

'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

[NDTV | 'SHAKTI' Scholars Fellowship](#)

