

Annual Report

2023-24



National Human Rights Commission India

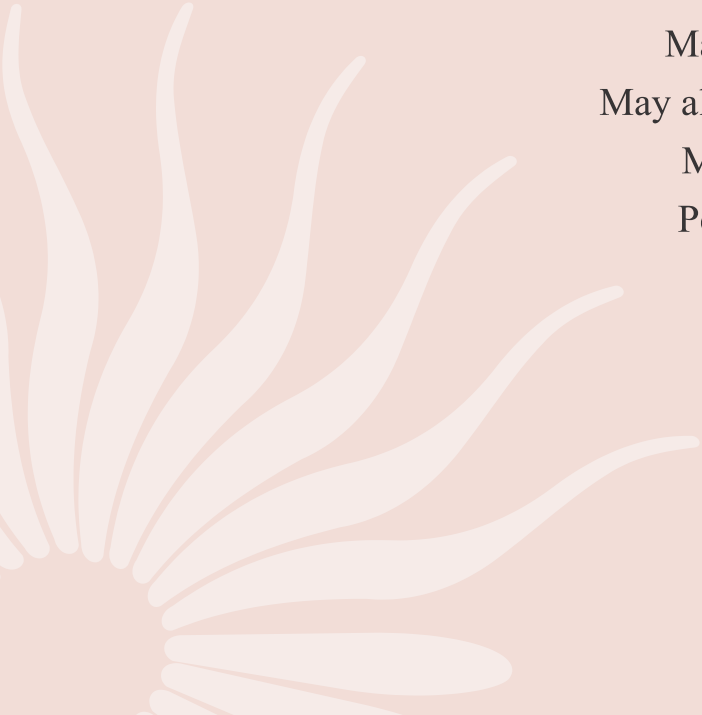




सर्वे
भवन्तु सुखिनः

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः
सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु
मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत्।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः॥

May all be happy,
May all be healthy,
May all see auspiciousness,
May none suffer,
Peace be unto all.





ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

**National Human Rights Commission
India**

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Foreword



Justice Mr. Arun Mishra
Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India is pleased to present its thirty-first Annual Report to the Central Government and the State Governments, covering the period from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024. The year 2023 held significant importance for human rights in India. It marked the thirtieth anniversary of the enactment of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, which led to the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, India, as a statutory organization in complete compliance with the Paris Principles, entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding human rights across the country.

The NHRC, India, founded on the key pillars of pluralism, independence, and effectiveness as outlined in the Paris Principles, has also integrated the Indian ethos into its functioning. This enriches the concept of human rights by recognizing the world as one family and working towards protecting the rights of all human beings. The Commission's motto, '*Sarve Bhawantu Sukhinaha*', demonstrates its commitment to advance the human rights of every human being. This commitment is exemplified by the Commission's efforts in developing consensus for the adoption of the 'Delhi Declaration,' wherein members acknowledged the threat to human rights due to climate change and environmental degradation, called for responsible development of digital technologies, and pledged to enhance human rights across the region.

Since its establishment, the NHRC, India has diligently worked to uphold the rights of all individuals. During this reporting period, the Commission undertook various initiatives, including *suo motu* actions and independent inquiries, and held discussions on key human rights issues such as women's rights, children's rights, rights of transgenders, persons having mental health issues, prisoners' rights, and environmental concerns. The Commission has been the voice of the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of society. During this period, it issued advisories on subjects related to the rights of transgender persons to health, education, employment, property, and mental health, as well as curbing the spread of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), and mitigating deliberate self-harm and suicide attempts by prisoners, thus amplifying the voices of these marginalized groups. Furthermore, the Commission is committed to fostering a culture of human rights in the country through regular education and training sessions for students, senior officers, police personnel, and trainers. This commitment transcends borders, as evidenced by the training programmes provided to officials from other Human Rights Institutions, such as those from the Maldives.

India's ethos historically recognizes the importance of shared responsibility among all stakeholders in safeguarding rights, especially amidst escalating challenges posed by climate change and the irresponsible use of technology. The Commission acknowledges the challenges in developing consensus among diverse entities and plays a pivotal role in bridging this gap. The NHRC is trusted by all and is uniquely positioned to bring together stakeholders, including Human Rights Defenders, NGOs/ CSOs, academia, and government agencies onto a single platform. Leveraging this role, the Commission fosters constructive dialogue on sensitive issues and proposes practical solutions agreed upon by all.

During the period under consideration, the NHRC, India successfully hosted the 28th Asia Pacific Forum (APF) Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference, which was attended by more than 1,300 delegates. Against the backdrop of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the UDHR, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Principles by the United Nations General Assembly, the Annual Meeting concluded with the adoption of the 'Delhi Declaration'.

I hope that the Annual Report for the period 2023-24 will not only inform its readers about the important initiatives undertaken by the Commission but also encourage all stakeholders to think and act more promptly in addressing the new challenges of the decade that threaten human rights. As citizens, we must stand together as a nation, propose global solutions, and showcase India's glory as a '*Vishwa Guru*' to the world.



[Justice Arun Mishra]

Preface



Bharat Lal
Secretary General &
Chief Executive Officer, NHRC

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India for the year 2023–24. Our commitment to upholding the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) remains unwavering. This report stands as a testament to our tireless efforts, in partnership with other institutions, to protect the rights and dignity of every individual, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, gender, or socio-economic background.

Although the NHRC was established in 1993, India's dedication to safeguarding human rights is deeply rooted in our ancient ethos of empathy, compassion, and non-violence, spanning over 5,000 years. India, home to 1.44 billion people speaking 22 major languages and numerous dialects, has a federal structure that boasts a robust institutional framework committed to protecting and advancing human rights. At the apex level, the NHRC operates alongside various constitutional and statutory institutions established for the protection and promotion of rights of minorities, backward classes, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, children, and women. Most of these institutions have their counterparts in most of the states. The State Human Rights Commissions, Special Rapporteurs, Special Monitors, and Core Groups comprising NGOs, human rights defenders, and domain experts provide a robust human rights protection mechanism. Additionally, our online digital complaints management system enables individuals to lodge complaints conveniently from anywhere and in any language.

In 2023–24, the Commission received 76,891 complaints and disposed of 73,958 cases. It took *suo motu* cognizance in 106 cases and conducted 30 spot inquiries. The Commission awarded more than Rs. 1,820.47 lakh as compensation to the aggrieved persons and/or their families. Camp sittings serve as a mechanism for delivering justice to the doorstep of common people, especially those from vulnerable sections of society. During the reporting period, the NHRC organized camp sittings and open hearings in Guwahati for the people of 8 North-East states and Vijayawada for the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Pioneering a non-conventional perspective in human rights protection, the NHRC strives to provide a dignified life to the most marginalized sections of society, such as transgenders, people with mental illnesses, persons affected by leprosy or Hansen's disease and beggars, trafficked girls, destitute individuals, sex

workers, orphans, and persons with disabilities (PwDs), by ensuring they have access to essential amenities and public services. The NHRC endeavors to enhance the quality of public service delivery through constructive engagement and issuing directives to the concerned governments and their parastatal organization, thereby reducing discrimination, increasing transparency and accountability.

At the heart of NHRC's activities is the desire to reach out to the masses and spread awareness about human rights. Through a multitude of activities aimed at outreach and advocacy, the NHRC educates and empowers people. Moot court competitions and internships provide opportunities for engaging with the youth and young leaders of tomorrow. Through training programmes for officials, the NHRC reinforces the importance of adhering to human rights principles among law enforcement agencies. Through press releases, newsletters, and a strong social media presence, the Commission ensures its work is widely recognized. By building partnerships with academic institutions, national law universities, NGOs, Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), embassies, and parastatal organizations, the NHRC promotes the ideals enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the UDHR.

The Annual Report 2023–24 is structured into nine chapters, offering a comprehensive thematic overview of the NHRC's activities and accomplishments. It presents detailed insights into the human rights violations investigated or addressed by the NHRC, alongside the actions taken by authorities during the reporting period. Additionally, it outlines the research studies conducted, recommendations proposed, and advisories issued during the period under review. The report also underscores the NHRC's commitment to capacity-building through workshops, seminars, exposure visits and training sessions aimed at a wide range of stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, civil society, students, and human rights defenders. These efforts illustrate the significant outreach undertaken by the Commission in 2023-24.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Commission and, in particular, to the Annual Report Team for their hard work in bringing out the Annual Report 2023-24. The team, headed by Smt. Anita Sinha, Joint Secretary, and consisting of Dr. Rajul Raikwar, Consultant (Research), and Junior Research Consultants, Ms. Aiswarya S Kumar, Ms. Arpita Singh, Ms. Lakshmi Kumari, Shri Raghwendra Singh and Aakanksha Sharma worked tirelessly to compile this report.

Despite the commendable accomplishments, the Commission remains aware of ongoing issues that demand attention. It is dedicated to addressing these gaps in the pursuit of justice, collaborating closely with both public and private stakeholders to safeguard the human rights of vulnerable populations.

In closing, I invite you to read the Annual Report, which offers an overview of the NHRC's activities and contributions in 2023–24. As we navigate the complexities of our world, let us remember that the protection of human rights is not merely a legal obligation but a moral imperative. We must work together to build a future where human rights are not just ideals to strive for, but realities to be cherished and safeguarded by all. It is important to acknowledge that the protection of human rights is a work in progress, requiring commitment, dedication and vigilance to address emerging challenges and ensure the full realization of rights to every human being.



[Bharat Lal]



Chapter 1

Constitution, structure & functions of the National Human Rights Commission

Constitution of the Commission

- 1.1 The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was established by an Act of Parliament on 12th October, 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA). This Act, which was amended in September, 2006 and July, 2019, aims to provide better protection and promotion of human rights. The NHRC complements the judiciary in its efforts to safeguard and promote the fundamental human rights enumerated in the Constitution for all people in the country.
- 1.2 As per the Act, 'Human Rights' refers to the 'rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India'. International Covenants include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The Government of India acceded to the ICCPR and ICESCR in 1979. It ratified the CEDAW in 1993, the CRC in 1991 and the CERD in 1968. Many of the rights as referred to in the ICCPR and the ICESCR became available to Indian citizens when India achieved Independence. These rights are primarily reflected in Part III and Part IV of the Constitution under the broad heading of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy.
- 1.3 Unquestionably, the greatest strength of the PHRA is to provide the Commission with 'independence, functional autonomy and broad mandate', which

are essential to the composition and proper functioning of a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) conforming with the Paris Principles. NHRC is an embodiment of India's concern for the promotion and protection of human rights.

- 1.4 The experiences of NHRC, ever since it came into existence, has shown that its independence and strength is well guaranteed by the requirements of the statute relating to its composition, procedures for appointments, and powers relating to inquiries, extensive range of functions and specialized divisions and staff.

Structure of the Commission

- 1.5 Section 3 of the PHRA, (amended in 2019) provides for the constitution of Commission consisting of:
 - A Chairperson who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court;
 - One Member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court;
 - One Member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court;
 - Three Members, out of which at least one shall be a woman, to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in matters relating to human rights.
- 1.6 With the amendment of 2019, the number of Deemed Members of the Commission has increased from five to seven. As per PHRA, (amended) 2019, the seven deemed members of the Commission are as under:

- Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes;
- Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes;
- Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities;
- Chairperson of the National Commission for Women;
- Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights;
- Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes; and
- Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

1.7 **Appointments:** The Chairperson and the Members of the NHRC are appointed by the President of India, on recommendations of a High-Level Committee comprising of the Prime Minister (as Chairperson), the Speaker of the Lok Sabha (House of the People), the Minister in-charge of the Home Affairs in the Government of India, the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (Council of States), and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

1.8 The Chief Executive Officer of the Commission is the Secretary General, an officer of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. The Secretariat of the Commission works under the overall guidance of the Secretary General.

Functions of the Commission

1.9 **Extensive Range of Functions:** The Commission has a wide mandate. Its functions, as laid down in Section 12 of the PHRA, include:

- i.) Inquire *suo motu* or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his behalf or on a direction or order of any court, into complaint of (i) violation of human rights or abetment thereof; or (ii) negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant;

- ii.) Intervene in any proceeding involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court, with the approval of such court;
- iii.) Visit, notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, any jail or other institution under the control of the State Government, where persons are detained or lodged for the purpose of treatment, reformation or protection, for the study of living conditions of inmates thereof and make recommendations thereon to the Government;
- iv.) Review the safeguards provided by or under the Constitution or any law for the time being in force for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;
- v.) Review the factors, including acts of terrorism, that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
- vi.) Study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation.
- vii.) Undertake and promote research in the field of human rights;
- viii.) Spread human rights literacy among various sections of society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means;
- ix.) Encourage the efforts of non-governmental organizations and institutions working in the field of human rights;
- x.) Such other functions as it may consider necessary for the promotion of human rights.

1.10 **Powers Relating to Inquiries:** The NHRC has been entrusted with the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, especially with respect to summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining

them on oath; discovery and production of any documents; receiving evidence through affidavits; requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office; issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents; and any other matter that may be prescribed. In case of breach, it calls upon the concerned government to take remedial measures and pay compensation to the victim or to the next of their kin, and also remind public servants of their duties and obligations. Depending on the case, it may further initiate proceedings for prosecution, or any other suitable action as it may deem fit, against the person(s) concerned. It is also armed with the power of taking *suo motu cognizance* of serious matters based on newspaper and media reports.

Key Positions held in the Commission during the Year

- 1.11 During the period under review, Justice Shri Arun Mishra continued to serve as Chairperson in the Commission. Dr. D. M. Mulay and Shri Rajiv Jain continued to serve as Members of the Commission. Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani assumed charge as Member of the Commission on 28th December, 2023.
- 1.12 Shri Devendra Kumar Singh joined as Secretary General of NHRC on 2nd May, 2022. After his superannuation, on 30th June, 2023, Shri Bharat Lal assumed the charge of Secretary General on 1st July, 2023. Shri Manoj Yadava joined NHRC as Director General (Investigation) on 12th July, 2022 and he was relieved from the NHRC on 31st July, 2023. Thereafter, Shri Ajay Bhatnagar joined as the Director General (Investigation) on 4th March, 2024. Smt. Anita Sinha and Shri Devendra Kumar Nim continued to serve as Joint Secretaries in the Commission.
- 1.13 As of 31st March, 2024, Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Chairperson of the National

Commission for Backward Classes, Shri Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri Kishor Makwana, Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Shri Antar Singh Arya, Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, and Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities are the Deemed Members of the NHRC for the discharge of functions as specified in clauses (b) to (j) of Section 12 of the PHRA, 1993.

Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan

- 1.14 The NHRC has evolved comprehensive institutional mechanisms of an Annual Action Plan (2023-24) and a three-year Strategic Plan for 2022-25 to streamline the Commission's work more effectively. One of the key objectives of these plans is to further strengthen the Commission's engagement with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), and Civil Society actors, and to make the existing mechanisms even more robust within its mandate. The focus areas of the Commission include bonded and child labour issues, ensuring dignity for every human, protecting the rights of people belonging to the marginalized sections of society, prison reforms, rights of women and children, rights of disabled and the elderly, LGBTI rights, protection of the environment, health care and mental health, human rights awareness and education, good governance, business and human rights, engagement with human right defenders, NGOs/ Civil Society, and encouraging research on the same. The plans are designed to spread awareness, and work with all the stakeholders for improvement in laws and schemes to promote and protect human rights. These plans are reviewed regularly to enhance the functioning of the Commission.

Chapter 2

Year at a glance

2.1 The NHRC is a sentinel of India's commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights. Following are the important activities undertaken by the Commission during the period of review:

Complaints Handling and Monitoring

2.2 Through the Online Complaint Management System provided by the NHRC, people can easily file complaints from any location in any of the 22 languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The Commission is mandated to intervene in any matter of violation of human rights, whether it is in court cases or at any other institution that is responsible for protecting or promoting human rights. To carry out this task, the Commission organizes camp sittings and orders spot inquiries. While teams of investigation officers employed by the Commission conduct on-the-spot inquiries, the Commission holds the camp sitting to reach out to citizens and also raise awareness. The details of the complaints that the Commission has addressed during the 2023-24, are as follows:

- 76,891 cases were registered in the Commission during this reporting period, of which the Commission disposed of 73,958 complaints;
- The Commission disposed of 81,104 (including carry forward cases) cases which included 5,736 cases transferred by the Commission to the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) under Section 13(6) of the PHRA, 1993¹. A number of complaints lodged were also dismissed *in limine*;
- The Commission took *suo motu* cognizance in a total of 106 cases;

- The Commission recommended Rs. 18,89,92,500 as monetary relief/ compensation to the victims/ next of kin of the deceased in 414 cases during this period (Annex-IV);
- The Full Commission took up 749 cases of human rights violations in its 17 sittings during 2023-24;
- In addition, the three Division Benches considered 915 cases in 22 sittings;
- The Commission processed/ disposed of 2,556 cases of Judicial Custodial Deaths and 436 cases of Police Custodial Deaths. Further, more than 269 cases of encounter deaths were processed/ disposed of. Moreover, 26 such Rapid Action Cases (RACs) were dealt with, where immediate intervention by the Commission was required, which prevented violations of human rights;
- During the period, 30 spot enquiries (Annex-V) were undertaken following the direction of the Commission²; and
- The Commission issued a total of 1,07,322 orders/ directions/ recommendations during this period. The details regarding the complaint redressal and some illustrative cases are given in Chapter 9.

Camp Sittings/ Open Hearings

2.3 Two camp sittings/ open hearings were held by the Commission, at Guwahati, Assam, on 17th November, 2023, and at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on 6th March, 2024 to review the action taken on various aspects, such as, on advisories issued by the Commission from time to time; compliance of the

¹ State wise details of registration of cases and disposal of cases are given in Annex – I and Annex – II respectively

² Details of spot enquires are given under chapter 9

cases where recommendations/ directions that have been issued by the Commission; and interaction with NGOs/ CSOs/ HRDs.

Research on Human Rights

2.4 The Commission under Section (g) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, is mandated to undertake and promote research in the field of Human Rights.

- The Commission sanctions and supervises research projects under various thematic areas of human rights to be carried out by researchers from various institutions of repute. During the period, 16 research projects were completed (Annex-VI), while 30 research projects were ongoing (Annex-VII).
- The NHRC has constituted Core Advisory Groups on key issues. During the period in the review, the Commission had 12 such Core Groups, members of which are experts in their respective fields. The Commission endeavors to organize meetings of the Core Groups at least once a year, where HRDs, NGOs, CSOs working in that thematic area, representatives from concerned Ministries and different National Commissions are also invited to make contributions³. The issues in the thematic areas are discussed elaborately in these meetings and recommendations are placed before the Full Commission. The recommendations which are approved by the Full Commission are then sent to the concerned Ministries and state governments for further action.

Advisories

2.5 The NHRC, under the PHRA, 1993 is mandated to review the safeguards provided under the Constitution or any law for the time being in force for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation. The Commission has devised a mechanism to fulfill this mandate by issuing advisories on the areas where

interventions are required. In the period under review, the Commission issued a total of 04 advisories, (i) NHRC Advisory to Mitigate Deliberate Self-Harm and Suicide Attempts by Prisoners; (ii) NHRC Advisory for Ensuring the Welfare of Transgender Persons; (iii) Advisory on Mental Health; and (iv) Advisory for Protection of the Rights of Children against Production, Distribution and Consumption of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

Conferences/ Seminars/ Open House Discussions

2.6 During this period, the Commission organized National Conferences, Open House Discussions, etc. on various themes including, Mental Health, Business and Human Rights, Advancing Human Rights through Local Self Governments and so on.

Training, Advocacy and Promotion of Human Rights Literacy

- 2.7 One of the major functions of the Commission includes spreading human rights literacy among various sections of society and promoting awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means. The Commission hosts students from various Universities, organizes internship programmes and funds moot court competitions amongst others to promote human rights literacy.⁴
- 2.8 Six successful moot court competitions were held in different parts of the country in collaboration with prestigious law universities. More than 500 students throughout India put forth their arguments and ideas in these moot court competitions.
- 2.9 In line with the philosophy that 'prevention is better than cure', the officers of the Commission are actively involved in enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to sensitize the various stakeholders, spread human rights literacy and promote awareness of the safeguards available for

³ The detailed accounts of the meetings of the NHRC Core Groups organized and advisories issued during the year are given in Chapter- 7.

⁴ The details of the human rights training programme are given in Chapter- 6.

the protection of human rights. Regular lectures and presentations are delivered by officers of the Commission to students during the Short-term and Long-term Internship Programmes of the NHRC.

2.10 The Commission organized residential training of trainers (ToT) programmes for the officers of state police, central armed police forces and prison officials. The first 05-day residential programme was organized for the 29 police officers from 21st – 25th August, 2023. The second programme for 25 officers of central armed police forces and various central investigation agencies was organized from 11th – 15th December, 2023 and the third training was organized for 33 state prison officers from 18th – 22nd March, 2024.

Engagements with HRDs, NGOs & CSOs

2.11 Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) are engaged by the Commission, who, individually or in a group, act to promote or protect human rights. HRDs have actively contributed to address human rights concerns, such as arbitrary arrest and detention, discrimination, forced evictions, prevention of access to health care, etc. They also ensure that the rights of vulnerable communities, such as women, children, refugees, internally displaced persons as well as minorities-linguistic, sexual or religious – are secured, thus complementing the Commission's efforts. The NHRC encourages the efforts of NGOs & CSOs in the field of human rights by collaborating with them in spreading human rights literacy and awareness. NGOs and academic institutions are also assisted with financial support for spreading human rights literacy, and eminent experts from the sector are included as members of the NHRC Core Advisory Groups. A Focal Point for HRDs had been set-up in the Commission to deal with complaints alleging harassment of HRDs by or at the instance of public authorities. The designated contact person at the Focal Point is the Deputy Registrar (Law). He is accessible to HRDs round the clock through (i) Mobile No. 9999393570, (ii) Fax No. 24651334, and (iii) E-mail: hrd-nhrc@nic.in.

Meetings with the Statutory Full Commission, SHRCs, Special Monitors and Special Rapporteurs

2.12 The Commission engages with the Deemed Members, SHRCs, Special Monitors and Rapporteurs through regular meetings. The following meetings were organized during the year:

- Meeting with Special Monitors and Rapporteurs and SHRCs was organized on 13th October, 2023.
- The meeting of the State Human Rights Commissions with the NHRC was held on 13th October, 2023.
- Statutory Full Commission meeting with the Deemed Members of the Commission was held on 23rd May, 2023.

International Engagements

2.13 This year, the NHRC experienced renewed momentum in its global engagements, marked by active participation in various international forums and the successful hosting of events within the country, leaving a significant impact. The following highlights NHRC's international engagements:

- The NHRC is a Bureau Member of Global Alliance of Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).
- The NHRC is the founding member of Asia Pacific Forum (APF), and a member of its Governance Committee
- The Commission is also a member of the Commonwealth Forum of Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRIs)
- The NHRC attends and makes regular statements at meetings of the United Nations Human Rights Council, and attends conferences and seminars organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

(OHCHR). The Commission attends conferences, seminars, capacity building programmes on invitations of other NHRIs. Additionally, the Commission also organizes capacity building programmes and training for staff and officers of NHRIs of different countries.

- The Commission participates in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycles of the United Nations and submits its independent report during these cycles.
- Diplomats and Ambassadors from foreign missions regularly visit the NHRC and exchange views on Human Rights issues.
- The Commission regularly provides its comments and inputs on questionnaires of UN Special Rapporteurs and other similar communications from OHCHR.

Awareness & Outreach

2.14 The NHRC disseminates information about human rights issues, the Commission's activities, reports and recommendations, press releases and newsletters.

- Newsletter - The NHRC publishes monthly newsletter. Twelve such newsletters were

published by the Commission during the period under review and circulated across the network of HRDs, SHRCs and agencies of the United Nations.

- Short Film competition –The NHRC organizes an annual short film competition on human rights. For the year 2023, the Commission received 139 entries and after initial scrutiny, 118 films were shortlisted by a jury chaired by the Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC, and comprising NHRC Members, senior officers and external experts.
- Human Rights Journals – The NHRC releases two annual journals on Human Rights which contain articles from eminent experts on subject matters of human rights. The Commission releases an 'English Journal on Human Rights' and Hindi Journal, titled. 'Nai Dishayen' on Human Rights Day, i.e. on 10th December, every year. Additionally, during the reporting period, NHRC released a book titled 'Forensic Science and Human Rights'.
- Central Armed Forces Debate - The topic for the annual Central Armed Forces Debate competition in Hindi and English was 'Human Rights are Independent of Duties'. The final round of the competition was held in New Delhi on 15th December, 2023 which saw participation by 16 teams.



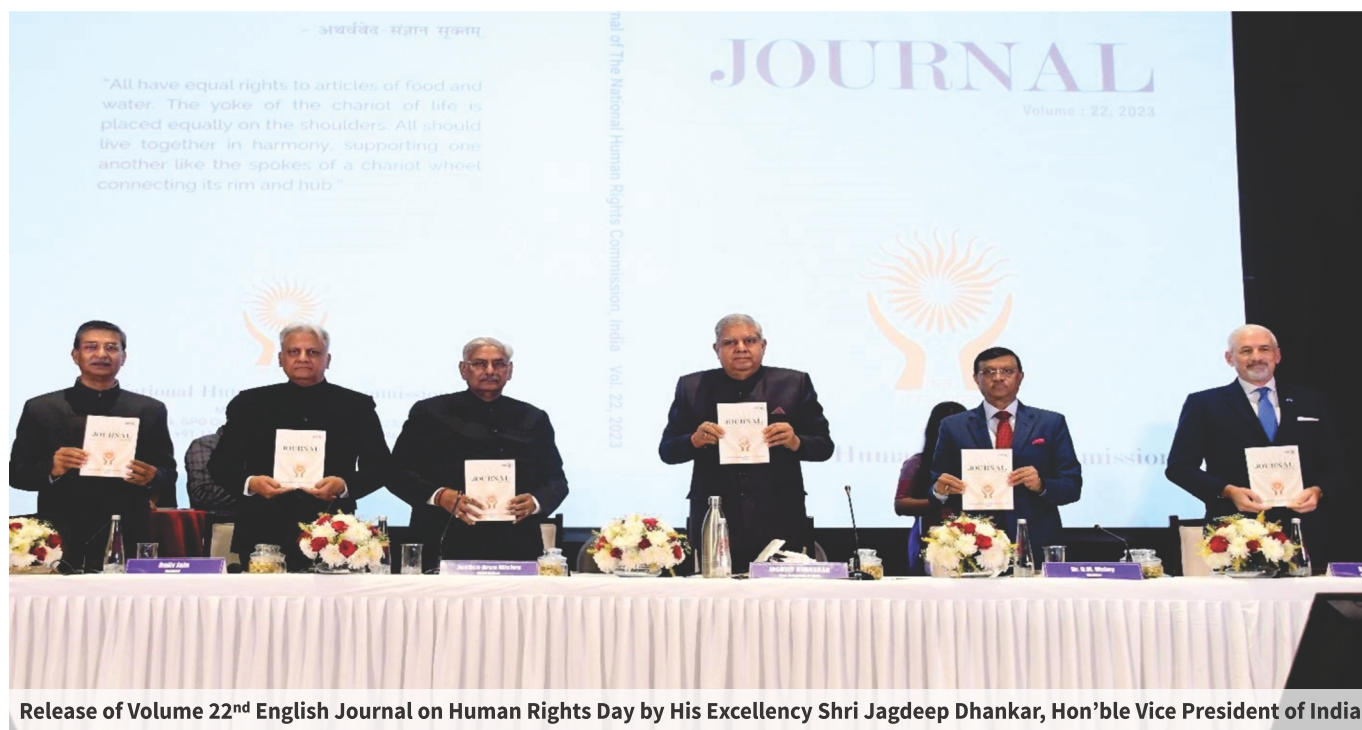
Lighting of lamp by the Hon'ble Former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind on the occasion of NHRC Foundation Day (12th October, 2023)

NHRC Foundation Day

2.15 The Commission celebrated its 30th Foundation Day on 12th October, 2023 at Bhim Auditorium, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The Hon'ble former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The event was attended by the Hon'ble Chairperson, Members, senior officials and employees of NHRC. Chairpersons, Members and senior officials of State Human Rights Commissions, Deemed Members of the NHRC, representatives from the State Governments, NHRC Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors, retired judges of the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court, representatives from CSOs and NGOs and students were also in attendance.

Human Rights Day

2.16 The Commission celebrates Human Rights Day (10th December) every year to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly. In 2023, the event was organized at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. His Excellency Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, Hon'ble Vice President of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event witnessed participation from representatives from the Government, diplomatic core, students, CSOs, NGOs, Human Rights Defenders, etc.



Release of Volume 22nd English Journal on Human Rights Day by His Excellency Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, Hon'ble Vice President of India



Lighting of lamp by His Excellency Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, Hon'ble Vice President of India on Human Rights Day, 10th December, 2023

Details regarding RTIs

2.17 During the year 2023-24, the Commission received 2,006 RTI applications and all of them were disposed of within 30 days. 97 applications were transferred

to other Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations. The number of first appeals and second appeals were 178 and 26 respectively, and all of them were disposed of within 30 days.

Chapter 3

Organizational Structure

Divisions of the Commission

3.1. The Commission has created five Divisions for its effective functioning. These are:

- Law Division;
- Investigation Division;
- Policy Research, Projects and Programmes Division;
- Training Division; and
- Administration Division

3.2 **Law Division:** The Law Division is headed by the Registrar (Law), who is assisted by Presenting Officers, Joint Registrar, Deputy Registrars, Assistant Registrars, Section Officers and other secretarial staff. The following functions of the Commission are carried out by the Law Division:

- i.) **Complaint Redressal:** It has been serving as the registry of the Commission. It receives, scrutinizes and registers complaints from the victims or others on behalf of the victims or intimations from the authorities about custodial deaths, custodial rapes, and deaths in encounters or action by police/ paramilitary forces or defence forces, and references from the Courts. It further processes these complaints/ matters by placing them before the Commission for orders/ proceedings and ensures that necessary follow-up action is taken pursuant to the Commission's orders. It also facilitates the Commission in taking *suo motu* cognizance. The Law Division disposes of a large number of cases every year which results in relief to the victims in the form of grant of monetary relief, disciplinary action or

prosecution against the delinquent public servants, release of bonded labourers, registration of First Information Reports (FIRs), payment of pensions, etc.

- ii.) **Camp Sitzings:** It organizes Camp Sitzings and Open Hearings of the Commission in various parts of the country to enable the Commission to render justice to the victims at their door-steps.

- iii.) **Inputs/ Suggestions:** The Law Division provides comments and advice on draft legislations referred to the Commission, questionnaires received from OHCHR and other international organizations.

- iv.) **Court Proceedings:** It facilitates the Commission to make interventions in the Court proceedings, or respond to the cases filed against the Commission in the matters of human rights violations.

3.3 **Investigation Division:** The Investigation Division is headed by an officer of the rank of the Director General of Police, assisted by a Deputy Inspector General and four Senior Superintendents of Police. Each Senior Superintendent of Police heads a group of investigative officers (comprising Deputy Superintendents of Police and Inspectors). The functioning of the Investigation Division is multi-dimensional, and it carries out the following activities:

- i.) **Spot Enquiries:** The Investigation Division conducts spot enquiries and recommends suitable action in incidents involving human rights violations. The spot enquiries are aimed at unearthing facts and placing them before the Commission, leading to issuance of

recommendations to relevant public servants for rectifying any human rights violations found during the enquiry. The Commission orders spot enquiries in a range of cases concerning serious violations of human rights by public authorities, from illegal detention and extrajudicial killings by the police, lack of facilities in hospitals leading to unnatural deaths and cases of bonded labour. Spot enquiries enhance the confidence of the general public and restore their faith in NHRC's role in protecting their human rights.

- ii.) **Custodial Deaths:** As per the guidelines issued by the Commission, State authorities are required to inform the Commission within 24 hours of any death occurring in custody, whether in police or judicial custody. Upon receiving such notifications, the Investigation Division analyzes the reports to determine if any human rights violations were involved. To ensure a professional and accurate analysis, the Investigation Division also seeks inputs and opinions from forensic experts and doctors on the NHRC panel.
- iii.) **Deaths in the course of Police firing/ Encounters:** The Commission has laid down detailed guidelines for cases in which individuals, including extremists, are killed during police action such as firings. Such incidents must be mandatorily reported to the Commission within 48 hours followed by submission of a detailed report, post-mortem reports, status of investigation by an independent agency, ballistics report, magisterial enquiry reports, etc. The Investigation Division is entrusted with the responsibility of analyzing such incidents and brings out any unjustified actions, fallacies or anomalies in such cases before the Commission.
- iv.) **Fact Finding Cases:** The Investigation Division also requests different authorities to submit reports in 'Fact Finding Cases' as directed by the Commission. The Division critically analyses these reports to assist the Commission in determining if there were any violations of human rights. In cases where reports received are either misleading or not factual,

the Commission may order a spot enquiry as well.

- v.) **Rapid Action Cell:** Since 2007, the Investigation Division has operated a Rapid Action Cell (RAC) in the Commission. The RAC deals with cases of urgent nature, such as a child marriage likely to occur the next day, or instances where the complainant fears that a relative or friend picked up by the police may be killed in a false encounter. In such cases, the Investigation Division takes immediate actions as directed by the Commission. This involves interacting with various authorities over telephone to ascertain facts, seeking expeditious responses and Action Taken Reports from relevant authorities.
- vi.) **Visits to places of detention:** As the Commission often receives complaints related to the living conditions in the jails, shelter homes and other institutions, the officers of the Investigation Division often visit these facilities in different States as directed by the Commission, to enquire and present the facts of specific allegations or the general condition of prisoners or inmates, to the Commission.
- vii.) **Training of Police Personnel:** The officers of the Investigation Division are proactive in capacity development of law enforcement and other government agencies. They sensitize various stakeholders, spread human rights literacy and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of human rights. Regular lectures and presentations are given by officers of the Investigation Division to interns and students participating in both the Short-Term and Long-Term Internship Programmes of NHRC.

Both the Investigation and Law Divisions facilitate the discharge of one of the most important functions of the Commission under Section 12(a) of the PHRA, 1993, viz., inquiring into complaints of alleged violations of human rights. They extensively deal with cases of custodial deaths (police or judicial), rape/ hurt, exchange of fire, etc. As per the procedure, the

Commission receives a number of reports, including Post-Mortem Report (PMR), Medico Legal Certificates (MLCS) in injury/ rape incidents, State Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports on inspection of scene of crime and arm/ ammunition comparison, investigation reports etc. For better understanding of the forensic science and FSL reports by the officials of the Investigation and Law Division of the Commission, an in-house training session was conducted for Investigating Officers of the Division of forensic science issues on 14th July, 2023.

3.4 Policy Research, Projects and Programmes Division (PRP&P): The Policy Research, Projects and Programmes Division undertakes and promotes research on human rights, and organizes conferences, seminars and workshops on important human rights issues. Whenever the Commission, on the basis of its hearings, deliberations or otherwise, arrives at a conclusion that a particular subject is of importance, it is converted into a project/ programme to be dealt with by the PRP&P Division. Additionally, it reviews policies, laws, treaties and other international instruments in force for the protection and promotion of human rights. It monitors the implementation of NHRC's recommendations by the Central, State and UT authorities. It further supports the Training Division in spreading human rights literacy and promoting awareness about the safeguards available for the protection of human rights. The work of the Division is handled by two Joint Secretaries, Joint Director (Research), Senior Research Officer (SRO), Research Officers (ROs), Section Officers (SOs), Senior Research Assistant, Junior Research Consultants (JRCs) and other secretarial staff.

3.5 Training Division: The Division is responsible for spreading human rights literacy among various sections of society. It trains and sensitizes government officials and functionaries of the State and its agencies, non-government officials, representatives of civil society organizations and students on different human rights issues. For this purpose, it collaborates with the Administrative Training Institutions/ Police Training Institutions and Universities/ Colleges. It also conducts internship programmes for college and university students and coordinated the visits of the students to the Commission.

3.6 Administration Division: The Administration Division of the NHRC plays a pivotal role in facilitating various administrative functions crucial to the effective operation of the Commission. The Division continues to be a key driver of essential administrative functions pertaining to establishment, personnel management, accounts, and procurement of goods and services for official use. In the fiscal year 2023-24, the Division played a significant role in providing unwavering administrative support to the Chairperson, Members of the NHRC, as well as effectively managing the personnel, accounts, and other essential requirements of the officers and staff of the Commission. The accounts section of the Commission functions as the IFD and ensures that the expenditure is incurred in accordance with the general financial rules. The General Administration Division remains committed to upholding the Commission's operational efficiency and effectiveness, enabling the Commission to fulfill its vital mandate of promoting and protecting human rights in the country.

Chapter 4

Administrative, Logistic & Financial Support

- 4.1 The NHRC is fully compliant with the Paris Principles, which requires the National Human Rights Institutions to have adequate infrastructure, adequate funding and staff for the smooth conduct of its activities. The purpose of this funding should be to enable it to have its own staff and premises, in order to be independent of the Government and not be subject to financial control which might affect its independence.

Staff Strength of the Commission

- 4.2 Presently, the Commission has sanctioned strength of 356 officers and staff, out of which 282 were filled as of 31st March, 2024. They are engaged through direct recruitment, deputation, contractual appointments and outsourcing. The Commission has engaged young professionals as Junior Research Consultants and Legal Research Consultants to assist in its functions. The details of the staff engaged in the Commission are provided under Annex - IX.

Budget Allocation

- 4.3 The Budget Allocation of NHRC for the year 2023-24 was Rs.6,731 Lakh. The Commission incurred expenses amounting to Rs. 6,365.73 Lakh, leaving an unspent balance of 365.27 Lakh. The figures show that the Commission has adequate funding during the year.

Information, Communication & Technology

- 4.4 The NHRC strives to enhance the use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in the office by digitizing the processes to increase efficiency, transparency, productivity, and enhance real-time monitoring. The Commission either develops the

software in-house or adopts the software developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) or similar Government Departments. The robust technological adoption facilitates online meetings/ conferences/ seminars, online internship, and so on. The use of 'HRCNet' portal extended the facility to the people to file a complaint from anywhere in the country through the Common Service Centres, ensuring immediate submission of complaints and safeguarding against postal delays or loss in transit. The use of the portal provided the complainants with acknowledgement of receipt through SMS or e-mail message, alert on directions passed by the Commission on the complaint and access to information pertaining to the status/ action on the complaint. The Complaint Management and Information System (CMIS) is part of a portal which facilitates storage and retrieval of data, submission of reports online by the authorities and serves as an important tool in speedy decision-making and redressal of grievances.

Few ICT activities undertaken in the given year are given below:

- Data of Bihar SHRC was migrated to the HRCNet portal. Telangana's SHRC has also been onboarded on the portal;
- E-Office software was upgraded to version 7.3.4;
- Webpage was developed for publishing event-related information on NHRC's website;
- During the 28th AGM and Biennial Conference of Asia Pacific Forum (APF), an 'App' was developed to help the delegates and share information with the participants. The conference was live streamed and telecast on YouTube and through NIC Server;

- The Commission decided to revamp the NHRC website to enhance user interface;
- Following reports have been added in MIS Reports:
 - a. Statistics of online/ offline reports received from Central/ State Authorities;
 - b. Cause list for the pending/ closed cases;
 - c. Action taken/ awaited on intimations of injuries/ deaths in custody/ encounters received by the Commission
- Software for accepting job applications has been developed;
- The consent for implementing LIMBS Software at NHRC has been sent to the concerned government department; and
- Additional MIS Reports have been added in software for translators.

Documentation Centre (E-Library)

- 4.5 The Commission's library is digitally well-equipped. The database of books/ documents and articles is available on the internet for use by readers. The library is equipped with two Online databases, i.e. SCC Online, Manupatra Online along with Software Package (E-Granthalaya) developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi. The library is

modernized with state-of-the-art computers, printers and CCTVs (Close Circuit Television Cameras), and the books are bar coded. An online Open Public Access Cataloguing (OPAC) has been specially developed for ascertaining the availability and location of any book or document available in the library. The NHRC library is an institutional member of the Developing Library Networking (DELNET), New Delhi, which promotes resource sharing amongst libraries. The library also maintains close liaison with other libraries through inter-library loan facilities for accessing and borrowing books, documents and journals.

Procurement & Logistics

- 4.6 The General Administration Section oversees the maintenance and security at the Commission's premises. It provides logistical support, furnishings and ensures maintenance of official residences of the Hon'ble Chairperson and Members. It also procures goods and services in line with the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) guidelines and General Financial Rules. Through the utilization of GeM and distribution software, the Commission upholds transparency and compliance with government regulations, while simultaneously enhancing efficiency in procurement and distribution operations. These proactive measures not only meet the Commission's needs but also optimize resource utilization, ultimately contributing to the fulfillment of its mission.

Chapter 5

Commission's Engagements

Statutory Full Commission Meeting

5.1 The Statutory Full Commission (SFC) of the NHRC consists of the Chairperson and Members, including the Deemed Members. The SFC meetings are convened regularly to discuss the issues of common interest and to participate in the conference/seminars organized by the NHRC. The aim of the SFC is to broadly identify the important human rights concerns on which all Commissions can collaborate, share good practices, and identify means for further strengthening the various functions of these Commissions, including investigation, research, and human rights awareness, with a view to further strengthen human rights protection within the country.

5.2 During the period in review, the Statutory Full Commission meeting with the Deemed Members of the Commission was held on 23rd May, 2023. The meeting was chaired by Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC, and attended by Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, NHRC; Shri Rajiv Jain, Member, NHRC; Mrs. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women; Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes; Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities; Shri Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; Shri Subash Ramnath Pardhi, Member, National Commission for Scheduled Castes; Shri Devendra Kumar Singh, Secretary General, NHRC; Shri Manoj Yadava, Director General (Investigation); NHRC, Shri Surajit Dey, Registrar (Law) NHRC; Smt. Anita Sinha and Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretaries; Shri Praveen Prakash Ambashta, Deputy Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disability; and other senior officers of the Commission.

5.3 Actionable points emanating from the above Statutory Full Commission meeting which were sent to the Chief Secretaries of all States/ UTs for necessary actions were:

- The Deemed Members of the Statutory Commission might bring to the notice of the NHRC any such case where they require further investigation and feel the need to recommend monetary relief to the victim of the violation of the rights. The NHRC may take *suo motu* cognizance on such cases;
- All the Deemed Members of the Commission may come on-board on the NHRC's complaint management portal (HRC Net Portal) to avoid duplication of complaints and forum shopping;
- States may be requested to examine the benefits of reservation if it is found to be misused by those who have intruded into Indian borders and got listed themselves as OBC to take the benefits of welfare schemes meant for the country's citizens;
- States may be requested to focus on repatriation of individuals who have recovered from mental illness languishing in mental health care institutions;
- States may be requested to establish and ensure the proper functioning of sufficient number of Halfway Homes for persons who have recovered from mental illness; and
- States were requested to review the status of establishing Minorities Commissions, where needed.

Meeting with State Human Rights Commissions

- 5.4 The Section 21 of the PHRA, 1993, provides for the constitution of State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) in the States. The Commission has been urging the Governments of the states where no State Commission has been constituted, to initiate action to constitute SHRCs to fulfill its responsibilities towards the people in accordance with the PHRA, 1993, and the 'Paris Principles'.
- 5.5 The Commission holds regular interactions with the SHRCs to explore and further strengthen the areas of cooperation and partnership. With the concerned State Governments, the Commission has taken up the issues for finalizing the basic structure, human resources and financial requirements of SHRCs to enable them to discharge their functions assigned under the PHRA, 1993, and to streamline complaint disposal by the SHRCs.
- 5.6 The NHRC organized a meeting with all the State Human Rights Commissions, Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors on '*Advancing Human Rights*' on 13th October, 2023. Hon'ble Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Chairperson, NHRC chaired the meeting, which was attended by Chairperson, Members and Secretaries of SHRCs, NHRC Special Rapporteurs,

Special Monitors and officers from the Commission. Discussions were held in the four sessions, as given below:

- Session-I: Journey so far and emerging challenges in Human Rights;
- Session II: Sharing of Best Practices by SHRCs;
- Session-III: Experience sharing by Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors; and
- Session- IV: Way forward: Building partnership to advance human rights in focus areas.

Meeting with Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors

- 5.7 The Commission organized a meeting with all its Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors on 11th December, 2023 to discuss the work plan for next year. The meeting comprised two sessions – (a) review of work done by the Special Raaporteurs and Monitors so far; and (b) finalization of the work plan for the year 2024. The Hon'ble Chairperson and Members, all Division Heads, all Special Rappor-teurs, and all Special Monitors of the NHRC received copies of the meeting's recommendations for information and necessary action.



Meeting of Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors on 11th December, 2023

National Conference on Advancing Human Rights through Local Self-Governments with SHRCs of North Eastern States

5.8 A one-day National Conference on 'Advancing Human Rights through Local Self-Governments' was organized for all the SHRCs located in the North Eastern States i.e. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura,

on 16th November, 2023 at Guwahati, Assam. The National Conference was followed by a Camp Sitting/ Open Hearing of the Commission on 17th November, 2023 at Guwahati, Assam. The conference was followed by meetings with the Chief Secretaries and DGPs of all the North-Eastern States to review the action taken on the (a) Advisories issued from time to time by the Commission; and (b) compliance of the cases where recommendations/ directions have been issued by the Commission.



National Conference on 'Advancing Human Rights through Local Self-Governments' and Open Hearing/ Camp sitting at Guwahati on 16th-17th November, 2023.

Outreach activities

5.9 The following visits were made by the officials of the Commission:

- On 25th & 28th April, 2023, the NHRC Director General (Investigation), Shri Manoj Yadava delivered a lecture on 'Islamic Theology' to the directly recruited officers, ACIOs Gr. II and other executives of 90th Batch (Phase VII & VIII) at NIA Centre- Dwarka and IB Central Training School (IBCTS), New Delhi.
- On 24th April, 2023, the NHRC Senior Superintendent of Police, Shri Patil Ketan Baliram delivered a lecture to the Addl. DCsP and ACsP, on 'Protection of Human Rights and role of NHRC; Procedure in respect of interrogation- Death in police custody- NHRC guidelines on encounter death and gender sensitization' at Delhi Police Academy (STC), Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.
- On 3rd May, 2023, Shri Kulbir Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, NHRC delivered a lecture on the 'Protection of Human Rights and the Role of NHRC, Interrogation Procedure-Death in Police Custody, NHRC Guidelines on Encounter Death' to the Constables and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Delhi Police at Delhi Police Academy, Delhi.
- On 15th May, 2023 the NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra presided over a presentation on the Research study titled 'Disparity in access to education in the aspirational districts in Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh' by the Principal

Investigator, Dr. Thomas Varghese of Indian Social Institute.

- On 25th May, 2023, NHRC Director General (Inv.) Shri Manoj Yadava inaugurated a three days 'Workshop on Human Rights and Gender Sensitization' organized by the CRPF at its Academy, Kadarapur, Gurugram, Haryana. He addressed the participants on (i) Overview and History of Human Rights in India and (ii) Human Rights and Police – Role and Responsibilities of Police to protect Human Rights during I/O duties, VIP Duties, Pandemic, Terrorism/ Naxalism'. NHRC Senior Superintendent of Police, Shri Patil Ketan Baliram, and Deputy Superintendent of Police, Shri Dushyant Singh also delivered lectures during the workshops on 26th June, 2023 on various aspects of policing and human rights.
- On 30th May, 2023, NHRC Director General (Inv.), Shri Manoj Yadava attended a meeting with the Chairperson and Director General of Punjab State Human Rights Commission at Chandigarh and discussed various issues of human rights and the functioning of the two Commissions.
- The NHRC delegation headed by Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, consisting of Shri Debindra Kundra, Assistant Registrar (Law), Shri Pradip D. More, Inspector and Ms. Architi Batra, JRC, visited the District Jail in Thane and Regional Mental Hospital, Thane West in the state of Maharashtra from 21st – 22nd June, 2023.
- Shri Rajiv Jain, Member, NHRC, visited Patna, Bihar from 24th – 25th June, 2023 to inspect the Child Care Institutions (CCIs). He interacted with the inmates and staff of the CCIs and also with representatives of the Social Welfare Department of Government of Bihar.
- Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Chairperson visited Bhopal to attend the C20 SEWA Summit (Sammelan) on 2nd July, 2023.
- On 3rd July, 2023 NHRC, India DG(I), Shri Manoj Yadava met with Shri Shantanu Bharali, Acting Chairperson, Assam State Human Rights Commission, and discussed human rights issues.
- On 6th and 7th July, 2023, NHRC DG(I), Shri Manoj Kumar Yadava delivered a lecture on 'Islamic Theology' at IB Central Training School (IBCTS), New Delhi to direct recruited officers and other executives.
- On 12th July, 2023, Shri Kulbir Singh, Dy. SP, Investigation Division, NHRC, delivered a lecture during the one-day course on Human Rights for constable(s) to Asst. Sub-Inspector(s) at STC/ Delhi Police Academy, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi.
- On 14th July, 2023, NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain delivered a talk on 'Criminal Use of ICT: Evolving a Framework for International Cooperation' during the G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the age of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Metaverse in Gurugram.
- On 14th July, 2023, the NHRC DG(I), Shri Manoj Kumar Yadava inaugurated a training session by Prof. Dr. Adarsk Kumar, Dept. of Forensic Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi, On 'Suicides and Post-Mortem Report-Injury-related issues.
- Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, visited the Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University as the Chief Guest on the occasion of the National Conference on the theme 'Resurgent India: Aspirations and Challenges' on 8th August, 2023.
- The delegation headed by Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, NHRC, along with Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary visited Mumbai, Maharashtra from 24th – 26th August, 2023 to attend the Open House Discussion on 'Health Insurance Consultation for Persons with Disabilities'.
- On 27th August, 2023, the NHRC Registrar (Law), Shri Surajit Dey addressed a seminar on 'Access to Justice and Legal Aid' organized by the Human Rights Front India at Puri, Odisha. He said that access to justice strengthens the rule of law, and social cohesion and promotes trust in institutions of governance.
- On 29th August, 2023, NHRC Director, Lt. Col Virender Singh and Ms. Aakanksha Sharma

attended a national sensitization workshop on 'Module for holistic psychosocial well-being of LGBTQIA+ community' organized by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, NIMHANS at Bengaluru.

- Shri Rajiv Jain, Member, NHRC visited Jodhpur in the state of Rajasthan from 5th – 6th October, 2023 to attend the Inaugural Ceremony for the Moot Court Competition at National Law University, Jodhpur; and Shri Devendra Kumar Nim attended the valediction ceremony on 8th October, 2023.
- From 6th – 8th October, 2023, Shri Surajit Dey, Registrar (Law) attended as the Chief Guest of a 'Human Rights Training Programme on the Rights of Women in India' organized by the NHRC in collaboration with Shri Sanatan Dharam Girls College Bathinda, Punjab.
- Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary attended an Open House Discussion on Sports and Human Rights on 16th October, 2023 at Patiala.
- Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC visited Mumbai, Maharashtra on 13th November, 2023 to deliver a talk on the topic 'Say no to Corruption: Commit to the Nation' on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week as an esteemed Guest, at Mumbai Port Authority.
- On 26th November, 2023, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri D. K. Nim visited Chandigarh Model Jail to assess the human rights situation and the various facilities available at the jail.
- On 28th November, 2023, Shri Arun Tyagi, Insp., Investigation Division, NHRC delivered an online lecture at STC/ Delhi Police Academy, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi to police officers about various aspect of human rights, Commission's functioning besides procedure in respect of interrogation, death in police custody, guidelines on encounter deaths.
- Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC visited Raipur from 2nd to 3rd December, 2023, as an esteemed Guest to deliver a talk on 'How to make

life more meaningful' on the occasion of Gyan Varsha Programme at IIM Raipur in the state of Chhattisgarh.

- On 9th December, 2023, NHRC, India Member Dr. D. M. Mulay inaugurated the two-day seminar on the Human Rights Day celebrations organized by the India Society of International Law in New Delhi.
- On 10th December, 2023, NHRC, India joint Secretary Shri Devendra Kumar Nim attended the final round of the 2nd National Gaura Devi Debate Competition on Human Rights Day, organized by Vatsalya and Valley of Words in Collaboration with the NHRC, India and Doon University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- On 12th December, 2023 NHRC Member, Shri Rajiv Jain chaired a meeting in the Commission in hybrid mode to discuss the regulatory shortcomings in governing generic medicines in the country.
- On 13th December, 2023 NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal spoke on 'Human Rights and Global Water Crisis' in hybrid mode at the Department of Law, Central University of Karnataka.
- On 14th December, 2023, NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain chaired a programme organized by the Mewar Group of Institutions to celebrate Human Rights Day at the Mewar Law Institute, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad. He gave an overview of the various aspects of human rights and the functioning of the Commission.
- On 15th December, 2023, Smt. Anita Sinha, Joint Secretary, NHRC, India, delivered a lecture on the Rights of Children at Chanakya National Law University, Nyaya-Nagar, Mithapur, Patna, Bihar
- The NHRC delegation headed by Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, accompanied by Smt. Anita Sinha, Joint Secretary, Shri Virender Singh, Director (Administration), Smt. Anjali Saklani, Assistant Director (OL) and Shri U.N. Sarkar, Assistant Director (Publications) attended the two-day National Seminar on 'भारतीय संस्कृति, कला एवं भाषा में

मानव अधिकारों की अवधारणा' at Calicut University, Kerala, from 16th-19th December, 2023.

- Hon'ble Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Chairperson, NHRC delivered the Special Address during Valedictory Session of National Conference and Exhibition on Responsible Business Conduct, on 15th December, 2023 at Sten Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- Hon'ble Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Chairperson, NHRC attended the 24th Rashtra Katha Shivar at Pransla, Upleta, Gujarat, organized by Shri Vedic Mission on 19th December, 2023.
- The NHRC delegation headed by Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, NHRC, accompanied by Shri Mukesh, DR (Law) and Shri Debendra Kundraa, Assistant Registrar (Law) visited Pune from 20th-22nd December, 2023 in connection with the pending cases in Pune Commissionerate, comprising the districts of Pune, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Satara, Sangli and Solapur and to review of the steps taken by District Authorities in response to various advisories issued by the Commission.
- On 22nd December, 2023 NHRC, India Registrar (Law), Shri Surajit Dey visited a One-Stop Centre at Ambala, Haryana, and also discussed human trafficking & related issues with the SP.
- Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Member, NHRC, visited the Government Special-cum-Children Home and Observation Home for Girls, Nimboliadda, and Government Children Home for Boys, Jail Garden, Saidabad, in the State of Telangana on 3rd January, 2024.
- Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Member, NHRC, visited Nagpur to participate in the programme organized by Samvardhinee Nyas at Dr. Hedgewar Smarak Samiti Smruti Mandir, Reshambagh, Nagpur, Maharashtra on 7th January, 2024.
- NHRC Registrar (Law), Shri Surajit Dey delivered a lecture on 'The Vertical Interaction Course on Public Order and Human Rights' at International Security Academy, CRPF, Mount Abu on 8th January, 2024.
- On 9th January, 2024, NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Member Shri Rajiv Jain and Joint Secretary, Shri D. K. Nim attended an inter-ministerial workshop on 'Responsible Business Conduct' organized by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Member, NHRC, attended a seminar at Hyderabad on 12th January, 2024 on 'Enabling Self-Reliance among Youth with Disabilities' organized by the MANSA Institute of Child Health & Disability Studies, Kothapet, Hyderabad.
- Shri Rajiv Jain, Member, NHRC visited Panaji, Goa on 12th January, 2024 and attended 'International Roundtable on Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and Rape and Sexual Assault: A Victim Centric Approach' in collaboration with the British High Commission and UK Home Office at the Fortune Miramar, Panaji, Goa.
- Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra visited Bengaluru in the State of Karnataka from 11th to 12th January, 2024 to attend the Colloquium on 'Distributive Justice & Substantive Equality' organized by Citizens for Social Justice.
- Shri Ketan Baliram Patil, NHRC, SSP, briefed the officers of CAPF and State Police Forces at the CRPF Academy, Gurugram on 'Aspects of Human Rights Violations during Policing and Ethical Dilemmas and the Way Forward' on 19th January, 2024.
- On 20th January, 2024, NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain delivered a talk on 'National Security v/s Human Rights: Striking a Balance' at a conclave organized by the Business World.
- From 18th-21st January, 2024, DR (Law), Shri Indrajeet Kumar visited Jharkhand SHRC to identify the duplicity of pending cases in the state.

- Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra visited Ahmedabad, Gujarat to attend the Inaugural Session of 5th International and 44th AI Criminology Conference on 'Behavioral Forensics: Reintegrating Expanding Contours of Criminology of Criminalistics' organized by National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar from 22nd to 23rd January, 2024.
- Shri Rajiv Jain, Member visited Ahmedabad, Gujarat from 23rd – 24th January, 2024 for attending NFSU Conference, Ahmedabad on 24th January, 2024.
- Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member visited the Old Age Home (Asylum of Margao) under the Government of Goa and Apna Ghar at Merces (Juvenile Home) registered under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000, on 25th January, 2024.
- On 25th January, 2024, NHRC, India Member, Shri Rajiv Jain delivered a talk on '*NHRC and its Crucial Role in a Flourishing Democracy like India*' to the participants including law students and officers of IRS undergoing MTCP course at XLRI-Xavier School of Management, Aurangpur, Dadri Toye, Jhajjar, Haryana.
- On 27th January, 2024, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressed a session on '*Harnessing youth strength for a Viksit Bharat*' at GSFC University, Vadodara, Gujarat.
- From 27th-28th January, 2024, NHRC, India Member, Dr. D. M. Mulay Visited Mumbai for a meeting with the Ministry and Officers of Department of Culture, Government of Maharashtra that was organizing a conference on culture and human rights.
- Smt. Anita Sinha attended the conference on '*Dimensions of Women's Labour Force Participation in India*' organised by the NHRC in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad on 02nd February, 2024.
- On 6th February, 2024, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal inaugurated the '*Ashvaan: NGO – CSR Conclave 2024*' organized by Vishwa Yuvak Kendra.
- Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Member, NHRC, visited the state of Telangana as Chief Guest of '*Mahila Shakthi Sammelan*' on 11th February, 2024 at Reddy Function Hall, Mancheriala Road, Nirmal District, Telangana, organized by Mahila Shakthi, a collective of women NGOs.
- Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Member, NHRC, visited the Government run Kasturba Girls School, Model School and Gurukulam School in Nalgonda District, Government Girls Hostel, Allery, Bhuwanagiri District, Telangana to assess the adequacy of infrastructure, educational facilities and nutritional provisions, from 13th to 16th February, 2024.
- Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Member visited Nellore District in the State of Andhra Pradesh from 18th to 19th February, 2024 to visit different Government Institutions in Nellore and meet with the District Magistrate.
- Dr. D. M. Mulay, Hon'ble Member visited Nagpur (Maharashtra) for the Inaugural Ceremony of Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur (Moot Court Competition) on 23rd February, 2024.
- On 23rd February, 2024, NHRC, India Member, Dr. D. M. Mulay had an interactive meeting with members and students of ICAI, Dhantoli, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- On 5th March, 2024 the NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Smt. Anita Sinha presided as Chief Guest and addressed the inaugural session at the National Law University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- On 7th March, 2024, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Smt. Anita Sinha presided as the Chief Guest and addressed the gathering at the international Women's Day event on the theme of '*Empowerment of Women in the New Millennium*' organized by the B L Amlani College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- On 12th March, 2024, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressed the SPRING Water Summit in New Delhi as the Chief Guest.
- On 12th March, 2024, NHRC, India Registrar (Law), Shri Surajit Dey presided as the Chief Guest of a

debate competition on the theme, '*Human Rights in Digital Age*', organized by Delhi Police in association with the Commission.

- On 21st March, 2024, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal attended the TERI Water Sustainably Awards.
- On 22nd March, 2024, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat delivered a lecture on '*Women & Water: Human Rights Approach*' organized by the Centre for Social Research on the occasion of World Water Day.
- On 26th March, 2024, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressed the students of NTR Junior & Degree College for Women in Hyderabad, Telangana on '*Women & Human Rights*'
- On 26th March, 2024, NHRC, India Member, Dr D. M. Mulay addressed the inaugural session of the 6th Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues on '*Landscape of Enlightenment: Bodh Gaya, Rajgir and Nalanda*'.
- On 27th March, 2024, NHRC India Deputy Director (Media & Communications), Shri Jaimini Kumar Srivastava had an interactive session on '*Media and Human Rights*' with the P.G. diploma students of the Radio and Television Journalism Department of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi.
- On 27th March, 2024, NHRC India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani was invited by the Lioness Club, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh to address PDPs, Presidents and Directors belonging to four different clubs on understanding the workings and objectives of NHRC and the critical role of NGOs in protection of Human Rights.
- On 27th March, 2024, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani had an interactive session with a group of advocates on the '*Protection of Human Rights – Role of Advocates*' at City Civil Courts Complex, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
- On 28th March, 2024, NHRC India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal delivered a lecture about the '*Climate Priorities*' organized by Climate Trends.
- From 28th -29th March, 2024, NHRC, India Member Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani addressed, as the Chief Guest of the two-day training workshop on '*Unveiling Challenges Faced by Young Women and the Available Legal Antidotes*' organized by Seva Bharathi, Hyderabad.
- On 29th March, 2024, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal addressed the valedictory session of a 2- day programme at Central University of Karnataka.
- On 30th March, 2024, NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani participated as the Chief Guest in a programme conducted by Pragna Bharathi, Hyderabad on the Topic '*National Population Policy*'.

Chapter 6

Advocacy and Outreach

Media & Communication

- 6.1 The NHRC, through its Media and Communication wing, disseminates information about the activities undertaken by the Commission through various means. These include press releases, media briefings, press conferences, and interviews. The M&C Wing also provides feedback to the Commission about human rights issues reported in the media which forms a major source for *suo motu* cognizance taken by the Commission.
- 6.2 **Press Releases, Press Conferences, Interviews and Newsletters:** During the period from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024, 135 press releases were prepared and issued by the Commission about its various interventions and activities. The Asia Pacific Conference, Foundation Day and Human Rights Day events organized by the Commission were covered in the print and electronic media, including live coverage on DD, Sansad TV and AIR and ANI TV. Additionally, the Commission organized press conferences after the Camp sittings in Mumbai, Guwahati and Vijayawada for wider coverage and awareness.
- 6.3 Several news clippings were brought to the notice of the Commission for consideration of *suo motu* cognizance. To give an idea about the issues reported in the media about the NHRC's role and interventions, daily news clippings were uploaded on the website of the Commission. A monthly compendium of these news clippings was also prepared and sent to the library for record and reference. Besides this, efforts were made to explore various alternative media platforms to expand the outreach.
- 6.4 **NHRC Monthly Newsletter:** The NHRC published monthly newsletters highlighting the activities undertaken by the Commission in both English and Hindi languages. These were circulated by email among all the important functionaries of the Government(s), academic institutions, media persons, library, individuals, etc. for spreading awareness about the importance of human rights and NHRC's interventions and recommendations. The monthly newsletters were also uploaded on the NHRC website.
- 6.5 Physical copies of the newsletters were sent to the National Commissions and *ex-officio* Members of NHRC, SHRCs, educational institutions, judicial, police and administrative institutions, libraries, international organizations and embassies.
- 6.6 **Interviews of Chairperson and Members:** During the given year, the Commission recorded 14 interviews of Chairperson, NHRC, in connection with the APF Biennial Conference and 12 interviews of Chairperson and Members of NHRC in the run up to the Human Rights Day 2023, for building awareness about human rights and the Commission's activities through various news organizations including Doordarshan National, Times Now, Sansad TV, Zee News, All India Radio (News), Aaj Tak, etc.
- 6.7 **In-house feedback mechanism:** A 'Weekly News Digest' on human rights issues which were reported in the media was also prepared by the Commission.
- 6.8 A monthly compendium of media reports on NHRC and analysis thereof was also prepared for reference.
- 6.9 Besides uploading NHRC-specific news clippings on the NHRC website, the display boards in the Commission were mounted with news clippings and information on human rights under the subject, 'NHRC in News' for awareness and information of the in-house functionaries and the visitors to the Commission.

Building awareness

6.10 NHRC's Short Film Awards: In 2023, the Commission launched the eighth edition of the Short Film Award Scheme. The scheme aims to encourage and acknowledge cinematic and creative efforts towards the promotion and protection of human rights. The awarded films are subsequently uploaded on the NHRC website.

6.11 The Commission, in addition to the three cash prizes of Rs. 2 lakh, 1.5 lakh and 1 lakh to the First, Second and Third respectively, also gave Rs. 50,000 cash prize each to four films under the 'Certificate of Special Mention'. The Scheme received tremendous response, with 139 entries in Hindi, English and different languages from various parts of the country. 118 entries out of them were found eligible to compete for the awards.

6.12 The Full Commission jury, chaired by the NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra; along with Members, Dr. D. M. Mulay, Shri Rajiv Jain, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani; Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal; and two external experts, former DG, Doordarshan, Shri Leela Dhar Mandloi and Prof. Rachna Sharma of IIMC selected the following films:

- 'Kiran-A Ray of Hope' by Shri Bhushan Arun Mehare was given the First prize of Rs. 2 Lakh, a trophy and a certificate. The film highlights and raises concerns on LGBTQI+ rights, including among others, the right to equal opportunities with dignity to earn a livelihood. It is in Hindi and English with subtitles in English.
- The Second prize of Rs. 1.5 Lakh, a trophy and a certificate were given to 'Mukhagni- the Cremation' by Shri Bibhujjal Raj Kashyap. Inspired by a true story, the film raises various issues including untouchability, caste discrimination, social dogmas, overbearing diktat of caste panchayat, and the right to dignity of the dead.
- The Third prize of Rs 1 lakh, a trophy and a certificate were given to 'Right to Freedom' by Shri Nitin Sonkar. The film symbolically advocates equal opportunities for the children of slum dwellers and highlights that there should

be no cap on dreaming and achieving big in life through the story of a young boy living in a slum. It is in Hindi with subtitles in English.

6.13 The films selected for the 'Certificate of Special Mention' and a cash award of Rs. 50,000/- each are as follows:

- Glass of Humanity by Ms. Abdullah Alfazeena (Silent).
- Harassment of Deepshikha by Smt. Supriti Ghosh (Bengali)
- Naragam – Hell by Shri M. Baskar (Tamil).
- RAHAS by Shri Rashid Usman Nimbalkar (Silent)

6.14 NHRC Twitter handle: 2,828 posts including threads & reposts were made from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024 and the total number of followers reached around 62,100 as of 31st March, 2024.

6.15 NHRC Online Photography Competition: The Commission also approved a proposal to host an online Human Rights Photography Competition on the MyGov portal and on the NHRC Website.

6.16 Exploring alternative communication platforms: The Commission continued to explore alternative media platforms for building awareness about the importance of promotion and protection of human rights.

Publications

6.17 Under Section 12(h) of the PHRA, 1993, the Commission has published literature containing informative material for a wide range of stakeholders, including students, researchers, scholars, human rights activists, academicians, trainers, policymakers, and the public at large. The following publications were printed during the year:

- Annual Report- 2020-21 (English);
- Annual Report- 2020-21 (Hindi);
- Report on status of Implementation of the Mental Health Care Act, 2017;

- The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (New) (English) [As amended by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Adaptation of Central Laws) Order, 2020];
- Overview of NHRC: Its Functions and Various Activities;
- Mental Health - Concern for All: In Context of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017;
- English Journal, Vol. 22, Year 2023;
- Manav Adhikar Nai Dishayen, Vol. 20, Year 2023;
- Forensic Science and Human Rights;
- The Employee's Compensation Act, the Minimum Wages Act, The Payment of Wages Act, The Payment of Gratuity Act, and The Pension Act;
- Contract Labour, Interstate Migrant Workers, Construction Workers and Domestic Workers;
- Sexual & Reproductive Rights of Women;
- Kidnapping/ Abduction/ Immoral Trafficking/ Wrongful Confinement;
- Maternity Benefits, Sexual Harassment at workplace and equal remuneration;
- The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (New) (Hindi) [As amended by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Adaptation of Central Laws) Order, 2020].

Research Studies

6.18 The Section 12 (g) of the PHRA, 1993, mandates the Commission to undertake and promote research in the field of human rights. Accordingly, the Commission, in collaboration with Universities, Academic Institutions, NGOs/ CSOs, undertakes research on different human rights issues with the aim to translate the research findings into an action plan so as to protect and promote human rights of all. The completed research studies are available on the Commission's website and Annex VI, while the list of ongoing research studies is enlisted under Annex –

VII. In the given year, the Commission advertised thirteen themes to invite Expression of Interest to undertake the research projects from human rights perspectives.

Training Programme

6.19 NHRC spreads human rights literacy through training programmes organized in collaboration with Administrative Training Institutes (ATI), Police Training Institutions (PTI), Judicial Training Institutes, University and Colleges approved by University Grants Commission/All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited universities, and NGOs registered on Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog. Apart from these, a one-month physical Internship Programme is organized by the Commission twice a year, i.e. summer and winter for students from universities/ colleges of different states across the country. Online short-term Internship Programmes, each of fifteen days, were also organized by the Commission for students interested in the field of human rights.

Internship Programme

6.20 **Internship programme**– During the year under review, two physical internships programmes were organized, the details of which are mentioned below.

i.) Summer Internship Programme (SIP) - SIP-2023, in physical mode, was conducted from 5th June, to 30th June, 2023, in which a total of 68 students participated and successfully completed their internship. Practical activities like Group Research Project Presentation, Book Review and Declamation Contest were held and cash prizes/ books and certificates were awarded to the winners. Students were taken to visit NGO Asha Kiran, Tihar Prison, National Commission for Women (NCW), National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) & Police Stations of Defence Colony and Hauz Khas, New Delhi.

ii.) Winter Internship Programme (WIP) - WIP-2023, in physical mode, was conducted from 18th December, 2023 to 16th January, 2024, in which a total of 79 students participated and successfully completed their internship. Practical activities like Group Research Project Presentation, Book Review and Declamation Contest were held and cash prizes/ books and certificates were awarded to the winners. Students were taken to visit NGO Asha Kiran, Tihar Prison, National Commission for Women (NCW), National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and Police Stations of Defence Colony and Hauz Khas, New Delhi.

6.21 Online Short-Term Internship (OSTI) – NHRC organized 4 Online Short-Term Internship Programmes in the months of May, August & October, 2023 and in February, 2024 in which a total of 380 student interns participated and successfully completed their internship.

6.22 The Commission invited officers from different United Nations Organizations, Chairpersons and Members of State Human Rights Commission, senior officers of the Government of India of the rank of Secretary/ Additional Secretary, top ranking officers of the Indian Army/ Air Force/ Indian Navy, Chiefs of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), Special Rapporteurs, Special Monitors, representatives of eminent NGOs, academicians, medical doctors, renowned Gandhians, etc. to address and interact with the student interns online through BHARAT VC platforms in all the Online Short-term Internship Programmes.

6.23 The matrix of the internship programme is designed in a manner which encompasses practical activities too. The student interns read a book on the theme of human rights, prepare a written and verbal submission, which is evaluated by in-house jury members, and rewards in the form of books are given to the winners. The student interns are assigned a group research project on a human rights subject of

contemporary relevance. The presentation is made before senior NHRC officers and 1st, 2nd and 3rd position holders are awarded cash prizes of Rs. 15,000/-, Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 5,000/-, respectively. Some of the research projects were on the following themes:

- Sports and Human Rights;
- Violence against Women: The Case of India;
- The Rights of Seafarers;
- The Rights of the Child: The Indian Scenario;
- The Human Rights of Manual Scavengers;
- Consumer Rights in India;
- Transgender Community in India – Their Right to Health;
- Acid Attack Victims: The Case of India;
- The Rights of Children in Conflict with Law;
- The Right of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs);
- Condition of Domestic Workers in India: Status and Issues; and
- The Right to Environment as a Human Right

Details of Training/ Competition/ Visit

6.24 Collaborative Moot Court Competition - The Commission has been organizing Moot Court Competitions since 2013 in collaboration with various Law universities/ colleges across India, for which the Commission provides financial assistance to the host. In 2023-24, six institutions conducted Moot Court Competitions in collaboration with NHRC. Details of the Competitions are given below in the table.

Table 6.1: Moot Court Competitions organized in collaboration with the NHRC

S. No.	Institute	Duration
1.	National Law University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan	6 th -8 th October, 2023
2.	Chanakya National Law University, Nyaya Nagar, Mithapur, Patna, Bihar	13 th -15 th October, 2023
3.	School of Law & Legal Studies, GGS Indraprastha University, Dwarka, Delhi	19 th -21 st January, 2024
4.	Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad	9 th -11 th February, 2024
5.	SYMBIOSIS Law School, Nagpur, Maharashtra	23 rd -25 th February, 2024
6.	National Law University, Meghalaya	17 th March, 2024

6.25 **Collaborative Training Programme** – As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Human Rights Commission and Indian Law Institute dated 15th September, 2022, Indian Law Institute has conducted 6 Collaborative Training Programmes during the year 2023-24 with an objective to undertake, coordinate and collaborate in research extension activities in promotion and implementation of various aspects of human rights.

6.26 In addition, the NHRC had also approved & financially assisted 48 Collaborative Training Programme for one day/ two days/ three days on human rights and related issues, which were conducted by different academic institutes like Central Universities/ Colleges/ Administrative Training Institutions (ATIs)/ Police Training Institutes (PTIs)/ Judicial Training Institutes (JTIs), etc. About 4,700 persons participated in these training programmes. Details are at Annex - XIII.

6.27 In addition to this, NHRC has hosted students, faculty members and government officials as part of the training and outreach activities to further human rights knowledge in the country. The Commission was visited by students from schools, law colleges and universities, during which they were briefed about the functioning of the NHRC, the roles and responsibilities of its various Divisions, and how the youth can be instrumental in protecting and promoting human rights in India. Further, in April, 2023, 2 IAS trainees (AGMUT) were attached to

the Commission, where they were apprised of the work of the Commission, and how as government officials, they were responsible to ensure the rights and dignity of all, especially those from vulnerable communities. Details of the visits are at Annex -XIV.

6.28 A workshop was organized on '*Exploring the intersection of Gig Economy, Labour and Human Rights*' in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights Studies of Ramanujan College, Delhi on 19th March, 2024.

6.29 On 28th March, 2024, NHRC, India organized a two-day international conference titled '*One Earth, One Family, One Future: Navigating human rights through the lens of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*'. It was organized in collaboration with the Human Rights Student Programme, JNU, Delhi. 150 Participants across the country attended the conference.

6.30 **Gender Sensitization Programme**–The NHRC organized Gender Sensitization Training Programmes for in-house officers and staff on 17th August, 2023 and 6th December, 2023, attended by more than 80 participants. Prof. (Dr.) Ritu Gupta, Director, Centre for Business and Financial Laws, National Law University, Dwarka, Delhi delivered a lecture on the theme '*Promoting a Safe and Respectful Workplace Culture*' on 17th August, 2023 and on the theme '*Towards Making the Workplace a Safer Place: A Training Session on POSH Act*' on 6th December, 2023.

Programmes with Police Personnel

6.31 Central Armed Police Forces Debate Competition, 2023 - To promote Human Rights awareness and sensitization among the personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), the NHRC organizes a debate competition on Human Rights issues every year. The NHRC, in collaboration with Railway Protection Force (RPF), conducted the 28th Central Armed Police Forces Debate Competition 2023. The final round of the debate competition was graced by the Hon'ble Chairperson of NHRC Justice Shri Arun Mishra; Hon'ble Member Shri Rajiv Jain, NHRC; Secretary General Shri Bharat Lal, Shri Sunil Kumar Meena, Deputy Inspector General (Inv.), NHRC; and other senior officers of the Commission. In the final event, a total 16 participants (8 for Hindi & 8 for English) participated. Trophies, certificates & cash prizes were awarded to the winners in each category and the Rolling Trophy was won by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

6.32 Debate Competitions for States/ UTs Police Forces: To promote human rights awareness and sensitize the State/ UT police personnel, the Commission provided financial assistance to 15 States/ UTs, viz. Uttarakhand, Odisha, Assam,

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Gujarat, Haryana, West Bengal, Kerala, Mizoram, Delhi and Nagaland to conduct debate competitions on human rights issues.

6.33 Training of Trainer Course on Human Rights: The NHRC has been entrusted with the statutory responsibility to spread human rights literacy. Inter alia, imparting training to police officials on human rights remains a crucial aspect in this regard. The Commission decided to initiate training programmes for trainers who are posted in academies or training institutions, on various human rights issues, particularly, for training of Police, CAPF and prison officials from states and union territories.

6.34 The Commission successfully conducted three residential 'Training of Trainer Courses on Human Rights' during the year.

- The first Training of Trainer course on human rights for state police forces was conducted from 21st August, 2023 to 25th August, 2023, in which 29 police officers from various states successfully participated.



28th Central Armed Police Forces Debate Competition, 2023



- The second Training of Trainer course on human rights for Central Armed Police Forces officers was conducted from 11th December, 2023 to 15th December, 2023, in which 25 CAPF officers successfully participated.
- The third Training of Trainer course on human rights for Prison Officers of States/ UTs was conducted from 18th March, 2024 to 22nd March, 2024, in which 33 Prison officers from various States & Union Territories successfully participated.

Promotion of Human Rights in Official Language

6.35 **National Seminars:** In its efforts towards creating human rights awareness among the masses, the Commission has been organizing National Seminars in Hindi on human rights-related themes in different parts of the country. In this regard, the following were some of the seminars organized by the Commission:

- Two-day National Seminar in Hindi was organized on 31st March, – 1st April, 2023 in Collaboration with North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya on the subject '*Diverse Perspectives of Human Rights in Literature and Society*' (साहित्य एवं समाज में मानव अधिकार के विविध परिप्रेक्ष्य). Dr. D. M. Mulay, Hon'ble Member of the NHRC was the Chief Guest of the seminar. The seminar was conducted in 04 technical sessions.

- Two-day National Seminar in Hindi was organized on 18th-19th December, 2023 in Collaboration with University of Calicut, Malappuram, Kerala on the subject '*Concepts of Human Rights in Indian Culture, Art and Languages*' (भारतीय संस्कृति, कला एवं भाषा में मानव अधिकारों की अवधारणा). Dr. D. M. Mulay, Hon'ble Member of the NHRC was the Chief Guest of the seminar. The seminar was conducted in 03 technical sessions.

6.36 **Publication of Annual Hindi Journal:** To expand knowledge of human rights, the NHRC began to publish the Hindi Journal in 2004. The NHRC published its 20th volume and released it on Human Rights Day, i.e., 10th December, 2023.

6.37 **Vernacular Language Translation:** The Commission accepts complaints in all Indian regional languages included in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution of India. The Hindi Section monitors the translation of vernacular languages. During the period under review, more than 7,736 complaints were translated by the approved panel of translators.

6.38 **Hindi Fortnight:** To promote the use of official language in its day-to-day work, the Annual Hindi Fortnight was held from 14th to 28th September, 2023. The officers and staff of the Commission actively participated in the events organized on the occasion. Quiz competitions, Hindi Essay Writing, Hindi Typing and Hindi Sulekh competitions, etc. were held during the fortnight. Cash prizes and certificates were given to the winners of these competitions.

Chapter 7

Thematic Insights

7.1 In an attempt to ensure that human rights are upheld and enjoyed by all, irrespective of their backgrounds or categories, the Commission has identified certain focus areas that warrant the immediate attention in its activities. The process of identification of thematic areas is followed by extensive research activities and identifying human rights issues that require interventions or deliberations. The Policy Research, Projects & Programme Division of the Commission organizes conferences, seminars, open house discussions, meetings, and workshops to issue recommendations or advisories on pressing issues of human rights violations pertaining to that thematic area. The NHRC, in collaboration with eminent researchers from reputed academic institutions or eligible human rights organizations, undertakes research in various thematic areas which requires study from human rights perspectives. Additionally, it assists the Commission in reviewing policies, laws, treaties and other international instruments in force for the protection and promotion of human rights and offers inputs to the governments. The visit reports submitted by the NHRC Special Rapporteurs & Monitors are also analyzed by the Research Division to draw out recommendations based on the observations made to the Commission. The above-mentioned activities undertaken for each thematic area have been elucidated in this Chapter. The lists of research projects which have been completed, on-going and considered for approval in the next financial year are provided under Annex - VI, Annex - VII and Annex - VIII respectively.

Core Groups

7.2 The Commission has constituted core groups on key thematic human rights issues. The members of the Core Groups consist of eminent personalities, subject matter experts and representatives of

Government or technical institutions, NGOs, and so on. These groups render expert advice to the Commission. The Meetings of the Core Groups are organized periodically at regular intervals or as and when deemed necessary. The 12 Core Groups that functioned in the NHRC during the year, 2023-2024 were:

- Core Group on Health and Mental Health;
- Core Group on Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Core Group on Elderly;
- Core Group on Human Rights Defenders and NGOs;
- Core Group on Right to Food;
- Core Group on Business and Human Rights;
- Core Group on Bonded Labour;
- Core Group on Women and Shelter Homes;
- Core Group on Children;
- Core Group on LGBTI issues;
- Core Group on Criminal Justice System; and
- Core Group on Environment and Climate Change

Special Rapporteurs & Special Monitors

7.3 The Special Rapporteurs & Special Monitors of the Commission are human rights experts who are specifically appointed with the directive to report and advice on human rights concerns from a thematic or state-specific perspective. The system of Special Rapporteurs & Special Monitors is a central element of the NHRC machinery, and covers all human rights: civil, political, economic, social

and cultural. In addition, they cover sensitive issues like child labour, bonded labour, disability concerns, etc. and spread awareness among the people about the provisions contained in the PHRA from the point of view of seeking redressal from the NHRC in case of violation of their rights or that of others. They undertake visits in various parts of the countries and act as eyes and ears of the Commission, and submit the status of human rights situation at the grass root level, thus complementing the Commission's efforts. Their reports form the basis on which the Commission suggests recommendations to the authorities to improve the human rights situation. The Special Rapporteurs & Monitors made extensive visits throughout the year. The observation and recommendations which were sent to authorities for consideration are given under relevant thematic areas in this chapter. The Special Rapporteurs & Special Monitors in position during the period under review are given under Annex - X, while the list of exhaustive visits undertaken by them are given under Annex- XI.

Advisories

7.4 The Commission has developed an innovative mechanism to fulfill its mandate of reviewing the safeguards provided under the Constitution or any current laws for the protection of human rights and recommending measures for their effective implementation. The advisories issued by the Commission aims to supplement the government's initiatives to ensure the well-being of all. In the year 2023-24, the Commission issued four advisories which were sent to concerned authorities for implementation and were also uploaded on the Commission's website. The details of the advisories issued during the period in review are given briefly below:

1.) NHRC Advisory to Mitigate Deliberate Self-Harm and Suicide Attempts by Prisoners: The Commission issued the said advisory on 19th June, 2023, which comes as a supplement to the 'Prevention of Suicides in Prison' guidelines which were issued by NHRC in 2014. Some of the recommendations include:

- Filling up the Vacancies & Augmenting the staff strength: Existing vacancies of prison staff, specifically Prison Welfare Officers, Probation Officers, Psychologists and Medical Staff should be filled and their strength should be suitably augmented to include mental health professionals. The Government should review the sanctioned strength of the prison staff every five years;
- Training of Prisons Staff: Prison staff must undergo initial mental health literacy training supplemented by refresher courses every three years. They should also be trained in administering Psychological First Aid (PFA) to recognize and respond to mental illness and substance abuse, and selected staff should be equipped with CPR and first aid skills to address emergencies;
- Screening at admission stage: Mental health screening should be included in the initial health screening report of every prisoner for timely diagnosis of signs and symptoms of mental health disorders;
- Supervision and monitoring of at-risk prisoners: Establish a two-tier monitoring system with mental health and medical staff for at-risk prisoners, alongside a 'Prisoner buddy' programme trained in Psychological First Aid. Enforce safety measures by restricting access to sharp objects and hazardous chemicals, conducting regular checks on bedding, and promptly referring inmates with suicidal thoughts to mental health professionals;
- Training of Prisoners: Selected prisoners in each prison barrack to be trained to handle emergency situations. Gatekeeper model devised by the World Health Organization (WHO), be implemented;
- Collaborative Framework for mitigation: The prison administration should collaborate with Mental Health Institutions to appoint a nodal expert, connect with community-based initiatives and engage with willing private mental health care professionals and NGOs focused in mental health;

- Addiction among Prisoners: Issue to be seen as a health and rehabilitation issue and measures to tackle the same be undertaken;
- Compliance with relevant statutory provisions: Prisons administration to ensure compliance with the legal provisions;
- Prison Housekeeping: Ensure safety by restricting access to sharp objects, hazardous chemicals, and hanging objects in prisons and continuous monitoring for at-risk inmates through CCTV surveillance and proper toilet design;
- Strengthening Visitor System: Encourage visits by family members, reduce waiting time, facilitating prior booking appointments online, restricting searches;
- Prison Environment: Introducing diverse recreational activities and spiritual programmes in prisons with the help of NGOs aims to channelize energy positively. Additionally, providing vocational training, upskilling opportunities, and linking long-term prisoners with government entrepreneurship schemes fosters rehabilitation and a sense of direction.

2.) NHRC Advisory for Ensuring the Welfare of Transgender Persons: Acknowledging the continued discrimination faced by the persons from transgender community despite having legal advancements including the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, the NHRC issued an advisory for ensuring the welfare of transgender persons to Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of all States/ UTs to implement them. The advisory contains recommendations on following six themes:

- Education: Ensuring access to education, setting up anti-discrimination cells, and making educational institutions inclusive for transgender students;
- Healthcare: Setting up medical boards at district levels, providing consultation and treatment for transgender individuals, and considering free sex reassignment surgeries;

- Employment: Adding 'Third Gender' as an identity category for civil service jobs, protecting transgender persons from violence or harassment at workplaces, and organizing sensitization programs;
- Promoting Inclusivity: Providing separate washrooms, platforms for showcasing talent, and old age home facilities for transgender individuals;
- Welfare: Treating single trans-children as unmarried daughters for family pension, establishing transgender welfare boards, and providing multi-purpose identity cards;
- Grievance Redressal: Setting up transgender protection cells, designating officers as focal points for transgender issues in police stations, and sensitizing the public through educational campaigns.

3.) Advisory on Mental Health: The National Human Rights Commission issued an Advisory on Mental Health on the occasion of World Mental Health Day, i.e., 10th October, 2023, to the Centre and all the States/ UTs, to ensure the welfare and rights of persons with mental illnesses. The Advisory focused on seven key areas for action, including, implementation of existing laws and policies, infrastructure and amenities, human resources, outreach and community services, rehabilitation of recovered patients, services of the States and mass awareness and sensitization. Some of the important recommendations mentioned in the said advisory, include:

- Insurance policies and schemes should include treatment of mental illnesses to increase accessibility and affordability to mental health care;
- To boost accessibility to treatments for mental disorders for financially disadvantaged populations, it is necessary to include mental illness in the 'Aayushman Bharat' scheme;
- Appropriate help be provided to patients and their family members to open their bank accounts and they should be made aware and facilitated with various benefits and social schemes;

- Camps may be organized and set up in Establishments to provide Aadhaar cards to patients and to update their details mandatorily;
 - A person should be specified in each Establishment to ensure free legal aid is provided, as mandated under Section 27 of the Act, 2017;
 - Establishments to have quality general amenities, including the number of beds, water, sanitation, food, bedding, clothing, provision of recreational activities, etc.;
 - Expeditiously provide the halfway homes system, as mandated by Section 19 (3) of the Act 2017, rehabilitation efforts must be coordinated with multiple departments;
 - Patients should not be retained in establishments even for a day after declaring fit for discharge;
 - All fatalities on the premises of a hospital, institution, shelter home, shared housing, rehabilitation home, halfway house, mercy house, etc., must be reported to the local police within 24 hours and to the NHRC within 48 hours of the death;
 - A common web portal for registering all mental health professionals be provided in the public domain to facilitate achieving the target under Section 31 (3) of 10 years;
 - All States/ UTs must prioritize constituting Mental Health Authority, Mental Health Review Boards and framing Rules and Regulations as mandated under Sections 45, 73, 121 and 123 of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 (Act, 2017);
 - A structured programme for every district called the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) may be prepared, involving community workers;
 - As envisaged in the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), State Governments may emphasize public-private partnerships in the Mental Health sector and public awareness generation activities to deal with social stigma, discrimination and lack of awareness about mental illness in society;
 - More PG seats to be created in proportion to the requirements, including DPM, MD, DNB, Mphil., PhD in Psychiatry, Psychology, PSW, and DPN and other diplomas, degrees, fellowships, etc. As mandated under Section 31(3) of the Act, 2017, efforts must be made to meet internationally accepted guidelines for a number of mental health professionals based on population by 2027;
 - As a separate subject, psychiatry be included in the undergraduate medical curriculum. Every opportunity must be utilized to train doctors in basic psychiatry;
 - The vacant positions, including doctors and other staff, in all Establishments should be filled up immediately;
 - Mass awareness and sensitization must be carried out via campaigns, television, newspapers, and other media in all local languages to increase public awareness of issues relating to mental health.
- 4.) Advisory for Protection of the Rights of Children against Production, Distribution and Consumption of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM):** The said Advisory was issued after intense deliberations among stakeholders that included both government and private agencies as well as experts like NGOs/ CSOs working on the issue, legal professionals, etc. The Commission had organized a National Conference on Child Sexual Abuse Material on 2nd-3rd March, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi with the objective of engaging in due deliberations with stakeholders and deriving recommendations/ actionable points in the form of Advisory for policy makers, intermediaries including content hosts, law enforcement agencies etc. The relevant suggestions made by the experts in the said Conference were included in this Advisory. The gist of recommendations enlisted in the said Advisory are given below:
- i.) Legal Challenges and Addressing the Gaps:**
- Terminology Update: Replace 'Child Pornography' with 'Child Sexual Abuse Material' (CSAM) and define 'sexually explicit';

- Intermediary Definition: Include VPN, VPS, and Cloud Service Providers in the definition;
- Harmonization of Laws: Explore bilateral agreements for consistent enforcement across jurisdictions;
- International Treaty: Pursue adoption of UN draft convention on '*Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes*';
- Enhancing Punishment: Reevaluate punishment severity for CSAM offenses;
- Certificate under Indian Evidence Act: Reevaluate the requirement for certificates in CSAM cases.

ii.) Monitoring and Regulating Intermediaries:

- Use of Technology: Mandate intermediaries to deploy algorithms for proactive CSAM detection;
- CSAM-Specific Policy: Require intermediaries to develop and publicize CSAM-specific policies;
- Removal Timeframe: Ensure prompt removal of CSAM within 6 hours;
- Partnerships: Facilitate real-time information sharing among intermediaries;
- Information-Sharing: Direct intermediaries to share CSAM content information with authorities;
- Pop-Up Messages: Implement pop-up warning messages for CSAM-related searches;
- Availability of Records: Ensure ISPs maintain detailed records and provide data to law enforcement;
- KYC Norms: Ensure compliance with KYC norms for subscribers;
- Domain Registration: Mandate KYC compliance for domain registration;
- Quarantining Posts: Require mandatory quarantining of posts for CSAM detection.

iii.) Detection, Investigation, and Monitoring of CSAM:

- Specialized Police Units: Establish specialized state and central police units for CSAM investigation;
- Nodal Point: Central police unit to act as a nodal point for collaboration and coordination;
- Database: Create a national database of CSAM and expand existing databases;
- Use of Technology: Utilize technological methods for offender identification and victim alert;
- Forensic Investigators: Increase the number of forensic investigators proficient in handling CSAM cases;
- General Consent to CBI: Simplify the process for CBI investigation consent.

iv.) Capacity Building, Sensitization, Awareness, and Victim Support:

- Training Courses: Develop training courses for LEAs, prosecutors, and judges;
- Awareness Programs: Conduct awareness programmes for parents, children, and educators;
- Cyber Curriculum: Incorporate cyber safety education into school curriculums;
- Psycho-Social Support: Provide support services and rehabilitation opportunities for CSAM survivors;
- Vernacular Language Lexicon: Translate cybersecurity terminology and CSAM search terms into vernacular languages;
- SMS Alerts: Implement recurring SMS alerts cautioning users about CSAM.

Criminal Justice System

- 7.5 The poor conditions of prisons and detention facilities, results in the violation of the rights of inmates of these institutions, and this has been a

concern for the Commission. A number of issues such as congestion in prisons, lack of adequate medical care, ill-treatment of prisoners, lack of adequate infrastructure, poor administration, long detention of those awaiting trial, and insufficient opportunities for prisoners to communicate with their families remain key issues in the Criminal Justice System, despite relentless efforts by the Commission.

7.6 The Commission takes active measures such as issuance of advisories and guidelines to reduce the probability of occurrence of human rights violations in prisons and other institutional facilities pertaining to the Criminal Justice System. The Commission in the past had also written to the Chief Justices of the High Courts, requesting them to expedite case hearings and release under trials, as well as offer suitable instructions to District and Sessions Judges to guarantee that they visit jails on a regular basis, as required as per the State Prison Manuals. The Commission has also given directions to all prison officials, requiring all detainees to undergo mandatory health screenings and submit a monthly report to the Commission. The Commission has also taken up the question of early release of inmates serving life sentences. The Commission continues to advocate for the rights of prisoners and other vulnerable groups, and undertakes tremendous efforts to tackle violation of human rights cases.

7.7 **Visits by NHRC Special Rapporteur:** The NHRC Special Rapporteurs & Special Monitors undertake visits to prisons throughout the year on behalf of the Commission, based on which they send reports to the Commission. The Commission after examining their report sends recommendations to the appropriate Government for considerations. Some of the visits undertaken in the given thematic area in the period under review are given in the following paragraph:

7.8 NHRC Special Rapporteur for Zone III, Shri Ashok Kumar Verma visited Almora District Jails, Uttarakhand from 25th to 28th September, 2023: Following suggestions were sent by the Commission for consideration:

- Completion of a new district jail in Pithoragarh at the earliest to alleviate the overcrowding issue;
- Separate district jails should be established in Bageshwar and Champawat;
- Replace old barracks with new, preferably double-storied structures to accommodate more inmates and create better living conditions;
- Fresh recruitment to handle the shortage of staff, particularly in the warder rank;
- Medical facilities will be upgraded, including full-time staff and better lab facilities, and the provision of an ambulance is suggested;
- Issues such as access roads to be resolved.

7.9 NHRC Special Rapporteur for Zone X, Ms. Suchitra Sinha visited Gumla and Chibasa District Jails, Jharkhand from 7th to 9th August, 2023: Following suggestions were sent by the Commission for consideration:

i.) Education:

- Integrating education into prisoners' routines, tailoring programmes to their qualifications, abilities, and interests;
- Implement the Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan programme and enroll prisoners in computer literacy courses;
- Allow eligible prisoners to enroll in the National Institute of Open Schooling for secondary and higher education;
- Consider the deployment of government teachers to jails by the education department.

ii.) Skill Development:

- Assess inmates' educational background, interests, and skills upon entry;
- Encourage involvement in constructive activities to prevent reoffending;
- Provide vocational training based on skill mapping for economic rehabilitation;

- Involve women inmates in economic activities for empowerment;
- Collaborate with organizations like the Skill Development Mission for skill-building initiatives in prisons.

7.10 NHRC Special Rapporteur for Zone XIV, Shri Umesh Kumar visited Golaghat Jail, Assam from 25th to 30th June, 2023: Following suggestions were sent by the Commission for consideration:

- Encourage repairing vacant wards for use as classrooms and skill training spaces;
- Implement a clear process for recommending early release of long-term convicts;
- Construct separate rooms within the jail for privacy and security;
- Provide vocational training in various fields such as plumbing, electrical repair, carpentry, computer use, and cooking;
- Equip female inmates with sewing machines and weaving apparatus for skill development;
- Ensure proper education provision through qualified teachers and utilize existing community halls as classrooms;
- Establish a library with newspaper subscriptions and diverse book collections;
- Provide regular yoga training sessions for inmates;
- Undertake necessary infrastructure improvements like earth filling, footpath construction, and toilet repairs;
- Facilitate counseling services, especially for drug-addicted inmates;
- Address the issue of under trial prisoners awaiting release due to lack of surety;
- Advocate for a permanent doctor's post within the jail for consistent medical care;
- Repair or replace malfunctioning televisions and generators;

- Seek administrative support for various operational challenges;
- Address accommodation and infrastructure issues for security personnel;
- Repair non-functional computers and utilize them for prisoner training programs.

7.11 NHRC Special Rapporteur for Zone X, Ms. Suchitra Sinha visited Dumka Central Jail and Deoghar Jail from 19th to 25th May, 2023. Following suggestions were sent by the Commission for consideration:

Suggestions pertaining to Central Jail Dumka

- Fill up vacancies in jails to maintain security and improve functioning;
- Implement Skill India programmes for prisoners' skill development and reintegration into society upon release;
- Appoint counselors in jails to boost prisoners' morale and facilitate personal growth;
- Engage reputable NGOs to provide support and assistance to prisoners;
- Implement Women and Child Ministry schemes for children of prisoners under 3 years old.

Suggestions pertaining to Deoghar Central Jail

- Fill vacancies in jails promptly to prevent security risks and enhance operational efficiency;
- Prioritize renovation work, especially in critical areas like the kitchen and canteen and to address safety concerns in old buildings;
- Expedite the process of shifting jails to new locations, ensuring timely acquisition of necessary land;
- Implement Skill India programmes for prisoners to equip them with skills for successful reintegration into society;
- Establish measures to prevent interaction with hardened criminals and treat non-criminals with leniency;

- Appoint counselors in jails for psychological support, contributing to prisoners' personal development;
- Provide benefits from government schemes and NGO support to incarcerated parents without caregivers for their children, including educational facilities.

7.12 NHRC Special Rapporteur for Zone VIII, Dr. Rajinder Kumar Malik visited Odisha and Kolkata Prisons from 14th March, 2023 to 19th March, 2023 - Following suggestions were sent by the Commission for consideration:

- Facilities for Legal Aid to be provided in the prisons by the State/ UT Administration;
- More vehicles for transportation of inmates from Correctional Homes to outside hospitals and back be provided;
- Regular repair work by PWD for maintaining the prison complex required to be done;
- Essential medical equipments also be provided in Correctional Homes. Posting of Psychologists to be considered in Correctional Homes;
- State to consider implementing Model Prison Manual;
- Portable and fixed diagnostic arrangement for the hospital inside Presidency Correctional Home for requisite tests to be available;
- Full-time Medical Officer be provided in Correctional Homes for better medical facility to inmates;
- Once the sentence is over and the family is not ready to accept in incumbent, he/ she should be placed in an appropriate and suitable State Shelter home.

7.13 NHRC Special Monitor for Criminal Justice System visited West Bengal from 12th to 18th July, 2023. Following suggestions were sent by the Commission for consideration:

- Modernization of Prison Administration be considered in light of MHA guidelines. Appropri-

ate after care programmes for prisoners who have completed their sentences helping post-release employment and counselling may be provided;

- Efforts be made to identify industrial and digital skillful employment opportunities;
- Potable water, hygienic bathrooms with good sanitation facilities including disposal of sanitary pads facility be provided;
- Vacancies of Medical Officers be filled up expeditiously;
- De-addiction centres should be established in prisons and posting counselors be followed up systematically;
- Electricity dues to be cleared and continuity of electricity be ensured.

7.14 NHRC Special Rapporteur for Zone III, Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma visited Central Jail, Srinagar and District Jail, Anantnag from 19th to 24th June, 2023. Following suggestions were sent by the Commission for consideration:

- Suitable time to be provided for meeting with family members;
- Government to consider whether it is feasible to restore pre-Covid protocol;
- Shortage of staff to be addressed;
- Safe drinking water to be provided.

Right to Health & Mental Health

7.15 Every human being is entitled to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life of dignity. As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. This right is indispensable for the exercise of other human rights. It is the duty of the State to promote, protect and preserve the health of all individuals. The Constitution of India upholds 'right to health' as a Fundamental Right under Article 21.

7.16 Mental health forms an integral part of overall health. According to the WHO, mental health is 'a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community'.

7.17 Since its establishment, the Commission has consistently taken the view that the right to life with dignity, enshrined in the Constitution, must result in the strengthening of measures to ensure that all people, and particularly those belonging to the economically disadvantaged sections of the society, have access to better, affordable, accessible and more comprehensive healthcare facilities. The Commission is deeply concerned about implementing the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 and is actively working to identify and address the lacunae. It regularly organizes various meetings, conferences and open house discussions regarding these concerns with the objective of bringing all the stakeholders to a common platform, including the Union Ministries, State Governments, hospital administration, health care workers, NGOs, CSOs, amongst others. The following paragraphs throw light upon the work in the domain of ensuring right to health and mental health undertaken by the Commission during the year 2023-24.

7.18 **One-day National Conference 'Moving Mental Health Beyond Institutions':** The NHRC organized a one-day National Conference 'Moving Mental

Health Beyond Institutions', on 26th July, 2023, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, to deliberate upon the issues and challenges regarding the status of implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, as well as the challenges faced on the ground. The aim was to come out with actionable recommendations and a way forward which may strengthen the whole mental healthcare system of the country at all levels. Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC, chaired the conference. Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of the State for Health and Family Welfare graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Conference was attended by the representatives of the concerned Central Ministries, National Commissions, SHRCs, State Health Secretaries, NGOs, Academicians and Directors of all 47 Mental Health Institutions among others. The objective of the Conference was to raise awareness among all stakeholders about the stigma attached to mental health and also to strengthen the accountability and commitment towards eradicating the stigma and to provide good mental health care to those who are suffering from the mental health issues. The Conference further aimed to review the actions of the States on the implementation of Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. During the conference the following two publications were released by the Chief Guest, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Hon'ble Member of the State for Health and Family Welfare:

i.) **"Mental Health: Concern for All- In Context of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017:"** The book tries to



National Conference on 'Moving Mental Health Beyond Institutions' held on 26th July, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan

incorporate major aspects of mental health, such as the mental health of children, women, geriatric, LGBTQIA+, prison inmates; mental health and homelessness; disaster and mental health, and so on. It also significantly talks about our country's mental health policies and laws. Earnest efforts have been made to make an exhaustive publication which may serve as a reference book to many institutions and other stakeholders.

ii.) **“Status of Implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017:”** The Report is the culmination of the Commission's commitment to regularly evaluate and monitor the functioning of the Mental Health Establishments'/ Institutes' especially in Agra, Gwalior and Ranchi. This report is based on the visit of NHRC Delegations to the four institutes, namely, Gwalior Mansik Arogyashala, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh; Institute of Mental Health and Hospital, Agra, Uttar Pradesh; Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, Jharkhand; and Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry and Allied Science, Ranchi, Jharkhand, and also the visits of the Special Rapporteurs to 43 other Mental Health Establishments across the Nation.

7.19 Key points raised during the conference for implementation include the need for a shift towards

community-based support, the establishment of Mental Health Authorities and Review Boards in all states, utilizing funds for halfway homes, registering mental health establishments, and adopting a more holistic treatment approach including yoga and psychological counseling. It further suggests creating new positions and increasing education opportunities for mental health professionals, as well as providing training for various healthcare workers. Other suggestions involve integrating mental health education into school curricula, establishing a national web portal for mental health professionals, promoting the involvement of NGOs in rehabilitation services, and enhancing telepsychiatry services. Legal aid support, advancement of AI in mental healthcare, inclusion of mental health treatment in insurance policies, and public awareness campaigns were also emphasized.

Right to Food & Nutrition

7.20 As a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, India has endorsed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for transforming the world by 2030. This endorsement places an obligation on India to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to food for every citizen. The Government of India has been



Release of the the Book Mental Health: Concern for All- in Context of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017' by the Chief Guest, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of the State for Health and Family Welfare

implementing various food, livelihood, and social security programs, such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), Mid-day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), and Public Distribution System (PDS). The National Food Security Act 2013, the National Nutrition Strategy, and the National Nutrition Mission all aim to promote convergent approaches that reflect the multi-dimensional nature of food and nutrition insecurity and address inequalities related to gender, age, disability, income, caste, and region. In such a favorable policy environment, the Government's efforts to address malnutrition and food insecurity have the potential to accelerate progress towards reaching their targets under Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

7.21 Over the past two decades, the Government has taken substantial steps to combat malnutrition, such as the introduction of mid-day meals at schools, Anganwadi systems to provide rations to pregnant and lactating mothers, and subsidized grain for those living below the poverty line through a public distribution system. The National Food Security Act, 2013, aims to ensure food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable through its associated schemes and programs, making access to food a legal right.

