



HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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From the Editor's Desk

The month of February was full of stories in media raising concerns and debate on the incidents appearing to be impinging upon Right to Freedom of Religion as enshrined in the Constitution of India. It was but obvious for the NHRC to take cognizance of such reports and also the complaints to know from the authorities about the action taken by them to instill confidence in the minds of people that they could practice their religious faith without fret and fear.

Another debate, which dominated the intellectual and legal discourse, was on Section 66A of the Information & Technology Act, which empowers police to make arrest over 'offensive' writings and messages on social networking sites. The debate still goes on with the matter being sub-judice before the Supreme Court to examine the constitutional validity of this Section of the IT Act in the light of the 'Right to Freedom of Expression' guaranteed in the Constitution. Whatever be the outcome of the hearing on the issue, it is expected of every citizen that he would be careful to ensure that his 'Right to Freedom of Expression' does not tend to create imbalances affecting the law and order in society and the rights of others.

In another development during the month, the Commission, through a 'National Workshop on Human Rights Defenders', brought in focus yet again the issue of protection of human rights of those who stand up for others and defend their rights. There has to be a mechanism put in place to ensure that those, who are genuinely involved in exposing aberrations in the functioning of States towards good governance are protected.

Talking of aberrations in the functioning of States towards good governance, brings the issue of two policies, which though intended for the good but appear to miss out on the humane aspect of their implementation. The stringent provisions of the 'Right to Education' has led to closure of possibly many schools which were running since long but did not have their own piece of land or money to pay proper wages to teachers. The NHRC has taken suo motu cognizance of this issue in the context of a Delhi school which had to be closed. The other example is of a rule about compensation to the families of dead farmers in Maharashtra, which has debarred hundreds of affected families from compensation. The Commission has taken cognizance of this matter also.

This issue of the Newsletter is full of such important interventions of the Commission during the month, which is fully packed with reports on various activities.

National Workshop on Human Rights Defenders



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan addressing the workshop

A day-long 'National Workshop on Human Rights Defenders' organized by the National Human Rights Commission concluded in New Delhi on the 19th February, 2015 by emphasizing that the Governments need to evolve an environment in their functioning to attach importance to the work of Human Rights Defenders. Apart

from taking stock of the implementation of several recommendations given by the Commission to the Governments following its 'National Seminar on Human Rights Defenders' in 2009, the Workshop came out with several other suggestions to strengthen the mechanism wherein the Human

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Meeting of the Statutory Full Commission

A meeting of the Statutory Full Commission, chaired by Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission was held at Manav Adhikar Bhawan in New Delhi on the 3rd February, 2015. NHRC Members, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Shri S.C. Sinha, Chairperson,

National Commission for Minorities, Shri Nazeem Ahmed, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Shri P.L. Punia, Vice-Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Shri Ravi Thakur participated in the discussions. Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Shri V.S.

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Complaints received/processed in February, 2015 (As per an early estimate)

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	9236
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	12736
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	43729

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National Workshop on HumanContd. from Page-1

Rights Defenders are given protection and their work is valued in right earnest towards good governance.

Earlier, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC, addressing the inaugural session of the Workshop, said that it is our social duty to espouse the cause of human rights. The noble pursuits of Human Rights Defenders help many of us in full enjoyment of social, cultural, political and economic rights. This contribution of civil society needs to be recognized. He said that the Commission gives importance to disposal of complaints of Human Rights Defenders and has also set up a Focal Point for them. The Governments should also focus on their functioning towards protecting Human Rights Defenders.

Shri Satyabrata Pal, former Member, NHRC and the Chief Guest on the occasion, felt that the Government was attaching low priority to the UN Resolution on Human Rights Defenders and their concerns. The revised 'Foreign Contribution Regulation Act' (FCRA) was passed to browbeat Human Rights Defenders. The National Advisory Council comprising civil society representatives to have a

voice in Government policies is also now defunct. Even the re-constituted Planning Commission, as NITI Aayog, has abandoned the provision of having Human Rights Defenders/NGO representatives on board. Corporate interests are being confused with national interests and dissent is being portrayed as anti-national. He said that time has come to speak and stand up for Human Rights Defenders, which is needed more now than before.

