

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 5TH DECEMBER, 2025

Bill No. LII of 2025

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MEN BILL, 2025

A

BILL

to provide for the constitution of a National Commission for Men to safeguard the rights and welfare of men, to inquire into grievances and recommend redressal mechanisms, to review existing laws and policies affecting men, to promote awareness and preventive outreach on issues impacting men's physical, mental and social well-being, and to ensure institutional support through legal aid, counselling, and research, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth year of the Republic of India as follows: —

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

5 1. (1) This Act may be called the National Commission for Men Act, 2025.
(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Short title and commencement.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires –

(a) “Commission” means the National Commission for Men constituted under section 3;

(b) “Member” means a Member of the Commission and includes the Member-Secretary;

(c) “men” means a person of any age, who is biologically male by birth and has not identified himself otherwise in accordance with any law for the time being in force;

(d) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and

(e) “State Commission” means the State Commission for Men that may be constituted by any State Government under section 13.

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Constitution
of
the
National
Commission
for Men.

3. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Commission to be known as the National Commission for Men to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to it under this Act.

(2) The Commission shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.

(3) The head office of the Commission shall be at New Delhi and the Commission may, in consultation with the Central Government, establish office(s) at such other place(s) in the country, as it may deem fit, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(4) The Commission shall consist of the following Members to be appointed by the Central Government, in such manner as may be prescribed, namely, —

(a) a Chairperson, who shall be a person of eminence in the field of law, public administration, gender studies, sociology, psychology, or social work, with at least fifteen years of relevant experience and committed to the cause of men and gender equality;

(b) a Vice-Chairperson, possessing qualifications and experience similar to that of the Chairperson;

(c) five Members, to be appointed from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing, having special knowledge of, and professional experience in, one or more of the following fields, such as —

(i) law and justice,

(ii) men’s rights and welfare,

(iii) mental health and counselling,

(iv) family and child welfare, or

(v) human rights and public policy;

Provided that at least one Member each shall be from amongst persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes respectively.

Provided further that at least one Member shall be from amongst persons below the age of forty years, at the time of such appointment; and

5 (d) a Member-Secretary, who shall be an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, possessing appropriate administrative experience and knowledge of the issues pertaining to gender or social justice.

10 (5) The Commission may, with the prior approval of the Central Government, co-opt not more than two persons having special knowledge or practical experience in any relevant field as experts or consultants, from any relevant field for such period and on such terms and conditions, as may be prescribed:

Provided that such experts or consultants shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Commission.

15 4. (1) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and every Member of the Commission shall hold office for a term not exceeding three years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall be eligible for reappointment for a further term not exceeding three years:

(2) The salaries and allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Members as well as remuneration payable to experts and consultants co-opted to the Commission, shall be such as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act:

Provided that until such rules are made in this behalf, they shall be entitled to such remuneration and benefits as are admissible to persons holding equivalent post in the Central Government.

30 (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or any Member other than the Member-Secretary, appointed under clause (d) of sub-section (4) of section 3 may resign from his office by giving a notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Central Government, and such resignation shall take effect from the date on which it is accepted;

35 (4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), a person shall be disqualified for being appointed as, or for continuing as the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or a Member, other than the Member-Secretary, appointed under clause (d) of sub-section (4) of section 3, if such person—

(a) is adjudged an undischarged insolvent;

40 (b) gets convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude;

(c) has engaged, during his term of office, in any paid employment or activity outside the duties of his office;

45 (d) has, in the opinion of the Central Government, become unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body;

(e) has, in the opinion of the Central Government, so abused the position of Chairperson or Member as to render that person's continuance in office detrimental to the public interest; or

50 (f) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a Member;

Term of office and conditions of service of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission.

Officers and other employees of the Commission.

Vacancies, etc., not to invalidate proceedings of the Commission.

Committees of the Commission.

Procedure to be regulated by the Commission.

(g) refuses to act or becomes incapable of acting; or

(h) is so disqualified by or under any law for the time being in force:

and the Central Government may, by order, remove from office, the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or any Member, other than the Member-Secretary, appointed under clause (d) of sub-section (4) of section 3, in any of the above cases. 5

Provided that no person shall be disqualified or removed under this sub-section e unless such person has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. 10

Provided further that a person disqualified or removed under this sub-section shall forthwith cease to hold office.

