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MATHEMATICIAN RUIXIANG ZHANG TO RECEIVE 2023 SASTRA RAMANUJAN PRIZE

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September 29, 2023 12:19 pm | Updated October 01, 2023 08:11 am IST - CHENNAI

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Ruixiang Zhang, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, U.S. | Photo Credit: www.berkeley.edu.in

Ruixiang Zhang, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA will be awarded with the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for his outstanding contributions in mathematics.

The annual cash prize of USD 10,000 will be given at an international conference in Number Theory during December 20 and December 22 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam, mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan's hometown.

The age limit for the prize has been set at 32 influenced by Ramanujan's achievements in his brief life of 32 years, a press release said.

Dr. Zhang is a young mathematician whose fundamental work spans from analytic number theory, combinatorics, Euclidean harmonic analysis to geometry. Building on his Princeton PhD thesis, Zhang in collaboration with Shaoming Guo proved a multivariable generalisation of the main conjecture in Vinogradov's Mean Value Theorem. This work, which has appeared in *Inventiones Mathematicae* in 2019, is considered a major achievement.

While working on his thesis, Zhang branched out to work in restriction theory in Fourier and classical harmonic analysis. He contributed to solving two long-standing problems in restriction theory: (i) Carleson's problem on pointwise convergence of solutions to the Schrödinger equation, and (ii) the two-dimensional case of Sogge's local smoothing conjecture for wave equations.

In a 2019 *Annals of Mathematics* paper, Dr. Zhang along with Xiumin Du introduced novel techniques tailored to the problem raised by Carleson and settled the question in all dimensions. The highly skilled mathematician has had a major impact in a wide range of areas like harmonic analysis and its striking applications.

Dr. Zhang received his PhD in mathematics at Princeton University in 2017. After holding various positions at different institutions, he is now at the University of California since 2021. Besides many awards, Dr. Zhang currently holds a Sloan Fellowship (2022-24) and an NSF CAREER award (2022-27).

The 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize Committee comprised Krishnaswami Alladi -Chair (University of Florida), Don Blasius (University of California, Los Angeles), Sergei Konyagin (Lomonosov Moscow State University), Jonathan Pila (Oxford University), Bjorn Poonen (MIT), Zeev Rudnick (Tel Aviv University), and Wadim Zudilin (Radboud University, The Netherlands).

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TWO-DAY TECHNOLOGY & BHARATIYA BHASHA SUMMIT CONCLUDED AT NEW DELHI

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The two-day Technology & Bharatiya Bhasha Summit, which was organized as a part of the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav, on 30 September and 1 October 2023 in New Delhi, concluded today. Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Ind. Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, PP/ DOPT, Atomic Energy, and Space Dr Jitendra Singh presided over the Valedictory session Summit. Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the inaugural session of the Summit on 30 September 2023.

The aim of the Summit was to facilitate a seamless transition from the current education ecosystem to one rooted in Bharatiya languages, in line with the vision of NEP 2020 and to set the course for a technologically enriched future for Bharatiya languages in education.

Dr Jitendra Singh, while speaking at the event said that the landmark decision to introduce NEP 2020 is going to solve the problem associated with the 'legacy' of teaching-learning in English, and thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for its introduction. It will result in bringing optimal outcomes in the times to come, and by 2047, during the Amrit Kaal, the benefits will be fully realized, he added.

He also expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for showcasing all the Bharatiya languages equally in national and international forums. He hoped that when writers who know the original languages start writing books on specific subjects and topics, it will benefit the readers the most.

Secretary, Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Shri K Sanjay Murthy; Secretary, School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Shri Sanjay Kumar; Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari; Chairperson NETF, Shri Anil Sahasrabudhe; Director, IIT Madras, Prof. V. Kamakoti, other officials of the Ministry of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, AICTE, UGC, educationists, Vice Chancellors of the universities and students were present at the Valedictory function. Prof. Sahasrabudhe presented a comprehensive report on the outcomes of the sessions and highlighted how these will be shared among all the ministries of the government. He also stressed the importance of learning in the mother tongue in order to the realization of the dream of Viksit Bharat.

