

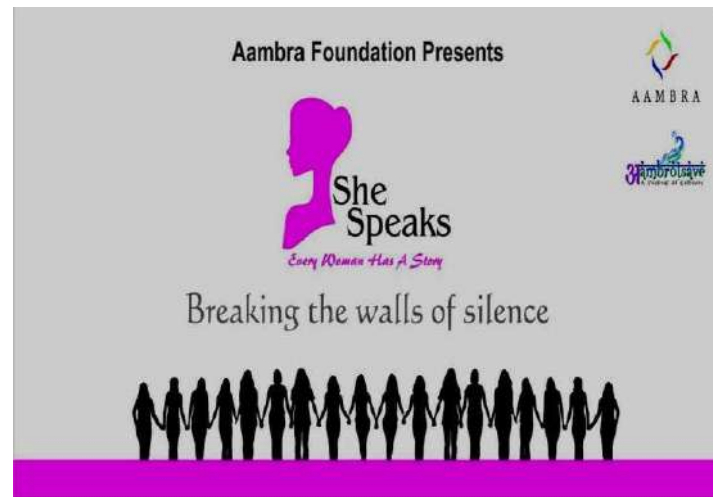
"If you want something said, ask a man..if you want something done, ask a woman."



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

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# WELCOME NOTE

Greetings to all readers!

With the onset of this year, it gives me immense pleasure to present the AAMBRA Annual Report 2018-19, which provides a glimpse of what the foundation did and achieved this year through our synergized efforts.

Every small step that we take to reach out to the beneficiaries is a small contribution towards the mammoth task of improving the canvas of human lives. We touch human lives in many ways. We are surrounded by social constructs and paradigms which are as old as human civilization on our planet. We feel gender bias is one such area which needs more attention than what is actually being done. One of our primary objectives as an organization is to highlight issues of contemporary relevance to the modern Indian. We believe both the genders complement each other and there is no competition between each other to prove supremacy.

The year 2018-19 has been the year of achievements for AAMBRA Foundation. Collaborative approaches once again paid the desired results. During the year, we effectively implemented our 3 projects-She Speaks, Aarohan and Aambrotsave. AAMBRA Foundation has been actively involved in promoting gender equality by bridging gender gap and women empowering through SheSpeaks. The gender sensitization program under SheSpeaks reached out to over 1000 women.

Under the Aarohan Project, AAMBRA Foundation successfully provides non-formal education to 30 students and skill development training to 500 women. The foundation tries to spread the fragrance of diverse culture of India by celebrating AAMBROTSAVE, a cultural festival and celebration of Indian art, craft, culture, cuisine and literature.

Our foundation activities have received constant media attention since its inception.

AAMBRA Foundation has a dynamic team with a strong work ethic and is steered by eminent citizens of India. So, in this way we are enthusiastic in expanding our operations in women empowerment education and culture.



Vinita Bakshi  
Founder-President  
AAMBRA Foundation

# INTRODUCTION

## Aambra Foundation

Established by Delhi School of Economics alumnus, Ms. *Vinita Bakshi*, in 2012, with the vision of helping, promoting and protecting the vulnerable groups of society, AAMBRA Foundation is a Government of India Registered non-profit organization approved under the Section 80G of Income Tax Act 1961. The Foundation is actively involved in promoting gender equality by bridging gender gap and women empowering through She Speaks. We have successfully been able to provide non-formal education to children who are either not enrolled, dropped out or have certain specific learning problems that are not fulfilled in the formal system of education as imparted in schools and academic institutions. Our skill development training targets disempowered women with a view to make them economically independent. Training programme on jewellery designing is periodically organized for these women. The programme helps the trainees learn the art of trendy and fashionable jewellery making and designing. More than 500 women have benefited under the free of cost training programme.

## Aambra

## Foundation-2018

**The Annual Report 2018-19 throws light on varied interventions that AAMBRA carried out for bringing positive change through non-formal education, in the lives of children from low income and unprivileged families. AAMBRA activities and interventions, this year, touched the lives of more than thousands of women living in slum area and victims of abuse, by helping them gaining employment through various workshops. Through generous support from partners and donors, AAMBRA made vital contributions in raising voice against the silence suffering of women, through gender sensitization programme.**

# OUR VISION AND MISSION

Vision of equality and dignity  
“Aambra Foundation promotes and protects the rights of women, children and the disempowered people”

## Mission

“Promote gender equality by bridging gender gap and empowering women in need of protection”

“Practice socially inclusive and holistic development”

“Strengthen enabling environment for development of dispossessed and disempowered people”

“Build synergy among individuals, institutions and commoners through debates, dialogues and congregations”

## Projects (3)

“Gender sensitization, policy advocacy and empowerment”

“Non-formal education(NFE) to children’s and skill development training for women”

“Indian cultural festival & celebration of Indian art, craft, culture, cuisine and literature”

# OUR LOCATION



Central  
Delhi

## Our Project



# HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

2018-2019

30

Students from low income unprivileged families attended classes at NEFT Centre of AAMBRA Foundation located in central Delhi.

500

Women benefited under the “free of cost” skill development programme for women empowerment by AAMBRA Foundation.

1000

Women participated in the gender sensitization seminar organized under the She speaks project of AAMBRA Foundation.

1000

People of all age groups attracted AAMBROTSAVE an Indian cultural festival organised by Aambra foundation.



# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2018-2019, we were able to mainstream 30 students to regular schools who attended our non- formal education centre at Delhi.

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We successfully trained 500 women living in slums and victims of abuse, through various workshops and skill development programmes to make them economically independent.

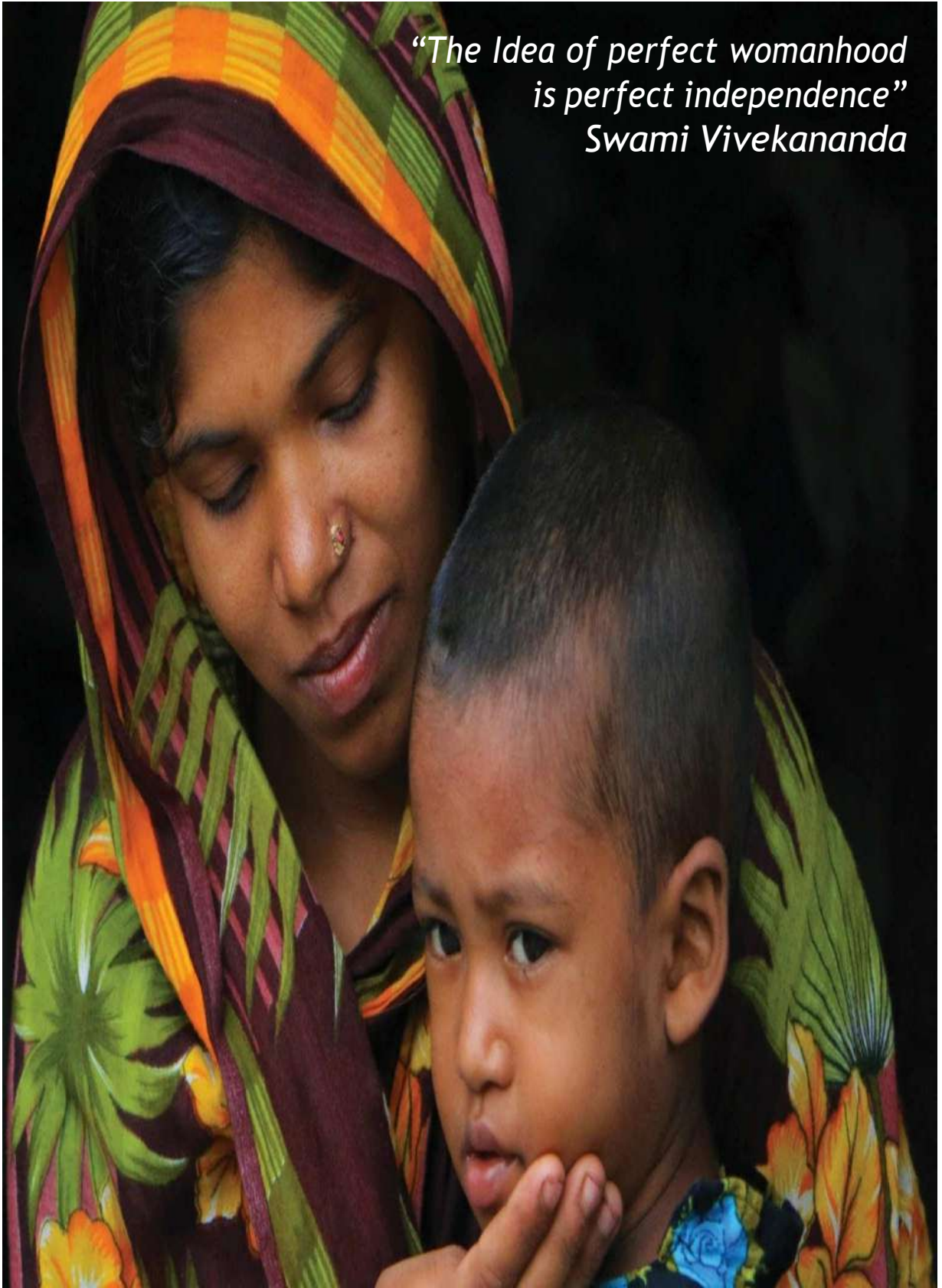
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Our mission to make people aware about motivating women regarding women related issues proved successful as 1000's of women participated in the gender sensitization programme to discuss about these issues under the SheSpeaks project.

