

# **Socio-Legal Perspectives of Indian Women through Ages**

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*Dr. N. Sandhya*

*Dr. A.M. Suresh*



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by **Dr. N. Sandhya & Dr. A.M. Suresh**

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## Foreword

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I take great pleasure in writing a foreword to this useful book “**Socio–Legal Perspectives of Indian Women through Ages**” by Dr. Sandhya and Dr. A.M Suresh Bangalore.

I know Dr. sandhya since 1988, from her college days at University Law College, Bangalore. She entered law college as 10th Rank holder in P.U.C examinations. Since college days Dr. Sandhya was a hard working student and is one of such rare personalities as an advocate, a management professor in Human Resources and great singer also. She is a multitalented woman.

In this “**Socio – Legal Perspectives of Indian Women through Ages**” book Dr. Sandhya has discussed rights of women from Ancient India with her knowledge as a “history student” and touches upon the legal rights of women in modern India as an ‘Advocate’ having legal acumen.

It is my pleasure to know about the co-author of this book Dr. A.M Suresh. He is an eminent professor in management. With his vast experience in academics, research, administration and entrepreneurship, he has made a significant contribution to increase the value of this book.

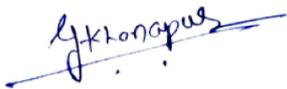
The authors have covered all legal rights of women in Hindu Law, Muslim Law, PCPNDT Act, Immoral Traffic Act, POCSO Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, Rights of women at work place, Atrocities on Women, property rights etc, and also discussed the enlightened and supporting landmark decisions of courts. Hence I appreciate and respect Dr. A.M Suresh and Dr. Sandhya's efforts in bringing this book.

This book "**Socio – Legal Perspectives of Indian Women through Ages**" is useful to women working in all fields. and also very useful to law students.

I am happy to inscribe these words by way of a foreword to Dr. Sandhya and Dr. A.M Suresh's book on the "**Socio – Legal Perspectives of Indian Women through Ages**". Both Authors share the concept of legal rights of women in society.

Wish them success in all their future venture.



  
**(K. GOPAL RAO)**  
Public Prosecutor,  
District and Sessions Court,  
Raichur

## Foreword

---

Women are pivotal in any society. Any country to develop properly has to take care of women interest in the right earnest. Legislations pertaining to women have empowered them in many fields and the exploitation of women has also come down to some extent.

In this book, the authors have covered rights of women from ancient to modern India. The authors cover medieval age too. They have also covered rights of Vedic women, Women in Jainism, Women in Islam and women in Christianity. The awakening created on rights of women has eradicated many social evils like Sati practices. The authors clearly highlight as how Domestic violence Act decreased the crime on women in a big way. The Rules pertaining to Acid attacks on women has sent right signals against the heinous crime.

The authors have covered Public, personal and professional life of women. Property rights is one economic tool which helped daughters to get rightful share in the parents' property. This has revolutionized the economic rights of women by many folds.

In addition to constitutional provisions, the authors cover allmost all significant acts which protect the rights and safeguards the interests of women. Important among them

are Child marriage restraint Act 1929, Hindu widow remarriage Act-1856, Female infanticide prevention Act-1870, Abolition of Devadasi Act, The Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act, 1937, Hindu marriage Act 1955, Hindu succession Act-1956, Prohibition of dowry Act 1961, Prohibition of child marriage Act 2006 , Widow remarriage and property Act (1989), Hindu marriage Act 1955, Hindu succession Act-1956 and Equal remuneration Act-1976.

Hindu marriage Act 1955 is one landmark enactment which empowered Indian women and gave her liberty of divorce. This prevented exploitation of women in a big way. Medical termination of pregnancy gave right to women to terminate the unwanted pregnancy. All these enactments directly and indirectly empowered women.

Trafficking of women is a menace in society. Rules against Trafficking of Woman, The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 to a great extent helped women from immoral traffic.

