

SOMI NEWS - 22

Jan-June-2026



Events & Meetings

Meetings

SOMI Representation - Uttar Pradesh Chapter

Dr. Gita Parwand, Chapter Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Chapter, represented the Society of Midwives India (SOMI) at the Workshop on the Roadmap to Reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) in Uttar Pradesh, organized by the State Commission. She also attended the Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) Meeting organized by the Asia Region RMC Council, where key strategies and best practices for promoting respectful, dignified, and woman-centered maternity care were discussed.



Advisors and Chapter secretary meeting at Hyderabad on 10th Feb, 2026

1. Review of Minutes & Approvals

Previous Minutes: The minutes from the Executive Meeting held on April 4, 2025, were reviewed and unanimously approved without changes



2. Member Experiences & Wellness

- Members shared diverse personal and professional experiences spanning clinical practice, research, and leadership.
- Discussions highlighted the positive impact of holistic health practices (meditation, mindfulness), sustainable living/farming, and health-related entrepreneurial networking on peer learning and overall resilience.



3. National Conference Planning

- Theme: Confirmed as “**Natural Birthing for Nation Building**”- Midwives Practice
- Dates: 12,13, and 14 February,2027.

Action Items:

- Sub-themes will be finalized within one month.
- Coordinating committee from the Governing Council and Executive Committee will be formed.
- An upcoming first planning meeting will be held in Vizag, attended by Dr. Prakasamma, Dr. Asha Bhat, Dr. Radha Ramana sree, Ms. Sandhya, and local leaders.

4. Financials, Auditing, & Memberships

Financial Health: Treasurer Ms. A Padma presented the accounts and auditing status, emphasizing the need for transparent reporting and timely audits.

Membership: Strategies to strengthen and boost enrollment were discussed.

ICM Participation: Approved reimbursement (full accommodation, 50% travel, and registration fees) for two Council members and two observers. It was proposed by Dr. Prakasamma to utilize interest from the ₹20-lakh corpus fund to help cover these expenses.



5. Partnerships & Projects

Existing Alliances: Reviewed partnerships with Himalaya and ECHO.

Himalaya Project: A pilot initiative of three Healthy Mother and Baby Contests will be organized across Gujarat, West Bengal, and either Andhra Pradesh or Telangana.

ECHO Project: Recommended increasing the active involvement of ANMs and GNMs, with a heavier focus on case-based discussions.

Government Projects: Dr. Radha Ramansree suggested exploring available government projects via TNAI to expand education, research, and advocacy.

6. Midwifery Advocacy & Outreach

Digital Outreach: To strengthen advocacy, an Instagram page titled ‘Midwives for Mother’ will be launched. Lt. Col. Manonmani and Asha are assigned to manage it.

Leadership Pipelines: Suggested identifying future Chapter Secretaries from nursing union leaders and service-oriented professionals, rather than strictly from nursing colleges.

7. Upcoming Action Plans (2026-2027)

- Special emphasis was placed on documentation, report preparation, and compiling newsletters.
- The organization will focus on research, school health talks, and celebrating key health days (International Women's Day, Safe Motherhood Day, International Day of the Midwife, Breastfeeding Week, and Nutrition Week).

Chapter Secretaries meeting:

Date: 11th & 12th February, 2026 Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Venue: Hotel Inner Circle

SOMI Proceedings & Action Plan

This report outlines the proceedings of the Society of Midwives India (SOMI) meeting, focusing on strategic advocacy, inter-state collaboration, and specific state-level action plans to promote midwifery-led care and natural birth practices across India.

Meeting Proceedings & Key Discussions

Welcome & Overview

Host: Mrs. Shanti Victoria welcomed the members.

SOMI Vision: Dr. Usha Ukande (President) provided an overview of SOMI's mission, highlighting a strong commitment to mothers, newborn, and midwifery-led care.



Chapter Reports & Advocacy

State Updates: Moderated by Dr. Asha Bhat and chaired by Ms. Jashu Patidar, Chapter Secretaries presented state reports detailing ongoing activities, practical challenges, and advocacy opportunities.

