

4/31/2017-PRJ

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Agenda No. ---

National Human Rights Commission
Director (A) Unit

Sub: Report of Smt. S. Jalaja, Special Rapporteur on her visit to Goa from 10-12 October, 2017.

Smt. S. Jalaja, Special Rapporteur, NHRC visited Goa during 10-12 October, 2017 to ascertain status of Human Rights. The visit report of the Special Rapporteur may kindly be seen at **F/A**.

Police administration in North and South Goa Police each is headed by a Superintendent of Police supported by other officials. North Goa has only one police district, 04 Sub Divisions. In addition 09 police outposts have also been set up.

South Goa also has only one police district with 04 sub Divisions and 16 police stations. It was confirmed by both SPs that all police stations have buildings with toilets in police custody. SP, South Goa district stated that there is need to augment more police force and at least additional 800 personnel are required.

It is reported by North Goa police that out of 2372 crimes reported in 2014 only 88 convictions could be secured; in 2015 against 1578 crimes reported only 67 ended in convictions. In 2016 against 1375 crimes registered only 16 convictions were reported. Convictions rate is low given the number of cases. More attention ought to be given to quality of investigation. In South Goa district, percentage of convictions reported was higher in the last three years – 26.79% in 2014, 31.2% in 2015, 47.22% in 2016 and 66.66% in 2017 till September.

It was reported that the Guidelines on Arrest (Ref. D.K.Basu Vs. the State of West Bengal) have been prominently displayed in all thanas in both districts. However, there is need to create greater awareness among the ordinary people through other IEC activities too.

The Special Rapporteur visited Margo Twon Police Station in South Goa District. The PS is located in a building complex in which various offices of police, including the office of the SP, are located. The building is stated to be about 30 years old. Apart from a principal Investigating Officer, 06 PSIs and 09 LPCs are posted in the PS.

The crime rate appeared to be high. The reduction in crime is reportedly due to preventive action u/s 107, 109 and 10 of Cr.PC, night

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patrolling and watch on criminals. It appears that online filing of FIRs has not been introduced here. It would seem that modern technology is yet to be introduced in police station in Goa.

The Guidelines on arrests have been displayed in a corner of the PS. They were in English. There is need for displaying them prominently in the wall outside which would enable the visitors to easily read them. Moreover, they should be in the local language.

Maina Curtorim PS is also located in the same premises. The same lock ups are used by both police stations. Due to co-location of two to three police stations, the place looks very much congested.

A Women's PS is also located in the same premises. The special Rapporteur found a lone woman in the female lock up of the thana. She was detained on charge of immoral trafficking. Why a lone woman should be brought to the thana on charges of prostitution needs to be looked into. She ought to be produced before a magistrate without any delay and should be provided legal aid. Her case needs to be scrutinized by a senior official.

Ordinarily a state having a comparatively small geographical area, high growth rates and impressive HDI should not be facing any major challenges. But Goa, despite its economic growth and prosperity, still needs to address several emergent issues. The actionable points according to the special Rapporteur are:-

1. Criminal Justice System – Incidence of murder, rape, kidnapping and molestation are relatively high as compare to what one would expect from State like Goa. Focus on prevention of crimes / improvement in conviction rates / use of modern technology / adequate human and material resources & infrastructure for police force / focus on human and drug trafficking / Human trafficking is happening in large number s from Nepal (27), Manipur (31), Mumbai (39), Nagaland (8), Mizorma (4) and Andhra Pradesh (14). Too many women from the north-eastern States – needs special investigation strengthening. AHTUs / focus on crimes against children – the fact of too many children and women missing, needs particular analysis.
2. Prison administration – Fully Commission Modern Central Prison, Colvale-urgent action in custodial death cases / reduce under trial population / speed up cases of NDPS under trials – review petty cases and women related cases / regular convening of the District Level Committee headed by District Judge / Model Prisons Manual.

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2. Prison administration – Fully Commission Modern Central Prison, Colvale-urgent action in custodial death cases / reduce under trial population / speed up cases of NDPS under trials – review petty cases and women related cases / regular convening of the District Level Committee headed by District Judge / Model Prisons Manual.

3. Custodial Justice – Review functioning of Observation Homes / Children's Homes / Women's Shelter Homes / Destitute Homes Assessment of functioning of JJ Boards / CWCs / SPOU / Strengthen JJ Boards / CWCs.
4. Sex Ratios – Keep a close watch on sex ratios from slipping – monitor disaggregated data facility wise-Panchayat-wise / focus on urban sex ratios. Enforcement of provisions under PNDT Act.
5. Status of SC / ST – Priority ought to be given to socio-economic conditions of SC / ST in the state by tracking each family in terms of income / unemployment / education / health care / after undertaking a socio-economic survey.
6. Panchayats – Assign more functions / funds and / functionaries.
7. Forests – Monitor implementation of FRA-speed up claim settlement-ensure possession of land to settlers – integration and sanctioning of schemes for sustainable development.
8. Environmental issues – Both National and State Human Rights Commission have dealt with complaints from people adversely affected by mining activity in the State in the past. Although environment issues concerning Goa were not covered during this visit, but they do have an important bearing on the overall quality of life of the people.

NOTE

I visited the State of Goa from 10-12 October, 2017. Enclosed herewith is the report on the status of human rights in the state. I shall be grateful if the same is placed before the Commission early.

Secretary General, NHRC

S. Jalaja,

Special Rapporteur, NHRC

7-12-2017

REPORT ON VISIT TO THE STATE OF GOA - 10-12 OCTOBER, 2017

--S. Jalaja, Spl. Rapporteur, NHRC

Profile of the district

Among the Indian States and UTs Goa has a unique history. Goa is a former Portuguese colony that existed for nearly 450 years until it was integrated into the Indian Union on 19th December, 1961. Goa became the 25th State of India on 30th May, 1987. Situated on the one side of the Arabian Sea, the State is famous for its scenic beauty and attracts a large number of tourists from outside and within the country.

Goa has the highest GDP per capita among all Indian states, that is two and a half times that of the country. As far as HDI is concerned it ranked 4th among the states in 2007-8. According to figures released by the erstwhile Planning Commission (2014), Goa also has the smallest percentage of people (5.09%) living below the poverty line among the states in India.

2. Area and Population

With an area of 3702 km² (1429 sq mi) Goa is India's smallest state by area and the fourth smallest by population. Details regarding area, population and literacy in Goa as per Census 2011 are given in Table-1.

Table-1 Area and Population of Goa (2011 Census)

District	Area-sq.km	Population			Literacy (%)		
		T	M	F	T	M	F
Goa	3702	1,458,545	739,140	719,405	88.70	92.65	84.66
N.Goa		818,008	416,677	401,331	89.57%	93.40%	85.60%
S.Goa		640,537	322,463	318,074	87.59	91.67	83.47

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Scheduled Castes form 1.74% of the population in Goa and Scheduled Tribes 10.23%. According to 2011 Census, Hindus form 66% of the population of the state. Christianity is the second largest religious grouping in Goa. Christians constitute 25% of the population.

Administrative Set up The state is divided into two districts namely North Goa and South Goa. Panaji is the headquarters of North Goa district and is also the capital of Goa. There are in all six talukas in North Goa namely Pernem, Bardez, Tiswadi, Bicholim, Satari and Ponda in North Goa.

South Goa district has 07 Talukas namely, Ponda, Mormugao, Salcete (Margao), Quepem, Canacona (Chaudi), Sanguem, and Dharbandora. (Ponda Taluka shifted from North Goa to South Goa in January 2015). Margão is the headquarters of South Goa. Details regarding administrative set up in Goa provided by the district administration are given in Table-2 below.

