



Women Led Development @Viksit Bharat 2047

June 18th 2025
at India International Centre (IIC)
New Delhi



नमो अध्ययन केंद्र
Centre for NaMo Studies

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Women - Led Development @ VIKSIT BHARAT



नमो अध्ययन केंद्र
Centre for NaMo Studies



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Preface



The concept of women-led development has ceased to remain a distant dream; in fact, it has come to define the present and future course of India's progress. With this in view, the Centre for NaMo Studies (CNMS) in collaboration with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, organized a two-day National Seminar titled "Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment for a Developed India" on June 18 at India International Centre, New Delhi.

The book is a thorough-going documentation of the proceedings of all the four sessions of the seminar. It brings together detailed reports of the proceedings that best capture the essence of the speeches, discussions, and ideas of the eminent guests. From Parliamentarians to Panchayat leaders, from Vice Chancellors to Gram Pradhans, and from spiritual leaders to academic scholars, the seminar gathered voices across India to reflect upon the increasing role of women in the shaping of Viksit Bharat.

In the past eleven years under the stewardship of Shri Narendra Modi, women empowerment in India has taken the giant leap with landmark decisions and progressive policies. With a slew of flagship programs such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana, Mudra Loans, Start-Up India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and 33% reservation for women in the Parliament and assemblies, steps were taken to not just enable but embolden women to assert their competence in leadership roles across sectors. The seminar was held to take stock of progress, celebrate success stories, and chart the course ahead.

Each of these four sessions delved into a particular theme dealing with some dimensions of women-led development. Through detailed and methodically created session reports, the book aims to entrench the liveliness of the discussions, case studies, life stories, and thought-provoking quotes that made this seminar a memorable one. Each report is crafted in simple, yet polite and non-institutional language—with access to a wide array of readers: academicians, researchers, students, policy woofers, as well as citizens.

This document marks CNMS's continuous efforts toward sharing knowledge, pursuing scholarly rigor, and contributing to the country's development. It is the Centre's conviction that innovation develops from the interaction of diverse perspectives and from the combination of intellectual work with concrete action. By compiling their narratives, we hope to create a resource that stimulates research, policy, and conversations around women's leadership for years to come. The seminar was aimed not only at celebrating our women but also at the collective mobilization urging action—to inclusivity, empowerment, and reverence for women's immeasurable contributions to our families, society, and our nation.

To all gathered dignitaries with participating institutions alongside government bodies who made this occasion a reality we offer this appreciation. As such I encourage everyone reading to remember this book should be more than just capturing moments of the seminar but genuinely providing a message regarding developing fully rests upon women heading initiatives for true progress.

Prof Jasim Mohammad

Jishnu Dev Varma



RAJ BHAVAN
HYDERABAD - 500 041

25.06.2025

MESSAGE

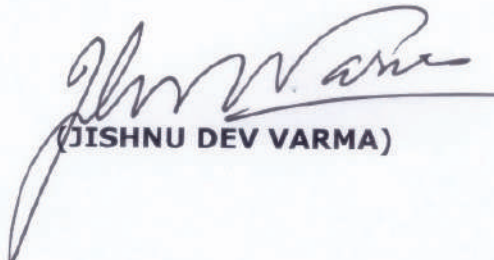
I am pleased to learn that the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies (CNMS) is organizing the national seminar on "Women-Led Development @ Viksit Bharat" to commemorate the 102nd birth anniversary of Aadaraniyaa MAA Heeraben Modi ji at the India International Centre, New Delhi, on June 18, 2025.

This is a most fitting tribute to a mother who embodied simplicity, strength, and sacrifice - virtues that form the very foundation of nation-building. As we move toward the vision of a Viksit Bharat under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, it is imperative to recognize the transformational role women are playing across all sectors - from grassroots governance to global innovation.

Empowering women is not merely a goal, but a guiding force for sustainable development. Today, India is witnessing a silent revolution led by women in entrepreneurship, science, education, healthcare, and leadership. This empowerment is shaping a more inclusive, resilient, and forward-looking Bharat.

I commend the efforts of CNMS in bringing together thought leaders and stakeholders to deliberate on this vital theme. May this seminar inspire deeper commitment and innovative pathways towards achieving true gender equity, in the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'.

With best wishes for the success of the seminar and the publication of this commemorative souvenir.

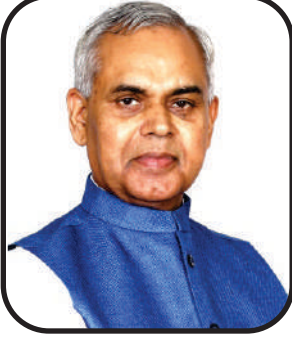


(JISHNU DEV VARMA)

Acharya Devvrat
Governor, Gujarat
Gandhinagar-382021



आचार्य देवव्रत
राज्यपाल, गुजरात
गांधीनगर-३८२०२१



13 MAY 2025

संदेश

यह अत्यंत प्रसन्नता का विषय है कि आदरणीया मां हीराबा मोदी जी की जन्म जयंती के पुण्य अवसर पर सेंटर फॉर नरेंद्र मोदी स्टडीज़ द्वारा Women-Led Development @Viksit Bharat - विषय पर एक स्मारिका का प्रकाशन एवं राष्ट्रीय सेमिनार का आयोजन किया जा रहा है।

यह आयोजन उस नारीशक्ति को समर्पित श्रद्धांजलि है, जिन्होंने सादगी, अनुशासन, मूल्यनिष्ठा और मातृत्व के उच्चतम आदर्शों को जी कर श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी जैसे यशस्वी और युगदृष्टा नेतृत्व को संस्कारित किया।

'वुमन-लेड डेवलपमेंट' की यह संकल्पना आज केवल एक विचार नहीं, अपितु प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में भारत के विकास की केंद्रीय धुरी बन चुकी है। 'बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ', 'महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों का सशक्तिकरण', राजनीति और प्रशासन में महिलाओं की नेतृत्व भूमिका- इन सबके माध्यम से भारत में आज सशक्त, स्वावलंबी और निर्णायक नारीशक्ति का उदय हो रहा है।

यह संगोष्ठी और स्मारिका न केवल महिला सशक्तिकरण पर विमर्श को गति देगी, अपितु 'विकसित भारत' के संकल्प को साकार करने में महिलाओं की भूमिका को रेखांकित करने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज सिद्ध होगी।

मैं इस पुण्य प्रयास के लिए आयोजकों को हार्दिक बधाई देता हूं और मां हीराबा जी को कोटिशः नमन करता हूं।


(आचार्य देवव्रत)



Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya

**RAJ BHAVAN
GUWAHATI**



MESSAGE

In the beginning, I pay my rich tributes to Aadarniya Maa Hiraben Modi ji on the occasion of her 102 birth anniversary. I also take the pleasure in extending my profound gratitude to the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies for taking the initiative in organizing a national seminar on 'Women led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment for a Developed India'.

It is heartening that the Centre synchronizing with the seminar is publishing a souvenir titled 'Women led Development @ Viksit Bharat'. I convey my heartfelt congratulations to the entire family of the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies on this occasion.

The role of women in Viksit Bharat is very crucial and transformative. As our country Bharat under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, envisions itself as a developed nation by 2047, women's participation, leadership, and empowerment are pivotal across various sectors. More women are entering in formal sectors, especially in technology, healthcare, education, and finance. Growing participation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics is contributing to innovation. Government schemes like *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* have increased girl-child enrollment in schools. Moreover, women-led startups and MSMEs are increasing, supported by initiatives like Mudra Yojana and Stand Up India.

In this changing time, women are not just participants but drivers of Viksit Bharat. Empowering them further economically, socially and politically are keys to achieving a truly inclusive and developed Bharat. I hope the deliberations in the seminar besides paying tributes to Aadarniya Maa Hiraben Modi ji will highlight power of Bharatiya Nari in taking our nation to its rightful position that is Viswa Bandhu and Viswa Guru.

