



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

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e newsletter

Snippets >>

NCW Ties Up for Creating Livelihood Opportunities For Women In North-East

The National Commission for Women has partnered with Airbnb, the world's leading community-driven hospitality company to create livelihood opportunities for women in North Eastern States. With this partnership, the NCW and



Airbnb will facilitate skill development of potential women hosts in North Eastern states on global hospitality standards and support them in setting up homestay offering tourists a unique local experience. The objective is to enable financial and social empowerment of women and contribute to the overall development of local communities in the region. ■

NCW Initiative On Enhancing Digital Literacy

The National Commission for Women partnered with the Facebook and Cyber Peace Foundation to undertake a Digital Literacy Programme for students in the country. The programme was launched in Punjab University, Chandigarh on June 18, 2018 and was inaugurated by



then Hon'ble Governor of Haryana. The programme seeks to provide training on safe and responsible use of internet, social media and email and enables trainees to differentiate between credible and questionable information. As part of the programme, 60,000 girl students in colleges/universities across major cities in Haryana, Delhi, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are proposed to be trained over a period of one year. ■

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Jail Inspections

The National Commission for Women continued its inspection of Jails and Custodial Homes as per its mandate during June 2018. Brief details of inspection undertaken during June 2018 are summarized below:

- Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson NCW, inspected District Jail Dimapur, Nagaland on 8th June, 2018. It was observed that the proportion of women employees in the prison needed to be increased and the female officers/staff trained to enable them to update their skills. The Chairperson observed that the quality of legal aid being provided to inmates by DLSA also needed improvement. It was recommended that IG (Prison) should monitor all cases personally by convening monthly meetings with Advocates and concerned authorities from DLSA to chalk out further course of action in each case. Chairperson discussed issues such as condition of women inmates, the health-care facilities available to them, the sanitation and hygiene conditions in jails and the challenges faced by women personnel posted in Jails in the State with DG Prisons, Chairperson and Members of Nagaland State Commission for Women.
- Inspection of the female wing of Puzhal Central Jail, Chennai was undertaken by a team led by Shri Alok Rawat, Member, NCW on 22nd June 2018. The member observed that the prison is well managed and can be regarded as one of the best prisons in the country. NCW Team's main suggestions were: (i) The present arrangement for cooking with a bank of LPG cylinders entails wastage of LPG on account of dead-stock at the bottom of gas cylinders. Installation of a gas pond can help overcome this; (ii) Solar power, as an alternative source of energy, needs to be used for illumination and cooking purposes. CSR funds could also be tapped for this purpose; (iii) Solar incinerators can be used for disposal of used sanitary napkins. (iv) The feasibility of fourth/fifth year interns/residents of medical colleges conducting a weekly medical examination of Jail inmates could be explored.
- Female wing of the Tezpur Central Jail, Sonitpur, Assam was inspected by a team led by Shri Alok Rawat, Member, NCW on 28th June, 2018. During the inspection, it was noted that the jail was over-crowded and was operating more like a detention camp with as many as 92 of the 115 inmates being other than Indian nationals. Sanitation and hygiene condition was not found to be up to the mark. NCW team suggested that services of fourth/fifth year interns/residents of nearby medical colleges could be utilised for conducting medical examination of the inmates. ■



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Editorial Note

Protecting Rights of Women

Women constitute a significant proportion of persons lodged in various prisons and custodial homes across India. Very often, such women are victims of structural gender inequality. They fall prey to inhuman and inconsiderate behavior, especially in places where both men and women are lodged together. They also experience social and economic marginalization after their release from prisons due to social stigma and misconception of ill-repute attached to a woman who had been in a prison.

The female inmates in Prisons live in over-crowded spaces with poor hygienic and sanitary conditions, with inadequate and minimal health facilities available to them. A large number of women under-trials have also been languishing in jails for many years as most of the female inmates are illiterate and lack awareness about their rights and availability of poor quality of free legal aid available to them. They also suffer because of the insensitivity with which the prison staff, including women staff, deal with them. Inadequate number of female staff posted in such places adds to their misery. The condition of female inmates in prisons needs to be improved keeping in view their gender-specific needs. There is a need for empathy and compassion while dealing with women prisoners. The recommendation of the NCW made after inspection of jails will, if implemented, go a long way in improving the conditions in such homes.

