Smt Sreerupa Mitra Chaudhury, Chairperson of National Institute for Gender Justice (NIGJ) conducted a Workshop for Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Personnel on Women’s Rights, Safety of Girl Child, Prevention of Trafficking on Indo Nepal Border under the Government of India’s pet programme of ‘Beti Bachao!’ on 6 April 15 at SSB Training Centre at Ranidanga.

Smt Sreerupa Mitra Chaudhury, Chairperson, NIGJ began the programme by elaborating the saga of a girl child by stating that she is mother nature’s greatest creations and is like the wind that blows from her parental home to her in-laws home. Further, she said that throughout her life the girl child grows up to play the role of a daughter, sister, daughter-in-law, mother and grandmother and perennially brings pleasure, change and continuity to growth and development of both families and mankind.

Yet, men have exploited them for ages and defaced the very source of evolution, by ruthlessly outraging their modesty. Children, particularly girls and hapless women have been trafficked from far away remote villages in Nepal and India and trans-located to various parts of India and foreign countries. She elaborated on how women were stuffed into general bogies of trains from economically backward districts in India and by road across Kakarbita, Dhulabari in Nepal and several other routes. Smt Sreerupa demanded that this demeaning activity should be decisively stopped. For this the support of the border guarding forces like, SSB is immensely required. Smt Sreerupa also explained the larger plan of having a handshake meet between the force personnel of Nepal and India. She elaborated upon her unique concept of starting the ‘Nirbhaya Village’ in Malda with Nirbhaya College, Nirbhaya schools, etc. However, she finally concluded that only when the governments of the day help in making women economically viable, socially give women an indisputable status of respect and give them the comforts of a roof above their heads, indoor toilets, abundant water and electricity and safe roads to commute they cannot be safe.

She recollected the assertion of Shri B D Sharma IPS, DG SSB during a recent seminar on Human Trafficking in New Delhi. He advised the SSB personnel to interview persons whenever there was a suspicious of Human Trafficking. Smt Sreerupa wanted SSB to stand up to the cause and be the extraordinary link between the people, hapless women and children to check trafficking. She declared that women are not utilities to sell and wanted every jawan to stand up to this cause and apprehend those indulging in this heinous crime.

Smt Sreerupa Chairman of NIGJ interacting with SSB constables during the Workshop. Shri A K Mallik DIG Ranidanga SSB looks on

Smt Sreerupa Mitra Chaudhury Chairman of NIGJ interacting with SSB personnel during the Workshop
Shri Kuldiep Singh IPS Inspector General Siliguri Frontier, SSB spoke about the usefulness of the programme and said that annually, SSB has apprehended several girls and women from traffickers. He said, SSB has always been a people friendly force and has been conducting various women emancipation and women empowerment programmes in a resulted oriented manner for the last five decades. He also elaborately explained the gamut of welfare activities conducted by SSB which is also aimed at the safety of women. This endeavor is not our main activity, but, we would not like to lower our guard to the dubious traffickers, he said.

Few mahila constables also contributed to the discussions. CT/GD Varsha construed that the roti beti ka rishta makes checking trafficking difficult. CT/GD Seema who had saved a few girls from being trafficked on two occasions said that there is a lot of income in this trade for the criminals and so they use technology to our disadvantage.

Earlier on, Shri A K Mallik DIG Ranidanga spoke earlier and put forward SSBs perspective to the Chairperson of NIGJ and said that the ‘Beti Bachao’ campaign is very pertinent and needs to rigorously perused. He said we look forward for understanding the finer aspect of human trafficking as it is more complex than it appears to be. Smt Amrita Mitra Area Organizer Falakata welcomed the guests and said that there is a need for regular orientation to the fast changing modus operandi of these criminals and the use of related laws in apprehending them.

The Programme Director of NIGJ, Shri Tarun was present and showed a short film on the works of the institute and another film titled ‘Nirbhay Gram’ also. Officers of Siliguri Frontier Headquarters, Commandant of 41st Bn Ranidanga, Area Organizer’s of Kishanganj, Falakata and Darjeeling, were attended the programme. Apart from them, ten personnel from 13 field units and many more from Offices under the Siliguri Frontier of Sashastra Seema Bal attended the programme. In all, 210 personnel participated in the Workshop.
Be Proactive about Human Trafficking-IG Siliguri Frontier

Shri Kuldiep Singh IPS, Inspector General, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Siliguri Frontier inaugurated a one day Workshop on Human Trafficking at the SSB Training Centre at Ranidanga on 15 May 15. Total 48 personnel were drawn from various Battalions of Siliguri Frontier were attended the workshop who are on later stage trained other colleagues about this malice, in their respective BOPs and the general public in the frontier areas on Indo Nepal and Indo Bhutan borders.

Shri Kuldiep Singh IPS, expressed concern that Human Trafficking is taking serious proportions in the region due to large scale poverty and so advised the personnel to be proactive about Human Trafficking. He said that traffickers exploit the poor people with promises of better life by making exorbitant offers for simple domestic help, office helping hands and beauty parlour and then trap them for other defiling works. He advised the personnel to learn the methodology and nuisances of trafficking to enable them to identify traffickers at sight and plan their trap questions for the traffickers. He explained how SSB personnel of 10th Bn Malbazar promptly apprehended a lady trafficker who was escorting a dozen children and claimed that the children were hers, when asked. Obviously, the 21 years old trafficker could not have 13 year old children. The Inspector General expressed apprehensions that the orphaned children and women of Nepal earthquake might get trafficked and so he ordered the personnel to maintain an eagle’s eye on such elements and catch them. He concluded by stating that Siliguri Frontier Units of SSB rescued 32 victims and got 18 human traffickers arrested. Further, in the first four-and-half months of 2015 Siliguri Frontier of SSB rescued 33 victims and got 18 traffickers arrested.

Shri Prabhat Pathak of Kanchanjunga Uddhar Kendra spoke on the ‘Over view of Human Trafficking’ and initiated the Workshop session. Shri Md Ali Noor ACP, Siliguri Metropolitan Police spoke on ‘Indian Laws to Check Human Trafficking’, Ms. S Pariyar Inspector Siliguri Womens Police Station and Shri Raju Nepali of Dooaras Express Mail spoke on ‘Detection of Human Traffickers and Challenges faced by agencies trying to check Human Trafficking’, Dr Farzana Begum of Rahat kishanganj spoke on ‘Protection Offered by the Government/ NGOs/ other agencies to victims’, Shri Deep Banerjee Coordinator of Shakti Vahini spoke on ‘Rescue Preparations’, Shri Manohar Pradhan Asst Foreigners (Immigration) Registration, Regional Office spoke on ‘Immigration Issues’, Ms Punam Rai, Child Protection Officer, Shri Sonu Bdr Chetri, Centre Coordinator and Shri Shekar Saha Coordinator of Child in Need Institute (CINI) presented some case studies on Human Trafficking and a representative of Tiny Hand Nepal from
Kakarbita also spoke on the occasion to enrich
the knowledge of the SSB personnel.

Shri A K Mallik DIG Sec Hqrs, Ranidanga
made the concluding speech and advised the
personnel to keep up the pressure on the
traffickers and rid them of the region.

Earlier on, Shri B K Pal Staff Officer
(Ops& Int) Siliguri Frontier welcomed the guests
and the gathering and highlighted the objectives
of the Workshop and its consequence.