

The following are the major achievements, significant developments and important events of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment during August, 2018.

Activities of the Department

(i) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 1989 was amended as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018. The act was notified in the Gazette of India on 17.08.2018 and enforced from 20.08.2018.

(ii) A new Constitutional body namely the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has been constituted w.e.f. 15.08.2018 by insertion of new article viz. article 338B in the Constitution, similar to article 338, applicable for National Commission for Scheduled Castes and article 338A applicable for National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. The erstwhile NCBC Act, 27 of 1993 was simultaneously repealed w.e.f. 15.08.2018.

(iii) The National Commission for Backward Classes Chairperson, Vice Chairman and Members (Conditions of Service and Tenure) Rules, 2018 established under Article 338B was notified on 23.08.2018.

(iv) Dr. Ambedkar Merit Award function for the year 2017 was held on 29.08.2018 in Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, 15, Janpath, New Delhi. 336 Awardees at the Secondary School Level and 529 Awardees at the Senior Secondary School Level across 29 Boards/Councils in India were honoured by the Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment.

(v) A panel discussion on Dr. Ambedkar and his thoughts and Philosophy on Sustainable Development was held on 30.08.2018 in Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, 15, Janpath, New Delhi.

(vi) Talk on Dr. Ambedkar and his thoughts and Philosophy on Sustainable Development by Prof. C. Sheela Reddy, Prof. of Dr. Ambedkar Chair IIPA, New Delhi was held on 06.08.2018 in Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, 15, Janpath, New Delhi.

(vii) Shri Hans Raj Hans has joined as Vice Chairman in National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) on 03.08.2018.

(viii) Under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) scheme, three camps were held at (i) Pune, Maharashtra on 24.08.2018, (ii) Indore, Madhya Pradesh on 27.08.2018, (iii) Ambala, Haryana on 27.08.2018 to distribute physical aids and assistive living devices to eligible senior citizens belonging to BPL Category. Total beneficiaries at these camps were 3826.

Activities of Corporations

(A) National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC):

(i) The Corporation signed Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) with Valeur Fabtex Pvt. Ltd. (17.08.2018), Power Sector Skill Council (23.08.2018), and Instrumentation Automation Surveillance & Communication Sector Skill Council (23.08.2018), to develop and promote Scheduled Castes Artisans Cluster and for implementation of NSFDC's sponsored Skill Development Training Programme in the domain of Power Sector and Instrumentation Automation Surveillance & Communication Sector.

(ii) The Corporation organized a workshop in Consultation with Sa-Dhan (Association of Community Development Finance Institution) on 27.08.2018 to discuss performance of Aajeevika Microfinance Yojana (AMY) for Non-Banking Financial Company-Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs). The event was organized at Meeting Hall, SCOPE Minar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. The main agenda of the event was to discuss ways to expand outreach under NSFDC's Aajeevika Microfinance Yojana (AMY) through its NBFC-MFI partners. The program was attended by representatives from Sa-Dhan, NABARD, SEWA Bank and MFI partners.

(B) National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC):

(i) The Corporation has signed MoU with Sports, Physical Education Fitness and Leisure Skill Council for imparting Skill Development Training to the members of Backward Classes in the various States and to facilitate loan disbursement to the eligible beneficiaries.

(ii) The Corporation had sanctioned to two Channel Partners to hold thirteen Awareness Camps in the States of Gujarat and Haryana. A camp was also organized in Nuh, Mewat, Haryana, where 519 Nos. of prospective beneficiaries registered their name for availing skill development training in the trades of tailoring & carpentering. This initiative is one such step in a series of interventions planned for the most backward region of the country.

(iii) Under the CSR initiatives, the following activities were undertaken by Corporation:

(A) A CSR project of Rs. 3.00 Lakh was sanctioned for provision of "Promoting Health Care & Sanitation to persons affected by flood in Kerala". The assistance would help needy & displaced persons and enable saving their lives and ensure better health to individual & environment in Alappuza, Idukki, Ernakulam, Trissur and Palakkad Districts.

(B) The Corporation had organized two free Health-cum-Eye Check-up Camps at Village- Ujina and Nuh of Mewat District, Haryana. About 576 (mostly poor) availed the facilities. Free medicines were distributed and about 225 people were provided free spectacles.

(C) The Corporation in partnership with BalUmang Drishya Sanstha (BUDS) organized essay competitions and to create awareness on pollution, health and sanitation issues in three School of Mewat.

(iv) In an expression of solidarity of the flood affected in the State of Kerala; all the 49 employees of the Corporation voluntarily contributed one day salary to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF). A total of Rs.1,15,111/- was collected and contributed.

(C) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC):

(i) The Corporation organized two Health-cum-Awareness Camps in Patiala, Punjab (15.08.2018) and Bharatpur, Rajasthan (18.08.2018) to motivate them to avail financial assistance and also to enroll for Skill Development Training Programme.

(ii) The Corporation successfully organized Recognition of Prior Learning programme for 148 sanitation workers of various Municipal Corporations in the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

(iii) Under National Survey of Manual Scavengers, 5000 manual scavengers have been identified in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(iv) The Corporation released One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) aggregating Rs. 1.18crore to 295 identified Manual Scavengers in the States of Gujarat, Jharkhand and Punjab.

(v) The Corporation executed MoA with Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) for providing Skill Upgradation Training Programme for Sanitation workers engaged by Indian Railway or its vendors.
