

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



War Widows Association

विदित आपदा के कारण इस वर्ष रिपोर्ट का हिंदी रूपान्तर संभव नहीं हो पाया।

Mrs Zenobia and Brigadier B.M. Panthaki presenting the book
'FIELD MARSHAL SAM MANEKSHAW - THE MAN AND HIS TIMES'
written by them, to the members of the Executive Committee of the War
Widows Association, New Delhi at Shaheed Bhawan, on the January 9, 2020.



From the Desk of Chairperson

Fifty years have gone by, 50 years of Satisfaction, Service and Smiles. It has been a meaningful interaction bringing about a change with new ideas & new events.

We have been together in many ups & downs. This journey of ours spread across fifty years has given me immense satisfaction. A satisfaction that has produced joy that I continue to help the Veer Naries, even after a span of half a century.

As I reminisce on the fifty years many highlights come crowding into my mind. The half decade of service saw us visiting several thousand widows not only in all the states of India including 350 district head quarters, but we have established centers at Pauri Garhwal, Chhachhrauli Rohtak and Jhajjar in Haryana. Our state president of Andhra Pradesh late Dr. Roda Mishra helped widows to get their dues and also helped them with various housing problems. Our state president in Mumbai, late Mrs. Nargis Dutt raised substantial grant of funds for us to build Shaheed Bhawan and other extracurricular activities. She and many others like Mrs. Ranjan Kaji who was the secretary helped in getting naval quarters for the poor widows of the Navy. Our centre in Punjab which was at that time looked after by a General's wife also had many innovative programs. In far off Kerala our state President had housing built for naval widows and in the Chennai our state President Mrs. Rajendaran built a war & ex-serviceman centre (which is running beautifully even today). Many production cum training centers that were begun are still running. After completion of the training in the early years, the Haryana Government gave stitching project of 4th class uniform to widows of our centre of Haryana so that the widows could be empowered. We had three meetings in Kashmir and were able to extend the facilities of pension and housing to the war widows. We are very thankful to Mrs. Gandhi who had the compassionate perception and helped our organization by giving housing, educational and jobs facilities and gas agencies to the war widows.

Today when I look back I am quite confident that the War Widows Association will never fail in our motto to serve & take care of those who are left behind

No doubt the greatest event of this year is definitely entering the beginning of a new 50 years. Our challenges are many and we shall overcome. The various initiatives that the War Widows Association has taken are praiseworthy. Our success is the success of all the members and the executive committee. I am appreciative of their various services. These fifty years have brought about another change, we have a young Secretary & President and I am confident that the organization is going to grow with them through innovative initiatives.

Finally in the words of G. K Chesterton "The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." The soldiers have fought and gone but left behind their precious families. It is our privilege and duty to ensure that those left behind will not want. I am happy that the War Widows Association could serve them, because in serving them, we honour the memories of the brave and strengthen the sovereignty and integrity of India

Best Wishes,

Dr. (Mrs.) V Mohini Giri

Founder/Chairperson

War Widows Association





Advisor's Message

Greetings to the War Widows Association on the occasion of Vijay Diwas and the Release of the Annual Report.

Over the past 50 years their unique contributions in ensuring the Human Rights of widows of War and Armed Conflict has grown from strength to strength. Economic and emotional support provided has enabled a large number of young woman who have been victims of tragically losing their husband in the service of the nation, to stand on their own with respectful and honourable life.

Under the dynamic leadership and guidance of Dr. Mrs. Mohini Giri, Chairperson and her dedicated team of office bearers and members, the Association has done a commendable job even during the unprecedented conditions created by the Covid 19 pandemic.

I take this opportunity to congratulate them on the exemplary work they are doing during this trying period and wish them all the success in their future endeavours.

Lt. Gen.(Retd.) Shankar Prasad, PVSM, VSM
Advisor, WWA





President's Message

After having worked as General Secretary of the Association for nine years (three terms) the members felt that I was ready to hold the reign when the incumbent President Mrs Jasjiwan Kaur opted to step down. It was a matter of pleasure and honour for me to be elevated for the top job. The earlier nine years had allowed me to get totally sucked into the ethos of the organisation, as well as the cause for which the Association was formed. If one asked me today what is the aim of your remaining life? I would without hesitation say, to work for the welfare of the war widows. Their problems and needs are varied and somehow it is felt that they could do with some help.

Our well established and well recognised organisation gives me that little edge to step forward and hold their hands. I sincerely pray that God gives me enough strength to achieve my goal. Once the Pandemic is over and hopefully soon, we have plans to open out our association with new and useful ventures.

It has been a pleasure to work with all the office bearers as well as the staff of War Widows Association in the past and I sincerely hope their help would continue to be willingly forthcoming.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Tambay', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Damayanti V Tambay
President, WWA



General Secretary's Message

The term 'War Widows' could perhaps have an ominous, almost tragic sound for many. However, as children whenever we heard that we were invited to an event by the 'War Widows' Association, it created a flutter of excitement and anticipation. The event usually meant that we little ones would be given plenty of importance. There was kinship, empathy and love within this big family created as a result of the sacrifice of the life of many a soldier.

Today I feel as though I have come full circle as the newly appointed General Secretary – a position that offers me the opportunity to give back to this community, and to reach out to many more.

I hope that in some small measure our association can continue to serve to alleviate the life and spirits of those affected by unseemly wars.

Lastly, I wish to pay a personal homage to all martyrs, to my father (Late) Maj Manmohan Singh Bakhshi 196 MTN COM REGT, and his exceptional wife Mohinder Bakhshi who has been an extraordinary single mother to my brother and me.

Mrs. Shalini Kathpalia
Gen. Secretary, WWA
(joined November, 2020)



**WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION
SHAHEED BHAWAN, NEW DELHI**

Our Patrons

We welcome our patrons and look forward to close contact with them.



Mrs. Veena Naravane
President AWWA



Mrs. Asha Bhaduria
President AFWWA



Mrs. Geetha Ashok
President, NWWA



Geetha Ashok (Centre) with Damayanti V Tambay and Raj Sharma

IN REMEMBRANCE



Mrs. Veena Nanda

Mrs. Veena Nanda, wife of (Late) Lt. Col. R.B. Nanda of 4- Sikh Regiment (Indo- China War- 1962), was a founder member of the War Widows Association. She passed away on the 22nd February 2020. The WWA expresses its condolences at her passing away and for leaving a void in the Association. WWA mourns the sad demise of dear Veenaji.



