

# IAWS

INDIAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

## XVII NATIONAL CONFERENCE

7-10 September 2023

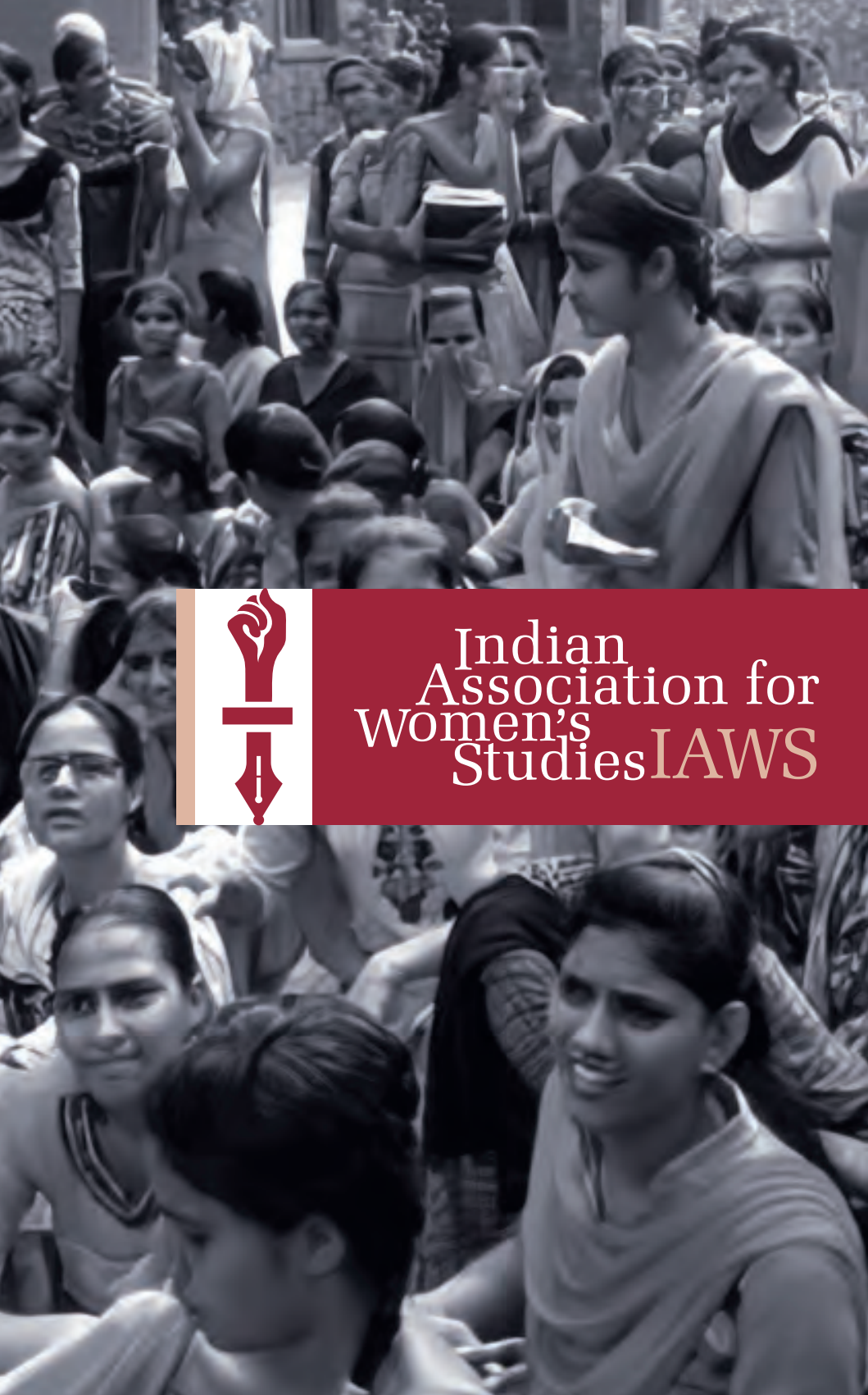
In collaboration with  
Government College for Women,  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



**Theme:**  
Women's  
Studies and  
Women's  
Movements:  
Challenges and  
Resilience



[www.iaws.co.in](http://www.iaws.co.in)



Indian  
Association for  
Women's  
Studies IAWS

# XVII NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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7-10 September 2023  
Government College  
for Women  
Thiruvananthapuram  
Kerala



**I**ndian Association  
for Women's Studies  
(IAWS) is organizing  
the XVII National  
Conference on the theme  
of 'Women's Studies and  
Women's Movements:  
Challenges and Resilience'  
in collaboration with  
Government  
College for Women,  
Thiruvananthapuram.  
The IAWS National  
Conference will be  
held in Kerala for the  
second time after 39 years.  
The conference aims to  
encourage discussions and  
reflections on the value  
and growth of  
women's/gender studies in  
higher education and its  
role in promoting justice  
and equality for women  
in India.

