Significant Achievements of Four Years
2014-2018

Government of India
Ministry of Women and Child Development

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
Minister for Women & Child Development

Dr. Virenda Kumar
Minister of State
Women & Child Development
Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon’ble President of India, and Hon’ble WCD Minister Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi with Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 Awardees
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MINISTER
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI-110001

17th May, 2018

MESSAGE

Under the dynamic leadership of Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, India has been developing at a rapid pace. His motto of 'Good Governance' and 'Sakshi Saath, Saka Vikas' has brought a positive change across the country, at the grassroots level.

The Ministry of Women & Child Development has made tremendous strides with its pathbreaking measures to transform the lives of women and children in the country. Initiatives like Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, SH He-Box & e-Box, CARA, One-Stop centres, Childline, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, among others, are promoting social and economic empowerment of women and children, creating awareness about their rights, and providing opportunities for their growth and development.

This booklet brought out by the Ministry of Women and Child Development outlines some of the key initiatives undertaken by our government to address the issues faced by women and children in India.

Significant Achievements (2014-18) will serve as a useful reference to our government’s vision for women and children and the Ministry’s achievements, enabled through the transforming initiatives undertaken under the leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister.

(Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi)
MESSAGE

Since 2014, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has made impressive strides towards bettering the lives of women and children in the country under the innovative leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and dynamic Hon’ble Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi. I am very pleased that the Ministry is bringing out this booklet highlighting its many achievements during the period 2014-2018.

This booklet is more than a compilation of a list of the Ministry’s activities over the past four years; great care has been taken to explain the Ministry’s flagship programme and concrete measures undertaken under these initiatives, to bring positive change in the lives of women and children in India.

The Women and Child Development Ministry has overcome challenges and institutionalized right practices to achieve equitable development of both women and children. I believe this booklet will be an informative public document about the vital work being undertaken by the Ministry under Hon’ble Minister of Women & Child Development Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi.

My congratulations to the team that prepared this booklet.

(Dr. Virendra Kumar)
Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana
Achievements under Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

1. The Hon’ble Prime Minister, in his address to the nation on December 31, 2016, announced the pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Programme. The Women and Child Development Ministry had immediately started working on the scheme and the detailed scheme was formulated for which the Cabinet accorded its approval on May 17, 2017. The Administrative Approval of the scheme was conveyed to the States/UTs on May 19, 2017.

2. The Scheme provides cash incentive, amounting to ₹ 5,000/- in three installments, directly to the Bank/Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mother (PW&LM) in DBT Mode during pregnancy and lactation in response to individuals fulfilling specific conditions. The beneficiary also gets benefits under Janani Suraksha Yojana, so that, on an average, a beneficiary gets ₹ 6,000/-.

3. All eligible Pregnant Women are entitled to benefits under the scheme for the first living child of the family. All Government/PSUs (Central & State) employees or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law, for the time-being are excluded from the scheme. As per the approval of the Cabinet, the benefits under the scheme will accrue with effect from January 1, 2017.

4. Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) has been designed as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which the grant-in-aid is being released to States/UTs on cost sharing ratio basis. The ratio between the Centre and the States & UTs with Legislation is 60:40, for North-Eastern States & Himalayan States it is 90:10 and for Union Territories without Legislation 100%. To ensure dedicated and timely availability of funds to the beneficiaries, without parking of funds at the State/UT level, the Scheme provides that States/UTs shall maintain a State/UT level Escrow Account for the Scheme. The Government of India and State/UT transfer their corresponding share of fund to this account for further transfer to the beneficiary’s account.

5. Since the scheme envisaged direct cash transfer to the beneficiary, a state-of-the-art fully IT based functionality had to be created and all States/UTs had to be brought on-board. The Common Application Software (PMMVY-CAS), Implementation Guidelines and its User Manual were launched by MWCD on September 1, 2017. PMMVY-CAS enables identification and de-duplication for unique beneficiaries throughout the country by leveraging the Aadhaar details of beneficiaries. Apart from identifying duplicate beneficiaries, PMMVY-CAS also allows beneficiaries to claim any of the three installments from any location throughout the country. This ensures that the scheme caters to migrating class of citizens. In addition, the PMMVY-CAS also automatically validates the eligibility of the beneficiary by electronically processing the captured relevant data. This step ensures that the benefits are transferred only to the eligible beneficiaries. Thus, this adoption by the scheme shall also remove possibility of ghost beneficiaries/multiple payments to same beneficiary. The time for disbursement of incentive from the date of submission of the application is also monitored. This is around 30 days at present and is likely to come down as the scheme stabilizes.

6. The Ministry had simultaneously started building the capacity of the states to roll-out the scheme. All the States/UTs were given preliminary online training on PMMVY-CAS during the National Conference held on May 19, 2017. As many as 12 Regional Workshops have been organized by the Ministry in the months of September and October, 2017, for providing training to Nodal Officers/Master Trainers of all States and UTs. A National Workshop on use of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal for State/UTs Nodal Officer and other functionaries was organized on October 31, 2017, in New Delhi. An on-line training portal has also been made available to the States/UTs for training of field level functionaries by master trainers. The Ministry is also conducting regular Video Conferences to review the status of implementation of the scheme in the States/UTs.

7. The Budget allocation for the financial year 2017-18 under PMMVY was ₹ 2700.00 crore, which was reduced to ₹ 2594.55 crore at RE stage. Out of this, ₹ 2048.25 crore has been sanctioned/released to all 36 States/UTs during 2017-18.
8. So far, 47,70,529 applications have been received from 26,87,803 beneficiaries of 33 States/UTs on PMMVY-CAS (as on May 4, 2018). The maternity benefit amounting to ₹ 4,40,57,62,000 has been released to 17,43,754 beneficiaries.

9. The Schemes has been mandated to use LGD (Local Government Directory) Code to identify the location of the beneficiary. This required entry of fresh data for all the villages, Anganwadi/ASHA/ANM workers and their supervisory officers. As on date, more than 90% field functionaries have been mapped and uploaded on PMMVY-CAS from 717 districts of all States/UTs.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)
Achievements under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

Census 2011 showed significant declining trend in Child Sex Ratio (CSR), with 918 girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years. The unabated decline in CSR since 1961 (from 976 in 1961 to 927 in 2001 and 918 in 2011) was a matter of grave concern as it reflected the low status of women in our society and indicated her disempowerment over a life-cycle continuum. Declining CSR is also indicative of pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender-biased sex selection and post-birth discrimination against girls (in terms of health care, nutrition and educational opportunities).

In this scenario, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on 22nd January, 2015, as one of the flagship programmes of the Government, to address the declining Child Sex Ratio and related issues of empowerment of women on a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial, convergent effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development with a focus on awareness and advocacy campaign for changing mindsets, multi-sectoral action in selected 100 districts (1st Phase) + 61 districts (2nd Phase) (now on CSR), enabling girls’ education and effective enforcement of Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act.

The Hon’ble Prime Minister officially announced the expansion of BBBP Scheme covering all 640 districts as per census 2011 on March 8, 2018, at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, through Multi-Sectoral intervention and Alert District Media & Advocacy in 465 districts and Alert District Media, Advocacy and Outreach in 235 districts. The scheme is being administered through District appropriate authority and funds are directly being transferred to Districts concerned.

