



# On Track

UNFPA India Newsletter Edition #6

April- July 2024





## ***On Track*** **UNFPA India Newsletter Edition #6** **April- July 2024**

***UNFPA India's work continues, one where ambition soars, acceleration ignites and achievement unfolds.***

We invite you to dive into the 6th edition of *On Track* and discover the impact of our collaborative work with the Government of India (GoI), celebrate 30 years of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and explore the inspiring stories and data-driven achievements that fueled UNFPA India's journey this quarter.



### **UNFPA India at 50**

#### **Youth are and will continue to be the Drivers of Agenda 2030**

Marking five decades of impact in India, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) celebrated its golden jubilee on 5th July in New Delhi, with an [event themed "Youth Power Unleashed."](#) Young changemakers (from left) [Shivani](#), [Munna](#), [Priyajit](#) and [Kavita](#) from UNFPA's [four focus states](#) of Rajasthan, Bihar, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh, respectively, shared their inspiring stories of resilience. The event featured a virtual appearance by renowned actor and body positivity advocate, [Huma Qureshi](#) (centre), who interacted and praised the young individuals' work.

*"A huge congratulations to each one of you," Qureshi said. "The amazing work that you all are doing is just so awe-inspiring. You, the youth, represent the powerful 252 million voices of Young India!"*

Ms. Meera Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, commended the enduring partnership, highlighting UNFPA India's fifty years of collaboration in advancing adolescent and youth reproductive health. The event also saw a special address by Shri Nitesh Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary and Chief Vigilance Officer, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the participation of Mr. Shombi Sharp Resident Coordinator, United Nations in India. UNFPA India Representative, Andrea M. Wojnar reflected,

*"UNFPA's journey in India, marked by milestones in sexual and reproductive health, women's and girl's empowerment, and rights for all, has been fueled by a shared vision with the Government, donors, private sector, the civil society and young people. As we look ahead, we commit to strengthening these partnerships towards a sustainable future."*

[Watch The Event Here](#)



### From Gram to Global

## Indian Women Elected Representatives (Sarpanches) shine bright at the Commission on Population Development 57

The 57th United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Population Development (CPD57), a congregation of world leaders to determine the progress made in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, witnessed the transformative potential of women in local governance. **Three inspiring Elected Women Representatives:** [Supriya Das Datta](#), the first elected woman representative of Tripura's three-tier panchayat system, [Hema Kumari](#), a beacon of women's health and empowerment from Andhra Pradesh, and [Neeru Yadav](#), the "Hockey Sarpanch" from Rajasthan, each brought unique experiences of localizing sustainable development goals in their communities.

The event, titled "[Localizing the \(SDGs\): Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way](#)," on 3rd May in New York was organised by the Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the United Nations, UNFPA India along with the support of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India.

The speakers for the event also included former Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ms. Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, Ambassador Andreas Løvold, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway, Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Pio Smith, UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Director, Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and was moderated by UNFPA India Representative, Andrea M. Wojnar.

The message from CPD57 is clear: By investing in women's leadership at all levels, we unlock a future where women are not just participants, but drivers of a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.



**Kunuku Hema Kumari**  
Andhra Pradesh



**Supriya Das Datta**  
Tripura



**Neeru Yadav**  
Rajasthan

PIB

UN News

Economic Times

Times of India



### A Young Voice at the Global High Table Priya represents India at the **ICPD30 Youth Dialogue**

Priya, a member of the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) for UNFPA India proudly represented her country at the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD30), Global Youth Dialogue on 4 and 5 April in Benin. An advocate for girls' sexual and reproductive health, she stood tall among **400 young leaders** worldwide, shaping the next generation's vision for a better world.

Her participation highlights that when youth voices are amplified, innovation ignites the way for a future crafted by and for young people.



### Connecting for Change Former Member of Parliament Amar Patnaik at the **Global Parliamentarian Conference**

The **8th International Parliamentarians' Conference** on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action on 12 April in Oslo, served as a platform for national legislators from around the world to illuminate the link between prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and building a better world for everyone. Representing India, Dr. Amar Patnaik, a seasoned parliamentarian, brought invaluable expertise to the discussions and underscored India's commitment to achieving tangible SRHR outcomes. The **Oslo Statement** is a powerful commitment to ICPD and was described as a 'beacon of hope'



### Just Ask! AI Chatbot Crosses Continents Breaking Barriers One-Chat at a Time

The ICPD30 Global Dialogue on Technology convened a dynamic assembly of decision-makers on 27 and 28 June in New York. The event brought together governments, tech giants, healthcare innovators, civil society, and academia to forge a path towards a future defined by secure, equitable, and rights-based technology.

