

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
WOMEN

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RASHTRA  
MAHILA



# EMPOWERING WOMEN

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## 29<sup>th</sup> FOUNDATION DAY

### Felicitate The ‘Covid Women Warriors – The Real Heroes’

The National Commission for Women celebrated culmination of **28 years of its existence on January 31, 2021**. The occasion was celebrated by organizing a program to felicitate the ‘**Covid Women Warriors – The Real Heroes**’ at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. A total of 80 Covid Women Warriors from Health Department, Police Department, Anganwadi Workers and Sanitation workers were invited across the country. The Commission also felicitated State Women Commissions for the exemplary work done by them during the pandemic.



The frontline workers risked their own lives to save others. Community workers, hospital assistants, nurses and doctors tended to the sick. Amid the risk of infection, sanitation workers, graveyard and cremation ground workers continued their duties. The role of women in fight against Corona is unequivocal. Women braved the corona warfront as front-line responders, health professionals, community volunteers like ASHA workers and swachhta workers, police officers, scientists and more. **Smt. Kavita**, a women Constable and a mother of 1.5 years old son, commuted daily from Pataudi town of Haryana to Police Station Adarsh Nagar, Delhi and during the pandemic COVID-19, she thrice donated her blood and saved life of a cancer patient. Despite all hardships she managed to set an example of high morality of service and served humanity.

**Smt. Kottam Chandrakala**, an Anganwadi Teacher (Anganwadi Worker) in Bhadradri Kothagudem District, Telangana travelled about 3.5 km interior forest region to distribute food commodities to tribal beneficiaries- pregnant and lactating mother and children.

**Ms. Vasanthi Lara**, Public Health Nurse, she maintained 10 COVID-19 care centers as per the laid guidelines. She identified and rectified issues concerned with patients in isolation/ quarantine. She also worked closely with junior public health nurse/ ASHA workers/ Anganwadi workers to maintain optimum level of efficiency.

**INTERNATION WOMEN’S DAY - 2021**  
**Theme- ‘Men for Women’**



The Commission celebrated International Women’s Day on 10th March 2021 (Wednesday) on theme ‘Men for Women’, with the aim to achieve equality by encouraging all genders to partake as agents of change and take action against negative stereotypes and behaviors. The event was graced by the presence of **Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani**, Hon’ble Minister, MWCD & M/o Textiles as Chief Guest, **Sh. Hans Raj Hans**, MP, Northwest Delhi as Guest of Honour, **Shri Ram Mohan Mishra**, Secretary, MWCD and **Smt. Rekha Sharma**, Hon’ble Chairperson, NCW.

**CONSULTATION ON ACID ATTACK**  
**A Heinous Crime – ‘Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal’**



The Commission has organized two days of Consultation on **Acid Attack: A Heinous Crime- 'Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal'** on 10th May 2021 and 11th May 2021. Eminent speakers/ panellists participated from diversified fields- Government Institutions, Medical Institutions, Legal service providers, and Non-Governmental Organizations (working for acid attack victims/ survivors). The proceedings and recommendations made therein were shared with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Law and Justice, all State/ UT Nodal Officers, and all consultation participants. Some highlighted recommendations made during the consultation are as follows:

- The prevention of acid attacks sheerly depends on the directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2013 on strict restrictions on the sale of acid. Therefore, a strict implementation should be ensured.
- There is a strong need for Sensitization Programmes for youth about the social nuisances of acid throwing. Law enforcement authorities must be sensitized.

