



# HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER



NHRC's Summer Internship..... page 8

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## From the Editor's Desk

The month of May, 2015 was very significant from the point of view of human rights. The NHRC filed a petition in the Delhi High Court challenging the acquittal of 16 personnel of Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) in the Hashimpura massacre case by a trial court. In order to nail the culprits, it has, in particular, sought that the documents showing the names and duty roster etc. of PAC personnel, deployed in Hashimpura area on the date of incident, be placed before the High Court along with the CBCID report and the findings of the Judicial Commission.

In another move, the NHRC recommended payment of ₹ 5 lakh each as an immediate interim relief to the dependents of 20 alleged red sanders smugglers killed in Andhra Pradesh by a Special Task Force on the 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2015. It also recommended that the Centre and the State got the incident investigated by the CBI. These and four other specific recommendations in the matter must put to rest the doubts, if any, over the handling of the case by the NHRC, though, it is reported that the Andhra Pradesh High Court had stayed the NHRC proceedings.

Right to Life and Dignity got fresh perspective when the Supreme Court of India held that a person's Right to Life, as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution, does not end with the confirmation of the death sentence and that the Right to Dignity also extends to death row convicts. Despite having confirmed the death sentence of a couple, it quashed their death warrants, issued by a Sessions Court in Uttar Pradesh, on the ground that these were issued in haste denying them the opportunity to exhaust all legal remedies.

Right to Food came in focus when a report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation showed India having the highest number of hungry people in the world at 194 million. No doubt, India was also shown having reduced their numbers between 1990 and 2015 but, surely, a lot of ground is yet to be covered. We have almost gained self-sufficiency in the agricultural output, obviously, the problem lies in the proper storage and distribution thereof.

Another issue of human rights, which is likely to generate debate, is that can a prisoner, convicted for life, be denied to donate one of his kidneys to a needy patient on the ground that he couldn't decide to do so as he was not a free citizen? The Kannur Central Jail authorities have allegedly done so. Obviously, the Commission had to take suo motu cognizance of it, which has been pegged in this issue among other interventions and activities during the month.

## Justice K.G. Balakrishnan completes his tenure as NHRC Chairperson



Outgoing NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan being felicitated by Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph on his farewell

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan completed his tenure as the sixth and longest serving Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. He had joined the Commission on the 7<sup>th</sup>

June, 2010 after his retirement as the Chief Justice of India.

During about five years of his tenure, the NHRC was credited with several new initiatives towards promotion

*Contd. on Page-2*

## Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member, NHRC takes charge as the Acting Chairperson of the Commission

Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member, NHRC took charge as the Acting Chairperson of the Commission on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. He is a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India and had joined the Commission as a Member on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2013. As authorized by the President of India, Justice Joseph will continue to hold the position, until the appointment of a new Chairperson in the NHRC.



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

|                                                                               |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission                         | 12449 |
| Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old                           | 9702  |
| Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old | 48723 |

### More in this issue...

|                                                            |   |                                                                 |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| ■ Suo Motu Cognizance                                      | 2 | ■ Programme for Commonwealth Forum of NHRIs in Rwanda           | 7 |
| ■ NHRC's Spot Enquiry                                      | 3 | ■ RWI Conference on Human Rights Library Management in Thailand | 7 |
| ■ Important Intervention                                   | 3 | ■ NHRC's Summer Internship Programme begins                     | 8 |
| ■ Recommendations for relief                               | 4 | ■ Other important visits/seminars.....                          | 8 |
| ■ Compliance with NHRC recommendations                     | 5 | ■ NHRC's 'Short Film Award Scheme-2015'                         | 8 |
| ■ Training of Trainers Programme on 'Gender Sensitization' | 6 |                                                                 |   |

## *Justice K.G. Balakrishnan completes his tenure as.....Contd. from Page-1*

and protection of human rights. Starting of 'Open Hearings' of the complaints on the problems of Scheduled Castes and atrocities against them in different States of the country was one of his major initiatives.

The Commission's outreach to build awareness about human rights also increased. From the 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 to the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, the Commission registered a record number of 4,93,445 cases, which also included 599 suo motu cognizance and disposed of 4,64,079 cases by recommending an amount of ₹ 68,97,70,172/- as monetary relief in 2242 cases.

