

THE W**o**men Voice of GrandQueens NOW

Registration Number of the Newspaper: TELBIL/2021/81805

DECEMBER-2024

Pages-12

English/Hindi

Monthly

Publication City-Hyderabad

Price: 50 ₹

On the occasion of National Human Rights Day, December 10, 2024, the United Nations has chosen the theme "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now" for International Human Rights Day. This theme emphasizes the urgent and transformative role of human rights in addressing the world's most pressing challenges. It highlights how human rights serve as a preventative, protective, and transformative force that can shape a peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future for all. This day reminds us of the critical need for immediate action in safeguarding and promoting human rights, ensuring that everyone, everywhere, can enjoy their fundamental freedoms and dignity.

To mark this significant occasion, an event titled Adhikar Samvaad – A Celebration of International Human Rights was hosted by District 150, a lifestyle-focused venue for meetings and events. The event was organized in collaboration with Deccan Vision (print media partner), Hy-Biz TV (digital media partner), and e-magazine The Women Now (The Voice of Grand Queens). The event brought together a diverse and engaged audience, ranging from legal professionals to corporate leaders, creating an inspiring platform to discuss the vital issue of human rights.

The National Human Rights Organization (NHRO), founded by its National President, Mr. Ravi Jaiswal, played a pivotal role in organizing the event. Dr. Saurabh Sureka, the National Secretary of NHRO, welcomed the guests and set the tone for the day with a thought-provoking welcome note. Dr. Sureka's address underscored the importance of recognizing human rights as an essential tool for societal progress and urged everyone to engage actively in protecting these rights.

The keynote speech was delivered by Shri B. Lakshmikantham, IAS (Retd.), who highlighted the role of human rights in addressing global challenges such as inequality, poverty, and social justice. Shri Lakshmi-

Adhikar Samvaad 2024 A Call for Urgent Action on Human Rights for a Better Future



kantam emphasized the importance of building resilient communities that can uphold human rights in the face of crises, especially those related to climate change.

A key panel discussion followed,



moderated by the distinguished policymaker, Amtul Ali Lubna. The panel featured a range of eminent speakers who shared their insights on the intersection of human rights with various societal issues. Sri Ajay Mishra, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Telangana, spoke on the importance of building community resilience in the face of climate change. He stressed that businesses and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives must align with human rights principles to ensure long-term, sustainable impact. Mishra also underscored the need

to address the vulnerabilities of marginalized communities who are often the most affected by environmental changes.

Another guest of honor, Shri A. Shyam Mohan, the immediate past president of the HPS Society, addressed the issue of the right to education. He emphasized the critical



importance of improving the quality of education, particularly in developing nations, and explored the roles that governments, NGOs, and international bodies can play in improving access to quality education

for all. His speech resonated with the broader theme of empowering individuals through education, which is foundational to achieving other human rights goals.

A dynamic and engaging segment of the event featured Dr. Poulami Ghosh, a corporate lawyer and human resources professional, who spoke on the "Five R's of Human Rights" and elaborated on the specific challenges and advancements related to women's rights. Dr. Ghosh's speech resonated with many attendees, particularly women leaders, as she shared insights into how women's rights are integral to the broader human rights agenda.

The event was organized by a dedicated committee consisting of Dr. S. Ravinder, Mrs. Rupa Sureka, and Ms. Kritika Sharma, whose hard work and vision made this meaningful event possible. The emcee of the day, Ms. Asma Afreen, an author and speaker, engaged the audience throughout the event with her captivating presence and thought-provoking questions.

The International Human Rights Day 2024 celebration concluded on a high note, leaving the audience with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to creating a world where human rights are universally recognized and upheld. This event served as a powerful reminder that human rights are not a distant ideal, but an immediate and transformative force capable of shaping a better, more just world for all.



Gukesh Wins 2024 FIDE World Championship

The era of India's GM Gukesh Dommaraju as chess world champion has begun, after an incredibly hard-fought 2024 FIDE World Championship is Singapore suddenly ended when the Chinese reigning champion GM Ding Liren blundered in the final classical game. We take a look at some of the conclusions we can draw from an event that may prove to be a turning point in chess history. When most of the details of the match in Singapore have been forgotten, the bare facts will remain: Gukesh is only the 18th player to have become the undisputed chess champion of the world. And he did it at the age of just 18

He's four years younger than the legendary GM Garry Kasparov was when he took the title from GM Anatoly Karpov in 1985, with Kasparov in turn a few months younger than another candidate for the greatest of all time, GM Magnus Carlsen, who won the title in 2013 from India's first world champion, GM Viswanathan Anand. As a seven-year-old, Gukesh watched Carlsen and Anand play

There were fears before the match in Singapore of a blowout, with chess fans struggling to watch as an out-of-shape world champion collapsed before our eyes. What actually happened, however, was nothing of the

were jam-packed with near misses for both sides. When Gukesh won game 11 to take the lead for the first time, it felt as though the tournament would now ease to victory, but Ding struck straight back, with Gukesh confessing, "He completely destroyed me that game!"

In the latter stages of game 14, everyone's thoughts were turning to tiebreaks the next day. with Gukesh himself saying, "I thought we are going to play for five-six hours, it's going to end in a draw, and let's focus on the tiebreaks. Then suddenly Ding put his rock on the



that was beautiful, but the chess part of it was really not. As Gukesh explained, however, chess fans can't have everything. He felt that the reason he couldn't control his emotions was precisely that things had happened so suddenly: "I was already pre-

The champion of chess!

Young D Gukesh has made the country proud by his accomplishment. His diligence and perseverance are noteworthy!

P.M. Narendra Modi



when the match was held in his home city of Chennai and had a dream: "When Magnus won, I thought I really want to be the one to bring back the title to india, and this dream that I had more than 10 years ago has been the single most important thing in my life so far." The game did not go great, but as I said, in 2013 I was outside the glass box. I did not get a seat in the audience to watch the match, so at that time I just looked at Vishy sir and Magnus and I thought, it'll be really cool to

fighting, won the first game, and after Gukesh hit back in game three, we got an incredibly tense "middlegame" of seven draws that

wrong square and, a few inevitable moves later, the match was over with the shocked players overwhelmed with joy or despair! It was a sad way for a champion to lose his crown and deprived us of another day of intense chess, with Carlsen commenting in his recap, "It was extremely anticlimactic-of course, the moment of Gukesh sitting there at the board in tears,

paring myself to go through that huge tiebreak fight, and suddenly it was all over and I'd achieved my dream. I'm not someone who shows a lot of emotions, but I think this one can be forgiven. Ding said in the post-game press conference that he had no regrets, but in an interview with FM Mike Klein a day later he admitted to just one: "What I want to do is be back to the moment when I played R12, to tell myself to calm down, to think for one more second, to figure out what's wrong with this."



to be there one day, and to actually be there and sit there and to see the Indian flag next to me. It was probably the best moment. Gukesh's dream became more specific, since after winning the Under 11 Indian Championship in 2017 he famously told IM Sagar Shah, "I want to become the youngest world chess champion." "I didn't pay any attention to it at that moment," admitted Shah in the Take Take Take recap of the final game of the 2024 World Championship, since as he explained, "When you interview any young kid, they say that they want to become the world champion."



Voice Of Grand Queen

Grandqueen's Club, through its bilingual monthly magazine The Women Now, is proudly launching its year-long campaign, Freedom from Fear, dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of women everywhere. This initiative aims to raise awareness about the challenges women face daily, from street harassment to domestic violence, and provide tangible solutions for both individuals and communities to address these issues. The campaign seeks to amplify the voices of women from all walks of life, empowering them to speak out and take action. Through insightful articles, personal stories, expert opinions, and resources, The Women Now will serve as a powerful platform for women to unite and demand safer spaces and better policies. At the heart of this campaign is the vision of Grandqueen's Club to create a world where every woman, regardless of her background or location, can live without

fear of violence or discrimination. *Freedom from Fear* is not just a slogan but a call to action for governments, organizations, and individuals to prioritize the safety of women in every sphere of life. The magazine will also feature success stories of women who have overcome obstacles and are actively working to create safer environments for others. As the Voice of Grandqueens, this campaign represents the collective strength of women—united in their desire to live in a world where safety is a right, not a privilege. Grandqueen's Club and The Women Now magazine are committed to bringing attention to these vital issues, shedding light on the barriers to safety, and championing solutions that will empower women for generations to come. Through solidarity, advocacy, and education, we can create a future where every woman is free from fear and free to thrive.



India's safety for women remains a critical issue, requiring more than protests and campaigns. Key actions include: Strengthen law enforcement and judicial reforms, Challenge patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes, educate on consent and boundaries, develop reliable helplines and victim support services, involve local communities in safety efforts, enforce laws protecting women's rights, promote women's economic and social empowerment, utilize technology for emergency response, Engage men as allies, continuously assess and improve safety measures.