Objectives of the Scheme:

a) Preventing gender biased sex selective elimination;

b) Ensuring survival and protection of the girl child;

c) Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
The monitorable targets under the BBBP Scheme are as under:

i. Improve the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in selected gender critical districts by 2 points in a year.
ii. 1.5% increase per year of Institutional Deliveries.
iii. 1% increase per year of 1st Trimester ANC Registration.
iv. Increase enrolment of girls in secondary education to 82% by 2018-19.

v. Provide functional toilet for girls in every school in selected districts.

vi. Improve the Nutrition status of girls - by reducing number of underweight and anemic girls under 5 years of age.

vii. Ensure universalization of ICDS, girls’ attendance and equal care monitored, using joint ICDS

viii. NHM Mother Child Protection Cards.

ix. Promote a protective environment for Girl Children through implementation of Protection of


xi. Train Elected Representatives / Grassroot functionaries as Community.

Major components

The initiative has two major components:

(i) Advocacy and Media Communication Campaign - Under the scheme, a nationwide

(i) Multi Sectoral interventions in selected 405 districts (including existing 161 districts) covering all

(ii) States/UTs will focus on schematic intervention and sectoral actions in consultation with M/o

(iii) H&FW & M/o HRD. Measurable outcomes and indicators will bring together concerned sectors,

(iv) states and districts for urgent concerted multi-sectoral action to improve CSR. A flexible framework

(v) for multi-sectoral action will be adopted and contextualized by State Task Forces for developing,

(vi) implementing and monitoring State/District Plans of Action to achieve the State Specific

(vii) Monitorable Targets. State/Districts will similarly develop their plans responsive to different

(viii) State/District contexts.

A National Conference on BBBP was organized on May 4, 2018, for newly selected 244 districts. The

conference focused on multi-sectoral activities under BBBP for orientation and sensitization to ensure its

effective implementation in these districts. Apart from this, a video conference was organized with the

newly selected districts.
One Stop Centre - Sakhi
Single window services for women facing violence

Women facing violence have to often navigate complex systems to access justice such as registering FIRs, engaging lawyers, undergoing medical examination etc. This, coupled with psychological trauma and social stigma, makes the journey of women after the violent incident often just as traumatic. It is thus common for many women to face violence but not report it.

In order to assist such women, an innovative initiative to establish One Stop Centres (OSCs) was conceived by the Ministry and is being implemented across the country since 2015. In a One Stop Centre, a woman who has faced violence can get medical, police, legal and psychological counselling assistance all under one roof. The OSC, popularly known by the name of Sakhi, also has a place for women to stay temporarily in case their condition so warrants.

So far, 182 such OSCs have been set up across 33 States/UTs. Together, they have provided assistance to over 1.5 lakh women. One OSC will be set up in every district of the country by 2020 to provide this essential service to women everywhere. OSCs are also being integrated with 181 Women Helpline and other existing helplines to provide best possible access and support to women.
181 - Women Helpline
All India toll-free number for women to access instant help and information

The Women Helpline, a country-wide toll-free number 181, provides 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence. It is being implemented since April 1, 2015, and provides support to women by linking them with appropriate authorities such as police, One Stop Centre, hospital etc. The 181 helpline also provides information about women-related government schemes and programs. 181 is being integrated with the OSCs, and women in need of further assistance are referred here.

So far, this helpline has become operational in 31 States/UTs – Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh (UT), Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Bihar, Punjab, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Haryana, Nagaland, West Bengal, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Manipur and Telangana.

Over 16.5 lakh women have been assisted by the Women Helpline.
Panic Button
Emergency button to access instant help in dangerous situations

The Ministry has been vigorously pursuing the provision of Panic Button on all mobile phones to provide emergency response to women in distress. In an internationally unprecedented step, it has been made mandatory to install physical Panic Button in mobile phones. Further, through a notification of Ministry of Communication, it has been made mandatory that from January 1, 2018, no smart phones handset manufacturing company shall sell new smart mobile phone handset in India without the facility of identifying the location through Satellite based GPS.

The facility of Panic Button is able to send a signal to the nearest PCR and selected family/friends identifying the location through satellite based GPS in an emergency situation. This is further being integrated with 112 number - Emergency Response Support System, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The first phase of user testing of Panic Button has been completed in Uttar Pradesh and thereafter it will be replicated across the country rapidly.

Projects for Women’s Safety
Diverse projects under Nirbhaya Fund to improve women’s safety

Government of India had set up a dedicated and non-lapsable fund called Nirbhaya Fund in 2013, for the implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country. However, this was never utilised to its full potential. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal authority for appraisal of the schemes/proposals received under Nirbhaya Fund.

Under the Nirbhaya Fund an amount of ₹ 3600 crore has been allocated up to 2018-19. However, after thorough restructuring of the way the Fund was being deployed, approximately ₹ 6052 crore has been appraised so far for a number of different projects across the country. Over the next few years, the utilization of this deployment will bring enormous changes in the safety aspect of women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Appraised Amount (Cr.)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>663.67 Cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bengaluru</td>
<td>667.00 Cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>425.06 Cr.</td>
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<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>282.50 Cr.</td>
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<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>252.00 Cr.</td>
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<td>Lucknow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ahmedabad</td>
<td>253.00 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>181.32 Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,919.55 crores</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Safe City Project in 8 cities
Under the ‘Safe City Project’, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has recently appraised projects worth ₹ 2,919.55 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund for eight major cities.

The plans for these city-level projects have been prepared in coordination with Municipal Corporations and Police Commissionerates of the cities. The objective is to make the cities safer for women by addressing different aspects such as street lighting, safer public transport, improved policing, etc.

b. Central Forensic Science Lab, Chandigarh
A project worth ₹ 99.76 cr for a model Central Forensic Science Lab has recently been appraised under the Nirbhaya Fund to be set up at Chandigarh. This involves upgrading the Chandigarh lab with advanced infrastructure and equipment. The new proposal is estimated to increase the capacity of CFSL, Chandigarh, from current 153 cases per year to 2000 cases per year. This will contribute immensely to address the gap of forensic DNA analysis of pending sexual assault cases in the country, particularly in the Northern Region having highest pendency.
c. Integrated Emergency Response Management
The Integrated Emergency Response Management project is being run by Railways. Under this, CCTV's and monitoring rooms are being installed at 983 major Railway Stations to provide 24x7 security to women passengers at stations and in trains.

Safety in Railways
Integrated Emergency Response Management including CCTV's and monitoring rooms in 983 major Railway Stations for 24x7 security to women passengers at stations and in trains

d. Central Victim Compensation Fund
A Central Victim Compensation Fund has been created under Nirbhaya, which is a corpus fund to support States/UTs for their Victim Compensation Scheme. This is helping ensure adequate and timely support for women survivors of crime and violence.

e. Mahila Police Volunteers
The mandate of Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs) is to report to authorities/police the incidence of violence against women such as domestic violence, child marriage, dowry harassment and violence faced by women in public spaces.

