

ROSHNI

April-June 2024



ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Programmes by AIWC branches April- June, 2024



*Satgamaya Women's Welfare, Kerala -
Anaemia Detection Camp*



*Amritsar Branch, Punjab:
Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness programme*



*Kalpakam Yechury Mahila Shakti, Andhra
Pradesh: World Menstrual Hygiene Day*



*Vikas Mahila Sangam, New Delhi: Awareness
program on Cyber crime*



Sevalok Branch, Tripura: Adolescent and Human Trafficking awareness



Kalpadharu Women's Association Palakkad Branch, Kerala : Awareness on Nutrition, Sanitation & Health



ROSHNI

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From the Editor's desk...

Dear Sisters,

It was a privilege for AIWC, when our President was invited as a Key note Speaker, at the event hosted by Bramhakumaris, at the Bharat Mandapam, to deliberate on Women's contribution in the current crisis situation.

The Symposium on Women's Reservation Bill held at Head Office was well received by all present and question and doubts of the young participants were well addressed.

This year too, World Environment Day was celebrated with enthusiasm by all the Branches as in the past years. Tree Plantation, Restoration of lost lakes to life, are projects which are easy to take up at Branch level, either independently or in association with other NGOs. Head Office has taken up the mission to make the campus a 'Zero Waste' Zone. Activities and programmes conducted on these topics and more, shared by our Branches across the country are covered in this issue of Roshni.

I look forward to receiving contributions and constructive feedback.

Namaste,

Sheela Satyanarayan
Editor, Roshni

April-June, 2024



ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PRESENT TIMES OF CRISIS

President Kalyani Raj at National Convention, Bharat Mandapam
on 27th May, 2024

Mrs. Kalyani Raj, President was invited as a key note speaker in the event hosted by Brahamakumaris at the Bharat Mandapam on 27th May, 2024 to deliberate on women's contribution in the present times of crisis. She began with highlighting the common goals AIWC and Brahamakumaris' organisation are working on and how privileged she felt to be collaborating with them on different platforms.

Mrs. Raj highlighted examples from her own experience of working with SHG women that when we empower one woman, the benefit reaches the whole family, community, and further extends to the society and ultimately the whole region. Women often foster safe and inclusive spaces where community members can connect, share experiences, collaborate and create trust and social bonding. Because women are not mere custodians of morality, they are the very embodiment of it. They have instinctive powers to navigate through life, performing multi roles in different capacity and situations – she has to be assertive, yet kind, at the same time, she is compassionate towards those whom she loves without feeling weak for doing so, she exerts her position in the family in a subtle way while being the most approachable person. In other words, even in the face of adversity they may

encounter along the way, women consistently strive to achieve their goals. Probably that is the reason, the journey from 'Housewife' to homemaker has not been easy and effortless, but it has happened.

She further spoke about couple of crucial areas where women are already contributing immensely and can still do more to combat the crisis. She flagged the issues relating to consistent increase in gender based violence, lack of leadership role to be taken up by young girls and few other areas which are linked to overall empowerment of women.

Mrs. Raj concluded by saying that in our journey towards progress and prosperity, it is imperative to recognize the pivotal role women play in shaping the moral and ethical fiber of our society. Women, are the forerunners of change and historically they have performed the role efficiently instilling virtues that stay forever. Organizations like Brahmakumari's and NGOs like AIWC together can embrace the transformative power of women and harness their strength to ensure that wisdom, experience and grace of women are honoured, their voices are amplified and their roles as guardians of our moral and ethical values are celebrated with reverence.



President Kalyani Raj
addressing the National
Convention



THE WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

A symposium at AIWC Head office on June 19, 2024

- From the Secretary General's Desk

The Bill for 33% reservation for women in Parliament & State Legislatures was the first Bill passed in the new Parliament House on 21.9.2023. A group of versatile journalists, media persons, academicians, and historians participated in the Symposium to share their views and interact with assembled members and invitees.

Kalyani Raj, President AIWC in her welcome address, highlighted the initiatives taken by AIWC members like Sarojini Naidu as early as the 1940s, to bring women forward in national governance. Coming to the present times, in late 2023, an initiative was taken by Trivandrum branch of AIWC, to start orientation programs and workshops for women who aspire to be legislators, and this is being continued in the current year, and hoped that the symposium would help women avail the opportunities presented by the Act.

Dr. Manju Kak, Secretary General welcomed the new Act which would help women climb one more step upwards towards governance. By itself, the Act could not usher in changes, unless women seize the opportunity to work for the country. She pointed out

that in many countries, even without reservations, women had risen to high posts in governance.

Some highlights of the discussion were:

- Criticisms of the new law were almost a repetition of those evoked by the 1972 Act in which 1/3 rd reservation was made for women in all local bodies and Panchayats, later, women's hard work and competence came to be appreciated, and brought results in implementing community welfare measures, and taking tough decisions on social issues.
- How far would the new law bring about gender inclusive citizenship of women, and bring women to the forefront of legislation and governance? The reply given in the symposium was that, the onus was on women to develop their knowledge and aptitude for administrative and legislative work, for which they would have to add to their responsibilities for home and family, another dimension of responsibility for community welfare and prosperity.

Some broad views emerged after the discussion:

*The law has placed the onus on women to develop their aptitudes for administration, and legislation, in an ambience different from their routine domestic and family responsibilities.



Secretary General Dr Manju Kak speaking



Participants of the symposium

Hence a great deal would depend on the women themselves, to take advantage of the opportunities given to them, to take up higher responsibilities.

*The impact of the law will be not only on women, but on wider circles of community welfare, social justice and other parameters of progress. Women holding decision making positions in national and state legislatures, will bring them to the forefront of legislature and

* The clarion call given by the symposium was that women should acquire education and training to take their due place in national legislatures. This will not only break social and hierarchical barriers, but will be one big step towards inclusive citizenship of women.

Speakers in the symposium were:

*Sushma Ramachandran, veteran journalist,

Aditi Kapoor, developmental economist, Dr. Syed Mubin Zehra, historian, and Prachee Sharma, Digital Media News.

The moderator of the symposium, Archana Shukla, AIWC Noida, maintained the tempo by her interventions, directing the flow of discussions, and coverage of issues raised.

Summing up of discussions was done by Meenakshi Kumar, AIWC, who gave the highlights of discussions and summed up the views on the likely impact of the Act on women.

Dr. Upasana Singh, Treasurer AIWC, delivered her vote of thanks to the speakers for throwing light on the implications of the historic Act, and the audience for their lively interaction on the issues raised during the symposium.



A visit by
JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WOMEN DEVELOPMENT & CHILD WELFARE
to Bapnu Ghar, AIWC



Dr. Preetam B. Yash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Mr. Aparnesh Dutta Pandey, Under Secretary together with their team, visited AIWC. The primary purpose was to visit the Bapnu Ghar.

AIWC President Kalyani Raj and Secretary General Dr. Manju Kak welcomed the visitors and provided comprehensive information to the Joint Secretary. The visiting team expressed their appreciation of AIWC for the efforts and efficiency in managing the Bapnu Ghar. They also engaged in detailed interactions with the office bearers.



AIWC GEARING TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

Plastic Waste Collection Centre at the AIWC, HO with Why waste Wednesday Foundation



On June 13, 2024 AIWC Head Office launched a waste plastic collection centre in collaboration with NDMC and 'Why Waste Wednesday foundation', an environmental organization. This initiative aligns with AIWC's goal of creating a zero-waste zone on their premises. The event was launched jointly by officials from NDMC Dr. Shakuntala, Dr. Ankita Rai, and Dr. Vijay Patel, as well as Dr. Ruby Makhija, the Founder and Director of 'Why Waste Wednesday Foundation'.



Power and magic of books

Books have an incredible and magical power to transport a reader to a distant and different world.

Books can also inspire and impact a reader with profound insights into human experience and knowledge.

Over centuries billions of books have been written and published in every country and every language extraordinary books in one language of India have been translated in many languages.

This plethora of books makes one pick and choose books to read.

English philosopher Francis Bacon says, "some books are to be tasted, some others to be swallowed, some to be chewed and digested". Make friendship with books. They are our best friends and teachers.

- by Chandraprabha Pandey, New Delhi

THE BHAGAVAD GITA: A LIFE-CHANGING CONVERSATION

with Dr. Vandana Singh Assoc. Prof. of English, GCG, Punjab University

- by Prof. Yuthika Mishra, MIC, MCM Library AIWC, New Delhi

About the speaker:

Dr. Vandana has been Associate Professor of English at GCG, Panjab University, Chandigarh, and has worked as a bilingual teacher for the Manchester Education Committee, UK. Her literary translations from Hindi to English include works by Premchand, Krishna Sobti and Geetanjali Shree. She won the Award of Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to Literature by the Chandigarh Sahitya Akademi. Dr. Vandana has authored several books on Communication Skills and ELT for Oxford University Press. She holds a PhD in Indian writings in English. She also has a podcast series, Gita Talks-Life Changing Revelations, focusing on nuggets of wisdom as encapsulated in the Bhagavad Gita. A keen gardener and bonsai enthusiast, the author views translation as a social responsibility contributing to building cross-cultural bridges.

A book club event on the book, "The Bhagavad Gita: A Life-changing Conversation" by Dr. Vandana R. Singh was organized in the Margaret Cousins Memorial Library on 7th May, 2024.

Dr. Vandana Singh talking about her book said that this book was not about any religious teachings; rather it's a handbook of daily life lessons. Each line has been interpreted keeping in mind the modern times and the younger generations who need to be initiated into the teachings of Gita. This book is an ideal companion for the young minds working with corporate giants, where they can find peace and purpose of life amidst the never-ending race that the 21st century has placed us in.