Chairperson NCW Visits Vrindaban Window Home

Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, NCW visited Mahila Kalyan Nigam, Ashray Sadan- 1 (Swadhar Greh) in Vrindaban, Uttar Pradesh on June 27, 2018. The Chairperson observed that the present set up for use of flower offerings in temples for making herbal/organic dhoop, agarbatti, sugandh jal, gulal etc. was very small and would employ only a few women. It was felt that the machinery for recycling flower offerings should be upgraded for utilising flower offerings of all temples of the town so that more employment and



alternate employment opportunities could be generated depending upon the skill, age and aptitude of women residing in Swadhar Greh. On visiting Swadhar Greh, it was observed that women of such homes were selling excess food received by them in open market. Chairperson, NCW recommended that the food supplies to women in such homes under various Central or State government schemes needs to be properly channelised. Irregular wages, lack of clean drinking water and poor sanitary and hygiene conditions in Ashrams were some other concerns highlighted by the Chairperson.

Indian women continued to create ripples in sports arena. Some of the important achievements are as below:

Gold for Deepika Kumari in Archery

Deepika Kumari defeated Michelle Kroppen of Germany on June 25, 2018 to win the gold medal in women's recurve event at stage three of the Archery World Cup in Salt Lake City, USA.



2000 runs in T20 International in Mitali



Mithali Raj displayed an impressive performance during Women's T20 Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka on June 7, 2018 and became the first Indian cricketer to score 2000 runs in T20 International Cricket.

Boxer Saweety Bohra bags Gold in Umakhanov Memorial Tournament

Saweety Bohra clinched gold in the Umakhanov Memorial Tournament after defeating Anna Anfinogenova in Russia on June 12, 2018. Saweety Bohra was the only Indian boxer to have won gold in the tournament. India also got two silver medals in the event.



Sanjana Ramesh and Vaishnavi Yadav awarded



Bengaluru's Sanjana Ramesh was awarded the Most Valuable Player Award at the 10th edition of the Basketball Without Borders Asia Camp, while Vaishnavi Yadav of Uttar Pradesh got the 'Girls Grit Award'.

↓ Policy/Legal

● DISBURSEMENT UNDER VICTIM COMPENSATION SCHEME

The Calcutta High Court directed the State Legal Services Authority in June, 2018 that the quantum of compensation to be disbursed to trafficked petitioner may be decided and paid either in one go or at intervals, without the pre-condition of (i) accused not being traced; and (ii) trial having not commenced. The above judgement came in a case of trafficking, claiming compensation under the West Bengal Victim Compensation Scheme, 2017, framed under Section 357-A of the CrPC.

● ADOPTION OF UNNATURAL MEANS AS GROUNDS OF DIVORCE

The High Court of Punjab and Haryana held that an act of sodomy, forced sex and adoption of unnatural means forced upon the other spouse that result in unbearable pain would be a ground to seek divorce. However, since such allegations are difficult to prove, corroborative evidences need to be taken into account and if it is established that it is probable that one of the spouse has indulged in such unnatural act, the marriage can be dissolved by a decree of divorce.

● MWCD REPORT ON 'WOMEN IN PRISONS'

The report by the MWCD on women in prison highlights the problems faced by women prisoners and recommends steps that need to be taken to improve their condition by providing proper medical facilities and a grievance redressal mechanism along with necessary steps to enable their reintegration in the society after release. The report also suggested that the prisoners be given the right to vote.

Chairperson, Smt. Rekha Sharma

- An Inquiry Committee headed by Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women visited West Bengal on June 6, 2018 to look into the atrocities on women during 2018 Panchayat elections in the state. She also visited Shantipur



Police Station in Nadia district to inquire into the reports concerning a case of gangrape and a case of murder.

- Smt. Sharma called upon Shri Padmanabha Acharya, Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland at Raj Bhawan, Kohima on June 9, 2018 and discussed various issues related to women in the state; including the political rights and empowerment of women.
- The Chairperson gave keynote address at a consultation on "Right to Fair Investigation & Trial in Sexual Assault Cases" organized by Shakti Vahini at India International Centre, New Delhi on June 14, 2018. In her address, she emphasized use of DNA technology and forensic investigation to enable speedy prosecution and delivery of justice.
- Smt. Sharma chaired a National Consultative Workshop on "Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women and Ethnic Minority Communities" on June 19, 2018 which was organized by Pragya, an NGO, working for the development of vulnerable communities.
- Chairperson, NCW visited the National Gender Centre, LBSNAA, Mussoorie as Chief Guest for a workshop on "Combating Violence Against Women and Children" on June 23, 2018. The programme was organized to familiarize senior officers of the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and the Judiciary with the changes in laws relating to Violence

Against Women and children and share good practices from different states.

