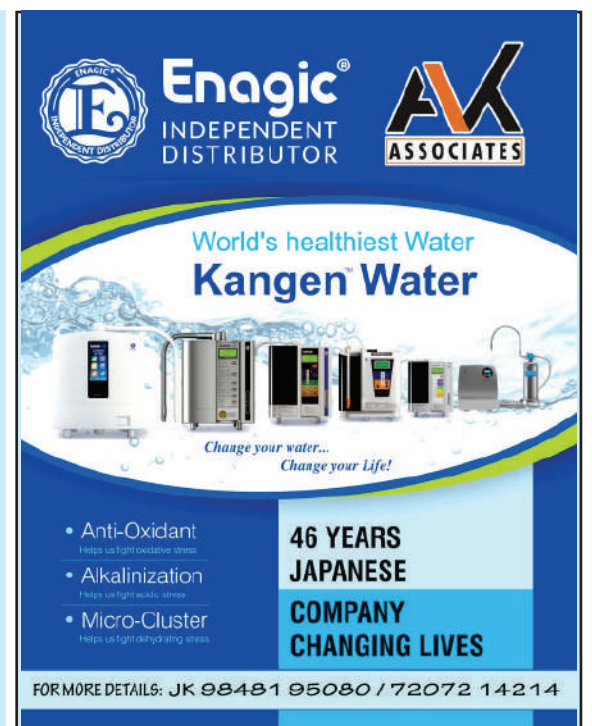


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**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
- DAY -**

“Women should be celebrated every day...It doesn't just honor the iconic women who have changed history, but encourages new generations to dream big and know that anything is possible.”

IAF Making History

PRESIDENT'S STANDARD AND COLOURS PRESENTATION TO INDIAN AIR FORCE UNITS

On 08 March 2024, the Hon'ble President of India, the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, awarded the prestigious President's Standard to 45 Squadron and 221 Squadron, and the President's Colours to 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD) and 509 Signal Unit (SU) of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The award of the President's Standard and Colours is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon any military unit. This is the first time in the history of the IAF that four units have been awarded the President's Standard and Colours together in a single ceremony.

On arrival, the Hon'ble President was presented with an aerial salute by three Mi-171V helicopters in 'Dhwaj' formation trooping the National flag. General VK Singh (Retd), Min of State for Civil Aviation, also graced the occasion. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff and senior officers of the Indian Air Force were present on this momentous occasion.

The ceremonial parade was commanded by Group Captain KS Sanu Nair of 11 BRD. First Day covers for 45 Squadron, 221

Squadron, 11 Base Repair Depot and 509 Signal Unit were released by the Hon'ble President during the ceremony.

The President's Standard were received by Group Captain M Surendran, Commanding Officer of 45 Squadron and Group Captain Shubhankan, Commanding Officer of 221 Squadron. The President's Colours were received by Air Commodore Ashutosh Vaidya, Air Officer Commanding of 11 BRD and Group Captain Vivek Sharma, Commanding Officer of 509 SU during an impressive parade at Air Force Station Hindan, Ghaziabad.

Addressing the parade, the

Hon'ble President congratulated the units receiving the President's Standard & Colours, and commended them for their services to the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the contribution of the Indian Air Force in protecting our country is written in golden letters. The Air warriors have shown amazing courage, dedication and self-sacrifice in the wars of 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1999. They have also made an important contribution in relief and rescue work during disasters in the country and abroad. The devotion to duty and determination displayed by our brave airmen are a source of

inspiration for all citizens.

The President said that it is a matter of immense pleasure that the Indian Air Force is not only protecting the country's space but is also making an important contribution to India's space programme. It is a matter of great pride for all the officers and soldiers of the Air Force that the four astronauts who have been selected for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission are Air Force officers.

The President said that in this rapidly changing era, security requirements and priorities are also changing rapidly. Like other sectors, the role of technology is becoming more important in the defence sector too. She was happy to note that the Indian Air Force has been adopting modern technology over the past few years.

The President greeted all women on the occasion of International Women's Day and said that it is a matter of joy that women are being provided equal opportunities in all branches of the Indian Air Force. They are being encouraged to make a career in the Air Force. She expressed confidence that in the coming times, more and more girls will join the Air Force and serve the country.





She added that increased representation of women in the Air Force will make this Force more inclusive. She expressed happiness on the fact that women of-

ficers are provided with equal opportunities in every branch of the IAF, which provides them with greater opportunities for career advancement.

The Hon'ble President highlighted the courage, commitment and sacrifices of the Indian Air Force during war and peacetime operations, both within

India and overseas. She also brought out the important contributions of the IAF in the ongoing space programmes of the country and the upcoming

National Creators Award 2024 PM acknowledges creator's contribution in nation-building

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi presented the first-ever National Creators Award on 8th March 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. He also had a brief interaction with the winners. The award is envisioned as a launchpad for using creativity to drive positive change.

For the category 'New India Champion' award was given to Abhi and New. The Prime Minister asked them about how they keep the interest of their audience while presenting dry facts. The said that like the Prime Minister's way of presentation, if the facts are presented with energy, the audience accepts that. The Prime Minister complimented them for taking up the challenging but extremely important field.

Best Storyteller Award went to Keerthika Govindhasamy known as Keerthi History. When She touched the PM's feet the Prime Minister reciprocated and said that touching feet in the field of art is different but personally he gets disturbed particularly when a daughter touches his feet. When she talked about her limitations with Hindi, the Prime Minister asked to speak in any preferred language as 'this is a huge country and you will be heard at least in some corner of this great land'. She appreciated the Prime Minister for acknowledging and promoting the great Tamil Language. She told the Prime Minister about the interconnected nature of history and politics and resulting occasional backlash in social media. As the Prime Minister asked, she said today's teenage audience prefers to learn about the greatness of India.

Disruptor of the Year was awarded to Ranveer Allahbadia.

The Prime Minister suggested Ranveer creates awareness about sleep deprivation and mentioned sleeping only for a few hours for the past several years. PM Modi also touched upon the benefits of YogNidra. He congratulated Ranveer for his success.

Ex-Scientist from ISRO, Ms Pankti Pandey from Ahmedabad received the Green Champion Award for amplifying the message of Mission LiFE. Upon interaction, the Prime Minister delivered an anecdote popularly known to



the people of Ahmedabad drawing huge applause from the crowd. Ms Pankti recommended the people to analyse their waste and perform a waste audit of the trash being discarded from home in an effort to make zero waste. The Prime Minister asked her to conduct a detailed study about Mission LiFE and recalled his clarion call to make ones' lives environment friendly

The Award for Best Creative for

Social Change went to Jaya Kishori known as Meera of modern times. She shares stories from Bhagavad Gita and Ramayana insightfully. She explained her journey as 'Kathakaar' and how she is creating an interest among the youth by presenting the great insights of the epics of our culture. She also talked about the possibility of living a meaningful life while fulfilling one's materialistic responsibilities.

Lakshya Dabas received the Most Impactful Agri Creator for his

The creator economy is growing leaps and bounds, bringing forth voices from across the country. Digital creators are storytellers of a confident, assertive New India. They drive social impact, promote local culture, and boost tourism. The National Creators Award features a wide array of impactful voices across 20+ categories- recognizing excellence and impact across domains, including storytelling, social change advocacy, environmental sustainability, education, gaming and others.

ernor of Gujarat, Shri Acharya Devvratji to discuss his vision on natural farming where he has persuaded more than 3 lakh farmers to adopt natural farming. He also urged Mr Lakshya to listen to Shri Devvrat's YouTube videos. The Prime Minister also asked for his assistance in debunking the myths surrounding natural farming and organic farming.

Cultural Ambassador of the Year Award went to Maithili Thakur who performs original songs, covers and traditional folk music in multiple Indian languages. On the Prime Minister's request, she performed a devotional song for Bhagwan Shiv on the occasion of Mahashivratri. The Prime Minister remembered Cassandra Mae Spittmann who was mentioned by PM in one of his Mann Ki Baat programmes. She sings songs, especially devotional songs in many Indian languages. On meeting the Prime Minister recently, she sang



AchyutamKeshavam and a Tamil song in front of PM Modi.

