

The Influencer Bulletin

VOL II | ISSUE 11 | February 2020

Your support to the Influencers journey is ensuring women and girls' freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements, and freedom from economic dependence. This issue, we bring you updates from the I Witness field visits to the grassroots and 'Jan Sahas' social marathon against sexual abuse. Join us in celebrating AALI's work towards women's access to justice and congratulating Ibtada for winning the 3rd PoleStar Social Impact Award!

I-Witness : Influencer visits to the grassroots

"Great to have met with such an enthused and ambitious group of women. Ambition and aspiration are truly ageless. A very interesting day!"

-Sushmita Kacholia

Thursday, 6th February was an enriching day of insights when **Sushmita Kacholia** visited the Kamothe centre of **Mann Deshi Foundation**, where she interacted with women entrepreneurs associated with the Foundation's Business School and Chamber of Commerce programmes. The women who run small businesses ranging from snacks and sweetmeat-making, natural beauty products and gift articles were ecstatic to share about the profits they have begun making, thanks to the business acumen, marketing and accounting skills gained from the Mann Deshi programme. Sushmita personally appreciated the entrepreneurs and suggested that mentorship from the sector would help the entrepreneurs to grow their vision.



Vidya Shah, visited the villages of Alwar to witness **Ibtada's** stellar on-ground work in the direction of enabling women leaders from the communities to develop improved access to rightful entitlements for poor families. Through trainings and exposure, women are made aware of the provisions available for them through welfare schemes by the Centre and the State which they in-turn impart to their peers. Listening to the first-hand narratives of grassroots women leaders claiming their rights and negotiating with local governance, government departments and their own families was an exhilarating experience.

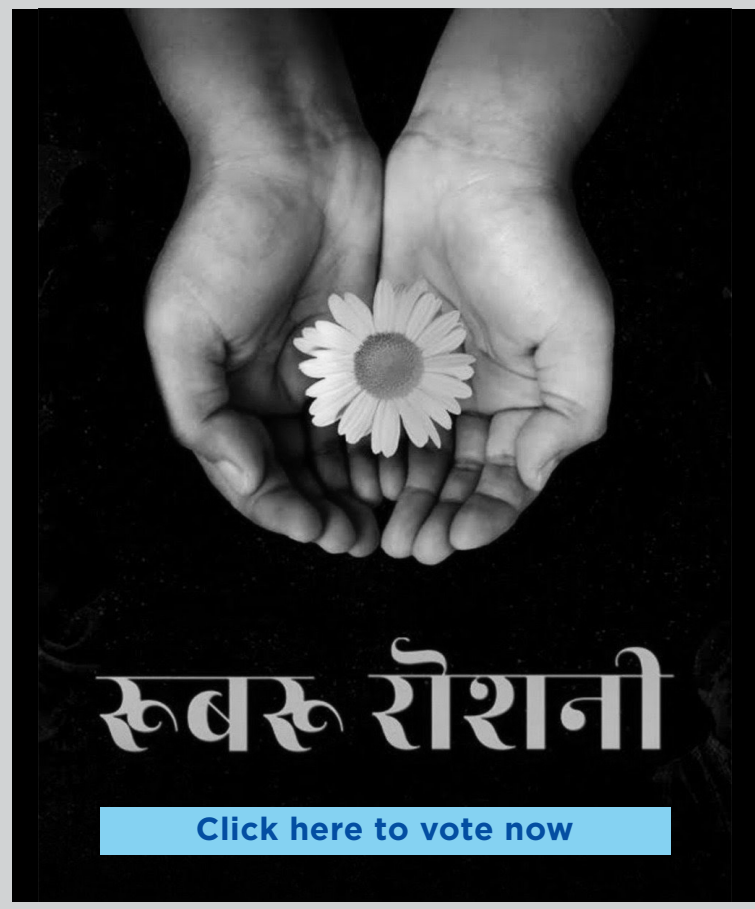


In the News

Jan Sahas in collaboration with the Social Responsibility Forum of NMIMS held the 11th edition of **AARAMBH — a 5 km Social Marathon** on 9th February, as a mark of solidarity towards the fight against sexual violence. The day saw more than 2,500 people from varied age groups including **Svati Bhatkal**, who joined the event with immense spirit, vivacity and exuberance on a Sunday morning. **#RunForACause**



We are happy to share that Svati Chakravarty Bhatkal's **Rubaru Roshni**, a deep reflection on forgiveness and the role it can play in dealing with loss and grief, has been nominated for the **Hitlist Web Awards** under the category **Best Web Film**. This documentary is available on Netflix and is a must-watch. Do watch and **vote!** The voting lines close on 18th March.



Grassroot Leadership

AALI organised a four-day training on **Women Rights and Justice** from 31st January to 3rd February, in Lucknow for 28 caseworkers from 26 AALI-associated districts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. The day saw discussions around the imperative need of not just a violence-free society for women but for access to their basic human rights. Insightful conversations and different strategies on the way forward to achieve SDG5 (Gender Equality) were the highlight of the training programme.



Congratulations!

We are proud to share that our very own NGO **Ibtada**, recently won the **'3rd PoleStar Social Impact Award'** for the **'Best Social Impact in Empowerment'** category, an award aimed to recognise excellence in the workings of NGOs and social enterprises that have made it their life's mission to bring positive change in the lives of the underprivileged and marginalised communities. Ibtada's work towards empowering women and girls in rural Mewat region of Rajasthan through promotion of SHGs, federations and women-owned producers' companies, and promoting women-led livelihoods and working on access to rights and entitlement, education and life skills education of adolescent girls; garnered the well-deserved honour.