Haryana was the first state to operationalise the Mahila Police Volunteer scheme. It was launched jointly by the WCD Ministry and Haryana Government at Karnal on December 14, 2016 for the districts of Karnal and Mahendragarh. Since then, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh have also started implementing the scheme. So far, about 6000 MPVs have been appointed. Other states are expected to follow soon.

f. Chirali Project by Govt. of Rajasthan
The Rajasthan government has a project titled ‘Chirali’ which is building a safe environment for girls and women to move freely and make use of choices, spaces and opportunities in 7 districts of the State.

g. Abhaya Project by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
Andhra Pradesh government is implementing the Abhaya Project for safety of women which has an integrated system for real-time intervention for safety of women in taxis and autos.

h. Project for safety in public transport by Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
Uttar Pradesh government is running a project for women’s safety in public transport which involves engagement of women conductors, guards and electronic surveillance (GPS, CCTV, Panic buttons, etc.).
1. Project for women’s safety in public transport by Govt. of Karnataka.
   The government of Karnataka is implementing a women’s safety initiative in their public transport. They are training women for Heavy Passenger Vehicle licenses, establishing women’s lounges at important railway stations and conducting a campaign on women & safety.

33% Reservation for Women in Police Force

Making the police more women-friendly

The Ministry has been working along with the Ministry of Home Affairs to improve overall police responsiveness to gender sensitive cases and to bring visibility to more women in the police force. Accordingly, an Advisory has been issued to all State Governments to increase representation of women in police to 33% of the total strength.

As a result, reservation has been extended in 10 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and 7 UTs namely Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, NCT Delhi, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Further, 5 states viz. Assam, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttarakhand have extended 30% reservation.

The increased number of women in the police force are likely not only to fill vacancies and recognize the importance of women in policing, but also to make the police force more women-friendly. This will make it easier for women to approach the police.

Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK)

Reaching rural women by supporting district administrations & mobilising student volunteers.

Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme has been launched to provide convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition.

At the village level, community services will be provided through engagement of 3 lakh Student Volunteers in 115 most backward districts over a period of 3 years with 8 blocks per district under the supervision and guidance of Block level Committee (BLC). At the district level, new District Level Centre for Women (DLCW) are being set up in 640 districts in a phased manner. These centres will serve as a link between village, block and state level in facilitating women centric schemes—for the first time ever.

Safe use of Matrimonial Websites

Guidelines to stop misuse of matrimonial websites and make them safer for women

In view of the increasing number of crimes committed against women on account of information shared on matrimonial websites, it was decided in consultation with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Home Affairs and service providers to put in place a regulatory framework to check misuse.

Based on extensive stakeholders consultation initiated by WCD Ministry, an advisory on functioning of Matrimonial Website was issued by MeitY on 6th June, 2016 which provides better protection to women users on such portals.
NRI Matrimonial Disputes
Providing support to women facing problems in their marriage to NRIs

Due to increase in Indian Diaspora and consequent overseas marriages, women whether residing in India or abroad, are facing issues related to desertion, domestic violence, ex-parte divorce and custody of children, etc. As the issues involve inter-country jurisdiction, women engaged in such cases face legal hurdles due to lack of information regarding procedures when the other party is residing abroad.

MWCD has constituted an Integrated Nodal Agency (INA) with membership of MEA, MHA, NCW and Ministry of Law and Justice. The INA meets regularly to discuss issues related to NRI matrimonial disputes and chart the way forward. As per the recommendation of NCW and the decision taken in the INA, Look-Out Circulars (LoC) are issued as per criteria defined by MHA, for keeping a watch on arrival/departure of NRI husbands and preventing them from leaving India.

An online portal is also developed to maintain records of all NRI marriages in India. MWCD and MEA are taking steps to provide women all possible assistance in NRI marriages.

Gender Champions
Making role models of children to take the lead on gender equality

The initiative of Gender Champions is being implemented through educational institutions for sensitizing young students and for creating awareness on laws, legislations, legal rights and life skills education. The Gender Champion Guidelines developed by WCD Ministry are being operationalised in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

A Training Module for Gender Champions has been developed for adoption by educational institutes. As per report of the UGC, 150 Universities and 230 colleges have initiated implementation of Gender Champions.

Mandatory Mention of Widows’ Name on Death Certificates
Ensuring widowed women can access their rights

To ensure that a widow is facilitated to get all her entitlements after the death of her husband, MWCD is working with the office of Registrar General of India as well as the State Governments to ensure that the name of the widow is compulsorily mentioned in the death certificate of her husband.

Shelter Home for Widows, at Vrindavan, UP
Working for Widows in India

A home for Widows has been constructed on 1.424 hectare of land at an estimated cost of 57.48 Crore (including cost of the land) at Surakh Bangar, Vrindavan, Distt. Mathura with a capacity to house 1000 widows to provide them a safe and secure place to stay, health services, nutritious food, legal and counselling services. The design of the Home has been prepared in consultation with HelpAge India and is old-age friendly. The Home consists of ground plus three floors with the facilities of ramp, lifts and supply of adequate electricity, water and other amenities for meeting the requirements of elderly widows and widows with special challenges.

The fully-furnished 1000-bedded facility at Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh
Training for elected women representatives
Equipping women leaders in Panchayats

MWCD has taken up the training of elected women representatives (EWRs) in panchayats to empower them to govern their villages effectively and develop into grassroot changemakers. So far, 18,578 EWRs have been trained across the country. The programme aims at improving the leadership qualities and management skills of EWRs for better implementation of various schemes, impart knowledge on important legislations and monitor asset creation and public works.

Extending Maternity Leave duration
MWCD spearheaded the initiative ensuring extension of Maternity Leave duration

The WCD Ministry recommended extending the maternity leave period for working women to seven months to enable them to provide exclusive breastfeeding to children for six months after child birth and complementary foods thereafter to help reduce incidence of malnutrition. Ministry of Labour & Employment considered and carried out suitable amendments in the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 which are as follows:

1. Enhancement of maternity leave under Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
2. Extension of maternity benefit to adopting mothers and commissioning mothers.
3. Establishment of creche facility within the office/factory premises.

The Bill has been passed by both Houses of Parliament and has become the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017.

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace
Making workplaces safer for women

To ensure safety and security of women at workplaces, the Ministry is working towards the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

The Ministry has published a Handbook on the Sexual Harassment Act with the objective to provide information about the provisions of the Act in an easy-to-use practical manner. The same has been displayed on the website of the Ministry, SHe-Box portal and NARI portal. Advisories have been issued from time to time to the Ministries/Departments in Government of India to ensure compliance to the Act.

Leading business organisations, i.e. ASSOCHAM, FICCI, Confederation of Indian Society, Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI), and NASSCOM, have been requested to ensure effective implementation of the Act amongst their members in private sector entities.

The Ministry has empanelled institutions/organisations equipped to conduct training programmes/workshops on the SH Act. WCD recently expanded the pool of empanelled institutes

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT THE WORKPLACE ACT, 2013

It applies to all organised and unorganised work spaces, including domestic work and educational institutions

SHe-Box portal launched for all women employees in the country to file online complaints

112 training institutions empanelled to equip employees and employers to deal with the issue better
to a total 112 organisations to conduct training programmes and workshops on SH Act. Regular reports of capacity building programmes conducted by them are being received.

To build awareness around the Act, Government of India has undertaken a massive publicity campaign through Electronic Media platform which includes Television (through empanelled private channels and Doordarshan), Digital Cinemas (PVR, UFO, INOX, BIG etc) and Radio in Hindi and 10 Regional languages (Bengali, English, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Telugu, Punjabi & Assamese).

The Ministry, in collaboration with Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM), New Delhi, has prepared a Training Module to build the capacities of government officials on the provisions of the SH Act and develop in them professional competence to implement the same. Private organizations are also encouraged to customize the Module as per their extant service rules and disciplinary procedures prescribed therein.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh
Provision of micro-credit to poor women

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and a micro-finance organisation established in 1993.

