



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Rashtra Mahila

VOL. 1 NO. 229 | AUGUST 2018



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e newsletter

Felicitation of Dr. Najma Heptulla, Outstanding Parliamentarian of 2013

The National Commission for Women felicitated Dr. Najma Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur in a function held on August 3, 2018, on the eve of the conferment of the best Parliamentarian Award, 2013 on her on August 1, 2018. The Chairperson, NCW, Ms. Rekha Sharma in her opening remarks, while welcoming Dr. Heptulla, made a brief mention of her contribution to the cause of women in the Country and also her qualities as a person that made any one meeting her feel not only comfortable but elated. Dr. Heptulla, while thanking the Commission for the felicitation recalled and shared her childhood memories of having been brought up in Bhopal, which had women rulers for three generations. She recalled that these women rulers gave patronage to the education of women in their state. She also shared many fond memories depicting patriotism. She fondly recited the last paragraph of the original National Anthem that she used to sing in her school and which is no longer a part of the official version of the National Anthem.

Dr. Heptulla recalled her association with the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. She stated that he encouraged her and patronized her efforts for the cause of women. She recalled that on being elected as the President of Inter-Parliamentary Council on October 16, 1999, Atal ji, in response to a telephonic call by her from Berlin, expressed his pleasure and stated that you have made India proud. Moreover, Vajpayee ji, soon after the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001, entrusted the responsibility to lead an all party delegation to visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, UAE, etc. with his message to the Heads of these States and for sensitizing them about the growing danger of terrorism and the need to evolve a global consensus and combine efforts to fight the menace. She also mentioned the initiatives taken during her stint as the Minister Minority Affairs, from 2014 to 2016 for empowerment of minority women through skill training, leadership development, mainstreaming and empowering school girl drop-outs, etc.



EVENTS

SECOND EDITION OF NATIONWIDE COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS, ON LAWS RELATED TO WOMEN.

The National Commission for Women has with a view to ensure adherence to the Constitutional and Legal rights/entitlement of women, launched the second edition of the nationwide competition for under-graduate and post-graduate students of colleges and universities on August 16, 2018. The competition can be conducted by the respective colleges/universities between September to December, 2018.

GENDER SENSITIZATION PROGRAMMES

The Commission, during the month of August, 2018, conducted two Gender Sensitization Programmes for Police Personnel at following places:-

● Agartala, Tripura

The Commission organized a programme in Agartala on August 7, 2018, which was attended by around 400 police personnel. The programme was inaugurated by Ms. Sushma Sahu, the then Member, NCW. Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The programme highlighted the need for attitudinal changes in the police personnel for increasing their accessibility to general public and for dealing with matters related to rape, sexual offences, cyber crime against women, offences related to marriage, etc. Commission's counselors Smt. Geeta Rathi Singh, Shri Varun Bansal, Shri Praveen Singh and external expert Shri Rakshit Tandon of Cyber Peace Foundation conducted the programme.

● Raipur and Bilaspur, Chattisgarh

The programmes were conducted on August 7-8, 2018 at Raipur (150 participants) and Bilaspur (120 participants), where police officials of the rank of ASI, were present. Commission's Counselors Shri Piyush Chabra, Ms. Avni Bahri and Shri Sarvesh Kumar Pandey with Shri Nitish Chandan of Cyber Peace Foundation conducted the programme.

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Editorial Note

The recent news item concerning the condition of the inmates of the Swdhar Greh and their being subjected to physical brutalities and violation of their human rights including the right to privacy highlight the need for urgent corrective action. As per these reports many incumbents are sometimes forced to live in the Swdhar Greh against their wishes and are confined to its four walls. In the light of such reports, the functioning of each Swdhar Greh needs to be reviewed to ensure that they function within the framework of the scheme and women are not subjected to any unwarranted humiliation in such homes. The Commission, conscious of the need to ensure the welfare of women in such homes, organized a day-long consultation meeting on the subject in the Commission in which experts in the field, particularly the academicians in the Departments of Women Studies, Social work, etc in Universities were invited. NGOs with expertise in the field were also associated in the process.

↓ Legal

- **Constitution of Permanent SITs to deal with “Sensitive Matters” in Uttarakhand**

The Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand directed the State Government to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) in all Districts of Uttarakhand, to ensure speedy trial of cases registered under Section 376, I.P.C and those under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). The Hon'ble Court also directed the trial courts to hold day-to-day hearing in such cases. The SIT should, as per the order, comprise Senior Superintendent of Police/Superintendent of Police, Additional Superintendent of Police/Circle Officer (CO)/Inspector, Inspector of Police (Woman), Psychologist/Counselor and Woman Social Worker. The State Government has also been directed to provide protection to the victims and their close family members in rape cases. The social media has also been prohibited from divulging the name/identity of the survivor and her family members, including their blurred pictures.

- **Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939 - relief to Muslim Women.**

The Bombay High Court in a Second Appeal (ST.) NO. 11650 of 2017 with Civil Application NO. 1570 of 2017, has held that a civil court can grant reliefs such as maintenance, return of meher and the right to matrimonial property in divorce proceedings under the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939.

