

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



**War Widows Association**

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War Widows Association



**From the Chairperson's desk:**

The nation needs constant loyalty, love, and compassion For those who have given their lives for the country.

51 years have seen many ups and downs. However, I am happy and satisfied that I could be a service to the veer naris for a span of 50 years.

Last year the president and members of the organization spread out and contacted many Veer Naris in different parts of the country. There are many whom we could help financially and get their peace back.

Our interaction with the Government of India was welcome and we have benefited from the above interaction.

As we enter in 52nd year, I am extending appreciation to the staff, executive committee, and president for their support. It is when we love each other and we are together, our trust builds and we march ahead.

I am confident that the coming years would see the organization, touch every Veer Nari and follow our motto of serve & love.

*I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted & behold, service was joy.*  
Rabindranath Tagore

Best Wishes,

**Dr. (Mrs.) V Mohini Giri**  
Founder/Chairperson  
War Widows Association



## President's Message

सभी वीर नारियों और वीर परिवारों को मेरा शत-शत नमन। पिछले बारह वर्षों से वॉर विडोज़ संस्था से जुड़े रहने का मुझे सौभाग्य मिला। इस अवधि में संस्था के अतिरिक्त, मेरा परिचय और घनिष्टता कई वीर परिवारों से हुई और मैंने उनके साथ बहुत अपनापन महसूस किया। उन परिवारों ने अपनी समस्याओं से भी मुझे अवगत कराया। मेरा प्रयत्न हमेशा रहा है और भविष्य में भी रहेगा कि मैं अपनी और संस्थाओं से भी मुझे अवगत कराया। मेरा प्रयत्न हमेशा रहा है और भविष्य में भी रहेगा कि मैं अपनी और संस्था की ओर से सभी परिवारों की मदद कर सकूँ। उनकी आवश्यकता को सरकार तक पहुंचा कर, आवश्यकता पड़ने पर नीतियों में उपयुक्त बदलाव का प्रस्ताव भी रखने का प्रयत्न करूँगी।

मैं संस्था की चेयरपर्सन डॉ. वि. मोहनी गिरि, अन्य सलाकार और विशेषकर आवा, अफवा और नावा की अध्यक्ष, ने संरक्षकता (पेट्रन) बनने की सहमति हमेशा दी हैं, और आग्रह पर आकर सदस्यों के साथ मिलकर अपने विचार और सलाह भी साझा करें हैं। मैं विश्वास करती हूँ कि उनका योगदान हमें आगे भी मिलता रहेगा। मुझे रक्षा मंत्रालय पर भी पूर्ण विश्वास है, कि हमें उनका भी सहयोग मिलता रहेगा।

मैं सभी सदस्यों से निवेदन और उम्मीद करती हूँ, कि हमारी ताकत मिलकर काम करने, और एक दूसरे की सहायता करने में मदद करें। हमें इसके लिए सदा प्रयत्नशील रहना चाहिए।

शुभकामनाओं सहित

दमयंती वि ताम्बे



## ANNUAL REPORT

(1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022)

### Vision & Mission

The War Widows Association was established in New Delhi in 1971 after being registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, amended in 1957. The need of this Association arose, especially as India was repeatedly facing the tumultuous aftermath of a postwar situation following every armed conflict with our neighbours in 1965 and 1971.

The War Widows Association (WWA) was founded by our Chairperson, *Padma Bhushan*, Dr. (Mrs.) V. Mohini Giri, who has dedicated her whole life in caring for the wives and children of Martyrs.

The main reasons for the formation of WWA were to give sufficient succor, both emotional and financial, to a large number of women and children, wives and offspring of soldiers, who lost their lives or went missing-in-action in the war leaving behind families to fend for themselves. This needed immediate action on the part of the Organization, i.e. War Widows Association.