Mrs. Prem Dewan

Mrs Prem Dewan, was wife of (Late) Lt. Col. R.K.Dewan of 70 Armd Regiment (Indo- Pak War 1971). She was the President of the War Widows Association in the past. Under her leadership the organization grew in strength and service. She was humble, friendly and always concerned about the condition of the war widows. She passed away on the 3rd October 2020. The WWA expresses its condolences at her passing away and for leaving a void in the Association. WWA mourns the sad demise of dear Dollyji.



WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION SHAHEED BHAWAN

Annual Report 2019-20

Vision & Mission

War can be devastating, leading to destruction and break up of families where we lose a son, a father, a brother or a husband. The War Widows Association was created as a necessity to serve the needs of women who were left helpless due to the sacrifice of their husbands. The organization was registered as an Association in 1971 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 amended in 1957.

The main mission has been to provide economic and emotional support to enable wives and children of martyrs to live their lives with dignity.

According to the mandate of the organization, the following concerns are attended to by the organization.

- Provide support to war widows and take up their cause with the government including the problems of those women whose husbands were missing in action. Repatriation of families with the help of government support became a major concern.
- Enable widows and their children to get their entitlements according to the rules framed by the government, for defence personnel of all categories.
- Advocate with the government for better and uniform policy for the rehabilitation of the families of all affected defence personnel.
- To organize such programs as general health and legal awareness, seminars and workshops on issues of concern, and arrange recreational and cultural activities.
- Organize skill training centres for economic empowerment of widows, the elderly and young children.



Dr. Priya Tiwari taking 'Cancer Camp'

Ever so often, it is difficult to locate widows and parents from distant areas and the War Widows Association takes the support of Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards to help them in the process of locating and collecting details of widows of war and conflict pan India.





Dr. Sukanya Patra taking 'GYN Camp'

The War Widows Association undertakes several activities to ensure that veer naris and their families are able to become socially and economically strong. To make this possible the following activities are undertaken.

1. Interaction with Ex-servicemen's League and ZilaSainik Boards to get concrete information about widows who need attention, and become partners with them, in providing necessary services.
2. Programs under the Dialogue Centre: - Meetings, seminars on various issues are organized to provide information to widows of war and conflict and other members in Delhi. Similar programs are sometimes organized in other places, if required.



Dr. Ajay Shashtri highlighting use of 'Yoga'

3. Skill training on tailoring, computer education, spoken English, beauty culture etc., for children and young girls of less privileged communities are also conducted.

ACTIVITIES

1. Dialogue Centre Activities at WWA Premises *Celebration of Independence Day at Shaheed Bhawan 13th August 2019*

The President, WWA, Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur, Vice President Mrs Parvesh Ghai, Mrs Raj Sharma, staff and students of Summit Play School gathered along with their parents and sang the National Anthem on the occasion of the Independence Day.



Mrs. Sumitra Rawat, Teacher at Summit Play School, briefed everyone about the celebration of Independence Day of India. This was followed by a variety of cultural programs by the tiny tots of Summit Play School. The students of computer-science, sewing and spoken English class put up music and dance performances which was enjoyed by all. The computer teacher, Ms Richa Misra, gave a speech on Independence Day



At the end of the program, the President Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur thanked all the students and participants, and appreciated and applauded Mrs Sumitra Rawat, who took keen interest in the development and participation of the program by the students. She also thanked all the staff members for their support. Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur and Vice President Mrs. Parvesh Ghai and Mrs Raj Sharma also gave a token of appreciation to all the participants.

The program ended with refreshments being provided to all the participants and staff.

Annual Cultural Festival

Diwali celebration held on Saturday 12th October 2019 at Shaheed Bhawan, New Delhi.

The War Widows Association, New Delhi organised a cultural function on the 12th October 2019 at Shaheed Bhawan, New Delhi to celebrate the festival season of Diwali. Children from the following organisations participated, to whom W.W.A. extends its financial support.

1. 'Sarahana Society for Welfare and Development', New Delhi.
2. 'Mera Sahara' run by Joint Women's Program at Nithari Village, Noida.
3. 'Vidya School' Integrated Development For Youth and Adults, Gurugram, Gurgaon.
4. 'Shanti Sahyog' (Cooperation for Peace India), New Delhi.
5. War Widows Association, New Delhi.



Dr. (Mrs.) V Mohini Giri



The Chairperson, W.W.A, Dr. (Mrs.) V Mohini Giri, presided over the function. The incoming President, Mrs Damayanti V Tambay and the outgoing President Mrs Jasjiwan Kaur were present. Thereafter, Mrs. Damayanti V Tambay welcomed Mrs. Giri and outgoing President Mrs Jasjiwan Kaur and addressed the function. The program started with blessings by Dr.Giri who encouraged all the students from different NGOs and wished them the very best for their bright future.

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The programme started with a performance by the special children of Sarahana Welfare and Development society based on Bharat Mata, which was appreciated by everyone in the audience, followed by group dance performed by the tiny tots of Summit Play School, W.W.A. A variety of programs (cultural dances, group songs, skit) were put up by the children from, Joint Women's Programme, Vidya School, Shanti Sahyog and War Widows Association.



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The program concluded with a group dance performed by children of computer, sewing and spoken English classes of WWA.



Dr. Giri congratulated the children who participated in the program and showered them with her blessings for their bright future. She also gave each child a sum of Rs. 100/- on behalf of the WWA, as a token of appreciation.



Mrs. Damayanti V Tambay helped in distributing lunch box to all participants and guests. The program ended with lunch.

Celebration of Republic Day: with the tiny-tots of the SUMMIT PLAY SCHOOL. The children were distributed sweets after the function and were told the importance of the day. They were very happy to be dressed nicely.



Celebration of International Women's Day on 7th March 2020

The War Widows Association, New Delhi, the Guild For Service in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti & Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia celebrated the International Women's Day on the 7th March, 2020 at the Kirti Mandap, Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti at 5, Tees January Marg, New Delhi from 10:30 am onwards.



The program started with the laying of wreaths at the photo of Mahatma Gandhi by Mrs. Syeeda Hameed, Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur & Mr. Kartikiyan, Mrs. Aruna Dalmia, Mrs. Naaz Mahmood and Mr. A. K Merchant were accompanied by Veer Naries of Kargil War, Mrs. Devyanti Devi, Mrs. Tankumari, Mrs. Basanti Devi, Mrs. Banita Rawat, Mrs. Meera Devi, Mrs Sunita Devi, Mrs. Manorama Devi and Mrs. Rekha Bhandari.



