



# Gender Watch

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# COVER STORY



## Violation of Laws: Rape Reporting in India

Media is considered to be the fourth pillar of democracy and is expected to report facts without bias or prejudice. Multiple cases of rape reporting have recently become infamous for reasons ranging from victim shaming, corroborating regressive patriarchal values to identity politics. Though, frivolous reporting is not illegal, revealing the victim's identity violates their right to privacy and is an offence. But, the media continues to reveal victim identities without any repercussion because of policy gaps and lack of effective enforcement of laws. When the state ignores principles of natural justice, gender equality and basic human rights the victims become victims of state apathy and not just rape.

Various print media including Times of India, Indian Express, Hindustan Times and The Hindu reported on a Section 376 rape violation in Delhi. However, Times of India has been particularly criticized for their article which violates laws against revealing the identity of a rape victim.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, Kairali TV has also been heavily criticized for their reporting on an incident involving a famous Malayalam actress.

When reporting an incident, the author must only state the relevant facts without bias. As seen recently, the articles on rape in India usually do not follow these guidelines. They include details of the event which have been interpreted and contain the writer's own bias. This can be seen by carefully analyzing the information provided for example, mention of the victim's ethnicity, sartorial choices and other personal choices. These details add no value to the report apart from absolving the men of having committed a crime by insinuating that the personal choices of the women left the man with no choice. The reporters play the role of victim shaming judges who share the rhetoric of multiple Indian politicians who have publically made derogatory statements about women and corroborated how Indian men think women ought to be.

<sup>1</sup>Manisha Pande, News Laundry, 20 February, 2017, Available at: <https://www.newslaundry.com/2017/02/20/learn-how-not-to-report-on-rape-from-toi>.

Reporting on the location of the incident is not harmful but, highlighting the details regarding the location of the victim's workplace and her home make it easy to identify the individual. These instances of media reporting urge us to focus on the need to respect the privacy of the victim.

Privacy rights of the victim must be respected as per the 2009 Delhi High Court Judgment<sup>2</sup> which states that the identity of the victim cannot be made public. The law states that the punishment for revealing the victim's identity is up to two years of imprisonment and fine unless it is under the order in writing of the officer in charge of the police station, with authorization in writing by the victim and where the victim is dead or minor or of unsound mind, by, or with the authorization in writing of, the next of kin of the victim.<sup>3</sup> Despite having laws which protect not just the name but, any matter that may make known the identity of the victim, there have been multiple instances in which identities have been revealed and there is a clear variance in interpretation by courts and standards applied to cases.

Women in India suffer shame for being raped because it undermines her "value" to be known as the damaged "property" of her husband or father. Thus, it is important to protect the identity of rape victims to prevent further scrutiny and stigma. This is especially important in case of minor victims. The case of

**Though, frivolous reporting is not illegal, revealing the victim's identity violates their right to privacy and is an offence. But, the media continues to reveal victim identities without any repercussion because of policy gaps and lack of effective enforcement of laws.**

Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal, AAP leader, booked for revealing the identity of a Dalit girl raped in Burari, AlkaLamba, booked for sharing photograph of rape victim online, the member of the Rajasthan State Commission for Women who faced criticism for posting a selfie with a rape victim, Bihar police for posting names and addresses of two rape victims on Facebook and many more cases highlight the lack of clarity on the subject. Further, a study by Rahat, a support programme for rape survivors initiated by NGO Majlis, that had surveyed over 600 victims over three years, had in 2015

revealed that in 36% cases between 2011-12, the victim's name appeared in the judgment despite the Supreme Court guidelines to keep it confidential.<sup>4</sup> The judiciary which is supposed to uphold the law has violated the provisions multiple times setting a very bad example for law enforcement and reporters.