During the course of discussion, several suggestions were given, which included, among others, the following:

- i) NHRC should review the constitutionality of the FCRA;
- (ii) funding by Government to NGOs should also be streamlined;
- (iii) NHRC should intervene in court cases against Human Rights Defenders, wherever there is possibility of their victimization;
- (iv) conflict of laws in the way of promotion and protection of human rights should be examined and streamlined;
- (v) define Human Rights Defenders on the basis of their work, including

journalists, and have a declaration about them in the country;

- (vi) observe Human Rights Defenders Day every year;
- (vii) create an emergency fund to help Human Rights Defenders in critical need and create a world of solidarity;
- (viii) set up a Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders at State Human Rights Commissions also as it is in the NHRC;
- (ix) organize human rights awareness workshops for Human Rights Defenders as well as journalists at district level.

NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha, Secretary General, Shri Rajesh Kishore, Registrar (Law), Shri A.K. Garg, Joint Secretaries, Shri J.S. Kochher and Dr. Ranjit Singh and other senior officers, Chairpersons of State Human Rights Commissions, representatives of civil society, including members of the NHRC's Core Group of NGOs and senior functionaries of the Union Home Ministry and State Home Departments participated in the Workshop.

Meeting of the Statutory Full CommissionContd. from Page-1

Oberoi attended the meeting as special invitee. Shri Narendra Kumar, Deputy Secretary, National Commission for Women also attended.

Some of the important issues discussed during the meeting were as follows:

- (i) strengthening of convergence between NHRC and all other National Commissions;
- (ii) implementation of the existing Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act and the proposed changes in the Act by the Ministry of Women and Child Development;
- (iii) framework to monitor the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Government of India at the Second Universal Periodic Review;
- (iv) continued violence against women and effectiveness of the changes in



Statutory Full Commission meeting in progress

- laws (Criminal Laws Amendment Act, 2013) carried out in 2013;
- (v) availability of basic structure and resources to all the National Commissions as per their requirements to fulfil their mandate.

In addition, the members also

discussed on the need to hold periodic meetings of the Senior Executive Officers/Chief Executive Officers of the National Commissions, similar to the Senior Executive Officers Meeting organised by the Asia Pacific Forum annually.

Suo moto cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 08 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during February, 2015 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

Rehabilitation of 220 rescued child labourers

(Case No. 88/36/2/2015-CL)

The media reported that in a search operation, in the recent past, police rescued around 220 child labourers, including girls from bangle making factories in the old city of Hyderabad, Telengana. The children aged between 12 to 16 years were brought from different places in Bihar to work for a pittance. Police has arrested at least 15 persons in this connection.

The Commission has observed that Child labour is prohibited and amounts to violation of human rights of victim children. Accordingly, it has issued notices to the Commissioner of Police and District Magistrate, Hyderabad, Telengana calling for reports in the matter. It has also asked them to inform about the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the rescued children.

Placement agencies and human trafficking

(Case No. 1005/30/0/2015-WC)

The media reported that in Delhi surging demand for domestic help is fuelling a business that thrives on human trafficking by unregulated placement agencies. Hundreds of agencies are reportedly involved in the business of selling domestic workers.

Allegedly, there is no hold on the placement agencies which have emerged as the hubs and transit point for human trafficking. These are the root cause behind the exploitation of people, mainly women and children, from rural and tribal areas.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi calling for a report including the following points:

- Number of placement agencies, registered or unregistered, functioning in Delhi;
- Steps taken to keep a check on placement agencies.

Attack on a social activist

(Case No. 530/13/14/2015)

The media reported that an eighty year old social activist, Shri Govind Pansare and his wife were shot at by some unidentified persons in Kolhapur, Maharashtra on the 16th February, 2015. Both of them had to undergo several surgeries and were battling for life. Shri Pansare was of late leading an antitoll movement in Kolhapur. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Maharashtra calling for reports.