## About the XVII IAWS Conference

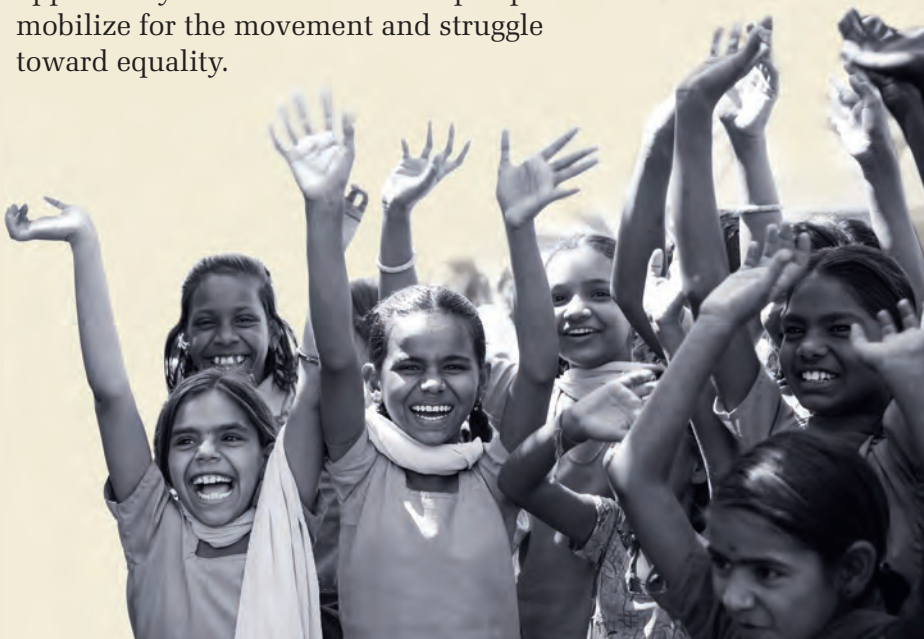
IAWS organizes a national conference every three years on critical issues of contemporary concern. These conferences have garnered significant attention from the academic community as well as media, activists, policymakers, and leaders for foregrounding extensive discussion on key issues of gender concerns on the public agenda. These conferences have contributed to the creation, dissemination, and preservation of gender-related knowledge. The presence of South Asian scholars of women's studies has been a distinctive feature of these conferences and has enabled the linkage of local women's studies scholarship to the global. Around 1000 persons attend the conference in total, including teachers, students, scholars, development and media practitioners, state representatives, activists, and others. The XVIth conference was held in Delhi in January 2020 in collaboration with National Law University Delhi on the theme "Constitutional Principles in the 21st Century India: Visions for Emancipation".



The XVIIth IAWS conference is proposed to be held in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala, the state that has a continuous legacy of movements and struggles for women's rights, and now has become the hub for development and cultural organizations working for women's empowerment. This conference, **"Women's Studies and Women's Movements: Challenges and Resilience,"** aims to engage in critical and creative ways to reimagine Women's Studies as an academic discipline and the role of Women's movements in challenging current frontiers of knowledge and action. It aims to provide focus, direction, and clarity to achieve the objectives of gender justice.

A continued dialogue between the women's movement and women's studies is crucial for understanding and resisting the dispossession and violence in women's lives. By examining challenges and resilience through this lens, we hope to find the long-awaited answer to the question: what is to be done?

The conference aims to foster dialogues and discussions that bridge the gap between knowledge bases and struggles, encompassing social, political, economic, and cultural contexts, as well as the axes of power that shape patriarchy. The conference will address critical issues in education, health, and labour policies, while also exploring topics related to peace and ecology. The conference features 5 plenaries that will delve into core themes, along with 10 parallel subtheme sessions that will facilitate a wide range of paper presentations. Furthermore, there will be various panel discussions on regional and contemporary issues, audio-visual screenings of films & documentaries, as well as diverse cultural programs and exhibitions. A special plenary will bring together distinguished scholars, activists, and artists from across Asia to collaboratively address key concerns. Participation in the conference presents an opportunity to refine our critical perspectives and mobilize for the movement and struggle toward equality.



