



HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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NHRC, India's reasoning pays off: Proposal to give more powers to ICC Sub Committee on Accreditation dropped

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC accompanied by Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph and Secretary General, Dr. Parvinder Sohi Behuria attended the '27th Meeting of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) and Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI)' in Geneva, Switzerland from the 11th - 14th March, 2014. Justice Balakrishnan spoke about the various activities of the Commission and the important role played by it in all stages of the Second Cycle of Universal Periodic Review.



From L to R :- NHRC S.G. Dr. Parvinder Sohi Behuria, Chairperson Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan and Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph in the ICC meeting.

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Meeting of NHRC's Core Group on Bonded Labour

The National Human Rights Commission held a meeting of its Core Group on Bonded Labour at its premises in New Delhi on the 25th March, 2014. In the meeting, chaired by Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member, NHRC, addition to the Rules under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 in respect of areas not covered by existing Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Rules, 1976 were discussed.



NHRC Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan (1st from right) chairing the meeting

Apart from the Members of the Core Group on Bonded Labour, some

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He also suggested that three new observations may be incorporated for the ICC Sub Committee on accreditation (SCA) for review of NHRIs. These included NHRI serving as national monitoring/preventative mechanisms; the quasi-judicial competency of NHRIs; and assessing the performance of NHRIs. However, given the NHRC, India's strong opposition, supported by other member countries, the ICC Chair, Advocate Mabedle Laurence Mushwana agreed not to move ahead with the proposal to give more powers to the SCA to review the accreditation status of NHRI, within the five year period through an amendment in the Section 15 of the ICC Statute.

The NHRC, India had held that the proposal for amendment in the ICC Statute to empower the SCA to review an NHRI within the accreditation period was against the whole process of accreditation and re-accreditation as outlined in Section 5 of the ICC Statute which has ample provisions for all kinds of checks and balances to make the process of accreditation of NHRIs fully credible.

The NHRC, India conveyed its support to the ICC Chair on the issue of tackling leprosy related discrimination and requested that it be included in the 'Objectives' of the 'Strategic Plan' of the ICC.

At the APF's Forum Councillor Meeting, held on the sidelines of ICC Meeting, Justice Balakrishnan accepted Director, APF, Shri Kieren Fitzpatrick's request to represent South Asia for the 'Forum Councillor Working Group on APF Strategic Planning Process 2015 to 2020'.

In the thematic session on 'Post 2015 Development Agenda: The Inclusion of Human Rights', all the NHRIs were of the opinion that human rights should be included in this Development Agenda. In the thematic session on 'Protection of Human Rights Defenders', the NHRC Chairperson highlighted the work done by the Commission for the protection of human rights defenders. Letters had been written to Chief Secretaries of all the States for promotion and protection of human rights defenders. Apart from nominating a Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders in the Commission, a publication entitled "NHRC and Human Rights Defenders – The Growing Synergy" was released. This is aimed at the sensitization of the common man towards human rights defenders. Besides, the Commission has been recommending relief to the human rights defenders who have been victims of human rights violations.

Meeting of NHRC's Core Group on BondedContd. from page-1

prominent NGOs working in the field of Bonded Labour like International Justice Mission (IJM), Action Aid India, etc. were also included as special invitees. Senior Officers from the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the NHRC were also present.

Draft amendments to the existing Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Rules, 1976 were proposed, comments on which have been sought from the participants to enable finalization of the recommendations.



NHRC's Member and senior officers holding discussions with Core Group on Bonded Labour

Suo motu cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 09 cases of alleged human rights violations during March, 2014 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

Children fall and die in open manhole (Case No. 3568/7/19/2014 & 1290/30/10/2014)

The media reported that a three year old girl died after she fell into an open manhole of a sewer pipeline in Saraswati Vihar, Sonapat, Haryana on the 20th March, 2014.

The Commission has issued notice to the District Magistrate, Sonapat calling for a report in the matter.

In a similar incident, a four year old boy died after he slipped into an open manhole in Jaitpur, South-East Delhi on the 5th March, 2014. The body, however, could be fished out only the next morning after the rescue work by the police and the Fire Department. The Commission has issued a notice to the Commissioner, South-East Delhi Municipal Corporation calling for a report.

One room school for 412 students

(Case No. 3422/7/9/2014)

The media reported that a one room Government school was running in Shakti Nagar Government Primary School at District Headquarter town of Kaithal catering to 412 students from class first to fifth, teachers and staff. This room with an attached veranda was already declared unsafe. It was also used as a kitchen to cook the mid-day meal during the rainy season. Now, since the last few months, it was serving the purpose of storing 200 chairs and 80 benches. There was only one toilet for the teachers, staff and students including girls and boys.

