



UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, PUNE

Affiliated to Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) and Graduate Women International (GWI)

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BIENNIUM - 2023-2024

June - 2023 to Dec - 2024

◆ *President's Platform:*

On the joyous occasion of New Year, I **Dr. Ujwala S. Shinde**, President UWAP, extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all members of UWA Pune.

I cannot move forward without mentioning the loss occurred to UWAP. This year we lost our precious gems **Dr. Vinaybala Mehta**, **Mrs. Sheela Rao** and **Dr. Zainab Poonawala**. Our heartfelt condolences to the family.

The arrival of the New Year is an occasion to move forward with new resolutions and goals. May the Year 2025 bring happiness, peace and prosperity for all. May we continue to contribute to the progress of our own organisation UWA. Ours is an organisation dedicated for empowerment, welfare of women. Welfare includes financial literacy, awareness about security laws for women in India. Every year we are facing one or the other big incident challenging women safety and security. Our R and D cell through its convener **Dr. Suchitra Roy**, Vice President, UWAP, has taken up the project to work on Gender and safety issues of women with focus on grave areas of concern such as POSH i.e. Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women under a project "WOMAN" I am confident that with the cooperation and participation of all UWA members, we all together will make it as an interactive and participative series of events.

Our team took the charge immediately after the Covid period. I am honoured to say that we could organise our most appreciated event, IFUWA International Conference in Pune, hosted by UWAP. Needless to say that with an enthusiastic involvement of all the members, managing committee, Trustees of our organisation, the international Conference was a great success and it is the feather in the cap of UWAP. I would like to convey my gratitude to **Dr. Meera Bondre**, the former managing trustee, for all her efforts

to ensure the happening of an International Conference at Pune.

The first event under the new Managing Committee was the Monsoon Mela in July 2023. This was a one-day event and received good response from women artists as well as other women entrepreneurs from Pune and nearby places.

Navratri is a festival in which people joyously worship Goddess Durga. Our Youth Wing with the hostel girls celebrated Garba on 17th October 2023. The workshop for Garba dance was conducted by our energetic Honourable Secretary of UWAP **Dr. Kalyani Bondre**.

As per the long tradition at UWAP, the Diwali Mela was held on 4th and 5th November 2023. It was an initiative of Open House Convener **Adv. Viddulata Gawade**. Diwali Pahat (दिवाळी पहाट) is a rich tradition of the cultural landscape of Pune. With joint efforts of **Adv. Viddulata Gawade** and **Dr. Kalyani Bondre** the singing and cultural dance event was accomplished.

On 11th of February 2024 Hostel Day was celebrated by the residents of the UWA hostel with a lot of swag and enthusiasm.

Granting scholarships to deserving girls is an important activity for UWA. As per every year scholarship was dispersed to the selected girl students.

Our Environmental Cell convener **Manjushree Parsnis** in collaboration with Rand D cell organised an interesting lecture on "The world of Ants". Again **Manjushree Parsnis** organised a musical event "**Kabir and Climate**". The visit to the 'National Institute of Naturopathy' organised by the R and D cell with **Dr. Naina Athlye** was the unique experience for the UWA members. In June 24, after the GBM, open house convener **Adv. Viddulata Gawade** conducted a session on 'Aroma Therapy.'

UWAP is not just an organisation. It is a movement which keeps changing with the changing times. The year 2023-24 witnessed many activities which were not just limited to the lives of women. It included events

which talked about the larger picture – whether as a part of the International Conference on Sustainability or even one of the smallest parts of our vision – The world of Ants! This year was definitely full of events that forced us to look at the outside world which is changing rapidly. Climate change is a real, tangible challenge in the foreseeable future. This year at UWA was focused on the various aspects of climate change. Whether it was the visit to National Institute of Naturopathy or the performance 'Kabir and Climate' by Pralay towards the end of the year.

Whatever we do, is always a reflection of our common concerns, common love and common anxieties. UWAP is a place where women come together to share these with others of their own kin. I hope this year was as eventful and exciting for all those who participated, as it was for me!

Let us welcome the New Year 2025.

I wish you again a very happy, peaceful and successful New Year.

