BHOPAL ■ Sunday ■ March 8 ■ 2015

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION AFFECTING BIODIVERSITY OF BHIMBETKA WORLD HERITAGE SITE!

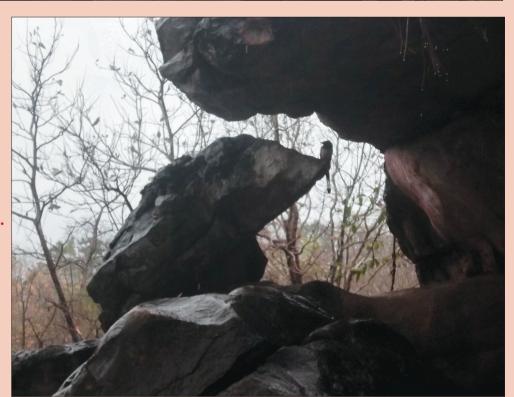


A local employee pointing to reduction in bee hive sightings in one of the shelters.



Untimely
rains in
March
affected the
ecology of
rocky
terrain

Lesser golden back Woodpecker spotted in rock shelter



Welfare schemes for women, huge budget fail to transform their lives

In State, more than 10,000 women live in misery, begging to feed their family
 ■ Women Empowerment Department not doing anything
 ■ Under the Nirbhaya project,

shelter homes yet to be approved by the Government of India

■ By Arun Kumar

THERE are number of welfare schemes to improve the lives of women. The Government of India and State Government spends crores of rupees for welfare schemes. The State and Central Government offices, especially those are supposed to be made to implement the welfare schemes for women, are these days engaged in finalising many programmes on International Women's Day on March 8.

Even, the State Government has made a separate department as Women Empowerment exclusively to run welfare schemes about two years ago. But still the condition of women has not changed. They may be seen begging to eke out living of their family but the Government does not make any scheme of projects to such women so that they might leave begging and live a respectable life.

According to sources, there are about 10,000 such women in Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Ujjain and about all the districts who are forced to live on footpath and begging.

Not only Women Empowerment Department, but there is also one more Government department as Social Justice Department, but it has also failed to do justice with hapless women. It has also many schemes but only on papers. The Government sanctioned crores of rupees budget but the officers do ever think to improve the living condition of those women and girls who are far from the benefit of the welfare schemes started for them.

The women and girls at all age groups might be seen begging the whole day in front of temples, at market places, bus stands, near the railway stations etc. Every year, both the Women Empowerment and Social Justice departments celebrate International Women's Day by organising various programmes, inviting top ranking women in all the fields art and culture, business, sports, politics and social works, they deliver lengthy speeches in the AC rooms.

Govt of India did not sanction shelter homes: It is learnt that the Government of India was to sanction shelter homes for the



Office of Women's Empowerment Department.

state but it has not yet done so under the Nirbhaya project to provide protection to the women. The State Women's Empowerment Department is

The State Women's Empowerment Department is still waiting. The aim of the shelter homes under Nirbhaya was to give shelter to hapless and helpless women, making all arrangements of their lodging and significant in the state of the state of

boarding and make them self-dependent.

The little girls at all age groups picking waste: Those little girls who should have in schools are may be seen picking waste door to door. The school education department, that claims of ensuring registration of every child in school, might does not count



Beggars near a temple.

them or do not consider them to educate under the Sarva Saksharta Abhiyan.

When contacted, Kalpana Shrivastava, Commissioner, Women Empowerment, said some shelter homes' scheme for women in the state is yet to be approved by the Government of India under its Nirbhaya project.

The work of improving status of those women and girls begging before temples or in market is under the Social Justice Department, she said.

The Social Justice Department officers said they have no such scheme to improve living conditions of women begging before temples or elsewhere.