(5) Any vacancy caused under this section or otherwise shall be filled by fresh appointment within a period of six months from the date on which such vacancy occurs. 15

5. (1) The Central Government shall provide the Commission with such officers and other employees to the Commission, as may be necessary for the efficient performance of its functions under this Act;

(2) The method of recruitment, salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the officers and other employees, so appointed for the purposes of the Commission shall be such as may be prescribed. 20

6. No act or proceeding of the Commission shall be questioned or shall be invalidated on the ground merely by reason of, –

(a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Commission; or 25

(b) any defect in the appointment of a person as Chairperson or Member of the Commission; or

(c) any irregularity in the procedure of the Commission not affecting the merits of the case. 30

7. (1) The Commission may appoint such Committees as may be necessary for dealing with such special issues as may be taken up by the Commission from time to time.

(2) The Commission shall have the power to co-opt as members of any Committee appointed under sub-section (1) such number of persons, who are not Members of the Commission, as it may think fit and the persons so co-opted shall have the right to attend the meetings of the Committee and take part in its proceedings but shall not have the right to vote. 35

(3) The persons so co-opted shall be entitled to receive such allowances for attending the meetings of the Committee as may be prescribed. 40

8. (1) The Commission or a Committee thereof shall meet as and when necessary and shall meet at such time and place as the Chairperson may think fit.

(2) The Commission shall regulate its own procedure and the procedure of the Committees thereof. 45

(3) All orders and decisions of the Commission shall be authenticated by the Member-Secretary or any other officer of the Commission duly authorised by the Member-Secretary in this behalf.

CHAPTER III

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

9. (1) The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely—

Functions of the Commission.

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(a) to investigate and examine all matters relating to —

(i) violation or deprivation of rights of men and safeguards provided to them under the Constitution or any other law for the time being in force; and

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(ii) misuse or abuse of laws resulting in harassment, victimisation, or mental distress to men, including false or malicious prosecution in family and criminal law matters;

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(b) to study and recommend reforms in laws, rules, and policies that disproportionately or unjustly affect men, with a view to ensuring equitable access to justice;

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(c) to promote awareness and sensitisation regarding the rights, mental health, and social challenges of men, especially in relation to family disputes, workplace stress, and societal expectations;

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(d) to assist men in distress by providing legal aid, counselling, or rehabilitation services, directly or in coordination with legal services authorities, mental health professionals, or non-governmental organisations;

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(e) to undertake or sponsor research, studies, and data collection on issues specifically affecting men, including but not limited to male suicide rates, health disparities, unemployment, custodial rights, and domestic abuse;

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(f) to review the safeguards provided to men under the Constitution and other laws, and recommend measures for their effective implementation;

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(g) to inspect or visit, either independently or in association with other authorities, any jail, shelter home, mental health institution, or rehabilitation centre housing male inmates or patients, and to make recommendations for ensuring humane and dignified treatment;

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(h) to advise the Central Government on the planning, formulation, and implementation of social welfare schemes and affirmative action policies concerning men, boys, and male adolescents;

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(i) to coordinate with State Governments, State Commissions, if constituted in future, and other bodies working for men's welfare, to ensure policy coherence and effective grievance redressal;

(j) to present to the Central Government, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of the Commission and the safeguards provided for men under the Constitution and other laws including therein recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards and reforms in laws, rules and policies for improving the conditions of men by the Central Government or any State Government; and

Educational and preventive outreach functions.

(k) to perform such other functions as may be prescribed or as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act or may be referred to it by the Central Government;

(2) The Central Government shall cause all the reports referred to in clause (j) of sub-section (1) to be laid before each House of Parliament along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any of any of such recommendations; 5

(3) Where any such report or any part thereof relates to any matter with which any State Government is concerned, the Commission shall forward a copy of such report or part to such State Government who shall cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the State and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations. 10 15

10. (1) The Commission shall, in consultation with the appropriate authorities and institutions, develop and promote educational programmes and awareness campaigns aimed at—

(a) fostering gender sensitivity and mutual respect among boys and young men in schools, colleges, and Universities; 20

(b) promoting the values of healthy masculinity, emotional intelligence, mental well-being, and non-violence; and

(c) raising awareness on issues such as lawful conduct in relationships, consent, responsibility in family life, and respect for diversity. 25

(2) For the purpose of sub-section (1), the Commission shall coordinate with—

(a) the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE);

(b) the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT); 30

(c) the University Grants Commission (UGC);

(d) State Education Boards; and

(e) such other academic or skill development bodies, as may be prescribed;

(3) The Commission may recommend the inclusion of suitable modules, workshops, or resource materials on men's rights, mental health, legal awareness, and gender equality in school and university curricula. 35

(4) The Commission shall also facilitate community-level outreach programmes, youth camps, and media campaigns to sensitise the public on issues affecting boys and men, with special focus on rural and underserved areas. 40

11. The Commission shall, while inquiring into any matter referred to it under this Act, have the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 while trying a suit and in particular, in respect of the following –

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses or any person from any part of India and examining him on oath; 45

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office; 50

Commission to have powers of a civil court .