The main objective of RMK is to provide micro-credit to poor women through Intermediary Micro-financing Organisation (IMO), which includes Sec 25 Companies & NGOs among others, for various livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic development.

RMK has made a cumulative sanction of ₹ 366.77 crore and disbursement of ₹ 304.10 crore to more than 7.37 lakh poor women beneficiaries through a network of over 1,522 NGOs/IMOs.

The target beneficiaries are entrepreneurs undertaking different economic activities ranging from traditional and modern handcraft to small business such as petty shops, etc. The loans are sanctioned through various schemes of RMK viz., Main Loan Scheme, Loan Promotion Scheme, etc.

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www.rmk.nic.in
Mahila e-Haat

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched “Mahila e-Haat”, a unique direct online digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs/SHGs/NGOs in March 2016. The URL is http://mahilaehaat-rmk.gov.in.

Mahila e-Haat facilitates direct contact between the vendor and buyer and can be easily accessed as the entire business of e-Haat can be handled through a mobile.

Women entrepreneurs/SHGs/NGOs from 29 states are showcasing around 4,500 products/services impacting over 31,500 women entrepreneurs/SHGs/NGOs and over 5 lakh beneficiaries directly and indirectly.

An MoU has been signed with Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM), Maharashtra, for collaboration and to showcase the products and services of their Women entrepreneurs/SHGs/NGOs on Mahila e-Haat.

There are 18 categories of products displayed on the portal viz., Clothing (men, women & children), bags, fashion accessories/jewellery, decorative and gift items, home décor, carpets/rug /foot mats, baskets, linen/cushion covers, boxes, pottery, grocery & staples/organic natural products, file folders, industrial products, educational aids, soft toys, miscellaneous.

Women from North-Eastern Region and far-flung areas have also been able to sell their unique products through the portal.

www.mahilaehaat-rmk.gov.in

Women of India Exhibitions/Festivals

Celebrating women entrepreneurs

Women of India Festivals are being held to provide a platform to women entrepreneurs and farmers, especially from rural India, giving them an opportunity to exhibit and sell their products. Such festivals empower women through knowledge sharing and creating entrepreneurial opportunities to make societal balance through financial inclusion.

(i) Women of India Festival, Dilli Haat, New Delhi – 1st to 15th October, 2017:

To celebrate the spirit of womanhood and to spread awareness regarding the Organic Food Movement in India, Women of India Exhibition 2017 was organized from 1st to 15th October, 2017, at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi. The theme of the Exhibition was “Organic Products by Women” and it aimed to showcase support and encourage women entrepreneurs in India, especially from rural areas so that more women were given the opportunity to exhibit their exquisite products and be gainfully employed. The purpose of this exhibition was to spearhead awareness in the community about the benefits of organic products. This promotional event was successful in creating a holistic ambience for developing a sustainable business modality for women entrepreneurs.

Over 530 women farmers and entrepreneurs from 25 States of India and from the remotest parts of the country travelled to Delhi and sold their unique wares.

Horrible Minister Shri. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi inaugurating the Women of India Organic Festival 2017 in the presence of Horrible MoS Dr. Virendra Kumar and Ministry officials, at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.

Horrible Minister, Brand Ambassador
Ms. Jui Chauva, celebrites and Ministry officials at the launch of Women of India Festival 2017, in Mumbai.
(ii) Satwik Food Festival, 2017—23rd to 25th December, 2017:

Ministry of Women and Child Development participated in the Satwik Food Festival, 2017, with the aim to empower women through knowledge sharing and creating entrepreneurial opportunities to make a societal balance without compromising on their basic needs. Many tribal and rural communities from different parts of the country got a chance to exhibit their culinary skills. Women showcased their knowledge, cooking and business skills as an entrepreneur through this platform.

(ii) Women of India Festival, Mumbai 2018—16th to 20th March, 2018:

The Women of India Organic Festival, 2018, was held in Mumbai for the first time from 16th to 20th March, 2018. The exhibition had approximately 300 participants from 20 states who exhibited a variety of edible and non-edible organic produce.

National Policy for Women, 2017
Framework to set the course for gender equality

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared the draft National Policy for Women, 2017 after considering suggestions/comments received from stakeholders. The draft envisions a society in which women attain their full potential and are able to participate as equal partners in all spheres of life. Draft Policy envisages that existing legislations affecting/existing to women will be harmonized in accordance with Constitutional provisions and international commitments, in order to enhance their effectiveness. It has taken into consideration multi-stakeholder feedback. Over 15,000 crowd-sourced ideas have been considered as part of the policy formulation process.

Amendment in Passport Rules
Easier passport procedures for single women

Passport rules amended so either mother or father’s name can be provided in application form. Women need not depend on their husbands for applications now as they do not have to provide certificate of marriage/divorce during application. This has simplified processes for single mothers.

Legislation on Trafficking
Introduction of Anti-human trafficking Act in Parliament

Ministry of Women and Child Development has drafted a comprehensive legislation on Trafficking - "Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018" with a view to fill the existing gaps and cover all aspects of trafficking by including various offences pertaining to trafficking prevention, protection and rehabilitation of victims. The draft Bill also proposes to tackle trafficking by creating a strong legal, economic and social environment for the victims by putting in place dedicated institutional mechanisms at District, State and National level.

The Ministry has conceptualized, after extensive stakeholder consultations, a comprehensive Bill on Trafficking which clearly outlines and differentiates between Regulatory and Rehabilitation aspects. The Bill is under consideration.
Inclusion of Acid Attack as disability in Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

Taking Action for Acid Attack victims

Taking note of the long-lasting damage or disfigurement on the life of a person attacked with acid as well as constant medical attention, MWCD requested Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to include acid attack induced damage or disfigurement within the list of specified disabilities. The recently enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 notified on 27th December, 2016, has included acid attack as a kind of disability. Acid attack victims can now avail disability benefits.
Hostel/running hostel in rented premises. For NE and Himalayan States, the ratio will be 65:10:25.

Since its inception in 1972-73, 958 hostels have been sanctioned under the scheme of Working Women Hostel all over the country. The Ministry provides financial support to proposals for establishing such hostels by NGOs or State Governments. The proposals are approved and supported as and when they are submitted to the Ministry. During the last three years and the current year, 69 new proposals have been received under the Scheme and 54 new hostels have been sanctioned. The Scheme has been revised. With the revision of the funding pattern of the Scheme, the grant under the scheme will be released directly to the State Governments/UT Administrations.

**SHe-Box**

Online reporting of sexual harassment at the workplace

An online complaint management system titled the Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box) has been developed for online registration of complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace. SHe-Box is an effort of Govt to provide a single window access to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector, to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment. Once a complaint is submitted to the SHe-Box, it will be directly sent to the concerned authority having jurisdiction to take action into the matter. Through this portal, Ministry of Women and Child Development as well as complainant can monitor the progress of inquiry conducted by the ICC/LCC.

**New Taxi Policy Guidelines**

Stricter guidelines to make taxi travel safer for women

New taxi policy guidelines for improved women safety have been brought out with better safety measures for women such as mandatory GPS panic devices in all taxis, disabling of child-locking system, prominent display of driver’s identification with photo and registration number of the vehicle, sharing of seat to be subject to willingness of female passengers, etc.