Dr. Ujwala Shinde
President UWA



◆ *The year in events at UWAP!*

● **Monsoon Mela**



The first event under the new Managing Committee was the **Monsoon Mela in July 2023**. The immediate Past President of IFUWA, **Ms Swati Bedekar** had requested UWAP to help women artists from Gujarat and Rajasthan who were visiting Pune, to showcase their handicrafts. UWAP organised the Monsoon Mela with the combined aim of hosting these women artists as well as other women entrepreneurs from Pune and nearby places.



The handicrafts from Gujarat included everything from handblock printed tablecloths to beautifully handcrafted earrings. A variety of embroidery work was showcased on dress materials and tapestry.

The UWA hall was almost full with local stalls as well. There were stalls selling ready to cook food items, masalas, chemical free jaggery, even food grains such as millets.

Other stalls included colourful paper quilling jewellery. There were a variety of ready-made clothes as well as bags.

The footfall was decent and there was a feeling of camaraderie amongst the participants as well. The event lasted all day and many members and their friends dropped by to support the sellers. Tea and refreshments were organised for the participants.

- **Garba Night**



Monsoons are the harbinger of a series of festivities in India. The time starting at monsoon and leading up to Diwali is always a time of celebrations and festivities. With important festivals lined up after each other. The most awaited of these is the Navaratri festival – specifically for the **Garba nights!** Nobody should ever let go of a chance to dance! UWAP isn't behind in this department either.

Jumping at this chance to dance, UWAP celebrated **Garba Night on 17th October 2023** on the suggestion of the Youth Wing Convener, **Madhavi More, Dr. Kalyani Bondre** choreographed and conducted the **Garba** workshop which was free for our members and hostel girls. The young and the evergreen, both matched each other's energy and danced their hearts out! Of course, there is no fun without some healthy competition! **Ms Mini Grant** was the judge for selecting the best dancers of the evening and **Ms Suchita Shroff** was selected for the first prize!

- **Diwali Pahat**



Diwali Pahat (दिवाळी पहाट) is a rich tradition of the cultural landscape of Pune. On the day of Diwali, just as the day breaks, Pune-kars like to start their festivities on a musical note. Many famous **Diwali Pahat** locations such as Saras Baug as known to Pune-kars. One such event was also organized at UWA on the day of Diwali. On the initiative of the Open House convener a classical singing program was organized. Our in-house **talent Dr. Kalyani Bondre** presented a few songs on this occasion.

- **Diwali Mela**

The festivities continued and as per the long tradition at UWAP, the **Diwali Mela** was held on 4th and 5th November 2023 at the UWA hall. Around 35 stalls were booked and various items like handicrafts, apparel, jewellery, millets, food stalls were showcased. UWAP is committed to helping women entrepreneurs achieve their best. Hence, any major event is always accompanied by renting out the UWA hall to small scale business owners at an affordable rates so they can make the most of the stalls. The **Diwali Mela** also received decent footfall, although there needs to be some improvement in the number of visits to the stalls at such events. There was a lot of enthusiasm amongst the participants and the visitors.



- **Channd Ranga**



Chhand Rang (छंद रंग) activity is on in full swing at the **Darode School**. 45 students from 5th to 7th standard are being taught skills like painting, crochet, knitting, *rangoli*, macramé, etc. Just before **Raksha Bandhan** in August, the students were taught to make *rakhis*. Around the time of Ganesh Festival, they learned to make beautiful eco-friendly *Ganpati* idols.

- **Hostel Day**

On 11th of February 2024 **Hostel Day** was celebrated by the residents of the UWA hostel with a lot of swag and enthusiasm. They performed a variety of dance forms on stage. All the girls introduced themselves to the Managing committee members present at the time of event. The helping members were also given due recognition in the form



of awards and monetary gifts. We got to witness all the latest Gen Z trends and it must be said, that some of us felt a bit old that day!