Table-2 Administrative set up in Goa

District	Sub divisions	Talukas	Blocks	District Panchayats	Village Panchayats	Village s/ Towns	Municipal Councils/ Corporations
North Goa	04	06	06	01	120	188/47	06/01
South Goa	03	07	05	01	69	132/16	07/01

Sex ratio As per Census 2011, Goa reported an average sex ratio of 973 (R- 1003 ; U- 956), with North Goa reporting a sex ratio of 963 (R-982;U-951) and South Goa- 986 (R-1034; U-961), well above the average of 940 for the country as a whole. Goa ranks at 10th position in the country in respect of sex ratio.

It is interesting to observe that a healthy sex ratio exists among the Scheduled Castes in the state. As per Economic Survey Goa 2015-16 the sex ratio among the SCs is as high as 1,015 females per 1,000 males. Among the SCs, the Mangs and Mahars have a higher sex ratio of 1,046 and 1,042 females, respectively, for every 1,000 males.

The STs have a sex ratio of 1,046 per 1,000, among which Gowda and Kumbhi tribes lead the charts at 1,083 and 1,049 females, respectively, per 1,000 males.

According to Census 2011 Goa has a child sex ratio of 942, which is higher than that for India at 914. Instead of being complacent about higher sex ratios, administration in both districts ought to monitor disaggregated- Panchayat -wise- facility-wise data closely on regular basis.

It will be seen that sex ratio in urban areas is less than that for rural areas of Goa. NFHS 4 data show that average sex ratio in the state has increased to 1018: for rural areas it is 1054, whereas, for urban areas it is only 996. Administration, therefore, needs to be vigilant about sex determination tests being conducted by private clinics. It was mentioned that Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act) is enforced in the state. It is learned that the state has 161 genetic clinics registered under the Act. PNDDT Cells have been set up at the state and district levels to oversee the implementation of the Act. However, no data is provided on action taken against those clinics which violate the provisions of the Act and also how many cases have been filed against the violators.

It was also stated that 'Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao' program is also being implemented in the state.

Field visits in North and South Goa districts I had separate meetings with DM, DSP and other senior officials of the district, besides state level officials of concerned departments.

According to DM, North Goa, the district being a tourist destination, maintaining law and order, especially in Panaji, is an issue. Besides, environment issues and those concerning Coastal Zone Regulations need to be tackled. One of the talukas is remotely located. SP, North Goa mentioned about problems of drug abuse and prostitution in coastal areas. Incidence of crimes relating to property disputes are

high. DM South Goa chiefly touched upon the problems arising out of mining. SP south Goa pointed out that there were very few issues concerning human rights as far as the police is concerned.

Crime profile

Police administration

Police administration in North and South Goa Police each is headed by a Superintendent of Police supported by other officials. North Goa has only one police district, 04 Sub Divisions (Panaji, Porvorim, Mapusa and Bicholim) and 11 police stations. In addition 09 police outposts have also been set up.

South Goa also has only one police district with 04 sub Divisions and 16 police stations. It was confirmed by both SPs that all police stations have buildings with toilets in police custody. SP, South Goa district stated that there is need to augment more police force and at least additional 800 personnel are required.

As per crime data published by NCRB in 2013, with 4,312 crimes reported, Goa State ranks 23rd in all crime records among the States/UTs in India in 2013. Goa has a crime rate of 295.64 (North Goa-318; South Goa-269) compared to the National crime rate of 218.67 in 2013. It ranks 27th in no of Murders, 25th in no of Rapes, 26th in no of Robberies, 22nd in no of Thefts, 23rd in no of Dacoities, 27th in no of kidnappings and 20th in no of riots. District-wise, category-wise and year-wise details of crimes in the State of Goa are given in table-3 below.

Table-3 Crime profile of Goa in last three years (Source: Police Administration)

Category	No. of Crimes regd.				
Year	2014		2015		2016
	N	S	N	S	S

Murder	18	13	15
AM	22	17	10
Hurt	217	160	153
Rape	51	50	34
Robbery	12	10	06
Kidnapping & Abductin	84	72	56
Riot	89	70	71
Theft	616	328	241
Dacoity	07	02	04
HBT	48	34	27
Other IPC crimes	298	215	193
Total IPC	2372	1982	1375
		1420	1230

North

Goa

registered 791 crimes this year, till October, 2017. It is reported by North Goa police that out of 2372 crimes reported in 2014 only 88 convictions could be secured; in 2015 against 1578 crimes reported only 67 ended in convictions. In 2016 against 1375 crimes registered only 16 convictions were reported. Conviction rate is low given the number of cases. More attention ought to be given to quality of investigation.

In South Goa district, percentage of convictions reported was higher in the last three years- 26.79% in 2014, 31.2% in 2015, 47.22% in 2016 and 66.66% in 2017 till September.

Guidelines on Arrest It was reported that the Guidelines on Arrest (Ref. DK Basu Vs the State of West Bengal) have been prominently displayed in all *thanas* in both districts. However, there is need to create greater awareness among the ordinary people through other IEC activities too.

Visit to Margao Town Police Station

I visited Margao town P.S. South Goa district, on my way to Margao, the head quarters of South Goa district. Set up in 1961 the PS is located in a building complex in which various offices of police, including the office of the SP, are located. The building is stated to be about 30 years old. Apart from a principal Investigating Officer (PI), 06 PSIs and 09 LPCs are posted in the P.S.

According to the PI, 338 IPC crimes were reported in 2015 and 231 in 2016. In 2017 271 cases were reported and 223 cases were detected (76.9%). 7741 other crimes were reported in 2015 and 3207 crimes in 2016. The crime rate appeared to be high. The reduction in crime is reportedly due to preventive action u/s 107, 109 and 10 of Crpc, night patrolling and watch on criminals. It appears that online filing of FIRs has not been introduced here. It was stated that all online complaints are received centrally at Panaji. It would seem that modern technology is yet to be introduced in police stations in Goa.

The Guidelines on Arrests have been displayed in a corner of the P.S. They were in English. There is need for displaying them prominently in the wall outside which would enable the visitors to easily read them. Moreover, they should be in the local language.

Also located in the same premises of the Town police station is the Maina Curtorim PS. They share the same space. The same lock ups are used by both police stations. Due to co-location of two to three police stations, the place looks very much congested. It is learned that the South Goa police have identified land at Sansodo for constructing a building for Maina Curtorim Police Station and officers quarters.

85 crimes were reported in this thana in 2017. 05 cases relating to women and children were registered of which 03 cases have been chargesheeted. 02 cases are under investigation. Trafficking cases were reported as nil.

A Women's PS is also located in the same premises. It was stated that the thana had registered 09 cases involving molestation, immoral trafficking, assault and rape. I found a lone woman in the female lock up of the thana. She was detained on charge of immoral trafficking. Why a lone woman should be brought to the thana

on charges of prostitution needs to be looked into. She ought to be produced before a magistrate without any delay and should be provided legal aid. Her case needs to be scrutinized by a senior official.

An Anti Human Trafficking Cell (AHTC) is also functional in the same premises. Although it was established in 2012 it started functioning only from 2016. It is a matter of concern that only 04 cases have been registered so far since its inception. The women officials stated that they do not on their own, go out of the thana to look for cases relating to human trafficking. 4-5 relating to crimes against children have also been registered. It was stated that out of 206 complaints received in 2017, 165 have been disposed of. The functioning of the unit needs to be closely monitored and its outcomes carefully assessed.

While on a visit to the thana I came across the SP's office in the same premises which is located in the upper story of the building complex. Since space is stated to be available in the modern Collectorate building and some of the adjoining buildings shifting of the office could be thought of. More space could be made then available to the thanas which are very much cramped.

Death in police custody

No death in custody was reported in the two districts so far.

Encounter deaths

No case of encounter death was reported in Goa state.

Extremist activities

Extremist activities were reported as nil in Goa.