The basic aim of the Organization is to provide social, financial and emotional support to the widowed wives and orphaned children of those Brave Hearts, who performed the supreme sacrifice in laying down their precious lives for the Unity and Integrity of the Nation. As per the practice, the following matters are addressed by the Organization:

- Providing adequate support to the war widows and taking up their issues with the Government, including problems of Women whose husbands are/were missing-in-action. Rehabilitation of families has always been a major concern which also includes enabling widows and their children to get their entitlements as per Government rules and policies enforceable after the death of defense personnel of all categories.
- Also to recommend and mobilize the Government for better and all round uniform policy for the rehabilitation of families of all affected defense personnel.
- To organize programmes pertaining to awareness of health and legal matters, workshops and seminars on such matters and arrangement of recreational and cultural activities.
- Setting up of skill training centres for empowerment of widows in order to enable them to support themselves financially and also the elderly and young children in the family. However, locating parents/widows of deceased personnel has often been a challenge as they are often situated in remote areas and villages.
- WWA has routinely taken the help of Rajya Sainik and Zilla Sainik Boards to assist them in the process of locating details of widows affected by war and armed conflicts countrywide.
- WWA is constantly working in several ways to achieve its objectives, i.e. for the welfare and support of the Veer Naris and their families.
- To achieve the above stated objectives, following activities are undertaken:



- Meetings and seminars on various issues are organized to provide information to the war affected widows and their families. Similar programs have been organized at our contact points with Veer Naris and other similarly affected women to inform them about their rights and entitlements.
- To reach out to other widows and marginalized section of society, programmes on skill training in tailoring and operating computers are organized on a regular basis at Shaheed Bhawan.
- Spoken English is another area of concern to the young students which we strive to promote.

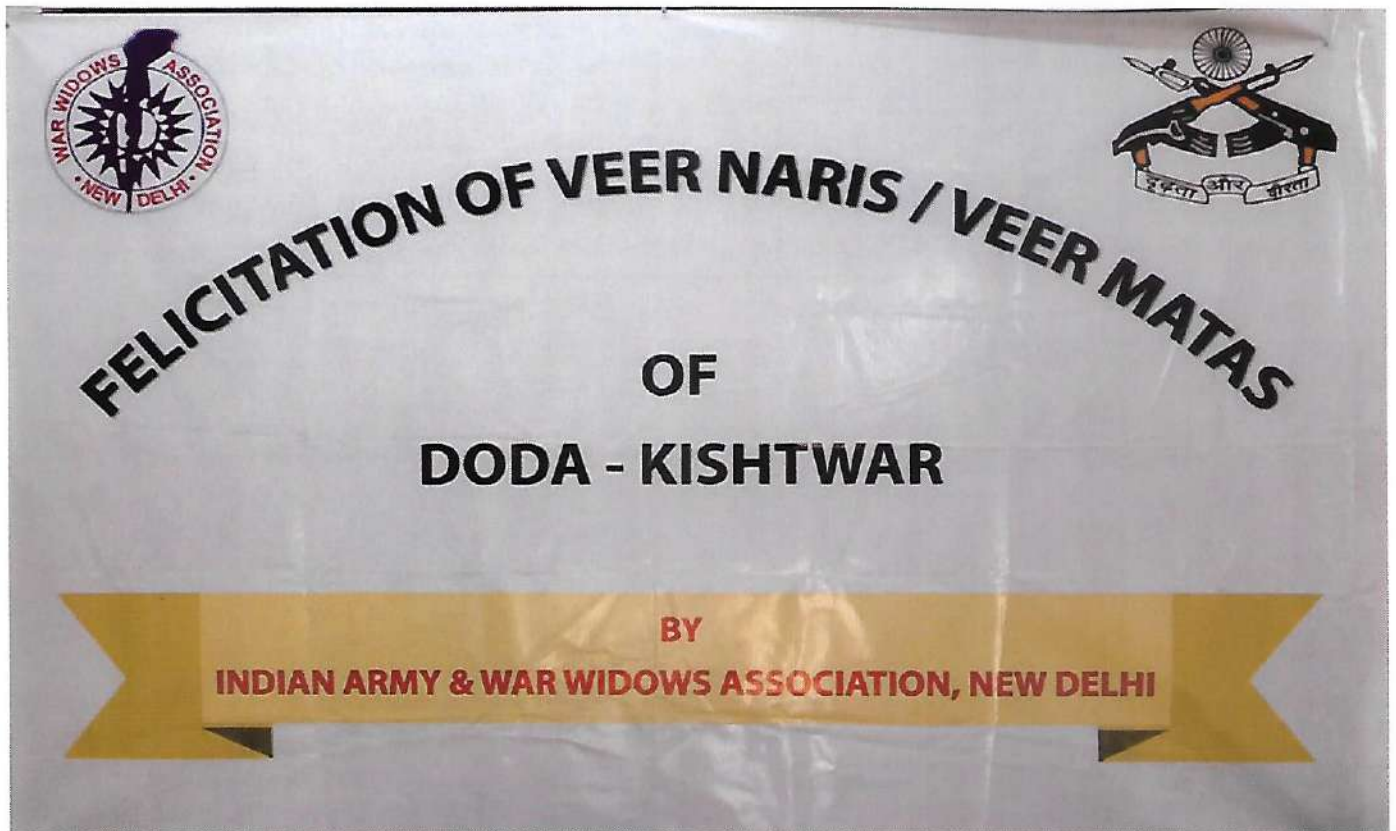
WWA is an NGO basically having consultative status with ECOSOC of the United Nations.





**ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES 2021-2022:**

1. Visit to Doda and Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir by the President, WWA, Damayanti V. Tambay:



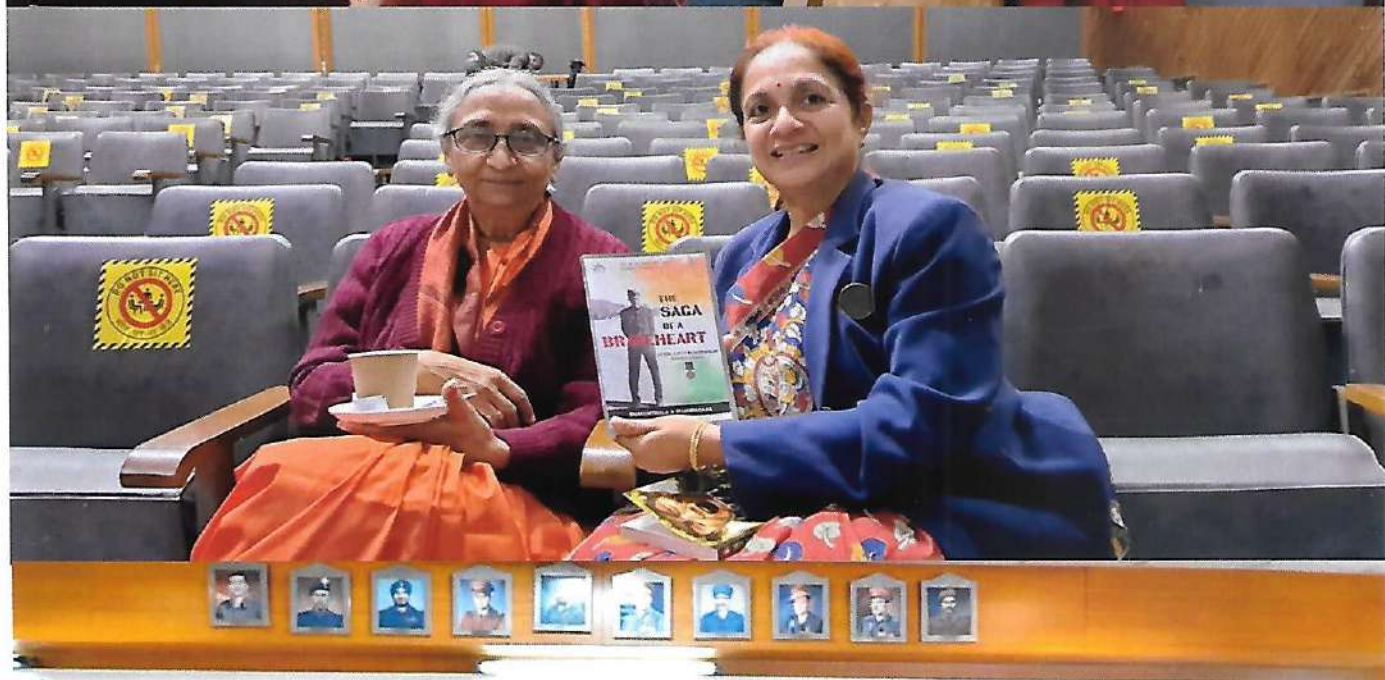


President, WWA was invited by the Indian Army to jointly felicitate the Veer Naris/Matas of the Doda-Kishtwar region for the sacrifice made by their husband-father-son for the Nation. In all, 46 Veer Naris/Matas were felicitated on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 at a grand function organized by the 4 Rashtriya Rifles where all dignitaries, both military and civil, were present. A sum of Rupees Ten Thousand and a salwar suit was presented to all Veer Naris.

### 2. 18 November 2021 – Rezangla Celebration:

Rewari is particularly famous in memory of its famous War Heroes from Haryana who defended the Chinese onslaught during the Indo-China war of 1962. The whole battalion of the Ahir soldiers fought till their last breath and later their bodies were found with weapons in their hands. To commemorate their sacrifice, a memorial was built where every year a celebration is organized.







- a. Mission 54 by Brigadier Kartar Singh which was launched on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- b. 1971: Charge of the Gorkhas by Rachna Bisht Rawat.
- c. The Brave – Param Vir Chakra stories by Rachna Bisht Rawat
- d. Remembered Glory: True Stories from 1971 War – by Milind Wagle and Col. Ajay Raina, SM
- e. The Forces behind the Forces – Stories of Brave Indian Army Wives by Swapnil Pandey
- f. 1971: Stories of Grit and Glory from the Indo – Pak War by Maj. Gen. Ian Cardozo