- **IFUWA International Conference**

One of the biggest events of the year, was the **IFUWA International Conference** which took place in **UWAP** on **1 st and 2 nd March 2024**, followed by the Central Committee Meeting on 3 rd March 2024. The Conference



was on the theme the theme '**Working Together for a Sustainable Future**'. The conference saw several presentations, panel discussions and conversations on the theme. Voices of eminent women coming from the domains of environment activists, lawyers and from industry were heard. **The Inaugural Session had UWAP President Dr. Ujwala Shinde, IFUWA President Dr. Ranjana Banerjee, GWI Vice President Dr. Meera Bondre, Chief Guest Dr. Ujwala Chakradeo** address the audience. **GWI President, Patrice Wellesley Cole** communicated her best wishes through a video message. A panel discussion then followed with **Dr. Vandana Shiva, Ms Meher Pudumjee, Ms Nimalka** Fernando sharing their thoughts on different aspects of Sustainability in the contexts of agriculture, industry and human rights. **Ms Akram Khatoon's** paper was read out in absentia. Economist and **Hon. Secretary Dr. Kalyani Bondre** was the Emcee and moderator for the first session and highlighted the economic dimension to sustainability.

The afternoon session was the SAARC panel which was moderated by journalist **Swati Bhattacharya**, who mentioned gender inequalities in South East Asia. The panellists were **Dr. Mallika Farah, Neyma, Maimuna Siddiqui, Tabassum, Dilrukshi, Subarna Maharjan** from SAARC countries of Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and India who shared their experiences on the theme of sustainability as representatives of their countries in both online and offline modes. SAARCGWI countries today are India, Bangladesh, Nepal and



Pakistan, where GWI NFAs exist. The next session was the much awaited Life Time Achievement award instituted by **Dr. Purnima Kashyap** in memory of her mother, **Ms Sushil Bharadwaj**. This was awarded to **Dr. Panna Akhani**

of Nagpur UWA. The evening ended with a mesmerising cultural program by *Pt. Milind Tulankar*, a renowned exponent of *Jal Tarang* and a *Kathak* group dance by the disciples of *Guru Shama Bhate*, *Dr Muckta Karmarkar*, was the moderator of the panel on day two. This was the UWAAsia panel comprising *Dr Chizuko Suzuki*, *Teiko Nakamichi*, *Dr Supinda Lertlit*, *Bina Maharjan*, from Japan, Thailand, Nepal respectively. *Dr. Saira Banoo*, *Maimuna Siddiqui* and *Dr. Ambreen Ashar's* papers were presented in video format.

The afternoon session had presentations of affiliates of IFUWA on sustainability activities. *Ms Swati Bedekar*, *Dr Suman Jain* and *Ms Neelam Jagdale* from UWA Vadodara, Delhi and Pune respectively shared about their UWA's work in Sustainability. There were two video presentations by *Dr Eileen Focke Bakker* and *Shaila Rao Mistry* and one in-person presentation by *Ms Arthi Kalmadi Parigi*. The session ended with a summing up by *Ms Malati Kalmadi* and Vote of Thanks by UWAP Trustee *Ms Phoola Kaul*. Welcome Address was given by the President of UWAP: *Dr.Ujwala Shinde* President of UWAP welcomed all present at the Central Committee Meeting and thanked each member from the UWAs of Bangalore, Calcutta, Chidambaram, Dehradun, Madras, Nagpur, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Vadodara and WGU for coming forward with their voluntary donations towards the cause.

● **Disbursal of Scholarships**



Granting scholarships to deserving girls is an important activity for UWA. This year too, the Scholarships Disbursal Programme took place on **26th March 2024 at UWAP**, where deserving girl students were given scholarships after due screening and interview process conducted by the scholarship committee comprising Convener *Dr Vasudha Keskar* and *Ms Preeti Pawar*.

