



**72 17 73 53 72**  
EMERGENCY HELPLINE FOR  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
(COVID 19 RESPONSE)



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FOR COMPLAINTS & QUERIES



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ONLINE COMPLAINT PORTAL  
& DAILY UPDATES

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## 1. POSHAN ABHIYAAN

POSHAN Abhiyaan (Nutrition Mission) is a multi-ministerial convergence mission with the vision to ensure attainment of malnutrition free India in its 5-year plan by 2022. Launched in 2018, it is the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition (POSHAN) and Government of India's Flagship Programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. It directs the attention of the country towards the problem of malnutrition, related health issues caused due to malnutrition, and to address these concerns in a mission-mode via various activities by various stakeholders. POSHAN Abhiyaan identifies Districts of India with the highest malnutrition burden, and implements the scheme to reduce the rate of malnutrition, by improving utilization of key Anganwadi Services and improving the quality of Anganwadi Services delivery. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is one of the agencies implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan in over 1000+ Districts in India since the inception of the scheme.

In India, there is no dearth of schemes, but the lack of creating synergy and linking the schemes with each other to achieve common goal, needs deliberate intention. As we speak of multi-ministerial convergence, POSHAN Abhiyaan through robust convergence mechanism and other components strives to create the synergy, and it is during the POSHAN Maah, that all components come together in manner that accounts for ensuring holistic approach to tackle the mission effectively.

As part of the POSHAN Abhiyaan, the month of September is dedicated as Rashtriya POSHAN Maah (National Nutrition Month) to commemorate the targets set for the mission on mass scale, by raising awareness and take on action driven activities to achieve the goals. In India, there is no dearth of schemes, but the lack of creating synergy and linking the schemes with each other to achieve common goal, needs deliberate intention. As we speak of multi-ministerial convergence, POSHAN Abhiyaan through robust convergence mechanism and other components strives to create the synergy, and it is during the POSHAN Maah, that all components come together in manner that accounts for ensuring holistic approach to tackle the mission effectively.

Various activities and components are design in this multi convergence approach such as: the integration of: (i). ICDS-CAS (Common Application Software) that works to strengthen the service delivery system as well as mechanism for Real Time Monitoring (RTM) for nutritional outcome of beneficiaries. It reads the data of adolescents, pregnant and lactating women who are receiving the services. The progress is also tracked and monitored regularly by use of technology (ICT) which becomes impetus to bring accountability; (ii). one of the very important aspects is the convergence of social behavioral change (SBC) through imparting right information, education and people's driven agendas for creating awareness on the mission's objectives.

INDIA IS CELEBRATING THE EFFORTS OF OUR  
ANGANWADI DIDIS WHO ARE ON MISSION TO  
TACKLE UNDERNUTRITION AND COVID19.  
JOIN THE MOVEMENT - EAT HEALTHY INDIA.

POSHAN MAAH 2020



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The Anganwadi workers actively bring people participation through routine learnings and exercises at all the Anganwadi centers across the country, and educate on antenatal care, optimal breastfeeding (early and exclusive), complementary feeding and diets, risks of anaemia and stunting in growth monitoring, the importance of girls' education, right age of marriage, hygiene care, sanitation and eating healthy food fortification; (iii). IEC materials for advocacy and knowledge sharing is generated in various Indian languages for Trainers, workers and beneficiaries; (iv). the mission also caters to Training and Capacity Building exercises for ground functionaries like the Anganwadi and One Stop Centers Didis and others, as one of the main pillars of POSHAN Abhiyaan are the grassroots functionaries, while including (v). innovative steps for newer directions supporting the mission at local level; and lastly, (vi). the focus on defining grievance redressals and issue alerts for timely action at all ground levels. These activities are collaboratively encouraged in line Ministries, States and UTs to achieve the targeted goals in 2022 by performance, guidance and supervision by all stakeholders.

**Key Nutrition Strategies and Interventions of POSHAN Abhiyaan:**

IYCF (Infant and Young child feeding), Food and Nutrition, Immunization, Institutional Delivery, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), De-worming, ORS-Zinc, Food Fortification, Dietary Diversification, Adolescent Nutrition, Maternal Health and Nutrition, ECD (Early childhood development)/ECCE (Early Childhood care and Education), Convergence, ICT-RTM (Information and Communication. Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring) and Capacity Building Programmes etc.