Shifa Basith

Founder & President of BS Events & Co. Hyderabad

Another brutal rape reminds us that women are unsafe everywhere. Public protests raise awareness, but real solutions are needed. Severe punishments, like public hangings for perpetrators, could deter crime. While self-defense is crucial, it's challenging when multiple attackers are involved. Many women face physical abuse daily, even in public transport. Carrying pepper spray isn't always enough for safety. Educating offenders and enforcing stringent measures may be the most effective solution at present.



Bhavna Hemani
Socio cultural, Kolkata



Public campaigns alone will not prevent incidents of violence against women; what is truly needed is strict legislation. The repeated need for protests and campaigns after each incident highlights a failure in our legal system. In India, existing laws often do not adequately punish offenders, leading to a disturbing reality where rape is not treated with the seriousness it deserves. Women of all ages face the threat of violence, yet the number of offenders held accountable remains alarmingly low.

Dr. Khushboo Fatima
senior clinical dietitian
(diabetes specialist)



The recent event is both tragic and deeply troubling. I find myself at a loss for words to convey my sorrow. Women possess the fundamental right to exist without the constant fear for their safety. It is a source of shame for our society that such a fundamental human right continues to be violated upon repeatedly. The irony lies in the fact that women are considered as goddesses in our culture. However, does society genuinely honor women, or are they merely viewed as objects of desire? Why is it that women are perpetually instructed to exercise caution, while young men are not equally educated to respect them? It is essential to restore freedom from fear by instilling in boys and men the significance of respecting women. As a nation, we must strive to ensure that every location within our country is safe for girls and women.

Vijayeta Tirkey
Trade Advisor Hyderabad



This is a petrifying and obnoxious incident which showed Patriarchy Still Reigns in our society. We can only be free from any phobia after boys are taught self control from young age along with difference between good touch and bad touch to boys and girls. Strict laws need to be enforced too for legal action against perpetrators.

Dr. Madhurima Dasgupta
Assistant Professor of
Sociology, Kolkata

It's time to end violence against women and reclaim freedom from fear through targeted activism. Addressing gender-based violence requires understanding its lasting impact and fostering awareness. Building a unified effort with a shared purpose empowers change. Every individual must promote inclusiveness to uphold rights. Violence against women reveals deep societal power imbalances, especially affecting marginalized groups in crisis contexts. Defending women's rights demands a comprehensive approach, with both ordinary citizens and media amplifying calls for justice and holding governments accountable.



Dr. Archana Acharya
Socio cultural, Hyderabad



From a psychologist's perspective, self-defence training is vital in reshaping a woman's narrative about safety and control. It empowers women to transition from a mind-set of vulnerability to one of strength, addressing the psychological scars left by societal conditioning that portrays them as inherently at risk. This empowerment significantly impacts mental health, alleviating feelings of helplessness and trauma-related anxiety while enhancing self-worth and assertiveness. In workplaces, psychological safety is as crucial as physical safety. Many women face implicit biases and subtle intimidation, leading to chronic stress and burnout. Genuine workplace safety means fostering environments where emotional risks—such as voicing concerns about harassment or setting boundaries—are validated. A psychologically safe workplace encourages openness, inclusion, and respect, allowing women to thrive without the burden of defending their worth or presence.

Sradhanjali,
Consultant Psycholo-



Women should stand for themselves not only by being vocal but also by taking the appropriate steps in the situation. It's only women who can change the situation by raising voice and hands too. No one has the right to assault a person in any terms or any reason. Crime is a crime. Whether it's done by a criminal or by prestigious professionals. Respect is reciprocal. It doesn't depend upon post, age or money.

Prof. Basudha Basu
Motivational speaker

Railways Collaborates with GRP to Enhance Safety and Security for Women Passengers

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security to railway property, passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

The following steps are being taken by the Railways in coordination with GRP for safety and security of woman passengers in trains and at stations: -

- On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.
- Under 'Meri Saheli' initiative, focused attention has been provided for safety and security of woman passengers travelling alone by long distance trains for their entire journey i.e. from originating station to destination station.
- Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras provided in a number of coaches & Railway Stations for enhanced security of passengers.
- For immediate assistance, passengers can make complaint on Rail Madad Portal directly or through Helpline Number 139 [integrated with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) No.112].

The participation of women in India's workforce has seen a notable increase over the past six years, according to Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha on

Railways are in regular touch with passengers through various social media platforms like Twitter & Facebook etc. to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concern.

- Frequent announcements are made through Public Address System to educate passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching,



drugging etc.

- Zonal railways have been instructed for deployment of proper combined strength of male & female RPF/RPSF personnel in train escort parties, to the extent possible.

- Drives are conducted against entry of male passengers into the compartment reserved for women and legal action is taken against the offenders.

-



State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories for regular monitoring and review of security arrangements of the Railways.

12th Safety and Security in Railways Report came in December 2016 and prior to the year 2018, the percentage of women personnel was approx 3% of the total sanctioned strength. Arising of vacancies is an ongoing process due to retirements, promotions, deaths, resignations, etc. and

the percentage of people in the labour force—those who are either working, actively seeking work, or available for work—within a given population.

Karandlaje noted that this increase is a reflection of the government's efforts to generate employment and improve the employability of women, emphasizing that both are priorities for the government. "Employment generation, coupled with improving employability, is the priority of the government," she said, adding that various measures have been implemented to enhance the participation of women in the workforce.

To facilitate this progress, the government has

the same are filled up through open recruitments and departmental promotions as per the existing rules. Post recruitment, percentage of women in RPF has increased from 3% to 9.38 % of the present strength.

RRB has issued notifications RPF CEN No. 01/2024 & RPF CEN No. 02/2024 for filling up 452 posts of Sub-Inspectors and 4208 posts of Constables respectively with 15% seats reserved for the women. This will further increase the percentage of women in RPF/RPSF.

566 railway stations have been provided with CCTV cameras under Nirbhaya fund so far with an expenditure of Rs. 223.67 Crores.

the government has invested in vocational training through various institutions. Women Industrial Training Institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes, and Regional Vocational Training Institutes have been set up to equip women with the skills necessary for better job prospects.

The minister also noted that the 2024 Union Budget introduced several new initiatives aimed at supporting youth employment, skilling, and related opportunities. These initiatives are expected to benefit approximately 4.1 crore youth over the next five years, with a central outlay of ₹2 trillion. One of the key announcements in the budget was the establishment of working women hostels in collaboration with the industry, which is expected to support women in balancing work and family responsibilities. The budget also proposed the creation of creches to further facilitate women's participation in the workforce, along with other policy interventions to create a more inclusive and supportive work environment.

The government's approach goes beyond just enhancing employment opportunities. The focus on skilling and training, combined with structural changes such as the introduction of hostels and childcare facilities, demonstrates a multi-faceted strategy to ensure that women have the resources, support, and flexibility they need to enter and thrive in the workforce.

Despite the progress, Karandlaje emphasized that the government remains committed to further improving women's employment participation and addressing the challenges that women continue to face in the labour market. As part

Significant rise in women workforce participation : Karandlaje

28th November 2024, Karandlaje responded to a question posed by Rajya Sabha MP Sagarika Ghose regarding women's employment. She highlighted that the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women aged 15 and above have shown a steady rise in recent years.

Citing the latest data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Karandlaje informed the house that, as of 2023-24, the WPR for women has increased to 40.3%, while the LFPR stands at 41.7%. This marks a significant jump from 22.0% and 23.3% in 2017-18, respectively. The LFPR refers to

incorporated provisions in labour laws aimed at ensuring equal opportunities and a supportive work environment for women. These include policies for paid maternity leave, flexible working hours, and equal wages for equal work. Additionally, several initiatives have been launched to promote women's employment and enhance their access to the job market.

In her response, Karandlaje also highlighted the government's continued efforts to raise the female LFPR and overall LFPR. She pointed out that apart from central government schemes focused on improving the employability of women,

of this commitment, the government is not only focusing on increasing the number of women in the workforce but also on ensuring that they are provided with the tools to succeed in their careers, including fair wages, better working conditions, and greater opportunities for career advancement.

Through these combined efforts, the government aims to create a more equitable and inclusive work environment for women, ensuring that they can fully participate in and contribute to the country's economic growth. The significant increase in the LFPR and WPR for women is seen as a positive step towards achieving gender equality in India's labour market.

President of India Interacts with Women Achievers in The Indian Aviation Sector

On November 4, 2024, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, interacted with a group of women achievers from the Indian aviation sector at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The event was part of the "The President with the People" initiative, which aims to foster a deeper connection between the President and the people while recognizing their valuable contributions to various fields.

During her address, the President highlighted the significant role women are playing in various operational and technical areas of India's civil aviation industry. She pointed out that 15% of Air Traffic Controllers, 11% of flight dispatchers, and 9% of aerospace engineers in the country are women. She also noted that 18% of the pilots who obtained commercial licenses in the previous year were women. The President lauded the women achievers for their innovation, courage, and willingness to break new ground in a traditionally male-dominated field.