## The Conference theme will be divided into 10 Subthemes:

**Subtheme 1:** Women in Freedom Movements:  
Safeguarding Constitution, struggles and Solidarity

- Aparna Bandyopadhyay, Associate Professor, History, Diamond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal &
- Aparna Chandra, National Law School of India University, Bangalore

**Subtheme 2:** Women's dislocations and livelihood struggles: Pandemic and Post pandemic Contexts

- Vishav Raksha, Department of Sociology, University of Jammu, Jammu &
- E. Deepa, School of Development, Azim Premji University, Bangalore

**Subtheme 3:** Contemporary Women's movements: Grassroots, New forms, Strategies, and Challenges

- Niyathi R. Krishna, Dept. of Development Studies, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) Regional Centre, Chandigarh &
- Swethal Ramachandran, Department of Women's Studies, University of Madras

**Subtheme 4:** Women's Contribution to Sustainable Ecological Development and Climate Solutions

- Lavanya Shanbhogue, Jamsetji, Tata School of Disaster Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai &
- Kalyani Raj, President, All India Women's Conference

**Subtheme 5:** Women in STEMM and Building Scientific Temper

- LV Madhurima, Department of Physics, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur &
- Vineeta Bal, Department of Biology, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune



**Subtheme 6:** Local Self-Governance and Women:  
Prospects and Challenges

- Sayanti Roy, Deputy Director,  
Department of Planning & Statistics,  
Government of West Bengal &
- Amrutha K.P.N., Assistant Director (T)  
Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA)

**Subtheme 7:** Intersectional Vulnerabilities: Caste,  
religion, Trans and sexual minorities, Adivasis/ Tribes,  
and disabilities

- Nandini Ghosh, Institute of Development  
Studies Kolkata &
- Sangita Thosar, Advanced Centre for Women's Studies,  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

**Subtheme 8:** Human Rights Violations: Gender-Based  
Violence and Resistance

- Tauseef Fatima, Advanced Centre for Women Studies,  
A.M.U, Aligarh &
- Anurita Pathak Hazarika, Northeast Network, Assam

**Subtheme 9:** Legal Reforms, Judicial System, and  
Emancipatory Agenda

- Sonia K Das, Government Law College,  
Thrissur, Kerala &
- Shanthi Samandha, Tamil Nadu National Law  
University, Thiruchirappally

**Subtheme 10:** Gendering the Digital Popular

- Meena T Pillai,  
Kerala University &
- Kaberi Chakrabarti,  
University of Calcutta



## Venue and Time

National Conference of Women's Studies is a four-day Conference to be held from **7th-10th September 2023 at Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. A one-day Students Pre-conference on **Breaking New Grounds: The Transformative Potential of Women's Studies in Higher Education** will be held on 6th September at the same venue.

## Conference Schedule

### 7th September 2023

9.00 am to 10.00 am - Food Court

**Breakfast**

9.15 am to 9.45 am - College Premise

**Shinkari Melam (Orchestra)**

by Rudrathalam Women's Group

9.45 am to 10.00 am - Auditorium

**Welcome Song** By Department of Music,  
Government College for Women

10.00 am to 11.20 am - Auditorium

**Inaugural Session**

*Chair:* **Dr. R.Bindu**, Hon'ble Minister for  
Higher Education, Government of Kerala

*Welcome & Introduction to the conference:*

**Mini Sukumar**, General Secretary, IAWS

*Inaugural Address:* **Gita Sen**,

Honorary Senior Advisor and Distinguished Professor,  
Public Health Foundation of India

*Presidential Address:* **Ishita Mukhopadhyay**,  
President, IAWS





### **Felicitation of Professor Leela Gulati**

*Vote of Thanks:* **Anuradha.V.K**, Principal,  
Government College for Women

11.20 am to 11.35 am

### ***Tea break***

11.35 am to 12.00 pm - Auditorium

### **Madhuriben Shah Memorial Lecture**

***Intersections Vs Intersectionality:  
A model of Resilience***

**Sona Jharia Minz**, Jawaharlal Nehru  
University, New Delhi

*Chair:* **Syeda Hameed**, former Member,  
Planning Commission of India

12.00 pm to 12.15pm - Auditorium

### **Release of Autobiography of Dr. K. Saradamoni**

12.15 pm to 01.30 pm - Auditorium

### **Plenary 1 Conference Theme Plenary**

Women's Studies and Women's Movements:  
Challenges and Resilience

- **Indu Agnihotri**, Former Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, Delhi
- **Sadhna Arya**, Former Faculty at Department of Political Science, University of Delhi
- **Sindhu. A.R.** Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)
- **Manisha Mashaal**, Founder, Swabhimani Society, Haryana
- **Rosemary Dzuvichu**, Nagaland University, & Naga Mothers Association, Kohima
- **Navsharan Singh**, Researcher and human rights activist, Delhi

*Chair:* **Rameswari Varma**, Former Treasurer, IAWS

*Coordinated by:* **Vibhuti Patel**, Vice President, IAWS

1.30 pm to 2.30 pm - Food Court

### ***Lunch Break***

2.30 pm to 5.30 pm - Classrooms

**Parallel Sub-theme Sessions:** Sub-themes 1 to 10

**PANELS** - in Parallel sessions

3.30 pm to 5.00 pm - Seminar Hall – E Block

**Panel 1 IWWAGE-IAWS panel on *Strengthening the Voices of Care Workers in India.***

- **Dipa Sinha**, Dr. BR Ambedkar University Delhi
- **Bhanupriya Rao**, Behan Box
- **Sonia George**, Self Employed Women's Association
- **Kiran Moghe**, All India Coordination Committee of Domestic Workers (AICCDW)
- **A.R Sindhu**, All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers

*Chair:* **Ritu Dewan**, Visiting Professor,  
Institute for Human Development

*Coordinator:* **Sona Mitra**, IWWAGE



3.30 pm to 5.00 pm - Assembly Hall

**Panel 2 Single Women on the Move**

- **Parul Chaudhary**, Independent Scholar, Hyderabad
- **Rukmini Sen**, Dr. BR Ambedkar University, New Delhi
- **Sapna Kedia**, ICRW
- **KS Saleekha**, All India Democratic Women's Association

*Chair & Coordinator:* **Ketaki Chowkhani**,  
Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal

4.30 pm to 5.30 pm - Food Court

**Tea break**

5.00 pm to 6.00 pm - Assembly Hall

**Archetype's & Alterbodies: Presentation and Interactive session by Artist Sajitha R Sankar**

6.00 pm to 7.30 pm - Auditorium

**Music Performance by Pushpavathy P R**

7.30 pm to 8.30 pm - Food Court

**Dinner**

## 8th September 2023

9.00 am to 10.00 am - Food Court

### *Breakfast*

10.00 am to 11.30 am - Auditorium

### **Plenary 2 Asia Plenary (hybrid mode)**

#### **Women's Movements for Peace and Democracy in Asia**

- **Ms. Irene M. Santiago**, Lead Convenor  
#WomenSeriously, Philippines
- **Professor Amena Mohsin Professor**, Department of International Relations. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Dr. Mira Mishra**, Reader, Tribhuvan University Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Ms. Niluka Gunawardena**, Visiting Lecturer, University of Kelaniya Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **Prof. Krishna Menon**, Gender Studies, School of Human Studies, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi

*Chair:* **Swarna Rajagopalan**, Honorary Director, Prajnya Initiatives for Peace, Justice and Security, Chennai

*Coordinated by:* **Asha Hans**, Executive Committee Member, IAWS

11.30 am to 11.45 am - Food Court

### *Tea break*

11.45 am to 1.30 pm - Auditorium

### **Plenary 3 Towards Equality Report after 50 Years**

- **Malini Bhattacharya**, Former Director, School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- **Kalpana Kannabiran**, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development, Telangana
- **Neetha.N**, Centre for Women's Development Studies
- **Renu Khanna**, Trustee and Co-Founder, SAHAJ, Gujarat

- **Pam Rajput**, Professor Emeritus, Panjab University, Chandigarh

- **Kalpana Karunakaran**, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai

*Chair:* **Kumud Sharma**, Former Chairperson, CWDS, New Delhi

*Coordinated by:* **Suba. S**, Treasurer, IAWS

1.30 pm to 2.30 pm - Food Court

**Lunch Break**

2.30 pm to 5.30 pm - Classrooms

**Parallel Sub-themes:** Sub-themes 1 to 10

3.30 pm to 5.00 pm - Seminar Hall – E Block

**Panel 3 Jharkhand:**

**Land, Labour and Violence in Intersection with Gender**

- **Ekata Bakshi**, Researcher, Development Practitioner, Ranchi, Jharkhand

- **Shambhawi Vikram**, Ph.D. Scholar at J.N.U, New Delhi.

- **Debjani Roy**, P G Department of Geography, Nirmala College, Ranchi University

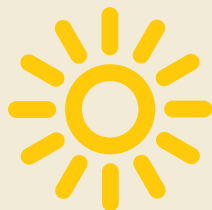
- **Sunita Purty**, Independent Researcher, Jharkhand

- **Nayan Kumar Soren**, Assistant Professor of Economics, Giridih College, Giridih (Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag)

*Discussants:*

**Indrani Mazumdar**, Former General Secretary, IAWS

**Anant Kumar**, Associate Professor and Head of programme – Rural Management, Xavier's Institute of Social Services, Ranchi.



*Chair:* **Ranjana Srivastava**, Department of Economics and In-charge, Women's Studies Centre, Ranchi University.

*Coordinated by:* **Nirmala Putul**, Executive Committee member, IAWS & **Mamta Kumari**, Coordinator, IAWS Jharkhand Project

3.30 pm to 5.00 pm - Assembly Hall

**Panel 4 Round table in Women's studies:  
Curriculum and Pedagogy**

- **K Suneetha Rani**, Centre for Women's studies, University of Hyderabad
- **Asha Achuthan**, Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
- **Maya John**, Department of History, Jesus and Mary College, Delhi
- **Poonam Kakoti Borah**, Department of Women's Studies, Gauhati University
- **Sayali Shankar**, Researcher, Department of women and Gender Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University

*Coordinated by:* **Wandana Sonalkar & Anagha Tambe**, Executive Committee members, IAWS

4.30 pm to 5.30 pm - Food Court

**Tea break**

5.30 pm to 6.15 pm - Auditorium

**Folksong Performance** by Shilaja P Ambu and Team from Government College for Women

6.15 pm to 6.30 pm - Auditorium

**Queer Performance** by Sanjana Chandran and Team

6.30 pm to 7.30 pm -

**March for Peace in Manipur – Candlelight vigil**

7.30 pm to 8.30 pm - Food Court

**Dinner**

## 9th September 2023

9.00 am to 10.00 am - Food Court

*Breakfast*

10.00 am to 11.30 am - Auditorium

### **Plenary 4 Host State Plenary: New Movements in Kerala: Challenges and Resilience**

*Chair: K.M. Sheeba*

- **P K.Sreemathy**, AIDWA
- **K. Ajitha**, Anweshi, Kozhikode
- **Rekha Raj**, Dalit Activist & Writer
- **P. Viji**, Penkoottu, Kozhikode
- **Chitra Nilambur**, President, Adivasi Aikya Vedi
- **Mercy Alexander**, Sakhi, Trivandrum
- **Nalini Jameela**, Activist and Writer
- **Sheethal Shyam**, Transgender Activist
- **Deedi Damodaran**, Women in Cinema Collective
- **Sulfath**, Forum For Muslim Women's Gender Justice
- **Dr. Sharada Devi V**, Independent Researcher

*Coordinated by: C.S. Chandrika*, Writer

11.30 am to 12 pm - Food Court

*Tea break*

12 pm to 1.30 pm - Auditorium

### **Plenary 5 Gender and Education in India: Disparities and Inclusion**

*Chair: Prof. Kumkum Roy*, Former Faculty,  
CHS, JNU, Delhi

- **Prof. Mary E John**, Former Director, CWDS, Delhi
- **Prof. Anita Rampal**, Former Faculty, Department of  
Education, University of Delhi





- **Shampa Sengupta**, Joint Secretary,  
National Platform for Rights of the Disabled
- **P B Prince Gajendra Babu**, General Secretary,  
State Platform for Common School System,  
Tamil Nadu.
- **Amita Kumari**, Faculty, Department of History,  
Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka.