7.22 The NHRC is committed in its crusade to protect the right to food and nutrition for all. It has constituted a Core Advisory Group on the Right to Food and Nutrition that review policies, identify gaps and deliberate to find solutions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from India. Moreover, the Commission keenly observes the legislation related to food security and the eradication of hunger. NHRC has been emphasizing proper implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 and the flagship schemes, namely, PDS, ICDS and MDMS. It gets the picture of the ground reality through its Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors, who undertake field visits and provide feedback on the status of implementation of these schemes as well as the food security legislation in the States.

7.23 Meeting of the NHRC Core Group on Right to Food:

The NHRC held a meeting on the Right to Food, focusing on the Public Distribution System (PDS) on 19th March, 2024. The meeting was presided over by Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and co-chaired by Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, NHRC. The attendees included representatives from various sectors such as ministries, autonomous bodies, CSOs, NGOs, universities, medical professionals, and research scholars. The key points discussed in the meeting were, effectiveness of the PDS; corruption and leakage of food grains; and One Nation One Ration Card Scheme (ONORC).

7.24 The meeting emphasized the importance of the PDS in serving over 80 crore citizens of India and its effectiveness in addressing the specific nutritional needs of vulnerable groups. The imperfections in the PDS, such as leakage and diversion of food grains were acknowledged, and the need for a multi-pronged approach to address these issues was emphasized. The participants also discussed the challenges associated with double and triple nutrition burdens, which refer to the coexistence of under-nutrition, over-nutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies within a population. The importance of a varied diet, rich in essential nutrients, was also emphasized. The deliberations concluded with an agreement on the need to ensure the effectiveness, integrity, and transparency of the PDS, with the aim of achieving food self-sufficiency and making the PDS a beacon of hope in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Right to Education

7.25 The Right to Education is regarded as a basic human right which is also guaranteed by the Constitution of India as Fundamental Rights under Article 21A of the Constitution. This right is not only a basic right in itself, but also helps in ensuring various other rights. The Commission has been proactively taking steps to ensure this right by organizing deliberations with experts, undertaking action-oriented research projects and so on. This year, the Commission has communicated recommendations emanated from the research study titled '*4A's Framework in Right to Girl Child Education in the Aspirational Districts of*



Meeting of the NHRC Core Group on Right to Food held on 19th March, 2024

South India (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala) - A Comparative Analysis of Government and Private schools' undertaken by Principal investigator, Dr D. Prince Annadurai, Assistant Professor, Social Work, Madras Christian College, Chennai for the consideration of the Government. These recommendations included:

- Strengthening teacher training, conducting district-level assessments, and establishing monitoring mechanisms at state and district levels;
- Improving sanitation facilities in schools, especially for girls, with examples from successful programmes like Nadu-Nedu in Andhra Pradesh;
- Awareness on bullying was highlighted, with recommendations for policies, training, and grievance mechanisms;
- Promoting extracurricular activities for girls, monitoring free seat allocations in private schools, implementing gender-sensitive teacher training, and encouraging community-based initiatives for girls' education were also proposed to address various challenges and promote inclusivity in education.

Rights of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes/ Other Backward Classes & Other Minorities

7.26 The Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), along with Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and minorities face discrimination hindering their integration into the mainstream socio-political and economic spheres. According to the 2011 Census of India, of the total population, about 16.6 percent comprise the Scheduled Caste, while 8.6 percent are Scheduled Tribes. They are often exploited economically, receive low wages, face unfair working conditions, and limited access to resources and economic opportunities. This economic marginalization perpetuates their socio-economic vulnerability and reinforces their disadvantaged status. The Commission has been proactive in taking steps to prevent violation of their rights. The NHRC has intervened by investigating reported atrocities, providing legal assistance, and advocating for policy reforms to ensure justice and protection for affected communities. It has been constantly monitoring the implementation of Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955, and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. In furtherance, the Commission also

receives inputs from the Chairperson of National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

7.27 Recommendations of the Research Projects: The Commission, based on the findings of the research study titled '*Achievement Gap or Opportunity Gap: A Socio-Legal study of Access to Equal Educational Opportunities (EEO), Accessibility to Equal Learning Opportunities (ELO) and Learning Poverty (LP) in the Educational spaces of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Schools for Tribal Girls of Gadchiroli, Warangal, Adilabad, Srikakulam, Bastar and Kondegaon Districts*' sanctioned to Dr. Uma Maheshwari as Principal Investigator, communicated a few suggestions which are given below:

- The language barrier needs to be addressed by the state either through dual language pedagogy or through a system of teacher and teaching assistant partnership where the Teaching Assistant would be from the same language as the ITM (Indigenous Tribal, Minority and Minoritized Languages Peoples) community;
- There should be Bilingual textbooks so that the concern of the 'Medium of Instruction' is also addressed. Community participation in the school by way of community schools, collaborative teaching through language brokering and trans-languaging should also be encouraged;

- Teachers' in-service training in enabling self-directed learning and enabling children access to the relevant resources. Ensuring digital access to teaching learning databases that are already existent;
- Compulsory computer education with targeted skill development through teaching coding and software;
- Compulsory entry-level screen through culturally-sensitive assessment regimes like COSTMAIN (2020) which is available in Gondi, Halabi, Hindi, Telugu, Marathi and 6 other Indian languages;
- Special educator to check for any 'special child' at least at the entry-level;
- Logistics is one reason why long and extended vacations occur. Hence, possibilities of increasing connectivity need to be explored especially for school children;
- ITM (Indigenous Tribal, Minority and Minoritized Languages Peoples) community festivals and celebrations should be part of the school vacation calendar.

7.28 Open House Discussion on Rights of SC/ ST: The NHRC organized an Open House Discussion on 'Prevention of Atrocities and other forms of Discrimi-



Open House Discussion on 'Prevention of Atrocities and Other Forms of Discrimination against SC/ ST Community Issues, Challenges and Way Forward' held on 23rd June, 2023 at NHRC

nation against SC/ST Community: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward' on 23rd June, 2023 at the Commission. The said discussion was chaired by Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, NHRC. The discussion revolved around several agendas. There was a consideration of conducting an impact assessment of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, with the aim of suggesting measures to strengthen it; important 7 ways to enhance the administrative regime for the prevention of atrocities on SC/ STs was highlighted and Attention was given to addressing concerns related to incidents of discrimination in education and employment within various institutions and departments.

7.29 Open House Discussion on Rights of DNT/ NT/ SNTs: An Open House Discussion on the '*Protection of Nomadic, Semi Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes (NTs, SNTs and DNTs) in India and Forward Trajectory*' was organized by the Commission on 19th January, 2024. The discussion focused on the following key agendas:

i.) To identify the challenges faced by the Nomadic Tribes (NTs), Semi-Nomadic Tribes (SNTs), and De-Notified Tribes (DNTs) due to the stigma imposed by the enactment of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1872, and later by the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952 and to suggest ways to modify discriminatory provisions of the latter legislation

ii.) To suggest measures to mitigate all the uncovered challenges and to ensure the representation of De-Notified Tribes in the Parliament, government institutions, and higher education institutions;

iii.) To discern the hurdles, these communities endure in accessing basic facilities such as education, employment, health care, and legal documents, especially for women and children.

7.30 The recommendations proposed by the speakers during the discussions included the implementation of the Commission's report for setting up a permanent commission for these communities, repeal of the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952 and if not, the appointment of a representative of De-notified Tribal community with the nodal officers as stipulated in the Act, non-inclusion of DNTs/ NTs/ SNTs under the SC/ ST/ OBC and formulation of specific policies for the former, among many others

Panchayati Raj System/ Local Self Government

7.31 The Panchayati Raj System, established through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, aims to decentralize governance in India, empowering local self-government institutions like Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, and Zilla Parishads. Considering



Open House Discussion on the 'NTs, SNTs and DNTs in India and forward trajectory' held on 19th January, 2024 at NHRC

the significant role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in governance, the NHRC has made consistent efforts to strengthen its institutional framework to ensure devolution of the basic tenets of human rights to the grassroots level of governance.

7.32 National Conference on Local Self Governance:

The NHRC organized a National Conference on 'Advancing Human Rights through Local Self Governments' at the Administrative Staff College, Guwahati, Assam, on 16th November, 2023. The main objective of the conference was to create awareness regarding the role of local self-government in advancing human rights and related facets of it.

7.33 The team from the Commission, comprising the Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra; Members Dr. D. M. Mulay and Shri Rajiv Jain; and other senior officers of the Commission attended the conference at Guwahati. The Chief Secretary, Assam, Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur, addressed the gathering. The Chairpersons of the SHRCs of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland, in addition to the senior officers of the Central and State Governments from North Eastern States, Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors of NHRC, representatives of Autonomous District Councils of various states, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, senior officers of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Departments, NIRD DG, etc. also participated in the national conference.

7.34 Some of the important suggestions that emerged during the discussion about strengthening the Local Self Government were as follows:

- Encourage the best practices of traditional methods of managing affairs of tribal people through village councils and local self-governance;
- Make the State Finance Commissions more responsive towards rural development;
- Strengthen the Gram Sabhas or peoples' forum as a platform for inclusive spaces for dialogue in the development process and resolution of problems;
- Enhance transparency and accountability in the working of local self-government institutions using a mix of technology and capacity building;
- Strengthen local finances for development through the Gram Sabhas;
- Need to build awareness among rural population about various laws and welfare schemes; and
- Create an environment prioritizing the development focused on women and children.



National Conference on 'Advancing Human Rights through Local Self Governments' at Administrative Staff College, Guwahati, Assam, held on 16th November, 2023

Rights of Women

7.35 Despite progress in some areas, traditional practices and societal norms continue to impede women's rights and opportunities in many parts of India. Issues such as female foeticide, infanticide, and dowry-related violence remain prevalent, particularly in rural areas. India is party to several major international conventions pertaining to the rights of women, the most important of which is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of 1979. The CEDAW was ratified by the Government of India in 1993. The provisions of the Convention aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of women, are directly reflected in the policies, laws, schemes, and programmes for women being run by the Government of India. NHRC, taking note of the greater challenges faced by women, has been committed to protecting and promoting their rights from its inception, giving due importance to this thematic area in its work and functioning.

7.36 **Meeting of the NHRC Core Group on Women:** A meeting of the Core Group on Women was conducted on 14th March, 2024 on the agenda '*Missing Women and Girls in India*'. The session was chaired by Smt. S. Vijaya Bharathi, Hon'ble Member, NHRC. The meeting was attended by members of the Core Group on Women, as well as representatives from

the Ministry of Women and Child Development, and National Commission for Women. The objectives of the meeting included identifying the factors responsible for the high numbers of women and girls reported missing in India over the past few years, the existing legal and institutional mechanisms for addressing this issue, and the challenges involved in tackling the issue.

7.37 **Conference on Women's Labour Force Participation in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad:** The Commission organized a one-day conference on '*Dimensions of Women's Labour Force Participation in India*' in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad on 02nd February, 2024. This conference was the second in a series of three conferences to be organized in collaboration with TISS. The main objective of the conference was to explore the multifaceted dimensions of female labour force participation in India. The conference discussed several key topics including the variety of challenges faced by women wanting to be a part of the labour force, including lack of familial and institutional support. The conference also brought up important topics like the role of legal interventions, the initiatives by government bodies to encourage more women to enter the workforce, and the correlation between women and unpaid labour, among other important issues.



Meeting of the NHRC Core Group on Rights of Women held on 14th March, 2024



NHRC conference on Women's Labour Force Participation in collaboration with TISS, Hyderabad on 2nd February, 2024

7.38 **Dr. Yogesh Dube, Special Monitor, NHRC, visited One Stop Centre, Nari Niketan, shelter homes for women in distress in Rewa, Satna, and Sidhi districts, Madhya Pradesh from 14th–17th May, 2023.** The following recommendations were reported.

- i.) Condition of One Stop Centre, Nari Niketan, Shelter homes
 - There is a necessity of well-equipped ambulances, legal aid services, and timely construction and maintenance of shelters within One Stop Centres for women and children in crisis;
 - Need for trained staff and counseling, as well as create a welcoming environment to encourage survivors to seek assistance;
 - There is a need for functional kitchens and hygienic facilities, including access to sanitary napkins, to ensure the well-being and dignity of those seeking refuge in these centers;
 - There is a need to adopt measures that aim to enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of support services provided by One Stop Centres for vulnerable individuals in emergency situations.
- ii.) Rehabilitation and Social Integration under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
 - Rehabilitation and social integration processes for children in need of care and protection must occur wherever they are placed;
 - Financial support may be provided to children leaving institutional care to help them reintegrate into mainstream society.
- iii.) Juvenile Justice Fund
 - State governments are required to create a Juvenile Justice Fund for the welfare and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection;
 - Effective implementation of this fund should be ensured by the state/ district administration.
- iv.) Sensitization of Stakeholders
 - Proper training and better coordination are needed for disbursing Nirbhaya funds;
 - Guidelines for the Nirbhaya fund are in place but need effective implementation;
 - Better outreach programmes may be developed for Women helpline numbers 181;

- Trained staff and proper counseling should be provided to inmates;
- Awareness programmes for staff and stakeholders should be organized, involving NGOs and CSOs, on issues like human trafficking and domestic violence as per the POCSO Act.

v.) Other Recommendations

- No current scheme ensures that victims at One Stop Centres are enrolled in social security schemes. This should be addressed;
- District authorities should conduct quarterly reviews of shelter homes and One Stop Centres and provide adequate legal aid through DLSA/SDLSA;
- Rule 9 of POCSO Rules, 2020 allows Special Courts to grant interim compensation to children on their own or upon application.

Rights of Children

7.39 In India, the rights of children are safeguarded by various legal provisions and international conventions. These legal frameworks collectively aim to ensure that every child in India enjoys their right to survival, development, protection, and participation. The NHRC is dedicated to safeguarding children's rights and places a high value on this theme in its operations.

7.40 India is party to several important international agreements pertaining to children's rights, such as the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which was ratified in 1992. Since it was approved, the provisions of the CRC have been implemented for children by the Indian government through a variety of laws, policies, plans, and programmes.

7.41 Nevertheless, children have experienced a negative intergenerational cycle of violence and multiple deprivations despite these rules and measures. Therefore, it is imperative that efforts be made to provide children, especially those who are marginalized due to their geographical, social, or

religious identities, with a safe and protective environment. The subsequent paragraphs highlight some of the important activities undertaken by the Commission on rights of children.

7.42 Meeting of the Core Group on Rights of Children:

The Commission organized the meeting of the Core Group on Children to examine the '*Issues in the Implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012, and Measures for strengthening the same*'. The meeting, chaired by Shri Rajiv Jain, Hon'ble Member, NHRC, brought together Core Group Members, Special Invitees and representatives of Government to discuss critical aspects and propose measures for strengthening the implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012. The meeting covered a range of agendas, including Awareness and Education, Role of Technology, Magnitude of the Problem, Optional Protocol of UNCRC, Legal Procedures and Justice, Impact on Survivors and Support, and Implementation and Enforcement. Key suggestions emerging from the discussions focused on refining the bail, compensation, delay in medical examination; psychological issues of victims and their family members and investigation procedures under the POCSO Act, 2012. The meeting underscored the importance of addressing overlapping roles among different institutions, including Juvenile Justice (JJ) Boards, Police, Child Welfare Committees (CWC), and special courts.

7.43 Visit Report of Shri Rajiv Jain, Hon'ble Member, NHRC to Apna Ghar Balgrih (Children's Home) Patna on 25th June, 2023:

Based on the observations, the Commission considered comprehensive measures to enhance the well-being of children residing in Child Care Institutions (CCIs). These measures encompass health care, infrastructure, education, vocational training, staff training, administrative coordination, and access to social security schemes.

- Regular health monitoring, certification and intervention for children with disabilities, establishment of a Special Unit for Children with Special Needs (CWSN), access to trained medical professionals and psychologists, and implementation of relevant schemes must be ensured;



Meeting of the NHRC Core Group on Rights of Children held on 31st January, 2024, at Manav Adhikar Bhavan, New Delhi

- Conduct accessibility audits and relocate complaint boxes for better accessibility;
- Educational and vocational needs within CCIs are addressed through provision of teaching and learning materials, life skills-based education, vocational courses, and collaboration with external organizations for recreational activities;
- Staff and district functionaries are to receive sensitization training on inclusive care and child rights, while administrative coordination is emphasized for effective operational management;
- Access to social security schemes ensured through the facilitation of necessary documents for enrollment.

Rights of Persons from LGBTQI+ Community

7.44 Discrimination and violations of the rights of LGBTQI+ people continue to persist despite the Constitutional provision in India that guarantees their protection, survival, development, participation, and empowerment. The condition of persons belonging to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTQI) community has also been of equal vulnerability, if not more signifi-

cant. Considering this susceptibility, the NHRC has been committed to protecting their rights and gives great importance to this thematic area in its work and functioning. Recognizing the vulnerability of the issue, the Commission constituted a Core Group on LGBTI Issues, members of which included representatives from NGOs, legal professionals, and members of the transgender community. The subsequent paragraphs highlight some of the critical activities undertaken by the Commission on the rights of LGBTQI+ persons.

7.45 Meeting of the National Council for Transgender

Persons: The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 was enacted by the Parliament of India in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India to provide for protection of rights of transgender persons and their welfare and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. Section 16 of the said Act provides for the establishment of the National Council of Transgender Persons. Further, Section 16 (e) of the Act provides for one representative, not below the rank of Joint Secretary, from the NHRC as the ex-officio member of the Council.

7.46 The fourth meeting of the Council was held on 19th February, 2024 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Smt. Anita Sinha, Joint Secretary, NHRC, attended



NHRC Meeting of the Core Group on LGBTI Issues held on 28th February, 2024, at Manav Adhikar Bhavan, New Delhi

the meeting on behalf of the Commission. In the said meeting, Smt. Sinha highlighted the Commission's initiatives in protecting the rights of transgender persons and also informed about the NHRC Advisory for ensuring the welfare of transgender persons issued on 15th September, 2023. Various issues concerning the rights of transgender persons were raised and the best practices being implemented in states were also highlighted.

7.47 Meeting of the NHRC Core Group on LGBTI Issues:

The meeting of the NHRC Core Group on LGBTI issues was organized on the issues pertaining to education, on 28th February, 2024, chaired by Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC. The Agenda of the Core Group meeting broadly focused on identifying and addressing the institutional barriers in ensuring right to education to transgender persons, building inclusive educational policies, and addressing the issues of transgender persons in obtaining transgender certificates. The Senior Officers of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment also attended the meeting. The attendees deliberated on the various issues concerning LGBTI persons that include the low issuance of transgender certificates, the importance of education for improving transgender individuals' quality of life, and the need for inclusive education policies.

7.48 Recommendations included advocacy for social awareness; sensitization programmes for educa-

tors; streamlining the transgender card issuance process; and combating violence targeting transgender individuals. The meeting reaffirmed NHRC's steadfast commitment to safeguarding transgender rights and upholding their dignity.

Rights of Elderly Persons

7.49 According to the Elderly in India Report, 2021, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, it is estimated that the share of the elderly population in India will increase steadily from 10.1 % in 2021 to 13.1 % by 2031.

7.50 Acknowledging the issues faced by the elderly, the NHRC is committed to protect their rights. It regularly investigates cases of violation of the rights of elderly, reviews existing legislative framework and implementation of schemes, undertakes meetings with various stakeholders on issues concerning them and entrusts research projects to make recommendations towards protection of the rights of the elderly. Further, the Commission regularly publishes booklets, manuals and journals, etc., to create awareness about the rights of the elderly.

7.51 **Core Group Meeting on Rights of Older Persons:** A Core Group Meeting on Rights of Older Persons on the theme '*Analyzing Institutional Support Mechanisms in the Socio-Legal Context of Rights of the Elderly in India*' was held on 12th March, 2024 at

NHRC, New Delhi. It was conducted under the Chairmanship of Dr. D. M. Mulay, Hon'ble Member, NHRC.

The following agendas were discussed in the three technical sessions:

- i.) Assessing current institutional responses and support available to the elderly;
- ii.) Analyzing the socio-legal aspect of over-burden on children, and challenges thereof;
- iii.) Way Forward: Strengthening Institutional Care Mechanisms.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

7.52 As per the Census of 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities (PwDs), who constitute 2.21% of India's total population. This data, however, was in correspondence with the Persons with Disabilities Act (PWD), 1995, when only seven categories of disabilities were recognized under the Act. Since then, India has shifted its understanding of disability from a medical model to a rights-based model by enacting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD), 2016. The new Act now recognizes 21 categories of disabilities.

7.53 It is well known that PwDs, across the world, tend to experience poorer health outcomes, lower educational achievements, lesser economic participation

and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. This is partly due to the inaccessible physical environment, health, education, employment, transport, and information. Furthermore, the intersectionality between disability and other factors, such as gender, age, sexuality, class, and caste often exacerbate the disadvantage and marginalization. It must also be noted that society's perception of PwDs also impacts the extent of their marginalization. While earlier, PwDs were subjected to charity and pity, it is now well recognized that given equality of opportunity and appropriate education and training, persons with disabilities have the potential of being productive individuals in the society. Disability is now internationally accepted as a 'development and human rights issue' rather than a medical issue begetting charity.

7.54 The Commission believes in the fact that persons with disabilities should enjoy all human rights on an equal basis with others. Towards this end, it has adopted a multi-pronged approach wherein it regularly undertakes meetings with various stakeholders on issues concerning them and entrusts research projects, to make recommendations towards the protection of their rights.

7.55 **Policy Dialogue on Disability Inclusion for CIVIL-20 (C20):** On 27th July, 2023, the Commission organized a 'Policy Dialogue on Disability Inclusion for CIVIL-20 (C20)' in collaboration with the Disability, Equity, Justice (DEJ) Working Group. It was inaugu-



Policy Dialogue on disability inclusion for CIVIL-20 (C20) held on 27th July, 2023, at Manav Adhikar Bhavan, New Delhi

rated by the Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra. The discussion primarily focused on the Agenda for financial inclusion and social security for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). It further focused on the issues of economic growth and social security to arrive at certain measures that can be adopted to ensure equal opportunity and a barrier-free environment, especially for women.

7.56 Open House Consultation on Health Insurance of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs): An Open House Consultation was organized by the NHRC on Health Insurance of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in collaboration with the National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled Persons and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on 25th August, 2023 in Mumbai. The conference was divided into two thematic sessions. These included '*Identification of issues of PwDs in seeking insurance facilities*' and '*Identification of provisions and issues faced by insurance companies for providing insurance to PwDs and way forward*'. The discussions remained focused on the challenges being faced by persons with disabilities while approaching insurance providers, specifically for retail policies, challenges of insurance companies in providing their policies, regulatory authorities such as IRDAI, challenges faced by insurance chain in providing end-to-end insurance services, and promotion of the launch of standardized insurance

products developed by IRDAI for persons with disabilities.

7.57 Core Group Meeting on Rights of Persons with Disabilities: A meeting of the '*Core Group on Rights of Persons with Disabilities*' was held on 20th March, 2024 on the theme '*Mapping Inclusivity from the lens of Skill Development and Employability Avenues of Persons with Disabilities in India*' at NHRC, New Delhi. It was conducted under the Chairmanship of Dr. D. M. Mulay, Hon'ble Member, NHRC. The following agendas were discussed in the three technical sessions:

- i.) Addressing Gaps in Inclusive Education;
- ii.) Navigating Implementation Blocks in Employment of PwD; and
- iii.) Way Forward: Building an Inclusive Nation with an Empathetic Approach

7.58 The Commission took this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the constitutional guarantees given to persons with disabilities, along with the laudable provisions in legislations like the Rights of PwD Act. However, it was acknowledged during the dialogue that theory must be translated into action to reap benefits of its envisioned aim. The Commission recognizes that the way to truly progress would be to efficiently execute the laws enacted for protection of rights of the PwD.



Meeting of the NHRC Core Group on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held on 20th March, 2024, at Manav Adhikar Bhavan, New Delhi

Environment, Climate Change & Human Rights

7.59 On 28th July, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly declared that the right to a healthy environment is a fundamental human right. This declaration underscores the inseparable link between a clean and sustainable environment and the well-being of all individuals. It reaffirms the principle that every person has the right to live in an environment that is not only free from pollution and ecological harm but also conducive to their health, dignity, and overall quality of life. This acknowledgment serves as a clarion call for greater efforts to safeguard the planet for current and future generations.

7.60 The NHRC has always played a pivotal role in upholding human rights and ensuring the right to a healthy environment within the country. It recognizes that climate change is one of the greatest threats to human rights, posing a severe risk to the fundamental rights to life, health, food, and a hindrance to adequate standard of living of individuals and communities worldwide. Climate change has aggravated water scarcity and heightened the risk of agricultural droughts. It threatens the survival of terrestrial and marine species, with the warming ocean becoming more acidic and endangering marine life and coral reefs. Extreme rainfall and flooding have dire consequences for communities, causing fatalities and extensive financial losses. The most immediate and severe impact of climate change is felt within the food supply chain, as it diminishes the productivity of fisheries, crops, and livestock due to reduced water availability and grazing areas, ultimately leading to lower agricultural yields because of heat stress. Moreover, climate change has emerged as the foremost global health threat, contributing to air pollution, the spread of diseases, mental health strains, increased hunger, and inadequate nutrition. It also significantly influences poverty, displacement, and forced migration.

7.61 **A meeting of the Core Advisory Group on Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights, on 'Impact of Climate Action on Employment' was**

held on 26th October, 2023, in hybrid mode, under the Chairmanship of Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC. The meeting was held in four technical sessions, viz.:

- i.) Identification of Vulnerable Sectors and Assessment of Employment Impact of Climate Change;
- ii.) Impact of Mitigation & Adaptation on Employment;
- iii.) Measures for Climate Resilient Economy; and
- iv.) International Established Practices

7.62 Based on the deliberations and discussions, the Commission advocated for a strategy that emphasizes prioritizing water-efficient afforestation methods and promoting agroforestry to address environmental challenges and create sustainable employment in barren landscapes and rural areas. It also acknowledged that integrating climate-focused initiatives into existing schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) would enhance rural job creation and strengthen flexible work opportunities through upskilling. Additionally, it advocated for defining and prioritizing green jobs, particularly in urban centers, with targeted skilling programmes for a just transition to a low-carbon economy. The Commission called for adopting inclusive planning methodologies such as the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) and advocated for a comprehensive strategy to address challenges and opportunities in transitioning to a low-carbon economy. The Commission also encouraged the involvement of the private sector through incentives for green job creation, especially in underprivileged neighborhoods, while upskilling programmes for workers, in collaboration with state governments.

Sports & Human Rights

7.63 The term 'Sports and Human Rights' refers to the intersection of the rights that are guaranteed to all people by the Indian Constitution and that pertain to the subject of Sports in terms of the international



Open House Discussion on Sports and Human Rights held on 16th October, 2023 at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala



treaties that have been ratified by India. Discrimination, violence and abuse against sportspersons have brought the field of sports under the ambit of human rights. Such untoward incidents endanger the athlete's physical, emotional, and mental well-being, in addition to diminishing the moral and social foundations of sport. Human rights violations in sports encompass various aspects such as emotional, physical, and sexual abuse; sexual harassment; bullying; and hazing (initiation ceremonies) and numerous other transgressions that directly violate the UN Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD), the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

7.64 In this sense, by defending life and liberty, ensuring that discrimination does not occur, and that everyone receives justice, the Commission has been contributing significantly to the protection of human rights. The Commission has exercised *suo motu* cognizance over a number of matters, including sports-related human rights breaches.

7.65 **Open House Discussion on Human Rights and Sports:** The NHRC, India organized a one-day Open House Discussion on Human Rights and Sports in collaboration with the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala on 16th October, 2023. The discussion focused on two agendas, namely '*Addressing Sexual Harassment in Sports: Sports Federations in India's Preventive Role*' and '*Equitable Selection in Sports: Entitled to Participate in the*

Selection Process for All'. Hon'ble Member, NHRC, Dr. Dyaneshwar Manohar Mulay chaired the Open House Discussion. Representatives from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), athletes, coaches, and other academic subject matter experts were part of the sessions. The key recommendations emanating from the Open House Discussion were as follows:

- Awareness Workshops to be conducted for sensitization of sportspersons;
- Sports Federations to employ female coaches and adequate number of compliance officers to ensure the safety of women sportspersons as per guidelines issued under Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013;
- Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) should be formed as per guidelines issued under the Act. The Constitution of such a committee should be displayed on the Federation's website;
- Transparency to be observed in the complaints redressal procedure, and decisions thereon to be placed on the website, excluding the name of the victim;
- Utmost efforts should be made to develop a fair and transparent selection process of sportspersons to avoid nepotism;
- Sportspersons should be identified at the bud-level and an institutional mechanism to identify them be formed.

Rights of Seafarers

7.66 Indian mariners too have human rights that must be upheld and maintained. However, they face specific obstacles in their job, including desertion, detention in foreign countries, ill-treatment, low income, non-payment of salary, poor working conditions, lack of awareness among female seafarers, and insufficient training. These difficulties usually affect their mental and physical health.

7.67 **On 22nd February, 2023, an Open House Discussion on the human rights of Indian seafarers was conducted at the NHRC.** The meeting, chaired by Hon'ble Member, NHRC, Dr. D. M. Mulay and attended by Hon'ble Member, NHRC, Shri Rajiv Jain, focused on three key issues: the abandonment and imprisonment of Indian seafarers, the life of women at sea, and the mental health of seafarers. Key suggestions from the discussion included initiating awareness campaigns to increase women's participation in the maritime industry and address harassment issues, spreading mental health awareness among seafarers, and appointing a dedicated well-being officer in every recruiting agency. It was also suggested that NHRC, DG Shipping, and academic institutions like Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) collaborate to prepare a comprehensive handbook on the human rights of Indian seafarers. Post-discussion recommendations included issuing guidelines by the Office of Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) for handling the bodies of seafarers who lost their lives at high sea, preparing safety guidelines for seafarers in collaboration with DG Shipping, Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways, and the Office of PGE, revising the gender sensitization course module by DG Shipping, and developing a comprehensive handbook for seafarers' rights in cooperation with Gujarat Maritime University and DG Shipping. The Commission endeavors to implement the suggestions made during the discussion in the year 2023-24.

Business & Human Rights

7.68 Business enterprises can profoundly impact the human rights of employees, consumers, and communities. In 2008, the United Nations endorsed the '*Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework*' for

business and human rights. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) endorsed the '*Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework*' through its resolution 17.4 of 16th June, 2011. These principles were proposed by the UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights, Professor John Gerard Ruggie. In the same resolution, the UNHRC established the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (UNWG-BHR). This framework outlines the State's duty to protect against human rights abuses, the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and greater access to remedies for victims of business-related abuse. The significant contribution of the Guiding Principles has been to set out the duties of States to protect human rights and provide access to a remedy when they are breached, and the responsibility of all businesses, regardless of their size, sector, location, ownership and structure, to respect human rights. The Commission is of the view that National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) can contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights within the corporate sector through, among other things, monitoring and reporting on human rights abuses in the business sector, facilitating legal and administrative reforms, and building capacity of government institutions and private sector enterprises to enable them to protect and respect human rights, respectively. In the context of UNGP-BHR, the National Human Rights Commission of India is uniquely positioned in the country to act as a convener for the associated initiatives. This role was noted in key frameworks and initiatives — the Action Plan of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the 2018 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on improving accountability and access to remedy in BHR.

7.69 **International Seminar on Business and Human Rights:** The Commission organized an International Seminar on Business and Human Rights on 20th September, 2023 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The seminar on Business and Human Rights focused on two crucial themes: i.) '*Harmonizing Climate Change, Human Rights and Business*', and ii.) '*Advancing Human Rights in Business and Industry*'. The seminar on Business and Human Rights



Lightning of Lamp by Prof. K. VijayaRaghavan at the International Seminar on Business & Human Rights held on 28th September, 2023

highlighted the impact of climate change on human rights, the subsequent evolving landscape of corporate responsibility and the need for comprehensive approaches to address these issues. The seminar stressed upon the importance of business development as well as protection of human rights in business operations, citing the importance of intergenerational equity and sustainable development. It was deliberated upon that while climate change poses complex challenges to realizing human rights worldwide, NHRIs have to play a pivotal role in safeguarding human rights in business operations. By addressing these themes, the seminar aimed to foster dialogue, collaboration and the development of practical solutions that promote both business success, and the protection and promotion of human rights in an era of uncertainty.

7.70 Some of the important suggestions that emerged during the seminar were as follows:

- Regulation and legal frameworks: Governments should enact and enforce laws and regulations that hold businesses accountable for human rights violations, providing a legal framework for responsible business conduct;
- Respect for human rights in corporate culture: It is essential for companies to integrate respect for human rights into their corporate culture, values, and decision-making processes;
- Supply chain responsibility: Businesses must ensure that their supply chains adhere to human rights standards, and they should collaborate with suppliers to improve conditions and practices;
- Adopt sustainable business practices: Businesses should integrate sustainability into their core strategies and operations, focusing on reducing their carbon footprint, conserving resources, and minimizing negative human rights impacts;
- Transparency and reporting: Enhanced transparency and reporting mechanisms are crucial. Companies should disclose information about their human rights policies, actions, and impacts, allowing stakeholders to assess their performance;
- Collaborative initiatives: Support and participate in multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the



International Seminar on Business & Human Rights held on 28th September, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan

United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to promote responsible business conduct;

- Implement human rights due diligence: Businesses should conduct thorough human rights due diligence to identify, prevent, and address potential adverse human rights impacts in their operations and supply chains, and
- Collaboration with society: It is important that civil society and businesses work as partners and contribute to the protection of human rights in business.

Human Rights Defenders

7.71 The National Human Rights Commission of India is mandated under Section 12(i) of the PHRA, 1993, to encourage the efforts of non-governmental organizations and institutions working in the field of human rights. Therefore, ever since the Commission was instituted, it has worked closely with a number of organizations and individuals, both governmental and non-governmental, to improve the human rights situation in the country, along with rendering

support and protection to human rights defenders. The Commission has observed and complied with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and has consequently made efforts to promote the development of protective mechanisms for human rights defenders across the country. As part of its strategy, it works with non-governmental and civil society organizations, National and State Commissions including SHRCs and other key actors to raise awareness about Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and challenges being faced by them.

7.72 **Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders in the Commission:** Acting on one of the recommendations of the Workshop on Human Rights Defenders that was organized by the Commission on 12th October, 2009 in New Delhi, a Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders has been set-up in the Commission to deal with complaints alleging harassment of HRDs by or at the instance of public authorities. The designated contact person at the Focal Point is the Deputy Registrar (Law). The Focal Point is accessible to HRDs round the clock through the following means: (i) Mobile No. 9999393570, (ii) Fax No. 24651334, and (iii) E-mail: hrd-nhrc@nic.in. The Focal Point ensures

that the directions of the Commission in every case of alleged harassment of HRDs are complied with, and the actions taken are also conveyed to the concerned HRDs. The update of the complaints of alleged harassment of HRDs is also posted on the website of the Commission. The Focal Point for Human Rights has engaged in dialogues/ discussions with NGOs, villagers, HRDs, and State Government officers to understand the status of promotion and protection of Human Rights at the grassroots level.

7.73 The Commission's course of action for the protection of Human Rights Defenders:

The Commission actively supports the promotion and protection of human rights and consistently condemns actions such as reprisals and harassment against individuals advocating for these rights. One of its key initiatives is the promotion and safeguarding of HRDs. To protect HRDs, the Commission takes several important steps:

- i.) **Advocacy with State Authorities:** The Commission emphasizes the need for state authorities to refrain from victimizing HRDs. In line with this, the Commission's Secretary General sent a letter to the Chief Secretaries of all states, urging them to create a supportive environment for HRDs.
- ii.) **Engagement with Civil Society:** During its camp sittings and open hearings, the Commission engages with representatives of NGOs, civil

society organizations, and HRDs to understand the challenges they face. The Commission prioritizes their cases and ensures appropriate relief is provided based on merit.

- iii.) **Annual Message:** Every year on December, 9, the Commission releases a statement in recognition of the day the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly. This message underscores the Commission's ongoing commitment to protecting HRDs.

7.74 Meeting of the NHRC Core Group on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and NGOs:

A meeting of the Core Group on Human Rights Defenders and NGOs was held on 22nd August, 2023, in hybrid mode under the chairmanship of Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC.

7.75 Based on the deliberations and discussions, the following key suggestions have emanated from the meeting:

- To have observers for states where there is civil unrest so that the response systems and preventive mechanisms work simultaneously;
- To write to the states for getting pendency status of matters concerning gender-based sexual assault crimes and to establish mechanism for expediting the same;



Meeting of the NHRC Core Group on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and NGOs held on 22nd August, 2023, at Manav Adhikar Bhavan, New Delhi

- Ask States across the country for status of implementation of the existing Transgender Act and for formulating a clear rehabilitation policy akin to Kerala and Tamil Nadu to prevent members of the transgender community from indulging in beggary and prostitution;
 - To write to authorities to ensure mortuary rooms and vehicles/ ambulance for carrying deceased in every hospital;
 - Undertake field visits to assess what could be done to prevent frequent recurrence of cases violating human rights;
 - To avoid post disaster risk, disaster management agencies to work towards disaster preparedness;
 - Institution of national awards for HRDs, lifetime awards, young achievers awards to recognize, celebrate and spread the message of open collaboration and sisterhood among all HRDs;
 - Capacity building of community-based HRDs at the district level and possible policies for protection of HRDs can be undertaken;
 - Setting up a division for giving comments, suggestions on laws being brought up at the state & national level that have direct bearing on human rights, by taking views of the experts;
 - Take up the matter of encroachment of pavements to ensure pedestrian safety;
 - Consider dialogue with the community of sex workers to better understand their problems and research on the human rights issues faced by children of sex workers;
 - Collect data on the kind of pollutants in water and air to better understand the environment and suggest measures accordingly;
 - The authorities should be asked to submit the reports on the buildings not equipped with lifts and ramps to ensure disabled-friendly buildings.
- 7.76 The NHRC, organized an interactive session with HRDs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) on 5th September, 2023, Chaired by Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Chairperson, NHRC.

Chapter 8

International Engagements

8.1 The National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions, commonly known as the Paris Principles, play a crucial role in promoting and monitoring the effective implementation of international human rights standards at the national level. Through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), treaty monitoring bodies, and other international human rights mechanisms, every state is encouraged to establish effective, independent NHRIs that comply with the Paris Principles as well as strengthen it where it already exists. NHRIs encourage cooperation with a range of actors, among which the United Nations, and in particular, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) are of significance.

International Events

8.2 NHRIs play a crucial role in promoting and monitoring international human rights standards and making recommendations for their effective implementation at the national level. This also includes the study of treaties and other international instruments on human rights, encouraging cooperation with a range of actors both at international level, and so on. Their functioning is reviewed through the mechanisms of Universal Periodic Review, treaty monitoring bodies and the Human Rights Council, etc.

8.3 NHRC, India, is fully complied with the Paris Principles and has a prominent position at the international forums, including both regional as well as global forums. It has been a key member of the GANHRI, which is one of the largest Human Rights Network in the world, representing more than 110 NHRIs. NHRC, India has been accredited with 'A'

status by the Sub Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI for its full compliance with the Paris Principles and it continues to retain this from 1998 onwards. The Secretary General, NHRC, India, currently holds the position of Chair of the GANHRI Finance Committee.

8.4 The Commission is also one of the founding members of the APF, which is a regional coalition of NHRIs of Asia Pacific Region and contributes an amount of 1,50,000 USD per annum to the forum. The Chairperson, NHRC is a member of the APF Governance Committee, which is the decision-making body of the APF.

8.5 NHRC has been playing an active role in its engagements and interactions with the GANHRI, APF and other international forums like Human Rights Council (HRC), UN Working Groups, OHCHR, treaty bodies, etc. The Commission has been proactively participating in various international conferences, workshops, training programmes, as well as providing inputs to the draft resolutions, questionnaires of Special Rapporteurs of UN and other reports and documents throughout the year. Despite COVID-19 and its constraints, the Commission has strengthened its international engagements and made its presence felt at various platforms on the issues of Human Rights.

Cooperation with the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) of National Human Rights Institutions

8.6 APF of NHRIs is the leading regional human rights organization in the Asia Pacific region established in 1996 and is a regional network of GANHRI. It is a member-based organization that supports the establishment and strengthening of independent NHRIs in the region. Its goal is to protect and

promote human rights of people of the Asia Pacific region through a network of member institutions. During the current juncture, the APF had 17 full members and eight associate members. These members represent diverse countries across the region. The National Human Rights Commission of India is one of its founding members.

Cooperation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)

8.7 GANHRI is a representative body of NHRIs, established for the purpose of creating and strengthening them in conformity with the Paris Principles. It performs this role by encouraging international coordination of joint activities and cooperation among these NHRIs, organizing international conferences, liaising with the United Nations, other international organizations and, whenever requested, assisting governments to establish a National Institution of Human Rights. It works to create and strengthen National Institutions and to ensure they conform to the Paris Principles. The NHRC is a GANHRI member with 'A' status accreditation for the fourth consecutive term in five years-1999, 2006, 2011 and 2017.

Participation in other international meetings and seminars

8.8 **The representatives of the NHRC participated in various international meetings and seminars and shared their views. The list of the same is given below:**

- Smt. Monika Joon, Section Officer, NHRC participated in the *UNFPA-APF Workshop on Reproductive Rights Advocacy Plan* at Bangkok, Thailand from 21st-23rd May, 2023.
- The NHRC delegation headed by Dr. D. M. Mulay, Hon'ble Member, attended the *United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum, Asia Pacific* as a Panelist from 6th-9th June, 2023.
- Shri Manoj Yadava, DG (Investigation), NHRC and Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary, NHRC attended *Business and Human Rights*

Training for NHRIs in Asia, RBHR Forum 2023 from 5th-6th June, 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- The NHRC delegation consisting of Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Hon'ble Chairperson and Shri Rajiv Jain, Member, attended the 16th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held in New York from 13th-15th June, 2023.
- On 23rd June, 2023, Smt. Anita Sinha Joint Secretary, NHRC India gave a statement in the '*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls*' as part of the 53rd Session of Human Rights Council.
- On 26th June, 2023, NHRC, India Registrar (LAW), Shri Surajit Dey gave a statement in the '*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers*' as part of the 53rd Session of Human Rights Council.
- On 27th June, 2023 NHRC, India Director General (Investigation), Shri Manoj Yadava gave a statement in the '*Interactive Discussion with Working Group (WG) on Trans National Corporation (TNCs)*' as part of the 53rd Session of Human Rights Council.
- Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC visited Geneva, Switzerland to lead a Discourse on '*Good Governance & Human Rights*' highlighting India's developmental achievements in transforming the lives of people, during the 53rd Session of Human Rights Council from 10th-11th July, 2023.
- The NHRC delegation headed by Shri Rajiv Jain, Member and Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary attended a Hybrid Workshop on advancing the human rights of older persons in Asia Pacific on 29th-30th August, 2023 in Manila, Philippines. The workshop was organized by the Commission of the Human Rights of the Philippines and National Human Rights Commission of Korea.
- The NHRC delegation consisting of Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Chairperson and Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General attended the GANHRI Bureau

Meeting on 5th November, 2023 and the 14th International Conference of NHRIs on 6th-8th November, 2023 at Copenhagen, Denmark.

- The NHRC delegation consisting of Dr. D. M. Mulay, Member, NHRC and Smt. Anita Sinha, Joint Secretary attended the 12th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights from 27th-29th November, 2023 at Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The overall theme of the Forum was 'Towards Effective Change in Implementing Obligations, Responsibilities and Remedies'. Dr. D. Mulay, Member also participate in an informal caucus of APF Members to discuss NHRI's cooperation based 'Inter-NHRI Inquiry Mechanism' organized by the Commission on Human Rights of Philippines on 28th November, 2023 on the sidelines of the 12th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.
- Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC visited Davos, Switzerland to participate as a speaker in the World Woman Davos Agenda on 18th January, 2024, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- Lt. Col. Virender Singh, Director and Shri Sanjay Kumar, Deputy Secretary, NHRC visited Manila, Philippines from 27th-29th February, 2024 to attend an in-person workshop on APF Annual Programme on GANHRI Accreditation sponsored by Asia Pacific Forum. Both the officers attended two courses - (i) Online learning course from 22nd January, to 9th February, 2024 and (ii) in-person Workshop in Manila, Philippines from 27th-29th February, 2024.
- On 14th March, 2024, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal interacted with the journalists of Central Europe during a discussion organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Participation at International Webinars

8.9 Hon'ble Chairperson and Members attended the following international webinar meetings in the period under review:

- Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice Shri Arun Mishra, NHRC delivered a virtual lecture on 'Impacts of

Climate Change on Individuals and Communities, Including Women and Girls, and the Role of the NHRI in Monitoring their Situation and Addressing their Needs' during the NHRI COP28 Symposium on 5th December, 2023.

- Shri Rajiv Jain, Hon'ble Member attended the video-conference on 'Preparatory meeting for the 14th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OWEGA)' held at New York on 22nd February, 2024.

International meetings hosted by NHRC

8.10 APF Governance Committee meeting was held on 19th September, 2023 at Hyatt Regency, New Delhi.

8.11 The NHRC hosted the **28th APF Annual General Meeting & Biennial Conference on 20th and 21st September, 2023** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The two-day conference commenced with the inauguration by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu on 20th September, 2023. In her address, the President underscored the deep-rooted civilizational values shared by India and other nations within the Asia Pacific region, emphasizing their historical role as custodians of human rights. In the Opening Ceremony, which was attended by more than 1,300 delegates, Chairperson of Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs, Mr. Doo-Hwan Song and Ms. Amina Bouayach, Secretary, Global Alliance of Human Rights Institutions also



APF Governance Committee meeting held on 19th September, 2023 at Hyatt Regency, New Delhi.

addressed the gathering. Following the inaugural function, the common issues related to the Asia Pacific Forum at the Annual General Meeting were discussed in detail and consensus was built on all issues. The Annual General Meeting was attended by representatives of member institutions, observer countries, representatives of GANHRI, OHCHR etc.

8.12 On September, 21st, the Biennial Conference of the NHRIs of Asia Pacific was held at the same venue and panelists had discussions on three thematic sessions on the 30 years of National Human Rights Institutions and Paris Principles, 75th Anniversary of UDHR, with a sub-theme on the environment and climate change. During various sessions, other prominent speakers such as APF Chairman, Mr. Doo-Hwan Song, Ms. Amina Bouayach, Secretary, Global Alliance of Human Rights Institutions, Mr. Vladlen Stefanov, Chief, National Institutions, Regional Mechanisms and Civil Society Section, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Volker Turk, United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, Mr. Rory Mungoven, Chief Asia Pacific Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Dr. Ian Fry, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the

context of Climate Change, besides the Chairpersons and Commissioners of the Human Rights Institutions of Fiji, Jordan, Mongolia, Australia, Morocco, Philippines, also spoke. Prominent speakers from India included Ms Sunita Narain, DG, Centre for Science & Environment; Shri Syed Akbaraddun, Dean, Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad; and Shri Suhas Chakma, Director, Rights & Risks Analysis Group.

8.13 The two-day conference of the NHRIs of Asia Pacific concluded with adoption of the '**Delhi Declaration**'. Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC, Shri Justice Arun Mishra worked with his counterparts of the Asia Pacific countries to build the consensus for the Delhi Declaration, which was appreciated and acknowledged by all the delegates. This declaration marked the celebration of significant milestones, including the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the 30th anniversary of the Paris Principles pertaining to the status of NHRIs, and the 25th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. The Declaration reaffirmed the enduring importance of these international norms in the promotion and safeguarding of human rights.



Opening ceremony of AGM & Biennial Conference of APF of NHRIs on 20th September, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi



Closing ceremony of AGM & BC of APF of NHRIs on 21st September, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

8.14 Five-day Capacity Building & Training Programme for officers & staff of the Human Rights Commission, Maldives was held at NHRC, New Delhi from 16th to 20th October, 2023.

Interaction with Foreign Delegates

- H.E. Shri Cameron Mackay, High Commissioner of Canada, accompanied by Shri Colin Wetmore, First Secretary, Political Affairs, visited NHRC on 26th May, 2023 to discuss and exchange views on the conclusion of India's United Nations Universal Periodic Review.
- On 5th July, 2023, a five-member delegation from the Embassies of Nordic countries in India visited the NHRC India.
- Ms. Thuy Doan-Smith, Development Manager visited NHRC, India in connection with the preparations for the 28th Asia Pacific Forum Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference.
- On 10th July, 2023, the Chief of Mission for UNHCR India and Maldives, Mr. Oscar Mundia Githaiga visited NHRC, India
- A batch of 18 senior Iraqi officers along with 3 officials from IIM, Indore, namely, Prof. Subin Sudhir, Chairperson, Executive Education; Shri Rajat Pal Singh Panwar, Administrative Staff & Shri Aditya Sharma, Administrative Staff, visited NHRC as a part of ITEC-Executive – programme for an interaction with the Hon'ble Chairperson, Members and senior officers of the Commission on various human rights issues on 27th July, 2023.
- Dr. Vijay Kumar Datta, Chairperson of the Madheshi Commission, Nepal visited NHRC on 8th August, 2023 for an insightful discussion on the functioning of the Commission and various human rights issues, with Chairperson, Members and senior officers of the Commission.
- Prof. Surya Deva, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, United Nations Special Procedures, visited NHRC on 23rd August, 2023 for a meeting with Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRC, Members and senior officers of the Commission to discuss issues such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the right to development, climate change, and business and human rights.

- The Deputy Foreign Minister (DFM) of Norway, Shri Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, accompanied by 4 officials of the Norway Embassy namely, H.E. Mrs. May, Elin Stener, Ambassador, Ms. Carina Ekornes, Senior Advisor to Deputy Foreign Minister, Ms. Homma Latif, Senior Advisor to DFM and Shri Johan Thomas Bjerkem, Second Secretary, visited NHRC for a meeting with the Hon'ble Chairperson on 22nd February, 2024.
- A delegation from Denmark led by the Hon'ble Speaker of Danish Parliament, Shri Soren Gade Jensen, accompanied by 10 officers of Danish delegation visited NHRC on 5th March, 2024 for a meeting with the Hon'ble Chairperson, Members and Secretary General.
- H.E. Mrs. Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Netherlands visited NHRC on 8th March, 2024 for a courtesy meeting with the Hon'ble Chairperson, all Members and Secretary General of the Commission.
- New Zealand's High Commissioner to India, H.E. David Pine, accompanied by two officials namely, Shri Matthew Hitchman, First Secretary and Consul and Ms. Arpita Basu, Policy Adviser of New Zealand High Commission, visited NHRC for a courtesy meeting with the Hon'ble Chairperson, all Members and Secretary General of the Commission on 20th March, 2024.
- Ms. Georgia Drake, Human Rights Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights along with her colleague Shri David visited NHRC on 20th March, 2024 and had a meeting with Joint Secretary Ms. Anita Sinha for discussions on functions, activities and outreach of the Commission.

Chapter 9

Complaints Redressal

9.1 The Section 12 (a) of the PHRA, 1993 mandates the Commission to inquire, *suo moto* or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his behalf or on a direction or order of any court into complaint of violation of human rights or abetment thereof; or negligence in the prevention of such violation, by a public servant. *Inter alia*, this remains the most important function of the Commission.

Commission's meetings to deal with cases of human rights violations

9.2 The Commission holds Division Bench and Full Commission sittings to look into the cases of human rights violations. In the period under review, the Full Commission held 17 sittings and disposed a total of 749 cases, while Divisional Bench-I, Divisional Bench-II & Divisional Bench-III held 09, 07 & 06 sittings and disposed of total 369, 312 & 234 human rights violations cases respectively. The Commission issued 1,07,322 directions after considering the cases in Single Bench Sittings, Camp Sittings, Divisions Bench Sittings and Full Commission sittings. The action-wise details are at Annex-XV.

