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#### From the Editor's Desk

n the recent times, there have been several media reports highlighting the crimes committed by children and teenagers. This point is still being debated whether the tendency to commit crime is on an increase among children or it is more a hype created by media. At least, the records of the National Crime Records Bureau show that the criminal offences by children are not significantly on a rise as these are being made out to be.

Nevertheless, we have to look into the socio, economic, cultural and political causes which may be adversely impacting the psychology of young minds and the appropriate ways and means to provide them such atmosphere and care, including through juvenile homes that they improve and evolve as good citizens instead of repeat offenders and ruffians as has been found in many cases.

Even as this debate continues, the National Human Rights Commission organised a day-long National Workshop to discuss the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Bill, 2014. The age of juvenile offender has remained a point of diverse opinions and so is the issue of punishment to be given to them for criminal offences. Our lead story has flagged the issue.

Despite economic growth and development in various fields, the graph of human sensitivity towards the rights of fellow citizens does not seem to have grown. The issues of suo-motu cognizance taken up by the Commission and covered in this Newsletter will give an insight into this aspect. Whether it is a case of a child being hung upside down to clean a narrow pit or making handicapped candidates climb up the staircases to the second floor, it is reflective of human insensitivity towards the genuine rights of others.

Recommendation for ₹96 lakh as relief to the next of kin of 24 workers who died due to silicosis, intervention into irregularities in Indira Awas Yojana funds and sexual offences against minors by police personnel are some of the important decisions of the Commission covered in this edition of the Newsletter.

### NHRC's National Workshop on the proposed JJ Bill, 2014

The National Human Rights Commission organized a day-long National Workshop to discuss the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014 in New Delhi on the 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The aim of the Workshop was to discuss the views of civil society organizations to know if any modifications were required in the Bill.

The participants of the Workshop included child rights law experts, NHRC officers, officers from the Ministries/Departments



NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha (in centre) flanked by senior officers addressing the participants

of Women & Child Development, NGOs and civil society organizations.

Inaugurating the Workshop, Shri S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC emphasized that the importance of the subject cannot be undermined and the proposed Bill should be in conformity with the international norms, especially in consonance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC) and related guidelines.

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During the Workshop, several participants brought out the inherent contradictions in the proposed Bill. Inadequacies of the provisions of the proposed Bill were also pointed out. It was strongly felt by the participating NGOs that the proposed Bill not only violated the core principle of juvenile justice under the UNCRC but also the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), both of which had been ratified by the Government of India.

The Commission will thoroughly examine the suggestions emerged from the Workshop and take a decision regarding the views to be conveyed to the Government.

## Suo motu cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 17 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during August, 2014 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

# Lack of legal assistance in Juvenile Home (Case No. 5575/30/4/2014)

Most juvenile inmates at Seva Kutir Juvenile Reform Home in Kingsway Camp, North Delhi, reportedly, had no access to legal assistance and many did not even know why they were lodged there. The startling revelations about the helplessness of the juveniles were made in an audit report by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority, which is responsible for providing free legal aid to those who cannot afford private defense attorneys. The Commission has issued a notice to the Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, calling for a report.

# A Child hung upside down to clean a pit at Railway Station

(Case No. 2100/12/17/2014)

In order to clean an eight feet deep and one foot narrow pit, a contractor hung a child upside down on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2014. Reportedly, several pits were dug for installing electric poles at the Railway Station, Guna. Before installing the poles, the pits were required to be cleaned. This was difficult to do as the pits were very narrow. Hence, a child was put on the job. However, while cleaning the pit, he felt suffocated and started screaming. Seeing this, some bystanders raised an alarm. Thereafter, the child was pulled out of the pit. The Supervisor ran away from the spot.

The Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Guna, Madhya Pradesh calling for reports in the matter.

## Death of 11 people in wall collapse

(Case No. 1132/22/12/2014)

A wall of an under construction building collapsed on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 at Upparapalayam Village, near Red Hills Lake in Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu in which about 11 construction workers from Andhra Pradesh died and few others were grievously injured. Reportedly, a lot of godowns were constructed without the approval of Local Planning Authority in Red hills area which is a wetland, protected under the Wetland Conservation and Management Rules, 2010. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for a report in the matter.

#### Medical negligence

(Case No. 5531/30/5/2014)

A woman delivered a child outside the Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital under the open sky in the night of the 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 due to the negligence of doctors. Reportedly, the woman, who was at an advance stage of labour, had come to the hospital for treatment, but the doctors, instead of admitting her, asked her to get an ultrasound performed from outside the hospital. In the process, she delivered the baby in the open. The Commission has issued a notice to the Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi calling for a report.