The President attributed the increasing participation of women in aviation to the inclusive policies and efforts of the Government of India. Over the years, these initiatives have encouraged more women to consider aviation as a career path. She acknowledged that the aviation sector is gradually becoming more accessible to women, with a growing number

of female professionals making their mark in diverse roles. However, she emphasized that merely increasing the number of women entering the industry is not enough. Equal opportunities for career growth and advancement in the aviation field are equally crucial, she stressed, pointing out the need for systemic changes that promote gender parity in the workplace.



The President also underscored the importance of both education and proper training in the journey toward professional success. She highlighted that these are fundamental to building a strong foundation for women aspir-

ing to join the aviation industry. However, she pointed out that these efforts often fall short if women do not have the support of their families. Many women face barriers in pursuing their career dreams despite having access to higher education and training, simply because they lack encouragement and support from their families. The President encouraged the women achiev-

ers in the success of women, especially in challenging fields like aviation. She stressed that society must work towards dismantling the stereotypes and biases that prevent women from achieving their full potential. Families, she said, should foster an environment where women are encouraged to follow their ambitions, whether it be in aviation or any other field.

In her concluding remarks, the President expressed her admiration for the women achievers and reiterated her commitment to supporting initiatives that empower women. She called for a collective effort to ensure that women not only enter the aviation sector but also thrive in it, achieving positions of leadership and influence.

This interaction served as a testament to the growing participation of women in the Indian aviation industry and highlighted the Government of India's commitment to promoting gender equality. Through policies, support systems, and initiatives like "The President with the People," the country is taking significant strides toward creating an inclusive environment where women can excel in all sectors, including aviation.

The meeting also underscored the importance of mentorship, family support, and equal opportunities to ensure that women can realize their full potential.

ers present to serve as role models and mentors, urging them to guide and inspire other women to pursue their dreams without hesitation.

Smt. Murmu also spoke about the critical role that family support plays

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, announced that the government has approved the creation of the first all-women battalion within the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). In a post shared on X, he highlighted that this initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to enhance women's participation in nation-building across all sectors. The establishment of the Mahila Battalion will empower women to take on significant roles in securing the nation's critical infrastructure, including airports, metro rail systems, and providing VIP security as commandos.

Shri Amit Shah described this as a "firm step" towards realizing the government's commitment to gender equality in the security forces. He emphasized that this new battalion would not only serve as an elite force for the protection of vital national assets but also inspire more women to join the ranks of the CISF, especially in roles traditionally dominated by men. The decision, he said, will fulfil the aspirations of women across the country who wish to contribute to the nation's security in a more direct and impactful way.

At present, the CISF has a workforce of more than 7% women, making it one of the preferred choices for female candidates wishing to serve in the Central Armed Police Forces. The formation of an all-women battalion is expected to further encourage young women to consider a career in this prestigious force. By giving women the opportunity to serve as commandos and in other specialized roles, this initiative will help in redefining their roles within the CISF and contribute to the ongoing efforts to promote gender inclusivity in

national security.

The CISF headquarters

quarters has begun preparations



MHA approves first all-women CISF battalion

for the recruitment, selection, and training of personnel for the new battalion. The force is working on designing a specialized training program to ensure that the Mahila Battalion is equipped to handle a range of critical security tasks. These will include VIP protection, airport security, and duties related to the Delhi Metro Rail. The battalion's members will undergo rigorous training to en-

sure they meet the highest standards of preparedness and performance, similar to their male counterparts. The creation of the Mahila Battalion stems from a proposal initiated by Shri Amit Shah during the 53rd CISF Day celebrations. His directive to form an all-women battalion is a clear indication of the government's commitment to empowering women in various fields of national service, particularly in areas that demand skill, discipline, and courage.

This landmark step in the CISF's history reflects broader efforts by the government to break barriers for women in traditionally male-dominated fields, offering them more opportunities for leadership and participation in the country's defence and security apparatus. The formation of the first all-women battalion within the CISF is a milestone in empowering women and ensuring that they play an integral role in safeguarding the nation's infrastructure and citizens.





ters they play on screen, but about setting a broader precedent for the entire industry. They argued that filmmakers must be conscious of the power they wield to influence societal attitudes and perceptions about women, and that this responsibility extends beyond just telling stories—it involves shaping a narrative that promotes respect, equality, and empowerment.

The panel also discussed the industry's collective responsibility in providing women with the support and space they need to succeed. While individual actors, directors, and producers can take steps to empower women within their own projects, the panellists agreed that the industry as a whole must create and implement more robust policies that ensure safety, fairness, and equal opportunities for all. This includes addressing issues like equal pay, access to leadership roles, and providing resources for women to balance their professional and personal lives, such as child care facilities and flexible working hours.

The discussion saw active engagement from the audience, who posed questions about the evolving role of women in cinema, and how the industry can

First Panel Discussion held at 55th IFFI highlights Women's Safety and Cinema

The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) kicked off with a thought-provoking panel discussion on Women's Safety and Cinema, addressing some of the most pressing concerns in the film industry 21st November 2024. Moderated by renowned actor and producer Vani Tripathi Tikoo, the session brought together prominent panellists, including filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, actors Suhasini Maniratnam, Kushboo Sundar, and Bhumi Pednekar, who delved into crucial issues related to gender representation, the safety of women in cinema, and the role of cinema in shaping societal attitudes towards gender equality.

The conversation started by acknowledging the challenges faced by women both on-screen and behind the scenes in the film industry. The panellists shared personal experiences and insights, discussing how the industry can be more supportive and empowering for women, fostering an environment where they can thrive professionally without fear of harassment or exploitation.

One of the central themes of the discussion was the creation of a safe and inclusive work environment. The panellists agreed that tolerance for gender-based injustice or exploitation in the workplace, particularly on film sets, should no longer be accepted. In the wake of numerous reports of misconduct and harassment in the entertainment industry, there is a growing demand for changes to ensure that women working in cinema can do so without fearing for their safety or dignity.

Suhasini Maniratnam, an actor and seasoned film professional, shared an insightful observation about the gender dynamics on film sets. She pointed out that male actors frequently come to sets and suggest changes to scenes, something that is rarely seen with women actors. This disparity, according to Maniratnam, highlights a broader issue within the industry, where women are often relegated to passive roles in the creative process. "Women should also take charge of their scenes and start negotiating, rather than being passive participants in their representation," she said. She added that this shift in mindset should begin early, with industry professionals understanding the importance of work ethics before entering the field.

Imtiaz Ali, the renowned filmmaker, echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of cultivating a work culture where women can focus entirely on their craft, without being burdened by concerns about how they will be treated on set. Ali underlined that filmmakers and other industry profes-

sionals must take a stand against gender injustice, making it clear that such behavior will not be tolerated in any capacity. He explained, "Filmmakers cannot afford to be tolerant of gender injustice in any form, be it in the way women are treated on set or in how their roles are scripted."

The conversation also touched upon the portrayal of women in films, discussing how film narratives and character representations play a pivotal role in fostering a safer and more empowering environment for women. Bhumi Pednekar, known for her impactful performances, passionately argued that the way women are depicted on screen is directly linked to how they are treated in real life. She emphasized that women's dignity, both on and off the screen, is vital for creating an atmosphere of respect. Pednekar stated that when wom-

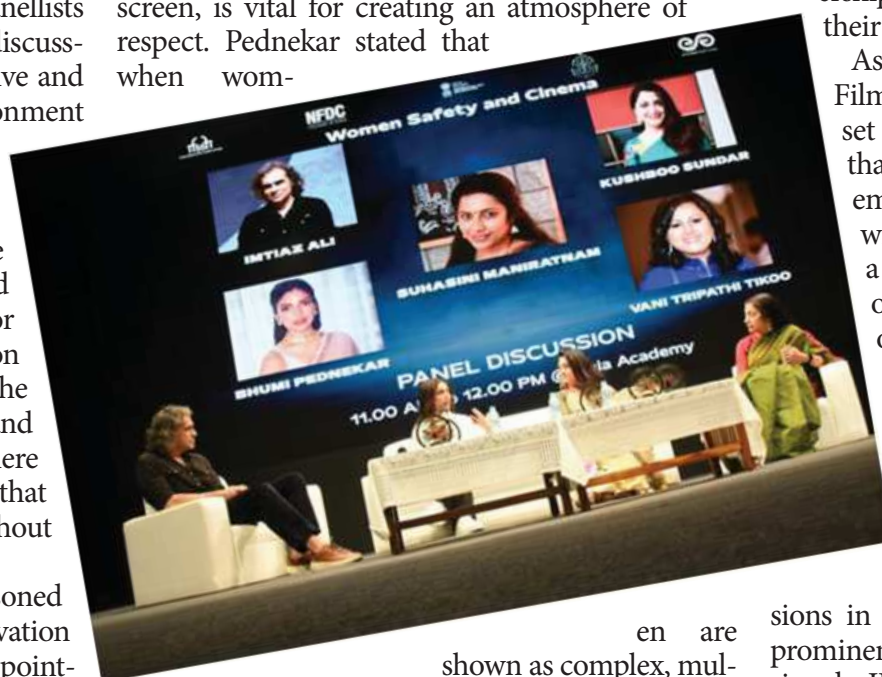
continue to create spaces where women can thrive without compromising their safety or dignity. Several audience members raised concerns about the lack of female representation in positions of power, such as directing, producing, and writing, and how this lack of representation can contribute to gender imbalances in storytelling and decision-making.

