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From the Editor's Desk

Two incidents, widely reported in the media in the month of March, 2016, suggest how police can effectively solve cases if it proactively engages itself in proper investigations. Incidentally, both the cases pertained to the kidnappings in Uttar Pradesh.

In the case of abduction in Ghaziabad, smart policing led to the unfolding of the mystery behind the abduction of a young girl and to the arrest of the perpetrators. In the second case, reportedly the Agra police, almost unbelievably, managed to overpower the dreaded kidnappers in a bloodless encounter leading to the release of the abducted boy. Both these cases show that police is vested with lot of authority, network and resources at its command to reach out to criminals provided they have either clear directions from the higher ups or the will to do their duty. They can be equally effective in crime prevention.

But what can be said when one gets to know that a police personnel allowed an offender to go untraceable despite having been handed over by public for taking further lawful action? A case about such criminal negligence has been pegged in this Newsletter.

But how many such cases may be get reported to the NHRC wherein, irrespective of the criminal proceedings in the matter, the State has been recommended to pay compensation to the victim for the misdoings of a police personnel? There may be several cases wherein, after a long drawn out legal procedure in a court of law, it is proved that a person was falsely implicated but with no harm to his perpetrator who, taking advantage of his position, had filed the false case.

There may be many examples to cite that even a lower rank police official had enough common sense to know how to take advantage of his position to his gain. And this happens, irrespective of the much touted impediments relating to their job constraints, challenges, lack of facilities and police reforms. Therefore, it may not be acceptable, if it is suggested that a lower rank police personnel may not have enough understanding how to exercise his authority in extension of his duty for the meaningful policing. The NHRC has registered highest number of cases of violation of human rights, including false implication, against police, which is, in fact, most empowered to protect them.

This issue carries a number of stories of police apathy, inaction and insensitivity, which underscore the necessity of sensitizing, particularly, the lower rank of police officials, who mostly have a direct interface with public.

NHRC Chairperson, Justice H.L. Dattu elected as a Member of GANHRI Bureau in Geneva

A delegation of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India, led by Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson and accompanied by Shri Satya Narayan Mohanty, Secretary General and Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary participated in the 29th Annual General Meeting of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) of the National Human Rights Institutions, NHRIs at Geneva from the 19th - 23rd March, 2016. The meeting became significant for many reasons, including for the renaming of the ICC as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, GANHRI.



Momentous occasion of the ICC being renamed as GANHRI sounding like GANDHI

Addressing the Session on 'The Merida Declaration' on the 'Role of NHRIs in Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu flanked by S.G., Shri S.N. Mohanty (on his right) and J.S., Dr. Ranjit Singh (on his left) at ICC meetings

Complaints received/processed in March, 2016 (As per an early estimate)

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	7055
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	11310
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	35540

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Development', Justice Dattu said that in tandem with what 'Merida Declaration' promises, the NHRC, India is actively engaged with the international mechanisms, such as the 'Universal Periodic Review'. It will put in all efforts within its jurisdiction to achieve the goals envisaged under the '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.



NHRC delegation with GANHRI Chairperson, Prof. Beate Rudolf and Former ICC Chairperson, M.L. Mushwana in Geneva

Addressing another session on the 'Business and Human Rights', Justice Dattu said that there is a conspicuous tension between human rights and processes of globalization rendering the already marginalized more vulnerable to human rights violations. He said that the corporate sector and industry need to ensure that business goals are in alignment and not in conflict with human rights. The NHRC, India will continue its efforts in accordance with the UN Principles of 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' in the business sector.

Justice Dattu also emerged as the unanimous choice to be elected as a Member of the Bureau of the GANHRI in Geneva. NHRC, India will now be representing Asia-Pacific Region along with Mongolia, Qatar and Australia.

Given his past experience in judiciary, Justice Dattu's

presence in the GANHRI Bureau would help in not only strengthening the GANHRI but also enhancing the role of NHRIs in the United Nations mechanisms. He will also be working towards the creation of new NHRIs in the countries, which have not set up such bodies.