● **Bachflower Remedy- Flower/ Aroma Therapy**

The AGM Meeting on 29th June 2024 followed by an interesting session on Flower/Aroma Therapy by UWA member and Open House Convener, Ms Viddulata Gawade. The session will cover BACH Flower Remedy which is useful for day to day life issues like:

- Anxiety, Fear, Emotional Turmoil
- Stress, Trauma, Phobia
- Building Confidence, Clarity in Thought and Personal Growth
- Transitional Stages like New Job, Responsibilities, Pregnancy, Retirement, Menopause, etc

UWA PUNE

Speaker
Viddulata Gawade

BACH FLOWER REMEDY

- Resolve issues in Day-to-Day life, like Anxiety, fear, depression
- Stress & Trauma
- Transitional stages like New Job /Responsibility, Pregnancy, Retirement, Menopause
- Helpful for Children, Women, Entrepreneurs, Senior Citizens and Workers

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29th June, 2024

- **Central Committee Meeting**



The **Central Committee Meeting** and **The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of UWA Thiruvananthapuram** were held on **31st August 2024**. President Dr. Ujwala Shinde and Association Representative *Neelam Jagdale* attended Central Committee Meeting. The report booklet on International Conference held at Pune was published and the copy of the same was given to each UWA by IFUWA. The hosting and arrangements of the said conference was appreciated by IFUWA President as well as by other UWA representatives. Rs. 25000/- was received from IFUWA as a token of appreciation to UWAP.

- **Visit to National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN)**



UWA members visited the Tadiwala campus of the **National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN)** on the **3rd September 2024** for an informative session as well as the guided tour of the in house facilities. *Dr.Naina Athalye*, (who is also a member of UWA) explained in detail all the interesting activities being carried out at NIN. The members appreciated this warm reception at her office. We were especially impressed by the initiatives being taken for the health of people in the tribal belts. UWA will be happy to collaborate with NIN to carry out projects together. An MOU to that effect is in the making!

The R and D Cell extends an opportunity for interdisciplinary research to members desirous of undertaking research work in topics related to environmental sciences, natural and social sciences, social work and education, as well as conduct projects of social relevance. It also offers consultancy to individuals and organisations. Seminars,

workshops and training programmes are conducted from time to time. We also take part in collaborative research with other research organisations.

- **" The World of Ants" by Ms. Nutan Karnik**



How aware are we of the world around us? As we go about our busy lives, we often refer to busy people as 'ants'. But really, how much do we really know about this vast, underground and quiet world of ants? As they toil away, with discipline and punctuality, we spend our days scrolling through random reels on our smartphones!

Nutan Karnik is an entomologist and Founder and Director of '**Mitrakida Foundation for Insect Research and Conservation**'. She has studied ants for almost two decades at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. She is currently based in Pune and is working through the Mitrakida Foundation to spread scientific information about ants and other insects to as many people as possible

To create awareness about insects, she visits schools in Pune and outside Pune and gives lectures, writes in newspapers and academic magazines, conducts insect camps and provides scientific advice for insect queries. A really interesting session by **Ms. Nutan Karnik** was organized on **20th September 2024**. **Ms. Karnik** is a conservationist and environmentalist who delivered a lecture on "The world of Ants". Members got to know about an entire cosmos of tiny creatures. It took us away from our own busy lives.

- **Diwali Faral Distribution.**



This Year Diwali Faral Distributed by **President Dr. Ujwala Shinde** on 24th oct 2024 to all staff & managing committee members. & Diwali Celebrated on Laxmi Pujan By lighting of lantern & Colourful rangoli designs.

● Pralaay – The Musical - Kabir and Climate



A musical event by the band 'Pralay' was organised by the UWAP on 14th November 2024, titled "Kabir and Climate". The alumni body of Ecological Society (ES) is called the Friends of Ecological Society (FES). Some FES members have formed a band called Pralay.

● Ecological Society

Ecological Society (ES) is non-profit organisation founded by the visionary ecologist, economist and ornithologist *Late Shri Prakash Gole* in the year 1982. Over last 4 decades, the Ecological Society has carved a name for itself in the field of ecological approach to sustainable development and nature conservation.

ES conducts a 10 months' post graduate program on "**Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Nature Conservation**" since 1997. The program has earned a reputation as leading education in ecology. The thought behind Pralay band is to sensitize public on Ecology and Environment via Music. Pralay is the official musical club of FES. Members enjoyed the musical but it also left us pensive. At the rate we are going, nobody can predict what is in store for us and how soon it is going to consume us. The musical also reminded us of our continued commitment to climate conservation and sustainability.