The Dialogue put the spotlight on [UNFPA India's JustAsk! AI chatbot](#). Presented by Dr. Claus Runge, Chief Health Equity Officer at Bayer AG, [the chatbot](#), a cornerstone of UNFPA India's and Bayer AG's co-financed, 'My Rights My Choices' programme, is catalyzing youth potential by providing them with accurate reproductive health information. Through collaborative efforts with Bayer, and the governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, UNFPA India is bridging the digital divide, ensuring that every young person has the tools to make informed decisions about their health and future.

## POLICY & ADVOCACY



### A Gender-Transformative Approach Ushering in a New Era for the Women and Girls of Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh is making strides towards gender equality by crafting a groundbreaking State Policy for the empowerment of women and girls. The initiative kicked off in Bhopal on 27th and 28th June, with a state-level consultative workshop inaugurated by the Minister for Women and Child Development, Ms. Nirmala Bhuria. The Honourable Minister committed to developing the policy through wide ranging consultations aiming to transform the lives of women and girls.

Other dignitaries who participated included Principal Secretary Mr. Sanjay Kumar Shukla, IAS, and Commissioner Ms. Sufiyah Faruqui Wali, IAS, alongside Ms. Nidhi Nivedita MD, Women's Development and Financial Corporation, Mr. Vineet Kapoor, IPS, Mr. Jaydeep Biswas, Chief Policy and Partnerships, UNFPA India and Mr. Sunil Thomas Jacob, State Head, UNFPA Madhya Pradesh office.

More than 100 delegates representing 25 government departments, 35 delegates from the United Nations and international agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and think tanks actively participated in the consultation. UNFPA India will provide technical and strategic support in drafting the policy to ensure its alignment with international best practices.



## Decoding Migration

### Meeting with Experts Paves the Way for a New Study

India's development trajectory is profoundly influenced by the significant movement of its population, both within and across its borders. Over **600 million** internal migrants are actively contributing to the nation's economic and social fabric by seeking new opportunities in different regions. Managing this mega trend requires careful planning, skills development, and spreading economic opportunities. Addressing the specific challenges women face as migrants to new areas or spouses left behind, is essential for balanced growth.

To address this complex landscape while ensuring inclusivity, UNFPA India hosted a virtual meeting of 13 leading experts on 19th April in New Delhi, which included Mr. R B Bhagat, Professor and Head, Department of Migration and Urban Studies, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mr. S. Irudaya Rajan, Founder Chair, International Institute for Migration and Development among others along with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

This collaborative effort aims to develop a framework study which will examine sector-specific issues impacting migrant well-being and delve into its underlying factors – structural, social, and individual, to further inform evidence-based policies to improve the lives and ensure dignity of millions.



## Bridging the Gap: Population and Health Policies Aligned for a Healthier India

India has been a global trailblazer in family planning, initiating the world's first national program in 1952. This proactive stance has yielded substantial progress, marked by a shift to a holistic, rights-based approach. By prioritizing reproductive rights and quality healthcare, India has empowered women and improved population health outcomes. Strategic policies, amplified funding, and initiatives like Mission Parivar Vikas, focusing on high-fertility regions, have accelerated this transformation.

To solidify these gains and chart future directions, a comprehensive understanding of India's evolving health and population policies is imperative. UNFPA India has delivered a [literature review](#) to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, providing a historical examination of India's national health and population policies by comparing objectives and key features. The analysis offers a critical lens for enhancing policy effectiveness in context of the challenges arising from rapid population growth and demographic changes.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



## Tech Empowers Adolescents

### Powering the Health of 26.5 Million Students

UNFPA India is taking the lead in the management of the National Management Information Reporting System (MIS) for the Ayushman Bharat School Health & Wellness Program (AB-SHWP). Through strategic guidance to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) GoI, UNFPA India will propel the programme's expansion to reach a staggering 1.4 million schools across 26 states and 789 districts, benefiting over **26.5 million students**.

### Data Drives Youth Health Services in Bihar

Bihar is harnessing the power of data to drive progress. Through the Comprehensive Adolescent Health Mobile Application (CAHMA), the state has trained over **350 health officials** in 14 districts. Developed in partnership with UNFPA India, CAHMA enables real-time data capture on adolescent health programs, paving the way for strategic decision-making and ultimately broadening the services across Bihar.



Initiative By

**WCD - GOVT OF ODISHA**

Supported by UNFPA

**JAGRUTI**

OSC/SH APPLICATION

## Jagruti App: Odisha's **Blockchain-Powered Care** for Gender-Based Violence Survivors

The Women and Child Development (WCD) Department in collaboration with UNFPA India, has implemented an innovative multi-institutional coordination application in Odisha. Built on blockchain technology, it connects 30 One Stop Centers (OSCs) and 68 shelter homes supporting survivors of gender-based violence. The Jagruti App, powered by a rights-based approach, strengthens these institutions to provide systematic and coordinated services to survivors.

This system can link with the police and judiciary in the future, creating a more streamlined support network. The pilot program in 5 districts has already seen promising results. With 17 shelter homes, 4 One Stop gender-based violence response Centers, and 113 survivors registered on the app, Jagruti is demonstrating its ability to uplift survivors on their road to recovery.

## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



### Faith Leaders Unite **Combatting Child Marriage in India**

Recognizing the pivotal role of faith leaders in shaping community values, UNFPA India convened a workshop on April 29 in Sawai Madhopur, bringing together 32 religious leaders. The aim was to empower these influential figures as advocates for gender equality and to eradicate harmful practices like child marriage. Through capacity building, network formation, and strategic planning, the initiative seeks to ignite a widespread movement for girls' rights and choices in Rajasthan. The impact has been rapid, with these faith leaders already reaching over 600 people in just four months.



### Towards Zero Maternal Deaths: UNFPA **invests in Maternal Health Training**

The National Health Mission and UNFPA India joined forces in Madhya Pradesh to hold a one-day comprehensive Continuing Medical Education (CME) training on obstetric emergencies and critical care. By bolstering the competencies of over 110 obstetricians from Government District/Civil hospitals, dealing with around **500,000 deliveries** per year, this initiative will contribute to saving the lives of countless mothers.





## Accelerating Action Towards Coordinated Response to Gender-Based Violence

The Rajasthan Police Academy and the Directorate of Women Empowerment (DWE) in partnership with UNFPA India and a diverse group of experts, government officials, and civil society leaders have created a unified blueprint—a State Standard Operating Procedure—for addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices.

To date, UNFPA India has equipped over **300** staff at the Special Investigation Units for Crimes Against Women, One Stop Centers, and Mahila Suraksha Salah Kendras (Women Safety and Advice Centers) through intensive training workshops and webinars.

Additionally, **600** sub-inspectors have received crucial education on gender equality and violence prevention. By fortifying the frontline, Government of Rajasthan along with UNFPA India, is actively building a society where dignity and equality are ensured for women and girls.



## Beyond the Classroom: Life Skills Education for Tribal Youth

Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) in partnership with UNFPA India is working towards strengthening the agency of tribal adolescents to challenge harmful social norms and practices. A renewed approach focusing on stimulating 'Civic Imagination', through discourse-oriented life-skills education (LSE) has been adopted. By enabling more than 40 community volunteers with tools to address critical issues affecting tribal adolescents including high prevalence of child marriage and high-drop out rates, the seeds of change are being sown in **200** tribal residential schools. More than **2,000 resilient** young people are being nurtured through engaging activities like games, storytelling and theater.