The GANHRI Bureau is an important human rights body, which serves as the Management Committee of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and implements all its decisions. All Sub-Committees and Working Groups report to the GANHRI Bureau.

The GANHRI Bureau consists of sixteen, 'A' status NHRIs, four from each region, namely, America, Europe, Africa and the Asia-Pacific. The NHRC, India has been regularly taking



NHRC J.S., Dr. Ranjit Singh briefing GANHRI Chairperson Prof. Beate Rudolf on the Commission's 'Knowledge Fair'

part in the activities of GANHRI. It has 'A' status and its Secretary General, Shri S.N. Mohanty is a Member of the Finance Committee of the GANHRI.

The NHRC, India, for the first time, also organised a 'Knowledge Fair' on the sidelines of the GANHRI meeting, giving an insight into the Commission's work towards building awareness for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 11 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during March, 2016 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

Emergency like situation in Hyderabad University (Case No. 307/36/2/2016)

The media reported that there was an emergency like situation in Hyderabad University and there was no water, electricity, food, internet services and ATMs were out of order. Reportedly, there was heavy police presence in the Campus. The University students were under immense fear and trauma due to indiscriminate arrests of about 25 students and 2 faculty members after the incidents of vandalizing the office of the Vice Chancellor and damage to

the public property on the 23rd March, 2016. The Commission has issued notices to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana and Police Commissioner, Hyderabad calling for reports.

The Commission has observed that the reported arbitrary act and high handedness of senior officials of the University as well as police and administration, raise serious concerns towards safety and security of the students. No one can be deprived of the basic amenities like water, food and electricity by the willful act of the State.

Honour killing (Case No. 643/22/0/2016)

The media reported about an alleged honour killing of a

young Dalit man, who had married an upper caste Hindu girl in Udumalaipett, District Thiruppur, Tamil Nadu on the 13th March, 2016. The girl's family had attempted to bring her back through police but she refused saying that she was a major and had exercised her right to marry the man of her choice.

Issuing notices to the Government of Tamil Nadu, through its Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, calling for a report, the Commission has observed that the incident has raised serious question relating to the safety of the persons belonging to lower castes in the country. The matter was in the knowledge of the police but it failed to provide them adequate security.

Suicide by indebted farmers (Case No. 644/22/13/2016)

The media reported about the two farmers in Tamil Nadu who allegedly, unable to bear the trauma of being harassed, assaulted and insulted by the loaning agencies, committed suicide. One hailed from District Thanjavur while the other from District Cudallore. Both had taken loan for purchasing a tractor and were not able to clear all the dues as scheduled.

The Commission observed that it approves the realization of debt through lawful means but totally disapproves the forcible recovery by torturing farmers. The intemperate and immoderate attitude of the bank officials and the involvement of police in torturing farmers and their servants for forcible recovery are prevalent in different States of the country. Such form of forcible recovery by itself amounts to human rights violation. Accordingly, notices have been issued to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for reports.

Death of a minor due to surgical negligence (Case No. 1376/30/8/2016)

The media reported on the 24th February, 2016 that a minor girl died when a blade was left in her body after surgery at the Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi. Post surgery, when the child's father took up the matter of pain to her daughter, the doctors ignored him despite the x-ray showing the presence of a surgical blade in her body. When the father of the child protested, the treatment papers including the x-ray report was taken away. The Commission has issued a notice to the Secretary, union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Chief Medical Officer, Safdarjung Hospital calling for factual reports.

Negligence towards a victim of road accident (Case No. 515/12/8/2016)

The media reported that 22 year old Vikas Prasad Soniya was hit by a bus in front of Vidhan Sabha in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on the 1st March, 2016. The police personnel, manning the heavily secured area, merely lifted him from the middle of the road and dumped him on the pavement, writhing in pain for 45 minutes, till the Chief Minister's cavalcade passed. Thereafter, he was taken to the J.P. Hospital

on an ambulance but for 20 minutes he got no medical attention. Later, he was referred to the Narmada Trauma Centre, where he died due to severe head injuries. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh calling for a report.

