

From the Editor's Desk

Foundation Day of any institution serves as a mile stone in the journey towards its mission. This becomes a motivating factor for the people working in that institution to re-dedicate themselves with more vigour towards its mission, which for the National Human Rights Commission is ensuring promotion and protection of human rights.

Ever since its inception on the 12th October, 1993, the Commission has relentlessly pursued the cause of human rights as per its mandate, elucidated in the Protection of Human Rights Act. The Commission's decisions are only recommendatory. The Governments are not bound to implement them. It is open for them to challenge NHRC recommendations in High Courts. But since these come from a highly placed panel of wise men, they generally accept them. Therefore, compliance of most of the NHRC recommendations, as also reflected in this edition of the newsletter, appears impressive.

But this cannot take away the fact that some State Governments, in the recent past, have simply refused to accept the NHRC recommendations for relief in a few cases and for this they are not even required to seek the sanctity of an order by a court, unless challenged by the NHRC. The Commission on its part, having limited resources, would not like to indulge in litigation in every such issue, as it may amount to affecting disposal of complaints of human rights violations, which is its main function.

Imagine who would suffer in the matter, when the government does not go to court against the NHRC recommendations and simply set them aside and the Commission is also constrained to fight it out legally? Obviously, the victim of human rights violation. And therefore, the question arises, why have in place Human Rights Commissions when their recommendations are not enforceable.

Be that as it may, the need for giving more powers to the Human Rights Commissions was, perhaps, never felt more as it is now. The question is why? The Commission's can also approach High Courts, but it may, perhaps, not withstand the judicial scrutiny, if a government, instead of challenging its recommendations on the merits of law points, has taken refuge in the provision of the PHR Act that these are not binding. Moral binding is different than the legal.

The learned judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court are aware of this limitation of the PHR Act. On several occasions, both in courts and outside, they have expressed so in the recent past. They, perhaps, understand that the NHRC recommendations, if challenged merely on the technicality of a provision, would do no good to the cause of human rights, if not respected for being passed by a highly placed panel, comprising two Members from higher judiciary and two other Members of eminence, led by a former Chief Justice of India as Chairperson.

Therefore, empowering the Commission would definitely be a mile stone in its journey. If the PHR Act is suitably amended to make, at least, the payment of NHRC recommended monetary relief binding, the courts would also not be constraint to be drawn out into the petitions challenging them merely on the ground that the government is not bound to accept them.

As it is, in the matters wherein a criminal action is involved under the IPC, the NHRC neither has the powers to pronounce nor it recommends sentence to the guilty: It rests with courts only. In all such cases, the NHRC, at the most, pushes for initiating proceedings for a departmental or a criminal action by the respective governments against its official(s) found guilty of human rights violation.

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NHRC celebrates 23rd Foundation Day

The National Human Rights Commission organised a function on the 21st October, 2016 to celebrate its 23rd Foundation Day. The Commission was set up on the 12th October, 1993. Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest on the occasion, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister



Union Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology Minister, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad addressing the gathering

for Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, lauded the Commission's efforts towards promotion and protection of human rights and expressed the hope that through its interventions, it will become a beacon for human rights institutions in different countries. Celebrating the diversity and democracy of India, Shri Prasad said that every model cannot be judged from the point of view of a western model. He remembered the vision of founding fathers of Indian Constitution, which, he said, became a guiding force for the people to be rights conscious.

Shri Prasad said that there is need to focus on the rights of people affected with HIV-AIDS. He also emphasized on the need



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

for legal awareness of the marginalized sections of the people, the lack of which makes them vulnerable to human rights violations. He said that helping people in distress can be the most rewarding

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experience for anyone in life.

He said that the government is using information technology for building awareness and as a tool to ensuring good governance. Shri Prasad also said that there is a need to look beyond the conventional image of police and security forces and to think about the human rights violations of those also give up their life fighting against terrorism.

Earlier, addressing the gathering, Justice Shri H. L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC said that the Commission represents the work, dedication and relentless spirit of freedom, justice and equity. He expressed the hope that by adopting human rights culture as way of life, a fundamental change can be brought about to eradicate the scourge of poverty, ignorance, prejudices and discrimination based on sex, caste, religion, disability and other forms in society.

Justice Dattu highlighted various activities of the Commission and the new initiatives, taken as part of its consistent endeavour, to make people aware and engage them towards promotion and protection of human rights. In this context, apart from other activities of the Commission, he particularly highlighted the NHRC's Short Film Award Scheme, which has generated tremendous response reflected through more than 80 valid entries from different parts of the country this year compared to more than 40 received last year.

Justice Dattu also said that in order to strengthen human rights protection mechanism within the country, the Commission has taken

Winners of Children's Painting Competition

Age Group of 5-8 years:

- 1st Prize: Poorva Sharma, cash prize ₹ 2,500/-
- 2nd Prize: Manvi Singh, cash prize ₹ 2,000/-
- 3rd Prize: Sreehari P. S., cash prize ₹ 1,500/-



1st Prized Painting

Age group of 8-13 years

- 1st Prize: Sneha Sadangi, cash prize ₹ 2,500/-
- 2nd Prize: Vijayalaxmi Rout, cash prize ₹ 2,000/-
- 3rd Prize: Tavishi Talwar, cash prize ₹ 1,500/-



1st Prized Painting

Age group of 13-17 years

- 1st Prize: Shubhalaxmi Rout, cash prize ₹ 2,500/-
- 2nd Prize: Radhesyam Dash, cash prize ₹ 2,000/-
- 3rd Prize: Janhavi Balodi, cash prize ₹ 1,500/-



1st Prized Painting



Union Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology Minister, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad giving awards to Hindi essay writers

numerous initiatives to strengthen and improve the operational capacities of State Human Rights Commissions. It has also proposed to the Government of India for suitable amendments in the PHR Act, 1993 so as to provide for the setting up of Human Rights Commissions in the Union Territories as well.

On the occasion, Shri Prasad gave away awards to the four winners of Hindi Essay Competition for the writers from the SC, ST and Other Backward Communities on the theme of 'Crisis of existence of women and Human Rights'. Shri Rakesh Sharma 'Nisheeth, Dr. Santosh Kumar Singh and Dr. Puneet Kumar got the first, second and third prize of ₹ 12,000/-, ₹ 8,000/- & ₹ 6,000/- respectively. Shri Pawan Kumar Maurya was given a special prize of ₹ 10,000/-. Nine children, in three age groups, were given awards for their paintings on different themes related to human rights. On the occasion, six meritorious children of the NHRC employees, having secured more than 90% marks in class 10th and 12th in 2016, were also rewarded apart from the two best male and female voices of the Commission, who included Shri Rajeev & Ms. Vandana.

Marking the joyous celebrations of the Foundation Day of the Commission, its officers and staff presented a medley of cultural show followed by an ensemble of performances by the renowned Aamad Dance Centre of Ms. Rani Khanan.

NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu's statement to media

Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission held a 'Media Interaction – Briefing' in run up to its Foundation Day Celebrations on 21st October, 2016. In a well attended programme, the NHRC Chairperson, in addition to making a statement, answered several questions of the media persons.

Following is the text of his statement to the media: "The National Human Rights Commission has always considered media as its equal partner in the promotion and protection of human rights. The media has immensely helped in building awareness about human rights and the role of the NHRC. Media reports have been the basis of

several suo motu cognizance that the Commission took about the violations of human rights in the far flung areas of the country, which, otherwise, may not have come to the notice of the Commission. Therefore, it is our obvious pleasure to have media persons on board while celebrating the Foundation Day of the NHRC.

The Commission was set up to look into the issues of human rights violations of all and not just of those whom some people might choose as vulnerable. Since the 12th October, 1993, the day of its foundation, the NHRC has come a long way by addressing several issues of human rights violations as well as giving inputs on key legislations impacting human rights. Whenever an issue of human rights violation comes to the notice of the NHRC, it has to take its cognizance without bothering for the permutation and combinations of electoral politics or caste and creed equations.