Denial of compensation to families of 2731 dead farmers

(Case No. 382/13/0/2015)

The media reported that the families of 2731 farmers who committed suicide during the last four years in Maharashtra were not eligible to get even a paltry sum of ₹ 1 lakh as compensation under the Government rules because the deceased did not have a bank loan against the cultivation planned in that season or owned a piece of land. Activists had been demanding for an urgent review of the compensation system to strengthen the agrarian economy. The Commission has issued notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra calling for a report.

Closure of an NGO run school for poor kids

(Case No. 578/30/10/2015)

The media reported that unable to fulfill the stringent RTE rules, Deepalaya, a

school for poor kids run by an NGO since the last 22 years in Okhla, New Delhi had to be shut down. The school had more than 600 students up to class eighth at the time of its closure in 2014. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Secretary, Department of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi calling for reports.

Abduction and sexual assault of eight women workers

(Case No. 4192/24/62/2015-BL)

The media reported that a brick kiln owner, along with a contractor and three others, picked up the workers at a brick kiln in Village Dundai of District Rampur, Uttar Pradesh on the 19th January, 2015 and kept the men and women in separate rooms of a building and thereafter sexually assaulted eight women. The Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh calling for reports.

Attack on a Church

(Case No. 512/30/8/2015)

Taking suo motu cognizance of the media reports regarding the incident of breaking open the doors of St. Alphonsa's Church in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi and defiling of the place of worship and other sacred objects in the early hours of the 2nd February, 2015, the National Human Rights Commission has issued notices to the Secretary, Union Home Ministry, Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi and the Commissioner of Police, Delhi calling for detailed reports including the status of investigation into allegations of desecration of the sanctity of the Church.

Prior to issuing the notice, an NHRC delegation, led by Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph visited the Church and observed that since the incident was likely to promote disharmony, enmity, hatred and ill-will on the ground of religion, the matter involved serious issues relating to violation of human rights.

NHRC's spot enquiry

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

Sl. No.	Case Number	Allegations	Date of visit
1.	6397/24/57/2013	Unlawful detention at Police Station Kotwali Nagar, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh	3 rd – 6 th February, 2015

Sl. No.	Case Number	Allegations	Date of visit
2.	2713/30/1/2014	A large number of persons who are drug addicts and night squatters in the city of Delhi (PUSA Road) are posing serious concern for the peace and tranquillity of the residents of the area.	3 rd February, 2015
3.	5717/24/18/2014	Alleged sexual assault in District Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh and action taken by police after complaint.	3 rd – 6 th February, 2015

Important Intervention

NHRC calls for steps to check trafficking of girls in Bundelkhand

The National Human Rights Commission has asked the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh to inform it about the remedial steps being taken by the Anti-Trafficking Cells, set-up in the 16 districts of the State to prevent large-scale trafficking of girls from Bundelkhand region.

The Commission has also observed

that the girls who had been saved/rescued were also entitled for rehabilitation but it appeared that the State Government was not taking any other step, except running Rescue Homes with the help of NGOs.

The Commission has asked the Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh to submit a comprehensive report, on the following

points:

1. The current status of criminal cases in courts related to this problem;
2. Whether the State Government has any definite schemes for the prevention of large scale trafficking of girls;
3. State may also carry out a 'Study', if required, to look into the issue.

NHRC recommends posting of police constables at night shelters in Delhi

The National Human Rights Commission has said that it would like to see that some police constables are posted in the various night shelters in Delhi to ensure security. It said that the concerned authorities shall also hold discussions with the NGOs and find solution for the

problems relating to the security of shelters. The Commission has asked the Director (Night Shelter), Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, Government of NCT of Delhi to further submit a detailed report regarding the functioning of the night shelters.

The Commission made these observations while hearing the Director (Night Shelter) in response to its notices in different cases, pertaining to problems in the shelter homes, such as, scarcity of infrastructure, sanitation, security and deaths near the shelter homes.

Notice to Tamil Nadu Government over non-utilization of Education Cess

The National Human Rights Commission has issued a notice to the Government of Tamil Nadu, through its Chief Secretary, asking him to inform as to how the State Government was using its

share of Education Cess provided by the Central Government for improving the facilities in schools, including toilets.

The Commission has observed that Right to Education guaranteed under

Article 21 A of the Constitution includes, the right to avail and to have conducive atmosphere for students to have their education.

Delay in payment of retirement dues to a BSNL employee

The National Human Rights Commission, taking a serious view of the delay in disbursement of retirement benefits to a retired BSNL employee in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It has observed that the

Department of Telecommunications neither gave any explanation behind the delay nor furnished any action taken report against the delinquent officers/officials. It has asked the Secretary,

Department of Telecommunications, Union Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to get this matter thoroughly enquired and fix the responsibility of delinquent officers/officials.

Recommendations for relief

Apart from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 124 cases were considered during 04 sittings of the Full Commission and 06 sittings of Divisional Benches in February, 2015.

On 28 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 91 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.	2242/12/33/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
2.	66/12/22/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
3.	869/12/22/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
4.	2997/20/5/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Rajasthan
5.	348/20/26/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Rajasthan
6.	409/33/2/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
7.	438/33/3/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
8.	1887/25/22/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of West Bengal
9.	515/25/4/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of West Bengal
10.	4478/4/8/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Bihar
11.	16084/24/4/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
12.	16296/24/6/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
13.	2989/7/19/2010-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Haryana
14.	336/6/6/2012-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Gujarat
15.	865/22/31/2013-AD	Alleged Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
16.	39182/24/1/2012-AD	Alleged Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
17.	11406/24/57/2013	Unlawful Detention (Police)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
18.	19687/24/4/2013	Unlawful Detention (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
19.	27/24/47/2010	Custodial Torture (Police)	Twenty Five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
20.	6823/7/22/2012	Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Haryana
21.	196/30/2/2013	Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
22.	1299/24/6/2014	False implication (Police)	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
23.	3246/18/17/2012	Abuse of Power (Police)	Twenty Five thousand	Government of Odisha
24.	38710/24/79/2013-WC	Rape of SC Woman	Seventy Five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
25.	101/22/13/2014-WC	Rape of Woman (Foreigner)	One lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
26.	2329/4/39/2011	Sexual Harassment (Children)	Twenty Five thousand	Government of Bihar
27.	557/18/3/2012	Lack of Proper Medical Facilities in the State	Sixty lakh	Government of Odisha
28.	4728/18/13/2013	Inaction by Government Officials	Two lakh Forty thousand	Government of Odisha

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In February, 2015, the Commission received 35 compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling ₹125.4 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.	378/30/9/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
2.	1652/30/9/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
3.	2638/30/9/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
4.	2857/30/9/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
5.	1528/24/2006-2007-CD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
6.	9217/24/48/07-08-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
7.	12311/24/24/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
8.	19651/24/28/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
9.	410/33/3/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
10.	153/34/19/2010-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Jharkhand
11.	26418/24/24/2010-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
12.	102/1/23/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Telengana
13.	865/22/31/2013-AD	Alleged Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
14.	17656/24/2005-2006-AD	Alleged Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	141/3/24/07-08	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Assam
16.	144/3/16/2010-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Assam
17.	273/3/13/2010-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Fifteen lakh	Government of Assam
18.	61/3/16/2011-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Assam
19.	19/15/5/2010-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Ten lakh	Government of Meghalaya
20.	115/3/2004-2005-AF	Death in Army Firing	Five lakh	Union Ministry of Defence
21.	40/3/16/2010-AF	Death in Army Firing	Five lakh	Union Ministry of Defence
22.	21/14/4/2011-PF	Death in Firing (Para-Military Forces)	Two lakh	Union Ministry of Home Affairs
23.	65/3/5/2012-PF	Death in Firing (Para-Military Forces)	Five lakh	Union Ministry of Home Affairs
24.	258/3/16/2010-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Assam
25.	619/6/10/2010-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Gujarat
26.	22474/24/18/07-08	Alleged Fake Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
27.	23869/24/54/2012	Unlawful Detention	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
28.	18/23/2/2011	Custodial Torture (Police)	Thirty thousand	Government of Tripura
29.	1718/23/0/2013-WC	Abduction/ Kidnapping (Police)	One lakh	Government of Tripura
30.	2288/30/7/2012	Victimisation (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
31.	39191/24/69/2011	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
32.	3013/18/31/2012	Sexual Harassment (Children)	Thirteen lakh	Government of Odisha
33.	125/22/31/2013	Sexual Harassment (Children)	One lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
34.	30738/24/71/2011	Inaction by Government Officials	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
35.	8319/24/28/2010-WC	Dowry Death or Their Attempt	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh

National Seminar in Hindi on Judiciary, Democracy and Tradition

The National Human Rights Commission organized a two day National Seminar in Hindi on 'Judiciary, Democracy and Tradition: An Evaluation' in Collaboration with P.G. Department of Law, Utkal University at Bhubaneswar from the 5th – 6th February, 2015.

Addressing the Inaugural Session, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC and



National Seminar in progress

the Chief Guest presented an overview of the role of judiciary in democracy. He also said that in a democracy, voice of common man should be reflected in the public

policies. Prof. Nand Kishore Acharya, renowned writer and thinker, IIT, Hyderabad, Prof. Ashoka Kumar Das, Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University were among

the other eminent speakers who addressed the three academic sessions.

Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member, NHRC and the Chief Guest of the Valedictory Session, traced down the close relation between the tradition and human rights by highlighting the role of judiciary in a democracy. Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary (P&A), NHRC also

addressed the gathering. Dr. Saroj Kumar Shukla, Assistant Director (Official Language), NHRC coordinated the Seminar.

National Moot Court Competition on Human Rights

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission inaugurated a three day National Moot Court Competition on Human Rights at the Law Centre – 1, University of Delhi on the 20th February, 2015. It was jointly organised by the NHRC and the Law Centre – 1 of the University for the third consecutive year. In all, 36 teams, representing various institutions from

different parts of the country, participated in the event. Broadly, the propositions taken up by the participants during the Moot Court centered around the Right to Education under Article 21A of the Constitution.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Balakrishnan expressed the hope that Moot Court will give the participants an opportunity for an insight



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan (sitting in middle) with co-jurists of Moot Court Competition, Professor, of Delhi University, NHRC officers and participants

into human rights issues and laws and encourage them to undertake further study into the subject. Senior NHRC Officers, including Shri Rajesh Kishore, Secretary General, Shri J.S. Kochher, JS (T&R) and Dr. S.K. Jain, Senior Research Officer were present.

NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha visits Homes in Lucknow

Shri S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC visited the Government Observation Home for Boys, Children Home for Girls and Swadhar Shelter Home for Women in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh respectively on the 13th & 14th February, 2015. The Observation Home for Boys houses about 109 inmates, who were in conflict with law. He found that hygiene, sanitation and kitchen were by and large satisfactory except some of the following points:

1. Juvenile Justice Court operating from this Home needed to be shifted; some more rooms could be constructed to address the problem of overcrowding;



NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha interacting with inmates of Children Home for Girls

2. Staff needed to be increased proportionate to the inmates;
3. Boys older than 18 years should not be referred to stay with younger children.

While visiting the Government Children Home for Girls, having at present 63 inmates, the NHRC Member found that most of the facilities were by and large satisfactory. However, he observed that a dedicated vehicle for emergency purposes was needed to be earmarked. This Home provides care, protection and rehabilitation to orphan girl children, run-aways from home, rescued from child labour and those whose parents were in jail.