Further, there are many policy gaps that need to be filled. Procedure for reporting on sexual crimes must be followed by all media reporters and the penalty for non-compliance must be strictly enforced. There must be written rules for all law enforcement, media and medical personnel dealing with victims of sexual crimes and the absence of the same is a glaring gap. The personnel must be trained in extracting information without humiliating the victim or making them uncomfortable. The Indian Evidence Act, under Section 155(4), no longer allows a rape victim's credibility to be compromised on the ground that she is

<sup>2</sup> Delhi Commission for Women vs Delhi Police, W.P.(CRL) 696/2008

<sup>3</sup> Section 228A Indian Penal Code

<sup>4</sup> Aamir Khan, The Indian Express, 1 August, 2015, Available at: <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/study-on-rape-casesvictims-name-appears-in-judgment-in-36-cases/>.

“of generally immoral character”<sup>5</sup> but, more often than not victims feel judged and are sometimes even accused of lying. There is underreporting of incidents and victims are afraid of coming forward owing to the traditional notion of honor and fear of being ostracized. Only about one in four cases results in convictions.

The justice system and the media must facilitate access to justice for victims, without prejudice. Lack of enforcement of pre-existing policies to protect the victim by the state restricts their access to justice. This apathy of the state allows the media to influence public opinion negatively towards women. Talking about sex is still a taboo in India and it negatively effects victims of sexual crimes. Policy makers must push for enforcing laws which uphold privacy of victims and written laws must be available with all law enforcement and medical personnel. The stigma surrounding rape victims based on regressive patriarchal mindsets must be dealt with by trying to change public opinion using media in a positive way. Reporters have the power to influence public opinion, they must be responsible in using that power.

India can take note of developed countries like United States of America, which are promoting gender equality by opening dialogue on the constitutional privacy rights of victims. Politicians are also debating whether the Government should name victims to remove the element of shame associated with victims of rape and whether it would promote equality.<sup>6</sup>

In this context, it could be suggested that in the Nirbhaya rape case, one of the most violent rape cases in the country, the victim’s parents chose to reveal their daughter’s identity. Each case must be handled differently as revealing the victim identity is a very complex and sensitive issue. Though individual case analysis is important, by strictly enforcing pre-existing policies to protect rape victims the Government can influence public opinion through the media positively.

**“I strongly believe in the movements run by women. If they are truly taken in to confidence, they may change the present picture of society which is very miserable. In the past, they have played a significant role in improving the condition of weaker sections and classes.”**

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**

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<sup>5</sup>Section 155(4), The Indian Evidence Act

<sup>6</sup>Wendy Murphy, Womensenews, 19 January, 2011, Available at: <http://womensenews.org/2011/01/rape-victims-privacy-matter-law-not-shame/>.

# EQUALITY

## **Decriminalise homosexuality, DYFI resolution tells Centre**

**Times of India**

The Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) national conference being held in Kochi has urged the Union government to decriminalise homosexuality. A resolution passed demanded that Section 377 of IPC be scrapped. The resolution also said that the DYFI would campaign against the undemocratic attitudes prevailing in our society towards LGBT community.

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## **Confronting Gender Discrimination in Punjab**

**Pritam Singh and Nadia Singh, EPW**

As per recent Census data 2011, the overall sex ratio of Punjab has improved considerably. However National Family Health Survey data highlights that there is an urgent need to focus on the health of the girl child.

The NFHS data on the sex-wise distribution of immunisation coverage of children aged between 12 and 23 months reveals that even after crossing infancy, a large proportion of children in the state are not fully vaccinated. In 1998–99, 74.5% male children and 69.2% female children were fully immunised but in 2005–06, only 64.7% of male children and 53.7% female children received full immunisation coverage.

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## **Now Transgender category in DTE Forms**

**India Today**

As a welcome change a third category has been introduced in the DTE Forms to encourage more transgenders in streams such as engineers and pharmacy. However, Mr. Harish Iyer, an equal rights activist pointed out that, “having a third gender category ensures improved access to higher education. But what happens when a transgender student attends college? For instance, will there be a transgender toilet at institutes?”