The authors narrate entrepreneurial rights of women. The book covers status of women entrepreneurs in India, financial assistance provided by the government for promoting women entrepreneurship, organizations for supporting women entrepreneurship, schemes for women entrepreneurs in Karnataka, schemes for economic development and problems faced by women entrepreneurs in India. In political, economic, government service, with

all lip sympathy, women representation is still not very encouraging.

The authors have also discussed the 'position' of women in other countries to give global perspective, in particular global perspective of feminism. Status of women in USA, Status of women in UK, Status of women in Canada, Status of women in European Countries and Status of women in islamic countries are also discussed in the book.

The annexure covers women achievers in legal, civil services, Padma awardees and women achievers in other fields too. This is inspirational to all women, in particular to youngsters. The book covers every segment of women.

This book has become possible due to the efforts of two authors, Dr. A.M.Suresh and Dr. Sandhya. Dr. A.M. Suresh is one of the few pioneers who played key role in developing management education under the private sector, in this part of the country. He is a fine professor, education administrator, and a serial entrepreneur. He is workaholic. In the last two decades of my acquaintance, I have not seen him getting tired! Dr. Suresh has great energy. Wish many more works like this comes from his table.

I know another author of this book, Dr. Sandhya, for the last two decades. I fondly call her 'thrivikram'. Any assignments she takes, she completes with passion and commitment. She is workaholic. She wears many hats. An advocate, a Management Professor in Human Resource space, a passionate musician, and an entrepreneur. She is

multifaceted. This book is another feather on her cap. This book is product of her hard work and commitment. The book is comprehensive and highly commended for all those who wants to digest rights of women. Every student who studies 'women rights'should read this book. Both Dr. A.M.Suresh and Dr. Sandhya have many common features as noted above. One more common, but special about both of them is, both were rank holders at state level in their respective PUC examinations!! Wish them 'ranks' in all their endeavors.



**Dr. H.R. Venkatesha**

Director

Acharya Bangalore B-School

Bengaluru

## Acknowledgements

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Gratitude is a divine emotion which fills the heart. The authors of the book *Socio legal perspectives of Indian women through ages* express their sincere thanks to all those who have extended their whole hearted support in writing this book.

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We express a deep sense of gratitude to Dr.H.R.Venkatesha, Director, Acharya Bangalore B-School, for his gracious foreword and continuous encouragement.

We are thankful to the management committee members of Sindhi Institute of Management, Bengaluru. The authors sincerely thank, Professor D.Gopinath, Director Sindhi institute of Management for his encouragement in writing this book.

We sincerely thank Dr. Roopashri Tantri, Director, Aghanasha consulting LLP for her words of encouragement in preparing this work.

We thank Mr. K.M. Shivaprasad, Co-founder and Executive Director and all the team members of Disciples India group for motivating us to take up this venture.

We sincerely thank Sri Ramesha M.H., Shivakumar and the team of Niruta Publications, Bengaluru for the printing and publishing work carried out by them.

We express our heart filled thanks to our family members for their moral support in taking up this venture. The authors are thankful to every one who have directly or indirectly supported them in bringing out this book. We welcome the readers comments, feedback and suggestions wholeheartedly on the email **sandhya.ns@rediffmail.com** and **drsuresham@gmail.com**.

**Dr. N. Sandhya**

**Dr. A.M . Suresh**

## Authors Profile

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### Dr. N. Sandhya



Dr. N. Sandhya is a Professor in Sindhi Institute Of Management , Bengaluru. She is the managing partner of research consultancy “Aghanasha Consulting LLP” Bengaluru.

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She has practiced as an advocate at Bangalore for five years and handled civil and labor matters.

She has an academic experience of twenty four years in teaching. She has handled classes for BBM, BHM, Bcom, CMA and MBA courses.