NDPS

On a visit to Modern Central Jail Colvale, North Goa it was seen that a separate block is constructed in the jail for accommodating NDPS prisoners. 83 NDPS prisoners (79 male and 04 female) are lodged in the prison. The Prisoners complained that they were languishing in the jail, as their cases were moving very slowly in courts. It was noted that out of 83 NDPS prisoners lodged in the prison including foreigners, 34 (27 male & 07 female) have spent 06 months to 01 year in

jail as under trials; 39 prisoners (36 male & 03 females) 01-05 years. It would be necessary to speed up their cases. Preventive measures relating to trafficking and abuse of drugs ought to be strengthened.

Crimes against women

Details relating to crimes against women registered in North and South Goa districts in 2014, 2015 and 2016 as reported by North/ South Goa Administration are given in Table-below. As far as North Goa district is concerned, incidence of crimes against women show a downward trend in the last three years. However, the number of cases appear to be high. Conviction rate reported for 2014 was only 4.7%. No case ended in conviction in 2015 and 2016. This reflects poorly on the quality of investigation.

Table-4 =Crimes against Women reported in Goa

District	Category of crime-year wise							TC
	Murder	Rape	K & A	Molestation	Eve teasing	T		
North Goa 2014	NA	52	49	148	45	294	309	
2015	NA	50	42	115	17	224	244	
2016	NA	33	33	103	21	190	221	
South Goa 2014	02	45	33	74	20	174	209	
2015	-	34	27	64	27	152	172	

2016	01	28	33	55	18	135	161
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Abbreviations: K&A=Kidnapping and Abduction; T= Total; TC+ Total crimes (Source District administration North/ South Goa

South Goa district reported less number of crimes against women compared to North Goa. But this does not in any way lessen the responsibility of South Goa police in controlling/ preventing crimes against women.

Dowry related cases

No case of dowry death was reported in North Goa district in the last three years. However, 08 cases were filed u/s 498-A IPC in 2014, 07 cases in 2015 and 08 cases in 2016 in the district. 06 cases of cruelty to married women were reported in the district in 2014, 04 cases in 2015 and 11 cases in 2016. 04 cases each of abetment to suicide were reported in North Goa in 2014 and 2015 and no case in 2016. None of these cases reportedly ended in conviction.

In South Goa district 02 dowry deaths were reported in 2016 and 01 death in 2017 so far. 01 case each was reported in 2016 and 2017 under Dowry Prohibition Act. Police administration in both districts ought to take preventive measures like focused and regular IEC, counseling, help lines, securing conviction in cases already filed etc.

Missing women

North Goa police reported 156 missing women in 2014 against which 144 women were recovered; in 2015 out of 113 missing women 108 women were traced and in 2016 78 women out of 93 missing were reportedly recovered. It is not clear as to why so many women go missing but are at the same time recovered by the police.

According to South Goa police 360 women were reported missing in the period between 2014- 2017 (September) 31 in 2014; 131 in 2015, 105 in 2016 and 93 in 2017). 267 of the missing women were reportedly recovered.

It was pointed out by North Goa police administration that a number of steps have been taken up for prevention/ dealing with crimes against women that include

- Setting up a Help Desk for assisting women in distress and dealing with crimes against women.
- Helpline for women with dedicated number
- Deputation of plainclothes men to bus stands and other public places to prevent crimes against women
- Quick legal action after reporting crimes
- Self defense classes for school girls
- Sensitization of officials

It was mentioned that similar measures were taken by South Goa police also. Although the number of crimes reported is low when compared to other States/UTs, police administration ought to be vigilant about crimes against women and monitor the cases closely so that incidence of crimes is prevented. Both general and police administration ought to set up Committees on Sexual Harassment of Women in Work places. Complaints by women ought to be monitored closely.

Human Trafficking

According to studies conducted by non-governmental agencies Goa has become a source as well as transit destination for trafficking of women and children. Human trafficking is said to be the third illegal revenue generating business after arms and drugs trafficking in Goa. Girls are trafficked from across the country and are brought to Goa in the name of offering them good jobs. The girls unknowingly get trapped in the net to undertake prostitution. The recent report on human trafficking in India by the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) says that tourism has led to an upsurge of trafficking rackets operating in the state. Based on data procured by a Vasco based non-government organization, ARZ, which works closely with trafficked women, the UNTOC report states some girls and women working as sex workers in Goa, have been brought from Nepal, Bangladesh and Russia. Senior Officials with whom the issue was discussed were of view that the problem is mostly confined to women who were trafficked from outside the state. On the contrary, the data collected for the years 2009 to 2012 by ARZ showed that human trafficking is most common along the coastal belts and that an average of 90-100 women are rescued every year. 25% of the women rescued are local

women. 146 victims of trafficking were of Indian origin and 33 were foreigners. Of the foreigners, 27 were from Nepal, four came from Bangladesh and two were Russian nationals. Regarding girls trafficked from within India, 39 came from Mumbai, 31 from Manipur, 14 from Andhra Pradesh, eight from Nagaland, seven from Karnataka, five each from Maharashtra and Assam, four from Mizoram and 16 were locals. Of course the State Government has set up an Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) to tackle the problem. But, as pointed out, the unit is not active.

The AHTU needs to be fully resourced and strengthened by providing additional dedicated, trained staff. Efforts should be made to increase prosecutions and convictions for all forms of trafficking, including forced and bonded labor; cease penalization of trafficking victims; increase investigations and prosecutions of officials allegedly complicit in trafficking, and convict and punish those found guilty. Implementation of protection programs and compensation schemes initiated by the Central and State Governments ought to be taken up on priority to ensure trafficking victims receive benefits, release certificates, and rehabilitation funds. Meaningful partnerships with voluntary organization can enhance the impact of anti-trafficking measures.

Child rights Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1979 and Child Labor Prevention Act, 1986 are the chief legislations brought out for protection of the rights of the child in India. Details of crimes against children reported by police administration North and South districts for the past three years are given in Table- below.

Table-5 Category-wise Year-wise details of crimes against children in Goa

Category	No. of Crimes regd.					
Year	2014		2015		2016	
	N	S	N	S	N	S

Murder	01	02	0	01	01	01
AM	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hurt	06	NA	04	NA	06	NA
Rape	36	25	28	22	19	22
Molestation	22	13	17	17	13	11
Kidnapping & Abductin	65	62	51	37	40	44
Crimes under Goa Children's Act	21	09	09	07	09	17
Other	08	16	20	14	19	21
IPC crimes						
Total IPC	176	129	138	99	119	112

It was mentioned that in cases relating to crimes against children, conviction rate is only between 1.9-2% in North Goa district.

Missing Children

41 children (12 boys 29 girls) were reported missing in North Goa district in 2014 against which 39 (11 boys and 28 girls) were recovered. In 2015 all 11 children (05 boys; 06 girls) reported missing were recovered. In 2016 also all 14 children reported missing were also recovered.

According to South Goa district police 25 children were reported missing in the period between 2014-17(03 in 2014, 13 in 2015, 06 in 2016; 03 in 2017).23 children were reportedly traced (03 in 2014; 12 in 2015; 05 in 2016 and 03 in 2017).

Child Marriages

As per data furnished by NFHS-4- (2015-16), the percentage of women of 20-24 age group married before the age of 18 reported was 9.8% only in Goa. *As per the same data, mean age of marriage reported for girls in the state of Goa was 25.1.* For North Goa district it was 25.3 years (Rural- 25.1 years) and for South Goa it was 25.2 (Rural-24.9 years). No case of child marriage has been reported in the two districts so far. It was stated that issues under Child Marriage Act are handled by Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Juveniles in conflict with law

It was stated that the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Rules notified under it, are being implemented in the State of Goa. An Apna Ghar has been set up at Mercas, Goa, which houses the Observation Home, Shelter Home, Children's Home, and Special Home for Boys and Girls. It is reported that the Observation Homes has a sanctioned capacity of 50 (25 boys and girls each) against which 04 boys and 02 girls are lodged there. Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) has been set up in the state with a Principal Magistrate heading it, along with two social workers as Members. At present in North Goa only one case relating to girls and 20 cases relating to boys (total-21) are pending before the Board as of September, 2017. In South Goa district only 02 cases relating to boys and 24 girls (total 24 cases) are pending before the Board.