The author read some inspiring shlokas from her book about the Bhagavad Gita and explained them. AIWC being a women's forum, she particularly cited the Shloka number 10.34 which talked about the qualities that are attributed to women by God which are:

मृत्युःसर्वहरश्चाहमुद्भवश्चभविष्यताम्।

कीर्तिःश्रीर्वाक्चनारीणांस्मृतिर्मधापुतिःक्षमा॥ 34॥

मैं सर्वभक्षी मृत्यु हूँ और आगे भविष्य में होने वाले अस्तित्वों को उत्पन्न करने वाला मूल मैं ही हूँ।

स्त्रियों के गुणों में मैं कीर्ति, समृद्धि, मधुरवाणी, स्मृति, बुद्धि, साहस और क्षमा हूँ।

I am all devouring death and I am the origin of those things that are yet to be. Amongst women I am fame, prosperity, fine speech, memory, intelligence, courage and forgiveness.



World Environment Day Celebrations at AIWC June 2024

ZERO WASTE - OUR MOTTO

- by Asha Gambhir, MIC - Waste management & Beautification, AIWC, New Delhi

World Environment Day was celebrated with the flagging off of a campaign to manage waste in a systematic and scientific manner and lessening the volume of garbage generated by us.

We have burdened the Earth with our waste, waste in any and every form produced collectively by humans. Our greed knows no bounds, we acquire and throw unthinkingly, creating mountains of garbage, which have become a health hazard to us. The environment is contaminated by the garbage, seeping into the soil affecting the ground water. Thus, destroying our natural resources.

Since waste is created by us, its disposal too should be our responsibility. A little sensitivity and mindfulness will do wonders for the Environment and preserving our natural resources. There is the biodegradable and the non-biodegradable waste which needs to be addressed. Branches were requested to take up Awareness Programmes under the Head Environment. The programme would extend for one year to be called a campaign for effective implementation. Initially, members and beneficiaries need to meet frequently as per convenience but in quick succession to create awareness and educate the would-be practitioners about the different kinds of wastes and their damaging effects.

Kitchen waste is something created by each household and in large quantity depending on how large the family is. The waste from vegetables and fruits can be converted into compost, either for personal use or to be sold. Fruit peels can be made into enzymes which make excellent floor cleaners or even fertilisers for plants. The compost created is one of the richest manures consisting of all nutrients required for a healthy plant, simultaneously,

reducing the volume of garbage considerably, doing our bit towards the Environment.

Therefore, the first step towards a cleaner world is taken care of by creating wealth out of the kitchen waste.

The most damaging and harmful is Plastic. Embedded in soil it prevents water from seeping into the soil for 500 years. Such is the damaging affect. Water not seeping through is a great loss of the rain water, which otherwise would replenish the ground water level. Usage of plastic has become so prevalent because of its convenience. Food items kept or sold in plastics can prove to be health hazards. Recent studies have proved that there are remnants of plastic found in the mother's milk. How dangerous is that!!! So, by the time the child grows up, how much plastic would have lined their intestine is anybody's guess.

We need to protect the present and our future generation from the menace of plastic, by collecting and handing over to an authorised agency for proper disposal.

Similarly, too for Electronic waste, even a small battery can cause damage to the soil if thrown recklessly. There are voluntary authorised agencies who provide collection centers and recycle whatever is collected.

The AIWC branches are to initiate all these steps monitoring and guiding the members. The goal is to move towards zero waste. An impact study should be done to evaluate the success of the campaign. The results by themselves would be a motivation to take the movement forward, encouraging more and more people to practice. Something doable and rewarding, gratifying that we will leave behind a clean Planet for the next generation.

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OUR LAND, OUR FUTURE

- by AIWC Patna, Bihar branch



The AIWC Patna, Bihar branch celebrated "The World Environment Day" on 30th May 2024 at Sri Arvind Mahila College Patna. The function was inaugurated by Prof. Sadhana Thakur, the newly elected President. A brief history of AIWC was shared by Prof Asha Tripathi, the newly elected Secretary & SCM.



The Resource person, Dr. Manshi Pandey, Treasurer, gave a lecture on land restoration, afforestation and drought resilience. The slogan was "Our Land Our Future". A Slogan and Poster Competition was held. Students also presented papers on environment and pollution.

The programme ended with plantation of trees by members and students.

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ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS & FITNESS

- by Beena Agarwal, SCM, Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha, Meerut

On 5th June 2024, Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha with the support of AIWC, New Delhi organised a 1-day awareness program on Environment Awareness & Fitness. The 10 km Cycle Rally started with Sanstha Prathna. The rally was flagged off from Kanohar Lal Girls School and returned to Kanohar Lal Girls School Premises.

Mr. Pradeep Agarwal ji, Social Worker, Director-Apex Group, Meerut, was the Chief Guest. It was a unique rally in Meerut and was organised very well. Approximately

70 Girl Students of the School, 100 Members of the Sanstha and reputed ladies from the city participated in the Rally. There was public support and appreciation for the rally at different points on the route.

A Poster Competition was also conducted for Kanohar Lal Girls School on Environment Awareness. Around 45 Girls Participated. Mrs. Urmi Jain Ji, a reputed Artist judged the best poster and 8 girls received prizes.



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Sustainable efforts for
CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & THE ROLE OF YOUTH

- by Supriya Bhalerao, Secretary, AIWC Hyderabad Branch



On the 22nd June Hyderabad Branch observed the World Environment Day at Dr BR Ambedkar Law College of Hyderabad. The basic concept of Climate Change mitigation was explained by the Chief speaker Mr Md Khan, popularly known as 'Solar Khan' due to his extensive work in Solar energy usage promotion in the semi urban areas of Andhra n Telangana twin states.

He explained the role of youth to the students so well that the students applauded several times. He offered them to arrange excursion tours to understand how the conceptualization is done and how the action plan is set for many different ways of restoration of the ecosystems and told about

reviving old techniques of building construction where use of energy intensive materials like cement n steel is minimised.

This will be followed up with the sessions on 1) planting trees, 2) the Rainwater harvesting and 3) Solar energy usage for their huge premises and also 4) Legislative application of climate change mitigation.

Second speaker spoke about Legal protection being available for Climate Change mitigation procedure.

In all 81 students and 18 faculties were present. Female students were keen on working with AIWC. Our follow-up is being planned. The programme was self funded by the Hyderabad branch.

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Fact sheet of World Environment day, 2024

- Observed on: 5 June and year 2024 is 51st year.
- Theme of year 2024: It is centred around land restoration, addressing desertification, and building resilience to drought, encapsulated by the slogan 'Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration'.
- World Environment Day 2024 Host country: Saudi Arabia
- World Environment Day engages people across the globe in an effort to protect and restore the Earth.

CATCH THEM YOUNG Environment Day for children at Sakipur village

- by Greater Noida Branch, New Delhi

Greater Noida Branch celebrated Environment Day with the Children of Sakipur village. They were taught the importance of the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. They also participated in paper bag making from waste newspapers.



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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION for communities

- by Vikas Mahila Sangham, New Delhi

Vikas Mahila Sangam (VMS) organised an event on Environment Day, funded by AIWC, HO. It was aimed to promote environmental awareness and education within the community.

Vice-president Manorama Negi, while welcoming the participants, provided an overview of the various environmental projects undertaken by VMS, highlighting the organization's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability. President Sapna Acharya emphasised the dedication and hard work of the volunteers in various projects aimed at saving the environment.

A well-organized "Nukkad Natak" (street play) was performed by students from the Nishulk Shiksha Kendra, supervised by Anjana Kashyap and Jaya

Bhargav. The play was designed to educate and engage the audience on environmental issues through an entertaining and impactful medium.

Mrs. Prabha Juglani, an environmentalist and spokesperson, delivered an informative session on recycling kitchen waste. Dr. R. Gopalan also presented the various uses of kitchen waste for treating common health ailments, providing practical examples and encouraging participants to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

Students and VMS volunteers organised a street march to raise awareness about environmental protection. The march concluded with another performance of the "Nukkad Natak" at a local marketplace, effectively reaching a broader audience.

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History of World Environment day, 2024

World Environment Day established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972. It serves as a platform to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage global action. The first World Environment Day conference was held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. However, the event has been led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since its inception in 1973. Since then, it has been celebrated every year on June 5th. Each year focuses on a specific theme. Some of the past themes were #BeatPlasticPollution (2023), Only One Earth (2022), and Ecosystem Restoration (2021). It addresses global issues focusing on pressing environmental challenges such as pollution, climate change, deforestation, wildlife conservation, etc, on a global scale.

A meaningful WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

- by Kalpana Roy, Secretary, Raiganj Mahila Sammilani, Raiganj

Thinking about and creating awareness about the Environment is the need of today. The world is burning with heat and so are people. People are finding it hard to sustain, the glaring anger of the Sun and it has led to the greenery on the earth destroyed by humans over decades.

Raiganj Mahila Sammilani observed the World Environment Day with high energy and enthusiasm on the 5th June, 2024 to create awareness about the need of the environment and the eco-system of the mother earth.

People from different age groups, including children and older adults participated in the celebration. Secretary of Raiganj Mahila Sammilani Mrs. Kalpana Roy inaugurated the

celebration. Many distinguished guests including social activists were invited.

After speeches and brief conversation with the children on how to preserve and protect the environment and how to promote environment awareness among the younger generation, saplings were distributed to the participants and guests.

The Programme ended with taking promise to keep our environment intact and to plant trees in every corner possible.

The students of Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Teachers' Training College, Itahar, Uttar Dinajpur and Mr. Supratim Ghosh, Professor of MAKATTC discussed the justification of World Environment Day in today's situation.