Life saving drugs (Case No. 1187/30/3/2016)

The media reported on the 8th February, 2016 that the Centre, 'in public interest', had removed a custom duty waiver and also imposed excise duty on 76 life saving drugs. But the move resulted in increasing their cost. The Commission has observed that at a time when the healthcare system in the country as a whole is plagued with various ills, any action that pushes up the cost of medicines is bound to adversely affect people's right to healthcare. Accordingly, it has issued notices to the Secretaries, Union Ministries of Finance and Health & Family Welfare calling for reports.

Rescued bonded labourers (Case No. 547/22/12/2016-BL)

The media reported that in a massive drive on the 2nd March, 2016, about 550 bonded labourers including several women hailing from Odisha and Chhattisgarh were rescued from a brick kiln at Pondavakkam of Ponneri Taluk in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu. They were allegedly forced to work from 03:00 a.m. with meager weekly wages of ₹400/- per family. The Commission has issued notice to Secretary, Labour Department, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for a factual report, including the steps taken for their rehabilitation.

Increasing incidents of missing children (Case No. 739/22/13/2016)

The media reported on the 23rd March, 2016 that in Tamil Nadu more than two children go missing every day. During the first three months of the current year, 271 children had gone missing in the State. Reportedly, police do not investigate these cases seriously as these missing children belonged to the poor. The begging is banned in the State but it continues without any action. There is no system to check the origins of beggars and find out whether the children accompanying them were legitimately related to them. Reportedly, the mafia that controls bagging, child prostitution and adoption rackets could be behind these disappearances.

Observing that what bigger pain can be there for the parents and the little children than losing each other, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for detailed reports in the matter.

The Commission has also drawn their attention to the judgment of the Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 75/2012 dated the 10th May, 2013 wherein a number of directions, including mandatory registration of FIRs and prompt investigation in the matter of missing children, were issued. The NHRC has issued a number of recommendations and guidelines on the issue of missing children, which were also noted by the Supreme Court while hearing the matter.

Beating of a youth for hours on a train

(Case No. 702/12/20/2016)

The media reported that a young boy was mercilessly beaten by some fellow passengers for hours on board a Mumbai bound train in the night of the 25th March, 2016 without any action either by the Railway Protection Force, RPF or the Government Railway Police, GRP to save him.

Reportedly, he had an altercation over drinking water from the bottle of a fellow passenger. Thereafter, a group of them beat and hanged him upside down out of the window of the fast moving train for nearly four hours. He was eventually saved by some vendors from their clutches. The Commission has issued notices to the Chairman, Railway Board and the Director General of Police, Government of Madhya Pradesh calling for reports.

NHRC's spot enquiry

During the month, the Commission got conducted spot enquiries in eight cases. These included matters of alleged police inaction, violation of rights of inmates in Tihar Jail, Delhi, bonded labour, non-supply of drinking water and vasectomy of a man not in his senses.

Important Intervention

₹33.4 lakh as relief in a case of electrocution in Uttar Pradesh

Setting an example for the erring electricity departments in the country, the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC ensured that in a case of electrocution, due to the carelessness of UP Power Corporation Limited, rupees 33 lakh 40 thousand were paid by the Government of Uttar Pradesh as monetary relief to the victims and their families. Out of this, 28 lakh rupees were given to the next of kin of 14 deceased and five lakh 40 thousand rupees to those, who suffered injuries. The incident happened when a bus, carrying them, came in contact with an unguarded low lying high tension line while parking at the Amauli Road Bus Stand

in Jahanabad area of District Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh on the 23rd October, 2012.

During the course of persistent enquiries by the Commission, the concerned authorities eventually revealed that the height of the high tension wire was lower than the prescribed, i.e., 5.8 meters for which the area Junior Engineer was held responsible. Pursuant to the conditional summons, the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh sent the compliance report along with the proof of payment to the victims and their next of kin as recommended by the Commission.