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**“Masculine and feminine roles are not biologically fixed but socially constructed” - Judith Butler**



# DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

## **Polls Bring Little Hope for Muzaffarnagar's Gangrape Survivors**

**Mariya Salim, The Wire**

Women who reported being gangraped in the Muzaffarnagar riots in 2013 are still awaiting a fair trial. They are living in abject poverty and were displaced by the riots. Of the seven cases that were filed after the 2013 riots, two are yet to go to trial while no convictions have been made in the others. The slow-moving judicial system, state government and successive central governments have failed these women.

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## **Is the Samajwadi Party Changing Its Stance on Women's Reservations?**

**Ajoy Ashirvad Mahaprashasta, The Wire**

At a recent rally, Dimple Yadav suggested that women's reservations in government jobs was part of the Samajwadi Party's plans. While the Samajwadi Party has not talked about this promise in its manifesto, which has a separate section on women's empowerment, the SP leader's announcement, if implemented, will mark a significant departure from her party's existing posturing on women's reservations.

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## **Will pass women's quota Bill when BJP gets Rajya Sabha majority: Venkaiah Naidu**

**Pragya Kaushika, The Indian Express**

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah Naidu said that the BJP led government at the Centre will pass the women's reservation Bill once the party has a majority in Rajya Sabha. The minister further stated that "India has a tradition of equality as, in ancient times and mythology women have held top positions such as the defence ministry which was monitored by Durga, while Saraswati was the education minister, and the key ministry of finance was handled by Lakshmi."

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## **Meet Najima Bibi, First Muslim Woman To Fight the Manipur Elections**

**Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty and Amanat Khullar, The Wire**

Irrespective of who wins, the fact that Maipur is seeing in its elections the participation of a woman from its sizeable Muslim community for the first time in the 70 years of independence, is certainly notable. She is also someone who has made her name in Wabagai as an intrepid trendsetter among the Meitei Muslim women. A dynamic woman to have challenged her conservative background to demand her gender rights, she has been a relentless voice for women's empowerment within her community.

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## **Andhra Pradesh to host first National Women's Parliament**

**The Indian Express**

Aiming to empower women, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly is set to host the country's first National Women's Parliament in Amravati where it will connect over 10,000 higher secondary girls with eminent women personalities.

The three-day event will see girl students connecting with 401 women legislators, 91 women Members of Parliament and 300 social and corporate women leaders of India and overseas.

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# VIOLENCE AND SAFETY

## Army Still Enjoys Immunity For Sexual Violence post Kunan Poshpora

Mohammad Umar, *The Wire*

It has been 26 years since the Kunan-Poshpora rapes. The article highlights how the victims are still awaiting justice, the need for the Government to admit to army excesses and the state of military courts, whose records are yet to be assessed. It clarifies that the army is not immune under AFSPA.

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## On gender crime, is Uttar Pradesh the worst state?

Kum Kum Dasgupta, *Hindustan Times*

The article talks about the findings of a study on the reasons behind gender violence in India undertaken by economists, Raghav Gaiha, Vani S Kulakarni and Geetika Dang, who analysed data from 2001 to 2015. The study states that while crime against women over the past decade shows slight improvement, the situation continues to be grim due to underreporting of crimes because of political pressure.

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## This Is Why No One Filed A Complaint About The Bengaluru Mass Molestation

The Ladies Finger

In the New Year's Eve mass molestation case in Bengaluru, it was widely reported that no cases had been filed because of lack of complaints. Karnataka has the lowest rates of conviction in cases of sexual assault, that being the reason why no one filed a complaint about the mass sexual assault on New Year's Eve.

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## Rajasthan to recruit officials to tackle crimes against women

Sachin Saini, *Hindustan Times*

Rajasthan is planning to be the first state to create a separate cadre to redress women and children's issues. The protection officers will assist in providing aid and redressal as per the legal services authority act. They will deal with atrocities against women and children by sending a domestic violence report to the magistrate.

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## After NHRC Report, Chhattisgarh High Court Pulls Up Security Forces for Bastar Sexual Violence

Aditi Saxena, *The Wire*

In its interim report, NHRC held the state government liable for not upholding the human rights of tribal women. A criminal writ petition and application seeking interim relief for 28 tribal women has been filed. This petition might help more women come out and seek relief.

