



Indian Federation of University Women's Associations

AFFILIATED TO GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL



President's Address

Dear Friends,
IFUWA has successfully completed three eventful years of its functioning since August 2020. The extended Term of two years has provided us to devote more time on innovative practical ideas to uphold the mission of our Association. Pleasure to mention that

electd members at the GWI Conference, 2022 are engaged in many portfolios and are participating in a number of GWI activities. Post CC meeting in February, 2023 we have undertaken the designing of meaningful programs focusing on IFUWA's vision of women empowerment. The Project committee has taken strides to embark on a new project for 2023 – 2025. We have made untiring efforts to bring back SAARCFUW renamed as SAARCGWI which commenced its activities on the 25th of May, 2023 over Zoom Platform with a welcome addresses by Patrice Cole Wellesley, President GWI, Dr Meera Bondre, VP Membership GWI and yours truly. The Committee members are from IFUWA and the NFAs of Bangladesh / Nepal and Pakistan. We will soon embark on projects concerning issues of this region. I am happy that the Asian Region has found visibility in the global scenario with the coming in of UWAsia and SAARCGWI.

IFUWA retained its scholarship announcement and disbursement to candidates of doctoral and post doctoral studies and are receiving applications through our website information. It was a touching moment when Purnima Kashyap, member UWAD and daughter of dear Sushil Bhardwaj, came forward to install scholarships and a Lifetime Achievement Award in the memory of her mother. IFUWA appreciates her generous donation for the same.

In our effort to establish new UWAs, we are working towards bringing to life the UWA of Hyderabad. To keep members posted on IFUWA activities, the IFUWA Website has a rolling page for announcements as well as pages for UWAsia and SAARCGWI.

In the face of all this, we need to take care of the dwindling membership and absenteeism at the CC meetings. Members being the backbone of an association, I am appealing to join hands for resounding success at all events.

IFUWA has commenced work to host the UWAsia / SAARC and International Conference in India, and for all this your support is a must to make it successful.

With faith in your capacity and commitment, I hereby extend my support and best wishes to the new Committees who have recently taken up responsibilities. IFUWAs work needs to find a place in the global spectrum as a pathfinder for Women's Empowerment in the most effective and progressive way.

Dr Ranjana Banerjee

President – IFUWA / UWAsia / SAARCGWI



Editor's Note

Dear friends,
Every time I take up my pen to write my piece, I start thinking about what is new in Communication now. I find that it is undergoing a metamorphosis. In fact, online communication, having evolved rapidly over the past two decades, especially since the

implementation of Web 2.0 technology.

Firstly, I talk of the simplest tool that we use, the E-newsletter. There was a time when we used to print all our communication materials and distribute hard copies. That was time consuming and an expensive affair. Presently, we design and layout the E-newsletter digitally and convert it into a PDF format. Then it is circulated by mail to all the members of IFUWA and the respective UWAs. The advantages are very many. It has helped us save a lot of time and cost. It allows us to make minor changes to avoid bloomers. Additional pages do not require rearranging of all the other pages to accommodate an extra page.

The images which we can use in this digital format are of much lower quality as compared to the ones that we would have required for the printed format. Then printing on paper has its own challenges. One really requires to know the intricacies of the technology to be able to get the best out of the designer and the printer.

Throughout the last three years, we have been using the digitised format and have not attempted to print any hard copies till date. Maybe in the near future we may have to look at collating the works of IFUWA and the UWAs in print, which are substantial and constructive, as all the Associations have been functioning with zeal and commitment towards women empowerment, nationally as well as internationally. In fact, one of the Associations, Women Graduates Union, is more than 100 years old.

As for Social Media, the technology has become more mobile oriented. The technology now allows us to communicate with members of our social network using a plethora of digital tools. With an increasing range of communication platforms available, it is becoming important to understand how users utilise the communication media available to them and what impact they can have on them as individuals.

In this age of communication explosion, IFUWA is also getting to be digitally savvy.

As I sign off, the usual request to all of you. If you or any of your members have news to share that augment our Mission of Women Empowerment, do contribute along with interesting images. Please do not forget to mention the dates of the news items or events, sources if any, which lend credence to the report.

Hope you enjoyed reading the piece as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Purobi Ghosh Mohan

Convener - Communication
IFUWA / UWAsia / SAARCGWI

International News

GWI and CFUW GWI Clubs Marked International Day of Women and Girls in Science

To celebrate the 2023 International Day of Women and Girls in Science GWI and CFUW GWI Clubs held a Webinar on February 11 to examine as to “What can GWI and CFUW do to promote women and girls in science?”

The Webinar featured opening remarks from GWI President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, on the importance of women and girls in science. Shaila Rao Mistry, GWI VP Advocacy, offered remarks about the International Day. Barbara DuMoulin, CFUW VP International Relations, provided an update on what CFUW has been doing to promote women in science with highlights of CFUW scientists and the latest national statistics on the topic.

GWI President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, visits Egyptian Association of University Women

During a recent trip to Cairo, GWI President Patrice Wellesley-Cole hosted for lunch the CIR of GWI's Egyptian Association of University Women (EAUW), Perine Wagdi. As part of their meeting, there was a discussion about the anti-harassment at work project EAUW created with the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations as part of the GWI Membership Marketplace. The NFAs are considering another similar project, possibly with the British Federation of Women Graduates.

GWI submits Written Statement for the 52nd Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC52)

Ahead of the HRC52, held from February 27 to April 4, 2023, at the United Nations in Geneva, GWI submitted a Written Statement on promoting gender equality through equitable access to lifelong learning opportunities. In the statement, GWI reminded States that education and gender equality are recognised at the highest international levels as crucial to progress towards the achievement of the United Nations 17 SDGs. GWI called for particular attention to SDG 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all and further recalling the importance of education to achieving each of the 17 SDGs. GWI specifically recommended that the Council fund education to cover significant progress towards gender parity in countries and areas where women are insufficiently represented in the teaching profession. To integrate a gender perspective into early-stage programs by actively

promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), ensuring safe access to education for all girls and women, including persons with disabilities, refugees and vulnerable groups and provide sufficient funding for infrastructure, WIFI access and hardware.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 SDGs, which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership.

SDG 4: Quality education. Giving all children access to drinking water and sanitation will positively impact their learning, access to education and professional achievements.

SDG 5: Gender equality. Enabling women and girls to access safe drinking water will empower them to invest fully in their lives and claim their rightful place in society.

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation. The implementation of SDG 6 is on the wrong track. The latest data shows that governments need to work on average four times faster to achieve SDG 6 by 2030.

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth. In countries where women and girls have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, they are in better health, which makes attending school and work more possible.