The classes were being held in open ground, veranda and also in two separate chaupals, located at a distance of 300 to 500 yards from the main building of the school. The drinking water was stored in a tank during supply hours but in the absence of its supply, the water had to be fetched from hand pumps or submersible pumps located in the vicinity of the school. The Commission has issued a notice to the Principal Secretary, Education, Government of Haryana calling for a report in the matter.

Severe malnutrition in children

(Case No. 3423/7/10/2014)

The media reported, quoting a study by the PGI, Chandigarh that Karnal, Yamuna Nagar, Panchkula and Ambala Districts of Haryana had an alarming situation on malnutrition among children. 37.4% children of these Districts were found to be underweight; 42.8% suffered from stunted growth; and 17.5% from wasting. 95% children were found anaemic in Karnal.

The report also quoted Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Mission Director, National Rural Health Mission that children with acute malnutrition had nine time higher risk of death than well-nourished children. He also said that 53% deaths under the age of five were due to malnutrition in Haryana. The Commission has directed the Director, PGI, Chandigarh to submit the detailed study report referred to in the media report. A notice has also been issued to the Principal Secretary, Health, Government of Haryana calling upon him to submit a report.

Death of seven workers due to asphyxiation

(Case No. 419/22/49/2014)

The media reported that seven workers of a private dyeing unit located in the Erode Industrial Complex of the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu died of asphyxiation and several others were taken ill on the 18th March, 2014 after inhaling toxic gas from a waste treatment tank.

Reportedly, the incident took place when a mechanic went inside the tank to work on a faulty pump, but he fell as he was climbing down. Others followed him for his rescue and fell prey to the toxic gas.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief

Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for report. He has also been directed to inform whether any interim relief has been provided to the next of kin of the deceased workers.

Wrongful confinement of a youth in jail for 14 years

(Case No. 1361/30/9/2014)

The media reported that Mohammad Amir, 18 years, was arrested on the 27th February, 1998, from Old Delhi as a suspected terrorist. He was released from jail only after 14 years through a judicial verdict after it was found that he was wrongfully arrested. Reportedly, Amir confined to a solitary high security cell in Delhi's Tihar Jail, had little idea that his father had passed away in penury and his mother got paralysis suffering a brain hemorrhage and losing speech amidst a social boycott.

The Commission has observed that the issue raises serious questions on the functioning of the police and if true, the contents of the press report amount to grave violation of human rights of the victim Amir who was implicated in false cases.

The Commission in the notices issued to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Home Affairs and Delhi Police Commissioner, has asked them to submit detailed reports in the matter. Further, the Delhi Police Commissioner has been directed to submit entire record of all the cases filed against Amir along with his report.

Three lakh debt bound labourers' right to vote

(Case No. 308/1/0/2014)

The media reported that because of debt bondage, more than 3 lakh migrant workers of Odisha were tied to brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. They might not be able to cast their vote for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls to be held in the State on the April 10th and 17th, 2014.

Reportedly, these labourers were from the western Districts of Odisha. They had to work at brick kiln till mid June because they had taken loans from labour agents with this promise. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretaries of Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka calling for a report.

Deaths while cleaning manhole

(Case No. 7867/24/30/2014)

The media reported that a person got asphyxiated while cleaning a manhole and the other who went to save his life died later in the ESI Hospital in NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh. Reportedly, the incident happened when one Bablu Valmiki, a cleaner at the ESI Hospital, was asked by his contractor to re-enter the manhole after he spotted that it was not properly cleaned. When Bablu did not return, one of his relatives, Shyamveer, entered the manhole to rescue him. However, he also became victim of poisonous gas. No protective gear was provided to them while entering the manhole. The Commission has issued notices to the District

Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh calling for reports in the matter.

Shortcomings in implementation of MPLAD Scheme (Case No. 9130/24/4/2014)

The media reported, quoting an audit report, that there were no Review Committees for the works taken up under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme in Uttar Pradesh, despite the fact that such Committees have to be formed and headed by an officer of the level of Chief Secretary. No registers or records required to be maintained for the recommended works under the Scheme were being maintained by the District authorities.

Pointing out the stark realities of the work undertaken in the MPLAD Scheme, the media report said

that an amount of ₹ 5 lakh was spent for construction of five rooms in a college in Phulpur Constituency but only two rooms were built. An overhead tank built at Muslim Boarding Hostel at Allahabad University in 2009 at a cost of ₹15 lakh, remained non-operational for long. It developed cracks and was leaking due to lack of maintenance.