**Cab Safety Measures**

- Mandatory GPS panic device in all taxis
- Disabling of child-locking system
- Prominent display of driver’s identification with photo and registration number of the vehicle
- Sharing of seat to be subject to willingness of female passengers, etc.

**Cyber Crime**

Making cyber space safer for women and children

The digital space is increasingly being used to perpetuate violence against women. A number of steps have been taken to better respond to this. Suggestions of WCD to ease the process of dealing with cyber crime against women have been received well. Hon’ble Supreme Court has also taken cognizance of these. Central Reporting Mechanism is being created to work as a hotline for anyone to report cyber crime. Easier processes to be put in place to remove Child Pornography, Rape and Gang Rape imagery, etc. Increased awareness is being promoted among public and authorities to better prevent and deal with cyber crime.
Child Marriage

Preventing the marriage of children across the country

The Government of India has enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 in order to prohibit child marriages rather than only restraining them. The States/UTs from time to time are being regularly pursued for effective implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. MWCD regularly sends out letters to District Collectors to increase alertness to prevent underage marriages during festivals such as Akshaya Tritiya/Akhha Toje. The prevention of child marriage and protection of the girl child is a prominent part of the National Plan of Action for Children, 2016.

MWCD has taken up the issue for dichotomy between IPC Section 375 and the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012 with the Ministry of Home Affairs. As the provision of POCSO, 2012 has an overriding effect on IPC, all sexual relations within a child marriage can be prosecuted as aggravated penetrative sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault. Consequently, in a recent success, the Supreme Court, on 11th October 2017, criminalised sex between a man and his underage wife, provided the woman files a complaint within a year in the said PIL (Independent Thought v. Union of India).

MWCD has also moved an amendment to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 so as to make child marriages invalid in law. Child marriages are currently voidable at the option of the minor contracting party, rather than being automatically void.

The practice of Child Marriages is largely due to the prevailing social customs, tradition, illiteracy, poverty, low status of women in society and lack of awareness. These issues cannot be tackled by legislative interventions alone. The Bet Bachao Bet Padhao (BBBP) programme is working to ensure the education of girls and reduce dropouts, thus delaying their marriage. A significant part of the BBBP advocacy campaign is focused on creating awareness on and discouraging the practice of child marriage. Further, the newly formulated Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) scheme will focus on creating awareness and equipping women at the village level with information on issues of gender equality and empowerment, a critical part of which will be the prevention of child marriage.

NARI

An online National Repository of Information for Women

The NARI Portal – National Repository of Information for Women has been developed by the Ministry to provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women. It can be viewed at www.nari.nic.in. The government – both Central and State – has implemented a number of schemes and legislations for women to provide them equal rights, economic opportunities, social support, legal aid, housing, etc. In order to make this information more easily accessible in one place, the NARI portal summarizes over 350 Government schemes and other important information for the benefit of women, with more being added every day. It provides links to the Ministries, Departments and autonomous bodies offering these schemes as well as to online applications and grievance redressal. NARI also provides essential information for women on subjects such as employment, health, safety, adoption, savings and investments etc.

www.nari.nic.in
Smart India Hackathon
Engaging student energies to solve governance problems

The Ministry has participated in the Smart India Hackathon 2018, which harnesses creativity and technical abilities of students to crowdsource solutions for improving governance and quality of life, and providing an opportunity to citizens to provide innovative solutions to India’s problems. A total number of 46 student teams participated in the event, with 36 teams focussing on the problem statements of MWCD. 10 teams were recognised and will be working with MWCD to implement the selected solutions.

Public Grievance Cell
Responding to complaints directly from citizens

This gives women and children citizens a way to send their grievances online directly to the government. The cell has processed 18,000 complaints in one year since its inception. Complaints are received via email at min.wcd@nic.in

eSanvad
Opening up interaction with NGOs and citizens

NGO eSanvad is a portal started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to provide a platform to interact with NGOs, civil society and concerned citizens. This is a way for the Ministry to receive input on its schemes and programmes. Individuals and organisations can register themselves here to share their feedback, suggestions, best practices, grievances etc. with the Ministry. All inputs will be examined by the Ministry, and queries/complaints will be appropriately responded to. It can be accessed at www.esanvad.nic.in

First Ladies Event
Felicitation of Women Achievers

Ministry WCD felicitated women who were the first to set a milestone in their respective fields, at a first-of-its-kind event — ‘First Ladies’, on 20th January, 2018. As many as 112 women, who were selected after an extensive research process were honoured by the Hon’ble President of India, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. ‘First Ladies’ was an exclusive event to felicitate women like the first woman cardiologist, the first woman judge, the first woman porter, the first woman to head a missile project, the first para-trooper, the first Olympian, among others. A Coffee Table Book — ‘First Ladies’ encompassing the stellar achievements of the 112 women was also released by Hon’ble Minister Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi along with Hon’ble Union Ministers Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Smt. Anupriya Patel. In his monthly programme Mann Ki Baat, Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made a special mention of the book and the same has been uploaded on the official website www.narendramodi.in (NM Library).

Smt. Ram Nath Kovind, Hon’ble President of India and Hon’ble WCD Minister Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi with Women Achievers during the First Ladies felicitation ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
CHILDREN’S ISSUES

Steps taken on Missing/Trafficked/Runaway Children
Measures taken by MWCD to ensure safety of children

i) Khoya-Paya Portal: In order to bring citizen participation for protecting children, a citizen based portal i.e. Khoya Paya was launched in June, 2015, which enables posting of information of missing or sighted children. It also provides facility for matching the two databases. More than 8746 users have registered on the Portal (as on 36th March, 2018) and nearly 10,447 cases of missing/sighted children have been published on the portal.

![Image](https://example.com/image1)

![Image](https://example.com/image2)

![Image](https://example.com/image3)

ii) MOU with Railways: The Ministry of WCD has framed path-breaking Special Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be implemented with the help of Railways for rescue and rehabilitation of runaway, abandoned,

www.khoypsara.gov.in

![Image](https://example.com/image4)

**10,477**

Case of missing/sighted children addressed between 2015 - 2018

Khoya Paya is a citizen-based website to exchange information on missing children
POCSO e-Box
Ensuring protection of children from sexual abuse

POCSO e-Box for Children who have suffered sexual abuse: Children are often unable to complain about sexual abuse. In order to provide them with a safe and anonymous mode of making a complaint, an internet-based facility, POCSO e-Box, has been provided at NCPCR website where the child or anyone on his/her behalf can file a complaint with minimal details. As soon as the complaint is filed, a trained counsellor immediately contacts the child and provides assistance to the child. The counsellor also registers a formal complaint on behalf of the child wherever warranted. Since the inception of POCSO e-Box in August 2016, around 1100 hits were made on this facility.

1100 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED &Handled

Safe and Anonymous
Trained Counsellors
Immediate Help

India’s 1st online complaint box to tackle Child Sexual Abuse

CHILDLINE 1098 is a national, 24 hour, free, emergency telephone helpline and outreach service for children in need of care and protection.
Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016

Landmark modification of JJ Act

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 (JJ Model Rules, 2016), have been notified and published in the Gazette of India, thereby repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2007, on September 21, 2016. The JJ Model Rules, 2016, are based on the philosophy that children need to be reformed and reintegrated into society. The Rules are appreciative of developmental needs of children and therefore the best interest of the child is the primary consideration. Child friendly procedures are incorporated across the board.