## UNFPA INDIA IN ACTION



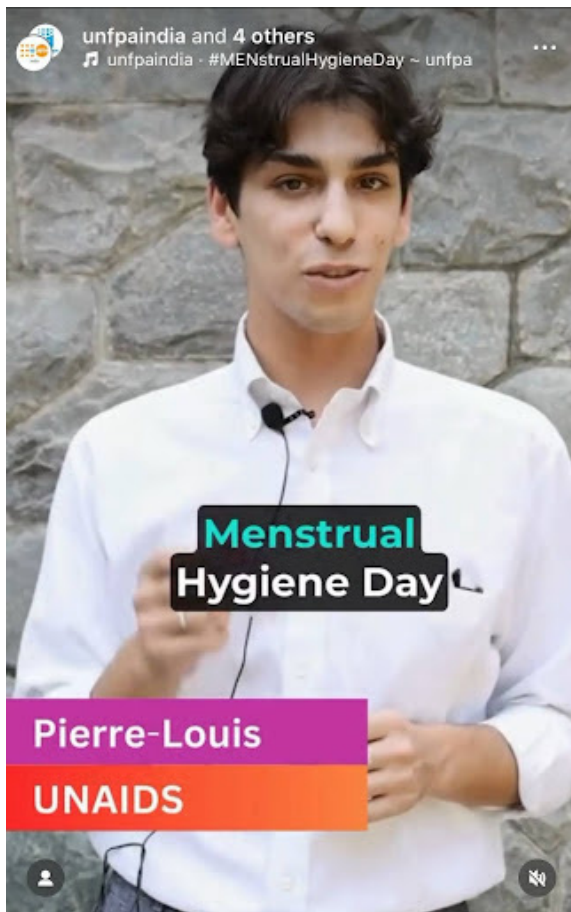
### Celebrating 7 Decades of Peacekeeping

On Peacekeepers Day, Andrea M. Wojnar, UNFPA India Representative, serving as the acting Resident Coordinator for United Nations in India, joined Dep. Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Rakesh Kapoor to [honour the 179 Indian UN peacekeepers](#) who have sacrificed their lives in the pursuit of global peace.



### Who Runs the Digital World, Girls!

UNFPA India Representative, Andrea M. Wojnar, addressed a vibrant group of young girls at the [inaugural Indian edition](#) of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) flagship 'Girls in Information and Communication Technologies' (ICT) programme on 21st May in New Delhi.



[Click](#) to see how UNFPA India celebrated #MENstrual Hygiene Day on 28th May!



## See what UNFPA India was up to on World Population Day, July 1

1. UNFPA India Representative, Andrea M.W gave an **exclusive interview to the Press T India (PTI)**. She highlighted key demographic trends shaping India's future: youthful population, urbanization, migration, climate resilience, and **elderly population doubling in India by 2050**. Curious to learn more? [Click here](#)
2. UNFPA India Deputy Representative Lorna Rolls delivered a powerful message to young researchers and academicians at the Institute of Economic Growth. She emphasised, "*This World Population Day is a call to action...Data can help us answer the questions: Who are we still missing? Why are they still missing?*"



Meet Shivani, a Yuva Mitra (youth community mobiliser) who through **Raatris Chaupals** (evening community gatherings) is shaping a healthier tomorrow, one that ensures no one is left behind.

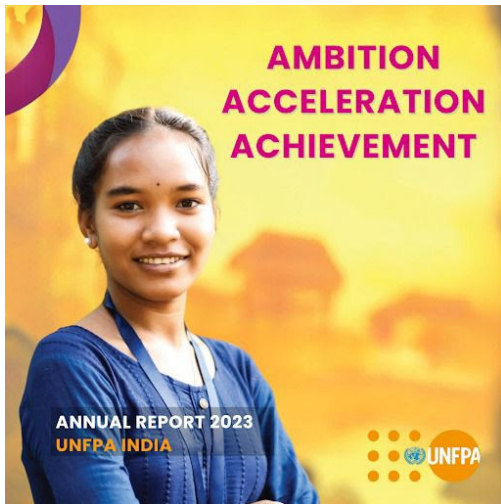
[Read Her Story](#)



## Research for Impact (R4I): Enhancing the Link Between Research and Results

UNFPA India's flagship [Research for Impact \(R4I\) Review Meeting](#) was held on 30th July in New Delhi for the third time. The gathering delved into cutting-edge research projects, including geo-spatial-AI based demographic modeling in Odisha, a critical analysis of gender representation in popular OTT content, and in-depth case studies on climate change's impact on vulnerable populations.

## LAUNCH OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2023



### Ambition, Acceleration and Achievement: UNFPA India's **Flagship** Annual Report 2023

UNFPA India proudly presents The Annual Report 2023 which offers a comprehensive look at the impactful initiatives, inspiring stories of change, and data-driven insights.

It also celebrates a pivotal achievement – the launch of the [Tenth Country Programme \(CP10\)](#) in 2023 in partnership with the Government of India (GoI).

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For more information, please contact:

Pinky Pradhan

Communications and Media Specialist

[ppradhan@unfpa.org](mailto:ppradhan@unfpa.org)

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