In response, the panellists emphasized the need for more women to occupy key leadership roles in the industry, stating that this would help ensure that the concerns and needs of women are better addressed. They also discussed how important it is for men in the industry to be active allies in promoting gender equality, both by supporting women's leadership and by challenging gender stereotypes in their own work.

As the first panel of the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), this conversation set a powerful tone for the festival, signaling that IFFI 2024 would not only celebrate cinema as an art form but also engage critically with the industry's responsibility in shaping a more inclusive and safer future for everyone, particularly women. The panel's focus on women's safety and dignity highlighted the festival's commitment to not just showcasing exceptional films, but also addressing the broader societal issues that these films often reflect.

The conversation also aligned with IFFI's growing recognition of the importance of gender-sensitive discussions in the film industry. By bringing together prominent filmmakers, actors, and industry professionals, IFFI 2024 provided a platform for a necessary and urgent conversation about the role of cinema in shaping attitudes toward gender equality and creating safer spaces for women in the industry.

The panel discussion on Women's Safety and Cinema at the 55th IFFI was an important step toward fostering a more inclusive, respectful, and empowering environment in the film industry. It reinforced the need for a collective effort—by filmmakers, actors, producers, and audiences alike—to tackle gender inequality, address harassment, and ensure that women's contributions to cinema are valued and respected. As the conversation continues to unfold at IFFI and beyond, it is clear that the industry is moving towards a future where women are not only celebrated for their on-screen talent but are also given the safety, support, and opportunities they need to excel in all aspects of filmmaking.



en are shown as complex, multi-dimensional characters on screen, it sends a message that women deserve respect and equality in all aspects of life, not just in the fictional worlds of cinema.

Kushboo Sundar, another panellist, spoke about her approach to filmmaking, emphasizing that while entertainment is a key focus of her work, it's equally important to ensure that her films adhere to principles of equality, respect, and empowerment. "I am focused on making entertaining films, but I do so responsibly," she remarked, stressing that entertainment should never come at the cost of undermining gender equality. Sundar highlighted that even in the pursuit of box office success, filmmakers must remain mindful of their responsibility to portray women in a dignified and empowering light.

The panellists collectively agreed that portraying women with dignity is not just about the charac-

The diversity of Indian Cinema found a true reflection on 25th November 2024 at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), when a Tamil non-feature film, a Hindi documentary and Kannada feature film came together on the same platform for a press conference. Indian Panorama films - Tamil language non-feature Sivantha Mann, Hindi documentary Main Nida and Kannada feature film Kerebete, were screened at the festival 21st November 2024 and received much appreciation from the audience.

Tamil short film 'Sivantha Mann'

Director Infant hopes to inspire women to fight for their rights

he said. He is hopeful that the protagonist, Ranjitham, will encourage women to fight for their rights. The Director of Photography, Easwaren-Karthikeyan, and other members of

biography. "A certain kind of poets, poetry and artistes are promoted by the ecosystem of our entertainment industry. While the rest are left aside", he regretted.

Producer AtulGangwar, also present on the occasion, had been associated with Nida Fazli for over two decades and had 210 hours of footage capturing various moments of the scholar. The first editing cut led to 121 minutes of footage. Then after 450 hours of editing and twenty second cut came down to the final cut of 59 minutes, revealed the director. While working on the project, Pandey became so much



person. His poems will change one's outlook of life. Follow him: our society will be better"

Malti Joshi Fazli, Nida Fazli's wife and companion for 34 years, also present on occasion, stated that Nida Saab used to say - "Keep religion aside, win over life through struggle."

'Kerebete'

This Kannada feature film is based in the malnad region of Shimoga district where 'Kerebete' is an annual fishing event with a vast folk history connected to it. The director Rajguru B. stated that he grew up in those areas. The film narrates the story of Naga, a 'Kerebete' or fish hunter who works hard to buy land for the future with his mother and his love interest, Meena.

Speaking about his preparations for the role, lead actor and producer Gowrishankar S R who plays the character of Naga stated that the fight sequences were kept realistic in the film. Director Rajguru also highlighted that the characters have been juxtaposed against India's age-old epic Ramayana which appeals to all. Giving the example of Kantara's success, he opined that stories based on local folklore have widespread appeal.



Sivantha Mann

This Tamil language short film is based on a real incident that occurred in the southern regions of Tamil Nadu where a village is grappling with the slow demise of its farming traditions. It narrates the story of Ranjitham, a poor mother who works as a farm labourer along with two other women and is struggling to fund her daughter's education. It reveals the feudal mentality that persists in our country, and goes on to outline the sequence of events that follow when the overseer, out of personal grudge, withholds Ranjitham's co-worker Sevuthi's long-overdue wages and repeatedly defers payment.

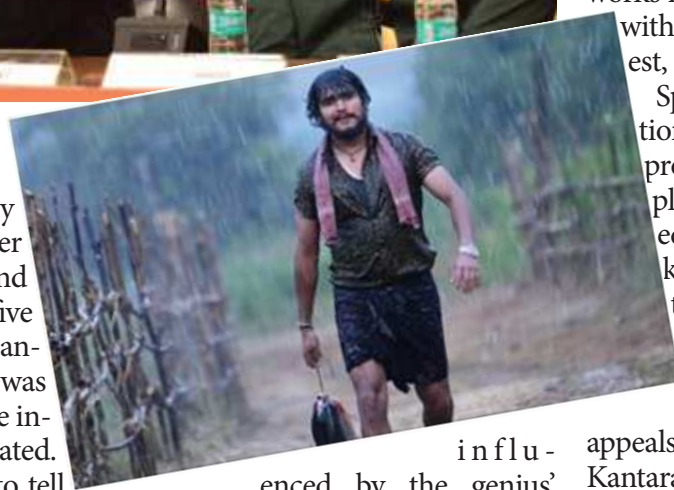
Speaking to media at the press conference, Director Infant expressed his intent to highlight problems that confront womenfolk. "The society still wants to suppress the voice of females",



the crew were also present.

'Main Nida'

Ace film maker Atul Pandey was highly inspired by the sheer genius of poet, philosopher and humanist Nida Fazli who knew five languages, yet wrote in simple language. However, such a genius was never given his due respect in the industry during his lifetime, he stated. This motivated the film maker to tell modern Indian poet Nida Fazli's story to the world through an audio-visual



influenced by the genius' works that he advised, "Read Nida Fazli, you will turn into a slightly better

"It is crucial for everyone to understand and empathize with a woman navigating through many nuances and complexities that arise after marriage" expressed Director of the film AratiKadav at a Press Conference held on the sidelines of the Gala Premier of 'Mrs' at 55th IFFI 2024 in Goa.

While addressing the media, Kadav expressed her vision for the film, explaining that Mrs. is a story for the "common people," designed to resonate with a broad audience. "Every woman is a subject of this film.

She stressed the importance of breaking the silence around women's roles, both within the family and society and highlighted how Mrs. brings these issues to the forefront in an accessible and engaging way.

Sanya Malhotra, who plays the protagonist Richa, shared her emotional connection with the role, describing it as deeply personal. "Women like Richa exist all around us," said Sanya. "I've met so many women who have gone through

similar experiences. I connected with the character on a profound level after speaking with many women, hearing their stories, and understanding their struggles."

'Mrs' resonates with the dreams of countless women : Sanya



she added. She further said that the film also resonates with the

passion and dreams of countless women and is therefore close to her heart. Sanya also emphasized on the responsibility she felt in portraying Richa, saying, "I never

take a character lightly. I treat each role with seriousness and respon-

sibility, ensuring that I portray the emotions authentically."

Producer Harman Baweja opened the conversation with insights into the film's core message, emphasizing the challenges women face after marriage as they embark on a transformative journey. He described Mrs. as a story of a woman, Richa, who seeks to redefine her identity beyond societal expectations. Baweja noted, "A woman travels through a different journey after marriage, and Mrs. is Richa's path of self-discovery. We should move beyond labels like 'women-centric' or 'male-centric.' The craft has no gender barriers. Ultimately, it's our collective responsibility as a society to break down these barriers."

Mrs. presents a powerful and timely message about empowerment, self-identity, and challenging societal norms. With a compelling storyline and an exceptional cast, the film promises to spark meaningful conversations and inspire audiences to rethink traditional gender roles.

