



Bulletin -23

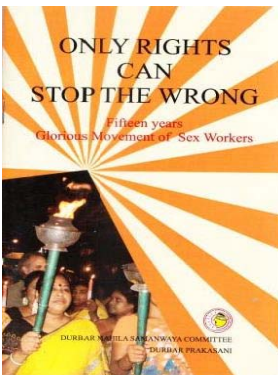
From **DURBAR**

15th February 2013

“Durbar Prakashani” participated in 37th International Kolkata Book fair

Durbar Prakashani (A publishing Unit of Durbar) participated in the Kolkata book fair, the one of the biggest festival of Books in Eastern Region of India. Book lovers from different part of the world participate in the fair. This year 37th International Kolkata Book Fair held at Milan Mela ground from 26th January 2012 to 10th February 2013.

Durbar Prakashani came into existence since 2001 to pen down on different issues. Till date Durbar Prakashani (DP) published 48 books to its credit. Durbar Prakashani has been publishing a monthly magazine named *Durbar Bhawna* (Thinking of Durbar) covering various socio cultural and political issues impacting life and occupation of people in general since May 2009. The journey also deals with issues related to



government policies and practices, focusing unorganized labour, food security, health, environment and others social issues.



This year many renowned authors, writers, philosophers and film stars also visited our stall to encourage us in our effort. This year, Durbar

Prakashani published three new books named 'Only rights can stop the wrong', The 2nd edition of 'Tonic namer Velki' (Myth related tonic growth etc), 'Samaj Somoshyar sath soteru' (thoughts and opinion related to social issues) written by Smarajit Jana. Books what draw attention of booklovers were 'Only Rights can stop wrong', 'Jibon Jounata aar Jounokarmi', 'Chena Desh Ochena Manush', 'Adhikar Bhawna', 'Bhinno Nari Anno Swar', 'Tonic namer Velki', 'Babuder Andermahal', 'Amader Sorir o Jouno Rogh', 'Brihonnolader Jibon Sotto' etc.

"Pakhi Hizraer Biye"- a novel written by a son of sex worker

"Pakhi Hizraer Biye"- a novel authored by a sex worker's son Mr. Mrinal Kanti Dutta published during 37th Kolkata Book Fair. An interesting novel that reveals the customs, norms, exploitation, violence, abuses, pain and agony of a hizra's (Transgender) life. Putting words to his first hand experiences Mrinal kanti depicts the picture of a hizra's life, myth and other beliefs. Mrinal is also well known for his informative publications including 'Babuder Andarmahal', 'Brihannalader Jibonsatya' from Durbar Prakashani (DP). This book is published by Patra Bharati- one of the organizers of Kolkata Book Fair.

Durbar participated in demonstration of Soni Sori Mukti

Morcha

The Soni Sori Mukti Morcha, with active support from Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee held a demonstration in College Square on 25th January with a central theme to punish Ankit Garg and to seize the Gallantry Award from Ankit Garg. From its beginning Soni Sori Mukti Morcha have been organized various summit, open meetings, assemblage etc in demand of



unconditional release of Soni Sori and taking necessary actions for her medical treatment.

As on 26th January, 2011 Ankit Garg received the Gallantry Award for his courage and bravery. To show disapproval for this, Soni Sori Mukti Morcha decided to commemorate this day as a Symbolic Black Day protesting the violence perpetrated on Soni Sori. In response to this Soni Sori

Mukti Morcha organized an assemblage on the eve of Republic Day i.e. 25th January, 2012 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

The assemblage was inaugurated by the speech of Amlan Hazra, from Presidency College and by Ms. Bharati Dey(from DMSC), the Joint convener of SSMM. A street play on Soni Sori was staged, performed by the cultural wing of DMSC named Komal Gandhar followed by the speech of Dr. Smarajit Jana .In his speech Dr. Jana shared with the audience that, people in Mumbai; Delhi have organized similar programme on that day. Another assemblage will be held in London on 26th January, 2013 based on the same demand in front of The India High Commission Office. He also invites other people to join Morcha to strengthening its activities.

Soni Sori Mukti Morcha send an open letter in demand of justice for Soni Sori and seizure of Gallantry Award received by Ankit Garg, to the President of India. The assemblage was attended by 1000 people who raised slogans for unconditional release of Soni and also for her required treatment.

Sex worker as joint convener in Working Women Council, West Bengal

Almost 400 million people (more than 92 percent of the working population in India) work in unorganized sector and of these at least 120 million are women. Working Indian women still face blatant discrimination at their workplaces. A major problem faced by the working women is sexual harassment at the work place. Women working in unorganized sector are yet to consolidate their collectives and union, as a result of which they are less capable of raising their voices in support of their demands.

The Trade Union and Voluntary Organizations can play a vital role in making them conscious of their rights and protect them from discrimination at work places. New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI) took an effort to galvanize a working women council in the state of West Bengal.

Roma debnath, a member of Binodini Sramik Union (A sex workers' union) was selected for the joint convener of the Working women Council, West Bengal. This is the first time, where a sex worker will represent the working women council to take care of the issues related to harassment and discrimination on women at their work places. New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI) is the 1st trade union, who recognized the sex work as a profession and the trade union of sex workers named Binodini Sramik Union is now affiliated with and the NTUI.

Upcoming Event:

- **International Sex workers day: 3rd March:** DMSC will celebrate International Sex workers day in different sex work sites including Sonagachi, the largest red-light district in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- **Shambhu Bhattacharya dance Festival, 8-9 March, Kolkata:** Komal Gandhar, a cultural wing of DMSC will participate in Shambhu Bhattacharya dance Festival, one of the largest dance festivals in East India.
- **Pension Parishad dharna, 4-8 March, Delhi:** DMSC will take part in Pension Parishad dharna (Assemblage) during the budget session of Parliament. The dharna will be staged at Jantar Mantar from 4 to 8th March 2013. 6th March will be a centralized day of protest through Mass Mobilization. MNREGA and Universal pensions will be the theme of the programme.

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