Visit website: [www.poshanabhiyaan.gov.in](http://www.poshanabhiyaan.gov.in)  
Or [www.icsd-wcd.nic.in](http://www.icsd-wcd.nic.in) for latest updates.

**CAMPAIGN THEMES UNDER POSHAN ABHIYAAN JAN ANDOLAN**

01 Overall Nutrition (Malnutrition, low-birth weight, good nutrition/ healthy foods - WHAT and WHY)	02 Antenatal checkup, diet of pregnant women, calcium supplementation, institutional delivery and early initiation of breastfeeding
03 Optimal breastfeeding	04 Complementary food & feeding
05 Full immunisation and Vitamin - A supplementation	06 Growth monitoring and promotion
07 Anemia prevention in children, adolescent girls and women – diet, IFA, deworming	08 Food fortification and micronutrients
09 Diarrhoea management	10 Girl's education, diet and right age at marriage
11 Hygiene, sanitation and safe drinking water	12 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

NITI Aayog has played a critical role in shaping the India's POSHAN Abhiyaan. The National Nutrition Strategy, released by NITI Aayog in September 2017, January 2019 and September 2020, presented a micro analysis of the problems persisting within areas and chalked out an in-depth strategy for course correction. Most of the recommendations presented in the Strategy document have been subsumed within the design of the POSHAN Abhiyaan and now that the Abhiyaan is in progress at full force, it is imperative that all civilians join the movement in achieving healthy India mission. NITI Aayog has also been entrusted with the task of closely monitoring the POSHAN Abhiyaan and undertaking periodic evaluations across the country. The quarterly reports on all districts, activities and programmes are available on their **website: [niti.gov.in](http://niti.gov.in)**

**2. POSHAN MAAH INITIATIVES BY NCW**

In an effort to initiate participation and bring public engagement during the POSHAN Maah, the Commission had hosted a series of informative sessions through live streaming mode on social media platforms with invited expert speakers who deliberated on scientific techniques and knowledge in achieving nutrition mission. The session covered various topic concerned on nutrition health in India and contextualized with the current scenario of COVID19 in order to tackle Poshan Abhiyaan more effectively.



TOPICS OF THE LIVE SESSIONS WERE:

SESSION – I  
BREASTFEEDING AND LACTATION  
IN COVID19 PANDEMIC  
(Held on 22nd September, 2020)

'Breastfeeding and Lactation at times of Pandemic', by Dr. JP Dadhich, National Coordinator and Technical Director at Breastfeeding

'WHO Guidelines on Breastfeeding', by Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Senior Deputy Director at National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.

SESSION – II  
MATERNAL AND PEDIATRIC  
NUTRITION  
(Held on 29th September, 2020)

'Malnutrition among Women & Children in a Changing World', by Dr. Sujeet Ranjan, Executive Director at Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security.

'Breastfeeding and Lactation in the COVID19 Era', by Dr. Sila Deb, Additional Commissioner at Child Health and In-Charge of Nutrition, MoHFW.

'Dietary Practices, Changes in Food Consumption', by Ms. Pallavi Patel, Director at CHETNA.

SESSION – III  
HEALTH AND NUTRITION  
(Held on 30th September, 2020)

An exclusive session with Ms. Rujuta Diwakar who is a Nutritionist & Food Science Expert from Bangalore. She founded the organization 'Mitahar' where she and her team conduct workshops, personal sessions and online knowledge series.

Image source: WHO

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE SESSIONS

- ➔ COVID19 virus cannot be transmitted in Breastmilk.
- ➔ COVID19 suspected or confirmed mother & child should not be separated unless required due to sickness. Irrespective of their status, mothers should continue optimal breastfeeding, but follow guidelines on safety like respiratory hygiene, do not talk or cough directly, wearing mask, proper handwash before touching baby or extracting breastmilk, and to practice cleaning/sanitizing of disinfect surfaces often.
- ➔ In case the mother is too sick to breastfeed, then the best option is expressed breastmilk or donor human milk.
- ➔ Newborns and infants are at low risk of COVID19 infection, and if found positive, most cases experienced have been mild illness. Hence, the intake of nutritious food and fortification diet at times of COVID19 becomes even more crucial for maintaining strong immunity.
- ➔ Family members must avoid misinformation related to baby food products to exploit during COVID19, and take charge to report. Always remember that optimal breastfeeding is the only solution for Newborns.
- ➔ When a mother and child have skin to skin contact, it benefits the mother by reducing risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