Maternal Partnerships: Moderated by Dr. M. Prakasamma, discussions centered on building alliances with mothers' groups, promoting respectful birth practices, and increasing community visibility for midwives.





18th National Conference Planning

Chaired by Dr. M. Prakasamma, a dedicated session with Telangana and Andhra Pradesh leaders focused on planning the 18th National Conference. Key community outreach strategies proposed included: State-level awareness campaigns and social dramas/street plays. Promoting adolescent reproductive health via the AP Government website. Community grassroots engagement via ASHAs, ANMs, Gram Sabhas, and PHC/CHC nurses. Leveraging FM Radio, YouTube, and inviting tribal birth attendants to honor traditional practices.



2. Regional Action Plans (2026)

A. North India (Chandigarh, Delhi, HP, J&K, UP)

Policy Advocacy: High-level state meetings, establishing Independent Maternal Clinics (MLCU), focusing on institutional deliveries, and specialized strategies for tribal areas.

Partnerships: Collaboration with local cadres (ASHA, Gram Pradhan, Anganwadi) and medical bodies (FOGSI, TNAI, Still Birth Association of India).

Public Awareness: Organizing Health Melas, in-service programs at Anganwadis, and hosting State Conferences in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.



B. West & South India (Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala)

Membership Drives: Targets set to recruit new members (Maharashtra: 500, Goa: 1000, Kerala: 1000).

Campaigns & Events: Social media campaigns promoting natural birth partnering.

Key Celebrations: Organizing symposiums and skill stations for Safe Motherhood Day, International Day of the Midwife (IDM), and Breastfeeding Week.

C. Northeast India (Assam & New Chapters)

Assam Target: A membership drive aiming for 500 new members by December 2026 and a Regional Conference at B.Sc Nursing College, Dibrugarh.

Assam Calendar of Events:

April: WHO Day (Role play) & Safe Motherhood Day

May: International Day of the Midwife (IDM) Celebration

August/September: Breastfeeding Week & National Nutrition Month

Policy & Media: Discussions with the State Nursing Council and State Commissioner; partnerships with the State Women's Cell/NGOs; and launching public health podcasts with local influencers.

North East Expansion: New chapters to be officially opened in Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, and Sikkim prior to the National Conference.



Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 4:00pm with a vote of thanks. Members reaffirmed their unified commitment to executing the 2026 structured action plans and driving grassroots policy changes for maternal-newborn health in India.

Women's Day Celebration

Jammu & Kashmir :

Government BSc Nursing College observed International Women's Day with great enthusiasm and respect to recognize the achievements and contributions of women in society. The program was organized in the college premises with active participation of faculty members and students under SOMI Banner.



Maharashtra :

International Women's day celebrated on 10th March conducted poster and rangoli competition.



Uttarpradesh

International Women's day celebrated in collaboration with UP chapter. SOMI was celebrated in department of OBG Gynae Chatrapati Shivaji Subharti hospital sanitary pads were distributed to mothers and female attended at OPD and created awareness regarding HPV vaccine.



Safe Motherhood Day

Delhi Chapter:

Delhi Chapter celebrated Safe Motherhood at Mahila wing in East Kidwal Nagar is empowered by awareness talk with mothers. 22 mothers participated in the discussion and Safe Motherhood day was observed at Bisrakh CHC, OBG and Community department with CMHO, metro college of Nursing Greater Noida.



Madhya Pradesh Chapter:

Safe Motherhood day was observed at Village Sanawadia Anganwadi jointly by SOMI MP chapter and Edu Serunx college of Nursing Indore



Odisha:

Safe Motherhood day was celebrated successfully at SUM Nursing College Bhubaneswar and SOMI Odisha Chapter.



Meetings :

Dr.Usha Ukande, President, Dr.Asha Bhat, General Secretary and Dr.Rathi Balachandran , Chapter Secretary , Delhi, visited to submit the white paper to Dr. Pawankumar, Additional Commissioner, RCH, GOI, Dr. Deepika Khaka, Nursing advisor, ADGS, GOI, Ms Akansha Madam, Deputy Secretary, the officer in charge of Nursing and Midwifery, Government of India. The issues and challenges of Midwives and Midwifery were discussed. They also submitted white paper to INC.



