

## JOINT ENDEAVOURS

**Celebration of International Dalit Day, on 120th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, 14 April, Parliament Street, New Delhi**



*It was amazing to see people from all walks of life participate in the celebrations. Two Nukad Natak was performed on issues relating to the Dalit struggle, namely, witch-hunting, practices of untouchability and exclusion, economic rights, and discrimination of Dalit women. The celebrations were concluded by inviting audiences to share their views and experiences and what significance this day holds for them.*

### **Fact Finding in villages affected by POSCO project – Orissa**

In the context of the struggle spearheaded by the people of 8 villages of Erasma block of district Jagatsinghpur in Orissa, against land acquisition for the POSCO project, a fact finding was undertaken to look specifically at proposed project's impacts on Dalits, on their lives and livelihood from the perspective of social equity and inclusion. The fact finding team visited the villages Dhinkia, Govindpur, Noliasahi of Dhinkia Panchayat and Transit Camp at Badagabapur on the 11th of April, had extensive discussions with the leaders of the struggle and representatives of the Dalit communities in all these villages, based on which an interim report has been prepared. A representation was sent to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and also complaints were sent to the National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Women and National Commission on Protection of Child Rights.



#### NCDHR-ALL INDIA DALIT MAHILA ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (AIDMAM)

*Students' interaction at Dr. K.R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, 30 April*



A group discussion was facilitated with the students of Dr. K.R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, on the issue of recent suicides of Dalit students in premier educational institutions of India. The students group put across their views and shared their experiences on exclusion in the educational institutions. The group stressed for some kind of institutional mechanism to monitor the discrimination encountered by Dalit students in these institutions. Based on their individual performances in the group discussion, some students have been selected for internship opportunity with NCDHR.

#### *District Level Dalit women Conference on Dalit Women Elected Representatives in Alwar, Rajasthan*

A district level conference of DWERs was organized in Alwar, Rajasthan, to sensitize district level law enforcement agencies on the sensitive issue of the discrimination of Dalit women elected representatives. The conference was presided over by Mr. Rajendra Kain, Additional District Magistrate, Alwar, Dalit rights advocates, Dalit activists and civil society members. Around 25 Women Sarpanchs attended the conference and successfully flagged off their concerns. The group highlighted some of their major challenges, such as non cooperation from panchayat secretaries and absence of a proper communication channel to update the DWERs on schemes and programmes by the administration. The meeting provided a strong platform to the DWERs to share their challenges with the administration.

#### *Hunger strike in Panipat, Haryana, 21 April*



One day hunger strike was held in the court complex, demanding proper investigation and justice in the case of a dalit domestic help, who was physically assaulted and an attempt to rape was made on her by the employer. The event witnessed participation from network members, civil society members, rights activists and lawyers across Haryana. The hunger strike ended when Police authorities filed the FIR under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.





### NCDHR-DALIT ARTHIK ADHIKAR ANDOLAN (DAAA)

#### Public Hearing on Unlawful Demolition in Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi on April 18, 2011



A large scale demolition was carried out on March 23-24, 2011, by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) affecting over 4,000 residents of Baljeet Nagar/ Gayatri Colony at West Patel Nagar, New Delhi. The action was stayed after legal intervention by the Delhi High Court after the joint intervention of DAAA-NCDHR, Human Rights Law Network, Indo Global Social Service Society, Housing and Land Rights Network, LEDS, Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion and Sahari Adhikar Manch. Despite several High Court orders mandating for immediate provision of basic facilities, such as water, food and sanitation in case of a demolition, residents of Baljeet Nagar were deprived of their fundamental rights.

Taking these violations into consideration these organisations jointly organized a public hearing at the basti. Among the distinguished persons of the jury were Justice AP Shah, former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court and Chair of the Jury, Mr. Miloon Kothari. Testimonies highlighting the effects of demolition on the residents, like students having to forego their examination, detailed accounts of elderly, working men and women, pregnant and lactating women were presented before the jury members. A case of five years old, Anish, who lost his eye sight during the demolition, was presented before the jury.

#### Group meeting on the draft report of mapping & the study on the scheduled castes in Delhi, April 25, YMCA, Delhi

An Expert Group meeting was held to discuss and reflect upon the draft report of the study on the Scheduled Castes in Delhi, their current status and access to entitlements by National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) in consultation with Civil Society Organizations and networks involved in raising Delhi urban concerns. The main objective was to discuss and suggest a way forward so that the long due entitlements for the SC communities in Delhi get realised.



