

“Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar’s legacy continues to inspire the nation with values of justice, service, and empowerment” – Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary

“Kushal Nari, Sashakt Nari”: Celebrating the 300th Birth Anniversary of Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar at NSTI(W), Indore

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The National Skill Training Institute for Women (NSTI-W), Indore, hosted a special commemorative event to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar—an iconic symbol of justice, service, and women’s empowerment in Indian history.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, extended his greetings through a special message, which was read by Ms. Trishaljit Sethi, Director General (Training), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). In his address, the Minister said:

“Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar’s legacy continues to inspire the nation with values of justice, service, and empowerment. Her leadership reminds us that courage and vision can redefine governance. Through initiatives such as NSTIs, PMKVY, NIESBUD, and the Skill India Digital Hub, the Ministry remains committed to offering women better opportunities, platforms, and guidance. The recent decision of the Madhya Pradesh Government to launch a dedicated training initiative in Rajmata’s name is a meaningful step in taking her ideals to the next generation.”

He added that this event embodies the Government of India’s vision of "Kushal Nari, Sashakt Nari," recognising that women’s economic empowerment not only enhances self-worth but also contributes significantly to social and national development.

Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Indore, Shri Shankar Lalwani who graced the event as the chief guest, remarked: “Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar’s life is a shining example of leadership rooted in compassion and justice. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, the nation is witnessing transformative steps for women's empowerment—from access to education and skills to encouraging entrepreneurship. Today, when women from rural and modest backgrounds are becoming self-reliant through skilling, we see the continuation of the very spirit of entrepreneurship-led empowerment that Rajmata championed in her time.”

Director General (Training), MSDE, Ms. Trishaljit Sethi emphasized the symbolic significance of hosting this celebration at NSTI-W, Indore. She noted: “This institute has emerged as a key pillar in India’s efforts to empower women through vocational education and training. Through flagship schemes such as PMKVY, Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), NIESBUD, and the NSTIs, we are ensuring that every woman has access to skill training, entrepreneurship opportunities, and sustainable livelihoods. The real-life journeys shared by women today are a reflection of Rajmata’s legacy in action. As our Hon’ble Prime Minister rightly said, ‘Ahilyabai Holkar is a symbol of women’s contribution to nation-building.’”

Joint Secretary at MSDE, Ms. Hena Usman stated that the event is not just a tribute but a reaffirmation of Rajmata’s ideals through the Ministry’s ongoing work: “We are working to foster an ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurial thinking and builds sustainable enterprises through institutions like NIESBUD and IIE. In Madhya Pradesh alone, over 22,000 individuals have received training under various schemes such as

SANKALP, STRIVE, PM Janman, PM SVANidhi, and PM Surya Ghar. These efforts have led to the creation of over 2,400 registrations of enterprises and nearly 2,800 employment opportunities.”

The event also featured an exhibition showcasing products and skills of women beneficiaries trained under various MSDE schemes including PMKVY, PM Vishwakarma, JSS, NIESBUD, and NSTI-W. Many of the women came from rural and modest socio-economic backgrounds and shared their inspiring journeys of transformation through skill training.

The celebration began with a cultural performance and concluded with the exhibition walkthrough. The programme not only honoured the legacy of Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar but also brought to life the guiding principle of "Kushal Nari, Sashakt Bharat"—a skilled woman is the foundation of a strong India.



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