



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

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For over 70 years of India's Independence, a series of measures have been taken to effectuate the Constitutional guarantees of equality of sexes and restoring the dignity of women. However, women continue to face a plethora of challenges and her life is a saga of struggles to survive with continuous attack on her dignity and rights, often threatening her very existence. The struggle starts as early as the girl child is still in the womb. Tests for sex determination after conception is the first such attack in the life-cycle of a woman. This continues in different forms such as police apathy in handling women complaints by police, domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplace and other heinous crimes including at public places.

The Commission has taken up a series of measures to address the problems including gender sensitisation training of the police force. Such programmes are scheduled to be conducted in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. The Commission proposes to cover many more states.

The Commission is also envisaging an overhaul of the complaints and redressal system in the Commission and would be positioning more personnel to liaise with police authorities at regular intervals of time and to ensure timely redressal of grievances. It is proposed to reorient police machinery so that women can confide their complaints without being judged beforehand. The Commission is also working to improve the conditions of jails, remand homes and mental hospitals, to ensure better facilities for women inmates. With this in view, the Commission is devising a new format for jail inspections and will share it with authorities concerned. ■



Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, NCW

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Ms. Lalitha Kumaramangalam demits office of Chairperson, NCW

Ms. Lalitha Kumaramangalam demitted the office of Chairperson of the National Commission for Women on September 28, 2017 after completion of her tenure. The National Commission for Women in its meeting held on September 20, 2017, placed on record its appreciation of the services rendered by Ms. Lalitha Kumaramangalam.

Smt. Rekha Sharma takes over as Chairperson, NCW

Smt. Rekha Sharma, Member, National Commission for Women assumed the additional charge of the Chairperson of the Commission with effect from September 29, 2017. She has been a Member of the Commission since August, 2015. Before joining the Commission, Smt. Sharma was actively associated with civil society organisations in different capacities.

Smt. Sharma has, in her capacity as the member of the Commission, worked extensively on issues impacting women's lives. She has conducted a large number of enquiries in matters relating to deprivation of women's rights and liberty. Smt. Sharma has been championing the cause of vulnerable sections of women, including in Red Light areas.

Smt. Sharma has also conducted a large number of Mahila Jan Sunwais, across the country, in which, over 1,000 complaints were addressed. ■



Source: <http://newsable.asianetnews.com>

Dr Soumya Swaminathan appointed as Deputy Director General, WHO

[↓ Achievement](#)

Dr Soumya Swaminathan Director General Indian Council of Medical Research and Secretary Department of Health Research has been appointed as Deputy Director General of the World Health Organisation. This would be for the first time that any Indian would have held such a position in WHO. It is, indeed, a sterling achievement for Indian women.

Dr Swaminathan, a globally recognised researcher on tuberculosis and HIV, has a vast experience in clinical care and research. Earlier, she served as the Coordinator of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) in Geneva. She has been a member of several WHO and global advisory bodies, including the WHO Expert Panel to Review Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property. ■

Shuttler Sindhu *wins* Korea Open Super Series



Source: <https://static.toiimg.com>

Olympic silver medalist, PV Sindhu, became the first Indian shuttler to script history in Seoul by winning the women's singles title of Korea Open Super Series Badminton Tournament on September 17, 2017. In the final match, Sindhu defeated world champion Japanese player Nozomi Okuhara 22-20, 11-21, 21-18 in a match that lasted three games. ■

Proactive Media *role in* empowering women



The National Commission for Women organised an interactive session with the media personnel on October 31, 2017 in its office in Jasola, New Delhi to seek media's active engagement in furthering the cause of women, enhancing the visibility of their work and enabling equal access to resources and power in decision making.

Dr. Satbir Bedi, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women, in her welcome note recapitulated the Commission's mandate, its reach, partnership and the outcomes of activities undertaken through different cells of the Commission and urged the media to help disseminate information on women related issues including their rights and entitlements.

Member, Shri Alok Rawat urged the media persons to play a key role in addressing major concerns related to the acid attack pandemic and problems arising out of NRI marriages as also help in dissemination of correct information to women on diverse issues of concern to them.

In her address, Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson (I/c), the National Commission for Women, stated that the media plays a major role in empowerment of women and, therefore, it is time that the Commission and the media join hands for unleashing the potential of women in diverse fields. Highlighting on issues like maternity benefits and sexual harassment at workplace, the Chairperson stated that there was a need for better dissemination of information across organisations to help in changing the mindset of employers and of the society at large. She reiterated that the media can play a crucial role in empowerment of women. ■



Suo Motu enquiry into BHU violence



Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com>

Taking serious note of the incidents of sexual harassment, eve-teasing and police brutality that erupted on the campus of the Banaras Hindu University in October 2017, the National Commission for Women took *Suo Motu* cognizance of the matter and formed a two-member Enquiry Committee headed by the National Commission for Women Chairperson (I/c), Smt. Rekha Sharma, to investigate the matter. The Committee interacted with the faculty members, administrative officials and student representatives of BHU on October 5, 2017. The findings and recommendations of the committee were shared with Government for appropriate action. The recommendations *inter alia* included need for immediate gender sensitisation of university staff, students, security guards, and police personnel responsible for maintenance of law and order in the campus and removal of unreasonable restrictions in girl's hostels pertaining to clothing, entry timings, library timings, etc. The Committee also highlighted the need for immediate fixing of street lights, CCTV and better lighting arrangements. ■

Successful Intervention by NCW: Molester of Woman Journalist Chargesheeted

The intervention of the National Commission for Women in a case of molestation of a lady journalist in New Delhi led to the arrest of the accused, within two days of the reported incident. While investigating, the police noticed from the CCTV footage that the accused molested another woman within 15-20 minutes after molesting the first victim. A charge sheet has been filed against the accused in record time. ■

Empowering Women key to sustainable development

Member Ms. Sushma Sahu



While addressing a one-day national seminar on "Women Empowerment: Emerging Trends and Challenges" Ms. Sushma Sahu, Member, the National Commission for Women underlined that empowering women was a key pre-requisite for the balanced development of the economy and the society. The Seminar which was organised by the IPEM Law Academy in Ghaziabad on October 7, 2017, was attended by more than 200 participants including advocates, sociologists, and principals of academic institutions, research scholars, faculty, and students in the region. Justice Shiv Charan Singh was the chief guest. ■

Human Trafficking violates basic human rights

Sushma Sahu, Member, NCW



Member, the National Commission for Women, Ms. Sushma Sahu visited Kozhikode to address the one-day national seminar on "Human Trafficking: Impact on Women and Children" organised by Streechetna Chakkittida in Kozhikode, Kerala on October 30, 2017. Addressing the participants, Ms. Sahu stated that human trafficking is the worst form of exploitation that adversely affects women and children physically, psychologically and socially. ■

Status of Complaints received in the C&I Cell in October 2017

Complaints Registered	Action Taken Reports received	Complaints Closed (old+new)
782	185	441