My best wishes to resounding success of the seminar and the souvenir.

Dated: June 03, 2025


(Lakshman Prasad Acharya)

आरिफ मोहम्मद खां
Arif Mohammed Khan



राज भवन
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राज्यपाल, बिहार
GOVERNOR OF BIHAR



12 जून, 2025

संदेश

यह जानकर प्रसन्नता हुई कि नरेन्द्र मोदी अध्ययन केन्द्र, नई दिल्ली द्वारा माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी की माँ स्व० हीराबेन की जयंती के अवसर पर 18 जून, 2025 को "महिला नेतृत्व और विकास : विकसित भारत की दिशा में सशक्तिकरण के नए क्षितिज और चुनौतियाँ" विषय पर एक राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया जाता है।

संगोष्ठी की सफलता हेतु हार्दिक मंगलकामनाएँ।

(आरिफ मोहम्मद खां)



राष्ट्रीय उर्दू भाषा विकास परिषद्

قومی کونسل برائے فروغ اردو زبان

National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language

Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education,
Government of India

ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Organisation

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Dated 13th June, 2025



MESSAGE

India is determined to become a developed country by 2047, in which the role of women, along with all other working forces of the country, cannot be ignored. There are many areas in which women can lead the country's development movement. National development under the leadership of women has not only a moral importance but this is also our economic, social and cultural necessity. As women constitute almost half of the country's population, their participation in the national education, workforce, entrepreneurship and decision-making processes is very important to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

Therefore, in order to realize the potential of development under the leadership of women in developed India, we have to work under a multi-faceted approach. India can achieve its target only through equal representation of women in all segments of the society. In the 21st century, by marginalizing women or underestimating their capabilities, we cannot even dream of Viksit Bharat.

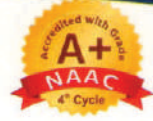
I am very happy that the Center for Narendra Modi Studies (CNMS) is going to organize a seminar on the theme of 'Women-Led Development @Viksit Bharat' to pave the way for women-led development in Viksit Bharat and is also publishing a souvenir on this important topic. I congratulate and wish the Chairman of CNMS, Professor Jasim Muhammad, and his associates and hope that while all other sectors and workforces of the country will play a fruitful role in shaping the bright future of the country, the participation of the Center for Narendra Modi Studies will also be important and remarkable.

(Dr. Md. Shams Equbal)

Director



डॉक्टर हरीसिंह गौर विश्वविद्यालय, सागर (म. प्र.)
DOCTOR HARISINGH GOUR VISHWAVIDYALAYA, SAGAR (M. P.)
 (केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय / A Central University)



कर्नल (प्रो.) नीलिमा गुप्ता
Col. (Prof.) Neelima Gupta
कुलपति / Vice-Chancellor

Ex Vice-Chancellor
 Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur
 Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur
 Munger University, Munger (Addl. Charge)



:: Message ::

I am immensely happy to learn that the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies (CNMS) is organizing a National Seminar in commemoration of the 102-birth anniversary of Aadaraniyaa MAA Heeraben Modi Ji on the theme, "Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment during the Narendra Modi Era for Viksit Bharat" on 18 June, 2025 and a souvenir on "Women-Led Development @ Viksit Bharat" will be released alongside this occasion.

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and effective governance, women leadership is shaping the development of India. Under various initiatives like Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, Stand Up India, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Matritva Vandana Yojana, appointment of women in military services, increasing participation of women in every field and political representation, women have received respect, opportunity and rights on every front. In Operation Sindoor, two women officers, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi of the Indian Army and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh of the Air Force, led the operation, their leadership, highlighting the roles of women in the country's progress. Today, India's daughters are not just dreamers, but also achievers. They are flying in the sky, protecting the borders, moving ahead in the field of science and playing an important role in democratic leadership.

I hope that this seminar will highlight the role of women in shaping a developed India, with a special focus on the initiatives taken during the Narendra Modi era. I am confident that this seminar will bring together scholars, policy makers and thinkers to discuss new avenues for women empowerment and nation building and will certainly provide valuable insights on the issues.

India has announced its own theme as 'Nari Shakti se Viksit Bharat', aiming to shift from Women's Development to Women-Led Development. This souvenir "Women-Led Development @ Viksit Bharat" is a testimony to the dedication and hard work of all the authors who have contributed to this theme.

I convey my best wishes for the success of the Seminar and grand success for the publication of the Souvenir.

11th June, 2025

(Prof. Neelima Gupta)

Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin (FRSC)

Vice Chancellor

Cluster University of Srinagar

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MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to convey my warm greetings on the occasion of the national seminar on '*Women-led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment for a Developed India*', being organized by the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies. This initiative reflects our national vision of inclusive growth, and it is encouraging to see Cluster University of Srinagar contributing to this important discourse.

I also pay my humble tributes to Aadarniya Maa Hiraben Modi ji on her 102nd birth anniversary—a life devoted to simplicity, values, and strength. The release of the souvenir titled '*Women-led Development @ Viksit Bharat*' in her honour adds immense value to this seminar, and I commend the organizing team for highlighting the vital role of women in shaping the future of our nation.

Being the part of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, I witnessed that in recent years, the Union Territory has made significant strides in promoting women-led development. Various government initiatives like UMEED (JKRLM), Tejaswini, and SAKHI One Stop Centres have created avenues for economic and social empowerment of women across the region. From self-help groups in rural belts to women entrepreneurs in urban Srinagar, the role of women in building a resilient J&K is more visible than ever before.

Women in Jammu and Kashmir are increasingly participating in higher education, governance, entrepreneurship, and healthcare. Their leadership in sectors like handicrafts, tourism, IT, and education is a testament to their potential. Programs like Mission Youth are supporting young women with training and financial assistance, enabling them to lead with confidence and purpose.

Empowering women in J&K is not just a matter of policy—it is a societal transformation. By ensuring their active participation in every domain, we are laying the foundation of a truly *Viksit Bharat*. I am confident that this seminar will foster meaningful dialogue, inspire action, and honour the enduring spirit of Bharatiya Nari, who will continue to guide our nation toward its rightful place as *Viswa Bandhu* and *Viswa Guru*.

My best wishes for the grand success of the seminar and the souvenir. May it serve as a beacon for continued efforts in women's empowerment, both in Jammu and Kashmir and across the nation.

Prof.(Dr.) Mohammad Mobin

Date: June 8th, 2025



माता सुंदरी कॉलेज फॉर वुमेन, नई दिल्ली
ਮਾਤਾ ਸੁੰਦਰੀ ਕਾਲਜ ਫਾਰ ਵੁਮਨ, ਨਵੀ ਦਿੱਲੀ
MATA SUNDRI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, NEW DELHI
दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय/दिल्ली विश्व विद्यालय/ UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



Message

It is a matter of great honour to contribute to the souvenir being published by the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies on the sacred occasion of Maa Heeraba Modi Ji's birth anniversary. This initiative, focusing on the theme “Women-Led Development @ Viksit Bharat”, is both timely and inspiring. Women have always been the backbone of progress in every society. Today, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the idea of women-led development has taken center stage—transforming the entire landscape of our nation.

Maa Heeraba Ji, with her simplicity, values, and silent strength, nurtured and shaped a leader who is guiding the destiny of modern India. Her life is a true example of the quiet power of womanhood and the lasting impact of a mother's wisdom and values. I strongly believe in the empowerment and upliftment of women through education, values, and leadership.

Empowered women create empowered communities. When women lead, they bring unique perspectives, compassion, and innovation to the table—be it in governance, education, entrepreneurship, or grassroots movements. Promoting women's active participation in every sphere of life is not just a step toward gender equality; it is a strategic imperative for achieving sustainable national development.