Crimes against SC/ST

According to data provided by police administration in North Goa 15 cases each of atrocity on SC/ST was reported in the district in 2014 and 2015 and 08 cases in 2016; 02 cases each ended in conviction and acquittal in 2014. Conviction rate was 16.66 % in 2014. Rest of the cases are reported to be pending.

South Goa police reported only 05 cases in 2014; 08 cases in 2015, 14 cases in 2016. Only 25% conviction rate is reported in these cases. In cases concerning

atrocities on SC/ST, care ought to be taken to provide protection to witnesses. Stay given by courts need to be got vacated without delay, if deserving.

It was learned that a tribal agitation in 2011 against mining resulted in the death of two young activists in the village of Cauvrem in South Goa. Two youth were reportedly burnt to death just because they were agitating for their rights. It is understood that till now the culprits have not been apprehended. If it is true the matter needs to be looked into immediately. Commission may like to call for a report in the matter.

Complaints received from NHRC

It was stated that no complaints were received from NHRC in North or South Goa districts.

Complaints against the police

It was stated that 17 complaints each were lodged against the police personnel in North Goa district in 2014 and 2015 and 16 complaints in 2017. Some of the cases are under various stages of investigation; in some charge sheets have been filed; others are under trial.

In South Goa district no complaints were reported against the police.

It was mentioned that in the State of Goa a State Complaints Authority has been constituted with a retired Judge of the High Court heading it.

Grievances of the police personnel

While complaints against the police receive attention of the authorities, it is equally important to attend to the grievances of the police personnel. It was learned that a regular system of complaints management is in position. It was stated that in both districts meetings are organized regularly for hearing complaints from the police personnel.

Prison visit

I visited Modern Central Jail, Colvale, North Goa which was established in 2015. A detailed report has already been submitted to the Commission on visit to the jail. The need for completion of work on infrastructure, commissioning of all

blocks already constructed, completion of shifting of the prison from old premises to the new by December 2017, inquiry into custodial death, review of petty cases against women, speeding up NDPS cases, enactment of a new Jail Manual for Goa based on Model Jail Manual circulated by the Union Home Ministry have been Inter-alia proposed in the report.

11. Socio-Economic and cultural Rights

Given below is the data on availability of basic facilities to people in the State of Goa reported under NFHS-4

Table-5: NFHS-4 District-wise data on basic facilities

State	% of HHs with Basic Facilities available			
	With improved source of d. water	With electricity	With toilets	With LPG
Goa	T-96.3	T-99.8	T-78.3	T-
	R-93.7	R- 99.9	R-80.8	84.1
	U-97.8	U-99.8	U 76.8	R-
				72.0
			U-	91.0

T= Total ; U-Urban ; R-Rural

Education

Goa is the fourth most literate state in India. The Economic Survey Report on Goa (2015-16) points out that the state has made significant achievement in the area of enrolment, retention and equity in school education and that the GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) 103 for Primary, 99 for Upper Primary and 114 for Secondary stage of education substantiate the achievements of Goa in the area of ensuring access to school education. As per data provided by the Education Department

there are 1180 schools, including 780 Government schools and 400 Aided/unaided schools in the state.

All students of Std 1-VIII of Government and Government aided schools are covered under the Mid day Meal Scheme (MDM). 105 Self Help Groups and 06 PTAs provide mid day meals to schools. Rate of expenditure per student in the primary school is Rs 6.11 and for Upper Primary it is 7.26 as against Rs.4.13 and Rs.6.18 respectively sanctioned by Govt. of India. Rs 24.86 lakhs have been set apart for the scheme during this financial year. Only 01 complaint in 2016 and 02 in 2017 were received relating to the its implementation.

As already mentioned, average literacy reported in the district is 89.57 % while male literacy reported was 93.40 and female literacy at 85.60%, as per 2011 Census. North Goa Administration reported that as of 2014-15, the district has 729 Government schools, 266 Middle schools, and 234 Secondary schools. As of 2014-15 52492 students are enrolled at primary level and 38757 students in middle level. There were no drop out from schools. Goa Government supplies text books, uniforms and rain coats to all students. Bicycles are also provided to all students of class 8. Scholarships are also given to all eligible students. Mid Day Meal (MDM) program for students from classes 1-8 is being implemented. Although the district has not provided data on primary education, the status of primary education in South Goa is almost similar to that of North Goa.

In North Goa I visited Government Primary School, Sao Pedro. Established in 1962 it had old Goa architecture. The building was colorfully painted. 27 students (14 boys and 13 girls) are enrolled in the school but only 15 children were present. 04 teachers, including the Head Mistress, are working in the school on regular basis. 1-4 classes are held here. It was stated that free text books /note books and uniforms, shoes and rain coat are distributed to students. Besides, free scholarships are sanctioned to SC/ST and meritorious students.

On going around the school it was noted that the 1st and 2nd standards have smaller class rooms. Class 3 and 4 are run in bigger and better rooms.

It was stated that MDM is being implemented in the school. A separate kitchenette is available for cooking food. Bread and potato /beans and carrot curry were being served. Quality of food appeared to be satisfactory. Children are provided food as per fixed menu. LPG is available for cooking. Students stated that the food quality was satisfactory.

School Health Program is taken up in the school. A patch of land is available in front of the school. A *pucca* stage is constructed for celebrating the Annual Day and for having different cultural activities. Facilities for playing games are available. Pipe water supply and 24x 7 power supply is also available. Separate toilets are constructed for girls and boys. The condition of toilets was satisfactory.

Although it appeared to be one of the better schools in the district with fairly good infrastructure and facilities, the teachers were concerned that the students of the area mostly go to private schools. Even enrolled students are mostly absent. They are mostly from adjoining areas of Karnataka. The teachers visit slum areas to persuade parents to send children to come to Government school. They have on their own kept a vehicle for bringing these children to school. The adjoining Government High School has been given transport facility for students named Bai Rath. No such facilities are available to children of lower classes. When they do come they do not bring any text book or note books with them. This is a clear indication that primary education is facing a serious crisis in the state.

It is learned that of the 890 government primary schools in Goa, only five had a headmaster appointed at the institution on a full-time basis during the academic year 2016-17. As the student strength of the government primary schools in Goa has been on a decline, only where it is sufficient, the senior most teacher of the school is appointed as the head teacher. The only areas of Goa where government schools found favor were those located in talukas in remote areas. As per report for 2015-16, the number of Government primary schools in Goa with an enrolment of 20 or lower has gone up to 378. The highest number of such schools (61) are in Ponda and Sattari talukas. Of those 378 low enrolment schools, as many as 130 have 10 or fewer students. The State Government been successful in merging, only a handful of those schools with neighboring Government primary schools that have better enrolment.

The Department ought to introspect and find out the reason why students are opting for private schools. Is the old model of primary education unable to fulfill the aspirations of a new generation of parents? Is Government expenditure on schools with low enrolment justified? Can the number of students and quality of education be improved in Government schools in general? Can investments be made instead in Government schools located in far-flung areas to provide better facilities and improve their quality of education? Can new technologies be introduced in schools? Policy implications of these need to be worked out without any further delay.

It has been pointed out by educationalists that not even a single taluk in Goa has a 100-per cent success rate at the higher-secondary level and that only around 35 per cent complete their education at higher secondary level. A Confederation of Indian Industry report on higher education in Goa released in December 2012 also pointed out that while the state had a well-developed primary school system and a high literacy rate, higher and technical education lag behind.

