

Jagdeep Dhankhar graces NHRC as Chief Guest for event

NHRC, India celebrated its 31st Foundation Day at Vigyan Bhawan on Oct 18. On the occasion, the Chief Guest, Jagdeep Dhankhar, the VP of India addressed national and international dignitaries in the presence of NHRC, India Acting Chairperson, Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Secretary General, Bharat Lal and other senior officers of the Commission. The Foundation Day celebrations are a reminder of the Commission's commitment to protecting and promoting human rights. Following this,

the Commission also organised a day-long national conference on the 'Rights of Older Persons' under the theme- 'Assessing the Structural Framework, Legal Safeguards, Security Rights, and Institutional Protection for India's Elderly.' The conference addressed various concerns of older persons under three key technical sessions including 'Addressing the Aging Population,' 'The Gendered Perspective of Aging,' and 'Evaluating the Healthcare Landscape-Impact on Healthy Living, Productivity, and Social Security.'

NHRC orders Rs 4.5 crore relief for 89 judicial custody death victims in 2024-25

NEW DELHI, OCT 17

In a grim reminder of the excesses committed in prisons, the National Human Rights Commission has recommended monetary relief of over Rs 4.5 crore to 89 judicial custody death victims whose cases were disposed of by the rights panel between April-September 2024.

Deaths of under-trials and prison inmates serving sentences form the largest chunk of cases that land at the doorstep of the rights panel which had 2,109 such cases awaiting disposal till October 4, official data with the Ministry of Home Affairs showed.

In the current financial year, the maximum number of 32 judicial custody



death cases were settled by the NHRC in May while the second highest number of 25 such cases were disposed of in April.

Apart from the spillover from previous years, a total of 186 judicial custody death cases were registered by the NHRC in the current financial year. Since April, the rights panel has disposed of 141 cases out of which jail authorities

and state governments were found to be guilty of lapses in 89 matters.

Deaths in police custody and deaths in police encounters are the next two large categories of complaints pending with the NHRC, with 265 and 201 matters, respectively, awaiting disposal.

The backlog and regular flow of complaints related to judicial custody deaths can be gauged from the fact that the number of intimations received by NHRC annually has remained, on average, above 1,500 over the past decade.

Interestingly, out of the Rs 7.36 crore monetary relief ordered by the NHRC, in different cases of rights violation including

rape/abduction, electrocution or death in police firing, in the first nine months of the current financial year, Rs 4.5 crore were given to victims of judicial custody victims alone.

To prevent judicial custody deaths, the NHRC recommends the implementation of strict laws against torture and custodial violence, ensuring effective enforcement and accountability for perpetrators.

Apart from the recommendations for monetary relief for the victims, the Commission also suggests disciplinary or departmental action against errant public servants in cases of judicial custody deaths. -PTI

NHRC asks Delhi govt to submit report on rape of Odisha woman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has summoned the Delhi government seeking a detailed report in connection with the alleged rape of a woman from Odisha in the national capital last week.

Taking cognisance of the matter from media reports and a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the apex rights panel has asked the chief secretary and police commissioner of Delhi to submit the report within two weeks.

They have been directed to mention the present health status of the victim, police investigation and the steps taken to provide relief and rehabilitation to her.

"The incident is indeed horrific. Even after many incidents of sexual assault on women in Delhi and nearby areas, the authorities seem to have not learnt any lessons. Such incidents indicate that the women and other vulnerable sections of the society are

not safe and they can be easily targeted by the anti-social elements at their free will," the order stated.

On October 10, a 34-year-old woman from the state was allegedly raped and dumped in Sarai Kale Khan area of Delhi. The woman had left her home in 2023 and was living with another woman in Katwaria Sarai area of Delhi. She was living on the streets of Delhi following some disputes with the woman in August.

"The incident indicates that probably the victim was not able to get any relief from the authorities of the Delhi government to ensure a safe shelter for her after leaving the place where she was residing with another woman which is a matter of concern," the commission observed.

Seeking reports on the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that such incidents violating the right to dignity of the women do not recur in future, the NHRC has warned personal appearance of the authority concerned, in case the report is not received within the stipulated time.