There had been delay in completion of many projects. The Members of Parliament were not able to review the project due to paucity of time and other technical reasons. Therefore, the monitoring mechanism/tools were the biggest shortcomings in the implementation of MPLAD Scheme in the State.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary of the State calling upon him to submit a report in the matter.

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.	596/30/5/2014	Police atrocities in Delhi	3 rd – 7 th March, 2014
2.	1068/30/2/2014	Alleged illegal police custody in Delhi	4 th – 5 th March, 2014
3.	13469/24/49/2013	Alleged illegal arrest by police and demand for bribe in Uttar Pradesh.	17 th – 21 st March, 2014

Important intervention

NHRC in a statement appeals to all the stakeholders to end doctors' strike in UP

The National Human Rights Commission is deeply concerned with the reports of paralysed health services leading to death of many patients due to continuing strike of junior doctors and other medical practitioners in the different parts of Uttar Pradesh following police action and arrest of two dozen junior doctors in the GSV Medical College, Kanpur after a scuffle with a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on the 28th February, 2014.

The Commission apprehends that repercussions of this strike may impact the other parts of the country as the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has reportedly said that if its demands for withdrawal of charges against junior doctors and action against the MLA and the SSP, Kanpur were not met, it would go on all India strike from Thursday. Reportedly, a number of doctors have already tendered their resignations.

The Commission notes that the patient care is sacrosanct to the medical profession and as such the

medical fraternity should explore some alternative ways to register their protest in a manner which does not cause a blot on their identity and put them in bad light in public perception. At the same time, it also understands the need to know in the right perspective why the after effects of the incident in Kanpur have spread like a wildfire in other parts of the State and the IMA had to step in. There may have been a simmering anger among the medical fraternity over the way they might have been treated by the people in power and in general, over a period of time, which has got a vent through the incident in Kanpur. The medical professionals should not be made to feel that they are at the receiving end all the time.

Therefore, the National Human Rights Commission appeals to all the concerned stakeholders, including the Government of Uttar Pradesh, to take an immediate and appropriate action to end this stalemate, which is causing violation of right to health and life of people, and bring guilty to justice at the earliest to send right signals among all sections of society.”

NHRC's statement on media reports on Khirki Extension issue

The NHRC has seen the news stories that it has given a direction for taking action against Shri Somnath Bharti in Khirki Extension incident. It is clarified that the Commission has not given any such direction. The Commission had taken suo motu cognizance of the incident and expected some reports from the concerned authorities in the matter while simultaneously getting the

issue investigated by its team, report of which is still awaited. Meanwhile, another complaint was received on the incident which was forwarded to the concerned authority for taking such action as deemed appropriate. In the interim, the Commission has received a judicial enquiry report from the concerned authorities in the matter, which is also under its consideration."

NHRC confirms drug abuse, sexual assault and violence in Delhi Juvenile Home: Recommends security review

The investigations of the National Human Rights Commission have confirmed the incidents of drug abuse, sexual assault and violence with surgical blades etc. among the inmates of the Seva Kutir Juvenile Home, Mukherjee Nagar, New Delhi. The private agency, responsible for the security of the Home, had failed to stop the entry of contraband substances and surgical blades.

In the light of these findings, the Commission has recommended that the Delhi Police Commissioner should order a security review of all the Juvenile Homes in the National Capital. The private agency, which is given the contract for the security of the Juvenile Homes, should ensure deployment of security personnel as per the strength and guidelines recommended by the Delhi Police after the review. The Commission has asked the Chief

Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi to take immediate necessary action and submit an action taken report. The Commission took up the issue suo motu and registered a case No. 7095/30/4/2013 based on media reports that there were brawls and beatings and incidents of drug abuse and sexual assault among the inmates.

The NHRC investigation team, deputed for surprise inspection of the institution, also found that the staff at the Juvenile Home remained terrified for their own safety. The majority of staff was on contractual basis. Non-disbursement of pay on time and their non-permanent status were de-motivating factors under the given circumstances. It also recommended various suggestions for an overall improvement in the Juvenile Homes for the better care of the juveniles in conflict with law.

On NHRC's recommendations, UP Government pays ₹ 5 lakh as relief to a victim of sexual assault

On the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has paid a sum of ₹5 lakh to a victim of rape committed by a police constable on the 8th June, 2010 in Lucknow. The Commission on the basis of material on record found that prima-facie, the constable had abused his authority as a public servant for which he was found

guilty in the departmental proceedings. He was also facing a trial in the FIR No. 210/10 under Section 376 of IPC. The Commission took the cognizance of the incident on the basis of a complaint filed by a human rights activist, alleging that the police constable, on the pretext of dropping the victim at the railway station, took her to his friend's house in Kapoorthala and raped her.