Healthcare

Goa has a highly acclaimed health care system. The system is maintained through a good network of public health facilities. As per DLHS -4 data the State of Goa has 47 Health Sub Centers (HSC), 17 PHCs, 04 CHCs, 01 Sub Divisional Hospital, and 02 District Hospitals. As per the same survey North Goa's district health facilities include 24 Health Sub Centers (HSC), 10 PHCs, 02 CHCs, 01 sub Divisional Hospital and 01 District Hospital. The health administration in North Goa reported additional facilities like 20 Rural Medical dispensaries (RMD), 03 Urban Health Centers, and 130 Sub Centers. South Goa has 23 HSCs, 07 PHCs, 02 CHCs and 01 District Hospital. The survey also shows that 100% Sub Divisional Hospitals have Pediatricians and Radiologists; 100% had ultrasound facility. 100% CHCs have 24x 7 facility but only 25% had Gynecologists and 50% Anesthetists. Only 50% had OT facility. Only 70.6 % PHCs had regular Medical Officers and 82.4% had AYUSH doctors.

The key Health indicators relating to State of Goa are given below.

Table-6 Health Indicators (source: (Source: Govt. of Goa)

Infant Mortality Rate (SRS 2016)	08	34
Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	61	167 (2017-18)
Total Fertility Rate (NFHS-4)	1.7	2.3 (SRS 2015)
	1.6 (R)	

Goa had already achieved better health indicators than most other States/UTs under NRHM (now NHM). Among the states it has the lowest IMR. Institutional delivery in Goa was reported as 96.9 % which is a very good achievement.

A number of programs focusing on the health of children have been taken up for children like Measles Rubella Campaign and de worming. As per NFHS-4, 88.4% of the children have received full immunization. 77.2% of them received vaccination from a public health facility.

Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Matru Samrudhi Yojana (MSY) and other schemes are also under implementation.

As per DLHS-4 survey 24% villages have ASHAs in North Goa but none in South Goa. Only 58.2% deliveries take place in public facilities. (NFHS-4). *Data shows that only 7.4% of the women received assistance under Janani Suraksha Yojana.*

As far as Family Welfare Program is concerned the same data shows that unmet demand is reported as 17.5%. Only 24.8% of the population use any modern method of family planning. Female sterilization is reported at 16.3%. while male sterilization is 0%.

I visited PHC, Corlim in North Goa district. A new building was constructed for the PHC in 2014, alongside the old PHC building, with MP funds. *It was stated that 90% of the people in the area use this PHC for meeting their health needs.*

Apart from a Medical Officer and an RMD, 01 regular Staff Nurse, 02 contractual nurses, 02 Medical assistants are also posted. No specialists are available. Under NHM a Data Assistant is posted. Payment of staff salary is reported to be up to date.

OPD is run in the upper storey of the building. OPD attendance reported was between 70--80 per day. 50% of the patients are stated to be women. As far as indoor facility is concerned it was mentioned that *this was a non-bedded PHC.*

The PHC does not have any facility for conducting deliveries, including a labor room. Only minor surgeries are conducted in the PHC.

Family planning services are also offered by the PHC. Around 280 tubectomies and 141 IUD insertions were reported. However, no NSV is carried out.

Among the chronic diseases diabetes, hypertension, heart problems are reported 40 cases of TB (this is a large number), 07 cases of leprosy and 4-5 cases of malaria have been reported. Although DOT program is being implemented, patients are referred to higher facilities. Facilities are available for testing HIV/AIDS, but no case has been reported so far.

Lab testing facilities are available in the PHC. A regular Asst. Lab Assistant is posted. *X-ray facilities are however, not available.*

It was stated that the PHC has sufficient stock of medicines which are provided to patients free of cost. An ambulance is available for transporting patients. It was learned that Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS) has not been constituted so far which means that the PHC is unable to utilize the grant provided by the Central government under NHM. RKS ought to be constituted in all new PHCs without any delay.

The PHC did not have any energy saving facility like solar lighting and heating or water harvesting facility. These should be made compulsory not only in PHCs but also in all other health facilities. Buildings, if eco friendly can protect patients from heat, winds and dust.

Since majority of population in this area is using the PHC, it should be fully equipped. Facilities for conducting deliveries need to be provided along with posting of adequate staff. Visits of specialists need to be organized on regular basis. Special attention needs to be paid to diseases like TB, Malaria and Leprosy (it stands eliminated in the country)

School Health program is being implemented by the PHC with the help of a team of 02 AYUSH doctors, a nurse and one Counselor. 74 schools are covered under the program. 89% of the students were screened for diseases.

As regards creating awareness about health amongst the public it was stated that IEC programs are regularly conducted. There are no ASHAs here. But outreach programs are conducted. It was confirmed that there was no outbreak of any disease in the area.

The Deen Dayal Swasthya Yojana is stated to be one of the innovative projects in the country which is being implemented from 1st September, 2016 providing Universal Health Cover. This Scheme has empanelled 19 private and 5 Government hospitals in Goa and 4 private hospitals outside Goa. Till January 2017 is 1,98,013 cards have been issued. Periodic assessment of the scheme with the help of independent agencies is needed.

According to a report entitled Key indicators of Social Consumption in India-Health' published by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation based on a survey carried out in June 2014, reports that while health care in Goa remains far ahead of the national average, there are many cracks in the system. *Healthcare in Goa is costly especially when compared to other states in the country.* Among urban households, Goa had the fourth lowest average for treatment at public hospital at 639 and the fourth highest average at private hospitals. The average total medical expenditure on account of hospitalization per case (excluding child birth) in rural Goa was Rs. 26,096/- for males, next only to Punjab (Rs.40,400/-) and Rs. 34,211/- for females, next only to Delhi (Rs.52,043/-).

It is clear that extent and quality of health care though public health facilities need to be strengthened in order to reduce expenditure on health care.

Disability

As per 2011 Census, there are 33012 disabled persons in the State, of which 52% (17,016) are males and 48% (15,996) are females. As can be seen from Economic Survey Report on Goa 2015-16, 5578 persons who suffer from disability in movement, followed by 5347 persons with disability in hearing and 4964 persons in seeing in the State. These three categories constitute 48% of the total disabled population of the State. Of the total disabled persons, 1817 & 1675 persons are suffering from mental retardation and mental illness respectively.

It is a matter of serious concern that the incidence of disabilities is high among Scheduled Tribe population of the state, with 10% of the over 33,000 disabled reported in the state found to be tribal, as per Census 2011.

550 people are reported to have disabilities related to sight and hearing each. Among the state's ST population, these disabilities were reported to be the most common. The highest number of STs with disabilities were found in the age group of 10 to 69 years. The proportion of disabilities reported in the age group of 10 to

20 among the ST population was much higher than that reported in Goa's overall population.

The incidence of disabilities related to movement also appeared to be more common among tribal men (nearly 200 more males) than women. Hearing defects were reported to be more common among women in the ST population. Around 313 were affected by multiple disabilities among Goa's tribal population and 156 have been reported to have mental retardation. Of the 182 tribal reported to be suffering from a mental illness, 102 were male and 81 female.

Far fewer cases of disability (only 675) were reported among Goa's Scheduled Caste population, which is much larger than Goa's tribal population.

No information, however, is available on what assistance is being given to physically and mentally challenged persons by Goa Government. Special attention ought to be given to persons belonging to SC/ST groups with disabilities. NGOs or private agencies with good track record could be involved in teaching students of this category and training them in vocational skills. Access in all public places should be made disable-friendly. Various provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ought to be implemented.

