

CWP Template for Reports on Developments in Branches and Regions

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Affirmative Action policies, as they relate to quotas, constitutional, legislative, electoral changes

Political Party Reforms and appointments of women within

Affirmative Action policies, as they relate to quotas, constitutional, legislative, electoral change

The State is empowered to take affirmative action in favour of women under Article 15(3). Article 16 provides for equality of opportunities in matters of public appointments for all citizens.

On the other hand, many States have already made provisions for reserving seats for women in the Local Bodies. **The** 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act provides for reservation of women in Panchayats by reserving not less than one-third seats for them at each tier of the Panchayat. Twenty States namely, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have made provisions for reservation of fifty per cent of total seats for women in Panchayats at all levels in their respective States.

In 2023, Parliament of India passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, “Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam”, marking a historic milestone in its national journey to foster equitable representation of women in public life at all levels of the federal structure. This landmark legislation rotationally reserves one-third of all seats for women in the Lower House of Parliament, Lok Sabha, and in all State Legislative Assemblies, including Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi, thus institutionalizing representation of women in politics at the highest levels of public decision-making.

V. Political Party Reforms and appointments of women within the Party Structures

The issue of representation of women in political parties is deliberated from time to time. So far, there has not been any provision to fix the number of women in political parties.

Women Legislators in States and Union Territory Legislatures

Sl. No.	Name of the State / Union Territory	Legislatures	Number of Women Legislators	Total Strength of the Legislature
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Legislative Assembly	14	175
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Legislative Assembly	04	60
3.	Assam	Legislative Assembly	06	126
4.	Bihar	Legislative Assembly	26	244
		Legislative Council	04	75
5.	Chhattisgarh	Legislative Assembly	16	91
6.	Goa	Legislative Assembly	03	40

	7.	Gujarat	Legislative Assembly	15	183
	8.	Haryana	Legislative Assembly	09	90
	9.	Himachal Pradesh	Legislative Assembly	01	68
	10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Legislative Assembly	03	89
	11.	Jharkhand	Legislative Assembly	15	82
	12.	Karnataka	Legislative Assembly	10	229
			Legislative Council	02	75
	13.	Kerala	Legislative Assembly	14	141
	14.	Madhya Pradesh	Legislative Assembly	36	231
	15.	Maharashtra	Legislative Assembly	22	289
	16.	Manipur	Legislative Assembly	05	60
	17.	Meghalaya	Legislative Assembly	04	60
	18.	Mizoram	Legislative Assembly	03	40
	19.	Nagaland	Legislative Assembly	02	60
	20.	Odisha	Legislative Assembly	17	147
	21.	Punjab	Legislative Assembly	14	117
	22.	Rajasthan	Legislative Assembly	24	200
	23.	Sikkim	Legislative Assembly	04	32
	24.	Tamil Nadu	Legislative Assembly	18	235
	25.	Telangana	Legislative Assembly	09	120
			Legislative Council	02	40
	26.	Tripura	Legislative Assembly	08	60
	27.	Uttar Pradesh	Legislative Assembly	47	404
			Legislative Council	05	100
	28.	Uttarakhand	Legislative Assembly	09	71
	29.	West Bengal	Legislative Assembly	44	295
	30.	Delhi (NCT)	Legislative Assembly	05	70
	31.	Puducherry (UT)	Legislative Assembly	01	33
2. Information on elections that were held this year		In 2025, India saw state and Union Territory (UT) assembly elections held in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan. These elections were significant for their impact on regional politics and governance.			
Including:					
Data on women Members that won and/or lost seats or appointed to new positions		Women's participation in these elections was notable, with increasing numbers of women candidates contesting across major political parties. In the Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections, out of 224 seats, 34 women candidates contested, and 9 were successfully elected, marking a slightly higher representation than in previous years. In Madhya Pradesh, 28 women contested, with 5 securing seats. Similarly, in Chhattisgarh, 21 women ran for office, and 4 were elected, while in Rajasthan, 32 women stood for election, with 8 winning their respective seats.			
3. Status of the CWP in regional constitutions					