**BREASTFEEDING | THE GOAL**  
By 2025, increase to at least 50% the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months

**WHY IT MATTERS**

**BENEFITS OF BREASTFEEDING**

1. Babies who are fed nothing but breastmilk from birth through their first 6 months of life get the best start
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Exclusive breastfeeding provides babies: **the perfect nutrition** & everything they need for healthy growth and brain development

**Protection** from respiratory infections, diarrhoeal disease, and other life-threatening ailments

Protection against **obesity & non-communicable diseases** such as asthma and diabetes

**SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM**

Globally, only **38%** of infants are exclusively breastfed

Suboptimal breastfeeding contributes to **800,000** infant deaths

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**LIMIT FORMULA MARKETING**

**WHAT?** Significantly limit the marketing of breastmilk substitutes

**HOW?** Strengthen the monitoring, enforcement and legislation related to the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

**SUPPORT PAID LEAVE**

**WHAT?** Empower women to exclusively breastfeed

**HOW?** Enact six-months mandatory paid maternity leave and policies that encourage women to breastfeed in the workplace and in public

**STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS**

**WHAT?** Provide hospitals and health facilities based capacity to support exclusive breastfeeding

**HOW?** Expand and institutionalize the baby-friendly hospital initiative in health systems

**SUPPORT MOTHERS**

**WHAT?** Provide community-based strategies to support exclusive breastfeeding counselling for pregnant and lactating women

**HOW?** Peer-to-peer and group counselling to improve exclusive breastfeeding rates, including the implementation of communication campaigns tailored to the local context

3. POSHAN MAAH INITIATIVES BY STATE COMMISSIONS

The Commission's counterpart, at the States level also took various active engagement programmes in campaigning of POSHAN Maah in the country. Some of the glimpses of their activities are as below:

Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Women organized a workshop in Kesarapalli village at Krishna District. The Gannavaram ICDS Team also participated and hosted an exhibition displaying all kinds of seasonal and supplementary nutritious food, and discussed the ingredients that supports diet of infants, pregnant and lactating mothers.



In the end of the workshop, the participants planted fruits bearing saplings portraying awareness on nurturing nutrition garden (POSHAN Vatika) as a way of self-reliant activity and promoting nutrition mission. Andhra Pradesh SCW lauded the work of Anganwadi workers in their constant effort, without whom the Kesarapalli village would not had achieved great results in reducing infant and mortality rate in 2019. The workshops ended with distribution of fruits to women and children.

Himachal Pradesh State Commission for Women organized a painting competition for young kids below age of 12 years on the theme of, 'why they love their favorite fruits? and what their families eat at home?' More than 20 kids joined the competition from around the Kangra District at the Anganwadi Center. The SCW team donated 50 Nutrition Kits and sanitary pads to women.

Chhattisgarh State Commission for Women organized four workshops during the POSHAN Maah, by engaging with Anganwadi workers in Gaurella Pendra Marwahi District at Chhattisgarh. These workshops were intended for elaborate trainings, and to know how to communicate information related to all kinds of activities and services given in Anganwadi Centers under the POSHAN Abhiyaan scheme for children and women; while also educating the villagers in wholistic nutritious diet, and supporting care for pregnant women and lactating mothers for sustaining healthy India mission.

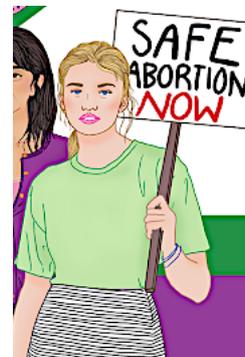
Meghalaya State Commission for Women, along with Ramakrishna Mission and Social Welfare Department organized a day programme in view of the POSHAN Maah, where ICDS functionaries and trainers of Anganwadi workers participated and were appraised on effective communication required to aware women and families in fight against malnutrition, infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate in the State. The organizers distributed IEC materials to the ground functionaries to be used during survey and group meetings. The event was held in Shillong and ended with nutritious meal been served to all participants.



POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched by Prime Minister on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March, 2018, from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan. Women are considered the main pillars and driving force for the Poshan Abhiyaan success.



IPS Officer Ms. Charu Sinha took over as the Inspector General (IG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for the Srinagar Sector in Jammu & Kashmir, known to be one of the most terror affected areas in the country.



The awareness on Safe Abortion is campaign widely on 28th September across the world to advocate on legality and accessibility on women's reproductive rights like use of contraceptive pills, safe abortion facility, post-natal care and against forced pregnancy caused due to physical violation.