NHRC to Assam Government; Pay ₹10 lakh to the families of encounter victims

The National Human Rights Commission has recommended that the Government of Assam pay ₹5 lakh each to the next of kin of Munindra Kalita (26 years) and Pingal Deka (27 years), who were killed in an encounter by the Assam Police and the Army in a joint operation, and asked for a proof of payment on or before the 17th April, 2014. The Commission has held that the Government of Assam had no explanation to offer to its

various observations raising doubts about the genuineness of the encounter.

The Commission had taken suo motu cognizance of the incident and registered a case No. 209/3/1/2011-ED on the basis of the information given on the website of Assam Police that two ULFA extremist were killed in an encounter at Na-Satra, under Sarthebari Police Station in Barpeta District of Assam on the 10th July, 2009.

NHRC severely indicts MHA, Delhi Police and Delhi government; Recommends ₹ 25 lakh in a case of encounter

The National Human Rights Commission, severely indicting the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, (MHA) the Delhi Government and the Delhi Police has

recommended ₹5 lakh each to the next of kin of five persons killed in an encounter in Yamuna Khadar area in the National Capital on the 5th May, 2006 by the Delhi Police

with the assistance from the Uttar Pradesh Police. The Commission found the encounter doubtful. It had registered case No. 8323/24/2006-2007 on the basis of a complaint received from the father of one of the victims.

The Commission said that it was unable to understand an extraordinary assertion of the MHA, without any moorings in the fact, that "the Delhi Police has managed to prove that the encounter was genuine". It also deplored the "intransigence of the authorities concerned for refusing to accept its recommendation to hold a CBI enquiry in this case". The Commission said that there was total non-cooperation from the Government of NCT of Delhi. Despite its guidelines in 2003, only the Delhi Police, appeared to be deeply apprehensive of any impartial scrutiny of its actions, opposed magisterial enquiries with an "extra-ordinary veto".

The Commission noted that the Delhi Police did not

forward all the relevant documents to the Commission. There was no explanation for non-collection of scientific evidence. This self-serving evasiveness of the Delhi Police was supported by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, though it is the Nodal Ministry for the protection of human rights in India. This was held as a sad reflection on the part of Delhi Police and on the Ministry's understanding of its responsibilities on human rights. The Commission reminded the Ministry that, under the law, criminals cannot be summarily executed.

The Commission failed to understand the logic of the MHA that the relief recommended to the families of those killed would be an incentive to the criminals. It said that going by the Ministry's argument, if the relief was an incentive, it would follow that more criminals would allow themselves to be executed by the police in the hope that their families might receive some relief thereafter.

Recommendations for relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 42 cases were considered during 02 sittings of the Full Commission, and 02 sittings of Division Benches in March, 2014.

On 24 cases, listed in the table below, the

Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 36 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.	1631/30/3/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
2.	5754/30/9/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
3.	91/11/7/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Kerala
4.	1027/24/51/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
5.	1522/4/26/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Fifty thousand	Government of Bihar
6.	420/13/30/07-08-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Maharashtra
7.	131/10/5/2012-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Karnataka
8.	1042/1/5/2012-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Two lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
9.	9734/24/43/2011	Death in Police Firing	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
10.	20226/24/28/2011	Abuse of Power (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
11.	85/11/13/2012	Abuse of Power (Police)	Two lakh	Government of Kerala
12.	20413/24/22/2011	Custodial Torture (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
13.	1516/7/18/2013	Custodial Torture (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Haryana
14.	1388/24/41/2010	Illegal Arrest (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	15725/24/20/2011	Illegal Arrest (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
16.	536/25/15/07-08	Illegal Detention (Children)	Two lakh	Government of West Bengal
17.	10699/24/32/2013	Inaction by State Government Officials	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
18.	13073/24/20/2012	Irregularities in Hospitals/ PHC	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
19.	6774/24/27/2012	Electrocution Death	One lakh fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
20.	3063/24/31/2012	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
21.	205/13/34/2011	Atrocities by State Forest Department	Twenty five thousand	Government of Maharashtra
22.	642/20/29/2013-WC	Abduction/Rape	Three lakh	Government of Rajasthan
23.	1577/20/6/2011	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	Fifty thousand	Government of Rajasthan
24.	370/9/3/2012	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	Six lakh	Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In March, 2014, the Commission received 23 compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling ₹44.7