The Wrap-up Note was presented by Prof. V. Kamakoti. He mentioned that no citizen will be left behind because of languages. Child education in the mother tongue and subsequently by English is the most effective mode of teaching, he added. He also elaborated on eight targets that have come up during the summit on which further research will be done. Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, Prof. Shailendra Mohan, presented the vote of thanks for the event.

The summit encompassed three pivotal thematic sessions: (i) Technology FOR Bharatiya Languages; (ii) Technology IN Bharatiya Languages; and (iii) Technology THROUGH Bharatiya Languages. Multiple technical sessions were held under these three themes. Industry experts, academicians, and technologists shared their insights and participated in engaging discussions with the audiences and answered their queries. These themes emphasized the integration of

technology in promoting Bharatiya Bhasha, including its role in teaching, training, examination, and translating educational materials.

In the technical sessions on Technology FOR Bharatiya Languages, held on 30 September 2023, the speakers discussed ways and means to leverage technology for Bharatiya languages. Key discussions were held on agendas like Leverage Technology for Bharatiya Languages, Operating Systems and Software Localization, Search Engine Localization and more. The role of technology in the teaching-learning process of Bharatiya languages, the use of Machine Learning, Language modelling for speech recognition, Unicode standardization for Bharatiya language scripts, and other important aspects were also discussed in detail during these sessions. In technical sessions on Technology THROUGH Bharatiya Languages important discussions were held on skilling through Bharatiya languages and leveraging technology, such as Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality/MVR, for immersive learning through Bharatiya languages.

An exhibition was also set up by the AICTE-Anuvadini, Central Institute of Indian Languages, NCERT, Crystal Lab, Multilingual Hub of States and more, which showcased Bharatiya Bhasha technology products and their applications by the industries, government organizations and start-ups.

The Government of India is celebrating the birthday of renowned Tamil poet and freedom fighter Mahakavi Chinnaswami Subramania Bharati as Bharatiya Bhasha Divas (11 December). The Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav, which started on 28th September 2023 will run for 75 days and will culminate on 11th December 2023. During this, various events related to Bharatiya languages will be held in schools and higher education institutions.

The summit was jointly organized by the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and their constituent institutions, such as the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), University Grants Commission (UGC), National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Centre for Vocational & Technical Education (NCVTE), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE), Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti (BBS), and others.

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50 LAKH STREET VENDORS COVERED UNDER PM SVANIDHI SCHEME

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The Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, an initiative under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), has achieved a momentous milestone by extending its support to more than 50 lakh street vendors across the nation. Street vendors have long played an integral role in the urban informal economy, providing essential goods and services to urban residents. The PM SVANidhi scheme has been instrumental in bringing them into the formal economic fold, presenting fresh avenues for upward mobility.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to broaden the scheme's reach has prompted concerted efforts towards its expansion. Beginning on July 1, 2023, a campaign was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), revising the targets to be achieved under the Scheme. Several high level review and monitoring was undertaken during this period, including *inter alia*, review of Public sector banks by Finance Minister, Zonal State Reviews across the country in different locations Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Minister of State for Financial, as well as State/UT review meetings by Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary MoHUA and Shri Vivek Joshi, Secretary, DFS.

This collective endeavor resulted in disbursement of a remarkable 65.75 lakh loans, benefiting over 50 lakh street vendors, with a total value exceeding 8600 crore. It is noteworthy that public sector banks have played a pivotal role in achieving this significant milestone through their support of the first-ever micro-credit scheme designed for urban poor socio-economic section. PM SVANidhi is a pioneering initiative by the Government of India aimed at integrating street vendors into the formal economic system and facilitating access to formal channels of credit.

States have wholeheartedly embraced the scheme, with the recent campaign yielding impressive results. Over the past three months, states have successfully onboarded more than 12 lakh new vendors, the highest ever, with many more in the process of enrollment. The Ministry has allocated targets to all states and union territories for the identification of beneficiaries and loan disbursement. States, in turn, have assigned targets to their respective cities, with the aim of achieving them by December 31, 2023. Currently, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Gujarat are among the top-performing states, while Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Indore, and Mumbai are the leading cities in the program's implementation. However, all states are actively participating in the scheme to provide tangible benefits to street vendors.