9.3 **Camp Sitting conducted by NHRC:** The camp sitting gives an opportunity to the Commission to deliver justice at people's doorsteps and directly interact with them. The objective of the camp sitting

is to resolve pending cases of alleged human rights violations. Details of the camp sitting organized during the year are given below:

- 9.4 The Commission took *suo motu* cognizance of a matter pertaining to air pollution and its adverse impact on life expectancy in the Capital city, vide case No. 2886.90.0.2022. In this regard, during the months of October, and November, 2023, a joint inspection was carried out by the team, consisting of officials from the Investigation Division and the Law Division, of the railway stretch spanning from Azadpur to Narela for assessing the scope of improvement of sanitation facilities around railway tracks and stations.
- 9.5 The Commission conducts independent investigations through on-the-spot inquiries, reviewing reports, etc. The Commission carried out 30 spot enquiries and disposed of 44 cases in the said year. Annex-V includes specifics of the spot investigations conducted between April, 2023 and March, 2024.
- 9.6 The Commission's decisions/ orders/ directions, guidelines, advisories, recommendations have enabled the Commission to reduce the pendency of the complaints and there has been a decrease in the number of complaints received by the Commission. In the given year, the Commission registered a total

Table 9.1: Details of Camp sitting by NHRC during the year 2023-2024

Date	Location of the Camp Sitting	States covered	No. of cases resolved
17 th November, 2023	Guwahati	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim & Tripura	56
6 th March, 2024	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh	30
		Total	86

of 76,891 cases, out of which it disposed of 73,958 cases. The state-wise number of cases registered during the year is given under Annex-I.

- 9.7 During the period the Commission disposed of 81,104 cases which included 5,736 cases transferred by the Commission to the SHRCs under Section 13(6) of the PHRA, 1993, for disposal in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The indicated number also includes cases registered in the previous years, which were pending for disposal. The state-wise break up of these cases furnished during 2023-2024 (including carry forward) is given under Annex-II.
- 9.8 The disposal of cases during the year either by dismissal of the complaint, by directions to the authorities for taking appropriate action, transfer of the complaint to the SHRCs, or closure of the case upon consideration of the reports received pursuant to the Commission's directions, is indicated under Annex-II.
- 9.9 At the beginning of the reporting period, i.e., on 1st April, 2023, the total number of cases under consideration by the Commission was 12,237. During the year 2023-24, a total of 76,891 fresh cases were registered, and 81,104 were disposed of. As such, only 7,763 cases were pending for consideration. At the end of the reporting period, i.e., on 31st March, 2024, the total number of cases pending with the Commission was 7,763. This includes 2,103 cases awaiting preliminary consideration and 5,660 cases awaiting reports from the authorities concerned or reports received pending for consideration by the Commission (Annex-III). During the period, an amount of Rs. 18,89,92,500/- was recommended by the Commission to the victims/ NoK of the deceased in 414 cases, the details of which are given under Annex IV.

Custodial Violence

- 9.10 The NHRC received 2,346 new intimations concerning death in judicial custody, and 160 intimations of death in police custody during the year 2023-2024. It disposed of 3,403 cases of custodial death including the carry forward cases. Out of the cases disposed, 3,181 cases relate to death in judicial custody, and 222 cases were related to deaths/ rapes in police custody.

Illustrative Cases

- 9.11 The Commission has dealt with various cases throughout the year. Some of the notable cases are mentioned below:

Criminal Justice System

1. Custodial death of an under-trial prisoner in Circle Jail, Cuttack, Odisha.

(Case No. 4532.18.3.2017-JCD)

The Commission received intimation on 25th September, 2017 from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cuttack, Odisha, regarding the custodial death of Under Trial Prisoner (UTP), Biswajit Mishra, on 19th September, 2017. In response to the Commission's directions, the requisite reports in the matter were received from the authorities concerned, which were analyzed by the Investigation Division of the NHRC. The reports from the DG(I) revealed that Mishra, aged 40 years, had been in jail for 20 days before experiencing convulsions and dyspnea, ultimately leading to his demise. Although contusions were found on his scalp and skull, the cause of death was attributed to a complication of thromboembolic phenomena.

Upon perusing the material, the Commission noted several discrepancies and lacunae in the case, prompting it to issue a show cause notice to the Government of Odisha. The notice recommended a monetary relief of Rs. 7 Lakh to the next of kin (NoK) of the deceased and directed the registration of a criminal case in this matter, along with proper investigation by an independent agency like CBI-CID. With the directives executed, the case was officially closed on 28th June, 2023.

2. Custodial death of an under-trial prisoner by hanging (suicide) in District Jail, Kabirdham, Chhattisgarh.

(Case no. 121.33.9.2021-JCD)

The Commission received intimation from the Collector & District Magistrate, Kabirdham, Chhattisgarh, regarding the custodial death of UTP Gyan Singh Ginu, aged 28 years, on 15th February, 2021 in District Jail, Kabirdham. Singh had died by

suicide by hanging himself from a fan. The enquiry conducted by the Commission revealed dereliction of duty on the part of the jail staff, as evidenced by CCTV footage and the Medical Examination Report (MER). The jail superintendent's report also indicated that departmental enquiry has been initiated against two guards, leading to the Commission concluding the State's vicarious liability. Consequently, the Commission issued a show cause notice to the Government of Chhattisgarh via its Chief Secretary, recommending a monetary relief of Rs. Five Lakh to be paid to the NoK of the deceased.

In response, the report from IG (Correctional Homes) Chhattisgarh asserted no negligence on the part of the jail authorities and refuted any torture inflicted by fellow inmates. However, the Commission observed that necessary preventive measures were not taken by the jail authorities. Considering the circumstances, the Commission directed the Government to pay Rs. 5 Lakh as monetary compensation to the NoK of the deceased, citing the need for compassion and consolation for the family's mental pain and agony. With proof of payment provided, and the Commission's directive duly complied, the case was closed on 15th December, 2023.

3. Custodial death of an under-trial prisoner during treatment at Sadar Hospital, Araria, Bihar.

(Case No. 1360.4.1.2020-JCD)

This case is related to the custodial death of UTP Md. Mumtaj, aged 28 years, on 13th May, 2020, during treatment at Sadar Hospital, Araria District, Bihar, while the deceased was in judicial custody of District Jail, Araria, Bihar. NHRC analyzed the reports submitted by state authorities. It was revealed that Md. Mumtaj, who had been lodged in District Jail, Araria since 20th August, 2019, had been receiving medical treatment for nine months. Despite a normal health screening report upon admission, he succumbed to a sudden cardiac arrest attributed to prolonged illness. The Judicial magistrate's enquiry found negligence on the part of jail officials and the Office of the Superintendent of Police, Araria, for failing to provide timely escort to PMCH-Patna.

Recognizing the state's responsibility for the safety and security of individuals in custody, the Commission issued a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, recommending a monetary compensation of Rs. 5 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased, citing the state's vicarious liability and duty of care under Article 21. With the receipt of the compliance report and proof of payment, the Commission closed the case on 14th December, 2023.

4. Custodial death of an under-trial prisoner by hanging (suicide) in Katahara police outpost under Garaul PS, Vaishali, Bihar. (Case No. 802.4.39.2021-AD)

The Commission received intimation of the mysterious death of Amarjeet Choudhary (32 years) under suspicious circumstances at Katahara police outpost under Garaul PS, District Vaishali, Bihar, on 9th March, 2021. The Commission analyzed the requisite reports in the matter from the authorities concerned. As per the police report, the accused had requested to be out of the lockup as he was having difficulties in breathing, following which he was shifted to the 'Sarhista' (room for paperwork) under the observation of PS Sentry. As per PMR, the cause of death was "*asphyxia following pressure over the upper part of the neck by a hard and flexible substance (ligature)(hanging)*". The autopsy surgeon stated that the deceased died due to suicide.

The Commission observed that although the enquiry magistrate had ruled out any foul play in the matter, the fact remained that the deceased was in the custody of the State when he died by suicide inside the police station. Proper care and protection of the accused under the custody of the police are the primary responsibilities of the police officials. However, in this case, they were clearly negligent in keeping proper surveillance on the accused. Hence, the State was vicariously liable for the negligence of the police officials in this matter.

Consequently, the Commission issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, calling for justification as to why a monetary compensation of Rs. 5 Lakh only should not be recommended for the

NoK of the deceased. With the receipt of the compliance report and proof of payment, the Commission closed the case on 11th July, 2023.

5. Commission's action regarding encounter death in Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh.

(Case No. 594.33.19.2016-ED)

The Commission had taken cognizance of an intimation dated 27th September, 2016 received from the Superintendent of Police, District Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh, regarding the encounter death of Raju Lachnu on 26th September, 2016. The Commission had called for an action taken report from the Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh, DM, Kondagaon, and SP, Kondagaon, directing them to investigate the case as per the guidelines of the Commission.

On perusal of the conclusive magisterial enquiry report conducted by the District Magistrate, Kondagaon, it was revealed that the deceased was a farmer who was supporting the education of his younger brothers studying at Mardapal. The deceased was neither a police informer nor a Jan Militia, though he used to attend the meetings called by the Naxals along with co-villagers. Two days prior to the incident, the deceased had gone to deliver ration items to his younger brothers in Mardapal and to bring back one of his brothers, who was sick. On the date of the incident, the police party which was in search of Naxals was attacked by them. The police party retaliated in self-defense and following the encounter, the dead body of the deceased was recovered. The police thereafter, concluded that the deceased was a farmer and failed to establish him as a Naxal since he had no criminal record. According to the Enquiry Magistrate, the police action appeared to be suspicious in nature. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and the findings of the magisterial enquiry conducted by District Magistrate, Kondagaon, it appeared that the deceased was an innocent person and was shot by the police on mistaken identity.

For this lapse on the part of the police, the State was vicariously liable and his NoK deserved compensation. In the absence of a response, the Commission presumed that the State government had no

objection to granting monetary compensation to the NoK of the deceased. The show cause notice was confirmed, and the Commission recommended to the Government of Chhattisgarh through its Chief Secretary to disburse Rs. 5 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased and to submit a compliance report. With these directives, the case was closed.

6. Commission's action regarding custodial death of Tulsiram Maurya in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh

(Case No. 29616.24.54.2017-ED)

The Commission received an intimation dated 24th September, 2017 from the SSP, Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, regarding the custodial death of Tulsiram Maurya on 24th September, 2017. The Commission took cognizance and directed the DG (I) to collect requisite reports and conduct an examination following the Commission's guidelines. The findings indicated a possible case of custodial torture leading to death. In response, the authorities submitted a report stating the State's willingness to pay compensation as per the recommendation of the Commission. The Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural), Nodal Officer, Human Rights, Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, also submitted a preliminary inquiry report which indicated no guilt on the part of local police in the matter.

The Joint Secretary (Human Rights), Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, in response, submitted that in the initial investigation, the local police have not been found guilty in the death of Tulsiram Maurya and it is not recommended to provide any financial assistance to the NoK of the deceased. They further requested the Commission to reconsider and drop its recommendation for compensation.

The Commission rejected the same on the grounds that no new fact has been brought to the notice of the Commission for its reconsideration. Therefore, the Joint Secretary (Human Rights), Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, was to ensure that the monetary compensation was disbursed immediately and he was to submit the compliance report to the Commission. With these directives, the case was closed.



7. Commission's action on Custodial Death and Suicide Prevention Measures.

(Case No. 19405.24.31.2020-AD)

The Commission received intimation about the death of a 46-year-old man under suspicious circumstances in the custody of Vijay Nagar police station in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh on 23rd September, 2020. The deceased had been arrested by the police in the morning of 23rd September, 2020 following a complaint filed by his wife accusing him of domestic violence. The deceased passed away in the evening of the same day under suspicious conditions. The police alleged that the man had died by suicide inside the lock-up room at around 07:30 PM on the same day.

The Commission took cognizance of this complaint and directed the State authorities to submit reports in accordance with the Commission's guidelines. Upon reviewing the reports, the Commission expressed serious concern regarding incidents of suicide occurring in jail/ lock-up facilities. The Commission emphasized that the inmates in jail/ lock-up, whether convicted or under trial for any crime, are under the custody of the state, making the state responsible for their well-being. The Commission highlighted the failure of state authorities, particularly the police and prison departments, in preventing such incidents and protecting the lives of inmates. In light of these concerns, the authorities concerned were directed to respond to specific points regarding measures taken to prevent inmate suicides, including implementing guidelines published by the Commission.

An enquiry conducted by an Executive Magistrate, Ghaziabad, revealed that the deceased was an alcohol addict. During the enquiry, the deceased's wife and son did not express any suspicion regarding the death. Based on oral and documentary evidence, the Enquiry Magistrate did not find any foul play in the death. The Commission held the State vicariously liable and reiterated its recommendation and directed the Deputy Secretary of the Home Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, to disburse a monetary compensation of Rupees Five Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. A compliance

report, along with proof of payment, was also required to be submitted.

8. Commission's investigation and action in Baghpat tragedy of suicide by a woman and her two daughters by consuming poison during a police raid in their house in Bachaud village of Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh.

(Case No. 13578.24.8.2022)

The Commission initiated *suo motu* proceedings of a case reported in 'Hindustan Times' dated 27th May, 2022, wherein a woman and her two daughters consumed poison, leading to the death of all three individuals during a police raid. The Commission directed notices to the Chief Secretary and DGP of Uttar Pradesh for a comprehensive report, requesting status of the ongoing investigation and details of relief provided to the victims' family. In response to the Commission's directives, the DGP of Uttar Pradesh submitted a detailed report which included a proposal for monetary compensation under the Uttar Pradesh Victim Compensation Scheme, 2014, to be provided from the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund. However, as of the report's submission date, no compensation had been disbursed to the victims' family.

Upon reviewing the reports, the Commission concluded that the police raid lacked proper procedures, notably the absence of female officers during the raid. Furthermore, the timing of the raid, three weeks after an elopement incident, contributed to the victims' fear and subsequent tragic actions. Consequently, a criminal case was registered against the involved police official and five others, with a charge sheet filed in court. Notably, no compensation had been provided to the victims' family by the State Government. In a bid to address the injustice and provide some semblance of closure, the Commission issued directives on 28th July, 2023. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, was instructed to grant ex-gratia monetary compensation of Rs. 5 Lakh to each NoK of the deceased, totaling three individuals. Additionally, a compliance report along with proof of payment was asked to be submitted to the Commission.

9. Commission's response to Custodial Death Bengal of Subho Mehena in West Bengal and compensation disbursement for human rights violation.

(Case No. 1711.25.3.2020-AD)

The Commission received a complaint dated 31st October, 2022 from Shri Dhana Kumar alleging the custodial death of Subho Mehena, on 30th October, 2020 in the custody of Mallarpur PS in Birbhum District of West Bengal. The Commission took cognizance of the complaint and called for the requisite reports. Upon perusal of the documents available on record, the Commission was of the opinion that the death had occurred in police custody, and the violation of human rights was established in this case.

The Commission issued a show-cause notice to the Government of West Bengal through its Chief Secretary as to why an amount of Rs. 7.5 lakh as monetary compensation should not be paid to the NoK of the deceased. Upon consideration of the matter from time to time, the Commission directed the Assistant Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Home & Hill Department, Government of West Bengal, to pay an amount of Rs. 7.5 Lakh to the NoK. Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, the Special Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Home & Hill Department, via letter dated 17th October, 2023, submitted the proof of payment of compensation of Rs. 7.5 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. Hence, the case was closed on 24th November, 2023

10. Role of the Commission in investigation and resolution of alleged custodial death of one under trial prisoner named Kamalkant Barik, at Soro Sub-Jail, Balasore.

(Case No. 1406.18.1.2021-AD)

The Commission received a complaint about the murder of a UTP, Shri Kamalkant Barik, at Soro Sub-Jail, Balasore, by the jail officials on 23rd June, 2021. It was alleged that the jail authorities wanted to dispose of the body as a case of death by COVID-19, but the younger brother of the victim, who was also

in jail, informed the family about the death. The Commission took cognizance of the complaint and called for reports from concerned authorities. The Commission analysed that the man had died by suicide. It observed that the State was vicariously liable for the death of the deceased.

The Commission issued a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, as to why the Commission should not recommend payment of Rs. 5 Lakh as monetary compensation to be paid to the NoK of the deceased. In response to the show cause notice, DIG, Prisons, headquarters, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, submitted the report detailing the incident. The Judicial Magisterial enquiry has opined that the death of the deceased might have been caused due to asphyxia and there seems to be no negligence on the part of jail authorities. A request was also made to not recommend any monetary compensation to be paid to the NoK.

The Commission considered the reply to the show cause notice and found that no satisfactory explanation had been offered on the issue on which the show cause notice was based. Accordingly, the Commission recommended to the Chief Secretary to pay an amount of Rupees Five Lakh as monetary compensation to the NoK of the deceased. With the receipt of proof of payment of proof to the NoK, the case was closed on 10th January, 2024.

11. Police raid was conducted for the arrest of an accused, in which one person was injured and another succumbed to death.

(Case No. 151.20.12.2018)

The Commission received a complaint on 13th January, 2018 regarding a raid in the intervening night of 10th November, 2018 -11th January, 2018 in P.S. Basai Jagner, District Agra, Uttar Pradesh, during which one person was injured and another person succumbed to death.

Taking cognizance of the complaint, the Commission directed the state authorities to submit an action taken report in the matter. The NHRC concluded that this incident represented a gross violation of human rights, wherein the UP State

(Agra) police entered the jurisdiction of another state (Rajasthan, Dholpur) and conducted raids & arrests without informing the local authorities. This led to a riotous situation and resulted in the death of one person due to police firing. One constable of the UP police was charged under Section 304A IPC, and the matter was pending trial. The Enquiry Magistrate also found the UP police responsible for the entire incident.

Based on these findings, the Commission, through its proceedings dated 2nd May, 2023, directed the issuance of a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, to show cause why a sum of Rs. 7.5 Lakh should not be recommended for payment to the NoK of the deceased Rameshwar. In response to the Commission's directives, the SSP (Human Rights), Uttar Pradesh, endorsed a copy of a letter dated 25th July, 2023 addressed to the Commissioner of Police, indicating that the investigation had been conducted by Shri Mahesh Kumar, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Kheragarh, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, who had submitted the report. The matter was under consideration of the Hon'ble court, and as such, there was no provision for financial assistance to the NoK of the deceased until a final decision was reached.

Upon reviewing the situation again, the Commission, through its proceedings dated 10th August, 2023, confirmed its show cause notice and recommended to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to pay a sum of Rs. 7.5 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased Rameshwar, who had died as a result of firing by the police. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, was directed to submit a compliance report along with proof of payment.

12. Commission's action in granting compensation to the families of deceased Azmat Ali and Hazrat Ali who were killed in the encounter with the Police.

(Case No. 148.3.9.2015-ED)

The Commission received an intimation dated 28.04.2015 from the District Police, Kamrup, Amingaon, Assam, regarding the death of Azmat Ali (35 years) and Hazrat Ali (35 years) in an encounter

with the police on 26th April, 2015. Taking cognizance of the matter, the Commission, through its proceedings dated 6th May, 2015, directed the Director General of Police, Assam, District Magistrate, and Superintendent of Police, Kamrup, Assam, to take appropriate action regarding the investigation and to submit detailed reports and records to the Commission.

In response to the Commission's directions, the AIGP, Assam Police Headquarters, communicated via letter dated 5th July, 2023 that the investigation of Chaygaon PS Case No. 191.2015 had been completed. The case resulted in a charge sheet against the arrested accused persons, namely Md. Lalchand Ali and Mohd. Ajahar Ali. Sufficient incriminating materials, including the recovery of arms & ammunition, were found against the deceased persons, Azmat Ali and Hazrat Ali, who were killed in the encounter with the Police. However, the investigation noted delays, with no tangible investigative steps taken by the Investigating Officers, namely SI Balabhadra Patgiri and Dr. Bidyut Das Boro, APS.

The Commission issued a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, to pay Rs. 7.5 Lakh each to the NoK of the deceased and to submit a report. Failure to comply would result in the Commission initiating coercive measures under the provisions of the PHR Act, 1993. Subsequently, the Joint Secretary to the Government of Assam, through a letter dated 22nd September, 2023, informed that the compensation amount of Rs. 7.5 lakh each had been deposited into the bank accounts of the NoK of the deceased, Azmat Ali and Hazrat Ali. The authority also provided proof of payment for the said compensation. Hence, the case was closed dated 24th November, 2023

13. Commission's intervention after the death of one Yaragalla Srinivasa Rao in the police custody at Guntur Rural, Andhra Pradesh.

(Case No. 53.1.6.2018-PCD)

The Commission received intimation from the Superintendent of Police, Guntur, regarding the death of one Yaragalla Srinivasa Rao on 4th January,

2018 in the custody of Repalle PS, District Guntur Rural, Andhra Pradesh. Upon receiving the intimation, the Commission took cognizance and directed the DG(I) to collect requisite reports from the concerned authorities. After analyzing the reports on record, the Commission submitted that prima facie, there appeared to be no foul play in the matter. However, it was a matter of concern that the equipment for bandobast was lying unattended, providing the deceased with an opportunity to take away the rope and commit suicide. Considering these circumstances and the available documents on record, the Commission recommended closing the case while sending the observations of the case to the DGP of Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, the Commission observed that the deceased was in police custody when he died by suicide. Had the Constable on duty been vigilant enough, the deceased would not have had the opportunity to end his life.

In view of the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in D.K. Basu vs. State of West Bengal 1997(1) SCC 416, which is the law of the land, the State had the obligation to ensure the safe and secure custody of a person under police custody. However, the state and its machinery failed to discharge vicarious liability under the law, and therefore, the State could not escape liability for the death of the person in police custody. Accordingly, a notice was issued to the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, to show cause as to why a sum of Rupees Five Lakh as monetary compensation should not be recommended by the Commission to be paid to the NoK of the deceased Yaragalla Srinivasa Rao. However, no response was received.

Further deliberating on the matter, the Commission confirmed its show-cause notice and recommended the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, to disburse an amount of Rupees Five Lakh to the NoK of the deceased and submit a compliance report along with proof of payment. In response to the Commission's directions, the Section officer, G. A. (SC.I) Dept., A. P. Secretariat, via email dated 25th September, 2023, submitted the copy of the sanction order for the payment of Rs. 5 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased Yaragalla Srinivasa Rao. However, the compliance report along with proof of payment was awaited.

14. Commission's intervention after death of two NSCN-IM alleged in encounter by a joint operation launched by teams consisting of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam Rifles.

(Case No. 19.2.13.2022-ED)

The Commission received intimation from the Superintendent of Police, Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh, regarding the death of two individuals affiliated with NSCN-IM during an encounter on 20th March, 2022. Taking note of the seriousness of the incident, the Commission directed the concerned authorities to provide detailed reports in accordance with the Commission's guidelines. Upon analyzing the reports, including the inquest, post-mortem report, and magisterial enquiry report, the Commission concluded that one of the deceased was an NSCN-IM cadre, while the other deceased and an injured person were ordinary civilians, who were taken at gunpoint by the insurgents during their activities. The magisterial enquiry found that during the encounter, while one insurgent and one civilian died, another civilian was injured.

The Commission directed the Chief Secretary to show cause as to why a compensation of 5 lakh should not be recommended for the NoK of deceased Retto Kaho and Rs. 50,000 for Pakngam Lowang, the injured civilian. In response, a communication was received from the office of the Superintendent of Police, Khonsa, Arunachal Pradesh, stating that the case had been charge-sheeted against the apprehended NSCN-IM member, and financial assistance had been provided to the NOK of the deceased and the injured person. However, the Commission observed that the compensation provided was inadequate considering the loss suffered by the deceased Retto Kakho's family. Therefore, the Commission directed the Chief Secretary to pay an additional amount of Rs. one lakh to the deceased's NOK and submit proof of payment.

A communication was received from the Under Secretary, Home Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, stating the sanctioned amount of additional Rs. One lakh to be disbursed to the

account of Shri Tesan Kakho, NoK of the deceased person through Direct Benefit Transfer in his account. With these directions, the case was closed by the Commission.

15. Commission's intervention after the Custodial death of two persons Gaffar Alam and Puja Kumar in police custody in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

(Case No. 445.34.16.2016-PCD)

The Commission received an intimation dated 16th March, 2016, from the SSP, Ranchi, Jharkhand, regarding the custodial deaths of two individuals, Gaffar Alam and Puja Kumar, on 15th March, 2016. The Commission took immediate cognizance of this serious matter and initiated proceedings to investigate the incident. After receiving reports from the concerned authorities, the Commission analyzed the documents and found the incident highly suspicious, with a potential link to killing. The NHRC expressed concern over the casual handling of the investigation by the police, particularly the failure to collect crucial evidence such as the viscera report and the final cause of death, even after more than five years.

The Commission made several recommendations to address these issues, including handing over the investigation of UD 02.2016 PS Aargonda to State CB-CID for a thorough and time-bound inquiry supervised by an IPS officer; obtaining essential documents and evidence related to the case, like the viscera report, CCTV footage, site plan of the occurrence, and copies of relevant FIRs; taking action against responsible officials for poor supervision and inquiry into the case; and expediting the submission of the enquiry report by engaging with the Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi.

Following these recommendations, the Commission, in proceedings dated 2nd August, 2022, issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, seeking justification for not recommending a monetary compensation of Rs. Five Lakh each to the NoK of the deceased. Despite the notice, no response was received, leading the Commission to confirm its recommendation in proceedings

dated 9th September, 2023. The Commission urged the Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, to disburse Rs. Five Lakh each to the families of Gaffar Alam and Ms. Puja Kumari and submit proof of payment. Pursuant to the Commission's directives, the concerned authority provided the compliance report and proof of payment on 8th February, 2024, mentioning that the recommended amount of Rs. Five Lakh each were transferred to the NoK of the deceased through NEFT in their respective accounts. Hence, the case was closed.

16. Commission's Action on custodial death of Betha Rambabu, due to alleged torture by the police in Andhra Pradesh

(Case No. No 383.1.22.2022-AD)

The Commission received a complaint dated 11th February, 2022 from Shri Amal Kanti Chakma regarding the custodial death of Betha Rambabu, aged 42 years, allegedly due to torture by the police. Taking immediate cognizance of this serious matter, the Commission initiated proceedings and directed the concerned authorities to submit requisite reports. After careful analysis of the reports, it was revealed that Betha Rambabu's death was attributed to "Cardio-pulmonary arrest due to Mechanical Asphyxia due to Ante-mortem hanging". Following this, the delinquent police officers were suspended, and departmental action was initiated against them.

The Commission directed the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, to show cause as to why a sum of Rs. Five Lakh as monetary compensation should not be recommended to be paid to the NoK of Betha Rambabu. Despite the request for a response to the show-cause notice, the Commission did not receive a reply from the State Government. In light of this, the Commission presumed that there were no objections from the State Government regarding the grant of monetary compensation. Therefore, the Commission confirmed the show cause notice and recommended to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, through its Chief Secretary, to pay a sum of Rs. Five Lakh as monetary compensation to the NOK of the deceased and submit proof of payment. In response, the Government of Andhra

Pradesh submitted a copy of the Sanction order for the payment of Rs. Five Lakh on 5th January 2024. Hence, the case was closed.

17. Commission's intervention after the custodial death of accused Pawan alias Hariya in the custody of Police Station Hassanpur, Palwal, Haryana (Case No. 316.7.22.2018-PCD)

The Commission received an intimation dated 19th February, 2018 from the Superintendent of Police, Palwal, Haryana, regarding the custodial death of accused Pawan Hariya on 18th February, 2018, who was in the custody of Police Station Hassanpur, Palwal, Haryana. Immediately taking cognizance of the matter, the Commission directed the DG(I) to collect the requisite reports from the concerned authorities. It was revealed that a medical expert opinion was sought to determine whether the injuries sustained by the deceased were indicative of custodial torture and if there was a correlation between the injuries and the cause of death (asphyxia). The Medical Expert's opinion highlighted discrepancies in the autopsy procedure, leading to an incomplete assessment of the cause of death.

Considering the gravity of the situation and the violation of human rights, the Commission observed that incidents of police brutality towards detainees are unfortunately common. Quoting legal precedent, the Commission noted that a detainee is entitled to dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and ill-treatment warrants monetary compensation. In response to the Commission's show cause notice, the Superintendent of Police, Palwal, Haryana, detailed the circumstances of Pawan Hariya's arrest. However, the explanation provided did not sufficiently address the concerns raised in the show cause notice. Therefore, in proceedings dated 28th December, 2023, the Commission recommended to the Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, to pay a sum of Rs. 7.5 lakh as monetary compensation to the NoK of the deceased. Compliance report from the concerned authority for the payment of Rs. 7.5 lakh as monetary compensation to the NoK of the deceased is still awaited.

18. Commission's action regarding mishandling by Police: Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi (Case No. 1236.30.6.2022)

The Commission received a complaint alleging misuse of power, threats of false implication, and brutality by a named police constable of Police Station-Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. On 11th July, 2022, the Commission issued Conditional Summons and sought an action taken report from the Deputy Commission of Police (Vigilance) Delhi, directing them to investigate the case in accordance with the Commission's guidelines. The Commission was informed that an inquiry was conducted on the same allegations as a Vigilance Enquiry vide No. 26.P.Sec.DCP.Vig., dated 22nd February, 2020, and it was discovered that a named police constable was clearly seen thrashing the complainant even in the 'Sankarnan Kash' and CCTV footage. According to the Enquiry Report, the SHO of Mukherjee Nagar was found guilty of poor supervision and a lack of command over his subordinates because he failed to address the issue with superiors and attempted to hush up the matter. The named constable was also declared guilty of thrashing and manhandling the complainants.

After reviewing the reports, the Commission issued a notice to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, directing him to show cause as to why the Commission should not recommend payment of compensation of Rs.1,25,000/- (Rs. One Lakh Twenty-Five Thousand only) to the victim, whose human rights had been violated due to the police personnel's inaction. The Commission considered the authorities' response and concluded that the state is vicariously liable for the acts/ omissions of its officials violating an individual's human rights. The victim's complaint, filed under section 156(3) CrPC. against the alleged delinquent police personnel via CC No. 597.2022, before the Court concerned, cannot be used to justify delaying the compensation amount to the victim because it relates solely. The compliance report was submitted after the compensation amount of Rs.1,25,000/- (Rs. One Lakh Twenty-Five Thousand only) was disbursed.

19. Commission's action into abuse of power by police of Bhojpur Chowki.

(Case No. 1817.24.61.2021)

The Commission received a complaint from HRD directing its attention to an incident reported in the print media in which two young men were brutally beaten by Bhojpur Chowki police officials. The Commission issued a show cause notice to the Superintendent of Police in Raibareilly, Uttar Pradesh. In response to the Commission's communications, a letter from the Additional SP, Nodal Officer, Raibareilly dated 20th October, 2021 was received, along with the detailed report of CO, Lalganj, Raibareilly dated 11th October, 2021. According to the report, the suspects were accused of theft following a complaint. They were summoned and asked to return the chain and ring, after which SI Prashant Singh Bhadoria beat them both. The public outright condemned this incident and demanded that SI be suspended. The matter was reported to the SP, Raibareilly. The matter was investigated by the SDM, and the inquiry officer found SI Prashant Singh Bhadoria, Constable Bharat Singh, and Constable Hariom Singh guilty, and all of the guilty police officers were censured. The CO's detailed inquiry report reveals the same fact.

After examining the material on records, the Commission recommended that the State, through its Chief Secretary, release a compensation of Rs. One Lakh each, to the victims, Amit Shukla and Raju Tiwari, and the same was complied with by the State Government. Therefore, the case file was closed.

20. Commission's action into Abuse of Power by Patna Police.

(Case No. 1121.4.26.2023)

The Commission received a complaint where the complainant claimed that on 11th March, 2023, he was called by the SHO, PS Vikram, Patna. The complainant went to the Thana, where the accused police officers physically harassed him, abused him, and questioned him on how he recorded and shared a video of the police officers celebrating Holi. When his elder brother and cousin arrived to inquire about the reason for his detention at the police station, the police held them in the police station for more than

28 hours, demanded a bribe of Rs. one lakh, assaulted and harassed them. During this time, the complainant's condition deteriorated, forcing him to be admitted to AIIMS. The entire incident was recorded on the police station's CCTV camera.

According to the Commission's instructions, the report received in the matter acknowledged that the victim was brought to the police station at the request of then-PS I.C Shri Dharmendra Kumar, Police Inspector. The victim was detained for more than 24 hours and beaten by the aforementioned police official. His mobile phone was also illegally taken into possession by a police official and returned only after the Commission intervened. A departmental investigation was also launched against the erring police officer. As a result, the Commission recommended that the Government of Bihar, through its Chief Secretary, release Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) as compensation to the victim Shri Ajeet Kumar and gave the directions for completion of the same. The reports were awaited.

21. Commission action providing relief to mother whose newborn died in prison.

(Case No. 1088.34.14.2019-DH)

The Commission received a case regarding the death of a newborn baby (boy) from a Female under trial prisoner, Lilmuni Soren on 21st September, 2019, in the custody of Mandal Jail, Pakur, Jharkhand. After reviewing the facts and circumstances, the Commission determined that there were no records to show that the newborn baby was given oxygen in the jail or in the ambulance while being transported to the hospital for respiratory distress, which was an immediate life-saving measure. The cause of death was a stoppage of the heart and breathing, which confirmed the baby's respiratory distress. The mother of the baby boy was not involved in the magisterial inquiry, which was a basic requirement. The newborn baby died as a result of the Jail administration's negligence, for which the State was held vicariously liable. The Commission recommended that the State, through its Chief Secretary, pay compensation of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) to the NoK of the deceased baby, which the state authorities complied with. In

addition, the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Department of Home, Government of Jharkhand, were directed to ensure oxygen facilities in state-managed medical ambulances and to submit their action taken report within the time frame specified.

22. Commission's action in illegal detention of minor by Police.

(Case No. 169.20.34.2023)

The Commission received a complaint from a father named Narain Meena, who claimed that his 17-year-old son Bhagwati Lal was detained by police for questioning in an elopement case. The complainant further stated that his son was subjected to illegal detention and torture for three days (25th – 27th November, 2022). The Superintendent of Police in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan, stated that the matter was investigated by the In-charge of PS Chhota Sadli. The investigation revealed that the complainant's son's mobile number appeared in the call details of someone accused of the elopement of a girl for whom Bhagwati Lal was summoned for questioning, but he was not detained and was released after questioning while his parents were present. The report also stated that CCTV footage was unavailable due to the 6-month retention policy, the missing girl was found, and a case was filed against another juvenile.

The Commission's findings revealed that there were inconsistencies in the police report, raising suspicion of illegal detention. The findings also revealed that the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act and Model Rules were likely violated, and that an investigation by the Special Juvenile Police Unit or a designated officer was not conducted. Furthermore, the juvenile was not released on an undertaking from his parents, and the statements signed by the juvenile violated the Model Rules. The right to liberty and dignity guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution, as well as international child rights conventions were also found to have been violated. According to the NHRC's direction, a show cause notice was issued to the Government of Rajasthan, and a recommendation for compensation of Rs. 50,000 to Bhagwati Lal was confirmed. Further compliance reports, along with proof of payment were awaited.

23. Compensation was paid, and negligent police officials were dismissed after a rape victim and a man self-immolated outside the Supreme Court.

(Case No. 4688.30.1.2021-WC)

The complainant reported a media incident to the Commission stating that a woman and a man from Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh set themselves on fire outside the Supreme Court. Both suffered severe burn injuries and were undergoing treatment. Before the incident, they recorded a Facebook Live video where the woman mentioned filing a rape case against a MP, alleging support for the offender from accused police officials. Instead of acting against the MP, the police allegedly filed a false case against her, resulting in a non-bailable warrant issued against her. Subsequently, both individuals died during medical treatment.

The Commission investigated the matter and the police inaction. It was found that rather than taking action against the MP, the police filed a false case against her. The Commissioner of Police, Varanasi, suspended the IO and the then SHO of Kant PS and initiated a departmental enquiry against them. Their conduct violated the rights to fair investigation of the deceased victim girl. Therefore, the Commission directed the Uttar Pradesh Government, through its Chief Secretary, to pay Rs. 7,50,000/- as compensation to the NoK of the deceased victim girl and submit the updated status of departmental action against both accused police officers. In response, the state authorities informed that both officials were dismissed from their services. Regarding compensation, there was no objection except to review the amount, keeping in view the maximum limit of Rs. 5,00,000/-. The Commission accepted this and closed the case.

24. Police and Excise Department negligence leads to death due to consumption of illicit liquor, compensation awarded.

(Case No. 11148.24.24.2021)

The complaint concerned two deaths and five illnesses due to illicit liquor consumption, blaming police and the Excise Department for negligence.

SSP Ayodhya reported a case filed against 10 individuals, with 3 arrested and inquiries launched against erring police. DM Ayodhya's report echoed SSP's actions, with suspensions and inquiries initiated against police officials and the Regional Excise Officer. The Commission found the officials' failure to control the illicit liquor trade resulted in two deaths, violating human rights. It issued a show cause notice for interim relief of Rs. One Lakh each to the NoK of deceased Dharmendra Verma and Virendra, and demanded updates on Excise Department officers' proceedings. The notice was confirmed later. After an investigation, chargesheets were filed against 6 accused, and departmental action was taken against 3 officials, including a Circle Officer. The Commission noted compensation was paid to Dharmendra Verma's daughter, but no legal heir was found for Virendra Verma. Consequently, no further intervention was required, and the case was closed.

25. Compensation issued in the case involving the death of the victim due to Police brutality.

(Case No. 1095.1.2.2020)

The complaint lodged by Shri Basha Kamthar detailed an incident where the victim, Yenagani Satyanarayana, was allegedly subjected to severe physical abuse by a police official. The victim's wife and child were also mistreated during the incident. The Commission investigated the matter and found evidence of police brutality and misuse of power. An FIR was filed against the accused officials, and departmental proceedings were initiated. The Commission asserted that ensuring public safety is paramount for police officials, and such misconduct violates fundamental human rights. Consequently, a show cause notice was issued to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, demanding compensation of Rs. One lakh for the victim. The Director General of Police was instructed to provide updates on the departmental proceedings. Upon confirmation of the recommendation, it was noted that the victim was assaulted in front of his family, leading to FIR registration and departmental action against the accused. The Commission issued a show cause notice for compensation, which was paid to the

victim following censure against the erring policeman. As a result, the case was closed by the Commission.

26. The accused along with the accused policeman arrested and compensation recommended to the victim's family after a minor Nepali girl was gang raped and murdered.

(Case No. 4421.4.8.2021)

The Commission received an email from the Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, Nepal regarding an incident wherein a minor Nepali girl, aged 12 years, was allegedly gang raped and killed on 21st January, 2020 at Kundawa Chainpur Bazar, East Champaran, Bihar. It has been further stated that after the incident, the house owner and his supporters took the parents of the girl hostage and cremated the dead body. The Commission looked into the matter, where it was revealed that SHO Kundva Chainpur was found involved in hiding evidence. The Commission held the state vicariously responsible for the act of erring police officer & issued a show cause notice to Government of Bihar through its Chief Secretary, as to why the Commission should not recommend a compensation of Rs. Two Lakh to the NoK of the deceased girl. Further, since the SHO was involved in hiding the evidence of murder and deviation of his official duty, the state was required to undertake an impartial and independent investigation. A direction was issued to the Principal Secretary, Department of Home, Bihar to issue directions to register an FIR against the erring police official and submit an action taken report.

In subsequent follow-up by the Commission, it was confirmed from the state that a case was registered against 13 accused and another case was registered against the then In-Charge, Kundva Chainpur PS, who was found to be involved in the destruction and hiding of the evidence. 12 accused along with said accused policeman were arrested and sent to jail. A charge sheet was filed against all accused, and monetary relief recommended by the Commission was paid to the NOK of the deceased. The monetary relief under the Victim Compensation Scheme is

pending before the Court. Keeping the above developments in view, the case was closed.

27. Victim abducted and tortured by the police; compensation awarded.
(Case No. 4406.18.5.2022)

The complaint detailed an incident where Sumant Sahu was allegedly abducted from his home in Raikia and severely tortured at Gopalpur Police Station, resulting in serious injuries requiring treatment at MKCG Medical College & Hospital. Prompt action was taken, with FIRs filed against the implicated police officials. Following the Commission's directives, the State authorities reported on the case. An examination found that Sumant Sahu and his wife were unlawfully arrested and detained without following proper procedures. An inquiry confirmed the torture allegations, leading to FIRs against the responsible police officer, Inspector Srikant Khamari. The Commission directed the State to compensate the victims with Rs. 50,000 each and instructed the DGP Odisha to investigate and take departmental action against Inspector Khamari. The State confirmed compensation payment and disciplinary action initiation. The Commission urged the DGP to expedite both criminal and departmental proceedings against Khamari. Consequently, the Commission closed the case, emphasizing the need for swift action against the accused officer.

28. The Commission addressed the negligence of the police and provided compensation to the victim on whom rape was attempted.
(Case No. 26150.24.48.2020)

The complaint detailed an incident where the accused allegedly attempted to rape an 11-year-old girl after previously stalking and harassing her. Despite the victim's narration of the incident to the police, they failed to register an FIR. The accused, along with his father, boasted of connections to influential individuals, including the police, and threatened the victim's family. Only after the intervention of the Commission, an FIR was registered and the accused was arrested the following

day. The negligent police official was found guilty, and an FIR was lodged against him. The Commission recognized the mental agony endured by the victim and her family due to the delayed registration of the FIR, holding the state accountable for negligence. Accordingly, it directed the Chief Secretary to provide Rs. two Lakh as compensation to the victim. Upon confirmation of the compensation payment, and the submission of a Final Report in court, the Commission closed the case.

29. Commission advised training for police on human rights issues due to police inaction in the sexual harassment case of a minor.
(Case No. 32469.24.4.2022)

The Commission received a complaint from the victim's mother, alleging police inaction regarding the sexual harassment of her minor son in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The police eventually filed charges after a delay in registering the FIR. The Commission issued a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, demanding Rs. 1 lakh compensation for the victim due to the delay. The police responded, admitting the delay but arguing it didn't warrant compensation. The Commission considered Supreme Court precedent, stating FIR registration is mandatory for cognizable offenses, and delay in registering the FIR may hinder investigations and cause further harm to victims. After reviewing police conduct, the Commission withdrew the compensation recommendation but advised training for police on human rights issues. The case was closed with these directives, aiming to improve police responsiveness to human rights violations and ensure proper handling of similar cases in the future.

30. The commission issued notice and recommended compensation for police negligence in the case involving a woman's assault and drug dealing.
(Case No. 1379.19.21.2022)

The complaint involved allegations of assault, outrage of modesty of women, and drug dealing by the accused near the complainant's house. Despite the complainant's report and assurance from the

police of action, no steps were taken to arrest the accused. The police report lacked crucial details regarding the incident, such as the number and nature of injuries sustained by the victims. The failure to register an FIR violated legal obligations, as emphasized in the Lalita Kumari judgment, leading to the destruction of evidence and undermining the victim's confidence in the justice system. The Commission issued a show cause notice, highlighting the police's failure to initiate legal proceedings despite being aware of the incident. It seemed the excuse that the complainant didn't want action was an attempt to divert from the main issue of police inaction. The subsequent report from the Additional Director General of Police reiterated the complainant's reluctance to pursue the case, but the Commission maintained its stance on police negligence. Given the confirmed lapses by the police and the vicarious responsibility of the Punjab government, the Commission recommended compensating the complainant with Rs. 50,000 as interim relief under the Protection of Human Rights Act. The government was instructed to provide proof of payment within six weeks. Upon receiving the proof, the Commission closed the matter.

31. The commission recommends compensation in the complaint alleging harassment, domestic violence, and rape, with police inaction.

(Case No. 5784.24.7.2023-WC)

The case involves a complaint from a woman alleging harassment, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and rape, coupled with claims of police inaction. The Commission sought reports from the SSP in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, and received a request from the complainant to transfer the application to Sambhal due to her father's illness. Despite this, a show cause notice was issued to the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh for the police's failure to register an FIR and prevent human rights violations. Subsequent reports from different police districts, namely Badaun, Shahjahanpur, and Sambhal, highlighted a pattern of blame-shifting among them. The Commission criticized this behavior and pointed out discrepancies in their actions, such as failure to register complaints and improper handling of settlements. Despite recom-

mendations for compensation, payment was denied due to contradictions in fund rules. The Commission emphasized the seriousness of delayed police action in cases of rape and reminded the state government of its responsibilities. It directed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay Rs. 1 lakh compensation to the woman and submit a compliance report with proof of payment. However, as of the latest proceedings, the compliance report and proof of payment are still awaited.

32. The Commission recommended compensation in a complaint about police harassment leading to the victim's suicide.

(Case No. 2517.24.43.2022)

The Commission received a complaint from Rajhans Bansal in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, reporting a theft incident and subsequent police harassment. The victim died by suicide due to police atrocities. A police report detailed the registration of FIRs against the accused and their subsequent arrest. Disciplinary action was taken against officers for delayed FIR registration. A show cause notice was issued to the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh for a compensation payment of Rs. 3 lakh to the victim's NoK. In response, the government acknowledged the guilt of two police officers for the delay in registering the case and recommended compensation. The Commission directed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay Rs. 3 lakh compensation to Arun Kumar's NoK and submit a compliance report with proof of payment. However, the awaited compliance report and proof of payment are pending as of the latest proceedings.

33. Death of HRD under suspicious circumstances after she was raped by the local police officer.

(Case No. 944.10.15.2021)

The Commission received a complaint from Shri Henri Tiphagne, a HRD, wherein he informed about the death of another HRD in Mysore under suspicious circumstances after she was raped by the local police officer. The Commission called for an Action Taken Report in which regard, a response from the SP, Mysore, Karnataka was received. It was reported

that a case was registered in the matter against P. Lokesh, Sub Inspector and three others and Charge-Sheet was filed in the court.

The Commission considered the report and observed that filing of chargesheet against the accused police personnel P. Lokesh and his suspension prima-facie substantiates the allegations that the human rights of the victim were violated. Therefore, the Commission issued Notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka directing him to show cause as to why the Commission should not recommend a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the NoK of the deceased whose human rights were violated by police personnel, who is a public servant. In response, a report was received from the Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Bengaluru wherein it was stated that the act alleged against the accused Police Officer Shri P Lokesh is purely his personal acts and as such he is personally liable to compensate the NOK of the victim. Further there was no direct nexus between the alleged acts committed by the accused Police Officer and the Office that he was holding at material point of time.

The response appeared to contravene the provisions of Section 26 of the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, which is the law for regulation of the police force, maintenance of public order and other matters in the State of Karnataka. The Commission, therefore, refused to accept the submission of the State, adding that the State cannot absolve itself of the vicarious liability in this case. Consequently, the Commission recommended to the Government of Karnataka, to pay a compensation of Rs.5 Lakh to the NOK of the deceased. The office of the Director General and Inspector General of Police (G&HR), Bangalore, Karnataka reported, that the direction of the Commission had been complied with and the compensation amount was paid to the mother of the deceased. As the directions of the Commission were complied with, the case was closed.

34. Brutal assault and murder by uniformed police officers.

(Case No. 1510.22.31.2021)

In this case, the Commission received a complaint dated 28th June, 2021 from K.V. Vijayakumar, a resident of South West Delhi alleging that the victim

Shri Murugesan, a resident of Edapatti, Salem District, Tamil Nadu was brutally assaulted and murdered by uniformed police officers on 22nd June, 2021. He was stopped by the police officer at the check post and was beaten with lathis. He suffered head injuries and later succumbed to the injuries. Taking cognizance of the aforesaid complaint, the Commission vide order dated 29th June, 2021 sought a report from the Superintendent of Police, Salem, Tamil Nadu. Pursuant to the direction of the Commission, a report dated 28th April, 2022 was received from the Superintendent of Police, Salem, Tamil Nadu which disclosed that the accused Periyasamy, SSI of Police, had been found guilty for the murder of Shri Vellaiyan Murugesan. The Commission vide its order dated 11th April, 2023, recommended compensation of Rs. 10 Lakh to the NOK of the deceased u.s 18a(i) of PHR Act, 1993. In response, the Special Secretary, Public (Law & Order-A) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu vide his letter dated 23rd May, 2023 informed that compensation amount of Rs.10,00,000/- had been paid to the wife of the deceased, through the District Collector, Salem. The receipt was enclosed as proof of payment and the case was closed.

35. Victim was picked up by Forest Department officials on charges of poaching a tusker and removing its tusks. Later he found dead in the custody of the Forest Department.

(Case No. 492.18.3.2023)

In this case, the Commission received a complaint dated 6th February, 2023 from Shri Radhakanta Tripathy, Advocate, stating that the victim was picked up by Forest Department officials on charges of poaching a tusker and removing its tusks. Later he was found dead in the custody of the Forest Department. The villagers and family of the victim alleged that he was hacked to death by forest officials. Taking cognizance of the complaint, the Commission vide its order dated 9th February, 2023 sought a report from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhuvaneshwar, Odisha. Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, a report was received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Odisha which disclosed that in the instant matter

Badamba PS Case No. 25.2023 dated 6th February, 2023 u.s 302.323.341.342.354.365.294.34 of IPC and Section 25.27 of Arms Act and Section 3(1) (r)(s)(w), 3 (2) (v)(va) of SC.ST (PoA) Act was registered against six forest officials and they were arrested and forwarded to the Court on 6th May, 2023, since then they were in jail custody, they were placed under suspension w.e.f. 8th February, 2023.

The Commission vide its order dated 24th May, 2023, recommended compensation of Rs. 7 Lakh u.s 18(1) (a) of PHR Act, 1993. Accordingly, the Government of Odisha, through its Chief Secretary, was directed to pay monetary relief of Rs. 7 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased for negligence on the part of the Government employees. In response, the Superintendent of Police, HRPC, Odisha vide his letter dated 20th October, 2023 submitted the compliance report along with the e-payment advice made to the NoK of the deceased. On receipt of compliance report and proof of payment, the case was closed.

36. Custodial torture of a tribal youth identified as Dharmendra Girwal (about 20 years) allegedly by drunken police personnel.

(Case No. 1763.12.15.2022)

In the matter, the Indigenous Lawyers Association of India (ILAI) sought the urgent intervention of the Commission against the custodial torture of a tribal youth identified as Dharmendra Girwal (about 20 years) allegedly by drunken police personnel identified as Rohit Kachhawa in the custody at Nalchha Police Station in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. The victim was arrested and tortured after he failed to pay a bribe of Rs. 50,000/-. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and called an action taken report from District Magistrate, Dhar, MP and Superintendent of Police, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

In response to the directions of the Commission a report was received from the DM, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh enclosed with the enquiry report of SP, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh. The report revealed that Dy. Inspector of Police, Vikram Singh Devda and the

Officer in Charge, Nalchha, Inspector Rohit Kachhawa were also issued show cause notices and the reply submitted by them were not found satisfactory. Both the delinquent police officers also failed to state in their replies, who caused injury and by whom injuries were caused to the victim, resulting in which they were found negligent in performing their official responsibility and they were accordingly punished. Their subsequent one-year increment was ordered to be stopped by imposing Minor Punishment to them.

The Commission considered the report. Since the departmental enquiry found both the aforesaid police officials to be found guilty for the negligence committed by them towards their official responsibility, therefore, the State is vicariously liable for the violation of the human rights of the victim Dharmender Girwal committed by the public servant. Accordingly, a show cause notice was issued to the Government of Madhya Pradesh as to why the compensation of Rs. 25,000/- be not recommended by the Commission to the State to be paid to the victim for the negligence on the part of the Government employees. As no report was received from the Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Commission recommended for payment of Rs. 25,000/- to the victim. The compliance report was received and the case has been closed.

37. Victim was sent to judicial custody for alleged offence u.s.279, 304A, IPC in a makeshift jail in quarantine, where the Jail Warden made him clean the common toilet and when he had refused for it, he was severely beaten by two jail officials.

