



HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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From the Editor's Desk

In the month of April, 2015, two incidents of alleged police atrocities sent shock waves across the country. The first incident involved the killing of 20 people in a joint operation of police and forest officials in the Sheshachalam forest area of Andhra Pradesh, bordering Tamil Nadu on the 7th April, 2015. They were alleged to be involved in the illegal cutting and smuggling of red sanders. The second incident was of killing of five under trial prisoners, alleged to be terrorists, by Telangana Police while being taken to a court for hearing. In both the cases, police was reported to have fired in retaliation.

Given its mandate to protect the right to life, among other human rights, the National Human Rights Commission was bound to take suo motu cognizance of media reports hinting towards use of excessive force by police personnel in both the incidents resulting in loss of so many lives.

Now, both these incidents are under the scanner of the judiciary as well as the National Human Rights Commission, which has consistently maintained that encounters cannot be used as a tool by State to quell either the dissenting voices or the alleged rogue elements when legal remedies are available.

Another issue of human rights, which hogged the headlines, was clearing of amendments to Juvenile Justice Bill by the Union Cabinet. As per this, juveniles in the 16-18 years age group could be tried as 'adults', if accused of rape and murder. There are some other stringent provisions which have been introduced in the Bill. These changes were welcomed and criticized almost in equal measure. The debate over the age of juvenile offenders continues: whether the outlook of the law should be to reform or only to punish them or both? Age of a child is in the core of child labour also, answers to which are difficult to find, especially in the context of socio-cultural and economic realities and related constraints of our society, which necessitate a balanced outlook on the issue.

Be that as it may, government authorities must focus their attention on improving the environment and conditions of juvenile reform homes, which have not been found satisfactory by the NHRC on its time to time inspections, to make the juvenile offenders self-introspect and return to mainstream of life.

This edition of the Newsletter is full of news stories on the varied activities of the Commission, including its three 'Camp Sitzings', National Workshop on Leprosy and awards, among other interventions on human rights violations, which hopefully will stimulate readers' thoughts.

'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting' at Thiruvananthapuram



From L to R : NHRC Registrar (Law), Shri A.K. Garg, Kerala SHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri J. B. Koshy, NHRC Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Chairperson, Justice Shri K. G. Balakrishnan, Members, Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Shri S. C. Sinha and SG, Shri Rajesh Kishore

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC held a three day 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting' on the issues of human rights concerning the people of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram from the 8th - 10th April, 2015.

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'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting' at Hyderabad

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC held a three day 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting' on the issues of human rights concerning the people of the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana at Hyderabad from the 22nd - 24th April, 2015. After inauguration of the programme by the NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, the NHRC Members, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Justice Shri D. Murugesan



Sitting L to R : NHRC Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Members, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph and Shri S. C. Sinha

and Shri S.C. Sinha heard 21, 22 and 18 matters respectively in the 'Open Hearing'.

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

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	8485
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	6323
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	45976

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'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting' at ThiruvananthapuramContd. from Page-1

After inauguration, the NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K G Balakrishnan, Members, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Shri S.C. Sinha heard 85 complaints in the 'Open Hearing' on the problems of people of the Scheduled Caste communities. In most of the complaints, the Commission gave immediate directions calling for reports from the concerned authorities of the State Government.

The complaints were mainly related to the non-allotment of land or delay in giving possession of land allotted to the people of Scheduled Caste communities, delay or non-registration of complaints by police and problems in payment of pension.

In the 'Camp Sitting', the Commission took up 24 cases pending compliance and other reports from the State Government. These included 19 cases on different issues of human rights violations in its 'Full Commission Sitting' and five cases of deaths in police custody in its two Division Benches. The Commission awarded compensation of Rs.2,50,000 in the three cases of deaths

in police custody.

The Commission expressed its dissatisfaction over the tardy progress in the setting up of a Tribunal to settle the claims of the victims of Endosulfan and asked the State Government to expedite it.