Justice Balakrishnan re-started the practice of NHRC's 'Camp Sitzings' in different States to dispose of pending cases in the presence of Government authorities. Not only this, he also set up a Committee to study and classify offences which could be heard by Human Rights Courts.

Justice Balakrishnan promoted national level consultations with different stakeholders on various issues of human rights to form consensus on recommendations to the Government. During his tenure, more than 40 such conferences, seminars and colloquium were organised by the NHRC.

The Commission also filed seven petitions/intervention applications in matters of human rights issues before the Supreme Court and High Courts. These included the issue of powers and role of the NHRC in respect of enquiry in two cases of encounter deaths. He strongly pitched in for the passage of Prevention of Torture Bill, 2011 by Parliament and also reviewed a number of draft legislations and policy documents.

He urged the Government for suitable modification in the Section 377 of the IPC to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender saying that "All people, regardless of

their sexual orientation or gender identity, should be able to enjoy their human rights." An Expert Group was set up to prepare some guidelines on Clinical Drug Trials. It was decided to intervene in the matter before the Supreme Court. During his tenure, the NHRC commenced a study to develop a code of ethics for Indian industries to promote corporate-social responsibility.

For building awareness, a record number of 501 training programmes were organised for teachers, para military forces, police personnel, students and other sections of society. The Commission published 28 new books to promote awareness about various human rights issues. He instituted awards for encouraging original writing in Hindi on human rights issues. A short film award scheme to recognize creative work in the field of human rights was also introduced during his tenure.

## Suo motu cognizance

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

### **Organ donation by prisoners (Case No. 464/11/2/2015)**

The media reported that a prisoner serving life term in the Central Jail, Kannur, Kerala had not been able to get permission to donate one of his kidneys to a poor and needy patient despite having approached the Chief Minister, Home Minister and Director General of Prisons of the State. The news report claimed that according to the jail authorities, prisoners were not free citizens and hence, they were not entitled to take independent decisions regarding such organ donations.

Reportedly, four other prisoners in the same Jail had expressed their willingness to donate organs but the stand of the jail authorities remained an impediment. The Commission has directed the Chief Secretary and Director General of Prisons, Government of Kerala to submit a report in the matter.

### **Medical facilities to mentally ill (Case No. 17924/24/14/2015)**

The media reported that due to some confusion over an order of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the mentally ill patients from Uttarakhand were being allowed treatment in the OPD of the Bareilly Mental Hospital from August, 2014 but denied admission as indoor patients. The Commission has directed the Principal Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), Government of Uttar Pradesh and

Director, Mental Hospital Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh to submit factual reports in the matter.

### **Third degree torture of a student (Case No. 3809/7/3/2015)**

The media reported that a student of class seven, allegedly fed up with third degree torture by the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), DLF, Faridabad, Haryana, consumed a poisonous substance. He had to be admitted to a hospital in a critical condition. The Commission has issued a notice to the Commissioner of Police, Faridabad, Haryana calling for a report. Reportedly, the child was picked up on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 by a CIA, DLF team on suspicion of selling a stolen mobile phone. He was taken to the Police Chowki; brutally beaten up and subjected to torture using various methods.

## 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.      | 34944/24/31/2013-WC | Police inaction in a case of sexual assault in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.                                                 | 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2015   |
| 2.      | 125/12/47/2013      | Criminal activities and abnormal deaths of destitutes at Sevadham Ashram, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.                        | 19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2015 |
| 3.      | 35068/24/30/2013-WC | Police inaction in a complaint of sexual assault in Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.                                    | 28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> May, 2015 |
| 4.      | 42328/24/57/2011-WC | Abduction, rape and contradictory reports/ statements of the victim submitted by police in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh. | 28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> May, 2015 |

## Important Intervention

### NHRC challenges a trial court's decision in Hashimpura massacre

The National Human Rights Commission has filed a petition in the Delhi High Court challenging a trial court's decision to acquit 16 policemen in the 1987 Hashimpura massacre case of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

In order to nail the culprits, the

Commission, among other directions, has sought that documents relating to the names, duty roster of PAC personnel deployed in Hashimpura area on the date of incident be placed before the High Court. These should include registers, duty register,

attendance registers, log-books and connected relevant details. It has also requested placing of the CBCID report and the findings of the Judicial Commission of Enquiry into the massacre before the High Court.

