

PRESIDENT AWWA MESSAGE – AWWA DAY 2020

1. On the 54th anniversary of AWWA, I extend my warm greetings and felicitations to all members of the AWWA fraternity. On this auspicious occasion, I express my deep gratitude to all the former Presidents AWWA and the AWWA functionaries who have nurtured this institution for five decades. AWWA has always been committed to its motto of Asha, Astha and Wishwas and continues to be so even today.
2. As you are all aware our world has changed due to COVID -19. It has greatly impacted our daily lives. We have been forced to find, learn and adopt new ways of working. Besides traffic, shopping, entertainment and healthcare, it has had the biggest impact on children's education. I know that today every military family is facing some problem or the other. AWWA is conscious of these problems and our workers are extending a helping hand in all Military Stations.
3. The month of June has been a sad month for us. We lost our brave soldiers in enemy action in Galwan. We along with the entire nation are proud of the bravery and courage of these soldiers. May their souls rest in peace and may God give their families the strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss. I assure you that AWWA will always be with the families of these soldiers through thick and thin.
4. This year, due to COVID-19 pandemic, we could not invite our Veer Naris for AWWA day celebration to military stations and cantonments. However, they remain close to our hearts. AWWA is actively engaged in helping them in every which way possible.
5. Dear friends, today there is almost nothing that we army wives cannot achieve. All it takes is a bit of determination. If you look around closely, you will find that many amongst us are doctors, engineers, techies, chartered accountants, bankers, lawyers, teachers and journalists. There are many who are using their talents and making a mark for themselves in Beauty, Art, Designing, Music, Dance, Fitness and Creative writing. There are still others who are running their own businesses. So why can't we all get together on one single platform from where we can know about each other's work and also appreciate and encourage it. The new AWWA website has been created with this in mind. It is also based on the suggestions that we received from many ladies. You can access this website on your mobile as well. In the future we will also connect it to facebook and make it available in Hindi. Today I urge each one of you to actively engage with AWWA through this website. The website being dynamic in nature will keep improving as per your suggestions and feedback.

6. This time AWWA has taken another initiative. AWWA Magazine "Avani" is now available on the AWWA website in a digital mode under the name of E-Avani. This Annual Magazine is the result of sheer hard work and dedication of so many members of the AWWA family. I urge all of you to read this magazine. I am sure you will find something of your interest in it.

7. Apart from other sectors, COVID-19 has also affected our health services. Keeping in mind the precautions to be adopted for COVID-19 and heavy engagements of medical staff, HQ IDS has started TELE- MEDICINE HEALTHCARE service. Through this service we can get medical help online using a mobile or a laptop. This is good news for AWWA. Now our families living in FAFA need not to go to the hospital for minor illnesses. Every FAFA is likely to have trained AWWA members for helping everyone with tele-consultations. These members will be called SeHAT Sakhis.

8. Recently our Government has announced the National Education Policy 2020. This is likely to lead to many fundamental changes in our Education system. Our APS and APPS schools will also have to be in step with this NEP. The NEP 2020 has laid stress on Foundational education. If the foundation of your child's education is sound only then will her school life be a healthy mix of success and enjoyment. By foundational stage of education we mean the nursery to Class two stage. I would like to urge all parents not to be in a hurry to put their children into formal school. Starting the child's schooling before she has completed 3 years and trying to bring her into Class 1 before 6 years is detrimental to a child's developmental progression. I also urge AWES, all APS and APPS Principals and local military authorities to take foundational education with the utmost seriousness and leave no stone unturned to make it wholesome.

9. As we all know AWWA is running 37 Asha schools for our special children. Just think how wonderful it would be if these special children could have the choice to study in a mainstream school along with other children! This would help them to become an integral part of society. In turn it will help our society to be more empathetic and accepting of differences. Today there are some children in our APS and APPS schools who are facing learning difficulties. These children feel isolated and marginalized in a large classroom. Helping all these in their own way and at their own pace is what inclusion is all about. With the passing of the RPWD Act our government has made it mandatory for every school to be an inclusive school. I am very happy that our AWES has taken an initiative in this direction. It has started a

pilot project for Inclusive education in 16 APS schools. AWWA supports inclusive education in totality and is committed to creating a sensitive and supportive environment for the same.

10. Today Marital Discord cases are on the rise. Lack of mutual understanding, lack of patience, demand for dowry, increasing expectations, extra marital affairs, excessive interference of parents are some of the reasons for this rise. For many years now, AWWA has been organising lectures and marital counselling. It has been extending help in good faith to all those who are facing such problems. However, I want to stress here that the final resolution of a marital discord case is not in the hands of AWWA. For permanent and lasting solution to this issue it is the court of law which needs to be approached by the aggrieved members.

11. Many times I see that our ladies face many difficulties due to lack of documentation. Apart from being the responsibility of the Units it is also the responsibility of every army couple to make sure that their documentation is in place. The important must-have documents are marriage and birth certificates Part-II order, joint account, nomination and dependant cards. I urge all Commanding Officers, their wives and all FWOs to pay special attention to the documentation in this “Year of NOK”.

12. Friends, in today’s world none of us can turn a blind eye to technology. I know that almost all of you use a Smart Phone. I urge you to familiarize yourself with Net Banking, online booking, bill payments, shopping, credit/debit cards and most importantly online education. Why not get your children to teach you all this or learn along with them! Technology empowers us like never before.

13. I wish to compliment all the AWWA award winners this year for the yeoman service they have rendered. I also congratulate all the children awardees and hope that they will continue to strive for excellence in all fields. I also wish express my appreciation to all Principals and teachers who have in a very short time skilled themselves and risen to meet the challenges of virtual teaching.

14. Once again my felicitations to each and every member of the AWWA fraternity. Wishing you all a bright and beautiful future!

Thank you

Jai Hind