#### 4. UPDATES FROM COMPLAINT & INVESTIGATION CELL (C&I)

SEPTEMBER 2020:

Mode of Complaint	Complaints Received	Complaints Closed (Old+New)
Offline+Online	2318	869
WhatsApp	28	28

#### 5. SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTIONS OF C&I

(1). The National Commission for Women received a complaint from Ms. Yogita Bhayana, the Founder of People Against Rape In India (PARI), alleging that many girls from across the country have suffered sexual and mental assault from Mr. Sunny Verma, a Promoter of the company IMG Ventures with Headquarters in Chandigarh. In view of this receipt, the Commission constituted a two-member Inquiry Committee teamed by NCW Chairperson, Ms. Rekha Sharma and Advocate Mallika Noorani to inquire into the matter. The Inquiry Committee submitted the finding Report and was taken up with the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh, for further necessary action as per the findings and recommendations given in the Inquiry Committee Report.

(2). The National Commission for Women received a complaint by a father from Mayurbundi District Jashpur in Chhattisgarh, alleging on the gross negligence made by Holy Cross Hospital, as the hospital authorities denied that his daughter gave a birth to a boy and that she was not even pregnant. The Commission had constituted a three-member Inquiry Committee teamed by NCW Chairperson, Ms. Rekha Sharma, External Member of the Commission Ms. Harshita Pandey and Advocate Ajay Mishra to inquire the matter. The Inquiry was carried out and in less than a week, the Committee submitted the findings to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh, for necessary action and bring immediate justice to the father and daughter.

## 6. UPDATES FROM SUO-MOTO CELL

SEPTEMBER 2020:

Cases Taken-up	ATR Replies Received (Old+New)	Cases Closed (Old+New)
22	25	10

## 7. SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTIONS OF SUO-MOTO CELL

(1). The National Commission for Women took cognizance of a media report captioned "गोड्डा: आश्रम में घुसकर साध्वी से गैंगरेप, 4 पर FIR" reported in Zee News regarding an incident which came to light where a woman living in an ashram was gang raped in Godda District of Jharkhand. The Commission was in receipt of an Action Taken Report (ATR) from Superintendent of Police, Godda, stating that the reported case was registered and medical examination of the victim was also conducted. The statement of the victim was recorded under Section 164 of Cr.P.C by the Police. Three accused had been arrested and confessed in committing the crime. The ATR also mentioned that DLSA team has initiated to provide interim compensation to the victim.

(2). The Commission took cognizance of a media report from Punjab regarding a 19-year-old woman who delivered a baby girl on the floor in Moga Civil Hospital's parking lot in the early hours because she was denied admission. The media report recorded the woman's family statement that the staffs on duty 'misbehaved' with them and told them to take her to another hospital, while the doctors on duty claimed that the woman was a 'high risk' case with 'extremely low hemoglobin levels'. The Commission condemn such behaviors that violates the woman's right to access healthcare at time of emergency. The Commission had written to Chief Secretary of Punjab and take immediate action against those found guilty in dereliction of responsibility to deliver civilian duties.

## 8. NON RESIDENT INDIAN RELATED ISSUES CELL (NRI)

SEPTEMBER 2020:

Mode of Complaint	Complaints Received	Complaints Closed (Old+New)
Online	51	19

## 9. UPDATES FROM POLICY, MONITORING AND RESEARCH CELL (PMR)

The Commission received the total of 1225 Seminar/Webinar Proposals from the online open call invitation in accepting Proposals. It was advertised on NCW websites and social media platforms from early June to August 2020. After the scrutiny of the Proposals, the Commission selected 101 Proposals submitted by several organizations and universities. The selected Proposals are from 20 States and will be conducted during the financial year 2020-2021. From the North East Region (8 States), the Commission had selected 25 Seminar/Webinar Proposals for the financial year 2020-2021, thus making the total of 126 sanctioned Proposals by the Commission. The Seminars/Webinars will be supported by the Commission by grant of aid of financial assistance to carry out the programmes effectively.

The Seminar/Webinar Proposals were selected in the following themes:

- (i). Women Mental Health.
- (ii). Cyber Security – Challenges especially for Women Users.
- (iii). Domestic Violence – Legal Framework for enforcing Women's Rights.
- (iv). Women Migrant Workers.