This souvenir and the accompanying seminar are powerful platforms to celebrate, reflect upon, and further the cause of women-led development in building a truly developed India.

I extend my heartfelt wishes to the organizers for this noble and meaningful effort.

Warm regards,

Principal
Mata Sundri College for Women
University of Delhi



नमो अध्ययन केंद्र

Centre for NaMo Studies

In Collaboration with
NCPUL, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

Cordially Invites you to

“Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment for a Developed India”

Chief Guest

MS KANGANA RANAUT JI

Member of Parliament Loksabha Mandi

Keynote Speaker

DR KIRAN BEDI, IPS (RETD)

Former Governor of Puducherry

Chair

PUJJANIYAA AADARANIYAA
RAJMATA AMBICA JI KHIRBHAWANI
Spiritual Leader

Guest of Honour

DR DOLE SHIVAJI SHAMRAO
Educationist, Pune

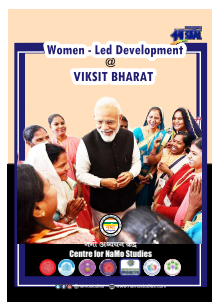
Inaugural Remarks

PROF JASIM MOHAMMAD
Managing Trustee/ Chairman CNMS

Welcome

DR MD SHAMS EQUBAL
Director NCPUL,
Minister of Education, Gol

Souviner Release



Women-Led Development @ VIKSIT BHARAT

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 04:45 pm
Venue: Multipurpose Hall, Gate No. 1, IIC, New Delhi

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Knowledge Partners:



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Detailed Report of One-Day National Seminar

“Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment for a Developed India”



The Centre for NaMo Studies (CNMS – NaMo Kendra), in association with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, successfully organized a grand National Seminar on “Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment for a Developed India” at the Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi. The seminar, held on June 18, 2025, marked a decade and one year of historic progress in the field of women empowerment under the visionary leadership of





Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The seminar featured four sessions, each dedicated to various aspects of women-led development, including governance, entrepreneurship, education, and societal leadership. Experts and scholars shared data, case studies, and real-life stories of change, painting a clear picture of India's progress in this field.

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur; National Sports University, Imphal; and



Cluster University of Srinagar, J&K, Arunachal University of Studies (AUS), served as knowledge partners.

The fourth and concluding session of this one-day national seminar begins with a warm welcome to the distinguished guests. The fourth session was introduced as an important academic and ideological event focused on women-led development and empowerment for a developed India.

The session then begins with a request for everyone to stand for the national anthem, followed by the recitation of the anthem honoring India's diverse regions. This was succeeded by a one-minute silence to pay tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack and the Air India plane crash. The program then transitions to commemorating





a very special day—the birth anniversary of the esteemed Hiraben Modi, mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Attendees were invited to offer respectful tributes and honor her values and strength on this occasion.

The event was followed with a floral tribute honoring the values and strength of the late Heeraben Modi on her birth anniversary. This was followed by a lamp lighting ceremony symbolizing new energy and hope for women-led development and empowerment in India. Dignitaries including Kangana Mam, Kiran Bedi Mam, and Rajmata Ambika were invited to join.

The session begins with a warm welcome by the host, highlighting the importance of the academic event. Dr. Shams Iqbal, Director of NCPUL, delivered the welcome address. The speaker highlights the significance of women-led development, referencing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis during India's G20 presidency that development goals cannot be achieved without women's active participation. The session underscores the increasing involvement of women in education and skill development programs across urban and rural





areas. The focus remains on women-led development and the challenges and new horizons for an empowered India. The session also marks the release of a souvenir titled 'Women Led Development for a Developed Nation,' with felicitations to dignitaries and academics from across the country. The atmosphere was celebratory with acknowledgments of the efforts of all involved. The program proceeds with expressions of gratitude to all contributors and keynote guests.

Dr Dole Shivaji Shamrao Educationist and Chairman of Venkateshwara Co-operative Power and Agro Processing Ltd, delivers remarks celebrating the strength of women in nation-building. He mentions significant initiatives such as the establishment of a 1000-bed hospital by mothers' cooperatives and the involvement of women in the Agniveer scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which encourages youth, including 50% women, to join defense services. Dr. Dole praises the progress made in women's development and expresses pride in contributing to this national cause despite personal challenges, emphasizing the collective efforts of veterans, farmers, and cooperative leaders across multiple states.





Following this Keynote Speaker Dr Kiran Bedi, IPS (Retd.) and Former Governor of Puducherry addresses the gathering on women empowerment. Dr. Kiran Bedi highlights that women, as citizens, mothers, professionals, and homemakers, are the biggest beneficiaries of societal development and should not be isolated. Dr. Kiran Bedi discusses the current challenges women still face despite progress and stresses the importance of including women in the vision of a developed India. Dr. Bedi elaborates on the challenges related to women's inheritance and societal progress, citing the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) movement as a significant example of development that has benefited women. She recalls how the lack of toilets contributed to higher rates of assault and school dropouts among girls and how the movement has created safer environments for women. She honors the person behind the movement and frames it as a visible transformation and reform in India's development journey rather than a political statement, leading into her presentation of specific action programs. The speaker emphasizes the importance of accelerating India's development through six key





movements: Digital India, Skill India, Make in India, Startup India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Good Governance. These initiatives are not just statements but movements aimed at making India a leading global economy within 25 years. Everyone is encouraged to contribute actively, especially volunteers and professionals already involved.

She mentioned that basic digital education should be introduced in all government schools to prepare children, especially girls, for a developed India. She highlighted some action points which include launching digital education in government schools and establishing local incubation centers in every district to foster entrepreneurship among women and children. She stated that vocational training programs must focus on future skills like AI, electronics, and green jobs, ensuring at least 50% participation from women. Aligning skill programs with local industries and including compulsory entrepreneurship and financial literacy in schools are essential for empowering women and fostering economic independence. She also mentioned that

Make in India should focus on electronics, semiconductors, defense, and green technology, promoting innovation over mere assembly. The importance of startup India is





highlighted, with calls for detailed action plans to integrate these initiatives into government departments and to promote women-led rural startups with financial support. She highlighted that Women-led rural startups are vital for self-reliance, supported by increased grants and schemes. Emphasis is placed on solar energy adoption



and reducing dependence on oil to create a sustainable future. The transition to electric vehicles and green energy forms a critical part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

She said that good governance involves every government employee





creating a development plan to contribute towards national growth over five years. It requires transparency, eliminating corruption and discrimination, and ensuring field-oriented work where officials engage directly with communities to understand and address local issues. She urged officials from various departments to actively visit and assess their areas of responsibility to improve transparency and effectiveness. This field engagement approach will benefit everyone, especially those currently deprived of opportunities, and drive overall national development.

The speaker concludes by urging collaboration among citizens, government, private sector, and policymakers to support the outlined development initiatives.

While addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest at the National Seminar on Women-Led Development, Member of Parliament and actress Kangana Ranaut paid a heartfelt





tribute to Maa Heeraben, the mother of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. She said, “Maa Heeraben was a symbol of simplicity, strength, and silent sacrifice. She lived a very humble life and took on the great responsibility of shaping her son's values. She cooked his meals, guided him with wisdom, and raised him with discipline and care.”

Referring to the values instilled by Maa Heeraben in the Prime Minister, Kangana shared her powerful words: “Jeevan jiyo shuddhi se, aur kaam karo buddhi se.” Explaining further, she said, “It means 'Live your life with purity and work with wisdom.' These words are a life lesson for the entire nation.”

Ms Kangana further added, “Her life reminds us that we are here to give to society, not just take from it. She raised a son who has dedicated his life to the service of the nation, and that is the true example of women-led development.”