Meeting at Gandhi College of Nursing : Mrs. Shanthi Victoria, Joint Secretary and Mrs. Sandhya, Coordinator participated Meeting at Gandhi College of Nursing to discuss about Healthy Baby Contest in Telangana with Prof. Hansali, Principal, Gandhi College of Nursing



International Midwives Day Celebration

Assam: IDM celebrated at AMCH Antenatal OPD



Delhi : IDM celebrated in collaboration with Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi.



Goa: IDM celebrated followed by symposium. Dr. Prakasamma invited as chief guest. More than 500 hundred members participated.



Gujarat : International Midwives Day celebrated in 3 different areas by Government Nursing College, Ahmedabad under SOMI

1. Antenatal OPD, 1200 bed Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad by NPM Trainee, NPME Trainee, NPME Educators, MLCU staff, ANS, Hospital staff, PG students and all Teaching Faculties of Government Nursing College, GINERA, Ahmedabad. Six semester B. Sc. Nursing students conducted Role play on theme. NPM students gave Health Education to ANC mothers.
2. Health awareness program at CHC by PG students, NPM Trainee, College and hospital staff in community areas.
3. All the students and faculties actively participated regarding speech of this year theme, Poster Presentation and Quiz competition organised for students as a part of today's event at Govt. Nursing college, Ahmedabad.



Jammu & Kashmir: IDM celebrated at CON with competitions



Kerala: Shore film on International Midwives Day by 7th Semester BSC & Poster competition



Madhya Pradesh : Chapter Organized a IDM in collaboration with Peoples College of Nursing Bhopal. Dr.usha Ukande and Mrs.Soney Toppo participated in this.



Maharashtra : Chapter was organized IDM in collaboration with DPU . Mrs. (Lt.Col retd) Manonmani Venkat was the Chief Guest for this event and senior members of chapter was participated



Nasik: Nasik Unit was organized IDM SMBT institute of Nursing.



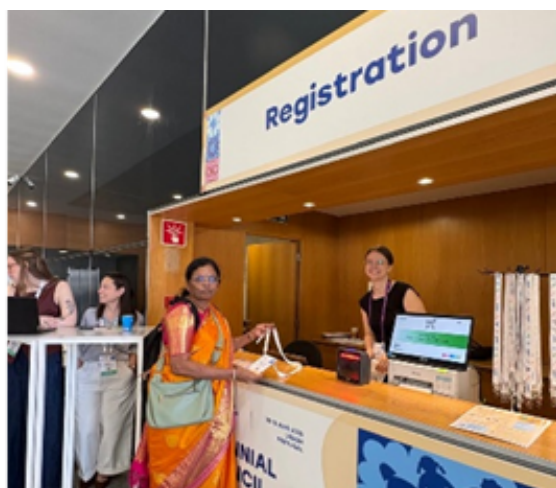
Odisha: One day workshop was organized by Odisha chapter in collaboration with SUM Nursing College, Bhubaneswar



Punjab: IDM celebrated by organizing competitions on the theme in collaboration with University College of Nursing Faridkot, Punjab



ICM Participation : Dr.Radha Ramana Sree nominated as ICM council delegate to participate in council meeting from 10th to 12th June,2026.



Dr.Usha Ukande represented SOMI in the meeting called by Dr Deepika Khakha Nursing Advisor GOI for forming TAG groups to provide inputs for Nursing reforms which will help in policy formation of NNMC. more such meetings are going to be held in future. Dr Deepika had promised to include SOMI in such initiatives for nursing and midwifery reforms.