In the matter related to the trafficking of children from the other States for orphanages in Kerala, the Commission asked the State Government to inform about the circular issued by the Social Justice Department regarding the guidelines to the orphanages and whether they were adhering to them. The Commission expressed concern over the torture and exploitation of Tribals who migrated from the bordering District of Waynad in Kerala to Karnataka to earn a living out of engagement in ginger cultivation. The Commission asked the Kerala State Labour Department to submit report on the steps taken for providing menial jobs to the people in the District in the light of the Section 20 of the Migrant Labour Act.

After the 'Open Hearing' and the 'Camp Sitting', the Commission held a meeting with the representatives of the NGOs which was followed by a meeting with senior officers.

The issues of discussions covered reforms in prison and juvenile homes, problems of migrant labourers in Kerala, problems of Scheduled Castes and other depressed sections of society as well as the issues which were brought to the notice of the Commission during its 'Open Hearing' and discussions with NGOs. Rising population of stray dogs and cases of dog bites, anomalies in distribution of ration and other supplies in tribal areas, non-allotment and non-possession of land to Scheduled Castes and police inaction over their complaints etc. was also discussed. The officers were sensitized on the importance of human rights issues and timely submission of requisite reports to the Commission in disposal of cases. The media was briefed about the outcome of 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting'.

'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting' at HyderabadContd. from Page-1

The intervention of the NHRC resulted in relief for many complainants in the matters taken up for 'Open Hearing'. Many cases of land disputes were resolved after the Commission directed issuance of 'Pattadar' pass-books to the allottees of land.

The Next day, in the 'Camp Sitting', 17, 11 and 10 cases, respectively were taken up by the Full Commission, Division Bench-I and Division Bench-II. In the matter of killing of 20 red sanders in a joint operation of police and forest officials in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, the Commission directed that in addition to its order dated 13th April, 2015, mobile number of all the officials involved in the police action, medico-legal reports of the police personnel injured in the action were also to be submitted to it. The Commission also decided to send its team for inquiry at the spot. In the case of killing of five

under trial prisoners by police in District Nalgonda, the Commission directed inquiry by a judicial magistrate.

On the issue of rehabilitation of 920 bonded labourers in Krishna district, the Commission pointed out that the delay in their rehabilitation defeats the very purpose of their release from bondage.

In many cases of custodial death, where it was found that the police or prison authorities were responsible, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to Rs.7 lakh for the next of kin. In one case of encounter the Commission did not believe the police version and recommended compensation of Rs.5 lakh.

The Commission also held a meeting with the representatives of NGOs which was followed by a meeting

with senior officers of both the State Governments. The issues of discussions covered reforms in jails, bonded labour, police atrocities, grabbing of land of SCs, implementation of flagship programmes, delay in submission of reports etc. They were also told that investigations by police in the matters related to Scheduled Castes were not quick and fair as it should be. The District Magistrates and Labour Officers were needed to be sensitized about their functions and duties under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulations) Act, 1986. The issue of farmers' suicide was discussed in detail with the State functionaries. The State Government has informed that steps were being taken to address the problems of the farmers. The media was also informed on the outcome of the 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting'.

National Workshop on Leprosy



NHRC Chairperson, Members and sr. officers at the National Conference on Leprosy

The National Human Rights Commission organised a day-long 'National Workshop on Leprosy' in New Delhi on the 17th April, 2015. Addressing it, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC said that the issue of bringing the leprosy affected persons in the mainstream of society with a uniform approach across the country remained a challenge. Corporates should come forward and adopt colonies of persons affected with leprosy as part of their philanthropy measures. Discriminatory provisions in the law, including those in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, violating the rights of leprosy affected persons should be removed.

Justice Balakrishnan said that occurrence of fresh cases of leprosy despite various preventive measures is a cause of concern. It was needed to be studied why the incidents of leprosy were more in some States than the others. All efforts have to be made by various stakeholders to spread awareness about the scientific facts related to the disease and break the myths attached with it.

Shri Bhanu Paratap Sharma, Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that the issue of rehabilitation of the leprosy affected persons is a stupendous task and cannot be handled by any one Ministry. He said that the Centre was committed to achieving the elimination target by 2017, as set out in the 12th Five Year Plan, with the cooperation from States.