She has handled a variety of management subjects like organizational behavior, human resource management, Entrepreneurship, labor law and business law for students from Bangalore University, VTU, ICFAI, Sikkim Manipal University. She is in the panel of examiners and set question papers for MBA program of Bangalore University, VTU, PGDM Program of autonomous institutions like Acharya Bangalore B school, Mount Carmel College, Christ University and NITTE College, Mangalore. She has guided MBA projects of Bangalore University, VTU, IGNOU, Madras University, and Kuvempu University. She has evaluated M Phildissertation at Christ University.

She has presented several papers on various issues concerning HR in national and international conferences. She has published articles on issues relating to labor law and HR in national level management journals and

magazines like Southern economist, Training and development, human resource-NIPM journal. She has authored two text books on **Business laws** and **Indian society** published by Himalaya publishers and Vrinda Publishers. She has delivered guest lectures in Work shops and conferences at Surana PG center, Bangalore, Presidency college, Bengaluru, Bapuji B-School, Davanagere, Adiparashakti Institute of business administration, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

She has successfully handled responsibilities like editor of college magazine, news letter, member of anti ragging committee. She was the chairperson of prevention of sexual harassment committee at Nagarjuna college of engineering and technology.

Several PhD aspirants are under her guidance from VTU Belagavi and Bharathiyar University, Tamilnadu. Five scholars have been awarded PhD under her guidance from VTU and Bharathiyar University. She is the life member of NIPM. She has handled positions like HOD of MBA program, Principal for Degree College at Nagarjuna college of Management studies, and Controller of examination at Nagarjuna college of engineering and technology. She can be reached at **sandhya.ns@rediffmail.com**.

**Dr. A.M. Suresh**

**Dr. A.M. Suresh (b.1966)** is currently engaged in his entrepreneurial responsibilities as Founder & Managing Director of Disciples India Educational Resources Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru since 2014 concentrating on career skills training, entrepreneurship development, online education, and corporate training & Management Consulting activities. Disciples India, as an Organization, has made its name in the area of career skills training & placement support activities to fresh graduates and post graduates in Karnataka through its various initiatives and it is poised to grow strongly as a progressive partner of higher educational institutions & students for extending its classroom & online career skills training, corporate training & placement support initiatives. It has been awarded as “**Most admired Company of the year – 2021** in the category of Skills development & Placement support services in the **Nationwide SME Awards 2021 by Business Mint, India.**”

Prior to this, he has executed his responsibilities as Principal & Director at Don Bosco Institute of Management and Computer Applications, Bengaluru, an affiliated and NAAC accredited Institution of Bangalore University. He was also the Principal & Director of NIAM Institutions, Bengaluru and Director-South India of NIAM, New Delhi. He has successfully executed the responsibilities towards promoting industry integrated MBA & BBA programs in South India with association of three leading Universities of India, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Gauhati University, Gauhati & M.D. University, Rohtakas well as worked on e-learning projects during 2006 to 2013. Earlier, he was Professor & Director at Bangalore Institute of Management Studies, an affiliated Institution of Bangalore University, Bengaluru. He has previously worked as a Professor & Head of Department-MBA at Dayananda Sagar College of Management & Information Technology, Bengaluru and Deputy Director-Academics at Administrative Management College, Bengaluru. He has a combined 34 years of professional work experience, including 20 years of academic & administrative experience and a combined corporate experience of 14 years. His corporate experience includes working effectively in marketing & sales area of building materials and office automation industry for 6 years as well as 8 years of entrepreneurial experience, till date. He has published several

papers in journals, participated in different seminars, workshops and conferences. He is a Research Supervisor for M. Phil. and Doctoral program research scholars. Twelve research scholars have been awarded M.Phil degree and five research scholars have been awarded PhD in Management under his guidance & supervision. He is on the Panel of Examiners for postgraduate and research programs of Universities & Autonomous Institutions. During his tenure in different capacities, he has organized several programs & activities on different areas of Management for the benefit of students, participants, delegates, Members & fellow academicians.