#### 103 villages deprived of electricity

(Case No. 926/35/3/2014)

20 thousand people of 103 villages in District Chamoli of Uttarakhand were deprived of electricity since last 24 years only because 300 meter long power transmission line connecting their Power Supply Centre had not been laid since 1990. Reportedly, this Centre was only 300 meters away from the Village Pataal in the District where electricity was provided in 1990 itself. The locals organised several protests demanding connectivity to the Power Supply Centre but no action had been taken by the authorities. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand calling for a report.

# Acute shortage of doctors and staff in premier hospitals (Case No. 5407/30/0/2014)

223 posts of doctors, 287 posts of nurses and 692 posts of para-medical and technical staff were lying vacant in premier institutes in Delhi, including All India Institute of

Medical Sciences, Safdarjung Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and associated hospitals. The Union Government had admitted that there was an acute shortage of doctors and specialists in its medical units. The media report added that hiring people on contract basis to tide over a few years did not work towards institution building. The Central Government had to think for long term. The Commission has issued a notice to the Union Health Secretary calling for an action taken report.

# Handicap candidates climb up the stairs to write test on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

(Case No. 406/11/12/2014)

The Kerala Public Service Commission conducted a special recruitment test for the physically handicapped persons on the second floor of the Teacher Training Institute, Manacaud in Thiruvananthapuram District leading to hardships for them. Some had to be carried physically while others had to climb up the stairs on the crutches. According to the media report, published along with a photograph on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, around 200 physically challenged candidates appeared for the test.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Secretary, Kerala Public Service Commission and the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Kerala calling for reports in the matter. They have also been asked to identify the persons responsible for this act and inform about the action taken against them.

# Death of over 1000 people in five closed tea gardens (Case No. 1041/25/10/2014)

Nearly 1000 people died due to malnutrition in three closed tea gardens in Jalpaiguri District and two in Alipurduar District. These were Dooars Tea Estate, Surendranagar, Dharanipur, Dheklapara and Bandapani Tea Estates. Reportedly, the State Government had declined to acknowledge that these deaths occurred due to starvation. It also did not accept that there was any death due to malnutrition.

Due to low wages and poor quality of ration, the workers in the tea gardens were never happy. They barely survived on shrubs collected from the gardens as the rice distributed under Public Distribution System was unfit to consume. Insufficient medical facilities made them vulnerable to tuberculosis and other ailments.

According to the media report, some workers had even sold their children for survival. What made the situation more complex was that the pride of the Adivasi workers did not allow them to speak of their poverty. Some got employment under MGNREGA but their wages were not paid timely, which added to their plight. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary,

Government of West Bengal, calling for a report in the matter.

#### Children swim across river to reach school

(Case No. 1087/6/25/2014)

In the absence of a bridge, about 125 students of five villages in District Chhota Udepur, Gujarat had to swim across the Hiran river to attend classes in a government school at Village Utavadi in Tilakwada Taluka of District Narmada in the State. The villagers had been requesting for construction of a bridge over the river for a very long time but in vain. The report also carried a photograph of the children swimming across the river with their bags. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat calling for a report.

## Declining child sex ratio (Case No. 152/8/12/2014)

In the 25 Panchayats of District Una, Himachal Pradesh, the sex ratio had taken alarming proportions during the last two years with less than 500 female infants born against 1000 male infants. There were some Panchayats in the District where the sex ratio was even lower. Reportedly, the statistics proved that forced abortions were rampant and continued despite a ban on sex determination. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh calling for a report.

## Rising infant mortality rate (Case No. 8701/7/10/2014)

Reportedly, infant mortality rate increased to around 50 from 44 for every 1000 births in District Karnal during 2013-2014. Out of 34000 infants born, 1692 died during the last fiscal. Deficiency of iron and nutrition among pregnant women was cited as one of the major reasons behind such deaths. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana calling for a report.

# **Chopping of a boy's hand** (Case No. 1240/22/45/2014)

Allegedly, annoyed with the disrespect shown towards him, the husband of Narikudi Panchayat President, along with his two brothers, severed a part of the left hand of a 17 year old boy, Karthik, in District Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The Panchayat President's husband felt insulted when the boy reportedly did not stand up while he moved past him. He, along with his accomplices, waylaid the boy, who was on his way to Sivaganga, dragged him into the nearby bushes and severed a part of his left hand. The Commission has issued a notice to the Superintendent of Police, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu calling for a report.