Dereliction of duty by police in a road accident in Delhi

The National Human Rights Commission has reiterated that the Government of NCT of Delhi pay rupees one lakh as relief to the family of Bhagwati Devi, who died in a road accident and the police, despite having been handed over the accused, did not take any lawful action and allowed the perpetrator of the alleged crime to go as un-traceable. The Commission has set aside the contention of the Delhi Government that it would be premature to pay the monetary relief pending court proceedings in the case involving police inaction.

The Commission also rejected the contention of the Delhi Government that the next of kin of the deceased may avail compensation under the Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011, wherein compensation can be claimed in the range of rupees three to five lakh in a case of loss of life.

The NHRC has observed that it is empowered to recommend compensation, where the enquiry discloses violation of human rights. The compensation recommended under Section 18 the Protection of Human Rights Act is an addition to any other provisions covering the subject matter and interrogation of any other provision of law.

It has also observed that the act of public servant constitutes denial of right to access to justice which is also violation of human rights. The investigating agency has failed to conduct the investigation in a fair and impartial manner. It has abrogated its basic sovereign duty to investigate the crime, which amounts to dereliction. Dereliction of duty to fairly investigate a crime is brutal denial of the Fundamental Right to access to justice and equality before law to the family members of Bhagwati Devi.

Torture in police custody in Kerala

The National Human Rights Commission, in a case of torture of a house maid by police in Cheranallur Police Station, Ernakulam, Kerala, has issued a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala why an interim relief of ₹ three lakh be not recommended to be paid to the

victim. During the course of enquiry, it was revealed that the maid was kept in detention for 38 hours on the complaint by her employer for a theft. She suffered serious spinal injuries in police torture. Six police personnel were suspended and a criminal case was registered against them.

Recommendations for relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 119 cases were considered during 04 sittings of the Full Commission and 03 sittings of Divisional Benches in March, 2016.

On 20 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹26.5 lakh 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.	4513/4/5/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Bihar
2.	673/33/2/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
3.	32498/24/1/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
4.	225/24/52/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
5.	1670/23/4/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Tripura
6.	2/2/1/2013-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Arunachal Pradesh
7.	1020/35/8/2014-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Uttarakhand
8.	39/14/4/2011-AD	Alleged Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
9.	9523/24/17/2013	Unlawful Detention	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
10.	925/22/0/2011	Custodial Torture	Fifty thousand	Government of Tamil Nadu
11.	1022/10/33/2014	Abuse of Power	Fifty thousand	Government of Karnataka
12.	178/30/2/2013	Abuse of Power	Fifty thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
13.	3502/30/0/2014	Abuse of Power	Twenty five thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
14.	550/34/20/2012	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	One lakh	Government of Jharkhand
15.	1847/18/5/5014	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	One lakh	Government of Odisha
16.	590/33/5/2013-WC	Women	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
17.	39313/24/3/2014	Atrocities by Customs/ Excise/ Enforcement/ Forest/ Income Tax Department of Central/ State Government	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
18.	84/25/19/2014	Inaction by the State/Central Government Officials	Six lakh	Government of West Bengal
19.	4703/18/18/2013	Inaction by the State/Central Government Officials	One lakh	Government of Odisha
20.	188/18/29/2014	Inaction by the State/Central Government Officials	Three lakh	Government of Odisha