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should be encouraged as they are essential in dealing with acid attack cases. Non-Governmental Organizations can play a vital role in creating awareness and thrusting gender sensitivity among local communities. The target group should majorly involve men and boys and work towards changing the patriarchal mindset.
- It would perhaps be appropriate to have awareness among the distributors and retailers of acid at regional and national levels, raising awareness about the misuse of acid and the sufferings of acid attack victims. This would result in the sale of acid only to genuine customers, thereby minimizing miscreants' scope of misuse.
- Adequate legal aid should be provided to acid attack victims on a priority basis to enable them to benefit from the Victim Compensation Scheme.
- Provision for better rehabilitation facilities needs to be impressed upon so that any acid attack victim can avail rehabilitation services, including medical and psychological care, legal and social services.
- Skin banks and skin donation are practically unknown in the country. Hence there should be some authority to regulate.
- In cases where the expenses incurred by the victim for procurement of medicines, the same should be reimbursed and NALSA can look into this matter.
- The states should be directed to provide Disability Certificate even when there is 10 percent of burn.
- Psychiatric concerns of the victims need to be addressed, as they are the ones who have to face society, and they are looked down. A sense of confidence needs to be instilled, and they should be able to love themselves.
- Despite knowing the fact that punishment for such heinous crime has been increased and compensation is provided, it is noticed that such assault goes unregistered. This leads to an essential responsibility for the key stakeholders of every State and UT to create awareness at the village level, community level, school level, family level, and police sensitization is essential.
- Rehabilitation of the acid attack survivors should necessarily focus on their psycho-social well-being. The behavioural pattern of the perpetrators can be worked upon and accordingly provide counselling support and create awareness sessions.
- Skill development training to acid attack survivors should be provided to help them further to get employment opportunities.

**ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMME - “EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP”**



The Commission launched an online training program named “**Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship**” through a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in collaboration with IIM, Bangalore and India SME Forum as Knowledge and Mentoring partner. The training program has been successfully launched through a ceremony at Leh (Ladakh) on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 and the applications for the training are invited through MyGov

(<https://innovateindia.mygov.in/nw-challenge>). The aim of the program is to enhance the knowledge of prospective as well as established women entrepreneurs and facilitate acceleration and scale up of their ventures. The training program would be for 5000 aspiring women entrepreneurs who are in the Ideation Stage. The Course will be conducted in English and Hindi language for duration of 6 weeks with 3-4 hours of lessons per week. NCW will bear the cost of the training to 5000 selected applicants.

**7<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY**



Women are usually seen juggling with their career, household chores, hormone imbalances, period cycles, pregnancy, menopause, and other tiresome schedules. With all these on plate women, tend to forget about their own mental and physical health. Practicing yoga in daily life has been known to bring in mindfulness, self-awareness, and physical health benefits. Considering the positive effects of yoga on our health and to mark the celebration of **7<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day on 21st June 2021**, the Commission organised an hour virtual discussion aimed at '**Promoting Women's Health by introducing yoga in daily life**'.

**SPECIAL INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION****WhatsApp Number to Report Domestic Violence amid Lockdown:**

Considering the increase of the number of complaints of domestic violence cases, since the imposition of the nationwide lockdown over COVID-19, the National Commission for Women has launched the WhatsApp number **7217735372** for reporting domestic violence cases amid lockdowns. The Commission handled complaints of domestic violence even without formally registering them in coordination with complainants/victims, police, and other authorities throughout the country. This WhatsApp number is being continued now as an additional mode of receiving domestic violence complaints and formally registering them

**Standard Operating Procedure for handling the Rape Survivor:**

The Commission organised a consultation on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for a discussion on comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for handling of Rape Victims.

**Helpline – “Happy to Help Mom to Be”:**

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the National Commission for Women (NCW) launched a WhatsApp helpline number for providing medical assistance to expecting mothers from across the country. The Commission upon noticing that pregnant women have been facing difficulty in accessing medical aid, decided to launch a message-only helpline service in addition to the email ID which was already operational. Expecting mothers from across the country have been reaching out to the Commission through its helpline number **9354954224** which was initially functional round-the-clock and is currently working from 9 am to 9 pm. A dedicated team at the Commission is looking for after speedy redressal of grievances received from pregnant women regarding procuring of emergency medical help in securing hospital beds, ICU beds, oxygen cylinders, emergency medicines and food. The Commission can also be reached out on the email ID **helpatncw@gmail.com**. Till 30.06.2021, the Commission had received 920 requests, and all have been closed.