## NHRC's spot enquiry

 $\square$  ollowing is the list of cases wherein spot enquiries were conducted by the Commission's officers:

SI. No.	Case Number	Allegations	Date of visit
1.	15124/24/72/2013	No information about a man allegedly arrested in Varanasi by police officials of District Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh.	4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> August, 2014
2.	2095/24/31/2013	Police inaction in a case of abetment to suicide and illegal detention in Modinagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> August, 2014
3.	29362/24/31/2012	Illegal detention of a complainant by Police at the behest of a GDA Engineer who also threatened the victim in Ghaziabad, UP.	19 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2014
4.	8783/24/43/2014	Illegal detention of 24 Medical students for more than 48 hours in a Police Station, Kanpur, UP.	21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> August, 2014
5.	11/23/2009- PRP&P (Vol.III)	Visit to Balaji Temple in Mehandipur, Rajasthan to make an assessment of the situation of the mentally ill persons.	25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> August, 2014
6.	3354/7/3/2013-CL	Use of students as labourers in the construction work of a school building in Faridabad, Haryana.	25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> August, 2014

### **Important Intervention**

#### ₹ 96 lakh as relief to the next of kin of 24 workers who died due to Silicosis

The National Human Rights Commission has recommended that the Government of Jharkhand pay ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of 24 workers who contracted Silicosis and died due to inaction of the enforcement agencies of the State Government. The Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand has been asked to submit a compliance report along with the proof of payment.

The Commission, while recommending so, set aside the contention of the State Government that it had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge for formulation of guidelines and to recommend model calculation for compensation to the next of kin of the deceased. It observed that since this matter pertained to the year 2007-08, it would not be appropriate to wait for the recommendations of the Committee.

The Commission has also said that out of ₹ 4 lakh

rupees, a sum of  $\ref{2}$  lakh be given in cash and the remaining amount be kept in the fixed deposit which would be available to the next of kin of the deceased in the shape of monthly interest.

The NHRC has also observed that the State Government would be at liberty to pay the additional amount if the Committee, constituted by it, comes to the conclusion that the amount recommended by it was more than awarded by the Commission.

Apart from this, the Commission has recommended that till the State Committee comes out with a scheme for the relief and rehabilitation of 27 persons, who were identified to be suffering from Silicosis, they should be provided a medical card entitling them for free treatment in all the Government Hospitals of the State. The unemployed among them should be provided employment under the MGNREGA.

#### Irregularities in Indira Awas Yojana and rehabilitation of rescued child bonded labourers

The National Human Rights Commission has taken cognizance of alleged misappropriation of Indira Awas Yojana funds in Manpur Block of District Gaya, Bihar. Allegedly, the villagers received only ₹ 50 thousand in two installments instead of ₹ 70,000/- under the scheme to construct their houses. Also, despite mandatory requirement, the houses, constructed under the Indira Awas

Yojana, had no toilets.

The financial assistance provided under Indira Awas Yojana for construction of a new house is ₹ 70,000/- in plain areas and ₹ 75,000/- in hilly/difficult/IAP areas. Financial assistance for upgradation of Kutcha or dilapidated house is ₹ 15,000/-. Financial assistance for acquiring house site is ₹ 20,000/-.

Further, the Sub-Primary Health Centre in Manpur Block was allegedly mismanaged as the doctors were not available and the entire building was purportedly being used for residential purposes.

Also, several child labourers belonging to the District and rescued from Jaipur were yet to be rehabilitated and provided education. One boy, named Irfan Ali, aged 12 years, of Manpur Block, also rescued from Jaipur was yet to be rehabilitated and provided treatment.

The Commission has issued a notice to the District Magistrate, Gaya asking him to look into the issues and submit an action taken report. The Chief Secretary of the State has also been asked to send his comments on the issues.

#### Monetary relief in two cases of sexual offences against minors by police personnel

The National Human Rights Commission has recommended that the Government of NCT of Delhi pay ₹ 3 lakh to a minor victim of attempt to rape by two police constables in Police Colony, Kingsway Camp on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2013. The Chief Secretary of the Government of Delhi has been asked to send a compliance report along with the proof of payment.

The Commission has observed that the two accused constables involved in the offence of attempt to rape were posted in the Third Battalion of Delhi Armed Police as Constables. They were dismissed from the service for the offence committed by them at the official accommodation. Thus, the police claim was not found satisfactory that the accused police officials had lost official capacity of a government servant at the time of committing the offence

violating the human rights of the victim for which the State must bear the liability.

In another similar case, the Government of NCT of Delhi has paid ₹5 lakh as monetary relief to a minor girl, aged 12 years, who was molested by a Police Constable on the Ridge Road in New Delhi on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2012. The Constable was arrested and suspended. A case was registered against him under Section 354 IPC at Mandir Marg Police Station.