- g. Undaunted by Bhavna Arora

Among many books written by the established and first-time authors, specially women, the life, the tragedy and 'what follows' for Veer Naris, is sensitively and passionately depicted.

Two books were also launched during the period of this report by two different authors at the Auditorium of United Service Institution of India, New Delhi; one written by a Veer Nari and the other by a Veer Mata. The books described the valour and sacrifice of the Indian soldiers and the impact of their loss to their respective families. The name of the books are 'The Saga of a Braveheart' by the Veer Nari, Shakuntala Bhandarkar and 'The Tiger of Drass' on the bravery of Capt. Anuj Nayyar, MVC by Meena Nayyar & Himmat Singh Shekhawat. In one of the functions, Mrs. Damayanti V. Tambay, President, WWA was felicitated along with others.

#### 4. Visit to Bengaluru – 12 December 2021

**1971 WAR VIJAY DIWAS**  
*Honoring those who fought for victory*

**BRIG S S KANBARGIMATH**  
2 DOGRA (Eastern Theatre)

**HAVILDAR V M GUMKAR**  
26 MADRAS (Eastern Theatre)

**FLT LT VIJAY V TAMBAY**  
32 SQUADRON (Western Theatre)

**SEPOY NANJUNDAIAH**  
16 Madras (Western Theatre)

**REAR ADMIRAL S R SAMPATHGOPAL, AVSM, NM**  
(Operation Trident - INS Nipat)

The President, War Widows Association, Mrs. Damayanti V. Tambay was invited by Ms. Meghana Girish, President, Maj. Akshay Girish Memorial Trust, Bengaluru to a programme, '1971 War Vijay Diwas', honouring the martyrs, including Flt. Lt. V.V. Tambay. On this occasion, Mrs. Damayanti V. Tambay, wife of Flt. Lt. V.V. Tambay was felicitated.