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He is recognized as a Career Advisor by Careerfutura.com, contributes to social activities in his personal capacity and is always ready to dedicate his energy and efforts towards bridging the gap between education, employment & entrepreneurship for the benefit of qualified, yet unemployed & underemployed Indian Youth. He can be reached at **drsuresham@gmail.com**.

**DEDICATED TO**  
**WOMEN IN OUR FAMILY**

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Dr. ROOPASHRI TANTRI – FRIEND &  
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**Dr. A M SURESH**

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## 1. Women in Ancient India

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### 1.1 Background

*“Yatra Nareeshu Poojyante Tatra Ramante Devataha”*

The above quoted Vedic hymn signifies that Gods will be pleased if women are treated with dignity.

India is a land of ancient civilizations. Indian history can be traced with the origin of the Indus Valley Civilization and the migration of the Aryans. These two phases are interpreted by historians as the pre-Vedic and Vedic age. Hinduism originated in the Vedic period. Ancient India Comprised of the Vedic period and the monarchy rule. The ancient era in India lasted from around 1500 BCE through to 500 BCE, that is, from the early days of the Aryan migrations to the age of the Buddha. The early Aryans were living in the tribal society. Later, they adopted more complex and civilised life style which consequently gave rise to society of the Classic Age of Ancient India. During this period, many important dynasties reigned over India and they included the Mahajanpada, Nanda Dynasty, Maurya Dynasty, Pandya Dynasty, Chera Dynasty, Chola Dynasty, Pallava Dynasty, Chaulakya Dynasty. They ruled India for a long time. Three major religions prevailed in India during ancient period were Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.

The emergence of civilizations gradually, created a society which defined the roles of men and women.

### **1.2 Status of women under Vedic culture (Hinduism)**

The Socio-cultural practices in India attached a distinct status to women. In the Rig Vedic age (1500BC to 1000BC) women were held in high esteem. They were treated at par with men. Women education was given prominence. Women scholars received royal patronage. They could take part in all religious practices. They could take active part in sacrifices. Women enjoyed the freedom to participate in archery, horse riding and sword fighting. Historians have mentioned about women warriors.

During the rig Vedic period, the women had great liberty and they were not questioned. Women enjoyed a fair level of freedom. Kshatriya girls were allowed to settle their marriages according to their choice through a Practice known as Swayamvara. The concept of widow remarriage was in vogue. Rig Veda recognized the right of a spinster to inherit her father's property.

The rights conferred on women in ancient India are categorized in to different heads which are described below.

### **1.3 Right of property for women**

In the Rigvedic Period women enjoyed respect and freedom. But full fledged property rights were denied to them. Their

role was restricted to the performance of religious activities in the family.

Patriarchal system of family was in practice under which the father was the head of family. There was a peculiar distinction between male and female legal heirs. The Mitakshara School imposed a restriction on women becoming a coparcener and also the widow of the deceased coparcener had no right to demand the partition of the property against the brother coparceners. However, she had every right to ask a share in the partition which was the right of her husband or sons. The Dayabhaga School of law mentioned that if there were no male descendants in the family, the widow enjoyed the right to demand partition and could succeed the share of the husband.

A woman had the right to inherit Stridhan. Mitakshara School defined the legal and technical meaning of the Stridhan

1. Gifts and Partnership Bequests;
2. Offerings and legacies of strangers;
3. Land gained by self-effort and the mechanical arts;
4. Land acquired via Stridhan;
5. Land obtained by transaction;
6. Land gained by wrongful possession;
7. Land gained in lieu of maintenance;
8. Property received by inheritance; and
9. Share received by partition.

## **2. Women in the modern India**

---

The medieval period in India came to an end with the decline of the Mughal Empire. The mid-18th century with the British occupation of India is considered as modern age in India. Thus the term modern India can be classified as the pre independence and post- independence period.

