'SHAKTI' Scholars Fellowship

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has started a new fellowship, 'SHAKTI' Scholars Fellowship.

- SHAKTI Scholars Fellowship is an NCW initiative providing a 6-month research grant to ***young Indian researchers*** for policy-oriented studies on critical issues affecting women.
- **Eligibility -** Open to ***Indian citizens aged 21–30 years*** with at least a bachelor's degree from a recognized institution.
- Preference to those pursuing or holding postgraduate/higher research qualifications or having strong research experience.
- **Grant -** Fellowship offers Rs 1 lakh grant.
- **Selection Process -** Applications are evaluated by an expert committee, and shortlisted candidates are interviewed online as part of the selection.
- **Research Areas**
  - Women's safety and dignity
  - Gender-based violence
  - Legal rights and access to justice
  - Cyber safety
  - Implementation of the POSH framework
  - Women's leadership and political participation
  - Health, nutrition, education, and skill development
  - Economic empowerment and labour participation
  - Socio-cultural practices and work–life balance.
- **Helpline** - Additionally, last month, the NCW launched a 24x7 helpline number, 14490, to provide immediate assistance to women in distress.
- The commission appealed to citizens, social organizations and educational institutions to spread awareness about this helpline number.

Reference

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