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[Source](#)





# ACCESS TO HEALTH AND SANITATION

## Health Ministry's kit for adolescents marks a paradigm shift for a relatively conservative govt

Radhika Iyengar, The Indian Express

In what appears to be a landmark move, the Health Ministry has decided to release and circulate resource material titled "Saathiya Resource Kit" for adolescent peer educators across Indian states, who will in turn inform 26 crore adolescents on concerns pertaining to health. An instruction manual of sorts, among the important issues the text touches upon, it gives one crucial advice: It is okay to be attracted to individuals belonging to the same sex, as long as there is mutual respect and consent between the two.

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## Govt plans to restrict maternity benefit to first child only. As usual, it's the women who suffer

Radhika Iyengar, The Indian Express

At the beginning of the year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that under the Maternity Benefit Scheme, a sum of Rs. 6,000 would be given to women across the country who were pregnant and lactating. With the recent developments underway, it now appears that only first-time mothers will benefit from this scheme.

This step could make it worse for pregnant women who desperately need financial assistance.

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## Why India Cannot Follow New WHO Guideline To Protect Its Mothers

Devanik Sah, IndiaSpend

According to data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2015-16 no more than 3.3% of pregnant women in Bihar reported receiving full antenatal care, lowest among states, followed by Tripura (7.6%) and Rajasthan (9.6%). Full ANC refers to at least four antenatal visits, at least one tetanus toxoid (TT) injection and iron folic acid tablets or syrup taken for 100 or more days.

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## How Community Dialogue Can Improve Indian Women's Menstrual Health

Swati Saxena, The Wire

One health issue which is poorly understood and even less talked about in India is menstrual health and hygiene. Lack of access to toilets, sanitary napkins and even awareness regarding the issue can pose a major health and safety risk for girls across the country. Women's collectives and community development programs can initiate dialogues to spread more awareness regarding menstruation in rural areas.

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## Rural Men Must Realise Women Need Secluded Bathing Spaces, What about bathing spaces for women?

Sanjiv Phansalkar, The Wire

As per census data, a dominant majority of households do not have covered bathrooms within their premises. The article brings light to the fact that women are forced to bathe in the open. It considers the adverse consequences such as intrusion of privacy, lack of safety and hygiene in the case of the absence of private bathing spaces for women.

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## Pharma Giant's Patent for Breast Cancer Drug Expires, But Women Still Can't Afford

Maya Palit, The Wire

The article considers the affordability of breast cancer drugs and the pricing policies of pharmaceuticals. Kalyani Menon-Sen, a women's rights activist in India highlights that the reasoning for overpricing breast cancer drugs is corporate greed.

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## Doctors Are Forcing Women in Karnataka To Have Hysterectomies

The Ladies Finger

On February 6, around 600 Dalit and Lambadi women from different tando in Aland, Kalaburagi, Chittapur and Chincholi districts in Karnataka gathered in protest outside the office of the Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner (DC). Most of these women were victims of unwarranted hysterectomies, the complete removal of the uterus, performed by doctors in private hospitals. In its fact-finding report, the KJC analysed the women's medical records and they found that, besides the unnecessary and cruel operations, no medical procedure was followed even in cases where women had died of hysterectomies.

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## Led By Wealthy Urban Women, Caesarean Sections Rise In India

Nidhi Jamwal, IndiaSpend

Over 21 years to 2014, the richest quintile, top 20% of the population by income, undergoing caesarean section deliveries in India has gone up from 10% to 30%, raising the country's average caesarean-section rates from 5% to 18% over the same period, according to a recent analysis of national health data. The rate of caesarean section among the poor has stayed the same over this period: 5%.

