

# Roshni

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2020



ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



## Independence Day Celebrations at Head Office



# ROSHNI

Journal of the All India Women's Conference  
July - September 2020

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## *From the Editor's Desktop*

**From: Editor, Roshni**

**To: Members, AIWC**

Uncertain times continue to grip the country, forcing us to perfect new ways of being effective. The Half Yearly Meeting was held virtually for the first time in our history. Members who were unfamiliar with computers became digitally literate and are now arranging online webinars for their sisters. We learn something new every day, on subjects ranging from cyber-security and immunity to gender justice and communal harmony. Four webinar reports have been featured in this issue. We invite more organisers to send us their writeups for the benefit of those who could not attend. The shadow pandemic of violence against women has resonated in AIWC -Secretary General Ms. Kuljit Kaur took the daring step to visit Hathras. Her report makes horrific reading. It has strengthened our resolve to add the powerful voice of AIWC to policies and remedial measures that address this evil. Innovation has transformed our traditions. We have adapted to new ways of observing our ancient customs. Ganesh Puja was celebrated quietly at home in Maharashtra this year – and visarjan in the seaside city of Mumbai was restricted to a bucket and a mug. We continue to meet challenges and overcome hurdles, every new day.

**Chitra Sarkar**

## *President`s Keynote Address at Half Yearly Virtual Meeting*

*By Smt. Sheela Kakde, President, AIWC*

*Karpanyadoshah Pahatasvabhava  
Pruchhamitvam Dharmasammudhachetah Ii  
Yacchreyah Syannishitambruhanmme  
Sisyasteham Sadhimam Tvam Prapannam  
(Bhagwad Geeta Ii.7)*

(Arjun (refers to all of us in our confused state) surrenders completely to Parmatma, takes refuge and asks for His guidance)

To, Dear Respected Patrons, Secretary General, Kuljitji, Treasurer Rehanaji,

Vice Presidents, Jt. Secretary and all the Standing Committee Members,

My Namaskar.

As you are all aware this is the first time in the ninety-three year history of AIWC that we are having a Virtual Half Yearly Conference. But yes, we still need to be thankful to the Almighty for advanced modern technology made available to us to conduct our affairs efficiently. I am so happy to note that all our members, first through trial and error and then slowly but surely, in a short span of two to three months, have mastered this technology and so here we are today all set to conduct our first ever Virtual Conference.

At the outset, I would like to state that seeing

the tragedies taking place all over the world and following the Government norms we will conduct this Conference in a very subdued manner by placing before you a few slides to explain the work done at the Head Office, and the Secretary General's and the Honorary Treasurer's Reports for your perusal, as you all need to know the work done in the past six months and of course give your approval to the Audited Balance Sheet. All the documents were mailed to you for your understanding, suggestions and approval.

The global outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) has created significant challenges for leaders at all levels, across the world. Leading an organisation in such an unprecedented crisis is tough. AIWC is an organization with strong foundations, and I assumed charge as the AIWC President in January 2020 with a mission that leadership is a journey that never stops.

For me leadership is being collaborative, and it is through collective leadership that an organization can turn challenges into opportunities and thrive in the world that comes next.

Our members acted proactively by providing food, ration and hygiene products to the needy and enabled collaboration in all possible ways to realise new ways forward. The reports and pictures

of the work done by our branches during this time is getting published in the Special issue of Roshni very soon.

The financial crunch that has emerged from all sides, like vacation of the two rented premises, third being vacated soon, the exhibition halls being closed etc. is an important issue of concern, but collectively we are sure of grappling with this. We all are operating remotely taking maximum help of technology to remain connected with you all. Through webinars we are trying our maximum best to empower our members and enhance the capabilities of our staff.

On 4th and 5th March we had conducted an Orientation Program for the Zonal Organisers, where Vice Presidents, Jt. Secretary and Asst. Secretaries were also invited. Vice Presidents and Jt. Secretary are elected members so I planned to give them responsibilities. They were advised to train the new office bearers of the branches by

visiting the branches in the two states allotted to them. Zonal organisers were also asked to visit and collect data of branches for our records. Challenges of the pandemic made them all tech savvy. Vice Presidents did wonderful webinars on working pattern of the Office Bearers of the branches to bring in uniformity. Zonal Organisers also conducted Zonal meetings on Webinars. Jt. Secretary joined in handling technical part.

National Commission on Communal Harmony had sanctioned three big programs, last year to be conducted in three states. We conducted two programs, one in Rajkot, Gujarat and another in Lucknow, UP. These happened before the lockdown. NFCH has collaborated with AIWC to conduct four webinars in different states. Out of these, three have been done in MP, AP and Maharashtra.

At AIWC Head Office, landline telephone and internet system is upgraded with Airtel. Cisco



*Office Bearers at the Half Yearly Conference*

Webex licence is also purchased for a year so that along with HO, branches can also take benefit of it.

On 30th July 2020, we have started the E-Waste Collection Centre in collaboration with Hulladek company. It is the first centre of its kind by Hulladek in Delhi. The inauguration ceremony and signing of MOU was done in the campus and was attended by our staff and officers of the Banks, Ministry and Aga Khan Foundation. This program was attended live by Hulladek Chairperson Mr. Nandan Mall from Kolkata and viewed on webinar by our members all over the country.

It was a happy moment on the occasion of the Independence Day celebrations, when our staff and Bapnu Ghar inmates heard the important events in the history of AIWC. The event of our ex-President Late Smt. Hansa Mehta handing over the National Flag to the President of India on 14th August 1947 at midnight was highlighted. It was enjoyed by all and they felt very proud to be part of such an organisation.

Both these programs were conducted following all the directives of the Govt., like maintaining distance, wearing mask, use of sanitizer, etc.

A webinar on our first President, Maharani Chinnabai Gaikwad II, was shown live on Youtube

for the first time on 14th September 2020 .

My approach has been to be inclusive and focus on “We” rather than “I” to ensure the sustainability of our organisation through difficult times. Our staff- each one of them- has been very caring and helpful all through these seven months, especially during the lock down when I was alone here. I will be ungrateful if I don't mention the sincerity and dedication for the Organisation that I have witnessed in our Secretary General, Kuljit Kaur and Treasurer Rehana Begumji .

Let us hope and pray that the pandemic ends soon, and we can resume our normal lives. I would now like to end my Address on a positive note.

First and foremost let us all remain safe . Since everything is available online and all work can be done from home let us not venture out except in an emergency. That in itself will be a great contribution and the first step that we can take in helping to control the pandemic. Let us firmly believe and hope that this situation will soon change for the better. As the saying goes “Where There Is Hope, There Is Faith and Where There Is Faith, Miracles Happen.” So let us all pray for that miracle to happen when all of us will soon meet . Till then,

Thank you all. Take care, Be Safe.

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## *Experience at Hathras*

***By Smt. Kuljit. Kaur, Secretary General AIWC***

I was following the shocking events in a village near Chandpa in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh in mid-September. A 19-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped and assaulted. According to her mother's statement, her daughter's body was found in the nearby fields.

The girl was lying naked with her tongue protruding from her mouth, eyes bulging out. She was bleeding from her mouth, neck and her vagina. The mother quickly covered the daughter with her sari pallav and screamed for help. This statement of a mother shocked the Nation.

The girl was admitted to the JMC Hospital in Aligarh. She gave a statement to the Magistrate under Section 164 about the alleged gang-rape. She also named the accused. The girl died on September 29 in Delhi's Safdarjang Hospital. Her body was dubiously cremated, past midnight, by police officials, without any participation of the family.

On October 1, Additional Director General of Police, Shri Prashant Kumar, reportedly gave a statement that the cause of death was injury to the spinal cord. No rape occurred, he was quoted as saying. For me, this was the last straw. How can a young girl - just 19 - be treated worse than an animal, despite the existing stringent laws for the protection of women.

I thought that merely sending a statement to newspapers and giving vent on Facebook could no longer satisfy me. I decided that we must visit the family to know the truth and empathise with them in this tragedy. I shared my feelings with Smt. Shubhra Mehndiratta, MIC Legal. We planned to visit the family in their village.

I discussed with the President, Smt. Sheela Kakde. She supported this idea fully, although she was apprehensive about our safety due to the tense situation in the village and also the Covid 19 pandemic. She agreed that this was the time when AIWC should step forward, take up the matter and extend full support to the victim's family.

Shubhra and I planned to leave on 2nd October morning. But since Section 144 was imposed in the village, we had to defer our visit. We were further advised not to travel in the official AIWC car. We kept a close watch on the situation and on the night of October 3, decided to leave for the village the following morning.

We were joined by Neelam, a member of SWEDWA, who offered her vehicle for the trip. When still on the Yamuna Expressway, we were advised to take a longer route via Agra to avoid the heavy traffic in Hathras caused by visiting politicians and heavy police deployment.

When we reached Chandpa, we noticed a convoy

of about fifteen cars of a political party. We were advised not to proceed due to stone pelting and lathi charge ahead on the site. We, however, decided to continue moving.

In fifteen minutes, we reached the entrance to the village. There was no need to enquire about the location of the village. The huge crowd and heavy police presence was enough.

A small crowd supporting the accused was raising slogans demanding the case be withdrawn. There were police barricades everywhere. We could foresee that we would face a challenging situation. But we decided to move all the way.

Leaving our handbags in the vehicle, I carried with me the envelop with a token amount of money for the family, with my AIWC visiting card inside. We walked to the police barricades. The police would not allow us to go further. In a polite manner, I explained that we were from a premier women's organization, not from any political party, and we only wanted to pacify the victim's mother in her trauma and tragedy.

The Additional Magistrate, who was watching us from a distance, came up to stop us. Very respectfully, I explained the purpose of our visit to him. I handed him my card and told him: "We are from All India Women's Conference". In an abrupt reaction, he asked: "Congress?!" I said no, Conference.

He asked me to get a written permission from the village Tehsildar. I explained that that could take time, and I did not want to take the risk of travelling back late at night. Then he asked me to

seek permission from him in writing. I hurriedly borrowed a pen and paper from a journalist standing there and jotted down a few lines of request.

After about fifteen minutes, the Additional Magistrate again came up to us. When I requested him again, I wonder what melted his heart. He asked: "How many of you want to go?" He cautioned that the family's house was three kilometres away, and no vehicles were permitted. "Will you walk that far?"

For us, there was no going back. We said yes. The barricade was slightly moved to make way for the three of us. We were now on the way.

En route, there was huge deployment of police on either side of the road. There were a number of media persons, girls and boys, mics and cameras in hand. All along there was a lot of activity

After about twenty minutes, we were at the family's home. At the entrance, a vigilance officer jotted down our details. We were permitted into the courtyard which again, was filled with media representatives. The rooms were closed, the victim's family inside. They had refused to meet the media.

Shubhra knocked. The girl's paternal aunt peeped out. We explained about ourselves and that we had come to share their grief. Immediately, the victim's mother, two paternal aunts and sister-in-law came out. They spread out a mat, brought a chair and invited us to sit.

The victim's sister-in-law narrated in detail about the situation leading to the sudden cremation. The family had waited for the victim's body all day. At



*AIWC Bravehearts, S/Smt. Kuljit Kaur, Shubhra Mendiratta and Neelam in front of the victim's house, in the village*

about 9:30 pm, all of a sudden, something covered in a white sheet was brought and hurriedly kept in the police vehicle. The family followed the vehicle. When they reached the village, they saw preparations for the cremation had been done. The family could not join since they were bolted inside the house.

She further said they were not sure whose body was cremated or whether a body had been cremated at all. Even the media were not allowed to be present during the cremation.

The mother explained that the night before the victim was taken to Delhi, she was with her daughter till 8:30 pm, gave her two glasses of juice

and some biscuits. According to the mother, the victim was recovering. “Why then did they take her to Delhi,” she asked. The mother was greatly in shock, confused and in her grief, wondered why all this had to happen to her daughter.

The paternal aunt narrated their experience on the night of the cremation. She said they had been pushed inside the house when the body was “burnt, not cremated, since no religious rituals had been carried out”.

We also spoke to the father. He was unwell, and in a state of shock and bewilderment.

The media approached us. But we declined to give



*Condoling with the victim's mother in her home*

bytes since we did not wish to politicise the matter. We were there only to empathise with the family and to understand the reality.

After about two and a half hours with the family, Neelam also wanted to visit the family of the accused. However, a convoy of police vehicles reached there. The Additional Magistrate advised us to go back fearing a law and order situation due to the presence of some politicians.

Our hearts heavy from the experience, we walked the three kilometres back to our vehicle. On the journey back to Delhi, we were in touch with the President, Smt. Sheela Kakde. I messaged her: “Mission Complete”. She continued to be worried



*Media and security in front of the house*

about our safety. Only when she received my message that I was back home safe did she go to bed. The time was 10:30 pm.

Now, we are all the more determined than before to do our best to support justice for the family and for the victim.

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## *An Incident in Hyderabad... How we reacted*

*By Smt. Geeta Chowdhary, MIC- SHGs and Microcredit*

**O**n 27th November 2019, in Hyderabad, we had a similar incident as in Hathras. 'Disha', a twenty six year old veterinarian was tricked by four men near a toll gate. They claimed her scooter had a flat tyre and offered help. She was then raped and throttled near their parked truck, a stone's throw away from the toll gate. Her body was taken to Shadnagar and burnt at an underpass on the Hyderabad- Bangalore highway.

The gruesome rape and killing of 'Disha' was not taken lightly by the people of Telangana. On the morning of the news broadcast, people from all walks of life aligned their emotions about women not being protected. Police did not anticipate the reaction that came within hours. Panic set in. College students, working women, housewives with small children, senior citizens and a large number of men crowded into Shadnagar police station. People wanted the culprits to be handed over. Cyberabad police WhatsApp was flooded with text messages and had to be deactivated. Bandh was immediately announced by the public.

People voluntarily went to Shadnagar for the protest. Roads were blocked. There was an ocean of people near Shadnagar police station. Even after repeated requests from the police, public were not willing to listen and move away. They did not care for thirst or hunger and waited there to show their solidarity with the victim's family. The people of

Hyderabad stood together and were determined to get justice for 'Disha'. The police could not present the accused before the magistrate. They had to be shifted to Cheralapally Central jail in Hyderabad in the wee hours.

The next day in Hyderabad police faced a similar situation. Media joined hands with the public and acted responsibly. The people demanded FAST TRACK COURT FOR QUICK VERDICT. Newspapers, television and social media platforms were filled with information and updates on 'Disha's' case.

There were rallies, candle light marches, signature campaigns, dharnas and press meets. School and college children with placards were everywhere. Men also supported this movement. Human chains were formed on Necklace Road. Burkha clad women, women with a cross at their neck, women with a kada on their wrist, women with bindis on their forehead- every woman wanted justice for 'Disha' irrespective of their caste and religion.

Public of Telangana were strongly determined to get justice for Disha. We believed that "JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED". There was tremendous pressure on the government and finally justice was done for Disha. This is the power of the public. We are hopefully waiting for justice for the Hathras rape victim.

# Maharani Chimnabai II Gaikwad

## The Illustrious First President of AIWC

*By Smt. Shevata Rai Talwar, Assistant Secretary, AIWC*

**“The only limits are the ones we set on ourselves”.**

Maharani Chimnabai Gaikwad II the first President of AIWC was one such dynamic and progressive lady and was thus rightly chosen in 1927 to lead this legendary organization which later attained accolades and affiliations with the United Nations bodies and other international organizations.

Born as a simple girl, Shrimant Gajrabai Devi in 1872 to Shrimant Sardar Bajirao Amritrao Ghatge Sarjerao of Dewas, she later became the second wife of Sayajirao Gaekwad III after the death of his first wife.

On a hot May evening during the lock down due to the pandemic, Honorable President Smt. Sheela Kakde got an email inquiring about the first President and her Presidential Address. This was from Dr. Sunita Borde, Associate Professor and Head of Department of History, CBS Mahila Mahavidyalay, Sangli, who was planning to write a book on her .

MIC-Library, Dr.Yuthika Mishra and the librarian were contacted and the first speech and other minutes dated as far back as 1928 were located.

The MCM library houses more than twelve thousand books, twenty five hundred reports, newspaper cuttings, articles, videos etc. It



*Maharani Chimanabai II (fifth from right in front row) presides over the First Conference of AIWC. (Photo from AIWC Archives).*



*Maharani Chimnabai II holding her durbar in front of the Lukshmi Vilas Palace, Baroda (Photo courtesy "The Royal Gaekwad Collection, Lukshmi Vilas Palace, Baroda")*



*Maharani Chimnabai II seated with Begum Sahiba of Jujira (seated 5th from left), while her visit to Baroda to see the advancement in women education. Behind them women gathered for the event. Ladies from the Royal families of other princely states were attracted to the state of Baroda to see the spectacular advancements achieved in the field of women education.*

*(Photo courtesy "The Royal Gaekwad Collection, Lukshmi Vilas Palace, Baroda")*

facilitates 'Roshni' a quarterly journal and recently a calendar showcasing the history of AIWC has been made.

The idea of having a programme and lecture on this topic was born, with great enthusiasm by Smt. Kakde but due to the Pandemic situation was later replaced by having a webinar which was for the first time ever in the history of AIWC, broadcast live on YouTube.

The webinar began with salutations to the great leader Maharani who Smt. Kakde referred to as visionary and bold and "everything that a woman should be".

Smt. Manda Hingurao, Curator and Secretary at Maharaja Fatesingh Museum Trust, the first speaker, threw light on how, though initially hesitant, the Maharani allowed her husband, an idealist wanting a higher standard of living and welfare for his subjects who set up various industries, libraries, hospitals etc. progressing towards administrative and economic reforms for them, to groom her into a new persona, by which she could stand her own in any society all over the world. .

She learned different languages, shooting, horse riding, administration and came under some western influence too but she always maintained her saree clad traditional mode of dressing and her burning desire for social reforms inculcated by the Maharaja. Her travels abroad broadened her outlook and she developed a keen interest in music, art, literature, culture and other sports. She was honored by "The Imperial Order of The Crown in India" by the Queen Empress on 3rd August 1982. She then asked for an equal escort as the Maharaja as part of full ceremonial orders, showing her firm belief in gender equality. A special Darbar hall too was built for her in which she held festivals and other functions independently.

In 1914 the 'Purdah' system, which she thought to be oppressive, was abolished, setting an example by herself sitting on the same sofa as the Maharaja in a public event in Naya Mandir, much to the horror of the conservatives.

During a conference attended by luminaries like Sarojini Naidu, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and

Kamladevi Chattopadhyay she addressed and helped in abolishing child marriage which she thought was worse than Sati, because it was not momentary pain but a lifelong torture and misery for a girl child bride .

She allowed her daughter Indira Raje to follow her heart and choose her own spouse in the heir of Cooch Behar, against much opposition.

Small anecdotes both in India and abroad were related by Smt. Hingurao which reflected on her charm, intellect, and sharpness. Swami Vivekanand too thought very highly of her and her ideals.

Dr. Sunita Borde, a gender expounder brought out the condition of women in those times, oppressed by evils of caste, lack of basic education, sati, child marriage, patriarchy and even tonsuring and how the state of Baroda and the Maharani herself provided financial aid for the education of women in giving scholarships and reforming female education, taking the work of Jyotirao and Savitri Phule forward. She established various institutions for upliftment. She advocated for raising the age of consent for girls and other such bills.

She became the President of Maharani Chimnabai Mahila Pathshala, Maharani Chimnabai High School, Maharani Chimnabai Maternity, Child Welfare League and Maharani Chimnabai Ladies Club. The well-known women's institute founded by her was Maharani Chimnabai Udyogalaya or The Chimnabai Women's Industrial Home. It started functioning in 1914 for the middle class,

working women and widows with a vision of self-sufficiency. She even raised money from a Meena Bazar she held to fund some of these institutions.

Her main aim was women's reforms and economic autonomy for women. She was the 'chosen one to be approached for Presidentship of AIWC by Margaret Cousins and Sarojini Naidu from among the innumerable princely states because of her dynamism and in turn offered her complete moral and financial support .The first session of the conference was held in Ferguson College in Pune from 7th January 1927.

The third speaker Suraksha Ghongde referred by Baba Sahib Bhand (a teacher /researcher on the Gaekwad rulers) is translating the Maharani's book "The Position of Women in Indian life" written by her along with S.M Mitra into Hindi and Marathi. The book highlights empowerment in contrast to women globally. The book also prophesies many non-conformist professions for women and schemes for them. The Maharani explained the reason for failures in women centric schemes sometimes due to lack of control by women themselves in them.

Salvation and strength of women lay in the proper use of education, information and decision making according to this legendary Princess.

The webinar ended leaving us awestruck and spell bound by the rich heritage of AIWC and its first leader, Maharani Chimnabai Gaikwad II.

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*Maharani Chimnabai II Gaikwad  
The first President of AIWC*



*Maharani Chimnabai with her mentor Maharaj  
Sayajirao Gaikwad III*

The President, All India Women's Conference Mrs Sheela Kakde Presents a Webinar on 14th September, 2020, 2:45 - 4:00 pm  
Agenda - Inaugural Address by Mrs Sheela Kakde, President, AIWC Speakers 1. How



*'A photograph of Maharani Chimnabai taken in 1911. In 1927, she became the first president of All India Womens Conference (AIWC) - an organisation dedicated to improving women's education and social welfare and it is one of the oldest existing organisations in the Country'  
Source: National Portrait Gallery, London*

Chimnabaisaheba was groomed by Maharaj Sayajirao Gaikwad - Mrs. Manda Hingurao, Curator and Secretary at Maharaja Fatesingh Museum Trust since 2000. 2. Maharani Chimnabai and AIWC - Dr. Sunita Borde, Associate Prof.& Head, Dept of History, CBS Mahila Mahavidyalay, Sangli 3. Position of Women in India - Maharani Chimnabai Gaikwad's Book- Ms Suraksha Ghongde, Translator of Maharani's Book - Coordination by Dr Yuthika Mishra, MIC, MCM Library, AIWC - Vote of Thanks by Mrs Supriya Bhalerao, Joint Secretary, AIWC.

# *Are Prodigies Made or Born- A Tribute to Sarojini Naidu*

*By Smt. Veena Kohli, Patron, AIWC*

So much is written about Sarojini Naidu, yet when I was asked to write about her for our Roshni magazine it was a pleasure and a renewal of my admiration for her. She was an extraordinary woman, a genius, and a child prodigy.

## **What makes a child prodigy?**

Much research has been done on child prodigies and the conclusions have been that prodigies are not made, but they are born. They are benevolent souls who are made in heaven and born on earth. Such was Sarojini Naidu!

Sarojini Naidu started writing poetry in 1891, at the age of 12. She achieved the highest rank in the Madras Presidency matriculation exam. Later she was given a scholarship to study at Girton College, Cambridge. She started publishing her poems from 1895 onwards.

Her father, who was a scientist, wanted her to be a mathematician. When he asked her to solve a maths problem, she instead wrote a poem named 'Lady of the Lake', which had thirteen hundred lines. Her father being a man of perception was very impressed. He then realized her genius and so encouraged her for further studies. Such was the atmosphere Sarojini was brought up in, and she was given a very good training by her talented father and her poetess mother.

## **What made Sarojini into a poet?**

She was a natural poet, a romanticist, and a lover

of beauty. Mr Arthur Simons, who knew her in England, says:

"It was the desire of beauty that made her a poet; her nerves of delight' were always quivering at the contact of beauty. All the life of the tiny figure seemed to concentrate itself in the eyes; they turned towards beauty as the sunflower turns towards the sun." He says that Sarojini's nature is her wonderful physical and nervous sensibility. The first aspect of admiration is her passionate desire for beauty "Pain or pleasure transported her, and this wonderful perceptive faculty when coupled with a gift of musical and imaginative utterance goes to make a great poet."

Her genius lay in her writings of prose and passionate speeches on various social issues such as; the freedom movement, politics, education, social reform, Hindu-Muslim Unity, Satyagraha, Non-Co-operation, education, women's empowerment, etc. Her achievements were countless.

Sarojini Naidu also led an active literary life and attracted notable Indian intellectuals. Her first volume of poetry, *The Golden Threshold* (1905) was followed by *The Bird of Time* (1912), and in 1914 she was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Her collected poems, all of which she wrote in English, have been published under the titles *The Sceptred Flute* (1928) and *The Feather of the Dawn* (1961).

No doubt she was a child prodigy, but also fortunate that her talent was recognized and encouraged. We can say that her development was influenced by both environmental factors and genetic traits.

Sarojini was born on 13th February 1879 and when she died in 1949 she was the Governor of UP. Sarojini's mother was Varada Sundari Devi, who wrote Bengali lyrics, and her father was Aghorenath Chattopadhyay, who was a scientist and founder of Nizam's College in Hyderabad. Dr. Aghornath was a many-splendored personality and he jumped into national causes without hesitation.

Raised by liberal parents, her creative talents developed in a home open to scholars and diverse visitors. In the mid-eighties hardly any Indians went for higher studies and even if they did it was usually the boys of the families who were sent for such studies. The girls were told to stay at home and learn housework, but Sarojini Naidu's parents were bold enough to break away from the traditional parameters that existed in those times.

Aghorenath and his wife Varada Devi were also interested in female education and they were instrumental in setting up the first school for girls in Nampally. They championed the cause of emancipation of women and were against child marriage and in favour of widows' remarriage. He also believed that the elementary education of the child should be imparted in their mother tongue.

He was also in favor of inter-communal marriages and a number of his children -- including Sarojini Naidu -- had inter-caste marriages. She married at the age of nineteen. It was a love marriage and she had met her husband while studying in England. Her husband was Dr. Muthyala Govindarajulu Naidu from southern India. Theirs was a singular

inter-caste marriage, when such marriages were not tolerated, made possible due to her parents' liberal attitude. The marriage was strong, producing four children.

The Chattopadhyays kept an open house. It was, according to his son, Harindranath Chattopadhyay "a museum of wisdom and culture, a zoo crowded with a medley of strange types -- some even verging on the mystique."

Aghorenath was also an alchemist. According to some, he had acquired a capability of turning base metals into gold from some sadhu. Aghorenath was a person of liberal outlook. Though himself a Brahmin he extended his patronage to a number of young men and women of other communities.

Most of his eight children made a mark in different fields. His eldest son, Virendranath was a revolutionary. He started the Anti-Imperialist League in Germany and spent all his life fighting against imperialism. Another son, Harindranath Chattopadhyay was a well-known poet and interested in fine arts particularly music. He also acted in a number of films. He married Kamla Devi who did a lot of work for the revival of ancient and traditional crafts of India. Sunalini Devi was a Kathak dancer and became a film actress. Suhashini Devi joined the Communist Party of India and married a fellow Communist R.M. Jambekar, and started the New Work Centre in Bombay.

Sarojini Naidu, the 'Nightingale of India' was his eldest daughter. She was a celebrated poet, playwright and Indian independence activist. She was the first woman to become President of the Indian National Congress and the first woman Governor of Uttar Pradesh. She played a very

significant role in the freedom movement of India.

She helped the Indian women realize the connection between their own progress and the progress of the nation towards political and economic freedom. She stressed on the role of women in national life as reconciling agents and peace makers. She encouraged educated and upper-class women to turn to the villages and take the women's movement to the masses. She dealt with many different issues concerning the progress of women such as: women's franchise, economic security, political representation, right to divorce, removal of purdha, and the contribution of women towards India's cultural progress and preservation of handicrafts. She felt convinced that Indian women should look upon their own heritage as a true source of inspiration.

She joined the Indian freedom struggle after the 1905 partition of Bengal and met noted figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru. She travelled extensively to other parts of the world, including Europe and America to speak about the Indian Nationalist cause. In 1919 she visited England. The following decades saw her become more political, moving around India giving speeches on subjects as varied as welfare of the young, freedom of women and, of course nationalism. Her election as President of the Indian National Congress Party was in 1925.

To get a glimpse of her writings, here is an extract from one of her speeches where she has brought out the characteristics of her father and her deep affection for him.

“My ancestors for thousands of years have been lovers of the forests and mountain caves, great dreamers, great scholars, great ascetics. My father is a dreamer himself, a great dreamer, a great

man whose life has been a magnificent failure. I suppose in the whole of India there are few men whose learning is greater than his, and I don't think there are many men more beloved. He has a great white beard and the profile of Homer and a laugh that brings the roof down. He has wasted all his money on two great objects: to help others and on alchemy. He holds huge courts every day in his garden of all the learned men of all religions—Rajahs and beggars and saints and downright villains, all delightfully mixed up, and all treated as one.”

Her speeches are full of interesting similes and descriptions. I find them fascinating in the way she weaves around her subject. Although, the subjects of her speeches are either social or political they are marked by idealism, humor and poetry,

#### **Following are some extracts from her speeches:**

At the A.E.L.M College Hall, in July 1915, to a group of male students, she spoke about womanhood and the lack of opportunities of empowerment for them. She said,

“Wherever I go it is not at all a personal tribute but it stands as a symbol of what the womanhood of India represents when the men of India give them the same chances as I have had. Go to Bengal and there you see the women with their great spiritual ideals, are like water-lilies in their ponds. Go to Bombay or to any other part of India, do you think there is a single house where it does not survive in the richest vitality, all those living ideals that make the names of the women of our country and literature so immortal? There is not a single home in the length and breadth of India, no matter rich or poor, where womanhood is not as great today as in the days of Sita and Savitri, greater perhaps

in potential powers, because we have gathered a great deal of world experience, of high civilization and growing responsibility. The whole world-spirit is richer by so many centuries of experience. It is your duty which you have not recognized to fulfill the task of giving the women those very opportunities which you yourselves had, which are necessary for their equality, and fully to realize all these hidden virtues that lie within their souls.

She says “And so it is to them that you must give the opportunity of so equipping themselves and make themselves capable of realizing their higher ideals and then it will certainly be never said that our women are backward. They are backward because they have not the lamps to light, not a flame to kindle - because you will not give them what is called the daily oil — the opportunity that brings that flame to the lamp.”

In many of her speeches she has inspired the women to stand up for their rights, and to become part of the freedom movement. She was active for the demand of women’s franchise and education opportunities.

She was deeply involved in the freedom movement and was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi. She adored Gandhi and supported the Satyagraha movement completely.

Here is an extract from what she said about Khaddar or Khadi. She says:

”What are the four things ? First Khaddar — Khaddar not meaning as I said five yards of cloth that everywhere whether the dyer, the printer, the carpenter, the shoe- maker, the jeweller should use to avoid our money going to swell foreign pockets,

but meaning that India should refit herself into an Indian mentality which finds expression outwards and inwards, in what briefly might be called the Khaddar movement, which beginning with five yards of coarse khaddar ends only in the body of Taj Mahal itself. Khaddar means the expression of India mentally and the revival of Indian trade, of Indian Art, of Indian Literature, of Indian Music, of Indian Spirituality, of all that means beauty, all that means glory, all that means the life that makes the Indian genius find infinite tongues of expression. That is the meaning of the Spinning Wheel, and that rainbow- coloured thread the symbol of India's glory that the world might see the seven-fold glory, in the Indian genius of today as if it was the Indian genius when Malabar sat the lesson of Asia “

Sarojini Naidu was considered one of India's feminist luminaries. She addressed women's groups and her speeches are full of fresh ideas which can be applied even today. She was a woman full of inspiration, beautiful thoughts, and words which remain immortal. Her life of seventy years is a story of great success and achievements. There is so much to write about her work, her poetry, and her speeches that it is not possible to do so in just one article.

To conclude, few words regarding her AIWC connection- She was a founding member of the All-India Women's Conference in 1927, and became its President in the year 1930. The Head Office of AIWC at New Delhi is named after her. Every year AIWC celebrates her birthday on 13th February as Sarojini Naidu Day. We celebrate her achievements with great enthusiasm and pride.

## *Mangal Murti- Our Hope in the Pandemic*

*By Smt. Rekha A. Sali, MIC - Constitution*

The Ganpati Festival is one of the most important Hindu festivals celebrated in our country. Ganesh Chaturthi or Vinayak Chaturthi as it is called, is the arrival of Ganesha from Kailash Parbat along with his mother Goddess Parvati. The festival celebrates Lord Ganesh, the God of intelligence and knowledge as also the Lord of new beginnings as well as the remover of all obstacles.

The festival was celebrated as a family event until the great freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak, popularly called Lokmanya Tilak, reshaped the annual family festival from a private family celebration into a grand public occasion. The visionary that Tilak was, he knew that India could not fight the British rulers until she solved the differences within her own people. Hence, to unite all the social classes, Tilak turned the family event into a large public gathering and made it a rallying point for Indian protests against British rule. So the festival assumed gigantic proportions and is now celebrated all over India- particularly in Maharashtra- with great enthusiasm. Preparations begin months in advance and huge pandals are erected to install the idols of great heights all over Mumbai. Families get busy spring cleaning, making decorations etc.

But sadly for the first time in history the Corona Virus put a brake on this celebration.

The Maharashtra Government at first announced

that idols will not be installed, and each family could do the Puja at home as is done daily.

Later as the lockdown was lifted, it gave permission to install idols at homes.

My family has been celebrating this festival since the past forty years, that is immediately after my marriage. But this time with the advice of the children, it was decided that we would not be bringing and installing the idol at home. I was totally disillusioned but had no alternative. Our idol is made in Pen, a small town about 60 kms from Mumbai. Most of the idols come from there. They are brought to the shop which we have been patronizing since the past forty years. At the start of the month of Shravan the idols arrive, and my husband and I visit the shop and book our murti (idol) which is the same since the past forty years. This time when the month of Shravan began, I missed this annual visit to the shop and sat quietly forlorn at home. Out of the blue some ten days later, Smt. Joglekar who owns the shop called up. Since the lockdown had been lifted and our CM Shri Uddhav Thackeray had given permission to order the idols, the Joglekars thought that they should do the same. She went on further to say that since these two months provide the artisans the only earnings they get, which see them through the whole year, they had decided to go ahead. Apprehensive about going to book the murti

and then again go to the shop on the morning of Ganesh Chaturthi to bring the idol home, I told her that though I would love to do it, how could that be possible as we had not ventured out of the house since the past five months. Our children had strictly instructed us not to do so. To ensure that we remain at home both my girls have been ordering everything for us online. So she said not to worry- she would WhatsApp me the pictures of my idol and once I approved, she would deliver it to us at home. Also the immersion (visarjan) could be done at home only. I consulted the children, who agreed, since we did not need to move out. I was on Cloud Nine as our tradition would not be broken. They were even kind enough not to ask us for any advance through net banking but said they would collect the payment on delivery. The murti arrived at our home fifteen days early,



*Mangal Murti Morya*

well packed. Very systematically two people came to the doorstep. One neatly cut open the cardboard packing with the scissors which they had brought, and I was ever so happy to see my Ganpati Bappa, though covered in plastic. They then sanitized the covering and handed us the Murti. Since Bappa arrived fifteen days early it was like he too was going through his quarantine period. With endless warnings from the children about bringing no flowers, durvas, mithais and modaks from outside, no calling anyone to make any decorations, no going to the bank to bring the silverware puja articles, I was wondering if I had made the right decision. What sort of puja were we going to have without any of these things? But Bappa had already decided not to disappoint me in any way. YouTube came to my rescue. Lo and behold! I made Pedhas, Mysore Pak, Kaju Pista Roll, Motichur Laddus and Mava Modak at home all by myself. The husband, not to be left behind, put up the artificial flower strings already at home (without the lighting of course, as the electrician was not to be called).

Our Society which houses eighty flats has quite a few Hibiscus (Shoe flower) plants in the compound. Four days before the festival, our Secretary, a young Muslim lady, sent a notice that for the next four days no one would pluck the flowers which were usually plucked in the morning by one and all. They would be distributed among the three families who would be installing the idol at home. On Ganesh Chaturthi, the watchman came with a dozen fresh flowers along with the durva plucked from the garden. Both the days we got fresh flowers and so the idol, adorned with Bappa's favourite flowers,



*Shri Akhilesh Sali and Smt. Rekha Akhilesh Sali with their granddaughter Aarna celebrate Ganeshotsav*

looked as beautiful as ever. The rest of the Puja necessities like the incense sticks, camphor, haldi kumkum was already available at home as it is required for the daily puja. Grocery and vegetables were as always delivered at the doorstep, children having ensured that their senior citizen parents need not go out. A notice was also put up in the society that no outsiders would be allowed to come for Ganpati visits. With the exception of the children of these three families, no other relatives, friends, nor anyone within the Society would visit the three houses for Darshan. My little granddaughter, all of nine years old, organized Zoom Meetings for two days for her Dada Dadi at Delhi, my younger daughter and her husband at Bangalore, for her Chacha Chachi at Dubai, my friend in Sharjah and all the annual regular visitors in Mumbai so that they could virtually attend the entire puja artis for both the days, as also the visarjan. We carried

out the visarjan puja the next day at 7 pm at home and promptly at 7.15 pm the staff from Joglekars came to collect the murti as they had made all the arrangements in their shop for the immersion of all the idols given by them. They had organized the whole thing so systematically and as promised ensured that the Senior Citizens would have no trouble. Thanks to each and everyone we were able to celebrate

the festival. It was also heartening to see that my Muslim neighbour ensured Communal Harmony with her thoughtfulness about the flowers, at the same time following the Govt. instructions of not allowing any visitors. At the end of it all my husband and I were left with a deep sense of gratitude and satisfaction that all had been done as always. It left me thinking why all these forty years I was making a hue and cry over the festival, of all the work, whether the maid will be available for all the cleaning etc etc!

The highlight of the festival was that it also enabled us to meet our little granddaughter who lives just 2 kms away, but whom we had not seen since the past four months. We were ofcourse disheartened that my younger daughter and son-in-law, who live in Bangalore could not make it. I was tempted to call her but she refused, saying that she would



*Ketan, Sonal and Aarna perform Visarjan, Pandemic style*

not like to put us in danger by travelling the long distance.

With no domestic help around this time there is no denying the fact that I was certainly exhausted at the end of it all, but more so with the tension whether we would be able to manage it all by ourselves. I then felt that yes it was His wish that I should do everything on my own and that left me with a sense of fulfilment. We have promised that

henceforth we will celebrate the festival in a similar manner. The virus has taught us many things. One of them is being Atmanirbhar as advised by our PM. Bappa left happily, and his blessings will see us the whole year through. We bid a fond goodbye to him with a fervent prayer.

**"Ganpati Bappa Morya!  
Pudhchya Varshi Lavkar Ya."**

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# ***Report of Four Zonal Webinars: All India Women's Conference 'CAUSE PARTNER' of National Foundation for Communal Harmony.***

***By Dr Manju Kak, MIC- National Integration, Peace & Communal Harmony***

**A**s Cause Partner of National Foundation for Communal Harmony, Delhi, All India Women's Conference had the privilege of conducting four successful Webinars in four Zones with a view to promote National Integration and Communal Harmony. Without Peace we have nothing. Unless we have harmony in family life, our neighbourhoods and in our societies, our objective of creating a just, equitable and sustainable world cannot be achieved. Keeping that objective in mind and the richness of India's heritage, the national slogan of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtra Bharat' to create awareness of India's unity amidst our vast diversity is very timely in these trying times of a Global Pandemic. Keeping our country strong and united is a primary objective of India's Directive Principles of State Policy and is enshrined in the AIWC Constitution, Article no. 4, "To promote harmony, and to work towards national integration and unity". Since India's Freedom Struggle we, AIWC members have considered this one of our prime missions and have in the past successfully carried out awareness programs in many of our branches.

In early 2020 we conducted two successful Seminars at Rajkot and Lucknow but due to Covid-19, observing Social Distancing and other Health Safeguards, AIWC had to continue this work through Webinars. We are pleased to report

that the Webinars were conducted successfully and we had excellent speakers and an engaged audience. We are specially appreciative of the time given by Secretary NFCH Shri Manoj Pant, who addressed audiences in three zones personally. He said since 1992 the NFCH has helped riot and violence affected people, supported 13500 children through various NGOs and extended help in all the trouble spots affected by violence or communal riots. Also NFCH conducts various programs in schools and colleges such as painting competitions, theatrical productions etc. Shri Sourabh Dubey, Asst. Secretary, represented the NFCH for one zone. He said the campaign for Communal Harmony should reach the grassroots level and spread further. During the pandemic doctors, health workers, police and administrative staff worked hand in hand. This shows that we are united.

The opening orientation for each of the four Webinars was given by AIWC President, Smt. Sheela Kakde. She said AIWC members are working at the grassroots level to bring Communal Harmony. She added it is the responsibility of members to teach what is correct and to maintain a healthy environment. The meetings were excellently summed up by Smt. Kuljit Kaur, Secretary General, AIWC and Smt. Rehana Begum, Treasurer AIWC who also gave their

own concluding remarks. The Webinars were conducted with technical help from Smt. Supriya Bhalerao, Jt. Secy., AIWC. Special thanks are due to Smt. Amrita Saraswat, MIC Govt. Grants, who gave help with fine tuning with the NFCH.

The first program was conducted by Central Zone A & B on 19th August 2020 at 4 p.m. by the dynamic duo, Smt. Madhu Saran, the Zonal Organizer Central Zone B, and Smt. Laxmi Ashok, Meeting Co-ordinator, Founder Shilpyan Sansthan, Jaipur. The Vice President of the Zone is Smt. Santosh Agarwal. The topic was **Together we win- Harmony amid COVID-19 times.**

Speaker Dr. Shipra Mathur, journalist, quoted Mahatma Gandhi saying he emphasized labour should be given prime importance. She also quoted Padma Bhushan scientist Vikram Sarabhai, “True Development is the Development of Man and Woman Both”. The next speaker, Capt. Kamboj, recipient of the Bridge Award, shared his memories of how he received a parcel full of warm clothes sent by AIWC when he was stationed in Siachen Glacier. Then Dr. Kakoli Roy, Psychologist, said psychology can be used to nurture good qualities in human beings as all destructive and constructive acts are done by 1.5 kg brain of humans and psychology can help change human behavior. Vice President Santosh Agarwal and senior members Smt. Bhagwati Swami and Smt. Meena Pimplapure shared their views.

The 2nd Webinar was conducted by South Zone A on 31st August 2020, at 4 pm by the vibrant team of Smt. BKD Varaprasadini and Meeting Moderator Smt. Supriya Bhalerao, Jt Secretary AIWC. The Vice President of the Zone is Smt. Ashitha S. The

topic was **India: Symbol of Harmony during Corona outbreak.**

Chief Speaker Shri Zafar Iqbal, IAS (retd)., now a corporate financial consultant, discussed the grave situation caused by the global pandemic Covid-19 and how it has been handled at all levels, micro to macro. He commended the people who rose to the occasion to help each other unconditionally and fed the migrants. Guest speaker Ms. Nihareeka Reddy, Educationist, Advocate, High Courts of AP & Telangana talked about the right definition for communal harmony and gave examples from Indian history. She also said that the pandemic has brought us together to save lives and showed us the importance of – UNITED WE STAND! There were special interventions by Smt. Farida Hussain, the past MIC National Integration, Smt. Padma Venkataraman, President, Women’s Indian Association (WIA) and Trustee, Education Trust of AIWC and Smt. Ashitha S, Vice President, AIWC, New Delhi.

The third Webinar held on 5th September 2020 at 4:15pm by West Zone A. It was conducted by our dedicated duo Smt. Ashwini Kshirsagar Zonal Organizer and Meeting Coordinator Smt. Rekha Sali, MIC AIWC Constitution. They received invaluable assistance from Smt. Hemlatha Bidkar. The Vice President of the Zone is Smt. Bhavna Joshipura. The topic was, **Nation Building through Services for Unity and Peace.**

Dr. Digvijay Avasthi, recipient of many fellowships and awards, explained how Covid-19 has had positive aspects such as making us aware of the importance of family and society. It has also reminded us of the value of Ayurveda, further

describing how our mothers' and grandmothers' kitchens are enriched with the new understanding of the medicinal values in spices that boost immunity. Covid-19 has brought people together to help those in need. An equally excellent talk was given by Dr. Ashwin Kumar Bhardwaj who explained how necessary it was to take care of mental health by supporting family and friends with love and warmth. Excellent comments were made by senior members Dr. Laxmi Gandhi ex VP AIWC, and Smt. Shivani Mehta, ex Secy. Gen. AIWC, who both emphasized how humanity had prevailed. Smt Bhavna Joshipura, our energetic VP of West Zone A & B summed up the webinar.

The fourth Webinar, conducted by the North Zone, was held on 29th September, 2020, at 4pm by the energetic talented team, Zonal Organiser Smt. Sumi Chopra and Meeting Moderator, Smt. Meenakshi Kumar, MIC Publicity & Media, with the able assistance of scholar Dr. Roshan Ara, President

AIWC Kashmir Branch. The Vice President of the Zone is Smt. Suman Yadav. The topic was Role of Women in **Promoting Harmony**.

Renowned Gandhian scholar and International Peace Activist, Prof. Vidya Jain, ex Principal Maharani School, Jaipur, gave a powerful speech about the role of Mahatama Gandhi as the promoter of peace and harmony in society. The well reputed academic on Gender and Peace, Prof Abhiruchi Ojha, Central University of Kashmir, gave an in depth extrapolation on women and communal harmony. She said communal feeling is not determined by gender. Special Remarks were delivered by Smt. Bina Jain, past President AIWC and current Patron who spoke of her own personal reminiscences as a social worker enlightened by grassroots experiences. Smt. Veena Kohli, Patron AIWC also shared her views and experiences of the time when she was President of AIWC. Smt. Amareshwari Morla, MIC-Water Management, and ex Treasurer, AIWC also shared her views.

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Smt. Shevata Rai Talwar, Assistant Secretary, AIWC was awarded Usha Women's Achiever's award by the Udgam Trust, IFUWA ICON Award by UWA and the Indian Federation of University Women's Association affiliated to Graduate Women International, Geneva and innumerable Corona Warrior Awards by multiple national organisations in India. Congratulations, Shevata!

## *International Day of World Peace*

*By Smt. Shevata Rai Talwar, Assistant Secretary, AIWC*

**I**nternational Day of World Peace is celebrated on 21st September. To mark this day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung in the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The bell is made from coins donated by children from all continents except Africa, and was a gift from the United Nations Association of Japan, as "a reminder of the human cost of war". The inscription on its side reads, "Long live absolute world peace".

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.”- **Jimi Hendrix.**

‘Dialogue and mutual understanding’ embraces UNESCO’s vision of ‘Building Peace in the minds of people, since the inception of Peace, or unrest begins in the thought process of humans. Peace and Security are closely related to equitable, just and fair societies which are not fighting against poverty, casteism, racism, discrimination and division of culture and beliefs.

Dignity, religious tolerance, equitability, mutual respect, ‘Dialogue’ intercultural exchange and doing away with malice and hatred are the keys for conflict resolution. Peacekeeping, Peacemaking and Peace building though thought not to be the same are actually conceptually interdependent. Moving towards Active Peace including interventions, giving voice to the voiceless and witnessing the results of violence and oppression

by non-stakeholders .

The United Nations charter gives the United Nations Security Council the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security. For this reason, the international community sometimes looks to the U.N. Security Council to authorise peacekeeping operations. Within the United Nations group of nation-state governments and organisations, there is a general understanding that at the international level, peacekeepers monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas, and may assist ex-combatants in implementing peace agreement commitments that they have undertaken. Most such international operations are established and implemented by the United Nations itself, with troops serving under UN operational control. In these cases, peacekeepers remain members of their respective armed forces, and do not constitute an independent "UN army", as the UN does not have such a force. In cases where direct UN involvement is not considered appropriate or feasible, the Council may consider authorizing regional organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Economic Community of West African States, or other coalitions of willing countries to undertake peacekeeping or peace-enforcement tasks.

The Office of Military Affairs is headed by the Military Adviser, a serving Lieutenant General at

the level of Assistant Secretary-General, who is accountable to the under Secretary General .

The Military Adviser is responsible for providing military advice to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and, when requested, through him or her to the Under-Secretaries-General for Political Affairs and Field Support, the Secretary-General and the Security Council. The Military Adviser also provides advice and support to heads of offices and divisions within the department of peacekeeping operations and the department of field support operations with military components led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and missions with military advisory functions led by the Department of Political Affairs. Peacekeeping is one among a range of activities undertaken by the UN to maintain international peace and security.

Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. The UN pioneered peacekeeping in 1948 with the establishment of the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in the Middle East. There have been more than 70 peacekeeping operations worldwide since then. The General Assembly plays a key role in the financing of peacekeeping. The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. Such assistance may come in many forms, including confidence-building measures, power-sharing arrangements, electoral support, strengthening the rule of law, and economic and social development. Accordingly UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets

because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel. Peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates. UN Peacekeepers provide security and the political and peacebuilding support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace.