The Best International Creator Award had three creators, Kiri Paul from Tanzania, Drew Hicks from America, Cassandra Mae Spittmann from Germany. Drew Hicks received the Award from PM. Drew Hicks, with his fluent Hindi and Bihari accent has amassed social media popularity and fame for linguistic talent in India. Expressing his happiness for the Award, Drew said that he wishes to make people happy and raise the name of India. He informed that his interest in Indian culture rose due to his father's connection with BHU and Patna. Prime Minister Modi wished him luck and said that his every sentence will inspire the youth of the country.

KamiyaJani of Curly Tales was given the best travel creator award. She focuses on food, travel & Lifestyle and showcases beauty and variety of India in her videos. She talked about the beauty of India and said that the objective is that India should be number 1 on the global map. When she said that she is confused about visiting Lakshadweep or Dwarka, the Prime Minister said that for Dwarka she will have to go very deep to the laughter among the audience. PM Modi recalled the bliss that he felt on having darshan of the submerged city of Dwarka. Narrating his experience of going to Aadi Kailash, the Prime Minister said that he experienced the places of height and depth both. He also asked the creators to inspire devotees to experience the holy places in their entirety other than the darshan part. He also reiterated that 5-10 percent of the total travel budget should be spent on local products. Apart from supporting the local economy, this helps in emphasizing the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat spirit also, he said. Kamiya thanked the Prime Minister for rejuvenating the places of faith in the country.

'Technical Guruji' Gaurav Chaudhary a top tech YouTuber won the Tech Creator Award.

He credited Digital India for contributing to his channel in a significant way. The Prime Minister said "for a bright future we need to democratize technology. UPI is a big symbol of that as it belongs to everyone. World will progress only when such democratization takes place". Gaurav narrated his experience of using UPI in Paris and said that Indian



solutions can help the world.

MalharKalambe received Swachhata Ambassador Award for leading clean up drives since 2017. He also raises awareness on plastic pollution and climate change. He is the founder of 'Beach Please'. The Prime Minister joked with lanky Malhar and told him that many creators here talk about food and nutrition. He elaborated on his journey and campaigns and said that attitudes towards removing garbage will need to change. The Prime Minister praised the consistency of his efforts and complimented him for creating an environment for cleanliness.

Heritage Fashion Icon Award was given to Jahnvi Singh, a 20-year-old content creator for Instagram who talks about Indian Fashion and promotes Indian Sarees. The Prime Minister said that the textile market goes with fashion and praised the creator for her efforts in promoting Indian textiles. She reiterated her

motto of taking Indian themes forward with Sanskriti, Shastra and Saree. The Prime Minister, pointing towards the trend of readymade turbans, dhoti and such apparels that need tying, asked her views on promoting such things. She also emphasized the beauty of Indian textiles. The Prime Minister said India has always been a leader in fashion.

Best Creative Creator- female award went to Shraddha famous for her multilingual comedy sets and creates engaging and relatable content across generations. Receiving her with her trademark 'Aiiyo', the Prime Minister said that this is the second time he met Shraddha. Shraddha said that the award is recognition for those who are creating content from their homes and she also pointed towards her approach to find light humour in serious themes. Shraddha complemented the Prime Minister for his spontaneity in his interaction with the creators. RJ Raunaq received the Best Creative Creator-male award. Raunaq said that with Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister is also an important, record-breaking figure of the radio in-

lean physique, the PM jokingly told Kabita to take care of him. She stressed the importance of cooking as a key life skill. She also said schools should sensitize the students about agriculture so that they realize the importance of food and avoid wastage. The Prime Minister said that people should try the local cuisine when traveling. The Prime Minister told food related creators to promote millets- Shri Anna and also promote the awareness of nutritional values. The Prime Minister remembered his visit to Taiwan where he was recommended a Buddhist restaurant for vegetarian food. When he saw non vegetarian looking dishes there and on enquiry, he was informed that vegetarian dishes were shaped like chicken mutton and similar dishes so that local population get attracted towards such food.

NamanDeshmukh received the Best Creator in Education Category. He is an Instagram influencer and content creator in tech and gadget space. He covers technology, gadgets, finance, social media marketing and educates audiences on tech related subjects like AI and coding. He informed the Prime Minister about his content on educating people on various online scams and also benefits and ways of availing benefits from the government schemes. The Prime Minister praised him for creating awareness about safe surfing and social media practices. The Prime Minister told the creators to create content on Atal Tinkering Labs. He also said that children should be encouraged to take up science as successes like Chandrayaan have created a new scientific temper among children.

Ankit Baiyanpuria was given the Best Health and Fitness Creator Award by the Prime Minister. Ankit is a fitness influencer and is famous for completing his 75 hard challenges. He had collaborated with the Prime Minister. Ankit told the audience to work out regularly and lead a balanced lifestyle.

'Triggered Insaan' Nischay was given the Gaming Creator Award. He is a Delhi-based YouTuber, Live-streamer and gamer.

dustry. He thanked the Prime Minister on behalf of the radio industry. Raunaq also spoke in his trademark 'Bau' style.

Award for Best Creator in Food Category went to Kabita's Kitchen, A housewife who became a digital entrepreneur with her recipes and tutorials. Continuing with his concern for Malhar's



He thanked the Prime Minister for recognizing the Gaming Category.

Aridaman was given Best Micro Creator. He specializes in vedic astronomy and ancient Indian wisdom. He explores astrology, spirituality and personal growth. The Prime Minister narrated a light-hearted anecdote pretending to be a palm reader in an unreserved train compartment how he was given a seat every time. Aridaman said that he makes content on Dharm Shastra and said the trophy has many elements of the Shastras with Dharm Chakra, Vrishabh and Simha. He said that we need to follow the ideals of Dharm Chakra. Aridaman also stressed the need to embrace Indian attire. Best Nano Creator Award was given to Piyush Purohit from Chamoli Uttarakhand who highlights little known places, people and regional festivals. The Prime Minister recalled one of his requests in Mann ki Baat where girls from Kerala sang a song from Chamoli. Aman Gupta, Founder and CEO of boAT and famous for his involvement in Shark



Tank India was given Best Celebrity Creator Award. He told the Prime Minister that he started his company when Start Up and Stand-Up India were launched in 2016. And in a short span of time, they are one of the largest audio brands in the world.

About National Creators Award 2024

The current government heavily

focuses on digitization and social media is an important part of it. Social media gave rise to the individual content creation industry which is currently a billion-dollar industry and has global reach. Millions of digital creators on Facebook, Instagram, X, and other platforms create positive content on social media that motivates other people and brings positive

change in the society. To honour these creators PM Narendra Modi decided to create an award known as National Creators Award 2024. Through this government of India is recognising the contribution and efforts put by these content creators to entertain and empower people. These awards will be given in 20 different categories to creators from all over India.

The objective of the National Creators Award 2024

It was the first time that the Government of India decided to honour our social media creators for their efforts. The National Creators Awards 2024 aimed at recognising the efforts of these creators for making India move towards digitization.

Currently the content creation industry is a billion-dollar industry which is rapidly growing and these creators had a huge hand in this. They are great catalysts of social change and growth. Therefore, this award comes as a huge motivation for all the Indian creators.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights celebrates its 19th Foundation Day

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) celebrated its 19th Foundation Day today (12th March, 2024) at Jacaranda Hall, Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi. To mark this occasion, the Commission invited children from different parts of the country to acknowledge their efforts and participation in the Commission's Pariksha Parv campaign. Chairpersons and Members from all the States Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) were also invited to.

Chairperson, NCPCR, Shri Priyank Kanoongo, Smt. Preeti Bhargava Dalal, Member NCPCR, Dr. Divya Gupta, Member NCPCR, Smt. Rupali Banerjee Singh, Member Secretary NCPCR were present on the occasion.

Shri Priyank Kanoongo, Chair-



person, NCPCR, welcomed all the dignitaries and children. He briefed about the initiatives taken up by the Commission and acknowledged the efforts and cooperation of the State Commissions of Protection of Child Rights. Shri Kanoongo said that the children, the major stakeholders of the Commission, are the future of the nation and that only by solving the present day problems in a way that they don't have to talk about these problems any-

more is the way forward to further development of the country. He further added that 172 benches and camps have been organized by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights throughout the country and in the remotest areas for addressing the problems related to children in a better manner. Through social audits of Child Care Institutions around 1,45,000 children have been repatriated.

Chairperson NCPCR shared that one of the activities planned under Pariksha Parv 6.0 is to encourage small video messages from children to express their experiences, patterns, go-to routines etc. about dealing with exam stress/anxiety. The selected clips/messages are being showcased on the social media platforms of the Commission after parental consent. The Commission has received more than 6500 videos from the children across India. Children and their parents attended the function and received the certificates of appreciation for the enthusiastic participation in Pariksha Parv 6.0.

On the NCPCR's foundation day programme, the various State Commissions shared their good practices and experiences. Some of the SCPCRs highlighted the new initiatives that they have taken in





GrandQueens Global Leadership Awards 2024

Reach to 12 Cities in India

GrandQueens Global Leadership Awards 2024, organized by GrandQueens Club (Women Encouragement wing of Celebration Makers) and supported by Lions Club of Hyderabad Yuva, Dist 320A, celebrated its 5th Season with multiple Awards Ceremony across the Country.

The Awards Convenor & Founder of GrandQueens Club Dr Saurabh Sureka and Co-founder Mrs Rupa Sureka have been working on this concept for 7 years and have formed a wonderful com-

munity of Women Achievers & Leaders. The nominations for the Awards were invited from 108 identified fields of work and is in its 5th year. Once the nominations are received it goes through a rigorous Jury Process and after several checks and evaluation, the winners are shortlisted. This year they received more than 650 Nominations and shortlisted only 107 Awardees! The Awards were started in Hyderabad in 2020 and has been traveling all India since then. Glittering Awards ceremony were held in Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar & Patna wherein Awardees from multiple cities were invited and given away the Awards. With its Global Recognition, over the years, the Award has its recipients from



various fields and age groups to come together to Network, Collaborate and Grow. They have introduced various activities and initiatives like GrandQueens Confluence, GrandQueens Talent Walk & Grand Home Chef India, etc., to increase collaborations among the GrandQueens.

As per Dr Saurabh Sureka, "We are no one to Empower already who is powerful. We are just identifying, recognizing and felicitating those from whom the World should take inspiration"

This year GrandQueens Club also presented the prestigious title of "Queen of GrandQueens"

to 16 existing members out of its 350 strong member base. The title was bestowed basis the dedication of those GrandQueens who have remained aligned with the vision and pledge to work hand-in-hand with the Community.

The Organisation is well supported by its Odisha State President Ms Munmun Singh & Bihar State Advisory Chairperson, Mr Niraj Kumar

The club also supports "Charkha Foundation" an initiative by Dr Saurabh Sureka to promote handlooms and to support the same GrandQueens organised "Saree Walk" in Multiple Cities wherein the GrandQueen Members represented Sustainable Fashion from various States of India.

The walk was Directed by Mr Srikanth Gatala and choreographed by Ms Manpreet Kaur (Bhubaneswar) and Ms Madhulika Mehta (Kolkata)

The objective of GrandQueens Club as a community is to keep building a platform for working women to collaborate, refer, promote and add value to each other by ways of various meetups, conclaves, confluences, travels, exhibitions and events, etc. This is the only Club of its type where the entry is restricted only for the Awardees and there is no fees/charges collected from the Awardees at all. Hence, it's a matter of immense pride & privilege to be called a GrandQueen.

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Mirabai Chanu to head to Paris to train ahead of upcoming Olympics

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) during their 126th meeting approved weightlifter Mirabai Chanu's proposal to train at LA FERTE-MILON, Paris to prepare ahead of the upcoming Olympic Games.

Mirabai Chanu, who won a Silver Medal in the Tokyo Olympics, will head to Paris nearly a month ahead of her Olympic event, to acclimatize to the weather and prepare for the mega event.

During the Paris training camp, Mirabai would be accompanied by two coaches and a physiotherapist, with their

air tickets, visa cost, accommodation charges, food, training cost, local transport cost, medical insurance, and sauna charges among other expenditures being covered under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) funding.

Besides Mira, MOC also approved proposals of Equestrian player Anush Agarwalla to compete in eight competitions and buy equipment for his horses. TOPS will cover his and his coach's accommodation costs, entry fees, 2 Horse feed costs, coach fees, and horse grooms costs among other expenditures. MOC also approved Judoka Asmita Dey's proposal for financial assistance to participate in Grand Prix, Austria and shooter Arjun

Singh Cheema's request for financial assistance towards participation in ISAS Dortmund Competition.

Meanwhile, newly inducted Indian Tennis ace Sumit Nagal's request for financial assistance towards participation in two international

competitions along with expenditure for his support staff was also approved by MOC. Their airfare, accommodation cost, coaching Fees and physio/Fitness coach/Mental trainer Fees will also be covered under

TOPS funding.

Other proposals approved by MOC during the meeting were financial assistance towards hiring of Video Analyst for Badminton players Chirag and Satwik, extension of contract for weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga's physiotherapist and financial assistance towards buying equipment for track athlete Amoj Jacob.





The Gender Inequality Index 2022 has been released on the 13th March 2024 by UNDP in their Human Development Report 2023/2024.

On the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022, India stands at rank 108 out of 193 countries with a score of 0.437. India stood at rank 122 out of 191 countries with a score of 0.490 in the Gender Inequality Index 2021.

This shows a significant jump of 14 ranks on GII 2022 vis-à-vis GII 2021.

Over the last 10 years, India's rank in GII has become consistently better, indicating progressive improvement in achieving gender equality in the country. In 2014, this rank was 127, which now has become 108.

This is an outcome of the decisive agenda set by the Government for ensuring women's empowerment through policy initiatives aimed at their long-term socio-economic and political development. Government's initiatives have spanned across women's lifecycle including large scale initiatives for girls' education, skill development, entrepreneurship facilitation and safety in the workplace. Policies and legislations in these areas have been driving the Government's 'women-led development' agenda.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today participated in SashaktNari - Viksit Bharat programme and witnessed agricultural drone demonstrations conducted by Namo Drone Didis at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi. Namo Drone Didis from 10 different locations nationwide also participated in the drone demonstration simultaneously. During the programme, the Prime Minister also handed over drones to 1,000 Namo Drone Didis. The Prime Minister also disbursed around Rs 8,000 crore Bank loans to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at subsidised interest rate through Bank Linkage Camps set up by Banks in each district. The Prime Minister also disbursed about Rs 2,000 crore Capitalization Support Fund to SHGs. The Prime Minister also interacted with the beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion the Prime Minister called today's occasion historic as Drone Didis and LakhpatiDidis are scripting new chapters of success. He said interacting with such successful women entrepreneurs fills him with confidence about the future of the nation. He praised the determination and persistence of the Nari Shakti. 'This gave me confidence to embark on the journey of creating 3 crore

said he is the first Prime Minister who spoke from the ramparts of the Red Fort about issues of women empowerment like toilets for women, sanitary pads, unhealthy smoky kitchens, piped water to save the women daily inconvenience, Jan Dhan account for every woman, against derogatory language for women and need to educated sons about the proper behaviour towards Nari Shakti.

schemes that are being brought to address the issues pertaining to Nari Shakti at every stage of their lives. In order to stop foeticide BetiBachao-BetiPadhao, Rs 6000 for nutrition of the expecting mothers, SukanyaSamriddhi for ensuring resources during education period, Mudra Yojana for helping them to get gainful foothold in entrepreneur arena, maternity leave expansion, free medical treatment, affordable medicines and enhancing ownership by registering PM Awas houses in the names of women, have brought change in the old mindset. He also acknowledged that the transformative influence of drone technology in agriculture is being steered by women of the nation. Recalling his interaction with a Drone Didi, the Prime Minister elaborated on the sense of empowerment through income, skill and recognition of the Drone Didi. "I have full faith that Nari Shakti will lead the technology revolution in the country", The Prime Minister added, mentioning strides by women in all fields. The Prime Minister elaborated on the expansion of drone technology in areas such as transporting milk and vegetable products to the market, medicine delivery etc opening new avenues for Drone Didis.