- **Bodily Integrity of Women cannot be infringed**

The Supreme Court while hearing a PIL seeking a ban on the practice of Female Genital Mutilation by certain communities in India, observed that the bodily integrity of women cannot be infringed without her consent.

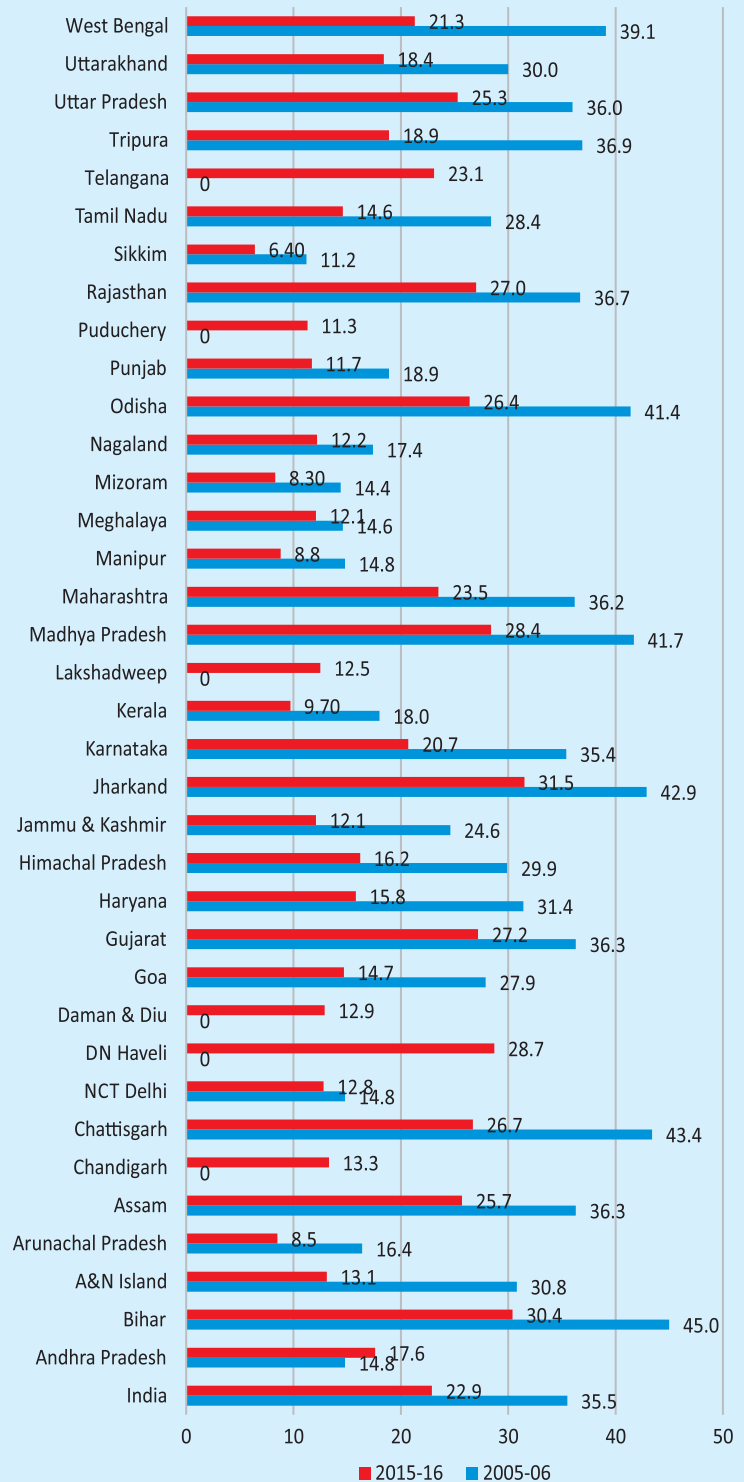
- **Single mothers not to be compelled to disclose the name of child's father in birth certificate: Madras HC**

The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court has held that single mothers are not legally obliged to disclose the name of their child's father, while registering the birth of child.

Statistically Speaking:

Women who's Body Mass Index is below normal (BMI less than 18%kg/m2):

BMI is an important indicator of the general nutritional standard of women and a BMI of less than 18% kg/m² is considered below normal. The percentage of women below normal BMI has gone down from 35.5% in 2005-06 to 22.9% in 2015-16.



Source : National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) 2018-2019.