The online call application for the Research Studies ended in mid-September 2020. The Commission is currently undergoing scrutiny of total 251 Research Proposals. The results of selected Proposals will be announced by end of October 2020 on NCW website [www.ncw.nic.in](http://www.ncw.nic.in), and selected applicants/organizations will also be intimidated via emails.

The Research Studies Proposals were called in the following themes:

- (i). NRI Marriages: Issues concerning NRI Marriages particularly harmonizing domestic laws with International private laws including how pre-nuptial agreements could help address issues in such Marriages.
- (ii). Women Mental Health: (a). Mental Health and Quality of Life of Married Working Women in India; (b). Workplace Mental Health & Wellbeing.
- (iii). Domestic Violence: (a). Implementation of Domestic Violence Act and effectiveness thereof; (b). Violence against Women: with special reference to Counselling.
- (iv). Cyber Crime Against Women in India: (a). Precautions and Strategies in Prevention of Cyber Crimes; (b). Harassment of Women in Digital Space
- (v). Migrant Women Workers: (a). Migrant Women Workers: Issues and Challenges; (b). Women Migrant Workers and Labour Law: Identifying gaps and exploring remedial measures; (c). Challenges to implementation /analyzing grassroots impact of law and policy measures.



**10. 2ND CONSULTATION ON REVIEW OF LAWS RELATED TO CYBERCRIMES AGAINST WOMEN & IT ACT.**

(From Legal Cell): The Commission organized the 2nd Consultation to review the laws on Cybercrimes, the Indecent Representation of Women’s Act, Information Technology Act and other prevailing laws in context to IT. Essentially, there are two major laws in India that address cybercrimes against women to a large extent, i.e. the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 (which has been amended several times including in 2013, 2016 and 2018) and the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000, which underwent major amendments in 2008. Both the laws complement and reinforce each other in addressing cybercrimes against women. However, the Commission believes that a comprehensive regulatory framework with regard to laws governing the Cyberspace is yet to be framed. There exists certain legal provision under various statutes which can come in aid of a person who is a victim of cyber violence, but research says that the gaps pose formidable challenges in crime prevention and detection of the law in the existing framework. It is very important that Cybercrimes are prevented to occur. And Prior to 2013, no law directly dealt with online harassment or crimes pertaining to women in the cyber space. The Indian Penal Code, 1860 was amended in 2013 to include Section 354A to Section 354D.



During the Consultation, the deliberation was also to find key recommendations to address such issues by expert speakers from the domain. The scope and expected outcome from such Consultation organized by the Commission is guided from the following objectives to:

- ➔ Assess ways in which the present legal framework relating to Cybercrimes can be made gender sensitive, as the Commission believed that issues regarding woman are still untouched in the Information Technology Act, 2008, and is primarily dedicated to economic and commercial issues only.
- ➔ To identify inadequacies in the present legal framework and suggesting remedial measures so as to make the laws robust to ever evolving technology in connection to protection of women’s privacy on Cyberspace.
- ➔ To analyze the need for more gender specific provisions on Cybercrimes against women, as it has been experienced that in many situations, such as morphing, email spoofing and trolling, the IPC provisions applied by interpretation lack more specific provisions of law and do not clearly address these criminal offences.
- ➔ To devise a concrete set of rules/SOPs to redress Cybercrime reporting by women and identifying inconsistencies or scope for improvement in the existing reporting system for victims of gender-based Cybercrimes.

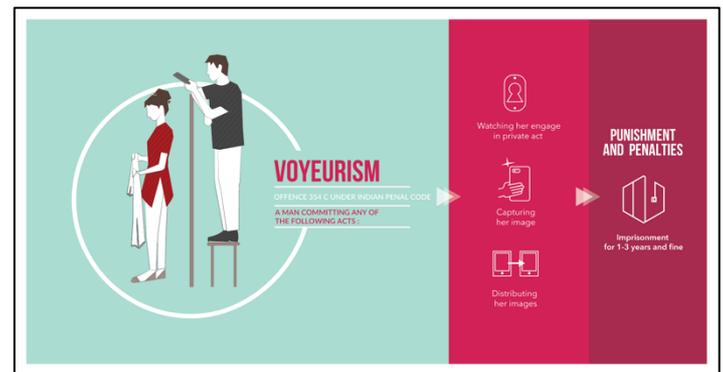
This Consultation was the second round collaborated with Western Region Expert Partners and held on 31st September. The first Consultation was held in August 2020 with Eastern Region Partners. The Commission is yet to organized 3 more Consultations of the same with North, South and North-East Regions, before the end of the financial year 2020-2021. For more updates on progression of these Consultation series, check on [www.ncw.nic.in](http://www.ncw.nic.in) for all notifications.