*Coordinated by:* **Anagha Tambe** and **Shadab Bano**,  
Executive Committee Members, IAWS

1.30 pm to 2.30 pm - Food Court

**Lunch Break**

2.30 pm to 5.30 pm - Classrooms

**Parallel Sub-themes:** Sub-themes 1 to 10

3.00 pm to 5.00 pm - Assembly Hall

**Panel 5 Tenth ISLE – IAWS - Special Panel:**  
**Understanding Women's Labour force**  
**participation in India**

- **Vinoj Abraham**, Professor, Centre for  
Development Studies, Trivandrum
- **P.C. Mohanan**, Chairperson,  
Kerala State Statistical Commission
- **Elina Samantroy**, Co-ordinator, Centre for Gender  
and Labour, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute
- **N. Neetha**, Professor, Centre for Women's  
Development Studies, New Delhi

*Discussant:* **Rajni Palriwala**, Former Professor of  
Sociology, University of Delhi

*Chair:* **Ravi Srivastava**, Institute of Human  
Development

*Moderator:* **Ritu Dewan**, Visiting Professor,  
Institute for Human Development



2:30 pm to 5.00 pm - Seminar Hall – E Block

**Panel 6 Women and Regional Diversity in India:  
Women in Kashmir, Mid-Eastern India and  
North-East India**

*Chair:* **Jarjume Ete**, Arunachal Pradesh  
State Commission for Women (APSCW)

- **Bashabi Gupta**, Professor, Department of Geography,  
Miranda House, New Delhi
- **Evy Mehzabeen**, Senior Research Associate,  
TREADS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi
- **Hena Singh**, Professor, Department of Political  
Science, Miranda House, New Delhi
- **Anamika Priyadarshini**, Centre for Catalyzing  
Change, Bihar
- **Vishav Raksha**, Professor, University of Jammu
- **Chandan Sigh**, Director, Pratigya, Jharkhand
- **Abdul Basit Naik**, Assistant Professor, Gender and  
Women Studies, University of Kashmir

*Coordinator:* **N. Manimekalai**,  
Executive Committee Member, IAWS

4.30 pm to 5.30 pm - Food Court

**Tea break**

5.00 pm to 6.30 pm - Auditorium

**IAWS General Body Meeting  
General Secretary's report**



6.45 pm to 7.30 pm - Auditorium

**Beyond the Shadows:  
Theatre Performance by Nireeksha Women's Theatre**

7.30 pm to 8.30 pm - Food Court

**Dinner**



## 10th September 2023

9.00 am to 10.00 am - Food Court

### *Breakfast*

9.45 am to 11.30 am - Auditorium

### **Roundup of Conference Discussions**

Sub-theme Reports: Sub-theme coordinators

Conference Feedback

*Chair:* **Vibhuti Patel**, Vice President, IAWS

*Co-chair:* **Shadab Bano**, Joint Secretary, IAWS

11.30 pm to 12.00 pm - Food Court

Tea break

12.00 pm to 1.30 pm - Auditorium

### **Valedictory Session**

*Chair:* **Prof. V.K. Ramachandran**,  
Vice Chairperson, Kerala State Planning Board

*Valedictory Address:* **Mallika Sarabhai**,  
Artist, Activists & Justice Seeker

*Vote of thanks:* **Suba S**, Treasurer, IAWS

1.30 pm to 2.30 pm - Food Court

### *Lunch*



## About IAWS

The Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) is a professional body, registered under the Societies' Registration Act, having membership of more than 2500, drawn from a diverse community of academics, researchers, students, policy analysts, activists, social workers, media persons, practitioners working on gender issues and others. IAWS also has institutional members mainly from universities and institutes.

The IAWS came into existence through the resolution of the first National Conference on Women's Studies in 1981, held at SNDT University, Mumbai. This historic conference identified women's studies as a 'critical perspective' to be integrated into all disciplines and the need for universities to initiate activities focusing on women's struggle for equality in independent India through research, teaching, and other interactive platforms. To further these aims, the conference resolved to set up the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) which was registered as a membership-based organisation in 1982, with the support of two founding institutions namely, The SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, and CWDS, New Delhi. In 2022, IAWS completed 40 years of its existence.

Since its inception in 1982, it is engaged in fostering the development of Women's Studies within and beyond the higher educational institutions. It conducts various activities such as national and regional conferences, supporting research studies,



newsletters and publications, and archives on women's studies/gender studies. It undertakes independent and collaborative activities with Universities, Women's studies / Gender studies centers and other institutions/ organisations to promote discussion on women in emerging fields including the fields of citizenship, legal rights, and environment. IAWS is the only platform bringing together those doing women's / gender studies in universities and colleges, in democratic organizations, in state and non-governmental bodies in the development sector, and in media and arts, and this has impacted the widespread and diverse expansion of women's / gender studies across India.

The activities are coordinated by an Executive Committee, elected every three years by its members.

Contact Us

**XVIIth National Conference Secretariat**

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**Govt. College for Women**  
Thiruvananthapuram