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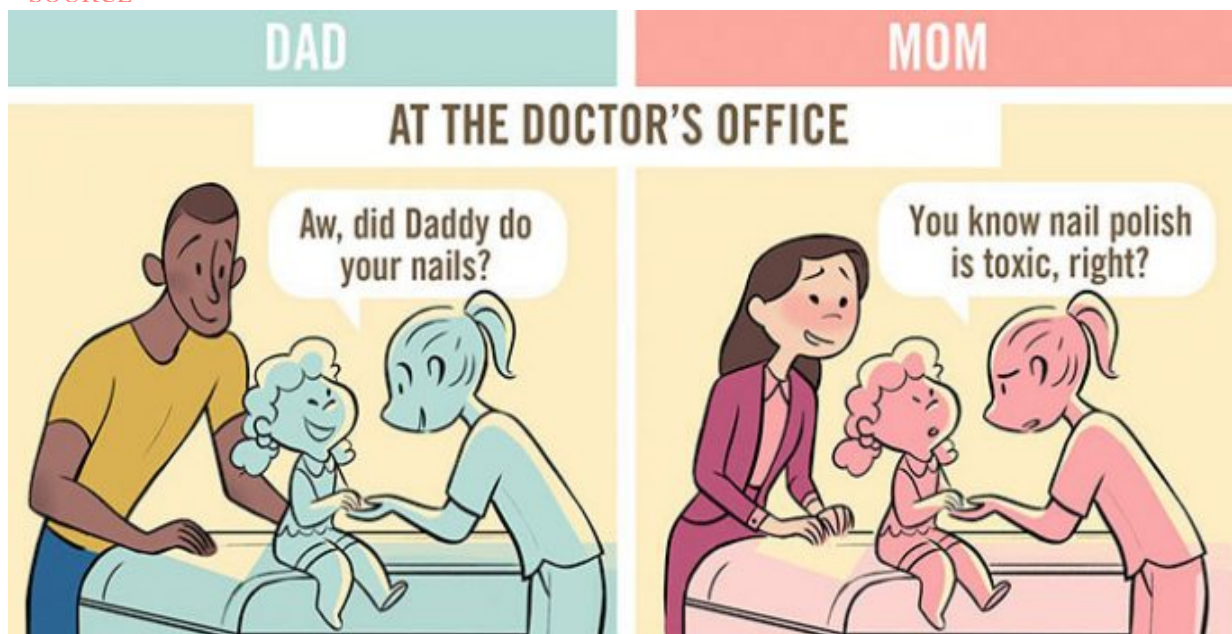
## More Women Are Delivering In Hospitals, So Why Are So Many Still Dying In Childbirth?

Devanik Saha & Video Volunteers, IndiaSpend

Brookings India, based on National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data, stated that the number of institutional deliveries rose by 15% over the decade ending 2014. Deliveries in government hospitals rose by 22%, fell by 8% in private hospitals and home-births dropped by 16%. But 167 women are still dying per 100,000 live births, as per latest government data. This is despite a 70% fall in MMR over a quarter of a century. The article states that incentivizing institutional deliveries isn't enough to push down MMR and infant mortality rate, physical and human infrastructure for maternal health and the quality of care too should improve.

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SOURCE



# ACCESS TO EDUCATION

## Ugly, handicap girls' families pay dowry, says Maharashtra textbook

The Indian Express

A textbook for Class 12 in Maharashtra has cited two outrageous reasons for the dowry problem prevalent in India — “ugliness” and physical handicap of a girl. The remark appears in a chapter in the sociology textbook titled ‘Major Social Problems in India’ of the state Secondary and Higher Secondary education Board.

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Source



# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

## Gender Budget: Maternity scheme cut brings low allocation in focus

Shalini Nair, *The Indian Express*

This year, Budget allocation for Women and Child Development Ministry is a mere 1 per cent of the total outlay and gender budgeting across ministries remains at 5 per cent of the total outlay, the same as it was ten years ago. Gender budgeting was introduced in India in 2005 in recognition of the fact that policies meant for the general population may not necessarily benefit women unless reviewed under the gender lens.

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## Female farmers gaining ground in rural India

Belinda Goldsmith, *Live Mint*

A report by the charity Oxfam released in January, titled *An Economy for the 99 per cent*, said more than 40% of 400 million women living in rural India—a third of India’s 1.2 billion population—work in agriculture.

