

Nirbhaya Fund

December 23, 2019

Source: *PIB, Ministry of Women and Child Development & India Today*

In the wake of questions raised over the safety and security of women following the Hyderabad gangrape and murder case – The Women and Child Development Ministry has allocated Rs 2,050 crore to various states from the Nirbhaya Fund.

About Nirbhaya fund

- Nirbhaya fund was created in 2013 in the aftermath of December 2012 Delhi gangrape and murder case. Giving in to popular sentiments, the government announced a separate fund for meeting expenditures to ensure the safety of women. The government proposed an allocation of Rs 10,000 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund to ensure the safety of women
- Under the Nirbhaya Fund, the Centre gives money to the states, which in turn spend it on programmes meant for ensuring women's safety.
- **Nodal agency:** The Women and Child Development Ministry is the nodal agency for expenditure from the Nirbhaya Fund. **Earlier, it was the one releasing the funds but now it examines the programmes submitted** to it by the states under the Nirbhaya scheme, approves them and **recommends to the Department of Economic affairs for allocating funds.**
- The Nirbhaya Fund Framework **provides for a non-lapsable corpus fund for the safety and security of women to be administered by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Government of India.
- Further, it provides for an **Empowered Committee (EC) of officers chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Women &**

Child Development (MWCD) to appraise and recommend proposals to be funded under this framework.

- It also provides for the concerned Ministry/ Department to seek approval of the designated competent financial authority, as well as of the DEA for funding of such proposals under the Nirbhaya Framework.
- As per this framework, the **MoF through DEA is the nodal Ministry for any accretion** into and withdrawal from the corpus, and the **MWCD is responsible to review and monitor the progress of sanctioned projects/ schemes** in conjunction with the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments.
- Budget allocations against approved projects are made in the budget of the respective Ministries/ Departments through Demands or Supplementary Demands for Grants.

Funding pattern

The below standard funding pattern will be followed:

- 60:40 for all States or 90:10 for States with difficult terrains
- 100% for UTs
- Few initiatives are 100% funded

The funds for the projects shall be released following the procedure prescribed in GFR 2005.

Present Status of the Fund

- Data tabled the Minister in Parliament in November shows that six states and UTs – Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura and Daman & Diu – have not spent a single rupee from the Nirbhaya Fund allocated by the Union home ministry
- The Women and Child Development Ministry release money from the Nirbhaya Fund under four heads including the Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme. A total of 12 states were allocated fund under this scheme.

- But of the 12 states, only four states utilized the Nirbhaya Fund money for the said purpose. The rest did not spend a penny.

Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF)

- Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) has been funded under the Framework of Nirbhaya Fund to support States/UTs for their Victim Compensation Scheme.
- The CVCF is a one-time grant of top-up funds to the States/UTs subsequent to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.