5 of 1908.

Safeguard to
protect the
rights of
women.

Constitution of
State
Commissions
for Men.

Separate
Grants for
Salary and
Functional
Expenditure

(e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; and

(f) any other matter which may be prescribed.

12. (1) Nothing anything contained in this Act shall be construed as limiting or affecting the rights and protections accorded to women under the Constitution or any other law for the time being in force.

(2) The Commission shall not intervene in or pronounce upon any complaint or matter in which a woman is the complainant, unless—

(a) the competent court of law has, by a final and binding judgment, declared the complaint to be false, malicious, or an abuse of legal process; or

(b) the competent authority under any law has, after due inquiry, recorded a finding to that effect.

(3) In cases involving cross-allegations by both parties, the Commission may render assistance to the male complainant only to the extent that such assistance does not impede or undermine the legal process being pursued by the woman complainant.

(4) The Commission shall ensure that all actions taken in furtherance of its functions are in conformity with the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and gender justice.

13. (1) Any State Government may, if it deems necessary, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a body to be known as the _____(name of the State) Commission for Men, to exercise such powers and carry out such functions within the State as may be prescribed by the State Government or as may be assigned to it under any State Act and to perform such other functions in coordination with the Commission, as may be delegated to it by the Central Government.

(2) The composition of the State Commission, the qualifications and experience, term of office, salary and allowances of the Chairperson and Members of the State Commission as well as the regulation of its procedure shall be such as may be prescribed by the respective State Government.

(3) The State Commission shall, at such intervals and in such form and manner, as may be prescribed, submit periodic reports to the Commission and to the respective State Government, on matters within its jurisdiction and the State Government, shall cause such reports to be laid, as soon as may be after they are received, before both Houses of the State Legislature, where it consists of two Houses, or where such Legislature consists of one House, before that House.

14. (1) **The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Commission, by way of grants such sums of money as the Central Government may think fit for being utilised for the purposes of this Act:**

Provided that the Commission may spend such sums as it thinks fit for performing the functions assigned to it under this Act and such sums shall be treated as expenditure payable out of the grants referred to in sub-section (1).

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the expenditure towards salaries, allowances, and pensions payable to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Members, officers, and other employees of the Commission shall be met from a separate head of account under the Union Budget, as may be specified by the Central Government in this behalf, and shall not form part of the grants-in-aid provided by the

Central Government for the discharge of the functions of the Commission under sub-section (1).

(3) The Commission shall maintain separate accounts for each such grant received under sub-section (1) and each such expenditure referred to in sub-section (2) and shall utilize the same only for the purposes for which they are allocated, subject to audit and oversight as prescribed. 5

Accounts and audit.

15. (1) The Commission shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. 10

(2) The accounts of the Commission shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Commission to the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Commission under this Act shall have the same rights and privileges and the authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General generally has in connection with the audit of Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Commission; 15

(4) The accounts of the Commission, as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General or any other person appointed by him in this behalf, together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Central Government by the Commission. 20 25

Annual report.

16. The Commission shall prepare, in such form and at such time, for each financial year, as may be prescribed, its annual report, giving a full account of its activities during the previous financial year and forward a copy thereof to the Central Government. 30

Annual report and audit report to be laid before Parliament.

17. The Central Government shall cause the annual report together with a memorandum of action taken on the recommendations contained therein, in so far as they relate to the Central Government, and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations and the audit report to be laid as soon as may be after the reports are received, before each House of Parliament. 35

CHAPTER IV

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairperson, Members, officers and other employees of the Commission to be public servants.

Central Government to consult Commission.

Power to make rules and regulations.

18. The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the Members, officers and other employees of the Commission shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of sub-section (2) of section 28 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. 40 45 of 2023.

19. The Central Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting men.

20. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. 45

(2) The Commission may, with the approval of the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, make regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, to provide for all

matters for which provision is necessary or expedient for the purposes of implementing the provisions of this Act.

5 (3) Every rule made by the Central Government and every regulation made by the Commission under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or regulation or both the Houses agree that the rule or regulation should not be made, the rule or regulation shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or regulation.

10 15 **21.** (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

20 Provided that no such orders shall be made after the expiry of the period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

Power to remove difficulties.

(2) Every order under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

25 **22.** The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force and, in case of any inconsistency, the provisions of this Act shall have overriding effect on the provisions of any such law to the extent of the inconsistency.

Act not in derogation of any other law.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Constitution of India guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws to all persons. While women have historically faced, and continue to face, deep-rooted discrimination and violence—which justifies the existence of a robust institutional framework for their protection—recent socio-legal trends and empirical data highlight those men too are increasingly experiencing challenges that warrant dedicated institutional attention.