As per the Commission's recommendations, an amount of ₹ 5 lakh as relief to victim was kept in a fixed deposit in her name and the interest earned on it would be used by her authorized legal guardian for her welfare. The principal, together with any accrued interest, would be at her disposal on her attaining adulthood.

#### $\stackrel{?}{\stackrel{?}{\sim}}$ 1 lakh recommended in a case of carelessness in keeping the dead body safely in the mortuary

The National Human Rights Commission has recommended that the Government of Rajasthan pay ₹1 lakh to the next of kin of a deceased woman whose body was not kept safely as a result rats had bitten some parts in the mortuary of the Government run Amrit Kaur Hospital, Beawar. The woman had died due to drug reaction in the hospital on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2012. The Commission took this issue as a serious violation of the dignity of the dead body of the woman and infringement of the human rights of her relatives. The Chief Secretary of the State has been asked to submit a compliance report.

The Commission has observed that the word and expression 'person' in Article 21 of the Constitution would include a dead person in a limited sense and that his right to life which included right to live with human dignity, will have an extended meaning to treat his dead body with respect. The state is obliged in law to keep the dead body in safe custody so that the family members of the dead person, who have the right to either bury or cremate the dead body with all the respects, can perform last rites with dignity which the dead body requires.

## Recommendations for relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 84 cases were considered during 03 sittings of the Full Commission and 04 sittings of Divisional Benches in August, 2014.

On 28 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission

recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 31.75 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.

SI	. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
	1.	1094/1/7/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
	2.	316/3/16/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Assam
	3.	3699/13/3/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
	4.	15070/24/24/2013-DH	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh

SI. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
5.	11233/24/6/2013-DH	Death in Judicial Custody (Children)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
6.	7876/24/54/2014	Death due to negligence (Police)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
7.	1962/18/12/2013	Death due to negligence (Children)	Three lakh	Government of Odisha
8.	5581/24/72/2010	Custodial Torture (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
9.	32912/24/31/2012	Custodial Torture (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
10.	2977/30/7/2013	Custodial Torture (Police)	Ten thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
11.	15672/24/1/2012	Unlawful Detention (Police)	Twenty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
12.	40078/24/38/2012	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
13.	1684/35/7/2012	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	One lakh	Government of Uttarakhand
14.	36096/24/56/2012	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	1211/18/12/2012	False Implications (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Odisha
16.	31/14/12/2013	False Implications (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Manipur
17.	2061/24/54/2013	Abuse of Power (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
18.	10549/24/37/2013	Atrocities on SC/ST (Police)	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
19.	606/18/10/2011-PF	Abduction/Rape	Fifty thousand	Government of Odisha
20.	35845/24/4/2012-WC	Abduction, Rape & Murder	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
21.	1051/24/7/2013-WC	Abduction, Rape & Murder	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
22.	501/25/22/2013-WC	Rape on SC/ST Woman	Three lakh	Government of West Bengal
23.	2353/18/21/2011	Electrocution Death	Two lakh	Government of Odisha
24.	73/24/50/2012	Electrocution Death	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
25.	10699/24/32/2013	Electrocution Death	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
26.	1350/24/4/2010	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
27.	227/20/19/2012	Malfunctioning of Medical Professionals	One lakh	Government of Rajasthan
28.	2192/7/22/2013	Inaction by the State Government Officials	Three lakh	Government of Haryana

# Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In August, 2014, the Commission received 10 compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling ₹ 21.55 lakh to

the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. Details are in the table below:

SI. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	993/10/7/07-08-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Karnataka
2.	1262/7/10/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Two lakh	Government of Haryana
3.	2037/7/6/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Haryana
4.	240/3/3/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Assam
5.	451/1/20/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Five lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
6.	2474/4/6/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Bihar
7.	3147/18/8/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Odisha
8.	3405/7/0/2011	Abuse of Power (Police)	Five thousand	Government of Haryana
9.	1186/18/6/2011	Electrocution Death	Five lakh	Government of Odisha
10.	1683/4/8/2010	Negligence by Railway Authorities	Fifty thousand	Union Ministry of Railways

# Justice D. Murugesan visits Juvenile Homes and Aanganwadi Centre in Tamil Nadu

Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member, NHRC visited Tamil Nadu from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 in connection with inspection of the Observation Home for Boys, Vigilance Home for Women, Madurai, Hosanna Children's Home, Lower Camp, Uthamapalayam Taluk, District Theni, Aanganwadi Centre, Thaathappankulam (South), Cumbam Block, Uthampalayam Taluk, District Theni and Humanity Trust Children's Home, Kodangipatti, District Theni.