UN Peacekeeping is guided by three basic principles:

- Consent of the parties
- Impartiality
- Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

Peacekeeping is flexible and over the past two decades has been deployed in many configurations. There are currently 13 active missions across three continents. Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law.

From time immemorial India has a culture of amity and Goodwill with harbingers of Peace such as Lord Rama, Emperor Ashoka The Great, Mahatma Gandhi, Dalai Lama and Mother Teresa, who preached 'LOVE' - a word that frees us from the weight and pain of life.

There is no evil like hatred and no fortitude like patience. Mother Teresa said, 'that it was not the magnitude of our action but the amount of love we put into them that mattered'.

As rightly said by Master Chin Kung (Taiwan) of the Buddha Educational foundation.

- Be grateful to those who have hurt or harmed you.

For they have reinforced your determination.

- Be grateful to those who have deceived you.

For they have deepened your insight.

- Be grateful to those who have hit you.

For they have redeemed your karmic obstacles.

- Be grateful to those who have made you stumble.

For they have strengthened your ability.

- Be grateful to those who have denounced you.

For they have increased your wisdom and concentration.

- Be grateful to those who have made you firm and resolute.

2nd October the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is celebrated as the day of nonviolence. The 'Mahatma' taught us about Satya, Ahimsa, Self-Reliance, Self sufficiency and Self sacrifice. As aptly said by Gandhi ji 'Man has enough for his needs but not enough for his greed'. Lord Buddha preached, 'Let us inspect our thoughts that we do no unwholesome deed, for as we sow, so shall we reap. The karmic law comes into full force and hatred never ceases by hatred but only by 'Love'

alone. Cherish in your hearts boundless goodwill towards all living creation which is actual True Religion'. He asked mankind to do their duty, show kindness to each other and find freedom from suffering.

The famous poet Jalal Ul Din Rumi said,

'Love makes bitter things sweet.

Love converts base Copper to Gold

By love things become clear.

By love pain becomes healing.

By love the dead are brought to life.

By love a king is made a slave.'

Mankind, specially the 'Youth' of today has to move away from a culture of Nuclear Warfare, Terrorism, Materialism and shift towards a simple, uncluttered living with a balance between needs and wants..

"World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just mere absence of violence. Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion."

– **Dalai Lama**

The members of AIWC can promote these principles by inculcating values in ourselves , our progeny, in the younger members and encouraging and mentoring them in every way possible therefore building PEACE, promoting and professing leaders thereby who promote a spirit of Inclusion , cooperation, and not competition .

(With inputs from [peacekeeping.un.org](http://peacekeeping.un.org) and other websites )

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# Ayurveda and Immunity

*By Smt. Bhuvaneswari Ravindran, Secretary, SUVARNA (Kozhikode)*

Every year, on Founder's Day, which is the death anniversary of the Founder Member, Late Swarnakumari Menon, SUVARNA, AIWC, Kozhikode Branch organises a Seminar/Workshop and also does some charity work. This year, it had to be done online through a webinar on "Immunity through Ayurveda" on 11th July 2020. Like every year this year also, despite the Covid-19 situation, we could do some charity work on our Founder's Day, helping some economically backward students with three smart phones which actually benefitted eight students.

In the webinar, the resource person, Dr. Vimal Kumar, Senior Physician of the Vaidyaratnam Treatment Centre made an absorbing and informative presentation on "Immunity through Ayurveda", with its main thrust being on building immunity to help us fight the Corona Virus. In a simple and engaging manner, he explained various aspects relating to the COVID-19 (Corona) virus, providing several tips and home remedies to help boost our immunity.

Through his talk and the very active interactive session which followed, we could get useful information, which I am sharing below.

According to the doctor, regardless of age, anyone can be affected by COVID, but small children and elderly are more prone to the attack. He also stressed the importance of consulting a Doctor as soon as any of the symptoms (Fever, dry cough, fatigue, pain, running nose, sore throat, breathing problem and diarrhoea) manifest, and following all preventive measures like wearing masks; washing

hands very often with soap for 20 seconds; keeping safe distance; developing healthy habits of cleanliness and sanitisation of self and surroundings; avoiding unnecessary travels etc.

## IMMUNITY BUILDING TO FIGHT COVID 19:

While social distancing, use of masks, washing hands, etc. are mandatory and need to be followed, Ayurveda also follows the approach of immunity modulation through good food and lifestyle to fight the virus. Immunity level is different in different persons and cannot be bought – it has to be developed!!! Inculcating good food habits and adopting better and healthy lifestyle has a good role to play in boosting immunity.

Firstly about good food habits, which was explained as consuming "**quality food**", in "**correct quantity**" and in a "**timely manner at regular intervals**".

Fruits and vegetables with high fibre content, sprouts, pulses, dry fruits and also foods which have starch and a little fat etc. are "**Quality food**". Including ginger, pepper, coriander, curry leaves, cumin seeds, as also buttermilk in our food helps in digestion and boosting immunity. In fact, our food itself becomes medicine when we include immuno-modulators like Turmeric, goose-berry, garlic etc.

Equally important is to try and avoid oily and fried stuff, junk food, curd (not buttermilk), carbonated drinks, sour and refrigerated drinks, bakery items

etc. which have less nutrients and disturb digestive processes, inviting diseases.

We generally relate overeating to obesity and control our food intake just to stay slim and trim. But overeating and frequent/untimely intake of food exerts extra pressure on our digestive system and our digestive juices just cannot handle such intakes, leading to non-absorption of required nutrients and reduced immunity level. Therefore, for scaling up our immunity levels, taking correct quantity of quality food, in a timely manner is important.

Some healthy drinks that we can try, which will also help build up immunity, were suggested:

- Buttermilk with crushed ginger, curry leaves, gooseberry and lemon juice;
- Warm and diluted milk with a bit of turmeric powder once or twice a day; and
- Hot “Dry ginger coffee” (Chukku Kappi) once or twice a day.

How to make: Boil 1 cup of water adding 2 pinches of dry ginger; 3 grains of pepper; 6 basil leaves; 5 Mint/Oregano leaves and required amount of coffee powder (not instant coffee). Instead of sugar, you can add Lump Palm sugar or Palm jaggery.

Drink at least 2 litres of water, preferably boiled and cooled water, but not cold, in a day to keep your body hydrated. While boiling water, you may add medicinal herbs or spices such as holy basil (Tulsi) leaves, dry ginger, coriander, ajwain (Carom seeds), mint/oregano leaves, jeera etc.

In these lockdown days, when we are stuck at home, engaged in indoor activities only, most people are forced to follow a sedentary lifestyle, with little or no physical activity. Therefore, good food habits

have to be followed up with a healthy lifestyle and exercise. The most important routine that we should adopt is having a fixed time for waking up. Morning hours being the most energetic and fresh time, getting up early gives a good kick start to an active day.

Exercising daily for at least half an hour, on empty stomach, is important. Breathing exercises like Pranayama help to manage respiratory ailments, improve immunity, lower stress and enhance the quality of life and are recommended even for people suffering from Covid-19. Maintaining hygiene of body and surroundings is important. Take a bath preferably twice a day, in room temperature water, depending on climatic conditions. Taking a bath immediately after exercise is not recommended.

In the context of Covid- 19, following a daily routine of gargling with lukewarm saline water and steam inhalation was recommended.

Another recommendation was to try and adopt the practice of having an early and light dinner. Good sleep is a sign of good health. Our routine should be that of “early to bed and early to rise” and not sleeping during daytime.

These healthy lifestyle routines are easily adaptable and with proper food intake, we can surely build up our immunity level to fight the virus.

With so much gloomy news floating around us, the doctor’s concluding advice was STAY HOME - STAY SAFE. Encourage and transmit only positive thoughts. Those of us who are at home and with family, let us fully utilise this Stay Home time, spending more quality time with family and doing things which give pleasure to our mind by indulging in hobbies like reading, writing, music, drawing, gardening etc.

# *A Daughter Is A Daughter All Her Life*

*By Smt. Bulbul Das, MIC- Women's Safety*

## Equal Right to Property under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, amended in 2005.

On 12th August 2020, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, delivered a landmark judgement, in the case of Vineeta Sharma v/s Rakesh Sharma and ors. Several petitions on similar matters were also bunched together with it. The Judgement was by a three judges bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra.

The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, which was amended in 2005, gives daughters equal rights in the ancestral property. The Supreme Court declared that a daughter could claim equal share in the family property as the 2005 amendment to the law has given equal inheritance rights as a coparcener in the property. The Supreme Court has further clarified that the amendment has retrospective effect. That is, it is applicable to cases from 1956 onwards. Daughters as coparceners have the same rights as sons, by birth. It is immaterial whether the father was alive or not at the time of the amendment in 2005. The rights can be claimed by the daughter born earlier, with effect from 2005, except where partition or testamentary disposition has already taken place before 20th December 2004, when the bill was presented in Parliament. However, in cases which are pending in the courts and have not been finalized, daughters will be given coparcenary rights equal to those of a son. The plea of oral partition will not be accepted as only a registered deed of partition will be acceptable.

In cases where an oral partition is supported by public document, it may be accepted depending on the circumstances of the case. Justice Arun Mishra made a remark that, "Once a daughter, always a daughter. A son is as on till he gets married". Thus, a daughter shall remain a coparcener throughout her life, irrespective of whether her father was alive or not on the day of the amendment in 2005.

## **What is a Hindu Undivided Family (HUF)?**

A Hindu Undivided Family is a group of people, all lineal descendants of a common ancestor. HUF applies to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhists, Arya Samajis and Brahmo faiths. It does not apply to Muslims, Christians, Jews, Parsis etc.

The property rights of sons and daughters were different until the amendment of the Hindu Succession Act in 2005. Before 2005, while sons had complete right over the father's property, daughters enjoyed the right until she got married. After marriage, a daughter was supposed to become part of her husband's family.