Visit to Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behavior (IPHB), Bambolim

Data released by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) placed Goa's suicide statistics at 5% above the national statistics with 26% of the suicides in the state being reported from amongst those suffering from illnesses. As a part of my program of visit to Goa, I made a quick visit to IPHB, Bambolim, the premiere mental health institution in Goa.

IPHB was established as an independent entity on 8th December, 1980 after integration of erstwhile Mental Hospital, Goa with Department of Psychiatry of the Goa Medical College, which was set up in 1968. It was shifted to the present premises having an extent of 27.6 Ha., in 2001 with proximity to Goa Medical College. Co-location has benefited both institutions. Due to its location advantage it is able to draw material and human resources from sister institutions nearby. Presently, Dean of Goa Medical College is functioning as Director, IPHB.

Average OPD attendance reported was 4287/ month and was 51441 (27864 male; 23577 female) last year. The hospital has a bed strength of 190. Bed occupancy reported was 114% last year. Separate wards -04 female and 05 male wards - are reserved for patients from prisons. 1427 inpatients (946 male and 481 female)

were admitted last year. Only 04 deaths were reported last year. Select medicines are provided free of cost. Free diet is also provided to patients. The hospital has various units like Casualty and Emergency Services, Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation Services, Specialized Services offered with the help of Goa Medical College, Specialized Clinics for Children/Adolescents, Extension Clinics with outreach programs, Lab Services, Clinical Psychology facilities and Social Psychiatry and Pharmacy facilities.

Academic wing of IPHB offers Post Graduate Training in Psychiatry with intake of 02 seats in MD and 02 in Diploma in Psychological Medicine. It imparts training in bedside clinics and conducts lectures to undergraduate students from Goa Medical College and post graduate students in Psychiatry. It undertakes training in Clinical Psychology to students from other institutions. It also conducts Psychiatric Camps/ awareness programs in PHCs and CHCs, organizes workshops, imparts training to medical officers and RSBK doctors.

Research is undertaken in psychiatry and related subjects. It has a good library and lecture hall.

I went round the hospital and visited the female wards. It is seen that IPHB provides all basic facilities to patients. The entire hospital is kept clean and hygienic. But the building being old, repairs and renovation are needed. The land around was covered with weeds and wild growth. This forces the patients to remain indoors. The land needs proper landscaping. Tree plantation could be taken up wherever feasible. Some of the patients who are generally fit could work in the garden. Due to undulating nature of land one needs to go up and down the buildings. Ramps should be constructed wherever needed. IPHB has a large centralized kitchen. A centralized canteen is also available.

I interacted with some of the patients. They appeared to be looked after well. Most of the women patients wanted to be with their family and wanted to go home. There is also need for a place to rehabilitate cured patients who have nowhere to go. IPHB could replicate some of the innovations introduced by other institutions, especially mental health institutions in Delhi, Amritsar and Chandigarh. Since IPHB has a large OPD, presence of different categories of patients would be a good base material for research. IPHB ought to invest in quality research.

Last year (2016-17) it had a budget of Rs 20.72 crores (plan-4.48 crore; non-plan-20.72). A proper analysis of the budget will enable IPHB to plan its activities properly. Although no shortage of staff was indicated, it needs to be ensured that manpower shortages, if any, are taken care of on priority. I was told that IPHB plans to establish a Center of Excellence in its premises with 100 beds, supported by GOI assistance of Rs 31.60 crores. Six faculty positions

have been created. Building plans are stated as approved. The work is about to start. *Care ought to be given to the design of new buildings. They ought to be eco-friendly and patient-friendly.*

It was mentioned that State Mental Health Authority is constituted in the state with Secretary Health as chairperson. It needs to be ensured that regular meetings of the Authority are held. Provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 need to be implemented.

I asked some of the outdoor patients whether they have any problem visiting a mental health institution. They denied having any problem. It would appear that the stigma attached to persons visiting a mental hospital is no longer there. But more of advocacy and publicity are needed.

Shri Laxmidhar Mishra, then Spl., Rapporteur, NHRC had submitted a comprehensive report in 2010 on the functioning of IPHB, after visiting the institution. His recommendations need to be fully implemented.

ICDS

According to 2011 Census, out of total population of the State at 14.58 lakh persons, 1.4 lakh persons fall in the age bracket of 0-6 years. Data published under NFHS-4 in 2015-16 shows that 48.3% of the children who are 6-59 months old in Goa are anemic. Anemia in women of all age groups reported was 31.3%. Children under five who are stunted form 20.1% of the population; children under 5 wasted are 21.9%, severely wasted form 9.5% and children below the age of 05 who are under weight are 23.8% of the population. Among the states Goa's record on this count is much better. But the state needs to strive to achieve still better results.

In North Goa district I visited Anganwadi Center, JMC Quarters, Bambolim (AWC No.33). The Center was started on 22-2-2016 and was in good condition. Constructed under sponsorship of Jindal Steel Works (South West Port Ltd) it had a unique design-much more modern and spacious than the conventional Government owned buildings. It had an fairly large open room cum veranda, a class room, a modern kitchen, a set of toilets just outside the rooms. This design is worth emulation by other AWCs.

07 children of 6months to 03 age group (only 06 were present) and 30 of 03-06 age group (only about 20 were present) are enrolled here. 10 lactating mothers and 01 pregnant woman are also enrolled here . Besides, 26 adolescent girls are also enrolled. At the time of visit mothers of the children were seen participating in a

Rangoli competition organized in connection with '*Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan*'. CDPO, AWW and Helper were present at the time of visit. No modern gadgets were seen provided to children. However, very good extension charts were on display developed by the AWW herself.

A kitchen is attached to the main room. It had a glass window for ventilation. LPG connection is available. A separate store room is available. Pipe water supply is available. RO system is installed. Power supply is available all 24 hours.

It is reported by authorities that 54 children were identified in Goa (25 North Goa; 29 in South Goa) suffering from malnutrition. However, no case of malnutrition was reported in this AWC. Growth charts are maintained. It was stated that every day a different item is served to the children. On the day of visit *Idlies* were being cooked and served. Food quality was found satisfactory. Pregnant women are provided dry ration which comprises of 01 kg of rice, peas and valane (whole gram) and a salt packet. This in many ways deprives them of a visit to the Anganwadi center, meeting with other women and participating in discussions etc

Vaccination is stated to be 100% but the data needs to be confirmed. Health cards are maintained. A medical team is said to visit the Center on Mamta Divas. No community participation was noted . It was stated that no donation /sponsorship was received by the center.

It is generally seen that actual attendance of children in 03-06 years age group is lower than that enrolled. Enrolment of children and women ought to be physically verified. It is often seen that many of the enrolled children often attend private nurseries. *Quality of education ought to be improved so that parents of children from poorer households do not have to spend money private facilities.* Better equipment and teaching aids could be provided through donations and sponsorships, as is done in Gujarat. This way participation of the community could be ensured.

Food Security

It is learned that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) is being implemented in Goa since December, 2015. In Goa 5.48 lakh beneficiaries of NFSA (North Goa 2.5 lakh; South Goa 2.9 lakh) are reported of which 5.01lakh belong to Priority Households (PHH) (N. Goa -2.21 lakh; S.Goa-2.7 lakh) and 47,561(North Goa-34,312; South Goa-47,561) under Antyodaya. Allocation of quota for fair price shops is done online, which is available in the web portal of the Department.

The district has 446 fair price shops. Under end to end computerization project data concerning 11 go downs and 446 fair price shops have been digitalized and supply chain automation up to go down level is reportedly complete. A Grievance Redress System is set up at the state/district /Taluka and shop levels. Aadhar seeding is almost 100%.