(Case No. 22453.24.71.2021)

In the matter, Shri Vinay Kumar Pathak (Advocate) alleged that the victim was sent to judicial custody for alleged offence u.s.279, 304A, IPC in a makeshift jail in quarantine, where the Jail Warden made him clean the common toilet and when he had refused for it, he was severely beaten by two jail officials. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and called an Action Taken Report from DG(Prison),

Uttar Pradesh. In response to the directions of the Commission, a report was received from the Dy. Inspector General Headquarters Prison Administration and Reform Services, Uttar Pradesh which disclosed that in the instant case, an enquiry was conducted and after completion of the enquiry, two jail personnel namely Shri Ram Naresh Bhargav (Head Jail Warder) and Shri Prithviraj Yadav (Jail Warder) were found guilty in this occurrence.

The Commission considered the report, which stated that during the departmental enquiry, two jail personnel have been found guilty in this occurrence. Accordingly, a show cause notice was issued to the Government of Uttar Pradesh through its Chief Secretary, as to why compensation of Rs. 7.5 Lakh be not recommended by the Commission to the State to be paid to the victim for the violation of human rights on the part of Government employees. In response to the aforesaid directions of the Commission, a reply was received from the Superintendent, District Jail Unnao, U.P., stating therein that the deceased prisoner Gyanu Shukla was undisciplined in the prison, adding that his behaviour often made the other prisoners uncomfortable. When they raised a complaint to the Jail Wardens on duty regarding this, it was alleged that light force was used by the Jail Wardens to control him and to enforce maintenance of the administration. The deceased prisoner remained in the jail from 5th April, 2021 to 7th April, 2021 and during this period he did not complain regarding any assault committed against him. The report further claimed that it was possible that in order to take revenge for the clash with the Jail Wardens, the deceased made the marks on his body in order to tarnish the image of the jail. Therefore, awarding the compensation amount of Rs. 7.5 Lakh does not appear to be appropriate in this matter. The Commission considered the reply of the show cause notice, and reaffirmed the recommendation for compensation. No compliance report of the aforesaid order was received so far. Therefore, The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh was directed to ensure disbursement of compensation amount. The case was closed with directions to the concerned authority to submit a compliance report.

38. Police harassment, Inaction and Collusion Leading to Abetted Suicide in Palghar, Maharashtra.

(Case No. 902.13.37.2020)

The Commission received a complaint on 26th July, 2020, alleging that the deceased, Ashutosh Singh, had been subjected to harassment, blackmail, and torture by his four business partners. Furthermore, it was asserted that the police of Palghar, Maharashtra, failed to conduct a fair investigation into the matter. Later, Ashutosh's sister brought to light that their family faced harassment and false implication by police officials, allegedly in collusion with the accused, after they sought justice for Ashutosh's abetted suicide. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and called upon the authorities concerned to submit the requisite reports. Upon review, it was discovered that an Assistant Commissioner of Police misled the court, resulting in the denial of interim bail to Ashutosh's sister and siblings. The police officials were accused of colluding with the accused, tampering with evidence, and subjecting the family to further harassment and false charges. In response, the Commission directed the Home Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, to initiate an investigation by the CB-CID to uncover the truth behind the allegations. Additionally, the Director General of Police, Maharashtra, was instructed to ensure the safety and security of Ashutosh's family and to prevent any further harassment by police officials until the outcome of the CB-CID investigation. A compliance report was subsequently submitted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone-II, Vasai, Virar Police, Maharashtra, detailing the measures taken for the family's security. Furthermore, an email from ADGP (PCR), MS Mumbai, presented the Final Report of the State CID, Maharashtra, on the complainant's allegations. The report highlighted several lapses and discrepancies in the conduct of police officials during the investigation.

The Commission observed serious lapses by police officials, constituting a violation of human rights. Consequently, it issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, seeking justifica-

tion for not recommending compensation of Rs. 50,000/- to each victim, Sandeep Singh and Kiran Manoj Singh, whose human rights had been infringed due to the lackadaisical behavior of police personnel. Additionally, the Director General of Police, Maharashtra, was directed to report on the action taken against delinquent police officials as recommended by the CB-CID. Upon confirmation of compensation, the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, was directed to submit a compliance report on the payment to victims and the outcome of departmental action against the police officials. While compliance on compensation was reported, the outcome of the departmental action against police officials was pending. The Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, was instructed to provide this information as soon as possible. With these directives, the case was closed on 21st August, 2023.

39. Police harassment and false prosecution against HRDs and Chakma Activists in Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh. (Case No. 58.2.4.2023)

The Commission received a complaint from Suhas Chakma, from the Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG), in which he sought intervention against alleged false prosecution of Shri Rup Singh Chakma, and Shri Santosh Baburah Chakma, Chakma rights activists. The complainant submitted that Shri Rup Singh Chakma and Shri Santosh Baburah Chakma, who are based in Noida for the last two years were served notices on 28th September, 2023, by Sub-Inspector of Diyun Police Station, through their addresses at Bijaypur Village under Section 41A of the CrPC with respect to FIR No. 05.2023 registered by the Diyun Police Station under Sections 153(a).501(b).500.34 of the IPC read with Section 66(D) of the Information Technology Act. They were asked to appear on 3rd October, 2023. However, no information was provided regarding the complainant. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and issued a notice to concerned authorities and

also directed to follow the due diligence. The complaint was brought to the notice of the Superintendent of Police, Changlang on 30th September, 2023. He was also informed about the provisions u.s 78 of IT Act, 2000 and that the investigation in the matter should not be done by an officer below the rank of Inspector.

The Superintendent of Police, Changlang informed that FIR No.5.23, u.s 153(a).505(1)(b).500.34 IPC R.W Sec 66 D of IT Act PS Diyun had been registered on the complaint of one Shri Drishya Muni Chakma, 33 years, s/o Shri Chandra Chakma, r/o Avoipur village, PO/PS - Diyun, District Changlang (AP) through WhatsApp. He agreed that the provisions u.s 78 IT Act, 2000 was overlooked and he will report back after taking remedial action. The Superintendent of Police, Changlang furnished the details of the complainant and further submitted a status report dated 3rd October, 2023. It was reported that the Case Crime No. 5.23 had been re-endorsed to Inspector N. Rango for investigation in view of the provisions of IT Act. It was further informed that the statement of the complainant had been recorded and summons had been served for the appearance of the accused persons who stay out of Arunachal Pradesh at Delhi.

The complainant had submitted his further comments in the case. He submitted that the police should be directed to state as to why closure report in FIR No.5.23 should not be filed in the light of the fact that offences are not made out on the face of the complaint filed. He further submitted that the Chakma, HRDs are young students and youth leaders, and false prosecution will negatively impact their future. After issuance of conditional summons, the Superintendent of Police, Changlang sent a report dated 5th March, 2024. It was reported that the case had been submitted into Final Report vide Diyun PS FR No.01.24 dated 29th February, 2024. The Commission considered the report and the case was closed with the direction that the aggrieved person can raise the question before the court.

Unlawful Arrest, Illegal Detention and Torture

40. Torture, unlawful detention, and false implication by Nilagiri Police Officials, Balasore, Odisha.

(Case No. 937.18.1.2022)

The Commission received a complaint through media reports on 7th April, 2022, alleging that senior journalist Shri Lokanath Dalei was falsely implicated in a case by Nilagiri Police Officials, District-Balasore, Odisha. It was further alleged that Shri Dalei was illegally detained and tortured in police custody on 6th April, 2022, and when his condition deteriorated, he was admitted to the district headquarters hospital in Balasore, where his legs were reportedly chained to the hospital bed without the approval of the concerned magistrate. In response to the Commission's directions, reports were received from the concerned authorities. A report from the Superintendent of Police, Balasore, Odisha, indicated action taken against the delinquent police officials. Following preliminary investigations, a constable and a Sub-Inspector were suspended for negligence in performing their official duties and for alleged human rights violations.

Upon review, the Commission observed admitted lapses on the part of the police officials, for which they were duly punished by their department. Consequently, the state was held vicariously liable for their actions. Considering this a suitable case for compensation, the Commission issued a notice under Section 18a(l) of the PHR Act, 1993, to the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, seeking justification for not recommending compensation of Rs. 50,000/- to the victim, whose human rights were infringed due to the lackadaisical behavior of police personnel. Subsequently, a letter was submitted by the Superintendent of Police, HRPC, Odisha, Cuttack, requesting the Collector & District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Balasore, Odisha, to provide a report along with proof of payment of compensation to the victim. In the absence of a response to the show-cause notice within the stipulated time, it was presumed that the State Government had no objection to granting the compensation. Hence, the compensation of Rs.

50,000/- was confirmed to be paid to Shri Lokanath Dalei. Following subsequent directives, the Superintendent of Police, District-Balasore, Odisha, submitted a compliance report along with proof of payment of Rs. 50,000/- to Shri Dalei. With the State authorities having complied with the Commission's directives, the case was closed on 22nd November, 2023.

Right to Health

41. Alleged death of complainant's wife due to medical negligence at Community Health Centre in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

(Case No. 16187.24.3.2021)

The instant complaint revolves around allegations of medical negligence leading to the death of the complainant's wife on 5th April, 2021, purportedly due to the actions of doctors and nursing staff at a community health center in District-Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. The Commission took cognizance of the matter on 28th June, 2021 and directed the Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh, to provide an action taken report. Upon reviewing the reports from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Aligarh, the Commission found prima facie evidence suggesting negligence on the part of the staff nurses at the Health Center in Atrauli. Consequently, the services of these nurses were terminated, and chargesheets were filed under section 304A of the Indian Penal Code.

The Commission identified the case as a clear instance of human rights violation resulting from negligence by public servants. Therefore, the Commission directed its registry to issue a show cause notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, to explain why compensation of Rs. 5,00,000/- should not be recommended to the NOKs of the deceased. The recommendation for compensation was upheld by the Commission, despite the State's contention that there was no lapse on the part of the medical team. The Commission emphasized the existence of a criminal case against the nursing staff and deemed their termination by the CMO, Aligarh, as evidence of negligence, thereby violating the human rights of the deceased victim. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh,

was directed to submit a compliance report within four weeks regarding the payment of the recommended compensation to the NOKs of the deceased. Subsequently, the Chief Medical Officer, District-Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, submitted a compliance report along with proof of payment of Rs 5,00,000/- to the husband of the victim. With the recommendation duly complied with by the State Government, the closed the case on 21st July, 2023.

42. Alleged death of four newborns due to electricity supply failure at SCNU Unit, Medical College, Ambikapur, Sarguja, Chhattisgarh.

(Case No. 862.33.16.2022)

The Commission received a complaint on 5th December, 2022, alleging the death of four newborns at the SCNU unit of Medical College, Ambikapur, Sarguja, Chhattisgarh, due to a failure of electricity supply. The complainant sought the Commission's intervention for a high-level inquiry, action against negligent public servants, compensation for the victims' families, and other necessary measures. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and called upon the authorities concerned to submit the requisite reports. A report from the Under Secretary, Medical Education Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, stated that the infants' deaths were not caused by a failure of electricity supply to the ICU, as the ventilators remained operational during the power outage. Instead, the deaths were attributed to medical reasons. Furthermore, disciplinary action had been taken against the Head of the Pediatric Department, a senior resident pediatrician had been dismissed, and repairs had been made to the faulty generator set. It was also revealed that a third party had been appointed to investigate and suggest measures for improvement.

After reviewing the report, the Commission acknowledged the admitted lapse on the part of the hospital administration and the subsequent disciplinary actions taken against the negligent individuals. It emphasized that the State holds vicarious liability for the death of the four newborn babies. Despite the disciplinary measures, the Commission deemed the case suitable for the award

of compensation due to the loss of life. Accordingly, the Commission issued a notice u.s 18a(i) of the PHR Act, 1993, to the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, directing them to show cause as to why a compensation of Rs. 40,000/- each should not be recommended to the NoK of the four deceased victims. In compliance with the Commission's direction, the Additional Chief Secretary, Medical Education Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, submitted a compliance report along with proof of payment of the recommended compensation. Having received and reviewed the compliance report, the Commission closed the case on 25th January, 2024.

43. Alleged deaths of five patients within a week at the Mental Hospital in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

(Case No. 16738.24.72.2022)

The Commission had received a complaint on 25th June, 2022 from a Human Rights Defender, alleging the deaths of five patients within a week at the Mental Hospital in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, due to inaction by the State Authorities. Additionally, the complaint had highlighted the deaths of two prisoners on 9th-10th June, 2022 who were lodged in the same Mental Hospital. Upon consideration of the matter, the Commission had deemed the allegations made in the complaint as serious, involving the deaths of patients in mental hospitals and their plight due to inaction by the State Authorities. The case had been seen as a grave violation of Human Rights affecting both the deceased and the living mental patients. In response to the Commission's directive, a report from the ADM, Varanasi, along with an inquiry committee report from the DM, Varanasi, dated 30th June, 2022, had been submitted. Upon review of these reports, it had been revealed that the deceased patients had various underlying medical conditions, like high blood sugar, kidney problems, low hemoglobin levels, fatal low blood count levels, or pre-existing health issues/ The report from the Chief Medical Officer, Varanasi, had indicated that various measures were being taken for the welfare of mental health patients, including roster-wise duty schedules for doctors and wardens, timely patient check-ups, and access to diagnostic laboratories.

Considering the actions taken by the Government and the efforts being made to improve the living conditions and health of patients in the mental hospital, the Commission had found no further need for intervention in the matter. Consequently, the case was closed on 24th July, 2023.

44. Death of mentally challenged patient Kanti at Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IHBAS), Delhi. **(Case No. 3217.30.3.2020)**

The Commission received an intimation dated 13th July, 2020 from the Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IHBAS), Delhi, regarding the death of a patient named Kanti on 16th March, 2020. Upon receiving this information, the Commission took cognizance of the matter and requested the concerned authorities to submit the requisite reports. Pursuant to the Commission's direction, a report from the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Vigilance Delhi was presented, indicating that upon reviewing the entire record from IHBAS, it was found that the deceased, Kanti, had a history of treatment dating back to May, 1989. After being treated, she was transferred to Nirmal Chhaya, but was readmitted to IHBAS in 1997. Later, by court order, she was transferred to Saksham in March, 2017. On 16th March, 2020, the patient displayed symptoms of irritability and refused food, following which her condition deteriorated, and she passed away at 5:30 PM. It was revealed that the patient suffered from moderate mental retardation and behavioral issues. Despite efforts to locate her family members, no information was found. Based on the report's findings, there was no indication of foul play in the patient's death. Consequently, the Commission determined that there was no basis to proceed further with the case. Hence, the case was closed on 7th June, 2023.

45. During cataract surgery, there was removal of eyes of six patients at Muzaffarpur Eye Hospital in Bihar. **(Case No. 4956.4.23.2021)**

The Commission came across a news report published in the Hindustan Times on 1st December,

2021, revealing that in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar, during cataract surgeries conducted at Muzaffarpur Eye Hospital, the doctors removed infected eyes of six patients at SKMCH Hospital. It was also mentioned in the news report that probably there may be more such cases and the doctors might have been forced to remove the eyes of about a dozen more patients. In most of the cases, the cornea of the patients was badly damaged, and there were chances that the infection could reach their brains, making the condition of the six patients very serious. The Commission took *suo motu* cognizance of the matter and issued a notice dated 1st December, 2021 to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, calling for a detailed report on the matter along with details about the exact number of patients who lost their vision, the status of the medical treatment provided to them, and the relief provided by the State Government, including action against the responsible officers/ doctors. Following the Commission's directives, the Special Secretary to the Government, Home Department, Government of Bihar, via communication dated 29th September, 2022, forwarded the report duly forwarded by the Officer on Special Duty, Health Department, Patna, Bihar.

The Commission perused the reports and concluded that on 22nd November, 2021, a total of 65 patients were operated on for Cataract surgery. Among them, 36 patients were infected after the operation, and out of which, in 19 patients, the infected eye was removed. A monetary compensation of Rs 1 Lakh was paid to each of these 19 victims from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Bihar. Proof of payment was also enclosed. In regard to the action taken against responsible officials, it was submitted that the matter was under investigation by Brahmapura, Muzaffarpur Police. The Commission observed that losing eyesight not only made a person handicapped but also put the victim under tremendous stress and mental agony. Moreover, the amount of Rupees One Lakh each paid to the victims was inadequate. The Commission via proceedings dated 27th March, 2023 directed the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, to pay Rs. two Lakh in addition to Rs. One Lakh as monetary compensation to all the victims and submit a compliance report along with proof of payment.

Upon non-receipt of the requisite report within the stipulated time, the Commission, through proceedings dated 26th December, 2023, once again reminded the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, to comply with its direction and disburse Rs. Two Lakh in addition to Rs. One Lakh as monetary compensation to all the victims.

46. Commission's intervention in the case of Production of fake medicines in the place of food supplements by nutraceutical companies.

(Case No. 77.8.0.2023)

The Commission took *suo-motu* cognizance of a news report dated 30th May, 2023 published in 'Dainik Jagran', highlighting the proliferation of spurious drug production in the Baddi Industrial area of Solan, Himachal Pradesh, by nutraceutical companies misusing their licenses. The report underscored the dangers posed by such illicit activities to public health across the country. Upon considering the contents of the news report, the Commission, through its proceedings dated 1st June, 2023, issued notices to the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, the Chairperson of FSSAI, and the Drugs Controller General of India. The notices sought a detailed report on the status of implementation of relevant laws to combat the production and sale of spurious drugs by nutraceutical companies in Himachal Pradesh. In response, the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, submitted a comprehensive report on 5th July, 2023 detailing the actions taken by FSSAI in coordination with the State Food Authority and CDSCO. These actions included rigorous inspections, issuance of notices, and coordination with state authorities for enforcement of laws. Furthermore, the State Drugs Controlling Authority (SDCA), Himachal Pradesh, reported joint inspections with CDSCO resulting in orders for the cessation of manufacturing in non-compliant units. The report highlighted efforts to strengthen coordination between FSSAI and CDSCO to ensure the quality and safety of nutraceutical and drug products.

After reviewing these reports, the Commission, through its proceedings dated 26th December, 2023, directed the Secretary, Department of Health & Family, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, to provide further updates. Specifically, the Commission requested a detailed action taken report from FSSAI on inspections, samples collected, results, and subsequent actions against non-compliant Food Business Operators (FBOs) in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh; and information on the status of investigations and prosecutions against defaulting FBOs. The Commission continues to actively monitor this matter, awaiting the requisite reports from the concerned authorities.

47. Commission's Intervention after the death of a pregnant woman in maternity care due to lack of anesthesia facility in the hospital in Dumka, Jharkhand.

(Case No. 521.34.5.2020)

The Commission received a complaint dated 1st June, 2020, from Shri Onkar Vishwakarma, a Human Rights Activist from Koderma, Jharkhand, regarding an incident reported in newspaper, where a victim was denied maternity care due to the unavailability of anesthesia at the hospital, resulting in the death of her child in the womb. The Commission took cognizance of this complaint on 18th August, 2020 and directed the Deputy Commissioner of Dumka, Jharkhand, to provide an action taken report. Due to non-receipt of the necessary reports, the Commission addressed the matter during a camp sitting in Jharkhand. The District Collector of Dumka, Jharkhand, acknowledged that there was no anesthetist available at the hospital where the victim was admitted. Consequently, the patient had to be referred to a better center for appropriate treatment and management. Subsequently, through proceedings dated 16th August, 2022, the Commission directed the Government of Jharkhand, represented by its Chief Secretary, to provide a monetary compensation of Rs. Two Lakh to the victim, and to submit proof of payment within two months. In response to the Commission's directions, the Under Secretary to the Government

of Jharkhand, Home, Jail, and Disaster Department, submitted a letter dated 28th February 2023, confirming the payment of Rs. Two Lakh to the victim via bank draft No. 417819 dated 23rd December, 2022. The proof of payment was also enclosed with the letter. Acknowledging that the Government of Jharkhand had complied with the Commission's directions and provided proof of payment, the Commission closed the case dated 31st May, 2023.

48. Commissions action into medical negligence death of pregnant women. (Case No. 19376.24.20.2022)

The Commission received a complaint alleging the complainant's daughter-in-law was pregnant, and she was being medically examined during her pregnancy in District Government Hospital, Chitrakoot. On 15th April, 2022, the victim suffered labour pains, but Dr. Rafik Ansari sent her home, stating that there was still time for delivery. The victim was admitted in hospital at around 9.30 pm and gave birth to a girl child as normal delivery. It is alleged that the delivery was done by nursing staff in the absence of any duty doctor, and the staff nurse used an instrument negligently causing the death of the lady. The complainant lodged a complaint via case no. 0140.2022 u.s 304 IPC at PS Thana Kotwali Karwi, but the police are allegedly attempting to save the accused persons. The Commission sought an inquiry report from the relevant state authority in the matter, which revealed that the victim died as a result of a prolapsed uterus. Despite being informed several times by the victim's family members and hospital staff, the doctors failed to attend to her, resulting in her death. The inquiry found Dr. Rajesh Khare, CMS Surgeon, and Dr. Rafiq Ansari, Gynecologist, to be negligent in their duties, jointly liable for the victim's death, and recommended disciplinary action against them.

Another report received from the State authority revealed that in PS Kotwali Karwi, FIR no.140.2022 dated 16th April, 2022 u/s 304 IPC was registered. The PMR report identified the victim's final cause of death as "shock and hemorrhage due to uterine inversion as a complication of vaginal delivery." It was also revealed that Dr. Rafeq Ansari and the then-

CMS, Dr. Rajesh Khare, were found negligent for failing to attend to the patient. As a result, the charges under Section 166 A of the Indian Penal Code were found to be substantiated against them in Case No. 140.22 PS Kotwali Karwi, and chargesheet No. 458.2023 dated 22nd September, 2023 was filed against them in court. The Commission recommended that the Government of Uttar Pradesh, through its Chief Secretary, pay a compensation of Rs. 7 Lakh to the deceased victim's NoK.

49. Commission's action into death of children due to vaccination in Potari village, East Muzaffarpur. (Case No. 1461.4.23.2017)

HRD Shri R.H. Bansal filed a complaint with the Commission, alleging that two children died and nine others were in critical condition after being vaccinated by Bihar health department officials in Potari village. The villagers informed the head of the local Anganwadi worker about the situation, but she ignored it and did nothing to save the lives of innocent children. In accordance with the Commission's directive, the District Magistrate of Muzaffarpur forwarded all deceased children's treatment records, laboratory reports, vaccination records, postmortem reports, and pathology reports in a communication dated 30th June, 2020. A report dated 27th June, 2020 from SDPO, East Muzaffarpur was also enclosed, stating that statements from all three parents have been recorded and are part of the report. After closely scrutinizing the facts and circumstances, as well as the analysis of reports by the Commission's Investigation Division, it was observed that, although the vaccine injected into the deceased children was of standard quality, as approved by the Central Laboratory Kasauli, it is a fact that all the children who were vaccinated for JE and Measles fell ill on the same day, and three of them died with the same cause of death. The Commission did not think this to be mere coincidence. The medical expert on the NHRC panel also stated that the possibility of children dying as a result of vaccine-related complications cannot be ruled out. As a result, the Commission recommended that the State, through its Chief Secretary and the Additional Chief Secretary,

Department of Health, Government of Bihar, pay compensation of Rs. Three Lakh each to the NoK of the deceased children, Raja Babu, Sonu, and Rohit. The same was complied with by the state authorities.

50. Commission's action in case involving rape of a patient with mental illness at GIM.

(Case No. 332.10.11.2023-WC)

The Commission received a complaint alleging that a patient with mental illness was raped by a 36-year-old man at Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) hospital. The Director of GIMS submitted that a FIR was filed against the accused in Brahmpur PS FIR No.60.2023 u.s 376 IPC. A fact-finding committee was formed, and it was recommended that the security guard and a male nurse be terminated for negligence. Show cause notices were issued to the CMO, supervisors, nursing officer, and Group-D employee for lapses in duty, and a proposal was made to open an investigation against the District Surgeon and Nursing Superintendent for negligence under Rule 11 of the Karnataka Civil Service (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1957. Police took action by filing a charge sheet against the accused and transferring the victim to the State Home for Women as well as DLSA for compensation.

The Commission found that GIMS failed to provide the victim with safety and security, and that the crime of rape violated the rights of a person with a disability (UNCRPD). It was also found that GIMS violated Article 9 of the National Charter of Patients' Rights (NHRC), as well as the Charter of Patients' Rights and Responsibilities. The state is vicariously liable for the negligence of GIMS officials. The Commission issued a show cause notice to the Government of Karnataka under Section 18(c) of the PHRA and recommended compensation of Rs. 2 Lakh to the victim.

GIMS responded by claiming to have deployed security personnel and CCTV cameras and opposed compensation payments due to the negligence of GIMS officials (under enquiry). The Commission upheld the show cause notice due to GIMS's negligence. Compensation was recommended considering absolute liability of the State and 'parens

patriae' principle. Compliance report with proof of payment from the Government of Karnataka was awaited.

51. Commission's action in nurse's negligence leading to amputation.

(Case No. 332.10.11.2023-WC)

The Commission received a complaint alleging that a patient's right hand was amputated due to alleged negligence by a Community Health Officer (CHO) named Reena Languri, as the nurse allegedly fell asleep and injected the victim wrongly, blocking an artery. Action Taken by Additional Secretary, Department of Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare, Government of Jharkhand included transfer of Reena Languri, providing a Disability certificate and Unique Disability ID issued to the victim (80% disability) ID No. JH122062006010834. Allotment of funds has been requested for ex-gratia payment to the victim.

The Commission Found that Reena Languri's negligence caused the amputation, violating the victim's right to life and liberty (Article 21 of the Constitution) and holding the State government vicariously liable. The Commission issued a Show Cause Notice to the Government of Jharkhand under Section 18 of the PHRA, 1993 and recommended compensation of Rs. 4 Lakh to the victim. However, no response was received from the Government of Jharkhand despite reminders. The Commission confirmed the show cause notice and recommended interim compensation of Rs. 4 Lakh. Compliance report with proof of payment from the Government of Jharkhand was awaited.

52. State compensated the victim's family after the Commission directed, following the child's death due to ambulance unavailability.

(Case No. 979.4.13.2020)

The complainant reported a print media incident to the Commission concerning the death of a 3-year-old child due to the unavailability of an ambulance. Despite being referred from Jehanabad Sadar Hospital to Patna for further treatment, the child did

not receive timely assistance. The Commission investigated the matter, finding that the child, Rishi Kumar, could have been saved if provided with oxygen during the journey, which was not made available despite an ambulance being present at the hospital. The Commission determined this to be a clear case of negligence on the part of the medical staff at Sadar Hospital, Jahanabad, for failing to provide adequate and timely treatment and care to the deceased.

The State authorities took departmental action against the responsible officials, indicating an acknowledgment of negligence. This negligence violated the victim's right to health and care, for which the State was held vicariously liable. Consequently, the Commission directed the Chief Secretary of Jharkhand to compensate the NoK of the deceased with Rs. 1 Lakh. Upon confirmation of the sanction of the compensation, the Commission closed the case.

53. Compensation awarded to the kin of the pregnant victim who died due to the negligence of the District Hospital doctor and staff.

(Case No. 29842.24.45.2019)

The complainant, Ramnaresh, alleged that his pregnant daughter, Saroj Devi, died at the Government Hospital Tamkuhi Raj due to the negligence of the doctor and staff. They demanded Rs. 5,000/- but he only gave them Rs. 3,000/-. As a result, they forced her out of the labor room. The delivery then took place on the bed itself, but nobody came to help her and they only sent a nurse. Due to inaction by the nurse, the victim started to bleed, and succumbed to death. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and requested a report from the State Authorities. The report was forwarded to obtain the opinion of a medical expert from the NHRC panel. The action taken report revealed that she died due to excessive bleeding and the delay in reaching the District Hospital due to an ambulance drivers' strike. There was inadequate patient care in this matter, and the State Government should have arranged an alternative for the ambulance strike. The deceased required proper care and medical facilities while

being transported, but the hospital authorities failed to provide them, resulting in the untimely death of the victim. The negligence of the Government hospital violated the victim's right to health, for which the State Government was vicariously liable. Therefore, the Commission directed the State, through the Chief Secretary, to pay monetary compensation of Rs. Two Lakh to the NoK of the deceased victim. Subsequently, the Commission closed the case with a directive to the State to submit proof of payment.

54. Hospital negligence leads to an infant's eye impairment, compensation awarded. (Case No. 6215.24.30.2020)

The complainant, identified as a financially disadvantaged labourer, raised concerns regarding his wife's inability to reach the hospital for childbirth, resulting in the delivery of their baby girl at their temporary residence in Sector 15, Noida, on 3rd December, 2019. Despite their efforts to seek post-natal care at the Government District Combined Hospital in Sector 30, Noida, they were turned away by hospital officials. Subsequently, the infant experienced complications, including the inability to open one of her eyes. The complainant alleged negligence on the part of the government hospital in Gautam Budh Nagar for denying postnatal care, which led to this impairment in the newborn. Further grievances included harassment when attempting to obtain a birth certificate from various centres, indicating negligence not only in treatment but also in administrative procedures. The lack of proper records and the absence of a Birth History Table (BHT) or progress record contributed to the complainant's premature discharge from the hospital. Additionally, the delayed registration of the birth, occurring four months after the baby's arrival, highlighted further negligence and insensitivity on the part of the hospitals. The issuance of a warning letter to hospital staff on 3rd December, 2019, underscored the negligence in the victim's treatment. This negligence was deemed a violation of the victim's right to health, necessitating intervention by the State Government. As a result, the Commission directed the State to provide monetary compensation of Rs. One Lakh to the complainant.

Upon confirmation of the sanctioned relief, the case was closed, with the State instructed to furnish proof of payment within the specified timeframe.

55. Patients died due to the administration of sepsis-causing bacteria at PGI, Chandigarh. (Case No.12.27.0.2023)

In this case, the Commission received a complaint dated 30th December, 2022 from Shri K.S. Nagra, of Jalandhar, Punjab alleging that 5 patients died due to the administration of sepsis-causing bacteria at PGI, Chandigarh. The samples of aesthetic propofol drawn were found contaminated with bacterial impurities that are highly toxic for human organs. The Commission took cognizance and called reports from authorities concerned. In response to the directions of the Commission, the SSP, Chandigarh, disclosed that a Newspaper cutting titled as '*Propofol samples has sepsis-causing bacteria, toxic impurities: PGI Report*' was published wherein it was mentioned that 5 persons expired due to the same. In a further response, the Sr. Administrative Officer (H) PGIMER, Chandigarh, reported that a committee was constituted to look into the details of the adverse events which revealed that the incident happened due to use of Inj. Propoven (Becure) which was sold at Gupta Medicos, Emergency Complex, PGIMER, Chandigarh. The Committee recommended that PGIMER Chandigarh should have its own pharmacy so that drugs of proven quality can be procured and provided for use in the hospital. PGIMER, Chandigarh should also create an in-house facility for quality testing of medicines in the Department of Pharmacology.

The Commission considered the materials on record and observed that it is really a matter of concern that five patients died due to adverse effects of drugs which were being sold at a shop in the Emergency Complex of the hospital. Negligence of allowing sale of such drugs in the Emergency Complex of the hospital, which, on analysis by Department of Pharmacology, PGIMER, Chandigarh, Department of Medical Microbiology, PGIMER, Chandigarh and Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation facility, Punjab University, Chandigarh, was found to be contaminated and containing impurities, some of which had high

degree of toxicity, is a serious threat to the lives of the patients. It was a serious issue that despite all safeguards in place, the sale and marketing of the drug was allowed. Therefore, notice was issued to the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, directing him to show cause as to why the Commission should not recommend compensation of Rs. Five Lakh each to the NoK of the deceased persons who lost their lives due to use of sub-standard drugs during treatment. It was directed that the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India shall also cause an enquiry on the issue of manufacture, sale and marketing of the contaminated and impure drug and ensure that strict action is taken against the persons who permitted the same. The reply from both the authorities was awaited.

56. People died due to an explosion in the AC unit of the ICU of the Vijay Vallabh Hospital. (Case No.906.13.37.2021)

The Commission received a complaint dated 23rd April, 2021 from Shri Tushar Devidas Zendeatil, a resident of Pune, Maharashtra alleging that 19 people died due to an explosion in the AC unit of the ICU of the Vijay Vallabh Hospital. On 29th April, 2021, the Commission directed the Principal Secretary, Department of Health to file an action taken report in the matter. In response to the directions of the Commission, the authorities of the State Government submitted the report, which revealed that Vijay Vallabh COVID Hospital caught fire on 23rd April, 2021 due to improper maintenance of Central Cassette AC and 15 COVID patients died and two other COVID patients got injured in this unfortunate incident. The Commission observed that Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation cannot escape from the liability of paying the compensation and recommended Rs. 5 Lakh to each family of the deceased persons and Rs. 50,000/- each to the injured persons. The Commission recommended additional compensation of Rs. two Lakh each to the family of the deceased persons and Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. ten thousand only) each to the injured person. Accordingly, the Government of Maharashtra, through its Chief Secretary, was instructed to pay the compensation as recommended by the Commission.

In response to the directions of the Commission, VVMC Corporation announced financial assistance of Rs. 5 Lakh to the NoK of persons who died in this incident and Rs. 50,000/- to the injured. The State Government also released Rs. 4 Lakh per person from SDRF and Rs. 1 Lakh per person from CM Relief Fund to the legal heirs of the deceased and two injured individuals were compensated by Rs. 1 Lakh each. The Central Government has already released Rs. 2 Lakh as relief measures to the legal heirs of the deceased. Since the legal heirs of the deceased as well as the injured persons were adequately compensated in this matter, the case was closed.

57. Newly born child succumbed to burn injuries, while he was on an infant warmer machine due to negligence of the doctors.

(Case No. 23076.24.44.2021)

In this case, the Commission received a complaint dated 17th August, 2021 from Sh. Mohit, a resident of Central Delhi who intimated that a newly born child succumbed to burn injuries on 14th August, 2021, while he was on an infant warmer machine and this was due to negligence of the doctors of the District Hospital, Kaushambi. The Commission sought reports from the District Magistrate, Kaushambi, UP in this matter. In response, a report was received from the District Magistrate, Kaushambi, U.P. in the Commission wherein it was submitted that three members Pediatrician Committee was constituted for getting the matter enquired into. According to the report, the newly born child died due to Cardio Respiratory Arrest as he was suffering from birth Asphyxia on account of which he went into severe respiratory distress. The post mortem could not be conducted because the family members of the deceased did not give their consent for the same. No human or technical error took place in the death of the child.

The Commission considered the report from which it was evident that based upon the enquiry by the three members Pediatrician Committee found no human or technical error occurred in connection with the death of the newly born child. The Commission observed that it is the pious duty of the doctors on duty to take care of the patients admitted in the SNCU Ward of the Joint District Hospital, Kaushambi

and in this matter, it was quite apparent that the negligence was committed by the doctors due to which the newly born baby succumbed to death. The Commission recommended compensation of Rs.1 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. Accordingly, the Commission ordered the Government of Uttar Pradesh through its Chief Secretary to pay the monetary relief to the NoK of the deceased. Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, a letter was received from the Special Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh wherein it was mentioned that the Medical Team during enquiry found that the newly born baby suffered from birth Asphyxia on account of severe respiratory distress, the baby died due to Cardio Respiratory Arrest. The post mortem could not be conducted due to non-cooperation of the family members, and as a result, there was no human or technical error which resulted in the death. It further added that the father of the deceased child had around 5 bigha of land and his annual income is Rs. 46,000/- from agriculture and his financial condition is normal. The Commission mentioned that while issuing the show cause notice, it had considered all the aspects of this matter and the reply of the show cause notice submitted on behalf of the State Administration does not contradict the findings of the Commission. Hence, a recommendation was made for payment of Rs. One Lakh to the NoK of the deceased by the Government of Uttar Pradesh through its Chief Secretary. The case was closed with these directions.

58. Death of a 15-year-old tribal boy due to alleged negligence of the authorities of Residential Tribal Welfare Ashram (Boys) School run by the Tribal Welfare Department.

(Case No. 2716.1.29.2022)

In this case, the Commission received a complaint dated 5th December, 2022 from the Indigenous Lawyers Association regarding the death of a 15-year-old tribal boy identified as S. Suri Babu due to alleged negligence of the authorities of Residential Tribal Welfare Ashram (Boys) School run by the Tribal Welfare Department. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and sought a report from the Collector and DM, Alluri Sitharaju district. In

response to the direction of the Commission, a report was received from the Collector and DM, Alluri Sitharaju district which disclosed that in the instant matter, an enquiry was conducted and on the basis of the enquiry report, Shri Hema Chander (Headmaster) and Shri P. Sathyarao (Dy. Warden) of GTW Ashram School (Boys), Dokaluru, Paderu Mondal suspended. Further, Rs. One Lakh was sanctioned to the father of the deceased.

The Tehsildar submitted a report stating that an extent of ACAC-0.50 cts of Government land in Sy. NO. 54-P classified as AWD was identified for assignment to the application and this report was endorsed by the Sub Collector, Paderu. The departmental enquiry report was collected and it was prayed to the Commission that the further action in this matter may kindly be dropped. The Commission considered the report and it appeared that there was negligence on the part of the public servants and the human rights of the deceased was violated. The Commission recommended compensation of Rs. 3 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased u.s 18(1) (a) of PHR Act. Accordingly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh through its Chief Secretary was directed to pay monetary relief as recommended by the Commission. The case was closed with directions to the concerned authority to submit a compliance report.

Right to Food & Nutrition

59. Resolution of hunger strike at Bathinda Central Jail after the intervention of the Commission.

(Case No. 487.19.2.2023)

On 15th May, 2023, a news report published in the English daily 'Morning Standard' under caption '*Bathinda inmates go on hunger strike demanding better facilities in prison*', which highlighted that more than two dozen prisoners at Bathinda Central Jail had initiated a hunger strike to demand better facilities in accordance with the Prison Manual. The demands included increased phone call privileges, opportunities for outdoor walks, smooth canteen card top-ups, and the installation of televisions for entertainment. The Commission took *suo motu*

cognizance of this news report and, via proceedings dated 16th May, 2023, issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Prisons, Punjab, requesting a detailed report on the matter. Additionally, the Commission directed its Special Rapporteur, Shri Mahesh Singla, to conduct an inspection of Bathinda Central Jail and provide a report.

Shri Mahesh Singla, Special Rapporteur, NHRC, visited the prison and submitted his inspection report on 2nd June, 2023. He discussed the prisoners' demands with prison staff and recommended various measures to address their concerns. These included provisions for medical care, enhanced communication privileges, physical activities during lockout times, and the installation of TVs in cells. The Principal Secretary, Government of Punjab, communicated on 8th September, 2023, detailing the actions taken in response to Shri Mahesh Singla's recommendations. Notable actions included increasing registered contact numbers and minutes for phone calls, regulating canteen facilities uniformly, and providing TVs as requested by inmates. Following the implementation of these measures by Bathinda Central Jail authorities, including the provision of TV sets, the hunger strike was called off. Consequently, the Commission, in proceedings dated 26th December, 2023, closed the case, noting that no further intervention was necessary as the prison authorities had complied with the recommendations.

Right to Education

60. Commission's action regarding establishment of a School in Jajulabandha Village, ASR, Andhra Pradesh.

(Case No. 912.1.29.2023)

The Commission took *suo motu* cognizance after reading a news article in the 'Times of India' dated 31st May, 2023 titled '*Tribals in ASR Request authorities for School*'. The article highlighted the urgent need expressed by the residents of Jajulabandha tribal hamlet in the Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district of Andhra Pradesh to establish a school in the hamlet or to allocate a government teacher due to the challenging journey their children faced to

access education. On 1st June, 2023, the Commission issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, seeking a detailed report on the matter and the steps taken or proposed to address the educational challenges faced not only in Jajulabandha but also in similar parts of the State. In response to the Commission's directive, the District Collector of ASR District submitted a detailed report confirming the situation described in the news article and emphasizing the critical necessity of a school in Jajulabandha village. The report highlighted the efforts of the Mandal Educational Officer (MEO) in gathering essential data about school-age children and the challenges posed by the hilly and forested terrain. The District Administration took interim measures such as erecting a temporary school shed, appointing a teacher, providing mid-day meals and potable water, and allocating funds for the construction of a permanent school building.

After reviewing the actions taken by the ASR District Administration, the Commission recognized their proactive steps and ongoing efforts towards finding permanent solutions. Consequently, the Commission deemed further intervention unnecessary but directed the Commissioner of School Education to provide additional support to the students of Jajulabandha village, including free school books, waiver of school fees, and any other necessary assistance. With these directives and observations, the Commission formally concluded its involvement in the matter, acknowledging the progress made and the continued commitment to improving educational access for the marginalized tribal children in Jajulabandha village.

61. Commission's action in school gate collapse and child's death.

(Case No. 1216.6.2.2022)

A complaint was filed by an HRD alleging negligence of authorities leading to an accident at Government Girls School-1, Rajula. A portion of a dilapidated concrete slab fell on two minor students, causing one to suffer brain hemorrhage. Compensation was requested. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and directed the District Magistrate and Education Officer to submit a report within four

weeks. No response was received and therefore the matter was followed up. The District Magistrate submitted a report stating the incident occurred due to a portion of a dilapidated concrete slab falling on two girls in Class VIII. Both the victims received medical aid and were discharged from the hospital later. Inspections were ordered for damaged structures. After the incident, six rooms were abandoned by the school and alternate arrangements were made for the students. No carelessness or negligence was found on part of the school authority.

The District Primary Education Officer's report confirmed the incident details. In addition, it was submitted that both girl students were provided with aid of Rs. 1,43,264/- for incurring all the necessary expenditure post incident. The Superintendent of Police found no police complaint filed regarding the incident. The Commission noted the incident, acknowledging no negligence from the school but the dilapidated condition of the slab. Referring to judicial precedents, the Commission highlighted the government's strict liability in ensuring child safety in schools. Citing the Supreme Court decision in *Avinash Mehrotra vs Union of India & Ors* (WP (Civil) NO.483 OF 2004), the Commission emphasized the constitutional duty to provide safe school environments.

The responsibility for child safety in schools lies with the school management, and neglect may constitute a violation of the Juvenile Justice Act. Neglectful conduct leading to accidents should be reported to the police and can be considered a violation of the Juvenile Justice Act. The Commission directed its Registry to issue Show Cause Notice u/s 18(c) of the PHRA, 1993, to the Government of Gujarat through the Chief Secretary, as to why the Commission should not recommend payment of Rs. 50,000 (fifty thousand only) as compensation to the victim Shruti Modhiya who was discharged after getting primary treatment and R 1,50,000 (one lakh fifty thousand only) as compensation to the victim Rita Vadher as her condition deteriorated and referred to another Multi Specialist Hospital for better treatment where she remained hospitalized for three days. The recommended compensation shall be in addition to the aid of Rs. 1,43,264/- which provided

to the victims for incurring all the necessary expenditure post incident. The Commission has also asked the concerned authorities to furnish the proof of recommended payment and a compliance report.

62. The Commission recommended disciplinary action against the accused teacher and compensation for the student whose ribs were broken due to the beatings.

(Case No. 1721.24.39.2023)

The Commission received a complaint alleging that a third-grade student named Luvkush, residing in Village Haveli, PS Mirganj, District Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, was severely beaten by a teacher at Primary School, Haveli, on 30th December, 2022, resulting in broken ribs as confirmed by a medical report. A criminal case was registered by the police based on his father's complaint, which is currently under investigation. It was evident that the minor student was subjected to brutality and assault by a government teacher. The state report did not mention whether any disciplinary action was taken against the delinquent Assistant Teacher for this criminal misconduct. Therefore, the Commission issued a show cause notice to the State through the Chief Secretary, asking why monetary compensation of Rs. 60,000/- should not be paid to the victim minor student for the violation of his human rights by a public servant. Additionally, the Principal Secretary, School Education, was directed to sensitize the teaching staff in the State to prevent such brutality against children and submit an action taken report. He was also instructed to inform the Commission about any disciplinary action taken against the accused Assistant Teacher within the prescribed time frame. The SP, Jaunpur submitted an updated investigation report, revealing that a charge sheet was filed against the accused teacher. Subsequently, the Commission confirmed the recommendation for the monetary relief and closed the case, directing the State to submit proof of payment within the prescribed time frame.

63. The Commission addressed the issue of corporal punishment, recommended compensation for the victim, and ensured compliance.

(Case No. 2914.18.19.2022)

The complaint reported corporal punishment inflicted by a teacher upon Bikash Behera, a student who failed to write a poem. An FIR was filed against the teacher under relevant sections, and an investigation ensued, confirming the allegations of physical abuse. The Commission issued a show cause notice to the Odisha government, directing them to explain why compensation of Rs. One Lakh should not be recommended for Behera. In response, the Secretary of the Department of School & Mass Education informed that the accused was suspended pending departmental proceedings, which were ongoing. They requested a reconsideration of the compensation recommendation due to these actions. The Commission acknowledged the substantiated allegations but emphasized the neglect of Behera's welfare. The violation of Behera's human rights remained unresolved, and the Commission upheld its recommendation but reduced the compensation to Rs. 25,000/-. The Commission further instructed the government to ensure Behera's protection from any potential reprisals. In compliance, a report from the Joint Secretary of the Department of School and Mass Education confirmed the payment of Rs. 25,000/- to Behera's bank account, along with proof of payment. Consequently, the Commission closed the case.

64. The commission recommended compensation in a student assault case.

(Case No. 673.4.38.2023)

A complaint was filed by a HRD, reporting that a student from a government school was severely assaulted by a teacher and had to be hospitalized. Despite this, the school authorities protected the accused teacher and pressured the victim's family to resolve the issue privately. Following the Commission's direction, reports from the SP and DM of Supaul were received. It was submitted that a three-member enquiry committee was constituted, which

found that two students, Kanhaiya Kumar and Ramesh Kumar had stomach ache on the day of incident, hence both of them decided to go back home. Victim Vikas Kumar went with them. Next day, all three students were beaten up by the accused teacher with a stick. The accused beat Vikas Kumar until the stick broke and thereafter, with a belt. On the complaint of victim Vikas Kumar, an FIR had been registered. Subsequently, a show cause notice was issued to the Bihar government, questioning why compensation of Rs. 10,000/- each should not be recommended for the three victim students. In response, the Special Secretary of the Home Department admitted to the violation of the student's rights and assured compliance with the Commission's directives.

The Commission, in its proceedings, recommended monetary compensation of Rs. 10,000/- to each of the three victim students for the infringement of their human and statutory rights under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The Special Secretary informed the Accountant General of Bihar about the sanctioning of Rs. 30,000/- for the compensation, but proof of payment is pending.

65. Minor died after the main gate of Ankula Satavasti Nodal Higher Primary School collapsed in Ashtgarh block of Cuttack district.

(Case No. 1382.18.3.2023)

In the instant matter, the Commission received a complaint on 21st April, 2023 from a Human Rights Activist wherein he alleged that a minor died after the main gate of Ankula Satavasti Nodal Higher Primary School collapsed and fell on the child in Ashtgarh block of Cuttack district. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and called an Action Taken Report from District Magistrate, Cuttack Odisha. In response to the directions of the Commission, a report was received from the Collector & District Magistrate, Cuttack, Odisha. It was reported that the death of deceased Chiku Naik had occurred on 7th April, 2023 due to the collapse of the school gate on him. On that day school was closed on the eve of 'Good Friday'. It was ascertained from the

report that the boy named Chiku Naik along with other friends was playing with the said gate. The eye witness restrained them from playing with the gate. Accidentally the iron chain broke down and one side of the Gate fell down over the child. According to the written statement of eyewitnesses, who are local inhabitants, rescued the child and reported to the family member and his elder father took him to a nearby hospital. During the treatment at hospital the concerned Doctor declared Chiku Naik as dead. The incident was only an accident and not man-made and he was not the student of the Stabadi Nodal School.

The Commission considered the report. Admittedly, this was a case of accident. It was shocking to know that the main gate of a school was such that it fell down on a child resulting in his death. It is the cardinal duty of the school administration to ensure that the infrastructure of the school is such that it is not detrimental to the lives of the children studying there. The school administration miserably failed to maintain the gate which resulted in loss of life of a child. The State, therefore, is vicariously liable. Therefore, issued notice u.s 18a(i) of the PHR Act, 1993 to the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha directing him to Show Cause within four weeks as to why the Commission should not recommend payment of compensation of Rs.3,00,000/- to the NoK of the deceased child, who lost his life due to negligence of the school authorities. The reply to the show-cause notice dated 10th January, 2024 was awaited.

Rights of Bonded, Child and Other Forms of Labour

66. Commission's role in granting compensation for the family of deceased Ramesh Mandal.

(Case No. 280.33.0.2018-PCD)

The Commission received intimation on 24th May, 2018 from the Superintendent of Police, Balrampur-Ramanujganj, Chhattisgarh, regarding the suicidal death of an unknown person on 22nd May, 2018, later identified as Ramesh Mandal, aged 60. The deceased was discovered hanging from a tree near

Bhatkol Pond, prompting the registration of UD case No. 28.2018 under Section 174 CrPC. Upon review of the circumstances surrounding the incident, the Commission directed, through its proceedings dated 6th February, 2023, to issue a notice to the Government of Chhattisgarh, represented by its Chief Secretary. The notice asked the government to show cause within six weeks why a compensation of Rs. 5 Lakh shouldn't be awarded to Ramesh Mandal's NoK.

The Chhattisgarh government informed the Commission that an FIR (First Information Report) No. 0221.2019 under IPC Sections 306 (abetment of suicide) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) was filed against an Excise constable in December, 2019. The FIR case was ongoing in the Additional District and Sessions Court. The government clarified that their department rules don't provide compensation for employee errors. However, they confirmed a criminal case was registered and under judicial consideration. The Commission upheld the show cause notice and directed the Chief Secretary to pay Rs. 5 lakh as monetary compensation to Ramesh Mandal's NoK. The Chief Secretary was instructed to submit a compliance report with payment proof within eight weeks. In response to the Commission's directive, the Under Secretary, Commercial Tax Department, Chhattisgarh, submitted a letter dated 4th August, 2023 confirming that an amount of Rs. 5 Lakh was paid to the wife of the deceased on 28th July, 2023. The compliance report and proof of payment were also submitted in accordance with the Commission's instructions. Hence, the case was closed dated 4th September, 2023.

67. Commission's action into death of a 13-year-old tribal domestic help.

(Case No. 317.3.3.2022)

The Commission received a complaint regarding the death of a 13-year-old tribal domestic help under mysterious conditions at her employer's house in Dhula area under Dhula PS in Darrang district of Assam in the month of June, 2022. The deceased reportedly worked as a domestic helper and lived in the Dhekiajuli area of Assam's Sonitpur District.

According to the deceased's family members, their minor daughter was discovered hanging at her employer's home. The victim's family members allegedly suspected foul play in their minor daughter's death and claimed that the police failed to collect photographic and videographic evidence of the incident. It was also claimed that police officers were unwilling to investigate the matter, and that the Officer in Charge of Dhula PS had allegedly pressured them to not file a written complaint regarding the girl's unnatural death.

The Commission investigated the matter and discovered that two months after the FIR was filed, a CID investigation was launched to determine whether there was a cover-up by the district's top police officials to turn a case of rape and murder of a minor girl into suicide after being bribed by the accused, and the allegations were found to be true during the investigation. Three doctors who performed autopsies, a magistrate who conducted an inquest, and several other senior police officers were suspended and arrested. It was clear that after the FIR was filed, all accused local police officers, magistrates, and doctors attempted to screen the accused based on their commissions and omissions during the investigation, inquest, and post-mortem examination, which clearly violated the deceased victim's and her family members' human rights to a fair investigation, for which the State Government was held vicariously liable. As a result, the Commission recommended to the State, through its Chief Secretary, that compensation of Rs. 2 Lakh be paid to the NOK of the deceased victim to compensate for their suffering, anxiety, and mental agony. The compensation was to be in addition to the NOK that the deceased victim was entitled to under other Victim Compensation Schemes. The compliance report was submitted by the State Government, the compensation amount of Rs. 2 lakh was disbursed to Shri Raju Turi, father of the deceased victim girl, after the Commission's direction.

68. Commission action preserving Right to Livelihood as pension.

(Case No. 30444.24.12.2022)

The Commission received a complaint alleging that a retired Post Office employee in Hamirpur, Uttar

Pradesh, had not received his pension arrears, other bonuses, or TA despite contacting multiple authorities. The complainant retired on 31st March, 2013, and his retirement benefits were paid in 2023, i.e., after ten years. The complainant had been deprived of his legitimate retiral dues for such a long time, resulting in a violation of his fundamental rights. The right to livelihood is guaranteed by Articles 21 and 300A of the Indian Constitution, and thus Section 18 of the PHRA, 1993 is applicable. A retired person's right to retirement benefits is inextricably linked to his or her right to a living. It is also worth noting that in 'Delhi Transport Corporation v. D.T.C. Mazdoor Congress', Special Leave to Appeal (c) No. 12553 of 2020, the Supreme Court stated that the "right to life includes the right to livelihood." As a result, the right to a living cannot be based solely on the desires of those in positions of authority. Income serves as the foundation for many fundamental rights. Fundamental rights cannot afford to be consigned to the limbo of ambiguous premises and uncertain application.

The ADG (Pension), Ministry of Communications, Dept. of Posts submitted that the complainant's 6th CPC arrears had not been found paid due to the ex-official's suspension from 12th June, 2009, to 15th March, 2010, for which the case had been sent for audit, and that payment would be made once the audit was completed. A bonus of Rs. 6,908/- for the fiscal year 2008-09 was paid on 7th February, 2023. There are no pending TA bills for ex-officials. In subsequent communications, the Director (Establishment), Dak Bhawan, New Delhi claimed that there was no delay in releasing retiral dues after superannuation due to ongoing disciplinary proceedings, but did admit to a delay in processing bonus and 6th CPC arrears due to untraceable records. Action was taken against the responsible officials, as well as for interest payments on the delayed DCRG.

Following a review of the report, it is clear that there was a significant and unexplained delay in payment of retiral benefits to the complainant as was admitted by the Department, which sought an explanation of the officials responsible for the delay in releasing pension arrears and other benefits. Therefore, in view of the above observations, the

Commission directed its Registry to issue Show Cause Notice u.s 18(c) of the PHRA, 1993, to the Secretary, Department of Post, Ministry of Communication, Government of India, as to why the Commission should not recommend payment of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One lakh only) as compensation to the complainant, in addition to interest, payable as per rules, for the delay. It was also directed to immediately release the complainant's retiral benefits, along with applicable interest from the due date to the date of actual payment, and to submit a compliance report and a statement containing all of the particulars in detail. The Director (Establishment), Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts, Government of India, urged no more than ten years to release retiral dues following his superannuation on 31st March, 2013, as disciplinary proceedings were ongoing. It was claimed that records were not traceable, which contributed to the delay in processing the bonus, 6th CPC arrears, and other cases. However, appropriate action against the relevant officials had been initiated. The department had also taken action to release interest on delayed DCRG payments in accordance with the applicable rules. The Commission's show cause notice was confirmed, along with a further recommendation for Rs. 1 lakh in interim compensation and interest for late payment. Compliance report with proof of payment was awaited.

69. Commission rectifies denied pension and awards compensation to the victim.

(Case No. 935.1.22.2019)

The Commission received a complaint from a social rights activist who claimed that the unmarried, dependent daughter of a deceased government employee was denied a family pension. The victim's father, a retired government servant, died, and despite her application for a family pension as his dependent daughter, the competent authority refused to sanction it, which was deemed a violation of human rights. After reviewing the case and considering the report submitted by the authorities, the Commission concluded that the complainant had been unnecessarily harassed, and her rightful claim to the family pension had been denied by the relevant authority, demonstrating a callous and

insensitive attitude. The Treasury Officer denied the pension claim because she did not apply within one year of her father's death, which the Commission deemed beyond the Treasury Officer's jurisdiction. The Commission emphasized that the sanctioning authority, not the Treasury Officer, is responsible for determining eligibility for pension, with the Treasury Officer's role limited to processing the sanction order, generating the PPO (Pension Payment Order) number, and ensuring the pension reaches the correct recipient. As a result, the Commission recommended a compensation of Rs. 1,50,000/- to the victim, D. Kalyani, as well as disciplinary action against the erring officials who denied her pension benefits for over 16 years. The case was closed after the compensation was paid.

70. Non-payment of pensionary benefits. (Case No. 960.34.22.2023)

In the instant matter, the Commission received a complaint on 17th July, 2023 from one Premlata Ekka, a resident of Latehar, Jharkhand wherein she stated that she retired from the post of ANM (Auxiliary nurse midwife) from Bal Vikas Pariyojana, Garu, Latehar, Jharkhand in the year 2011. She states that she has not been paid her due pensionary benefits. She is paralyzed, unable to talk or write, and was unable to get herself treated for want of money. In response to the directions of the Commission, a report dated 1st December, 2023 was received from the Deputy Commissioner, Latehar, Jharkhand. It was reported that Leave Encashment of Rs. 81,240 and arrears of Rs. 4,53,433 (MACP) had been transferred to the bank account of Smt. Premlata Ekka on 9th November, 2023. The action for revised pension was being taken.

The Commission perused the materials on record. The complainant requested for payment of Leave Encashment and MACP arrears. As reported, the same was paid and action was being taken to revise the pension. However, there was no explanation on record as to why the payment was delayed for more than 12 years to the complainant. The Deputy Commissioner, Latehar, Jharkhand shall cause an enquiry into the matter and inform the Commission about the reason for delay in payment of the legitimate dues to the complainant which pushed

her to penury. The responsibility for the delay must also be fixed by him.

The Commission vide order dated 15th March, 2024 observed that it is a serious issue that the complainant, who belongs to Scheduled Tribe, had been denied pensionary benefits for the last 12 years. The Deputy Commissioner, Latehar, despite directions of the Commission had not been able to explain the reason for delay and identify the employees responsible for the same, as directed vide order dated 08th December, 2023 and conditional summons issued vide order dated 12th February, 2024. Therefore, a summons was issued to the Deputy Commissioner, Latehar, directing him to personally appear before the Commission.

Rights of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes/ Other Backward Classes/ Other Minorities and Issues of Manual Scavenging

71. Dire living conditions of scheduled tribe members, including children, at Jeelugulova Hamlet in Anakapalli District, Andhra Pradesh. (Case No. 1080.1.21.2022)

The Commission received a complaint on 5th May, 2022 from a human rights activist, alleging the dire living conditions of approximately 50 Scheduled Tribe members, including children, at Jeelugulova hamlet in Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh. The Commission intervened after receiving a complaint about the lack of essential facilities in the area, including schools, anganwadi centers, healthcare facilities, proper roads, and electricity. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and called on the authorities involved to submit the necessary reports. In response to the Commission's directives, the Collector and District Magistrate of Anakapalli, Andhra Pradesh, submitted an enquiry report. The report described the actions taken by the Revenue Divisional Officer in Narsipatnam, who, along with other officials, visited Jeelugulova hamlet to assess the situation. Following that, directions were issued to address the outstanding issues, and various authorities submitted action reports detailing efforts to improve housing, education, roads,

healthcare, documentation, and other welfare aspects in the hamlet.

Following a thorough examination of the enquiry report and action taken reports, the Commission noted the proactive measures taken by State Government Authorities to improve the standard of living in Jeelugulova hamlet. Recognizing the ongoing efforts, the Commission requested additional reports on the progress made in implementing welfare schemes. Following that, a progress report was received from the Secretary to the Government, Tribal Welfare Department, outlining the actions taken by various department officers to address various issues. These measures included resolving documentation issues, providing medical facilities, identifying school-aged children, sanctioning solar-based schemes, issuing job cards, providing nutritious food, and approving old-age pensions and solar energy systems for electricity generation. Based on the comprehensive actions outlined in the reports, it appeared that the authorities were diligently implementing welfare schemes to benefit eligible residents of Jeelugulova hamlet. As a result, the Commission deemed no further intervention necessary and encouraged the concerned authorities to continue their efforts. Hence, the case was closed on 9th June, 2023.

72. Allegations of sexual assault and torture of two minor tribal girls at Mother Teresa Welfare Trust, Kharangajhar, East Singhbhum District, Jharkhand.

(Case No. 1145.34.6.2021)

The Commission received a complaint on 7th August, 2021, alleging that two minor tribal girls, aged 16 and 17, had fled on 5th June, 2021 due to ongoing sexual assault and torture at a shelter home operated by the Mother Teresa Welfare Trust in Shamsher Tower, Kharangajhar, East Singhbhum District, Jharkhand. The accused perpetrator was reported to be the Director of the Shelter Home, against whom the victims had made a complaint to his wife. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and called upon the authorities concerned to submit the requisite reports. Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, a report from the Sr. Superintendent of Police, East Singhbhum,

Jharkhand, stated that a case under sections 354.354D.323.34 IPC and section 10 POCSO Act, had been registered at P.S. Telco based on a written complaint by one Alisha Mukhi. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of 11 members had been formed to investigate the allegations, and the case was pending investigation. Additionally, the District Magistrate, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, confirmed various irregularities in the organization, supporting the prima facie truth of the allegations.

Considering the reports, the Commission directed the District Magistrate, Deputy Commissioner and Sr. Superintendent of Police, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, to provide updates on the investigation status and compensation disbursement to the victims under the victim compensation scheme. Further reports from the Deputy Commissioner, East Singhbhum, Jamshedpur, revealed that the investigation in the case had been completed, and a charge sheet had been submitted against the accused under relevant sections of IPC, POCSO Act, and JJ Act. Additionally, interim compensation of Rs. 50,000/- had been provided to both victims. Given the police report's indication of a charge sheet filing and compensation disbursement, the Commission solicited comments from the complainant, which were not received. With the matter pending before a court of law and no further input from the complainant, the Commission concluded that no further intervention was necessary. In view of the above development, the case was closed on 9th May, 2023.

Women

73. Alleged gang rape and killing of staff nurse in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh.

(Case No. 12227.24.71.2022-WC)

The Commission received a complaint on 1st May, 2022 alleging the gang rape and killing of a staff nurse on 29th April, 2022 in Unnao District, Uttar Pradesh. The Commission took note of the situation and directed the relevant authorities to submit reports. In response to the Commission's directions, the Additional Superintendent of Police submitted a report stating that the victim's mother filed an initial complaint, which resulted in the registration of a FIR

against Nooralam & Others at PS Bangarmau Unnao. The post-mortem, which was videotaped, revealed that the deceased died of asphyxia caused by antemortem hanging, and the rape was not confirmed. Further investigation revealed that the deceased was in a relationship with Sandeep, who brought her to New Jeevan Hospital Dullapurwa, where she worked as a nurse for only two days. Sandeep's engagement elsewhere allegedly caused her to commit suicide. Sandeep was subsequently charged under Section 306 IPC and sentenced to prison on 2nd May, 2022. The investigation was ongoing, and evidence had been submitted to the Forensic Science Laboratory. Furthermore, it was discovered that Navjeevan Hospital, the scene of the incident, was operating without registration. An FIR was filed against the accused under Section 15(3) of the Medical Council Act and 420 IPC in response to a complaint from the Additional Chief Medical Officer. The accused were arrested and taken to jail pending further investigation.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Nodal Officer, Unnao submitted a report stating that a post-mortem was conducted as directed by the District Magistrate, and samples were sent to FSL Lucknow for forensic analysis. It was discovered that chargesheets were filed in both cases, with supplementary chargesheets pending forensic reports. After reviewing the reports, the Commission noted that chargesheets had been filed in both criminal cases, and the matters were pending adjudication before the courts. Consequently, the case was closed on 26th April, 2023.

74. Allegations of illegal bondage, sexual assault, and harassment of foreign national woman in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. (Case No. 11428.24.71.2018)

The Commission received a complaint on 30th March, 2018, alleging illegal bondage, sexual and physical assault, atrocities, and harassment of a foreign national woman named Man Kumari by certain individuals in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, the complaint highlighted the non-registration of a case and inaction by the local police. Upon taking cognizance of the matter, the Commission called

upon the concerned authorities to submit reports. The NHRC's Investigation division stated that while the allegations of the victim being kept as bonded labour and subjected to physical and sexual exploitation were not substantiated, it was evident that adequate efforts were not made by the state authorities and Samvedna Alpawas Grih to identify Man Kumari and reunite her with her family in Nepal. Additionally, Man Kumari had declined to accept her wages. However, a report from the Assistant Labour Commissioner indicated that wages amounting to Rs. 2,12,395 had been paid to the victim via cheque. It was also reported by the Additional District Provision Officer that the victim was receiving free residence, clothing, medical care, entertainment facilities, and food at the Old Age Home. After reviewing the report, the Commission noted that all due wages had been paid to the victim, and she was receiving basic facilities at the Old Age Home. Therefore, the Commission concluded that there was no need for further action. Therefore, the case was closed on 14th December, 2023.

75. The Commission recommended compensation in the case involving a woman's forced tonsuring due to exorcism suspicion. (Case no. 24874.24.69.2022-WC)

Yogendra Kumar Singh filed a complaint alleging the forced shaving of a woman's head in Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh, on suspicion of exorcism. The act was allegedly carried out by the Panchayat of the Ghorawal area, who also blackened the victim's face and paraded her through the village. The complainant requested assistance from the Commission. Upon receiving the complaint, the Commission ordered action. An FIR was filed against eight accused, with one, Makaudi, arrested and placed in judicial custody based on the complainant's statement. A show cause notice was issued to the Chief Secretary of the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the PHRA, 1993, recommending Rs.1 lakh in interim compensation for the victim. The government responded positively, agreeing to pay the compensation. In its proceedings, the Commission directed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay interim compensation and submit a compliance

report. However, as of the last update, the compliance report and proof of payment remained pending.

76. Sexual harassment of women cyclist by the Chief Coach during a camp in Slovenia.

(Case No. 288.99.4.2022-WC)

The Commission took *suo motu* cognizance of a news item reported in 'Indian Express' on 7th June, 2022, with the caption 'A TOP Indian woman victim has accused the national sprint team Chief Coach R K Sharma of inappropriate behaviour during a camp in Slovenia'. This violated her dignity and created a hostile environment. The coach also allegedly threatened the victim, endangering her career. Given that the victim's right to dignity was violated, and that the coach and sportsperson have a fiduciary relationship in which the coach is trusted to look after the sportswoman's well-being and welfare. The Commission also believes that if the allegations in the news report are true and no action is taken by the authorities to address such incidents, other female athletes will not only feel unsafe, but will be hesitant to report perpetrators in the future for fear of being recalled from their training overseas in the event of exploitation. The subject is also covered by the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act of 2013, which states categorically in Section 2(o)(iv) that a workplace includes any sport institute, stadium, sports complex, competition, or games venue, whether residential or not, used for training, sports, or other related activities. As a result, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) is also required to conduct an investigation in accordance with the Act's provisions. The Commission instructed the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the SAI for a detailed report on the incident and actions taken, and directed the SAI to provide the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) investigation report. It additionally directed the Cycling Federation of India to share the victim's comments.

On 16.12.2022, the CEO of TOPS, Sports Authority of India, submitted an additional report stating that upon receipt of a formal complaint, an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) was formed in accor-

dance with the provisions of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013. The ICC conducted a preliminary inquiry on 7th June, 2022, and submitted a report on 8th June, 2022, establishing a prima facie case against Sh. R. K. Sharma. His contract was terminated on 8th June, 2022, based on the ICC's preliminary report. Following the ICC's final report on 27th June, 2022, the complainant filed a police complaint against Sh. R. K. Sharma on 11th June, 2022, at I.P. Estate P.S. under FIR No.207.2022. The report also stated that no charge sheet had been filed against Sh. R. K. Sharma, who was granted anticipatory bail from the Tis Hazari Court in Delhi. The Secretary-General of the Cycling Federation of India in New Delhi forwarded the victim's comments as directed by the Commission. After reviewing all materials, including the victim's comments, the Commission emphasized the importance of coaches always demonstrating model behavior by acting with honesty, integrity, and professionalism. Shri R.K. Sharma's indecent and unlawful behavior caused the victim embarrassment and psychological distress, necessitating monetary compensation and legal action.

The Commission emphasized the need for coaches to maintain professional conduct and recommended a compensation of Rs. 5 Lakh for the athlete due to mental distress and violation of dignity. It issued notices to SAI and R.K. Sharma - SAI to pay the compensation (recovering it from R. K. Sharma later), and R.K. Sharma to show cause regarding compensation recovery. Responses were received from the concerned parties in accordance with the Commission's directions. The Commission reviewed the SAI response and found no reason to accept Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma's show-cause response, rejecting it accordingly. As a result, the Commission, in proceedings dated 26th December, 2023, affirmed its show-cause notice and recommended that the Director-General of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Delhi, pay Rs. 5 Lakh as monetary compensation to the victim woman athlete and submit a compliance report with proof of payment within eight weeks. The Commission is actively considering the matter and awaits a response from the relevant authority.

Children

77. Girls crushed by roller, compensation issued, case closed after compliance.

(Case No. 18673.24.48.2019)

Complaint regarding the deaths of Preeti and Rachna (minors) on 4th July, 2019 at the P.M. Awasthi construction site in Bari village as a result of a roller machine crush. The Commission issued a notice to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for cause regarding interim relief of Rs. 1 lakh per victim to the NOK, which was confirmed; the case was closed on 1st July, 2022, with a directive to ensure interim compensation and submit proof within 8 weeks. Despite the fact that the private contractor paid Rs. 50,000/- each to the deceased girls' NOKs, the Commission determined that the Department was liable for strict liability in the circumstances. Despite several reminders, the authorities failed to provide the required proof of payment. A conditional summons was issued to the Chief Secretary for response. The Housing and Urban Planning Department reported providing Rs. 50,000/- each, with the remainder sent to fathers via cheque. The Commission ultimately closed the case.

78. Compensation was recommended by the Commission in the case where a woman alleged son's killing was due to negligence.

(Case No. 2660.18.4.2021)

This case revolves around a complaint from a woman alleging that her son, Sanjaya Rout, was brutally killed by authorities at a government-funded de-addiction center in Odisha. Sanjaya was found hanging in a toilet just a day after admission. An official inquiry by Commission found the state to be negligent due to inadequate care and supervision, leading to Sanjaya's suicide. This negligence by the state and the lack of proper inspections by the District Social Security Officer (DSSO) resulted in the state being held vicariously liable. The commission recommended the state pay Rs. 4 Lakh in compensation to Sanjaya's NOK. The case was closed with a warning of further action if the state failed to comply.

Rights of Elderly Persons

79. Issue concerning the disabled persons suffering from muscular dystrophy.

(Case No. 3842.20.23.2022)

The Commission received a complaint from a person with muscular dystrophy (Dr. Vaibhav Bhandari) complaining about the lack of comprehensive support for people with this condition in India. The Commission took cognizance of the complaint dated 4th August, 2022, and directed that a copy of the complaint be sent to the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, and the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, requesting an action report. Pursuant to the Commission's directions, the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Rare Disease Cell, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, submitted a report dated 12th August, 2022, stating that the Central Government offers financial assistance for treatment at specific hospitals (CoE) for rare diseases, including muscular dystrophy. This financial aid has recently increased from Rs. 20 Lakh to Rs. 50 Lakh. Several states, including Himachal Pradesh, provide monthly financial assistance to people with disabilities, including those with muscular dystrophy. The amount varies depending on the state and the severity of the disability.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD Act) of 2016 guarantees various rights and entitlements for people with disabilities, including reservations in jobs and educational institutions. Additionally, schemes exist to provide assistive devices and support inclusion. Dr. Bhandari expressed concerns about the discrepancy between the promised financial aid and the actual amount received under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD). The Commission noted the existing legislative framework and government schemes to support people with muscular dystrophy and closed the case, recommending that authorities handle future applications swiftly and provide reasons for decisions. People with muscular dystrophy are

encouraged to apply for existing benefits. The Commission commended Himachal Pradesh government's efforts in providing disability relief.

Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights

80. Silicosis deaths at m/s Shri Krishna Industries in Janjgir Champa, Chattisgarh.

(Case No. 642.33.6.2018)

The Commission received an intimation on 10th November, 2018 regarding allegations of the death Gangotri Bai Kanwar and Kheek Ram Yadav, allegedly due to silicosis (industrial lung disease), who were working at m/s Shri Krishna Industries. In response to the Commission's directives, the relevant authorities provided the necessary reports, which were analyzed by the NHRC's Investigation Division. According to a report from the Duty Officer of Industrial Health and Safety, District Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh, Kanwar died of syncope rather than silicosis. Legal action resulted in a fine and suspension of the factory's license. The NHRC stated that medical opinions indicated that both deaths were caused by tuberculosis. Workers were not officially employed, and they were not tested for silicosis.

After carefully reviewing the report submitted by the authority in this case, the Commission questioned the findings due to a lack of proper silicosis testing, as occupational lung diseases such as silicosis are caused by workplace exposure to irritants. Given the foregoing, the Commission issued a show cause notice to the state government seeking compensation (Rs. 2 lakh each) for the NoK. The state responded that victims were not covered by the Silicosis Scheme, but were compensated under their state policy. After considering medical opinions and the state's action, the Commission upheld its recommendation for compensation. The state provided evidence of Rs. 3 lakh compensation paid to each NoK. Hence, the case was closed on 26th October, 2023.

81. Yamuna river pollution (Case No. 3049.30.0.2022)

The Commission received a complaint from Amrutlal Shankarlal Solanki, a Gujarat-based human rights activist who complained about the Yamuna River's worsening pollution and the lack of government action. The Commission requested reports dated 25th May, 2022, from relevant authorities (the Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Boards). Reports revealed some of the steps taken by authorities, such as water quality monitoring, sewage treatment plans, and action plans. The Delhi Jal Board identified untreated sewage from drains in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh as a major source of pollution in Delhi. The report further stated that the Yamuna Cleaning Cell, under the chairmanship of the CEO of Delhi Jal Board, had been constituted by the Chief Minister of the Government of NCT of Delhi, and it would be responsible for the cleaning and execution of Yamuna Cleaning Action Plan as decided by the Government of NCT of Delhi. The NHRC requested action reports from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Haryana and Delhi submitted reports on pollution-control measures, such as sewage treatment upgrades and industrial management, while Uttar Pradesh has yet to respond. In response, a communication dated 18th May, 2023 was received from Addl. Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, transpiring the status of drain-wise quantum of treated/ untreated effluent, action plan along timelines, estimation of sewage generation in the State for Yamuna catchment, compliance status of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in Yamuna catchment, status of village STPs in Yamuna catchment, status of laying sewer network. The Commission is actively considering the issue and is awaiting reports on the current state of these efforts as well as future pollution control plans. The NHRC is actively engaged in addressing the Yamuna River pollution issue. Authorities are taking several steps, but untreated sewage is still a major concern. Further action from Uttar Pradesh, as well as a comprehensive picture of all sides' efforts, was awaited.

82. Lack of safe drinking water in Nahadia Village, Odisha.

(Case No. 1175.18.12.2020)

The Commission received a complaint on 14th April, 2020, from Ranjit Sutar, a resident of Khurda, Odisha. He filed a complaint, stating that around 350 residents of Nahadia village lacked access to safe drinking water and relied on a contaminated river and pond. This resulted in health issues like diarrhea and skin diseases. The Commission investigated the complaint and received a report from the Collector, Puri, in September, 2022 stating that Nahadia village has 5 existing tubewells located within 500 meters of habitations. Water samples from 4 tubewells were tested in February, 2022 and found to be safe for drinking. To further improve water availability, a piped water supply project was initiated under a government grant. A well, a tubewell, and a pipeline network were installed in the village and work was underway to provide 5 water tanks in different locations.

The Commission closed the case on 6th September, 2023, with the directions to the Collector, including ensuring completion of the 5 water tanks within four weeks; submit an action-taken report to the Commission; and guarantee the availability of safe drinking water in the area.

83. Complaint regarding odor nuisance in Sangareddy, Telangana.

(Case No. 2254.36.26.2021)

On 8th November, 2021, a resident of Sangareddy, Telangana, filed a complaint, claiming that pollution was causing health problems in the surrounding area. On 24th November, 2021, the NHRC took cognizance of the complaint and requested an action report from the District Magistrate of

Sangareddy in Telangana. The District Collector reported that the Pollution Control Board (PCB) took steps to reduce the odor nuisance. The NHRC directed the District Collector and Chief Engineer of PCB to work with the complainant to keep pollution within permissible limits. The complainant reported that the odor had decreased after following the instructions. The NHRC closed the case and directed the District Collector and Chief Engineer to ensure that no further pollution occurs.

84. Pollution complaint against Sri Ram Foods (Salem).

(Case No. 2791.22.31.2023)

A Salem resident complained about pollution and a lack of safety measures at Sri Ram Foods, a snack food factory near their home. He claimed that the factory uses improper fuel and engages in mental harassment. On 21st November, 2023, the Commission took cognizance and requested reports from the District Magistrate and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB). According to TNPCB, Sri Ram Foods is a small shop that manufactures and sells snacks like potato chips and banana chips. They acknowledged a previous complaint about cashew nut shells being used as fuel, and it was addressed. Due to financial constraints, the factory relies on firewood. The TNPCB clarified that such small food businesses fall under the purview of local authorities and forwarded the complaints to the relevant Block Development Officer (BDO) for action under the provisions of Local Body Acts and the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939. The Commission noted the TNPCB's actions and directed the District Magistrate to ensure that the BDO takes appropriate legal action, and the District Magistrate must also notify the complainant of the action taken within eight weeks. The case was closed in accordance with the directions provided above.

Rights of Seafarers

85. Sri Lankan Navy kills Indian fishermen: A bilateral Joint Working Group (JWG) mechanism institutionalized and compensation provided.

(Case No. 571.22.27.2021)

A complaint was filed with the Commission alleging that four Indian sailors/ fishermen from Thangachimadam, Ramnad District, Tamil Nadu, were killed by the Sri Lankan Navy on 18th January, 2021, while fishing within Indian coastal boundaries. In response to the Commission's directives, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, reported the tragic incident in which four Indian fishermen died when their vessel collided with a Sri Lankan naval craft. A strong démarche was issued to Sri Lanka's Acting High Commissioner in New Delhi, and the mortal remains of all four deceased fishermen were returned. The MEA added that the government prioritizes the safety and security of Indian fishermen, and has established a bilateral Joint Working Group (JWG) mechanism and ministerial meetings to address the fishermen's issue with Sri Lanka. The government is doing everything possible to ensure fishermen's safety and interests are fully protected. The Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, Chennai, submitted a report stating that a case (No.02.2021, dated 19.01.2021) was registered at the Marine Police Station, Tiruppunavalai, Nagapattinam District, in response to the boat owner's complaint. The District Collector of Ramanathapuram District provided each of the four deceased's family members with a cheque for Rs.10.00 Lakh. The state government also promised one government job for each family member. In light of these submissions, the Commission determined that no further intervention was required and closed the case.

Business and Human Rights

86. Haldia refinery accident case

(Case No. 87.25.23.2022)

In the instant case, the Commission received a complaint on 29th December, 2021, from Sagar

Kumar Jena, a human rights activist who informed the Commission about the deaths of five workers and the injuries of 36 others at the Haldia refinery, which was shut down for maintenance. A flash fire erupted at the Haldia refinery in West Bengal during maintenance work. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and called for an Action Taken Report from the Labour Commissioner, West Bengal and the District Magistrate, Purba, Medinipur, West Bengal. In response to the Commission's directions, a detailed enquiry report was received from authorities, which showed that after the examination of the plant and machinery involved, the interrogation of the different persons, the scrutiny of different CCTV footage, the review of documents, logbooks, and work permits, the detailed enquiry report was issued to the manager and occupier of the factory. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, also conducted an investigation to determine the causes and circumstances that led to this accident, and the investigation revealed lapses in factory management's safety protocols. The Commission considered the report. The review of the report revealed that there were lapses or negligence on the part of the Factory Management, as indicated by the Assistant Director of Factories, Haldia in its report dated 9th March, 2022. Given the foregoing facts and circumstances, it appeared that five male workers died as a result of the public servants' negligence, and 36 male workers sustained serious burn injuries, indicating that the human rights of both the injured and deceased workers were violated in this incident.

NHRC issued a show cause notice to the Government of West Bengal for negligence by government employees and recommended compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the families of deceased workers and ₹25,000/- each to the injured workers. The Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, was directed to ensure disbursement of compensation amount within a period of six weeks and forward the compliance report along with proof of payment of the compensation amount to the Commission accordingly. However, a compliance report and proof of payment were awaited.

Human Trafficking

87. Alarming child trafficking at Berhampur Railway Station.

(Case No. 35.18.5.2023)

The Commission took notice of a news report published in Orissa Post dated 2nd January, 2023, exposing child trafficking at Berhampur railway station in Orissa, raising concerns about child labor trafficking through this route. Concerned about the gravity of the issue, the Commission, through its proceedings dated 6th January, 2023, issued notices to the Chief Secretaries of Bihar, Orissa, and Andhra Pradesh, seeking action taken reports regarding incidents of child trafficking originating, passing through, or ending in these states; sought a response from the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, regarding mechanisms adopted or to be adopted to eradicate child trafficking, in line with constitutional provisions and existing laws; directed a notice to the Chairman of the Railway Board to outline actions for proactive vigilance by railway personnel nationwide, akin to the incident at Berhampur station; and issued notices to the Director Generals of Police (DGPs) of Bihar, Orissa, and Andhra Pradesh for comprehensive reports on the implementation of SOPs for combating trafficking and the outcomes of investigations and convictions in related cases.

In response to these directions, various authorities submitted reports detailing their efforts and challenges: The DIG-Coordination, RPF, and Railway Board, shared details of their training and awareness programs. The Director General of Police, Police Department, Andhra Pradesh, submitted data on registered trafficking cases. The Commission reminded authorities in Bihar, Orissa, and Andhra Pradesh to submit missing reports and the same were received. The Commission continues to actively evaluate the situation and responses from concerned authorities. The is actively working to stop child trafficking and ensure proper measures are taken by relevant authorities.

Electrocution

88. Death in Ganjam, Odisha, caused by electrocution upon contact with low-hanging high-voltage wire.

(Case No. 3915.18.5.2022)

The Commission received a complaint alleging the death caused by electrocution of Murali Parida, aged 42, in Ganjam, Odisha, on 21st October, 2022, citing negligence by the electricity department. The complainant sought the intervention of the Commission to address the matter. In response to the Commission's directions, reports were received from the Additional Secretary to the Government of Odisha, Energy Department, and the Superintendent of Police (SP), Ganjam, detailing the incident. It was revealed that the deceased, Murali Parida, met his demise while handling a 5.75-meter-long iron pipe in close proximity to the live 11 KV overhead line. The contact resulted in electric shock and burn injuries, ultimately leading to his death. An Unnatural Death (UD) case was registered, and an enquiry concluded the cause of death as electrocution. Subsequently, the family received compensation of Rs. 10,000/- from the Red Cross fund.

The inquiry confirmed electrocution as the cause of death and revealed safety regulation violations. NHRC concluded the electricity department was liable due to improper maintenance of the earth fault protection system. Concluding a violation of human rights, the Commission observed that the accident could have been averted had the earth fault protection system been maintained as per Regulation 12(1) of the CEA (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulation, 2010. It was noted that the fault protection system was not properly maintained, leading to the tragic incident. The Commission determined that the state is vicariously liable for the negligent act of its servant. Consequently, the Commission recommended Rs. 5 lakh compensation for Murali Parida's family. After initial resistance, the Government of Odisha complied with the recommendation. The case was closed upon confirmation of compensation payment.

89. Fatal electrocution incident of a minor in Odisha.

(Case No. 3191.18.6.2022)

The Commission received a complaint from Shri Dillip Kumar Das. A human rights activist filed a complaint alleging the Electricity Department's negligence in the case of Padmini Meher, a 16-year-old girl who died of electrocution after coming into contact with a loose power line near her home. The office of Superintendent Engineer cum Deputy Electrical Inspector Kalahandi and Nuapada submitted a report in accordance with the Commission's directions. The report concluded that the accident could have been prevented with proper maintenance by TPWODL (Power Distribution Company). The state government attributed the accident to a storm that caused the power line to snap. Upon perusal of the report, the Commission acknowledged the act of nature but also found fault with the department for not taking precautions and recommended Rs. 3 lakh compensation for Padmini's family. After a show cause notice, the state government complied with the recommendation, and TPWODL disbursed the compensation amount. The case was closed upon confirmation of payment.

90. Three members of a family died due to electrocution in the Boudh district of Odisha.

(Case No. 4270.18.19.2022)

The Commission received a complaint from a human rights activist alleging negligence by the electricity department in a matter where three family members died from electrocution in Boudh district, Odisha. Pursuant to the direction of the Commission, a report was submitted by the office of Addl. Chief Engineer and Electrical Inspector, Berhampur. Additionally, the supply engineer failed to provide an earthing terminal to the house while installing the single-phase domestic supply under the Kutir Jyoti scheme, violating electrical safety norms prescribed in CEA Regulations 2010. Initially, the electricity department denied responsibility, blaming the homeowner for misuse. However, the Commission observed that while the incident involved mishandling of electrical equipment, the

electricity department's failure to provide earthing terminals and adhere to safety norms as prescribed in CEA Regulation 2010 cannot be overlooked. The Commission acknowledged some user fault but stressed the department's negligence in safety measures. NHRC recommended Rs. 4 Lakh in compensation each to the families of the deceased. The government complied with the recommendation and paid a total of Rs. 12 Lakh. The case was closed upon confirmation of payment.

91. Electrical worker died from fall after shock. (Case No. 2310.18.4.2021)

The Commission received a complaint regarding the death of Purna Chandra Behera who died after falling from a height while working on electrical decorations in Dhenkanal, Odisha. In response to the Commission's directives, reports were received from the Superintendent of Police, Dhenkanal, Odisha. According to these reports, an Unnatural Death (UD) case, bearing number 72 at P.S. Shaheed Nagar, dated 21st October, 2019, was registered on account of Purna Chandra Behera. Subsequently, the investigation concluded with the cause of death to cerebral injury and its associated complications. It is noteworthy that no formal complaint was lodged by the family members of the deceased initially. Following a thorough investigation, a charge sheet was filed before the trial court. The Commission investigated complaint, and the inquiry revealed an inadequate investigation by local authorities. NHRC directed the District Magistrate to ensure compensation under the Employee's State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and issued a show-cause notice to the state government recommending Rs. 1 lakh in compensation for the family. Pursuant to the Commission's direction, the Superintendent of Police, HRPC, Cuttack, Odisha, submitted a compliance report along with proof of payment of monetary compensation to the victim's parents. The case was closed upon confirmation of payment.

92. Commission's action regarding electrocution cases in Dumka District, Jharkhand. (Case No. 763.34.5.2020)

A complaint dated 1st August, 2020 was received in the Commission that highlighted the electrocution

of two women due to contact with an 11KV electricity transmission wire on 29th July, 2020 in Dumka District, Jharkhand. The Commission issued a notice dated 4th August, 2020 to the Principal Secretary, Department of Power, Government of Jharkhand, and Superintendent of Police, Dumka, Jharkhand, seeking a report on the incidents. The Superintendent of Police, Dumka, submitted a report along with the report of SDPO-Sadar, Dumka, stating the details of the incidents and the corresponding police cases filed. Investigations revealed that the accidents occurred due to an illegal and unauthorized supply line and negligence on part of the Electricity Department employees. The report received from the inspector opined the installation of automatic tripping devices, adherence to reporting regulations as per regulation 44A of the Indian Electricity Regulation, and payment of reasonable compensation to the victim's NoK.

On perusal of the reports, it was found that proper safety measures were not in place as per the law, which displayed negligence on the part of the State. The Commission directed the Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, to pay a monetary compensation of Rs. 3,50,000/- to the NoK of the deceased. In response, the Under Secretary, Power Department, Jharkhand, stated that Rs. Two Lakh had been paid as compensation. However, during a Camp Sitting of the Commission on 16th August, 2022, it was noted that the balance amount of Rs. 1,50,000/- had not been paid. The Commission directed the GM-cum-Chief Engineer, Jharkhand Electricity Distribution Corporation Ltd., Dumka, Jharkhand, to make the payment and submit a compliance report. In response to the Commission's directions, the Deputy Secretary to Government, Department of Energy, Government of Jharkhand, confirmed the payment of the remaining amount of Rs. 1,50,000/- as compensation to the NoK of the deceased, Smt. Manju Devi, with proof of payment enclosed. This report outlines the Commission's actions, directives, and the response received regarding the electrocution cases in Dumka District, Jharkhand, ensuring that appropriate compensation is provided to the victims' families. With the effort of the Commission, it was ensured that the NoK of the deceased received the whole amount of compensation, abiding by the Commission's direction.

93. Role of Commission in granting compensation in electrocution death of the victim, Devashish Sen while working on a high tension line in Ranchi, Jharkhand (Case No. 1402.34.4.2020)

The Commission received a complaint dated 5th November, 2020 from Sh. Nirmal Kumar Mukherjee, alleging that Devashish Sen died from electrocution while working on a high-tension power line for Jharkhand Bijli Vidut Nigam Ltd. He urged the Commission to take necessary action against the negligent officials and provide compensation to the deceased's family. After receiving the complaint, the Commission took immediate action. On 4th January, 2021. Notices were issued to the Labour Commissioner, Dhanbad, and the General Manager, Jharkhand Bijli Vidut Nigam Ltd, Dhanbad, Jharkhand, to submit reports. Due to the non-receipt of the required reports, the case was discussed during the Commission's camp sitting at Ranchi, Jharkhand. The deceased's sister was present and expressed dissatisfaction with the compensation of Rs. 1,50,000/- already provided, considering it inadequate. She requested an increase in compensation and a permanent job opportunity. After evaluating the case's facts, it became evident that Devashish Sen died due to electrocution while working on a high-tension line. Despite being employed through a contractor, the incident occurred on the high-tension line of Jharkhand Bijli Vidyut Nigam Ltd., Dhanbad. The Commission determined that the initial compensation of Rs. 1.5 lakh was insufficient and recommended an additional Rs. 3.25 lakh in compensation. The electricity department complied and paid the full Rs. 5 lakh compensation. The case was closed upon confirmation of payment.

94. Commission's action regarding electrocution death case of Gagandeep. (Case No. 3280.4.12.2020)

A human rights defender (HRD) filed a complaint alleging negligence by the electricity department in a matter where a truck driver, Gagandeep, died from electrocution after his vehicle came into contact with a sagging power line in Gopalganj, Bihar. The

Commission investigated the matter and determined that a truck came into contact with a live electricity wire, causing the truck to burn and the driver to die as a result of electrocution. The investigation reports also revealed that the wire running from one pole to another was loose, and at the time of the accident, the wire was sagging, resulting in electrocution of the truck and the death of the driver. The NBPDC's raising of poles by about 2 meters following the accident added to the evidence that the Electricity Department was negligent. As a result, it was concluded that the state had failed to maintain proper maintenance and vigilance of electric poles, and the incident that occurred as a result of this failure was considered negligence on the part of the Electricity Department. The NHRC concluded that the electricity department's negligence violated the deceased's human rights and recommended Rs. 7.5 lakh in compensation for the family.

According to the response received from State Authorities, the State Government stated that the Compensation to Victims of Electrical Accident Regulation – 2018 r/ w resolution dated 15th June, 2019 of the BSPHC provided for payment of monetary compensation of Rs. 4,00,000/- to the NoK of the deceased electrocuted victim. After NHRC intervention, the state government paid the full Rs. 4 Lakh in compensation to the NoK. The NHRC closed the case upon confirmation of payment.

95. Widow alleged husband's negligent electrocution death and sought compensation.

(Case No. 5911.24.68.2020)

The complainant claims that her husband, a contractual Lineman in the Power department, died from electrocution while on duty as a result of power department officials' negligence. This incident orphaned her and her children, and she has been waiting for a compassionate appointment and a compensation of Rs. 50,00,000/-. After examining the case, the Commission requested a report from state authorities, which revealed that the UPPCL was not required to make a further payment of Rs. 2,00,000/- because Rs. 3,10,000/- had already been paid. After reviewing the report, it was discovered

that the Jt. Director, Directorate of Electrical Safety, Lucknow, had explicitly held Shri Brijesh Kumar, the SSO on-duty, liable in its inquiry report. The Commission was dissatisfied with the UPPCL's response and directed the Chief Secretary, Government of UP, to pay compensation of Rs. 2,00,000/- to Smt. Madhu Rani, widow of Late Hari Ram, who submitted a compliance report. The state then confirmed that the complainant received the recommended compensation of Rs. 2,00,000/- and that the delinquent officials had been removed from service. The case was closed by the Commission due to compliance with its recommendation.

96. The commission reaffirmed the compensation recommendation after a 16-year-old girl died due to electrocution.

(Case No. 3793.24.19.2022)

The case involves the tragic death of a 16-year-old girl as a result of electrocution by a high-tension live electric wire passing through her house's roof. Despite notices, important reports from Uttar Pradesh authorities were not provided to the Commission investigating the incident. The Commission criticized the lack of cooperation and questioned the Electricity Department's claim of regulatory compliance. It found discrepancies in the report submitted by Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) and highlighted violations of electricity rules governing overhead electric line clearance. As a result, the Commission issued a show cause notice to the Uttar Pradesh government, recommending compensation of Rs. 5 Lakh to the deceased's NoK. In response, the government provided only Rs. 1 lakh in compensation, citing a misunderstanding of the recommendation. The Commission reiterated its position, emphasizing the careful consideration given to the case and the importance of the originally recommended compensation. The Commission upheld its show cause notice, reaffirming its recommendation for compensation of Rs. 5 Lakh to the NOK. It directed the Uttar Pradesh government to disburse the funds within six weeks and provide proof of payment. Compliance with these directives is currently pending.

97. Victim died due to electrocution due to the negligence of the electricity department as they had failed to maintain the minimum distance of the high-tension wire.

(Case No. 3799.12.33.2021)

In this case, the Commission received a complaint dated 13th December, 2021 from Ms. Rekha Devi of Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, who stated that her husband, Lt. Kare Yadav, died of electrocution after his home came into contact with a high-tension power line. The Commission requested a report on 13th December, 2021 from the Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Madhya Pradesh, and Raisen District Magistrate, MP. In response to the directions of the Commission, a report was received from the Special Duty Officer, Department of Power, State of Madhya Pradesh wherein it was reported that the manner of death as alleged in complaint was confirmed. The Commission examined the record. The law governing the issue is the Central Electricity Authority (Measures Relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulation, 2010, as amended by Gazette No. CEI.1.2.2015 dated 13th April, 2015. The regulation's Chapter VII addresses the safety requirements for overhead lines, among other things. Regulation 58 required a minimum clearance distance above ground for the lowest conductor of overhead lines. According to regulation 61, an overhead line shall not cross over an existing building as far as possible, and no building shall be constructed beneath an existing overhead line with a voltage greater than 650 V. Regulation 63 required permission from the relevant authority prior to the erection or alteration of a building if a person intended to erect a new building or structure. It was mandated that no work on such a building or alteration shall begin or continue until the electrical inspector certified that the provisions of Regulations 58, 60, and 61 were not violated during and after construction. Furthermore, regulation 72 requires mandatory earthing, while regulation 73 requires protective devices such as earth guarding to render the line electrically safe. According to the 2015 amendment, regulation 42 mandates that the supply of electricity to every electrical installation, other than voltages not exceeding 250 V., be controlled by an earth leakage

protective device capable of disconnecting the supply immediately in the event of an earth fault or current leakage, unless adequate protective devices are already in place as per regulation 73.

The NHRC rejected the department's argument that the homeowner's actions were solely to blame and found the electrical inspector negligent for not preventing the unsafe construction. Additionally, no safety devices appeared to have been put in place as per the mandate of regulation 42 read with regulation 73 of Central Electricity Authority (Measures Relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulation, 2010 under the Electricity Act, 2003. The Commission recommended Rs. 5 lakh in compensation for the family. The Government of Madhya Pradesh challenged the NHRC decision in Writ Petition No. 4676.2023 before the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur High Court of Madhya Pradesh. The NHRC closed the case pending the High Court's decision. The disbursement of compensation depends on the High Court's ruling.

98. Man electrocuted during idol immersion.

(Case No. 3999.18.27.2022)

The Commission received a complaint dated 7th November, 2022 from complainant Shri RadhaKanta Tripathy, Advocate and Rights Activist of New Delhi, alleging that one Biswajit Lenka died from electrocution when a metal DJ stand on a procession vehicle came into contact with a low-hanging power line in Odisha. The complainant alleged negligence by the electricity department (TPCODL) for improper line maintenance. The Commission, vide its order dated 17th November, 2022 sought a report in the matter from the Principal Secretary, Department of Power & Energy, Government of Odisha, District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Kendrapada, Odisha. Pursuant to the Commission's instructions, a report was received from the Superintendent of Police, Kendrapada, Odisha, along with the report of the SDPO, Kendrapada, revealing that the Goddess Gajlakshmi immersion procession was held at Village Kasauti without the permission of any appropriate authority. During the procession, the deceased Biswajit Lenka, along with others, pushed the chassis of the

vehicle carrying sound boxes. During this, the railing of the boxes accidentally came into contact with an 11 KV electric current wire, injuring Biswajit Lenka, Parsuram Das, Joker Mathura Malik, Manoj Kumar Sethy, and Sahil Kumar Das. They were immediately transferred to the CHC in Marshaghai, where Biswajit Lenka was pronounced dead, and the remaining individuals were transported to the DHH in Kendrapada. After getting treatment, the injured were returned to their respective houses. Biswajit Lenka, the deceased, received Rs. 20,000/-, while the other injured received Rs. 10,000/- each from the Red Cross Fund.

Another report dated 31st March, 2023 was received from OAS (SAG), Additional Secretary to the Government, along with inquiry reports from the Chief Engineer cum CEI (CZ), Odisha, Bhubaneswar and the Chief Safety Officer, TPCODL, Bhubaneswar. According to the CE cum CEI (CZ), Odisha, Bhubaneswar report, the victim Shri Biswajit Lenka died as a result of electrocution, as determined by videographic evidence. The TPCODL officials did not do a good job of maintaining the Ground Clearance of the HT and LT Lines of their distribution Network across the village street roads as required by Regulation 15 of the Central Electricity Authority (measures relating to safety and electric supply) Regulation, 2010, which primarily caused the accident. Also, the Pooja Committee Members hired an extra wide vehicle for the village road and did not obtain permission from TPCODL officials to shut down the feeder during Goddess Lakshmi's immersion process.

The NHRC, on perusal of reports, found both parties responsible as the Procession organizers for not following safety procedures and TPCODL for neglecting line maintenance. The NHRC recommended Rs. 5 Lakh in compensation for the victim's family. In response to the Commission's aforementioned directions, a letter was received from the ADM, Kendrapara, Odisha, who forwarded the report of the Sub Divisional Police Officer, Kendrapara, stating that a procession of Goddess Gajalaxmi was held on 18th October, 2022, at village Kasauti, without the permission of any competent authority, for which no pre-arrangement could be

made by the District Administration or the TPCODL. In this view, services required to be provided by government employees could not be covered; therefore, this office requested that the Commission exempt the charges against the State Government for payment of compensation to the victim. After considering the report, the Commission, in an order dated 1st August, 2023, directed the Government of Odisha, through its Chief Secretary, to pay monetary relief of Rs. 5 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased, stating that all aspects of this matter were considered when issuing the Show Cause Notice, and the response to the Show Cause Notice submitted on behalf of the District Administration does not contradict the Commission's findings. The case was closed on 14th February, 2024, following receipt of the compliance report.

Ragging

99. College Ragging Incidents in Brahampur city colleges, Ganjam, Odisha.

(Case No. 4197.18.5.2022)

The Commission received a complaint from a Human Rights Activist, regarding the increase in ragging incidents and harassment faced by college students in Brahampur city colleges, Ganjam, Odisha, as reported in news. The Commission took cognizance of the case and sought reports from the Principal Secretary, Department of Education, and the Superintendent of Police, Ganjam, Odisha, to submit a report within four weeks. In response, the Superintendent of Police, Berhampur, submitted a report which revealed an incident involving victim Hansika Sinha, a 22-year-old student of 4th year at MKCG, MCH, Berhampur, who was staying in a women's hostel. A case was registered against the accused Supan Kumar Padhy, based on Hansika Sinha's written complaint. The accused was arrested and produced in court, and a charge-sheet has been filed. The case is currently sub-judice. Upon perusing the records, the Commission noted that a charge-sheet had been filed in the competent court, and the matter was sub-judice. Therefore, the Commission was not inclined to intervene further in the matter, and the case was closed on 19th September, 2023.

100. Harassment of a 15-year-old girl at Binayak Acharya College, Berhampur, Odisha.

(Case No. 4109.18.22.2022)

On 17th November, 2022, the Commission received a complaint from Binod Kumar Sabat, a resident of Ganjam, Odisha. The complaint centered on a distressing incident involving a 15-year-old girl who was a student at Binayak Acharya College in Berhampur, Odisha, and was physically and verbally abused and ragged by her seniors. The Commission took note of the situation and urged the relevant authorities to submit the necessary reports. It was revealed that the victim had been subjected to severe harassment by senior students, who physically assaulted her and forced her to kiss boys. Furthermore, they recorded the distressing incident and widely distributed the video, exacerbating the victim's suffering. The Superintendent of Police in Berhampur issued a report indicating that a case had been opened based on the complainant's statement. This case, filed as Bada Baar PS Case No. 308 on November, 16, 2022, includes charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 294, 292A, 342, 354A, 354B, 509, 506, and 34, as well as relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Information Technology (IT) Act. Furthermore, the report confirmed the arrest of the accused, with ongoing investigations to gather additional evidence and ensure appropriate legal action against the perpetrators. In view of the above report, since legal action has been initiated, the case was closed on 19th April, 2023.

101. Ragging and Murder of a First-Year Student at Kakatiya Medical College (KMC) in Warangal City, Telangana by seniors.

(Case No. 298.36.10.2023)

The Commission received a complaint from Shri M. Mallaiah on 27th February, 2023, alleging that the victim, Dharavath Preeti, a first-year student at Kakatiya Medical College (KMC) in Warangal City, Telangana, was murdered by her seniors after being subjected to ragging. The Commission took cognizance of the matter and called upon the authorities concerned to submit the requisite reports. The

report from the Commissioner of Police, Warangal, indicated that an FIR had been lodged regarding the alleged incident under Matwada PS Case No. 69.23, invoking sections 306.108.354 of the IPC, along with relevant sections of the Prohibition of Ragging Act and the SC.ST Act. It was also mentioned that the investigation into the matter was underway. Upon reviewing the provided report, the Commission noted that the victim's father had pursued legal action in response to the incident. Therefore, the Commission deemed it unnecessary to further intervene. Hence the case was closed on 30th June, 2023.

102. Ragging and murder of a first-year student at Jadavpur University, West Bengal.

(Case no. 2556.25.5.2023)

The Commission received a complaint from Dipankar Mitra, Secretary of People's Participation, Hooghly, West Bengal, regarding the alleged ragging and subsequent death of a first-year student named Swapnadeep Kundu at Jadavpur University, West Bengal, on 9th August, 2023. The complaint implicated senior students and ex-students in the incident, highlighting gross negligence on the part of university authorities and a serious violation of human rights. Upon receiving the complaint, the Commission took cognizance of the matter and directed the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police of Kolkata (West), West Bengal, to furnish an Action Taken Report (ATR) in the matter. In response to the Commission's directives, a report was received from the office of the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, indicating progress in the investigation. The report stated that 12 individuals, including current and former students of the university, had been arrested. A prima facie case was established under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, the West Bengal Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institute Act, 2000, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. A charge-sheet was filed before the competent court on 19th October, 2023, and the accused persons remained in judicial custody until 17th November, 2023. Upon review of the records, it was noted that the police had taken necessary action by arresting the accused individuals and submitting a charge-

sheet to the court. With the matter now sub-judice, the Commission decided against further intervention. Accordingly, the case was closed on 21st December, 2023.