Women Entrepreneurship Platform Partners with Urban Company to Empower Women Salon and Beauty Parlour Owners

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) has launched a pilot initiative under its Award to Reward program, aimed at supporting women-led Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in scaling up their businesses within the beauty and wellness sector. This initiative follows the findings of a baseline study conducted by MicroSave Consulting, which identified four key sectors with over 100,000 women-led MSMEs: beauty and wellness, textile manufacturing, retail trade, and food and beverages. The pilot focuses specifically on the beauty and wellness sector, marking the beginning of a larger program that will use insights gained from this cohort to develop process templates for scaling women-owned MSMEs nationwide.

Urban Company, a key partner in this initiative, will lead the program and collaborate with various stakeholders to identify women running micro-enterprises in the beauty and wellness field. The process will begin with an open call for applications, from which 25 women entrepreneurs based in Delhi NCR will be shortlisted. These participants will be selected based on specific criteria aimed at ensuring the women have the potential to grow their businesses. Once selected, the women will receive comprehensive training, mentorship, and resources to help them scale their salon businesses and improve their chances of success in the competitive beauty industry.

WEP, which was incubated by NITI Aayog in 2018, aims to strengthen India's women entrepreneurship ecosystem and promote women-led development. In 2022, it transitioned into a public-private partnership, expanding its scope and reach. The platform



serves as a forum for collaboration among various ecosystem stakeholders, including government agencies, businesses, philanthropy, and civil society. By bringing these groups together, WEP aligns their initiatives to create scalable, sustainable, and im-



pactful programs for women entrepreneurs across India.

As an aggregator platform, WEP focuses on addressing the six core needs of women entrepreneurs: Access to Finance, Market Linkages, Training and Skilling, Mentoring and Networking, and Business Development Services. Through these focus areas, WEP aims to create a thriving environment that supports the growth and development of women-led enterprises. The platform now boasts over 20 public and private sector partners committed to strengthening the ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in India.

In 2023, WEP took a significant step toward institutionalizing its role with the launch of the Award to Reward program. This initiative brings together stakeholders to meet the specific needs of women entrepreneurs, while also recognizing and celebrat-

ing their successes. The program is designed to be flexible and scalable, allowing ecosystem partners to collaborate in developing initiatives that have a meaningful and lasting impact. Through this partnership, WEP and Urban Company aim to empower women entrepreneurs in the beauty and wellness sector, providing them with the tools they need to grow their businesses sustainably.

The collaboration between WEP and Urban Company is a significant public-private partnership



that seeks to address the unique challenges faced by women in the beauty and wellness sector. The partnership will not only help women entrepreneurs develop essential business skills but also open up new opportunities for them to expand their businesses and increase their earnings. As part of the initiative, participants will gain access to a range of resources, including training in business management, customer service, and financial literacy, as well as access to networks of mentors and industry experts.

With more than 30,000 women

entrepreneurs already engaged with WEP, the platform has established itself as a vital resource for women across various sectors. The collaboration with Urban Company is seen as a strategic step towards building a stronger ecosystem for women in the beauty and wellness industry, an area where women already make up a significant portion of the workforce. The aim is to help these women build more profitable and sustainable businesses that can stand the test of time.

"Supporting women entrepreneurs is vital to achieving women-led development. WEP provides comprehensive support to women entrepreneurs right from training and skilling to access to resources, mentors, and networks. This continuum of support enables them to accelerate their entrepreneurial journey. Women dominate the beauty and wellness sector, and it is critical that they build more

profitable enterprises within this sector. Our collaboration with Urban Company is a significant step towards creating a robust ecosystem for women in this industry, enabling them to create more sustainable businesses," said Ms. Anna Roy,

Principal Economic Adviser at NITI Aayog and Mission Director of WEP.

This initiative underscores the growing recognition of women's vital role in India's economy, particularly in sectors like beauty and wellness, where women's entrepreneurial leadership is already well established. With continued support and a collaborative approach, the WEP-Urban Company partnership promises to foster the growth of women-led businesses, contributing to the broader goal of gender equality and women's economic empowerment in India.

Her bravery, efforts in fight for freedom continue to inspire generations:

Modi pays tribute to Rani Lakshmbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to LakshmbaiNewalkar, the Rani of Jhansi, on her birth anniversary on 19th November 2024. In a post on X, PM Modi emphasized that her bravery and efforts will continue to inspire generations. "Tributes to the fearless Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi, a true embodiment of courage and patriotism, on her Jayanti. Her bravery and efforts in the fight for freedom continue to inspire generations. Her leadership during times of adversity showed what true determination is," the Prime Minister said. Congress National President MallikarjunKarge also paid his tribute on X and said that Lakshmbai was an "epitome of unmatched heroism and valour". "Tribute to the great warrior queen, Rani of Jhansi, Lakshmbaiji on her birth anniversary, who fought against the British rule with her indomitable courage and bravery in the First Indian War of Independence of 1857. She was the epitome of unmatched heroism and valour. The dedication, generosity, patriotism and sacrifice of such great personalities are inspiring," Karge said.

Rani Lakshmbai, also known as the Queen of

Jhansi, is one of the most iconic figures in Indian history, renowned for her courage, leadership, and determination during the Indian Rebellion of 1857, also known as the First War of Indian Independence. She became a symbol of resistance



against British colonial rule and is celebrated as a national heroine.

Rani Lakshmbai's contributions to India's independence movement have earned her a revered place in Indian history. She remains a powerful symbol of courage, strength, and resilience. Numerous memorials and statues have been erected

in her honor across India, including in Jhansi, where the Rani Lakshmbai Memorial stands as a tribute to her legacy.

The Indian government recognized her as a national hero, and she is often depicted in Indian folklore, literature, and cinema as the embodiment of women's strength and leadership. She is also celebrated as a pioneering figure in the history of Indian women's participation in warfare and politics.

Rani Lakshmbai's story continues to inspire and influence Indian culture, and she is often regarded as one of the first women to fight for India's independence from colonial rule. Her spirit is encapsulated in the words, "I shall not surrender my Jhansi!"—a defiant proclamation of her determination to protect her land and people.

In addition to her role in the rebellion, her life highlights the broader issues of colonial oppression, gender inequality, and the struggle for justice, making her a timeless figure in the annals of India's history.

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Launches 'Bal VivahMukt Bharat' Campaign



On November 27, 2024, the Government of India launched the Bal-VivahMukt Bharat campaign with the aim of reducing child marriage rates to below 5% by 2029. This initiative comes as a response to the ongoing challenge of child marriage, despite significant progress. The government had successfully prevented nearly 2 lakh child marriages in the past year alone. However, statistics show that one in five girls in India is still married before reaching the legal age of 18. This practice is a violation of human rights and a criminal offense under Indian law.

The Bal-VivahMukt Bharat Abhiyan was launched by Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi, who emphasized the urgent need for collective action to address this issue. The campaign will primarily focus on seven high-burden states—West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh—along with nearly 300 districts where child marriage rates are notably higher than the national average.

A key aspect of the initiative is the launch of the Child Marriage Free Bharat portal. This platform aims to raise awareness, report cases of child marriage, and track

the progress of efforts to eliminate the practice. The portal will be a central tool in fostering transparency and community participation, allowing citizens to contribute actively to the campaign.

Minister Devi stated, "Child marriage is a significant challenge before us and is a practice that limits the potential of millions of



girls. In our country 21st November 2024, one in every five girls is married before the age of 18. It is one of the most severe forms of human rights violations and is also a criminal offense under the law." She emphasized that while legal frameworks such as the Pre-

vention of Child Marriage Act play an essential role, awareness campaigns and societal engagement are equally critical. "Legislation alone cannot eradicate this issue," Devi added, stressing the importance of a multi-faceted approach.

The Minister also highlighted that India had made notable strides in reducing child marriage, citing a report from the United Nations that recognized South Asia, particularly India, for the most significant global decline in child marriage rates in recent years. This progress, she noted, was largely due to government efforts to improve girls' education and financial security.

The Bal-VivahMukt Bharat campaign seeks to engage a wide range of stakeholders in the fight against child marriage, including local communities, civil society organizations, and government agencies. Minister Devi credited several government schemes, such

by creating opportunities for girls to pursue education and financial independence.

She also pointed to the introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which aims to provide quality education for all children, particularly girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. Scholarships and other financial aids for underprivileged girls are additional steps in ensuring that girls have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Despite the progress made, Minister Devi acknowledged that significant challenges remain. "Patriarchal norms continue to pose challenges, but interventions like BetiBachaoBetiPadhao have proven effective in shifting societal mindsets," she said. She emphasized that continuous efforts are required to create an environment in which girls can thrive and make their own choices.

The campaign also aims to raise awareness among citizens and communities about the harmful effects of child marriage. Minister Devi called on every citizen to actively participate in the movement, stressing that it will take the collective efforts of individuals, families, and communities to ensure the complete eradication of child marriage in India.

"We cannot stop until India is completely free of child marriages," Devi concluded, reinforcing the government's commitment to eliminating this practice and ensuring that every girl in India has the opportunity to grow up, receive an education, and reach her full potential without the constraints of early marriage.

