

Isn't it true that  
Empowering women  
is empowering  
humanity?



International women's Day was organized across CEIN province with various activities and public programs. An occasion for the humanity to celebrate women's achievements, contributions, and to reflect on the issues and problems faced by the girls and women all over the world and work on tangible solutions, for the greater interests of girl children and women living in especially difficult circumstances.

**"DigitALL:  
Innovation and  
Technology for  
Gender equality".  
March 2023**

## अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस कार्यक्रम में शामिल हुये मंत्री

बालाघाट(दल सागर)ग्राम पंचायत आमगांव के कौड़ियाटोला में गुडशेफर्ड सिस्टर्स संस्था द्वारा 11 मार्च

सरकार व राज्य सरकार के द्वारा चल रही कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की जानकारी दी गई। जैसे लाडली लक्ष्मी, लाडली बहना, लाडली-2, एवं मुख्यमंत्री बाल आशीर्वाद आदि योजनाओं पर प्रकाश डाला गया और महिलाओं को इन योजनाओं का लाभ उठाने के लिये प्रोत्साहित किया गया। विशेष अतिथि श्रीमती किर्ती कावरे द्वारा महिलाओं को अधिकार मिले, मान-सम्मान मिले, पुरुषों के साथ कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर अपने देश का विकास करें और अपने बच्चों को पढ़ाने का



को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस मनाया गया। जिसमें दस गांव की स्वसहायता समूह की महिला / पुरुषों ने भाग लिया। इस कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि रामकिशोर कावरे आयुष मंत्री म.प्र.शासन, विशेष अतिथि श्रीमती किर्ती कावरे, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता कमर सुलताना, अधिवक्ता श्रीमती नमिता चिल्ले, महिला प्रशासक सुश्री रचना चौधरी, ग्राम बघोली की सरपंच श्रीमती पुष्पा बाहेश्वर, ग्राम पंचायत आमगांव सरपंच रवि बरकडे, संस्था प्रमुख सिस्टर आन्टो उपस्थित रहे। सर्व प्रथम अतिथियों का आदिवासी रीति रिवाज से पैर पखारकर, टीका लगाकर, कन्या पूजन किया गया। वही मुख्य अतिथि आयुष मंत्री रामकिशोर कावरे द्वारा भारत

आवाहन किया गया। वही सुश्री कमर सुलताना सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता द्वारा विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण की जानकारी दी गई। इसी प्रकार श्रीमती नमिता चिल्ले अधिवक्ता द्वारा कानूनी की सलाह दी गई। जिसमें महिला व बालिका सुरक्षित रहे, महिला प्रशासक सुश्री रचना चौधरी द्वारा महिला उत्पीड़न पर प्रकाश डालते हुये महिला एवं बालिकाओं के साथ हो रही हिंसा से मुक्त हो। संस्था प्रमुख सिस्टर आन्टो द्वारा सभी उपस्थित गण एवं महिलाओं को कार्यक्रम में भाग लिये एवं धन्यवाद दिया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में संस्था के कार्यकर्तागण मनोहर पंड्रे, शिव प्रसाद ओगोरे, सुश्री दामिनी उडके का सराहनीय योगदान रहा।



We sisters of the Good Shepherd, following the spirituality of our Foundress St. Mary Euphrasia, joining hands with like-minded lay people whom we fondly call as 'Partners-in-Mission' and are carrying out our mission around the world with special focus on women and children. In India, over the last 170 years, we have been continuing to expand the same with full vigour. In 7 states of India and in Nepal, we continue to strive to work towards justice and transformation. Over the last two decades, apart from direct missionary activities, we have been taking advocacy and campaign activities on ensuring safe space for the people at the margins, with special focus on women and children.

'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'. The Sisters and Partners-in-Mission reflected on the theme and accordingly prepared a list of persons whom we could invite to address the women, adolescent girls, and men. The theme denotes the essence of the topic and the need to close the 'digital gender gap'; it strives to indicate that the 'gender digital divide' is the modern form of discrimination women and girl children are facing.

**Good Shepherd Convent, Andheri:** International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated with much élan and gusto. The world was celebrating this day all over, but it seemed like the whole world had descended at Good Shepherd Convent, Andheri. There were more than 150 ladies who took part in the celebrations – all looking beautiful and elegant in their colorful attire.

Sr. Mary Jose started the celebrations by leading a procession with placards and slogans like "Nari Shakti, Zindabad", around the convent, charging the ladies and setting the mood for a wonderful afternoon. The Chief Guest was Ms. Sundari Thakkur, President, Women Respect Foundation.

The compere for the programme, Ms. Dibya Minj, in her very charming way, welcomed everyone. She gave a little information about IWD which is held every year on 8<sup>th</sup> March. This year the spotlight is on digital gender equality – the theme being DIGITALL : Innovation and Technology for gender equality. She also quizzed everyone on the colour theme this year.

The Welcome Dance was next which was gracefully performed by the St. Monica and Navjeevan Groups. Those that performed either dances or singing represented the Jagruti, Unnati, Shashakti, Durga, Ekta, Vikas and Pragati groups. It was pure entertainment all the way.