Including: Updates in Regional Constitutional changes and/or challenges where applicable	According to Article 5(i) of the Constitution for the Steering Committee of Women Parliamentarians of India Region of CPA “Chairperson of the Committee shall be a representative from India on the CWP Steering Committee (International) and <i>ex-officio</i> member of the India Region Executive Committee.” Further, Article 5(b) of the Constitution of the India Region of the CPA <i>inter-alia</i> states that the Chairperson, Steering Committee of Women Parliamentarians of India Region of CPA shall be one of the members of CPA India Region Executive Committee.
4. CWP Regional Structure Including: Updates on changes and/or challenges to Regional CWP Structures	According to the Constitution for the Steering Committee of Women Parliamentarians of India Region of the CPA, the Steering Committee of CWP India Region shall comprise of one woman Legislator from each of the 9 Zones Zone 1 includes Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh (2 branches); Zone 2 covers Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi (5 branches); Zone 3 comprises Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Nagaland (8 branches); Zone 4 consists of West Bengal and Odisha (2 branches); Zone 5 includes Jharkhand and Bihar (2 branches); Zone 6 covers Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh (3 branches); Zone 7 comprises Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa (3 branches); Zone 8 includes Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana (3 branches); and Zone 9 covers Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry (3 branches).and two Members of Parliament (CPA India Union). The Regional Representative from CPA India Region to CWP Steering Committee (International) shall be <i>ex-officio</i> Chairperson of the Committee.
5. Regional Budget for CWP Activities Including: Updates on changes and / or challenges to Regional CPA Budgets where applicable	There is adequate provision in the Regional Budget for CWP activities in CPA India Region during the Financial Year 2025 -2026. The budget estimates approved by the Executive Committee of the Region in its meeting held on 11 September 2025 included budget for CWP events in the Financial Year.
6. Regional Conference – What role did CWP Play? Including: Updates on changes and/or challenges to holding a regular CWP meeting at CPA Regional Conferences Updates on Regional CWP activities	• First National Conference of Parliamentary and Legislative Committees on Empowerment of Women was successfully organized at Tirupati on 14-15 September 2025. This historic conference, led to fruitful discussions and concrete outcomes in the form of 'Tirupati Resolutions' which emphasized on applying a gender lens in governance, Institutionalizing gender responsive budgeting, Bridging the digital divide and promoting women’s participation in STEM fields and Women led Development. The conference was held under the chairpersonship of Dr D Purandeswari MP Lok Sabha & Chairperson CWP India Region. She is also the Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women. • Organization of a Seminar on the occasion of International Women’s Day at PRIDE, New Delhi on 03 August 2024, attended by 70 participants • Programme on “Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0” for Scheduled Tribe Women Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions organised by PRIDE in collaboration with ICPS, NCW, and Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 01 June 2025, attended by 643 participants • Workshops for the officers on “Gender Sensitization and Awareness regarding Sexual Harassment at Workplace” on various dates attended by more than 730 participants.
7. CPA International Executive Committee – does your region have a female Member?	Yes. Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, MLA, Speaker of the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly is on the Regional Representative from India Region in the CPA International Executive Committee.

Including: Updates on changes to Regional Representatives to the CPA International Executive Committee	
8. Initiatives linked to CWP Thematic Priorities undertaken by Parliaments and/or Regions Including: Legislation, resources, Inter-organizational strategies, Intra-Ministerial and Civil Society Cooperation and all other strategies	In 2023, Parliament of India passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, “Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam”, marking a historic milestone in its national journey to foster equitable women’s representation in public life at all levels of the federal structure. Furthermore, the Parliament of India has a dedicated training institution, Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies which builds the capacities of Parliamentarians and has been instrumental in enabling first-time MPs, young parliamentarians, women MPs, tribal MPs and MPs from various marginalized sections to become conversant with parliamentary institutions, processes and procedures, thus equipping them to effectively leverage the platform and use appropriate channels to raise issues that concern their constituencies. Through the “She is a Changemaker – “Panchayat se Parliament” initiative, 500 women EWRs participated in specialized training at the Central Hall of Parliament. Gender-neutral language in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha are used. Collaborations with UN Women and regional bodies like the CPA India Region help share best practices and strengthen gender equality through knowledge exchange and joint programs. Ministries like Women and Child Development, Home Affairs, and Health work together on policies such as gender budgeting, safety initiatives, and healthcare for women. Partnerships with women’s rights NGOs, like SEWA and AIDWA, enhance grassroots mobilization and public awareness campaigns on issues like gender-based violence
9. The Contribution of women parliamentarians to The Parliamentarian journal article .	Nil
10. Other Including, for example: Strategies to Overcome Gender Inequality Education Gender Quotas	• The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 has improved increased maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks and mandated crèche facilities in establishments with 50 or more employees. • The Women's Reservation Bill, aims to reserve 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for women, addressing the gender gap in political representation. • India institutionalised Gender Budgeting as part of the Union Budget. Every Ministry reports on its gender-related allocations and outcomes. Over the past decade, allocations for gender budgeting have increased by more than 4.5 times, with dedicated funds in sectors such as energy and information technology. • India has also enacted the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, establishing a statutory body to advise the government on policies affecting women. Complementing this is a wide framework of institutions and programmes—from

Leadership programmes Childcare Mechanisms to prevent political violence Equal access to Party resources Coordination with other like-minded Women's organizations	the Committee on Empowerment of Women to gender-sensitive facilities such as crèches, restrooms, and women's lounges in Parliament—to make our legislature more inclusive and supportive. • As per 7th CPC rules of the government of India leave is provided to the female employees in the Secretariat. This leave is granted to a female employee for the purpose of caring for her minor child up to the age of 18 years. This leave is granted to female employees, up to 180 days during the pregnancy period. • Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (106th Amendment Act), 2023: one-third reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. • Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019: criminalizes instant triple talaq. • Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017: maternity leave extended to 26 weeks; mandatory crèche facilities. • Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013: ensure safe working spaces for women. • Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005: to provide protection and support to victims of domestic violence. • National Commission for Women Act, 1990: establishes NCW as apex body to safeguard and advance women's rights in India. • New Criminal Laws (BNS, BNSS, BSA, 2024): consolidated offences against women/children; survivor-centric reforms; harsher penalties. • Labour Codes (2019–20): gender-friendly provisions on wages, safety, social security.
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