Ending Harmful Practices: Preventing Violence and Ensuring Access to Justice – Good Practices

On May 25, 2023, an online meeting was held on the above topic. Panelists from Zonta International, Soroptimist International, Graduate Women International, The Alliance of NGOs in Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice, A Healthy Planet for Future Generations & NGO CSW discussed obstacles and good practices concerning Child Marriage and FMG, including how to increase knowledge and change attitudes, develop and support community level transformations of social norms and practices concerning these topics.

Panelists, including GWI United Nations Representative in Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, discussed the obstacles and good practices concerning child marriage and female genital mutilation and how to develop appropriate laws and policies and community-level transformations.

International News

June 20 is celebrated as World Refugee Day

In 2022, at least 130 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes. Among them, there are nearly 32.5 million refugees. Now 1 in 88 people is uprooted, worldwide. Conflicts push the inhabitants to take refuge. 6.6 million Ukrainian refugees, 13 million from Syria, and 6 million Afghans are recent refugees. Women represent almost half the refugees worldwide. These women and their children are victims of smugglers, and even treated as slaves by traffickers.

GWI Policy Resolutions and Refugee Program

GWI 2019 Resolution 5. Human Rights for Refugee & Migrant women and children.

GWI 2019 Resolution 6. Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

GWI 2010 Resolution 4. Abuse of Female Migrants.



Shyamashree Sen
CIR, IFUWA

GWI 2001 Resolution 8. Human Rights of Women Refugees.

GWI 1992 Resolution 20. Refugee Women Treatment.

GWI 1936 Hegg Hoffet program for Refugee Women established.

GWI suggests that refugees maybe helped through financial support, or by engaging as a volunteer in NGOs that help refugees, communicate with people and social media to break down negative cliches on refugees, by offering temporary accommodation to refugees or by giving clothes to refugees who need them.

500+Challenge: The Power of Many Empowering Education Fund raiser

Education is the key to unlocking a brighter future for girls, women, communities, and nations. That's why GWI invites all to join this fund raiser, which strives to rally the support of 500 compassionate individuals to make small, recurring donations to the GWI Girls Education for Brighter Futures Post-COVID-19 program. For more than 100 years GWI and international network of graduate women have advocated for education rights and for the elimination of barriers to education for girls and lifelong learning for all women. Every contribution has the power to change lives.

From the GWI Board

The New GWI Board is trying to work on a strategy of Organisational Change to achieve our goal of trying to improve the lives of girls and women, by ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, and making available life-long learning opportunities to all. This would be possible by maximum participation of all our NFAs. The Board and the NFAs will be working together, and not in isolation.

We have identified the following Project Areas to match with our mission of SDG4 and the Renew and Rebuild Programme:

1. Provide non-formal education to reach out-of-school marginalized, overaged girls, youth, and older women.
2. Creative remodelling of classrooms to increase students' enrolment, retention, and graduation in communities with out-of-school girls.
3. Create economic independence and financial literacy for all women and girls, particularly rural women.
4. STEM education 'Math we can': Simplified mathematics education to help students with STEM subjects. Create Technology savviness, and an understanding of Artificial Intelligence for self-protection.
5. Mentorship between experienced leadership and multi generational and collaboration on key issues of leadership, technology, and other professional developmental areas to future leaders for GWI and globally.
6. Offer Women's health education and self-care . Menstrual hygiene education and manufacturing of reusable eco-friendly sanitary pads.
7. Climate issues that are of concern to all generations

International News

The VP Projects, Mildred, VP Advocacy Shaila, VP Fundraising, Nneka, and Stacy. The Executive Director have applied thoroughly to define these meaningful project areas. In my capacity as the VP Membership, I urge the members to make maximum use of the Membership Marketplace facility with its two streams, Peer to Peer and NFA to NFA.

We encourage all NFAs to submit proposals. The projects should be mainly for women and girls, be outcome based, make a measurable difference to the society, be sustainable, replicable, and should engage as many of the NFA members as possible. Soon a proposal form will be shared with every NFA.

If funding opportunities are known and can be developed in the NFA or in the region, please reach out and the Board will also take it up.

500+Challenge: The Power of Many



GWJ invites you to join its 500+Challenge: Be one of the 500 monthly contributors to this Education Fundraiser. The Fundraiser requests small recurring donations to the GWJ Girls' Education for Brighter Futures Post-COVID-19 program. Every contribution has the power to change lives. Whether it's \$5, \$10, \$20 per month, your donation will directly support the GWJ's Girls' Education for Brighter Futures Post-COVID-19 program.

I would say, after all, Many a drop make an ocean!!



Dr. Mrs Meera Bondre

GWJ Vice President Membership

Vice President UWAsia (from January, 1, 2020)

Convener NFA to NFA Stream of Membership Marketplace

No fault in women, though they be
But seldom from suspicion free;
-No fault in womankind at all,
If they but slip, and never fall.

Robert Herrick

Projects

Voice, Choice and Awareness

IFUWA launches of a new project titled 'Voice, Choice and Awareness' between July 2023 and March 2024.

This project aims at empowering adolescent girls in the age group of 12-17 years with the right knowledge and tools so that they can raise their voice, choose wisely and are made aware of how they can lead a fulfilling life.

A pilot project will be undertaken in Pune. The project will start with a study of Sex Education component in Pune schools. To this effect a Google Survey form has been designed to be conducted in schools. The schools in this program will include both Private and public schools, all educational boards, co-ed and all girls' schools.

The period for conducting the survey in Pune schools would be July-September. The data from the survey will be analysed and based on the findings we intend preparing a module that helps the girl child understand her body and sexual needs thereby equipping her to make the right choice with awareness and knowledge. Dr Vasanti Patwardhan, a Gynaecologist from UWA Pune has taken active interest in this project. Along with her Dr Archana Vadeyar from UWA Pune has shown great interest in the research aspect of this project.

Sincere gratitude to the President Dr Ranjana Banerjee and the Committee members- Dr Vandana Parashar, Dr Suchitra Roy, Ms Shevata Talwar, Dr Mahalakshmi, Ms Ragini Kalmadi for their valuable suggestions in designing this new project.



Malati S Kalmadi
Convenor Projects

OBITUARY



Adv Mita Mukharji

IFUWA lost its Joint Secretary Adv Mita Mukharji on July 31, 2023. It is, indeed, a great loss for IFUWA and UWA Calcutta. Mitadi, as she was fondly called by those who knew her well, was an active member of the University Women's Association Calcutta. She took upon herself the responsibility of an active fund raiser and helped UWA Calcutta in raising the bar as far as fund raising was concerned.

Having begun her legal career in 1978, Mita Mukerji had practiced for more than 40 years in Intellectual Property Rights services, ADR Arbitration (International Commercial), Excise, Corporate Banking at Calcutta High Court as well as in the Supreme Court of India. She was the legal consultant with Tea Board of India.