### Recommendations in the encounter of 20 alleged red sanders smugglers

The National Human Rights Commission, in the case registered suo motu by it on the incident of the killing of 20 alleged red sanders smugglers in an encounter by a Special Task Force in Andhra Pradesh on the 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, has made the following observations:

"Considering the background of the victims, the delay in registration of FIR, improvements made by the officers of the State Government, the nature of weapons allegedly seized from the spot, the testimony of Sekhar, A. Balachandran, M. Illango and the reluctance of the State Government to share even basic information with the Commission, we find that:

- There are good grounds to think that there was serious violation of human rights of the 20 persons who were killed by STF personnel on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in Sheshachalam forest of Chittoor District.
- The victims were very poor and their families are suffering under deprivation.
- The families cannot be allowed to starve and die waiting for the final outcome of the enquiry by NHRC or investigation by an unbiased investigating agency."

In view of the above observations, among others, the Commission has made the following recommendations:

- "1) The Government of Andhra Pradesh shall pay ₹ 5 lakh as immediate interim relief to the dependents of each of the 20 persons who were killed by STF personnel on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in Sheshachalam forest of Chittoor District. The compliance report with proof of payment shall be submitted to the Commission.
- 2) District Magistrate, Chittoor shall promptly take steps to disburse financial assistance to the dependents of 13 victims who belonged to Scheduled Tribe under the rule 12(4) r/w Annexure I of the SC/ST (PoA) Rules and submit action taken report to the Commission.

- 3) The Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh shall have FIR No. 42/15, 43/15 and 46/15, PS Chandragiri investigated by CBI after completion of necessary formalities and shall submit an action taken report to the Commission.
- 4) The present investigating officer of FIR No. 42/15, 43/15 and 46/15 shall get the statements of witnesses recorded u/s 164 Cr.P.C. before a competent Magistrate in Tamil Nadu at the earliest.
- 5) DGP, Tamil Nadu shall continue to provide adequate protection to the witnesses namely Sekhar, A. Balachandran and M. Illango, their families and the Presidents of the Panchayats where they are living.
- 6) Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh and DGP, Andhra Pradesh shall appear in person before the Commission on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. to furnish the information and produce the record as directed by the Commission in its proceedings dated 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2015."

## Encroachments on Red Hills lake area in Tiruvallur

The National Human Rights Commission has asked the District Collector, Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu to take steps by issuing necessary orders to the revenue officials to take action for removal of encroachments and constructions, if any, in the catchment area of Red Hills lake in Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur. He has been directed to submit action taken report.

The Commission has observed that the protection of water bodies is the primary responsibility of the Government. Far back in 2005, the High Court of Madras, in the judgment reported in 2005 (4) CTC 1 (L. Krishnan vs. State of Tamil Nadu) had held that when the land is classified as 'Odai Poramboke' in the revenue records, then specific steps should be taken to study encroachments on wetlands and steps required to improve the water storage facilities. Therefore, encroachment of the land, ad-joining catchment area (Odai Poramboke), should be removed without any exception.

The Commission's directions came following its cognizance of a complaint seeking its intervention in the matter of human rights violation of 11 persons who died when a wall, adjoining their huts, collapsed at Upper Palayam Village near Red Hills lake, Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.

Subsequent to its notices, the Commission found that the victims or their next of kin were duly compensated and action for criminal proceedings against the erring business establishments was taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu. But, it observed that the tragedy could have been averted if the illegal compound wall obstructing the flow of water to Reservoir was not constructed.

## Police atrocity in Kasganj

The National Human Rights Commission, in a case of illegal police custody, has issued a notice to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, through its Chief Secretary, to show cause why suitable amount of interim relief may not be recommended to be paid each to the four persons who became victim of police atrocity in District Kasganj. It has also directed the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh that they shall ensure to set the law in motion and submit the details of legal and departmental action taken in the matter within this period.

The Commission had found that a Sub-Inspector of the Police Station, Kasganj, along with his five associates in plain clothes, were responsible for illegal custody of four members of a family. They took them to trace the complainant's son, who had taken along with him the niece of the Sub-Inspector. After locating them, the mobile phones and documents of her sons were taken away by the police personnel. The husband of the complainant and all her children were also allowed to leave only the next day.

