



AVHAN

CHANCELLOR'S BRIGADE : 2015



STATE LEVEL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

May 26, 2015

Tuesday

Inaugural Issue

EDITORIAL

We take immense pleasure and pride in introducing to you the Inaugural issue of the AVHAN 2015. Avhan is a residential programme on Disaster Management and integrated model for participation of the young NSS Volunteers in rescue and relief.

AVHAN aims to create a pool of trained young volunteers from National Service scheme (NSS) to collaborate and join hands with civil administration to provide quick rescue and relief services in the event of sudden natural calamities and disasters. The main objective of the event AVHAN 2015 is to provide focused and wholesome training to youths belonging to NSS units of 20 Universities of Maharashtra through professional trainers of National Disaster Rescue Force (NDRF).

The training includes various sub-modules of providing relief and quick response to help reduce the losses and mitigate sufferings of the victims of sudden or manmade calamities and hazards. These 1125 young NSS volunteers would form part of Chancellor's Brigade and will be organized in Platoons. One Platoon will comprise of 20 boys & 10 girls along with 2 Asst Nodal Officers (One Lady and One Gentleman) which will work for each district of Maharashtra. They would be trained holistically to build their capacities to accept the challenge of rescue and relief and would complement the disaster responses forces available with civil administration. The youth would be equipped with the latest methods of rescue in the events e.g. floods, fire and earthquake etc, providing first aids, resuscitation and revival, evacuations, debris clearances, cordon, communication and mob control, carrying victims to ambulances, life-saving and administration of relief camps.

Avhan started in 2007 for National Cadet Corps (NCC) and extended for National Service Scheme (NSS) from the year 2011, Avhan is a ten days module in disaster preparedness. At the end of the camp, the trained contingent is named The Chancellor's Brigade.

Various universities in Maharashtra have hosted this camp in the past. Avhan is being hosted by SNDTWU in 2015. The Vice Chancellor, Faculty and Staff of the University have put in a lot of efforts in organising this mega event and the inaugural issue of the newsletter is proof of the fruits of the hard work with the Chancellor and Governor of Maharashtra Honourable Vidyasagar Rao gracing the function which was attended by distinguished guests and Vice Chancellors, officials and Students of the participating Universities.

Hope you enjoy reading the issue....

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Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of the SNDT Women's University, Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao

I am indeed very happy to see so many NSS volunteers and Programme Officers representing various districts of

Maharashtra. I have come here to wish you well as you embark on your training programme on Disaster Preparedness. I congratulate each one of you for being selected to be a part of 'Avhan': The Chancellor's Brigade.

This is a year of historic significance for the SNDT Women's University. The University founded by Maharshi Karve has entered into its Centenary Year. During the last 100 years of its meaningful existence, the University has played a significant role in empowering women through education. I am very happy that the University is hosting this year's Training Programme on Disaster Preparedness.

'Avhan' is fourth in the series of events initiated by the Chancellor's Office. I am happy that like the three other events, namely the Inter University Sports Festival, the Youth Festival and the Research Festival, this event on Disaster Preparedness has proved to be an excellent initiative.

During the last 9 years since its inception in 2007, thousands of youths, particularly, NCC cadets and NSS volunteers have been trained in the task of disaster preparedness. There have been occasions when members of the Chancellor's Brigade were called upon to assist the administration during relief and rehabilitation and I am happy to note that the volunteers have risen to the occasion.

I am very happy that more than one thousand NSS volunteers will be added to the Chancellor's Brigade at the end of this training programme. I am also happy to note

that your training will be imparted by the National Disaster Response Force, which is the premier national agency for responding to all types of disasters. I am confident that the training provided by the experts of the NDRF will help the selected volunteers to understand the basics of Disaster Preparedness and enable them to play a constructive role during emergency situations.

There has been in recent times, a greater frequency of disasters, with severe fallouts. The devastating earthquake in Nepal and parts of Northern India has shown the vulnerability of mankind to the forces of nature. Apart from natural disasters, we have also been witnessing a growing number of man-made disasters, most of which are entirely avoidable. Even though disasters cannot be predicted, we can certainly limit the damage caused by the disasters. There are two main aspects: institutional preparedness and community preparedness.

I want every NSS volunteer trained here to spread awareness in schools and colleges. The services of the 8000 plus volunteers already trained must be utilized when required. I will call upon the NSS coordinators to evolve a mechanism to keep the trained volunteers updated by organizing refresher programmes.