Environment Day with the student of Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Teachers' Training College, Itahar, Uttar Dinajpur

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AT SHAHDARA CRECHE

- by Mythily Jagannathan, MIC, HO Events/ Documentation

World Environment Day was celebrated in an event organized by Head Office, in the AIWC Creche, within the Leprosy Resettlement colony, Shahdara, North Delhi. AIWC President Kalyani Raj, inaugurated the programme with an informal, light-hearted chat with children. Magdaleen Marin (MIC, Community Development) gave a few examples of the direct impact of environmental changes on the health of plants, animals and humans.

Crèche children in the 3-5 age group, marched in carrying banners with slogans to save the environment, to the accompaniment of lively recorded music. Soon, they were joined by older children attracted by the banners and posters decorating the crèche. A small group of girls who came to participate in the program, were followed by mothers of crèche children, who had taken time off

from duty, to join the celebration. the little children, dressed in their Sunday best, presented lively songs and dances to loud applause from all present.

Asha Gambhir, MIC gave a talk relating day to day events and incidents which were the result of neglect/destruction of the environment.

In Sawaal Jawab (Quiz program), we took turns to pose questions on care for the environment, garbage disposal, water, health and nutrition, and medicinal value of plants and leaves. The children were quick

starters, the ladies, took some time to get into the spirit of the competition, and then dominated the show! Deepa the crèche In-Charge, gave a short instructive presentation, showing placards and slogans, on the world around us.

The programme ended with distribution of cloth bags (made by Gurgaon Gramin Mahila Mandal), steel water bottles for children donated by Dr Ajanta Datt, Ajwain and medicinal plants presented by Asha Gambhir and distribution of snacks packets to all.



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Let us continue planting trees without interruption

This is an appeal to all! Ladies, Gentlemen, Girls and Boys!!

For citizens of this country, the easiest way to contribute to protect our environment and combat the Climate Change is to plant trees all around, throughout the year and wherever possible.

In our homes, offices, housing colonies, roadside, public places, our educational institutes, prayer places, etc and wherever we see gaps in greenery.

Plant material, permissions, right season, water availability etc needs to be taken care of according to the local conditions.

Please remember, if we plant saplings, we need to see that the plants survive well for at least for 15 months. This will ensure the zero mortality. If each one plants minimum 20, it will work wonders!

Mission: Each year, each one, twenty one!



Going an extra mile...

Branch activities

Observing the World Earth Day SAVE THE EARTH

-by Kriti Naren, Secretary, Greater Noida Branch, New Delhi

AIWC Greater Noida Branch organised a day long, entertaining and informative programme to spread the message - save the earth on "Earth Day". Public places with maximum gatherings were selected. The team under the supervision of Kriti Naren took out a procession with posters, banners and slogans on the importance of saving the Earth. Over 150 youth volunteers participated in this event conveying

inspiring messages on plantation of trees, hazards of plastic. The participants divided into 10 groups, covered different locations like parks, bus stops, marketplaces, malls, sectors. Short Street Plays on this topic were also held. Officials from Noida Authority, Mr. Anand Mohan Singh and others also joined the event and appreciated the efforts of the youth wing.



What is World Earth Day?

World Earth Day, observed annually on April 22, is dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the planet and seeking sustainable solutions to the challenges brought about by growth and development.

This year's theme, "Planet vs Plastics," focuses on the environmental degradation and harm caused to food and marine ecosystems due widespread use of plastics. The global environmental movement, EARTHDAY.ORG, has issued a call for a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040.

Please note:

Plastic pollution directly affects the livelihoods, food production and social well-being of millions of people. It can alter habitats and disrupt natural processes, reducing ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, around 14 million tons of plastics enter the marine ecosystem every year, comprising roughly 80 per cent of all marine debris and a study shows that only 8% people globally support reducing plastic production.

ZONAL CONFERENCE IN UBHARART, GUJARAT - AIWC WEST ZONE B

-by Varsha Thakkar, Zonal Organiser, West Zone B

The Zonal conference of AIWC West zone B was organised at Modi Resort at Ubharat on Tuesday, 14/15 May 2024 under the leadership of Zonal officer, Mrs Varsha Thakkar. This event was hosted by AIWC Gujarat Branch. The presence of AIWC President Mrs Kalyani Raj and the AIWC General Secretary, Mrs Manju Kak enhanced the quality of the event. About 155 members of Akhil Hind Mahila Parishad from South Gujarat, Saurashtra and Daman were present.

The event started with a warm welcome of the participants with a token gift. It commenced at about 4pm with Ganesh Vandana followed by Welcome Dance and Deep dance. Thereafter the programme was inaugurated by lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries, who then were honoured and felicitated by the host team.

The report of the projects read out by the West Zone B Branch was prepared by Zonal Officer Mrs. Varsha Thakkar but it was presented in a unique

way on the stage in the form of Natya Samvad by various branches.

The General Secretary Mrs. Manju Kak praised the Zonal Organiser Mrs. Varsha Thakkar for the exceptional Natya Samvad and labelled her as 'Smruti Irani of Gujarat' and the title of Lady Singham was conferred by the General Secretary of the Gujarat branch.

The AIWC President Mrs. Kalyani Raj judged this Natya Samvad and declared the winners. The President was impressed by the different projects executed by the West Zone B branches.

Special thanks to Registration Committee, Stage Committee, Memento Committee, Entertainment Committee, Minutes Writing Committee, Travel Refund Committee, Welcome Committee, Cultural Committee, Banquet Committee, Medical Committee, and Property Management Committee for making the program successful. Besides the Committees, special thanks were offered to Ms. Anuja Shah for her remarkable hosting of the event.



LEARN TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY - 1 Financial Literacy Programme in Kalimpong

-by Catherine Pradhan Lobo, Secretary & SCM AIWC Kalimpong



In today's digital era, financial literacy is essential, especially for women in the Hill region who work hard but often lack knowledge about online financial systems. Understanding this need, AIWC Kalimpong organized a two-day Financial Literacy Training Program, supported by the Prajapathi Brahma Kumari Rajyog Centre in Kalimpong. This initiative was part of a project launched by our Delhi office to empower members with crucial financial skills.

Programme was held at Prajapathi Brahma Kumari Rajyog Centre, Kalimpong. Number of Beneficiaries were 42 women.

First Session: Led by Mr. Gunjan Thapa, Resource person covered

- Importance of savings for individual success and economic progress.
- Procedures and documents required for opening a bank account.
- The necessity of having a nominee for bank accounts and investments.
- Overview of secure investments (FDs) and riskier options (Mutual Funds, SIPs, Shares).
- Importance of health and home insurance.
- Functions, advantages, and secure use of credit/debit cards.
- Online banking operations & the security of bank apps.
- Awareness and prevention of bank frauds.

He also addressed questions on credit vs. debit cards, credit card lines, health insurance options, SIPs, Provident Funds, minimum investments, and mobile banking.

Second Session: Led by CA Hemant Bathwal, covered

- Importance of tax filing and account keeping for small businesses.
- Types of tax, GST, and TDS.

And interacted with the members and answered questions focused on GST and tax filing processes

The session on day 2, started with a summary of the previous day's discussions by the Secretary, and continued by Mr. Nishant Thapa and SI Mr. Ranjit Ram Resource persons from the Cyber Crime Department covering the topics:

- Definition and exposure to cybercrime.
- Safety measures for online activities, including securing social media accounts and cautious use of apps.
- Real cases of cybercrime and prevention tips.

Programme concluded with an interactive session. There were some beneficiaries who were not able to understand mobile banking system, few ladies liked to carry on with the good old method to avoid all risks, many were keen to learn and felt good about it. This program would be beneficial for younger people too.



LEARN TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY - 2 Financial Literacy Programme by SWEDWA

-by SWEDWA Branch, Majnu Ka Tila, Delhi

SWEDWA Branch Majnu Ka Tila, Aruna Nagar, Civil Lines, Delhi, organized 2 days Financial Literacy programme on 'Empowering women to become self-reliant for Financial Literacy' sanctioned by AIWC HO.

On 10 May 2024, Sh. Neeraj, Senior Officer (Post Master), Post Office Civil Lines took the basic session on Financial Literacy providing insightful information on account opening with the Post Office and power of small savings/ SIPs and money deposit schemes including fixed and recurring deposit, PPF accounts and other material information on other Govt schemes along with the information on debit card benefits and its handling challenges and precautions.

Thereafter, Ms. Rakhi Sharma, DLSA Legal Cell took the basic session on Legal remedies against Economic and Cyber Crime/ Fraud and informed the helpline numbers and details and its process and approach for its mitigation/consequences. During the session, one complaint was resolved and information on security measures were shared, reiterating the importance of

not posting personal, sensitive information on social media platforms. Information on various marketing frauds were also shared during the session.

On 11 May 2024, Sh. Manish Kumar, Manager Union Bank of India, Branch Model Town, Delhi took the advance session on Banking. He also touched upon the importance of nominee registration for emergency purposes. For persons running businesses or interested in starting one he explained the general practices of account management, cash deposits, importance of filing tax returns and GST. He also shared information on finding business opportunities and funding for small business and the availability of various loans from self-help group, Govt. financing schemes, special loans for women i.e. Nari Shakti Yojana etc.

Information on the economic-social security benefits and details regarding health/medical insurance, accidental insurance, life/term insurance, mutual fund investments, Atal pension scheme were also provided.

A total of 64 people in the age group of 15 to 80 years participated in this two-day informative session.



AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

-by Jagriti Women's Conference, Haridwar

Total 108 students of classes 9th to 12th of Divine Light Public School, Jagjeetpur, Haridwar participated in the Menstrual Hygiene awareness program. A few parents also attended the programme with their wards. Dr. Alka Singhal shared with the girls the importance of following few habits during periods.