With the launch of the Bal-VivahMukt Bharat campaign, the government aims to build on the progress made so far, and with the support of all stakeholders, work toward a future where child marriage is no longer a reality in India.

The proposals of Ministry of External Affairs for 9 One Stop Centres (OSCs) for Indian women facing distress abroad have been approved by the Empowered Committee of Ministry of Women and Child Development. They include 7 OSCs with provision of

Internal Affairs has now opened a Budget line for the aforesaid 9 Missions.

Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been set up in all Indian Missions and Posts abroad to meet the contingency expenditure incurred by them for

September 1, 2017. The revised guidelines have considerably expanded the scope of on-site welfare activities for the benefit of distressed Indian nationals particularly women that could be

nationals in distress situations (Boarding and Lodging, Air passage, Legal Assistance, Emergency Medical Care. Transportation of Mortal Remains), Community Welfare activities and improvement in Consular services.

They now also include provisions for setting up of legal panels in countries with sizeable Indian diaspora, payment of fines/penalty for petty crimes for release of prisoners and assistance to distressed Indian women abroad. Assistance under ICWF is also provided to needy Indian women in distress who have been deserted by their overseas Indian/ foreigner husbands to secure counselling and legal services.



extended through the Fund. The guidelines cover three key areas namely Assisting Overseas Indian

Proposals for 9 One Stop Centres for Indian women facing distress

shelter homes in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia (Jeddah & Riyadh) and 2 OSCs without shelter homes in Toronto and Singapore. Ministry of Ex-

ternal Affairs has now opened a Budget line for the aforesaid 9 Missions. Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been set up in all Indian Missions and Posts abroad to meet the contingency expenditure incurred by them for carrying out various on-site welfare activities for Overseas Indian citizens on a means-tested basis. The ICWF guidelines have been comprehensively revised w.e.f.



Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 hockey

India secure third title

The Indian women's hockey team clinched the 2024 Women's Asian Champions Trophy with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over the People's Republic of China in the final, held at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar on 20th November 2024. This victory marked India's third title in the prestigious tournament, putting them level with South Korea as the most successful nation in the history of the competition, with each nation having won the title three times.

India's journey to the final was impressive, with the team playing a balanced and resilient brand of hockey. The final itself was an intense contest between two of the best teams in Asian women's hockey. India, ranked 9th in the world, faced off against China, who were ranked 6th and had recently claimed a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Despite the high stakes, both teams demonstrated great tactical discipline and defensive strength throughout the match.

The final match saw both teams display end-to-end hockey, with numerous chances being created on both sides. The first half was tightly contested, with the Indian team and China virtually trading opportunities. India was awarded several penalty corners in the first half, but none were converted successfully. Deepika, who would later emerge as the hero of the final, had the most attempts but was unable to score. Similarly, China earned their share of penalty corners, but Indian goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam made several crucial saves, including a stunning diving stop to deny Jinzhuang Tan from a penalty corner attempt.

Despite a high-paced first half and a number of attacks from both sides, the score remained 0-0 as both teams struggled to convert their chances. The defensive lines on both sides were

well-organized, and the goalkeepers were in top form.

The turning point in the final came early in the second half. India went ahead in the 31st minute, thanks to a brilliant reverse hit by Deepika. Interestingly, the goal came from a misstrapped penalty corner, which initially seemed like a missed opportunity. However, the ball eventually found



its way to Deepika inside the circle through a precise pass from Navneet Kaur. Given time and space, Deepika turned and found the perfect angle, firing a powerful reverse hit past the Chinese goalkeeper, Li Ting. The goal not only gave India the lead but also cemented Deepika's status as the top scorer of the tournament, with her tally rising to 11 goals.

The Indian forward's goal was a testament to the team's composure and ability to capitalize on mistakes, while also showcasing Deepika's clinical finishing under pressure.

India could have doubled their lead just minutes later when they were awarded a penalty stroke for a deliberate foul inside the circle. Deepika, who was already in fine form, stepped up to take the shot, but Li Ting guessed the right direction and pulled off an incredible reflex save to deny her. It was a crucial mo-

ment in the match, as a two-goal lead would have given India some breathing space. However, the single goal advantage was still significant as the match entered the final quarter.

Despite China's best efforts to break down the Indian defense, the Indian women's team held firm. The Chinese side, trailing by a goal, ramped up the pressure and adopted an aggressive approach, increasing their circle penetrations in search of an equalizer. However, India's defense, led by captain Salima Tete and experienced players like Sushila Chanu, was resolute and disciplined. They kept the Chinese attackers at bay, thwarting multiple attempts at goal.

India's defence was exceptional throughout the final, as they not only stopped China's forward line but also made critical interceptions and cleared the ball effectively when under pressure. India managed to hold on to their slender 1-0 lead, securing their fifth clean sheet in a row in the tournament.

As the final whistle blew, the Indian women's hockey team celebrated



a historic victory. The 1-0 win over China marked their third Women's Asian Champions Trophy title, fol-

lowing their previous triumphs in 2016 and 2023. This victory tied India with South Korea as the most successful team in the competition's history, a remarkable achievement for Indian women's hockey.

The final was undoubtedly Deepika's moment, as her performance throughout the tournament was nothing short of spectacular. Not only did she score the match-winning goal in the final, but she also finished as the leading scorer of the tournament with 11 goals, showcasing her clinical finishing and composure in front of goal. Her performance was instrumental in India's victory, and she was widely hailed as the standout player of the tournament.

Earlier in the day, Japan secured third place in the tournament by defeating Malaysia 4-1. The match between Japan and Malaysia was closely contested, but Japan's attacking prowess proved too much for the Malaysian defense. Despite the defeat, Malaysia put up a strong fight, and both teams were applauded for their efforts throughout the tournament. India's triumph in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was a historic moment for Indian hockey.

The victory not only added another title to India's growing list of achievements but also demonstrated the resilience, skill, and determination of the women's team. The win was a reflection of the country's growing strength in women's sports, and it highlighted the progress India has made in the field of hockey. The Indian women's hockey team now shares the distinction of being the most successful team in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy history, alongside South Korea, and

their victory serves as an inspiration for young athletes across India to pursue excellence in sports.

भारत एनसीएक्स 2024 का आधिकारिक रूप से उद्घाटित उद्देश्य देश में साइबर सुरक्षा और रणनीतिक निर्णय लेने की क्षमता को मजबूत करना

भारत की साइबर सुरक्षा क्षमता को मजबूत करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल, भारत राष्ट्रीय साइबर सुरक्षा अभ्यास (भारत एनसीएक्स 2024) का राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद सचिवालय (एनएससीएस) द्वारा राष्ट्रीय रक्षा विश्वविद्यालय (आरआरयू) के सहयोग से आयोजित एक उच्च-स्तरीय समारोह में आज उद्घाटन किया गया। 12 दिवसीय यह अभ्यास भारत के साइबर सुरक्षा पेशेवरों और दिग्गजों को उन्नत साइबर सुरक्षा, घटनाओं की प्रतिक्रिया संबंधी क्षमताओं और रणनीतिक निर्णय लेने के साथ उभरते खतरों से निपटने के लिए तैयार करने में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

राष्ट्रीय साइबर सुरक्षा समन्वयक, लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल एमयू नायर, पीवीएसएम, एवीएसएम, एसएम (सेवानिवृत्त) ने अपने उद्घाटन भाषण में कहा, भारत एनसीएक्स 2024 हमारे देश के साइबर रक्षकों और दिग्गजों को इस क्षेत्र से जुड़े जटिल खतरों को कम करने के कौशल से दक्ष

करता है। यह पहल तकनीकी अभ्यास से लेकर रणनीतिक निर्णय लेने तक सभी स्तरों पर संकटों का प्रबंधन करने के लिए हमारी तैयारी सुनिश्चित करती है।

आरआरयू के कुलपति प्रो. (डॉ.) बिमल एन. पटेल ने अपने मुख्य भाषण में साइबर सुरक्षा चुनौतियों से निपटने में शिक्षा, अनुसंधान और नवाचार के एकीकरण पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा, यह अभ्यास न केवल तकनीकी कौशल को मजबूत करता है, बल्कि राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर साइबर संकटों से निपटने के लिए शीर्ष नेतृत्व को तैयार भी करता है।

भारत एनसीएक्स 2024 की मुख्य विशेषताएं: इस अभ्यास में साइबर रक्षा और घटना प्रतिक्रिया पर गहन प्रशिक्षण, आईटी और ओटी सिस्टम पर साइबर हमलों के खतरों से निपटने में सक्षम होने के साथ सरकार और उद्योग के हितधारकों के लिए सहयोगी प्लेटफॉर्म शामिल हैं। रणनीतिक निर्णय लेने का अभ्यास राष्ट्रीय स्तर के साइबर