He stated, "The expansion of self-help groups in India over the past decade has been remarkable. These groups have rewritten the narrative of women empowerment in



lakhpatiDidis', he said.

"Any society can progress only through creating opportunities and ensuring the dignity of the Nari Shakti", the Prime Minister said. PM Modi said with just a little bit of support Nari Shakti transcends the need for support and becomes support for others. The Prime Minister

"Modi's sensitivities and Modi's schemes have emerged from the experiences rooted in everyday life", PM Modi said. Experience as lived the realities of life has informed these sensitivities and schemes, he said. That is why, these schemes bring ease of life for the mothers and daughters of the country.

The Prime Minister talked about



the country.” Acknowledging the pivotal role played by women in self-help groups, the Prime Minister expressed his gratitude, saying, “I extend my heartfelt greetings to every sister in the self-help groups today. Their hard work has elevated these groups to become leaders in nation-building.” Prime Minister Modi emphasized the impressive growth of women’s participation in self-help groups, noting, “Today, the number of women in self-help groups has surpassed 10 crore.” Highlighting the government’s efforts to support self-help groups, Prime Minister Modi stated, “Over the past ten years, our government has not only expanded self-help groups but also facilitated the opening of bank accounts for 98% of these groups.” The assistance to such groups has been increased to 20 lakh rupees and more than 8 lakh crore rupees have been deposited to the accounts of such groups. The Prime Minister said that due to push for modern infrastructure, the income of these Self Help Groups

have increased three fold.

In addition to economic empowerment, Prime Minister Modi praised the societal impact of self-help groups, stating, “These groups have contributed significantly to the development of rural infrastructure and the overall upliftment of rural communities.” The Prime Minister acknowledged the role and services of Bank Sakhi, KrishiSakhi, Pashu-Sakhi and MatasyaSakhi. “These Didis are giving new impetus to the country’s national campaigns, from health to Digital India. More than 50 percent of those running the Pradhan MantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyan are women and more than 50 percent of the beneficiaries are also women. This series of successes only strengthens my faith in Nari Shakti”, said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister asked the Self Help Groups to come forward in implementation of PM Suryaghar-MuftBijliYojana. He said wherever members of Self Help Group take



initiative, they will be given priority in the scheme.

Union Ministers Shri Arjun Munda, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Shri Giriraj Singh were among those present on the occasion.

The Namo Drone Didi and LakhpatiDidi initiatives are integral to the Prime Minister’s vision of fostering economic empowerment and

financial autonomy among women, especially in rural areas. In order to further this vision, Prime Minister will felicitate LakhpatiDidis, who have achieved success with the support of DeendayalAntyodayaYojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission and are supporting and motivating other Self-Help Group members for their upliftment.

Ministry of Women and Child Development Organises

Poshan Utsav



The Ministry of Women and Child Development organised the Poshan Utsav at The Oberoi on 29th February 2024. The event aimed to promote good nutrition behaviour and highlighted India’s ongoing efforts to combat malnutrition by promoting good nutrition practices.

The event was graced by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani and Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

The event featured the release of ‘Poshan Utsav Book’ and announced the launch of the Cartoon Coalition. The ‘Poshan Utsav Book’, conceptualised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been curated by the Deendayal Research Institute (DRI). The book seeks to revive ancient nutrition traditions, facilitating knowledge exchange and intergenerational learning. It also serves as a comprehensive repository for appreciation of the rich culinary heritage and nutritional diversity of the country.

The Cartoon Coalition is envisaged to support and contribute towards the cause of Poshan through collaboration with MWCD. This

Coalition is born out of a collaboration between renowned cartoon entities in India to harness the power of popular cartoon characters to convey essential messages on nutrition in an entertaining and relatable manner for positive behaviour change among children

made by BMGF in the nutrition and gender space, the Union Minister of Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, stated that when the Hon’ble Prime Minister announced the Poshan Abhiyaan in 2018, it marked a historic moment



Addressing the gathering, Mr Bill Gates, Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation remarked, “The Poshan Utsav book is a great example of incorporating local context and cultural practices to promote nutritional foods across India’s diverse communities.” He further added, “When you improve the life of a woman, there’s a ripple effect: You improve her community and her country. In India, we’ve seen that this kind of progress can be lasting and can be achieved on a massive scale.”

In her keynote address, while expressing appreciation for the efforts

for the country. For the first time, 18 Ministries across the Government of India

came together under the national flagship program called Poshan Abhiyaan. She emphasized that every anganwadi is digitally enabled so that Service delivery to the last mile can be tracked. She also stated that handheld devices now are available to Anganwadi Centres across the country. Every month Anganwadi Didis measure 75 million children under the age of 6 years as per WHO standards.

Further, she mentioned that after the operationalisation of Poshan Tracker, the numbers for SAM & MAM children have shown significant decline as compared to the data reported under NFHS-5 survey. She highlighted that the cartoon coalition launched was aimed as a significant step towards bringing about behavioural change in children for a healthy lifestyle.

The presence of the popular cartoon characters like Chacha Chaudhary, Suppandi, Shambhu, Elmo brought the coalition to life and added special appeal to the occasion. The program was a milestone event in the efforts to combat malnutrition and foster healthier lifestyles among children. It was a significant step towards the goal of Suposhit Bharat.



Anurag Singh Thakur announces two National Centres of Excellence for Women

On the occasion of International Women's Day on Friday, Union Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur announced the establishment of two National Centres of Excellence, exclusively for women. NCOEs cover 23 focused/priority disciplines where Indian athletes have a chance to win medals in global competitions like the Asian Games and the Olympics.

Reacting to lack of trainers, coaches and infrastructure at the state level, Shri Thakur said in Bengaluru: "Sports is a state subject but still the Central government is keen to look at the upliftment of sports in the country. We have to spend a lot of money on infrastructure and coaches. We are collaborating with state gov-



ernments and asked them to identify three key sports so that we have a roadmap and information on which state will promote hockey, box-

ing and athletics etc.

"I have already started consolidating our NCOEs and in association with the national sports federations, will greater emphasis on producing good coaches," said Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.

The Sports Authority of India established 23 National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) across the country to impart specialized training to promising athletes by providing state of the art infrastructure and playing facilities, sports science backup, individualized diet prescribed by trained nutritionists and overall supervision under the best coaches, qualified support staff and High Performance Directors.

Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality : Logo & Website Launched

Logo symbolises the collective nature of the alliance and draws inspiration from Lord Ganesha, reinforcing the message of collective wisdom and strength for Gender equity and equality: Smt. Smriti Irani, Union Minister of WCD Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Minority Affairs, Government of India launched the logo and the website for the Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality. Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, and other dignitaries were present at the occasion.

"India is the first country to make a financial case for women emancipation. The perception about our country 28th February 2024, not only the strength of our country but our talent pool and capacity to deliver on promises is such that in 72 hours in Davos, we had the commitment from across the globe. India managed to create an alliance not for ourselves, but for global good. It's a reflection of what India promised in its G20 presidency- one world, one future. A future that builds alliances for global good. The alliance is a collective of Governments, Industry and Development organisations. The logo we just unveiled symbolises the collective nature of the alliance and draws inspiration from Lord Ganesha, reinforcing the message of collec-

tive wisdom and strength for Gender equity and equality," said Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Minority Affairs, Government of India, as she launched the logo and the website for the Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality in New Delhi on 28th February 2024.