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In March, 2016, the Commission received 52 compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling ₹1,10,13,086/- 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.	7213/7/8/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Haryana
2.	2476/7/5/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Haryana
3.	1051/22/15/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
4.	302/34/12/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Jharkhand
5.	990/12/46/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
6.	2040/18/10/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Odisha
7.	35222/24/7/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
8.	74/1/22/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
9.	1632/4/23/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Bihar
10.	196/13/16/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
11.	8/32/0/2012-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Two lakh	Government of UT of Puducherry
12.	766/10/13/2012-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Karnataka
13.	7477/24/2006-2007	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
14.	12161/24/79/2012-AD	Alleged Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	168/9/0/07-08-PF	Alleged Fake Encounter (Para-Military Forces)	Four lakh	Union Ministry of Defence
16.	7355/24/1/2011	Custodial Torture	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
17.	32912/24/31/2012	Custodial Torture	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
18.	925/22/0/2011	Custodial Torture	Fifty thousand	Government of Tamil Nadu
19.	528/1/25/2012	Unlawful Detention	Twenty five thousand	Government of Andhra Pradesh
20.	1308/7/22/2012	Unlawful Detention	One lakh	Government of Haryana
21.	27032/24/13/2011	Unlawful Detention	Thirty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
22.	34547/24/8/2013	Unlawful Detention	One lakh fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
23.	29965/24/38/2011	Illegal Arrest	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
24.	44940/24/57/2012	Illegal Arrest	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
25.	208/34/16/2013	Abuse of Power	Fifty thousand	Government of Jharkhand
26.	936/18/28/2013	Abuse of Power	Twenty five thousand	Government of Odisha
27.	3275/4/5/2012	False Implication	Fifty thousand	Government of Bihar
28.	103/9/2/2011	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	Five lakh	Government of Jammu & Kashmir
29.	22654/24/7/2012-AR	Alleged Rape in Custody (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
30.	24780/24/78/2013-WC	Rape	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
31.	365/12/27/2013-WC	Rape	Two lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
32.	42/32/0/2013-WC	Rape	Fifty thousand	Government of UT of Puducherry
33.	501/25/22/2013-WC	Rape of SC/ST/OBC	Three lakh	Government of West Bengal
34.	2102/18/3/2013-WC	Rape of SC/ST/OBC	One lakh	Government of Odisha
35.	42831/24/65/2012-WC	Abduction, Rape and Murder	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
36.	1332/4/18/2012-WC	Indignity of Women	Twenty thousand	Government of Bihar
37.	1192/34/17/2011	Exploitation of Children	One lakh	Government of Jharkhand
38.	28816/24/39/2011	Inaction by the State/Central Government officials	Four lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
39.	30734/24/36/2011	Inaction by the State/Central Government officials	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
40.	43616/24/27/2012	Inaction by the State/Central Government officials	Fourteen lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
41.	30665/24/14/2013	Inaction by the State/Central Government officials	Two lakh fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
42.	9750/24/57/2014	Inaction by the State/Central Government officials	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
43.	6801/30/2/2011	Inaction by the State/Central Government officials	Three Lakh	Government of Delhi
44.	2494/18/21/2013	Inaction by the State/Central Government officials	Three Lakh	Government of Odisha
45.	562/12/33/2012	Inaction by the State/Central Government officials	One lakh fifty thousand	Government of Madhya Pradesh
46.	251/3/1/2013	Inaction by the State/Central Government officials	Three Lakh	Government of Assam
47.	21581/24/24/2011	Non-payment of pension/ compensation	Ten Thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
48.	256/18/2/09-10	Atrocities by Custom/Excise/ Enforcement/ Forest/Income-Tax Department, etc of State /Central Government	Seven lakh	Government of Odisha
49.	26086/24/17/2013	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
50.	611/19/11/2011	Irregularities in Government Hospitals/ Primary Health Centres	Fifty thousand	Government of Punjab
51.	506/19/15/2011	Miscellaneous	Ten lakh twenty eight thousand eighty six	Government of Punjab
52.	516/4/24/2012	Miscellaneous	Three lakh	Government of Bihar

NHRC – ILI Media Workshop

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC in collaboration with the Indian Law Institute, ILI organised a day-long workshop for media persons on 'Media and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges' at ILI, New Delhi on the 12th March, 2016. Shri S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC, inaugurating the programme said that the Commission recognizes the media as a valuable ally. He said that there had been several instances wherein the media acted as an agent for constructive change and notable developments within human rights jurisprudence. Describing journalists and other associated with media as human rights defenders, he said that attacks on them by vested interests are condemnable for not only do they weaken the freedom of the media but also democratic processes.