1. Washing hands before and after using the restroom and before and after using a menstrual product

2. How to discard used disposable menstrual products
3. Frequency of changing sanitary pads

Besides this, she provided details on the various sanitary products that are available in the market like, like tampons, menstrual cups and other hygiene products. She also made them aware of the recently introduced Vaccine for cervical cancer and the advantages of the same.



IN HONOUR OF DR ASHIMA SHRAWAN

-by Jagriti Women's Conference, Haridwar

On 23-06-2024 Dr. Ashima Shrawan was conferred with the prestigious Bharat Pratibha Samman (Education & Author) by the 37th Chief Justice of India at Bharat Mandapam,

New Delhi. Dr. Ashima Shrawan, Member-in-Charge of Cultural activities of Jagriti Women's Conference, Haridwar Society, Haridwar has been a life member of JWC, Haridwar since 2012.

Dr. Ashima Shrawan is as an Assistant Professor of English at Shri Bhagwandas Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Haridwar (Affiliated to Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi).

Her most notable achievement is the innovative interdisciplinary approach that connects Indian aesthetics with broader academic and cultural contexts. This method aligns with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which advocates for the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into mainstream education.

She has also presented a paper 'On Language and its Meaning: Indian Theories' at Summer Institute of Qualitative Research on Putting Theory to Work held at Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Additionally, she has also co-authored a significant book on Indian Poetics: Theory and Practice, further establishing her expertise and contribution to the field of Indian literary studies. She has published articles and papers in various journals, including Journal of Indian Philosophy (Springer), IUP Journal of English Studies (Scopus), Indian Literature (Sahitya Academy) and Metacritic Journal for Comparative Studies and Theory (Scopus).



Beyond her academic duties, she has significantly contributed to community outreach and development. Being a member of Jagriti Women's Conference Haridwar Society, Haridwar, her involvement in regional and rural development projects highlights a commitment to leverage education for societal benefit. By participating in extensive services, she has applied her academic expertise to address community needs, thereby making a tangible impact on regional development and social improvement.



Members speak...

Articles by members

MEMORIES OF SMT. SHAM MOHINI PATHAK (1928-2023)

My good friend and mentor

- by Mrs Bina Jain, Patron AIWC, New Delhi

I met Mrs. Shyam Mohini Pathak in 1965 and she introduced me to this esteemed organization All India Women's Conference. As I lived in the neighbourhood, I walked over to this old building, to attend the programme on hotel management being organised by Mrs. Pathak. She was instrumental in creating an interest and motivating me to join social work.

Sham Pathak ji was always actively involved in AIWC work and held many important posts in AIWC.

The following were the details of the postings she held in her work life with AIWC:

1970 -1977	MIC Library
1983 -1984	MIC Family Planning
1985 -1987	Vice President - AIWC
1987-1990	MIC – UN Affairs
1990 -1992	Vice President, Population and Family Planning
1992 -1994	International Relations & VP UN Affairs
1996 -1999	MIC Health and Population Management
2002 - 2004	HOD Population and Family Welfare
2006	MIC UN Affairs and International Affairs

As an important Member of AIWC Sham Mohini ji took part in various international conferences



and presented papers on the relevant subjects. Her papers and her point of view were highly appreciated. Within India also she was very active in putting across her point of view and influencing decision making. She was totally dedicated to her work and commitment. Through her efforts AIWC was able to get grants for their various programmes from the Government.

Over the years, we became good friends and worked together on many programmes of AIWC. We shared a lot of information about life and interests. My love and regard for her inspired me to read her biography and I want to share the same with you through Roshni. Great personalities like her are always worth keeping in our memories.

Early life and values imbibed by her:

Her paternal grand-father Lala Lakhpat Rai was a lawyer in Hissar, and a local leader of the Arya Samaj. He was a friend of Lala Lajpat Rai, known as the Lion of Punjab – which was due to his role in the Freedom Movement. Her father was an Oxford-educated lawyer with a successful practice at the Lahore High Court and the Supreme Court. He was also a prominent and active member of the Arya Samaj. Whilst a successful lawyer, he devoted a substantial amount of his time to politics but was not aligned to any political party. He was elected to the Punjab legislature more than once as an Independent. He was also involved in the founding of Fateh Chand College in Lahore.

Sham Pathak's mother, Sham Piari, was a university graduate which was unusual for that time. Her father was a member of the Indian Education Service (IES) and laid a lot of emphasis on education. It is believed that she was a member of the Municipal Council in Lahore. With this background it is not surprising that Sham Pathak would one day get involved in Social Work.

As a student in Lahore Sham Pathak had a normal and happy existence. She would cycle to school and was fond of tennis. She had a happy home with two brothers, three sisters and many cousins who lived in the same large house. For higher education SP joined Kinnaird College. But the Partition of India in 1947 was to change all this and it interrupted her university studies.

Her family had to leave Lahore suddenly in 1947 with no more than Sham Pathak's dowry as she was to get married later that year. Her family, like many others, left all their possessions behind. When in Delhi she attended some courses at Lady Irwin College in Delhi, to round off her education. This explained her fondness for Lady Irwin. In that same year, 1947, she got married in Mussoorie. She was married to Dr Jagdish Swarup Pathak, son of Shri G.S. Pathak who was later Vice President of India

during Mrs Gandhi's first term as Prime Minister. In 1948, Sham Pathak accompanied her husband to London and was there until 1954. These were years that made a great impression on her. These were the post-World War II years in Britain and life was not easy. There was rationing for food in the initial years and SP saw the courage and discipline with which the British coped with their problems. This made a lasting impression on her of the value of discipline. When she became pregnant in a foreign land, where she had no family, she turned to courses in child rearing. These courses taught her the importance of good health for expectant mothers which is a topic that was always dear to her heart.

On her return to India, for the first 10 years, Sham Pathak lived in various parts of the country including Sikkim, Bhilai, Dahod (in Gujarat), Mumbai and finally Delhi around 1959. This gave her a broad perspective on India.

It is clear from the foregoing that Sham Pathak, growing up, had early exposure to politics and had seen a fair amount of both India and the West (when she was in London she had travelled to parts of Europe). But deep in her heart she was more interested in social work than in politics. In fact, it is believed that in the early 1960's she was offered a Congress ticket from Hissar for the elections but was discouraged from participating by her brother Prem Chand Pandit who was later a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Her brother advised her that from a physical safety angle this was not desirable.

Sham Pathak joined All India Radio in the early 1960's. She became a Western Music Compere. Despite no prior knowledge, she trained herself and she would one day be highly regarded for the programmes she put together. It was around this time that she met Mrs Lakshmi Raghuramiah. This was the turning point in Sham Pathak's life. Lakshmi became her mentor, and the rest is a story that everyone is familiar with.



INDIA'S REPRESENTATION IN STRENGTHENING GLOBAL LEGAL COOPERATION

A report on International Legal Conference in Phnom Penh

- by Dr Bhavana Joshipura, MIC, Resolutions, AIWC, New Delhi

The recent International Conference on Legal Aid held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, garnered significant attention from legal luminaries worldwide, showcasing a collective determination to enhance legal aid efficiency. Representing a diverse array of nations, delegates converged to discuss best practices and foster collaborations in addressing common legal challenges.

Among the distinguished attendees was His Excellency Chiv Keng, President of the Supreme Court of Cambodia, whose active participation underscored Cambodia's commitment to advancing legal capabilities and upholding the rule of law. The presence of senior jurists from countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei, Kuwait, South Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan, Germany, and the USA further enriched the discourse, emphasizing the global significance of the conference.

The Indian delegation, led by Mr. Prashant Kumar, President of the Bar Association of India and Mr. Shyam Diwan, President of Law Asia, played a pivotal role in the event. Dr. Bhavna Joshipura, representing the Bar Association of India,

contributed valuable insights on legal literacy and alternative dispute resolution, highlighting India's robust legal framework and commitment to accessible legal services.

The conference facilitated constructive exchanges on a wide range of legal subjects, with delegates actively engaging in discussions on enhancing legal aid effectiveness and promoting cross-border legal cooperation. Dr. Joshipura's participation in a crucial international conference organized by the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia further strengthened bilateral legal ties between India and Cambodia, showcasing the shared heritage and cultural values of both nations.

The positive outcomes of the conference were evident as delegates from over 30 countries exchanged experiences, shared expertise, and explored avenues for collaboration. The event served as a platform for fostering mutual understanding and cooperation among legal practitioners, government agencies, and organizations working under the United Nations, underscoring the importance of international legal cooperation in addressing global challenges.



A HOME FOR AIWC – PART 2

- by Mythily Jagannathan, MIC, HO Events/ Documentation

**A Home for AIWC – Part 1, was published in Roshni January-March, 2023*

The remarkable women who founded AIWC, envisaged a distinct identity for AIWC in the form of a Constitution and a logo, but in AIWC's initial years in Bombay, a city with high priced real estate, a building of its own would have been a distant dream. Till the 1940's, AIWC Reports and Circulars do not mention any office address. All correspondence was issued from the homes of the Presidents, first from Bombay, and in later years, from the Presidents homes located in different parts of British India, and princely states. In the 1940's, Presidents like Hansa Mehta, canvassed for AIWC to have an office of its own.

AIWC Annual Reports of the 1940's mentions the meetings held with the Mayor of Bombay, and officials for securing a property near the corridors of power. At the 18th Annual session held in 1945, at Hyderabad, Sind, under the Presidentship of Hansa Mehta, Mithun Lam, general Secretary said "The purpose of setting up a Central office is to have a permanent centre, where paid officers will be appointed to co-ordinate and build a solid foundation for AIWC, which will extend far into the future".

In 1951, General Secretary Raksha Sharan described efforts made over the years to "shift into a more central place in Bombay". But it was in AIWC's destiny to march ahead in the vanguard of women's resurgence, not from Bombay, but from the national capital of independent India, New Delhi.

