

28th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee Meeting
Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
3 November 2024

CWP Template for Reports on Developments in Branches and Regions

Please continue on separate sheets where need be

	Name & Region
<p>1. Data on the number of women representatives</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Statistics in legislatures, executive, company boards</p> <p>Changes in representation following elections</p> <p>Affirmative Action policies, as they relate to quotas, constitutional, legislative, electoral changes</p> <p>Political Party Reforms and appointments of women within the Party Structures</p>	<p>Presently in Parliament of India, Lok Sabha has a total of 542 Members out of which 74 are Female Members and Rajya Sabha has a total of 224 Members out of which 39 are Female Members. Women's Representation in Parliament: In the Lok Sabha, the percentage of women members has risen from 5-10% until 2004 to 13.6% in the current 18th Lok Sabha, while in the Rajya Sabha, it is 13%. The national average of women's representation in State Legislative Assemblies stands at 9%,</p> <p>Also, the number of women contesting elections has shown a gradual increase over the past 15 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1957, just 45 women candidates were contesting the Lok Sabha election; in 2024 there were 799 (9.5% of the total candidates contested).

	<p>In a historic move toward gender parity in political participation, India enacted the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women’s Reservation Bill, 2023), reserving one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. This transformative law builds on the success of the Panchayati Raj system, where women already constitute 46% of elected representatives, empowering over 1.4 million women at local levels. The legislation will now pave the way for women leaders to rise from Panchayats to Parliament, ensuring their voices shape governance at every level.</p> <p>Further, Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari, MP, Lok Sabha & Member of CWP Steering Committee from CPA India Region is also the State President of ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in the State of Andhra Pradesh.</p>
<p>2. Information on elections that were held this year</p> <p>Including: Data on women Members that won and/or lost seats or appointed to new positions</p>	<p>A total of 797 women candidates contested the Parliamentary Election which held in the year 2024, out of which 78 of them got elected as Members of Parliament (MPs).</p> <p>The participation of women in India's Lok Sabha elections has seen a positive shift over the years, both in terms of the number of candidates contesting and the increasing engagement of female voters.</p>

<p>3. Status of the CWP in regional constitutions</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Updates in Regional Constitutional changes and/or challenges where applicable</p>	<p>CWP India Regions has its own Constitution. No updates have been made in the Constitution in the year 2024.</p>
<p>4. CWP Regional Structure</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Updates on changes and/or challenges to Regional CWP Structures</p>	<p>There is no Update in Regional Structure in the year 2024.</p>

<p>5. Regional Budget for CWP Activities</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Updates on changes and/or challenges to Regional CPA Budgets where applicable</p>	<p>CWP events organised in India are funded by the Corpus fund of CPA India Region.</p> <p>30 lakh subvention has been budgeted for CWP Eevents in the year 2024.</p> <p>Also 2 lakh subvention has been budgeted to Universities for conducting women related activities in 2024..</p>
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<p>6. Regional Conference – What role did CWP play?</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Updates on changes and/or challenges to holding a regular CWP meeting at CPARegional Conferences</p> <p>Updates on Regional CWP activities</p>	<p>CWP Chairperson is a member of the Executive Committee of CPA India Region.</p>
<p>7. CPA International Executive Committee – does your region have a female Member?</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Updates on changes to Regional Representatives to the CPA International Executive Committee</p>	<p>Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly is one of the three Regional Representative of CPA India Region in the CPA Executive Committee.</p> <p>Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma, MP, Lok Sabha has been nominated as one of the Regional Representatives from CPA India Region in the CXPA Executive Committee for a term from 65th to 67th CPC.</p>

<p>8. Initiatives linked to CWP Mission Statement 'To promote the representation of women in CPA Branches and women's full and equal participation in all political and parliamentary leadership at all levels' undertaken by Parliaments and/or Regions</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Legislation, Resources, Gender Sensitive Parliament Self-Assessments, Inter-organisational strategies, Intra-Ministerial and Civil Society Cooperation and all other strategies.</p>	<p>Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Bill, 2023), reserving one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. This transformative law builds on the success of the Panchayati Raj system, where women already constitute 46% of elected representatives, empowering over 1.4 million women at local levels.</p> <p>In 1957, just 45 women candidates were contesting the Lok Sabha election; in 2024 there were 799 (9.5% of the total candidates contested).</p>
<p>9. The Contribution of women parliamentarians to The Parliamentarian journal article</p>	<p>There are no updates regarding the contribution of Women Parliamentarians from India Region in the year 2024.</p>

<p>10. Other</p> <p>Including, for example:</p> <p>Strategies to Overcome Gender Inequality</p> <p>Education Gender Quotas Leadership programmes Childcare Mechanisms to prevent political violence Equal access to Party resources Coordination with other like-minded Women's organisations</p>	<p>In order to ensure timely delivery of justice and penal action commensurate with the gravity of crime, India has recently enacted three new criminal codes, namely Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshaya Adhinyam (BSA) for improving the criminal jurisprudence. These ensure consolidation of offences against women and children, use of inclusive language, expanded survivor-centric provisions, moving from “penalising the criminals” to “providing justice to the survivors/ victims.”In the growing era of digital transformation, the new laws have now permitted the use of electronically transmitted / submitted information / documents as evidence.</p> <p>A Handbook has been published on Sexual Harassment Act with the objective to provide information about the provisions of the Act in an easy-to-use practical manner. SHe Box is an effort to provide a single window irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised , private of public sector to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment.</p>
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Any Additional Comments: