



“RASHTRA MAHILA”

Editorial....

The National Commission for Women helpline continued its work in support of women throughout the country. Over 4200 calls were received in the month of August 2021 and help provided to the callers. Women callers from all over the country ranging from Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana, Tamilnadu and Assam etc. called and sought help. Police authorities were contacted, and help provided. One lady who reached out for help was a Filipino married to an Indian. She was widowed in the Covid wave and wanted to return to her home. But her in-laws refused to let her return and pressurized her to marry her brother-in-law. The police rescued her and ensured safety for her and her three children. Similar help was provided in other cases too.

The Hon. Chairperson, Rekha Sharma ji, participated in a National conference of Ministers of state governments and Union Territories organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India at Kevadiya, Gujarat. She made a presentation on the work of NCW that was highly appreciated all round.

NCW continues to work for the cause of women empowerment. In our collaboration with IIM Bangalore for the *Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship* program, the second batch of aspiring women entrepreneurs began training on 16th July. They completed the training course on 31st August. This was a batch of 929 entrepreneurs out of whom 355 ladies completed the course successfully. The course titled ‘Do Your Venture’ is a digital training programme conducted as a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), with continuous monitoring and support of the IIM faculty.

To provide greater practical inputs to the trainees, the National Commission for Women is collaborating with the India SME Forum, an association of small, medium, and micro-enterprises. This is a collaboration for a one-to-one mentoring program to help select aspirants. In this effort, successful entrepreneurs would interact with the aspirants and share their experiences to help them to firm up their plans and work out their ideas. The first batch of the mentoring program was launched on 24th August 2021.

We also continued to build awareness on crimes against women to give greater confidence to women throughout the country that there are laws in place to ensure their safety and dignity. A quiz on this subject was held through the MyGov portal.

We sincerely believe that building capacities is the best way forward to achieve the goal of gender equality and an inclusive society where women can realise their full potential. NCW continues to work for that goal in all its programs.

- **Mrs. Meeta Rajivlochan, IAS**
Member Secretary

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Proud Moment :Congratulations to our Chairperson



Smt.Rekha Sharma will be the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women for another three years, beginning on August 7, 2021. She has been associated with the Commission as a Member since August 2015 and held the additional charge as the Chairperson from September 29, 2017, before becoming its regular chief. She has been a vocal advocate of gender sensitization of police personnel since they are the first point of contact for victims. She was also the pioneer in setting up a special 'Happy to Help' task force during the coronavirus pandemic to help the elderly stuck at homes alone. She has also been credited for starting a WhatsApp number for women to lodge complaints during the pandemic and initiating 24x7 helpline number for women

under stress. With her current term, she has become the only Chairperson to have served for the longest period. NCW feels privileged to have a leader like her and looks forward to achieving many milestones under her leadership.

Inspiration Of the Month

Avani Lekhara: To bear the TIRANGA in Tokyo Paralympics Closing Ceremony



Avani Lekhara, a para-shooting sensation and a double medalist in the Tokyo Paralympics, has been chosen as the contingent's flag bearer at the closing ceremony. All eyes were on the screen on August 30, 2021, when Avani Lekhara, a 20-year-old para shooter, made history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in the Paralympics. A thrilled Lekhara, who won her first Paralympic medal in Tokyo, comments, "I want people to look at me and feel that if Avani can do it, then why can't we! If my medal can inspire even one person, it will be a great thing for me... No one should feel sad about their disability. Just do what you want to do, and no one can tell you that you can't do something. You have to believe in yourself. There's no substitute

for hard work, so give your 100% and surely achieve what you want. When life hits you, you hit even harder. This Tokyo Paralympics should be the turning point for everyone. We should all build a strong team together!"

Lekhara, who is only 19 years old, has wowed the audience with her remarkable performance and created history. On Monday, August 30, she won gold in the R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event, followed by a bronze in the 50m Rifle 3 Position SH1 event on September 3, 2021. She is currently World No 5 in Women's 10m Air Rifle standing SH1 (World Shooting Para Sports Rankings). She is also the first Indian woman to win multiple medals in a single Paralympic Games. She has been given out of turn appointment as Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) by the Government of Rajasthan. A car accident in 2012, at the age of 11, left her with complete paraplegia. Her father encouraged her to join sports, training in archery but moving to shoot, in which she found her true passion. She currently studies law in Rajasthan, India. NCW salutes the spirit of this young girl and wishes more success for her future endeavors.

CHAIRPERSON'S ENGAGEMENTS

August 13

Hon'ble Chairperson participated as Chief Guest and delivered her address in the launch event of Women @ 75 organised by the National Confederation of Dalit & Adivasi Organization for celebrating the 75th Independence Day.

Hon'ble Chairperson presided as Chief Guest in the Webinar and Dissemination of the report, "Distant Dreams and Myriad Realities: Lived Experiences of Adolescent Pregnant Girls and Mothers in Shelter Homes" by Young Lives India.

Sikkim State Commission for Women organized a one-day webinar on "Domestic Violence against Women with Special Reference to Counselling" sponsored by the National Commission for Women

National Commission for Women wrote to Chief Secretaries of all States & UTs urging them to take measures to close the gender gap in vaccination.

August 14

Chairperson, Smt. Rekha Sharma participated as Keynote Speaker in a panel discussion on "Role of Women Entrepreneurs in Building New India" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

August 15



Chairperson Rekha Sharma hoisted the National Flag of India along with Members and officials of the National Commission for Women during the 75th Independence Day celebrations at the office premises.

August 17

Chairperson, Smt. Rekha Sharma delivered the inaugural lecture on 'Gender Sensitization' at the launch of a certificate course on 'Self Awareness, Life Skills and Responsible Citizenship' by College of Defence Management, Secunderabad in collaboration with Osmania University. The course commenced with an online talk by Smt Rekha Sharma, Hon'ble Chairperson National Commission for Women in India, on 'Gender Sensitisation' who highlighted the importance of Gender Sensitisation and Capacity Building at Grassroots through PRI & Legal Awareness Programmes.

August 19

Chairperson, Smt. Rekha Sharma visited Nari Niketan of Dehradun to look into the welfare of the inmates. She had visited the same place five years back when it was found to be in poor shape after which NCW had made some recommendations. The authorities have worked on them, and the Chairperson was pleased to see the positive changes.

August 20



Chairperson Rekha Sharma met Governor of Uttarakhand Hon'ble Baby Rani Maurya along

with Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons of State Commission for Women and discussed the issues of women of the state. Chairperson Rekha Sharma held a meeting with officials of the Uttarakhand State Commission for Women.

August 21



Hon'ble Chairperson had a courtesy meeting with Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Pushkar Dhama in Dehradun and discussed the initiatives of the government for empowering women of the state.

August 24

Hon'ble Chairperson shared her insights in the programme on 'Capacity Building of NRI-deserted Brides' organised by the National Commission for Women.

August 27

A webinar on "Data Privacy and Social Media Safety" webinar was organised under the We Think Digital - Digital Shakti 3.0 programme jointly organized by NCW, Facebook and Cyber Peace for Acharya Nagarjuna University in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Women.

August 31



Chairperson, Smt. Rekha Sharma delivered a presentation on the working of the National Commission for Women in the National Conference of States/Union Territories at Kevadiya, Gujarat organised by Ministry of Women and Child Development to consult on its three key missions: POSHAN 2.0, Mission Vatsalya & Mission Shakti.

MEMBER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Hon. Member Chandrmukhi Devi successfully closed the cases related to denial of maternity benefits by private firm in U.P. State and Government hospital in Delhi and complaints received their due amount respectively.



She completed several Jan-sunwais online and in person in places like Bihar's Nalanda and

Patna, Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, and Gautam Budh Nagar, and Maharashtra's Mumbai. During the month of August, a total of 223 cases were taken up for quick resolution and action reports.

Hon. Member Smt. Shyamala S. Kundar visited Chennai, Tamil Nadu from 23.08.2021 to 25.08.2021 to inquire into the pending complaints pertaining to Chennai for which the Commission has so far not received any Action Taken Report from Chennai Police. She also participated in the Mahila Sakthi Abiyan Program to promote Mahila Shakti Kendra. This Kendra will serve as a point of contact for rural women seeking assistance

from the government in obtaining their entitlements.



The plan will be carried out by the state government.

In Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Hon. Member successfully convened a meeting with the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and the State Women Commission. In Egmore, Chennai, she successfully held Mahila Jan Sunwai.

Hon. Member Dr. Rajul L. Desai paid a visit to the One Stop Center in Jamnagar, Devbhoomidwarka, Porbandar, Somanth and Junagadh in Gujarat, where she met with officers from the Women and Child Development Department to discuss women's rights and other concerns concerning women's safety. The implementation of state and federal policies, as well as the Women and Child Development Department's special project, were also discussed. A meeting with the DM and district level personnel was convened in the Collector's office to assess the overall implementation of Women Development schemes in the districts.

As a Chief Guest at the 'Nari Shakti samaroh,' in above mentioned districts, she updated the ladies in attendance on the performance of the Women's Commission, Women's Welfare

Center, and several state-sponsored women's-oriented programmes.



She stated that the central government is enacting improvements in areas where revisions and changes to various laws affecting women are required. This year, the Domestic Abuse Act, which addresses various legal flaws in domestic violence, was sought to develop new laws, as well as new women-related laws to address important issues. The Commission provides information on laws to women through women's programmes at colleges, universities, and schools all around the country.



She also innaugated the Amul Dairy Products Parlour, which is operated by Junagadh's Sakhi Mandal's district rural development agency.

NCW Helpline: Success Stories

Through a single uniform number – 7827170170 – the helpline aims to provide 24/7 online support to women affected by violence by referring them to appropriate authorities such as police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological services, and providing information about women-related government programmes across the country. We are receiving numerous complaints on a

regular basis since its inception in July 2021, and we are extending our support for prompt and effective response. Here are some examples of women who have benefited from helpline services:-

1. An SOS call was received from the Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, in which a woman claimed that her family members were attempting to rape her and that the police had refused to file a FIR in the matter, after which the Helpline staff contacted SP Sultanpur, who informed them that he was aware of the matter because it had been going on for the past 24 hours, and that the woman alleging rape was a patient of mental illness. The staff also spoke with Ms. Meera, the case's investigating officer, who explained that the woman by then incarcerated with her mother at the police station and that no rape incident has occurred. The woman was apprehensive about returning to her house. The I.O. was then urged by the helpline staff to move the woman to another shelter because it was unethical to keep her at the Police Station all night. As a result of the NCW Helpline's recommendations, the I.O. relocated her to an all-woman facility, where she is receiving treatment for her mental condition. The I.O. shared a snapshot of the same, as well as the hospital admission paper. Because the victim was suffering from a psychological disorder in the middle of the night, her case was referred to Ms. Shweta Sharma (Clinical Psychologist), who counselled her and coordinated with the District Magistrate of Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, and the Chief Medical Officer of Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, to provide her with treatment.
2. In the late hours of the night, the Commission received an SOS call from Rewari, Haryana, alleging domestic violence and assault by the husband; the victim was being beaten by her husband while on the phone with the NCW Helpline; the Commission immediately contacted the SP, Rewari, in the matter and shared her contact number with the SP in order to locate her residence; the victim could not share her address. The victim was hunted down by the police and freed from her husband.
3. After receiving a call from a man in Rajasthan who stated that there is one elderly lady who does not have a place to live and asked if the Commission could help, the NCW hotline staff promptly contacted the DCP Jodhpur district, Rajasthan, using the information provided by the man. DCP West, Jodhpur, responded to the Commission's request by placing the elderly woman in a shelter and providing her with the required assistance.

Women Welfare & Capacity Building Cell

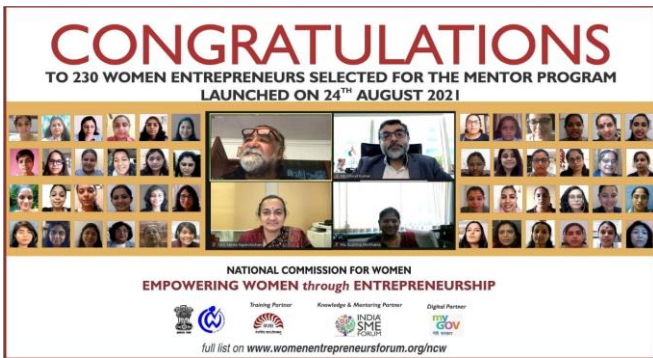
The Commission launched an Open Quiz on '**Awareness on Crime against Women**' through MyGov Portal from July 15, 2021, to August 31, 2021. The program aims to teach equality, inclusivity, and diversity, essential for building a healthy society. Moreover, knowledge of laws relating to women is crucial for the balanced development of young minds; it will also help citizens build correct values, self-discipline, and national spirit. A total number of 53,370 participants have been recorded under the quiz.

Women Safety Cell



A two Member team chaired by Hon'ble Member Dr. Rajulben L.Desai and Special Rapporteur, Ms. Shweta Sharma, visited Shree Digamber Jain Mahila Aashram, Dariyaganj, Delhi (Private Shelter Home) on 12th August 2021 and conducted meeting with “Inner wheel Club of Delhi Main” to discuss about government policies for women and future collaborations. Legal awareness program and counselling sessions held for inmates and their children. Recommendation was made to have more toilets so that menstrual hygiene could be maintained properly. NCW team also joined them for Independence Day Celebration.

Legal Cell



The National Commission for Women mandated to work towards women empowerment and development has undertaken a digital training programme through a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in collaboration with IIM, Bangalore to digitally train aspiring women entrepreneurs. The training programme was conducted in two batches wherein IIMB was our training partner and ISF was our knowledge partner. The aim of the programme

was to enhance the knowledge of prospective as well as established women entrepreneurs and facilitate acceleration and scale up of their ventures. In this regard, post successful completion of the course by batch 1 participants, ISF launched its batch 1 mentoring program for shortlisted 284 participants on August 24, 2021. The programme was launched in the august presence of Ms. Meeta Rajivlochan, Member Secretary, NCW, Mr. Prahlad Kakar, Chairman, India SME Forum, Mr. Vinod Kumar, President, India SME Forum and Ms. Sushma Morthania, DG, India SME Forum. The first group mentoring session for selected participants of batch 1 was held on August 27, 2021. ISF also undertook activities during the month to encourage participation for the next batch that was conducted. IIMB successfully concluded the six week online training for the 2nd batch of NCW's Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship Program. The Course was started on July 21 and ended on August 31.