### **2.1 Status of women in the British Period**

At the dawn of the British rule in India, the position of women was very low in the society. The wife's position at the domestic front was not good. The rate of literacy among women was very low. There were many evil social practices such as Child marriage, enforced widowhood, sati, Devadasi, polygamy, purdah, dowry, female infanticide. All these evil practices resulted in exploitation of women and caused great hardship to them. Some renowned British administrators who were rational thinkers and good administrators gave a thought to the emancipation of Indian women.

Lord William Bentinck, an able Governor General of India was instrumental in putting an end to the evil practice of Sati by passing "Bengal sati regulation", which declared the practice of sati or suttee illegal in all jurisdictions of India.

It was first major social reform legislation done by the British in India. The regulation enshrined the following features:

### **2.1.1 Overview of Bengal Sati regulation**

1. The practice of suttee, which involved burning or burying alive the widows of Hindus, was declared as illegal, and made punishable by the criminal courts.
2. All zamindars, or other proprietors of land, and other local agents and native officers employed in the collection of the revenue and rents of land on the part of government, and headmen of villages and other representatives of British Government were responsible for the immediate communication of any such intended incident of Sati to the nearest police station.
3. The above stated category of officers were also responsible for implementing the provisions of the Act. Negligence or wilful delay on their part would attract penal liability.
4. On the receipt of complaints, the concerned police officers had to immediately proceed to the place where sati was likely to take place and initiate all steps to stop the incident.
5. On the receipt of report of Sati or women sacrifice, the concerned police officer was required to enquire in to the circumstances of the case. He had powers to initiate criminal proceedings in the magistrate court against the people who had abated the occurrence of Sati.

6. The voluntary consent of the woman for sati was to be treated as Void. The abatement caused by relatives or religious leaders encouraging a woman for Sati was to be treated as culpable homicide.

During the later part of the British rule, Social reformers like Ishwar Chandravidyasagar, Rajaram Mohan Roy laid stress on women education. They raised their voice against evil practices like Sati, child marriage and created awareness among Public

The National Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi gave a call to women of India to come out in large numbers to support freedom struggle. Mass participation of women in freedom struggle under Gandhiji's leadership created a sense of equality among women. Gradually women were aware of their low position in the society and raised their voice against the evil practices of the orthodox society. Indian society under the rule of British started witnessing changes in the status of women. End of British colonial rule and direct imperial administration of India by the British state brought sea wave changes in the political social and cultural scenario of India. The efforts of the social reformers made the British pass many enactments for the upliftment of women. Some of the important legislations passed by British Imperial rule are epitomised in this context:

## **4. Redressal of atrocity against women in public life**

---

### **(a) Obscenity and Indecent Representation under the provisions of IPC**

- Section 292(IPC) prohibits the Sale, of obscene books, pamphlet, paper, writing, drawing, painting, representation, figure or any other object, shall be deemed to be obscene. The above stated materials can be considered as obscene if it undermines the dignity of a woman.
- Section 293(IPC) Sale, etc., of obscene books, etc, to young persons: Whoever sells, distributes, exhibits or circulates to any person under the age of twenty years any such obscene, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, and with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees. In the event of a second or subsequent conviction, the offender is punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and also with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.
- Section 294. Obscene acts and songs: Whoever to the annoyance of others does any obscene act in public place, sings, recites or utters any obscene song, ballad or words in or near any public place, shall be punished with

imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine or with both.

- Section 67, Information Technology Act 2000 declares that obscenity is an offence when it is published or transmitted or caused to be published in any electronic form.

### **Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1987**

- Under the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1987, if an individual harasses another with books, photographs, paintings, films, pamphlets, packages, etc. containing the “indecent representation of women”, he/she is liable for a minimum sentence of 2 years.

Penalty- Any person who contravenes the provisions of the Act, (Prohibition of advertisements containing indecent representation of Women) or section 4 (Prohibition of publication or sending by post of books, pamphlets, etc. containing indecent representation of women) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees.