The speaker highlights the revered status of Mata Hiraben Modi in Indian culture, emphasizing her divine and inspirational role as the mother of a great leader. She discusses how a mother's influence shapes her child's intellect and character, supported by scientific and





cultural perspectives. Despite her simplicity and humility, Hiraben Modi's life and values offer profound lessons and inspiration.

The speaker shares personal insights and anecdotes about Hiraben Modi's character, including her encouragement to her son to focus on work and responsibility rather than distractions. This contrasts with modern parenting styles. Hiraben's selflessness and discipline are exemplified by her early mornings serving the community without expecting anything in return. Her life embodies the spirit of giving rather than taking, inspiring others to adopt similar values.

The speaker contrasts today's generation's focus on social validation with Hiraben Modi's selfless lifestyle. Despite facing challenges, including early motherhood, Hiraben dedicated herself to serving her family and society without expecting recognition. Her longevity, resilience, and high moral values serve as a powerful example. The speaker underscores the importance of living life with purity, wisdom, and purpose, reflecting Hiraben's guiding principles.

The speaker calls for documenting MAA Heeraben Modi's life story and struggles to





inspire future generations. She emphasizes MAA Heeraben's humility, strong work ethic, and the values she instilled in her children, which influenced Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership and India's progress, including women's empowerment and self-reliance initiatives. The speaker thanks key participants and acknowledges the cultural heritage and leadership examples represented by the honored guests.

The session concludes with expressions of gratitude for the successful and meaningful program commemorating Mata Hiraben Modi's legacy. The session ends with a brief closing remark, ensuring participants take the prasadam (offering) provided at the event.





नमो अध्ययन केंद्र
Centre for NaMo Studies



राष्ट्रीय उर्दू भाषा विकास परिषद् | قومی کونسل برائے فروغ اردو زبان
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
PROMOTION OF URDU LANGUAGE
Ministry of Education, Government of India



महिलाओं का
सामाजिक-राजनीतिक
सांस्कृतिक
सशक्तिकरण
उर्दू साहित्य में प्रतिबिंबन

اردو ادب میں خواتین
کی
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THE SOCIO-POLITICAL
and CULTURAL
EMPOWERMENT OF
WOMEN
Reflection in
URDU LITERATURE

WED 18TH
JUNE, 2025 جون 18
TIME, 10:30 AM



ملٹی پورپس ہال، گیٹ نمبر 1، انڈیا انٹرنیشنل سینٹر (آئی آئی سی)، 40 میکس مولر مارگ، نئی دہلی

Multipurpose Hall, (Gate - 1) India International Centre (IIC)
40 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi - 110003

Detailed Report of One-Day National Seminar

“The Socio- Political and Cultural Empowerment of Women Reflection in Urdu Literature”



The Centre for NaMo Studies (CNMS – NaMo Kendra), in association with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, successfully organized a grand National Seminar on “Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment for a Developed India” at the Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi. The seminar, held on June 18, 2025, marked a decade and one year of historic progress in the field of women empowerment under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The seminar featured four sessions, each dedicated to various aspects of women-led development, including governance, entrepreneurship, education, and societal leadership. Experts and scholars shared data, case studies, and real-life stories of change, painting a clear picture of India's progress in this field.

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur; National Sports University, Imphal; and Cluster University of Srinagar, J&K, Arunachal University of Studies (AUS), served as





knowledge partners.

Session I: The Socio-political and Cultural Empowerment of Women : Reflection in Urdu Literature

The first session, themed "The Socio-political and Cultural Empowerment of Women: Reflection in Urdu Literature," was moderated by Dr. Abdul Bari, Assistant Editor, NCPUL. Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Shams Iqbal, Director of NCPUL, emphasized the urgent need to talk about issues directly related to women in today's time. He stated that without the development and empowerment of women, the vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047 would remain incomplete. He added that this was precisely why





Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid special attention to women's advancement across sectors during the G20 summit, underlining their role in India's progress and prosperity.

Dr. Shams Iqbal further mentioned that Urdu literature has extensively addressed women's rights and issues—be it in poetry or prose. Writers have provided a prominent space for women and highlighted their active participation.

Dr. Mehr Fatima Hussain, Associate Professor at Jamia Millia Islamia, stated that women's education is vital for empowerment. Without education, women cannot become empowered. She stressed that true empowerment cannot be achieved without equality and justice for women. Renowned critic and journalist Haqqani Al Qasmi spoke extensively on women's creative autonomy. He stated that there is no real basis for the so-called gender war between men and women, and it has been men who often gave shape to women's thoughts and dreams. Reflecting on the concept of “victim language,” he explained that instead of using an empowered language, women have historically used the language of the oppressed, which is why they are still seen as symbols of victimhood and subjugation.

While addressing gathering, Professor Abu Bakr Abbad, Head Department of Urdu,





University of Delhi appreciates the dedication and honesty of the people working in the NCPUL, emphasizing their sincere efforts. He discuss three key aspects: empowerment, women, and literature. Empowerment involves granting authority, resources, and trust to individuals, particularly women, so they can make decisions independently. The speaker highlights the societal issue where men traditionally hold most power and decision-making roles, while women are given limited rights and opportunities. Despite the importance of women in society—as mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters—their autonomy is restricted.





The speaker criticizes how women are often controlled in their education, marriage choices, and employment, leading to limited freedoms. Interestingly, the speaker notes that often women themselves can be obstacles to other women's empowerment, citing a generational tension where mothers favor their sons over daughters, causing frustration among daughters. The speaker discusses gender inequality in real life, noting how mothers often care more for sons than daughters. They emphasize the need for women to ensure equal rights and decision-making power for both sons and daughters to reduce social protests. Literature is described as a creative realm where writers express emotions and envision a world different from reality, especially one where men and women are equal. Through fiction, poetry, novels, films, and serials, literature creates an alternate world that addresses denied rights, serving as an important platform for expression. The speaker discusses the power of literature and art as effective means for expressing desires and empowerment, contrasting it



with politics and business where barriers and competition, especially among women, often hinder progress. Literature offers freedom without restrictions, allowing individuals to express themselves through poetry, fiction, and characterization, making it a valuable tool for empowerment.

The discussion shifts to women in politics, highlighting rare examples such as female prime ministers in Pakistan and Israel, while noting the absence of women as presidents in certain countries. The speaker reflects on recent elections and the hope for female leadership, emphasizing the ongoing challenges women face in achieving political representation and leadership roles.





The speaker discusses the historical empowerment and respect given to women in various cultures and religions, including Hinduism, Islam, and others. They highlight that women have held significant power and roles, such as business and decision-making, and were active participants in society from ancient times. It is emphasized that women have always been active in literature and arts, particularly in Muslim culture, where female writers have not faced injustice or barriers in writing, reading, or poetry. While criticism and lack of recognition have occurred, women were never stopped from expressing themselves in literature. The discussion continues on female poets and literary figures in Arabic and Persian traditions. Women are depicted as central figures in storytelling and cultural narratives, often portrayed as powerful decision-makers in tales. The importance of women in ghazal poetry and marsiya (lamentation poetry) is noted, where their presence and emotions are deeply influential, even when their physical presence is subtle or symbolic. The speaker discusses the role of women in managing family estates and highlights the historical





presence of influential women poets, mentioning names like Rashid Jahan and Asmat Chughtai. The speaker criticizes the omission of women poets in historical works like Maulana Mohammad Hussain Azad's 'Aab-e-Hayat,' calling it a form of male dishonesty.

Following this, Dr. Shabistan Gaffar, former Chairperson of Girls Education NCMEI Govt. of India addresses the gathering.

