

India at the UN

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India at the UN: Strengthening Women's Rights at CSW 69

Context

- The **Union Minister for Women and Child Development** will lead **India's delegation** at the **69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** at the **United Nations headquarters in New York**.
 - The CSW is one of the most significant global platforms dedicated to **gender equality and the empowerment of women**.
 - India's participation reflects its commitment to **women's rights, policy discussions, and international cooperation on gender issues**.
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About the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

- The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** is a **global intergovernmental body** focused exclusively on **promoting gender equality and empowering women**.
- It operates as a **functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- The CSW works to advance **women's political, economic, civil, social, and educational rights** worldwide.
- It also highlights urgent global issues, such as the impact of **conflict on women and girls**.

Historical Background

- **Established: 21 June 1946**, by a resolution of ECOSOC.
- In **1996**, ECOSOC expanded CSW's mandate, making it responsible for:
 - **Monitoring and reviewing the progress of gender equality.**
 - **Overseeing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.**
 - **Mainstreaming gender perspectives into UN activities.**

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

- Adopted in **1995** by **189 countries**, it remains the most **comprehensive global agenda for gender equality**.
- It sets forth strategic objectives and concrete actions to **advance women's rights** and ensure their full participation in all aspects of society.

Annual Sessions of CSW

- The CSW meets annually for two weeks at the UN headquarters in New York.
 - Participants include representatives from UN member states, civil society organizations, and UN entities.
 - Discussions focus on:
 - Reviewing progress and gaps in implementing the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
 - Assessing emerging gender-related issues.
 - Formulating policy recommendations to accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment.
 - The outcomes and recommendations of the CSW session are forwarded to ECOSOC for further action and implementation.
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Significance of India's Participation

- India is actively engaged in global discussions on gender equality and women's rights.
- The country has undertaken several policy initiatives, including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana, and Mission Shakti, to promote women's empowerment.
- India's leadership at CSW 69 reinforces its commitment to advancing gender-responsive policies and strengthening international cooperation on women's rights and development.