LAURELS FOR INDIAN WOMEN IN ASIAN GAMES, 2018

The 2018, Asian Games organized between August 18 to September 2, 2018 in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang, saw India winning 69 medals, best ever in an Asiad. The details of women achievers are as below:

Achievers /Winners

GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
1. M.R. Poovamma, Saritaben Gaikwad, Hima Das, V.K. Vismaya 4x400 relay (Athletics)	1. Dutee Chand Women's 100m and 200m (Athletics)	1. PU Chitra Women's 1500 m (Athletics)
2. Swapna Barman Women's Heptathlon (Athletics)	2. Sudha Singh Women's 3000m Steeplechase (Athletics)	2. Seema Punia Women's Discus Throw (Athletics)
3. Rahi Sarnobat (Shooting)	3. Hima Das Women's 400m (Athletics)	3. Saina Nehwal Women's Single (Badminton)
4. Vinesh Phogat Women's Freestyle 50kg (Wrestling)	4. Hima Das, M. R. Poovamma Mixed 4 x 400 metres relay (Athletics)	4. Himani Khandelwal, Hema Deora, Kiran Nadar (Mixed Team Bridge)
	5. Neena Varakil Women's Long jump (Athletics)	5. Malaprabha Jadhav Women's 52kg (Kurash)
	6. Muskan Kirar, Madhumita Kumari, Jyothi Surekha Vennam Women's Team Compound (Archery)	6. Harshita Tomar Mixed Open Laser 4.7 (Sailing)
	7. Pusarla Venkata Sindhu Women's Singles (Badminton)	7. Apurvi Chandela 10-metre air rifle mixed team (Shooting)
	8. Pincky Balhara Women's 52 kg (Kurash)	8. Heena Sidhu Women's 10-metre air pistol (Shooting)
	9. Shweta Shervegar, Varsha Gautham 49er FX women (Sailing)	9. Joshna Chinappa Women's singles (Squash)
	10. Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Joshna Chinappa, Tanvi Khanna, Sunayna Kuruvilla Women's Team (Squash)	10. Dipika Pallikal Karthik Women's singles (Squash)
	11. Indian Women's Team (Hockey)	11. Manika Batra Mixed doubles (Table tennis)
	12. Indian Women's Team (Kabbadi)	12. Ankita Raina Women's Singles (Tennis)
		13. Divya Kakran Women's freestyle 68 kg (Wrestling)
		14. Roshibina Naorem Women's Sanda 60 kg (Wushu)



State Women Commission Activities

- A two day legal awareness programme was organized by the Meghalaya State Commission for Women in association with the NCW on August 9-10, 2018 at the Dorbar Hall, Khlieh Shnong, Sohra. Participants included Anganwadi workers and college students of various villages in Sohra civil sub-division.



- The Sikkim State Commission for Women conducted a one-month vocational training programme on crochet and doll making for women inmates of Gangtok Jail, Rongyek from 15th July to 15th August 2018, in collaboration with Fidget Fingers. The objective of the training was to provide women inmates a platform for skill based employment opportunities and rehabilitation. It also organized one month informal educational training for the women inmates of the Jail from 15th August, 2018 – 15th September 2018.



- The Sikkim State Commission for Women, in collaboration with the Mangshila Government College, North Sikkim, organized a two days legal awareness program on women related issues on August 2-3, 2018 in the college campus.



Other Activities

- **Ms. Sushma Sahu demits office**

On August 16, 2018, Ms. Sushma Sahu, demitted office as the member of the National Commission for Women after completion of a tenure of three years.

- **Member, Shri Alok Rawat**

A two-member team of NCW led by Shri Alok Rawat, Member, NCW visited Mansik Arogyashala, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on August 30, 2018 and carried out inspection. The report has been shared with the authorities concerned for remedial action.

Suo Motu Cognizance of Cases

Month	No. of Cases taken up	No. of ATR replies received	No. of Cases closed	Inquiry Committees/ Fact Finding Team Constituted
August	19	19	-	01

- Taking suo motu cognizance of an incident reported in the media on August 10, 2018 regarding the Head of the Hostel for Speech and Hearing impaired Women, allegedly raping a 20-year-old tribal woman and sexually harassing two others, the Commission constituted a Fact Finding Team to enquire into the matter. Authorities have been requested to take suitable action based on its findings.
- The Commission took cognizance of the media report dated August 21, 2018 that a 30-year-old woman was attacked with acid by two unidentified assailants and the survivor had suffered burn injuries. The Commission asked U.P. Police to take expeditious action in the matter and apprise the Commission of the action taken.
- The Commission, being deeply disturbed by the media report captioned “Hyderabad honour killing: Four years later, family kills pregnant woman for marrying against their will” published on August 24, 2018 took up the matter with the State Police. The Police Authorities informed that five persons had been arrested in the case.

Inquiry/Fact Finding Committees

- The Commission received a complaint from a NGO alleging that a 29 year old girl living in Dilshad Garden, Delhi had been locked by her father for last 2 years and is being mercilessly beaten. Considering the gravity of the complaint, the Commission constituted a Committee. The Committee visited the place and after ascertaining facts, came to the conclusion that the complaint was mischievously made to trouble the family.
- The Commission received a complaint from a 74 year old visually impaired and physically disabled women, living in Rohini, against mental and physical Harassment by her son and daughter-in-law. The Commission appointed a three member Fact Finding Committee, which found the allegation to be true; the condition of the complainant was pathetic and she was not able to manage with a meager support of Rs. 2500/- per month given by her son. All possible help was assured by the police to the woman after interventions by the Commission.

Status of Complaints received in the C&I Cell in August 2018

Month	Complaints Received	Complaints Closed (I d ew)
August 2018	1422	45