Member, Ms. Sushma Sahu

- Smt. Sushma Sahu, Member, NCW visited Gaya, Bihar to inquire into the Media Report published on 15th June, 2018 regarding the case of dacoity and brutal gang-rape of a woman and her minor daughter. Ms. Sahu met the victim and her family and instructed the concerned authorities to take prompt action in the case, pay compensation to the victim and ensure their security.
- Ms. Sahu also attended a Legal Awareness Programme at Jam Nagar and Dwarka Districts of Gujarat from 18th June, 2018 to 21st June 2018 at the invitation of the Gujarat State Commission for Women.



Member, Shri Alok Rawat

- A two-member team of NCW, led by Shri Alok Rawat, Member, NCW visited the Institute Mental Hospital, Kilpauk (IMH) on 21st June 2018. The report of the team member emphasised the need for attitudinal change towards inmates of Psychiatric Homes. It was noted that unlike male patients, families of women inmates were reluctant to take them back even after they had been cured.
- A two member team led by Shri Alok Rawat, Member, NCW inspected Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi





Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, Assam on 28th June 2018. The team took into consideration the earlier inspection report by NHRC (2014) and noted that the improvement in infrastructure and use of CSR funds had not picked up. Regarding post-discharge residential facilities for women who could not be re-integrated with family, it was noticed that the pilot project using CSR funds, named as ENAJORI, was proposed to be used for augmenting facilities in the Half-way Homes being run by NGOs. It was observed that proper counselling facilities were needed to facilitate treated women to join the mainstream. The work of NGO, INCENSE of Tata Trust and EAST for providing temporary shelter and facilitating reunion of patients who had been treated with their families was taken note of.

Member Secretary, Dr. Satbir Bedi

- Dr. Satbir Bedi, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women visited Surat, Gujarat for a Gender Sensitization Programme for Police officials organised by NCW on June 8-9, 2018.



- Dr. Bedi, also attended a Seminar on Technology Partnerships for POSHAN Abhiyaan called 'TECH-THON' on 28th June, 2018 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The Seminar aimed at exchanging ideas, exploring avenues of cooperation and partnerships for technology support as well as reaching out to the beneficiaries for effective behavioural change to initiate a 'Peoples Movement' or Jan Andolan towards Nutrition.

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

Month	Complaints Received	Complaints Closed (Old + New)
June 2018	1703	944

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
June	25	09	04	03

Inquiry/Fact Finding Committees

- Taking suo motu cognizance of the incident reported from Kerala about five priests blackmailing and sexually abusing a woman, the Commission constituted an Inquiry Committee headed by Ms. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, NCW. The Committee finalized its report, which has been shared with authorities concerned for taking appropriate action.
- The Commission constituted an Inquiry Committee to enquire into media report captioned "Man tied to tree, wife & daughter gang raped in Gaya". Ms. Sushma Sahu, (Member, NCW) visited Gaya and had discussions with all officials concerned and inquired into the circumstances leading to the incident. The Inquiry Committee submitted its recommendation to the Commission. The report was forwarded to the Director General of Police and Chief Secretary, Bihar for taking urgent steps to expedite investigation by police in an impartial manner.
- On media report captioned, "5 NGO workers gang raped at gun point in Jharkhand village", the Commission took cognizance of the matter and deputed a two-member team for Fact Finding in the matter on 22/06/2018. The findings of the team were forwarded to Hon'ble Prime Minister, Minister for Women & Child Development and Minister for Home Affairs for information and necessary action.

Successful Intervention by NCW

A complaint was received by the Commission from a woman from District Nadia, West Bengal regarding threat and violence against her and her family by some anti-social elements. She also alleged physical assault to her pregnant sister-in-law. The allegations, gruesome in nature, were accompanied by reported police inaction. The Commission immediately took cognizance of the matter and constituted an Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chairperson, NCW, Smt. Rekha Sharma to inquire into the alleged harassment. The team visited the place and met the victim, the District Magistrate and police officials and gave its report to further follow up the matter with the State Government and the Police Authorities.

Violence Free Homes

Four pilot special cells under the Project, 'Violence Free Homes- A Women's Right' were set up in June, 2018 in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Cells intervene in cases of violence against women and children by providing psycho-legal support to survivors. After ascertaining the impact of the project at the ground level and its usefulness, the Commission also extended the project in Delhi up to 2020.