I visited a ration shop in South Goa- FPS.No 92-located in village panchayat, Nagwa. The ration shop run here earlier was closed. It was restated as a society in April, 2017 with the effort of district administration. It is run by Ms Maria Vaz , Librarian, with the assistance of a helper. The society covers 07. wards and caters to 474 APL and 136 PHH card holders. It was stated that almost all BPL and all APL families lift their quota.POS machine is not set up so far. It is available only in 05 societies. A new weighing machine is given to the society. On inspecting the register maintained by the society the register is up to date and all entries have been made; but signatures of those who lifted their ration are missing.

Only rice and wheat are supplied. No millets, dal or sugar is provided. Wheat is supplied at the rate of Rs.9.10 per Kg to APL and rice at Rs. 11.60 f. PHH get their supplies at Rs.3 per Kg. Per head they get Rs 5kg per month. Samples were generally satisfactory. Quality could be improved.

The ration shop was maintained well and kept very clean. The customers appeared to be satisfied with its functioning.

MNREGA

As already mentioned, according to data released by the then Planning Commission in 2014, Goa has the smallest percentage of BPL population among the states/UTs in India (5.09%) and that 40% of it is based in South Goa. But at 7,175, Bardez taluka in the north has the largest BPL population, followed by another northern taluka, Sattari (4,877).

MNREGA is being implemented in the state of Goa at a very reduced scale. According to state authorities, although 47320 persons are registered only 6145 persons are working during the current financial year. However, it was clarified that no job card holder is deprived of employment at any time. 32.62 % of the workers belong to ST whereas SC form only 3.08% of active work force. *It was pointed out that many of the registered persons are unwilling to work due to low*

wages offered at Rs.240 per day compared to market rate of Rs.450-500/-. 80% of the laborers are women. Therefore, administration is forced to take up low intensity work. Generally water harvesting schemes like soak pits, construction of retaining walls, de-silting of ponds, repair of *bandhs* are taken up. apart from construction of *kachcha* roads/ foot paths etc.

During 2016-17, in Goa 341 Job Cards have been issued. 139 works have been completed, 176 works are in progress and 0.77 lakh man days have been generated.

Approved budget of MNREGA for 2017-18 is only Rs. Only 1.5 lakhs. Progressive expenditure reported was Rs. 161.43 lakhs. Percentage of utilization of funds reported was only 43.83%.

It would be desirable to make an assessment of MNREGA at high levels of Government to find out its utility in job creation keeping in view the facts reported above and whether it needs a different approach as far as the state is concerned.

Visit to Newra Panchayat, North Goa

North Goa district is divided into 8 Taluks , 108 Panchayats , 165 Villages. In North Goa district I visited Newra panchayat which comprises of two villages, with an area of about 740 ha and a population of around 2000 (461 HH). Smt. Ujjawala Santosh Naik is the Sarpanch of the Panchayat. She assumed office in June 2017. Apart from her, the panchayat has 06 members. As in the case of Panchayats elsewhere only skeletal staff is available in this panchayat too. The Panchayat Secretary is in additional charge. Staff members include a *Talati*, clerk, *Rojgar Sevak*, a watchman and a peon. The watchman and peon are engaged on daily wages.

Most of the of the population of the panchayat is engaged in agriculture. 35 families belong to BPL category. Provision of houses under *Indira Awas Yojana*, house repairs, free gas connections, ration supply, formation of SHG groups for women, job cards under MNREGA are some of the programs taken up for them.

The Panchayat office is located in a new building complex constructed by it from which it derives an income of Rs. 10 lakhs/year, therefore, no grant is provided by the government. Only three schemes could be taken up under MNREGA, which include cleaning of drains and construction of soak pits. The entire budget of Rs.01 lakh has been utilized. Other activities include construction of toilets and repair of school buildings under 14th Finance Commission. Due to non receipt of NOC from individual owners, the Panchayat could not be declared as ODF so far.

The population of the panchayats comprise of Hindus, Christians and other groups. Communal harmony is maintained in the panchayat.

While discussing social issues it was stated that no child marriage was reported. Girls get married at the age of around 25 years of age and boys at about 29. No dowry related case is reported. However, there is less awareness about drinking. No incidence of bonded labor/ child labor or manual scavenging is reported. No discrimination is shown against members of SC communities. They live as mixed population.

In South Goa I visited a MNREGA scheme in Rachol Panchayat of Salcete block. Ms. Eni Olinera is the Sarpanch of the Panchayat. The panchayat has 05 Members apart from her. Last elections were conducted in February, 2017.

The scheme visited involved de-silting of a large fishing tank and construction of a retaining wall/ embankment. The work was taken up in three phases. Against an estimated cost of Rs.5.11 lakhs, expenditure reported was Rs.3.8 lakhs. The scheme appeared to be well executed and useful. On inquiry it was revealed that the pond is situated in land owned by Ms Ivy Vaz. Although work taken up is on a private property, administration ought to ensure that the local population would be allowed to use the pond for fishing and other purposes, since public funds have been used for its renovation.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

According to Census 2011 Schedule Castes (SC) constitute 1.74% (North Goa- 2.15% ; South Goa 1.2%) while Schedule Tribes (ST) were 10.23% of the total population in the state of Goa (North Goa 6.92% South Goa- 14.5%).

District -wise distribution of SC population shows that North Goa has higher proportion of SCs as noted above. Bardez (5933) taluka in the North Goa is highly populated with scheduled caste, followed by Tiswadi (3209) and Pernem (3070). Similarly, Salcete (3443) taluka in the South Goa has more scheduled caste population followed by Mormugao (2566) as per 2011 Census.

Out of five categories of SCs, Mahar is the most populous caste forming 57 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes population. Chambhar is the second largest caste. Both Mahar and Chambhar together constitute 88.1 per cent of the total SC population. Mang, Bhangi and Mahyavanshi are smaller castes having a population of 580, 431 & 62 respectively. At the district level, Mahar and Chambhar have their highest population in North Goa district.

The State of Goa has the lowest percentage of Scheduled Tribes (ST) population among all the thirty States and UTs. There major tribes in Goa are - Dhodia (Halpati), Dubla (Talavia), Naikda (Nayaka), Siddi, Varti, Kunbi, Gawda and Velip. **Gowdas, Kunbis, Velips and Dhangers** live in small groups in segregated villages. Out of five (5) tribes, Dubla is numerically the largest tribe having a population of 188 followed by Siddi (155), Naikda (143). These three STs together constitute 85.9 per cent of the total tribal population. Varti and Dhodia are very small tribal groups having a number of 31 & 16 respectively and along with the generic tribes. Both the districts of Goa have almost equal population of STs, i.e. 281 in North Goa, and 285 in South Goa. *The Scheduled Tribes are mainly concentrated in urban areas (66.4 per cent) unlike in majority of the states.*

Agriculture is not the source of subsistence among the tribes of Goa. Majority of tribal workers of Goa (96.4 per cent) are 'Other Workers'.

According to administration welfare schemes for SC/ST include provision for Pre-metric / Post-metric Scholarships// financial assistance for travel etc to students. book bank scheme/ Pre-primary primary schools for ST children in remote areas/ Vidya Laxmi scheme for promoting women's education/ SC/ST student hostels/ rewards for inter caste marriage/ housing/ Indira Awas/ infrastructure support/minor irrigation schemes/ICDS/ Sabala/ creation of awareness etc. Status of SC/ST in Goa is reported to be better than in other states. Percentage of literacy among SC/ST showed improvement in 2011. However it has been pointed out that very few tribal students choose higher and technical education.

District administration both North and South Goa reported that there were few atrocities against SC/ST in Goa. North Goa reported 29 cases in the period 2013-2016. Out of these cases in 15 the accused were charge sheeted, one case ended in acquittal and one case was discharged. 13 cases are pending for trial and 05 cases are pending for investigation. No case ended in conviction. In South Goa district 48 cases were filed out of which in 33 were the accused were charge sheeted. 05 cases ended in acquittal and 03 cases were discharged. 23 cases are pending for trial and 05 for investigation. 02 cases ended in conviction.