Over more than a lakh complaints being received in the Commission, indicates not only the increasing faith of the people in its functioning but also their awareness about the importance of promotion and protection of human rights. Since October, 2015 to September, 2016, the NHRC has registered 1,05,664 cases on the basis of complaints, intimation from Police and Prison authorities etc and on suo motu basis. The number of cases registered during the period on suo motu basis is 133. During the corresponding period in 2014-15 and 2013-14, it registered 1,17,477 and 1,06,684 cases respectively.

The onus is on governments in States and Centre to ensure that the faith of the people in the NHRC is not shaken even by exception, when some of them choose to ignore its recommendations, not on the merits but merely on the ground that they are not bound under the Protection of Human Rights Act to accept them.

The faith also becomes a reason for enhanced expectations. The NHRC has not been an exception to this. Out of several complaints received in the Commission, many are on the issues, which are beyond its jurisdiction. The Commission can take cognizance of complaints only against the action or inaction of a public authority and not a private authority. Also, civil and property disputes as well as service matters, except the pension and family pension issues, are beyond the Commission's jurisdiction. It cannot take cognizance of an incident of human rights violation, if it is reported a year after its occurrence.

Since October, 2015 to September, 2016, the Commission has disposed 1,11,295 cases out of which 59,924 had to be dismissed in limini, as these were not in line with the provisions of the protection of the PHR Act. During the period, the Commission recommended

monetary relief to the tune of ₹ 70, 93,000 in 380 cases. The public authorities complying with the Commission's recommendations paid ₹ 11,59,56,172 as monetary relief in 410 cases to the victims or their kin. These included cases of the previous year as well as the some cases wherein recommendations were made during 2015-2016.

During the period, maximum 32,498 complaints were registered against police, out of which 206 cases were of encounter. Chhattisgarh with 66 encounter cases, topped the list followed by 43 in Assam, 15 in Jharkhand, 10 in Odisha, 7 each in Maharashtra and Meghalaya, 5 each in Uttar Pradesh and Manipur. West Bengal with 11 cases, topped the list of registered cases of encounter by Para-Military forces. Uttar Pradesh with 401 cases topped the list of cases of deaths in judicial custody as well as in the list of cases of deaths in police custody with 27 cases.

During the period, apart from holding various seminars, workshops on issues of human rights violation,



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri H.L. Dattu addressing the media persons

the Commission also held 2 camp sittings and open hearings in Bihar and Jharkhand. It also held extensive consultations with different stakeholders to assess the prevailing human rights situation in the country. An independent report was prepared and sent to the UN mandated Human Rights Council for the 3rd Universal Periodic Review, UPR.

The Commission has the mandate to question governments on allegations of the negligence in the prevention of violation of human rights and guide them in their commitment towards good governance. Therefore, the cases registered by the Commission, raise direct or indirect questions on the functioning of the governments.

However, its interventions are not adversarial to the functioning of the governments as ultimately the aim of both of them is to work towards the promotion and protection of human rights through good governance."

Suo Motu Cognizance

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

Japanese Encephalitis (Case No. 5968/18/29/2016)

The media reported that many children have died due to "Japanese Encephalitis", which has spread in several villages in district Malkangiri of Odisha. Reportedly, the social workers and the district authorities are of the opinion that culling of pigs is not possible and the only solution is vaccination of the children, which would be done from the next year.

The Commission has observed that it will be too late. Accordingly, notices have been issued to the District Collector, Malkangiri and the Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha calling for detailed reports, including the steps being taken by them to address the problem.

The Commission has also observed that the authorities have to be sensitive towards the need to maintain cleanliness in the area. There is a need to create awareness about the health hazards related with the rearing of pigs.

