

RESS RELEASE

20-03-2014

NCW celebrates International Women's Day to honour outstanding Women

Today, the National Commission for Women organised International Women's Day to honour outstanding women for their achievements in the respective fields. In an award ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Dr. (Smt.) Nandita Chatterjee, Member Secretary, in the presence of Smt. Mamata Sharma, Chairperson, NCW gave away awards to the outstanding women. Twenty five women, chosen by the Commission from all over the country for their excellent contribution towards fighting for the cause of empowerment of common women were honoured with certificates, rewards and a memento. While delivering a speech on behalf of the Chief Guest, the Member Secretary, said that NCW feels proud to honour women who have shown extraordinary talent in their fields as they have set examples for others. It was further stated that International women's Day is celebrated to remind women to protect and preserve women's rights. The Constitution and our religious, cultural and historical values provide a protective atmosphere to women so that they can work freely to contribute to national development.

Smt. Mamta Sharma, Chairperson, NCW thanked all delegates, dignitaries and awardees in celebrating this occasion with NCW.

Apart from this, NCW gave away awards to three colleges students for best entries in essays. An essay competition was organized by NCW in collaboration with State Women Commissions among College going students in their respective States on topics—“*Ensuring Safety and Security to Women in Public Spaces*” and “*Our Patriarchal Society: changing the Mind set*”. The first prize was given to Ms. Reena Maithani from Utrakhand, the second prize was bagged by Ms. Priyanka Borse from Madhya Pradesh while the third prize went to Ms. Jaya Jain from Rajasthan.

A skit on women empowerment was also staged during the programme depicting the role and increasing empowerment of women in every sphere of life.

A group of more than one thousand participants attended the programme from various parts of the country.

Other Hon'ble members of the Commission, Dr. Charu WaliKhanna, Ms. Hemlata Kheria, Ms. Nirmala Samant Prabhavalkar, Ms Shamina Shafiq and Ms. Laldignliani Sailo were present on the occasion.

Note—A list of Women Awardees with brief description about them is attached.



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Outstanding Women



Ms. Angela Chalthanthiangl Ralte from Mizoram is Secretary for Centre for Peace and Development. She has been able to reach out to victims of sexual harassment, rape and child abuse by providing them with psycho-social assistance from 2005 to 2007. She has been working for the psycho-social-legal needs of victims and survivors of violence against women. She initiated advocacy programmes for empowerment of women, organized training workshops and awareness with special focus on Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Under the leadership of Ms. Angela Ralte, Centre for Peace and Development has formed various self help groups of women in several villages of Mamit District and led a Fortnightly campaign (25th Nov-10th Dec) against Gender based violence in Mizoram since 2010.



Smt. Bhanwari Devi from Bansi, Udaipur, Rajasthan. Worked relentlessly for educational enhancement of underprivileged children since 1984 she worked for balwari and adult education centers. For the last 30 years she has been serving as a dedicated social activist. Her efforts towards spreading awareness for women empowerment was recognized by Resourceful Women Award, from Shaler Adam Foundation, USA.



Deepmala Mohan from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, is famous as a Bundelkhandi / Awadhi, Folk and Sufi folk singer. Deepmala is a top grade artist of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) with numerous performances delivered in England, Caribbean, Canada, Surinam, Mauritius, and Bangladesh. She has also been performing on Doordarshan for more than two decades.

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Jyotika Kalra is an eminent lawyer, advocate-on-record and Amicus Curiae with Supreme Court of India. As a women's rights activist she has filed many public interest litigations in the Supreme Court regarding negative portrayal of women in media. She is member of complaint Committee to probe sexual harassment at workplace in numerous institutions and has herself been involved in creating of awareness about sexual harassment at workplace. Involved in empowerment of women through law she has raised public awareness on gender sensitive issues like amendment in Penal Laws, Sexual Harassment, female foeticide, Inheritance and Succession, obscenity in the media and codification of law etc. As an eminent author, she has written books titled "Recovery through Complaints" (2010) and "Married but not legally wed" (2012).



Ms. Jyotsna Chatterji is the director of the Joint Women's Programme in New Delhi, India and Vice President of YWCA India. She serves as a member of many human rights groups in India and Asia including the Delhi State Social Welfare Advisory Board, the Core Group on Prevention of Child Prostitution (National Commission for Women), the Core Group National Commission on Human Rights, the Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution (Ministry of Human Resources). She was a Professor of English Literature at the University of Calcutta until 1978, when she became the director of the Joint Women's Programme. Ms. Chatterji has been working on issues relating to women, such as a denial of justice, question of property rights, equal pay for equal work, changes in personal laws, dowry-demand and other atrocities on women.