President, WWA, Mrs. Damayanti V. Tambay, welcomed all dignitaries and invited performers of different faiths. She also expressed appreciation towards Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti for their generous help in making the venue available for this program which brings people from all the faiths together. She then invited Dr. (Mrs.) . Mohini Giri to inaugurate the program and welcome the dignitaries.

Dr. (Mrs.) V. Mohini Giri, Chairperson of War Widows Association and Guild For Service welcomed all the invitees and members belonging to different faiths, and expressed her concerns about the unrest in the city of Delhi.

Ms. Caroline Alice Paul from WWA and Mr. Dhurv Rajashrekaran read a peace pledge in English about the sacrifices made by our soldiers leaving behind their families and how God wishes for peace among his people for a better world followed by Hindi Pledge read by Mr. Riyaz Ahmad based on Ideals of Gandhi's Non Violence movement.

This was followed by bhajans and prayers/hymns by members of different religions. International women's Day is observed to reinforce women's rights to equal citizenship with all citizens' rights. Every year the WWA with the Guild for Service in collaboration with Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia celebrates this day by holding Sarvadharm, "Peace Prayer. It is observed as Women's Day for peace and justice. All three of the organizations have also been actively involved in the process of initiating and building up a pressure of public opinion for peace, which no government can afford to ignore.

Interfaith prayers started by Ms. Rene Singh who sang bhajan in her melodious voice followed by Islamic prayer, read by Mrs. Syeeda Hameed. Representatives of Karma International Buddhist Institute (KIBI) participated and offered their prayer. A YWCA representative sang a hymn followed by Gurbani, sung by Napender Singh & party. Mr. A. K. Merchant & team presented Baha'i prayer. Ms. Divya Sriram sang beautiful bhajan, Mrs. Rene Singh sang sufi song and ended with Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram.

The President, WWA Mrs. Damayanti V. Tambay invited the Chairperson, Dr. (Mrs.) V. Mohini Giri to shower her blessings to all who were present and guided them to follow the path of peace and ahinsa.



Chairperson, WWA Dr. Giri made a peace proposal for the whole world and asked the youth to come forward to keep the country peace.

The program ended with Mrs. Meera Khanna extending a vote of thanks to all who were present. The program ended with tea.



Projects by WWA At Shaheed Bhawan

A COMPUTER COURSE

Computer knowledge is of extreme importance in the present scenario. To enable the computer knowledge, War Widow Association (WWA) is running computer course on a regular basis from Monday to Friday between 2 PM to 4 PM at its headquarters, especially for underprivileged girl students. The key object of this computer course is to create awareness about the basics of the computer. There are 15 student who regularly attend the course. The students are from the neighbouring areas (JNU, Katwaria Sarai, Munirka, Vasant Kunj, Mohammadpur). Ten computers are available in the class and the syllabus is intended in such a way that each student gets the chance of handling the computer independently.



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WWA also provides e-classes to its students, which is of utmost importance in day-to-day world. To facilitate this class, laptop is provided to the concerned student for instilling the advanced knowledge.

B ENGLISH CLASSES

Spoken English is of extreme importance for students today, as many of them plan to go abroad to complete their higher education in foreign universities. Some also search for jobs abroad. Students close to Shaheed Bhawan from junior and senior schools, both government and private, search for the right place to learn how to understand and respond in English. Several students from Delhi University are also in need of this expertise.



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The classes are held at the WWA premises for all categories, primarily for the marginalised students. These classes are free as the parents cannot afford to pay for the tuition. The students are taught reading, writing, grammar and spelling to improve the use of the language. They are also helped to learn and understand the English lessons in their own area of studies both in school and colleges.

The number of students keep changing between 8 to 14. The major concern is to ensure that within three months they can both speak and write in English.

C TAILORING CLASSES

The women and adolescent girls who come for the tailoring classes are from the neighbouring areas such as Katwaria Sarai, Bersaria, Munirka, JNU and IIT. Initially they are taught to stitch and sew with their hands, and later on the sewing machine. They are also made to understand the different types of stitches required for different purposes. To use the sewing machine they are made to learn about the various part of the sewing machine used for specific purposes as well as how to repair machines. The courses are conducted in two batches of six months each. The basic intention is to make them proficient in tailoring: children, women and men's clothing and enable them to become good tailors.



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The students are very happy with the course as new fashionable clothes are very much in demand, and a systematic elaborate course makes the women conscious and proud that she may become a paid fashion designer one day.

Donation of Sewing Machines: Donation Sewing Machine to WWA by Inner Wheel Club.

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The President of WWA approached the President of Inner Wheel Club for donation sewing machines to train the students of sewing classes. The President and members of Inner Wheel Club visited Shaheed Bhawan to see our skill centre for providing machines to us.

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They donated ten Singer Sewing Machines to us. These were received by the President.

The above photo is at Shaheed Bhawan ground floor hall on 4th Oct when the President and members of Inner Wheel club visited us to see our skill centre. They have donated ten SINGER sewing machines (can be seen in the photo) to us. These were received by the President and Secretary WWA. The Sewing teacher, Sushma and the Play school teacher Sumitra were also present



Visit to Summit Play School

The Office staff of Mr Saini, Caroline and Kavita were present to assist in distributing tea and snacks. The visiting team appreciated our work and we enjoyed meeting them.

The donation of machines was made possible by sole effort of Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur .

D SUMMIT PLAYSCHOOL AT SHAHEED BHAWAN



Currently the school has 20 tiny tots. Most of the children come from the lower section of society. The work here with children, has attracted many middle class families also to enrol their children in this play school. The school curriculum is as follows :-

- a. English- writing for beginners, rhymes and action songs
 - b. Hindi- writing and pronouncing words, rhymes & story telling
 - c. Mathematics - counting, writing numbers, repeating numbers.
 - d. Other work- identifying shapes, names of fruits and vegetables, names of week days and months and parts of the body.
 - e. Prayers of various religions, National Anthem, Music and Dance, simple indoor games etc.
 - f. Teacher also prepare children with attractive colours dresses for different festivals.
- Children are provided meals during lunch which is hygienic and nutritious.

Activities Supported by WWA in Other Organizations

The War Widows Association has been supporting organizations that work with marginalized communities in the area of education, health and empowerment. These organizations have been selected on the basis of their registrations as NGOs under the Society Registration Act and their years of service in the social sector. Before these organizations are selected they have to apply for support with a complete profile and functioning of their organization. Before agreeing and actually extending support the WWA team visits the organizations to critically observe their work and contribution to society before selects them.

