, who have a fear of persecution back home. Since it was a sensitive matter, involving a major policy of the Government, the Commission, very succinctly, also clarified, suo motu, its intervention in the matter by saying that from the human rights' angle, its intervention was appropriate in the matter. With the positions hardened on both sides of the argument in the matter and different parties approaching the Supreme Court of India, the Commission also thought it appropriate to make a mention of its stand during the course of hearing in the Supreme Court when the situation arises.

The Union Home Minister, Mr. Rajnath Singh, in the mean time, addressed the NHRC's National Seminar on 'Good Governance Development and Human Rights'. He expressed the firm belief of the Government that the deportation of Rohingyas was imminent, as they were not refugees and legal migrants. He also sought to convey that they, who advocated for human rights of Rohingyas, needed to ponder first over the rights of the citizens of the country over its resources.

Be the outcome of the case as it may, the point, which deserves to be commended, is that the beauty of Indian democracy lies in its vibrancy. There is a fearless civil society, an independent and largely unequivocal media, democratic institutions, including the judiciary, and a people's Government, who are all free and unflustered, within their ambit, to express different views on a contentious issue towards building a consensus. The debate on the issue of deportation of Rohingyas is one among many such examples, which India has set time and again, to show the world what a democracy should be in the real sense.

However, it does not mean that in spite of such democratic values, practiced in the country, there may not be challenges relating to the protection of human rights. In order to usher in a human rights culture in the country, a lot is needed to be done consistently by different stakeholders, more importantly the Government(s), mandated and empowered to work for people's welfare and promote and protect their rights, including human rights, and the other constitutional guarantees.

The NHRC recognizes this aspect. That is why, it has not hesitated and minced words to share its concerns on human rights, while preparing an independent report on the situation of human rights of the country for the recent third Universal Periodic Review, UPR under the aegis of the United Nations. Its statement before the Human Rights Council in Geneva, for adoption of its report for UPR, also conveyed the hope that the Government will fulfill its assurances towards ameliorating the cause of human rights on various counts. As a reference to this effect, that statement has been pegged in this edition of the Newsletter.

National Seminar on Good Governance, Development and Human Rights

The National Human Rights Commission organized two days' National Seminar on 'Good Governance,



Union Home Minister, Mr. Rajnath Singh addressing the Seminar

Development and Human Rights' in New Delhi from 21st - 22nd September, 2017. Inaugurating it, Mr. Justice H. L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC said that the universality of human rights makes them uniquely appropriate for reshaping notions of development, cooperation, good governance and



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

combating discrimination and exclusion to achieve a society, where there is respect for the human rights of all. He said that for any country to find its due place among civilized

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nations, the most important factors are: eradication of poverty and provision of healthcare, education and equitable life opportunities to all without distinction. Unfortunately, even after more than half a century of independence, our country stands only at the fringe on all these counts.

Justice Dattu said that there is a need to bring together politics, economics and culture in a more symbiotic relationship to constructively contribute to humanity so that human beings can become the pivot around which all governance and development activities, policies and programmes can revolve.

The Chief Guest of the inaugural session, Mr. Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister said that in Indian culture, the focus has always been on duties and not on rights; if everybody attends to his duties, the rights of all get protected automatically. He said that good governance, development and human rights are an inseparable trio and the government is committed to them. Describing the seminar organized by the NHRC as very relevant, Mr. Rajnath Singh said that development without bringing dignity to human life would be meaningless. He listed several measures and schemes introduced by the government, during the last three years, which are meant for over all welfare of people.

With a reference to the issue of governance, Mr. Rajnath Singh said that any sovereign nation is free to take action against illegal migrants. He said that the issue of deportation of Rohingyas for India is not a matter of ego and confrontation but of principles. The citizens of the country have the first right on its resources and not the illegal migrants. Rohingyas are illegal migrants; they are not refugees for which a process is required to be completed, which they never followed. He said that India is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention 1951, hence, the question of its violation does not arise. The principle of

non-refoulement would apply to Rohingyas only if, they were given asylum in India. He said that the government is very clear on the issue and to this effect, it has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court.

The Chief Guest of the concluding session, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister, Ministry of Law & Justice and Electronics and Information Technology said that good governance is very important to sustain India and governance can be good only if it is accountable, transparent and participative. Digital platforms adopted by the government

are meant for this. Today, four crore digital transactions are happening in the country. It is through digitization that the government has saved 58 thousand crore rupees from pilferage. Several crore fake gas connections have been identified after being linked with Aadhaar numbers. He said that the government is proposing to link driving license with Aadhaar number to stop its duplication. Fictitious bank accounts will not be possible to operate

once these are linked with Aadhaar.