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.	397/30/9/07-08-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
2.	334/1/22/09-10-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
3.	1529/34/16/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Jharkhand
4.	302/10/23/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Karnataka
5.	1631/22/36/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
6.	3513/7/5/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Haryana
7.	41/6/11/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Gujarat
8.	568/33/16/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
9.	10868/24/7/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
10.	1128/25/11/2010-AD	Alleged Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of West Bengal
11.	50941/24/63/07-08	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
12.	3915/24/1/2011	Illegal Arrest (Police)	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
13.	11116/24/57/2011	Illegal Arrest (Police)	Forty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
14.	540/34/12/2011	Unlawful Detention (Police)	Fifteen thousand	Government of Jharkhand
15.	29/25/15/2013-PF	Abuse of Power (Para Military Forces)	Twenty thousand	Union Ministry of Home Affairs
16.	37371/24/4/2011-WC	Rape	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
17.	742/34/11/2011	Non-payment of Pension/ Compensation	Twenty five thousand	Government of Jharkhand
18.	135/18/2005-2006	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Odisha
19.	180/18/14/2011	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	One lakh	Government of Odisha
20.	3443/30/0/2011	Irregularities in Hospitals/ PHC	Fifty thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
21.	2805/7/10/2011	Inaction by State Government Officials	Ten thousand	Government of Haryana
22.	8/16/0/2011	Inaction by State Government Officials	Nine lakh	Government of Mizoram
23.	1529/19/8/2012	Inaction by State Government Officials	Three lakh	Government of Punjab

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 7th March, 2014. It was jointly organised by the NHRC and the Law Centre - 1 of the University. In all, 48 teams, representing various institutions from the different parts of the country, participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Balakrishnan raised the concerns specific to the rights of disadvantaged sections of society, including women, children, physically

and mentally challenged persons, which required legal and policy interventions. He said that the number of complaints received by the NHRC is increasing every year and a lot of these pertained to human rights violations of such people. Therefore, he said that addressing the concerns of vulnerable sections of society was of vital importance. He added that true human dignity can be realized only when all rights - civil, political, social, economic and cultural, were viewed as symbiotic rather than stand-alone.

Justice Balakrishnan said that the NHRC is



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, J.S., Shri J.S. Kochher and SRO (Trg.) Dr. S.K. Jain at moot court competition

committed to protection and promotion of human rights and expressed the hope that Moot Court will give the participants an opportunity for an insight into human rights issues and laws and encourage them to undertake further study into the subject.

The NHRC Chairperson appreciated the Law Centre - 1 for successfully organising the event for the

second consecutive year in collaboration with the Commission.

He said that the Commission would like to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Law Centre - 1 of the University of Delhi to hold the National Moot Court Competition as a regular collaborative event every year.

NHRC, India to host 19th Annual Meeting of the APF

The National Human Rights Commission is hosting the 19th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) in New Delhi from the 3rd - 5th September, 2014. The meeting will be

attended by delegates from the member countries of APF, representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) and Non-Governmental Organisations.

NHRC's essay writing competition for writers from SC, ST & Other Backward communities

The National Human Rights Commission is organizing an essay writing competition in Hindi for the writers from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities on the subject "Freedom of Expression, Women Empowerment and Human Rights". This is aimed at encouraging creative writing in Hindi on human rights related subjects. The essay should have minimum 7500 words. The winners of first, second and third prize would be given ₹12 thousand, 8 thousand and 6

thousand respectively along with certificates and mementos at a special function. The last date for entries is the 30th June, 2014. These should contain 4 copies of the essay along with the authenticated copy of the caste certificate. The entries should reach by post to the Assistant Director (Official Language), National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, 'C' Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110 023. More details can be seen on the Commission's website: www.nhrc.nic.in.

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
Inauguration of One Day Workshop on 'Human Rights and Development' at the Centenary Hall, University College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on the 21 st March, 2014	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
Presiding over the State Level Training Programme for Teacher Co-ordinators of Human Rights Education Club organized by the Institute of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala on the 25 th March, 2014 at Government Guest House, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
Address to faculty and students of Department of Law, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, UP	Shri S.C. Sinha, Member
Address to faculty and students of Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kamachha, Varanasi, UP	Shri S.C. Sinha, Member

Complaints received/processed in March, 2014 (As per an early estimate)

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	7401
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	6557
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	32404

Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:

Facilitation Centre (Madad) : 011-2465 1330
For Complaints : Fax No. 011-2465 1332

Other Important E-mail Addresses

irlawnhrc@nic.in (For complaints),
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Focal point for Human Rights Defenders

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