A.Sarahana Society for Welfare &Development , New Delhi

This organization works with children who are autistic and have other special conditions which require therapies of various types and special attention. The War Widows Association enables Sarahana in supporting the treatment of therapies for children here.



There are several kinds of therapies that are provided to them. These are

- a. Occupational therapy
- b. Special education
- c. Dance and art therapies
- d. Pre- vocational skilling
- e. Sports related sessions
- f. Nutritional supplements
- g. Movement Therapy
- h. Yoga
- i. Nutrition and medical attention

B. Vidya School ,Gurgram, Haryana

Principal Ms. Ila Sarin writes to the War Widows Association

"We are so grateful to have patrons and benefactors like you who have stood by us through thick and thin, held our hand, encouraged us and been fellow-travellers with VIDYA on our journey together.



You have been instrumental in single-handedly transforming the lives not only of the children you have sponsored but also their families. Your contribution has been continuous and uninterrupted!

We would like to share with you VIDYA's achievements in this past academic year.

Olympiads
Literature Fest
Daan Utsav
Environmental Workshops
School celebrations

C. Zion Social Welfare Society ,Chattarpur, New Delhi

Zion Social Welfare Society is now concentrating on two different activities:

- (a) Anganwari for Slum children from Mandi Pahari Slum, New Delhi
- (b) Orphanage – Angel Home, Chattarpur, New Delhi

The Angel Home provides space for orphan children to be safe and secure. Special food material is provided to them with the support given by the War Widows Association. Children in this centre study from KG to Class XII. They are also provided parental love and affection as these are all abandoned children.



This year Zion Social Welfare Society has expressed deep concern regarding strengthening of their work in the area of basic education in the Anaganwari. With the support of the WWA they have been able to provide parental love and affection, a home to these abandoned children.

D. Enfold Proactive Health Trust, Bangalore

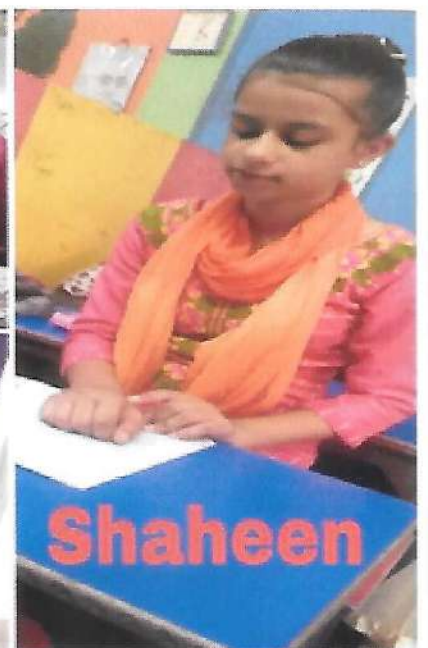
War Widows Association became a partner of Enfold Proactive Health Trust, Bangalore in 2016. This organization is a CSR and Community partnership, Advocacy. Their areas of work are:

1. Preventive program “Laksha Makkala Surakshe Project” to help adults and children who are sexually abused. It also works towards enabling the children to resist and report on perpetrators.
2. Value based education for school and college students.
3. Preparing work books on life skills and personal safety.
4. Child response units – for the protection of the children in Hospitals specially those who have been sexually abused and their reintegration as survivors.
5. Organizing rehabilitation programs and mental health intervention.



E. Shanti Sahyog DDA Kalkaji, New Delhi

Shanti Sahyog is dedicated to serve the underprivileged women and children and provide them with literacy, health care, and vocational training to empower them economically and socially . This organization works in seventeen slums around Kalkaji/Govindpuri/Tuglakabad village in Delhi. They tackle problems at the grass root level and find sustainable solutions.



The WWA provided Shanti Sahyog educational support for five slum children so that their tuition fees, books, stationary and uniforms can be provided to them. This support has brought a ray of hope in their dark lives as two of the children have a widowed handicapped mother , the third, a daughter of a very poor widow and the other two are orphans. Shanti Sahyog is very grateful to WWA for this much needed support.

F. Pritam Spiritual Foundation

This organization has tried successfully to reach, in the last 28 years, every nook and corner of J & K state, specially the people of LOC, to help those brethren who have suffered due to cross border firing, mine blast, and the havoc created by militancy. They prepare and provide artificial limbs conduct camps to provide services to all disabled. Some of the equipments they prepare and provide are;

1. New lower limbs
2. Polio callipers
3. Preparing of limbs
4. Walking sticks and crèches
5. Hearing aids, wheel chairs, sewing machines for the disabled etc.



G. Guild For Service

The War Widows Association has been supporting Sannidhi Vocational Training Centre in Vrindavan to provide Skill Training to the younger population from the under privileged sections of nearby villages. This centre enables women and the youth to build their self esteem and earning capacity.



The Guild of Service in India, since its inception continues to focus its attention and energy on mobilization and empowerment marginalized women and children. Its leadership programs are based on :

- Fellowship and skill training to enable women to become agents of change.
- Create awareness for effective participation of women and children in the communities.
- Engage with the media for effective communication.

The Guild conducts two vocational training courses six months each. These are :

- Tailoring and cutting batch 1 and batch 2 .
- Beauty culture course batch 1 and 2

The war Widows Association has been supporting the above programs along with several occasional events .

Group Marriage

The Guild for Service organizes Group Marriages for couples belonging to underprivileged classes, twice a year. The WWA has been supporting these events for the past several years. This year WWA paid for the marriage expenses of one couple, in each event.



H. Joint Women's Programme (Mera Sahara Centre, Nithari Village, Noida, U.P.)

The children here are from very poor, migrant families whose parents are domestic workers, construction workers, Rikshaw Pullers, Day labourers etc. This centre has been empowering the children in education according to the UP State Board for classes from 1 to 5. The parents are also involved in occasional meetings to discuss child rights, community violence, environment protection and health needs. Women and child rights and protection from violence is a part of the total programme. WWA donates Rs 20000/- towards text books, uniforms and other needs.



Apart from learning various subjects, children have shown interest in music, dance, poetry writing and sports.

