

State-level event on Women's Equality Day

'Mahila Nidhi' will prove to be a milestone for women empowerment in state: Chief Minister

- 8 women of Rajivika community cadre rewarded for commendable work
- Loan cheques disbursed to Self Help Groups and women
- MoU signed for online sale of products of Self Help Groups
- Rs 600 crore for second phase of Udaan scheme
- Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana now implemented in all districts

Jaipur, 26 Aug. Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot on Friday launched 'Mahila Nidhi' for the social and economic progress of women on the occasion of Women's Equality Day (Mahila Samaanta Divas). Women will now get easy loans for everyday needs, business expansion and entrepreneurship. He said just legislations alone can't improve the condition of women. For equal treatment, there is dire need to change the societal mindset. Many schemes are being run by the state government for the welfare of women with special focus on education, health, self-employment and IT training, so that they can contribute towards the all-round development of the state.

Shri Gehlot was addressing the state-level event organized as part of Women's Equality Day. He said most of the schemes run by the state government are women-centric, which shows our commitment towards women empowerment. The state government is ensuring maximum participation of women in good governance of the state. In the last three years, 52 announcements have been made in the budget for the welfare of women.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government is committed to provide security to women and girls and to make them aware about their rights. He said that the reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions was the contribution of former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is because of his revolutionary reforms that women of today are more empowered than before. They are confident and work fearlessly.

Mahila Nidhi to bolster women empowerment

The Chief Minister said that the establishment of Mahila Nidhi through Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council was announced in the budget of 2022-23. Rajasthan is the second state in the country after Telangana, where Mahila Nidhi has been set up. It will strengthen women self-help groups with easy loans, increase the income of poor and the marginalised and aid in social and economic progress of women through skill development.

Under this scheme, loans up to Rs 40,000 will be deposited in the bank account of the group of members within 48 hours and loans above Rs 40,000 within 15 days. At present, 2.70 lakh SHGs have been formed in 33 districts of the state with 30 lakh families linked to the scheme. In the financial year 2022-23, around 50,000 SHGs are proposed to be formed, in which about 6 lakh families will be linked. A total of 36 lakh families in the state will get benefits from Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi in a phased manner depending on their needs.

On this occasion, Shri Gehlot disbursed loans worth Rs. 1.42 crore from Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi to the members of 386 SHGs in 6 districts. He also rewarded 8 women of Rajivika Community Cadre for distinguished work at community level.

Rajasthan a leader in health sector

The Chief Minister said that Rajasthan has become a leading state in providing free medical facilities to every person. Under the Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana, free medical facilities up to Rs 10 lakh are being provided. Along with this, free OPD, IPD, free investigation facility is also available in government hospitals. The state government is also bearing the cost of organ transplant. He said that the Central Government should also adopt the Rajasthan health model.

Girls striding ahead in education sector

Shri Gehlot said that Rajasthan is setting new records in the education sector. Today, more girls are taking admission in higher education than boys. Government English Medium Schools are being opened across the state where children are learning to read, write and speak English from primary classes. The government will soon provide smartphones to 1.33 crore women. With this they will gain access to information about various state schemes and their children will also be able to study online.

Social Security our primary objective

The Chief Minister said that social security of every resident of the state is our primary objective. At present, about 1 crore people are getting pension, including widows, single women and elderly women. Through various public welfare schemes, infrastructure including health, education, drinking water, electricity and social security is being expanded. He called upon the SHGs, Asha Sahyogini and Suraksha Sakhis to take the State Government's schemes to every door.

Rs 600 crore for second phase of Udaan scheme

During the programme, the second phase of free sanitary napkin scheme 'Udaan' was also launched. A provision of Rs 600 crore has been made for 1.45 crore adolescent girls and women. It is noteworthy that 29 lakh adolescent girls and women have been benefited from the first phase of this scheme.

MoU for online sale of SHG products

An MoU was also signed with Amazon for online sale of products. This will allow products manufactured or produced by over 15,000 women entrepreneurs and self-help groups to be listed on the online marketplace and will be made available to millions of Amazon customers across the country. This will empower artisans' and weavers' community and encourage them for digital inclusion. Chief Minister's Work from Home Job Work Scheme and Portal were also launched on this occasion.

Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana now implemented in all districts

The scope of Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana, which was earlier implemented in 5 districts of TSP area, has been extended to all the districts. Under this scheme, a total of Rs 6,000 is given in 5 installments on the birth of second child. Now, the benefit of this scheme will be available to the women all 33 districts from April 1, 2022.

Women and Child Development Minister Smt. Mamta Bhupesh said the state government is working with a vision of a healthy Rajasthan. The implementation of free sanitary napkin scheme 'Udaan' has made Rajasthan a model state in the country.

Chief Secretary Smt. Usha Sharma said that the announcement by the Chief Minister to set up Mahila Nidhi in the budget was historic. The goal of 'equal opportunities, equal rights' would be fulfilled.

Smt. Aruna Roy, Founder, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan said that it is our moral responsibility to think about women empowerment. This will be possible only with our unity and solidarity. Appreciating the State's new Women's Policy-2021, she said that women have been at the center of many schemes during every tenure of Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot.

Tourism Minister Shri Vishvendra Singh, Chairman of Mewat Development Board Shri Zubair Khan, UN Women Representative for India Susan Ferguson, Shri K. Raju, Tata Trust CEO Shriyut Srinath Narasimhan, Principal Secretary Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Smt. Aparna Arora, State Mission Director Rajivika Smt. Manju Rajpal, Bank of Baroda Executive Director Shri Ajay K. Khurana and over 10 thousand women and officials associated with Rajivika were present. Apart from them, thousands of women and dignitaries from across the state joined through video conferencing.