Death of 22 persons in a hospital fire (Case No. 6382/18/28/2016)

The media reported that due to suspected short circuit, a major fire broke out in the SUM Hospital and Medical College in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on the 17th October, 2016. At least 22 persons were reported dead. 40 patients in a critical condition were admitted to different hospitals. Reportedly, the hospital authorities in question were warned in 2013 for the lack of the safety measures but they ignored. In Odisha, out of 568 hospitals, only 3 have clearance from the Department of Fire Safety.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Government of Odisha through its Chief Secretary calling for a report in the matter, including the relief and rehabilitation granted to the injured and the next of kin of the deceased. He has also been asked to inform about the

steps/ precautions taken or proposed to be taken by the State Government to prevent recurrence of such mishaps.

Death of a prisoner in judicial custody (Case No. 36349/24/30/2016-AD)

The media reported that a prisoner of the Greater Noida Jail, an accused in the lynching of Mohammed Ikhlaq of Dadri, died in a Delhi hospital during treatment. Allegedly, he was beaten by some police personnel in the jail. Observing that the contents of the news report raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the prisoner, the Commission has issued notices to the Director General, Prisons and the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh calling for reports in the matter. The Commission has also observed that a prisoner cannot be deprived of his Right to Life, which is also ensured by the Constitution of India.

Death of a journalist in CBI custody (Case No. 585/33/14/2016-AD)

The media reported that a journalist, Shiv Shankar Vaishna died after his attempted suicide in the custody of Central Bureau of Investigation, CBI. Reportedly, after the incident, the CBI officials rushed him first to the district hospital and from there to the Ambedkar Hospital, Raipur, where he was kept on life support system for four days before being declared dead on Monday, the 3rd October, 2016. The family of the victim has alleged that he was tortured to death.

According to the media reports, carried on the 4th October, 2016, Shiv Shankar Vaishnav and his son were arrested by the CBI on the 25th September, 2016 in the case of murder of a journalist, Umesh Rajput in Gariyaband district of Chhattisgarh in the year 2011.

Issuing a notice to the Director, CBI, the Commission has observed that the CBI is the most trusted and premier investigating agency of the country. Death of a person in its custody indicates negligence on part of the officials. It becomes the prime duty of the agency to protect the Right to Life of a person, who is being detained by them for the purpose of interrogation. The act of negligence, apparent in the matter, is a complete transgression of human rights of the victim. A citizen, even in police custody is entitled to his fundamental rights ensured under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Important Intervention

Deaths of 740 students in residential schools

The media reported that in the residential schools of tribal areas in Maharashtra, 740 students died in last 10 years. The schools lack health services and basic amenities. Reportedly, the figures were based on an internal report of the State Tribal Development Department. As per the norms the students should be screened at least twice a year but government agencies were not following it.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report are shocking and painful. The students coming from the tribal communities generally belong to poor families. The school authorities, as their lawful guardians, are responsible for their welfare, safety and health care needs. The negligence on part of the Department of Tribal Development and the school authorities is a violation of Right to Life, Dignity and Equality of the students. Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Government of Maharashtra through its Chief Secretary calling for a detailed report in the matter.

According to the media report, there are 552 residential schools run by the Tribal Development Department for tribal students in the State. A number of posts are lying vacant. The budgetary provisions are not being utilized in a proper manner. The issue of the deaths of students in residential schools of tribal areas came to light when a 12 year old girl from a residential school in Palghar District died on the 7th October, 2016. Most of the students died of dengue, malaria, food poisoning, suicide, drowning and even snake bite.

Recommendations for relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 134 cases were considered during 05 sittings of the Full Commission and 71 cases were taken up during 05 sittings of Divisional Benches in October, 2016.