In the event of a second or subsequent conviction, the term of imprisonment may vary from six months to five years. A fine varying from ten thousand rupees to rupees one lakh can be imposed on the offender.

- Section -7 (offences by Companies) further states that companies where any kind of “indecent representation

of women”(such as the display of pornography takes place in the premises shall be deemed guilty of offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

**(b) Rules pertaining to Acid attacks on women**

- Section 326 of the Indian Penal Code was amended on 2nd April, 2013 with the passing of the Criminal Law (amendment) Act, 2013. (The amendment resulted in insertion of sections 326-A and 326-B for specifically dealing with acid violence).
- Section 326-A: Whoever causes permanent or partial damage or deformity to, or burns or maims or disfigures or disables, any part or parts of the body of a person or causes grievous hurt by throwing acid on or by administering acid to that person, with the intention of causing or with the knowledge that he is likely to cause such injury or hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than ten years and which may extend to imprisonment for life, and with fine. The amount of such fine shall be just and reasonable to meet the medical expenses of the treatment of the victim. Fine imposed under this section shall be paid to the victim.
- Section 326-B: Whoever throws or attempts to throw acid on any person or attempts to administer acid to any person, or attempts to use any other means, with the intention of causing permanent or partial damage or deformity of burns or maiming or disfigurement or disability or grievous hurt to that person, shall be

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## **5. Rights of women at work place**

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The Indian workforce has undergone significant changes with the increasing number of working women. Social and legal rights of women at work place assume a significant position in a country like India which attaches a typical status to women. In Indian society the role of women was traditionally confined to house hold activities. During the British rule and post -independence period women started pursuing higher education. English education transformed the personality of women. Today, we find women in all spheres of work like teaching, medical field, defence service, BPO jobs etc.

Indian society has attached a distinct status to women. It believes in values and virtues like respect for women, protecting the dignity and safety of women. Every business organization is compelled to follow these values as a part of their ethical and social concern. The business organizations are also compelled to protect the rights of women by virtue of legal obligations imposed on them. It is a critical fact that women do not have rightful representation in jobs though they are closer to 50% of population. The rights of those women who are employed are also not protected in a proper manner. It is quite unfortunate that in India, patriarchal attitudes and power imbalances have adversely affected women culturally, socially and economically. Hence there is a pressing need to

protect rights of women at work place in order to ensure better participation of women in the economy. There are many legislations which protect the social and legal rights of women. Significant legislations pertaining to the rights of women at work place are briefly stated in this context.

**(a) Relevant provisions of The Factories Act 1948 pertaining to safety of women employees**

The objectives of Factories Act are to provide safe conditions of work for employees and to prevent exploitation of employees. The enactment has made special provisions for the protection of women employees.

Chapter IV of the factories Act provide for safety measures.

- \* Section 22 of the Factories Act prohibits the employment of women on or near machinery in motion. It states that no woman or young worker is allowed to clean, lubricate or adjust any part of the machinery while it is in motion which is likely to expose her or him to risk or injury from any moving part.
- \* Section 27 states that women and children should not be employed near cotton openers.
- \* In India the legislation pertaining to night shift mainly relate to restrictions on women working during the night.
- \* The Factories Act 1948 states that no woman shall be allowed to work in any factory except between the hours of 6am and 7pm. However, the Factories Act was amended in 2005 permitting women to work during night shift.

According to the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, no woman shall be allowed to work in any industrial premise except between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The Mines Act, 1952 prohibits employment of women in any mine above ground except between the hours of 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The Shops and Establishment Act states that no women shall be required or allowed to work in any establishment after 9:30 PM.

The above stated restrictions on the appointment of women were released in the light of the judgement given by the Supreme court permitting the employment of women on night shifts. But at the same time, a mandate has been issued by the honorable court that the protection of women working on night shift is the concern of the business organizations.