**KNOW THE CYBERCRIMES LAWS IN INDIA**

Section 354A and Section 292, deals with offences related to Cyber Pornography, Morphing, sending Obscene/Defamatory messages, demanding sexual favours despite indication of disinterest and force filming it, is a major criminal offence under the IPC. The accused can be jailed for term of 1-3 years coupled with fine.



Section 354C: Circulating Images/Video Clips of Women engaged in intimate act without the knowledge and consent of the woman is a punishable offence and jail term can range from 1-3 years. If the offender is convicted for the second time, then the term can go upto 7 years along with major fine under the IPC.



Section 354D states that Cyber Stalking is an act of sexual harassment and the offender can face jail term ranging 3-5 years coupled with fine as per the IPC.



**One can report online abuse on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal on [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) ✨  
Call Helpline 155260 (9am to 6pm).  
OR tag @Cyberdost on Twitter / Facebook.**

## 11. LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

(From Capacity Building Cell): Recognizing the need to impart legal awareness to young girls and women regarding their rights and legal provisions, the National Commission for Women organizes Legal Awareness Programme throughout the country by setting up camps at gram panchayat levels to impart the trainings/workshops concerning to women rights. The Commission had collaborated with National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) to organize over 500+ camps and conduct the trainings/workshops for women across 8 States in Phase-I during the financial year 2020-2021. During the month of September, over 24 camps were held across Madhya Pradesh in grams/districts level in Jhabua, Katni, Kachnoor, Sidhi, Karena, Royapur, Raisen, Panna, Mandsaur, Mandla, Khandwa, Guna, Hoshangabad, Bhopal, Datia, Damor, Burhanpur, Betul, Barwani, Alirajpur, Anuppur, Mahana, Chhattarpur and Seoni. The awareness training was attended by women not exceeding 60 numbers, keeping in mind the safety guidelines. The camps ensured facility of hand sanitizers, water closets, face masks and minimal social distance spaces of all participants. About 200+ camps are scheduled till December 2020, to conduct Legal Awareness Training under the Project plan covering all the 8 States. A handbook comprising of major laws related to women and women rights are distributed to women participants in various vernacular languages. The objective of the Programme is to impart practical knowledge about the basic legal rights and remedies provided under various women related laws, thereby making them fit to face the challenges in real life situations. The Legal Awareness Programmes would lay strong emphasis on inculcating values of equality, inclusivity and diversity, all of which are essential for building a healthy society amongst young girls and women, as knowledge of major laws of a country is not only crucial for balanced development of minds by formation of correct values, self-discipline and national spirit.



National Commission for Women

Webinar

### WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING : NORTH EASTERN REGION

Thursday September 24  
10:30 AM to 1:30 PM



## 12. WEBINAR ON WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING: NORTH EAST REGION

(From North East Cell): The De facto enjoyment of rights, equality, elimination of discrimination and women empowerment in general are all directly or indirectly dependent on inclusion and participation of women in decision making and representation of their interests in multiple fora and establishments, that have a bearing on the structures of the society, economy and polity. The importance of advocating for key decision-making roles for women was brought to attention of all nations since 1980's. There has been international convention like the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China, 1995) and International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994 amongst others conventions. The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) conceived in 2015 UN General Assembly, includes one of the Agendas - on 'Women Equality' through promoting foundation of 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'. Combining these indicators; advocates for ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. The SDGs targets to balance the stakes or proportions of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments, (b) the judiciary, (c) public service, (d) local government and (e) managerial positions, against the male counterpart. These targets are practice by constant effort of deliberation between countries and national/international policies by think-tank leaders and policy makers, in a more actionable cause for ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative roles of women, including inclusion by age, women with disabilities and population group. The SDGs on 'Women Equality' and 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions' are intended to achieved by the year 2030 (also popularly known as 'Agenda 2030').

In context to women in North East Region (NER), the statistic figures are still grim, though other states are gradually coming up, North East is yet to create that mark. Some says that women in NER enjoy a status which is often termed as "better off" than their counterparts in other places of the country. The argument has been that in the north east, the societies are egalitarian in nature and hence, social norms are not-so-orthodox in allowing women the scope and space to be more visible and mobile. However, current statistics reveal that women are in a disadvantageous position leading to different forms of vulnerabilities, both within and outside their homes in North East States.