Shri Sinha said that media is very powerful but 'with great power comes great responsibilities' also. Holding media trials as very anti-thesis to the rule of law, he said that these might lead to a gross miscarriage of justice, which is a matter of urgent concern and required to be pondered over by the media in earnest. In this context, he quoted a key recommendation in the 200th report of the Law Commission which emphasized on the need for the training of journalists on certain aspects of law relating to freedom of speech in Article 19 (1) (a) and Article 19 (2) of the Constitution.

Shri Sinha observed that in recent times, mainstream media remained fixated with the issues of urban elites and middle classes and often failed to reflect some of the

pressing challenges confronting a large section of society including, among others, Dalits, Adivasis, women, rural poor, urban poor and workers in the unorganized sector. He lauded the role of the vernacular media for continuing to highlight important human rights issues from the forgotten regions of the country.

Earlier, Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ILI said that the first case registered by the NHRC on the basis of a media report signifies the importance it can play for the promotion and protection of human rights. Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary, NHRC drew on the significance of the NHRC's collaboration with the ILI in organising special programmes, such as this workshop, for building awareness.

The workshop, divided into four thematic sessions, was addressed by Shri Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, Dy. Director (M&C), NHRC Shri Sudhanshu Ranjan, Senior Journalist, Doordarshan, Shri Shashank Shekhar,

Member, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Prof. Pushpesh K. Pant, Dean, Northcap University, Gurgaon on 'Protection of Human Rights Act, NHRC & Role of Media', 'Human Rights Violations: Identifications & Reporting of Critical Concerns and Challenges', 'Media's Role in Championing Child Rights' and 'Gender Concerns: Role of Media in Facilitating Justice for Victims' respectively. The participants included media persons, officers working for media communication in the Centre and State Governments and the students of law.



NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha inaugurating the NHRC-ILI Media Workshop

National Moot Court Competition, 2016

The National Human Rights Commission organised the 4th National Moot Court Competition in collaboration with the Law Centre – 1 of the University of Delhi from the 18th–20th March, 2016. Inaugurating the event at the Law Centre – 1 on the 18th March, 2016, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member, NHRC encouraged all the teams to participate with the conviction of winning the event. Addressing the valedictory function on the 20th March, 2016, Justice Shri D. Murugesan,

Member, NHRC, highlighted the procedural aspects of litigation and the best practices of advocacy.

In all 48 teams, representing various institutions from different parts of the country, participated in the event. Broadly, the prepositions taken up by the participants centered on the issues of human rights involved in surrogacy. Senior NHRC officers, including, Shri J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary (T&R) and Dr. S.K. Jain, Senior Research Officer (Trg.) were present.



NHRC Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph inaugurating the Moot Court Competition

Awards to the winners of Hindi competitions

On the 15th March, 2015, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC presented awards and certificates to the winners of various competitions organised for the officers



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

use of official language in the Commission. He encouraged the officers and staff to work in the official language and said that he is also committed to improve his spoken Hindi to the extent that he is able to deliver his farewell speech fluently in the language on completion of his tenure as the Chairperson, NHRC in 2021. He also emphasized upon the need of creating an enabling atmosphere for maximum quality output.



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu & sr. officers with the award winners

and staff of the Commission during the Hindi fortnight from the 14th – 28th September, 2015. Justice Dattu congratulated all for participating in the events organized to promote the

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
Visit to Sidhi Tribal Settlements at Yellapur and Haliyal, District Hubbali, Karnataka from the 3 rd -4 th March, 2016	Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
National Seminar on 'Democracy, Tolerance and Human Rights' at Kerala Law Academy, Thiruvananthapuram, on the 29 th March, 2016	Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
Lecture on 'Human Rights in the Perspective of Current Global Thinking' at Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi, Farsi University, Lucknow, U.P. on the 4 th March, 2016	Shri S.C. Sinha, Member
Visit to District and Model Central Jail, Lucknow and interaction with the Prison officers of Uttar Pradesh from the 4 th -5 th March, 2016	Shri S.C. Sinha, Member

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