Symposiums:

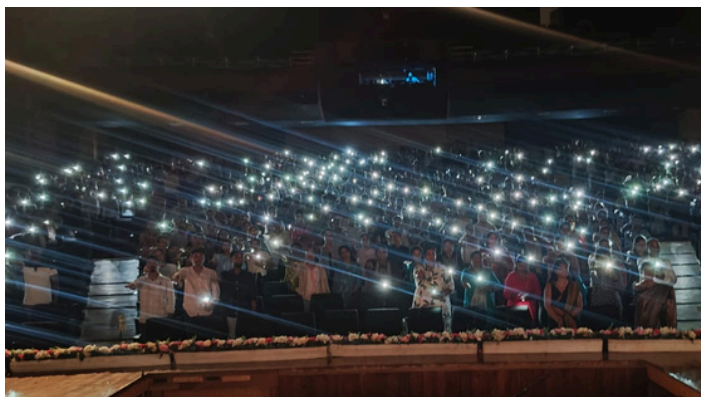
Maharashtra : A symposium was organized at Sangli in collaboration with SOMI Maharashtra chapter with support from Himalaya Wellness company on 5th March, 2026. Nearly 150 Participants (ANMs, LR staff & Teaching Faculties) participated in this symposium. Dr. Sangeeta Bhujbal and Mrs. Mangala Joshi represented from SOMI Head Quarter.



Shimla : A symposium was organized at Shimla in collaboration with SOMI Himachal Pradesh chapter with support from Himalaya Wellness company on 4th April, 2026. Nearly 100 Participants (ANMs, LR staff & Teaching Faculties) participated in this symposium. Dr. Rathi Balachandran represented from SOMI Head Quarter.



Goa : A symposium was organized at Panda in collaboration with SOMI Goa chapter with support from Himalaya Wellness company on 5th May, 2026. Nearly 200 members (ANMs, LR staff & Teaching Faculties) participated in this symposium. Dr. Prakasamma represented from SOMI Head Quarter.



Gujarat : A symposium was organized at Government School of Nursing Santrampur district in collaboration with SOMI Gujarat chapter with support from Himalaya Wellness company on 12th May, 2026. Nearly 100 members (ANMs, LR staff & Teaching Faculties) participated in this symposium. Ms. Jashu Patidar represented from SOMI Head Quarter.



Updates on membership state wise

SOMI Membership Data During 2026 (January to December)														
S.NO	State Name	Total Till 2025 Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	AP	430	-	2	-	-	1	1						
2	Assam	374	-	-	1	-	-							
3	Andaman	57	-	-	-	-	-							
4	Arunachal	27	-	-	-	-	-							
5	Bihar	562	-	-	-	-	-							
6	Chattisgarh	533	-	2	-	-	-							
7	Chandigarh	56	-	-	-	-	-							
8	Delhi	427	-	1	-	-	-	1						
9	Gujarat	1615	-	1	6	3	2							
10	Goa	173	58	36	33	14	28	20						
11	Haryana	340	-	-	21	-	5							
12	H.P.	64	-	-	-	7	-							
13	J&K	194	-	-	-	-	-							
14	Jharkhand	238	-	-	-	-	-	1						
15	Karnataka	459	1	1	3	1	1	1						
16	Kerala	280	-	-	-	3	-							
17	M.P.	636	-	-	-	-	1							
18	Maharashtra	1628	8	1	15	-	16							
19	Manipur	35	-	-	-	-	-	2						
20	Meghalaya	297	-	-	-	-	-							
21	Mizoram	3	-	-	-	-	-							
22	Nagaland	79	-	-	-	-	-							
23	N.Haveli	11	-	-	-	-	-							
24	Odisha	648	1	-	-	-	-							
25	Pondicherry	840	-	-	-	-	-							
26	Punjab	201	-	-	-	-	-							
27	Rajasthan	258	1	1	-	-	-							
28	Sikkim	14	-	-	-	-	-							
29	Tamilnadu	767	-	1	-	-	3							
30	Telangana	794	-	2	-	-	-							
31	Tripura	36	-	-	-	-	-							
32	U.Khand	120	-	1	-	-	-							
33	U.Praदेश	424	2	7	2	1	-							
34	West Bengal	2463	6	7	1	2	-	1						
	Total	14896	77	63	82	31	57	27						

Latest updates:

18th National Conference of SOMI at
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
12th to 14th February, 2027.

Theme : “Natural Birthing for
Nation Building”- Midwives
Practice