Dr Shabistan Gaffar expresses gratitude to NCPL and the Center for Narendra Modi Studies for the opportunity to speak. The discussion is framed as the result of over 30 years of study on the topic, with a focus on sharing insights and engaging with the audience. The speaker discusses their work in women's empowerment focusing on education across social, political, and economic segments. They emphasize the importance of Urdu promotion, specifically highlighting the role of NCPL (National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language) in advancing Urdu. The focus is on how Urdu can empower marginalized women in today's fast-paced world by providing them opportunities for self-reliance and upliftment. She begins with a couplet of Dr Allama Iqbal :

"vajūd-e-zan se hai
tasvīr-e-kā.enāt meñ rañg
isī ke saaz se hai zindagī
kā soz-e-darūñ"

The speaker elaborates on the metaphorical warmth and passion that women bring to life, describing it as a vital force rather than destructive





fire. She said that Urdu has historically represented diverse social classes and has journeyed from the mother's lap to society at large, symbolizing social identity and cultural unity free from religious and ethnic divisions. The language embodies a revolutionary spirit linked to the country's struggle for independence. She also highlighted the pivotal role of women in the social and cultural impact of Urdu.

Women's contributions have often been underrepresented historically, yet they have played an essential part in shaping the language's legacy. To fully appreciate Urdu's history and influence, it is vital to recognize the respected and influential women who have left lasting marks on society. Examples include educational pioneers like Fatima Sheikh, who worked alongside Savitribai Phule in Maharashtra to establish schools for Dalit and Muslim girls, providing crucial educational opportunities when society had closed doors to women. The discussion continues to honor influential Urdu women in literature and culture, highlighting figures such as Ismat Chughtai and Qurratulain Hyder. Ismat Chughtai exposed social conflicts within communities through her creative writing, while Qurratulain Hyder's novels intricately wove the stages of human civilization and cultural evolution. These women significantly contributed to Urdu literature and the broader cultural landscape, reinforcing the importance of recognizing women's roles in Urdu's development. The discussion highlights how the achievements of women in Urdu literature and other languages of the country have been translated and recognized beyond Urdu-speaking communities. It acknowledges the political invisibility of significant female figures like Amma Begum





Hazrat Mahal. The speaker elaborates on the cultural and political journey of women's empowerment in India, emphasizing Urdu's leadership role among various languages. Urdu poetry and literature have served as more than art, acting as a vehicle for social reform and women's expression. The speaker praises the achievements of women who pursued higher education and professional careers, attributing this progress to the support of organizations like NCPL and NOIS. The speaker discusses the challenges of educational access for women in rural areas, noting that 80% of the Indian population lives in villages primarily inhabited by Hindus. The speaker calls for inclusion of modern modules in computer curricula to better equip students, especially underprivileged girls, with technology skills. She emphasized that educating one girl can empower an entire community, the speaker references historical examples of educated women who played crucial roles in freedom struggles and societal development. The narrative describes the significant role of women in India's freedom movement, exemplified by educated mothers who raised martyrs for the nation. She also praises the Rekhta Foundation for revitalizing interest in Urdu among youth, turning it into a national cultural festival that promotes unity and harmony. The foundation's efforts have brought Urdu back into public consciousness and fostered appreciation for shared cultural heritage. The speaker also emphasizes the importance of Urdu literature in promoting the composite Ganga-Jamuni culture, highlighting women's positive contributions to this shared heritage. She acknowledges prior speakers for portraying women globally and note that although some countries like the US have yet to elect a female president, South Asian women have made significant educational and leadership strides. However, true empowerment remains a work in progress despite formal advancements. In conclusion, the speaker stresses the need for collective learning across languages to strengthen cultural understanding and empowerment.

In the presidential address, Prof. Mohammad Mubeen, Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University Srinagar addressed the gathering . The speaker shares his personal background, including his education and teaching experience at Aligarh and vice-chancellorship in Srinagar. He emphasizes his role in mentoring PhD students, many of whom are award-winning women. He also notes that both he and one of his female postdoctoral students have been recognized among the top 2% scientists worldwide, underscoring the relevance of women's leadership development.

The speaker expresses gratitude for the invitation to the national seminar on women-led development organized by the Narendra Centre for Narendra Modi Studies and the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. He praises the organizers for their tireless efforts and acknowledges the significance and timeliness of the seminar's theme. The speaker elaborates on the Centre for Narendra Modi Centre's mission, describing it as a dynamic living archive dedicated to studying and promoting the leadership and governance model of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The centre fosters research, dialogue, and critical engagement on transformative initiatives such as Digital India, Make in India, Swachh Bharat, women's empowerment, and national security. It aims to deepen understanding of Narendra Modi's leadership style, which is grounded in inclusive development and the ethos of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. The centre also encourages young scholars to objectively examine India's evolving political, social, and economic landscape. The speaker also highlights the role of NCPUL as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education in safeguarding Urdu's heritage and cultural richness. NCPUL aligns Urdu with modern educational and technological trends by supporting the production of textbooks, journals, and literature in modern science and other disciplines. Additionally, it is actively engaged in developing Urdu software to integrate the language into contemporary technological platforms. The discussion focuses on the socioeconomic and political empowerment of women, particularly reflected in Urdu literature. Prominent women writers like Ismat Chughtai, Rashid Jahan, and Qurratulain Haider have used bold storytelling to challenge social injustices and advocate for women's rights, education, and freedom. Urdu literature has historically encouraged women's education and financial independence, emphasizing employment skills and social equality. The segment also highlights the growing participation of women in politics and decision-making, with modern Urdu newspapers, magazines, and digital platforms serving as powerful tools to spread awareness about women's rights and government schemes. Specific reference is made to Jammu and Kashmir, where under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, women have become increasingly visible in education, employment, and politics, with Urdu literature playing a significant role in this progress. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a historic transformation marked by significant socio-economic progress and integration with the rest of India. The region has launched a women-led development movement emphasizing women's roles as active architects of progress. He mentioned that over 20 women empowerment hubs have been established across the Union Territory, providing

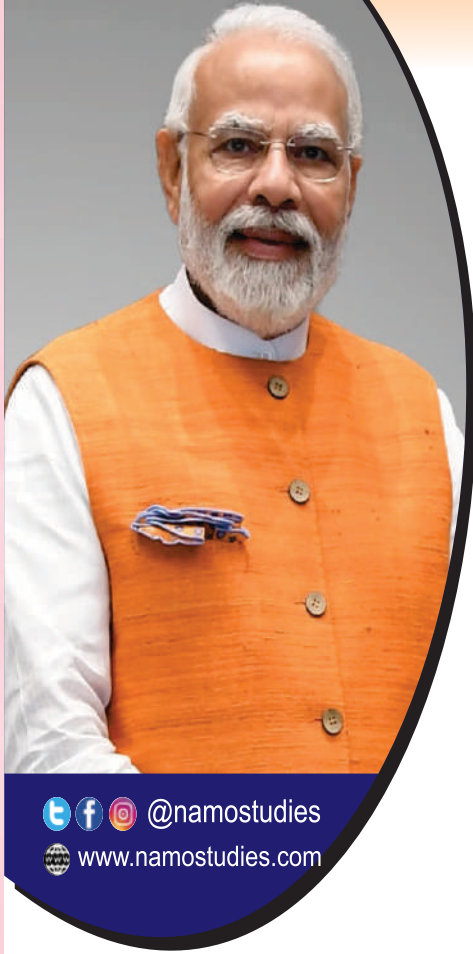


comprehensive government scheme information and one-stop centers offering legal aid, health, education, and financial inclusion. Urdu continues to be a key medium of intellectual growth, cultural identity, and social reform, supported by institutions like the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Arts, Culture and Language. He stated that publications such as Shiraza and Shiraza Dogri bilingual create vital literary spaces for women's voices in poetry, essays, and narratives. He also said Adabi Markaz Kamraz, with a focus on Urdu alongside Kashmiri and English, plays a pivotal role in mentoring women writers and organizing forums that elevate female literacy, literary expression, and intellectual empowerment. The speaker expresses anticipation for fruitful discussions and collaborations on the subject of women's empowerment and literary contributions in Jammu and Kashmir. He concludes his speech with a couplet of Dr Allama Iqbal ,

"vajūd-e-zan se hai tasvīr-e-kā.enāt meñ rañg
isī ke saaz se hai zindagī kā soz-e-darūñ"

The entire first session was moderated by Dr. Abdul Bari, Assistant Editor, and concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Professor Jasim Mohammad, Chairman of the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies.

