

Shri. Kapil Mishra, Hon'ble Minister for Water, Tourism, Culture, Arts & Languages and Gurudwara Elections, Government of Delhi inaugurated the national assembly 4th All India National Assembly of Dalit women in the National Capital, Delhi

Shri. Kapil Mishra, Hon'ble Minister for Water, Tourism, Culture, Arts & Languages and Gurudwara Elections, Government of Delhi inaugurated the national assembly on 25th November between 03.00 – 04.00 PM at Gandhi Peace Foundation in the presence of hundred of Dalit women leaders in the national capital Delhi.

Inaugurating the National Assembly, Shri. Kapil Mishra said that Dalit and Adivasi women are going through multiple forms of marginalization in our country which can be curtailed through education, economic independence. He added that social and economic empowerment of Dalit and Adivasi women would be possible by organising support groups and leadership development training. Acknowledging the work of RDMA, Hon'ble Minister said that the struggle of every Dalit women is praiseworthy and should be recognised and respected.

Ms Rajni Tilak, national convenor of Rastriya Dalit Mahila Andolan (RDMA) addressing the delegates of the assembly said that issues of Dalit women have been always misrepresented in the development discourse and mainstream feminist movement. She said that this 4th national assembly is being held to highlight the challenge of caste and patriarchy and gender based discrimination in society that Dalit women are going through. She called for unity of the organisations, platforms led by Dalit women.

Ms Manjula Pradeep, Director of Navsarjan shared the struggle of Dalit women from Gujarat. She said that Dalit women are seen as the soft target of violence which should be challenged. She advised that Dalit women should be educated and organised so that they can lead their struggle. Ms Chhaya Khobragade, Convenor, Sombudh Mahila Sangh, Nagpur also participated and shared situation of Dalit women in Maharashtra.

This national assembly is being held on 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Dalit and Adivasi Women starting from 25th November in the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. This is a two day assembly started from today and delegates from different part of India participating in this convention to celebrate their leadership achievement and share struggle.

Rastriya Dalit Mahila Andolan (RDMA) is the national platform of Dalit women formed in 2007 to challenge caste and patriarchy and gender based discrimination in society. Since its creation, RDMA has been working to build the leadership among Dalit women through trainings, exposures and workshops in partnership with Dalit women led organisations. This All India National Assembly of Dalit Women is a collaborative effort

of Rastriya Dalit Mahila Andolan (RDMA), and its member organisations aspire to create a concerted effort to address caste, class and patriarchy which affect Dalit women constitute half of the 200 million Dalit population and 16.3 of the total Indian female population.

It will strengthen the networking and alliance building of organizations working for Dalits and Adivasi women. It would highlight the role and contribution of Dalit and Adivasi Organizations in bridging the gender divide. In addition to this, positive success stories would be presented highlighting the positive impact of Civil driven change. This national assembly is also focusing on the goal no 5 and 10 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which talks about gender and inequality.

--

Mr. Sukanta Chandra Behera
Program Head- Program Development and Implementation
Centre for Alternative Dalit Media (CADAM)
M-3/22, Model Town-III, Delhi 110009 INDIA
Mobile no :+91 -9821776098
Telephone: +91-11-27419002 Fax: +91-11-27442744
website: www.nacdaor.org

RDMA and Haryana Dalit Adhikar Manch Launch Dalit Women Caravan in Haryana

in the occasion of 16 Days of Activism campaign against Gender, Caste and Class Violence

Rastriya Dalit Mahila Andolan (RDMA), Haryana Dalit Mahila Adhikar Mancha, Maitri Network and Action Aid launched Dalit Women Caravan in Haryana on 1st December, 2016 in the occasion of 16 Days of Activism campaign against gender based Violence. In this occasion, a meeting of Dalit women activists and leaders was held in Sonipat district of Haryana under the guidance of Ms Rajni Tilak, National Convenor of RDMA and other senior women activists. The team also conducted stock taking meeting on situation of gender and caste base violence in Liwaspur and Liwas village.

The theme of the 16 Days Campaign in the context of India is ***“Unite to Fight Caste, Class and Patriarchy: Ensure Education and Dignity for All”***. This theme recognizes that structural discrimination based on caste, class and patriarchy is entrenched in a cycle of violence that does not end even when girls and young women are exercising their rights including access to education in their daily life.

Dalit women are often the victims of triple discrimination based on their gender, caste and class and are particularly prone to different types of inter-related structural violence at the levels of community, state, economic, caste, and domestic. Ending violence against women requires change at every level — from State systems and laws through to organizations such as schools, workplaces and support services, local and cultural communities, and down to individual relationship and behaviour.

In this context, Dalit Women Caravan is being organised for a period of 10 days in Haryana in a Yatra form. A team of 8- 9 Dalit women right activist led by leaders of Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch are travelling in a decorated vehicle through 10 districts. Ms Rajni Tilak, National Convenor of RDMA will be accompanying the Yatra team.

The *Yatra* aim to educate people on women rights and gender and caste based violence. The *Yatra* aims to highlight the ongoing violence and atrocities against Dalit women and demand speedy action on the violence cases. It also intends to create awareness on the existing legal mechanism that address the violence and sensitise both the duty holder and bearers on their role and responsibilities so that they become accountable.

The *Yatra* would and meet the victims of violence and atrocities and create a state wide environment for the rights of the socially excluded women. It will mobilize victims of violence and state sponsored atrocities and inform them about the current laws, rules and provision for ensuring justice in the state.

During, Dalit Women Caravan, CADAM and Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch have planned a series of activities like organize feature film show on women rights at Gram Panchayat and village level, poster preparation competition among youth (boys and girls), Dignity March by young girls, follow up cases, press conference by women leaders to highlight the status of caste and gender based atrocities.

This campaign will create massive awareness among people, right holders, duty bearers, judiciary, police personnel, and government officials on the importance of women's and girls' rights. This campaign would directly and indirectly reach more than 10000 people in 10 districts of Haryana.

RDMA team will keep you updating information on Yatra. For detail, you can call Ms Rajni Tilak, Convenor of RDMA at 9871115382.

--

Mr. Sukanta Chandra Behera
Program Head- Program Development and Implementation
Centre for Alternative Dalit Media (CADAM)
M-3/22, Model Town-III, Delhi 110009 INDIA
Mobile no :+91 -9821776098
Telephone: +91-11-27419002 Fax: +91-11-27442744
website: www.nacdaor.org