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Over 1000's of people got attracted to our cultural festival Aambrotsave to celebrate our cultural diversity and ethics.

# OUR PROJECTS



*“The Idea of perfect womanhood  
is perfect independence”  
Swami Vivekananda*



# SHE SPEAKS

In the Vedic times, women were given a lot of respect and honor in the Indian society. They were given equal opportunities like men to develop socially, intellectually and morally. They were completely free to choose their life path and life partner. Besides receiving formal education before marriage, they were getting military training for their own safety. However, women status in the Indian society got deteriorated in the middle age due to various superstitions and malpractices against women. Women became inferior to men and were forced to live behind purdah. Even though the Indian constitution enshrines a woman's right to equality, including freedom of voice, movement and rights over their own bodies, they are denied their right to education and property.

*"SheSpeaks is our dialogue with everyone- men and women both. One of the biggest challenges that half of the world population and even women face is – gender disparity. We, at AAMBRA Foundation believe that healthy discussions surrounding various forms of abuse will help sensitize communities. We create and facilitate a dialogue not only amongst various stakeholders of women empowerment but also amongst various communities. We are building this dialogue with help of student community through our campaigns and contests such as student zone– #Have Your Say contest with cash award incentive as well as our gender quiz during every SheSpeaks seminar where correct answers win prizes"- Ms. Bakshi*

# SHE SPEAKS SEMINAR SERIES



➤ On March 08, 2018, SheSpeaks conducted its 6th Edition- A panel discussion on “Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in the Subcontinent” where the foundation invited trafficking survivor stories on its website and honoured these survivors to motivate women fight this form of abuse.

➤ The panelists included:

- Mr. Amod Kanth-IPS, Social Entrepenuer
- Mr. Ashok Sajjanhar- Former Ambassador
- Ms. Divya Arya- BBC Women’s Affairs Journalist
- Ms. Kamla Bhasin-Activist and Social Scientist
- Ms. Mamta Singh- IPS
- Dr. Nupur Roy-Social Scientist & Professor

➤ On 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, SheSpeaks conducted its 7<sup>th</sup> Edition- A panel discussion on “Does Gender Equality depend on area and environment” where external factors or perceptions contributing to gender equality was discussed.

➤ The panelists included:

- Ms. Indrani Dev- Philanthrophist former FICCI, Chairperson NE Chapter
- Ms. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta- Additional Govt. of Assam, IPS
- Dr. Anwesa Mahanta- Artist & Sattriya Dance Exponent
- Ms. Tanushree Hazarika- Enterpreneur & Editor in ATVI Infotainment
- Dr. Polly Vauquiline- Associate Professor- Guwahati University

# AAROHAN

Aarohan Project has two main components:



## Non-Formal Education(NEFT)

The Constitution of India (Eight-Six Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted article 21-A provides free and compulsory education (RTE) to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a fundamental right for every child. Unfortunately, it was reported that those children who did not get the proper elementary school education in their earliest age shows their bad performance in primary schools like attending school, making friends and in learning rather than those who got the elementary school education during their earliest age (Annual Status of Education Report).

- Our motive through Aarohan project is to provide non-formal education (NEFT) to children (and also people of other age groups) who are not enrolled or dropped out or have certain specific learning problems that are not fulfilled in the formal system of education as imparted in schools and academic institutions.