Shri Sharma said that all States need to appoint District Leprosy Officers along with District Leprosy Consultants. They also need to fill up the vacant posts of para-medical workers for the care of leprosy patients. He lauded the role of NGOs involved in the identification, treatment and facilitation of leprosy affected persons and underlined the various incentives given by the Government for such work.

The participants included, NHRC Members, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Shri S.C. Sinha, Secretary General, Shri Rajesh Kishore and other senior officers, representatives of National Commissions, State Human Rights Commissions, other State Commissions, representatives of Centre, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, health experts, legal experts and civil society, among others.

Several suggestions, emanated from the National Conference. Some are as follows:

- 1) Large number of NHRC's recommendations as well as those given in the 131st and the 138th Reports of Committee on Petitions of Rajya Sabha need to be implemented to end social and economic discrimination of leprosy affected persons and their families.
- 2) The Ministry for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities should revisit the guidelines issued on the subject of Disability Certificate in 2001 so as to give a special consideration to the category of leprosy cured persons even if they do not fulfil the

Puducherry 'Camp Sitting'

The National Human Rights Commission held its Single Member 'Camp Sitting' presided over by Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan at the Union Territory Puducherry from the 28th – 30th April, 2015 and took up 41 cases and recommended Rs.9.5 lakh as monetary relief apart from directions to the authorities for taking appropriate action to resolve the issues of human rights violations. The Commission closed 9 cases on receipt of compliance and other requisite reports.

In a case involving labourers from Puducherry, working as bonded labourers in Tamil Nadu, the Commission asked the District Magistrate, Puducherry to coordinate with the concerned District Magistrates of Tamil Nadu in securing their release certificates and ensuring their expeditious rehabilitation in accordance with the provisions of law.



NHRC Member, Justice, Shri D. Murugesan (in centre) flanked by officers at the Camp sitting

Apart from hearing the cases, the Commission also visited Puducherry Central Jail, Rajiv Gandhi Government Women & Children Hospital, police stations to take stock of their functioning. It also held meetings with the representatives of the NGOs and senior officers and discussed various issues which impinged upon the human rights. Justice Murugesan also briefed the media on the outcome of the 'Camp Sitting'.

minimum disability of 40 per cent.

- 3) The possibility of creating a sub-quota of reservations in jobs for leprosy affected persons, in aggregate 5 per cent reservation, needs to be explored in the pending Bill for Persons with Disabilities.
- 4) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment needs to have schemes for children of persons affected with disabilities.
- 5) Special camps need to be organised throughout the country for distribution of assistive devices as well as Disability Certificates for leprosy affected persons.
- 6) State should give a reasonable amount of pension for the disabled leprosy affected persons.
- 7) Remove discriminatory provisions in State Acts (as done by Odisha) to allow leprosy affected persons to contest elections.
- 8) There is a need to give land ownership to the leprosy affected persons and help them build houses under the Government Schemes.
- 9) The Government should develop a special programme for the social and economic empowerment of leprosy affected persons.
- 10) The Centre and States need to implement WHO guidelines for participation of affected persons in leprosy services.
- 11) The National Leprosy Eradication Programme should include a multi-faceted strategic plan to change the mindsets and reduce stigma and discrimination attached with leprosy.

Meeting of Core Group on Mental Health

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC held a meeting of its Core Group on Mental Health in New Delhi on the 15th April, 2015. The aim of the meeting was to take stock of its previous recommendations seeking improvement in the mental healthcare and further action required regarding a petition on the issue filed by it in the Supreme Court. The meeting was chaired by NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha. 33 recommendations, emanated from the deliberations, will be sent to the Centre and the State Governments for action.



Suo motu cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 04 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during April, 2015 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of these cases are as follows:

Killing of 20 persons in police firing (Case No. 475/1/3/2015-AFE + Link Files)

The media reported that 20 alleged red sanders smugglers were killed in firing by a joint team of special police and forest personnel in the Seshachalam forest of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh in the early hours on the 7th April, 2015.

The Commission observed that the opening of firing cannot be justified on the ground of self defence since it resulted in the loss of lives of 20 persons. Accordingly, notices have been issued to the Chief Secretary and the DGP of Andhra Pradesh calling for report explaining the act of police and forest officials.