He expresses gratitude to all guests from across India and highlights the collaboration between the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies and the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL).



नमो अध्ययन केंद्र Centre for NaMo Studies

In Collaboration with

**NCPUL, Ministry of Education,
Govt of India**

**“Women-Led Development :
Channelizing New Horizons of
Empowerment during the PM
Narendra Modi Era for Viksit Bharat**

June 18, 2025 at 12:00 at India International Centre, New Delhi

Knowledge Partners



Media Cordination





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Centre for NaMo Studies

In Collaboration with
NCPUL, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

Cordially Invites you to

'Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment during the PM Narendra Modi Era for Viksit Bharat'

Chief Guest

PROF. JAGDISH MUKHI JI
Former Governor of Assam

Principal Guest

PROF. ALOK CHAKRAWAL
Vice Chancellor, Guru Ghasidas
Vishwavidyalay Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

Chair

PUJJANIYAA AADARANIYAA
RAJMATA AMBICA JI KHIRBHAWANI
Spiritual Leader

Principal Guest

DR. PANKAJ MITTAL
Secretary General
Association of Indian Universities

Guests of Honour

PROF (DR) K G SURESH JI
Director
India Habitat Centre

PROF MADAN MOHAN GOEL
Former Vice-Chancellor
Visiting Professor, IAS Shimla

MS. MRIDULA TRIPATHI
CEO , Uni Kaushal, Mumbai

Moderator

DR AMNA MIRZA
Associate Professor, Delhi University

Inaugural Remarks

PROF JASIM MOHAMMAD
Managing Trustee/ Chairman, CNMS

Vote of Thanks

PROF DIVYA TANWAR
Founder, Divye Foundation

Session - II

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 12:00 Hours to 13:30 Hours
Venue: Multipurpose Hall, IIC, New Delhi

RSVP:

Email: modistudies@gmail.com
+91-86302 04950, 88518 66262
+91-11- 2437 7450

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Detailed Report of One-Day National Seminar

"Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment during the PM Narendra Modi Era for Viksit Bharat



The Centre for NaMo Studies (CNMS – NaMo Kendra), in association with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, successfully organized a grand National Seminar on “Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment for a Developed India” at the Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi. The seminar, held on June 18, 2025, marked a decade and one year of historic progress in the field of women empowerment under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The seminar featured four sessions, each dedicated to various aspects of women-led





development, including governance, entrepreneurship, education, and societal leadership. Experts and scholars shared data, case studies, and real-life stories of change, painting a clear picture of India's progress in this field.

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur; National Sports University, Imphal; and Cluster University of Srinagar, J&K, Arunachal University of Studies (AUS), served as knowledge partners.

The second Session of the one-day National Seminar, hosted by the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies (CNMS) in collaboration with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), unfolded with vibrant discussions around the theme: “Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment during the PM Narendra Modi Era for Viksit Bharat.” Held in New Delhi on June 18, 2025, the session brought together eminent scholars, policy experts, administrators, and social leaders to reflect on how women have emerged as strong pillars in building a developed and self-reliant India during the Modi era.

Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, the former Governor of Assam, was the Chief Guest of the technical session. In his address, he hailed the historic step of 33% women's reservation in Parliament and state assemblies as a landmark in India's democratic journey. He recalled that for almost three decades, various





governments tried to introduce the women's reservation bill, but political unwillingness prevented its passage. However, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, this vision has finally become a reality. According to Prof. Mukhi, this reform reflects not only the government's commitment but also its courage to act in favor of long-standing justice for women.

Prof. Jagdish Mukhi firmly stated that this kind of political will had been missing earlier, and the Modi government's resolve changed history. He used the phrase, “Modiji hai toh mumkin hai,” to underline the power of leadership in making what once seemed impossible now possible. The audience responded to his words with enthusiasm and appreciation, acknowledging the significance of this shift for India's democratic and gender-equitable future.

The session was chaired by Pujjaniyaa Aadaraniya Rajmata Ambica Ji Khirbhawani, a respected spiritual figure known for her inclusive vision. In her concluding remarks, she emphasized unity and collective purpose. She said that just like the sun, moon, earth, and sky are one and indivisible, so too should be humanity. Her words served as a gentle spiritual reminder that empowering women must go hand in hand with unity, harmony, and togetherness in society.

Rajmata Ambica Ji also offered warm praise for Prof. Jasim Mohammad, Chairman of CNMS, for his selfless dedication. She remarked that when Prof. Jasim Mohammad works, he does not consider the religious identity of the people he is serving. Whether Hindu or Muslim, he works for all with equal spirit. According to her, this spirit of service without discrimination





truly represents the soul of India. Her heartfelt message received a standing ovation from the audience.

Prof. Alok Chakrawal, Vice Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, and Principal Guest of the session, presented a strong argument on the importance of recognizing women's contribution. He said that the role of women is not in question—what is in question is whether society gives them the credit they deserve. His remarks brought attention to the long-standing issue of undervaluing women's contributions, both in public and private life. He emphasized that if women were not part of our society, there would be no development. He pointed out that women work shoulder-to-shoulder in every sector—at home, in the workplace, and in governance. According to him, once a woman commits to something, she stands strong and remains dedicated till the very end. His message was both emotional and factual, offering an urgent call for equal recognition.



Prof. Chakrawal also congratulated the CNMS and its Chairman, Prof. Jasim Mohammad, for organizing such a powerful event. He appreciated the clarity of thought and the inclusiveness of the session, stating that these discussions were crucial in shaping a truly empowered Bharat. He described the seminar as a space that gave voice to real issues and





developed India. He explained that Viksit Bharat could only be realized if we embed values such as discipline, dedication, and devotion into all aspects of national life—from government policy to individual



cultural shift that uplifts the nation as a whole. His address brought academic depth to the conversation and reminded the audience that empowerment also demands responsibility and values.

Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General



celebrated the silent warriors of our society—our women.

Another powerful voice during the session was Prof. Madan Mohan Goel, former Vice-Chancellor and Visiting Professor at IAS, Shimla. He provided a conceptual and philosophical angle to the idea of a



conduct. He elaborated that every person in society—be it a consumer, a producer, a student, a policymaker, or a businessperson—is a stakeholder in India's growth. According to him, when women bring these values to their roles, they inspire a



of the Association of Indian Universities and a Principal Guest, shared insights from both personal and professional experience. She described women as natural multitaskers and highlighted that this ability is a powerful strength. However, she added a thought-provoking twist—saying that while society often praises women's strength, true



empowerment lies in women recognizing their own inner strength.

She challenged the audience, especially women, to think differently. She said empowerment is not only about government schemes and policies, but also about mindset. “The day we recognize how powerful we already are, that will be the day we become truly empowered,” she said. Her speech inspired deep reflection among the listeners, especially the younger participants.

Ms. Mridula Tripathi, CEO of Uni Kaushal, Mumbai, brought in an emotional and personal dimension to the discussion. Speaking as the Guest of Honour, she touched upon the inner battles women fight every day. She urged women to first win the small battles at home—whether it's gaining respect, balancing responsibilities, or having their voices heard. According to her, once these inner battles are won, external challenges become easier to face.

She encouraged women to live with full awareness and confidence. “Own your decisions, be proud of them, and be proud of yourself,” she said. Her words were simple, but they carried deep wisdom. She inspired many women in the audience to reflect on their own journeys and recognize how far they had come, despite challenges.