Lauding the role of judiciary, Mr. Prasad said that it must have the right to force accountability but access to justice is also good governance and judiciary should also look into this.

The Seminar was divided into five technical sessions, spread over two days. These were chaired and addressed by the NHRC Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Ghose, Mr. Justice D. Murugesan, Mr. S.C. Sinha, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra. NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Ambuj Sharma and Joint Secretary, Dr. Ranjit Singh also addressed the seminar, which was attended by different domain experts, NHRC Special Rapporteurs, NGOs, academicians, research scholars and top government functionaries from the Centre, State Governments and Union Territories.



Union Law & Justice and Electronics and IT Minister, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad addressing the Seminar

Conference on child rights and implementation of related laws in the southern region

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC in collaboration with the Government of Tamil Nadu, organized a Conference on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, POCSO

Act, 2012 for southern region at Chennai from the 5th -6th September, 2017. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Union Territory Puducherry were covered in the Conference. NHRC Members, Mr. Justice D. Murugesan and Mrs. Jyotika

Kalra chaired the sessions. Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Secretary General, Mr. J.S. Kochher, JS (T&R) and other senior officers of the Commission were present.

The Conference was organized to make an assessment of the infrastructure available in the southern States for the protection of child rights and review the implementation of the related important legislations. The Conference also deliberated upon the rehabilitation & reintegration of children in need of care & protection and children in conflict with law.



NHRC Member, Mr. Justice D. Murugesan addressing the Conference

Senior officers, dealing with Women and Child Development, Senior Police Officials, Members of Juvenile Justice Board, Probation Officers, senior officials of State Legal Services Authority, officers of Special Juvenile Police Unit, Superintendents of Observation Home, Chairpersons of Child Welfare Committees, Child Welfare officers, Superintendents of Children Homes, officers of

District Child Protection Units, Special Public Prosecutors, senior officials of State Human Rights Commissions, State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights and NGOs participated in the discussions.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance of alleged human rights violations reported by media during September, 2017 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some cases are as follows:

Deaths of children at a government hospital (Case No. 2064/20/3/2017)

The media reported about the deaths of more than 80 infants/children at a government-run hospital in the district Banswara of Rajasthan during the last two months. According to the media report, carried on the 5th September, 2017, the 'Labour Room' of the hospital was not properly sanitized and sterilized. The pregnant women were found to be underweight and proper consultation was not being provided to them about their diet. Records were also not being maintained.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan calling for a detailed report in the matter along with the steps taken and proposed to be taken to improve the conditions in the hospital. He has also been asked to inform whether any instructions in the recent past have been issued sensitizing the hospitals and other medical care institutions to prevent such tragic deaths.

Denial of treatment to an HIV positive pregnant woman (Case No. 1902/12/46/2017)

The media reported 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 in Jhansi and pushed out of the maternity ward. Even as the woman delivered twins outside the maternity ward on the 6th September, 2017, the hospital staff did not attend to them; as a result, the twins died half an hour after their birth. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government Madhya Pradesh calling for a detailed report along with the action taken against the guilty doctors/staff of the hospital.

Inaction on a complaint of eve-teasing and harsh police action (Case No. 29136/24/72/2017-WC)

The media reported on the 25th and 26th September, 2017, about the alleged inaction by the authorities of the Banaras Hindu University, BHU on a complaint of eve-teasing and subsequent use of unwarranted manhandling and thrashing of agitating students, mostly women, by the Uttar Pradesh police. The Commission has observed that the contents of the media reports are indicative of lapses on part of the University authorities, including the security guards, who instead of taking a quick action on the complaint of eve-teasing, allegedly, indulged in making sarcastic comments on the victim girl. The police authorities, apparently, resorted to rather harsh steps than, perhaps, the situation warranted.

It has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh and the Vice-Chancellor, BHU calling for a detailed report in the matter. They have been asked to include the details of action taken against the miscreants and precautionary measures taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur in future.

