

15<sup>th</sup> May 2017



# Durbar Bulletin -74

## Sonagachi celebrated Labor Day highlighting Worker's Rights of Sex Workers

Most people about the May Day. There is an that it is a day the history unknown to May is May Day in around the the first formal Labour Day was the Labour Hindustan in as Madras) on 1



know little Day or Labour assumption of holiday but behind day is many of us. 1 celebrated as most countries world. In India, celebration of instigated by Kisan Party of Chennai (known May 1923.

**1<sup>st</sup> May** is most commonly associated as a commemoration of the achievements of the labour movement. The date is used because in 1884 the American Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions demanded an eight-hour workday, to come in effect as of 1 May 1886. This resulted in the general strike and the Haymarket Riot of 1886, but eventually also in the official sanction of the eight-hour workday.

On Monday (01.05.2017) hundreds of sex workers took to the streets of Sonagachi to demonstrate, protest and celebrate May Day.

The event was started with a dance performance of Komal Gandhar, a cultural wing of Durbar and thereafter walked for a massive rally from Sonagachi and ended at Hedua Park. It was attended not only by the sex workers community only but also from different sectors including agricultural workers domestic workers, factory workers, Bidi Sramik workers and others. They walked together voicing their demand for worker's rights with slogans, colourful placards and posters.

The sex workers who participated in the rally also protested the amendment of Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA) as this would affect their profession in future.

The rally ended with a swearing ceremony of the sex workers. They have pledged that unless and until they get their worker's right they will continue their movement.

### **Durbar Disha Mahila Grihasramik Samanwaya Committee organised a Health Camp**

With support Durbar Disha Samanwaya (DDMGSC) and Mancha jointly health check-up Madhugarh, 17, Kolkata from



from NH Narayana, Mahila Grihasramik Committee Sranajibi Swikriti organised a free camp at Dumdum, (Khalpar), Ward No. 10 am to 4 pm.

The free health check-up camp, organised for domestic workers and their children, included blood pressure check-up, general check-up, blood sugar check-up, eye check-up and ECG. Approximately 120 people came for the health check-up in the camp out of which 62 were females, 25 were children and 33 were males. Doctors advised them various medicines and consultation during the camp.

Baby Naskar, the Secretary of DDMGSC said, "We are immensely grateful to NH Narayana for coming here and helping us."

Riya Naskar, a participant of the camp said, "We hope that such camps are organised frequently so that all the people here get a chance for their check-up."

### **Voluntary Organizations calls for self-regulations**

A state level Convention was conducted by Forum of Voluntary Organizations West Bengal (FOVOWB) with its partner organizations at Ultadanga ICMARD, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the present socio economic scenario of West Bengal rather India and further steps of Voluntary Organizations. Representatives from Almost 25 to 28 Voluntary organizations, some Trade unions were participated in the convention. Dr Smarajit Jana from **DMSC**, Biplab Halim from **IMSE**, Shyamal Gan from **Lok Kalyan Parishad**, Professor Anath Bandhu Dey, Dr. Sujit Bramhachari from **Indian Institute of Child and Mother**, Rahima Khatun from **Tajmahal Gram Vikas**, Mr Bidyut Debnath, Subhajit Dutta Gupta from **We Are The common People**, Kajal Bose Secretary **DMSC**, Dr Manabendra Mandal from **SLARTC**, Professor Satyabrata Chowdhuri from **IIMC**, Mr. Malay Sengupta, Ex Chief justice **Kolkata high court** and Representative from **WB Gandhi Foundation, National Alliance of people's Movement, West Bengal Election Watch** were the eminent persons present in the program. Near about 100 people from different field had joined the convention.

In the inaugural session the discussion was mainly about present social, political and economic situation of West Bengal and what will be the exertion of social volunteer people. Along with this, effect of Lokpal Bill, abolishment of NGO's SB account and transfer it to current account by State Bank of India was said. It was observed that many sections of government are actually overlooking voluntary organizations and creating hindrance and



dominance for them. Before implementing any policy at grassroots level, government should learn from those voluntary organizations who are working with poor people.



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