NHRC Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan inspecting the Aanganwadi Centre

While visiting Madurai Observation Home for juvenile offenders, he was informed that the maintenance grant for the Home had not been issued for the past eight months. The employees of the Society were not issued pay relief grant for almost a year and the revised pay structure as per the Sixth Pay Commission was also not implemented. The posts of Medical Officer, Teacher and Yoga/P.T. Master were lying vacant. Justice Murugesan said that proper counselling of the juvenile offenders was necessary especially keeping in view the repeat offenders. They should be provided the services of an advocate for legal consultations from Free Legal Aid Society. The Medical Officer should regularly visit the Home and his name and telephone number should be properly maintained at the Home. The Juvenile Justice Board should be approached for the early release on bail of those children, who were studying. The parents of children should be properly informed about their ward's admission in the Observation Home.

In the Vigilance Home for Women, he interacted with inmates, most of whom were the victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. He was informed that they were being imparted tailoring, embroidery, zardozi and soft skills. He also instructed the officers to take up with the Centre the issue of the deportation of one migrant girl from Bangladesh through the District Magistrate.

In the Hosanna Children's Home, Lower Camp, Uthamapalayam Taluk, District Theni, he found that its license was not renewed. He recommended that for renewing the license, private children homes should apply three months in advance of its expiry date and they should adhere to the time schedule. He also observed that all children should be medically examined at the time of their admission to the Observation Home and complete personal profile of every child should be maintained. The Juvenile Home should run as per the guidelines and regulations framed by the NHRC and the State Government.

While inspecting the Aanganwadi Centre, Uthama-palayam, District Theni, the NHRC Member observed that there was no proper ventilation in the room and recommended that windows should be created. Children's absence should be informed to the parents and periodical visits by the District level officers should be made to ensure proper functioning of the Centre. Similarly, health check-ups and vaccination of the children by the Health Department officials should be done in a planned manner. He also stressed upon the improvement in the unhygienic condition of the Centre.



NHRC Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan inspecting Humanity Trust Children's Home

While visiting the Humanity Trust Children's Home, Kodangipatti, District Theni, Justice Murugesan observed that there were more than 100 students and the premises of the Home was being maintained neatly and hygienically. Every class had a teacher. He reiterated all the instructions given in connection with the upkeep of the Aanganwadi Centre.

Justice Shri Murugesan was accompanied by Dr. K.R. Shyamsunder, Special Repporteur, NHRC along with other officers of the State Government.

# Simanchal Dash, Constable, NHRC gets President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service

Shri Simanchal Dash, Constable, Investigation Division, NHRC was awarded the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service on the occasion of the Independence Day, 2014. He joined the NHRC in 1995 and assisted the Inquiry Officers in conducting various enquiries related to inaction by District Administration, police excesses during Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh and was also involved with the team investigating Salwa Judum operations in the State. He was also part of the team which went to Odisha to enquire about the riots against Christians and violation of human rights of SC community in Village Mirchipur of District Hissar, Haryana. Prior to the NHRC, he served in the Border Security Force from 1990 to 1995 and was posted into the hostile areas of Indo-Pak Border in Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir and was recognized for his commendable services by his seniors.



## Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

	Events	Delegation from NHRC
	National Seminar on 'Indian Literature, Science and Human Rights: A Dialogue' at Santiniketan, Birbhum, West Bengal from the 5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> August, 2014	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member and Shri J.S. Kochher, JS (T&R)
STATE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	Pilot Training on Mediation and Negotiation Skill of NHRIs at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from the 10 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> August, 2014	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
	National Consultative Meet on 'Safeguarding Rights of the Elderly in India' at Chandigarh on the 29 <sup>th</sup> August, 2014	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, Shri S.C. Sinha, Member, Shri Rajesh Kishore, SG and Shri J.S. Kochher, JS (T&R)
	Function organised by the Madras Bar Association at High Court of Madras, Chennai on the 18 <sup>th</sup> August, 2014.	Justice Shri D. Murugesan

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

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	9299
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	7017
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	38826

#### **Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:**

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

#### **Other Important E-mail Addresses**

jrlawnhrc@nic.in (For complaints), cr.nhrc@nic.in (For general queries/correspondence)

#### **Focal point for Human Rights Defenders**

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This Newsletter is also available on the Commission's website www.nhrc.nic.in

NGOs and other organizations are welcome to reproduce material of the Newsletter and disseminate it widely acknowledging the NHRC.

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