Killing of 5 under trials in police custody (Case No.324/36/7/2015-AD)

The media reported that Telengana police had shot dead five under trial prisoners, alleged to be militants, while they were being brought to Hyderabad in connection with a court case on the 7th April, 2015. The Commission has observed that prima facie, it appears that this is an instance of blatant use of disproportionate force resulting in the loss of 5 lives in judicial custody which amounts to gross violation of human rights. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Telengana calling for reports.

Killing of a woman after gang rape (Case No. 14961/24/8/2015-WC)

The media reported that a female labourer, who worked at a brick kiln was picked up by four persons, gang raped and set on fire to destroy evidence in the Chaugama area in District Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh. According to the report, carried on the 22nd April, 2015, the

family members of the victim were threatened of serious consequences in the event of making any complaint. The Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh calling for reports.

Deaths while cleaning a well (Case No. 913/13/32/2015)

The media reported that five workers were suffocated to death and two others were in a critical condition after inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning a well in Karegaon, District Yavatmal, Maharashtra. The incident was reported to have had happened on the 31st March, 2015. The critically ill workers were admitted to Sevagram Hospital.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Maharashtra calling for a report. He has also been asked to furnish details of the ex-gratia relief, if any, paid to the next of kin of the five deceased workers and to the two critically ill workers and the steps taken for providing treatment to them.

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.	2363/7/22/2015-BL, 2389/7/22/2015-BL, 2315/7/22/2015-BL, 2328/7/22/2015-BL and 2279/7/22/2015-BL	Bonded labourer at brick kilns in Palwal, Haryana	6 th April, 2015
2.	19635/24/6/2013	Police inaction on a complaint of forced bonded labour in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh	6 th – 10 th April, 2015
3.	983/4/2/2015-BL	Bonded labour in a brick kiln involving 28 persons trafficked from Chhattisgarh to Aurangabad, Bihar	15 th – 17 th April, 2015
4.	1236/4/26/2011	Harassment by anti-social elements and Government officials in Patna, Bihar for filing a complainant in the NHRC	20 th – 23 rd April, 2015.
5.	2351/4/14/2011-WC	Police inaction in a matter of a Dalit woman's kidnapping, rape and selling for prostitution in Jamui, Bihar	20 th – 24 th April, 2015

Important Intervention

Rescue, release and rehabilitation of 101 bonded labourers

In a swift intervention by the National Human Rights Commission, 101 labourers of 38 families, engaged in bonded labour since generations in Benipatti Sub-Division of Madhubani in Bihar, were not only rescued and provided release certificates but also provided relief and rehabilitation under various social welfare schemes including some land by the concerned district authorities. Most of the rescued bonded

labourers belonged to the Musahar Community, a Scheduled Caste.

Two criminal cases were registered against 18 errant employers in the matter at Police Station Arer under various sections of law on the 1st February, 2015. The past wages of the bonded labourers will be recovered from their employers. All the children of the rescued bonded labourers were admitted to schools. Girls of

marriage-able age of 6 families were covered under the Marriage Scheme.

The District Magistrate, Madhubani has been further asked to submit a report on the status of all the cases pending investigation with police and adjudication before the courts along with an update on relief and rehabilitation measures.

Monetary relief in a case of electrocution

The National Human Rights Commission has recommended Rs.1.5 lakh as an additional relief to the next of kin of a 2 year old child, Pradeep, who died due to electrocution on the 3rd September, 2012. The Commission did not agree with the argument of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) that the lapse was totally of a

contractor and not of their officers as the reports of Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer, EDMC fairly indicated failure of the officers. It also observed that the sum of Rs.50 thousand, paid as compensation by the accused to the father of the deceased child in the criminal case in the matter, appeared to be inadequate. Despite

reservations, the concerned public authority eventually complied with the recommendations. The parents of the child were working as labourers on the construction site of a new block in Swami Dayanand Hospital, Delhi where the incident happened.