According to official data, women make up more than a third of India’s agriculture workforce, yet only about 13% of farmland is owned by women. United Nations studies have indicated reducing the gender gap in agriculture could lift an estimated 100 to 150 million people from 800 million globally out of the clutches of hunger by giving more access to women to Government schemes and credit.

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## Spending on women-related schemes up 18% in Budget 2017

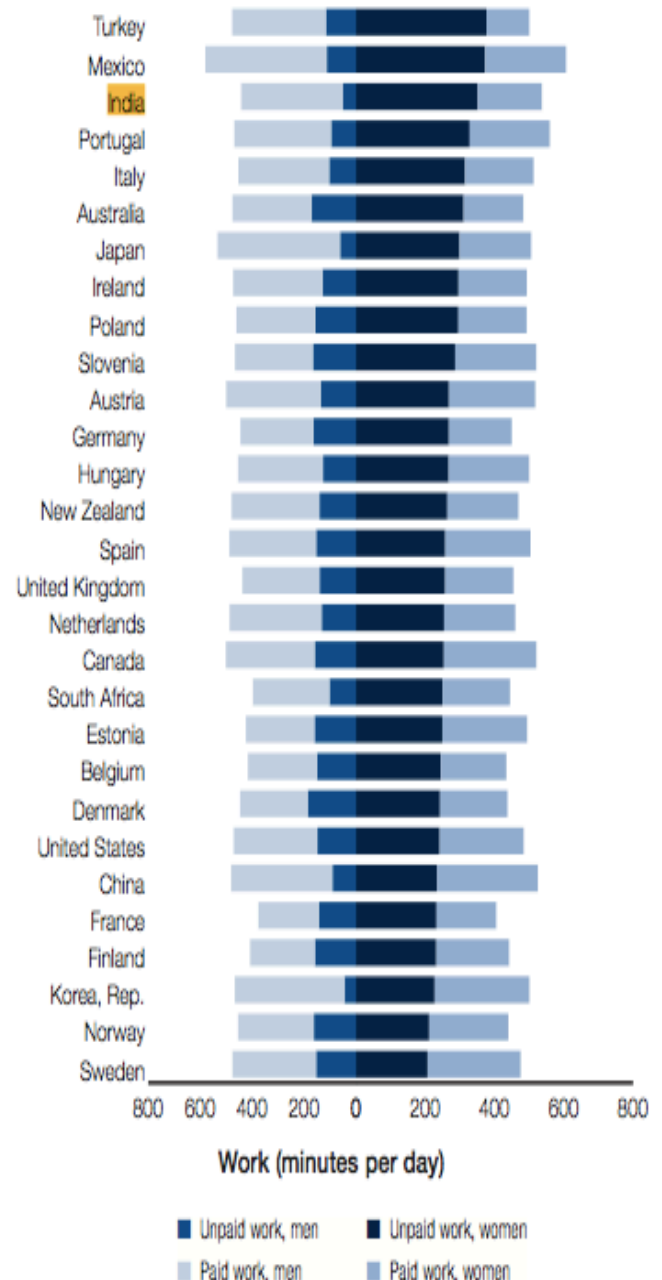
Devanik Saha, *Business Standard*

India’s gender budget – spending on women-related schemes and projects – rose 18% from Rs 96,331 crore (\$14.4 billion) in 2016-17 (revised estimates) to Rs 113,326 crore (\$17 billion) in 2017-18 in the union budget announced on February 1, 2017.

The gender budget accounted for 5.2% of total government spending, an increase of 0.4% from 4.8% in 2016-17 (revised estimates). It accounted for 4.5% of budget expenditure in 2016-17, IndiaSpend reported in March 2016 but went up to 4.8% after revised estimates of the budget.

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Figure 12: Paid and unpaid work (minutes per day) for men and women, by country



Source: OECD Social Protection and Wellbeing Database.



# LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

## Supreme Court Slams Google, Yahoo, Other Search Engines Over Sex Selection Content

The Wire

The Supreme Court ordered Google, Yahoo, Other Search Engines to take appropriate steps to withdraw advertisements and information which violated the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act of 2003. Lawyers representing the search engines contended that they were not allowing any advertisements in violation of local laws. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Google India, said it would not put its global reputation at stake by breaching the law.

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## Andhra Pradesh, UN Women ink pact to foster 'gender-responsive governance'

The Indian Express

Andhra Pradesh has signed a memorandum of understanding with UN Women to foster "gender-responsive governance". Both UN Women and AAP government have agreed to work together for ending violence and discrimination against girls and women, promoting decent work and livelihood opportunities and equal access to resources, strengthening institutional capacities for gender-responsive governance at the local level.

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## On Consent, the Bombay High Court Has Done Well to Pin Responsibility for Rape on Where it Belongs

Divyanka Sharma, The Wire

The Bombay high court rejected the bail application of three men accused of raping a woman, who happened to be intoxicated. The court denied bail to the main accused on the grounds that "If a girl is intoxicated, it means mentally she is not capable to give a free and conscious consent". The court's verdict is a welcome corrective to misogynistic rhetoric and helps make space for a more gender neutral environment in India.

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## PM forms GoM to examine draft law on ensuring equal rights for women

The Indian Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the draft National Policy for Women, 2016. The draft plans to increase women's participation in political, administration, civil services. The draft policy, which will replace the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001, identifies and describes emerging issues such as making cyber space safe for women, redefining gender roles for reducing unpaid care work among others which impact women.

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## SC To Frame Issues On Triple Talaq; Will Not Touch UCC

Live Law

Post the hearing of a bunch of petitions, the Supreme Court said it would decide issues pertaining to legal aspects of the practices of triple talaq, 'nikahhalala' and polygamy among Muslims and would not deal with the question whether divorce under Muslim law needs to be supervised by courts as it falls under the legislative domain.

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## Rape Trials: Amicus Curiae Indira Jaising Points To Sentencing Anomalies

Live Law

Ms. Jaising disfavoured the national register of convicted sex offenders, on the ground of privacy, and had lamented absence of sexual offences victims compensation schemes of the state Governments, absence of any provision for interim compensation to the victims in most States, absence of effective witness protection schemes like the one adopted in Delhi, the unspent Nirbhaya fund.

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## The Media Needs To Rethink How It Reports Rape

Amanat Khullar, *The Wire*

Recent examples of rape reporting have been used to suggest that the media has the power to influence and has a responsibility to use that power well. Rape like most cases of sexual assault and gender-based violence, is not about sex. It is a violent crime about control and power. Thus, news organizations must not report unnecessary details about the victim since it has no bearing on the incident.

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## How Delayed Pregnancies Beat Sterilisation As A Family Planning Tool

Charu Bhari, *IndiaSpend*

India spends 85% of its family planning budget on sterilization and only 1.5% on condoms and other non-terminal contraceptives. The article states that conditional cash transfer programmes which reward couples for delaying pregnancies have worked towards curbing India's population growth. In particular delayed pregnancies as opposed to sterilization does not have any negative implications on women's health.

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## Sex offender registries don't work

Shruthi Ramakrishnan, *The Hindu*

While sex offender registration laws and public access to these records create a sense of security to parents and residents, they have failed in making any significant difference in sex crimes. Sometimes they create more harm than good. Even in the U.S., where stringent registration laws with public access have been around for over 30 years, several independent studies arrive at the same conclusion: that these registers are simply not reducing sex crimes.

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## Censor Board Strikes Again: Award-Winning Film 'Lipstick Under My Burkha' Denied Certification

*The Wire*

The examining committee of the CBFC refused to certify the film, *Lipstick Under My Burkha* citing multiple reasons including abusive language and "women's fantasies". "The story is lady-oriented, their fantasy above life. There are contentious sexual scenes, abusive words, audio pornography and a bit sensitive touch about one particular section of society," reads the letter from the CBFC.