The JJ Model Rules, 2016, prescribe detailed child friendly procedures for the Police, Juvenile Justice Board and Children's Court. Some of these procedures include: no child to be sent to jail or lock-up, child not to be handcuffed, child to be provided appropriate medical assistance, parent/guardian to be informed about legal aid etc. The Juvenile Justice Board and the Children's Court are required to put the child at ease and to encourage him/her to state the facts and circumstances without any fear, after understanding the questions put up across in a language understood by the child.

Various new forms have been added in the JJ Model Rules, 2016 to revise the progress of children in Juvenile Justice System and to ensure adequate rehabilitation and restoration services for them. Some of the new forms included in JJ Model Rules, 2016 are Case Monitoring Sheet, detailed individual Child Care Plan, application for registration of Child Care Institutions, certificate for registration, quarterly report by Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Committee, etc. Further, monitoring provisions have been strengthened.

Comprehensive Adoption Reforms

Reforming the process of Adoption in the country

- Government has notified Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and Chapter VIII of the Act provides for adoption of orphaned & surrendered children and also adoption of children by relative.
- The Act has adequate safeguards for the children to ensure their best interest and it provides for reporting of all adoptions in the country including relative adoptions.
- Further, all adoptions under the Act have to proceed as per the Adoption Regulations framed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority and notified by Government of India.
- Central Adoption Resource Agency has been reconstituted as Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) under this Act.
- Legal adoption through CARA and CARINGS only.
- Program activities of CARA include: SAA-CGI linkage, promotion of placement of Special Needs children, immediate placement module for Hard to Place Children, counselling center, training and development.

Adoption Regulations have been notified by the Government of India on January 4, 2017, and is effective from January 16, 2017, in exercise of powers conferred by Clause (C) of Section 68 read with Clause (3) of Section 2 of the JJ Act, 2015, and in supersession of Guidelines Governing Adoption of Children, 2015.

i. Registering online with Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is mandatory to adopt a child from anywhere in India.
ii. Central Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS) is the only official portal of CARA for legal adoption process.
iii. Under section 80 & 81 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, any person or agency who indulges in illegal adoption shall be punished.

www.cara.nic.in
iv. By adopting a child illegally, you may unintentionally become part of a child trafficking network.

v. Adoption is a socio-legal process and there is no role of touts/middlemen in adoption, as they may mislead you to adopt a child illegally.

vi. The Adoption Regulations contain the provisions for in-country and inter-country adoptions of OAS (orphan, abandoned & surrendered) children.

vii. Procedures related to adoption by relatives both within the country and abroad have been defined in the Regulations.

viii. Adoption of step-children has been brought in.

ix. There are 32 Schedules annexed to the Regulations including model adoption applications to be filed in the Court and this would considerably address delays prevalent in obtaining the Court order.

x. Adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children have been increased from 3,677 in 2015-16 to 3,786 children in 2016-17.

Awareness generation regarding the safety initiatives for children in difficult circumstances

Ensuring safety of children

It is imperative to make the children aware about the facilities/resources available for them while encountering any difficult situation. The Ministry of Women and Child Development persuaded with Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) to advertise child helpline (1098), POCSO e-Box, punishment for child marriage etc. The child friendly information (such as child helpline 1098, POCSO e-box etc) has been published at the backside of the front cover of NCERT course books.

Cradle Baby Reception Center

For care of the infant

The Ministry has stressed upon the need to place cradles at important locations such as hospitals, PHC, etc. to save the lives of unwanted new born babies and placing them in the adoption net managed by CARA with the intent to rehabilitate them in the familial care.

Celebration of Hausala 2017

Celebration of Child Rights

The Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated the Child Rights Week by hosting an inter-Child Care Institution festival, “Hausala 2017”, for the children who reside in Child Care Institutions, between 16th & 20th November, 2017. The event aimed at inspiring and mainstreaming these children by providing a national platform to showcase their talents. During the week-long celebration, children participated in various events like Bal Sansad, painting competition, athletics meet, football, chess competition and speech writing. More than 400 children from Child Care Institutions across the country participated in the event.

Registration of Child Care Institutions

Ensuring all child care institutions are registered

The JJ Act 2015 under Section 41, provides for mandatory registration of all Child Care Institutions (CIs) across the country. In order to ensure mandatory compliance of the same, a massive registration drive was initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with State Governments and UT administrations. As a result of this drive, during 2017-18, around 7800 Child Care Institutions have been registered under the JJ Act, 2015 as intimated by the States/UTs.
First National Conclave on Psychological Trauma, Child Protection, and Mental Illnesses
Focus on Mental Health
The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, organized a two-day National Conclave on Psychological Trauma, Child Protection and Mental Illness. The objective of the conclave was to create a common platform for professionals to share their focused research on childhood adversities and discuss various issues pertaining to prevention and protection of children from psychological trauma.

National Plan of Action for Children
Envisaging a Better Future for our Children
The Ministry of Women and Child Development has drafted the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) 2016. The NPAC 2016 is based on the principles embedded in the National Policy for Children 2013 (NPC 2013). It was released by Honourable WCD Minister on 24th January, 2017. It takes a sustainable, multi-sectoral, integrated and inclusive approach and focusses on strengthening the capabilities of families and communities through social protection initiatives so that they are able to protect the rights of their children. The plan gives due attention to the inter-relatedness of deprivations and needs, and proposes measures to address each of them, while ensuring that all children from all strata develop to their full potential in a holistic manner. It focuses on convergence and coordination between all stakeholders, i.e. relevant ministries, state/UTs Governments, civil society organisations, media, business houses and children themselves. It also proposes a roadmap to achieve sustainable development goals for children and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework. The Action Plan has four key priority areas—survival, health and nutrition, education and development, protection and participation. For new and emerging issues related to children, it suggests formulation of new programmes and strategies, as required.

National Crèche Scheme
Ensuring Mothers with Infants are Provided Crèche Facility
National Crèche Scheme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through the States/UTs with effect from January 1, 2017, to provide day care facilities to children of working mothers & other deserving women. The fund sharing pattern for all recurring components of the scheme is as below:

(i) For States: 60:30:10 amongst Centre, States & organizations/institutions running the crèches;
(ii) For NER and Himalayan States: 80:10:10 amongst Centre, States & organizations/institutions running the crèches
(iii) For UTs: 90:10 between Centre & organizations/institutions running the crèches

The main components of the Scheme are as under:

• Day-care facilities are provided to the children of age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women who are employed for a minimum period of 15 days in a month or 6 months in a year.

• Facilities to be provided to 25 children in each crèche.

• Flexible timing of crèches. Crèches shall be open for 26 days in a month and for seven and half (7.1/2) hours per day as per the work schedule of majority of the mothers in the area, which may be from 7.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m., 8.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m or 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. If required, arrangements may be made for mothers who have longer working hours with extra payment for additional time at reasonable rates and on mutually agreed basis.

• The scheme provides day care facilities including sleeping facilities, supplementary nutrition, health care inputs like immunization and basic health monitoring, early stimulation for children below 3 years, pre-school education for 3-6 years old children and emergency medicines.
User charges of ₹ 20/- from BPL families, ₹ 100/- from families, whose income (both parents) is up to ₹ 12,000/- per month and ₹ 200/- from families, whose income (both parents) is above ₹ 12,000/- per month. This will ensure better participation of the community and also increase the centres’ resources which can be utilized for welfare of children and upgradation of facilities of crèche.