NHRC's spot enquiry

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.	1056/7/10/2017	Death due to electrocution and cremation of the body without informing family members in district Karnal, Haryana.	11 th -14 th Sept., 2017

Important Interventions

Offering of girls to Goddess Mathamma (Case No. 2017/22/12/2017-WC)

The National Human Rights Commission has taken cognizance of a complaint drawing its attention towards the inhuman treatment being meted out to the girls and women, who are forcibly taken to the temple of Goddess Mathamma for offering in Thiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu and adjoining places. As the ritual goes, a girl is dressed like a bride and after the ceremony, she is unrobed by five boys, virtually leaving her naked. Thereafter, she is forced to live at Mathamma temple, deemed to be like a public property, and face sexual exploitation. She can

neither live with her family nor get educated. Allegedly, this practice is another form of Devadasi system, which is still practiced in some parts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

The Commission has observed that the allegations, made in the complaint as well as in the media report, if true, amount to violation of human rights including Rights to Life, Education and Dignity of the victims. Accordingly, it has issued notices to the Government of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh calling for reports in the matter.

Piercing of cheeks of 20 children with steel rods (Case No. 2116/22/14/2016)

The National Human Rights Commission has found that on the 3rd October, 2016 in Tamil Nadu, the cheeks of about 20 children were pierced with two meter steel rods as part of a ritual for speedy recovery of the then ailing Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Ms. J. Jayalalithaa. It has asked the Additional Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, North Chennai, Tamil Nadu to register a case under sections 326/341/34/120B, IPC against those

who forced them face this torture. The officer has also been asked to inform about the disciplinary action taken against the erring police officials, who were, admittedly, present at the site and did nothing to stop the criminal act. Further, the Commission has issued a notice to the Principal Secretary (Home), Government of Tamil Nadu to submit a report on the steps taken to stop such rituals.

Rs. 6 lakh as relief in a case of botched up eye surgery (Case No. 646/36/2/2016)

Setting aside the contention of the Government of Telangana, the National Human Rights Commission has held that the liability to pay relief in a case of botched up eye surgery at a Government hospital, rests with the State Government and not the drug manufacturer. The surgeries were conducted at Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital, Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad on the 4th July,

2016. Accordingly, the Commission has recommended that the State Government pay Rs. one lakh each to 6 out of 13 victims, whose eye sight could not be recovered even after further treatment. The Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana has been directed to submit compliance report along with the proof of payment.

Recommendations for relief

Apart from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 33 cases were considered during 03 sittings of the Full Commission and 105 cases were taken up during 07 sittings of Divisional Benches in September, 2017. On 69 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 1,35,95,000/- 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.	2236/4/22/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Bihar
2.	6341/7/8/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Haryana
3.	1258/34/18/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Jharkhand
4.	281/11/8/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Kerala
5.	14/17/2/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	50000	Govt. of Nagaland
6.	1857/19/15/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	500000	Govt. of Punjab
7.	888/19/10/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Punjab
8.	1046/1/18/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Telangana
9.	13954/24/34/2015-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
10.	26985/24/1/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
11.	33402/24/13/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
12.	172/35/7/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Uttarakhand
13.	2648/22/13/2012-AD	Alleged Custodial Deaths In Judicial Custody	100000	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
14.	573/12/18/2015	Custodial Torture	25000	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
15.	1285/20/14/2014	Custodial Torture	100000	Govt. of Rajasthan
16.	18982/24/34/2015	Custodial Torture	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
17.	20339/24/4/2013	Custodial Torture	50000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
18.	39826/24/1/2014	Custodial Torture	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
19.	5150/24/8/2015	Custodial Torture	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
20.	484/33/5/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	500000	Govt. of Chhattisgarh
21.	106/6/19/2014-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	100000	Govt. of Gujarat
22.	1446/6/4/2014-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	200000	Govt. of Gujarat
23.	865/34/4/2013-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	50000	Govt. of Jharkhand
24.	26234/24/68/2013-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	500000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
25.	517/24/1/2015-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
26.	1689/35/12/2015-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	1000000	Govt. of Uttarakhand
27.	8643/7/19/2015-AD	Alleged Custodial Deaths in Police Custody	500000	Govt. of Haryana
28.	3849/30/9/2016-AR	Alleged Custodial Rape in Police Custody	50000	Govt. of Nct of Delhi
29.	28905/24/51/2016	Irregularities in Govt. Hospitals/Primary Health Centres	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
30.	8/34/17/2016	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	100000	Govt. of Jharkhand
31.	1209/18/31/2016	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	200000	Govt. of Odisha
32.	1501/18/8/2015	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	100000	Govt. of Odisha
33.	1548/20/20/2013	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	260000	Govt. of Rajasthan
34.	2806/20/1/2015	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	10000	Govt. of Rajasthan
35.	682/36/6/2015	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	5400000	Govt. of Telangana
36.	29356/24/70/2013	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	20000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
37.	33298/24/19/2015	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	50000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
38.	39468/24/6/2014	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
39.	41445/24/45/2013-WC	Sexual Harassment (General)	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
40.	44288/24/3/2014-WC	Sexual Harassment (General)	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
41.	17064/24/21/2013	Harassment of Prisoners	50000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
42.	593/18/9/2015	False Implications	100000	Govt. of Odisha
43.	3948/24/43/2014	False Implications	75000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
44.	6714/30/8/2014	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	100000	Govt. of Nct of Delhi
45.	2122/20/2/2014	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	150000	Govt. of Rajasthan
46.	20341/24/37/2014	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
47.	39722/24/1/2013	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
48.	41416/24/1/2012	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
49.	3854/24/8/2015	Abuse of Power	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
50.	40431/24/22/2016	Abuse of Power	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
51.	307/33/5/2015-WC	Gang Rape	100000	Govt. of Chhattisgarh
52.	9097/24/57/2015-WC	Gang Rape	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
53.	40/23/4/2016-WC	Rape	100000	Govt. of Tripura
54.	10867/24/53/2015-WC	Rape	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
55.	44565/24/52/2013-WC	Rape	50000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
56.	48096/24/22/2014-WC	Rape	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
57.	27236/24/18/2013-WC	Abduction, Rape and Murder	50000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
58.	35475/24/3/2013-WC	Abduction, Rape and Murder	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
59.	9916/24/36/2015-WC	Rape of SC/ST/OBC	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
60.	16334/24/57/2015-WC	Dowry Death or Thier Attempt	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
61.	770/24/51/2014-WC	Dowry Death or Thier Attempt	50000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
62.	35873/24/30/2013	Atrocities on SC/ST/OBC	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
63.	1607/24/33/2013	Unlawful Detention	10000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
64.	23211/24/43/2013	Unlawful Detention	20000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
65.	27623/24/1/2012	Unlawful Detention	75000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
66.	30991/24/46/2015	Unlawful Detention	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
67.	49661/24/77/2014	Trouble by Anti-Social Elements	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
68.	2334/4/4/2011	Police Motivated Incidents	200000	Govt. of Bihar
69.	646/36/2/2016	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	600000	Govt. of Telangana

