



Rashtra Mahila

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

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26th anniversary celebrations



The National Commission for Women celebrated its 26th Annual day on 31st January 2019. The Chairperson, Ms. Rekha Sharma highlighted the significance of promoting entrepreneurship for economic empowerment of women and how the same would make her a creator of jobs and source of livelihood for more women.

Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of State, MWCD and Shri Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, MWCD also attended the annual day celebrations at NCW and apprised the august gathering on the efforts made by MWCD on removing all impediments for a woman to become a successful entrepreneur including an extensive program of Skill Development, establishment of Mahila E-Haat, providing a direct linkage of vendors and buyers by removing the intermediaries, etc.

After the inaugural session, Hon'ble Members of the Commission namely, Smt. Kamlesh Gautam, Smt. Soso Shaiza and Smt. Chandramukhi Devi addressed the gathering and spoke about their perception and the manner in which the Commission could work further for the cause of women.

Successful women entrepreneurs, Ms. Revati Kulkarni Roy, CEO- Hey Deedee, Ms. Kanika Tekriwal, Founder- Jet Set Go and Ms. Shaili Chopra, Founder- She the People, shared their success stories during the annual day celebrations.

- Smt. Revati Roy Kulkarni narrated her success story as to how she utilized her skill of driving to change her destiny. She became an entrepreneur, started women cab service and trained hundreds of women to become commercial drivers.
- Ms. Kanika Tekriwal, CEO, Jet set Go narrated her story that how her failed ambition to become a pilot, due to constraint of traditional mindset of the family led her to form a company that has a fleet of aircraft at its disposal.

- Ms. Shaili Co-founder of 'She the People', trained as a media person provides a digital platform where passionate stories of real women and real stories of their efforts are shared. These stories act as a source of inspiration for other women.

Keeping in view the central theme for this year's annual celebrations, a panel discussion on "Empowering women through Entrepreneurship" was organized. Panelists included eminent speakers e.g. Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson and Smt. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary, NCW, Ms. Sunita Sanghi, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Ram Mohan Mishra, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Ms. Chetna Gala Sinha of Mann Deshi Bank. The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Shaili Chopra. Enthused audience comprising of young women and students from different professional colleges in Delhi participated in the panel discussion.

Smt. Sunita Sanghi Senior Advisor, MSD&E spoke about the lack of skills in the women workforce and emphasized the need for training amongst women to make them employable. She mentioned that upcoming PM Kaushal Kendra would be one such training center, wherein training on multiple skills will be imparted to attendees. Smt. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary NCW said that women need support at multiple levels to begin their journey as an entrepreneur – they need the required capital, skill, technology, marketing, etc. but first and foremost a change in mindset of the society so that they trust them as entrepreneurs. She mentioned that stereotyping of jobs for women would impact their economic empowerment.

The programme was attended by the students from many reputed colleges of Delhi.

Snippets

NCW at PMO



Chairperson and members, NCW met Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and handed over a coffee table book published to commemorate 25th anniversary of NCW on January 3rd, 2019

NCW Interactive Meeting with State Women Commissions



An interactive meeting with the State Women Commissions was held at NCW on January 22nd, 2019

Meeting with National Human Rights Commission



A meeting with the delegation from National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Nepal led by Shri Sudip Pathak, NHRC Commissioner, Nepal was held at NCW on February 6th, 2019

News from Sports



Mountaineer Bachendri Pal was conferred with the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award



Diksha Dagar becomes youngest Indian woman golfer to win on Ladies European



Indian women's ODI team captain Mithali Raj becomes the first female cricketer to feature in 200 ODIs



Apurvi Chandela broke World Record to win a gold medal at the ISSF World Cup 2019



The Indian women's team successfully won SAFF Women's Championship

News

Indian Army's decision to give permanent career option to women

Defence Ministry announced that women will be eligible for permanent careers in all 10 branches of the Indian Army where they have been inducted as short-service commissioned (SSC) officers. Female officers in the army were allowed permanent commission (PC) only in two branches including Judge Advocate General (JAG) and Army Education Corps as of yet. A similar decision to give permanent commission to women officers was taken by the Indian Air Force and all its branches including fighter pilots are open to women officers. Even several policy reforms have been inducted in the Indian Navy in order to give more opportunity to women officers.

Women permitted to work in underground and opencast mines

Women have been allowed to work in underground mines, and would be deployed in open cast mines during night hours also, as part of the government's efforts to create more employment opportunities for them. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has issued new rules permitting women to work in opencast mines during 7 pm to 6 am. Such deployments shall be made after obtaining a written consent of the woman and she shall be provided with adequate facilities and safeguards regarding occupational safety, security and health.