Adding a public policy perspective, Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director of India Habitat Centre, emphasized how the Modi government's initiatives have been especially sensitive to the needs of women. He cited the Open Defecation Free (ODF) campaign as an example that went beyond sanitation—it gave dignity and safety to women and helped girls stay in school. He noted that many girls used to drop out of school due to lack of proper toilet facilities. But now, under the Modi government's mission, separate toilets for girls have been built in large numbers, and this has led to a noticeable decrease in dropout rates. This, he said, was a real and measurable impact on women's lives.





Prof. Suresh also pointed out examples of young women who rose to the occasion during times of crisis. He mentioned brave daughters like Sofia Qureshi and Vomika Singh, who stood at the frontlines when the nation faced conflict. Their courage, he said, is proof that Indian women are not only survivors but also warriors and leaders.

He further emphasized that policies designed during the Modi era are not symbolic—they have real results. From rural women getting access to LPG under Ujjwala Yojana, to female entrepreneurs receiving funds through the Mudra scheme, the government has acted to empower women economically and socially. These measures have not only improved lives but also reshaped narratives.

This Session served as a unique platform where ideas of spiritual unity, academic thought, emotional strength, and policy action came together in one conversation. What made the session particularly impactful was its ability to blend personal stories with institutional analysis and future vision. Each speaker built upon the other's message, forming a chain of ideas that together showed how women have become key architects of India's transformation journey. Whether it was policy support, social recognition, or self-belief, every element of empowerment was discussed in depth.

The session ended on a highly positive and uplifting note, with a sense of renewed commitment among the audience. Delegates and attendees left the venue with not just academic takeaways, but also emotional and social inspiration to carry the message of women-led development forward. This session of the CNMS National Seminar demonstrated that real change happens when leadership, public participation, and cultural values come together with a clear purpose. It was not just an intellectual exercise, but a movement of thought towards building an inclusive and empowered Bharat. By providing a platform to such diverse voices—from governors to spiritual leaders, from vice-chancellors to CEOs—the CNMS has shown how impactful a well-structured seminar can be in shaping public discourse. It provided a mirror to society, showing where we stand and where we need to go.





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In Collaboration with
**NCPUL, Ministry of Education,
Govt of India**

**Power Within: Women Reimagining
Governance for Global Impact
"From Panchayats to Policy Tables—
How Women in India are
Recasting Governance as a Soft Power Tool"**

June 18, 2025 at 12:00 at India International Centre, New Delhi

Knowledge Partners



Media Coordination





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Cordially Invites you to

**Power Within: Women Reimagining Governance for Global Impact
“From Panchayats to Policy Tables - How Women in India
are Recasting Governance as a Soft Power Tool”**

Chief Guest

PROF. USHA S NAIR

Vice Chancellor, National
Sports University Imphal, Manipur

Chair

DR ASHWANI LOCHAN

Founder, Arunachal University of
Studies (AUS) Namsai

Guests of Honour

MS PREETI SINGH MUNDRA

Additional Director General
National Real Estate Development Council
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt of India

PROF PAYAL KANWAR CHANDEL

Central University of Haryana,
Mahendergarh, Haryana

MS. VRINDDA KHANNA

National Secretary, Sant Eshwer
Foundation Business Women & Lawyer

SMT KALPANA SINGH

Gram Pradhan,
Sikanderpur, Aligarh

PROF HARPREET KAUR

Principal
Mata Sundri College of Women's, DU

Moderator

DR KAYNAT KAZI

Distinguish fellow
Viksit Bharat Fellowship 2025

Welcome Remarks

PROF JASIM MOHAMMAD

Chairman CNMS

Vote of Thanks

MS TUSHITA BHANDARI, FELLOW

Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Technical Session - III

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 14:30 Hours to 15:45 Hours

Venue: Multipurpose Hall, IIC, New Delhi

RSVP:

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Detailed Report of One-Day National Seminar

Power Within: Women Reimagining Governance for Global Impact

“From Panchayats to Policy Tables- How Women in India are Recasting Governance as a Soft Power Tool”



The Centre for Narendra Modi Studies (CNMS – NaMo Kendra), in association with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, successfully organized a grand National Seminar on “Women-Led Development: Channelizing New Horizons of Empowerment for a Developed India” at the Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi. The seminar, held on June 18, 2025, marked a decade and one year of historic progress in the field of women empowerment under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The seminar featured four sessions, each dedicated to various aspects of women-led development, including governance, entrepreneurship, education, and societal leadership. Experts and scholars shared data, case studies, and real-life stories of change, painting a clear picture of India's progress in this field.

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur; National Sports University, Imphal; and Cluster University of Srinagar, J&K, Arunachal University of Studies (AUS), served as knowledge partners.





The session III begins with a warm welcome to all guests. Dr. Kaynat Kazi distinguished fellow of Viksit Bharat Fellowship 2025 was the moderator of this session themed "Power Within: Women Reimagining Governance for Global Impact "From Panchayats to Policy Tables How Women in India are Recasting Governance as a Soft Power Tool". The session was hosted by the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies, focuses on the power of motherhood and features distinguished speakers who embody this theme in their fields. The session begins with the talk of Prof. Payal Kanwar Chandel from Central University of Haryana. She highlights the challenges of women-led development in Rajasthan and Haryana, two states with low sex ratios and conservative attitudes toward women working outside the home. Despite societal resistance, women in these regions continue to strive for progress, but significant improvements are still needed. The speaker emphasizes that women have always worked, whether paid or unpaid, and that the key difference today is the choice to engage in paid work. While women feel empowered, especially those in academia, their representation in leadership roles remains very low, indicating that empowerment is still limited. Although there is gender parity at lower academic levels, women's participation drastically decreases in higher leadership positions, often due to self-imposed limitations and family responsibilities. The speaker contrasts the ease of men's mobility with the complex logistics women face, highlighting internal and external barriers to advancement.

Women juggle multiple responsibilities and face ongoing struggles, yet continue to identify as empowered. The speaker encourages women to believe in their abilities and overcome self-imposed barriers. She asserts that development is intrinsically driven by women's efforts, whether recognized or not. She notes that feeling empowered often means continuously striving for success, while balancing numerous roles and responsibilities.





Following this, Professor Harpreet Kaur, Principal of Mata Sundari College of Women addresses the gathering. She congratulates Centre for Narendra Modi Studies for this event. She discusses the concept of 'power within' women, emphasizing that true empowerment comes from self-worth, confidence, and not relying on others' approval. Beyond technology, skills, and education, attitude and aptitude play crucial roles. Governance is being reimagined with women at the forefront across local, national, and global levels. Women are transforming governance as a soft power tool to prepare for and lead change. She

highlights the significant progress in India since the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which reserved seats for women in local governance. Despite initial skepticism about women's capabilities, education has empowered women to lead change at grassroots levels. Challenges like domestic violence and school dropout rates persist, but women are actively addressing these issues and driving a quiet revolution in rural and urban areas through leadership and engagement. She highlighted that women are leading important movements such as the Chipko movement and are increasingly utilizing e-governance to enhance transparency and inclusiveness at grassroots levels. Female leaders, including women sarpanches and MLAs, bring lived experiences to policymaking, advocating laws that support marginalized groups. The focus is on creating safe spaces, capacity building, and moving beyond reservations towards true empowerment. The importance of documenting women's stories and grassroots leadership is emphasized, as these women face complex challenges head-on. Policymakers are urged to go beyond mere reservation policies and focus on





empowerment and capacity building. NGOs and CSR initiatives play a vital role by trusting local wisdom and community-based approaches. The strength of India lies in its communities, and empowering women within these communities is key to sustainable progress. Soft power, managed daily by women in their families and communities, is recognized as a critical force in societal progress. Women handle complex power dynamics with success and use soft power to advance India as a progressive nation. The speaker stresses that embracing this power and commitment in everyday life can help transform society for the better. The speaker concludes by encouraging a deeper understanding and commitment to women's empowerment as a societal goal. This mindset

shift is vital to reconstructing social norms and fostering progress.