I have a word for the District Administration and the Vice Chancellors. The responsibility for making the best use of the trained volunteers rests on them. They must coordinate and draft the volunteers in disaster management work whenever an exigency arises. I would request Shri Tawde - ji to issue instructions to the District Collectors to avail the services of these trained and motivated volunteers.

I also convey my appreciation to the National Disaster Response Force and the SNDT Women's University. I wish **AVHAN-2015** and its entire team all success.

Excerpts from the Inaugural Address by Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of the SNDT Women's University, Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao at the Inauguration of AVHAN 2015 (May 25, 2015)



AVHAN

CHANCELLOR'S BRIGADE : 2015



Vice Chancellor, SNT Women's University, Prof Vasudha Kamat

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the inauguration ceremony of the inspiring training programme on Disaster preparedness aptly titled as Avhan, Challenge. The more than thousand delegates seating here will be known as Hon'ble Chancellor's Brigade after 3rd June when they successfully complete training. We, at the university, feel especially happy when Hon'ble Chancellor visits us, as he is the Head of our Family. This year we are fortunate to have Hon'ble Chancellor Sir to inaugurate the Avhan-2015 hosted by SNT Women's University.

I greatly appreciate the concept of this training programme for three reasons: Cooperation, Youth Power, NDRF (National Disaster Response Force). Recently I read a Book titled "Super Cooperators: Evolution, Altruism and Human Behaviour" by Martin Nowak. He makes a point about going beyond the concept of "Selfish Gene" and emphasizes importance of cooperation for survival. These young delegates have volunteered to participate in the training to help others, provide helping hand to people in distressed situation itself proves the point. I also appreciate the role of their Programme Officers from all universities who constantly inculcate values like cooperation, collaboration, teamwork, support.

Second is the youth power, Young people are often seriously affected when disasters strike and can face severe difficulties in coping with unexpected and traumatic interruptions to their lives. But despite this, the world's youth are also the very people who can teach their communities -and the wider world- how to reduce the risks and impact of disasters. Young people are unmatched by any other demographic group in their ability to bring about meaningful change in social behaviour and attitudes.

(International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies). I am happy that our state is positively valuing potential of the youth to make a real difference in the time of disaster.

The NDRF is the third important partner in this endeavour who have made Indians proud through their tireless service in disaster situations. NDRF has trained more than 6.5 lakh community workers in disaster preparedness (I am happy to note that more 65000 of those are in Maharashtra. This number may have been increased). The programme chalked out for this training camp looks very impressive and challenging (After all the programme is titled as Avhan: the Challenge. I am sure all these young volunteers will prove us right)

As put it by Mr. Bekele Geleta, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, "Disaster is not a Department: to reduce risk we must empower communities". What is expected as an outcome of this 10 day training is reaching out to the community, making them aware and create disaster preparedness. I am sure NDRF expert trainers will achieve this target through the Youth Power.

I am especially happy and thankful to Hon'ble Chancellor for giving us the responsibility to host Avhan 2015, as it is a special year for us. SNT Women's University established by the great Social reformer Bharat Ratna Maharashi Dhondo Keshav Karve on July 5, 1916 will be celebrating its Centennial Year in 2015-16. As a precursor to this great celebration, I and my team at SNT welcome you all to the inauguration ceremony of ten-day unique training programme on Disaster Preparedness. I also welcome all the Vice Chancellors and officers of participating universities to visit the camp sites (there are three this time) whenever they find it convenient.



AVHAN



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GLIMPSES OF THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION HELD
AT BIRLA MATOSHRI SABHAGRAH, NEW MARINE LINES ON 25TH MAY, 2015



Hon'ble Chancellor Shri. Ch. Vidya Sagar Rao being felicitated by Hon'able Vice Chancellor SNDTWU Prof. Vasudha Kamat



Dignitaries Lighting The Lamp at the inaugural function of Avhan 2015



The NDRF Display at the venue



Participants of Avhan 2015



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INAUGURATION REPORT

May 25, 2015

Mumbai

Avhan Chancellor's Brigade, training camp on disaster preparedness for NSS Volunteers was inaugurated today at 4.00pm at Birla Matoshri Sabhagar at New Marine Lines, Mumbai. Prof Vasudha Kamat, Vice chancellor SNDT Women's University welcomed the delegates and programme officers from 20 universities of Maharashtra who are taking part in the ten-days training camp. The training camp is aimed to provide holistic training to equip youth with the latest methods of rescue and relief operations, relief management and disaster reduction and prevention.