Advocate Mukharji was affiliated to various professional memberships. She was a Life Member of organisations such as Bar Association of India, Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, Calcutta High Court Club and the Indian Life Saving Society. She served as Secretary of the Indian Press Club. She served as member of Supreme Court Bar Association, High Court Bar Association - Calcutta, International Law Association and International Council of Jurists as well. Mita Mukharji was the founder of 'Samannita', the Association of Women Advocates, Calcutta High Court.

She went to Scottish Church College and then completed her Masters in Mental and Moral Philosophy from University of Calcutta. She successfully completed a specialised DL course in Intellectual Property - 'Traditional knowledge and Traditional cultural expressions' - with WIPO Academy, Geneva.

Mitadi was also a very talented actor, who could assay the roles of seven characters in a play, all by herself, and have the entire audience in fits of laughter.

All of us at UWA Calcutta and IFUWA mourn the passing of a bright and intelligent woman of substance, our very dear Mitadi. May she rest in peace.



Shyamashree Sen
CIR, IFUWA

Happenings

UWA Calcutta

Get-together

On the evening of 24th February prior to the two day Central Committee meeting a cultural evening, followed by dinner, was hosted by UWAC President, Mrs. Sumita Roy for the outstation delegates and UWAC members at her residence.

On October 19, 2022, UWAC was privileged and honoured to jointly host with Netaji Research Bureau a talk on Netaji and emancipation of Indian Women by Dr Sumantra Bose, Prof of International and Comparative politics at the London School of Economics and also Director of Netaji Research Bureau. It also gave a sneak peek into Krishna Bose's writings on the Life, Politics & Struggle of Subhas Bose.



Members present enjoying an evening of music and fellowship at UWAC President, Sumita Roy's residence



IFUWA President Dr. Ranjana Banerjee felicitating the singer who mesmerised the audience with her melodious renditions

UWAC organises programs for IFUWA members prior to the CC Meeting

On February 25, 2023, an enlightening Seminar on 'Empowering Women to Revitalise India' marked the beginning to the two day Central Committee Meeting of the Indian Federation of University Women's Association (IFUWA) organised by the University Women's Association of Calcutta (UWAC) at the Turyananda Hall of the Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture.

In his inaugural address the Chief Guest, Swami Suparnandaji, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture remarked India's growth trajectory needs to be strengthened through women empowerment. In the keynote address delivered by Prof (Dr.) Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Chancellor, Ashoka University he cited the examples of Rani ki Jhansi and Begum Hazrat Mahal to stress on the role of women who led from the front in India's war against the British.

The President of IFUWA, Dr. Ranjana Banerjee spoke about the importance of the forum in bringing changes in the lives of women, while Sumita Ray, President of UWAC welcomed the delegates from the different parts of the country to deliberate on the empowerment of women.

In the second half of the program, a panel discussion on 'Revitalize India-Empower Women' the status of empowerment, challenges and how to empower women on day to day basis were discussed by Dr. Prof Mamata Ray, Ex-Pro-VC, University of Calcutta, Dr. Rosina Ahmed, Senior Consultant, Tata Medical Centre and Dr. Swati Bhattacharjee, Journalist and Researcher. The opening vignette was given by the moderator Dr. Madhupa Bakshi, Dean Media Sciences, The Heritage Academy, she highlighted the plight of women in various parts of India though no country could grow without the betterment of their women.

Dr. Bakshi asked the audience about their thoughts on the issue and the members who had come from Chennai, Coimbatore, Kerala and other parts of India pointed out that women needed to ask for their rights and that this could only happen if the women practiced self-love. Dr. Bakshi summed up the day through a recitation of 'Phenomenal Woman' by Maya Angelou.



Lighting of Inaugural Lamp



President UWAC Sumita Roy giving her Welcome Address



Felicitations of IFUWA President Dr. Ranjana Banerjee

Happenings



IFUWA Past President Enakshi Chattopadhyay being felicitated By UWAC President Sumita Roy



Swamiji gives his Inaugural Address



Prof. Rudrangshu Mukherjee delivers his Keynote Address



Release of UWAC Newsletter by CIR Shyamashree Sen



Panel Discussion



Members of attending UWAs with Prof. Rudrangshu Mukherjee



Dr. Mamata Roy shares her thoughts



Dr. Rosina Ahmed deliberates



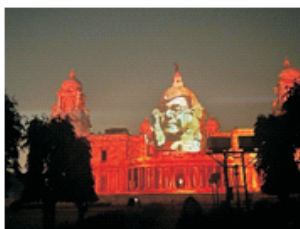
Swati Bhattacharya gives her views



Moderator Madhupa Bakshi sums up

Visit to Victoria Memorial

In the evening of February 25, 2023 a visit to Victoria Memorial was arranged for the guests with a guided tour of the famous Victoria Memorial Hall followed by Son et lumière, the Light and Sound Show. The Show gave a captivating account on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's life and struggle with cutting age projection mapping technology at the Victoria Memorial



Depiction of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's life at the Son et lumière



Son et lumière Show at the Victoria Memorial

International Women's Day

International Women's Day was observed on April 5, 2023, at the Kaushik Hall of Nari Seva Sangha. Dr Debashree Ghosh, Prof. School of Chemical Science, Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, recipient of an International Award for her contribution in Quantum Molecular Science, was felicitated.

Eight students pursuing graduation and post-graduation in Science were awarded scholarships of Rs.10000/- each on the same evening. The monetary awards were handed over to the students by the Past Presidents of UWAC.



President of UWAC Sumita Roy felicitating Scientist Debashree Ghosh



Past President UWAC Arunlekha Gupta presenting Scholarship to an Awardee



Past President IFUWA and UWAC Enakshi Chattopadhyaya presenting Scholarship to an Awardee

Happenings



Past President UWAC Dr. Ranjana Mukherjee presenting Scholarship to an Awardee



Past President of UWAC and IFUWA Assistant Treasurer Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta handing over a Scholarship to an Awardee



IFUWA Vice President Gomathy Venkateswar handing a Scholarship to an Awardee



UWAC Past President Uma Majumdar presenting Scholarship to an Awardee



Awardees of Scholarships with UWAC Committee Members



UWAC Secretary Dr. Baishaki Bandyopadhyay introducing the Awardees



Media coverage of the Scholarship Programme

Prominent coverage of the event was given by the Telegraph newspaper in their T2, which not only inspired the Awardees but also created huge awareness about gender disparity as a study revealed that only 30% of girls study STEM subjects

Training Session for New Members

On May 6, 2023, a training session was organised especially for the new members at the Sarat Samity. At this very informative session the members were informed about the activities, Mission and Vision of UWAC, IFUWA and GWI by IFUWA President Dr. Ranjana Banerjee, VP Gomathi Venkateswar, Past President Dr. Ranjana Mukherjee and Past President Mrs Uma Majumdar who spoke about the election process.