Following this, Ms. Vrindda Khanna, National Secretary, Sant Eshwer Foundation Business Women & Lawyer addressed the gathering. She introduces the talk by honoring two iconic Indian women—Hiraben Modi and Maharani Lakshmibai—who symbolize inspiration in distinct fields. She reflects on India's rich history of powerful women warriors and caretakers, emphasizing that current empowerment efforts are a return to India's original cultural roots where women held significant roles and respect. She highlights India's historical legacy of female leadership, including the first all-women army led by Mata Tripura Sundari





and the contributions of women in the Rigveda and freedom struggle. Women like Rani Abbakka, Rani Durgavati, and Rani Lakshmibai exemplify this heritage. The speaker stresses that women's empowerment in India is a revival of traditional strength and leadership, not a new concept. The speaker emphasizes that Indian culture has always revered women as leaders and goddesses, contrasting this with periods of foreign influence that suppressed women's visibility. She asserts that Indian women have never been meant to be confined or hidden. Contemporary Indian women are now excelling across various roles—from local governance to academia to parliament—bringing soft power into leadership through care, respect, and community focus. She stated that women leaders are portrayed as thoughtful, inclusive, and effective because they consider the welfare of their families and communities beyond themselves. Their soft power lies in their ability to lead without aggression, using calm and persuasive communication that resonates widely. This approach is why women's representation is increasing in all spheres of society. The talk closes by affirming that Indian women are made not to follow rules but to create policies, embodying leadership and empowerment.

Following this Smt. Kalpana Singh, Gram Pradhan Sikandarpur, Aligarh shares grassroots leadership story. Kalpana Singh, the youngest female village head from Sikandarpur in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, shares her grassroots struggles and success story. She highlights her achievements, including planting 100,000 trees, establishing a center for women, providing free WiFi, CCTV cameras, and a stadium for children. Her efforts earned her recognition from the Chief





Minister. The moderator appreciates Kalpana Singh's humility and introduces her contributions during challenging times, such as donating 5 lakh rupee to the Indian Army during Operation Sindoor.

Following this chief guest of the session, Prof. Usha S Nair Vice-Chancellor National Sports University Imphal, Manipur speaks on the occasion on women in Manipur and sports. Prof. Usha S Nair highlights the significant role of women in Manipur. The speaker discusses the prominence of the National Sports University in Manipur and its global recognition, noting her own membership in an international society for physical education sport. She praises Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on sports, particularly highlighting the achievements of Indian women athletes who have won Olympic medals. She stresses the emotional connection and national pride associated with sports and acknowledges the government's role in promoting youth and sports development.

Addressing the underrepresentation of girls in sports despite many opportunities, the speaker calls for actionable resolutions beyond mere discussions to support and empower young women. She shares her personal experience of gaining opportunities in Manipur that she had never imagined in Kerala. The speaker encourages providing resources and support to aspiring athletes in exchange for their commitment to achieve medals for the nation. The speaker describes Manipur as a powerhouse of sports despite challenges, highlighting the dedication of women and children who train rigorously from early morning to late night. She notes the strong community spirit and happiness among the people, emphasizing the importance of financial stability for empowerment and the resilience of women who multitask and manage various struggles. The speaker reflects on the unique social cohesion and mutual respect found in Manipur's sports community, where people from all backgrounds unite as one.





She stresses the importance of life lessons learned through sports and advocates for creating career opportunities for girls in physical education, sports sciences, and related fields. The speaker shares the sacrifices made by families of sportspeople in Manipur, illustrating their dedication and support despite limited resources. She recounts stories of community support for athletes and celebrates how successful female athletes have

changed societal attitudes, inspiring more girls to pursue sports professionally. The speaker credits the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fostering hope and opportunities for Indian athletes, including Paralympians like Sheetal Devi. She encourages girls to dream big and pursue their goals, drawing inspiration from figures like Kalpana Chawla. The speaker notes the international collaboration in her educational work and emphasizes the power of overcoming fear and communication barriers.

Following this, Dr. Aadesh Agarwal, salutes Prof. Jasim Mohammad, Chairman of CNMS for holding day long national seminar on celebrating 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure. He emphasizes the critical role of teachers across India in implementing government policies and programs aimed at national development.

Following this, the chair of the session Dr Ashwani Lochan, founder of Arunachal University of Studies addresses the gathering. The speaker begins by honoring scholars, children, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introducing a new philosophy. He reflects on India's historical GDP contributions, noting a decline from one-third during Mughal times to just 2% at independence, now heading towards 5%. He discusses societal divisions based on caste, religion, region, and gender, which distracted attention from development. Despite spiritual leadership and high literacy, internal divisions hindered progress. He notes that women often demonstrate greater dedication than men in their work. The speaker shares his experience engaging with the North East region of India, addressing common misconceptions about states like Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland. He stresses the need for better general knowledge about these states and recounts discrimination faced by North East children in Delhi. He praises Prime Minister Narendra Modi's impactful work in addressing regional issues, including unrest in Manipur tied to caste, religion, gender, and language. The speaker highlights Manipur's high literacy rate above 90% and contrasts it with Arunachal Pradesh, where literacy is below 60% and many students drop out before completing education. Starting in 2012, efforts focused on the most deprived areas, designated as 'aspirational districts' by the government in 2017. Major challenges included unemployment, drug abuse among youth, and resistance to education due to cultural preservation concerns. The speaker explains that some education institutions impose cultural assimilation, which hampers local acceptance.

The speaker emphasizes the importance of implementation over discussion and notes the critical role of women in economic growth and leadership. He highlights prominent women leaders like President Droupadi Murmu and female finance controllers as examples of

progress. He predicts that women's increased participation will spur competition and national advancement. Highlighting gender equality, he mentions the presence of women in local governance and academia and stresses the need to overcome discrimination related to religion, region, gender, and language. The focus should be on constructive thinking and unity to build a better nation. The speaker calls for all citizens, regardless of gender or background, to reject discrimination and work together for the country's progress with constructive thinking. He concludes with a patriotic message invoking India's unity and strength.

Following this Prof. Harendra Singh addresses the gathering . The speaker begins by honoring the occasion of Ma Hiraben's birthday and emphasizes the irreplaceable importance of motherland and mother tongue. He focuses on the crucial role of women in development and policymaking, highlighting that women are the backbone of society. The speaker stresses that no work or policy can succeed without women's involvement, drawing a parallel between the importance of mothers and the foundation of life and progress. Referencing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recognition of women's contributions, the speaker acknowledges various initiatives and schemes that actively involve women. He notes women's significant roles in sectors like agriculture and education, emphasizing that education begins with the mother, who symbolizes maternal power essential to national development. The speaker reiterates that without women's foundational role in education and society, national progress is impossible. He appreciates the efforts of Professor Jasim Mohammad for highlighting government initiatives and societal changes, and acknowledges the Modi administration's work over the past 11 years. He extended gratitude is expressed towards Professor Jasim Mohammad for organizing the event and promoting respect for maternal power.

At the end of this session, Prof. Jasim Mohammad, Chairman CNMS presented vote of thanks. He thanked all the speakers , guests present in this grand national seminar. He emphasizes the importance of various developmental works happening in the country, such as women's upliftment and agricultural progress, and acknowledge the Prime Minister's concern for every citizen.

Prof. Jasim Mohammad expressed gratitude to the moderators and colleagues who helped organize the program, sharing anecdotes about their punctuality and involvement. He especially thanked to various individuals and organizers who contributed to the event's smooth running. He also appreciates the efforts of employees from the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language and expresses heartfelt gratitude to all present.



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सबमें राम, सबके राम
राम काज हेतु जीवन अब कहाँ विश्राम।
राम काज कीजै बिना, मोहे कहां विश्राम॥
— श्री नरेंद्र मोदी



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