Courtesy Visit by Uma Prabhu to meet Dr V Mohini Giri and discuss a Joint venture with the President, Jasjiwan Kaur for Sewing Program at Shaheed Bhawan

1. On 16th March 2019 Mrs. Uma Prabhu visited the War Widows Association. The Chairperson, Dr. V. Mohini Giri & former President, Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur welcomed Mrs. Uma Prabhu in the presence of all the members. All members were introduced to Mrs. Prabhu. She was apprised by Dr. Giri of the work being done by the War Widows Association. Mrs. Prabhu informed the members about the various programs that she conducts in Maharashtra.

2. Mrs. Prabhu was later also taken around the building to show the various rooms/halls where classes are conducted administrative problems. However, the President Jasjiwan Kaur through her contacts was able to procure ten 'SINGER' sewing machine for the WWA.

3. Mrs. Uma Prabhu visited Shaheed Bhawan on 11 December 2019 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss with the President, WWA Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur along with Mrs Raj Sharma regarding a Sewing Course where wives of BSF martyrs and War Widows/underprivileged girls could attend a 3-month course to be located at Shaheed Bhawan.



बीस साल से इंतजार के बाद मिला एक वीरांगना को उनका अधिकार वो देती है इसका श्रेय वॉर विडोज एसोसिएशन, नई दिल्ली के सहयोग को जबश्रीमती राधा देवी को, बिना याचना के रूपये दस हजार की धनराशि मिली, तो उन्हें एक ऐसी संस्था के बारे में पता चला, जो बिना मांगे आर्थिक सहायता भी देती है और अन्य प्रकार के मदद का आश्वासन भी।

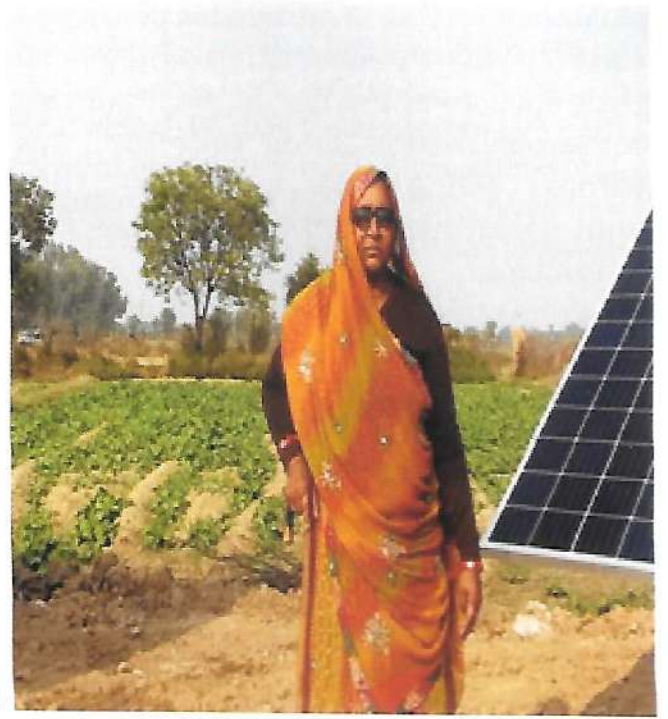
कुछ संकोच और कुछ उम्मीद के साथ श्रीमती राधा देवी, निवासी टोंक, राजस्थान, ने संस्था से संपर्क बनाया और अपने उन मुश्किलों से भरी लड़ाई की जानकारी दी, जिसमें कारगिल युद्ध में शहीद उनके स्वर्गीय पति, शहीद रामराज शम्भू, के शहादत के बाद राज्यीय सरकार द्वारा, नियमानुसार उन्हें 25 बीघा खेती की जमीन आवंटन दिए जाने का जिक्र तो था, पर 2019 तक कोई जमीन का मालिकाना हक नहीं दिया गया था। अथक प्रयास के बाद भी सारे सरकारी दफ्तरों ने हाथ खड़े कर दिए, क्योंकि माफिया द्वारा उनके जमीन पर कब्जा हो रखा था और बड़े से बड़ा दफ्तर भी उसे खाली कराने में अपनी असमर्थता जाहिर कर चुका था। श्रीमती राधा देवी के संपर्क के बाद तत्कालीन सचिव, श्रीमती दमयंती वी. ताम्बे ने उनसे सीधा सम्पर्क करके, सभी कागज़ और संचारों की कॉपियाँ मंगाई।

संस्था के सभी सदस्य स्तब्ध थे, कि बड़े से बड़े ऑफिसर भी इस मानवीय मुद्दे को अपने राज्य में हल नहीं कर पा रहे थे। श्रीमती ताम्बे ने संस्था की ओर से डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट, पुलिस, राज्य सचिव आदि सभी को पत्र डाले और इस अविश्वासनीय और अति दुखद परिस्थिति के प्रति जागरूक होने की याचना करी। रक्षा मंत्रालय से सम्पर्क रखते हुए, इस पर तुरंत उचित कार्यवाही करने का आग्रह किया तथा पुलिस की देख-रेख में कंट्री तार लगाने का भी अनुरोध किया।



संस्था की खुशी का ठिकाना नहीं रहा जब श्रीमती राधा देवी ने यह सूचना दी थी उन्हें आवंटित जमीन का आधा हिस्सा (12.5 बीघा) आधिकारिक रूप से दे दिया गया है, और सुझाव के अनुसार पुलिस की देख-रेख में तार-गेट आदि भी लगवा दिया गया है। और अपनी आत्मिक इच्छा अनुसार पति के तस्वीर के सामने पूजा करके उन्होंने घनिष्ट लोगों की दावत करी। अब अपने खेत पर दो फसल भी उगा चुकी है।





वॉर विडोज एसोसिएशन को इससे बहुत खुशी हुई कि उनके प्रयास से एक वीरांगना को उनका अधिकार (बीस साल के बाद) दिलाने में मदद सफल हुई। संस्था अब बची हुई 12.5 बीघा जमीन के लिए भी प्रयत्न कर रही है।

इस प्रयास में नेवी के कमांडर (रिटायर्ड) मुकुट बिहारी का भी अथक योगदान रहा है। संस्था सदा वीर नारियों और उनके परिवार की मदद के लिए तत्पर रहती है, और समय-समय पर फोन पर परिवारों से सम्पर्क भी बनाये रखती है।

On December 9, 2019, we had the privilege of visiting Shaheed Bhawan, the location from which the War Widows' Association of Delhi operates. All office bearers were women who had lost their spouses in the line of duty, but the misfortune of those whose husbands continue to remain 'missing in action' since 1971, was beyond imagination. To carry the burden of grief without coming to closure for close to half a century is beyond endurance...or so we thought until we met our host, then General Secretary and now President of the Association, Damayanti V. Tambay.

**PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK
'FIELD MARSHAL SAM MANEKSHAW – THE MAN AND HIS TIMES'
AND A DONATION OF RS. 2,00,000
TO WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION INDIA
BY
BRIGADIER BEHRAM PANTHAKI (RETD) AND ZENOBIA PANTHAKI**

Mrs. Zenobia Panthaki writes below about War Widows Association.

Brig Behram M. Panthaki (Retd) was commissioned in February 1964. He commanded 2/8 Gorkha Rifles and 35 Infantry Brigade and held several staff and instructional appointments. In 1994 he took premature retirement to settle in Washington DC, USA, with his wife, Zenobia. Brig Panthaki was on Field Marshal's staff as his ADC for over 6 years. Zenobia worked for the World Bank from 1984 until her retirement in 2012 and has since continued to consult with the Organization.

The Panthakis have published a coffee table book entitled "Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw - The Man and His Times" which has 200 plus letters/photographs, his personal correspondence with heads of government and eminent personalities like Lord Mountbatten and Field Marshal Auchinleck, Mrs. Indira Gandhi.



Married in 1970 to fighter pilot, Flt Lt Vijay Vasant Tambay, this was not the life she had envisioned, but fate ruled otherwise. Her husband's aircraft was shot down somewhere in the western sector and he was declared 'missing in action' by the Army. Fortunately, sports was Damayanti's forte. Not allowing herself to wallow in grief, she took up a job as Sports Director for Jawaharlal Nehru University, training young sportspersons. While holding this position, she was also called upon by policy-making committees of UGC, CBSE, NCERT, Sports Authority of India, Badminton Association and NADA for consultations on how to promote sport and physical education. Damayanti served the University for 43 years with commitment and passion.



The stories of other members are no less heartrending. Each office bearer carries the burden of loss and each has transformed tragedy into the will to do good for society. The Chairperson of the Organization, Dr. V. Mohini Giri, paid a befitting tribute to the organization when she called it a 'premier institute' and 'a caregiver to many', that has worked 'to make the world a better place'. The WWA was started in 1972, post the 1971 war with Pakistan. Apart from Delhi, there are WWA chapters in many other states. The mission of the organization is to provide succour to and empower war widows, to take up the cause of their entitlements and to prevail on the government to locate approximately 50 soldiers declared 'missing in action'.



Working closely with Zila Sainik Boards and Ex-Servicemen's Leagues, WWA identifies and locates war widows and their families and reaches out to them with legal and financial aid. They work with individuals to resolve pension issues since the death of the defence personnel brings with it severe financial constraints. At Shaheed Bhawan's Dialogue Centre, WWA conducts sessions to make widows aware of their legal rights, government schemes and entitlements. The longer-term goal is to bolster confidence and a sense of self-worth and to empower them through education and training to be financially independent. WWA runs Vocational Training classes in tailoring, beauty culture, nursing, computer education and spoken English, computer courses focus on basic literacy, use of Microsoft programs and the internet. This training has opened avenues for employment and some widows have even set up their own businesses. WWA has adroitly put into practice the adage, 'give a (wo)man a fish and she eats for a day, teach a (wo)man to fish and you feed her for a lifetime'. After the initial success with War Widows, the Association decided to expand its outreach to include marginalized women and children. Coaching classes for children in grades X-XII and for competitive exams are critical and popular. Free English classes are conducted for children at secondary and University level with a focus on spoken English as many of them aspire to go abroad for further studies. In March 2017 WWA inaugurated 'Summit', a play school for toddlers which serves as day-care-cum-kindergarten. The curriculum includes prayers, reading and writing in Hindi and English, mathematics, social sciences, general knowledge, physical education and cultural activities.


A midday meal is also provided. The striking achievement of this school has been that in 2019 three children from Summit got admission to their neighbourhood Central School. At PTA meetings, guidance is given to the mothers on primary health, cleanliness, discipline, punctuality, the importance of inculcating good habits and avoidance of gender discrimination. There are free medical check-ups for mothers and older siblings who attend. Unfortunately, fathers seldom make it. Given their socio-economic background, they probably cannot afford to take time off from work.

Recently, WWA organized a free Gynaecology Camp for mothers and daughters with a discussion on 'Sexual and Reproductive Health'. The focus was on contraception, family planning and the benefit of a small but healthy family. Information was also provided on cancer and its treatment by leading professionals in the field. All these talks and discussions are conducted in Hindi and interactive to encourage participation. Social issues are also discussed to raise awareness of women's rights, violence against women and gender equality. Recently, a camp was organized on pranayam and meditation.

Besides its own programs, WWA has now started partnering with another humanitarian organization. It supports the 'Sarahana Society' which works with autistic and special needs children through occupational and dance therapy, special education, sports and provision of nutritional supplements. It supported five children of 'Shanti Sahyog', an NGO that works in urban slums, by providing funding for their tuition, books, stationery, uniforms, health care and vocational training. Two of the children have a widowed mother who is handicapped, two are orphans and one is the child of a very poor widow.



2nd Martyrs Memorial Lecture -2019



WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION
SHAHEED BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

**"2ND
MARTYRS MEMORIAL LECTURE,
2019"**

7th DECEMBER 2019, 11:30 AM

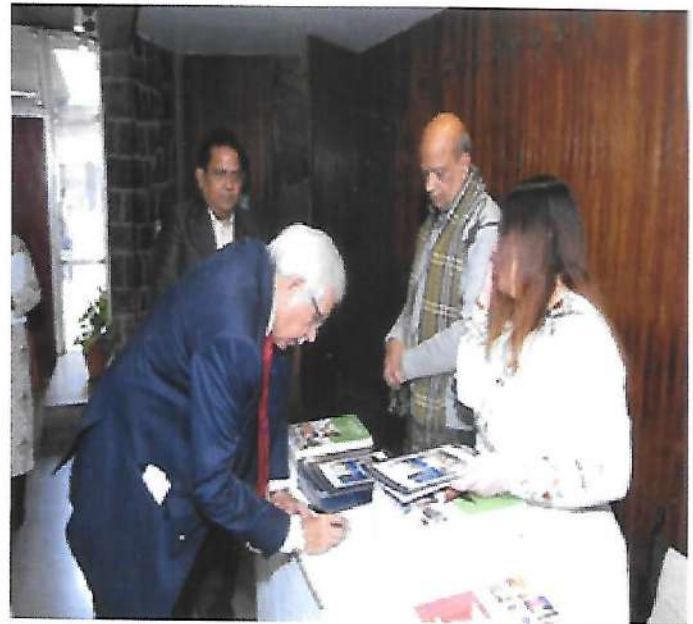
CD DESHMUKH AUDITORIUM (MAIN)
INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
NEW DELHI

PRESIDED BY :
LT. GEN. SHANKAR PRASAD (RETD.), PVSM, VSM

CHIEF SPEAKER :
LT. GEN. MOHINDER PURI (RETD.), PVSM, UYSM

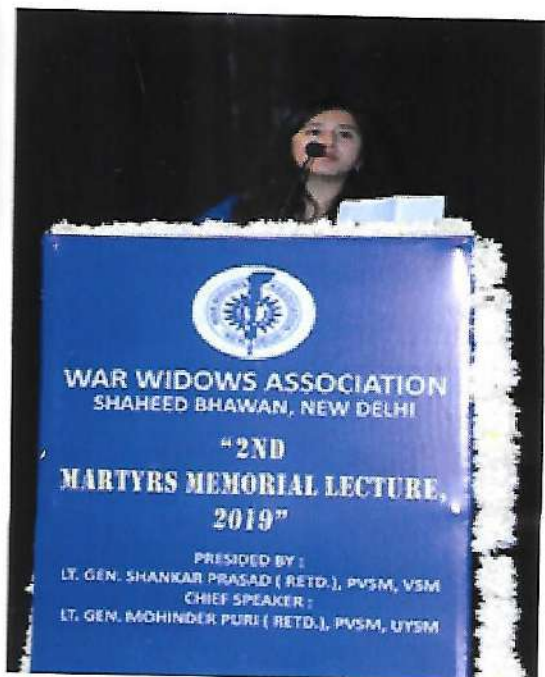
In accordance with the decision taking by the Executive Committee of WWA the 2nd Martyrs Memorial Lecture -2019 was held on 7th of December 2019 at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, Delhi.







The program started with the Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Shambhavi Kala, daughter of an Army Officer, introducing the event to the audience with a Hindi poem on the sacrifices made by the martyrs. She then recited VandeMatram.



Ms. Shambhavi Kala announced the screening of a film on Kargil: "20 years of Kargil Victory" produced by the Indo-Asian News Service TV. She further announced the laying of wreaths at "Gun & Helmet", symbol of the War Widows Association, placed on the dais, to pay homage to the martyrs.

The Master of ceremonies invited the following persons. Lt. Gen. Shankar Prasad (Retd.) PVSM, VSM, Gen. Mohinder Puri (Retd.) PVSM, UYSM, Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur, President WWA, Mrs. Meera Khanna, Advisor WWA, Mrs. Parvesh Ghai, Vice President, and requested them to lay the wreaths on the symbol and take their seats on the dais.





Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur, President was invited to give her welcome address. She welcomed Lt. Gen. Shankar Prasad and Lt. Gen. Mohinder Puri and other guests and reminded the audience that as we pay homage to our martyred soldiers we must not forget the real martyrs - the war widows.



Mrs. Meera Khanna, advisor WWA, was invited to speak on “Healing the hurting: Outreach and impact of War Widows Association” She elaborated on the work done by the WWA in the service of the widows of war and conflict. She further reflected on the impact of war on lives of people, especially in the context of gender and stated that it is the widows who bear the brunt of war throughout their lives, who are the real heroes.

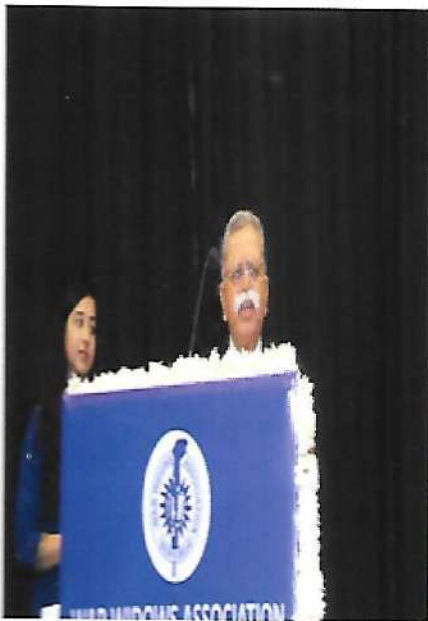
Shambhavi Kala introduced the two guest speakers, Lt. Gen. Mohinder Puri and gave a brief account of his achievements during the war and requested him to talk about the Kargil War and his experiences.



Lt. Gen. Mohinder Puri drew the audience's attention to the film on Kargil and gave a first-hand information about his own participation as the leader of his division, during the operations. He vividly captured the experiences of the soldiers, their fears, and joys. He specially highlighted the various attacks at platoon level and the fears and desires of the leaders to ensure victory for the country. He mentioned his struggle in ensuring and restoring the sanctity of the line of control. He also informed us about the Indian soldiers effort to capture Tololing, Tiger Hill and then Point 4875. He also mentioned the role of Pakistan and the bravery of our soldiers.



The Master of ceremonies then requested WWA's Advisor, Lt. Gen. Shankar Prasad, to deliver his Presidential address. She highlighted his achievements in his army career and the decorations he had received.



Lt. Gen. Shankar Prasad drew the attention of the audience to the bravery of the soldiers and Lt. Gen. Mohinder Puri during the Kargil war. He emphasized the loss of lives during war, and yet the need to pursue it to prevent the National borders. He further explained the action taken by the soldiers and their leaders, the difficult conditions in which they have to struggle to hold the countries head high. He said every war is different and needs different kinds of strategies, but the fallout is always waste of lives, and continuous difficulties, primarily for widows and their children. Our efforts should be to ensure that there is no war.

He thanked the WWA for this program and for inviting him to express his concerns.

The Master of ceremonies thanked Lt. Gen. Shankar Prasad for his concerns regarding war and what we should do to ensure that there is no mass destruction of human life. She announced that our two guest speakers were presented small tokens of appreciation from WWA, by Ms. Jasjiwan Kaur and Mrs. Meera Khanna.



The program ended with the vote of thanks by the Vice President, WWA, Mrs. Parvesh Ghai. Ms. Shambhavi Kala gave closing comments, and received a token of appreciation from the Vice President. The program ended with the singing of the National Anthem by all. This was followed by lunch.