The Commission has observed that the said police officer misused his power and authority and has taken law in his hands. The complaint as well as the statement of the petitioner recorded by the Enquiry Officer disclosed commission of cognizable offence. Such acts cannot be accepted in a society governed by the rule of law. By lifting the husband of the complainant and her two children from their house forcibly, the police officer not only violated human rights of the three victims but also subjected the complainant to mental agony and trauma.

## Recommendations for relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 119 cases were considered during 5 sittings of the Full Commission and 8 sittings of Divisional Benches in May, 2015.

On 26 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹56.20 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.      | 1486/4/2006-2007-CD  | Custodial Death (Judicial)                    | One lakh                  | Government of Bihar         |
| 2.      | 271/33/5/2013-JCD    | Custodial Death (Judicial)                    | Three lakh                | Government of Chhattisgarh  |
| 3.      | 41/1/7/2014-JCD      | Custodial Death (Judicial)                    | One lakh                  | Government of Telengana     |
| 4.      | 2476/7/5/2014-JCD    | Custodial Death (Judicial)                    | Three lakh                | Government of Haryana       |
| 5.      | 36038/24/14/2013-PCD | Custodial Death (Police)                      | One lakh                  | Government of Uttar Pradesh |
| 6.      | 168/9/0/07-08-PF     | Alleged Fake Encounter (Para-Military Forces) | Four lakh                 | Union Ministry of Defence   |
| 7.      | 9/14/4/2010-AFE      | Alleged Fake Encounter                        | Five lakh                 | Government of Manipur       |
| 8.      | 326/10/1/08-09       | Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police)      | Fifteen thousand          | Government of Karnataka     |
| 9.      | 33623/24/2005-2006   | Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police)      | Three lakh                | Government of Uttar Pradesh |
| 10.     | 34021/24/72/2013     | Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police)      | Three lakh                | Government of Uttar Pradesh |
| 11.     | 4689/7/10/2013       | Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police)      | Six lakh                  | Government of Haryana       |
| 12.     | 299/7/3/08-09        | Illegal Arrest (Police)                       | Fifty thousand            | Government of Haryana       |
| 13.     | 39324/24/54/2012     | Unlawful Detention (Police)                   | Twenty five thousand      | Government of Uttar Pradesh |
| 14.     | 984/34/15/08-09      | Abuse of Power (Police)                       | Five lakh                 | Chairman, Railway Board     |
| 15.     | 969/30/1/2014-WC     | Rape                                          | One lakh                  | Government of NCT of Delhi  |
| 16.     | 2102/18/3/2013-WC    | Rape of ST Woman                              | One lakh                  | Government of Odisha        |
| 17.     | 42831/24/65/2012-WC  | Abduction, Rape & Murder                      | Fifty thousand            | Government of Odisha        |
| 18.     | 12/25/22/2014-WC     | Indignity of Women                            | Twenty five thousand      | Government of West Bengal   |
| 19.     | 612/7/19/2010        | Child Marriage                                | Twenty five thousand      | Government of Haryana       |
| 20.     | 4/23/0/2014          | Exploitation of Children                      | Ten thousand              | Government of Tripura       |
| 21.     | 277/19/18/2013       | Sexual Harassment (Children)                  | Two lakh fifty thousand   | Government of Punjab        |
| 22.     | 7931/30/6/2012       | Victimisation                                 | Twenty thousand           | Government of NCT of Delhi  |
| 23.     | 3267/7/0/2011-BL     | Bonded Labour                                 | Four lakh                 | Government of Haryana       |
| 24.     | 2942/7/14/2011       | Inaction by State Government                  | Fifty thousand            | Government of Haryana       |
| 25.     | 1907/30/0/2011       | Inaction by State Government                  | Six lakh                  | Government of NCT of Delhi  |
| 26.     | 28816/24/39/2011     | Inaction by State Government                  | Four lakh                 | Government of Uttar Pradesh |

## Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In May, 2015, the Commission received 20 compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling ₹ 28.75 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.      | 168/11/12/09-10-JCD  | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh                  | Government of Kerala         |
| 2.      | 42103/24/48/2011-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh                | Government of Uttar Pradesh  |
| 3.      | 1390/13/16/2012-JCD  | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh                  | Government of Maharashtra    |
| 4.      | 2203/12/30/2012-JCD  | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh                  | Government of Madhya Pradesh |
| 5.      | 6249/30/9/2012-JCD   | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh                  | Government of NCT of Delhi   |

| Sl. No. | Case Number          | Nature of Complaint                      | Amount Recommended (in ₹)    | Public Authority            |
|---------|----------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6.      | 513/33/14/2012-JCD   | Custodial Death (Judicial)               | Two lakh                     | Government of Chhattisgarh  |
| 7.      | 409/33/2/2013-JCD    | Custodial Death (Judicial)               | One lakh                     | Government of Chhattisgarh  |
| 8.      | 1578/22/31/08-09-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial)               | One lakh                     | Government of Tamil Nadu    |
| 9.      | 844/22/15/2011-AD    | Alleged Custodial Death (Police)         | One lakh                     | Government of Tamil Nadu    |
| 10.     | 606/18/10/2011-PF    | Abduction/Rape (Para-Military Forces)    | Fifty thousand               | Government of Odisha        |
| 11.     | 307/20/33/2014-WC    | Abduction/Rape (Police)                  | Three lakh                   | Government of Rajasthan     |
| 12.     | 1443/30/10/2012-WC   | Indignity of Women                       | Ten thousand                 | Government of NCT of Delhi  |
| 13.     | 1014/34/3/2010-WC    | Sexual Harassment (General)              | Fifty thousand               | Government of Jharkhand     |
| 14.     | 40506/24/55/2011     | Unlawful Detention                       | One lakh fifty Five thousand | Government of Uttar Pradesh |
| 15.     | 85/11/13/2012        | Abuse of Power (Police)                  | Two lakh                     | Government of Kerala        |
| 16.     | 677/30/9/2012        | Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police) | Two lakh                     | Government of NCT of Delhi  |
| 17.     | 1225/18/4/2012       | Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police) | Ten thousand                 | Government of Odisha        |
| 18.     | 2006/4/23/2011       | Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals  | Three lakh                   | Government of Bihar         |
| 19.     | 22682/24/48/2011     | Inaction by the State Government         | Two lakh                     | Government of Uttar Pradesh |
| 20.     | 11092/24/48/2014     | Inaction by the State Government         | Two lakh                     | Government of Uttar Pradesh |

## Training of Trainers Programme on 'Gender Sensitization'



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan addressing the police trainers

said that there were no deficiencies in the laws meant for the protection of the rights of women but the problem was with their implementation. Police personnel should be abreast with the latest amendments to the laws such as Article 354 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that deals with assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty, Article 326 that lays down the punishment for throwing acid and Article 376 that deals with rape. He said that they also need to be aware of the Article 166 of the IPC which punishes a public servant for disobeying the law.

Smt. Meera C. Saxena, Member, Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, Dr. Rebecca Reichmann Tavares, UN Multi-Country Office, Shri J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary (T&R), NHRC, Dr. Rajani R. Menon, Programme Coordinator, Centre for Social Research, Shri Raghavendra H. Auradkar, Additional Director General Police, Recruitment and Training, Bengaluru were the other prominent speakers, among others, who addressed the police trainers.

The National Human Rights Commission organised a three day Training of Trainers Programme on 'Gender Sensitization' in collaboration with the Karnataka Police Academy, UN Women Multi-Country Office and Centre for Social Research at

Karnataka Police Academy, Mysuru from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

Inaugurating the programme, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC said that gender sensitization would remain a myth unless women were empowered. He

## Programme for Commonwealth Forum of NHRIs in Rwanda



Shri A. K. Parashar, JR (Law) and Dr. Savita Bhakhry JD (R), NHRC attending the programme

The National Human Rights Commission deputed Shri A. K. Parashar, Joint Registrar (Law) and Dr. Savita Bhakhry, Joint Director (Research) to attend the 'Capacity Building Programme for Commonwealth Forum of NHRIs on Early and Forced Marriage and Sexual Violence in Conflict' at Kigali, Rwanda from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The programme was organized under the joint auspices of the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat, SUHAKAM as the Chair of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI) and the National Commission for Human Rights, Rwanda. Minister of Justice, Republic of Rwanda inaugurated it.