Consequently, The IT and ITES industry were permitted to employ women after 8pm, on condition that they are provided with transportation up to their doorstep with adequate security measures in place. In the light of this situation, certain safety measures have to be followed as a mandatory rule by the business organizations, which are stated in this context.

#### **Employer responsibilities: safety measures**

- \* Arrangements to provide additional security for women employees who work before 6am or after 8pm.

- \* Additional security measures for company-provided transport during the night including escorts, GPS based monitoring, alarm systems.
- \* Restricted entry into the workplace.
- \* CCTV cameras at important locations which are functional and monitored 24/7.
- \* Training of women for self-defence and other safety measures.
- \* Emergency numbers and designated authorities who can be contacted at any time.
- \* Periodic and random checks of all security measures.

**Welfare provisions under Factories Act concerning women**

- \* Adequate number of separate washing facilities should be provided for women employees.
- \* Separate rest rooms and lunch rooms should be provided for women employees.
- \* In any factory, if there are more than thirty women employees, creche facilities should be provided to look after the children below the age five years of such women.

**(b) Employee State Insurance Act-1948**

ESI Act is a social security measure for the purpose of conferring benefits on insured employees against sickness and other disabilities. The Act covers all factories, industrial

## **Annexure-1**

### **Prominent Women Political Personalities of India**

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#### **1. Draupadi Murmu**



Draupadi Murmu is the 15th and current President of India. She was also the former cabinet minister of Odisha and the former governor of Jharkhand. She was born in a humble family based in a remote village of Mayurbhanj, a tribal district of Odisha. Murmu had worked as an assistant teacher and a junior assistant in Odisha state irrigation department. Mrs. Murmu started her political journey with the BJP in 1997. She has also worked as the president of Scheduled Tribe Morcha of the BJP Odisha unit. she was felicitated with the best legislative member award. Mrs. Murmu created history as she became the first woman governor of Jharkhand, the first tribal governor of a tribal state, the first Odisha-born woman to be a governor

## 2. Smt. Indira Gandhi



She was born on November 19, 1917 in an illustrious family. Smt. Indira Gandhi was the daughter of Pandit. Jawaharlal Nehru. She had her education at prime institutions like Ecole Nouvelle, Bex (Switzerland), Ecole Internationale, Geneva, Pupils' Own School, Poona and Bombay, Badminton School, Bristol, Vishwa Bharati, Shantiniketan and Somerville College, Oxford. She had an impressive academic background. Smt. Indira Gandhi was actively involved in the freedom struggle. In her childhood, she founded the 'Bal Charkha Sangh' and in 1930, the 'Vanar Sena' of children to help the Congress party during the Non-Cooperation Movement. She was imprisoned in September 1942, for her participation in freedom struggle by working in riot-affected areas of Delhi in 1947 under Gandhi's guidance. She got married to Feroze Gandhi on March 26, 1942 and had two sons. Smt. Gandhi became a Member, Congress Working Committee and Central Election of the

party in 1955. In 1958 she was appointed as a Member for Central Parliamentary Board of Congress. She was the Chairperson, National Integration Council of A.I.C.C. and President,

### **Role in politics**

She had been Minister for Information and Broadcasting (1964- 1966). she held the highest office as the Prime Minister of India from January 1966 to March 1977. Concurrently, she was the Minister for Atomic Energy from September 1967 to March 1977. She also held the additional charge of the Ministry of External Affairs from September 5, 1967 to February 14, 1969. Smt. Gandhi headed the Ministry of Home Affairs from June 1970 to November 1973 and Minister for Space from June 1972 to March 1977. From January 1980 she was Chairperson, Planning Commission. She again chaired the prime Minister's Office from January 14, 1980. Smt. Gandhi also became a Member of Rajya Sabha in August 1964 and served till February 1967. She was the Member of Lok Sabha during fourth, fifth and sixth sessions. She was elected to the Seventh Lok Sabha from Rae Bareli (U.P.) and Medak (Andhra Pradesh) in January 1980. She chose to retain the Medak seat and relinquished the Rae Bareli seat. She was chosen as the leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party in 1967-77 and again in January 1980.