**Capacity Building and Training of Protection Officers appointed under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:**

The National Commission for Women, keeping in view the role of Protection Officers as appointed by the State Government under Section 8 of the Domestic Violence Act in facilitating legal help to aggrieved women has collaborated with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), the premier administrative training institute in India, for undertaking training and capacity building of Protection Officers. LBSNAA will prepare a specialized module and conduct online training for the protection officers appointed in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and West Bengal initially. The module along with the list of Resource Speakers will be shared with NCW to carry forward this project in other states. The training program was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**Legal Awareness Program for the Women at grass-root level:**

On successful completion of the Pilot Project- ‘Legal Awareness Program’ for the Women at grass-root level in collaboration with National Legal Services Authority has encouraged, the National Commission for Women is extending the program in the remaining States/ Union Territories during the financial year 2021-22. The PAN India project will cover the districts of remaining 20 States & UTs. A total of 882 camps will be organized under the project.

## **We Think Digital:**

The National Commission for Women is committed towards creating a safe cyber space for women. NCW has been working towards promoting the cause of digital literacy through its program 'We Think Digital' in collaboration with Facebook and Cyber Peace Foundation. The program was launched on June 18, 2018, with the first session being conducted at Panjab University. The program sensitized over 60,000 participants in its first phase. The second phase of the program was launched on February 11, 2020 and was successfully completed on the occasion of Safer Internet Day 2021. A total of over 167 webinars were organized in the second phase sensitizing over 1,05,000 participants. The digital literacy and online safety program cover four topics: Fighting Misinformation, Cybercrime & Redressal, Responsible Online Behavior and Understanding Data & Digital Footprint.

## **Maternal and Pediatric Nutrition**

The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition or **POSHAN ABHIYAAN** or National Nutrition Mission, is Government of India's flagship program to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. It is in this background the Commission held a dedicated online discussion on September 29, 2020 on the importance of 'Maternal and Pediatric Nutrition'. The webinar focused on Malnutrition among women & children in a changing world; Breastfeeding and Lactation in the COVID-19 era; Dietary practices, changes in food consumption; and Responses to malnutrition.

## **Health of Pregnant Women in Covid 19**

The National Commission for Women organized a Facebook Live on the topic 'Health of Pregnant Women during COVID19'. The Live Q&A session was hosted by Hon'ble Chairperson, NCW with Dr Aradhana Gupta on 27.05.2021. Dr Gupta is a Fellow in Reproductive Medicine, Senior Consultant Gynecologist & IVF Specialist from Bhopal. Hon'ble Chairperson discussed questions related to health of expecting mothers during COVID19. Women were also given a chance to ask their queries in the Chatbot. All the queries posted by women during the session were answered by the doctor. The Facebook Live reached 18,713 people and the session was shared 125 times on Facebook.

## **Legal Cell**

### **Consultations to Review "The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005"**

The National Commission for Women in pursuance of its mandate under section 10(1)(d) to review legal and constitutional safeguards pertaining to women has decided to review Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. In furtherance of this, the Commission organized a broad-based preliminary meeting on 18th January 2021 to identify and ascertain specific provisions and agenda topics to be taken up in five regional level law review consultations. The Commission has in total organised 5 Regional Consultation for Law Review of "The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005". The Regional Consultation were organized on 12.03.2021 and 25.03.2021 for Eastern and Northern Region, respectively.

**Training Workshops for Internal Committee Members of Internal Committee constituted by member industries of Manesar Industrial Welfare Association (MIWA)**

The National Commission for Women in pursuance of its mandate conducted a technical training for the Internal Committee members of Internal Committees under Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, constituted by different member industries of Manesar Industrial Welfare Association (MIWA) on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. The online training programme consists of three technical sessions giving insight into the mandatory provisions under the Act as well a role and responsibilities of Internal Committee Members emphasizing the different case laws

**Training Workshops for Internal Committee Members of Jawahar Lal Nehru University**

The National Commission for Women in pursuance of its mandate conducted a technical training for the Internal Committee members constituted under Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, by **Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU)** on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The online training programme consists of technical sessions giving insight into the mandatory provisions under the Act as well a role and responsibilities of Internal Committee Members emphasizing the different case laws.