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In September, 2017, the Commission closed 23 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments, it had recommended, totalling ₹ 53,2,0000/- 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.	3554/4/23/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Bihar
2.	3431/7/6/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Haryana
3.	9024/7/17/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Haryana
4.	1627/18/6/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Odisha
5.	4137/18/3/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of Odisha
6.	79/25/5/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	100000	Govt. of West Bengal
7.	15958/24/14/2013	Alleged Death in Home	300000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
8.	573/12/18/2015	Custodial Torture	25000	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
9.	4345/30/0/2013	Inaction by the State Government/Central Govt. Officials	200000	Govt. of Nct of Delhi
10.	2942/7/14/2011	Inaction by the State Government/Central Govt. Officials	50000	Govt. of Haryana
11.	342/12/36/2013	Inaction by the State Government/Central Govt. Officials	3000000	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
12.	1194/18/20/2014	Inaction by the State Government/Central Govt. Officials	120000	Govt. of Odisha
13.	13742/24/63/2013	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	25000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
14.	43345/24/37/2013	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	20000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
15.	349/4/34/2013	Illegal Arrest	90000	Govt. of Bihar
16.	15725/24/20/2011	Illegal Arrest	50000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
17.	25260/24/76/2013	Unlawful Detention	50000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
18.	1544/24/31/2014-WC	Gang Rape	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
19.	35842/24/25/2011-WC	Gang Rape	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
20.	969/30/1/2014-WC	Rape	100000	Govt. of Nct of Delhi
21.	586/20/6/2013	Children	290000	Govt. of Rajasthan
22.	1934/4/5/2013	Sexual Harassment	100000	Govt. of Bihar
23.	41114/24/25/2013-WC	Dowry Death or Attempt thereof	100000	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

NHRC Debate competition for Para- Military Forces

The Central Industrial Security Force, CISF lifted the overall best team rolling trophy winning the final round of All India Inter-Para-Military Forces' debate competition in Hindi and English, organized by the National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the Sashastra Seema Bal, SSB in New Delhi on the 14th September, 2017. The topic of the debate competition was: "There is no National Security without respect for Human Rights".



NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu presenting the rolling trophy to the CISF team

Commandant, Anil Kumar Dubey, CISF. Consolation prize in Hindi went to Sub Inspector, Ashutosh Kumar, CISF, and in English to Constable, Sumit, SSB.

The winners were decided by a three member panel of jury headed by Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC, comprising Dr. S. N. Mohanty, former Secretary General, NHRC, and Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Vajpayee, Registrar, National Law University, Delhi.

Among the individual honours, the first prize for debate in Hindi went to Assistant Sub Inspector, R.P. Tripathy, BSF, and in English to Assistant Commandant, Kanishk Chaudhary, SSB. The second prize in Hindi went to Umesh Kumar Yadav, Rifle Man, Assam Rifles, and in English to Sub Inspector, Vivek Kumar, CISF. The third prize in Hindi went to Sub Inspector, Laxmikant Sharma, CISF and in English to Deputy

Congratulating the winners of the Debate Competition, Justice Dattu said that the Commission is of the firm view that even though threats to national and international security are several and varied, the fundamental rationale, underlying all our efforts, to ensure security must continue to protect human rights and democracy.

NHRC's statement at the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council for adoption of India's UPR

Mr. J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary (Training & Research), NHRC delivered a statement on behalf of the Commission at the Plenary Session during the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council for adoption of India's Universal Periodic Review, UPR at Geneva, Switzerland on the 21st September, 2017. The text of the statement is as follows:

"As the National Human Rights Commission, India had observed in its submission for this current review, challenges to the safeguard of human rights in the country remain inspite of an independent and active judiciary, free media and an alert civil society. It was also observed that several recommendations received during the second review are yet to be implemented. It is hoped and expected that there will be better implementation of the recommendations being

accepted by the Government of India in this review.

The National Human Rights Commission, India proposes to work with both, the Government as well as the civil society, towards implementation of these recommendations. It will also strive to disseminate and give publicity to the outcome of this review within the country amongst all the stakeholders for this purpose.

We, in NHRC – India, have examined the recommendations in detail. They pertain to categories, civil and political rights as well as economic, social and culture rights. They also cover the rights of disadvantaged sections of society. Several of them do have relevance to the human rights situation of our country and hence, require serious implementation. We have already addressed the concerned Ministry of Government

of India calling upon them to expeditiously examine all the recommendations for early decision.

We have also found that the recommendations are more in aggregate number and received from a larger number of participating countries. This trend is also indicative of the maturity of the UPR mechanism. At the same time, the process of successive reviews will have

utility, only if, Governments work in a steadfast manner to achieve the implementation of recommendations they accept.

In the end, it is reiterated that the National Human Rights Commission, India will work with all stakeholders to assist in the process of implementation of all recommendations before the next review."

NHRC officers and staff organize cleanliness drive

Led by Secretary General, Mr. Ambuj Sharma, senior officers and staff of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC organized a cleanliness drive on the road facing the main gate of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi on the 29th September, 2017. A day before, they cleaned the area around the Commission's premises at GPO complex, INA. The aim is to organize cleanliness drives, periodically, mainly at public places, keeping in tune with the spirit of 'Swachh Bharat Mission' and thus, motivate others to inculcate the habit and culture of cleanliness. The Commission believes that people will have to shun this notion that keeping clean their surroundings is somebody else's job and not theirs. The people need to understand that if they can cause litter, they will have to clean it also. Right to health is very closely linked to clean environment and every individual is responsible to protect each others' human rights.



NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Ambuj Sharma (In Centre) and other officers & staff on cleanliness drive

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
Visits to Central Jail Yerwada from the 7 th - 8 th September, 2017 and Government Children Home/Observation Home, Pune, Maharashtra on the 9 th September, 2017.	Mr. S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC
Visits to Mental Hospital on the 28 th September, 2017 and Government Shelter Home, Ram Nagar and Observation Home at Varanasi on the 29 th September, 2017.	Mr. S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC

Complaints received/processed in September, 2017 (As per an early estimate)	
Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	6629
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	6648
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	27848

Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:

Facilitation Centre (Madad) : 011-2465 1330
For Complaints : Fax No. 011-2465 1332

Other Important E-mail Addresses

jrlawnhrc@nic.in (For complaints), cr.nhrc@nic.in
(For general queries/correspondence)

Focal point for Human Rights Defenders

Mobile No.: 9810298900, Fax No. 011-2465 1334
E-mail : hrd-nhrc@nic.in

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

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

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