The Chief Guest, Ms. Sundari Thakur then addressed the audience, entralling everyone with her speech. She got the event covered in a Samay Rashtriya News broadcast now available on Youtube: [https://youtu.be/kA6\\_tgoMD2M](https://youtu.be/kA6_tgoMD2M).

What followed was much excitement with wholehearted participation in some interesting games. Everyone enjoyed themselves with some winning prizes. The success of the celebrations was thanks to the meticulous planning by Sr. Nirmala Lakra. The formal vote of thanks was given by Seema Jain and this wonderful celebration concluded with a sumptuous box of snacks for everyone.

**Good Shepherd Convent Garratola:** On 11 March 2023 the international women's day was celebrated at Good Shepherd Convent Garratola. The program was organized by Economic Justice Project staff. The members of the cooperative took an active role in the program. The members of the planning committee were the sole of the celebration.

The program began with rallies from 3 directions: Salghat chowk, Imlitola and Garratola. A good number of the Cooperative members and the women from different villages were present for the program. The women performed a cultural dance and skit based on the theme of the international women's day 2023 "DigitALL: innovation and Technology for Gender equality".

Mrs Shitla Meravi an Aganwadi Teacher from Sighanpuri was the chief guest of the celebration. She is one of the program participants of HCDI (Holistic Child Development India) project of Good Shepherd Sisters



Garratola. It was a real joy to invite a program participant who has come up in life and become a Teacher. Her parents used to migrate seasonally to the cities for their survival. But Mrs Shitla Meravi was left with her aunt and studied with the educational support of HCDI Project. She too was happy to be a part of the celebration.

On this occasion Mrs. Savita Dhurve the Janpad President, Birsa was the Guest of Honor. She applauded the work of the sisters in Garratola for their contribution towards the welfare of the women in Birsa Block. One of the invitees Mr. Ajit Barwa the CEO of Birsa Block explained the Ladli Bahna Yojana the Government Scheme to the Women. The members of the Child and women welfare committee of Birsa Block were also present for the program.

8 cooperative members were awarded for their outstanding individual business by the sisters. The celebration of International Women's day rejuvenated the spirit of the women to move forward in their life.



**Good Shepherd Sisters- Asha Nivas Balaghat:** Organized International Women's Day Celebration at Kowdiyatola village. Mr. Ram Kishore Kavre the MLA of Balaghat District was the main Chief Guest. There were special Invitees Mrs. Namita Chile, Advocate and the member of Women and Child development department from balaghat, Miss. Kamarkhan social activist, Mrs. Rachana Chowdary, Mrs. Rangdale in charge of One Stop Centre, were present for the celebration. There were few other departments like local leaders; Village Panchayat Sarpanches were also present.

The programme began by respecting the five young girls who are below 12 years washing of their feet, the Arati and honored them with flowers and fruits; Kanya Pujan symbolic ritual of seeing God in them. We welcomed the Chief Guest and other special invitees by washing of their feet and flowers according to the Tribal culture.

The women from 10 villages belong to 15 SHGs consist of 374 women were gathered together under one platform to celebrate the day. Colorful dances and inspiring messages were given by the women. The chief guest Mr. Ram Kishore Kavere spoke about various scheme to the women. Scheme like 1. Ladli laxmi Yojna, 2. Ladli Bahina, 3. Ladli 2, 4. Mukhya Mantri Bal Ashirvad

He explained in details to the women and urged the women to avail the benefits of various government schemes. MLA was very much taken up the responds he received from the women. He had interaction with the women and encouraged them to be united together to help each other. Mrs. Namita Chile the Women and Child development Officer too encouraged and appreciated the women for their contribution and assured them that we are women and need to be celebrated the womanhood every day of our life.

The Women's day celebration gave lot of encouragement to the women and they were proud of themselves that they have been recognized and honored by the MLA and other special invitees.

The programme was concluded by requesting all the women to come forward to perform their traditional dance. It was amazing to see even the elderly women from the group joined the dance.

**Good Shepherd Convent, Chennai:** The international Women's day was organized on 11<sup>th</sup> March. 100 Women from 9 areas were being gathered. The celebration centered on the theme '**DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**'. The women were welcomed in a traditionally offering them flower, chandan and kumkumum which set the tone of warmth and hospitality.

This year the resource persons were our Good Shepherd Educators, who stirred the group with videos and reflective process to share the experience of living in the digital world and its pros and cons. Group activities were conducted, through it they were able to harvest the practical points for life and where they stand as women in today's society.

It was indeed the crunch of the day, which followed the puppet show depicting of women's active role in heading the family was staged by the students of Stella Maris and staff of Mottukal. The women were divided into 10 groups to gather their stirrings, learnings and the impact of this day on them. We received spontaneous feedbacks and learnings from all of them.

Conducive space was created where they were able to express their joy of being a woman through dance, singing, sharing their lived experiences and giving tips for the younger generations how to keep the family united.

The celebration was concluded with distribution of gifts and delicious meal, women returned to their homes with great contentment and vigour to be a change and make a difference in their own little way.