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## Film Certification Tribunal Offers LGBT Community a Ray of Hope

Sharif Ranganekar, *The Wire*

The Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) on January 25 overturned a directive from the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to cut ten seconds of the 'Miss You' music video, a track by a band, Friends of Linger. The FCAT (members include actor Poonam Dhillon and journalist Shekhar Iyer) in effect turned this tiny song into a moment that could be viewed as a shift in acceptance of 'gay' content in mainstream television. However small the shift might be, it could well be an indication of something bigger that many LGBTQs are hoping for.

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## 5 percent Women have Sole Control over Choosing their Husbands

Lavanya Garg, *India Spend*

According to the Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS), conducted by the University of Maryland and the National Council of Applied Economic Research in 2004-2005 and 2011-2012 only 4.99% of women in India had sole control over choosing their husbands, while 79.8% of women needed permission to visit a health centre. The IHDS survey of 2012 shows little change since the IHDS survey in 2005, when 5% reported having sole control over choosing their husband, and 74.2% reported needing permission to visit a health centre.

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# OPINION PIECES FROM THE MEDIA

## **Schools' syllabus should include human rights, gender studies and health**

Tia Chopra, *The Indian Express*

Education needs to be the driving force that sharpens our focus and develops our individual personalities to be active contributors to modern society. He states that for that we must do away with obsolete learning techniques and give importance to women and their contribution in society. Modern curriculum should focus on strong, contemporary female role models from across the globe.

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## **Dressing Like Men Causes Hormonal Imbalances in Women: Mumbai College**

Principal

*The Wire*

Swati Deshpande, principle of the Government Polytechnic Institute in Mumbai has found a solution to Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS). She states "When they dress like men, they start thinking or behaving like them. There is a gender role reversal in their head. Due to this, the natural urge to reproduce diminishes right from a young age and therefore they suffer from problems like PCODs"

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## **Saying 'no' to sexism**

Deeksha Teri, *The Hindu*

Every Delhi University college organises its own annual festival. The multiple-day event ends with a Star Night, an important part of every college's festival, where celebrities such as actors and singers are invited. However, this year, students from some women's colleges have decided to boycott the artistes whose songs have sexist and offensive lyrics. To express solidarity with this protest, women's colleges have decided not to invite artistes who use derogatory terms or sexist notions in their songs. Delhi students express their views on this issue.

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## **Let's Bring More Indian Women Scientists on Wikipedia, Shall We?**

Divyani Rattanpal, *The Quint*

This article urges the need to include more women scientists and celebrate their achievements as well. In particular the article highlights the role Wikipedia can play by incorporating the names of women scientists in their lists.

If we want our girls to be interested in Science, it's important that we celebrate these women and their achievements. And we can start by ensuring they get adequate representation on Wikipedia - the most commonly used encyclopedia of our times.

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## **In Shadow Of Trump Presidency, 'One Billion Rising' Initiative Surges Again**

Ishana Srivastava- Khan, *The Wire*

On February 14, 2012 One Billion Rising (OBR), a mass global programme, was launched in an effort to call for an end to violence against women. It is based on the statistic that one in three women are either beaten or raped, which amounts to over one billion women. It therefore functions as a call to arms for women to come out and rise up against violence against women.

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**COORDINATORS**

**Wamika Kapur**  
Research Assistant to Legislators  
Contact: [wamikakapur@rgics.org](mailto:wamikakapur@rgics.org)

**Abhishek Jain:**  
Research Assistant to Legislators  
Contact: [abhishekjain@rgics.org](mailto:abhishekjain@rgics.org)

**Dr. Jagriti Gangopadhyay**  
Senior Research Associate  
Contact: [jagritigangopadhyay@rgics.org](mailto:jagritigangopadhyay@rgics.org)

**SUPERVISER**

**Dr. Sushree Panigrahi**  
Fellow  
Contact: [sushreepanigrahi@rgics.org](mailto:sushreepanigrahi@rgics.org)

Connect with RGICS at: [info@rgics.org](mailto:info@rgics.org); [www.rgics.org](http://www.rgics.org)   

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