Beyond facilitating micro-credits, the PM SVANidhi scheme empowers street vendors through digital payments. Promoting digital transactions, participating Lending Institutions/Banks, and Digital Payment Aggregators (DPAs) have offered digital onboarding and training. These collaborations have resulted in over 113.2 Crore digital transactions worth 1,33,003 Crores, with 58.2 Crore in cashback disbursed to beneficiaries.

The scheme's impact extends beyond providing micro-credits; it has also laid the groundwork for creating a safety net of welfare schemes for vendors' families. The "SVANidhi se Samridhhi" initiative, launched on January 4, 2021, aims to connect beneficiaries' families to eight Government of India socio-economic welfare schemes, promoting holistic development. To date, over 51 lakh sanctions under these schemes have been granted for the upliftment of beneficiary street vendors' families.

The accomplishment of financially empowering 50 lakh street vendors marks a promising future for India's informal economy. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs remains steadfast in its commitment to providing financial stability, recognition, and growth opportunities to this crucial segment of the Indian economy.

"The PM SVANidhi Scheme has exceeded our expectations by reaching over 50 lakh beneficiaries in just over three years. This achievement underscores our commitment to empowering street vendors and integrating them into formal financial systems."

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Honorable Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs

About PM SVANidhi Scheme:

The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, launched on June 1, 2020, is a micro credit scheme for urban street vendors that aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans up to 50,000. Under the scheme regular repayments are incentivized with a 7% interest subsidy and digital transactions are rewarded with cashback up to 1,200 per year. The scheme employs Aadhaar-based e-KYC, utilizes an end-to-end IT platform, and employs SMS-based notifications for application status updates. All lending institutions, including NBFCs/MFIs and DPAs, have partnered with the aim to alleviate urban poverty in India.

RKJ/M

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DOES CASH TAKE AWAY THE CACHET OF SCIENCE AWARDS?

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The Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, with the winners of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards in New Delhi, in 1993. | Photo Credit: THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Nearly a year after the Union government [decided to cut the number of prizes](#) annually awarded by its science-affiliated Ministries, it has [instituted the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar \(RVP\)](#) — 56 prizes to felicitate scientists, technologists and innovators. However, like the Padma awards, these awards will no longer have a cash component. Does removing money reduce the prestige of awards? **Shekhar Mande** and **Dinesh Sharma** discuss this in a conversation moderated by **Jacob Koshy**. Edited excerpts:

The RVP subsumes the existing Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been awarding since the 1960s. However, it seems that the awardees will no longer get prize money. Will this not be a disappointment for scientists?

Shekhar Mande: The ultimate motivation for a scientist is not really an award; it is to make a substantial contribution to the world of knowledge and (hope that) our discoveries or scientific contributions will one day appear in textbooks. Several scientists aspire that subsequent generations learn about their findings. Those who do good work automatically earn recognition, which could also be annoying at times. Having talked to several Nobel Laureates, I've heard that winning the prize takes their time away from science. This is because of greater involvement in public speaking and trying to get people motivated to [choose] careers in science. That is not bad in itself; it is, in fact, desirable.

Nonetheless, the primary motivation is not an award or money. There is the famous story of Grigori Perelman, the Russian mathematician, who solved the Poincare conjecture (a math problem unsolved for over a century). He was awarded the Fields Medal (considered the Nobel Prize for mathematics) but refused it (saying he is 'not interested in money or fame'). Awards and money aren't the only motivations for scientists.

Dinesh Sharma: It is a welcome decision to have a new set of awards for scientists and engineers. In a country with such with a large science and technology infrastructure, we need many more science awards because they act as incentives for researchers and scientists.

What is disappointing is that the RVP subsumes existing awards, including the SSB awards. And of course, there will be no cash component. But what makes an award truly prestigious? Is it only the money? If you take away money [from the] SSB, does it lose prestige? Who confers the award matters. The SSB combines all these attributes and that's what makes it important because, as we know, S.S. Bhatnagar was one of the founding fathers of Indian science. So, although it was given by CSIR, it had a pan-India reach and anybody could apply for it. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, who passed away last week, was awarded the SSB in 1961 when he was a young scientist at IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute); he was not famous at the time. And maybe that propelled him to do more. So, all this brings prestige to this award. By abolishing the SSB awards or by diluting its character, you are taking away the heritage and prestige built over time.