Inside National Commission for Women

Appointment of new members

- Dr. Rajulben L. Desai was appointed member, National Commission for Women on March 8th, 2019. She is a law graduate and holds a doctoral degree in Law, Development & Gender Inequality. Prior to this she was the Principal of Law College, Deesa in Gujarat.
- Mrs. Shyamala S. Kunder was appointed member, National Commission for Women on March 8th, 2019. She was awarded a degree in Hindi Ratna from the University of Mysore. Prior to this, she worked as an Anganvadi school teacher in Badagubettu Village Panchayat in Udupi Taluk.



Women's Day Celebrations at NCW



The theme for this year's celebration was Creating victory through values, visions and voices. A short skit was staged by the employees, 'Utho Draupadi, Ab Govind naa Aayenge' calling upon women to speak up and stand for their own rights rather than waiting for someone else to help. Employees mesmerized the audience with their stellar performances.

Programmes Attended

By Chairperson, Smt. Rekha Sharma

- Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson National Commission for Women chaired the Panel Discussion on "Rights of Women on Atrocities" at the Bengal Engineering & Science University campus in Shibpur, Howrah on January 17, 2019
- Smt. Sharma also met DGP West Bengal to discuss the pending complaints of the State forwarded by the National Commission for Women on January 18, 2019
- Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women chaired a seminar on "Combating Acid Attack in India: Socio-Legal Aspects" organised in collaboration with Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi on 24th January, 2019
- Smt. Sharma attended The Economic Times Women's Forum as a key panelist on February 7 and 8, 2019
- Smt. Sharma also attended "Swachh Shakti - 2019", a convention of Women Sarpanches, held at Kurukshetra in Haryana on February 12, 2019. The Prime Minister also distributed the Swachh Shakti 2019 awards on the occasion.
- Smt. Sharma also attended DRDO International Women's Day Celebrations in Pune on March 9, 2019

By Member Secretary, Ms. Meenakshi Gupta

- Attended a workshop "Women at work – instituting gender audit at workplaces organized by IPE Global Centre for Knowledge and Development at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 8th March 2019
- Attended a national seminar on "Gender Stereotyping in campus placement : An Industry – Academia perspective" at IIM Kashipur as the Guest of Honour

By Member Soso Shaiza

- Attended 7th Lura Phanit (Seed sowing festival) organised by the Tangkhul Welfare Society, Guwahati in Assam on 9th January 2019
- Visited the Jetwings Training Centre at Guwahati and had an interaction session with the trainees and enquired about their progress on 9th January 2019
- Attended an 'International Inter-Disciplinary Conference on Multipli 'City' of Spaces: Religion, Culture and Urbanity in India' at University of Madras, Chennai on 21st February 2019

Religion, Culture and Urbanity in India' at University of Madras, Chennai on 21st February 2019

- Attended a seminar on Legal Awareness Program as chief guest at Bhajarang Engineering College, Veppampattu, Thiruvallur in Chennai on 22nd February 2019
- Attended an outreach programme with women from the Northeast region in Chennai organised with the Northeast India Welfare Association in Chennai on 22nd February 2019
- Chaired the legal awareness programme at Malviya Nagar Police Station for the Northeast community in New Delhi on 8th January 2019
- Attended an International Women's Day celebration as panelist under the theme 'Socio-economic and political consciousness of women and youth', organised by Tangkhul women organisation in Delhi on 10th March 2019
- Attended a seminar on 'Inter-State Employment Oriented Migration of Female in India', organised by AZRA Foundation with minority development of India with an aim to protect women and their moral values at N.C.E.R.T in New Delhi on 10th March 2019
- Chaired a National Conference on 'Identity and Diversity within Boundaries and Margin: Exploring Literature & Culture from India's North East region' organised by the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research of Jamia Millia Islamia University in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on 13th March 2019

By Member Smt. Chandramukhi Devi

- Held a meeting held with Chairperson of State Commission for Jharkhand on 5th January 2019
- Inspected Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan Central Jail, Hazaribagh and Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry & Allied Sciences (RINPAS) on 13th March, 2019
- Visited Ayodhya Das Girls Inter College, to felicitate the young women achievers on 19th March, 2019
- Visited an Old Age Home situated at Moharipur, Gorkhpur and inspection of Shelter Home at Gopi Gali, Ghantaghar, Gorakhpur on 8th January 2019

By Member Mrs. Shyamala S. Kunder

- Attended the Seminar on "Impact and Consequence of Gender Stereotyping on Careers of Women" at St. Agnes College, Mangalore, Karnataka on 21st March, 2019
- Attended the 2nd seminar on "Cyber Crime and Women- Precautions and Strategies" at M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, Karnataka on 22nd March, 2019
- Met DGP Ms. Neelamani Raju, IPS on 22nd March, 2019 and discussed about various complaints filed by complainants in Karnataka with NCW: handed over the list of pending complaints