**Preliminary Meeting with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) for Training and Capacity Building of Protection Officer Pan India** The National Commission For Women, keeping in view the role of Protection Officers as appointed by the State Government under Section 8 of the Domestic Violence Act is crucial in facilitating legal help to aggrieved women has collaborated with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), the premier administrative training institute in India, for undertaking ‘**Capacity Building and Training of Protection Officers appointed under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**’ across the country. In this regard, the Commission held a preliminary meeting with LBSNAA to discuss the plan of action for the Training Programme pan India on 26.05.2021.

**Webinars on the theme, “Breaking the Glass Ceiling- Realising a Women Led AtmaNirbhar Bharat” on 21.05.2021**

The Commission in collaboration with IIM, Bangalore conducted two webinars on the theme, “Breaking the Glass Ceiling- Realising a Women Led AtmaNirbhar Bharat” on 21.05.2021 under the NCW- IIMB-ISF’s ‘Empowering Women Through Entrepreneurship Programme’. The webinars were conducted for women entrepreneurs undertaking free digital training under the above mentioned programme.

**Legal Opinion sought on Section 10(4) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990**

Legal Opinion sought from Advocate Geeta Luthra in relation to Section 10(4) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 regarding Civil Court Powers given to NCW. The opinion has been received on 24.05.2021.

## Northeast Cell

### **Combating and Preventing Trafficking of Women in NorthEast Region:**

The National Commission for Women organised a virtual webinar in collaboration with Nagaland State Commission for Women organized a webinar on **8<sup>th</sup> May 2021** to deliberate on “**Combating and Preventing Trafficking of Women in NorthEast Region**”, which resulted into comprehensive understanding of issues and recommendations for appropriate strategies and policies to combat and prevent trafficking of women in the region.

### **Addressing Issue of Polygamy in Arunachal Pradesh:**

In an endeavor to work towards ‘**Addressing the Issue of Polygamy in Arunachal Pradesh**’, the National Commission for Women organized a Webinar in collaboration with Arunachal Pradesh SCW on **11<sup>th</sup> June 2021** to facilitate a deliberation on the subject to come out with suggestions and recommendations on the following aspects of Polygamy in Arunachal Pradesh.

- Recent trends of polygamy in Arunachal Pradesh and its causes and effects; and
- Recommendations/suggestions to end the practice of Polygamy.

## Women Welfare & Capacity Building Cell

### **Financial Literacy and Education - Inspire Women to Take Charge of their Finances:**

To discussion on various issues related to financial status of women in India, the Commission organized a virtual discussion on ‘**Financial Literacy and Education - Inspire Women to Take Charge of their Finances**’ on **1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**.

### **Webinar on Health and Physical wellbeing of women:**

Women’s health concerns are numerous and influenced by various factors like gender disparities, early marriage, domestic violence and sexual abuse, malnutrition, poverty, illiteracy and access to quality healthcare. The Commission organized a Webinar on ‘**Health and Physical Wellbeing of Women**’ on **27<sup>th</sup> April 2021** to address gender, class disparities existing within healthcare system and improving health, nutrition and sanitation through advocacy and sensitization.

## Women Safety Cell

The Cell reviewed acid attack cases uploaded by State/ UT Nodal Officers on Management Information System (MIS) to ensure timely compensation. Medical assistance is provided to the survivor, and a speedy trial of the cases is carried out in the Court. Accordingly, letters were sent to Nodal Officers for further necessary action.

An E-meeting/ video conference was held on **18th February 2021** with representatives of TISS and ACP, SPUWAC, Delhi Police for Violence Free Home- A Woman's Right' 7 States and Delhi pilot project to review the status and outcome of both the projects.

In March 2021, National Commission for Women has signed an MOU with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai for undertaking a pilot project “Violence Free Home: A Woman’s Right-12 Pilot Special Cells in Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh”, which is initially valid up to 31.03.2023.

## Psychiatric Home and Custodial Homes Reform Cell

To examine the living conditions of female patients in IPD, the Commission has analysed information received in the prescribed proforma from the Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IHBAS) Delhi, Hospital for Mental Health, Bhuj, Institute of Psychiatry-A Centre of Excellence (IPGMER) Kolkata, West Bengal, Mental Hospital, Berhampur, West Bengal, and made recommendations for improving the living conditions in the institution.