103. The Commission resolved a ragging complaint by ordering the return of documents and fining the students involved in ragging

The Commission received a complaint alleging that the complainant was subjected to ragging by his seniors at Army College of Dental Science, Secunderabad, Telangana. The complaint also highlighted the failure of authorities to address the issue, leading to the complainant being forced to leave the college. Additionally, the college retained the complainant's original educational documents and other necessary documents submitted at the time of admission. Upon taking cognizance, the Commission requested a report from the relevant authorities. It was revealed that four students were found guilty of ragging, and each was fined Rs. 25,000, among other disciplinary measures. The Registrar was authorized to return the complainant's original certificates without requiring the payment of a Rs. 20 lakh bond for discontinuing the BDS course, considering the circumstances under which the complainant had to leave the college. It was also noted that if the complainant wished to continue his studies at ACDS, the Principal should ensure a conducive environment in both the college and hospital. As the complainant's grievances were addressed satisfactorily and he had no further complaints, the case was closed.

Cyber Crime

104. Allegations of cybercrime and harassment: Shipra Sun City, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad.

(Case No. 12848.24.31.2022)

The Commission received a complaint from Shri Dushyant Pratap Singh, alleging that his wifi connection installed at his residence in Shipra Sun City, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, had been hacked. Additionally, he claimed to be followed by anti-social elements, even at his university in

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, where someone stole his laptop. Furthermore, he alleged that the police failed to take appropriate action on his complaints. Upon receiving the complaint, the Commission directed the Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and the SSP, Ghaziabad, UP, to provide necessary reports. Subsequently, the Commission received two separate reports from the authorities. The Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, stated that while investigating the cybercrime complaint, it was found that the matter fell outside their jurisdiction. However, a case was registered regarding the alleged theft of the complainant's laptop and demands for bribes to register the case. Despite attempts to contact the complainant, there was no response, leading to the closure of the case. Another complaint regarding ATM withdrawals was also investigated, but the complainant failed to cooperate, and false allegations were made against the investigating officer. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Ghaziabad, UP, reported that during their inquiry, the complainant did not appear as directed. Allegations of mobile phone tapping and harassment by miscreants were not substantiated due to lack of evidence provided by the complainant.

Upon considering the reports, the Commission sought comments from the complainant, which were still awaited. The letter sent via Speed Post was returned undelivered, as it was the only address available. No further address details were found. Since the allegations made by the complainant regarding Wi-Fi hacking, harassment, and police inaction could not be substantiated during investigation, and requisite actions have been taken, the Commission finds no further scope for intervention. Hence the case was closed on 27th April, 2023.

105. Cyber fraud at Delhi.

(Case No. 1802.30. 8.2022)

The complainant Naman Anand, New Delhi alleged that a total amount of Rs. 80,472/- was siphoned off from his HDFC Bank account, even though he had immediately reported the matter to the Police Station Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi and Cyber Crime Cell along with all the details. The accused did not stop and continued calling the victim through WhatsApp voice call and sent text mes-

sages asking the victim to send his Aadhar and PAN details for further processing of money, even after five days of making a complaint to the police. The complainant has mentioned that he has never entered the four-digit UPI pin or shared the OTP, Last Six Digits of the linked Debit Card, Expiry, Debit Card PIN etc. The Commission looked into the matter and sought requisite reports from Delhi and Haridwar police authorities.

The Commission considered the matter on 27th February, 2023 and noted that the complainant was made a victim of cyber-fraud, thereby siphoning off all of his hard-earned savings from the bank in just a click of the moment. While the matter was reported immediately to Delhi Police and the Cyber Cell, yet the victim continued to receive calls from the fraudsters continuously for 05 days. Two FIRs in Delhi and Uttarakhand were registered. The modus operandi of the fraudsters remained an uncracked challenge for the agencies. It was the responsibility of the state to protect the right to property which is the Constitutional rights of its citizens. It was factually evident that how loopholes and negligent conduct of the officials in the entire financial ecosystem system, be it in banking, online payment gateways, mobile service providers, etc. together smoothens the operation of reported cyber-crime, either knowingly or unknowingly and the investigating agencies are finding it difficult to curb it. Requisite Reports were sought from the concerned authorities. Further, it was clear from the reports that the FIR filed by the complainant before Haridwar Police, was closed due to similarity with the case filed with Delhi Police. PS K. M. Pur/ South Delhi, FIR no. 361/2022 u/s 420 IPC was under investigation. In pursuance to the directives of the Commission, the DCP, South Delhi vide their Letter dated 2nd November, 2023 reported that during the course of the investigation, the complainant had provided two more suspected mobile numbers, and the same were sent to the concerned nodal companies for details. However, despite sincere efforts, the accused could not be traced. The Commission while considering the matter on 29th December, 2023, observed the reluctant and lethargic attitude adopted by the Delhi Police officials in the matter. Despite having details of the calling mobile numbers, UPIDs, Escrow accounts,

etc. of the suspects neither was arrested, nor could the stolen property be recovered. The DCP, South Delhi was directed to submit their action taken report on these issues, and also submit further progress of the investigation of the concerned FIR within prescribed time frame.

In subsequent proceedings dated: 27th October, 2023, the Commission observed that the report of DCP East, Delhi dated: 28th March, 2023 was verbatim to the report sent in September, 2022. It was well evident that Delhi Police had made little or no progress during these 07 months. Also, it is striking that when the name of a company by the name: m/s Zaak Payments Services Pvt. Ltd, Gurugram, Haryana has surfaced in this cyber fraud case, then why had the ESCROW account of the company not been seized and directors quizzed or arrested. Also, how come the mobile numbers used in the crime are still active and no attempt was made to trace the location and pin down the user and arrest him.

On subsequent follow up by the Commission, the SSP Haridwar vide their report dated: 6th September, 2023 intimated that the concerned FIR in the matter has been closed due to similarity in the alleged facts and FR submitted online on 19th March, 2023. The complainant, Naman Anand has been intimated to pursue the matter with Delhi Police filed vide PS K.M. Pur/ South Delhi, FIR no. 361/2022 u/s 420 IPC. Subsequent to directions dated 10th August, 2023 a report dated 06.09.2023 is received from SSP, Haridwar. It is presented that the case was filed vide PS Gangnahar FIR no. 734/2022 u/s 420 IPC has been closed due to similarity in the alleged facts.

Right To Housing

106. Shelter Home Closure Concerns in Delhi. (Case No. 2835.30.1.2022)

The Commission received a complaint on 1st May, 2021, alleging the potential closure of shelter homes by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), which could displace homeless individuals. The complaint highlighted the seriousness of the situation, citing previous closures

without adequate alternative arrangements. The Commission, upon recognizing the grave violation of human rights, took cognizance of the matter. A notice was issued to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, directing them to maintain the status quo and submit a detailed report. Furthermore, an on-the-spot inquiry was ordered to assess the conditions at the affected shelter homes. During the investigation conducted by the Commission's team from 10th May, 2022 to 13th May, 2022, it was found that residents of shelter homes were served eviction notices abruptly, raising concerns about homelessness. Despite the temporary status of these shelters and operational plans cited by DUSIB, residents were left without adequate alternative arrangements. The Commission directed the Chief Secretary to ensure equal treatment of all shelter home residents and submit a detailed action report within four weeks. Despite challenges in relocation, shelter homes remained operational with meals provided. The Commission acknowledged the authorities' efforts and closed the case in May, 2023 after finding satisfactory resolution regarding shelter home operations and resident well-being.

107. Wrongful denial of PM Awas Yojana benefits to a poor Scheduled Caste woman by a corrupt official. (Case No. 18110.24.20.2022)

The complainant, a financially disadvantaged woman from the Scheduled Caste, has stated that despite being found eligible for benefits under the PM Awas Yojana by the Additional District Magistrate, her inclusion was thwarted by the Gram Sachiv, who demanded an illegal payment of Rs. 20,000. Unable to comply, her name was falsely removed from the PM Awas Yojana list, claiming ownership of more than three rooms when she actually owns only one dilapidated room and is fully eligible for the scheme.

Following a conditional summons, the District Magistrate of Chittrakoot submitted a report, which was thoroughly investigated by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Manikpur and the Village Development Officer of Chittrakoot. On 16th February, 2023, a

site visit was conducted at the complainant's residence to record her statement. During the visit, it was confirmed that she lived in a one-room mud house that she had received as part of a family partition. The Project Director of DRDA, Chittrakoot checked her records and confirmed her eligibility for PMAY, as well as the sanctioning of a house. It was also noted that the first installment of Rs. 40,000 had already been credited to her account for construction work on January, 12, 2023. Regarding the allegation against former Gram Sachiv, the complainant stated that she had no further complaints against him. After determining that the complainant's concerns had been addressed appropriately, the Commission closed the case.

Land Dispute

108. Encroachment and Unlawful Construction of a Crematorium within a Residential Area in Karimnagar, Telangana, by Influential Individuals. (Case No. 2571.36.3.2021)

On 16th December, 2021, the Commission received a complaint alleging the unlawful encroachment and construction of a crematorium within a residential area in Karimnagar, Telangana, by influential individuals, including the locality's ex-sarpanch. Despite the complainants' repeated requests, the authorities took no action. In response to the Commission's directives, reports were obtained from the appropriate authorities. It was noted that a previous complaint on the same issue had been registered with the Commission and forwarded to the District Magistrate and Municipal Commissioner of Karimnagar on 27th September, 2021. No further action was taken, prompting the complainant to contact the Commission again.

According to the Commission's instructions, an inquiry report was received from the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Karimnagar, Telangana, revealing that the crematorium was built by the former Grama Panchayat of Seetharampur prior to its merger into the Municipal Corporation in 2019. An inspection on 10th February, 2022 confirmed the existence of the cremato-

rium, which was being used by the surrounding communities. The Commissioner directed the Engineering Section Staff to build the crematorium and the Sanitation Staff to keep it sanitary. Following the receipt of written statements from the complainants and surrounding residents, it was reported that cremations had been halted since the inspection. After reviewing the inquiry report and other supporting documents, the Commission concluded that cremations had ceased following the Commissioner's inspection. As a result, the Commission determined that no further intervention was necessary.

Migrants and Refugees

109. Deplorable living conditions in Pakistani-Hindu Refugee Camps: Majnu ka Tila and Signature Bridge, North Delhi.

(Case No. 2583.30.4.2021)

On 14th May, 2021, the Commission received a complaint about the deplorable conditions in the Pakistani-Hindu refugee camps in Majnu ka Tila and Signature Bridge, North Delhi. It was reported that approximately 220 refugee families, consisting of 1010 people, including women and children, were in need of basic necessities such as electricity, toilets, Anganwadi facilities, LPG connections, protection services, waste management, and proper shelter. The Commission took note of the situation and urged the authorities involved to submit the necessary reports. According to the reports, while some amenities were available, such as DUSIB-provided toilets and partial electricity supply, significant deficiencies remained. Efforts were underway to address these shortcomings, with directives issued to increase the number of toilets and investigate solutions for electricity provision. Furthermore, concerns were raised about the refugees' legal status, as they were not Indian citizens, posing difficulties in accessing amenities.

Recognizing the state's obligation to provide basic amenities to all individuals, regardless of citizen-

ship status, the Commission directed relevant authorities, including the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Lieutenant Governor Delhi, to expedite the process of granting citizenship to the refugees and ensure their access to basic necessities. In response to the Commission's directives, reports were submitted detailing the steps taken to address the situation, including discussions with relevant authorities and efforts to identify suitable land for resettlement. However, challenges related to legal procedures for citizenship remained unresolved, pending decisions by higher authorities.

Upon review of the reports and actions taken, the Commission acknowledged the efforts made by the authorities to address the situation. It noted the ongoing efforts to improve amenities and explore solutions for resettlement. However, it expressed concern about the delays in resolving legal issues related to citizenship, which hampered refugees' access to critical services. The Commission emphasized the importance of upholding all individuals' rights and dignity, regardless of citizenship status. It directed the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the Secretary, Ministry of Home, Government of India and the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to create a comprehensive plan for providing basic amenities to all individuals and facilitating the citizenship process for Pakistani-Hindu refugees. Following that, reports were received indicating progress in addressing some of the issues, such as efforts to increase toilet capacity and improve electricity supply. However, concerns remained about the refugees' legal status and the need for expedited citizenship procedures. Upon review of the latest reports and actions taken, the Commission acknowledged the positive steps taken by the authorities to improve the situation. However, it emphasized the importance of ongoing efforts to ensure refugees' access to basic necessities and expedite the citizenship process. In light of the ongoing efforts, the Commission deemed no further intervention necessary at this stage and closed the case on 10th May, 2023.

Septic Tank & Sewer Manhole

110. Ensuring Safety: Commission's Action following the Tragic Incident Involving Death and Injury of Workers in Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Haryana. (Case No. 2207.7.7.2022)

Shri Pramod Kumar Srivastava, a human rights activist from Bangalore, Karnataka, filed a complaint with the Commission, citing media reports that revealed four workers had died and two were seriously injured after falling ill while cleaning a septic tank in Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar district, Haryana, on 3rd August, 2022. The complainant also stated that such incidents occurred on a regular basis, violating sanitation workers' right to life, and requested that the Commission intervene in the matter. The Commission took cognizance of the complaint dated 1st November, 2022, and requested a report on the matter from the Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana. According to the Commission's instructions, the Superintendent Home-IV, for Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Haryana, Home Department, forwarded a report submitted by the Superintendent of Police, Jhajjar, dated 1st June, 2023. According to the report, on 3rd August, 2022, the victims, Sh. Ajay, Sh. Vikas, Sh. Mayank, Sh. Rajbir, Sh. Prakash, and Sh. Jagatpal, entered the open cesspool with safety equipment to clean it at the Aeroflex Ceiling Factory in Rohad, Bahadurgarh. Rajbir, Ajay, Prakash, and Jagatpal died while cleaning.

A case No. 262 dated 3rd August, 2022 was registered in PS Asoda under Section 304A.34 of the IPC. Accused Vishwas Kumar and Atul were arrested during the investigation, and after its completion, a charge sheet was submitted to the Hon'ble Court on 13th April, 2023. The Commission also received a communication from the Deputy Commissioner, Jhajjar, dated 4th July, 2023, reiterating the aforementioned facts. The Commission reviewed the reports and concluded that hazardous cleaning of a sewer or septic tank by an individual without the employer fulfilling obligations to provide protective gear and ensure safety precautions continues unabated, despite the PEMS Act of 2013. As a result,

the Commission, in proceedings dated 28th July, 2023, directed the Government of Haryana, through its Chief Secretary, to ensure the payment of Rs. 10 Lakh as compensation to the families of each sanitation worker killed in the incident within three months, as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 583 of 2003 in the case of Safai Karamchar Andolan Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors. This case was closed with the order to compensate the victim families for their human rights violations.

111. 11-year-old died when he fell into a 15 foot deep canal sewer which was uncovered. (Case No. 173.7.3.2023)

An incident was brought to the Commission's attention through a complaint dated 27th January, 2023 from Shri Rajhans Bansal, a resident of Indirapuram, Uttar Pradesh, in which an 11-year-old victim, Kunal, died on 21st November, 2023 after falling into an uncovered 15-foot-deep canal/sewer. Taking note of the aforementioned complaint, the Commission requested a report from the Deputy Commissioner of Faridabad, Haryana, in an order dated 3rd February, 2023. In response to the Commission's directions, a report dated 21st March, 2023 was received from the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Faridabad, along with a letter from the Commissioner of Police, Faridabad. The said letter stated that Case Crime No. 501.22 u.s 304A.34 IPC had already been registered in the matter. Another report, dated 24th February, 2023, was received from the Executive Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Faridabad, revealing that no employee or official was directly responsible for the incident. However, in the public's interest, they recommended that all open manholes be barricaded, and that solar lights be installed in any dark areas where high mask light installation is not feasible.

The Commission noted that, despite the tragic death of class third student Kunal who fell into the 15-foot-deep open pit, the authorities did not find anyone directly responsible for the incident. The innocent life could have been saved if the Committee's post-incident recommendations had been implemented sooner. It was duty of the State to

ensure that whatever work was undertaken by the authorities should not be detrimental to the life of others and all due diligence was exercised. As a result, the Commission issued notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana under Section 18(a)(i) of the PHR Act, 1993, directing him to show cause within four weeks as to why the Commission should not recommend payment of compensation of Rs. 3 Lakh to the NOK of the deceased boy Kunal, who died as a result of public authorities' negligence. In response, the Office Order of the Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Faridabad, Haryana was received, which revealed that the Enquiry Committee accepted the Commission's directions for the payment of Rs. 3 Lakh to the NOK of the deceased boy Kunal under Section 18(a)(i) of the PHR Act, 1993. The Commission considered the report. It turned out that the Commissioner of Nagar Nigam Faridabad, Haryana, accepted the Commission's instructions to pay Rs. 3 Lakh in compensation to the deceased's NoK. The case was closed with a directive to the authority to submit a compliance report along with proof of payment.

112. A 2-year-old child named Prathamesh died due to negligence of authorities as the sewer/ manhole was not covered.
(Case No. 4102.13.30.2022)

On 9th November, 2022, the Commission received a complaint from Shri Ramji M Maheswari, a resident of Pune, Maharashtra, alleging that a two-year-old child named Prathamesh died as a result of authorities' negligence because the sewer manhole was not covered. Taking cognizance of the aforementioned complaint, the Commission requested a report from Thane, Maharashtra's Commissioner of Police in an order dated 30th November, 2022. Pursuant to the Commission's instructions, a report dated 8th December, 2023 was received from the Assistant Police Inspector, Narpoli, stating that the sewer construction work was awarded to M.s. Bubere & Associates via e-tender by Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation (BNCMC) and that the Contractor did not take appropriate steps to install any barrier or notice board despite being pointed out by the BNCMC Junior Engineer. There was willful disregard for the work order issued by BNCMC. Case Crime No. 685.22 u.s 304.304A.34 IPC

was registered in the matter and the necessary evidence was gathered to file a charge sheet in court against the accused. A letter was sent to Commissioner BNCMC requesting permission to file a charge sheet in court.

The Commission considered the report. Admittedly, the BNCMC issued the e-tender for sewer and pathway construction. The BNCMC's primary responsibility was to ensure that the contractor followed all safety precautions. The Supreme Court of India, in a judgment dated 11th February, 2010 in WP(C) No.36 of 2009, issued detailed guidelines for preventing such mishaps. The BNCMC should have ensured that all protection mechanisms were implemented. Where a public body's activity is hazardous, the highest level of caution is expected. An innocent 18-month-old boy died as a result of inadequate care. As a result, the BNCMC cannot absolve itself of liability by transferring responsibility to the contractor. The Commission, in an order dated 18th December, 2023, directed the Maharashtra government, through its Chief Secretary, to issue a Show Cause Notice as to why the Commission did not recommend compensation of Rs. 3 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased 18-month-old child under Section 18(a)(i) of the PHR Act, 1993. The reply was awaited.

Non-Acceptance of Recommendations

- 9.12 The National Human Rights Commission in exercise of its power under Section 18(a) (i)(ii) of the PHRA, 1993, makes recommendations for payment of compensation or damages to the complainants or the victims or their family members and/or to initiate proceedings for prosecution and such other suitable action as the Commission may deem suitable against the concerned public servant.
- 9.13 In a few of such cases, the authorities request the Commission to reconsider the recommendations made by the Commission or refuse to accept the recommendation and challenge the same before the Courts. The recommendations made by the Commission for grant for monetary relief during the year 2023-24 which were requested for reconsideration or not accepted or challenged before the Courts by the authorities are given at Annex XII.

ANNEXES

Annex - I

State-wise number of cases registered from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024

(in numbers)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Compla- ints	Suo motu Cogniz- ance	Intimation Received about Custodial Deaths and Rapes			Intimat- ions Received about Encounter Deaths	Total
				Police Custodial Deaths/ Rapes	Judicial Custodial Deaths/ Rapes	Defence Para- Military Custodial Deaths /Rapes		
1.	All India	1,705	5	--	--	--	--	1,710
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,997	1	3	40	--	1	2,042
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	54	--	3	1	--	2	60
4.	Assam	304	1	8	25	--	6	344
5.	Bihar	4,482	11	13	160	--	5	4,671
6.	Goa	69	--	1	--	--	--	70
7.	Gujarat	1,338	4	18	81	--	--	1,441
8.	Haryana	2,404	5	7	99	--	--	2,515
9.	Himachal Pradesh	151	1	--	9	--	--	161
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	982	--	2	3	--	8	995
11.	Karnataka	1,366	4	7	13	--	1	1,391
12.	Kerala	729	--	6	59	--	--	794
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2,646	4	13	160	--	4	2,827
14.	Maharashtra	2,606	5	21	150	1	3	2,786
15.	Manipur	77	1	1	1	--	1	81
16.	Meghalaya	21	--	1	3	--	--	25
17.	Mizoram	3	--	--	6	--	--	9
18.	Nagaland	8	--	1	3	--	--	12
19.	Odisha	2,206	4	2	55	--	2	2,269
20.	Punjab	1,030	5	6	238	--	9	1,288
21.	Rajasthan	2,336	8	7	78	--	5	2,434
22.	Sikkim	13	0	--	2	--	--	15
23.	Tamil Nadu	2,867	3	4	80	--	4	2,958

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Complaints	Suo motu Cognizance	Intimation Received about Custodial Deaths and Rapes			Intimations Received about Encounter Deaths	Total
				Police Custodial Deaths/Rapes	Judicial Custodial Deaths/Rapes	Defence Para-Military Custodial Deaths/Rapes		
24.	Tripura	28	--	--	12	--	--	40
25.	Uttar Pradesh	31,383	11	13	496	--	15	31,918
26.	West Bengal	3,092	7	8	160	1	5	3,273
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	34	--	--	--	--	--	34
28.	Chandigarh	124	--	--	2	--	--	126
29.	Daman & Diu and	5	--	--	--	--	--	5
30.	Delhi	5,390	16	8	75	--	--	5,489
31.	Lakshadweep	6	--	--	--	--	--	6
32.	Puducherry	134	--	--	--	--	--	134
33.	Chhattisgarh	512	1	2	61	--	30	606
34.	Jharkhand	1,439	5	4	71	--	3	1,522
35.	Uttarakhand	1,038	1	--	24	--	--	1,063
36.	Telangana	1,521	3	1	17	--	1	1,543
37.	Ladakh	4	--	--	--	--	--	4
38.	Foreign Countries	227	--	--	--	--	--	227
	Total	74,334	106	160	2,184	2	105	76,891

Annex - II

State-wise number of cases disposed of during 2023-24

(in numbers)

S. No.	Name of the State/ UT	Disposed with Directions	Transferred to SHRCs	Concluded after receipts of Reports		
				Complaints Suo-motu Cases	Custodial Deaths/ Rapes	Intimation received about Encounter cases
1.	All India	43	--	33	--	--
2.	Andhra Pradesh	474	239	163	67	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	--	15	5	5
4.	Assam	74	15	66	31	19
5.	Bihar	1,218	462	475	164	5
6.	Goa	17	2	4	4	--
7.	Gujarat	290	118	145	107	--
8.	Haryana	714	198	310	134	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	27	12	27	10	--
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	70	--	109	13	41
11.	Karnataka	169	94	89	9	--
12.	Kerala	118	93	37	34	--
13.	Madhya Pradesh	711	231	316	176	6
14.	Maharashtra	423	246	262	245	5
15.	Manipur	7	6	16	8	1
16.	Meghalaya	4	2	6	10	3
17.	Mizoram	1	--	9	7	--
18.	Nagaland	2	--	7	5	2
19.	Odisha	668	259	629	108	7
20.	Punjab	233	72	152	237	6
21.	Rajasthan	695	213	332	129	1
22.	Sikkim	4	--	2	3	--
23.	Tamil Nadu	476	332	173	139	4
24.	Tripura	9	--	21	19	1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	9,283	2,466	2,202	1,104	31

S. No.	Name of the State/ UT	Disposed with Directions	Transferred to SHRCs	Concluded after receipts of Reports		
				Complaints Suo-motu Cases	Custodial Deaths/ Rapes	Intimation received about Encounter cases
26.	West Bengal	840	235	1,057	290	6
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	15	--	4	--	--
28.	Chandigarh	28	--	7	6	--
29.	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	--	1	--	--
30.	Delhi	1,422	--	570	91	1
31.	Lakshadweep	3	--	2	--	--
32.	Puducherry	45	--	18	--	--
33.	Chhattisgarh	109	52	90	84	42
34.	Jharkhand	437	144	228	107	16
35.	Uttarakhand	263	69	107	36	--
36.	Telangana	298	176	144	22	2
37.	Ladakh	1	--	2	--	--
38.	Foreign Countries	50	--	25	--	--
	Total	19,260	5,736	7,855	3,404	214

Annex - III

Number of cases with NHRC as on 31st March, 2024

(in numbers)

S. No.	Name of the State/ UT	Cases Awaiting Preliminary Consideration				Pendency of Cases where Reports have either been received or awaited from the Authorities				Grand Total
		Compl- aints/ Suo- motu Cases	Custod- ial Deaths/ Rapes Cases	Encoun- ter Deaths	Total	Compl- aints/ Suo- motu Cases	Custo- dial Deaths/ Rapes Cases	Encoun- ter Deaths	Total	
1.	All India	67	--	--	67	46	--	--	46	113
2.	Andhra Pradesh	73	1	--	74	38	63	--	101	175
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	--	--	2	10	8	5	23	25
4.	Assam	7	2	--	9	30	32	18	80	89
5.	Bihar	120	--	--	120	138	126	8	272	392
6.	Goa	5	--	--	5	3	5	--	8	13
7.	Gujarat	19	2	--	21	56	62	--	118	139
8.	Haryana	61	3	--	64	62	179	2	243	307
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	--	--	3	3	9	0	12	15
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	--	--	15	708	23	61	792	807
11.	Karnataka	30	--	--	30	36	15	--	51	81
12.	Kerala	30	4	--	34	51	49	1	101	135
13.	Madhya Pradesh	79	7	--	86	83	72	2	157	243
14.	Maharashtra	87	3	1	91	93	198	3	294	385
15.	Manipur	--	--	--	--	44	5	4	53	53
16.	Meghalaya	1	--	--	1	2	6	1	9	10
17.	Mizoram	--	1	--	1	3	8	v	11	12
18.	Nagaland	1	--	--	1	1	7	0	8	9
19.	Odisha	98	2	--	100	173	113	7	293	393
20.	Punjab	34	5	2	41	34	93	5	132	173
21.	Rajasthan	61	1	--	62	79	107	6	192	254
22.	Sikkim	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
23.	Tamil Nadu	101	1	1	103	64	112	3	179	282
24.	Tripura	1	--	--	1	3	3	--	6	7

S. No.	Name of the State/ UT	Cases Awaiting Preliminary Consideration				Pendency of Cases where Reports have either been received or awaited from the Authorities				Grand Total
		Compl- aints/ Suo- motu Cases	Custod- ial Deaths/ Rapes Cases	Encoun- ter Deaths	Total	Compl- aints/ Suo- motu Cases	Custo- dial Deaths/ Rapes Cases	Encoun- ter Deaths	Total	
25.	Uttar Pradesh	785	14	--	799	429	437	19	885	1,684
26.	West Bengal	104	1	--	105	186	316	7	509	614
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	--	--	1	1	--	--	1	2
28.	Chandigarh	5	--	--	5	5	6	--	11	16
29.	Dadra, Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	--	--	--	-	2	--	--	2	2
30.	Delhi	137	--	--	137	359	182	4	545	682
31.	Lakshadweep	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1
32.	Puducherry	2	--	--	2	4	--	--	4	6
33.	Chhattisgarh	9	1	3	13	37	80	45	162	175
34.	Jharkhand	42	2	--	44	108	118	14	240	284
35.	Uttarakhand	26	--	--	26	18	14	--	32	58
36.	Telangana	33	--	--	33	40	35	4	79	112
37.	Ladakh	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
38.	Foreign Countries	6	--	--	6	9	--	--	9	15
	Total	2,046	50	7	2,103	2,958	2,483	219	5,660	7,763

Annex - IV

Number of cases where NHRC recommended monetary relief during 2023-2024

S. No.	Name of the States	No. of cases in each States	Monetary Relief Recommended for year 2023-24
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	₹ 50,25,000.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	₹ 6,00,000.00
3.	Assam	4	₹ 24,75,000.00
4.	Bihar	28	₹ 1,23,65,000.00
5.	Chandigarh	1	₹ 1,00,000.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	11	₹ 69,60,000.00
7.	Delhi	26	₹ 1,05,95,000.00
8.	Foreign Countries	1	₹ 5,00,000.00
9.	Gujarat	7	₹ 36,50,000.00
10.	Haryana	18	₹ 84,10,000.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	₹ 3,00,000.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	₹ 18,00,000.00
13.	Jharkhand	27	₹ 1,11,00,000.00
14.	Karnataka	4	₹ 11,00,000.00
15.	Kerala	1	₹ 5,00,000.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	11	₹ 27,10,000.00
17.	Maharashtra	11	₹ 51,75,000.00
18.	Manipur	1	₹ 2,00,000.00
19.	Meghalaya	1	₹ 5,00,000.00
20.	Mizoram	2	₹ 7,00,000.00
21.	Nagaland	3	₹ 14,00,000.00
22.	Odisha	54	₹ 2,44,70,000.00
23.	Punjab	1	₹ 50,000.00
24.	Rajasthan	19	₹ 1,14,12,500.00
25.	Sikkim	1	₹ 5,00,000.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	10	₹ 57,75,000.00
27.	Telangana	8	₹ 64,00,000.00
28.	Tripura	3	₹ 10,50,000.00
29.	Uttar Pradesh	108	₹ 3,95,95,000.00
30.	Uttarakhand	2	₹ 8,00,000.00
31.	West Bengal	28	₹ 2,27,75,000.00
	Total	414	₹ 18,89,92,500.00

Annex - V

Spot Enquiries carried out by NHRC from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024

S. No.	Case No.	Complainant/ Incident Reported	Details
1.	362/7/5/2023	Ms. Rachna khandelwal, Delhi	The complainant alleged harassment of family members by the named police officials, including the DCP of District Gurugram, Haryana, on the basis of a frivolous complaint filed by her opponent related to the sale of her family member's property / land.
2.	506/18/5/2020	Smt. Pritimanharigarnaik, Angul Odisha	The complainant, a female sub-inspector in Odisha, alleged sexual harassment by her senior.
3.	1690/30/10/2023	<i>Suo-motu</i> Cognizance 'Navbharat Times' dated 28th April, 2023	The commission has taken <i>suo-motu</i> cognizance on a press report revealing that inmates staying in the Delhi Government Shelter home in Nizamuddin, Delhi, where the supply of food being provided by the government has been stopped, are starving for food.
4.	1221/25/16/2023	Sh. Tarini Deb Sharma, North Dinajpur, WB	The complainant alleged that Astd. Sub-Inspector of PS Kaliganj, North Dinajpur, WB, without any provocation, fired from his service revolver on a young man and others, resulting in the death of the young man.
5.	1905/13/16/2021-WC	Ms. Usha Rani, Delhi	The complainant alleged that her two daughters have been forced into surrogacy for money by her sister and their husbands. Both her daughters were kept as slaves, beaten, and starved by the accused. As a result, her one daughter died, and another daughter was held captive by then.
6.	537/20/24/2023	Sh. Tanishq Shivanand, Jaipur, Rajasthan.	The complainant alleged that Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena (Member, Rajya Sabha) was illegally assaulted by police on 10th March, 2023 when he went to visit a temple in Sikar, Rajasthan, and after his arrest, he was admitted to the hospital under mysterious circumstances. The complainant has apprehended that the police attempted to mentally and physically torture him because the victim extended his support to the widows of Pulwama martyrs protesting peacefully in Jaipur.
7.	4461/25/17/2021	Sh. Salkhan Murmu, Former Member(Lok Sabha)	The complainant, an ex-member of Parliament, has alleged that a tribal organization named in the complaint has announced a social boycott of all the villagers of village Morjunglepur without any reason. The villagers were neither allowed to go to other villages nor were the people from other villages allowed to visit Morjunglepur village; otherwise, they would have to pay a fine of Rs. 50,000/-.

Annex V - Spot Enquiries carried out by NHRC from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024

S. No.	Case No.	Complainant/ Incident Reported	Details
8.	9162/24/22/2021	Dr. Yogesh Chandra Jain, Etah, UP	The complainant claimed that a false case was registered against him merely because of his social media post against a religious head of a particular community who suggested unscientific ways of preventing the Corona epidemic. Further, he alleged that he was arrested from Eta (UP) by the Madhya Pradesh Police and taken to Madhya Pradesh. It is his allegation that the arrest was made without following due procedure. He was handcuffed and subjected to inhumane treatment. Despite bail being granted, he was not released.
9.	1313/1/5/2019	Sh. Rambha Mohan, Secunderbad, Andra Pradesh	The complaint seeks a protection order, a fair investigation, and alleged non-compliance with the orders and directives of this Commission in case No. 1090/1/5/2017 by police authorities.
10.	4/37/2/2021	Sh. Puneet Singh, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh	The complainant alleges an allegation of abuse of power by police officials of Leh PS, wherein instead of registering an FIR on the complaint, he was abused, slapped, kicked/ thrashed, and tortured by the police officials of that PS, including hitting him on his private parts. It was further alleged that when he took up the matter with SSP Leh, instead of helping him, he asked his subordinates to scan the phone of the complainant to delete the evidence and forced him to write an apology as per the dictated terms.
11.	6559/24/1/2022	Smt. Anita, Agra, Uttar Pradesh	The complainant alleged her husband was brutally beaten up by the police, and due to that, he died. But the police falsely implicated her relatives in the case of Hariparvat PS FIR No. 38/2022, u/s. 147, 353, 342, 504 IPC.
12.	6298/30/9/2022	Sh.Saumya Rastogi, Delhi	The complainant alleged that police personnel of PS Mayapuri refused to register an FIR, in the words of his father, and later on tried to alter the actual event of the FIR.
13.	4642//30/6/2022	Shri Momin S/o- Yamin, Narela, Delhi	The complainant alleged that he was brutally tortured in illegal detention by the named policemen of Narela Industrial Area PS for filing a complaint against them before the NHRC in respect of extorting money on a monthly basis.
14.	709/20/22/2022	Shri Rajhans Bansal, Gaziabad, UP	The complainant alleged the death of Mahender Singh, aged 25 years, R/o Badmer due to torture by police officials of PS-Surpaliya, District-Nagaur, Rajasthan, in its custody.
15.	2986/30/11/2023	Sh. Ramesh Rahi, Sahdara, Delhi	The complainant, a senior citizen and Scheduled Caste, alleged that the SHO of PS Vivek Vihar, Shahdara, had abused and assaulted him. They searched his house unauthorizedly and forcibly took him to the police station, etc. The complainant requested action against the police officials.

S. No.	Case No.	Complainant/ Incident Reported	Details
16.	2868/30/7/2023	Ms. Nishika Joshi, Delhi	The complainant, a 15-year-old girl, alleged that she was assaulted and sexually exploited by her family members due to a family property dispute. She went to the police station and met female police officials, but the police handed her over to her grandparents and no action was taken.
17.	3376/30/6/2022	Sh. AnadishKumar Pal	The complainant alleged his illegal arrest and thrashing by police personnel of PS Maurya Enclave, N-W Delhi, on 10th May, 2023 and being illegally detained, beaten, and kept under filthy conditions.
18.	3524/30/7/2023	Dr. Dinesh Kr. Pandey, HR Activist , Delhi	The complainant, a human rights activist, alleged that rowdy, unsocial elements and drunkards used to gather at the gate of the Kidwai Nagar (East) Government School for Girls, New Delhi. They used to ogle at the girls and tease them. It is apprehended that these unsocial, rowdy fellows are involved in the trafficking of girls.
19.	1300/30/6/2021	Sh. Shantanu Paul, MSc Student, University of Delhi, Delhi	The complaint is regarding the allegation of ragging by the complainant, a student of the University of Delhi, and the failure on the part of concerned authorities to take appropriate action in the matter.
20.	2192/30/7/2023	Sh. Yogeshwar Prasad and Other Residents, South West, Delhi	The complainant alleged that Delhi Jal Board (DJB) failed to supply potable water on a daily / regular basis to residents of street no. 17 of Block-L, Mahipalpur Extension, District-South, Delhi.
21.	2038/13/30/2022	Shri Radhakanta Tripathy, Advocate and Rights Activist	The complainant brought to the notice the plight of people with mental health conditions in the Regional Mental Hospital, Thane, Maharashtra (RMHT) on account of the denial of mental care facilities to the patient.
22.	623/7/4/2023	Sh. Ninderpal Sharma, Sangrur, Punjab	The complaint relates to the allegation of third-degree torture and inhuman/barbaric treatment of the complainant by the Railway Police officials of Jakhal, District Fatehabad, Haryana, leading to grievous injuries to his private parts and failure on the part of the authorities of Railway Police Haryana to register an FIR in the matter.
23.	18898/24/1/2022-WC	Sh. Sabir Ali Khan S/o Lallu Khan , Agra, Uttar Pradesh	The complainant alleged that a policeman from Shahganj PS molested her daughter in an autorickshaw. It further alleged that, when a complaint was made against the accused policeman at Shahganj PS, her complaint was torn off and she was arrested as an accused in a false criminal case.

Annex V - Spot Enquiries carried out by NHRC from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024

S. No.	Case No.	Complainant/ Incident Reported	Details
24.	1033/10/2/2023-WC	News Report 'Morning Standard' on 12th December, 2023	The Commission has come across a news report stating that a woman was paraded naked in Belagavi since her son eloped with a girl of another caste.
25.	3504/30/11/2023	Sh. Munshi S/o Kishorilal, Hardoi, UP	The complainant alleged that some strangers abducted his younger brother and told him that he had been kept in an unknown place with a cloth tied to his eyes and that he was being beaten up. He had overheard the kidnappers talking about selling out his liver and kidneys.
26.	7422/30/6/2022	Rohan Malyan S/o Late Ajay Kumar Malyan, New Delhi	The complainant alleged that the named accused police official of Bharat Nagar PS misused their official position in extortion of money and harassed him.
27.	539/90/0/2023	Radhakanta Tripathy, Advocate and Rights Activist	The complainant, an HRD, brought to the attention of the Commission that poor children, women, and differently-abled persons were being forced into beggary, due to which rackets of beggars exist.
28.	34544/24/43/2022	Sh. Naveen Kumar, Kanpur, UP	The complainant enclosing a news report published in the 'Times of India' alleged that the victim was forced into begging by a gang and was injected with some chemicals in his eyes, following which he became permanently blinded. It was further mentioned that his tormentors tortured him with iron rods and injected intoxicants. They threatened that if he did not beg, he would not be given food.
29.	304/25/15/2024	<i>Suo-motu</i> Cognizance 'Times of India'	The Commission took suo-motu cognizance on print and electronic media that in Sandeshkhali, North 24th Paragana, West Bengal, innocent and impoverished women have been harassed and sexually assaulted by a group of local gangs of a political person. The local administration failed to take appropriate legal action against the perpetrators of crime.
30.	1810/7/3/2023	Ms. Bharti Bhakuni, Faridabad, Haryana	The complainant alleged that the pathetic condition of the roads in front of her school poses serious threats to students and parents who are coming to school to drop their children.

Annex - VI

Completed research studies funded by NHRC

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution
1.	Develop Booklets on Different Human Rights Themes	Shri Noor Alam, Executive Director, Multiple Action Research Group (MARG),
2.	The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013: A Study to assess its impact, implementation issues and concerns in Government Departments/ Semi- Government/ PSUs/Private Sectors in Delhi	Dr. Ritu Gupta, Professor, National Law University Delhi
3.	Trafficking of Women and Children - Challenges and Remedies	Dr. Awadesh Kumar Singh, Principal Consultant, Bhartiya Institute of Research and Development
4.	Mainstreaming Child Labour Issues in Schools: Challenges and Alternatives	Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
5.	Unheard Voice of silent growing majority: An assessment of social security and health risks among women migrant workers of Rajasthan	Dr. Shaizy Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Central University of Rajasthan
6.	Identifying Human Rights Issues and Problems and Developing Policy Framework for Providing Social Security and Healthcare to Migrant Workers	Dr. R. Kasilingam, School of Management, Pondicherry University
7.	Study on the extent of cyber exploitation and safety of children in Kerala	Dr. Elsa Mary Jacob, Assistant Professor, Bharata Mata School of Social Work, Bharata Mata College
8.	Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Rights of Education of Children of Migrant Workers	Prof. Zubair Meenai, Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia University
9.	Achievement Gap or Opportunity Gap (O-Gap): A socio-legal study of Access to Equal Educational Opportunities (EEO), Accessibility to Equal Learning Opportunities (ELO) and Learning Poverty (LP) in the Educational Spaces of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Schools for Tribal Girls of Gadchiroli, Warangal, Adilabad, Srikakulam, Bastar and Kondegaon Districts	Dr. Uma Maheshwari Chimirala, Assistant Professor, NALSAR University of LAW, Hyderabad, Telangana
10.	4A's Framework in Right to Girl Child Education in the Aspirational Districts of South India (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala) — A Comparative Analysis of Government and Private schools	Dr. D. Prince Annadurai, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Madras Christian College, Chennai
11.	Disparity in Access to Education in the Aspirational Districts in Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.	Dr. Thomas Varghese, Research Director, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi
12.	Prevalence and causes of malnutrition among under-five children in selected geographies in India	Dr. Rupa Prasad, Executive Director, Public Health Resource Society, Hauz Khas, New Delhi

Annex VI - Completed research studies funded by NHRC

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution
13.	Abandoned Widows: Visible yet Invisible, Voiced yet Voiceless	Ms. Meera Khanna, Guild for Service, New Delhi
14.	Developing Human Rights Index and Human Rights Report	Dr. C.K. Mathew, Senior Fellow Public Policy Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bangalore
15.	Food and Nutritional Security among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes: Evidence from three Indian States	Dr. Amit Kumar Basantaray, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics, Central University of Himachal Pradesh.
16.	Achievement Gap or Opportunity Gap (O-Gap)? A socio-legal study of Access to Equal Educational Opportunities (EEO), Accessibility to Equal Learning Opportunities (ELO) and Learning Poverty (LP) in the Educational Spaces of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Schools for Tribal Girls of Gadchiroli, Warangal, Adilabad, Srikakulam, Bastar and Kondegaon Districts	Dr. Uma Maheshwari Chimirala, Assistant Professor, NALSAR University of LAW, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Annex - VII

Ongoing research studies funded by NHRC

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution	Objectives
1.	Status of Manual Scavenging and Sewerage Water Workers in the Hyderabad-Karnataka Region — Policy and Practice.	Dr. Mohan Das K. Associate Professor, Dept. of Studies in Political Sciences, Vijayanagara, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari, Karnataka	- To understand the various laws and policy legislations to eradicate the inhuman practice. - To assess the nature and magnitude of the problem of manual scavengers in the study area. - To assess the family livelihood condition including financial and non-financial part of manual scavengers.
2.	Role of Childcare Institutions and Rehabilitation of Children in CCIs	Dr. S. Barik, Joint Director, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD); Hauz Khas, New Delhi	- To assess the status of the role performed by the CCIs in rehabilitation of children. - To evaluate the status of services available in compliance with the Juvenile Justice Act in CCIs. - To examine the services provided to children in CCIs and also to file suggestions for improvement.
3.	A Study on Socially Responsible Supply Chains for Protection of Human Rights	Dr. Anand Akundy, Assistant Professor, Institute of Public Enterprise, Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad	- To develop social responsibility among various supply chain partners in order to protect human rights across the supply chain functions. - To examine how the social supply chain's performance can be progressively implemented by the companies. - To identify the challenges that can be faced in achieving social responsibility along the supply chain functions
4.	Domestic Workers in South India and Northeast: A situational analysis from dignity and rights perspective	Dr. Lekha D Bhat, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Central University of Tamil Nadu	- To study the demographic profile, migration pattern and the reason(s) for migration of young women/girl domestic workers. - To understand the articulation of the concept of dignity of work/ rights by young women/girl domestic workers in their occupational roles and locate it in the broader social context of caste, gender and class. - To understand how women strive for dignity and human rights through their engagement/ involvement with cooperative movements like SEWA.
5.	Analysis of Trends and patterns of Death in Prison and Police Custody: An analytical study of such deaths in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi	Dr. Mohammad Aslam, Assistant Professor, Aligarh Muslim University	- To examine the trend and patterns of deaths in Prison and police custody and its impact on society. - To study the cause and consequences of deaths in prison and police custody in the light of human rights jurisprudence. - To examine the effectiveness of existing laws at the National and International level to curb and control such incidents.

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution	Objectives
6.	Prevalence of Girl Child Labour in The Indian Textile and Garment Industry	Dr. M. Karthik, Assistant Professor, Institute of Public Enterprises, Shamirpet Campus, Hyderabad	- To find out the employment practices of labour in the Textile and Garment sector in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. - To identify employment and work conditions of girl child labour in the Textile and Garment industry in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. - To find out whether employees are being influenced by any third party like sub-brokers, company's representatives in employing girl child labour under exploitative employment schemes.
7.	Custodial Death: Trends and Patterns in Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal	Dr. Anwar Alam, Distinguished Fellow, Policy Perspective Foundation, New Delhi	- To understand and highlights the magnitude of custodial deaths (prison deaths and deaths under police custody) in India; - To comprehend and analyse the various reasons behind custodial deaths in various forms — the causative and contributory factors; - To examine the pattern and trends in custodial deaths, e.g., economic, sociological and psychological aspects of custodial deaths.
8.	Reintegration and Rehabilitation of acid attack victims	Prof. Sarasu Esther Thomas, Professor NLSIU, Bangalore	- To study the legal and policy framework relating to acid attack victims in India. - To examine how this works on the ground. - To look at personal experiences and stories of the victims.
9.	Women's Falling Participation in Labour Force in India: A Ground Level Investigation into Factors and Obstacles	Dr. Rishi Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance, BITS, Pilani Hyderabad Campus	- To understand the factors which are responsible for holding women back from joining the labour force in the country. - To understand the factors which lead to women dropping from the workforce by including the assessment of women who worked previously, but dropped out of the force later. - To compare and contrast the employment related aspects for women in urban and rural areas.
10.	Research Study on Missing Children	Shri S. Raghavan, New Concept Centre for Communication Development, New Delhi	The objective of the study is to come up with evidence-based recommendations to the Government to improve the response of institutional mechanisms concerning the cases of missing children and thereby remove the barriers faced by parents/ guardians of missing children at all stages of the systems' response, barriers faced by functionaries involved in the system and facilitate quick recovery of missing children, ensure that the perpetrators are brought to book and the recovered children have the full support and access to their rights and entitlements for their rehabilitation and reintegration.

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution	Objectives
11.	Inclusive Education for Persons with Disabilities in Punjab: Prospects and Challenges	Dr. Kiran Kumari, Asstt. Professor, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab	- To assess the status of implementation of provisions under the RPwD Act, 2016, relating to inclusive education. - To explore the academic challenges faced by the students with disabilities. - To identify the infrastructural and attitudinal barriers faced by the students with disabilities.
12.	Forest Rights Act, 2006 – Assessment of Ground Reality	Dr. Gadadhara Mohapatra, Indian Institute of Public Administration	- To assess the impact of the Recognition of Forest Rights (RoFR) Act, 2006, on the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers in the study area. - To assess the gender perspectives of social and economic empowerment in the context of Forest Rights Act, 2006. - To ascertain the measurable outcomes of the Act (livelihood/economic impacts of the FRA on the community w.r.t. tribal women)
13.	Study of quality of life of the elderly persons living in old age homes with special reference to the North region	Dr. Neelu Mehra, Assistant Professor, School of Law and Legal Studies, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi	- To address the gaps in structural, institutional and operational framework on wellbeing and quality of life of elderly persons by highlighting the gray areas negatively impacting the quality of life of elderly persons in old age homes. - To gather first-hand information concerning the quality of life of the residents of old age homes. - To identify the gaps in the desired and existing level of stress indicators that define the quality of life of the residents of old age homes.
14.	Life Satisfaction and Quality of Life of the Elderly Living in Old-Age Homes: A Comparative Study of Western India and Northeast India	Dr. B.P. Sahu Professor, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong	- To study the demographic and socioeconomic profile of the inmates staying in the old age homes of Gujarat & Maharashtra of western India and Assam and Manipur of northeast India. - To study the facilities and services provided by the old age homes to the elderly people. - To assess the current living and health status of the elderly living in old age homes. - To highlight the major issues and challenges faced by elderly living in old age homes. - To explore and compare the life satisfaction and quality of life (QoL) of elderly people living in old age homes. - To suggest social work intervention measures for greater life satisfaction and wellbeing of the aged residing in old age homes of four states. - To suggest guidelines for formulation of the policy for the aged in the respective states.

Annex VII - Ongoing research studies funded by NHRC

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution	Objectives
15.	Human Trafficking: An Evaluation Study of Functioning of AHTUs	Prof. (Dr.) Saibal Kar, Professor, Reserve Bank of India, Chair Professor of Economics, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, Kolkata, West Bengal	- To document and narrate the functioning of AHTUs as part of impact assessment across four states in India. - To examine and assess the role of AHTUs and various stakeholders associated with incidences of human trafficking in each state.
16.	An Empirical Study on working of Ashram Schools (Boys and Girls Residential) with special reference to Tribal areas located on Interstate Border areas of Central India (Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh)	Prof. (Dr.) Rashmi Salpekar, Professor and Dean, VSLLS, VIPS-TC, New Delhi	- To understand the status and issues of management and governance of Ashram schools/ Residential schools for tribal children in Maharashtra. - To know about the innovations and the best practices of Ashram schools in tribal areas. - To augment for a comprehensive national policy on Ashram schools/ Residential schools for Tribal communities in India.
17.	Impact of Ekalavya Model Residential Schools on ST Children in fifth and sixth schedule areas of India with reference to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and Mizoram	Dr. Ramanand Pandey, Director, Center of Policy Research and Governance, Janpath, New Delhi	- To access the quality of existing EMRS as per the guidelines of MOTA (Section 6, Facilities in school). - To assess the governance and management structure of EMRS. - To assess the academic curriculum and extracurricular activities of EMRS as well as capacity and potential of teachers of EMRS in delivering tribal centric education to identify the in-service and pre-service training gaps and needs
18.	Optimal design of questionnaire survey on awareness of clinical trials among different stakeholders	Dr. Anamika, Assistant Professor, JNU, Delhi	The main objective of the study is to design a comprehensive questionnaire survey to understand the gap in KAP (knowledge, attitude, and practice) of medical ethics among various stakeholders involved in conducting clinical trials in India.
19.	Commercialisation of Non-timber Forest Product: Determinants and Supply Chain in India	Dr. Pratap Kumar Jena, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Odisha	- To analyse the socio-economic conditions of forest dependent communities in the study area. - To analyse the economics of NTFPs collection and contribution to income and employment. - To examine the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on household collection of NTFPs and stakeholders of the supply chain.

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution	Objectives
20.	Pandemic, Human Rights and The Future of Livelihood: An Empirical Evidence from Indian Economy	Dr. Rahul Suresh Sapkal, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	- The primary objective of the study is to examine challenges of three core human rights that have emerged at the frontline in the current pandemic – The Right to life and duty to protect life, the Right to Health and access to Health Care and the Right to Freedom of movement and livelihood faced by Indian workers, entrepreneurs and small business owners. - To provide a situation analysis status of human rights institutional constraints in terms of access, adoption, adaptability and sustainability in the following areas: - Challenges in the impact of pandemic on lives, livelihood losses and employment rehabilitation. - Challenges in mitigating inequality, discrimination and exclusion permeated by the ongoing pandemic
21.	How effective are Gram Panchayats' Participatory Local Governance in Safeguarding Human Rights of Forest and Tribal Communities (FTCs) during Covid-19?: A Study of Select Gram Panchayats in Remote and Extremist Affected Areas of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh	Dr. Dhanraj A. Patil, Professor and Head, Gondwana University, Maharashtra	- To investigate multiple effects and impacts of Covid-19 on fundamental human rights of FTCs and explore locally relevant and socio-culturally appropriate Covid governance model adopted by Gram Panchayats to safeguard human rights concerns of FTC in the challenging times of pandemic. - To study the outcome and benefits of Gram Panchayats Covid governance strategies for promotion and protection of natural human rights of FTCs concerning traditional livelihood/ employment, customary businesses and health and food, particularly during lockdown and post lockdown period. - To study the pattern and significance of new transformative alternative democratic local governance structures emerging at grassroots level to protect and promote inherent human rights of FTCs.
22.	Local Self Governance and Promotion of Tribal Rights: A Comparative Study of Malkangiri District in Odisha and Gumla District in Jharkhand	Dr. Umesh Chandra Sahoo, Professor (Retd), Gurukul Foundation, Odisha	- To analyse the ideological base of Local Self- Government process and effectiveness of participatory approach in ensuring social justice. - To find out the potential of the local self-governance system in terms of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness of weaker sections, especially tribals in Gram Sabha and other development programme while guaranteeing their stability, equality, dignity and over all constitutional rights. - To examine the level of performance of people's representatives in meeting their expected roles and responsibilities.