**5. Vijay Diwas, 16 December 2021:**

SWARNIM VIJAY DIWAS was celebrated on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. This was organized by BJP at their Headquarters at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi. Some of the War Widows whose husbands were Gallantry Award recipients were felicitated. The Chief Guest, Mr. Ajay Bhat, Raksha Rajya Mantri, Government of India, gave away mementoes to the Veer Naris of the War Widows Association, namely, Parvesh Ghai, Anjali Karkare, Mona Makin, Kamlesh Jain and others.

**6. 26 December 2021: At Shaheed Bhawan, Office of the War Widows Association, New Delhi:**







A special programme commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indo-Pak War 1971 was collectively organized by the families of the 54 defense personnel who have been 'officially' declared Missing-in-Action since the 1971 Indo-Pak war. Despite admitting to this in Parliament umpteen times the successive Governments have not been able to resolve the matter, to the utter disappointment of the families. In addition, the families also felt that the Govts have even ignored the presence of the families, who are not even acknowledged or invited for special programs conducted by the Govt., the political parties or even the parent units. This has immensely hurt the relatives and hence the special program by the families for their loved ones. The program was attended by the families, members of the WWA, some senior retired Defense Officers and senior people from legal community.

The program started with laying the wreath on Gun & Helmet of the War Widow's Association and offering prayers for the 'missing' defense personnel. After this the discussion began amongst the family member to plan the strategy for further action. They also exchanged views as to what efforts have been made by individual families and also collectively. Photographs were taken for record and memory. A set of mementoes was given to all family members who were present. Lunch followed which was sponsored by the War Widows Association.

Ms Neela Gokhale, Sr Advocate, Supreme Court is currently handling their case in the court.

January, 26<sup>th</sup> 2022



To Honour the 'Nation's War Heroes & Their Veer Naris', on the occasion of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day, Dr. G.S. Yadava, President of the Bougainville Apartments Residents Welfare Association, B-3, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070 invited Damayanti Vijay Tambay (Arjun Awardee), w/o Ft. Lt. Vijay Vasant Tambay, Missing-in-Action (Indo-Pak War 1971) to do the honours of Flag Hoisting at Gazebo Park. This was followed by National Anthem.

To give this honour to a Veer Nari was much appreciated. And it was informally agreed between the Resident Welfare Association and the President of the War Widows Association to continue this practice of honoring the Veer Naris both on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan & 15<sup>th</sup> August. She indicated that she would formally also discuss this matter with the Association and felt confident that the other members would also appreciate and readily agree. This practice in fact should be promoted across the country, she felt.

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

A Brainstorming session was organized by the DESW, Ministry of Defense, GOI on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb'22 which was chaired by the Secretary, Mr B Anand along with his senior colleagues. Also were invited the members of AWWA, AFWWA and NAWA in addition to some NGOs which included the War Widows Association, New Delhi. The idea was to exchange ideas and share the welfare work being carried out by each NGO.



**International Women's Day – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
International Women's Day

War Widows Association in collaboration with Guild for Service and Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti organized a peace prayers on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at Kirti Mandap and Darshan Samiti, 5 Tees January Marg, New Delhi.



Dr. Mohini Giri, the Chairperson WWA & GFS addressed the gathering and introduced the invitees. President WWA, Mrs. Damayanti V Tambay conducted the program.

The Peace prayer on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 was attended by Shri Vijay Goel, Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Lt. Gen. S.S Ahlawat, Lt. Gen. V K Khandare, Mrs Syeda Hamid and other dignitaries. They paid homage to Gandhiji and to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in defending the nation. The program began with the laying of wreaths by the Veer Naris (War Widows) to Mahatma Gandhi and all Shaheed who laid down their lives for the nation.

The UN Secretary General Mr Antoni Guterrs positive message of Peace for International Women's Day was read out.