As on date, 6,568 creches are taken over by the States/UT Govt.

POSHAN Abhiyaan: National Nutrition Mission
Nutrition as a national mandate

To deal with the problem of malnutrition on a war footing, the Government of India has approved setting up of the National Nutrition Mission on November 30, 2017 with a three-year budget of ₹ 9046.17 crores, commencing from 2017-18. POSHAN Abhiyan - National Nutrition Mission aims to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children (0-6 years), adolescent girls and pregnant women & lactating mothers in a time bound manner over a period of three years with the objectives of preventing & reducing under-nutrition in children (0-3 years); reducing the prevalence of anemia among young children (6-59 months); reducing the prevalence of anemia among women and adolescent girls (15-49 years) and reducing low birth weight during the next three years beginning 2017-18 with fixed targets. All the States and districts will be covered in a phased manner i.e. 315 districts in 2017 18, 235 districts in 2018 19 and the remaining districts in 2019-20. The NNM provides for real time IT based monitoring of beneficiaries and service delivery besides bringing grassroots level convergence of interventions of MWCD, MoHFW, MDWS, MoRD & PRIs etc.

Although malnutrition indices have shown a decline as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 in 2015-16 over NFHS (3) in 2005-06, the overall malnutrition scenario still continues to look bleak across the country. In NFHS (4), 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 38.4% are stunted, indicating a reduction from NFHS – 3 which reported 42.5% children under 5 years of age as underweight and 48% stunted. Further, 22.9% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5) which is a decline from NFHS 3 levels which reported 35.5% women having chronic energy deficiency. NNM targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight. Mission would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).

The Mission ensures convergence with various programmes i.e. Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Scheme for Adolescent Girls of WCD Ministry; Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Swachh Bharat Mission of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DW& S); Public Distribution System (PDS) of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (CAFPD); Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) of Ministry of Rural Development (M/o RD); Drinking Water & Toilets with Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Urban Local Bodies through Ministry of Urban Development. Advocacy, Education and Communication would be used by the Mission for promoting nutritional related activities for creating an enabling environment, besides supporting such drives undertaken by various schemes. PRIs would be involved in community mobilization for BCC. Jan Andolan under POSHAN Abhiyaan will focus on converting the agenda of improving nutrition into a Jan Andolan through wide public participation.
Improving Anganwadi Infrastructure
Key focus on anganwadi infrastructure

The Government is committed to repositioning the Anganwadi Centre (AWC) as a “vibrant Early Childhood Development centre” to become the first village outpost for health, nutrition and early learning. To this end, several steps have been taken for improvement and strengthening of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme covering programmatic management and institutional areas.

Intensive efforts are being made for improving the service delivery at Anganwadi Centre. An estimated 4.5 lakh Anganwadi Centres (running in kuccha/rented buildings) at beginning of 2015 have no pucca buildings of their own to locate their activities. Therefore, an urgent need was felt to take up construction of buildings for these Anganwadi Centres. Accordingly, joint guidelines of MoWCD & MoRD for construction of 2 lakh Anganwadi Centre buildings was signed on August 13, 2015, covering IPPE Blocks/High Burden Districts in 11 States. Taking note of the acute shortage of Anganwadi Centre buildings, the revised joint guidelines of MoWCD, MoRD and MoPR was finalized on February 17, 2016, enlarging the scope for construction of 4 lakh Anganwadi Centre buildings by 2019 across the country.

Under the Convergence scheme, during 2015-16, MoWCD approved construction of 29,941 Anganwadi Centres in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana & Uttar Pradesh and funds of ₹ 18,204.62 lakh was released for construction of these AWC buildings. Further, ₹ 101,139 lakh has been released during 2016-17 towards construction of 81,809 AWC buildings. In addition to this, funds of ₹ 3391 lakhs were also released for construction of 2362 AWC buildings under regular scheme. During the year 2017-18, an amount of ₹ 25,774.80 lakh for upgradation of 20,000 AWC buildings, ₹ 5413.79 lakh for construction of 70,000 Toilets in AWCs and ₹ 1323.75 lakh for providing Drinking Water facilities in AWCs were also released to States/UTs.

A private sector company has also joined this initiative, under their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) activities, in construction of 4,000 model AWCs in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

Supplementary Nutrition (under the ICDS Scheme) Rules, 2017
Ensuring a nutritious meal for every child

In pursuance of the provisions contained in the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the Ministry notified the Supplementary Nutrition (under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2017, on 20th February, 2017, to regulate the entitlement specified under provisions of the said Act for every pregnant woman and lactating mother till 6 months after child birth, and every child in the age group of 6 months to 6 years (including those suffering from malnutrition) for 300 days in a year, as per the nutritional standards specified in Schedule II of the said Act. In case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of food-grains or meals to entitled persons, such persons shall be entitled to receive such food security allowance from the State Government concerned, within such time and manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.
ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP)
ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP)

Earlier, MWCD implemented the International Development Association (IDA) assisted ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) in 162 high burden districts of 8 States in the country covering 3.68 lakh Anganwadi Centres to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) policy framework, systems and capacities and facilitate community engagement to ensure greater focus on children under three years of age and to strengthen convergent actions for improved nutrition outcomes. The ISSNIP has been subsumed under POSHAN Abhiyaan (NNM).

Scheme for Adolescent Girls
Empowering Adolescent Girls

Scheme for Adolescent Girls, a Centrally-sponsored scheme, was introduced in the year 2010-11 on a pilot basis in 205 districts. The Government on November 16, 2017, approved continuation of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls for out-of-school adolescent girls of age 11-14 years for a period of one year i.e. up to November 30, 2018. The scheme aims at providing supplementary nutrition containing 600 calories, 18-20 grams of protein and micronutrients per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year, motivating out-of-school girls to go back to formal schooling or skill training under non-nutrition component of the scheme. The cost norms for nutrition under Scheme for Adolescent Girls have been enhanced from the existing rate of ₹ 5/- per beneficiary per day to ₹ 9.50/- per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year.

The Government has also approved the expansion and universalisation of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls in a phased manner, i.e. in additional 305 districts in 2017-18 and the remaining districts in 2018-19 with the simultaneous phasing out of Kishori Shakti Yojana. In 2017-18, the scheme has been extended to additional 303 districts across the country and universalised w.e.f. April 1, 2018. The on-going Kishori Shakti Yojana has been phased in sync with roll out of Scheme for Adolescent Girls.

Against the allocation of ₹ 460 crore for Scheme for Adolescent Girls for 2017-18, ₹ 450.94 have been released to States/UTs benefitting 69.54 lakh adolescent girls (as reported by States/UTs).

The scheme is implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations with the cost shared between Centre and States/Union Territories (with legislations) in the ratio of 50:50 for nutrition and 60:40 for rest of the components. For North-Eastern States and three Himalayan States, the share for Centre and State is in the ratio of 90:10 and 100% of financial assistance will be provided for Union Territories. From the year 2015-16, in view of higher devolution of resources under the Fourteenth Finance Commission awarded to states, the states would need to contribute more as its share under the scheme.
Junk Food Guidelines
Implementation of the guidelines to ensure Junk Food consumption is minimized

Junk Food Guidelines have been developed and forwarded to MEHRD and MoJiFW for implementation. MEHRD has requested all CBSE affiliated schools to follow the Guidelines. MEHRD has been requested to issue an advisory to all the States/UTs accordingly. It has also been suggested in the guidelines that vendors/street vendors should not be permitted to sell these foods during school timings in a vicinity of 200 meters from any school. The guidelines also provide a list of suitable food items to be offered in the school canteen.