In the Vedic era, women were treated at par with men, economically. Wives had equal rights over their husband's property. But, after the declaration of Manu in Manusmriti that "property should not be granted to the wife, slaves or minor sons", the situation changed and wives were deprived of property rights. They could, however, enjoy the property during their life time. Wives were not

the only victims. Daughters were seldom allowed to inherit their father's property and an unmarried daughter just had the right to maintenance. Widows were no better off in their matrimonial home, as even if they were allowed to own property, it was only a life time interest, which reverted back to the source after her death. Prior to 1937, there were no codified laws to deal specifically with Hindu Women's Right to Property. In 1937, the Hindu Women's Right to Property Act was passed which gave a Hindu widow, a widowed daughter-in-law and granddaughter-in-law, the right to inherit the estate of the deceased along with the male heirs, but it was only a lifetime interest.

The Hindu Succession Act of 1956, gave the Hindu widow absolute right on the property that she held. She could sell or alienate as she wanted to. But daughters still did not have equal rights.

The right of residence of a daughter was limited by her marital status. She could claim residence if she was unmarried, widowed, divorced or deserted by her husband.

The amendment of the Act in 2005 recognised her as equal to sons and the recent Supreme Court judgement has clarified her position as a coparcener. Thus, the law is applied retrospectively. Finally daughters have equal rights. But, there is still a lot of lacuna in the law, as although, under the Constitution of India men and women are equal, a married woman does not have a right in her husband's property, unless she is a joint owner. She has a right to maintenance only. It is only as a widow that she inherits.

Hence matrimonial property rights are still not available to Hindu women.

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***ROSHNI welcomes your articles!***

***Email us at [aiwc.roshni@gmail.com](mailto:aiwc.roshni@gmail.com) enclosing writeups in MS Word. Please avoid handwritten notes, PDF formats or Powerpoint presentations. Photos are worth a thousand words – ensure they are well focused and in JPG format.***

## *Period Leave, An Open Challenge for Women*

*By Smt. Sapna Acharya, Secretary, Vikas Mahila Sangam, Mayur Vihar Phase-2*

For the first time in the history of India, the Prime Minister talked about sanitary pads openly in the public forum during his Independence Day speech from Lal Quila on 15th August 2020. This speech was truly a progressive idea. It made menstruation a mainstream topic. Undoubtedly this is a very welcome move in our conservative society where the subject has never been openly talked about. Due to taboo, women of all age groups suffer silently during menstruation. In earlier times, they kept aloof at least for three days. They were not given permission to do any household work including the worship of God either at temples or houses. In this way, at the menstruation time, women spontaneously got relief from physical hardship and they had time to relax.

Times changed; now women go outside to join different sectors for a job. For the first time questions were raised after the announcement of Zomato's paid leave for periods. Their company employees can apply for period leave through a human resources portal.

For decades, menstruation has been a barrier to women's equality. The monthly menstruation cycle can cause a variety of painful symptoms that continue with each cycle until menopause, which typically occurs between the ages of forty five and fifty five years.

Period leave is considered a bold move in tackling an age-old taboo in India where 71% of young women remain unaware of menstruation until their first cycle. Zomato Company's founder said, there should not be any shame or stigma attached to applying for period leave. One should feel free to tell people on internal groups or emails that you are on period leave for the day. This became a focal point around the world. Everyone praised it - especially social media users and women's rights advocates.

For centuries, menstruation has been a barrier to women's equality. Several women experience excruciating pain and cramps when they menstruate. Some are affected to the extent that they cannot focus on work. These symptoms can include pelvic and lower back pain, headaches, and mood swings caused by a fluctuation in hormonal levels. Period related pain is very common worldwide. It often affects school and workplace performance and grows worse with age. Women face discrimination in the workplace and are forced to suffer menstrual pain in silence or lose pay by staying home.

In India menstruation has remained a taboo that causes real harm. Superstitions hamper the women emotionally and physically. Period leave is not a concession or an excuse to empower women. As menstruation is a taboo, it's time we normalize it. It must compellingly drive the national conversation.

There is an enormous number of women of menstrual age who work in the unorganized labour sector as domestic workers and no houses give them a day off when they have their periods.

This period leave will help in normalizing periods and period talk. Some advocates on this topic maintain that it is important to create an environment of healthy co-existence rather than denying the difference completely. Major arguments in this matter agree that this is a step

in the right direction. It is now a necessity for everyone, because women do not talk enough about how painful periods can be for some of them. It is comforting to stay at home when you are bleeding. A woman should not feel ashamed of menstruating, nor should it diminish her confidence. It also should not make working women feel weak while availing the leave. This step will help remove the taboo around menstruation.

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## AIWC Launches Its E-Waste Collection Centre

*By Smt. Meenakshi Kumar, MIC-Media & Publicity*

A IWC, a more than 90 years old National level NGO, has always remained ahead of the curve in delivering services to society. On 30th of July 2020, amidst the chaos and confusion of COVID 19 pandemic, the team of new office bearers under the dynamic leadership of Smt. Sheela Kakde took a historic step towards making our world greener and the planet healthier, by setting up an e-waste collection centre in collaboration with Hulladek, within the AIWC premises.



*Inauguration of the first e-waste collection centre of Hulladek by AIWC President Smt. Sheela Kakde; Secy Gen- Smt. Kuljit Kaur; Regional Manager Canara Bank- Syndicate bank- Shri.Sobti; at AIWC Campus, New Delhi*



*E-Waste Collection Centre at AIWC, 6, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi, in collaboration with Hulladek  
(Timings: Monday –Thursday, 10 am to 4pm)*

The centre is open to the public for safe disposal of their e-waste such as old laptops, computers, and all sorts of old electronic gadgets etc. The centre is located at:

Sarojini House, 6, Bhagwan Dass Road  
New Delhi- 110001

It will remain open for public to drop the e-waste from 10 am to 4pm from Monday to Thursday.

‘The entire planning and the opening of the centre happened at a very short notice of that of a week, and it could be possible due to the co-operation



*Shri. Sobti and MIC Hostel Smt. Rashmi Nigam depositing E-Waste after inauguration of the centre on 30.7.2020*

and diligence of the office staff,' said the AIWC President, Smt. Sheela Kakde.

To stem the tide of restraint put on the mobility due to the pandemic the technology was resorted



to for the inauguration of the centre. The team of Hulladek joined the inauguration with AIWC staff and office bearers whereas MICs and AIWC members from across India attended through various web platforms and celebrated the occasion with full gusto. Shri Sobti, Regional Manager (Canara Bank-Syndicate Bank) joined AIWC team in person to celebrate the occasion and praised the efforts stating that such an initiative is the need of the hour. Later he also deposited some e-waste as can be seen in the picture.

Shri. Nandan Mall of Hulladek with his team of eight members participated in the inauguration

through the web platform and delivered a very interesting speech which was enjoyed by the participants from AIWC through a special speaker connected to the mobile.

The partnering company Hulladek Recycling Private Limited is a company with its Headquarters in Kolkata. It is an eastern India initiative striving to make the world a greener place through establishing proper, organised E-waste Management Systems across the country. The company manages electronic and electrical waste by recycling the metal scrap. Hulladek, in the collaboration with AIWC, is stepping in the capital city Delhi for the first time.

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**Any appliance that runs on electricity has the potential to cause damage to the environment if it is not disposed of in a responsible way. Common items of electrical and electronic waste are:**

- 1. Large household appliances (refrigerators/freezers, washing machines, dishwashers)**
- 2. Small household appliances (toasters, coffee makers, irons, hairdryers)**
- 3. Information technology (IT) and telecommunications equipment (personal computers, telephones, mobile phones, laptops, printers, scanners, photocopiers)**
- 4. Consumer equipment (televisions, stereo equipment, electric toothbrushes)**
- 5. Lighting equipment (fluorescent lamps)**
- 6. Electrical and electronic tools (handheld drills, saws, screwdrivers)**
- 7. Toys, leisure and sports equipment**
- 8. Medical equipment systems (with the exception of all implanted and infected products)**
- 9. Monitoring and control instruments**
- 10. Automatic dispensers.**

***President, AIWC, Mrs. Sheela Kakde, addresses the meeting.***



***This project is in collaboration with Hulladek . The CEO of the company, Mr. Nandan Mall addressed the session online from Kolkata.***



***MOU regarding E-Waste Collection centre at AIWC, HO in collaboration with Hulladek is being signed by the President, AIWC, Mrs. Sheela Kakde on 30.7.2020.***



***Inauguration of the first E-waste collection centre of Hulladek, by AIWC President, Mrs. Sheela Kakde at AIWC Campus, New Delhi on 30.7.2020. Seen in the picture are Regional Manager, Canara Bank, Sec. Gen., Mrs. Kuljit Kaur, MIC, Magdalin Marin.***



## “Apps and Traps”

*By Smt. Bhuvaneswari Ravindran, Secretary, SUVARNA (Kozhikode)*

We in SUVARNA (AIWC Kozhikode) organised a webinar on 6th September 2020 to celebrate Kerala’s festival ONAM. The main attraction of the webinar was a talk by Dr. Vinod Bhattathirippad an eminent Cyber Forensic Consultant on a very relevant topic of the times - “Apps and Traps”.

In his talk, the resource person addressed several important aspects of cyber security like, how dangerous it can be for us to grant certain permissions to apps, things we should keep in mind while doing online transactions, handling social media etc. Since the information that we gathered through this talk can help in mitigating certain doubts that many of us may be having, I thought of sharing some of the main takeaways from this session for the benefit of readers.

According to the Resource Person, Apps are essential and useful for us to function, particularly when we all are forced to use more of them in the wake of Covid-19, but life becomes more and more insecure as we install and load more and more Apps. Participants were warned to be extremely careful while installing Apps and even advised not to instal Apps which seek to read SMS, since the Apps may be able get access to confidential information, such as One Time Passwords (OTPs) as well. That way, the Apps get can access to our passwords, banking information etc. with which financial transactions can be effected without our knowledge. It was quite a revelation to us that the Apps can also misuse and record videos and audios without our knowledge if we give permission for use of Camera and microphone.

