



Institute of Social Sciences



23rd

Women's Political Empowerment Day Celebrations

24-25 April 2016

Theme: Panchayats, Women and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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From left: Dr. George Mathew, Chairman, ISS; Ms. Lalitha Kumaramangalam, Chairperson, National Commission for Women; Ms Dinja Jakesika, Sarpanch, Kurli Panchayat, Bissamkatak, Rayagada, Odisha; Ms. D. Myla, President, Anjehalli Panchayat, Pennagarm Block Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu; Ms. Hansa Devi, Ward Member, Dharchula Panchayat, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand; H.E. Ms. Monica Lanzetta Mutis, Ambassador of Colombia; Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, ISS, and Dr. Bidyut Mohanty, Head, Women's Studies Unit, ISS.



The Women's Political Empowerment Day Celebration, an annual event organized by the Institute of Social Sciences since 1994, was held on 24 and 25 April, 2016 on the theme "Panchayats(Village Councils), Women and Sustainable Development Goals". The program, designed and purposed on commemorating the reservation for women in local governments (Panchayats and Municipalities) through the Constitutional Amendment in 1993, saw the participation of over 300 delegates from across the country. It was sponsored by UNICEF, The Asia Foundation and WaterAid.



Lalitha Kumaramangalam

Ms. Lalitha Kumaramangalam, Chairperson, National Commission for Women, was the Chief Guest of this year's program and **H.E Ms. Monica Lanzetta Mutis**, Ambassador of Colombia, the Guest of Honor. As a mark of recognition of their struggle, three elected women representatives were conferred the *Outstanding Women Panchayat Leader* awards.

The awardees were:

- 1. Ms. Hansa Devi**, a second time ward member of Dewal Village in Uttarakhand, was awarded for her significant contributions to improve the lives of women and girls to develop their self-reliance. Owing to her commitment, 13 families below the poverty line got houses under government schemes. Additionally she extensively made use of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, bringing to attention matters of public concern on gaps in service delivery at various levels.
- 2. Ms. D. Myla** from Dharmapuri District in Tamil Nadu, won the award for bringing to the fore, poverty alleviation programmes with the highest priority. She has facilitated the formation of 60 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which were in turn linked to fiscal support from banks, eventually helping them to obtain a Micro Watershed Project.
- 3. Ms. Dinja Jakesika**, the first ever elected head of the Kurli Gram village panchayat from the Rayagada District, Odisha, received the award for helping nearly 200 children getting admitted in a residential school; 80 students from her Panchayat are pursuing higher studies in the discipline of social sciences at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences at Bhubaneswar, Odisha as a result of her commitment. Ms.Jakesika belongs to one of the most primitive indigenous communities in the State of Odisha. The award for Ms.Jakesika was sponsored by American Montessori Public School, Gurgaon.

"If you feel we wouldn't know what to do, then teach us"; this should be the spirit of elected women representatives, stated Smt.Lalitha Kumaramangalam in her inaugural

address who spoke at length as to how women's will and determination counts, irrespective of their caste or religion on matters of entering public life. She maintained that, even today, for policy formulation on growth and development, women are hardly brought on board during the planning phase.



H.E Ms. Monica Mutis

Her Excellency, Ms. Monica Lanzetta Mutis cited the synergy between India and Colombia on women's political empowerment and how the jurisprudential frameworks of both countries have enabled women towards increased participation in the political sphere. She enriched the audience on how legislations in Colombia since 1954 enabled women to have a rightful say on matters of governance and public administration. In Colombia, 52% of the population are women and 30% of candidates for every political party from the municipalities to the Senate are reserved for women.

Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, ISS, expounded on the paradigm shift on matters of governance at the local level towards the global consensus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Structured to address key challenges in the 21st Century namely poverty, inequality and climate change, Dr. Roy laid emphasis on these goals as a roadmap for the larger development agenda post-2015, locally, nationally and globally. **Dr. Bidyut Mohanty**, Head, Women's Studies, ISS, talked about the spirit of the first Afro-Asian Conference held at Bandung, Indonesia and mentioned how it is the very same spirit that binds the stakeholders for gender equity within a framework of peace and harmony, further envisioning that with the rise in meaningful participation of women in public life consequent to substantial gender equality, it is possible to end poverty and hunger by 2030. **Ms. Swati Maliwal**, Chairperson, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), said that in a country where women are worshipped euphemistically, it is dignity and egalitarian rights of a woman that need to be ensured and protected. Ms. Swati reflected on her struggle with the governance system at large and how people from the grass-roots level have been a source of pedagogical inspiration for her on matters of social justice, empowerment and public welfare. **Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan**, Chairperson, Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan, illustrated the challenges faced by women in Panchayats within the conventional ambit of patriarchy, on the critical topic of implementing SDGs. **Ms. Veena Kohli**, President, All India Women's Conference (AIWC), **Dr. Indu Agnihotri**, Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies



(L-R) Ms. Sehjo Singh, Ms. Swati Maliwal, Ms. Anjali Makhija and Ms. Seema Mehra Pariha

(CWDS), **Ms. Kalyani Raj**, Member-in-charge (AIWC) and **Ms. Rita Manchanda**, Research Director, South Asia Forum for Human Rights, New Delhi kept the audience engaged with their insightful discourse over the 2-day program.