During his visit to Swadhar Shelter Home for Women, he found that it provides all the essential facilities and training programmes for 50 women and 30 children but it required to be shifted to some bigger place. This Home is dedicated to providing safe shelter and rehabilitation to helpless, trafficked and destitute women.

NHRC Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph attends IPU Seminar in Manila

Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member, NHRC represented NHRC, India at the Seminar for Asia Pacific Parliaments and Human Rights Institutions in the region organized by the Senate of Philippines and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in collaboration with the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at Manila, Philippines from the 26th – 27th February, 2015

The theme of the Seminar was 'Translating International Human Rights Commitments into National Realities: The Contribution of Parliaments to the Work of the U.N. Human Rights Council'. The Seminar was attended by more than 80 representatives of Parliaments and Human Rights Institutions from about 20 countries of the Asia Pacific Region.



NHRC Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph addressing the seminar

The Seminar discussed the possibilities of better cooperation between Parliaments, local governments and other human rights stakeholders, including the NHRIs and civil society in protecting and promoting human rights.

Justice Cyriac Joseph addressed the Seminar on 'Protection of Human Rights at the National Level: Strategies for Enhanced Parliamentary Contribution'. He pointed out that the main function of the Parliament/ Legislature is to make laws and that legislation is an important means of protecting and promoting human rights. He regretted that many of the parliamentarians do not have sufficient awareness about human rights. He criticized the parliamentarians for failing to take keen interest in legislation and to effectively supervise and monitor subordinate legislation and proper implementation of the laws. He called for a more pro-active role of parliamentarians in the protection of human rights.

UN Secretary General Special Envoy for AIDS (Asia & the Pacific) visits NHRC



NHRC Chairperson, Members and sr. officers interacting with the UN delegation

In connection with their visit to India to undertake an advocacy mission to discuss the AIDS response and necessary steps forward, UN Secretary General Special Envoy for AIDS (Asia & the Pacific) J.V.R. Prasada Rao and Regional Director, UNAIDS Bangkok Steve Kraus met the Chairperson, Members and senior officers of the Commission in New Delhi on the 20th February, 2015. The visiting delegation discussed and explored the possibility of the NHRC lending support to accelerated country level action to ensure services and rights of concerned population. The visiting delegation was given a brief insight into the jurisdiction, work and functioning of the Commission.

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
Seminar on 'Human Rights Awareness' at Nandgaon, District Palghar, Maharashtra organized by Human Rights Mission on the 27 th February, 2015	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
Inauguration of State Level Office of Human Rights Mission at Silvassa, UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli on the 27 th February, 2015	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
National Seminar on 'Gender Discrimination: Women Harassment at Workplace and Social Work Intervention' organized by Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur on the 28 th February, 2015	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
Visit to Central Prison, Bengaluru, Karnataka on the 20 th – 21 st February, 2015	Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
Valedictory Function organized by the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai on the 22 nd February, 2015	Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member
National Seminar on 'Inclusive Growth of Minority Women', organized by Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi-Farsi University, Lucknow on the 13 th February, 2015	Shri S.C. Sinha, Member
Meeting on Prison Reforms with Home Secretary, Gujarat on the 5 th February, 2015	Shri Rajesh Kishore, Secretary General
Visit to Children's Home, Vadodara on the 6 th February, 2015	Shri Rajesh Kishore, Secretary General
Visit to Juvenile Home, Ranchi on the 11 th February, 2015	Shri Rajesh Kishore, Secretary General
Meeting with the officers of Jharkhand State Human Rights Commission, Ranchi on the 13 th February, 2015	Shri Rajesh Kishore, Secretary General

NHRC's 'Short Film Award Scheme – 2015'

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) invites short films/spots for its 'Short Film Award Scheme – 2015'. The film/spot may be in any technical format, advocating promotion and protection of human rights.

For more details, please visit the notice board on the home page of the website of the Commission, www.nhrc.nic.in or write to the Information & Public Relations Officer, National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, 'C' Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi – 110 023 to get the details along with application form free of cost by post.

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

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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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