The Alliance for Global Good: Gender Equity and Equality marks a significant milestone in the global pursuit of gender equality. Launched in Davos 2024, it is a testament to India's unwavering commitment to the cause of women-led development as championed by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The Alliance aims to bring together global good practices, knowledge sharing and investments in the field of women's health, education, and enterprise

and aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being; 4- Quality Education; 5 - Gender Equality and Empowerment; 17 - Global Partnership for Development and more. The Alliance is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and anchored by the CII Centre for Women Leadership with the World Economic Forum as a 'Network Partner' and Invest India as an 'Institutional Partner'. Born out of the G20 Leaders' Declaration and India's abiding commitment to the cause of women-led development, the Alliance is poised to make a transformative impact on gender-related issues.

The Logo: Significance

The logo forms the alphabet "e" which represents Equality and Equity. The parallel strokes reflect

collective action by Governments, industry and institutions enabling women to achieve their economic potential, globally. The Tricolours symbolize the values of the Alliance - saffron for strength and courage, white for truth and green for growth. The red dot denotes prosperity. The logo draws inspiration from Lord Ganesh who symbolises intellect, wisdom and understanding.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation said "It is great to see the Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality take forward the commitments from India's successful G20, prioritizing women-led development. Our foundation is proud to be a partner in this unique effort to deliver equitable development by putting women's economic power, health and education at the center".

"The launch of the 'Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality' at Davos is a purposeful initiative by India. To have both the Union Minister and Mr. Bill Gates at the unveiling of the logo and website of the Alliance is an indication of their unparalleled support and commitment to women-led development across the globe. It represents a proud moment for India Inc. and comes with a sense of great responsibility. As the anchor of this global Alliance, CII is committed to bringing in Industry from India and across the globe to contribute to this effort," said Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.



नवीनतम प्रौद्योगिकियों का उपयोग करें सिविल सेवा अधिकारी : राष्ट्रपति

प्रेरण प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में भाग ले रहे राज्य सिविल सेवा अधिकारियों ने द्रौपदी मुर्मू से भेंट की

लाल बहादुर शास्त्री राष्ट्रीय प्रशासनिक अकादमी (एलबीएसएनए) में 125वें प्रेरण प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में भाग लेने वाले राज्य सिविल सेवा अधिकारियों ने आज (18 मार्च, 2024) नई दिल्ली स्थित राष्ट्रपतिभवन में राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मू से भेंट की।

राष्ट्रपति महोदया ने अधिकारियों को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि वे उसस्थिति में हैं जहां वे दूसरों के लिए प्रेरणा बन सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि अधिकारियों द्वारा उठाया गया प्रत्येक कदम उनके आस पास के लोगों को विभाग या संगठन की प्रगति के लिए अपना सर्वश्रेष्ठ देने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकता है। भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा के अधिकारियों के रूप में, उन्हें प्रशासनिक काम काज और सरकार की नीतियों और कार्यक्रमों पर एक अखिल भारतीय परिप्रेक्ष्य विकसित करने की आवश्यकता होती है।

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि इन दिनों, प्रौद्योगिकी-सक्षम और जागरूक नागरिक, प्रदान की जा रही हर सेवा की उपलब्धता पर नज़र रखते हैं- चाहे वह सार्वजनिक हो या निजी। ये अक्सर पूछे जाने वाले प्रश्नों के दिन हैं और सेवा प्रदाता सक्रिय रूप से प्रश्नों का उत्तर देते हैं और ग्राहकों को संतुष्ट करने का पूरा प्रयास करते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि अधिकारियों को डिजिटल प्रशासन की इस बदलती दुनिया को अपनाना होगा और उसके अनुसार अपनी क्षमताओं को बढ़ाना होगा। उन्होंने कुशल और स्मार्ट प्रशासन के लिए आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई), ब्लॉक चेन और बिग डेटा एनालिटिक्स जैसी नवीनतम प्रौद्योगिकियों का उपयोग करने का आग्रह किया।

राष्ट्रपति महोदया ने कहा कि यह वह समय है जब सहयोग और अनुकूलन समय की मांग है।



उन्होंने कहा कि कम समय अवधि में वांछित परिणाम प्राप्त करने के लिए संगठनात्मक, राज्य, राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर विभिन्न हितधारकों के बीच सहयोग आवश्यक है। इसी तरह, समृद्ध और विविध अनुभवों के साथ नए विचारों और नई प्रौद्योगिकियों का अनुकूलन ऐसे प्रभावशाली बदलाव

ला सकता है जिसकी कोई कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकता है। राष्ट्रपति महोदया ने कहा कि अधिकारियों को कोई भी विकास का कार्य करते समय स्थिरता और समावेशिता को हमेशा ध्यान में रखना चाहिए। चूंकि दुनिया ग्लोबल वार्मिंग और जलवायु परिवर्तन के खतरों का सामना कर रही है, इसलिए यह आवश्यक

है कि वे पर्यावरण-अनुकूल प्रथाओं को अपनाते और स्थिरता को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए नवीन उपाय करें। समावेशन विकास का एक और प्रमुख पहलू है जिसका अर्थ है भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करना और वंचित तथा हाशिए पर रहने वाले वर्गों सहित सभी की प्रगति सुनिश्चित करना है।



नारी शक्ति प्रगति के पथ पर

संयुक्त राष्ट्र विकास कार्यक्रम (यूएनडीपी) ने 13 मार्च 2024 को मानव विकास रिपोर्ट 2023-2024 जारी की जिसमें स्त्री-पुरुष असमानता सूचकांक 2022 को दर्शाया गया है।

स्त्री-पुरुष असमानता सूचकांक (जीआईआई) 2022 में भारत का स्कोर 0.437 है और 193 देशों में से भारत 108वें स्थान पर है। लैंगिक असमानता सूचकांक 2021 में भारत का स्कोर 0.490 था और तब वह 191 देशों में से 122वें स्थान पर था।

इस सूचकांक में 2021 की तुलना में 2022 में 14 रैंक का महत्वपूर्ण सुधार आया है।

पिछले 10 वर्षों में, जीआईआई में भारत की रैंक लगातार बेहतर हुई है, जो देश में स्त्री-पुरुष समानता हासिल करने में प्रगतिशील

सुधार का संकेत देती है। 2014 में यह रैंक 127 था, जो अब 108 हो गया है।

यह सरकार के दीर्घकालिक सामाजिक-आर्थिक और राजनीतिक विकास के उद्देश्य का परिणाम है जिसके तहत नीतिगत पहलों के माध्यम से महिला सशक्तिकरण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए निर्णायक एजेंडा निर्धारित किया गया। सरकार की पहल महिलाओं के संपूर्ण जीवनचक्र तक विस्तारित है। इसमें बालिका शिक्षा, कौशल

विकास, उद्यमिता सुविधा और कार्यस्थल में सुरक्षा निर्धारित की गई है। इन क्षेत्रों में नीतियां और कानून सरकार के ममहिता-नेतृत्व वाले विकास एजेंडे को क्रियान्वित कर रहे हैं।

स्त्री-पुरुष असमानता सूचकांक 2022 में भारत ने 14 पायदान की छलांग लगाई

निर्माण 272 करोड़ रुपये

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के विकसित भारत के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप, महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने निर्भया फंड के तहत दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त करने वाली छात्राओं और कामकाजी महिलाओं के लिए आवासीय आवास के निर्माण के लिए 272 करोड़ रुपये को मंजूरी दी है। यह फंड विकसित भारत 2047 के लिए एक परिवर्तनकारी कदम है।