Ms. Rebecca R. Tavares, Representative, UN Women, in her valedictory address, highlighted the significance of key areas that warrant merit for attention that included paying heed to women's voices at the local governance level and men pro-actively entrusting themselves with domestic responsibilities. Ms.Tavares spoke of the Prime Minister's support empowering women at Panchayats and pointed to the positivities of policy prerogatives such as Skill India.



Ms. Rebecca R. Tavares

Mr. A.V. Swami, Member of Parliament (M.P), Rajya Sabha (Upper House)



Mr. A.V. Swami

chaired the valedictory session.

Dr. George Mathew, Chairman, ISS, in his remarks over the 2-day program highlighted the ingenuity of celebrating Women's Political Empowerment

following the 33 percent reservation of seats for women in Panchayats by the constitutional amendment. He stated that from 2017, it should be the endeavor of all concerned stakeholders to hold this celebration in all the States of India.

The enlivened deliberations, Q&A by women participants, the cultural program, film show and active group discussions during this year's Women's Political Empowerment Day celebrations gave the message to all: Yes, we can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Cultural Programme



Section of the audience



“Our Panchayats, Our Future”

Tribal woman sarpanch honoured in Delhi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, April 25: Dringe Jakesika (29), a woman sarpanch of Dongria Kondh community of Kurli panchayat of Bisamkatak block in Rayagada district was felicitated Sunday in New Delhi by the Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), a national-level research institute based in the national capital.

Dringe was given a certificate, a trophy and ₹25,000 for working relentlessly towards the development of tribal regions of Rayagada district.



ISS honoured several women talents across the nation, who contributed significantly towards ushering in development in rural India, on the occasion of the 23rd Annual National Women's Political Empowerment Day. All pan-

chayats should emulate Dringe who took the growth to tribal regions of Niyamgiri hills in Rayagada, national women commission chairperson Lalita Kumar Mangalam while attending the programme said. Reacting to the recognition, the Kurli sarpanch said rural India can achieve all-round development with the spread of education.

Dringe, who often raised the issues of the tribals with the administration, said she desires to set up a residential girls' school in her panchayat.

ଦେଶର ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ସରପଞ୍ଚ ଜଣାରିଆ ମହିଳା ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜ



ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରୁଥିବା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲାଲିତା କୁମାର ମଙ୍ଗଲମ ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର

ଭାରତୀୟ, ୨୪ତମ (ଆଞ୍ଚଳିକ) ବିନା-ବି-ସରପଞ୍ଚ ସମ୍ମାନ ପ୍ରଦାନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି। ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରୁଥିବା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲାଲିତା କୁମାର ମଙ୍ଗଲମ ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ସମାବେଶରେ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି। ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରୁଥିବା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲାଲିତା କୁମାର ମଙ୍ଗଲମ ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ସମାବେଶରେ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି। ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରୁଥିବା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲାଲିତା କୁମାର ମଙ୍ଗଲମ ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ସମାବେଶରେ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି।

୨୦୧୬ରେ ସରପଞ୍ଚ ଭାବରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି। ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରୁଥିବା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲାଲିତା କୁମାର ମଙ୍ଗଲମ ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ସମାବେଶରେ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି। ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରୁଥିବା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲାଲିତା କୁମାର ମଙ୍ଗଲମ ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ସମାବେଶରେ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି। ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରୁଥିବା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲାଲିତା କୁମାର ମଙ୍ଗଲମ ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ସମାବେଶରେ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି।

MALAYALA MANORAMA
2016 April 26 Tuesday



ଇନ୍ଦିରାପ୍ରିୟଙ୍କୁ ଡାଏମଣ୍ଡ ସୋନୋସ୍ମର ସମ୍ବରମ୍ଭଣା ପାଇଁ ପୁରୀର ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲାଲିତା କୁମାର ମଙ୍ଗଲମ ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ସମାବେଶରେ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି।

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ବିଭାଗୀୟ ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ପୁରୀର ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଲାଲିତା କୁମାର ମଙ୍ଗଲମ ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ସମାବେଶରେ ତ୍ରିଞ୍ଜଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଇଛି

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Mon, 25 April 2016
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