Some of the reasons being, even though Meghalaya helmed matrilineal communities, it remains a fact that empowerment of women continues to be superficial. The example being, Politics is essentially still a man's affair in Meghalaya. Besides the mainstream Assembly elections, women are also kept out of traditional councils in most of these states in NER. Tribal bodies (village council) in Nagaland has no women. Some says that they also opposed the 33% reservation for women on the excuse that it goes against Naga customary laws. On the similar front, ironically inspite Meghalaya been a matrilineal society, their village council also do not allow women to become village heads.

The headman can only be a man. With these examples, there is a clear disconnect between the matrilineal space of a house and that of public institutions of governance. It is similar trend with most North East states.

Advancing global norms and national practices to further women's leadership in politics and public institutions is important for gender equality. The National Commission for Women is of the view that, in order to assess the challenges to practical implementation of policy measures to empower women as decision makers in North Eastern Region, and to assess the way forward, it is essential to develop an inclusive and comprehensive policy that is multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional in nature and alleviates the status of women in decision making. In an endeavor to work towards this goal, the Commission organized a webinar on 24th September to facilitate the deliberation on the following sessions:

- (i). Women from North Eastern Region in Politics, Administration & Judiciary: Assessing the Challenges faced by them in Decision Making.
- (ii). Recommendation & Strategies for ensuring Equal Participation of Women from the North East Region in Decision Making.

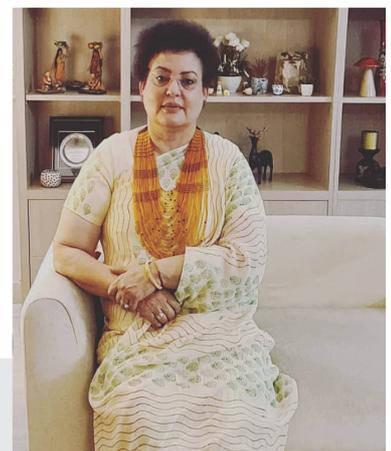
Ms. Agatha Sangma, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, from Tura constituency in Meghalaya attended as the Chief Speaker of the webinar and shared her personal views on the journey of her political leadership, the stereotype notion that exist in the arena and the fight of every woman's struggle to overcome the hurdles and contribute to change in the society. The webinar was attended by eminent women personalities from Administration, Judiciary, Political Offices, Central and State Government Officers, Lawyers, Academicians, SCW's in NER, Civil Society Organizations etc., and all brought in diverse views and discussions in challenging women's credentials in decision making. The Commission have taken notes to develop a comprehensive understanding about the issues and constraints, and have drafted the recommendations of appropriate strategies and policies to advocate for equal representation of women from the North East Region. Soon the Report will be sent to concern line Ministries for appropriate actions.



The live streaming of this webinar session was stage on NCW official social media handle on Facebook @NCWIndia on September 24th from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM (IST).

### 13. HIGHLIGHTS OF CHAIRPERSON'S ENGAGEMENTS

1. NCW Chairperson, Smt. Rekha Sharma was invited as Special Guest for the launch of 3rd Session, "Structure of Patriarchy: Unpacking notions of Power, Control, Space and Access" on 3rd September organized by Janki Devi Memorial College (New Delhi). The Session was part of their Capacity Building Training cum Short Term Course organized annually for students and teachers.
2. NCW Chairperson was invited as Guest Speaker for a Talk Session under "Womanistaan" Show, which is an Indo-US Project holding discussions on important women issues in India, and why it needs to be highlighted to advocate for gender equality and hold leadership roles to create impact. Along with Chairperson Ms. Rekha Sharma, the Talk Session was joined by three eminent women achievers and change-makers, Ms. Mehnaaz Nadiawala, Ms. Razia Mashkooor and Ms. Manjari Phadnis. The full broadcast of the live streaming is available to view on bdc-tv.com.
3. NCW Chairperson was featured for a national campaign endorsement by Femina titled, "Act Against Abuse" for the September edition. National Commission for Women was lauded for the initiative launched during the COVID19 Response to tackle Domestic Violence cases during the nationwide lockdown period from early April to date.



**REKHA SHARMA**  
AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, SHE LAUNCHED A DEDICATED WHATSAPP HELPLINE NUMBER TO HELP WOMEN REPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19

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