संकट में निर्णय लेने के लिए सभी क्षेत्रों के वरिष्ठ प्रबंधन को एक साथ लाएगा, जिससे रणनीतिक कौशल के साथ दबावपूर्ण स्थितियों का सामने करने संबंधी उनकी क्षमता बढ़ेगी। सीआईएसओ के कॉन्क्लेव में सरकार, सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों के मुख्य सूचना सुरक्षा अधिकारी अपने-अपने विचार साझा करेंगे, पैनेल चर्चा में

भाग लेंगे और साइबर सुरक्षा में नवीनतम रुझानों और सरकारी पहलों पर चर्चा करेंगे। इसके अलावा, भारत साइबर सुरक्षा स्टार्टअप प्रदर्शनी में भारतीय स्टार्टअप के नवाचारों के बारे में जानकारी दी जाएगी जो देश के साइबर सुरक्षा बुनियादी ढांचे को बढ़ाने में उनकी भूमिका को रेखांकित करेंगे।

सिनेमा के भविष्य को आकार देना : नवोदित फिल्म निर्माताओं को सशक्त बनाएगा इफ्फी 2024

रचनात्मकता को प्रोत्साहित करने और सांस्कृतिक सीमाओं को पार करने की अपनी अद्वितीय क्षमता के लिए प्रसिद्ध, भारतीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फिल्म महोत्सव (इफ्फी) 2024 एक बार फिर 20 नवंबर को गोवा का रुख करने जा रहा है। इस वर्ष का महोत्सव अपनी थीम 'युवा फिल्म निर्माता: भविष्य अब है' के तहत युवा फिल्म निर्माताओं को प्रोत्साहित करने और उनकी प्रतिभाओं को वैश्विक मंच पर लाने के लिए समर्पित होगा। यह महोत्सव भारतीय सिनेमा के भविष्य को नया आकार देने की दिशा में एक अहम कदम साबित होगा, क्योंकि इसमें नए, नवोन्मेषी फिल्म निर्माता पारंपरिक कथाओं को आधुनिक तकनीकों के साथ मिश्रित करके नई सिनेमाई दिशा की ओर अग्रसर होंगे।

युवा फिल्म निर्माताओं की दिशा में इफ्फी 2024 की भूमिका

इफ्फी 2024 का उद्देश्य न केवल युवा फिल्म निर्माताओं की प्रतिभा को पहचानना और उसे प्रोत्साहित करना है, बल्कि साथ ही यह महोत्सव भारतीय सिनेमा के भविष्य के दृष्टिकोण को भी आकार देगा। इस महोत्सव का एक खास पहलू यह है कि यह नवोदित फिल्म निर्माताओं के लिए नए पुरस्कार और पहलों की शुरुआत करेगा। ये कदम युवा फिल्म निर्माताओं को अपनी कला को निखारने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने और उन्हें राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दर्शकों के सामने लाने के उद्देश्य से उठाए गए हैं।

इस साल के इफ्फी में 101 देशों से 1,676 फिल्मों प्राप्त हुई हैं, जो इस महोत्सव की बढ़ती अंतर्राष्ट्रीय साख को दर्शाती हैं। महोत्सव में 81 देशों की 180 से अधिक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फिल्मों प्रदर्शित की जाएंगी, जिनमें 15 विश्व प्रीमियर, 3 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रीमियर, 40 एशियाई प्रीमियर और 106 भारतीय प्रीमियर शामिल हैं। ऑस्ट्रेलिया, जो इस साल इफ्फी का फोकस देश है, अपनी समर्पित उपस्थिति से महोत्सव में चार चाँद लगाएगा। यह आंकड़े इफ्फी के बढ़ते प्रभाव और वैश्विक सिनेमा के प्रति उसकी प्रतिबद्धता को स्पष्ट रूप से दर्शाते हैं।

नवोदित फिल्म निर्माताओं का सम्मान:

सर्वश्रेष्ठ नवोदित भारतीय फिल्म खंड

इफ्फी 2024 का एक प्रमुख आकर्षण भारतीय फिल्म उद्योग के नवोदित फिल्म निर्माताओं को सम्मानित करने वाला 'सर्वश्रेष्ठ नवोदित भारतीय निर्देशक पुरस्कार' है। इस पुरस्कार का उद्देश्य नए, उत्कृष्ट निर्देशकों को पहचानना है और यह भारतीय सिनेमा की विविधता और क्षेत्रीय संस्कृतियों को

प्रदर्शित करता है। इस वर्ष, भारतीय सिनेमा के विभिन्न हिस्सों से पांच नवोदित निर्देशक अपनी फिल्मों के साथ महोत्सव में भाग लेंगे। इन फिल्मों में लक्ष्मीप्रिया देवी की बूंग (मणिपुरी), नवज्योत बांदीवाडेकर की घरत गणपति (मराठी), मनोहर के



की मिक्का बन्नाडा हक्की (कन्नड़), यता सत्यनारायण की रजाकर (तेलुगु) और रागेश नारायणन की थानुप्प (मलयालम) शामिल हैं।

ये फिल्मों भारतीय सिनेमा के विभिन्न हिस्सों से आ रही हैं, और इनकी कहानियाँ क्षेत्रीय विविधता को ध्यान में रखते हुए बनाई गई हैं। इन नवोदित फिल्मों के चयन से इफ्फी का उद्देश्य केवल नए दृष्टिकोणों को प्रोत्साहित करना नहीं है, बल्कि यह भारतीय सिनेमा की समृद्ध और विविध सांस्कृतिक धारा को दुनिया के सामने लाने का भी एक बड़ा मंच है। यह पुरस्कार 5 लाख रुपये की राशि और प्रमाण पत्र के साथ नवोदित निर्देशकों को सम्मानित करेगा, जो उनके कार्य के महत्व को स्वीकार करता है।

क्रिएटिव माइंड्स ऑफ टुमॉरो:

युवा प्रतिभाओं का प्रोत्साहन

इफ्फी की क्रिएटिव माइंड्स ऑफ

टुमॉरो (उचजड़) पहल का उद्देश्य भारतीय सिनेमा में उभरती हुई युवा प्रतिभाओं को प्रोत्साहित करना और उन्हें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर अपने कौशल का प्रदर्शन करने का अवसर देना है। 2021 में आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव के तहत इस पहल की शुरुआत की गई थी, और अब तक इसके तीन संस्करणों में 225 प्रतिभाशाली फिल्म निर्माता इस पहल का हिस्सा बन चुके हैं। इस वर्ष के संस्करण में, 13 विभिन्न फिल्म शिल्पों में 100 युवा फिल्म निर्माताओं को समर्थन मिलेगा, जो पिछले वर्ष के 10 शिल्पों में 75 प्रतिभागियों से अधिक है।

उचजड़ का प्रमुख उद्देश्य युवा भारतीय फिल्म निर्माताओं को एक मंच प्रदान करना है, जहां वे अपनी रचनात्मकता को साझा कर सकें और अपनी फिल्मों के माध्यम से नया संदेश दे सकें। पिछले वर्षों में, इस पहल के माध्यम से प्रतिभागियों को प्रमुख मीडिया और मनोरंजन कंपनियों के साथ नेटवर्किंग और मास्टरक्लास सत्रों का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ, जो उनके पेशेवर विकास के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण साबित हुआ है। इस वर्ष 1,032 प्रविष्टियाँ प्राप्त हुई हैं, जो इस पहल के प्रति बढ़ते आकर्षण को दर्शाती हैं।

फिल्म बाज़ार 2024: उद्योग से जुड़े सहयोग का गतिशील मंच

इफ्फी 2024 का फिल्म बाज़ार इस वर्ष अपने 18वें संस्करण में एक और ऐतिहासिक कदम बढ़ाने जा रहा है। 20 से 24 नवंबर तक आयोजित होने वाला यह बाज़ार फिल्म

निर्माताओं, वितरकों और उद्योग विशेषज्ञों को एक मंच प्रदान करेगा, जहाँ वे अपने प्रोजेक्ट्स को प्रस्तुत कर सकेंगे और आपसी सहयोग के नए अवसरों का पता लगा सकेंगे। इस वर्ष, फिल्म बाज़ार में भारत, बांग्लादेश, नेपाल, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, ब्रिटेन, जर्मनी और हांगकांग जैसे देशों के फिल्म निर्माताओं और पेशेवरों की उपस्थिति सुनिश्चित होगी।

फिल्म बाज़ार में 350 से अधिक फिल्म प्रोजेक्ट प्रदर्शित किए जाएंगे, जिनमें 208 फिल्मों शामिल हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त, नए सह-निर्माण प्रोजेक्ट्स के लिए 20,000 का नकद अनुदान भी दिया जाएगा, जो नए फिल्म निर्माताओं को अपनी फिल्मों को वैश्विक दर्शकों तक पहुँचाने के लिए एक अहम कदम होगा। यह बाज़ार फिल्म निर्माताओं को अपने प्रोजेक्ट्स को पेश करने के लिए एक आदर्श मंच साबित होगा, साथ ही यह नवोदित फिल्म निर्माताओं के लिए एक मजबूत उद्योग नेटवर्क बनाने का अवसर प्रदान करेगा।