Kiran Devi Bharti from Banda, Uttar Pradesh is a prominent person known for dance, music and theatre. She has displayed her mentor in the 'BERIN' form of art. She has been associated with nationally acclaimed 'ALARIPPLU' institute. A film too has been shoot on her achievement by UNIFEM. Her biography which depicts her life journey including her contribution to the world of music has been written by famous authors. For her contribution towards dance, music and arts has been awarded nationally and internationally.

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Laxmi is a campaign in herself, the nation knows Laxmi as an acid attack survivor, who brought the concerns of the survivors of this crime to the national attention and debate. A crusader of change, Laxmi says that the acceptance society did not give to her, she found that at Stop Acid Attacks. Beyond that, she has not only learned the intricacies of campaigning while working, but has also been a pillar of strength for other survivors who take shelter at 'Chhanv', during the miserable times after an acid attack. Laxmi has very efficiently transformed victims Sapna, Tarana and Rupa into acid attack fighters today.



Dr. Malika Basu, gender analyst and knowledge management expert, has a Ph.D. in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), the Hague, Netherlands. During her Final Year of Post Graduation in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Malika took a small step in the development sector by joining a Delhi based NGO, primarily to pursue her interests in social research. Later and over time because of her effervescent personality and dedication, Malika, continues to promote use of knowledge management tools and techniques innovatively to highlight and prioritize gender issues in various sectors and thematic areas, thereby facilitating the work of development practitioners, professionals and social activists in their work.



Mary Kom, is an Indian boxer. She is a five-time World Boxing champion, and the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the six world championships. She is the only Indian woman boxer to have qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics, competing in the flyweight (51 kg) category and winning the bronze medal. She has also been ranked as No. 4 AIBA World Women's Ranking Flyweight category.

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Nalini Singh is a famous media personality involved in social theme based programs such as Hello Zindagi, Sach Ki Parchhayin, Made In India (On Economic Reforms). She is also associated with political / news programs like ANKHON DEKHI (running currently, and perhaps among the longest-running programmes on Indian TV), NISHAAN political Debates, Communal riots in Bhagalpur, Kashmir Issue, Environmental degradation, Literacy, Women's Quest for Power (Saathins of Rajasthan, Streedhan Ya Nidhan on Dowry, etc.) Democracy. She has also been awarded Chameli Devi Award, Haldi Ghati Samman, Uptron Award in Journalism, NEPAL 1, India's only Nepali language TV Channel with Maithli, Bhojpuri, Newari and Tharu being run by Nalini Singh.



Nasima Khatun lives in a rural area of 24 Paraganas of West Bengal. When she was 9 months old she contacted fever and never recovered fully. Due to that fever one of her legs and both hands became weak as it attacked her nerves. Born to a poor family, her father being an agricultural worker and mother a homemaker, she was determined not to let her impairments hamper her studies. She learnt to hold the pencil by her mouth. She passed both secondary examinations and higher secondary exams by writing with the pen in her mouth. She is studying in college and is a student of BA pass course 2nd year. She has received several accolades and was awarded by Paschim Bang Rajya Pratibandhi Sammelani on World Disability Day. She was also given award in the Conference of National Platform for Rights of Disabled at Kerala last year.



Ms. Pooja Keri : She has joined the Mumbai Monorail Operations & Maintenance in 2013 as a Train Captain in the Train Operations Department. This is her first employment after completion of her education in Electronics and Telecommunication from Atharva College of Engineering, Malad, Mumbai.

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Mrs. Priti Pravin Patkar : A Gold Medalist of The Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai, Priti is accredited with several path breaking social interventions for the protection and rescue of children and women victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Frerona the Voluntary Organisation cofounded by her has a wide spectrum of social intervention measures to address the larger issue of CSE&T comprehensively.



Ms. Radhika Kaul Batra from Delhi is a media expert involved with advocacy of development issues, particularly in respect of women. As a television journalist, she pioneered the award winning grievance redressal show, HELPLINE on Zee TV to reach out to and respond to the problems of the common citizen. Through the show, many women were able to access legal redressal for abuse and domestic violence; protection of their rights and needs; and to empower themselves through better livelihood. Radhika also documented the plight of women in conflict areas such as Jammu and Kashmir and in rural India and highlighted those women who had stood out as shining examples of courage against an oppressive administrative and patriarchal system.



Ratnam Wattal is a Principal Investigator of an innovation project on pollution of Yamuna River, funded by University of Delhi. She has been associated with environmental issues and as president of Botanical Society of the college have organized series of workshops to educate undergraduate students on water conservation, threats posed by polluted environment and effective mitigation strategies. She has also been associated with the field of teaching for the past twenty three years and is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Botany at Zakir Husain College, University of Delhi.