#### NCDHR- DAAA-NATIONAL DALIT WATCH [www.nationaldalitwatch-ncdhr.blogspot.com](http://www.nationaldalitwatch-ncdhr.blogspot.com)

As a run up to the Yamuna flood survey done in October 2010, on 7 April, we accompanied representatives of the Shastri Park community to the Dy. Commissioner's office of the North-East district, Delhi. 123 applications for compensation of the flood survivors of Shastri Park were submitted to his office. After submitting the applications, the group met the MLA of the area. NDW-NCDHR is now heading to approach the Chief Minister with the agenda of compensating the victims, keeping in view the aspects of demolition which is occurring almost everywhere now in Delhi.

**Andhra Pradesh Dalit Watch-** As a follow up to the Andhra Pradesh floods in 2009, representatives of Dalit Watch-Andhra Pradesh approached the Commission on Disaster Management on 19 and 25 of April, with the copy of letters collected from Kurnool and Mahabub Nagar districts' Collectorates. As a result, the Commission has written letters to district collectors addressing the request for relief compensation to the excluded victims of 2009 floods listed and submitted by Dalit Watch AP. The death cases from Matralayam, Alampur, Itikyala Mandals have also been verified by officials themselves.



#### NCDHR- NATIONAL DALIT MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE (NDMJ)

##### *Training on Fact Finding & Documenting Skills, 5-10 April Orissa*

A six-day training on 'Fact Finding and Documenting skills for effective monitoring of human rights violation', was jointly organized by National Dalit Movement for Justice (NCDHR-NDMJ), Solidarity for Developing Communities (SFDC), Jana Vikas and National Alliance of Women's Organizations (NAWO) at St. Vincent Retreat Center, Gopalpur, in Ganjam district of Orissa. The 6-days training included a fact finding mission by the 65 participants which also included 12 women.

##### *Training on Dalit Human Rights Monitoring & Report Card Release, 7-8 April, Karnataka*

A training was organized jointly by National Dalit Movement for Justice, Open Space and Sanchaya Nele, wherein around 50 participants including 20 women were trained on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act & Rules, gaps in implementation of its various provisions and mechanisms, including the Right to Information Act, to monitor its implementation. The programme was inaugurated by the Inspector General of the PCR cell. The event was followed by a function to release the Kannada version of the Report Card on 20 years of SCs & STs (PoA) Act, on 9 April at Indian Social Institute in Bangalore.

#### *The Trial of Mirchpur Carnage*

*The trial of Mirchpur case in which 18 Dalit houses were burnt in April 2010 has been shifted to the Rohini Sessions Court in December last year from Hisar, following a Supreme Court directive to ensure a fair trial for the victims and their advocates who complained they felt threatened.*

*As a result of our briefing and constant motivation, Kamla, whose physically challenged daughter and husband were killed, has identified 81 of the 98 accused in the case including the SHO of Narnaud police station, Vinod Kajal on 29th April 2011. This is the first time that so many accused as well as the SHO has been identified as one of the alleged perpetrators of the crime, who, in spite of being present in the village during the incidence, gave the mob about a hour-and-half "to finish their work" till the time police force from Hisar arrived.*

#### *Support and Protection to the Advocates*

The Advocate in the Mirchpur Carnage trial case, Mr. Rajat Kalsan was receiving constant threats by the Jats, following which he was provided one security person, which was also recently withdrawn. Recently some Jat lawyers attacked his office and also man-handled his father. Later a false FIR was also registered in the local police station against him and 3 other lawyers who supported him during the attack. A meeting was held with them and anticipatory bail application was drafted by us on which they were granted the anticipatory bail by the Hissar Court on 25 April 2011.

#### *NCDHR in news:-*

**Mirchpur Kand: Tarachand ki patni ne 81 aaropi pehchaane:** (Dainik Bhaskar, 30th April 2011)

<http://www.bhaskar.com/article/HAR-HAR-HIS-mirchpurs-wife-accused-2064133.html>

**Witness identifies 81 accused in Mirchpur caste violence case:** (The Hindu, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011)

<http://www.hindu.com/2011/05/05/stories/2011050551460200.htm>

**"Nyay Ke Liye Kadi Suraksha Kee Maang" – Manisha Bhalla** (Outlook – Hindi)

<http://issuu.com/ramanawasthi/docs/olh01042011/32>

**"Mirchpur probe set to miss extended deadline" – Nishu Mahajan, Chandigarh** (The Pioneer)

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/324322/Mirchpur-probe-set-to-miss-extended-deadline.html>

**Funds for SC/STs to come under separate sub-heads**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/665217.aspx>

**CM mute spectator to SC, ST atrocities: MLA – the Pioneer**

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/312139/CM-mute-spectator-to-SC-ST-atrocities-MLA.html>

**"Govts watch blockades silently" – Dhananjay Mahapatra** (The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Govts-watch-blockades-silently/articleshow/7398798.cms>

**Share of the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Budget 2011-12**

<http://www.naidunia.com/Details.aspx?id=224565&boxid=30320338>

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