Numerous studies, public interest litigations, and judicial pronouncements have drawn attention to the rising instances of false accusations under matrimonial and gender-specific laws, including the misuse of Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (earlier Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code) and provisions under domestic violence laws. While the Hon’ble Supreme Court has acknowledged such misuse and issued procedural safeguards, there remains no statutory authority to offer institutional support to falsely accused men, many of whom suffer from social stigma, mental trauma, and unjust incarceration.

A petition filed in recent years brought forth compelling data, citing the 2021 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures: out of 1,64,033 total suicides, 81,063 were committed by married men, compared to 28,680 by married women. The petition also noted that 33 per cent. of male suicides were linked to family-related issues, and 4.8 per cent. specifically to marital stress. These figures reflect an alarming mental health and societal crisis that remains unaddressed in national policy.

The petition further highlighted the absence of any mechanism for addressing domestic violence against men, despite the growing number of cases involving psychological abuse, physical harm, and marital breakdowns affecting men’s well-being. The petitioner sought the creation of a National Commission for Men, analogous to the National Commission for Women, and requested the formulation of guidelines for police stations to accept complaints of domestic abuse from men and refer them to the State Human Rights Commissions or other competent forums. It was also urged that the Law Commission of India be tasked with studying the legal and psychological effects of marital distress and suicides among men, with a view to recommending structural reform.

Additionally, the petition urged the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to accept and act on complaints submitted by men experiencing domestic violence or family-related stress. Despite the rising demand and genuine public concern, the lack of a statutory framework has led to judicial reluctance to intervene, with courts consistently noting that the creation of such a body lies within the legislative domain.

Various scholars, legal experts, and civil society organisations have supported the view that gender justice must be inclusive, and that the presence of institutions like the National Commission for Women must not negate or overshadow the legitimate needs of men—particularly in the spheres of family law, custody disputes, workplace harassment, and mental health.

Therefore, it is proposed to establish a National Commission for Men, a statutory body entrusted with powers to investigate complaints, recommend legal and policy reforms, coordinate with State authorities, conduct awareness campaigns, and provide institutional support through legal aid, mental health counselling, and research. The Commission shall also maintain full respect for women’s rights and will intervene only in matters where a competent court or authority has determined that a complaint made by a woman was false, malicious, or an abuse of process.

The Bill provides for the constitution of the Commission, including its structure, powers, and functions; grants the Commission quasi-judicial powers akin to a civil court; and mandates the creation of State Commissions for Men. It also ensures financial transparency, with separate allocations for salary and functional expenditure, audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and annual reporting to Parliament. It further provides for preventive and educational outreach, promoting healthy

mascinity, lawful conduct, emotional resilience, and gender equality through collaboration with bodies like CBSE, NCERT, UGC, and other stakeholders.

This Bill seeks to institutionalise a gender-balanced and constitutionally sound framework for the recognition, protection, and empowerment of men and boys in India, thereby ensuring justice for all genders without in any way diluting or compromising the rights and protections guaranteed to women under law.

Hence, this Bill.

ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the constitution of the National Commission for Men, which shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, five Members, and a Member-Secretary. Clause 4 provides for the tenure, salary and allowances and other service conditions of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members as well as the remuneration to experts and consultants appointed to the Commission. Clause 5 empowers the Central Government to appoint officers and staff necessary for the functioning of the Commission and provide for their salaries and allowances and other service conditions. Clause 7 provides for allowances to persons co-opted to the Commission for attending meetings thereof. Clause 9 lays down the functions of the Commission, which *inter-alia*, include providing legal aid, counselling, or rehabilitation services to men in distress directly or in coordination with legal services authorities, mental health professionals, or non-governmental organisations and undertaking or sponsor research, studies, and data collection on issues specifically affecting men. Clause 14 provides that the Central Government shall provide adequate funds to the Commission to be utilised for the purposes of the Bill and mandates a separate budgetary head under the Union Budget for meeting the expenditure incurred on salaries, allowances and pensions of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Members, officers and other employees of the Commission.

The Bill, if enacted, would involve expenditure, both of recurring and non-recurring nature, from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of approximately rupees one hundred crore per annum will be involved. A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees two hundred crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 20 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules and the National Commission for Men to make regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act. Clause 21 empowers the Central Government to make such provisions through an order for removing any difficulty that might arise in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill.

As the rules or regulations or orders will relate to matters of procedural and administrative detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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to provide for the constitution of a National Commission for Men to safeguard the rights and welfare of men, to inquire into grievances and recommend redressal mechanisms, to review existing laws and policies affecting men, to promote awareness and preventive outreach on issues impacting men's physical, mental and social well-being, and to ensure institutional support through legal aid, counselling, and research, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, M.P.)