Monetary relief in a case of corporal punishment

The National Human Rights Commission, in a case of corporal punishment, recommended that the Government of NCT of Delhi pay Rs. 25,000/- as monetary relief to Aman, who was beaten by the Principal of a Government school

at Timarpur on the 23rd November, 2013. The Delhi Government was of the view that the award of monetary relief would not be appropriate, especially when the injuries did not seem to be grave and criminal action had already been taken against the Principal.

The Commission observed that it is an established fact that the Principal subjected the victim to unreasonable corporal punishment, violating his human rights, and therefore, he needed to be compensated.

Recommendations for relief

Apart from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 136 cases were considered during 06 sittings of the Full Commission and 07 sittings of Divisional Benches in April, 2015.

On 24 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of Rs.51.05 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.	1679/4/37/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Bihar
2.	28397/24/31/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
3.	56/32/4/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Puducherry
4.	8/32/0/2012-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Two lakh	Government of Puducherry
5.	259/12/18/2012-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
6.	15/11/6/2013-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Kerala
7.	2597/30/0/2012-DH	Custodial Death (Children)	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
8.	414/1/11/2010-AD	Alleged Custodial Death (Police)	Eighty thousand	Government of Andhra Pradesh
9.	1493/1/7/2011-AD	Alleged Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
10.	22/14/4/09-10-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounter (Police)	Twenty lakh	Government of Manipur
11.	33932/24/4/2012	Custodial torture (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
12.	673/4/23/2012	Failure in taking lawful action	One lakh	Government of Bihar
13.	8671/24/1/2010	Failure in taking lawful action	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
14.	44339/24/62/2013	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	1556/4/11/2013	False implication (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Bihar
16.	42/32/0/2013-WC	Rape	Fifty thousand	Government of Puducherry
17.	67/32/0/2014-WC	Immoral trafficking of women	Four lakh	Government of Puducherry
18.	8915/7/3/2013-WC	Indignity of women	Twenty five thousand	Government of Haryana
19.	2061/13/16/2013	Sexual harassment (Children)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
20.	22/32/0/2014-WC	Sexual harassment (General)	One lakh	Government of Puducherry
21.	516/4/24/2012	Death due to school negligence	Three lakh	Government of Bihar
22.	19995/24/65/2014	Atrocities on SC/ST	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
23.	3048/18/12/2013	Inaction by State Government	Three lakh	Government of Odisha
24.	26086/24/17/2013	Malfunctioning of medical professionals	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In April, 2015, the Commission received 18 compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling Rs.41 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.	739/1/3/08-09-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Two lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
2.	834/20/7/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Two lakh	Government of Rajasthan
3.	618/33/5/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
4.	1879/12/22/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
5.	5324/24/7/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
6.	3/8/10/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Himachal Pradesh
7.	358/1/3/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
8.	696/1/24/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Eighty thousand	Government of Andhra Pradesh
9.	1071/12/18/2013-DH	Death in judicial custody (Children)	Two lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
10.	61/27/0/2011	Abuse of Power (Police)	Fifteen thousand	UT Administration of Chandigarh
11.	23879/24/48/2011	Victimisation (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
12.	218/22/13/2013	False implication (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Tamil Nadu
13.	511/13/2003-2004	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	Fourteen lakh thirty thousand	Government of Maharashtra
14.	45214/24/20/2011	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	120/8/8/2013-WC	Gang rape	Three lakh	Government of Himachal Pradesh
16.	2347/12/41/2011	Corporal punishment	One lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
17.	285/12/38/2012	Inaction by State Government	Three lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
18.	1579/18/18/2012	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	Two lakh	Government of Odisha

NHRC's Mahatma Gandhi biennial Hindi awards

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission presented awards to the winners of NHRC's Mahatma Gandhi Biennial Hindi Writing Award Scheme for the year 2010-11 at a function in New Delhi on the 20th April, 2015.

The first prize of Rs. 75,000/- went to Shri Dakshin Bajrange Chhara of Ahmedabad, Gujarat for his play "Boodhan Bolta Hai" on the plight of nomadic tribes of the country. The second prize of Rs. 50,000/- went to Shri Nishant Singh of New Delhi for his book "Baal Shoshan aur Apradh" which highlights various aspects relating to atrocities on children. The third prize of Rs. 40,000/- went to Smt. Sarvmitra Surjan of New Delhi for her book "Media, Samaj aur Manavadhikar", a compilation of her essays on various incidents raising concerns on human rights, particularly of vulnerable people.