It has been pointed out that out of a total geographical area of 3702 sq. about 700 sq.km area is under mining in Goa. The environmental damage caused by mining affects the life and livelihoods of people, especially the tribes who live there. As mentioned two tribal activists were killed while protesting against mining and fulfillment of their demands in 2011.

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Some of those who work in this field have pointed out that despite the claims made by Goa Government, under TSP schemes have not been implemented properly or spent ear-marked funds. Various Government Departments are not implementing the TSP schemes. Further there is a backlog of 2442 vacancies in posts reserved for ST as on March 31, 2011. Shortage of staff for handling SC/ST related schemes also is an issue. State government ought take note of these criticisms and do the needful. Since SC /ST population is low a socio-economic survey ought to be taken up quickly. *Each family could be tracked in terms of income, education, employment, health, food security etc.*

Minorities

As mentioned Christians (25.10%) and Muslims (8.33%) are the two important minority communities living in Goa. Others like Sikh (0.10%), Buddhists (0.08%), Jains (0.02%) and others (0.21%) form only a miniscule part of the population. Welfare schemes for minorities include provision for Pre- SSC Scholarships/ Post-Metric Scholarships/ merit cum means scholarships for students.

No incidence of violence against any of the members of the minority communities has been reported. However, administration needs to be vigilant on this count.

Social Security

Social security schemes sanctioned by Central and the state Government like social security/desitute/widow disability pension etc are under implementation. Laadli Laxmi, and Griha Aadhar and Dayanand Social security are stated to be three flagship schemes wherein women beneficiaries have been covered.

Forests The total forest area in Goa is 2,219 sq km making up **59.94 percent** of its geographical area. Goa features among the top 15 states and Union Territories in the country with forest cover crossing 33 percent of the geographical area.

It was reported that Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rues 2007 under it are under implementation in Goa since 2012. It was reported that 147 Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) have been set up in the state.

Directorate of Tribal Welfare is the Nodal Office for implementation of FRA. 2006. Block Development Officers have been appointed as Member Secretaries of Sub Divisional Level Committees under FRA. Special Committees headed by Joint *Mamladar* have also been appointed to assist the FRCs in scrutiny and verification of claims. It was also reported that awareness programs as well as sensitization and training of members of FRCs and others concerned have also been taken up.

It is reported that altogether 10040 claims, both individual and community claims together, have been filed in the state of Goa and that 2709 claims have been verified. *Only 25 claims have been approved so far which is indeed very low.* 278 claims have been rejected. South Goa district reported settlement of 25 claims (17 individual and 08 community claims). Separate data relating to North Goa district is not available.

It is not clear after the claims were verified and approved, whether lands have been formally settled with the allottees and possession given to them. It has been pointed out that allotment of a piece of land to beneficiaries and providing support through integration of various schemes can make homestead farming more sustainable and enhance the quality of life of the beneficiaries.

Child Labor/Bonded labor

It was stated that a survey was undertaken in the state and no incidence of bonded or child labor was reported the district. It may, however, be pointed out that new forms of bonded labor are manifested as forced labor, factory work for children and women in sex trade. With the help of reputed NGOs efforts need to be made to curb them.

Swachh Bharat Mission

It is seen from the reports provided by State administration that a survey on households without toilets is yet to be undertaken. The state has prepared an Action Plan to achieve the Mission objective-- by March, 2019 to become a ODF state. The plan is to be taken up on a Mission mode. 16 village panchayats are about to be declared ODF. Another 14 village panchayats are also likely to be declared as ODF. Non availability of land is pointed out as the main problem in Goa in implementing the Mission. It may, however, be pointed out that construction of toilets and declaration of an area as ODF are only one part of a cleanliness drive. Keeping the Municipalities/Panchayats clean, pollution free; collection and

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disposal of garbage are often ignored. Involving the community, educating it about the procedures involved and the advantage of having clean and pollution free surroundings are equally important. To make the whole mission sustainable women-centric models like Kudumb Shree in Kerala could be thought of. This will ensure community participation, at the same time provide employment opportunities to women.

Manual scavenging

Manual scavenging is reported as nil in the two districts in Goa, after a survey.

Farmer's suicide

No case of farmer's suicide was reported in this district so far.

Delivery of services

The Goa (Right Of Citizen To Time Bound Delivery Of Public Services) Act was enacted by the State government in 2013 to ensure efficiency in the delivery of public services to the citizens. Time limit has been fixed for delivery of services, for issue of income/ caste / Resident Certificates, mutation/ survey of property etc.

It would be necessary for administration to do an impact assessment from time to time, with the aid of an independent agency and do necessary course correction.

Observations and Suggestions

Ordinarily a state having a comparatively small geographical area, high growth rates and impressive HDI should not be facing any major challenges. But Goa, despite its economic growth and prosperity, still needs to address several emergent issues. Some of these issues have already been discussed under different items in this report. I had a detailed discussion with the Chief secretary as well as senior state officials on some of these issues. For the sake of convenience they are summarized below.

1. Criminal justice system

Incidence of murder, rape, kidnapping and molestation are relatively high as compare to what one would expect from State like Goa. Focus on prevention of crimes/ improvement in conviction rates/ use of modern technology/ adequate human and material resources & infrastructure for police force/ focus on human

and drug trafficking/ Human trafficking is happening in large numbers from Nepal (27), Manipur (31), Mumbai (39), Nagaland (8), Mizoram (4) and Andhra Pradesh (14). Too many women from the north-eastern States - needs special investigation. Strengthening AHTUs /focus on crimes against children- The fact of too many children and women missing, needs particular analysis.

2. Prison administration

Fully commission Modern Central Prison, Colvale-urgent action in custodial death cases/ reduce under trial population/ speed up cases of NDPS under trials- review petty cases and women related cases/ regular convening of the District Level Committee headed by District Judge/ Model Prisons Manual.

3. Custodial Justice

Review functioning of Observation Homes/Children's Homes/ Women's Shelter Homes/ Destitute Homes Assessment of functioning of JJ Boards/ CWCs/SPIU/Strengthen JJ Boards/CWCs.

4. **Sex ratios-** Keep a close watch on sex ratios from slipping -monitor disaggregated data facility wise-Panchayat-wise/ focus on urban sex ratios. enforcement of provisions under PNDT Act

5. Education

The State Govt. ought to introspect and find out the reason why students are overwhelmingly opting for private schools.-comprehensive strategy on primary education

6. Health care

Efforts to reduce cost of health care-Take care of shortage of health professionals and paramedics-improve quality of care in Public Health facilities to make health care affordable -attain IPHS standards for health facilities- prevalence of anemia among children and women appear too high for a State like Goa- focus on chronic diseases/TB/Leprosy /quality assurance in mental health care-strengthen IPH13.

7. ICDS

Review functioning of ICDS-focus on enrolment and attendance- improve content and quality of teaching/involvement of community

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8. Status of SC/ST

Priority ought to be given to socio-economic conditions of SC/ST in the state by tracking each family in terms of income/unemployment/education/health care/after undertaking a socio-economic survey..

9. Disability/ Mental illness

The Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016 and Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 ought to be implemented. Disability and mental illness amongst the ST ought to be specially taken care of-- Quality assurance in mental health care-strengthen IPHB

10. MNREGA

Review implementation of MNREGA-job creation-review utility of the program-

11. Panchayats

Assign more functions/ funds and / functionaries-

12. Forests

Monitor implementation of FRA- Speed up claim settlement-ensure possession of land to settlers- integration and sanctioning of schemes for sustainable development .

11. Environmental issues

Both National and State Human Rights Commissions have dealt with complaints from people adversely affected by mining activity in the state in the past. Although environmental issues concerning Goa were not covered during this visit, but they do have an important bearing on the overall quality of life of the people.