Further, MWCD is a member of the Expert group on High Fat, Salt and Sugar (HFSS) constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which is working on the guidelines/recommendations on high fat, salt and sugar.

Major Initiatives of Food and Nutrition Board
Achievements of the Food and Nutrition Board

1. Setting up of new Food Testing Laboratories (PTLs):
   Food & Nutrition Board (FNB) under MWCD is in the process of setting up of 4 Food Testing Laboratories viz. 1 Central Laboratory at Patidabad and 3 Regional Food Testing Laboratories at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata for analyzing the food and nutritional supplements for Food Safety and Quality to ensure Nutritional and Feeding Norms for Supplementary Nutrition in Anganwadi services under Umbrella ICDS Scheme.

2. Food Fortification:
   An initiative of MWCD towards addressing the widely prevalent micronutrient deficiencies in the country. Fortification of food items: Double fortified salt (Iodine and Iron), Wheat Flour (Iron, Folic acid and Vit B12) and edible oil (Vit A and D) are made mandatory under the Government Funded Programmes, i.e., Supplementary Nutrition, Mid Day Meal and Public Distribution System. DO letter No. 23/16/2015-Nutrition Desk dated 10th July, 2017 of Secretary, WCD, was issued to Chief Secretaries of all states to ensure mandatory fortification of food articles used in the administration of SNP of Anganwadi Services under Umbrella ICDS Scheme.

3. Development of AV Creatives on Nutrition:
   In order to create awareness on maternal and child nutrition in the country, FNB has developed the below mentioned Audio Visuals in Hindi and 17 other regional languages:
   (a) Short films:
       - Navjat-Ki-Suraksha
       - Diet during pregnancy
       - Health Care during pregnancy
   (b) Radio spots:
       - Diet during pregnancy
       - Symptoms of Malnutrition
   (c) Jingles on Child Malnutrition:
       - Ek Teri Muskan
       - Bachcho Ka Rahmna Hai Dhyan
       - O Maan O Baba
       - Mann me Basa Khushiyo Ka Gaon

AV on Navjat-ki-Suraksha (looking at lifecycle approach) has been developed for imparting valuable education among expecting mothers, pregnant women. This video has been shared with the line ministries and all States/UTs for wide screening, including district hospitals.
4. MWCD is in the process of drafting Joint Operational Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices (IYCF) in partnership with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and an Operational Guidelines for Prevention of Malnutrition and Community based Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition in Children is under consideration of the committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, MWCD.

Direct Benefit Transfer
Successful linkage of Aadhaar

Government of India has adopted Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) using Aadhaar as the identifier of beneficiaries for delivery of services, benefits or subsidies of various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to individuals as well as groups where money is spent from the Consolidated Fund of India. Use of Aadhaar simplifies the Government delivery process, brings in transparency and efficiency and enables the beneficiaries to get their entitlements directly in their bank accounts in a convenient and seamless manner.

In pursuance of directions of the Government for implementation of DBT in its schemes, MWCD has identified 14 schemes/components for its implementation.

Further, to enable use of Aadhaar as the identifier of beneficiaries, Government of India has promulgated the Aadhaar (targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. Pursuant to this, MWCD has published Notifications vetted by UIDAI and Department of Legal Affairs in the Gazette of India Extraordinary in respect to all 14 DBT onboarded schemes of the Ministry. The list of DBT onboarded schemes and Notifications issued under Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 has been placed in the public domain on the Ministry’s website www.wcd.nic.in.–>DBT.

For implementation of DBT in these schemes/components of the Ministry, all State Governments and UT Administrations are completing essential pre-requisites, namely, digitization of beneficiary database.
and bank accounts, automation of processes and creation of real time MIS, integration of State/UT Payment Portal with Public Financial Management System (PFMS) etc. The Ministry is monitoring progress closely.

Implementation of e-Office
Improving response efficiency and effectiveness

The Ministry has implemented e-Office, which includes File Management System (eFile), Knowledge Management System (KMS), Leave Management System (eLeave), Tour Management System (eTour), Personnel Information Management System (PIMS), Collaboration and Messaging Services (CAMs), to provide a one-stop access point to the information and applications/services in the Ministry and to improve efficiency and effectiveness of Government response. More than 40,000 electronic files (e-Files) have been created till March 2018. This has resulted in the reduction in purchase of stationery items, saved time, cost and office space, increased productivity of staff/officers and transparency. MWCD has been graded as Platinum Ministry by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG) for successful implementation of e-Office. Ministry was also awarded by DARPG on March 14, 2018, for commendable work done in the implementation of e-Office.

First ever Conference of Partner NGOs

The Statistics Bureau of the Ministry organized the first ever day-long Conference of 250 partner NGOs involved in implementation of various schemes of the Ministry on 9th October, 2017, in New Delhi. The Conference sensitized partner NGOs across the country for the implementation of various WCD schemes on women and child welfare effectively based on their past experiences, performance at ground level and also brought suggestions for improved policy formulation. This would help in future nation-building process. A report in this regard has also been brought out for circulation to different stakeholders.

Research
Successful documentation & research

The Bureau has brought out a compendium on Research Studies 2015-17 for the development of innovative programmes and to test the feasibility and efficacy of programmes/policies and services. The compendium will disseminate the findings of the Research Studies to a wider audience. The compendium is being circulated to all concerned.

Internship Programme
Orientation of young students

The Ministry has initiated the Internship Programme to engage and orient young students/scholars with the policies and programmes of the Ministry by offering short-term internship. From this activity, a qualitative exposure is provided to students to the Ministry’s mandate. Since its inception in 2016, a total of 86 students availed the benefits of this programme and 18 interns are currently pursuing the programme.
Engagement on Social Media

Achievements of Social Media work

The Ministry is active on social networking platforms Facebook, Twitter and YouTube with followers numbering in lakhs, and being ranked among the top Ministries of the Government of India for the quantitative and qualitative content and citizen engagement. Social Media is serving as a catalyst to spread awareness among general public on issues concerning women and children, aiding positive attitude and behaviour change. This medium is also being leveraged to disseminate information on the various schemes and programmes of the Government so as to increase citizen engagement.

To engage with netizens, weekly contests are hosted on the social media handles, wherein suggestions are sought on ways to empower and strengthen safety for women and children.

The Ministry’s social media platforms also serve as the nodal point of contact of grievances received online & the cell coordinates the redressal system with the Ministry’s Grievance Redressal Team, NCW & NCPCR through the #HelpMeWCD campaign. These interventions often get significant coverage by media. The Cell ensures that the Ministry is in line with the agenda and advocacy as undertaken by the Prime Minister’s office and the Government of India. The Ministry’s key area of focus has been on ensuring safety and support for women on social media. The Ministry, with effect from July, 2016 has been running a grievance redressal cell which registers and responds to direct complaints via email from women and children across the country. The complaints cell has a dedicated email id, i.e. complaintwcd@gov.in, to report complaints relating to online trolling/harassment.