Dr. Radheshyam Bhartiya and Dr. Sangeeta Saxena of Jaipur, Rajasthan received Rs.5,000/- each as consolation prize for their book "Qtlā Kachchi

Koplon Ka" which raises concern on female foeticide. Shri Manish Mohan Gore of NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh also received consolation prize of Rs.5,000/- for his book "Manav Adhikar aur Bharat Ka Samagra Vikas" which takes a look into the development of country from human rights perspective. Apart from the cash awards, all the awardees were also given a certificate, shawl and memento.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Justice Balakrishnan said that the Commission started this award scheme to build awareness about human rights through original writings in Hindi which is a part of its statutory duty. The NHRC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Book Trust to translate the awarded books into five Indian languages, including, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam to further spread the awareness.

Shri S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC said that enough literature was not available on human rights in Indian languages. The Commission is hopeful that through



A scene from Hindi Writing Awards function

this scheme, the writers will be encouraged to write on human rights to influence society.

Prof. Arun Kamal, noted Poet and Philosopher, lauded the Commission for encouraging writings in mother tongue and said that the scope of such awards should be expanded by rewarding outstanding literary contributions on human rights issues in all the Indian languages.

NHRC Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Joint Secretaries, Shri J.S. Kochher and Dr. Ranjit Singh were also present on the occasion.

NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha visits East Godavari District

Shri S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC visited Kakinada, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh and took stock of the implementation of various social welfare schemes and the functioning of Children Home, Anganwadi Centre, PDS Shops, Community Health Centre and Public Health Centres. He gave on-the-spot recommendations for improvement in the functioning of the concerned public authorities wherever he found it necessary.



NHRC Member, Shri S. C. Sinha meeting with State Government officers

NHRC officers attend APF learning programme



From L to R : Shri T. Raveendran, Smt. Sumedha Dwevedi, and Smt. Monia Uppal

Smt. Sumedha Dwevedi, Senior Superintendent of Police, Shri T. Raveendran, Section Officer and Smt. Monia Uppal, Inspector attended a Pilot Blended Learning Course on 'Women and Girls' Human Rights' organised by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) at Kathmandu, Nepal from the 13th – 17th April, 2015. Prior to this, the participants had undergone an online training for five weeks. They were sensitized on the issues and challenges faced in the implementation and delivery of human rights of women and girl child and guided in addressing them. The representatives from NHRIs of Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives also attended the course.

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
Three-day Training of Trainers Programme on 'Gender Sensitization' at Madhuban, Karnal, Haryana on the 6 th April, 2015	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson and Shri J.S. Kochher, JS (T&R)
'International Conference on Space Law' organised by Kerala Law Academy, Thiruvananthapuram on the 9 th April, 2015	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
Dale View Shelter Home for the Victims of Domestic Violence at PUNALAL, POOVACHAL, Thiruvananthapuram on the 10 th April, 2015	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
Training – cum – Awareness Programme jointly organised by the NHRC and Wellness Solutions at Kottuvalli Grama Panchayat, Kochi on the 12 th April, 2015	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
Seminar on 'The Suppression of the Constitution and Human Rights by the People Having Caste Prejudiced Mindsets' organised by the Delhi Hospitals Employees Welfare Association (DHEWA) at Vardhaman Mahaveer Medical College, New Delhi on the 25 th April, 2015	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson

NHRC's Hindi Essay Writing Competition, 2015

The entries are invited for essays in Hindi, written in not less than 7500 words, by the writers of SC/ST/OBC communities on the subject of 'Sushasan, Samajik Nyay Evam Manav Adhikar'. The writers of the three best essays will be given a cash award of Rs.12,000/-, Rs.8,000/- and Rs.6,000/-, respectively along with a memento and shawl. The last date of sending entries is 15th July, 2015, which can be sent to the Assistant Director (OL), National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, 'C' Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi – 110 023. For more details, please visit the Notice Board on the Home Page of the NHRC's website: www.nhrc.nic.in.

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