

SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE AND COLLABORATORS

A BRIEF NOTE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION MARCH 8, 2007

The Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators, Chennai (DMI) and the members of the Federation of Women Self Help Groups promoted by DMI jointly celebrated the International Women's Day in a very grand manner on March 8th 2007 at Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai. The presence of the eminent personalities and higher officials among the massive gathering of 15000 women leaders from various parts of Tamil Nadu, Maharastra, Bihar, Andaman Nicobar Islands and Andhra Pradesh made it an ever memorable event in the history of DMI.

The programme started with the welcome address by Sr.Viji. Mr.S.Peter Alphonse, M.L.A. gave an introduction about the significance of celebrating International Women's Day and how DMI was identified as a host to collaborate with the State Government of Tamil Nadu. The DMI President Rev.Sr.Virgin presented a historical perspective of DMI and its women federations in Tamil Nadu and in other places. She had highlighted the salient features of various activities of DMI and the women's federation.

Honourable Minister of State for Human Resource Development Smt. Purandareswari one of the progressive women leaders in the parliament, presided over the function. In her presidential address, she stressed the need and importance of treating both boys and girls equally without any discrimination. The Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr.Kalaignar gave away the awards to the most outstanding women leaders and various women groups who had done exemplary job in their respective field of work. In his Women's Day message, the Chief Minister said that he would toil hard for realizing 33% reservation for women in parliament and for this he promised that he would avail the support of the Central Government. He also was hopeful that the voice of women from this conference would echoed in the ears of Mrs.Sonia Gandhi the Convenor of the United Progressive Alliance of the Central government and will make his work easier in getting 33% of reservation.

Honourable Minister for Local Administration Thiru.M.K.Stalin spoke about the various welfare schemes introduced for women by the Government of Tamil Nadu and its commitment for their further development. Honorable Union Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation Thiru G.K.Vasan released a souvenir and

said that no nation could claim progress until it supported the development of women. The Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore Dr.A.M.Chinnappa received the first copy of the souvenir and spoke about the importance of women in the society.

Before the main programme the DMI-Tamil Nadu women Federation addressed various women's issues. More than fifteen district women leaders were on the dias along with the Mrs.Ramatha, Chairperson of the State Women's Commission and Ms.Amutha IAS. Executive Director of Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of women and the programme was coordinated by DMI Sisters.

It was indeed a historic event in the recent history of women's movement, which had been widely covered by the media and a historic milestone in the development work DMI.

With kind regards

Yours Sincerely

SR.VIRGIN DMI