IFUWA President Dr. Ranjana Banerjee explaining the Mission and Vision of IFUWA



IFUWA Vice President Gomathy Venkateswar at the Training Session



Members of UWAC at the Training Session



Past President Uma Majumdar speaking on election procedure

Happenings

Rabindra Jayanti celebrations

Rabindra Jayanti was celebrated by UWAC on June 14, 2023 at the Kaushik Hall of Nari Seva Sangha. UWAC President Sumita Roy paid humble tribute to Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore on his 162nd birth anniversary.

Enakshi Chattopadhyay, esteemed Past President of IFUWA and UWAC, also a Rabindra Sangeet exponent, was felicitated on the said occasion. Enakshi Chattopadhyay thereafter regaled the audience with her rendition of Rabindra Sangeet.



Past President Enakshi Chattopadhyay IFUWA and UWAC being felicitated by Past President UWAC Dr. Ranjana Mukherjee



President UWAC Sumita Roy paying tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on his 162nd Birth Anniversary



Solorecital of Rabindra Sangeet by Enakshi Chattopadhyay

STEM Workshop for Underprivileged Primary School Children

The IEEE EDS Center of Excellence, Heritage Institute of Technology in collaboration with IEEE SIGHT (Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology) Kolkata Section and University Women's Association of Calcutta organised a Workshop 'Empowering Young minds through STEM education', at Shishu Tirtha, a primary school for the underprivileged, run by the NGO Society 5-0 on July 12, 2023.

The Workshop was designed to introduce young students from underprivileged backgrounds to the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through hands-on learning experiences using electronics kits. The Workshop aimed to inspire curiosity, foster creativity and develop critical thinking skills among the participants.

The workshop was conducted by Dr. Mousiki Kar, Associate Professor in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Heritage Institute of Technology. She is a STEM enthusiast and also serves as the Chair of IEEE SIGHT (Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology) Group, Kolkata Section.

She commenced the Workshop with a brief introduction to robotics and their significance in today's world using age-appropriate language and visual aids to make the concepts easily understandable.

The children were introduced to basic electronic circuits through interactive presentations and simple demonstrations. Each participant was subsequently provided with a pre-designed circuit building kit containing various components, such as motors, integrated circuits, LEDs, batteries, and switches. Dr. Kar, along with two undergraduate engineering student volunteers, demonstrated how to build basic circuits step-by-step, and the children followed along.

The Workshop was successful in sparking curiosity and interest in STEM among the 6 young participants of Class IV. By providing hands-on experience in electronics, the Workshop helped them develop practical skills and fostered creativity and problem-solving abilities.

The initiative was envisaged and facilitated by Mrs. Sumita Roy, President of University Women's Association of Calcutta, in order to bridge the educational gap and ensure equal access to STEM opportunities for all children, irrespective of their socioeconomic backgrounds.



UWAC President Mrs Sumita Roy, Dr. Mousiki Kar, her volunteers and participating students of Shishu Thirtha School



Dr. Mousiki Kar giving a brief introduction on robotics



Workshop on STEM education in progress

Happenings

UWA Dehradun

Scholarship Distribution

In April, 2023, the Foundation Day and scholarship distribution functions were held together. 25 Scholarships of about one lakh Rupees were given to girl students receiving higher education.

To achieve thus scale of distribution, funds were being collected from Members and other generous donors for the annual scholarship distribution for needy and meritorious girl students studying in various fields.



Scholarship given to 25 students



A cultural program was also held by students from different colleges



Skill development course

A project is being developed for skill development courses like MS Office, Typing, Tie and Dye, Beauty Culture, etc., lending skill training support to deserving girls with an aim to make them economically independent. Various colleges are being visited to identify deserving women/girl students for such training.

A skill development course for 47 students from DWT college was held in ONGC B S Negi Women's Polytechnic and sponsored by UWA Dehradun. The Course included training of Tie and dye, Aipan and Warli traditional Art forms of Kumaon region of Uttarakhand. Certificates were distributed at the end of the Course. An exhibition of beautiful hand crafted products was held alongside.



Display exhibits by the students under the skill development initiative

The senior Vice President Mrs Savitri Nautiyal Kala breathed her last on February 10, 2023 in Dehradun. A Condolence prayer meeting was held In UWAD in March, 2023.

She was a well respected literary and social figure of Uttarakhand. Also, Mrs Kala was an eminent poet, writer and a well known social activist in Dehradun.

Happenings

UWA Delhi

Role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Women Today

On May 6, 2023, UWA Delhi organised its first Webinar of this year on 'Role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Women Today'.

Dr Veena Ghuriani, Associate Professor at Maitreyi College, spoke on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in today's world. AI is that branch of Computer Science which deals with the intelligent behaviour of machines. AI has found applications in our daily lives in the form of Web Search Engines, Image Processing as in Snap chat, Google Lens, Speech Recognition, Recommender Systems, Self-drivenCars, Games, etc. Machine Learning is the branch of AI which uses data and algorithms to imitate the way humans think and improve gradually. Deep Learning is the branch of machine learning which helps to solve complex problems using neural networks.

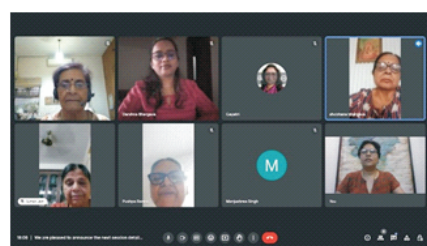


The Speaker went to discuss about how AI is a useful career avenue today. The role of AI is categorized in the fields data analytics, image processing and natural language processing.

She apprised the audience of her own research work where machine learning was used to recommend crops to farmers based on various demographic conditions, in natural language processing where AI was used to categorize between fake and real news.

The participants actively engaged in discussions about the emergence of Chat GPT and use of AI in cyber crimes. The talk ended with emphasis on career prospects of women in the field of AI. Since perception of women to interpret results of data analysis is being preferred, women do have a bright future as data analysts.

Panel Discussion on 'Wellness / Menstrual Leave for Women in the Corporate sector - A privilege'



A Panel discussion on 'Wellness / Menstrual Leave for Women in the Corporate Sector-A privilege' was held on May 13, 2023.

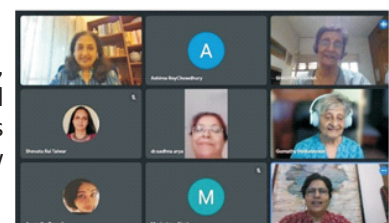
Darshana Bhargava, a senior corporate banker currently Senior Risk Consultant, Risk Advisory, DELOITTE., India facilitated the discussion mainly on whether policies should be amended to allow menstrual leaves for women in the corporate sector. The discussion touched upon several related issues. Menstrual phase of a woman's life should not be about body shaming or discomfort and can be openly discussed. Also, that Leaves planning should be done in such a way that work does not suffer, women should not be feel

neglected and the employer does not mind. It was also felt that if women ask for such leaves, it may be considered gender-specific and may raise gender bias issues against hiring women for roles that cannot give such leaves every month.

Although Wellness leaves were a part of the discussion, the participants observed that these Leaves are already existing in the Corporates and that they ensure the well-being of all employees, irrespective of gender.

Webinar on 'Women Harassment, Protest, Suppression'

The third Webinar was held on June 10, 2023, on 'Women Harassment, Protest, Suppression - specific reference to women wrestlers' plight'. Anuradha and Sadhna, activists from the NGO 'Saheli' facilitated a panel discussion. The speakers shared their concern about the plight of protesting star women wrestlers and how the protesters remained sidelined by the concerned authorities.



Sadhna and Anuradha shared their experiences in dealing with cases of persistent women harassment in public spaces and with the repercussions they have on the aspirations of women in general.



Suman Jain
AR, UWAD

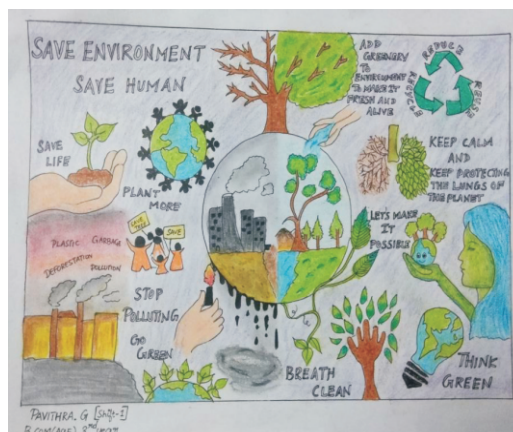
Happenings

UWA Madras

Environmental Day Celebration

June 5, 2023. UWA Madras and Department of Visual Communication, Dr MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women, jointly celebrated the World Environment Day with an activity on creating an e-poster on June 5, 2023.

Around 18 students participated in this online event through Google Meet and showcased their creativity and passion for the environment. Some posters highlighted the importance of reducing plastic waste, while others focused on renewable energy sources. The submissions were judged based on creativity, relevance to the theme and overall impact.



Environment Awareness lecture

UWAM also organised an Environment Awareness lecture on 'Global Climate Change and Health Concerns'. The Resource Person was Ms S Preetha, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology. Ms Preetha created awareness among the students on what is climate change, how global warming is caused and the role of greenhouse gases. The various health impacts – direct and indirect were discussed. The health impacts like changes in rainfall, summer temperatures and extreme weather conditions were discussed. The increase in vector, food, water and air borne diseases, with an emphasis of how climate change also affects mental health of a person was discussed. Knowledge and Skills necessary to address complex environmental issues were discussed.

International Yoga Day

International Yoga Day was celebrated on June 21, 2023 at Dr. MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science. About 100 enthusiastic students participated. Dr. Selvarani, PT - Physical Director of Dr. MGR Janaki College made a presentation on the importance of Yoga. She also demonstrated the significance of Pranayamam and Surya Namaskaram.



Vaijyanthi Bashyakarlu
AR, UWAM

Happenings

UWA Pune

Hostel Day celebrations

Hostel Day was celebrated on February 11, 2023. The hostelites, who are working women, had arranged a variety of entertainment programs. The Hostel presently has 75 residents.



Lighting the lamp



Audience



Hostel girls performing

Scholarship Disbursals

The Scholarships Disbursal program was held on March 11, 2023, and 52 girls were given scholarships under Engineering, Under Graduate Degree, B. Ed, Post Graduate Degree, Ph. D, Post Graduate Degree for the Physically Challenged, Under Graduate and Post Graduate Degrees in Nursing.



Scholarship holders with the UWAP members



Members attending the Scholarship program

Participation in the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) 67

On March 14, 2023, Dr Meera Bondre, Managing Trustee UWA Pune and GWI Vice President Membership, made a presentation titled, 'Innovation in Education through Arts', in a GWI Panel on Digital Innovation, Advocacy and Education.



Meera Bondre making a presentation at CSW 67

Chandarang Activities

Stitching classes are conducted for the college going girls from modest financial backgrounds staying in the vicinity.

In March 2023, arts/crafts activities were conducted for school students. A 10 day Workshop was planned for the students of Darode Vidyalaya. They learnt how to make paper bags, caps, key chains with macrame knots, stickers of plywood which they painted and then applied magnets. 22 students enthusiastically participated in this activity.



College girls are learning to stitch



Students at Darode Vidyalaya engrossed in the creative work

Sucharita

Under this activity coaching classes are conducted in Maths, Science and English, for the girls from Corporation schools. Psychological support is also given to these adolescent girls through various programs. Safe recyclable sanitary pads were made at UWA Pune by using the equipment donated by Vatsalya Foundation, which will be distributed to these girls.

Happenings

GWI Membership Marketplace program

Webinar on 'Sexual harassment at Workplace' was conducted on April 18, 2023, as a continuation of the NFA to NFA, GWI Membership Market place program between India and Egypt.

In this tenure UWAP conducted a Webinar on 'Cyber Security Trends and Awareness to avoid Harassment'. The speaker was Mr. Yogesh Thanage.

Mr. Yogesh Thanage works for his own setup Shellstrong Technologies Private Limited, based in Pune that offers Cyber Security solutions to Indian corporates. Coincidentally, Mr. Thanage has been a past student of UWAP KG, Dipika Bal Mandir.



Yogesh Thanage the Speaker

In his crisp and informative presentation, Mr. Thanage explained the nature of the cyber crimes against women and the solutions that India offers to curb the mandsafeguard women. "The problem," he said, "is the lack of awareness about it and knowledge and commitment of people to work to control it".

Mr. Thanage also brought to the attention of the audience the sites that record and address online cyber crimes and harassment created by the government of India. One such site was <https://cybercrime.gov.in> and <https://ncw.nic.in/> which registers all kinds of criminal complaints from women.

The audience stayed riveted to this presentation and found it immensely informative and useful.

Environmental Cell activities

➤ UWA Pune joins hands with other NGOs and individuals to protect the environment

On April 15, 2023 about 5000 people participated in a Peace March to protest against the construction of four roads in the serene Vetal Tekdi area of the Pune city. The construction of one road over the hill, one flyover, and two tunnels cutting the hill has been the Development Plan to solve the traffic problem.

Several UWA members participated in this March as they care for the tremendous biodiversity of the fauna and flora in the area and the aquifers under the basaltic rocky hills that surround the Pune city.



Over 5000 citizens participated in the Peace March to save Vetal Tekdi

Environment Cell Committee members showed their solidarity with this local Chipko Movement by their active participation in the March to protect the trees along the riverbanks and protest against their planned felling of trees. Over a thousand people, young and old and also children, gathered and walked along the Mutha riverbank.



Children followed their parents



Citizens protesting the felling of trees

Happenings

On May 15, 2023 a public program 'A Living River for a Living City' was organised. The Environment Cell in collaboration with 'Green Birds Initiative' organised an information-packed session to make everyone aware of the rivers on whose banks this city of Pune began settling in the stone-age and is now an ever-growing metropolitan city. The speakers were Shailaja Deshpande and Manish Ghorpade, the founder members of Jeevit Nadi Foundation.



Dr. Meera Bondre, Dr.Kalyani Bondre and Ms. Manjushree Parasnis, members of UWA Pune (Environmental Cell), at the Chipko March



Ms Phulambrikar from the Green Birds Initiative felicitated UWA President Neelam Jagdale, the Managing Trustee, Dr Meera Bondre and the Speakers



Audience at the program

UWA Pune's New Team

UWA Pune has a change in the Managing Committee members since its AGM held in June, 2023. The new team consists of President Dr Ujwala Shinde, Vice President Dr Suchitra Roy, Secretary Dr Kalyani Bondre, Joint Secretary Preeti Pawar, Treasurer Advocate Prema Kulkarni, Joint Treasurer Uma Sharma and Association Representative Dr Naina Athalye.



Meera Bondre
Immediate Past Managing Trustee
UWA Pune

Happenings

WGU Bombay

Programs

Prize Distribution function of Balwadi children and their parents was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2023.

Mr. Cawas Lalkaka along with the Trustees of Lalkaka Family Trust was called as a Special Guest at the function.

The children left the WGU with big smile on their faces after receiving prizes.



Balwadi Prize distribution with the Lalkaka family

Annual Fund Raising Program

The Annual Gala-Dinner and Fund Raising was held on February 18, 2023 at Hotel Diplomat, Colaba. Over 60 members and guests enjoyed the event.

The function was graced by Chief Guest, Dr. Rajshree Chaitanya Thoke, winner of Mrs. India Pacific Universe, 2023. She was pleased to know of the outstanding work done by WGU in the field of empowering women and children from the marginalised section of society. She shared that she would be happy to support WGU projects, in future.



Annual Fund-Raising Gala



Friends and Members of Fund-Raising Committee gather together



Dr. Rajashree Thoke released the WGU Newsletter

Session on 'Consumer Protection Act 2019 and Rules 2020'

WGU presented a Session on 'Consumer Protection Act 2019 and Rules 2020' on March 24, 2023, in WGU.

Mr. Sulaiman Bhimani, Advocate was the Key Note Speaker at the event. The Session was informative and attendees actively participated during the interaction time at the end of the Session.



Adv. Sulaiman Bhimani speaks on 'Consumer Protection Act 2019 and Rules 2020'



Attendees at 'Consumer Protection Act 2019 and Rules 2020' Session

Balwadi Checkup

A Medical Camp for Balwadi children was held on February 21, 2023. A thorough physical examination of each child was conducted by Dr Laja Nagpal.

The 20 children present were accompanied by a parent/adult. Dr Nagpal discussed on general health topics with the teachers and parents. She also shared a list of dietary additions that greatly benefit children.



Happy faces of Balwadi children after a medical checkup with Dr. Laja Nagpal



Dr. Laja Nagpal doing checkup of Balwadi children

Happenings

International Women's Day Celebrations

International Women's Day was celebrated on April 12, 2023, with grandeur and the program had more than 80 participants.

The Welcome address was given by Mrs. Pervin Vanvari in the presence of the WGU President Adv Gauri Chhabria. 'University Women', the WGU Newsletter was launched by Mrs. Rupali Chakankar, Chairperson, Maharashtra State Commission.

WGU felicitated the Chief Guest, Mrs. Rupali Chakankar, Ms. Bijal Sunil Doshi, Lion Roshan Master, on behalf of Lions Club of Bombay (Queensway), Mrs. Rajashree Trivedi, Principal on behalf of Maniben Nanavati Women's College, Ms. Asmita Vaidya, Principal on behalf of Government Law College and representatives from Mukul Madhav Foundation, All Stars Foundation and Lokmat Media Pvt Ltd.



Awardees received Awards on International Women's Day



Mrs. Rupali Chakankar, President of MSCW, released WGU Newsletter

Monsoon Magic

The Monsoon Magic program was held on July 08, 2023 WGU. The President, Pervin Vanvari, and Vice-President, Shirin Bhavnani, welcomed the audience.

The program was an eclectic mix of games, quizzes and Housie, testing both the physical and mental prowess of the participating members and their guests. The dance performance of Ms. Alina Shroff enthralled the audience.



At the Monsoon Magic program



Members and guests playing quiz game with Mrs. Shirin Shroff



Pervin Vanvari
President, WGU

Happenings

UWA Thiruvanthapuram

Environment Day Celebrations

दशकूपसमावापीदशवापीसमोहरदः ।
दशहरदसमःपुत्रोदशपुत्रसमोद्गुरुमः ॥

A pond equals ten wells, a reservoir equals ten ponds. A son equals ten reservoirs, and a tree equals ten sons!

The above shloka from the Purana is highly inspiring - a thought that can be adopted and put into practice by each and every human that inhabits the world today.

And that is exactly what our members did to observe Environment Day on the 5th of June. Guided by our executive committee, each of the members brought saplings from their homes and planted them in the ample space available in front of our UWA hall. Located in a very visible part of the city, this will hopefully, provide an example and an inspiration for citizens to follow suit.

Not stopping with this single act, our members also made a resolution to support Eco-friendly practices. At the suggestion of our senior member, Ms. Padmini, the committee decided to abandon even paper cups and plates that were being used at our meetings. Such things, though disposable, very often add to the litter and the plastic content in them prove to be an environmental hazard as well. In the light of this insight, it was decided that henceforth the members will bring their own glasses, plates and bottles to be used during tea time.

We believe in being the change that we would like to see around us!



Some of our members planting saplings



Ambili Ramnath
AR - UWA Thiruvananthapuram

Member's Corner



GW I Outreach Conversation on 'Choose to Refuse Single Use Plastics'

On June 16, 2023, I had the opportunity to participate in the above Conference hosted by CFUW Nepean. CFUW is the Canadian Federation of University Women.

Among the NFA Attendees present were the GW I President, GW I V.P. Membership from GW I and attendees from Brunei, British Federation of Women Graduates, Egypt, France, Ghana, Ireland, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Women Graduates USA.