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Smt Sampat Pal born in 1962 in village Kairi in Uttar Pradesh is known worldwide as International Commander of Gulabi Gang, an organization for upliftment of tribal women. She has been honoured with many awards like Bharat Jyoti Award, Nari Shakti Samman, Megha Samman and Saveri Samman for her contribution in upliftment of women especially tribal and rural women in India.



Ms. Sangeeta from District Deoria, Uttar Pradesh belongs to a conservative farming community and was compelled to marry at a tender age of 13 years. In her marital home she was subjected to torture and harassment initially for not bringing enough dowry and later for bearing daughters. She struggled to complete her High School and also in bringing up her two daughters. She gradually joined the activities of NGOs which acknowledged her dedication and encouraged her to carry on work. Now, she is the head of Social Development Foundation which works with landless Maashahar community in the district of Deoria and Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh on the border of Bihar.



Sister Consilia Pengad, from Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh is a Director of Jeevan Jyoti Community Centre in District Sitapur. She has been tirelessly working for women empowerment, formation of Self Help Groups, educating dropout students through National Institute of Open schooling and formation of Adolescent Girls Group, etc. She has been working for revised National T.B. Control program, Polio Eradication, Rehabilitation of disabled children, Rehabilitation of street children and promotion of their education, Anti leprosy Legislation, Prevention and control of diabetes, among other issues.

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taken huge turn over by room.

Mrs. Snehalaric Sudarshan Sarman belongs to a remote village known as BHOOWE from District Sonebhadra, Madhya Pradesh. Today she has proved that her labour, hard work, dedication towards her small cottage and production of home has become a small scale industry which has provided livelihood to many poor and needy women. The small scale business has



become the second woman player from Rajasthan who represented the country at an international tournament.



Ms. Sushama Ganesh Pandey has been a revolutionary writer & renowned journalist who have been publishing 'New Delhi News Uddhar', since last 25 years with the revolutionary goal to provide strong platform of every Women in India. Being a Social Activist, she successfully runs an NGO named 'JANAK' (Jan Akashin Welfare Society) with an objective to save girl child.

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Teresa Behman is an award-winning journalist based in Haridwar India. She had worked with India Today magazine, The Telegraph, Tehnika, Albert Einstein. The Head before she started editing the online news magazine, The Tribune Print. She is the Joint Secretary of the South Asia Women in Media (SAWM). She has been awarded for her work. She has been honored with various awards such as WASH Media Award in 2009-2010, Kamnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award for two consecutive years (2008-09 and 2009-10) for the category Reporting on JSK and the National Print and the Kumbh Mela Memorial Award for Investigative Journalism on Women's Issues by The Asian Tribune group in 2003. She has been part of series of high-level meetings on women and HIV/AIDS policy-making of the UN headquarters in New York and the US Congress in Washington DC in 2008.



Telokpur Mahila Panchayat Programme is being run on behalf of Delhi Commission for Women by NGO Mahila Prayas Jagriti, Mathura. According to Delhi Commission for Women scheme Mahila Panchayat has a minimum 15-20 Women as Members. It is being run in the residential Colony of Telokpur which nearby comprises Class IV Employees (i.e. Driver, Scribe, Karamchari, Labour etc. Absolutism & Domestic Violence is rampant in the Area. The Mahila Panchayat has setup outreach programmes in the Community through its Members, Community workers, K. Project Coordinator who are selected from the Community & are trained by the Delhi Commission for Women in various laws pertaining to women & are guided in the process of handling a case & counselling women in distress.

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Smt. Teerthess Saver, a resident of Jaisal, Langtang, Meghalaya has been working for improving the lot of the women and children- specially those belonging to the weaker sections of society. She is popularly known as Kong Tili in her locality. She is an integral part of the Dorker Sheng Jazaw, Langtang. She is a strong advocate of women's empowerment ever since 1992.



Ms. Zakie Sarwan has been part of the movement to re-orient communication and to uphold peace, secularism and religious harmony. She has been a firm advocate for equality and justice for muslim women in family and in society and for their citizenship rights. She has been working very closely with women of oppressed communities in Gujarat since 2002 demanding judicial and rehabilitation. She has been part of the peace movement in South Asia advocating for peoples' friendship and solidarity across borders. She is the co-founder of Bhurendra Muslim Mahila Aedalon which strives for women's rights as guaranteed in the Constitution of India and in the Holy Quran. She writes regularly in newspapers and other publications on issues concerning secularism, muslim women and minorities. She received an award for her contribution to human rights from All Gujarat Minorities Front in 2012.

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