To help us minimise the risks, the advice was to do regular auditing of the list of permissions given to various Apps and removing those permissions which are not required by the particular App. One solution he offered was removing all such permissions granted after the App is installed. Whenever the App is to be used, permission can be granted temporarily. (For example when joining Google Meet, it will ask you to allow access to camera and microphone. Immediately after the meeting, permissions may be removed again). There is, however, no need to uninstall and install the App every time. Permissions can be removed by accessing the “SETTINGS”, of the mobile under which we can see the list of permissions that we have given under the particular App.

There are some Apps like WhatsApp which require permissions for access to microphone and camera, since it cannot function without that. Talking about WhatsApp, he mentioned that while making a WhatsApp group, we should never send a link for automatic joining, since there is a danger that it can be shared to any other person who will come in as an unsolicited member in the group. To make someone a member in a group, one should add by clicking on the mobile number of that person only. Logging out from “WhatsApp web” on your PC and logging in only when we want to use it, was mentioned as a safe way.

We all know that one has to be extremely careful while doing online financial transactions. To minimise risks, the advice was to

- (i) always log out from the site

- (ii) keep changing password or pin number after two or three transactions and
- (iii) try to link with an account which has limited balance.

According to him, Paytm, Google Pay, or BHIM etc. are third party Apps and their passwords or pin can be easily breached. Though none of the sites for financial transactions are 100% safe, Bank Apps like “Yono” of SBI or Canara Bank App are comparatively safer. Here again, it is important to log out every time and change passwords frequently. The advice was against storing bank details and passwords anywhere except in our own memory. We should also take other precautions like not to communicate OTP for bank transactions etc. through WhatsApp or SMS since it can be intercepted and misused. Deleting immediately also will not help since a copy will remain in the server’s computer.

Other general advice which is quite useful for us to keep in mind, is:

- not to keep Gmail account or Facebook accounts logged in;
- keeping location button switched off on mobiles;
- not to take mobiles to bathrooms and even avoid bedrooms since many Apps with permission to control Camera or microphone can misuse it and start recording video/audio; etc.

On a query on safety of using Zoom app, he explained that Apps like Zoom or Google Meet, both private companies, are just 6-7 yrs old only and were meant for only conducting inhouse meetings. Therefore Security aspects were not that strong, though there are 1000s of security features in all of them. In case they want to, during online

meetings, they can get direct access to hundreds of Mobiles and PCs which are connected and can make copies of whatever data is stored in them and misuse it. Further, many people had stopped using Zoom after data stolen from Zoom users were found available for sale in the “Dark Net”, which is very dangerous.

It was quite shocking for all of us to understand the implications of Apps stealing data from mobiles or computers and how it can be misused. He illustrated this point by quoting an example of how data from a School computer being hacked or stolen can be misused. In this case, the hacker gets access to an enormous amount of data like syllabus, teaching notes, extracurricular activities, credentials of students, teachers, parents, photos, email ids, phone numbers, Date of Birth etc. of thousands of students. Photos can even be morphed/posted in pornographic websites, which will ruin several lives.

The talk and the interactive session which followed helped in dispelling a number of doubts in our minds and enhancing awareness about the security risks of using Apps. The message he gave was loud and clear - to keep auditing permissions given to Apps, to be always alert and avoid potential pitfalls created by the Apps.



*Dr. Vinod Bhattathirippad*

## BRANCH ACTIVITIES

### Harishri Women, AIWC Chenganoor Branch

By Smt. Anita Karnavar, Secretary-Chenganoor Branch

The Branch donated 3500 face masks, procured from Kudumbasree groups (SHGs), to Nanma. Nanma Foundation is a social movement dedicated to spread compassion and goodness among the poor and needy members of society, based on Gandhiji's doctrine of trusteeship. Nanma works with orphanages and girl children.



TVPM Branch, Thiruvananthapuram

By Smt. Indira R. Pillai, President-TVPM Branch

On 11 September, beneficiaries of Asraya, AIWC Welfare Centre for the Elderly, enjoyed a feast and were presented new clothes for Onam, following COVID-19 norms. Though AIWC Old Age Trust had suspended funding from March-April 2020, the branch continues to extend help to the regular elderly members of Asraya through sponsorships and contributions.



Sanjeevni Sanstha, Meerut

By Smt. Nishi Jain, President, Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha, Meerut and Zonal Organiser- Central Zone A

Vermicompost Project



**SUVARNA (Kozhikode)**

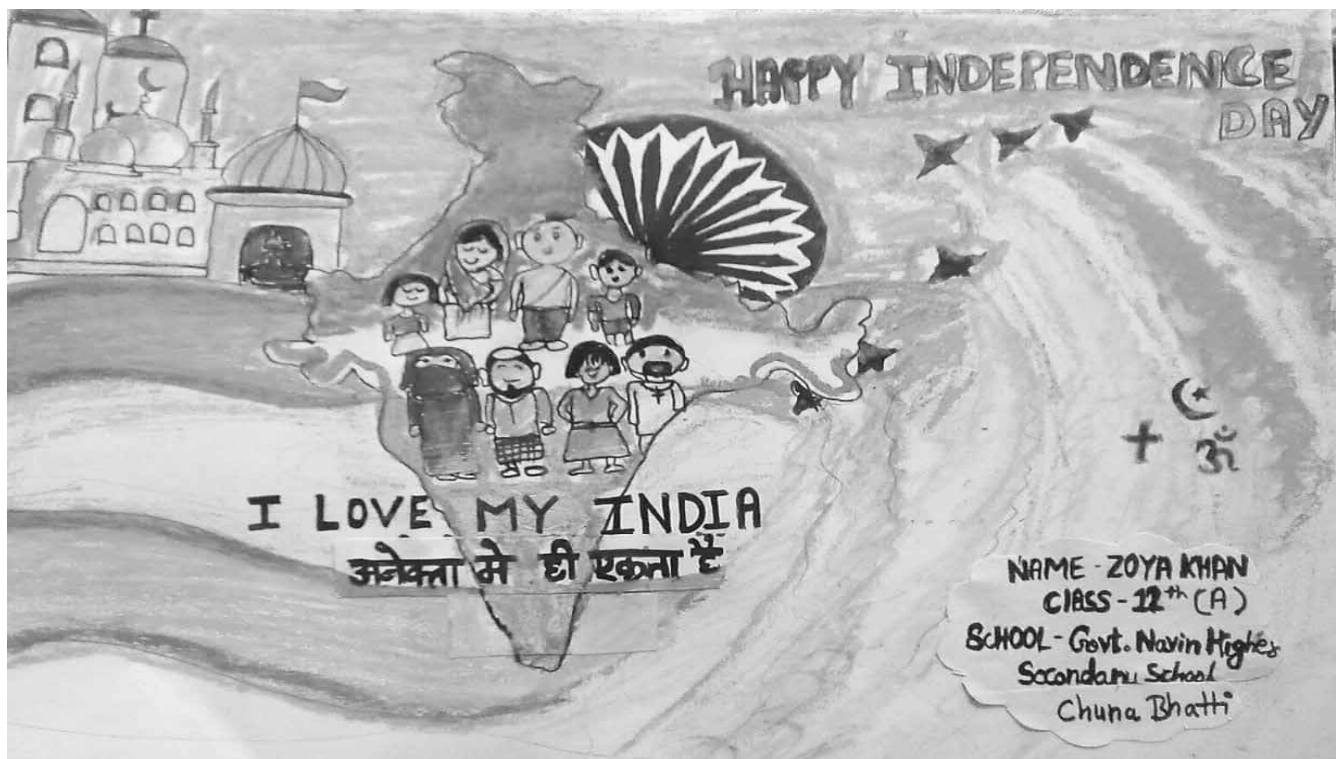
**By Smt. Bhuvaneswari Ravindran, Secretary,  
SUVARNA (Kozhikode)**

Every year, on Founder's Day, which is the death anniversary of the Founder Member, Late Swarnakumari Menon, SUVARNA, AIWC, Kozhikode Branch organises a Seminar/Workshop and also does some charity work. Like every year this year also, despite the Covid-19 situation, we could do some charity work on our Founder's Day, helping some economically backward students with three smart phones which actually benefitted eight students.



*10th July- Handing over mobile phones to students*

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## Hindi Section

### *World Books Day*

हमारे मन के भावों का उदगार होती है पुस्तकें  
सच्ची मित्र और तन्हाई की यार होती है पुस्तकें  
समाज का दर्पण यूँही तो कहते हैं क्योंकि  
हम को हमारा ही दीदार कराती है पुस्तकें  
सच बोलने की हिम्मत और और झूठ को आईना  
दिखाने की तलबगार होती है पुस्तकें  
हमारी विरासत को सहेजकर  
हमारी भावी पीढ़ियों को मार्ग दिखाती है पुस्तकें  
साहित्य की जान है हमारी पुस्तकें  
हमारे प्यार दुलार और सम्मान की हकदार हैं पुस्तकें

### *World Earth Day*

हरियाली के लिए हरियाली उगाओ  
रोती धरा को सजाकर हंसाओ  
बहुत दोहन कर लिया अब तो बाकरलो  
अब भूमि को वृक्षों से सजाओ  
कन कचम्पा के पत्तों से तन ढककर  
चमेली के गहने पहनाओ  
रात की रानी से मांग भरदो  
गुलाब से झोली झिलमिलाओ  
विस्तार के इस दौर को यही रोककर  
आते हुए विनाश से धरती को बचाओ  
मानव के अस्तित्व को बचाने के लिए  
वसुन्धरा को आभूषण पनाओ

**Vidushi Agrawal AIWC,  
Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh, India**

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# Maharashtra Celebrates Ganesh Chaturthi



*Ganesh Puja at the home of President -AIWC,  
Smt. Sheela Kakde*



*Ganesh Puja at the home of President -Mumbai Branch,  
Smt. Harsha Ladhani*



*Ganesh Puja at Pune Mahila Mandal*

## Members of Purva Vidarbha Mahila Parishad, Nagpur, Celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi

