



Indian Federation of University Womens Associations

AFFILIATED TO GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL



President's Address

Dear Friends,

It has always been a pleasure to pen down some thoughts and actions about IFUWA. Six months back IFUWA International Conference on 'Working together for a Sustainable Future' was successfully concluded at Pune in March 2024 primarily focusing on the participants of UWAsia and SAARCGWI members. Happy to say that we had quality participation, presentation of papers and discussions by our regional countries and friends alongwith GWI's participation, both physically as well as online. The experts from our country contributed in detail to the future of our healthy sustainable growth and existence. Innovative ideas came up concerning the different aspects of sustainability. I thank the organizing committee, members from the UWAs, donors and contributors who came together for this conference.

As an academically oriented Association, we honoured Dr Panna Akhane with the Sushil Bhardwaj Lifetime Achievement Award and floated two scholarships in her name. Post conference, apart from the hosting of two enlightening webinars on Cybercrime and status of women in the Sunderbans, University Women's Association of Vadodara established a Research Methodology course for the upcoming Research fellows. Congratulations UWAV. IFUWA was happy to be a part of the 105th year celebration of GWI where GWI VP Meera Bondre and I participated in an inaugural online BRICK laying Foundation Day. Upon the request of GWI to forward a cultural video for the July 11, 2024, IFUWA mailed the cultural performance presented at the Conference. Received words of appreciation from GWI and other NFAs for the same. Meera Bondre and yours truly participated in the online 'Advocacy Beyond Borders', designed by VP Advocacy Shaila Rao Mistry. We will soon be preparing Regional reports with her ideas. UWA of Bhubaneswar, the latest addition to the IFUWA family was chartered in Kolkata by the IFUWA Board members and we are steadily progressing with the making of UWA of Hyderabad.

Our members are our potential and strength and with pride we acknowledge the accolades they are winning for themselves for their active participation in many different fields and in distant lands. With a dynamic website in place, innumerable appeals for membership and scholarships are pouring in and I am certain with this IFUWA will grow qualitatively and quantitatively. The Compendium released at the conference is an enriched manual providing insights and achievements of IFUWA and UWAs and is a must read for all.

IFUWA is now preparing itself to handover the reins of UWAsia to Japan effective September 2024 and have had a talk with the Nepal Association to host the next SAARCGWI Conference sometime in 2025. We have done much and have advanced in many field, however there is no limit to excel in many unexplored areas which can only be achieved when we join in unison with a mission to uphold the ideals for which IFUWA stands for.

Long Live IFUWA!

Dr Ranjana Banerjee

President – IFUWA/UWAsia / SAARCGWI



Editor's Note

Dear friends,

We are now on the seventh issue of the IFUWA e-Newsletter. There were always lots of interesting news to share which were of interest to the members.

Women empowerment is a powerful subject indeed. There is so much to do. So many people to be supported, so many activities to be flagged off. And so much to write or speak about.

The UWAs had much to report on their plethora of activities and achievements galore. Achievements of members, their families and persons from their cities.

We had released the Compendium in February 2024 at the International Conference which has chronicled the journey of IFUWA and its 11 UWAs over the past many decades. It is available on the IFUWA Website and with all the UWAs.

This issue of the IFUWA Newsletter brings to you the historic instituting of the Lifetime Achievement Award, organising and successful wrapping up of the successful International Conference, amongst others.

Friends, we had created a Members' Corner

especially for you in the Newsletter. You can share your creative outputs, your achievements here. An article, a story, a poem, a travelogue, photographs, etc. Do begin contributing, if you haven't already.

On the oral Communication front, we have tried to get knowledge-based Talks organised all through the year. Talks by eminent Speakers on topical issues every month. We have reported on pathbreaking projects and programs.

Just as a recap, we have a FaceBook page where we inform about our ongoing programs. You can share your achievements there as well. We are on YouTube and all our Talks are recorded and uploaded there. You can subscribe to the channel and be updated on the new uploads.

I hope you have had the time to study our Website, which contains a wealth of information on IFUWA, it has PDFs of all the Newsletters, the Talks and the history of IFUWA. We have a Notice Board which carries some upcoming programs or news of some interest. The Website also comes up on Google Search!

Happy reading, friends!

Purobi Ghosh Mohan

Convener – Communication
IFUWA/UWAsia/SAARCGWI

Projects

Voice, Choice and Awareness

The project 'Voice, Choice and Awareness' aims at empowering adolescent girls in the age group of 12-17 yrs 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 has been initiated in 2023 with a study of how Sex Education is undertaken in Pune schools. To this effect a Google survey form has been sent to few schools in Pune city. 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 has been extended as we are reaching out to reach more schools. We are targeting 750 responses.

We intend to close the survey by October, 2024.



Malati S Kalmadi
Projects Convenor

International News

GWI News

International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2024 Info graphic

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, observed annually on February 11, underscored the importance of achieving equal participation and inclusivity for women and girls in science. On this occasion, GWI released an impactful info graphic aiming to raise awareness and promote solidarity to rectify disparities, and to serve as a testament of GWI's commitment in promoting gender equality within the STEM community. The Spanish-Speaking Culture Bridge translated this info graphic, enhancing the inclusivity of work.

UN urges urgent action for Gender Equality

The aim was to underscore the urgent need to prioritize the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality. In fact, an additional investment of \$560 billion annually is necessary to achieve gender equality by 2030 and to effectively remove institutional barriers, including discriminatory laws, expanding women's participation in leadership and decision-making.

Financial Institutions and Infrastructure Perpetuating Poverty and Gender Bias

Financial Institutions and Infrastructures intended to promote economic growth and alleviate poverty, systematically contribute to perpetuating and widening gender bias.

GWI participation in the UNECE Regional Sustainability Forum

This forum serves as a platform for review on the progress of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the UNECE region, which includes transcontinental Eurasian countries along with the United States of America and Canada. This is one of the five regions under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). During this week-long forum, member states engaged in

discussions regarding regional priorities to accelerate progress towards the 2030 goals. Other stakeholders, such as civil society, youth, regional and international organizations and academia, also provided inputs in numerous ways.

Achievement Award Badges for GWI

Global Giving is a platform that connects nonprofit organizations like GWI to donors in nearly every country. The 2024 badges recognize GWI's tireless work advocating women's rights, equality and empowerment through education. These badges signify GWI as an officially verified and vetted organization, suitable for advocating for 100% of girls and women worldwide to attain education beyond primary school.

World Water Day

On March 1, 2024 GWI underscored the critical intersection of water scarcity and gender inequality in accessing education, highlighting disproportionate impact on women compared to men. Emphasising the need for action, GWI advocated awareness and intervention in water-related issues, which directly threaten women's and girls' access to education and empowerment.

ICT impact on student learning

ICT can impact student learning when teachers are digitally literate and understand how to integrate it into curriculum. Schools use a diverse set of ICT tools to communicate, create, disseminate, store and manage information. In some context, ICT has also become integral to the teaching-learning interaction, through such approaches as replacing chalkboards with interactive digital whiteboards.

Young Member Network Conversation Series 'Growing Together'

Under the proactive leadership of Sudha Srivastava, the GWI Young Member Network continued to grow in numbers and diversity. The

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monthly conversation series 'Growing Together' is very popular, spotlighting 1-2 young women each month from the YMN. The series is 'By Young Members, For Young Members'.

Graduate Women International turns 105

On July 11, 1919 the International Federation of University Women (now Graduate Women International) was established in London in order to advocate for the right for women to access

university and college education around the globe. Therefore, on July 11, 2024, GWI stepped into its 105th year.



Shyamashree Sen
CIR

GWI Going Forward

Born in 1919, GWI today, is 105 years old. Indeed it's an occasion to celebrate on the International level and we did it in a unique way. My personal friend and VP Education, Shirley Gillett, came out with a brilliant idea of combining this celebration with fundraising. She suggested, "Let's create a virtual wall made of differently priced virtual bricks. These bricks would have the names of the donors, individuals or organisations and the dates when the donations are made". We agreed with her spontaneously. We decided to use the GWI logo colours and every brick depicting a particular amount of donation i.e., \$105, \$205, \$505, \$1005, each would have a specific colour. This colourful permanent wall was inaugurated on the 1st of July, 2024. The money collected through buying the bricks is deposited in the specially created Heritage Fund. Contribute to this Heritage Fundraising Wall at <https://www.gwi105.com/> to help GWI continue its legacy.

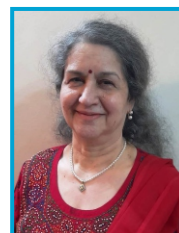
Short video clips, of 2 to 3 minutes, were invited from all NFAs depicting their history, culture, important events, etc. It was heartening to see that as many as 33 video clips were received and putting them together, we got a beautiful scenario of a diverse nature, showing the strengths of our world-wide existence. This was

played twice on July 11, 2024, at the interactive Celebration Program, at 9 am CEST and at 6 pm CEST, so that everyone from any part of the world could watch and participate at her convenience. This combined video is available on Vimeo channel of GWI.

As far as IFUWA is concerned we sent a video about our latest and most significant event, IFUWA International Conference, March 2024, including the wonderful cultural evening. Watch it on the IFUWA website.

Additionally, in this Triennium, a couple of new initiatives have been taken by me as the VP Membership. A new network of the Independent Members is formed. This network is keen to support GWI and NFAs in every possible way.

A simple Form has been prepared by MemCom which will reach all the NFAs soon to understand their difficulties in retaining the existing members and recruiting new ones. The information thus collected would help us to provide support wherever needed and take GWI's vision and mission forward.



Dr Meera Bondre
GWI Vice President Membership
Vice President UWAsia /
SAARCGWI

International Conference

March 1 and 2, 2024

IFUWA organised an International Conference on the theme 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future' on March 1 and 2, 2024 in Pune. The Conference saw several presentations, panel discussions and conversations on the Theme. Voices of eminent women from domains of environmental activism, advocacy and from the industry, all of who are, nationally and internationally, working on different aspects of sustainability and creating connectors, spreading knowledge and encouraging activism in meeting the SDG goals.

Inauguration

The Inaugural session of the Conference opened invoking Almighty's blessings followed by the traditional lamp lighting ceremony. This was followed by Welcome Address of Dr Ujjwala Shinde, President of UWA Pune who was the host of the Conference. Dr Ranjana Banerjee, President IFUWA in her Welcome Speech set the tone of the Conference by laying emphasis on the transforming power of Education which would help in finding innovative solutions in improving the welfare, status, dignity and sustainability of women in all walks of life and across the world. She mentioned that Associations from 60 countries which are GWI affiliates are working towards improving lives of girls and women.

Dr Meera Bondre, GWI Vice President Membership, threw light on the important milestones of her long work of more than a decade to revive the Asian Region commencing 2013 when she was the CIR.

In January 2021, India became the chair for the GWI's Asian Region. After the revival of UWAsia on July 5, 2021, Ranjana and Meera worked to re-establish SAARCFUW which was officially launched on May 25, 2023, as SAARCGWI with the support of the current GWI Board and Stacy, the Executive Director. Now, the IFUWA's work is in progress to have Associations from Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and the Philippines back into the GWI family.

GWI President, Patrice Wellesley Cole communicated her best wishes on behalf of the GWI Board and Stacy, over a video presentation. This year in July GWI is planning its 105th anniversary. She mentioned that IFUWA has played a pivotal role with two of its International Presidents of the then IFUW, Dr Bina Roy and Prof Chitra Ghosh, and also congratulated the current Indian team on shouldering the responsibility of organizing this timely Regional Conference in Pune.

Dr Ujjwala Chakradeo, Vice Chancellor of SNDT Women's University and the Chief Guest at the Conference was introduced by Hon. Secretary of UWA Pune, Dr Kalyani Bondre. In her keynote address Dr Chakradeo emphasised on the importance of Education in the empowerment of women and girls. She shared the story of Maharishi Karve the Founder of the University in Pune, who was committed to educate women and encouraging remarriages for widows during the early days of the twentieth century.

First Session

The Inaugural panel consisted of Dr Vandana Shiva, an environmental activist, Ms Meher Pudumjee, an industrial leader heading the reputed Thermax Ltd, Dr Akram Khatoon from Pakistan, Ms Nimalka Fernando a Human Rights activist from Sri Lanka.

Second Session

The Afternoon Session consisted of the SAARC panel which was moderated by journalist Swati Bhattacharjee. This Session was a hybrid of online and offline presentations. The Panellists were from SAARC countries: Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and India, who shared their experiences on the theme of Sustainability as representatives of their countries. Dr Mallika Farah-HOD Law College IBBAT University, Islamabad, Ms Neyma from Bhutan, Social Media Influencer, Ms Maimuna Siddiqui of Bangladesh, Ms Tabassum, young journalist from Maldives, Ms Dilrukshi from Sri

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Lanka, Ms Farida, journalist from Afghanistan and Ms Subarna Maharjan from Nepal constituted the Panel.

The Conference saw representatives from all the eight SAARC countries. Although four of them (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka) do not have NFAs, significantly they would collaborate in all IFUWA projects.

Lifetime Achievement Award and Book Launch

The next Session was the much awaited Life time Achievement Award instituted by Dr Purnima Kashyap in memory of her mother, Dr Mrs Sushil Bharadwaj. It was an emotional moment when Purnima showcased the life and works of her mother and explained that she was desirous to give this award to a member of IFUWA, who has done exemplary service to society. Details of selection were worked out amongst IFUWA President Dr Ranjana Banerjee, IFUWA Scholarship Convenor Dr Sheela Kulkarni and Dr Purnima Kashyap. Out of the 3 names received from 3 different UWAs, Dr Panna Akhani past president IFUWA was selected as the candidate for the award. She was felicitated with a plaque, a shawl and a cheque of Rs 1 lakh.

The event closed for tea with a book launch of Dr. Gayatri Vatsalya from UWA Nagpur. The title of the book was 'Diet Sustainability with Millets'.

Cultural Program

The evening ended with a cultural program of Pandit Milind Tulankar a renowned exponent of Jal Tarang and a Kathak group dance by the disciples of Guru Shama Bhate.

Third Session

Ms Malati Kalmadi started the second day session with introduction of Dr Muckta Karmarkar, the moderator of the Session who is a academician and educator, In charge Principal Kaveri Arts, Science and Commerce. Dr. Chizuko Suzuki - Deputy CIR Japan, Dr Supinda Lertlit - CIR Thailand, Bina Maharjan - Board member and Project Co-ordinator - Nepal, Teiko Nakamichi - Japan were present for the Session. We had 3 recorded presentations that were cast at the event, and in all seven UWAsia countries were represented.

Ms Candice from Hong Kong, Dr. Ambreen Ashar, Associate Prof Chemistry, Pakistan, Dr. Chizuko Suzuki and Dr Tiko Nakamichi from Japan, Dr. Supinda Lerllit and Dr. Suwithida Charungkaitikul (TAUW) from Thailand, Dr. Saira Banoo PFUW, Bina Maharjani, Nepal, Ms Maimuna Siddiqui from Bangladesh, were the Speakers of the Session.

Fourth Session

The afternoon session was presentations of affiliates of IFUWA on sustainability activities. UWA Pune was represented by Neelam Jagdale, UWA Vadodara was represented by Ms Swati Bedekar, UWA Delhi was represented by Dr Suman Jain who is currently spearheading a joint project with the Canadian Federation on the theme of No Plastic, a venture of GWI's Membership Marketplace NFA to NFA program.

There were 3 presentations, 2 of which were through videos. Dr Eileen Focke Bakker, past VP of GWI's Membership who presented research paper on two aspects of Sustainability. Shaila Rao Mistry VP, of Advocacy, GWI who shared the importance of advocacy, partnerships and collective work towards people working on the Sustainable Goals. Arthi Parigi, an Architect, made a presentation titled Reimagining Construction Worker Settlements.

The session ended with summing up of the two-day long program by Malati S Kalmadi, Project Convener IFUWA, followed by a formal vote of thanks by Mrs Phola Kaul, Trustee of UWA Pune.

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End of an enriching Conference

To take back home the richness of knowledge that each of us have received from our eminent panelists in matters concerning human and environment sustainability, we recollect in all humility the words of the Nobel Peace Prize awardee - Wangari Maathai - 'Education if it means anything should not take people away from the land, but instil in them even more respect for it, because educated people are in a position to understand what is being lost. The future of the planet concerns all of us, and all of us should do what we can to protect it. As I told the foresters and the women you don't need a diploma to plant a tree'.



Dr Ranjana Banerjee

President – IFUWA / UWAsia / SAARCGWI

Full Circle

The Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) was originally founded in 1920 in Calcutta and has come a Full Circle with IFUWA Kolkata celebrating the centenary. Yet another milestone, a matter of pride and privilege is that IFUWA under the leadership of Prof: Ranjana Banerjee heads UWAsia one of the six Regional Platforms of GWI. It includes all the National Associations / Federations in the Asian region which are GWI members.

From inception till date the aims of the International Federation, as set out in 1920 are still relevant today, changes might have been made to meet modern conditions, but not to tamper with the principles of the founders-

"The purpose of this organization shall be to promote understanding and friendship between the University women of the nations of the world, and thereby to further their interests and develop between their countries sympathy and mutual helpfulness".

Significance of the Logo - The Lamp

The Norwegian Association presented the delegates of a conference a small enameled pin, showing the 'lamp of learning' in gold on a blue background. This lamp was adopted as the badge of the International Federation of University Women and some national federations have also used this symbol, sometimes with modifications. The lamp logo is very familiar to all members around the world, with its image on letterheads, brochures, souvenirs and pins.

In India, when Dr. Bina Roy was the President of IFUWA (1975- 79) the IFUWA letterhead showed this lamp with a chain around it. She wanted to give it more meaning and asked members to suggest a suitable phrase to go around this logo. The suggestion adopted was sent in by Ms. Sarayu Sarangapani of UWA, Bangalore. Today the IFUWA lamp is encircled with the words "Enlightenment Promotes Understanding".

Education

To quote Prof. Chitra Ghosh (Late) -

Education could be the universal remedy - it is a pledge that all of us, educated women of the world, must honor so that our children, and their children's children can enjoy freedom of the mind and the soul.

For - "Freedom's banner once raised
Will fly in the blue sky
and shall never be erased"

Dr. Bina Roy (Late) had a long association with UWA, IFUWA and the International Federation and she was totally dedicated to the cause of 'education' and informed action. She had written out her thoughts for the benefit of all our members, in a letter titled "IFUWA: Challenge of the 21st Century".

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Excerpts from her letter—

“The challenge for IFUWA and its local affiliates is no more only holding sedate meetings for award of scholarships – although it still remains an important one.

In India, our task ahead now requires coordination of our local and national programs with appropriate sections of our national development plans.

...UWAs have worked for improving the lot of women in many areas, particularly education. Special focus is now on elimination of illiteracy as well as on non-formal education, enabling women to make up (for lost time) in short intensive and practical courses, in matters relating to their earning capacity. There is a whole new horizon which has come to our attention on environmental problems.

The situation of the Girl Child is another challenge which can be taken up by some UWAs.”

“...An educated person should be a growing person in conceiving needs of others around us. An educated person should be a person serving the needs of the less privileged. Does not the Indian tradition emphasize giving of one’s self and resources for those whose needs are greater? If we are willing and are ready to work, we can turn around in our organizational work to be truly effective and worthy of the educated status of our members.”

(Excerpts from the book by Nelli D.Nath (Late) UWA Bangalore

Titled INDIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S ASSOCIATIONS ORIGIN AND GROWTH)

Dr. Bina Roy’s thoughts expressed above are relevant even today and a lot needs to be done towards empowering the girl child through education, training and advocacy.



Dechu Banerjee
President
UWA Bangalore

My Experiences

It was indeed a great pleasure to actively participate in the IFUWA International Conference on ‘Working Together for a Sustainable Future’ hosted by UWA Pune on March 1 and 2, 2024. The Conference was a success in every way and an event to be remembered for years to come! I share my enjoyable experience here.

Emcee

Being the Hon. Secretary of UWA Pune, naturally it meant a lot of responsibility for me. However, in addition to that, it was a very enriching experience for me personally as well. It gave me opportunity to contribute in both roles, as an Economist and a Hindustani Classical Vocalist. I was given the role of being the Emcee for the Inaugural Session and the first Panel. In the Inaugural Session, I started by singing an invocation in Raag Yaman. Then I introduced Dr. Ujwala Chakradeo, the Chief Guest, who delivered her keynote address.

Moderator

It was great to be the moderator for the first panel comprising esteemed speakers, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Ms Meher Pudumjee, Ms Nimalka Fernando and interact with them, both on stage and off it. The topic of

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Sustainability being a part of my core area in Economics, it was great to have these women from different walks of life, speaking on different aspects of Sustainability and I summed up each of their talks with some inputs from my side. The audience also actively participated at the end of the Session.

Cultural Program

The first day ended with a brilliant music and dance show, which was organised by Mrs Malati Kalmadi and me. The first was a Jaltarang performance by world-renowned musician Shri Milind Tulankar. I have personally known Milindji for many years and had also jointly conducted a music workshop with him a few years back.



Story telling through Kathak



Students of Guru Smt. Shama Bhate



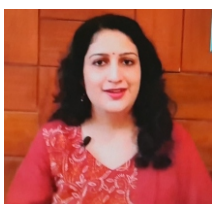
Shri Milind Tulankar



Shri Milind Tulankar performing

Jaltarang is a rare Indian instrument which literally means 'water-waves'. Water is filled at different levels in different bowls. When the bowls are struck with a small stick, they emit different sound frequencies which are the musical notes. It was absolutely enthralling for the audience to watch not just this ancient Indian art but also the ancient Indian science behind the instrument.

The latter half was a scintillating Kathak dance performance by students of Guru Smt. Shama Bhate. Kathak is one of the eight Indian classical dance forms belonging to North India. It originated from the art of storytelling in ancient Indian temples; 'Katha' meaning a story, from where the dance form gets its name.



Dr. Kalyani Bondre
Hon. Secretary
UWAPune

International Conference

Building Sustainable Future: IFUWA way

The International Conference organised by the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) on "Working Together for a Sustainable Future" at Pune, on March 1 and 2, 2024, brought together experts, leaders, and activists from various fields to discuss and collaborate on sustainable future initiatives. It featured a diverse range of speakers, including environmentalists, economists, legal experts, journalists and educators, ensuring a comprehensive dialogue on sustainability issues. Dr. Vandana Shiva in her address stated the role of ecological sustainability in achieving a balanced environment, emphasising the need for integrating traditional knowledge with modern scientific approaches. The panel discussions by the SAARC GWI speakers provided insights into technological innovations, educational initiatives and the legal frameworks that support sustainable practices and regional cooperation.

The conference attended by UWAM President, Mrs Vijayanthi Bashyakarlu and the Association Representative Dr. V. C. Santhi Lakshmi, provided a platform for meaningful interactions and knowledge sharing among participants from different regions, fostering a collective effort towards a sustainable future.

The Sushil Bharadwaj Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony honoring Dr. Panna Akhani, UWAN for her exceptional contributions to women's empowerment was a momentous occasion.



Sushil Bharadwaj Lifetime Achievement Award to
Dr. Panna Akhani, UWAN

Dr. Purnima Kashyap's speech about her mother,

Mrs. Sushil Bharadwaj, a lifetime member of University Women Association, Delhi was an awesome and inspiring verbal portrait of a phenomenal woman whom the younger generation should draw motivation from. To know that one is a part of a National/international federation that has contributed to empowerment of women through such noteworthy personalities keeps the goal glowing to draw in many more youngsters to serve and strengthen the cause.

The recipient of the first Sushil Bharadwaj Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Panna Akhani delivered a heartfelt acceptance speech, expressing her gratitude and humility. She emphasised the importance of collective efforts towards gender equality and encouraged the audience to continue working towards a more inclusive society.



M C Santhi Lakshmi
Association Representative
UWAMadras

International Conference

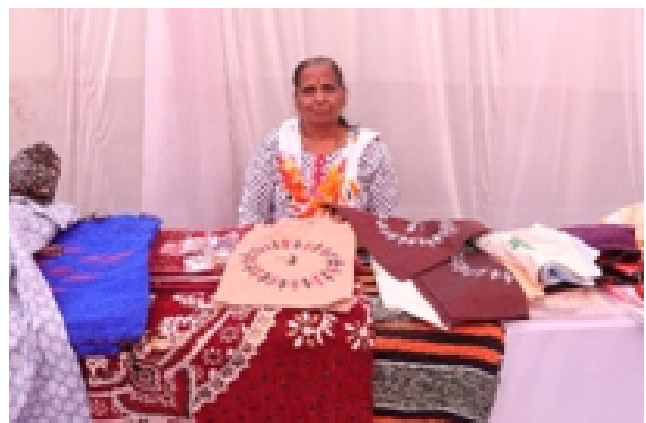
Experiences of a first timer at the IFUWA International Conference in Pune

On March 1 and 2, 2024 I experienced an amazing camaraderie and friendship among fellow University Women from India and abroad. It was my first time at the Conference, and it left me hungry for more opportunities to engage with so many young and not so very young participants. Everyone brought in a special character and energy to the environment.



The Conference started with the opening of the gates at the University Women's Association – Working Women's Hostel in Pune on March 1, welcoming so many participants, with warm and welcoming smiles. It was wonderful see our very senior and experienced members taken care of upon arrival and all through the two days of the Conference! Thank you UWA Pune for being wonderful hosts!

You will all read about the excellent presentations from people of knowledge and experience in the newsletter. Many came to participate and engage with the members from far and beyond, there were presentations from the Japanese, Nepalese, Sri Lankan teams (add the other countries please) and all of very high calibre. There were words of wisdom and experience sharing from the Graduate Women's



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Meeting old friends and making new ones!!

International Leadership and of course from our very own IFUWA President, Dr Ranjanadi, with her eternally smiling face.

I want to take you through a different dimension now. The fun side!

Exhibitions of artefacts, jewellery and so many other useful materials were laid out and items one better than the other, calling out to participants and attracting them. Amazing Craft Bazar of diverse items re-emphasised to me the talent of the Indian artisans and how important such venues become to support and encourage them. I must say, I did empty my pockets quite a bit, as I could not resist owning many of them.



International Conference



Presentation of “Sushil Bhardwaj Lifetime Achievement Award” to Dr Panna Akhani, from UWA Nagpur. Also present in this photo is my family!

There was an air of encouragement, where young students and UWA members felt they could engage and ask questions to some of the stalwarts; there was happy engagement by senior members of UWA as we can see in the pictures below. These were really treasures of the two days' Conference!

This was an opportunity for me to meet with some old friends, make new friends, share experiences and cards and have chatty evenings with good food! What made this special for me as there were so many members who very fondly remembered my mother Dr Mrs Sushil Bhardwaj, who not only held several positions within GWI, IFUWA and UWA Delhi but most importantly mentored many of the members and was a role model to them. She continued to encourage young members, add new members and believed that the future will be led by the youngsters, and they must be encouraged to grow and express themselves freely.



It was also a day to honour the work of my mother through recognition of those others who have done so much to raise the status of women, be mentors to others and go beyond and above the call of duty to selflessly encourage others. Women who have achieved so much through their contribution to the Society and making the world a better place for women, enabling them to reach newer heights! It was a pleasure to have my extended family with me on this.

I hope you have had a short glimpse of my experience. I think those who were present there can relate to this and those who could not make it to Pune, will be there in Thiruvananthapuram or elsewhere in future. There is nothing like being together to be the strength and guide and source of encouragement for each other.



Purnima Kashyap
(Acting) Association Representative
UWA Delhi

Happenings

UWA Calcutta

101st Annual General Meeting

UWA Calcutta turned 101! The 101st Annual General Meeting of University Women's Association of Calcutta was held on Wednesday August 02, 2023, at Turiyananda Hall, The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata. The election of the new Committee was held under the supervision of Dr Ranjana Mukherjee. The incoming President elect was Mrs. Deepanwita Chowdhury.



Outgoing President Sumita Roy and Secretary Baisakhi Banerjee with Incoming President Deepanwita Chowdhury, Secretary Uma Majumdar and Treasurer Indrani Chatterjee at the first Executive Committee Meeting

Commemorating International Literacy Day

On September 29, 2023, a general meeting was held at Commune, 7B Chowringhee Terrace, to celebrate the International Literacy Day. Dr Amita Chatterjee, Ex Vice Chancellor, Presidency University was in conversation with our member Dr Kaberi Chatterjee, Associate Professor, Department of English, Scottish Church College, discussing 'The Menace of Ragging and what we can do about it', in the presence of an over-full house. An interesting interaction followed and many members expressed their concern

regarding the unfortunate manner in which this phenomenon is growing. Several members related their personal experiences and gave suggestions.

Bijoya and Diwali celebrations

On November 28, 2023, Bijoya and Diwali were celebrated, at Sarat Samity, 24 Ashwini Dutta Road, Kolkata. Noted artiste Dr Meenakshi Sinha presented her thoughts on three female characters in the works of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay. Covering three aspects of womanhood, she emoted wonderfully and gave a stellar performance that members and guests enjoyed thoroughly.

Commemorating International Human Rights Day

On February 07, 2024, an Extra-ordinary General Meeting was held at Sarat Samity, 24 Ashwini Dutta Road, Kolkata, to raise the Subscription. This was followed by a talk on Human Rights by Prof (retired) Debi Chatterjee, who brought out its various aspects. Many members and guests participated during the interactive Session that followed. Among the issues that were hotly debated was the Uniform Civil Code, which has recently been in the news, thanks to the Uttar Pradesh government.



Dr Amita Chatterjee being felicitated by President Deepanwita Chowdhury at the end of the program, while Dr Kaberi Chatterjee and Secretary Uma Majumdar look on



Celebrations at Project 5 - O

President Deepanwita Chowdhury felicitating Sumita Roy after an event at Project 5 - O, a project of UWAC that has been running for 4 decades now.

Happenings

IFUWA-SAARCFUW Meet

Members of UWAC attended the IFUWA International Conference, which was held on 1st and 2nd of March, 2024, hosted by UWA Pune. Enjoying the hospitality and being enriched by the Conference.



Moni Bera being felicitated by IFUWA President Ranjana Banerjee

This was apart from individual donations from members. UWAC also contributed a celebratory article, recalling its journey from inception till date, in the publication brought out in this occasion. Past Presidents Mrs. Kajal Sen, Dr. Ranjana Mukherjee, Mrs. Enakshi. Chattopadhyay, Mrs. Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta and Mrs. Gomathy Venkateswar, had helped immensely by contributing data and pictures.

Commemorating International Women's Day 'Unsung Heroes'

On April 17, 2024, a program entitled 'Unsung Heroes' was conducted at Commune, 7B Chowringhee Terrace, Kolkata. This program was a belated commemoration of International Women's Day, in which social workers who work

behind the scenes to help the unfortunate victims of circumstance, and keep the flags of their respective organizations flying, were felicitated. Among them were Paromita Bera of South Calcutta Samridhi, which works at rehabilitating victims of acid attack, cleft lip-palate through surgery and counseling; Bharati Guin of South Calcutta Hamari Muskan, who has been a field worker for the organization and holds a Master's degree in Social Work; Saptoma Chatterjee of Behala Keertika for her dedicated service as the Assistant Superintendent of the protection home; and Moni Bera of All Bengal Women's Union who looks after the Old Age Home run by the organization.



Nuza Niger being felicitated after her deliberations

Aerospace engineer Nuza Niger also spoke about her journey starting from a challenging background and how she overcame all odds to achieve her dream. It was indeed an evening worth remembering.

Scholarship

One of the aims of the association is providing scholarships to needy and meritorious students pursuing higher studies. Rs. 5,000/- each was given as scholarships to Ms. Britney Manuk, an undergraduate student of the Loreto College and Ms. Adrian Jash, who has secured A+ grade in the Higher Secondary Examination.

Member Ms. Rupal Shaw, a Research student of Economics at the Calcutta University has been granted a scholarship by the IFUWA.

Book Bank

UWAC have donated Rs. 5,000/- for buying reference books for the library of a school run by the All India Women's Conference.



Arpita Chatterjee
Association Representative
UWAC

Happenings

UWA Chidambaram

Celebrating the International Yoga Day

The Centre for Yoga Studies, Annamalai University and University Women's Association Chidambaram Chapter jointly celebrated the International Yoga Day on June 21, 2024 at the Yoga Centre.



International Yoga Day Celebrations by UWA Chidambaram and Centre for Yoga Studies, Annamalai University

A special lecture on 'Women's Health: A Foundation for Empowerment' was organised for the benefit of the research scholars and students of the Yoga Centre of Annamalai University. Dr. Shanthi Venkatakrishnan, Gynaecologist from Guhan Hospitals, Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu was the guest speaker. The Session deliberated upon the importance and benefits of yoga practices for promoting physical health and

mental strength of women in general and more specifically during pregnancy and post-delivery.

It was an interesting and interactive session, well received by the audience. Dr. K. Praveena, Dr. V. Suseela and Dr. C. Shanthi, members of UWA Chidambaram Chapter, organised the event.

International Day of Yoga – an overview

The International Day of Yoga is celebrated on June 21 every year. It aims to raise awareness worldwide, on the many benefits of practising yoga. The official theme for International Yoga Day 2024 is 'Yoga for Women Empowerment'. The goal of Yoga Mahotsav 2024 is to propel Yoga into a widespread movement, with a special emphasis on promoting women's well-being and advancing global health and peace.



Special lecture on 'Women's health : A foundation for empowerment' by Dr Shanthi Venkatakrishnan, Gynaecologist



Praveena Krishnamurthy
Association Representative

Happenings

UWA Dehradun

Awarding of Scholarships

Scholarships of Rs. 61,000/- were awarded to the needy and meritorious girl students of different colleges of Dehradun who were studying for graduation and post-graduation. These students were from Bhagwan Das University, D.B.S, D.A.V, D.W.T and M.K.P. colleges.



Office bearers with the Chairperson of the Uttarakhand Commission for Protection of Child Rights

An program was organised on May 19, 2024 at Hotel City Star near Buddha Chowk for the distribution of the Scholarships. At the program, girls from the DWT and DAV colleges entertained the audience with cultural performances. Dr. Indu Singh, Patron, Dr. Daljeet Kaur, Chairperson, Mrs. Surinder Kalra, Co-Chairperson and Mrs Mohini Sharma, President graced the occasion with their presence. Dr. Veena Sharma, Secretary, Mrs. Sindhu Gupta, Treasurer and Mrs. Shevata Rai Talwar, Association Representative were present. Most of the members of UWA Dehradun also attended the Program, making it a gala affair.



UWA Dehradun distributes scholarships to girl students



Shevata Rai Talwar
Association Representative

Happenings

UWA Delhi

Scholarships

With donations from our supporting members and culling out from the previous fund, three fresh scholarships were awarded. Two of the awardees are bright, visually challenged students who have been able to get admission to the first semester of Delhi University. The third awardee is from Ambedkar University, bright with a passion to pursue Graphic Designing. UWAD was further enabled in continuing scholarships of four of the awardees who are nearing completion of graduation with determination to move into post-graduation and /or Banking exams.

Unsafe spaces for girls and women

A Questionnaire/Survey based project to identify the lack of safety and increasing molestation, rape in Delhi/NCR. Despite the reportage and many complaints, there is continuing complacency about the situation. Consequently, UWAD collected data via online/offline questionnaires, discussions and documentation. With inputs from Vandana Parashar, Manjushree Singh, the project was led by Shashi Khurana and Prof. Veena Ghuriani. The project was successfully completed in May 2024, with alarming results about the experience of girls of being the 'second sex'. No matter what the space – classroom, transport, market, parks, roads – the presence of men is a deterrent factor. The implications of this are indeed far reaching.

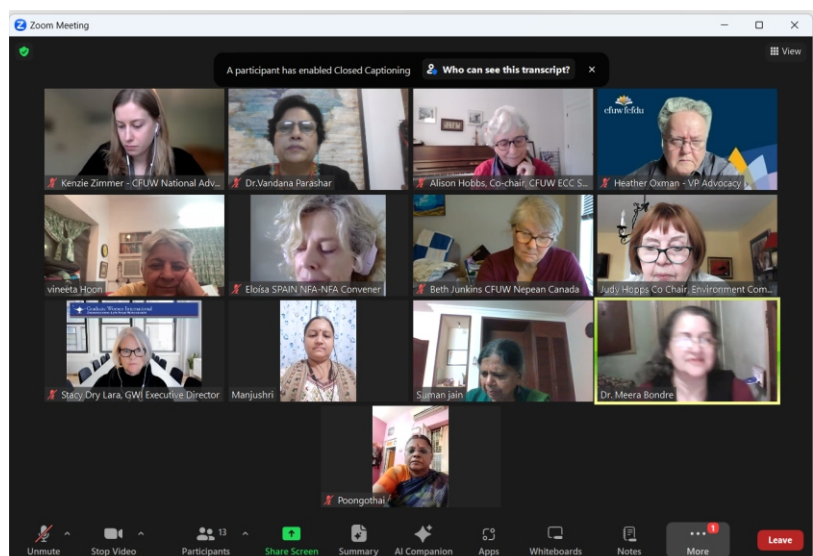


Vandana Parashar, Treasurer in conversation with Scholarship awardees

The results have been shared with the offices of the Joint Police Commissioner, Department of Women and Child, Delhi Social Welfare Board, recommending the empanelment of Counsellors who may address the issue in schools and colleges. Their response is awaited.

Elimination of single use plastic for Sustainable Development

(NFA to NFA India and Canada) is led by Suman Jain, with research support for Vandana Parashar. This is an ongoing project, based on the data collected through circulation of questionnaires.



Shashi Khurana
President
UWADelhi

Happenings

UWA Madras

International Women's Day Celebrations

On March 12, 2024, the University Women's Association, Madras resonated with the spirit of empowerment as we gathered at the World Telugu Federation Hall in Chennai to celebrate International Women's Day. Mrs. Vaijayanthi Bashyarkaru, our esteemed President, welcomed everyone to the event. The occasion was graced by Dr. Vidya Hari Iyer, a distinguished Dentist,



Women's Day Celebrations



Psychotherapist, and Counsellor, who delivered an inspiring address on 'Live with Dignity - Inspire Inclusion'.

We were privileged to felicitate Mrs. Srilakshmi Mohan Rao, a veteran social worker and cherished member of UWAM, with the 'Woman Achiever Award 2024' for her exceptional service.

Additionally, Dr. Lata Rajendran, Principal of Dr. MGR Institute of Special Education and Correspondent of Dr. MGR Janaki College for Women, Chennai, was honored for her dedication to children with hearing impairments. Mrs. T. Rukmini Devi, Secretary of Chennai Masters Athletic Association, received recognition for her outstanding achievements in sports among 50+ players. Furthermore, we proudly awarded the UWAM Centenary scholarships to five doctoral students, supporting their academic pursuits with a grant of Rs. 15,000/- each.

World Environmental Day Initiative

In line with our commitment to environmental stewardship, UWAM marked World Environmental Day on June 05, 2024 by launching the 'manjapai' project. This initiative aimed to promote sustainability by distributing 200 traditional cloth carry bags in the markets of TNagar and Mylapore, Chennai. This effort underscored our advocacy for the ban on plastic carry bags and our encouragement of eco-friendly alternatives.



Manja Pai (cloth bag) Project

International Yoga Day Celebration



International Yoga Day Celebration

Highlighting the adage 'Health is Wealth', UWAM organised a rejuvenating Yoga Session on June 21, 2024 at Dr. MGR Janaki College for Women, Chennai, in observance of International Yoga Day. Yoga instructors from the esteemed Isha Yoga Centre guided over 40 women, aged between 25 and 50, through basic yoga practices. This event reiterated our commitment to holistic well-being and the importance of maintaining good health through yoga.

As we reflect on these past months, UWAM remains steadfast in its mission to empower women, promote environmental consciousness and foster community well-being. We extend our gratitude to all members, supporters, and collaborators who continue to contribute to our initiatives.



M C Santhi Lakshmi
Association Representative
UWAMadras

Happenings

UWA Nagpur

The Newsmakers

Dr Ujwala Chakradeo, the Vice-Chancellor of SNTD Women's University and the past President of UWA, Nagpur has been conferred with the prestigious Honorary rank of 'Colonel' by Major General Yogender Singh, Additional Director General, Maharashtra Directorate. The grand ceremony was held on July 26, 2024 at the SNTD University.



Pinning ceremony of Dr Ujwala Chakradeo



Honorary Colonel Rank conferred to Prof. Chakradeo

Prof. Chakradeo will be receiving the Indian Culture Preservation Award by the Indian Documentary Producers' Association for her significant contributions to preserving Indian culture and heritage. This award will be presented by the Indian Documentary Producers Association.



Jewel of Nagpur - Gayathri Vatsalya



Jewel of Nagpur - Gayathri Vatsalya

Another philanthropist of UWA Nagpur is Mrs. Gayathri Vatsalya. Her journey in supporting intellectually challenged individuals has been recognised by Rokde Jewellers, as a 'Real Jewel of Nagpur'. Gayathri Vatsalya has dedicated her life to empowering intellectually challenged individuals, transforming their lives through her unwavering commitment and innovative approaches. With a background in Clinical Psychology, social work and Special Education, Vatsalya has spent over two decades advocating for the rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. Driven by a passion to make a broader impact, Gayathri founded 'SVKShikshan Sanstha', a non-profit organization aimed at providing comprehensive support services, educational programs, and vocational training to intellectually challenged individuals. Under her leadership, SVK Shikshan Sanstha has grown into a beacon of hope and opportunity. Gayathri's holistic approach includes personalised skills development plans, all tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual.



Meenakshi Kulkarni
President
UWA Nagpur

Happenings

UWA Pune

Scholarship Distribution

Deserving girls from weaker sections of Society were awarded Scholarships for further studies in March, 2024. Around 32 girls were given scholarships to the tune of Rs 3,42,500/-. Girls from Engineering, Nursing and other undergraduates, post graduates and those pursuing Ph.D from other streams also were considered.

Convener Dr Vasudha Keskar and Joint Secretary Preeti Pawar and Past President Neelam Jagdale conducted the scrutiny, the interviews and then finalised the deserving candidates.



Scholarship program for deserving girls Collage Option for all

Participating in Environmental Projects

The Environment Cell under Ms Manjushri Parasnis has been actively taking part in different environmental projects like India, Canada, NFA to NFA program on Anti-Plastic Awareness, Save Rivers Movement, Save Vetat Tekdi Movement, etc.

R & D Committee activities

In April 2024, the R&D Committee, under the Convenership of Dr. Suchitra Roy, had come up with a road map of various activities for the entire year. The activities will include seminars, workshops and training programs, broadly in the areas of Plastic Waste Recycling, Sustainable Gardening and Skill Development.



Neelam Jagdale
Association Representative

Happenings

UWA Thiruvanthapuram



Mega dance of UWA Members

As part of 125th anniversary of Government Women's College, Trivandrum, UWA members involved in the mega dance performance on August 01, 2024 in the College Auditorium.



Sunanda Kumari
President

Happenings

UWA Vadodara

Celebrating International Women's Day

On March 09, 2024, as part of International Women's Day celebration, members shared interesting anecdotes, song and dance performances lightened up the evening with a fashion show being the icing on the cake. The idea was to promote self-confidence and solidarity amongst participants.



Women's Day celebration



Winners - Best dress



Skill Development workshop

Skill enhancement classes

Classes in Skill Enhancement were held from June 11 to 15, 2024 where 19 underprivileged school girls and young women were trained in painting, embroidery and macrame jewellery making, with the help of talented resource pool of UWA members. Material and snacks were sponsored by members and Certificates were distributed to the participants. UWAV plans to take this initiative to next level by introducing higher level skills to the group to enhance their self-employment skills.

Promoting sustainability



Dr. Urvashi Mishra created a World Record when received a Certificate of Excellence from Golden Book of World Records in April 2024 for 'largest cervical cancer vaccination campaign (multiple locations)'.

Happenings

She was later in the limelight again, for her research project that transformed a barren space into a garden, promoting sustainability, outdoor learning and collaboration through recycled materials. Her co-edited book titled 'Sustainable Tourism for Enriching the future' got published by Authors Press in February 2024.

Developing an ergonomically designed detachable stool seat

Another path breaking research was conducted under the guidance of Dr Sarjoo Patel, who supervised a study on the poor working conditions and health problems of diamond polishing workers in Surat. With an aim to alleviate the sufferings of workers, the researchers developed an ergonomically designed detachable stool seat with back rest that can provide adequate padding back support to the diamond workers. She received a patent from the 'Government of India' on April 09, 2024 or 'Comfort Enhancing Ergonomically designed Modular Padded Seat Attachment'.

Skill development training programs



Dr Sarjoo Patel also guided a skill development training program for 60 school going adolescent girls (8th - 10th standard) in the village of Dajipura, Vadodara. After the completion of the training program, an exhibition cum sale was organised to sell the products created by the adolescent girls.

She guided skill development workshop for 60 adolescent rural girls of Dajipura village and her contribution was well recognized by local press and media.

She is also a coeditor of book titled "Sustainable Tourism for Enriching the future" published by Authors Press in Feb 2024.

Dr Sarjoo Patel is a trustee at Vatsalya foundation, Vadodara and has a vast experience of working with underprivileged children and is attached to several NGOs like Koshish Milap, Pathashala, Pathbhavan, Friend's society and VNM Foundation in Vadodara.

Diverse activities, teaching crafts and much more

Dr Kalpana Shah is a retired electrical engineer with a multifaceted personality. She is a trustee at Vatsalya foundation (Vadodara) and has a vast experience of working with underprivileged children and is attached to several NGOs like Koshish Milap, Pathashala, Pathbhavan, Friend's society and VNM Foundation in Vadodara.



Kalpana's forte is teaching crafts like origami, drawing, Ganpati making (especially for mentally challenged children) and folk art paintings combined with entrepreneurship skills. Kalpana also takes sessions on problems related to puberty and composes poems and songs for children that are transformed into plays and conducts Gujarati language classes for children.



Prof. Dr. Manisha Shukul co-authored a book titled 'Essentials of Research Methodology in interior designing', published by Authors Press in February 2024.

Ms. Sharmila Divatia received nine recognitions at Rotary's Award Function on June 16, 2024. To name a few, Platinum Award as Best President, Iconic Rotary Leader 23-24, Platinum Award for Public Image throughout the year.



Sharmila Divetia
Member

Happenings

Research Methodology Online Course for Social Sciences

UWA शोधार्थी

To strengthen and promote research amongst university students, UWA Vadodara, Gujarat, introduced a short term, online Certificate Course on 'Research methodology for Social Sciences' for PG and Doctoral students. 27 participants registered for this course (26 from Gujarat, MP and Rajasthan and one girl student registered from the UAE)

Such a self-reliant course on Research Methodology, without any financial support from the government or any educational institution, is a pioneer attempt that UWAV can boast of.

This Research Methodology '2 credit certificate course' will run daily for 3 weeks. Renowned Educationist, Dean & former Vice Chancellor of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU), Surat, will be the key resource person.

Other resource persons too are distinguished, experienced and expert professionals from different parts of the country. A pool of 17 resource persons (RP) will be taking various topics on research, and thus get directly or indirectly will be associated with UWAV.

Five RPs who can devote some extra time, will be allotted 5-6 participants each. These RPs will guide students to prepare a research proposal, submit it and present their ideas in 7 minutes, by the end of the Course.

80% attendance and presentation of research proposal is the pre-requisite to avail Certificates.

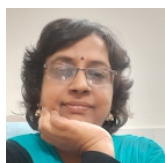
The course was inaugurated on July 11, 2024, which is also the 105th birth anniversary of GWI Dr. Ranjana Banerjee, IFUWA President, in her keynote address at the Inaugural Session, explained various types of research, their significance and role in empowering women and role in a nation. She informed the participants that GWI and IFUWA regularly offer scholarships to women pursuing PhD and emphasised that UWAs should apply for the same.

Dr. Arti Bhatti, President UWAV, Chief Course Coordinator gave a brief introduction of UWAV during the inaugural session, and said that this course will enhance scientific temperament amongst participants and make them aware of various national and international scholarships through IFUWA / GWI.

Prof. Maneesha Shukul, Vice President UWAV, Coordinator, aptly coined the term 'UWA- शोधार्थी' (Youth from UWA- in quest of research and knowledge). She said that this Certificate Course will be beneficial to participants for their PhD, increase their research abilities and enhance their awareness about major and minor research projects.

A total of 58 people joined the Inaugural Session online, to make it a successful event.

This Course is in line with the mission of IFUWA and all UWAs, as well as GWI to train, impart skills, educate and empower women and girls at all levels. For any nation to progress, research and innovation play a crucial role. It's during post graduation (PG) and Ph.D., that students get basic understanding and clarity of Research. Here techniques & methods of Research are taught and practised.



Dr Arti Bhatti
President

Happenings

WGU Bombay

Annual Scholarship Awards Function

WGU held its Annual Scholarship Function on January 6, 2024, disbursing scholarships on need-cum-merit basis to 80 young women students who are pursuing higher studies in various fields. We have come a long way and have been able to help many deserving and needy students in their journey towards literacy. Chief Guest Dr. Jyoti Anand Kode, Principal Investigator and Senior Scientist at the Kode Lab. In her address to the students she motivated them and said that the "Students must focus on their studies and use their strength and over their weaknesses."

The function concluded on a very happy note for furthering the empowerment of women at all levels.



Scholarship Awardees 2023-24

Magic Show at Study Center

Study Center arranged a magic show for the Study Center children in the Amy Rustomjee Hall on January 18, 2024. An experienced magician, wearing a curious odd dress, showed some tricks which are really unbelievable. All the time the magician kept the boisterous students and their parents spellbound with his tricks. The children burst out into loud cheers after each item.



Magic Show

Republic Day Celebration

The Republic Day was celebrated on January 26, 2024. The President, members of the Managing Committee, children of the Study Center and Balwadi along with their parents, hostelites, hostel and office staff were present at the Flag Hoisting Ceremony. Flag was unfurled by President Pervin Vanvari along with Vice-President Shirin Bhavnani, and Trustee Mrs. Havovi Gandhi. Study Center and Balwadi children performed the dances under the guidance of Hon. Secretary Mrs. Ila Dalal. All the children and members presents were given snacks and sweets. Children left with big smile on their faces wearing tri-color dresses and proudly carrying the India flags.

Happenings



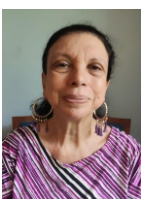
Republic Day Celebrations 2024

Annual Gala Fund Raising Drive

The Gala function held on February 17, 2024 at The Bombay Presidency Radio Club, Ltd, Presidency Hall. The event was a great success with members and guests danced away to their hearts' content. Our Chief Guests, Mrs. Meena Advani and Mr. Sudip Kumar Chakravarty, Chief Finance Officer, Elektromag Group, graced the occasion. They were both felicitated with flowers. WGU Souvenir was also released on this happy occasion, in the presence of the Chief Guest.



Annual Fund Raising Gala



Pervin Vanvari
President

Member's Corner

Sheela Kulkarni takes over as President, Inner Wheel Club of Nagpur

Dr Sheela Kulkarni, Past President, UWA Nagpur, presently Convener Scholarship – IFUWA, takes over as President of Inner Wheel Club of Nagpur for 2024-25.

She has been a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Nagpur for the last 25 years. This is her second term as its President.



New responsibility

Shrinika Thrivikram stands tall

My granddaughter, studying in the 3rd Standard of Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Chetpet has secured 1st rank in the State level(Grade II) of the Spell Bee International 2023-24.

She has also secured the 2nd prize in the Solo dance event conducted by their school.



Vaijayanthi Bashyarkaru
President



Certificate



Shrinika proudly holds her Award

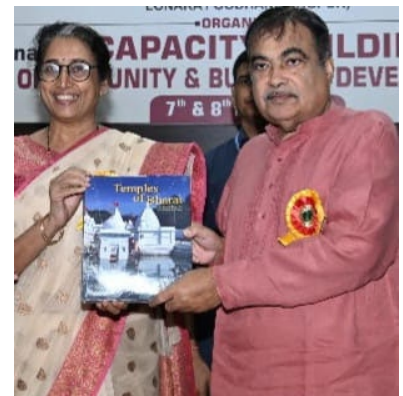
Temples of Bharat

I am delighted to announce the publication of my latest book, 'Temples of Bharat'. The architecture of the temple is one of the most revered treasures of India. Temples of various forms, designs, styles, types and characters; belonging to different eras are scattered all around us, enriching the cultural landscape of Bharat. An attempt has been made to understand various ways in which 'The Temple' as one of the most significant typologies of Bharat can be studied. Temples are the best medium to shed light on the Hindu religion, culture, and society of that period. Just as there are many texts and treatises that introduce Indian thoughts and philosophy, so are these temples. Beautifully sculpted, every temple is like melodious music carved on a rock. We are privileged to have this treasure from our ancestors.

Temples of India demand our attention to revive and relive once again the knowledge that prevailed. It is time now to resuscitate temples and give them their former glory, beauty, and admiration. These temples can become instruments of social enlightenment and community building once again. In the form of this book, I have this small resolution to keep these lost gems in front of you as much as possible.

Ujjwala Chakradeo

Vice Chancellor, SNDT University
UWA Nagpur



Hon'ble Minister Nitin Gadkari
with Dr Mrs Ujjwala Chakradeo

Member's Corner

Some memories of IFUWA Conferences

In 1977, the IFUWA with its Head Quarters in Delhi had Dr Bina Roy as President and Dr Avinash Pennathur as Secretary. They were holding their Central Committee (CC) meeting in Bombay and the dates of the Meeting were just before the Durga Puja. Understandably, none of the office bearers from UWAC, including the President Chitra Ghosh, as also the AR, were unable attend the CC meeting. Out of the blue, Chitradi asked me to proxy for the AR of UWAC and attend the Bombay Conference.

This took me back to my entry into the University Women's Association of Calcutta in October 1974. Prof Dipti Mitra, Head of Department of English, Lady Brabourne College for Women was the President at that time, and Madhumathi Ghosh, Faculty Member of Gokhale Memorial College, was the Secretary.

The next year, 1975, was the election year and Prof. Chitra Ghosh was elected President of UWAC and Prof Dipti Mitra the Secretary. The AR was Dr Leena Chatterjee.

And in 1977, I was stepping into the world of IFUWA and its impending Conference, which was to be held at the SNTD University on Maharishi Karve Road in Bombay. This was right next to where I had lived and grown up in my formative years in Bombay. It was a welcoming call from my past, as SNTD college was a landmark building in that area at the time. As it happened. I was in total awe of the way Dr. Bina Roy conducted the meetings, with precision and punctuality.

The highlight of that Conference was the keynote address delivered by Dr Vina Mazumdar, Director of the Centre for Women's Development Studies in Delhi. She was the doyen and pioneer of the Women's Movement in India and with her initiative in Women's Studies, departments slowly started opening up in Universities across the country. Her keynote address that day was dynamic and we listened to her Wake Up call to all women's organizations to work for women's immediate critical issues, and that University Women's Associations should provide larger funds for giving free education for poor women to attend college.

That was my first taste of IFUWA, but I had a longer journey destined with it. I became the National Secretary under Prof Chitra Ghosh in 1979 and continued to hold the position till 1983. During this period, the IFUWA team celebrated its Diamond Jubilee Year, holding an International Conference in Calcutta where the IFUW President from Japan Fumi Takano and her Vice President, VGIF President Elizabeth May, members from the British Federation of Women Graduates and a big Chinese delegation from the All China Women's Federation attended. Members from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh also joined. Excellent arrangements for stay were organised and even home stay extended to some of the overseas delegates.

We had a great turn out and had a grand opening in the Vivekananda Hall of the Ramakrishna Mission. Thereafter, a two-day Seminar was held on the interesting topic "Role of Women in the Media". It was well covered by the Press, and what came out of the Seminar was a policy that was implemented for some time: A Watchdog team from local UWAs across the country to monitor TV Ads on women that was unseemly or derogatory to Women. 'Fair and Lovely' was one such brand which was removed from TV ads for quite some time till it reappeared under another guise!

Our 4 year term of office came to an end coinciding with our entire IFUWA team attending the IFUW Triennial Conference in Groningen in the Netherlands. On our return, the Head Quarters moved to Madras.

Now, in my twilight years, I have the privilege to be back in IFUWA as its Vice President, from 2020, with its Head Quarters again in Kolkata. I think this team has served its members well. It remained active through COVID, revived two dormant organisations: UWAsia and SAARCGWI and has held an International Conference in Pune in March 2024 with a reasonably large turnout.



Gomathy Venkateswar (July 2024)

Vice President
IFUWA

Member's Corner

Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple and its Rituals

An overview

The Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple is a Hindu Temple dedicated to Vishnu in Thiruvananthapuram, the Capital of the State of Kerala, India. It is one of the 108 celebrated Maha Vishnu Temples in India, has a most hoary tradition of nearly or more than 1000 years, considered as the sacred abodes of Vishnu in the Sree Vaishnava tradition. It was established in the first year of Kali Yuga (which is over 5000 years ago). The idol Lord Padmanabha Swamy in the temple is in a reclining posture, with his right hand placed over a Shiva Lingam (a symbol of Lord Shiva). This posture is known as "Anantha Shayanam" and symbolises Lord Vishnu in a state of cosmic sleep, where he dreams the Universe into existence. The idol is surrounded by Lakshmi Devi (the Goddess of Property) and Bhoomi Devi (the Goddess of Earth). And the presence of Shiva within the sanctum sanctorum adds to the sanctity of this Maha-Kshetram dedicated to Vishnu. The idol is viewed through three different doors – head and chest through one door, hands through the second door and feet through the third door. The second door of the shrine provides a glimpse of Lord Brahma on a lotus flower, emerging from the navel of the deity.

Along with the shrine of Lord Padmanabha, the temple complex has shrines for several other deities. We can see one, dedicated to Narasimha, a part – lion and a part – man avatar of Vishnu. Another important shrine is built in the honour of Parthasarathi – Lord Krishna in the role of a charioteer. Lord Krishna himself is another avatar of Lord Vishnu. The seven acres of land of the Temple has only one symbol for worship VIGRAHA/Murthi that is the human concept of the Absolute Divinity in the form of the 18 feet long Sree Padmanabhaswamy comprising 12,008 Saligram Silas from the Gandaki (Govardhana) river in Nepal. The concept of the scriptural information is, where there are 12 Saligrams, that is a Maha Kshetra, a great temple. Sree Padmanabhaswamy's darsan therefore means the workshop of 1000 such temples.

In January 1750, Anizham Thirunal surrendered the kingdom of Travancore to Padmanabha Swamy, the deity at the temple and pledged that he and his descendants would be vassals or agents of the deity who would serve the kingdom as Padmanabha Dasa. Since then, the name of every Travancore King was preceded by the title Sree Padmanabha Dasa and female members of the royal family were called Sree Padmanabha Sevinis. The donation of the King to Padmanabha Swamy was known as "Thrippadi-Danam".

The rituals are many and magnificent as will be seen from the list of weekly, fortnightly, monthly, half-yearly, annually and sexennially (once in six years). Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple has 54 forms of rituals.

The rituals at the temple begin with the "Trikkappu Turappu". Every morning at 3 am, the temple / shrine (Garbha Griham) opens with the mellifluous sound of Sanghu and Panchavadyam. This is followed by "Abhishekam" for the Abhisheka murthies comprising Sree Padmanabha Swamy, Lakshmi Devi and Bhoomi Devi. The "Ethirettu Pooja" comes next and is the pooja of adored welcome. The next ritual is "Palpayasa Nivedyam" while the "Madhyanya Pooja / Ucha Pooja" is, as the word says the pooja in the Madhyamham (10 am to 2 pm). "Evening Pooja" and special "Deeparadhana" with seven effulgent modes is in the evening and the Garbha Griha closes after "Athazha Pooja" in the night.



Sunanda Kumari
Association Representative

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2. Internet research

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Dr Panna Akhani being bestowed with the award by Dr Kashyap and Dr Ranjana Banerjee. Dr Shyamala Nair, Dr Harsha Nair, Dr Sheela Kulkarni, Dr Nandita Sapra, Dr Meenakshi...

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