- AAMBRA Foundation had set up the first NEFT centre in Central Delhi primarily covering children from low income and underprivileged families. The Centre now imparts non-formal education to nearly 30 children. The lessons taught have multiple components as noted below:
  1. Elementary Arithmetic
  2. Basic Hindi
  3. Basic English
  4. Moral Education
  5. Yoga
  6. Curricular activities - Dance and Drawing
  7. Life Skills
- In 2018-2019, we were able to mainstream 30 students to regular schools who attend our non-formal education centre. So, in this way we are trying to do our best for social development of our country



## Skill-Development Training

- Our skill development training targets disempowered women with a view to make them economically independent. Training programme on jewellery designing is periodically organized for these women. The programme helps the trainees learn the art of trendy and fashionable jewellery making and designing. More than 500 women have benefited under the free of cost training programme. Trainer, tools and raw material were all provided by the Foundation.

### Skill Development Training Centre



# AAMBROTSAVE

India is home to a variety of ancient cultures and traditions. AAMBRA Foundation had conceptualized Ambrotsave- a celebration of India's glorious tradition of Indian art, craft, cuisine, literature and contemporary culture. Through AAMBROTSAVE, we not only celebrate and spread our legacy through theatre, cinema, cuisine, dance and music but also help revive waning arts and weaves. We also aspire to promote Indian literature, prose, poetry, works of fiction, reading, writing and journalism.

Through "Ambrotsave" celebration, our objective is to keep ourselves connected to our roots while we progressively march ahead with modernization. India is a colourful cauldron of multiple communities, practices, heritage and traditions. Our flourished and diverse cultures have so much to share with each other and the world at large. AAMBRA Foundation aspires to be a conduit for the information within and among the diverse communities and educate them about best practices and ethics ubiquitous to our pan Indian culture.

Our culture is our biggest strength and is reflected through our books, folklore, visual narratives, music, cuisine, dance and theatre. We walk this journey which enriches our everyday experiences with our distinct identities and yet something keeps us together just like a bouquet of flowers. AAMBROTSAVE is a salute to that thread.

Under "AAMBROTSAVE 2" in 2018, our foundation organized the annual literature festival "Ambrotsave Kitaab." The festival attracts people from all age groups and many renowned authors namely Vineet Bajpai, Rakhshanda Jalil, Rahul Saini and senior editors of publications including Penguin participated in the festival.

## “Highlights of ‘Aambrotsave Kitaab 2’- 2018.

- #MeToo & its Mo(ve)ment India! Are you willing to give your women a safe space to talk? The #MeToo movement is a movement which reflects upon the magnitude of sexual harassment and sexual assault. It also demonstrates the widespread prevalence of sexual harassment, especially in the workplace. #MeToo went viral on social media in October 2017 in the US. In India, it picked up in September 2018 with a Bollywood actress coming out with allegations against a co-worker.
- The eclectic panel and astute included- IAS Deepshikha Sharma and Madhulika Liddle Bijayalaxmi Nanda.



➤ Discussion about poetry that moves from the page to the screen such as that of Sahir Ludhianvi, Kaifi Azmi, Shahryar, Neerajit from Oxford Bookstore.



➤ An honest, freewheeling, detailed and engrossing story in "The Millennial Story'- Women in Politics. Purnima Sharma talked about the political stalwarts with Jaya Jaitly, K Geetha and young politician Shivam Singh at AAMBROTSAVE Kitaab 2 with Jaya Jaitly and Shivam Singh from Oxford Bookstore Connaught Place.



- As technology entrepreneurship is crucial step in a country's growth and it is integral to regional economic development as well, Aambrotsave Kitaab 2 panelists discussed how we can create a more conducive ecosystem in India for the same- a topic relevant to every millennial. Distinguished panel was chaired by Mr Ashutosh Sharma IITK, Secretary, Science and Technology, Govt. of India and moderated by Mr. Rajat Jain along with Mr. Ramit Sethi, Mr. Amit Shankar.
- The discussion focused on the challenges faced by Technology Entrepreneurship in India that includes leadership, business, education, fintech, entrepreneurship, entrepreneurs, millennials ,ecosystem ,science ,technology, entrepreneurship, education, entrepreneurial finance ,entrepreneurial organizations ,engineers ,IIT..



- We all are well-aware about gender issues prevailing in the society. Some are so deep and culturally ingrained that we even fail to notice them. Through SheSpeaks, our endeavour is to initiate a healthy discussion around them. “Laughter of women” has been a matter of great debate in almost all societies and communities of the world. Should women laugh or just smile or still remain elusive, is the question! Many traditional families across the world have considered

the hearty laughter of a woman as “unsophisticated and unpardonable.”

