



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SHAKTI SAMVAD: NCW organises Capacity Building Program for State Women Commissions from across the Country; CM to inaugurate**

**Mumbai, August 21, 2025:** The National Commission for Women (NCW), in convergence with the Maharashtra State Women Commission, is organizing a two-day Capacity Building and Training Program for State Women Commissions (SWCs) on 22nd and 23rd August 2025 at Hotel Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai. The program will bring together Chairpersons, Members, and senior officers of State Women Commissions from across India with the objective of enhancing their institutional capacity to more effectively safeguard women's rights, ensure their welfare, and drive gender equality. The conference is titled "Shakti Samvad."

Speaking at a press conference ahead of the program, Hon'ble Chairperson of NCW, Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar, said: "The Women Commissions are the first responders for women in distress, and their role is crucial in ensuring that the vision of gender equality reaches every corner of India. This program will empower SWCs with sharper tools, deeper knowledge, and stronger strategies – from tackling cyber crimes to addressing mental wellbeing and policy gaps. NCW is committed to building a stronger collective voice for women's institutions to make India safer, fairer, and more empowering for every woman."

The inaugural session will be graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis; the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Ministers, Shri Eknath Shinde and Shri Ajit Pawar; the Hon'ble Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Rahul Narwekar; the Hon'ble Chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, Prof. Ram Shinde; the Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, Smt. Aditi Tatkare; and Ms. Rupali Chakankar, Hon'ble Chairperson of the Maharashtra State Women Commission. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister will also launch a book published by NCW on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) at the Workplace

The program has been structured to address a wide spectrum of policy, legal, social, and technological issues that directly impact women. Day I will feature a high-level panel discussion on challenges and opportunities before SWCs, followed by specialized sessions on Anti-Human Trafficking and the legal age of consent, aimed at strengthening coordination with enforcement

agencies such as the Railways. The session titled “Inner Women” will emphasize a holistic understanding of women’s identity, while another session will review women-centric policy implementation in the context of the Beijing Declaration.

Day II will address futuristic challenges such as Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security, highlighting both opportunities and risks for women in the digital era. Other sessions will reflect on the legacy of the 15 women framers of the Indian Constitution, explore issues of menopause and mental wellbeing, and underscore the social and economic importance of unpaid care work under the theme “Care Matters.” Participants will also be oriented on the new legal frameworks – Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita – with a focus on women’s perspectives.

NCW has also introduced its newly formed Advisory Committee, comprising eminent personalities from diverse fields who have been appointed to advise the Commission in designing strategic interventions for women’s empowerment.

The two-day program will conclude with a collective strategy session to chart the way forward for stronger collaboration between State Women Commissions and NCW, reinforcing their role as key stakeholders in advancing women’s rights and welfare across India.

The last such meeting was held in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, in April 2025.

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