

The Women's Development Cell (WDC) of P.G.D.A.V (M) College hosted a captivating event as part of the International Women's Day celebrations 2024. The event, spread across 4 days (4th-7th Mar 2024), was set on the theme ' विकसित भारत में महिलाओं की भागीदारी', as was inspired by the act of Hon'ble PM of India Sh. Narendra Modi who recently had set the tone for women-led development to realize his dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The event commenced with a warm welcome by Dr. Megha Agarwal, the Convener of the Cell who provided a brief history of the WDC and its impactful initiatives in promoting women's empowerment. The inaugural event was graced by distinguished guests, Ms. Advita Kala, the brilliant mind behind the story of the acclaimed movie 'Kahani' (Chief Guest) and Ms. Lalita Nijhawan, a distinguished entrepreneur and educationist (Guest of Honor). Ms. Advita Kala opined that celebrating women's contributions should not be limited to a single day but their achievements, contributions, and resilience should be celebrated throughout the year. She eloquently emphasized on the need of women to voice out their opinions. Ms. Lalita Nijhawan, shared her journey as an entrepreneur and educator. She accentuated the importance of perseverance and resilience, citing her own experiences of overcoming challenges. Her talk was a reminder that no dream is too big and no obstacle insurmountable. Her address can be summed up in a single line – commitment: either one has it or, or one doesn't. there is no in-between.

The second day, the Cell welcomed Prof. Indu Virendra, Director, Jawahar Lal Nehru Centre Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia. The event was held online. Prof. Indu's talk was quite enriching, stressing on the point that women are the true architects of a society and protagonists in building a better one.

On the 3rd day of the series, the College saw the gracious presence of Prof K.P. Singh, Department of Library and Information Sciences and Director, Gandhi Bhawan, University of Delhi. Prof. KP Singh delivered a powerful speech emphasizing the importance of support of both genders for achieving true gender equality. Prof. Singh shed light on the invaluable presence of women in everyone's lives. His address reminded us that women are the *Lakshmis*, *Saraswatis* and *Durgas* or *Kaalīs* in everyone's lives – that they are indispensable. Prof. Singh's speech resonated with the

audience, encouraging them to reflect on the invaluable roles women play in building nations and fostering societal values.

The concluding day saw the esteemed presence of Justice Manju Goel, a former Judge of the High Court of Delhi who drew attention to the wide prevalence of violence against women and highlighted the importance of education as the biggest source of empowerment. She engaged with the students in an interactive session, simultaneously apprising them of the changing laws pertaining to crimes against women. She advised the students to always tread on the path of righteousness. The event concluded with the declaration of the result of the 'On The Spot' Poster Making Competition' organized by the Cell followed by presentation of 'Vote of Thanks' by Dr Shruti Ranjana Mishra, the Co-Convener of the Cell.

The event served as a platform for meaningful discussions and reflections on the role of women in society. The speeches delivered by the guests left an impact on the audience, inspiring them to advocate for gender equality in their respective spheres. The event truly exemplified the spirit of celebrating women's achievements and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.