The Commission decided to conduct a social audit of non-aided Women Shelter Homes run by NGOs. A letter has been sent to all State Commission for Women to provide a district-wise list of Shelter Homes run by private agencies in their State/UT, which is not a part of the Ministry of Women and Child Development scheme "SwadharGreh."

## Suo Motu Cell

The National Commission for Women takes *Suo motu* cognizance of the reports appearing in the print, electronic and social media about deprivation of women and infringement of their rights and initiates action for investigating such cases. In matters involving serious violation of women’s rights, Inquiry Committees or Fact-Finding Teams are also constituted by the Commission. The Committees/teams so constituted investigate the matters and make their recommendations to the Commission for addressing the concerns. There was total 53 cases where *Suo motu* cognizance has been taken by the Commission during last 6 months (up to 31.05.2021). Some of the cases, where the National Commission for Women had taken *Suo motu* cognizance and constituted Inquiry Committees/Fact Finding Teams successfully during last 6 months are given below:

- The National Commission for Women had taken cognizance of a media report “**Woman gang raped, brutalized in UP’s Badaun: 2 arrested, SHO suspended**” which appeared in the several news report dated 06/01/2021. Taking cognizance of the media report, the Commission had constituted a Fact Finding Team to look into the matter. A two-member team headed by NCW Member, Chandramukhi Devi had visited Badaun on 07/01/2021. After examining the facts and circumstances of the matter, the team has submitted its report which includes the observations and recommendations. The Report of the Fact-Finding Team has been forwarded to Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh on 22/01/2021 for appropriate action.
- The National Commission for Women had taken *Suo motu* cognizance of the media report captioned “एएसआई ने रिपोर्ट दर्ज करवाने आई महिला से थाने में किया रेप” wherein it was alleged that a woman had gone to lodge a complaint against her husband on March 2, 2021, when she was allegedly trapped inside a room and raped repeatedly inside the compound of the police station in Alwar, Rajasthan. In this regard, the Commission had constituted a Fact-Finding Team under

Section 10 of National Commission for Women Act, 1990 vide Order dated 09/03/2021. The Fact-Finding Team proceeded to Alwar, Rajasthan on 09/03/2021 after direction given by the Competent Authority. The team met the complainant of the matter, Superintendent of the Police, Alwar, the District Collector, Alwar and the I. O. of the case. The Fact-Finding Team has submitted its report.

- The National Commission for Women had come across several Twitter/ Social Media Posts posting videos, photographs wherein **allegedly TMC goons are beating Women Workers in all districts of West Bengal** which also includes the heinous crimes like rape and murder. The social media posts highlighted the incidents of Ken Damari Village, Nandigram, East Medinipur and one girl was brutally raped and murdered at Village Haman, P.S-Pingala, West Medinipur, West Bengal post Assembly election results. The National Commission constituted an Inquiry Committee under the chair of Smt. Rekha Sharma, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCW to inquire into the alleged incidents. The Inquiry Committee visited the spot-on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and submitted its Report.
- The National Commission for Women came across a Twitter post captioned "**Sangita Kumari an International footballer from Dhanbad is working at a brick kiln. Lockdown damaged her financially. Represented under-18 in Bhutan & under-19 in Thailand**" wherein it has been stated that an International Level Football player from Jharkhand Ms. Sangita is working as a labor in brick kiln due to financial constraints. She had been trying to get a job since past three years, but nobody helped her, and she was only given ten thousand rupees as an acknowledgement of her representation at international level. After Commissions intervention and matter taken up with the Chief Secretary of Jharkhand, Ms. Sangita was provided with all the necessary needs that the State owes to her.

The **Meeting with officers of BPR&D**: A meeting was held between the officials of National Commission for Women and BPR&D on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 with a proposal to explore the possibility of a collaborative program for the "**Gender sensitization of the Police Officials**". It was discussed in meeting of NCW with BPR&D that law and order is mainly States subject and it has been observed that there is lack in consistency by State Police Training Academies in organizing the Gender sensitization of the Police Officials at regular intervals. In this regard, an online consultation was organized with the officials of BPR&D and Police Officials of different States and Union Territories on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

भारत में  
विश्व का सबसे बड़ा  
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