Shri A. K. Parashar and Dr. Savita Bhakhry explained in detail the steps taken by the NHRC, India to prevent and eliminate the problem of 'Early Forced Marriage (EFM)'. It facilitated the Government of India in replacing the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 with the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 in line with the Constitution of India, CEDAW and CRC. It also took up the issue during various discussions on the subjects of human rights education, reproductive health, violence, labour and poverty.

Shri Parashar informed that the complaints relating to EFM are given a separate 'incident code' in the Complaints Management System of the Commission. There is a dedicated Rapid Action Cell in the Investigation Division of NHRC, India. Prompt intervention has helped in minimizing child and forced marriages in India.

The final outcome of the programme was the Commonwealth Kigali Declaration containing a number of key commitments, including the monitoring of the enforcement of legislation; improving data collection and promoting compulsory education for girls. The Declaration sets out a comprehensive framework for NHRIs to take forward and strengthen and calibrate their efforts to prevent and eliminate EFM in their respective countries. Further, it adopts a mandate to address EFM issues by NHRIs and its reporting at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2015.

## RWI Conference on Human Rights Library Management in Thailand

The National Human Rights Commission deputed Shri Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, Information & Public Relations Officer along with Shri Om Prakash, Librarian to attend a 'Regional Conference on Human Rights Library Management' at Bangkok, Thailand from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2015. The conference was opened only to the participants of previous workshops and trainings, held by the RWI, on the Libraries and Information Management. The aim of the Conference was to discuss the outcome of those workshops and trainings before the conclusion of the programme.

Apart from the three resource persons, total 39 participants from the NHRIs of Jordan, Palestine, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Nepal, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, India,



NHRC officers, Shri Jaimini Kumar Srivastava and Shri Om Prakash attending the Conference

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and East Timor attended the Conference.

The NHRC, India was lauded for its collection of over 25 thousand books on human rights issues and related laws among other subjects and the future plan for digitization of books and documents as shared by Shri Om Prakash. Shri Jaimini Kumar Srivastava was asked to summarise the outcome of the group discussions on 'What has been done so far and where do we go from here?'

It was felt that the workshops did help streamline the functioning of the Libraries in the NHRIs. However, a serious thought was required to be given, at an appropriate senior level, to fix the relevance of a Library in the functioning of an NHRI in exercise of its mandate. More was needed to be done in order to evolve them as 'Resource Centers' for exclusive

information on human rights and related literature rather than turning them into traditional Libraries. These should house not only the printed material in the form of books, journals, magazines but also archival documents related to human rights, including human rights and NHRI related news clippings, audio – video recordings and photographs of its events.

The lack of trained human resources in the NHRI Libraries was the most common concern. Dedicated page of the Library

having a link on the Home Page of the website of the NHRI and a small Reading Room and Audio-Visual Show Room were some of the facilities which were most commonly advocated for Libraries. It was also felt that a policy of weeding out some stored material in the Library of an NHRI should also be worked out to address the issue of shortage of space.

Later, the participants were also taken to the NHRI of Thailand to see the facilities in its Library and some modern gadgets being used there.

## NHRC's Summer Internship Programme begins

Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Acting Chairperson, NHRC inaugurated a month-long Summer Internship Programme of the Commission in New Delhi on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. About 50 students from different Universities in the country have been selected for participation. They would be exposed to various human rights issues and laws, composition, role and function of the Commission. The interns would be guided to write dissertations on various issues and aspects of human rights. Field visits to prisons and NGOs would also be organised to give them a first-hand account of the functioning of such institutions.



NHRC Acting Chairperson, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph inaugurating the internship programme.

## Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

| Events                                                                                                                               | Delegation from NHRC       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Visit to National Institute of Mental Health and Allied Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru on the 21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2015        | Shri S.C. Sinha, Member    |
| 'APF face to face training on Business and Human Rights 2015' at Bangkok, Thailand from 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2015 | Dr. Ranjit Singh, JS (P&A) |

### 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.

Last date-The entries received after the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 will not be entertained.

For more details, please visit the notice board on the home page of the website of the Commission, [www.nhrc.nic.in](http://www.nhrc.nic.in) or write to the Information and Public Relations Officer, National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, 'C' Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023 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](mailto:jrlawnhrc@nic.in) (For complaints),  
[cr.nhrc@nic.in](mailto: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](mailto:hrd-nhrc@nic.in)

This Newsletter is also available on the Commission's website [www.nhrc.nic.in](http://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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