War Widows Association Meetings 2019-2020

Executive Committee Meetings

The following Executive Committee Meetings were held between April 2019 to March 2020 to discuss policies and programs and to enable proper functioning of the association. The following important decisions were taken.

1. 24th October 2019
 - a. Preparation of Annual Vijay Diwas function - It was decided to start the preparation in right earnest and draw out detailed plans and delegate duties.
2. 7th January 2020 New Office Bearers take over.
3. 4th February 2020
 - a. Decision taken to participate in the conference and partner with SANWED (South Asian Network for Widows Empowerment and Development) to be held on 19th - 22nd February 2020 at UN Conference Hall. The Committee decided to partner with SANWED and contribute an amount of Rs 1,00,000/- (One lakh only). Damayanti V Tambay, Jyotsana Chatterji, Prema Aiyer and Anjali Karkare attended the program on behalf of the WWA
4. 3rd March 2020
 - a. A resolution is being unanimously passed that henceforth and from immediate effect the positions of only the President and the Treasurer, out of the list of the office bearers of the Executive Committee of the War Widows Association, New Delhi will have to be war/conflict widows and the remaining of the post of EC could be widows or wives of defence personnel, where preference would be given to the former.'



The Annual General Body Meeting 28TH September 2019

1. All the new members introduced themselves and expressed their desire to work in the interest of the organisation. This included Mrs Prema Aiyer, Mrs. Sarika Kapoor, Mrs. Vinita Joshi, Mrs. Kamla Chikkara, Mrs. Sharda and Mrs. Janaki Devi.
2. The Gen. Secretary presented the minutes of last AGM 2017-18 held on 29th September 2018 to be approved by the members present. They were proposed by Mrs. Parvesh Ghai, Vice President and were seconded by Dr. Mohini Giri, Chairperson and passed unanimously.
3. The General Secretary also informed that the War Widows Association is also helping war widows across India by giving them a one time grant of Ten Thousand rupees each, for which necessary documents are collected and carefully checked by the office, have before releasing the amount directly into the account of the concerned war widow. Over 500 war widows have already benefitted by this gesture of the WWA. The gesture was appreciated by all and it was decided to continue with the practise.
4. It was unanimously decided to approve the extension of the appointment of the incumbent Auditors M/S Nayyar and Malik, Chartered Accountants for another year.
5. Election of new office bearers of WWA.

Advisors - Lt. Gen. Shankar Prasad, Mrs. Ashali Varma, Mrs. Meera Khanna , Mrs. Mohinder Bakshi and Mrs. Usha Singh

a. President - Mrs. Damayanti V. Tambay

b. Vice Presidents - Mrs. Raj Sharma and Mrs. Manveen Bal (to be confirmed with her acceptance, on her return)

c. For all other remaining positions it was decided to wait till new/old and interested members are contacted for their keenness to take up the positions. Some new members have shown interest and their names are kept for consideration.

Mrs. Parvesh Ghai, Vice President gave a vote of thanks to everyone who participated. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.



War Widows Association 2019-2020

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS	ADVISORS
CHAIRPERSON : Dr. (Mrs.) V. Mohini Giri	Lt. Gen.(Retd.) Shankar Prasad, PVSM,VSM Ms. Ashali Varma Mrs. Meera Khanna Mrs. Mohinder Bakhshi Mrs. Mrs. Usha Singh Consultant Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji
PRESIDENT : Mrs. Damayanti V Tambay	
EX- OFFICIO PRESIDENT : Mrs. Jasjiwan Kaur	
VICE PRESIDENTS : Mrs. Raj Sharma Mrs. Geeta Dod	
TREASURER : Mrs. Manveen Bal	
GEN. SECRETARY : Mrs. Shalini Kathpalia selected on 5th Nov' 20 and has joined since.	
JOINT SECRETARY : Mrs. Kusum Khullar	
MEMBERS : Mrs. Parvesh Ghai Mrs. Mona Makin Mrs. Premavathy Iyer Dr. Shubra Tripathi Mrs. Devyanti Devi	

WARWIDOWSASSOCIATION-OFFICERS



*Dr. (Mrs) V Mohini Giri
Chairperson, WWA*



*Mrs Damayanti V Tambay
President, WWA*



*Mrs. Shalini Kathpalia
Gen. Secretary, WWA*



*Mrs Manveen Bal
Treasurer, WWA*



*Dr. Jyotsna Chatterjee
Consultant, WWA*



*Mrs Anuradha Phadnis,
Representative, WWA (Maharashtra)*

War Widows Association

Staff Members



Prema Kala



Jagat Singh Saini



Anil Goel



Sushma Ghai



Monica Sood



Richa



Kavita



Sonia



Sunil

Donation Given

1 April 2019-31 March 2020

S.No.	Name of the Donee	Amount
1.	634 Martyrs wife -grant @Rs10,000-00 each	63,40,000.00
2.	Enfold Health Trust	1,20,000.00
3.	Geeta Devi	60,000.00
4.	Guild for Service	4,66,000.00
5.	Parwati Bai Bhallavi	72,000.00
6.	Pattasi Bano	60,000.00
7.	Sarahan Society for Welfare	1,10,000.00
8.	Shanti Sahyog	1,20,000.00
9.	Vidya Integrated Development	5,00,000.00
10.	Zion Social Welfare Society	1,10,000.00
11.	Pritam Spiritual Foundation	1,50,000.00
12.	Martys Wife (Pulwama Attack)	9,75,000.00
13.	NSMM Charitable	10,000.00
14.	Joint Women's Program	2,40,000.00
15.	Donation for Marriage for daughter of kargil war widow(Mrs. Jayanti Devi)	11,000.00
	Total	93,44,000.00

Donation Received

1 April 2019-31 March 2020

S.No.	Name of the	Amount
1.	GHSEE	4455315.00
2.	K.K.RAMESH	5000.00
3.	PONKSHE RAMESH	50000.00
4.	STRANGE EXPORTS	2002.00
5.	ANGLE INDIA	2002.00
6.	CAPT.H.RAWAT	10000.00
7.	BRIG.B.M.PANTHAKI	200000.00
8.	ESKAY DYESTUFFS & ORGANIC CHEMICAL P LTD	50000.00
9.	SHUBH LATA MALHOTRA	15000.00
10.	K.L.BHATIA	1000.00
11.	THE STUDENT AT BHAGAT SINGH COLLEGE	15000.00
12.	BALJAGAT RACHNA PRAKALP	10470.00
	Total	4815789.00









WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION

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18/1, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi-110 067
Mob.: 9599205250
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