## **Annexure-4**

### **Well Known Women IPS Officers**

(Source: Indiatimes.com)

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#### **1. Sanjukta Parashar**



Sanjukta graduated in Political Science from IP College, Delhi University, and did a master's in International Relations from JNU also earned an M. Phil in US foreign policy.

She was Known as Iron Lady of Assam. She was a courageous officer who took down 16 militants. During the 15 months of her service in Assam, she also caught many terrorists alive and seized tons of arms and ammunition.

Sanjukta Parashar first became the Assistant Commandant of Makum in the year 2008.

In the year 2006, Sanjukta assumed the post of IPS officer. She was entrusted with the responsibility of controlling the ethnic violence between Bodo and illegal Bangladeshi militants that took place in Udalguri. She became one of the most eminent police officers among Bodo militants when she headed a team of CRPF soldiers with AK-47 in Sonitpur district.

## 2. Merin Joseph



She was born on 20th April 1990 in Kerala. Merin, was trained at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad. She was the youngest officer in the list of people who led the Indian Delegates for the Y20 Summit.

In 2019, she and her team solved a two-year-old child rape case and arrested the accused from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She has been active in reviewing pending cases of crime against women.

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## **Annexure-8**

### **Women as Social Activists**

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#### **Medha Patkar**



Medha Patkar is an Indian social activist working on various crucial political and economic issues raised by tribals, dalits, farmers, labourers and women facing injustice in India. She is an alumnus of TISS, a premier institute of social science research in India

During the 1960s and early '70s, the Indian government was promoting dam building as a route to modernization. The

harnessing of river water was to provide water for drinking and irrigation and for generating electricity in impoverished areas. It would also, however, displace hundreds of thousands of people. In 1979 the NVDP—which proposed the construction of thousands of dams on the Narmada and its tributaries—was granted approval. In 1985 Patkar visited villages in the Narmada valley that were to be submerged after the completion of the Sardar Sarovar Dam in southeastern Gujarat, one of the largest of the planned projects. There she became aware of indifference exhibited by local government officials towards the people affected by the project. In 1986 she and her supporters organized marches and protests against the local government entity that was seeking financial grants from the World Bank for the Sardar Sarovar project. In that same year Patkar established the organization Narmada Dharangrastra Samiti, which in 1989 became the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA; Save the Narmada) with an aim to provide project information and legal representation to the concerned residents of the Narmada valley.

Through the NBA, Patkar sought help for those rendered homeless and without livelihoods because of the construction of the Sardar Sarovar and other large dams along the Narmada. Because of her constant efforts, the Narmada project was with drawn.

In 1996 Patkar founded the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM), an agglomeration of progressive

social bodies opposed to globalization policies. She was a representative to the World Commission on Dams, the first independent global advisory body on dam-related issues of water, power, and alternatives. Patkar also worked with local communities to develop alternatives for energy generation, water harvesting, and education, and she created a system of residential and day schools in villages of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat. She was recognized internationally for her work.

In 2014 Patkar joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP; “Common Man’s Party”),. She resigned from the AAP in 2015.

**Source: <https://www.wikipedia.com>**

**Ela Bhatt**

Ela Bhatt, (Ela Ramesh Bhatt) was born on September 7, 1933, Ahmedabad, India. She was the founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a trade union representing self-employed female textile workers in India. She won national and international recognition for her successful leadership of SEWA.

After graduating from Sarwajanik Girls High School in Surat in 1948, Bhatt attended MTB (Maganlal Thakordas Balmukunddas) Arts College in Surat, where she received a bachelor's degree in English in 1952. In 1954 she graduated from Sir L.A. Shah Law College in Ahmedabad, earning a gold medal for her work in Hindu law.



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