On 24 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 36.45 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.	792/1/19/2012-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
2.	30768/24/64/2012-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
3.	166/33/14/2014-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
4.	11/16/1/2014-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Mizoram
5.	2560/20/1/2013-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Rajasthan
6.	84/20/29/2014-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Rajasthan
7.	18780/24/53/2012-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
8.	94/1/24/2014-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
9.	437/11/8/2014-PCD	Custodial death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Kerala
10.	1010/13/22/2011-PCD	Custodial death (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Maharashtra
11.	947/34/11/2013	Death in police firing	Seven lakh	Government of Jharkhand
12.	1588/4/8/09-10-PF	Custodial torture	Five lakh	Government of Bihar
13.	387/30/0/2015	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
14.	15744/24/42/2013	Failure in taking lawful action	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	16/4/24/2014	Failure in taking lawful action	One lakh	Government of Bihar
16.	671/33/8/2015	Sexual harassment	Three lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
17.	20336/24/7/2013-WC	Abduction, rape and murder	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
18.	32706/24/68/2014	Atrocities on SC/ST/OBC	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
19.	26090/24/44/2014	Atrocities on SC/ST/OBC	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
20.	909/1/22/2015	Alleged death in home	Two lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
21.	5531/30/5/2014	Irregularities in Govt. Hospitals/ Primary Health Centres	Twenty five thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
22.	4060/18/2/2014	Irregularities in Govt. Hospitals/ Primary Health Centres	Twenty thousand	Government of Odisha
23.	20338/24/53/2013	Inequalities in prison	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
24.	31656/24/4/2011	Malfunctioning of medical professionals	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In October, 2016, the Commission closed 53 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling ₹ 1 crore 19 lakh 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.	1065/1/19/2013-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
2.	857/22/37/2011-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
3.	495/1/18/2013-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Telangana
4.	18883/24/3/2014-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
5.	2221/20/7/2011-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	Two lakh	Government of Rajasthan
6.	153/25/7/2014-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	Two lakh fifty thousand	Government of West Bengal
7.	1278/25/2/2014-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of West Bengal
8.	818/1/20/2012-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
9.	1266/4/32/2013-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Bihar
10.	2145/4/5/2013-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	Five lakh	Government of Bihar
11.	4513/4/5/2012-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Bihar
12.	1512/6/23/2013-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Gujarat
13.	1701/6/23/2012-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Gujarat
14.	6426/7/6/2015-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Haryana
15.	7805/7/2/2014-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	Five lakh	Government of Haryana
16.	725/34/16/2012-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Jharkhand
17.	22/11/2/2012-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Kerala
18.	515/25/4/2013-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of West Bengal
19.	464/20/9/2014-JCD	Custodial death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Rajasthan
20.	76/1/20/2012-PCD	Custodial death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
21.	286/20/22/2011-PCD	Custodial death (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Rajasthan
22.	680/13/1/2010-PCD	Custodial death (Police)	Two lakh	Government of Maharashtra
23.	998/34/2004-2005-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	Five lakh	Government of Jharkhand
24.	279/7/2005-2006	Death in police encounter	Ten lakh	Government of Haryana
25.	298/33/16/2011-AFE	Alleged fake encounters	Five lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
26.	32/14/1/08-09-AFE	Alleged fake encounters	Ten lakh	Government of Manipur
27.	48/14/0/08-09-FE	Alleged fake encounters	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
28.	7/14/4/2010-AFE	Alleged fake encounters	Ten lakh	Government of Manipur
29.	19559/24/2006-2007	Alleged fake encounters	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
30.	2597/30/0/2012-DH	Death in home	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
31.	304/3/1/2010	Abuse of power	Fifty thousand	Government of Assam
32.	3502/30/0/2014	Abuse of power	Twenty five thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
33.	43643/24/52/2013	Abuse of power	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
34.	335/25/13/2013	Abuse of power	Five lakh	Government of West Bengal
35.	536/20/34/2012	Abuse of power	One lakh fifty thousand	Government of Rajasthan
36.	1847/18/5/2014	Failure in taking lawful action	One lakh	Government of Odisha
37.	6836/24/57/2013	Unlawful detention	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
38.	2462/18/3/2012	Illegal Arrest	Fifty thousand	Government of Odisha
39.	3016/18/3/2014-WC	Rape	Fifty thousand	Government of Odisha