समृद्ध शैक्षिक अनुभव

इफ्फी केवल एक फिल्म महोत्सव नहीं है, बल्कि यह युवा फिल्म निर्माताओं को एक शैक्षिक अनुभव प्रदान करने का भी एक महत्वपूर्ण मंच है। महोत्सव में मास्टरक्लास, पैनेल चर्चाएँ और कार्यशालाएँ आयोजित की जाएंगी, जिनमें ए. आर. रहमान, शबाना आज़मी, मणि रत्नम, विधु विनोद चोपड़ा, और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हस्तियों जैसे फिलिप नॉयस और जॉन सील से फिल्म निर्माण की बारीकियाँ सीखी जा सकेंगी। ये सत्र विभिन्न पहलुओं को कवर करेंगे, जैसे अभिनय तकनीकें, निर्देशन और साउंड डिजाइन, जो युवा फिल्म निर्माताओं को उनके शिल्प में गहरी समझ प्रदान करेंगे।

इफ्फी 2024 भारतीय सिनेमा के भविष्य को नया आकार देने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम साबित होगा। महोत्सव द्वारा शुरू की गई पहलें, जैसे 'सर्वश्रेष्ठ नवोदित फिल्म निर्देशक पुरस्कार', 'क्रिएटिव माइंड्स ऑफ टुमॉरो', और 'फिल्म बाज़ार' जैसे कार्यक्रम, नवोदित फिल्म निर्माताओं के लिए उत्कृष्ट अवसर प्रदान करेंगे। यह महोत्सव भारतीय सिनेमा के भविष्य में नवाचार, रचनात्मकता और सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने का एक अहम जरिया बनेगा। इफ्फी 2024 के माध्यम से युवा फिल्म निर्माता अपनी अनूठी कहानियों को दुनिया तक पहुँचा सकेंगे और भारतीय सिनेमा को एक नई दिशा दे सकेंगे।



जेंडर-आधारित हिंसा को समाप्त करने के लिए Ab KoiBahanaNahi अभियान शुरू



सभी क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं की पूर्ण, समान और सार्थक भागीदारी के लिए सक्षम प्रावधान बनाए हैं। इसमें महिलाओं के कठिन परिश्रम और गरीबी को कम करने, सार्वजनिक देखभाल के बुनियादी ढांचे का निर्माण करने और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल तक सार्वभौमिक पहुंच का निर्माण, करने, महिलाओं के असमान देखभाल कार्य को कम करने, औपचारिक वित्तीय प्रणालियों तक पहुंच में सुधार करने, जेंडर डिजिटल डिवाइड को कम करने, सुरक्षित गतिशीलता एवं सुरक्षित आवास सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कई बड़े पैमाने पर हस्तक्षेप शामिल हैं। साथ ही, महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ सभी प्रकार की हिंसा का रोकथाम और निवारण के लिए एक मजबूत सेवा वितरण बुनियादी ढांचे का निर्माण करना भी शामिल है।

केन्द्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने पहले से चल रहे अच्छे कार्यों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि यदि महिलाओं को पूर्ण रूप

से सशक्त बनाना है तो महिला सशक्तिकरण, सामाजिक सशक्तिकरण, राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण और शैक्षणिक सशक्तिकरण करना होगा। प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में महिला सशक्तिकरण की पहल को एक अभियान के रूप में क्रियान्वित किया जा रहा है।

जेंडर-आधारित हिंसा महिलाओं और लड़कियों को सम्मान के साथ जीने और विकास प्रक्रिया में समान भागीदार के रूप में योगदान करने से रोकती है। जैसा कि भारत का लक्ष्य प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व में 2047 तक एक विकसित देश बनने का है, यह सपना महिलाओं के पूर्ण और समान योगदान के बिना संभव नहीं होगा, जो कि महिलाओं को हिंसा का सामना करने पर या हिंसा धमकी मिलने पर बाधित होता है। केन्द्रीय महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री ने प्रधानमंत्री की कल्पना के अनुसार विकसित भारत को वास्तविकता बनाने के लिए अर्थव्यवस्था में महिलाओं की भागीदारी के महत्व को दोहराया।

इसलिए, सभी हितधारकों से महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा को संबोधित करने की दिशा में निर्णायक कदम उठाने का आग्रह करने के लिए, AbKoiBahanaNahi अभियान एक राष्ट्रीय कॉल टू एक्शन के साथ शुरू किया जा रहा है। जेंडर-आधारित हिंसा को समाप्त करने के लिए कार्रवाई के आह्वान के व्यापक पहुंच को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, किसी को भी पीछे न छोड़ते हुए, यह अभियान राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि करते हुए ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित 'नयी चेतना 3.0 अभियान' के संयोजन में शुरू किया गया था। इसका उद्देश्य जेंडर-आधारित हिंसा के सभी रूपों को समाप्त करना है।

अनावरण कार्यक्रम में, AbKoiBahanaNahi पर एक फिल्म प्रदर्शित की गई, जिसमें जेंडर-आधारित हिंसा को समाप्त करने के खिलाफ नागरिकों सहित सभी हितधारकों की जवाबदेही की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डाला गया।

अभियान का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य वकालत के प्रयासों को बढ़ावा देना और महिलाओं और लड़कियों की सुरक्षा से संबंधित नीति निर्देशों को सूचित करना है। इसके अलावा, यह अभियान न्याय, समानता और परिवर्तन की अनिवार्यता पर जोर देते हुए प्रणालीगत परिवर्तन के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण और तत्काल आह्वान के रूप में कार्य करता है। अभियान का उद्देश्य एक लहर प्रभाव को उत्प्रेरित करना है, जहाँ प्रत्येक कार्रवाई और पहल राष्ट्रीय वृद्धि और विकास के लिए एक मौलिक और गैर-परक्राम्य प्राथमिकता के रूप में महिला सुरक्षा के संदेश को मजबूत करने में योगदान देना है।

लॉन्च कार्यक्रम में देश भर के स्वयं सहायता समूहों की महिला नेताओं, महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा से बचे लोगों के निवारण के लिए सेवा प्रदाताओं जैसे वन स्टॉप सेंटर और आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं सहित अन्य लोगों ने भाग लिया। अभियान के बारे में देश के दूर-दराज के कोनों तक जागरूकता फैलाने के लिए, लॉन्च का वेबकास्ट लिंक और महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय के यूट्यूब चैनल के माध्यम से सीधा प्रसारण किया गया।

वैश्विक स्तर पर, हर साल 25 नवंबर से, जिसे महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा के उन्मूलन के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है, से लेकर 10 दिसंबर तक, जिसे मानवाधिकार दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है, नागरिक समाज द्वारा 16 दिनों का सक्रियता अभियान जेंडर-आधारित हिंसा को समाप्त करने के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए मनाया जाता है।

नई दिल्ली में एक राष्ट्रीय अभियान AbKoiBahanaNahi लॉन्च किया गया। यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र महिला के समर्थन से महिला एवं बाल विकास और ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालयों के बीच एक सहयोगात्मक प्रयास है। इस अवसर पर केन्द्रीय महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री, श्रीमती अन्नपूर्णा देवी, केन्द्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री, श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान, ग्रामीण विकास राज्य मंत्री, श्री कमलेश पासवान और ग्रामीण विकास एवं संचार राज्य मंत्री डॉ. चंद्र शेखर पेम्मासानी उपस्थित थे।

सभा को संबोधित करते हुए मंत्री श्रीमती अन्नपूर्णा देवी ने कहा कि इस अभियान का उद्देश्य महिलाओं और विभिन्न लिंग के व्यक्तियों के अधिकारों को आगे बढ़ाना और उनके जीवन को भय और जेंडर-आधारित भेदभाव से मुक्त करना है। इसका उद्देश्य महिलाओं को शर्म और सामाजिक बाधाओं से मुक्त होने के लिए सशक्त बनाना है, जिससे वे अपने ऊपर हुए अत्याचारों



की रिपोर्ट कर सकें और अपनी गरिमा के लिए लड़ सकें।

इस वर्ष, संयुक्त राष्ट्र के छेएलीश के वैश्विक अभियान पर आगे बढ़ते हुए, जो प्रतिबद्धताओं को पुनर्जीवित करने, जवाबदेही और कार्रवाई का आह्वान करने के लिए महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा की चिंताजनक वृद्धि पर ध्यान आकर्षित करता है, भारत सरकार ने इसे उजागर करने के उद्देश्य से AbKoiBahanaNahिलॉन्च किया है। इसका उद्देश्य महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा को समाप्त करने की तात्कालिकता का संदेश तथा जेंडर-आधारित हिंसा के किसी भी एवं सभी रूपों के प्रति मध्य भारत के शून्य-सहिष्णुता रख को रेखांकित करना है।

भारत सरकार ने महिलाओं के नेतृत्व वाले विकास के लिए शासन में आदर्श बदलाव को लागू करते हुए, जीवन और अर्थव्यवस्था के