Dr. Atul Salunkhe, State Liaison Officer and Officer on Special Duty, State NSS Cell welcomed 1050 volunteers- 30 volunteers per district of Maharashtra who will be trained by NDRF, Pune to support the District Disaster Management Group. He appreciated SNDTWU for taking up the challenge of organizing AVHAN in its centennial year.

The Honorable Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of the SNDT Women's University, Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao presided over the inaugural function of AVHAN 2015. He emphasized the need for institutional as well as community preparedness in managing disasters. He expressed the need for creating awareness through disaster management education and training as necessary steps for enabling the community to cope with disasters in a better manner. Hon'able Chancellor also emphasized that disaster responsive public behaviour is something that must be inculcated among the people.

Dr. S.P. Badgujar, Registrar of SNDTWU proposed the vote of thanks. After the inaugural ceremony, the Assistant Commander Bhairav Nathan from NDRF oriented the volunteers about the outline of the activities ahead. Dr. Linda Denis, Dean, Department of Students Welfare SNDTWU briefed the volunteers about the organisation of Avhan.

AVHAN FLASHBACK

Year	Name of the University	Place
2007	Shivaji University	Kolhapur
2008	Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University	Ramtek- Nagpur
2009	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	Aurangabad
2010	University of Mumbai	Mumbai
2011	Solapur University	Solapur
2012	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth	Rahuri-Ahmednagar
2013	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University	Nanded
2014	RashtraSant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University	Nagpur
2015	SNDT Women's University	Mumbai

[Source: <http://rajbhavan.maharashtra.gov.in/pdf/education/Initivaies%20by%20the%20Chancellor.pdf>]



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About SNT Women's University

SNT Women's University is a 99 year old Women's University established by the well known social reformer Bharat Ratna Maharshi Dhondo Keshav Karve. Several generations of women in western India owe their education to this great man and the excellent institution he created after a prolonged struggle against the reactionary forces that were opposed to women's education in those days. The institution was sustained by the generous donation of Rs 15 Lac by Shri Vithaldas Thackersey. In nearly 100 years of its existence its enrolment has increased from 5 women who graduated in the first batch to nearly 60,000 women students who are enrolled in 39 post graduate department and 13 institutions conducted by the University in its 3 campuses and 174 affiliated colleges in 7 states of India.

The University offers more than 250 programmes (from Certificate to PhD) through its 15 faculties (Arts, Fine Arts, Social Science, Education, Home Science, Design, Communication, and Media Studies, Library and Information Science, Technology, Engineering, Management, Law and Social Work).

This great women's University's entry into the centennial year 2015-16 is a matter of great pride

not only for the women of this country but for the entire Indian Society. Our world would not have been the same if this University had not educated lacs and lacs of women since its inception in 1916.

Vision: We visualise the SNT Women's University as a world class university that continually responds to the changing social realities through the development and application of knowledge. The purpose of such engagement is to create an inclusive society that promotes and protects the dignity, equality, social justice and human rights for all, with special emphasis on empowerment of women.

Mission: We are committed to the cause of women's empowerment through access to education, particularly higher education, through relevant academic programmes in the formal and non-formal streams. We are committed to provide a wide range of professional and vocational courses for women to meet the changing socio-economic needs, with human values and purposeful social responsibility and to achieve excellence with "Quality in every Activity".

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- Dr. Sanjay Chahande, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt., H & T Education
- Dr. Vasudha Kamat, Vice Chancellor, SNT Women's University
- Shri S. M. Salunke, Deputy Secretary to Governor (Education)
- Dr. S. P. Badgujar, Registrar, SNT Women's University
- Dr. Ruby Ojha, Finance & Accounts Officer, SNT Women's University
- Shri Pandit Itape, Commandant, NDRF Training Institute, Pune
- Dr. Linda Dennis, Dean, DSW (Addl. charge), SNT Women's University
- Dr. Nitin Prabhu-Tendolkar, NSS Programme Co-ordinator, SNTWU
- Dr. Atul Salunke, State NSS Liaison Officer & OSD (Member Secretary)

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