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में छात्राओं और कामकाजी महिलाओं के लिए आवास के निर्माण में 272 करोड़ रुपये का उपयोग किया जाएगा। इसमें आवास परिसर और दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के प्रतिष्ठित परिसर में सीसीटीवी निगरानी प्रणाली के लिए 72 करोड़ रुपये का महत्वपूर्ण आवंटन शामिल है। इस पहल को दो चरणों में साकार किया जाएगा, प्रत्येक चरण में 500 सुव्यवस्थित आवास शामिल होंगे।

केंद्रीय मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने अपने सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट एक्स, जिसे पहले ट्विटर के नाम से जाना जाता था, पर इस जानकारी की घोषणा की। उन्होंने कहा कि यह पहल कामकाजी महिलाओं और उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त कर रही लड़कियों को सशक्त बनाएगी। यह परियोजना उन्नत सुरक्षा, सीसीटीवी निगरानी और लिंग-संवेदनशील सुविधाओं के साथ 1,000 बिस्तर प्रदान करेगी। यह अग्रणी प्रयास महिला

सशक्तिकरण के प्रति अटूट संकल्प को दर्शाता है, जिसमें एक ऐसे माहौल को विकसित करने की प्रतिबद्धता शामिल है जहां महिलाएं और लड़कियां आगे बढ़ सकें।

केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने उस पहल की सराहना की है जिसका उद्देश्य उच्च शिक्षा और राष्ट्रीय विकास में अधिक महिला भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करना है। उन्होंने कहा कि लिंग-संवेदनशील सुविधाओं और उन्नत सुरक्षा सुविधाओं के साथ अत्याधुनिक आवास एक ऐसा वातावरण प्रदान करेगा जहां Nar-iShakti फल-फूल सकेगी और उत्कृष्टता प्राप्त कर सकेगी।

अल्पसंख्यक मामलों के मंत्रालय ने कुछ और पहलों की घोषणा की

अल्पसंख्यक मामलों के मंत्रालय ने दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के लिए कुछ पहलों की भी घोषणा की है। मंत्रालय ने डीयू के खाल-सा कॉलेजों और बौद्ध अध्ययन में उन्नत अध्ययन केंद्र में अत्याधुनिक गुरुमुखी लिपि शिक्षण केंद्र स्थापित करने के आदेश को मंजूरी दे दी है। विश्वविद्यालय की कार्यकारी परिषद ने हाल ही में 1,717.45 करोड़ रुपये का डीयू बजट पारित किया और पीएचडी के लिए 75% शुल्क रियायत का प्रावधान करने की घोषणा की। झुऊ श्रेणी से संबंधित छात्र।

अपनी तरह की विशिष्ट प्रथम पहल के रूप में, भारतीय क्रिकेट कंट्रोल बोर्ड (बीसीसीआई) के सहयोग से भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ईसीआई) ने मतदाता शिक्षा और समावेशिता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए भारतीय बधिर क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन (आईडीसीए) टीम और दिल्ली और जिला क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन (डीडीसीए) टीम के बीच एक प्रदर्शनी क्रिकेट मैच का आयोजन किया। यह मैच 16 मार्च, 2024 को नई दिल्ली के करनैल सिंह स्टेडियम में आयोजित किया गया था।

इस अवसर पर प्रतिष्ठित पैरा-तीरंदाज और अर्जुन पुरस्कार विजेता, सुश्री शीतल देवीएकको दिव्यांगता श्रेणी (पीडब्ल्यूडी) में राष्ट्रीय आइकन घोषित किया गया।

इस कार्यक्रम में मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त श्री राजीव कुमार और निर्वाचन आयुक्त श्री ज्ञानेश कुमार और श्री सुखबीर सिंह संधू ने विजेता टीम को सम्मानित किया। प्रसिद्ध पूर्व भारतीय क्रिकेट खिलाड़ीनिखिल चोपड़ा को भी डीडीसीए और आईडीसीए के अधिकारियों

सहित 2500 दर्शकों के लिए रोमांचक मैच का प्रदर्शन किया। डीडीसीए टीम ने मैच में 69 रनों से जीत हासिल की (स्कोरकार्ड- डीडीसीए 190/5; आईडीसीए - 121/8) इस मैच में समावेशिता और एकजुटता का संदेश था। इतना मतदान जैसा कुछ नहीं, मैं निश्चित रूप से मतदान करता हूँफ्रका संदेश पूरे कार्यक्रम में जोर-शोर से गूंजता रहा।

यह समावेशिता और सशक्तिकरण के प्रति भारत निर्वाचन आयोग की प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करता है। यह दिव्यांग मतदाताओं को चुनावी प्रक्रिया में नामांकन करने और भाग लेने के लिए प्रेरित करेगा।

मैच का समापन दृष्टि बाधित व्यक्तियों के बैंडड्यूशाइनिंग स्टार म्यूजिक बैंडफ्रके मनमोहक प्रदर्शन के साथ हुआ।

आयोजन के दौरान, आयोग ने दिव्यांगजनों और वरिष्ठ नागरिक मतदाताओं के लिए एक समर्पित मतदाता मार्गदर्शिका लॉन्च की। पुस्तिका में दिव्यांगजनों और वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए उपलब्ध आवश्यक प्रावधानों की रूपरेखा



शीतल देवी बनीं राष्ट्रीय दिव्यांग जन आइकन

के साथ विशेष अतिथि के रूप में आमंत्रित किया गया था।

यह क्रिकेट मैच मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी श्री राजीव कुमार द्वारा भारतीय श्रवणबाधित क्रिकेट टीम के प्रति की गई प्रतिबद्धता का उदाहरण है। उन्होंने 2022 में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिव्यांग दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर संयुक्त अरब अमीरात में आयोजित टी20 चैंपियंस ट्रॉफी जीतकर देश का गौरव बढ़ाने के लिए उन्हें सम्मानित किया था। उन्होंने कहा था कि निर्वाचन आयोग मुख्यधारा की क्रिकेट टीमों के साथ भारतीय श्रवणबाधित क्रिकेट संघ टीम के एक मैच को प्रायोजित करने की संभावना तलाशेगा।

दोनों टीमों ने मैच का आनंद लेने के लिए चमकीले नीले आकाश के नीचे एकत्रित विभिन्न श्रेणियों के दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों (पीडब्ल्यूडी) और युवा मतदाताओं



दी गई है, जिसमें मतदान केंद्रों पर बुनियादी ढांचागत, सूचनात्मक और प्रक्रियात्मक विवरण

शामिल हैं, साथ ही डाक मतपत्रों के लिए प्रयोज्यता और प्रक्रिया भी शामिल है, जिससे एक सहज और सुखद मतदान अनुभव की सुविधा मिलती है।

ये उपाय दिव्यांगजनों के प्रति आयोग द्वारा की गई प्रमुख पहलों का अनुसरण करते हैं। इनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, बेंचमार्क दिव्यांगजनों के लिए वैकल्पिक घरेलू मतदान सुविधा, दिव्यांगव्यक्तियों की मतदान केंद्र-वार मैपिंग, मतदान के दिन निश-लुक परिवहन का प्रावधान, सभी मतदान केंद्रों पर दिव्यांगता-विशिष्ट सुविधाएं, मतदान केंद्रों पर सूची की जांच, और राज्य तथा जिला पीडब्ल्यूडी आइकन, जागरूकता अभियान, सक्षम ईसीआई

एप, ब्रेल सक्षम ईपीआईसी और ईवीएम की व्यवस्था शामिल हैं। भारत निर्वाचन आयोग को विश्वास है कि इस तरह की पहल से आगामी आम चुनावों में मतदाताओं की भागीदारी में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि होगी, विशेषकर युवाओं और दिव्यांगों की भागीदारी बढ़ेगी। निर्वाचन आयोग ने दिशानिर्देशों और समावेशी उपायों की रूपरेखा सावधानीपूर्वक डिजाइन की है और आयोग लोकतंत्र सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

भारतीय सांकेतिक भाषा अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण केंद्र (आईएसएलआरटीसी) के छात्रों द्वारा सांकेतिक भाषा में राष्ट्रगान की भावपूर्ण प्रस्तुति के साथ कार्यक्रम का समापन हुआ।



Vice President celebrates Women's Day with ISRO scientists

The Vice-President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar on International Women's Day, praised ISRO for its culture of gender diversity and inclusivity in decision making process, describing it as a befitting example to other organisations. Stating that India's Rocket Women are leading us to the sky and beyond, VP said that they have broken ceilings for themselves, and for our progress to go beyond benchmarks set earlier.

The Vice-President made these remarks while interacting with the scientific community at ISRO's U. R. Rao Satellite centre (URSC) in Bengaluru on 8th March 2024. On this occasion, he also celebrated Women's Day with the ISRO scientists and emphatically said - "a woman is always in a leadership role right from birth." Commending the "indomitable spirit and contribution" of India's women scientists, VP said that ISRO has exemplified the theme of International Women's Day 2024 - "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress".

It is worth noting that presently there are about 20% women in scientific and technical areas in ISRO and more than 500 women employees are in leadership roles at different levels in managerial and administrative domains, including leading a Centre.

Describing it as an honour to be at "the heart of India's space exploration prowess" in Bengaluru, Shri Dhankhar congratulated ISRO family, for their incredible talent and commitment for globally defining India's innovation and technological quantum jump.

Lauding numerous achievements of ISRO including Chandrayan-3 and launching of several foreign satellites, VP underlined that ISRO has showcased our scientific prowess and technological expertise on world stage, while enhancing the quality of life for millions of our fellow citizens.

Observing that ISRO's success has ignited the fascination of masses and brought

space technology to every household, VP praised ISRO's support in disaster management, early warning and government programs such as PM Fasal Bima Yojana and PM Awas Yojana.

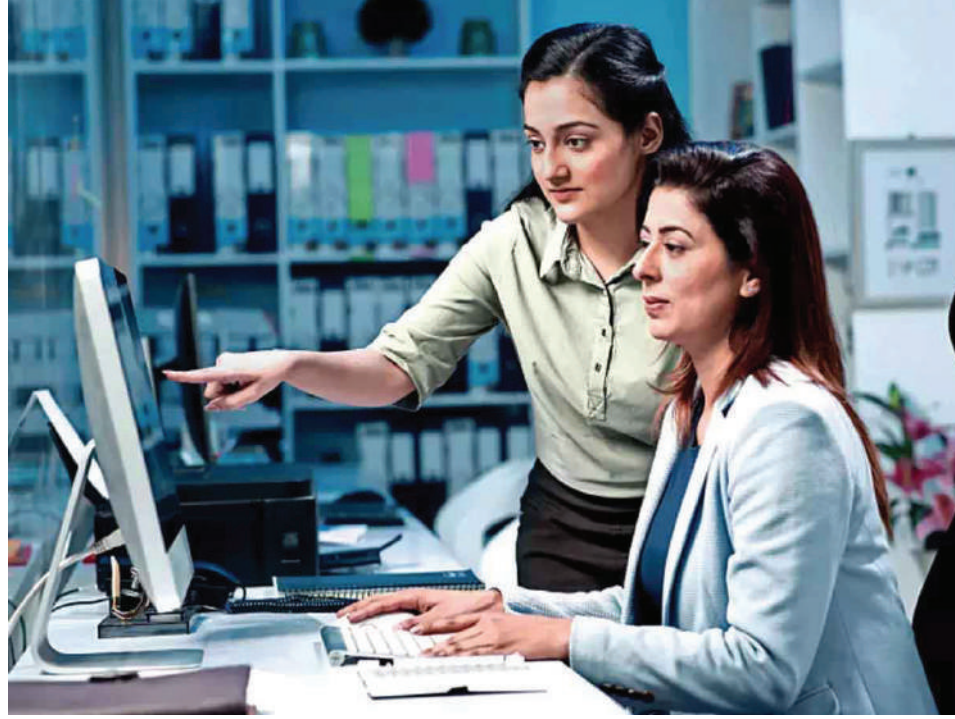
Emphasizing that space exploration and leveraging technology will play a pivotal role in realisation of Viksit Bharat@2047, VP lauded ISRO for emerging as a key player and a contributor in enhancing India's global diplomacy and soft power. "I have no doubt that Bharat at 2047 will be not just a developed nation but a global space power," he added.

Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, the Governor of Karnataka, Shri Sreedhara Panicker Somnath, Chairman, ISRO, Shri M Sankaran, Director, U R Rao Satellite Centre, Ms Sandhya Venugopal, Additional Secretary, Dept of Space and ISRO scientists from Bengaluru and other centers (through video conferencing) attended the event.

हर क्षेत्र में मिले महिलाओं को भी प्रोत्साहन

महिला दिवस को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बनाने का विचार क्लारा ज़ेटकिन नामक महिला की देन है। सन 1910 में कोपेनहेगन में कामकाजी महिलाओं के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन में क्लारा ज़ेटकिन ने इस विचार का सुझाव दिया। वहां 17 देशों की 100 महिलाएं थीं और वह सब सर्वसम्मति से उसके सुझाव पर सहमत हुए। उसके बाद, पहली बार 1911 में ऑस्ट्रिया, डेनमार्क, जर्मनी और स्विटजरलैंड में महिला दिवस मनाया गया था। संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने इसे आधिकारिक बनाने के लिए 1975 में 8 मार्च को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के रूप में मनाने की घोषणा की। संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने 1996 में इस दिन को नई थीम के साथ मनाया, पहली महिला दिवस की थीम अतीत का जश्न, भविष्य के लिए योजना बनाना थी। महिलाओं को समाज में सम्मानजनक स्थान दिलाने और किसी प्रकार के लैंगिक भेदभाव का शिकार होने से बचाने के लिए लंबे समय से प्रयास जारी है। लेकिन अभी अपेक्षित सफलता नहीं मिल पाई है। इस साल अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस की थीम महिलाओं में निवेश करें: प्रगति में तेजी लाएं है, जिसके तहत पूरे साल लैंगिक संतुलन व समानता के कार्यक्रम चलाए जाएंगे ताकि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं की उपस्थिति को और बेहतर बनाया जा सके। सही मायने में महिलाओं की बेहतरी के लिए और लैंगिक समानता का संतुलन बनाए रखने के लिए सिर्फ कानून बनाना काफी नहीं बल्कि उन सभी पहलुओं व मुद्दों की निशानदेही करनी जरूरी है। इन पर अभी भी बहुत काम करने की आवश्यकता है। हमारे देश में महिलाओं को सामाजिक, आर्थिक, शारीरिक, व्यक्तिगत और पारिवारिक स्तर पर कैसी मुश्किलें झेलनी पड़ रही हैं और उन पर क्या किया जा सकता है, इस पर विचार विमर्श करने की आवश्यकता है। पोषण- नेशनल फैमिली हेल्थ सर्वे 2020-21 के अनुसार भारत में मां बनने की उम्र वाली 53 फीसदी महिलाएं खून की कमी यानी एनीमिया की शिकार हैं। कुछ ही पहले एडू स्पोर्ट्स द्वारा किए गए 8वें सालाना हेल्थ एण्ड फिटनेस सर्वे और कुछ अन्य स्कूल सर्वे में पाया गया कि लड़कों की तुलना में लड़कियों का बीएमआई असंतुलित होता है। लड़कियों की शारीरिक मजबूती और ऊर्जा में भी काफी कमी पाई गई। शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार, इसका मूल कारण यह है कि भले ही लड़कियां बाहर भी जाती हैं और कामकाज

भी करती हैं लेकिन व्यवहारिक रूप से अब भी बड़ी संख्या में माता-पिता अपने बेटों को अच्छी है। यूनिसेफ की ओर से जारी फैक्टशीट चाइल्ड मैरिज 2019 शीर्षक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि



खुराक देना पसंद करते हैं क्योंकि उन्हें बाहर भाग-दौड़ करनी पड़ती है, वे खेलते कूदते हैं और उन्हें कमाना है। यह स्थिति और सोच बदलनी चाहिए। घर की लड़कियों को भी लड़कों जैसी ही खुराक मिलनी चाहिए तभी उनमें पोषण की कमी पूरी हो सकगी और उन्हें एक स्वस्थ जीवन मिल सकेगा। कम उम्र में विवाह- शिक्षा में कमी, पुरानी सोच और हमारे रूढ़िगत सामाजिक ढाँचे के कारण अब भी ग्रामीण भारत में लड़कियों को एक ज़िम्मेदारी या पराया धन माना जाता है और पढ़ने-लिखने और खेलने-कूदने की उम्र में उनका विवाह कर दिया जाता है। जिस उम्र में बच्ची खुद को ठीक से नहीं संभाल पाती उस उम्र में उसकी शादी हो जाती है। वहां उसे खुद को अच्छा साबित करने के लिए न सिर्फ ढेर सारा काम करना पड़ता है बल्कि कई बार तो वह किशोरावस्था में ही मां भी बन जाती है। तमाम जागरूकता अभियानों के बावजूद आज भी देश में करीब 27 फीसदी लड़कियों का विवाह 18 वर्ष से कम की आयु में हो जाता है। इसमें पश्चिम बंगाल और राजस्थान काफी आगे

अगर इस सामाजिक कुरीति पर अंकुश न लगाया गया तो देश में 2030 तक 15 करोड़ लड़कियों की शादी उनके 18वें जन्मदिन से पहले हो जाएगी। बॉडी शेमिंग- हमारे समाज में अक्सर कहा जाता है कि लड़कों की सुंदरता नहीं कमाई देखी जाती है, लेकिन लड़कियों के मामले में स्थिति इसके उलट है। अच्छे वर की चिंता में बेटियों पर सुन्दर, स्लिम, गोरी और दमकती-चमकती दिखने के लिए दबाव बनाया जाता। उन्हें हर वक्त खुद को आकर्षक दिखाने की चिन्ता सताती रहती है। परिवार के सदस्य हों या फ्रेंड्स हों, किसी प्रोडक्ट का विज्ञापन हो या मीडिया हो सब जगह महिलाओं की शारीरिक खूबसूरती का इतना बढ़ाचढ़ा कर बखान किया जाता है कि वे अपने वजन, रंग और शरीर की बनावट को लेकर ओवर कॉन्फिडेंट हो जाती है। लड़की जरा भारी शरीर की हो तो उसे मोटी, सांवली या पक्के गेहुएं रंग की हो तो उसे काली कहने में लोग जरा भी वक्त नहीं लगाते। जबकि बेटों के अंदर गुणों का विकास जरूरी है, ताकि वो अंदर से खूबसूरत इंसान बने। अफसोस की बात

तो बस इतनी है कि शिक्षित समाज में आज भी इन बातों को ज्यादा महत्व दिया जाता है और महिलाओं को शारीरिक और मानसिक तौर पर तिरस्कार किया जाता है। इस प्रकार की सोच पर रोक लगे इसके लिए समाजिक चेतना और जागरूकता जरूरी है। कामकाज में लैंगिक विभाजन- सदियों से हमारे समाज में कामकाज, खेलकूद और प्रोफेशन का भी लैंगिक विभाजन किया जाता रहा है। यह विभाजन या असमानता केवल देश में ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे विश्व के किसी भी देश में आपको देखने को मिल जाएगी। कहने का तात्पर्य यह है कि आज भी आपको इलेक्ट्रिक मिक्सी, प्लम्बर या कार मैकेनिक के रूप में लड़कियां अपवाद स्वरूप देखने को मिलेंगी। माना कि क्रिकेट, फुटबाल, कुश्ती, कबड्डी और कराटे जैसे खेलों में लड़कियों ने अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज करवाई है, लेकिन उनकी संख्या कितनी कम है, यह किसी से छिपा नहीं है। टेक्नोलॉजी के इस जगत में महिलाएं हर कमद पर खुद को साबित करने का प्रयास कर रही हैं। इसलिए असमानता के इस दीवार को ढाहना है तो शुरू से ही बेटियों से किसी काम के लिए यह न कहें कि यह काम लड़कियों के लिए नहीं है। बेटों को रसोई का सामान लाने तक सीमित न रखें। चाहे घर में बल्ब बदलना हो, साइकिल में हवा भरनी हो, फ्यूज में वायर लगाना हो या दीवार में कील ठोकनी हो, ये सब काम बेटों से भी करवाएं और उन्हें भी सिखाएं। उसे कंप्यूटर ठीक करना, बाइक या कार रिपेयरिंग, इलेक्ट्रीसिटी के छोटे-मोटे काम सिखाएं। शुरू से ही स्पोर्ट्स में सक्रिय होने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करें। पीछे छूटा सेहत का मुद्दा- आज की तारीख में हर ओर महिलाओं के साथ घरेलू हिंसा, नौकरी या रोजगार में लिंग भेद, यौन हिंसा, तलाक, हलाला व अन्य मुद्दों पर तो खूब बात हो रही है, लेकिन इन सबके बीच एक अहम मुद्दा कहीं पीछे छूट गया है। यह मुद्दा महिलाओं की सेहत से जुड़ा है। अक्सर महिलाएं घर के दूसरे सदस्यों का खूब खयाल रखती हैं लेकिन अपने पोषण, सेहत और मानसिक परेशानियों को लेकर चुप्पी साधे रखती हैं। अक्सर वे चिकित्सक के पास तब तक नहीं जाती जब तक स्थिति बहुत गंभीर न हो जाए। महिलाओं की सेहत भी उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण है जितनी पुरुषों की इस बात पर गौर करना जरूरी है। क्योंकि स्वास्थ्य का विषय सबके लिए एक समान होना चाहिए।

International Women's Day celebrated underlining the importance of investing in women's health & education

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) celebrated International Women's Day at its premises at Technology Bhavan, New Delhi on the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" and deliberated on the necessity of investing in women's health, education, and importance of creating an atmosphere that encourages women to put in their best.

Emphasizing the significance of empowering women both at home and at the workplace, Joint Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) Ms. A. Dhanalakshmi underscored the need for concerted efforts to create an enabling environment where women can thrive, contribute, and

lead.

Professor Uma Kumar, Head, Department of Rheumatology, AIIMS, New Delhi spoke about the importance of investing in women's physical, mental and spiritual health and stressed upon support for research on autoimmune diseases that can affect the working capacity of women.

Dr Vandana Singh, Head, WISE-KIRAN Division spoke about how DST's schemes have helped and encouraged women scientists and have played a role in the rapid rise of women researchers and principal investigators in the country.

Two technical sessions delved into critical aspects of women's well-being and the entrepreneurial jour-

ney of women in developing knowledge-based start-ups.

In the session focusing on the holistic health of women, Gynaecologist Dr Aparna Sharma, and Cardiologist Dr. Shashi Mohan underlined the importance of focusing on the physical and mental well-being of women and maintaining work-life balance. They discussed the challenges women face in balancing their professional lives with personal well-being and dwelt on prioritizing self-care and adopting healthy lifestyles.

In the session on the role of women in startups, women entrepreneurs and industry experts shared their experiences, challenges, and success stories. The session underscored the

immense potential of women-led start-ups in driving inclusive economic development and fostering a culture of innovation.

The sessions brought together women from a range of disciplines and helped them to learn ways of navigating challenges from each other's experiences.

A film on "Nari Shakti at DST" was created and unveiled during the event. Further, a poster on women's participation in STEM across different divisions of DST was launched. In addition, a dental health check-up camp was organized by Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences (MAIDS) in the DST premises for oral hygiene.