Peace prayers were started with a Sanskrit Shanti Shlok by Ms Vishnu Priya.

- Ae Mere Pyare Watan the acclaimed patriotic song was presented by Ms Rene Singh.
- Kumud Dewan sang in memory of and dedicated to the Indian Soldier who fight for the nation.
- Vande Mataram sung by a tribal girl Sarita was a great symbol of how encouragement and support can do wonders.
- Gurbani was recited by Sardar Mangal Singh and party.
- Bahai prayer was offered by a member of the Bahai's Institute.
- Buddhist Prayer was offered by Karmapa International Buddhist Institute.
- A song was recited by YWCA Choir group symbolizing wisdom, knowledge and understanding.
- Islamic Prayer was chanted by Dr. Syeda Hameed who quoted texts from the Quran that addresses all religions are equal.
- Jain prayer was chanted by Dr. Indu Jain.



The Chairman of Gandhi Smiriti and Darshan Samiti appreciated the ideology of Dr. Mohini Giri to celebrate International Women's Day as to convey all citizens to follow the path of peace, love and harmony. He also requested Dr Giri to organize an evening bhajan sandhya sometimes and he assured that he will help for this.

Maj Gen. ( Retd.) S S Ahlawat and Lt. Gen. V K Khandare addressed the gathering and also appreciated the program.

Vote of thanks was given by Mr. Meera Khanna after which snacks were distributed.

### **Visit to Pune -7-8 March 2022**

A visit to Pune was undertaken by the President who had an exhaustive interactive session with a large number of Veer Naris and their children. The venue chosen was the residence of a veer nari inside the premises of the Southern Command. It was her first interaction with this group. The Veer Naris reside there with their children and it was a very nice and humbling experience for the President. The children mingled happily and played with each other. Mrs Tambay used the occasion to urge the Veer Naris to share their woes, their journey after losing the life partner, how have they adjusted to the new life, problems faced to adapt to new life, if any concerning extended family and/or Govt support. It opened up the possibility to know first hand about the impact of the loss on children about whom we have little knowledge. But most prominent outcome was when after initial hesitation all Veer Naris were not only willing but wanting to share their live's experiences. We all cried and laughed together.









27<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
Commemorate the 7<sup>th</sup> Balidan Diwas of Lt Kiran Shekhawat





A heart wrenching program was organized by the family of the Brave heart where a skit was enacted and many other families were honoured for the sacrifice of their family members. The program was held in the spacious Varunika Auditorium, Chanakyapuri, Delhi and attended by many with Chief Guest being the NAWA President, Mrs Kala Hari Kumar and President, WWA Damayanti V Tambay as Guest of Honour.

#### **Meetings (2021 to 2022)**

Executive Committee Meeting: i. 25 August 2021; ii. 18 February 2022



Annual General Meeting: 13 November, 2021



Executive Committee Members 2019-2022



Chairperson	Dr. V. Mohini Giri
President	Mrs. Damayanti V. Tambay
Vice President	Raj Sharma Geeta Dod
General Secretary	Shalini Kathpalia
Treasurer	Manveen Bal
Members	Dr. Shubha Tripathi Parvesh Ghai Mona Makin Prema Aiyer Devyanti Devi

***Office Staff:***

Admin. Officer	Prema Kala
Office In charge	J. S. Saini
Attendant	Kavita
Accountant (P T)	Anil Goyal
Teachers (P T):	Monica Sood Sushma

***Play School:***

Attendent (P T)	Sonia
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**War Widow Association**  
Donation Details During Financial Year  
2021-2022

**Donation Received**

**Donation Given**

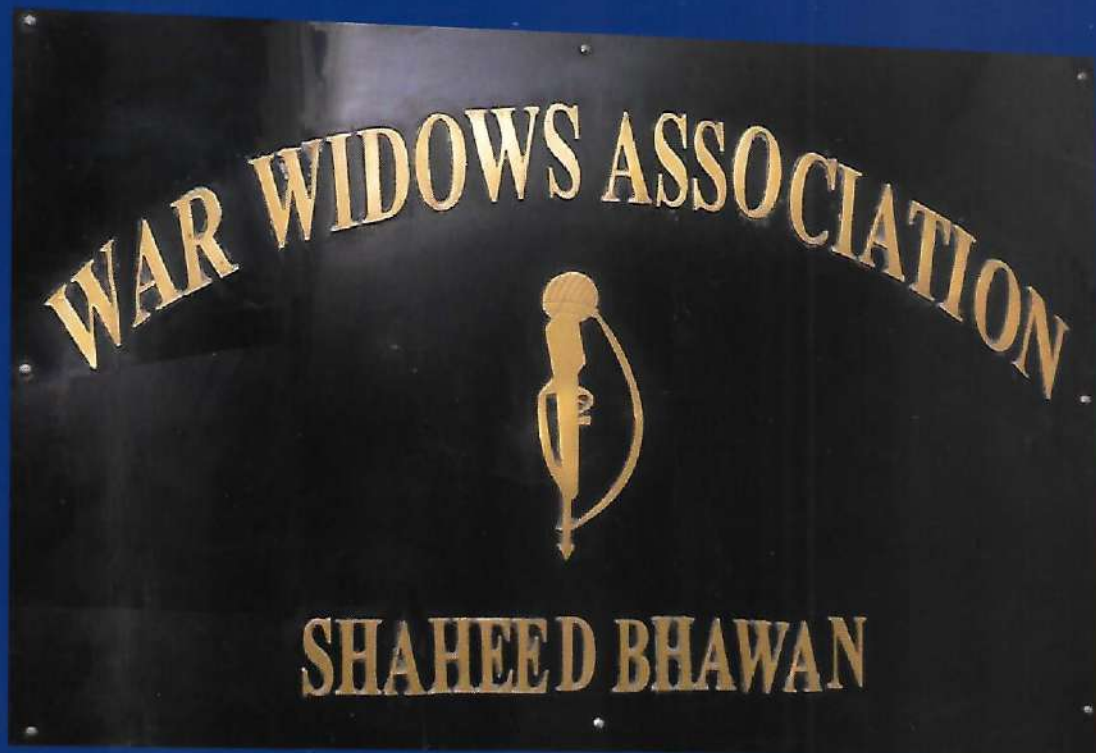
No. of Donors	Amount	No. of Beneficiaries (Veer Naris/ Veer Mata)	Amount
06	Rs. 64,504/-	327	Rs. 32,70,000/-

**War Widow Association**  
Donation Received During Financial Year  
2021-2022

S. No.	Name of the Doner	Amount	Date & Receipt No.
1	Eskay Dyestuffs & Organic Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. 22V, SA Brelvi Road, Mumbai	Rs. 50,000/-	2-8-2021/1912
2.	Strange Expert C-133, Sector-3, Noida, U.P.	Rs. 2002/-	3-11-2021/1913
3.	Mr. Anil Bountra C-4/201, Sector-3, Noida, UP	Rs. 2002/-	3-11-2021/1914
4.	Mrs. Premavathy Iyer A-001, Seellar, MI Legecy, Zeta-1, Greater Noida, UP	Rs. 4500/-	6-12-2021/1916
5.	Mr. K L Bhatia C/o 89, Navjiwan Vihar, New Delhi-110017	Rs. 1000/-	6-1-2022/1917
6.	Mrs. Urmila Bhatia 312, Plot No. 2, Guru Apartment, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075	Rs. 5000/-	6-1-2022/1018







ONE COURAGEOUS WOMAN MAKES A MAJORITY



## WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION

Shaheed Bhawan

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Email: [warwidow1972@gmail.com](mailto:warwidow1972@gmail.com)

[www.warwidowsindia.org](http://www.warwidowsindia.org)

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Dr. Jyotsna Chatterji, Mrs Damayanti V Tambay, Mrs. Prema Kala

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