Annex VII - Ongoing research studies funded by NHRC

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution	Objectives
23.	Promotion of Human Rights in the Rural Local Self Governance: Evidence from Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh	Dr. Puneet Pathak, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, School of Legal Studies, Central University of Punjab	- To understand the scope of human rights implementation in LSG. - To evaluate the status of rural LSG in regard to respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting human rights. - To identify challenges faced by rural local authorities in implementing Human Rights.
24.	Promotion of Human Rights in Local Self Governance — A study of Select Village Panchayats, Cuddalore District, India	Dr. V. Rathikarani, Assistant Professor, Annamalai University	- To understand the functioning of village panchayats in general and human rights aspects in particular in the selected village panchayats in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. - To observe how citizens (minorities, disadvantaged, women, etc.) engage with the local government to defend their human rights. - To understand promotion of human rights in everyday governance of village panchayats.
25.	A Study on the Status, Functioning and Effectiveness of SwadharGreh and Ujjawala Homes for women and adolescent girls	Dr. S. Shanthakumar, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar	- To evaluate the functioning of the schemes of SwadharGreh and Ujjawala Homes for women. - To analyze and assess the effectiveness of the SwadharGreh and Ujjawala Homes schemes in protecting the human rights of women including the adolescent girls. - To identify the issues and challenges faced in the operation of the SwadharGreh and Ujjawala Homes. - To identify the gaps and suggest policy measures to achieve a higher degree of effectiveness of the schemes for the protection of the rights of women and adolescent girls.
26.	Education for Refugee Learners in India: Visualising Policy Oriented Innovation and Technological Approach for Increasing Access	Dr. Shuvro Prosun Sarker, Assistant Professor, Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT, Kharagpur	- Examining the existing legal and institutional framework conceiving the condition of education of refugee learners in India, - Finding and analyzing the issues and challenges regarding access to education for refugee learners in India from data gathered through interviews, - To improve unhindered access to admission for refugee children in government and private schools, and higher education institutions.

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution	Objectives
27.	A study of human rights ethos in Indian scriptures and contemporary culture.	Dr. Balram Tyagi, Professor, Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi	- To explore and document the tenets, principles, and practices of Indian scriptures, ancient texts and Vedic literature regarding social, cultural, economic and political rights in consonance with Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). - To explore and document the tenets, principles, and practices in the Indian scriptures, ancient texts, and Vedic literature regarding the rights of women, elders, and other vulnerable groups concerning the freedom of thought, expressions, equality, education, faiths and religion, health, wellbeing, and social security. - To investigate the cultural factors in the contemporary and modern Indian society resonating with the social, political and economic rights of children, women, elders, and other vulnerable social groups.
28.	Refugees' Access to Education, Healthcare and Livelihood	Shri Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director, ActionAid Association, New Delhi	- To analyze the law, policies and programmes and institutional mechanisms available to refugee communities for their stay, protection and welfare measures in India. - To document the socio-economic conditions of the identified refugee communities in India and their relationship with the neighbouring host communities. - To understand the challenges faced by the different refugee groups in accessing basic needs and welfare provisions including nutrition, education, housing, healthcare and livelihoods, etc.
29.	Prevalence of malnutrition and associated factors among children aged 3-5 years attending ICDS Anganwadis: A study of Northern India	Dr Archana Dassi, Professor, Centre for Early Childhood Development and Research, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi;	- To assess prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 3-5 years attending ICDS Anganwadi centres. - To explore the factors associated with malnutrition among children. - To study the challenges and noteworthy nutrition practices (both at home and at Anganwadi centres) among young children.
30.	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues among the LGBT Community in India: A Study of Inter-Relationship between Mental Health disorders and Stress, Coping, Perceived Social Support, Occupation and Religiosity	Dr. Susanta Kumar Padhy, Additional Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatry, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar	- To understand the mental health issues of LGBT of India - To assess the suicidal risk in the LGBT community of India. - To assess the workplace related issues faced by LGBT - To screen for substance abuse and mental health disorders in the LGBT community - To assess the inter-relationship between factors like stress, coping, perceived social support occupation and religiosity and mental health disorders of persons from LGBT community in India

New research studies approved by NHRC

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution	Thematic Area
1.	Skilling for Enhancing Access to Labour Market and Employment among women with Disabilities, particularly migrant households	Nikhil Raj, Deshkal Society, Noida	Access to employment by persons with Disabilities
2.	Access to Employment by Persons with Disabilities: Status, Identification of Barriers and Associated Factors	Prof.(Dr.) Jayanti Pujari, Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences and Director, Amity Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences	Access to employment by persons with Disabilities
3.	A study on the mechanisms Adopted by the Sports Bodies to combat Human Rights Abuse and an examination of the Legal Policy Framework along with the status of implementation in Kerala	Dr. Ajith Mohan. K.R., Department of Physical Education, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin , Kerala	Human Rights Abuse in Sports
4.	Children in the Shadows: Unveiling dimensions of organized begging in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata	Shri Varun Dev S, Assistant Professor and Research Officer, Kerala Law Academy Law College Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Dimensions of organized begging by children and transgender persons
5.	The Third Gender+: the Quest for Recognition and Equality of their property Rights and Inheritance	Professor Vandana, Faculty of Law, Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi	Rights of LGBTQI Persons
6.	A study of the Socio-legal aspects of the Adoption Process in India with special reference to Delhi-NCR	Dr. Deepika Prakash, Assistant Professor, Amity Law School, Amity Noida Campus, Uttar Pradesh	Problems related to Adoption under the Juvenile Justice Act and Personal Laws and reforms required
7.	Review of Drinking Water Situation in India vis-a-vis Government Policy & Action-round reality, Challenges and Way Forward	Prof. Chhavi Nath Pandey, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar,	Access to Safe drinking water
8.	Caring about the rights of healers- Analysing human rights violations related to frontline doctors in India	Dr. Abhay Shukla, Sr Consultant and Scientist, SATHI, Pune	Violation of Human Rights of Doctors
9.	Study to Understand the reasons for the rising number of cases among the CCL and Under trials in Observation Homes and Under trial / Convicts under the NDPS Act lodged/ languishing in CCI/ Observations Homes and Prisons and Exploring the existing legislative Policy and Schematic Response in sample states i.e. Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh	Dr. Vikram Srivastava, Founder, Independent Thought, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP	Substance Abuse among Children and youth in India

S. No.	Title of the Research Project	Name of the Principal Investigator and Institution	Thematic Area
10.	Social Barriers that Children of Women engaged in Intergenerational Prostitution face in Access to Education	Dr. Veerendra Mishra (IPS) Director Samvedna, RACE Lab, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Right to education for children of sex workers in India
11.	Comparative Study of Solid Waste, wastewater management and building regulations across Indian cities to analyze the impact of urbanization for sustainability and healthy environment	Shri Vimal Mishra, Professor, Civil Engg. and Earth Sciences, IIT, Gandhinagar	Restoring Balance between the Right to a healthy environment and urbanization
12.	Compensation To Acid Attack Victims: A Pan India Study Of Victim Compensation Schemes & Their Effectiveness	Dr. Garima Pal, Assistant Professor, Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai	Compensation to victims

Details of posts sanctioned and filled as on 31st March, 2024

S. No.	Name of Post	Sanctioned Strength	In Position
1.	Secretary General	01	01
2.	Director General (Investigation)	01	01
3.	Registrar (Law)	01	01
4.	Joint Secretary	02	02
5.	Presenting Officer	05	04
6.	DIG	01	01
7.	Director	01	01
8.	Joint Registrar (Law)	01	01 (Contractual)
9.	SSP	04	04
10.	Deputy Registrar	03	03
11.	Sr. PPS	01	01
12.	Joint Director (Research)	01	0
13.	Deputy Secretary	01	01
14.	Under Secretary	03	03
15.	Assistant Registrar	10	07
16.	Principal Private Secretary (PPS)	07	07
17.	Sr. Research Officer	02	02 (Contractual)
18.	Research Officer	02	0
19.	Deputy Director (M&C)	01	01
20.	Sr. System Analyst	01	01
21.	Assistant Director (Publication)	01	01
22.	Librarian/Documentation officer	01	0
23.	Assistant Director (Hindi)	01	01
24.	Sr. Accounts Officer	01	0
25.	System Analyst	01	01
26.	Programmer	01	01
27.	Section Officer	15	14 (01 Contractual)
28.	Private Secretary	14	08
29.	Dy. Supdt. of Police	11	09

S. No.	Name of Post	Sanctioned Strength	In Position
30.	Assistant Accounts Officer	03	02 (01 Contractual)
31.	Inspector	26	15
32.	Personal Assistant	21	12 (01 Contractual)
33.	Sr. Research Assistant	01	0
34.	Research Assistant	03	03
35.	Assistants	37	32
36.	Sr. Translator (Hindi)	01	0
37.	Programmer Assistant	02	0
38.	Accountant	03	02
39.	Jr. Translator	02	02
40.	Dy. Documentation Officer	01	01
41.	Jr. Accountant	03	03 (02 Contractual)
42.	Steno Grade 'D'	22	18
43.	Upper Division Clerk	11	11
44.	Assistant Librarian	01	0
45.	Lower Division Clerk	20	21
46.	Staff Car Driver	12	07
47.	Constable	12	12
48.	Dispatch Rider	02	01
49.	MTS	78	63
	Total	356	282

Annex - X

Special Rapporteurs

S. No.	Name of the Special Rapporteur	Zone/area covered as per new scheme	Tenure
1.	Shri Mahesh Singla Punjab	ZONE-I Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
2.	Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma Uttar Pradesh	ZONE-II Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Leh Ladakh & Uttarakhand	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
3.	Shri Ranjan Dwivedi Noida	ZONE-III Uttar Pradesh	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
4.	Shri P.N. Dixit, Maharashtra	ZONE-IV Maharashtra & Goa	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
5.	Shri Madan Lal Meena New Delhi	ZONE-V Rajasthan	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
6.	Dr. K.C. Sharma	ZONE-VI Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	5 th May, 2022 to 8 th January, 2024
7.	Shri Umesh Kumar Sharma Rajasthan	ZONE-VII Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
8.	Dr. Rajinder Kumar Malik New Delhi	ZONE-VIII West Bengal & Odisha	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
9.	Ms. Nirmal Kaur Jharkhand	ZONE-IX Bihar	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
10.	Ms. Suchitra Sinha Jharkhand	ZONE-X Jharkhand	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
11.	Shri Hari Sena Verma Kerala	ZONE-XI Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Lakshadweep	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
12.	Shri M. Madan Gopal Karnataka	ZONE-XII Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
13.	Shri Ashit Mohan Prasad Karnataka	ZONE-XIII Karnataka	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
14.	Shri Umesh Kumar Assam	ZONE-XIV Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025
15.	Shri Akhil Kumar Shukla Uttar Pradesh	ZONE-XV Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura & Arunachal Pradesh	5 th May, 2022 to 4 th May, 2025

Special Monitors

S. No.	Name of Special Monitor	Thematic areas and Subjects covered	Tenure
1.	Shri Veerendra Singh Rawat Alias Swami Yoganand Uttarakhand	Human Rights Advocacy (HR Education & Gender Equality)	25 th July, 2022 to 24 th July, 2025
2.	Shri Jayanto Narayan Choudhury West Bengal	Criminal Justice System (Subjects covered — Jails, Juvenile Justice & Correctional Homes) & Police & Police Reforms	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
3.	Shri Ahmed Javed Maharashtra	Bonded Labour and Child Labour (Subjects covered — All matters related to Bonded Labour and Child Labour)	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
4.	Shri Surendra Kumar Uttar Pradesh	Tribal Welfare (Subjects covered — All matters relating to welfare of Tribals & Forest dwellings)	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
5.	Shri Fauzan Alavi New Delhi	Matter relating to the implantation of Advisory in relation to the mechanization of sewer and septic tanks, cleaning, matter relating to silicosis and other matters as assigned specifically, time to time.	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
6.	Dr. Yogesh Dube Maharashtra	Women and Disability (Subjects covered — Sexual Violence and Rape, Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment at workplace)	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
7.	Shri Balkrishan Goel Haryana	Child Rights and Elderly Citizens (Subjects covered — All matters relating to Child Rights & Elderly Citizens)	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
8.	Ms. Laxmi Narayan Tripathi Delhi	Transgender (Subjects covered — All matters relating to Transgender, LGBT Rights)	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
9.	Shri Hemanta Narzary Assam	Panchayati Raj and Local Self Government (Subjects covered—All matters relating to Panchayati Raj and Local Self Government)	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
10.	Shri Sudhir Chowdhary Hararyana	Human Trafficking (Subjects covered — All matters relating to Human Trafficking)	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
11.	Shri Prem Singh Bisht Hararyana	Business & Human Rights (Subjects covered — All matters relating to Business and Human Rights)	23 rd September, 2022 to 22 nd September, 2025
12.	Shri Amitabh Agnihotri Madhya Pradesh	Environment, Climate change & Human Rights & Human Rights.	22 nd November, 2023 to 22 nd November, 2025
13.	Shri Sanjay Agarwal Uttar Pradesh	Elementary Education and Literacy	22 nd November, 2023 to 22 nd September, 2025
14.	Dr. Manohar Agnani Madhya Pradesh	Public Health, Healthcare and Hospital (Mental, HIV/AIDs, Spurious drugs, Diagnostics and Labs)	22 nd November, 2023 to 22 nd September, 2025
15.	Shri Rakesh Asthana New Delhi	Terrorism, Counter Insurgency, Left Wing Extremism and Communal Riots, etc.	22 nd November, 2023 to 22 nd September, 2025

Annex X - Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors

S. No.	Name of Special Monitor	Thematic areas and Subjects covered	Tenure
16.	Ms. Jyotsna Sitling Delhi	Livelihood, Skilling & Employment	22 nd November, 2023 to 22 nd February, 2024
17.	Dr. Muktesh Chander, Uttar Pradesh	Cybercrime & Artificial Intelligence	22 nd November, 2023 to 22 nd September, 2025
18.	Shri R.K. Sama, Gujarat	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)	22 nd November, 2023 to 1 st March, 2024

Annex - XI

Visits undertaken by the Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors during 2023-24

A. Visits undertaken by the NHRC Special Rapporteurs

S. No.	Name of the Special Rapporteur	Visits undertaken
1.	Shri Mahesh Kumar Singla	- i.) Visited two Observation Homes in Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana in the State of Punjab from 25th - 30th April, 2023. - ii.) Visited State Mental Health Institute, Pt. Bhagwat Dayal Sharma University of Health Science, Rothak, Haryana from 11th - 13th May, 2023. - iii.) Visited Bhatinda Jail from 29-31 May, 2023 w.r.t. NHRC Case No.487/19/2/2023 dated 16th May, 2023. - iv.) Visited the Observation Homes (CCI) of Haryana & Punjab Government under Social Security & Women and Child Development from 21st - 28th June, 2023. - v.) Visited Faridkot in the state of Punjab (Observation Home, Sadik Road Central Jail and Faridkot) from 20th - 22nd July, 2023). - vi.) Visited the Observation Home Karnal under Department of Women & Child Welfare Haryana and Observation & Special Home for Girls at sector 26, Chandigarh from 28th - 29th July, 2023. - vii.) Visited the Observation Home in Faridabad and Delhi under Department of Women & Child Development from 28th - 31st August, 2023. - viii.) Visited Chandigarh Observation Homes & Special Home for Girl's sector-25 and for boy's sector-26 of Chandigarh from 29th - 30th September, 2023. - ix.) Visited the Child Care Institutions in Delhi from 25th - 28th October, 2023. - x.) Visited the Children Home under Delhi Government and Jail under Haryana Government from 24th - 29th November, 2023. - xi.) Visited Delhi to attend the Human Rights Day function on 10th December, 2023; Meeting of Special Rapporteurs on 11th December, 2023 and District Jail Gurugram, Bhondsi in the State of Haryana from 12th - 13th December, 2023. - xii.) Visited the Children Care Homes in Delhi and District Jail Palwal, Haryana from 24th - 25th January, 2024 and 27th - 30th January, 2024. - xiii.) Visited/ Inspected the Old Age Homes, CCIs & Observation Homes & AWCs etc. in the state of Punjab (Fatehgarh Sahib, Mansa, Ludhiana & Jalandhar) from 23-25 January, and 29th - 31st January, 2024. - xiv.) Visited Delhi to enquire about the matter in NHRC Case No.2745/30/1/2023-Law Division from 19th - 24th February, 2024.
2.	Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma	- i.) Visited Central Jail in Srinagar and District Jail in Anantnag from 19th - 24th June, 2023, including a visit to an institution engaged with vulnerable sections of society in Srinagar to review conditions. - ii.) Visited Central Jail, KotBhalwal, Jammu and District Jail, Udhampur from 21st - 26th August, 2023. - iii.) Visited Almora-Bhimtal, Uttarakhand (Visit to the District Jail and Observation Home for Juvenile offenders, Almora, Institutions for disadvantaged children, etc.) from 24th - 30th September, 2023.

Annex XI - Visits undertaken by the Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors during the year 2023-24

S. No.	Name of the Special Rapporteur	Visits undertaken
		iv.) Visited District Jail Nainital, Sub-Jail Haldwani, Observation Home for Juvenile offenders, Haldwani and NAB Institute for Blind Children, Haldwani in the state of Uttarakhand from 14th–19th November, 2023. v.) Visited District Jail at Tehri and Observation Home & Old Age Home at Uttarkashi in the state of Uttarakhand from 26th–31st March, 2024.
3.	Shri Ranjan Dwivedi	Visited the state of Uttar Pradesh w.r.t. NHRC Case No.32358/24/4/2022 related to Bal Sudhar Grih in Prayag Raj and Case No.28165/24/4/2022 related to HIV cases in Barabanki Jail and related issues, from 4 th December, 2023 to 9 th December, 2023.
4.	Shri P.N. Dixit	Visited Nanded and Sambhaji Nagar in the state of Maharashtra from 29 th October, 2023 to 2 nd November, 2023 w.r.t. directions of the Commission in Case No.2249/13/2023 dated 5 th October, 2023.
5.	Shri Madan Lal Meena	Visited Sub-divisional Jail in Kotputli and Behror in Newly created district of KOTPUTLI-BEHROR in the state of Rajasthan from 18 th –19 th March, 2024.
6.	Shri Umesh Kumar Sharma	Visited some districts in the state of Chhattisgarh from 11 to 17 February, 2024 (to visit Central/District Jail, Children's Homes etc.) and some districts in the state of Madhya Pradesh from 25 th Feb. to 2 nd March, 2024 (to visit Central/District Jail, Children's Homes etc.)
7.	Ms. Nirmal Kaur	i.) Visited Bihar to investigate the matter of young Bihar children being taken to Madarasa in Chennai and southern States from 22nd February, 2023 to 6th March, 2023, 20th-25th March, 2023, 1st April, 2023 & 6th April, 2023 and 2nd–7th May, 2023 (Case No.4984/22/13/2022). ii.) Visited Bihar to investigate the matter of young Bihar children being taken to Madarasa in Chennai and southern States from 4th–9th June, 2023. (Case No.4984/22/13/2022). iii.) Visited Patna and Saharsa in the State of Bihar from 1st–12th August, 2023 in connection with Case No.4984/22/13/2022 in the matter of young Bihar Children being taken to Madrasas in Chennai. iv.) Visited Begusarai Jail from 1st November, 2023 to 7th November, 2023 in connection with Case No.3487/4/4/2022 regarding poor quality of food at Begusarai Jail. v.) Visit to Patna and Begusarai in the State of Bihar from 18th December, 2023 to 24th December, 2023 in connection with NHRC Case No. 3487/4/4/2022.
8.	Ms. Suchitra Sinha	i.) Visited various institutions in Jamshedpur, Deoghar and Dumka (Juvenile Observation Home, Karandih, Jamshedpur, Deoghar Jail and Dumka Jail) on 19th May, 2023 and from 22nd–25th May, 2023 ii.) Visited various institutions in Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Gumla and Chaibasa (Jamshedpur Child Home, Anusuchit Jan Jaati Aawasiya Vidyalaya, Kamre, Anusuchit Jan Jaati Aawasiya Balika Madhya Vidyalaya, Women Probation Home, Namkum, Gumla Jail) in the state of Jharkhand during 22nd–24th June, 2023, 1st August, 2023, 3rd August, 2023, 7th–10th August, 2023.

S. No.	Name of the Special Rapporteur	Visits undertaken
		iii.) Visited various institutions in Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) - (Anusucht Jan JaatiAawasiya Madhya Balak Vidyalaya, Singhapura, Gurabanda, Dhalbhum, Janshedpur, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Rewsidential School, Golmuri, East Singhbhum; Anusuchit Jan JaatiAawasiya Balika Madhya Vidyalaya; Kendriya Vidyalaya, Tata Nagar; Kasturba Vidyalaya, Chandil and Anusuchit Jan JaatiAawasiya Balika Ucha Vidyalaya, Tamar) - from 1st to 2nd Sept, 2023; 6th -9th Sept, 2023; 8th September, 2023, 11th September, 2023 and 13th September, 2023. iv.) Visited Saigadih, Anusuchit Jan JaatiAawasiya Balak Ucch Vidyalaya, Mandu, Ramgarh, JaaharNavoday Vidyalaya, Mesra and AnusuchiitAwasiya Vidyalaya OrmanjhPisca in the state of Jharkhand on 9th October, 2023, 11th October, 2023 & 16th - 17th October, 2023. v.) Visited various institutions situated at Ranchi, Ramgarh, Jamshedpur and Khunti in the state of Jharkhand (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Khunti, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Kanke, Netaji Shubash Chandra Bose Aawasiya Vidyalaya, Ranchi, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Bayanbil, Jamshedpur, Eklavya Model Residential School, Saigadih, Anusuchit Jan. JaatiAawasiya Balak ucch Vidyalaya, Ramgarh) from 1st -4th November, 2023, 5th November, 2023, 7th November, 2023 and 9th November, 2023. vi.) Visited various institutions (Sainik School Tilaiya, Koderma Jail, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Patratu, Ramgarh, CHC in Namkum, Old Age Home, Jamshedpur & Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Saraikela) situated at Koderma, Ramgarh, Jamshedpur, Saraikela and Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand on 1st to 2nd Dec, 2023, 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th December, 2023. vii.) Visited various institutions (Community Health Centre, Ormanjhi, CHC in Kanke, CHC in Lower Chutia, CHC in Bero, CHC in Bundu & CHC in Tamar) situated at Ranchi, Bundu and Tamar in the state of Jharkhand from 16th to 20th January, and 22nd January, 2024. viii.) Visited various institutions (Sadar Hospital, Ranchi, Community Health Centre in Jamshedpur, CHC in Saraikela Kharasawan, CHC in Chandil, CHC in Golmuri & CHC in Nimdih) situated at Saraikelal Kharsawan, Jamshedpur and Ranchi from 7th to 10th February, 2024 and 12th -13th February, 2024.
9.	Shri Hari Sena Verma	Visited Kozhikode to inspect the Government Mental Health Institution at Kuthiravattam from 18 th -20 th December, 2023.
10.	Shri Ashit Mohan Prasad	Visited B.R. Hills, Chamrajnagar in the state of Karnataka from 24 th -27 th April, 2023.
11.	Shri Umesh Kumar	i.) Visited the State of Assam from 4th -9th April, 2023 for inspection of Prison at Halflong in Dima Hasao District (Assam) and Rehab Centre and Children Home in Kamrup (Rural) Dist. In Assam. ii.) Visited Dhemaji Jail in Assam from 11th - 16th May, 2023. iii.) Visited Jail at Golaghat in Assam for inspection from 25th - 30th June, 2023. iv.) Visited/Inspected Child Care Institution at Bilasipara in Dhubri District and inspected the Anganwadi centre at Rupashi in Dhubri district from 19th -24th July, 2023. v.) Visited Sohra and Shillong in the state of Meghalaya for inspection of the Community Health Centre at Sohra (Cherrapunji) and a Children Home run by some NGO at Shillong from 14th to 19th August, 2023. vi.) Visited Tinsukia in Assam for inspection of the jail from 13th -18th September, 2023.

Annex XI - Visits undertaken by the Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors during the year 2023-24

S. No.	Name of the Special Rapporteur	Visits undertaken
		vii.) Visited the de-addiction centre and one stop centre in Kamrup Metro District, Assam from 26th - 31st October, 2023. viii.) Visited the Home and Centre under the Deptt. of Women & Child Development, Govt. of Assam and Women Helpline Centre, Beltola, Guwahati from 13th to 18th December, 2023. ix.) Visited Nirmal Aashray, a home for women in distress, under the Shakti Sadan scheme of Govt. of India from 27th - 29th December, 2023. x.) Visited Goalpara Jail for inspection in the state of Assam from 17th - 22nd January, 2024. xi.) Visited/Inspected Shillong jail from 23rd to 29th February, 2024. xii.) Visited BDS Govt. HS School for hearing impaired in Kahilipara in Guwahati city for inspection from 26th - 31st March, 2024.
12	Shri Akhil Kumar Shukla	i.) Visited Central Jail at Dimapur and Kohima in the state of Nagaland from 24th September, 2023 to 29th September, 2023. ii.) Visited Guwahati, Assam from 15th - 17th November, 2023 to attend National Conference on Advancing Human Rights through Local Self Governance at Guwahati, Assam iii.) Visited District Jail, Itanagar for inspection from 12th - 15th December, 2023. iv.) Visited Kendriya Sanshodhanagar (Central Jail) Bishalgarh, Agartala and District Jail and District Jail Udaipur, Tripura from 19th - 24th February, 2024.

B. Visits undertaken by the Special Monitors

S. No.	Name of the Special Monitor	Visits undertaken
1.	Shri Veerendra Singh Rawat Alias Swami Yoganand	i.) Visited/ inspected training in a state prone to human rights violations in the state of Haryana from 27th September, 2023 to 31st September, 2023. ii.) Visited training institute prone to human rights violations in the state of Rajasthan from 15th - 20th October, 2023. iii.) Visited the training institute prone to human rights violation in the state of Delhi (Areas covered NCR) from 25th February, 2024 to 1st March, 2024. iv.) To visit/inspect the training institute prone to human rights violation in the state of Uttar Pradesh from 25th March, 2024 to 29th March, 2024.
2.	Shri Jayanto Narayan Choudhury	Visited various institutions in West Bengal from 12 th - 14 th and 17 th - 18 th July, 2023 in connection with issues related to the Criminal Justice System.
3.	Shri Fauzan Alavi	i.) Conducted a study on 'Street beggars' in New Delhi in December, 2023 and submitted a report on 3rd January, 2024. ii.) Visit to the state of Uttar Pradesh to study the condition of manual scavengers and sewage workers from 8th March, 2024 to 9th March, 2024.

S. No.	Name of the Special Monitor	Visits undertaken
4.	Dr. Yogesh Dube	i.) Visited the districts of Satna, Rewa and Sidhi in Madhya Pradesh from 14th to 17th May, 2023. ii.) Visited Mangaluru & Field visit to Block/ Taluka Kadaba, Dakshina Kannada district (Karnataka) from 9 to 12th August, 2023. iii.) Visited Andha Ashram Balika Graha (Homes for the girls) Dist. Administration Office, Utilization of Nirbhaya Fund at Kokhapur (Maharashtra) for on the spot inspection and data collection from 11th September, 2023 to 13th September, 2023. iv.) Visited Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from 5th to 7th February, 2024 for on the spot inspection and data collection. v.) Visited Surat, Gujarat from 4th to 6th March, 2024 (Visit the Schools for the visually impaired; Mukhbadhir Vikas Trust, Deaf & Dumb School, Surat and Mavjat Parents Association of Mentally Challenged persons and Charitable Trust) vi.) Visit to Jaipur, Rajasthan from 17th-19th March, 2024 for on the spot inspection, and data collection.
5.	Shri Balkrishan Goel	i.) Visit to Observation Homes, CCIs, Old Age Homes and Govt. Schools located at UP, Haryana, Delhi (NCR) and Rajasthan from 22nd May, 2023 to 29th May, 2023. ii.) Visited the Observation Homes, CCIs, Old Age Homes & Government Schools, District Hospital, Central Jail Creche, Anganwadis etc. located at Uttar Pradesh from 21st to 28th June, 2023. iii.) Visited the Observation Homes, CCIs, Old Age Homes & Govt. Schools, AWC etc. located at Raipur, Mahasamund, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh from 28th July, 2023 to 04th August, 2023. iv.) Visited Chennai, Ranipet, Tiruvannamalai and Vellore in the State of Tamil Nadu from 29th September to 6th October, 2023. v.) Visited/ Inspected the Observation Home/ CCI, Place of Safety/ SAA, Govt. School/ Anganwadis, Old Age Home/ Central/ Distt. Jail/ Distt. Hospital etc. located at Ajmer, Rajasthan from 17th-19th December, 2023. vi.) Visited/ Inspected the Old Age Homes, CCIs & Observation Homes & AWCs etc. in the state of Punjab (Fatehgarh Sahib, Mansa, Ludhiana & Jalandhar) from 23-25th and 29th-31st January, 2024. vii.) Visited/ Inspected the Old Age Homes, CCIs & Observation Homes & AWCs etc. in the state of Assam located at Kamrup Metropolitan, Nalbari, Nagaon, and Kamrup, from 18th - 24th February, 2024. viii.) Visited Old Age Homes, CCIs, Observation Homes & AWC etc. in the state of Himachal Pradesh located at Una, Kangra and Hamirpur from 12th - 20th March, 2024.
6.	Shri Sudhir Choudhary	i.) Visited Chandigarh and Panchkula in the state of Haryana in connection with Juvenile Homes detention and Anti Human trafficking units in the state from 23rd July, 2023 to 28th July, 2023. ii.) Visited the Juvenile Home Detention, Anti Human Trafficking Units in Ambala, Karnal, Faridabad and Gurgaon in the state of Haryana from 6th August, 2023 to 11th August, 2023.

Annex XI - Visits undertaken by the Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors during the year 2023-24

S. No.	Name of the Special Monitor	Visits undertaken
		iii.) Visited Delhi and Gurgaon for 19th – 24th February, 2024 for discussions with MHA, BPR&D, WCD officers – Visit to placement agencies, Rescue homes, Anti Human Trafficking Units, Rehabilitation Centres. iv.) Visited Faridabad from 28th – 30th March, 2024 (Visited Placement agencies, Rescue, Rehabilitation homes etc. in Faridabad & meeting CP & Dy Commissioner, Faridabad & other authorities).
7.	Shri Prem Singh Bisht	i.) Visited State of Punjab from 28th June, 2023 to 30th June, 2023 to inspect PSU prone to Business & Human Rights violation. ii.) Visited Panipat and Shahabad (Kurushetra) in the State of Haryana (to visit/ inspect PSU prone to human rights violation in the state of Haryana) from 25th July, 2023 to 27th July, 2023. iii.) Visited/Inspected PSU prone to human rights violation in the state of Rajasthan from 22nd – 25th August, 2023. iv.) Visited the PSU prone to human rights violations in the state of Madhya Pradesh (Gwalior, Guna, Indore, Pitampur Dhar districts) from 16th – 21st October, 2023. v.) Visited the PSU prone to human rights violation in the state of Uttar Pradesh UP State Leather Development & Marketing Corpn. Ltd. at Agra. UPSIDC Lakhanpur at Kanpur from 20th – 23rd February, 2024.
8.	Shri Rakesh Asthaana	Visited the camps of terror victims at Sheikhpura, Budgam, and Vesoo (Anantnag) camps from 20 th – 22 nd February, 2024.
9.	Dr. Muktesh Chander	Visited Kolkata from 12 th to 15 th March, 2024 to study the incidents of cybercrime in the state, their conversion in FIR, recovery of money in cyber frauds, police preparedness in dealing with cybercrime.

Annex - XII

Recommendations made by the Commission for grant for monetary relief which were requested for reconsideration/ not accepted or challenged before the Courts

S. No.	Case No.	Date of Recommendation/ last directions	Nature of complaint	The Recommendations of the Commission	Reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations, by the State Authorities	Writ petition filed/being filed by the Authorities against the recommendations
1.	399/33/14/2021	3 rd November, 2023	The complainant had alleged that five COVID patients had died in Rajdhani Super Speciality Hospital Raipur due to Ward Fire. The victims died due to suffocation of smoke.	The Govt. of Chhattisgarh was recommended to pay a monetary relief of Rs. 5 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased prisoner. Ref: Proceedings dated 03 rd November, 2023	The State Authorities have requested for reconsideration by giving justification. Ref: 6539/52/Commission/2023/17-1 dated 12 th December, 2023	N/A
2.	8944/24/64/2020	23 rd January, 2023	As per complaint, a 19 year old migrant worker who was walking for six days collapsed near Saharanpur and died because of hunger. He was working in Ludhiana and decided to walk back home in Hardoi, UP because no government transport was available to him.	The Govt. of Uttar Pradesh was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 02 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 23 rd January, 2023	The State Govt vide letter dated 27 th October, 2023 has stated that there is a provision of payment of only Rs. 50000/- in the deaths due to COVID and requested the Commission to reconsider its recommendations.	N/A
3.	3799/12/33/2021	22 nd August, 2022 (Last considered on 30 th June, 2023 by the Commission)	The complainant had stated that her husband, the victim, died due to electrocution. It was alleged that the victim died due to the negligence of the electricity department as they had failed to maintain the minimum distance of the high tension wire.	The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 5 Lakh to the NoK of deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 22 nd August, 2022	N/A	The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has challenged the Commission's order dated 22.08.2022 in Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur vide WP No. 4676/2023.

S. No.	Case No.	Date of Recommendation/ last directions	Nature of complaint	The Recommendations of the Commission	Reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations, by the State Authorities	Writ petition filed/being filed by the Authorities against the recommendations
4.	3194/4/35/2017-JCD	06 th November, 2021 (Last considered on 20 th June, 2023 by the Commission)	Intimation received from SP, Mandal Jail, Sheohar, Bihar regarding custodial death of a UTP Ram Nath	The Govt. of Bihar was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 10 Lakh to the NoK of deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 6 th November, 2021	N/A	The Govt. of Bihar has challenged the Commission's order dated 06.11.2021 in Hon'ble High Court of Bihar, Patna vide CWJC No. 12772/2022.
5.	6850/30/8/2021	01 st December, 2022 (Last considered on 15 th March, 2024 by the Commission)	The complainant had alleged that the police officials abused him outside the wine shop. They harassed and injured him after taking him to the Saket Police Station. The local police did not register his FIR.	The Commissioner of Police, Delhi was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 1.5 Lakh to the victim/ complainant Sh. Pradeep Singh S/o Sh. Amrit Singh. Ref: Proceedings dated 1 st December, 2022	N/A	The Commissioner of Police, Delhi has challenged the Commission's order dated 01.12.2022 in Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide WP No. 487/2024.
6.	77/9/1/2020	16 th January, 2023 (Last considered on 26 th December, 2023 by the Commission)	The complainant had alleged that the delay in treatment by the doctors at the sub-district hospital Seer and subsequent request for transfer to the MCCH, Anantnag resulted in the death of the victim who was pregnant.	The Govt of UT Jammu & Kashmir was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 4 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 16 th January, 2023	N/A	The Govt. of UT J&K has challenged the Commission's order dated 16 th January, 2023 in Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Srinagar vide WP(C) No. 891/2023.
7.	969/22/13/2017	12 th February, 2020 (Last considered on 10 th November, 2023 by the Commission)	The complainant alleged that accused persons involved in illegal liquor & prostitution business, in connivance with local police have implicated him in false cases. He was physically tortured by the police and demanded bribe from him.	The Govt. of Tamil Nadu was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 03 Lakh to the victim. Ref: Proceedings dated 12 th February, 2020	N/A	Accused Police Official(s) has/have filed case in Madras High Court where all proceedings have been kept on hold.

S. No.	Case No.	Date of Recommendation/ last directions	Nature of complaint	The Recommendations of the Commission	Reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations, by the State Authorities	Writ petition filed/being filed by the Authorities against the recommendations
8.	582/25/15/2019-PF	1 st July, 2022 (Last considered on 25 th January, 2023 by the Commission)	The complainant had alleged that while the victim was going home with a packet containing beef, he was stopped by the BSF personnel who became furious after seeing beef and started beating up the victim with sticks. The complainant further states that when victim's wife, Shabana Bibi, came to rescue him, she was also beaten up ruthlessly along with the victim.	The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 02 Lakh each to both the victims. Ref: Proceedings dated 01 st July, 2022	N/A	The concerned union authority has informed that appropriate action on payment of compensation has been kept in abeyance till completion of legal procedure in the FIR against the accused constables.
9.	335/12/32/2023	9 th October, 2023	As per the complaint the victim died due to the electrocution while coming in contact with a snapped live wire. This fatal incident happened when the deceased along with his friend, Aditiya Kori aged 8 years were playing together in a tractor and came across a snapped wire.	The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 02 Lakh to the NoKof deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 9 th October, 2023	N/A	The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has challenged the Commission's order dated 09 th October, 2023 in Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur vide WP No. 26900/2023.
10.	1817/4/32/2011	19 th November, 2012 (Last considered on 28 th July, 2023 by the Commission)	The complainant had alleged that 11000 volt transmission line wire fell on the gathering of people celebrating 'Vishwakarma Pooja'. Seven persons died and 4 persons suffered grievous burn injuries.	The Govt. of Bihar was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 2 Lakh each to the NoK of deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 9 th November, 2012	N/A	The recommendation of the Commission was challenged by Bihar State Electricity Board in Civil Writ Jurisdiction case No. CWJC-3640/ 2014 in the High Court of Bihar, Judicature at Patna

S. No.	Case No.	Date of Recommendation/ last directions	Nature of complaint	The Recommendations of the Commission	Reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations, by the State Authorities	Writ petition filed/being filed by the Authorities against the recommendations
11.	261/12/35/2019	23 rd November, 2019 (Last considered on 23 rd January, 2023 by the Commission)	The Complainant had alleged that the victims of the shelter home were sexually exploited, assaulted and manhandled by the accused persons.	The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 03 Lakh each to the victim girls. Ref: Proceedings dated 23 rd December, 2019	N/A	The State of Madhya Pradesh had filed a Writ Petition No. 17211/2020, Indore Bench, High Court of Madhya Pradesh against the recommendation of the Commission.
12.	2531/20/14/2018	31 st May, 2022 (Last considered on 27 th March, 2023 by the Commission)	The complainant alleged that a series of atrocities, false implication, threat to life, harassment by certain police personnel and inaction by the State authorities.	The Govt. of Rajasthan was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 01 Lakh to the victim GoverdhanSingh. Ref: Proceedings dated 23 rd December, 2019	N/A	The State of Rajasthan had filed a Writ Petition No. CW/ 10831/ 2022 at Jaipur Bench, High Court of Rajasthan against the recommendation of the Commission.
13.	35109/24/52/2016	29 th October, 2018 (Last considered on 27 th March, 2023 by the Commission)	The complainant had alleged that due to negligence of Mahoba Gas Agency and Indian Oil Corporation, the Indane Gas cylinder which was supplied to him caught fire and engulfed his whole house. His mother died due to burn injuries in the fire and the complainant alongwith his family members also got burn injuries while saving his mother.	The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Indian Oil Corporation, Mumbai and the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum, Government of India was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 02 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 29 th October, 2018	N/A	The recommendations made by the Commission was challenged by Indian Oil Corporation vide WP No. 8878/2019 filed before the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court.

S. No.	Case No.	Date of Recommendation/ last directions	Nature of complaint	The Recommendations of the Commission	Reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations, by the State Authorities	Writ petition filed/being filed by the Authorities against the recommendations
14.	5095/30/8/2018-PCD	14 th December, 2022 (Last considered on 19 th April, 2023 by the Commission)	The Commission had received intimation from District & Session Judge, Saket Court, Delhi regarding the death of Gaurav Gupta S/o Ashok Gupta on 25 th April, 2018 by falling from the 6 th floor of Director of Revenue Intelligence situated at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antodya Building, Block No.6, CGO Complex, New Delhi.	The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, DRI HQrs, New Delhi through Revenue Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 03 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 14 th December, 2022	N/A	The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi challenged the recommendations of the Commission vide (WP(C) No. 2226/20) in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.
15.	9079/7/17/2014-ED	25 th February, 2022 (Last considered on 19 th April, 2023 by the Commission)	This case pertains to death of Raj Kumar, son of Satbir Singh and Mushmat Jyoti, daughter of Phool Singh, in an encounter with Delhi Police on 7 th July, 2014, at Rohtak, Haryana.	The Commissioner of Police, Delhi was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 5 Lakh each to the NoK of the deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 25 th February, 2022	N/A	A letter vide diary No. 9042/RP/2023 dated 23 rd August, 2023 was received from the Addl. Dy Commissioner of Police, Dwarka stating that they are preparing for appeal in the High Court of Delhi against the order of the Commission
16.	25/14/14/2017-PCD	16 th December, 2021 (Last considered on 19 th April, 2023 by the Commission)	Intimation received from SP, Imphal East, Manipur regarding custodial death of a UTP Ram Nath.	The Govt. of Manipur was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 05 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 16 th December, 2021	N/A	The State Govt. of Manipur challenged the recommendations of the Commission vide WP(c) No. 201 of 2023 in the High Court of Manipur at Imphal.

S. No.	Case No.	Date of Recommendation/ last directions	Nature of complaint	The Recommendations of the Commission	Reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations, by the State Authorities	Writ petition filed/being filed by the Authorities against the recommendations
17.	757/30/7/2018-PCD	10 th February, 2022 (Last considered on 24 th November, 2023 by the Commission)	The instant matter pertains to custodial death of an accused Dalbir Singh in the custody of Police Station Naraina, District South West Delhi on 21 st February, 2018.	The Govt. of NCT of Delhi was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 04 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 10 th February, 2022	N/A	Delhi Police filed a Writ Petition (C) No.1824/2023 in the Delhi High Court against the recommendations of the Commission.
18.	506/11/1/2017-PCD	5 th May, 2022 (Last considered on 9 th March, 2023 by the Commission)	Intimation received from District Police Chief, Allaphuzha, Kerala regarding custodial death of a UTP Raju.	The Govt. of Kerala was recommended to pay monetary relief of Rs. 03 Lakh to the NoK of the deceased. Ref: Proceedings dated 5 th May, 2022	N/A	Govt. of Kerala filed a W.P. (C) No.4694 of 2023(J) in the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala against the recommendations of the Commission.

Annex - XIII

Details of the Collaborative Training Programmes

S. No.	Institute	Date of training	No. of participants
1.	U.P. Academy of Administration & Management, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	25 th October, 2023	54
2.	Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer, Rajasthan	10 th October, 2023	100
3.	Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration, Chandigarh, Punjab	16 th September, 2023 29 th September, 2023	50
4.	Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur, Rajasthan	9 th December, 2023	100
5.	Department of Law, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam	12 th September, 2023	100
6.	Yashwant Institute of Technical Education, Satara, Maharashtra	5 th September, 2023	100
7.	Aligarh Muslim University	21 st -22 nd February, 2024	100
8.	Loyola College, Nungambakkal, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	28 th November, 2023	100
9.	Vivekanandha College of Arts & Sci. for Women, Tamil Nadu	6 th December, 2023	100
10.	Shree Sanatan Dharam Girls College, Bathinda, Punjab	7 th October, 2023	113
11.	Prasad V Potluri Siddhartha Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh	2 nd December, 2023	100
12.	Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	2 nd November, 2023	100
13.	S. S. Arts College & TP Science Institute, Sankeshwar, Karnataka	2 nd December, 2023	100
14.	Hindusthan Institute of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	27 th October, 2023	150
15.	Shree Venkateshwara Hi-Tech Eng. College, Tamil Nadu	9 th November, 2023	100
16.	Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, D.O Education, Sagar, MP	17 th October, 2023	100
17.	Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Puducherry	16 th November, 2023	100
18.	Chaman Lal Mahavidhyala, Roorkee, Haridwar, Uttarakhand	15-17 th February, 2024	100
19.	Iswar Saran Degree College, Allahabad	11-12 th March, 2024	100
20.	AVVM Sri Pushpam College, Tamil Nadu	02 nd February, 2024	100
21.	G. H. Rasoni College of Engineering, Nagpur, Maharashtra	23 rd -24 th February, 2024	100
22.	Arya Kanya Degree College, Prayagraj, UP	6 th -7 th February, 2024	100
23.	Srimad Andavan Arts & Science College, Tiruchirapalli, Tamilnadu	15 th February, 2024	100
24.	Kisan Seva Charitabul Trust, Deoria, UP	15 th March, 2024	100
25.	Sardar Patel Subharti Institute of Law, Meerut	17 th February, 2024	100
26.	Ramanujan College, University of Delhi	19 th March, 2024	100
27.	Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Police Academy, Punjab	12-14 th March, 2024	50
28.	Christ (Deemed to be University)	12 th March, 2024	100

Annex XIII - Details of the Collaborative Training Programmes

S. No.	Institute	Date of training	No. of participants
29.	NLU, Jodhpur	5 th -6 th March, 2024	100
30.	Saradha Gangadharan College, Puducherry	29 th February, 2024	100
31.	Shasun Jain College for Women, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	7 th March, 2024	100
32.	Patrician College of Arts & Science, Chennai	8 th -9 th February, 2024	100
33.	Karim City College, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	6 th March, 2024	100
34.	Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur, MP	17 th February, 2024	100
35.	Odisha Police Biju Patnaik State Police Academy, Bhubaneswar	21-22 nd March, 2024	50
36.	Sri Gramudyog Sansthan, Sonbhadra, UP	9-10 th March, 2024	100
37.	G.T.N. Arts College Dindigul, Tamil Nadu	29 th February, 2024	100
38.	Good News Welfare Society's Arts & Commerce First Grade College, Kalaghatgi, Karnataka	29 th January, 2024	100
39.	Universe Vision (NGO) Bhubaneswar, Odisha	28 th January, 2024	100
40.	Zeenat Bee Muslim Education Society (NGO), Moradabad, UP	21 st February, 2024	100
41.	M.T.U. Foundation (NGO) Moradabad, UP	9 th March, 2024	100
42.	Shri Dhokeshwar College Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	19 th March, 2024	100
43.	BMS Institute of Technology & Management Bangalore, Karnataka	21 st March, 2024	100
44.	Parul University, Vadodra, Gujarat	22 nd March, 2024	100
45.	Dyal Singh College, Delhi	16 th -17 th March, 2024	100
46.	Central University of Karnataka	27 th -28 th March, 2024	100
47.	Bharti Sewa Sadan Trust Araria, Bihar	27 th March, 2024	100
48.	Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan Sanstha's Smt. Bakul Tambat Institute of Nursing Education Kharvenagar, Pune, Maharashtra	27 th March, 2024	100

Annex - XIV

Visits by Institutes and Government officials to NHRC

S. No.	Institute	Date of visit	No. of participants
1.	Modern College of Law, Meerut, UP	22 nd April, 2023	40
2.	Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services	27 th April, 2023	39
3.	National Commission for Women	11 th May, 2023	12
4.	GD Goenka Public School, Dwarka	23 rd May, 2023	24
5.	JEMTEC School of Law	24 th May, 2023	42
6.	Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai	19 th June, 2023	94
7.	Attachment of IAS (AGMUT:2021) Officer Trainees Directorate of Training (UTCS), Delhi	19 th June, 2023 – 20 th June, 2023	2
8.	Society for Community Organization Trust, (SOCO) Trust	28 th July, 2023	8
9.	Gyan Bharati School, Saket, Delhi	7 th August, 2023	4
10.	Sharda School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Noida	6 th September, 2023	20
11.	Academy of Prisons & Correctional Administration, Vellore, Tamil Nadu	26 th September, 2023	19
12.	Law Centre-II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi	3 rd October, 2023	53
13.	Department of Social Work, Voorhees College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu	10 th October, 2023	23
14.	Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta Institute of Technology and Management, Shastri Park, Delhi (At CP No.)	27 th October, 2023	41
15.	Law Centre-II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi	3 rd November, 2023	60
16.	Royal College of Law, Ghaziabad	8 th November, 2023	37
17.	Amex Law College, Burdwan, West Bengal	21 st November, 2023	37
18.	Asian Law College, Noida	29 th November, 2023	50
19.	Sinhgad Law College, Pune	4 th December, 2023	34
20.	Law College Durgapur, Durgapur, West Bengal	6 th December, 2023	119
21.	School of Law, Forensic Justice and Policy Studies, National Forensic Sciences University, Delhi Campus	27 th December, 2023	13
22.	DES Law College, Pune	2 nd February, 2024	42
23.	Siddharth College of Law	5 th February, 2024	35
24.	Dr. D Y Patil College of Law	5 th February, 2024	35
25.	Mulund College of Commerce (Autonomous), Mumbai, Maharashtra	6 th February, 2024	47
26.	Chembur Karnataka Law College, Mumbai	7 th February, 2024	45

Annex XIV - Visits by Institutes and Government officials to NHRC

S. No.	Institute	Date of visit	No. of participants
27.	LNJN National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science	14 th February, 2024	11
28.	Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology	20 th February, 2024	53
29.	Gokhale Education Society's Law College, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai	21 st February, 2024	37
30.	Durgapur Institute of Legal Studies, Asansol	27 th February, 2024	45
31.	Visit of NCW,	27 th February, 2024	
32.	School of Legal Studies, Seacom Skills University Bolpur, Birbhum, West Bengal	28 th February, 2024	87
33.	Yeshwant Mahavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra	29 th February, 2024	27
34.	Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat Haryana	01 st March, 2024	37
35.	Sonopanth Dandekar Law College, Palghar, Maharashtra	1 st March, 2024	53
36.	Parul Institute of Law, Vadodara, Gujara	4 th March, 2024	14
37.	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, Maharashtra	12 th March, 2024	38
38.	Yashwantrao Chavan Law College, Pune, Maharashtra	12 th March, 2024	26
39.	KLEF College of Law, Andhra Pradesh	14 th March, 2024	75
40.	Department of Law, National Forensic Sciences University, Delhi	15 th March, 2024	22

Annex - XV

Details of the orders issued by the Commission during 2023-24

S. No.	Action Code	Number of orders	Full forms
1.	NOT	1,750	Notice issued
2.	ATR	4,394	Action taken report
3.	SMC	2,130	Conditional Summons
4.	SUM	148	Summons
5.	DGI	2,449	Sent to DG(I)
6.	SCN	601	Show Cause Notice issued
7.	CMP	414	Relief granted [Compensation, Disciplinary & Prosecution]
8.	CCC	1,524	Comments of complainant called for
9.	AIC	11,652	Additional Information called for
10.	CDW	2,953	Closure of case with direction to the authority
11.	CLD	8,640	Concluded and No Further Action Required
12.	RBG	40	Relief by Government (due to intervention of the Commission)
13.	DWD	19,302	Disposed with Directions
14.	ODC	97	Other Direction by the Commission
15.	SHR	5,740	Transferred to State Human Rights Commission
16.	DIL	44,644	Dismissed in limini
17.	DLR	614	DO letter from Registrar
18.	DOR	86	DO Reminder to Authority
19.	RDB	16	Referred to Division Bench
20.	RFC	28	Referred to Full Commission
21.	RSC	98	Reminder for response to the show cause notice
22.	SCR	2	Show Cause Notice Issued (Report Awaited)
	Total	1,07,322	

समानी प्रपा सह वोन्नभागः।
समाने योक्ते सह वो युनज्मि।
अराः नाभिमिवाभितः॥

- अथर्ववेद-संज्ञान सूक्तम्

[All have equal rights to articles of food and water.
The yoke of the chariot of life is placed equally on
the shoulders. All should live together in harmony,
supporting one another like the spokes of a
chariot wheel connecting its rim and hub.]



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