To a great extent, this shift was necessitated by the important responsibilities given by the government to AIWC, like compiling a Directory of Institutions for Women, initiating the All India National Small Savings Scheme for Women, and becoming a member of the prestigious United Nations Status of Women Committee.

AIWC presumably shifted from glamour capital Bombay to the national capital New Delhi sometime towards the end of 1952, or early 1953. It is difficult to trace the sequence of events in the period, because the announcement of the first General Elections in 1952, aroused intense social and political activity in which AIWC was fully involved. Hence after the 21st Annual session held in Gwalior under the Presidentship of Urmila Mehta in Gwalior, no Annual Reports were issued until the Silver Jubilee session (the 23rd session) took place in Poona in



30.4.1953, under the Presidentship Renuka Ray. There is no mention in the Reports of that year, of the new home of AIWC, but it is likely that it was a time when AIWC had just shifted and was adjusting to life in the national capital.

In Delhi, some AIWC members already had their private residences in the city, others were allotted spacious government bungalows in Lutyens Delhi. A few rooms in the Theatre Communication barracks in Connaught Place inner circle, were allotted for the AIWC office.

AIWC's first "home" in the national capital city, New Delhi, was a set of rooms in the semicircular Theatre Communication barracks, in the inner circle of Connaught place.

The building of a home for AIWC was described in detail, by Raksha Sharan, in her Presidential address in 1958, at the AIWC session in Kanpur.

After thanking Dr Lakshmi Menon for securing a fine property in central Delhi, she spoke about "fulfilling the dream of building a suitable memorial to Sarojini Naidu and Margaret Cousins, two great patrons of AIWC, who had made an enormous contribution to the political, social, and cultural life of women of India".

"In the Central Office, along with a working women's hostel, our aim is to establish a Research and Reference library, where books on lives of famous women of India, and information about women of all countries, will be available to scholars and government departments. Our ambition is to have an international hostel for women visiting AIWC from India and abroad. As and when funds became available, a children's open air theatre, will be constructed. Our aim is to make this estate, a beehive of activities!"



Helping hand to the needy by Bangalore Branch



The AIWC Bangalore Branch adopted five young girls affected by Thalassemia, hailing from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. In observance of Thalassemia Day on May 8th, 2024, we are extending our support by providing essential medication to these girls for a period of one year, with their medical supplies handed over personally every month.

Thalassemia is caused by mutations in the DNA of cells that make haemoglobin — the substance in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout your body. The mutations associated with thalassemia are passed from parents to children. Mild forms of thalassemia trait do not need treatment. For moderate to severe Thalassemia, treatments might include frequent blood transfusion, Chelation therapy, Stem cell transplant etc.

- by Amitha Anand, Bangalore

An Appeal to Prevent cutting of Forests to
PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATION

- by Raj Dogra, Pathankot Branch

India was world famous for its rich and watery forests and clean climate. But for the sake of materialism and selfishness, we have destroyed the wealth blessed by the god. At some places the mining mafia and at some places the forest mafia have started playing with the nature, where rivers and streams have dried up due to mining, hundred years old trees have been cut down due to indiscriminate cutting of forest.

In the cities, concrete jungles have started appearing in the form of buildings, to maintain the balance, neither enough land has been left to store water for future generation nor trees have been planted so that humans do not have to worry about breathing clean air. For about 10-20 years, we have been hearing that rivers like Ganga have moved 20-22 km further due to the melting of glaciers, but the sad things that, even after spending crores of rupees in the name of these rivers, the situation is getting worst. Being blinded by selfishness, we are not seeing the horrors that come in the race for money. The incidents of fire in jungles are increasing day by day. Along with forest wealth, many animals and birds which are unique to human life are also being destroyed.

Now the worst situation is that a six lane road is going to be constructed on the name of modernity. Due to this, the situation has become dire. Hundreds, if not thousands of trees have been cut to build six lane roads from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. The mountains are weakened by indiscriminate blasting to build the

tunnels. As a result, landslides are occurring everyday and the soil is starting to move from under the railway lines built on the mountain. Thousands of lives are in danger. Fertile land and lush green grasslands are destroyed, the horror of this was seen this summer, the mountains where once people used to go from the planes to see the winters, the temperature was increased upto 38 degrees (approx). Everyone is troubled by the extreme heat. All this is man's own doing, now is the time, if we plant trees today then they will be ready only after next 5-10 years.

To overcome this situation it's not the work of single person, instead of holding seminars, governments should work on ground level. The coming generation also have to become aware and work on this. Now only a few glimpses of our nature are being seen, but later there will be no life without water and forests, so we as an NGO workers should also give this work a real face rather than discussing it only in the name of 'Environment Day'.

The government should also fulfill its duty towards humanity by giving priority to planting trees before awarding contracts for road construction, more trees should be planted than those being cut. Do not forcibly damage the fertile land, let it remain green. Fresh air, water and forests are more important than building six lane roads, so join hands and save the wealth blessed by the God.



A comparative study of two ANEMIA DETECTION PROGRAMMES AND LEARNINGS

- by Mahua Bose, General Secretary, AIWC, Calcutta Branch

On 27th April 2023, AIWC Calcutta Branch had conducted an Anaemia detection program at a pre-primary school in a village called Nazra in Ustthi, South 24 Parganas. It was a remote backward region, predominantly inhabited by the minority community, who were largely first-generation learners. We had to persuade the mothers and had to assuage their fears, before we could start testing them. The Doctor explained the process and the need for such a programme. Since the villagers are in the low-income group, we had decided to check their blood haemoglobin level to determine whether they were Anaemic. There were 20 children and 20 Mothers. After checking their height and weight we realized that many of them were under nourished. We were very surprised to learn, after the blood reports were received that none of the participants were Anaemic! Later the Doctor gave us an explanation for this outcome. He said, since the beneficiaries were all from the minority community, and they have a diet rich in animal protein, their blood haemoglobin levels were above normal. Hence, a follow-up camp in the same village was ruled out.

On 3rd of May, AIWC Calcutta Branch organized a similar Anaemia Detection camp in the city. It

was held at a Higher Secondary School in a middle-income bracket area of Lake Gardens. This program was attended by students of class 11, their teachers and a handful of our members. All 65 beneficiaries were eager to know the results of their blood tests. None of the participants were under nourished, in fact, some were overweight. The blood Reports showed that out of 65 cases, 8 were very Anaemic and 10 were borderline cases. The Dietician advised a special diet rich in iron to these cases. The patients were supplied with iron tablets prescribed by the Doctor for the next two months. A Follow up Anaemia Program focusing on these cases will be conducted in August '24.

Findings from two different Anaemia Programs, one held in a rural area and the other held in an urban area show some interesting results. The findings indicate that being rich or poor has little to do with the kind of diet a person has. The villagers include green leafy vegetables and fresh fish or chicken in their diet whereas the urban youth live mainly on readymade or junk food. It's a biological fact that Women are more prone to Anaemia than Men.



Why this IIT Professor says that 'WRINKLES ACHCHE HAI...'

- by Supriya Bhalerao, Coordinator, National Integration & Communal Harmony, New Delhi

Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki is an educator, researcher, innovator and happiness programme teacher of Art of Living, who is currently on unpaid leave from IIT Bombay. He has undertaken Energy Swaraj Yatra from Nov. 2020 through a solar bus for 11 years, until 2030. In this yatra, Prof. Solanki has pledged not to go home until 11 years and stay in the solar yatra bus. In the wake of serious and catastrophic climate change, this Energy Swaraj Yatra is designed with the purpose to create a public movement towards adoption of 100% solar energy. He has been honoured with the Brand Ambassador of Solar Energy of Madhya Pradesh Government. Prof. Solanki has led major solar projects at IIT Bombay.

Prof. Solanki has also been referred to as Solar Man of India by Times of India, The Hindu and India Today. There are several awards to his credit, these awards includes IEEE's global grand prize of US\$100,000, Prime Minister's innovation award for SoULS project, First prize in Solar Chulha Design Challenge by ONGC, three Guinness World Record, two Young Scientist awards, CSIR Science and Technology award, Excellence in RE Skilling, Outstanding Green Activist and many more.

In his ongoing Energy Swaraj-Yatra he has already travelled more than 28000 kms reaching about 1 lakh 30 thousand people across 17 Indian states. The 11 years yatra is expected to cover travel across the country 4-5 times. The yatra aims to bring energy literacy to over 100 crore and encourage over 1 crore families to switch 100% on solar energy. Prof. Solanki has described in his book Energy Swaraj - my Experiments with SOLAR Truth that adoption of Energy Swaraj or energy independence should become a public movement. His Energy Swaraj Yatra is sowing the seeds for this movement so that we all can create a better and beautiful world.

Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki aka 'Solar Man of India' is the man behind the viral 'Wrinkles Acche Hain...' campaign which has reportedly made over 6 lakh Indians including the CSIR staff, turn up to work wearing un-ironed clothes every Monday.

He explained, "I have designed a weekly campaign called *Wrinkles Acche Hain...* which is very simple. Ironing a garment takes 5-7 minutes. Each ironing round requires 0.2 units of electricity. Since most of the world's electricity comes from coal, this means we are contributing roughly 200 gm of carbon each time we iron. Since prevention is better than cure, we should take pride in giving a better future to children by not ironing. Almost 6.5 lakh people from 340 organisations are now following this campaign. Now, I am going to make an appeal to the PM to wear un-ironed clothes on Mondays and appeal to the public to do the same. And I appeal to you all to join us individually, as well as through your offices or organisations."

About his Energy Swaraj Yatra, he very enthusiastically says, "I have planned this 11-year

yatra to go around my Country in my Solar Bus. The whole idea of the yatra is that the masses should understand why the global warming happens, as well as solutions for that. As my experience goes 99% people don't understand it. So, I have *solar chai* with people along the way and I also host a podcast called '*Solar chai pe charcha*' on which I invite people who are working to address the climate challenge for a chat. Many have offered me places to stay at temples and hotels. But I feel most comfortable on the bus. Inside, there is a library, a kitchen with an induction stove, two coolers and a washroom. There is no fridge. Initially, we had to learn how to keep the books from falling, and kitchen drawers from opening but I know now how to manage it. We have also figured out how to park the bus in such a way that it gets charged and not heated up by the sun."

He has a Climate clock on the Bus and it counts down the critical time window to reach zero emissions. Now, only five years and 100-odd days are left before the earth's temperature goes up by 1.5 degrees centigrade. By the end of the century, global warming is set to hit 3

degrees centigrade. Right now, it has risen only by 1.3 degrees centigrade and look at the havoc it created in Dubai, Chennai, Uttarakhand. If we ignore the Climate clock, we will not be able to bear the cost.

He is very happy that the Supreme Court recently recognised that people have a right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change.

The European Court of Human Rights too recently said that Switzerland was not doing enough. But, in fact, Europe, US, India nobody is doing enough. Europe reported over 60,000 deaths owing to the heat wave. In Bangladesh alone, over a million people are migrating every year because the sea levels are rising. An entire village in Odisha has recently disappeared. Most people cannot estimate the price of climate change. Policies will not work, only an emotional connection with the public will work. Everyone, including the poorest of the poor, consumes energy. So, we must reach out to all on an urgent basis. Even the educated people, politicians, or the press don't understand the game of energy.

It is so that everything that we do in our lives be it brushing teeth, cooking, travelling, turning on lights, buying furniture, building houses ends up using energy. Travelling, turning on lights, ends up using energy! Also, 84% of the world's energy comes from coal, oil and gas. Every time you use these resources, it results in carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas that results in global warming.

Actually, making solar panels too requires silicon, copper wires and other resources. This means limiting consumption is key! That is why I came up with the AMG principle. 'Avoid. Minimise. Generate.'

Prof Solanki has had one solid reason to start the Yatra. When the Paris agreement happened in 2015, he was very surprised that people are not paying much attention to it. He asked himself what the Mahatma would do in such case; he would have undertaken a march! So, Prof Solanki decided to start a solar bus yatra and swore not to go home till 2030 the deadline for the UN's sustainable development goals.

** Taken from the interview by Times of India, May 2024*



The Solar Bus with the solar panels on top



The Solar Man - Prof. Solanki



Delivering lectures & demos in the cities he visits



Efficient Management of a PRECIOUS RESOURCE – WATER

- by Bhuvanewari Ravindran, Member in Charge - Climate Change Programmes

A very interesting and informative WEBINAR on “Water Crisis – the Bangalore Story and its lessons for other cities” was held on 2nd May 2024. Mr. S. Vishwanath, Director Biome Environmental Solutions, Bangalore, with 36 years of experience in water, waste-water and sanitation sector helping design rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge and was the Chief Speaker.

AIWC President Smt. Kalyani Raj, in her address, opined that two primary causes of water scarcity seemed to be the complete exploitation and indifferent commercialization of ground water and mismanagement of available surface water and briefed about AIWC's non-conventional waste-water treatment plant. Smt Usha Nair, while introducing the Speaker and the subject, cited the example of a positive initiative undertaken by the Odisha Government to provide 24-hour quality drinking water directly from tap in 40 cities, which sounded very interesting and replicable elsewhere.

Mr. Vishwanath gave an overview of water availability and reasons for scarcity. It was interesting to learn that as per Dublin principle, women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water which is a finite and vulnerable resource having an economic value. The fact that access to water being a human right, certain amount of water should be made available freely to individuals was noteworthy. At the same time, water used for luxurious uses like filling a swimming pool or washing cars should be treated as an economic good and charged commercially. Further, ensuring compliance to rules which are in place, like rainwater harvesting which is mandatory in any new building @ 60 litres per square meter of roof area and 30 litres per sq. meter of paved area as well as metering of water usage will also be a great help, besides spreading awareness.

Briefly, the main points emphasized by Mr. Vishwanath were:

- While 90% of India's water resources goes to agriculture, 65-70% of that is used up for water intensive crops like wheat, rice, sugarcane and

cotton. The food security brought in through the Green Revolution has come at the cost of security of soil and water, since high yielding varieties of crops of wheat and rice demand even much more water.

- By re-adjusting cropping pattern without impacting livelihoods, growing right crops at the right places, water availability can be managed and ensured for everybody.

- While drawing up Water Policy, it should be linked to policies relating to Forests, Energy and Agriculture.

- Cities need to link to a river basin and also be responsible for the protection of the basin; regulating sand mining which destroys the integrity of the river; ensuring proper treatment of waste water from cities so that they do not pollute the river; control industrial pollution etc.

- Creation of a River Basin institution for every river and its tributaries to oversee what happens at river basins and protect them from degradation and also integration of fractured institutional structure working in different areas of water management.

According to Mr. Vishwanath, any city can become self-sufficient in water and lessen the burden on the river basin by installing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in apartments/complexes and with help of rain water harvesting. Interestingly, Bangalore city draws 1479 Megalitre/day (MLD) from the Cauvery and returns much more than that @ 1930 MLD as treated and untreated wastewater. It illustrates how cities can become factories for treating wastewater and collecting rainwater, pumping it into lakes and other water bodies to recharge them. This will also provide sufficient water for farmers for cultivation, ensuring food security and creating livelihood. The idea is that any city can become net generator of water, and not mere extractors. Some examples he cited were:

- a. “Rainbow Drive”, a residential complex spread over 30 acres, with 360 plots, has built 3 or 4 common bore-wells from which everyone draws water, banning individual bore-wells. The water is

charged on actual cost basis and with the money thus collected, an STP was set up in the complex. The residents receive the treated water free of cost for kitchen garden and other non-potable use. Several recharge wells were also created within the complex, helping groundwater table to rise, lessening pressure on ground water use.

b. T-Zed Apartments: Residents of this apartment took the treatment of sewage to a higher level, using advance technology and made it possible that the treated waste water could be used not only for non-potable use, but even for drinking purpose.

c. Jakkur Lake: To rejuvenate this lake, a large capacity sewage treatment plant was built where all the sewage around was collected and treated. This treated water was first released into a constructed wetland, which were full of plants capable of polishing and treating the water further. This was then released into Jakkur lake, making it a livelihood area for fishermen and an ecological space for different kinds of birds. The fishermen in turn helps in keeping the lake clean from water hyacinth, plastics etc. Even the sludge after the treatment of sewage is supplied to farmers for use as manure.

d. Sihineeru Lake: The Devanahalli town had 110

deep borewells with saline water. An absolutely defunct lake, Sihineeru and non-functional wells around the area, filled with garbage, were cleaned up with the help of the traditional well-digging Mannu Vaddar community and recharged with rainwater and also treated wastewater from the city of Bangalore. Now the lake has Class A standard water which is fit for drinking after treatment. The cleaned up well, with a safety grill on top has also been recharged by the lake and is also filled with very good water.

e. Million Wells Scheme: This scheme, uses the services of the local Mannu Vaddar community for digging up million wells in the city of Bangalore, with the objective of increasing groundwater table in the city and also providing livelihoods to the community.

There is a lot to learn from these examples, which can be easily replicated in other States/cities. It is also important to impart water literacy to every citizen, particularly to children who should be taught to respect and appreciate water and not waste. AIWC branches can take this forward, by conducting awareness sessions in schools engaging local experts. During interaction, Senior Patron Smt. Bina Jain stated that this subject is quite important and that AIWC should do more work in this area taking help from Mr. Vishwanath.



Environment through the eyes of Tagore

Rabindranath Tagore felt that human and nature together constitute the whole world and they complement each other. For Rabindranath, the wide-open skies, space, and tranquillity of the countryside symbolized freedom. His writings, poems and songs have expressed interconnectedness of all living beings and the need for harmony between humans and nature. His collection of poems Banabani, the voice of the Forest reflects his blended feelings towards nature. He believed that industrialization, modernization and development should not come at the expense of destroying the environment and had been quite vocal about the exploitation of environment by human.

Missionary as Tagore was, he established the Gurukul in Shantiniketan in a rural surrounding to create an educational institution that would be in harmony with nature. He intended to inculcate the concept of environment preservation in children right from beginning allowing students to understand the topics they were learning. His main objective was to instil a deep love for nature in students while providing knowledge in their native language, fostering a liberated state of mind.

Women in Tagore's writings: BREAKING GENDER BARRIERS

- by *Indrani Sengupta, Assistant Secretary, AIWC, New Delhi*

A webinar was organised on 8.5.2024 to observe Tagore's birth anniversary by AIWC Calcutta South Branch. The topic of discussion was 'Women in Tagore's writings: Breaking Gender Barriers.' Prof. Harbani Banerjee, Prof. Santa Bhattacharya and Prof. Jameela Begum shared their views with us.

Tagore's landscape of creation is vast and many of his women possess great strength of character. He was radical in his thoughts and was writing at a time when the first wave of feminism was gaining the world attention. He reflected the feminism of the third world. Coming from an enlightened family Tagore developed a rare sensibility towards women. Women in Tagore's writing, are multifaceted in both rural and urban settings. They are not secondary to men and are integral part of the plot. They are protagonists who shatter the stereotypes imposed on them by patriarchal society. Charulata, Haimanti, Chandara, Anila, Mrinal to name a few are women who are strong, confident and free-spirited defying social norms. They had the courage to take decisions, stand by them, right or wrong, and face the consequences.

In Tagore's dance dramas women stand out by their own potential.

In *Chitrangada*, we have the strongest gender statement by Tagore. A young princess is brought up like a prince and she demands equal status in life; and not be treated like a goddess or an object to brushed aside in danger and daring.

In *Chandalika* we have the voice of the marginalised mother and daughter challenging untouchability.

In *Shyama* we have the protagonist creating her own morality. She has wronged Uttiyo but not Bajrasen.

In *Tasher Desh*, Haratani gives the clarion call of revolt, reflecting the power of women.

In the short story *Streer Patra* 'The Wife's Epistle' we find the most voiced protest against patriarchal attitude: a woman walks out of her marriage, challenging the role of women in domestic space.

In *Bindu* Tagore portrayed four-fold marginalization of women--poor, orphan, ugly, and girl. Mrinal could not save her so she leapt the threshold. She

compared her exit to Mirabai of the 15th century. A brilliant commentary on the status of women.

In *Musalmanir Galpa* 'The story of a Musalmani, a muslim comes to the rescue of Kamala when, her uncle distances himself fearing ostracisation. Kamala adapts to her new environment and coverts on her own volition to become a musalmani. Kamala is a protester.

In *Boshtomi*, 'The Devotee' we see a woman who is very different from others. One who realises her own drawbacks and imposes a punishment which makes her leave her threshold and set out on a search for inner peace. We may not agree with her decision but we cannot help admiring her grit in disregarding all societal norms In *Nashtaneer*, "The Broken Nest", Charulata is the new woman, outspoken, cultured, ready to explore the inner and the outer world. The patriarchal world is presented through Bhupathi, her husband, who hardly has time for the blossoming bride and Amal her brother-in-law with whom she becomes involved. Amal too can't accept her talent and leaves her abruptly. The story has a thought-provoking modern ending. Charulata refuses to go with her husband.

In *Shasti*, 'Punishment' Chandara has a mind of her own and defies the traditional restrictions Chandara pays a price for her spirited nature. She treats the infinite callousness of her husband with supreme disdain and goes to the gallows for a lie that shatters her trust on life and everything in it.

There is an endless list of women, courageous, determined, emancipated. Sohini in the story, *Laboratory*, is an epitome of emancipated woman whose only aim is to preserve the laboratory. She fulfils her husband's academic mission through sheer willpower and determination.

Gender discrimination is a vibrant issue even today. These characters inspire us with their courage and determination. The woman of today can relate with them. They too are struggling to free themselves from the gender bias that ensconces them.

Great minds like Tagore have created women who are beyond barriers of space and time.



Founder's Day Celebration of WOMEN'S INDIAN ASSOCIATION, CHENNAI

- by Shanthi Socrates, Honorary Secretary, WIA

The Women's Indian Association was founded by Annie Besant, Margaret Cousins, Dorothy Jinarajadasa along with other likeminded women to liberate women from their deplorable conditions at Adyar, Chennai in the year 1917. The founding members included S. Ambujammal, Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay, Mary Poonen Lukose, Begum Hasrat Mohani, Saralabai Naik, Dhanvanthi Rama Rau, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Mangalammal Sadasiva Iyer and Herabai Tata.

During the 19th century and the early 20th century, the scenario was worse in socio - economic and political matters for women.

Though the initial focus of the WIA was to combat widespread issues like literacy, child marriage and the exploitative Devadasi system, the organisation later championed women's participation in public life, actively advocating for political rights and suffrage. The WIA emerged as a powerful beacon of hope for

women in a time of social and political upheaval in British India. All the founding members joined to uplift the status of Indian women facing social injustices and limited opportunities.

The WIA's strength lies in its inclusivity. The organization deliberately chose a name devoid of religious or regional affiliations, welcoming both Indian and European women. This unique approach fostered a space for cross cultural exchange and a United front against the common enemy- oppressive social customs and limited political participation.

The legacy of the WIA is simply remarkable. Through their tireless efforts, the WIA not only empowered women but also challenged social norms and paved the way for a more just and equitable society in India. It's unwavering commitment to women's rights remains a vital part of India's history, serving as inspiration for generations of women and social activists to come.



32 All India Women's Conference

Every year, the members of WIA celebrate the founders Day on 8th May. This year also, we had our celebration at WIA premises. All the branches participated in the event with energy and enthusiasm.

Celebration started with a prayer song by Smt. Dhakshayini Ramachandran of Mangayarkarasi Mahalir Mandram. The prayer was followed by a Floral tribute to the Architects of WIA, by the President, Patron and other office bearers of the Association.

The President, Smt. Padma Venkatraman, welcomed the Chief Guest and the gathering with her warm and affectionate speech. Then, she handed over a cheque for a sum of Rs.12000/- as donation towards educational purposes to a representative of Avvai Home. The Interest amount from Endowment created in the name of Smt. Jananki Venkataraman. This was followed by the Award Ceremony, wherein the Award for the Best Branch of the year 2023-24 was bestowed on Mangayarkarasi Mahalir Mandram. Smt. Zaheera, the President of MMM thanked the President, WIA profusely for the prestigious award given to her Association.

Next on the Agenda were the Cultural programs presented by various branches of WIA.

After the grand cultural events, WIA Patron Selvi. Bargavi Devendra, handed over a cheque for a sum of Rs.10000/- to the President, Smt. Padma Venkatraman, towards cost of uniform sarees to the Creche Balasevikas, which was received by Smt. Parimala, Balasevika.

Smt. Radha Seetharaman, Chief Guest was honoured by President, Smt. Padma Venkatraman, with a shawl and a special gift. The Chief Guest Smt. Radha Seetharaman, delivered a simple and honest speech conveying her utmost happiness in having been able to attend the Founder's Day Celebration of WIA.

Mrs Neraja Arjun state president of Bio Enzyme council of Tamil Nadu,

gave a lecture on Bio Enzyme and how to prepare the enzyme in your home using your kitchen waste

Selvi RK. Jeyalakshmi, a college student taught our Balasevikas to make Kundan Bangles, Earrings and Malas. She guaranteed that every set of Bangles will fetch Rs.200/- each for which they have to invest only Rs.50/-

The grand function came to a happy ending with a vote of thanks full of gratitude delivered by Smt. Vanaja Krishnamurthy, Treasurer, WIA.



Oath for citizens on World Environment Day, at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre

1. I will plant at least five trees or saplings in my house or in my neighbourhood and nurture them.
2. I will ensure that my house is a clean house, my street is a clean street and it is not a garbage dumping ground.
3. I will persuade the municipal authorities to lift the garbage without accumulation, keep the road approaches and drainage system clean all time in my area.
6. I will minimize the use of fossil fuels and progressively, change over to renewable energy both for household consumption and transportation.
8. I will conserve energy and promote green building concept in my home and wherever possible.
9. I will teach my family members and friends "Clean home leads to clean neighbourhood, clean neighbourhood to clean state, clean state to clean nation and clean nation to clean planet earth".
10. I will activate water bodies in my neighbourhood wherever possible and ensure greenery around it.

- by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

हिंदी जगत

सदस्यों द्वारा हिंदी में लेखन

भारतीय संस्कृति में पर्यावरण चेतना

— सुषमा जिंदल, प्रेसीडेंट वूमन काउंसिल ईस्ट दिल्ली ब्रांच

आज पर्यावरण, प्रदूषण और परिस्थिति के असंतुलन की समस्या से पूरा विश्व जूझ रहा है। मानव ही नहीं, पूरे प्राणी जगत का जीना दूभर हो गया है। इसी कारण से आज पर्यावरण संरक्षण की बात ज़ोरों से चल रही है। परन्तु हमारी भारतीय संस्कृति में यह बात हमारे वेदों, उपनिषदों व मनुस्मृति में भी कही गई है। हमारे ऋषियों, मुनियों ने भी प्राकृतिक शक्तियों को देवता स्वरूप माना है।

ऊर्जा के स्रोत सूर्य को देवता मानते हुए 'सूर्य देवो भवः' कहा गया है। सूर्य के बिना पृथ्वी पर पेड़-पौधों, जीव-जन्तुओं व मनुष्य की अस्तित्व असंभव है। सूर्य का प्रकाश हमें लगातार हमें मिलता रहे, इस बात को ध्यान में रखकर ही घर का मुख्य द्वार पूर्व की ओर रखा जाता है।

भारतीय संस्कृति में वायु को भी देवता माना गया है। उपनिषदों में वायु की दैवीय शक्ति का वर्णन है और कहा गया है कि वायु ही प्राण बनकर शरीर में वास करती है। वेदों में वायु को औषधीय गुणों से युक्त माना गया है। तथा प्रार्थना की गई है कि हे वायु! अपनी औषधि ले आओ और यहाँ के सभी दोषों को दूर करो।

जल को भी देवता मानते हुए नदियों को जीवनदायिनी कहकर संबोधित किया गया है यही नहीं, नदियों, तालाबों में मल-मूत्र विसर्जन पर रोक लगाई गई है। वैदिक रीतियों द्वारा जल प्राप्ति के लिए भी कामना की गई है। नदियों को देवी मान कर उनकी पूजा की जाती है। कहा जाता है कि गंगा के दर्शन मात्र से ही मुक्ति मिल जाती है। जल को इतनी महत्ता दी गई है कि प्रातः काल स्नान से पूर्व जल में कंकड़ मार कर जगाया जाता है, तब उसमें स्नान किया जाता है। इस तरह प्रत्येक जलस्रोत में

गंगा का स्वरूप देखा जाता है। इसलिए जल और वायु को प्रदूषित करने से पृथ्वी पर जनजीवन अस्त-व्यस्त हो जाएगा। वैदिक मंत्रों के माध्यम से शिक्षा दी गई है कि मानव पृथ्वी को माता और स्वयं को उसकी संतान मानते हुए अन्य जीव जन्तुओं, नदियों पर्वतों, वृक्षों में दैवीय शक्ति के दर्शन करे।

भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान के अनुसार हर वनस्पति औषधीय गुणों से परिपूर्ण है। इसलिए पेड़ों की पूजा का उल्लेख हमारी प्राचीन सभ्यताओं में भी है। वृक्षों के प्रति ऐसा प्रेम शायद ही किसी संस्कृति में हो। कहा गया है कि प्रत्येक जन्म में लगाए पेड़ अगले जन्म में पुत्र के रूप में मिलते हैं। ऐसा व्यक्ति किसी नरक में नहीं जाता। तुलसी की जिस घर में पूजा नित्य होती है वहाँ यमदूत नहीं आते।

ये सब बातें यही दर्शाती है कि सूर्य, जल, वायु, पेड़-पौधे, जीव-जन्तु व मनुष्य आपस में सामंजस्य बना कर रखें, तो पृथ्वी एक अभूतपूर्व ग्रह बन जाएगी।

आज आवश्यकता है इन पुरानी मान्यताओं को स्थापित करने की। आज न तो जल शुद्ध रह गया है न वायु, न ही धरती। वनों का विनाश हो रहा है तथा प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का बिना सोचे समझे दोहन। हमारे समक्ष अकाल, सूखा, तूफान, भूकंप, चक्रवात, ज्वालामुखी आदि प्राकृतिक प्रकोपों के रूप में प्रकट होकर हमारा विनाश करने को तत्पर हैं।

आईये, हम सब प्रतिज्ञा करें कि हम सब मिलकर अपनी पुरानी सभ्यताओं को फिर से स्थापित करते हुए अपने बच्चों व आने वाले उनके बच्चों के भविष्य को उज्ज्वल बनाएं।



ललित कलाओं की श्रेणी में लेखन कला का स्थान

— डॉ. स्वर्ण सखूजा, कोषाध्यक्ष, अखिल भारतीय महिला काङ्ग्रेस, सहारनपुर शाखा

सम्पूर्ण प्राणी जगत में मनुष्य ही ऐसा प्राणी है जो ऐसे मेधावी मस्तिष्क का स्वामी है जिसमें ज्ञान, विज्ञान व कला का अमूल्य भंडार निहित होने की असीम संभावनाएं विद्यमान होती हैं। साधारण मनुष्य के मन के किसी भीतर कोने में कोई चित्तेरा कुंडली मारे होता है। कोई चित्रकार बन जाता है तो कोई मूर्तिकार, कोई संगीतकार तो कोई नर्तक बन जाता है या फिर कोई कवि या कोई लेखक।

ललित कलाओं की इस सूची में काव्य कला या लेखन कला को विशेषज्ञों ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ माना है। क्यों? क्योंकि लेखक के पास न तो चित्रकार की भाँति कूचि व रंग होते हैं और न ही केनवस। इसी तरह मूर्तिकार की भाँति न पत्थर होता है आर न धातु। उसके पास तो केवल लेखनी मात्र ही आधार होती है जिसके बल पर वह अपने मन के भावों को, अपने जीवन से समेटे अनुभवों को और चारों ओर के परिवेश से संचित ज्ञान को, कागज पर उकेर देता है और फिर वह एक पुस्तक का रूप धारण कर विश्व के अमूल्य ज्ञान भंडार व साहित्य का भागीदार बन जाता है।

लेखक या कवि के ज्ञान भंडार का स्रोत, उसके अनुभवों का आधार स्वयं समाज ही है, जिसकी गोद में उसके व्यक्तित्व का निर्माण व विकास होता है। इसीलिए यह कहा जाता है कि साहित्य समाज का दर्पण होता है। लेखक व समाज का सन्बन्ध पारस्परिक होता है। एक ओर तो लेखक

सामाजिक परिवेश की उपज होता है तो दूसरी ओर उसकी लेखन कला, उसकी रचनाएं समाज का प्रतिबिम्ब होती हैं। एक ओर तो पुस्तकें विश्व के ज्ञान भंडार को समृद्ध करती हैं तो दूसरी ओर पुस्तकें मनुष्य को अमरत्व प्रदान करती हैं। वाल्मीकि 'रामायण' लिखकर अमर हो गये तो आचार्य चाणक्य ने 'अर्थशास्त्र' लिखकर विश्व के सबसे महान अर्थशास्त्री व राजनीतिकार के रूप में अमरत्व को प्राप्त किया। यानी साहित्यिक रचनाओं के माध्यम से शेक्सपीयर व पी. बी. शैली आदि साहित्य प्रेमियों के दिलों की धड़कन बन गये। गुरुदेव रवीन्द्रनाथ 'गीताजंली' की रचना करके रवीन्द्र संगीत के प्रतीक बन गये। हजारों, लाखों की संख्या में अनेक ज्ञान विज्ञान के अमूल्य कोष को समृद्ध करने में न जाने कितने इतिहासकारों, कथाकारों, कवियों और लेखकों के नाम लाखों पाठकों की जिह्व पर निवास करते हैं। मनोरंजन के क्षेत्र में भी लेखन कला ने नए कीर्तिमान स्थापित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा की है। उपन्यास प्रेमियों के हृदय सम्राट के रूप में शरदचन्द्र के नाम से कौन परिचित नहीं है। फिल्मी दुनियां में सत्यजित राय और मुंशी प्रेमचन्द्र की रचनाओं पर बनी फिल्मों को कला की उच्चतम श्रेणी में गिन जाता है। लेखन कला व पुस्तकों के योगदान की यात्रा अनन्त है। जिसे गिनाने में मेरी लेखनी असमर्थ है, अतः इस क्षेत्र के कलाविदों को मैं हृदय से नमन करते हुए विराम लेती हूँ।



गायन, नर्तन, चित्रकारी की तरह लेखन भी एक कला है, जिससे पुस्तकों का निर्माण होता है।



आभार प्रदर्शन

— रश्मि निगम, मेंबर इंचार्ज, हॉस्टल ए आई डब्ल्यू सी, दिल्ली

जिस जिस से मुझको स्नेह मिला,
उसकी मैं अतिशय आभारी।
वैसे तो मेरे जीवन में,
सुख भी आये दुःख भी आये।
कभी नयन यह रोये मेरे,
कभी उधर जी भर मुस्काये।
पर मैं गाती रही सदा ही,
चाहे बाजी जीती हारी।
जिस जिस से मुझको स्नेह मिला,
उसकी मैं अतिशय आभारी।
और मिले ऐसे भी साथी,
जिनका हित ही सदा किया है,
किन्तु समय आने पर,
पायी उनसे विपदा ही।
फिर भी यह मन छोड़ न पाया,
स्नेह लुटाने की लाचारी।
जिस जिस से मुझको स्नेह मिला,
उसकी मैं अतिशय आभारी।

आये ऐसे भी कुछ साथी,
वैर अकारण रखने वाले;
मेरे प्रगति पथ पर,
खरतर शूल बिछाने वाले।
आज प्रगति की इस बेला में,
मन उनका भी अति आभारी।
जिस जिस से मुझको स्नेह मिला,
उसकी मैं अतिशय आभारी।
जीवन है, जीवन को मैंने,
खेल समझ कर सदा जिया है।
आने वाली बाधाओं को,
हस कर अंगीकार किया है।
तूफानों से लड़ने वाले,
ही होते हैं जय के अधिकारी।
जिस जिस से मुझको स्नेह मिला,
उसकी मैं अतिशय आभारी।



संस्कारों को रूढ़ि कहते हैं

— विदुषी अग्रवाल, सचिव, अखिल भारतीय महिला कांग्रेस, सहारनपुर शाखा

संस्कारों को रूढ़ि कहते हैं
और फुहड़ता को अधुनिकता
क्या होगा इस समाज का
क्या देंगे हम अपनी पीढ़ी को
नयी नस्ल की विरासत
हम हस्तगत नहीं कर पाएंगें
तो दोषी होंगे इतिहास के
फिर देशमुक्त नहीं हो पाएंगें



आस्था की जड़ें यदि कट जाएगी
तो वृक्ष डरा भरा सूखेगा फिर
हरियाली कहां रह पाएगी
आधुनिकता की अंधी दौड़ में
जब परम्पराएँ पीछे रह जाएगी
तब खोखली जर्जर दीवारें समाज की
एक दिन ढह जाएगी

हरियाली के लिए हरियाली उगाओ

— विदुषी अग्रवाल, सचिव, अखिल भारतीय महिला कांग्रेस, सहारनपुर शाखा

रोती धरा को सजाकर हसाओ
बहुत दोहन कर लिया अब तोबा कर लो
अब भूमि को वृक्षों से सजाओ
कनक चम्पा के पत्तों से तन ढककर
चमेली के गहने पहनाओ
रात की रानी से मांग भर दो

गुलाब से झोली झिलमिलाओ
विस्तार के इस दौर को यही रोककर
आते हुए विनाश से धरती को बचाओ
मानव अस्तित्व को बचाने के लिए
वसुंधरा को आनूषण पहनाओ



Programmes by AIWC branches
April- June, 2024



Batala Branch, Punjab - Road Safety Awareness



Batala Branch, Punjab - Menstrual Hygiene & nutrition



Gnanajyothi Samsthe Mandya Main Branch : Crafts making programme

At the Head office



Dr Laxmi Upadhyay's visit to HO - a warm welcome to her by Office bearers and members



Pradarshini showroom at Head office - our in-house Textile Block Printing articles



A visit of Joint Secretary, Ministry of WD & CW to Bapnu Ghar, at HO



Zonal meeting of West Zone B in Gujarat



Zonal meeting of West Zone B in Gujarat