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
40.	26195/24/14/2014-WC	Gang rape	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
41.	2032/12/7/2013-WC	Abduction/Rape	One lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
42.	1155/19/4/2014	Atrocities on SC/ST (By Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Punjab
43.	3340/7/2/2014	Exploitation of children	Three lakh	Government of Haryana
44.	2171/4/37/2011	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. officials	Two lakh	Government of Bihar
45.	1118/12/53/2014	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. officials	One lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
46.	4036/18/3/2014	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. officials	Seventy thousand	Government of Odisha
47.	1553/24/1/2013	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. officials	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
48.	18500/24/12/2014	Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. officials	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
49.	590/18/3/2014	Irregularities in Govt. Hospitals/ Primary Health Centres	One lakh	Government of Odisha
50.	36256/24/61/2010	Malfunctioning of medical professionals	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
51.	451/35/12/2013	Malfunctioning of medical professionals	Three lakh	Government of Uttarakhand
52.	1145/4/27/2012	Nuisance by local ruffians	Fifty thousand	Government of Bihar
53.	40572/24/14/2011	Miscellaneous	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh

Children's painting and other competitions

The National Human Rights Commission, as part of its Foundation Day celebrations, organized a painting competition for the children of its officers and staff on the 8th October, 2016. The children, in the three age groups of 5-8, 8-13 and 13-17 years, were given three different themes to paint on. These were 'My School', 'Home for Everyone' and 'Care for the Aged' respectively.

Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC also decided to introduce from this year a scheme of awarding the meritorious children of the officers and staff of the Commission. They included those who scored more than 90% marks in their class 10th and 12th Exams. For the first



Children participating in the painting competition

time, a singing competition was also organised for the NHRC's employees to reward the best male and female singer.

Jury selects winners of NHRC's Short Film Award-2016



NHRC Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan interacting with the jury about the short film award scheme

A four member jury headed by Shri Sunit Tandon, former DG, IIMC, comprising Nadoja Dr. Mahesh Joshi, ADG, Doordarshan, Ms. Ananya Banerjee, Advisor, Doordarshan and Shri Arun Chadha, Film Maker and FTII

alumni, met on the 17th & 18th October, 2016 at Manav Adhikar Bhawan to select winners of NHRC's Short Film Award-2016. They saw 83 films, which they found fulfilling the terms and conditions set out by the Commission.

Before screening of the films for the jury, Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member, NHRC, gave a brief outline to the jury about the concept of the NHRC's Short Film Award Scheme and its purpose and the number of entries received this year by the end of the last date on the 30th August, 2016. NHRC officers, Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary (P&A), Shri Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, Dy. Director (Media & Communication), Shri Sanjeev Sharma, SSA were present.

The jury selected three films – 'Black & White', 'Tumling Street' and 'Ambrosia' for the first, second and third prize of ₹ 1 lakh, 75 thousand and 50 thousand

respectively. They also recommended four films – 'Dehleez', 'Aram Sei', 'Women' and 'Kanuvugal' for a certificate of 'Special Mention'. Apart from these films the

jury also shortlisted ten other films as worth watching. The awards will be presented at a function on Human Rights Day on the 10th December, 2016.

Glimpses of Foundation Day



NHRC setups three Focal Points

The National Human Rights Commission has nominated three officers as Focal Points for subject specific matters. They are: Smt. Chhaya Sharma, DIG for Trafficking, Dr. Savita Bhakhry, Joint Director (Research) for Women's issues and Shri U.N. Sarkar, Assistant Director (Publications) for SC/ST issues.

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
Closing ceremony of the UGC sponsored Refresher Course in Human Rights at Dr. D.Y. Patil Law College, Pune on 9 th October, 2016	Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
GANHRI Bureau Meeting on 11 th October, 2016 at Berlin	Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson & Shri S.N. Mohanty, Secretary General
Interaction with delegation from Law Development Centre Management Committee (LDC), Uganda on 19 th October, 2016	Chairperson, Members & Secretary General
21 st APF Annual General Meeting from 26 th -27 th October, 2016 at Bangkok	Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson

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

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	7570
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	7377
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	36703

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

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