The Webinar saw active participation from members. Members were aware that plastic took 1000 years to degrade and alternatives to plastic are still not available. Also that recycling is not the answer to rampant consumerism. Moreover, recycling programs need clearer directions about what/where and how.

In this scenario, all participants shared as to how they were trying to solve the problem of single use plastics usage in their own ways in their cities/countries.

The discussions veered around three main issues.

Status of recycling of single-use plastics in each country

Country	• Recycling
Brunei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children bring plastic from home to school for recycling and plastic bags are prohibited
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 18% plastic is recycled • Black plastic is the same colour as conveyor belts which means it is discarded • Apartment buildings usually don't compost and plastic bags are required to put garbage down the chute • New Federal Regulations prohibit or will by June 2024 the manufacture, import and sale of plastic checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware, ring carriers, stir sticks, and straws
New Brunswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New plants are sold mostly in plastic pots • Has a Solid Waste Reduction Strategy, has a recycling App and Website with Recycling that give information about what can be recycled
St. Catherines, Ontario Sherbrooke, Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycles milk cartons and styrofoam • Recycles plastic cling wrap
England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycles plastic cling wrap • Tesco supermarkets in Cornwall recycle clean food wrappers, take-out is in paper/wood, recycles cosmetic containers, circulates free mail-in program for coffee pods
London Lincoln	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has fines for incorrect sorting of recyclables in some areas • Burns all waste
India Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic repurposed to make plastic chairs • Replaces some bitumen with plastic in road construction
Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% plastic bottles recycled
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented good programs that could be emulated by other African countries
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potable water comes in small bottles/pouches that are then discarded
USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walmart has banned use of Styrofoam packaging in some areas

Member's Corner

What the countries had tried to reduce

- Reusable shopping bags, vegetable/fruit bags, drink bottles
- Zip-lock and other plastic bags (can wash to reuse)
- Repurpose plastic bottles/containers
- Purchase products in glass bottles such as milk
- Bulk Stores purchases using own containers for peanut butter, tea, coffee, spices, flours, pasta, rice, nuts, dried fruit, etc
- Use paper bags from for repeat shopping
- Source paper containers for deodorant and dental floss
- Ask florist to use paper, not plastic wrappers
- Separate plastic from paper/carboard so that the latter is recycled
- Store asked to wrap cheese, meat, fish purchases in butcher paper, not plastic wrap
- Cover leftovers with cloth, plate, wax paper
- Buy stainless steel rather than Teflon coated cookware
- Eco-friendly packaging for bar soaps
- Refillable options for large size shampoo packaging
- Knot/crochet plastics to create bags or mats
- Alternatives to coffee bags that can be recycled
- Stopping use of plastic lawn-ad signs
- Research to advance washing machine filters for reduction of microfibre emissions

What could be done

- Use cellophane and other fibers rather than plastic
- Partner with other organisations to enhance impacts of educational/advocacy campaigns
- Use stock-holder meetings to lobby about plastic waste
- Send packaging back to manufacturer
- Educate citizens about what happens to their waste
- Educate programs/information (emphasis on women) about the health risks to animals and humans
- Have school children help to clean up parks/rivers/beaches
- GWI Young Members Network has a 'Plastics' Blog. To emulate such a blog
- Ask local Chamber of Commerce to approach large businesses about their plastic-waste reduction efforts
- Ask local government about the outcome(s) of recycling programs
- Contact businesses and suggest that they use a %age of their expenditures on environmental packaging as a promotional concept

At the end of the Conference, suggestions for Advocacy/Next Steps were mooted.

Recycle avenues

- Check for 'Plastics Recycle' businesses in your area
- Check with Health Food stores in your community. Many of them have various kinds of recycling programs
- Follow-up with the BFGW and Jennifer Morley about the supermarket plastic-film
- Partner with others to mail-back single-use plastics/ leave plastic wraps in the store/inform businesses that you would purchase more if it was not plastic wrapped
- N.A. Sephora Beauty Stores will recycle clean plastic cosmetic containers

Lobby/Educate

- Lobby businesses to start single-use plastic recycling programs e.g., coffee bags, dental products, cosmetics, food wrappers, etc
- Contact Master Gardeners/Horticultural Clubs to collectively lobby growers to use coco/fibre pots
- Contact Senator Rosa Galvaz in Canada who is an Environmental Engineer
- Lobby with local government/Chamber of Commerce
- Use political 'weight/significance' of the GWI 2022 Resolution calling for an end to 'The Use of Single-Use Plastics and Plastic Packaging' in lobby/education Campaigns
- Partner with organizations such as the Avaaz, David Suzuki Foundation, Greenpeace, Oceana, etc.



Mrs Suman Jain
AR, UWAD

Member's Corner

Talk on 'Locating Agency and Experiences of Women Activists in Delhi'

I was invited by the National Archives of India to give a talk on 'Locating Agency and Experiences of Women Activists in Delhi'.

Using oral narratives and archival records, I gave insight into the crucial role of women activists during the Freedom Movement. I discussed how during a crucial phase of the Freedom Movement in Delhi, women came out on the streets of Delhi to participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement in the 1930s.

This is particularly admirable considering that purdah system operated and these women crossed the threshold of their homes, many of them for the first time without the supervision of men in their families and participated in India's struggle for freedom.

Various contemporary witnesses, at that time, noted that on many occasions women were more in the forefront than men in the movement, for boycott of foreign cloth and foreign liquor. Mrs Satyavati who spearheaded the movement for boycott of foreign cloth and foreign liquor was referred to as the Joan of Arc by her fellow male activists.

My talk led to a spirited discussion on the true significance of women activists in India's freedom struggle.



Dr Manjushree Singh
Secretary, UWAD
Associate Professor (Retd), Department of History
Gargi College, University of Delhi

My Mahabalipuram visit



There is surely in everyone's life one particular moment or incident that changes the course of events thereafter!

I am about to write of one such episode that took place many many moons ago. It is about a visit to Mahabalipuram, a World Heritage Site on the Eastern coast of India some 30 kms from Chennai (formerly Madras) the capital of Tamil Nadu.

It was the summer of 1980 I had taken 'leave of absence' from my husband and three grownup children to go to my parents' home in Chennai to study and prepare for my M.A. exams in Ancient Indian History and Culture at Calcutta University, a feat I hoped to accomplish after a long gap of 22 years since I had last sat for University Examinations and

Member's Corner

my last brush with academics and studies.

I had been with my parents for a week now, and with just another few days left before I returned home to Calcutta, I made plans to take the public transport to the historical and world famous site of the open air sculptures of Mahabalipuram along the sea coast which were over a 1000 years old and were required study material for my Master's degree course in Art and Architecture of Temples. Next morning, after breakfast, with my packed lunch and water bottle, my reference tome, handy notebook and a scarf round my head, I was all set as I took the bus for the 30km ride and mingled with the crowd in the bus for the one hour ride along the scenic East Coast road with the wide expanse of the sea and the sandy beaches.

There was a strong feeling of excitement and expectations as I got off the bus and made my way as if drawn by a magnet to the larger rock face sculpture called 'Arjuna's Penance'. What magic hands had caved this intricate panel or fresco, of details of animals, such as monkeys' mischievous pranks, elephants in single file, fine emotions on human faces along with sly humour all caught in stone?

My professor at Calcutta University had emphasised to me to take note of certain features in that long stone carving, to study every aspect of this panel which in the subject of Art. History is considered truly a masterpiece, the high water mark of Pallava art for that early period of Circa 650 AD. The high priestess of Art History, Dr. Stella Kramrisch, had described the fresco as 'poetry in stone'.

I was truly carried away and felt that I had seen it all as it was happening, like as if I had carried food and water to the 'Sthapatis' (as the stone sculptors were called) as they worked tirelessly under the merciless sun.

Where was I? I looked around and walked along with the tourists and their guide to the other cluster of monuments known as the Pancha Pandava temples. This has remained an enigma to most historians as the group of constructions remain just as separate pieces of dwarf temples without any deity within, cut out separately from single gigantic rock. These were actually considered by those bygone stone masons' as first experiments with working on the final structure of a temple. The temples of South India to this day still remain utterly beautiful and it all began in Mahabalipuram.

It was well past noon by now and all of a sudden, the sky suddenly grew dark, as rolls of thunder and lightning streaked across the sky. People around me ran helter skelter as the sky opened up to let down the rain in torrents.

I remained calm and instinctively as if I knew my way around, I walked towards an opening behind the rocks. There were already a few people at the mouth of the cave taking shelter, all looking up at the dark skies for any respite from the rain. I walked further into the cave and though dark found my way in front of a niche where vaguely I could see the outlines of some figures cut into the rock. There was a loud peal of thunder and a streak of lightning that illuminated the cave for a second and I looked straight into the carving of King Mahendra Varman the great Pallava King of Southern India of the 7th Century AD and his two Queen consorts. I seemed to know them as they appeared familiar. Their royal stance was dignified and yet simple with a smiling humility as their hands gave the symbol of benediction. I moved away seeking another panel on the wall.

It was at the furthest end of the cave and sure enough this was what I was seeking, the stone carving of Durga, one of the earliest representation of Mahishura Mardhini. The fluidity of movement of the goddess riding the lion as she pierces the heart of the Asura was caught for eternity in this one compact stone carving.

I felt a surge of triumph and joy that our country's history, tradition and culture had continued for millennia without a break, that our country's uniqueness lay in this one single piece of evidence, this unity of thought and concept wherein year after year the clay craftsmen of Kumartuli in West Bengal bring to life this very image carved in that early period of time in this corner of South India at the edge of the sea, 1300 years ago, and every detail here is repeated. In all its intricate details with the essential tranquillity and beauty when Goddess Durga visits Bengal for the 10 days in the month of Ashvin, enthralling men, women and children to pray to her for all her grace and blessings.

I too bowed my head and prayed to this early Durga to give me all success in my forthcoming exams. Then, as suddenly as the thunderstorm had come, it passed away too and soon enough taking the bus ride back to the city, I was home tired, safe and comfortable with my parents.

The week of my Masters Examinations passed quickly enough and three months later the results were being announced at the University. I made my way nervously to the Senate building of Calcutta University where examination results are posted on the big Notice Board. I wanted to check out my results personally instead of waiting

Member's Corner

for some of my classmates to let me know as to whether I had made it or not. There was a crowd around all the Notice Boards which carried the results of all the University Department Exams.

Finally seeing a break in the crowd, I peered into the board and scanned the roll numbers up and down, but could not find mine at all. Then somebody from the back called out my name loudly and asked me to look at the top of the Notice Board. There, under First Class First, was my name in bold letters and next to my roll Number was the announcement of my winning the top prize of Calcutta University...the gold medal.

Goddess Durga at Mahabalipuram had indeed smiled at me.



Gomathy Venkateswar
Vice President, IFUWA

Sone Ki Chidiya Ko Jagao – an Overview

Sone Ki Chidiya Ko Jagao – an idea of a book that took strong roots in 2021, was shaped up and published in 2022. It began on Independence Day, i.e., on August 15, 2021. We at Bringle took a financial independence pledge on the day to help in building the \$5T economy for the nation and help its citizens to be financially independent.

Our 3-pronged vision for the country:

- Vision 2025: Enhancing Employability Skills and Developing Entrepreneurial Mindset among 1 Lakh youth and children in 30 cities in 12 State clusters across 5 Regions of India
- Vision 2030: Transforming 1 billion lives, 1 Million businesses and 100 Unicorns with an Investment of \$1B USD and adding \$5T GDP to our country
- Amrit Kaal Vision 2047: Transforming India into an environmentally friendly and Carbon Neutral Green economy leading to Net-Zero

To achieve the first set of vision, we have Lakh Bagh under the Sone Ki Chidiya Ko Jagao banner. We look at teaching skills to different segments of the youth, enhance teachers' quality, take up insurance in the healthcare segment for the underprivileged and persons with disabilities, and of course the accessibility and inclusion via audits and reviews of built environment and the digital space.

We intend to leverage India's Demographic Dividend, ~54% of the Indian population of less than 30 years of age - youngest country in the world with an average age of 28 Years, without bias of gender, sexuality and disability.

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HEAR GHAR
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Sharmila Divatia
University Women's Association (Vadodara)

Member's Corner



The waters gently undulating,
Seemed like dunes
Of a twilight desert.
A magnifying setting sun
Made huge mountains of slender
clouds
Augmenting the horizon.
To flare up
Into a fiery vampire
Standing guard to a dainty sea,
Before darkness
Could slurp hues of the dusk
Spilt on the sea, land and sky.
If the sun on its routine
could so conceive and consume
Life and its myriad schemes,
What magic and mystery
Awaits little specks
That yearn to glimmer briefly!



Dr. Lakshmi Balaji
Scholarship Convener, UWAM



Through the open gates the world invites
Drenched in the rain, a cup of coffee excites
Village huts become faded backdrops
And winding lanes hazy through the hillocks
Notes Internet and Motivation Burning flame
dies in enervation Poverty strikes, but
breaking the knots Undying hopes rise from
earthen pots
A star studded night and piled up books
Convocation a dream ? seamless looks
Farewell to the night lamp, music ends
Once more drenched in rain but tears glisten
Soar up high the village church bells chime
A new horizon, the fate sublime
Through the open gates the world invites
Frothy goodness (of) coffee reach new heights



Sakuntala Hazra
Secretary IFUWA

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