By Member Dr. Rajulben L. Desai

- Dr. Rajulben L. Desai, Member NCW attended events organized by Shri Utkarsh Samiti and Lions Club regional Conference in Deesa (Gujarat) on 22nd March, 2019

Jan Sunwai in Delhi, Gautam Budh Nagar, Aligarh, Muzzafarnagar, Meerut and Faridabad



- Aligarh - 4th January, 2019
- Gautam Budh Nagar - 8th January, 2019
- Malviya Nagar (South Delhi) - 11th January, 2019
- Muzzafarnagar - 8th February, 2019
- Central Delhi - 15th February, 2019
- Meerut - 20th February, 2019
- Faridabad on 6th March, 2019

Complaints received in Complaint & Investigation Cell & Complaints resolved between January-March 2019

Month	Complaints Received	Complaints Closed (Old+New)
January, 2019	1305	1301
February, 2019	1305	676
March, 2019	1044	1001

Complaints received and resolved in Suo-motu Cell between January-March 2019

S. No.	Month	No. of Cases taken up	No. of ATR replies received	No. of cases closed
1.	January	08	12	11
2.	February	10	15	05
3.	March	06	14	04



Law Review Undertaken by NCW - Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act, 2013)

The Commission took up regional consultation on Law Review of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act, 2013) during this period. These consultations were held in National Law University Delhi on 18th January 2019, National Law School of India University, Bangalore on 1st February 2019, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar on 2nd February and Centre for Gender Justice, National Law University and Judicial Academy (NLUJA), Assam on 16th February 2019. These consultations were organised by NCW to incorporate viewpoints from diverse sectors and stakeholders from different regions in the process of suggesting comprehensive changes in the law considering that there may be region-specific or state-specific issues that need to be addressed. :

Following key recommendations were made:

- Scope of “sexual harassment” be expanded to include gender based cybercrimes with sexual connotations
- Degrees of sexual harassment should be clearly defined and IC be provided guidance for recommending punitive measures
- Two (2) external members from NGO may be included in the committee instead of one
- The number of members in the Internal Committee may be an odd number so as to take a majority view/decision
- Decision on appeal should be made time bound i.e. it should be disposed off in 60 days from the date of filing of the appeal
- Funds should be apportioned for awareness generation/trainings/such other educative exercises
- The initial period of limitation for filing of complaint could be increased to 6 months in place of 3 months by reasons recorded in writing by the IC or LC
- NCW may be appointed as a nodal body for better coordination and exchanges of good practices amongst various ICCs at various organizations

Law Review Undertaken by NCW (Contd.) - Women Property Rights

The Commission organised three Regional Consultation on Law Review of Women Property Rights in collaboration with - National Law University in Delhi on 18th January 2019, Gujarat National Law University in Gandhinagar on 2nd February 2019 and National Law School of India University in Bangalore on 1st February 2019. The consultations involved a diverse mix of relevant voices from various sectors, including representatives from the State and Central Government, to lawyers, activists, academicians, civil society organizations, sociologists and experts in the field. It was noted in the consultation that the diversity among the people in India was also reflected in these laws that govern the property rights of women. It was pointed out that laws governing property rights are in disregard to the principle of equality and women become victims.

Following recommendations were made:

- There is a serious need to draft a matrimonial property law which governs the rights of women, their claims, shares, etc.
- Sections 33A, 42 and 43 of Indian Succession Act that restricts inheritance of Women to negligible amount be amended
- A model law can be adopted by the Parliament and the states can make laws according to that model law, keeping in mind the principle of equality and equity. This will help in bringing some uniformity in the law, while maintaining the diversity and protecting the rights of the women
- The provision of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, that allows the property of the Hindu married women to be devolved to the heirs of her husband than to her heirs should be amended

From NRI Cell

The National Commission for Women received a complaint from a woman alleging that her husband residing in USA, had forced a divorce notice on her while they were residing there and that she did not know how to represent her case there. She sought the help of the Commission to approach the concerned authorities in US. Soon, a letter was sent to CGI, New York on requesting them to provide assistance to the complainant. The Consulate connected the complainant to empanelled NGO “Sakhi” who in turn connected her to an Attorney in US. Later the same woman conveyed her gratitude to the Commission through the Consulate and informed us that she had reconciled with her husband.

Complaints received in NRI Cell and complaints resolved between January-March 2019

Month	Complaints Received	Complaints Closed(Old+New)
January, 2019	51	05
February,2019	64	07
March,2019	86	10



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