- Thus, we began ShesSeaks #HaveYourSay season 1 with the question: Do you think it's improper for women to cackle in a public space? Winning Entry: Sure, it is. Just like it's improper to bleed every month, speak against harassment & live (instead of surviving). How dare she?
- Ms. VISHAKHA GOEL From Our Hon. Jury quoted Prof. Sunil Bhatia talking about the crucial feminist issues.
- Don't Sweat the Small Stuff. An inspirational, engaging, absorbing and motivating discussion for everyone. Moderated by sweet chirpy Ms. Rakhee Bakshee. Discussants – Mr. Gaurav Bhatara P, Mr. Karan Razdan, Ms. Rashmi Joshi, Ms. Nupur Dhingra Paiva at Aambrotsave Kitaab 2.

**Session With**  
 Rashmi Joshi | Karan Razdan | Gaurav Bhatara | Nupur Dhingra Paiva  
 Moderated by Rakhee Bakshee

**4 NOV 2018**  
**SUNDAY**

**OXFORD**  
 BOOKSTORE  
 Connaught Place, Delhi  
 12:45pm - 1:30pm

**Don't Sweat the Small Stuff**

**Aambrotsave**  
 A FESTIVAL OF COLLOQUES  
**Kitaab Edition 2**

Oxford Bookstore Connaught Place, Delhi | 11am to 6pm

- In association with NDMC, the foundation also presented “Aambrotsave Raas Edition 2” at Central Park, Connaught Place. Festival featured unforgettable and mesmerizing cultural performances – Chhau Dance Troupe led by Ms. Himani Sharma, Kathak by acclaimed Ms. Neelima Beri and Sufi recital by Roohani sisters, which was attended by 1000s of people living in and around Delhi.





# IN MEDIA

The foundation activities have received constant media attention.

## 'अमरोत्सव'-एक समकालीन सांस्कृतिक महोत्सव

**विशाल कार्यक्रम**  
दिल्ली। मुफ्ती जोड़ो डॉ जगुति और डॉ नीता बिन्ट रुहानी बहनों के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, द्वारा गत एक दिवस का समकालीन सांस्कृतिक त्योहार अमरोत्सव में गजल और कच्चाली का प्रदर्शन किया गया।



कार्यक्रम मुफ्ती संगीत को बढ़ावा देने और लोगों को एक साथ लाने के परिश्रम में आयोजित किया गया ताकि वे मजेदार और शान्तिपूर्ण रात का आनंद उठा सकें। मुफ्ती संगीत गूढ़ रहस्य और शांति से ओतप्रोत तो होती ही है, साथ ही मुफ्ती बहनों जिन्होंने लोगों के दिल में एक विशेष स्थान बनाया है, को आवाज में बदकर कोई भार देते हैं।

इस गुनागुनी शीतकालीन श्रम में मुफ्ती संगीत में खुद को सराबंद करने से और बेहतर कोई तरीका नहीं है। रुहानी बहने दमा दम मस्त कालंदर, मन कूटो मौला, ती आज कोई जांगिया बे, आँखिया उड़की दिया और अन्य मुफ्ती गाने और लोकप्रिय कच्चालीयाँ का प्रदर्शन करीं जो

### रुहानी मिस्टर के बारे में

डॉ जगुति लुधरा प्रसन्ना और डॉ नीता पंडे नेगी को 'रुहानी मिस्टर' के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। इन दोनों ने राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंचों पर प्रदर्शन किया है। जब भी डॉ जगुति और नीता एक साथ प्रदर्शन करती हैं, तो ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि पूरा महौल में संगीत और मुफ्तीवाद की आत्मा बस गयी है। इन बहनों ने न केवल मुफ्ती संगीत में उत्कृष्टता हासिल की है बल्कि भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय से डॉक्टरेट भी किया है। रुहानी बहनों के गायन के बारे में सबसे अच्छी बात यह है कि वे मुफ्ती संगीत और भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत को धुनों का मिश्रण प्रस्तुत करती हैं जो उनके गायन को और भी अद्भुत बनाता है। संगीत के इन दोनों रूपों का संयोजन उनके गायन को और भी अधिक मधुर और कर्णोपय बनाता है।

आपको नास्तिक बना देगा।

डॉ जगुति लुधरा प्रसन्ना और डॉ नीता पंडे नेगी ने कहा कि दिल्ली के लोगों के लिए गायन करने का एक शापदार अवसर है ताकि वे जीवन, हृदयस्थी और दरमियादी मुफ्ती संगीत का अनुभव कर सकें।

## #MeToo: GoM may review law

WCD ministry has suggested changes

VIJAYA SINGH  
AGRETI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to examine sexual harassment at the workplace may consider amending the law to ensure workplace safety, according to government sources.

The GoM headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to meet soon, said a senior Home ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The spokesperson of the Women and Child Development Ministry (WCD) Ministry said that while campaigning for Assembly elections in five states drawing in an anti-members of the GoM would not be able to meet.

The WCD ministry has shared with the Home ministry a meeting agenda, which includes changes to the Sexual Harassment of Women and Child Development (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, sources in the WCD ministry said.

The agenda mentions lacunae in the law as well as suggests ways to improve it," said a senior WCD ministry official, who did not wish to be identified. He added that the guiding principles for making the amendments would be the Vishaka guidelines.

The GoM includes Minister for Road Transport and Shipping Nitin Gadkari, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi.

Vishaka guidelines. The Vishaka Guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in 1997 lays the onus on the employer to prevent or deter acts of sexual harassment in the workplace, apart from providing redressal, settlement or prosecution of acts of sexual harassment.

The Act lays down the duties of an employer: ensuring a safe working place, displaying legal consequences of sexual harassment, creating awareness, as well as facilitating an internal probe.

The Justice J. Venkaiah Reddy panel had recommended an employment tribunal instead of an internal committee to probe complaints.

## strikes own age for NEET

SUPREME COURT ON SATURDAY allowed candidates aged 25 years and above to apply and appear for NEET-UG 2019.

The three-judge bench led by Justice S.A. Bobde allowed the petition filed by a candidate who had applied for NEET-UG 2019 but was rejected on the ground that he was above the age limit of 25 years.

The court directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to set up a process to conduct NEET exams, to keep them open for a week for the candidates who had applied for the exam. The court has implied NTA as a party in the case, asking it to file its response in four weeks and posted the case for further hearing.

शुक्रवादिनी, 27 दिसंबर 2018

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कैलाशचंद्र शर्मा

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### दौड़ते-भागते शहर में जीवन संगीत की सुर संध्या

वर्षों के इतिहास में, दिल्ली शहर में जीवन संगीत की सुर संध्या का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम में गायक और गायिकाओं ने शहर के लोगों को संगीत के माध्यम से जोड़ने का प्रयास किया।

### हर माह एक करोड़ खर्च होने पर भी अपडेट नहीं होती निगम की वेबसाइट

गोवा भर होने को है पर अब तक कंपनियों के डेटा इनमें डाक के नाम नहीं किया पर परंपरागत

### पुराना किला से दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय कला महोत्सव का हुआ आगाज

पुराने किला से दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय कला महोत्सव का आगाज हुआ। कार्यक्रम में अनेक कलाकारों ने अपनी कला प्रदर्शित की।

# LEGAL PROFILE & GOVERNANCE

## **LEGAL PROFILE:**

Aambra Foundation is registered under the following:

- Indian Trust Act, 1882
- Section 12 A read with 12AA(1)(b) of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- Section 80G (5)(VI) of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- The Income Tax Act, 1961 for Permanent Account Number (PAN)
- NGO Darpan (NITI Ayog).

## **GOVERNANCE:**

- AAMBRA Foundation practices transparency and conforms to the requirements of law and governance.
- Trustees meet at regular intervals to discuss and decide organizational matters.
- Views of Advisors and members of Core Council are obtained periodically according to needs.
- Annual accounts of the Trust are audited by a Chartered Accountant.
- Annual return of income is filed according to law.
- The Trust respects meritocracy.
- Trustees work voluntarily with selfless dedication, and do not receive any money for their services.

# MANAGEMENT

## **EXECUTIVE BODY**

Ms. Vinita Bakshi (Founder, AAMBRA Foundation, Vinita is an alumnus of Delhi School of Economics, an author and a social entrepreneur.)

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

Ms. Rashmi Singh (Secretary,  
Industries A&N)

Mr. Rajiv Makhni (Media  
Personality) Mr. Arvind Singhal  
(IIT-Roorkee )

Mr. Amarendra Khatua (Former  
DG, ICCR)

Mr. Sandeep Bhargava (Technocrat  
Former EVP, Vodafone Idea)

## **CORE COUNCIL- SheSpeaks**

Ms. Vinita Bakshi

Ms. Manju Seth (IFS)

Ms. Sameera Moledina (London- Based Journalist)

Ms. Ira Singhal (IAS)

Ms. Deepshikha Sharma (IRS)

# COLLABORATORS