Dr. Mande, you are an SSB awardee and a former head of CSIR. Do we know when cash began to be given along with the awards?

Shekhar Mande: The awards were instituted in the 1960s to recognise those who contributed not only to Indian science but science in general. I'm not sure when money was added to the prize. Today, many awards which have been instituted by private organisations give far more money than the SSB awards, but I think they are yet to reach the same level of acceptability.

We know that Indian scientists are not the best paid in the world. For decades now, the natural sciences have not been able to attract more and more of the brightest people. And despite a large scientific pool, India hasn't been able to allocate even 1% of its GDP to research and development (R&D), whereas technologically advanced nations contribute close to 2%. So, is there a signal being sent that money isn't important to nurture Indian science? Moreover, the most prestigious sports, literature, and film awards come with money.

Shekhar Mande: The new structure announced tries to reward a larger number of scientists and removes many of the difficulties we have had with the SSB awards. Five awards were given only in seven disciplines and at most two people (per award). During my tenure (as Director General), we were debating whether we should add more disciplines. That problem seems to have been addressed. (The Vigyan Yuva-SSB will be awarded to at least 25 recipients spanning 13 disciplines.) Money in science is an issue that all of us have been debating time and again. However, a substantial part of the 2% GDP in other countries also comes from private organisations. Unfortunately in India, the contribution from private industry to R&D is not heavy. There are exceptions, but a large number of industries still do not put in the money that they should (in R&D).

Dinesh Sharma: I think it is unfair to compare scientists with sportsperson or actors because scientists aren't primarily motivated by money and fame. However, being popular is important for actors and sportspersons as they become brands and, after winning medals, make more money. China tried to do the same thing (provide cash incentives to scientists) a few years ago and it became very controversial. In other countries too, they started giving cash incentives to scientists who get published in top-ranking journals, such as *Nature*, *Science* and *Cell*. It became a race among scientists to publish a paper in one of these top journals rather than pursue their rational line of research. When the Infosys Prize was launched with 50,00,000 as prize money, there was a fear that it will undermine the [prestige of] SSB. But it did not do so. Although the Infosys Prize has gone to some fantastic people, it hasn't replaced the brand value of the SSB, which is so strong, but is undermined by removing the cash component. The CSIR has constantly evolved these awards, starting by awarding 10,000 (in the 1960s) to 5 lakh (for the prize winners of 2022). Money brings prestige and incentive to the scientists to work. If doing away with money was an independent decision of the CSIR council, that would have been acceptable, but this is a decision imposed by the government and clearly undermines the

autonomy of scientific institutions. That's a larger issue apart from the money component.

How do you make careers in science more attractive to the young beyond mega prizes?

Dinesh Sharma: There is a crisis across disciplines and professions, not just science, with notable exceptions. There was a time when people came to journalism to serve society,. That was in the early years following Independence. Dr. Swaminathan qualified to become an IPS (Indian Police Service) officer, which he rejected because he wanted to work in science. Then he went on to do his PhD and came back and joined the Agricultural Research Institute. People chose professions for the love of that subject or because they wanted to serve society since those were the days of nation building. Dr. Swaminathan was moved by the Bengal famine in the 1940s. Such motivations may be lacking now.

But yes, there are several youngsters who would like to take up a career in science. And for that they need a reasonable salary. Scientists are human beings. With youngsters, there is an urge to do something, achieve something, get published in a research journal, but they also want to have decent money to lead their life. Unless we give them an attractive package, this crisis will continue. We need role models. And we need good money.

Shekhar Mande: I don't think the romanticism for science has died down. I know several young people who secured the top ranks in the Joint Entrance Examination (for slots at the Indian Institutes of Technology) but have come to areas such as mathematics or physics. Many scientists in our labs are among the brightest in the world. Some may go abroad, but they are not lost to the world of science. They have made some fantastic contributions over the years. While many of the Central universities continue to attract the best to science, there is a real concern that many who choose science in State universities have chosen it for lack of other options.

Shekhar Mande is former Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; Dinesh Sharma is a science journalist and author

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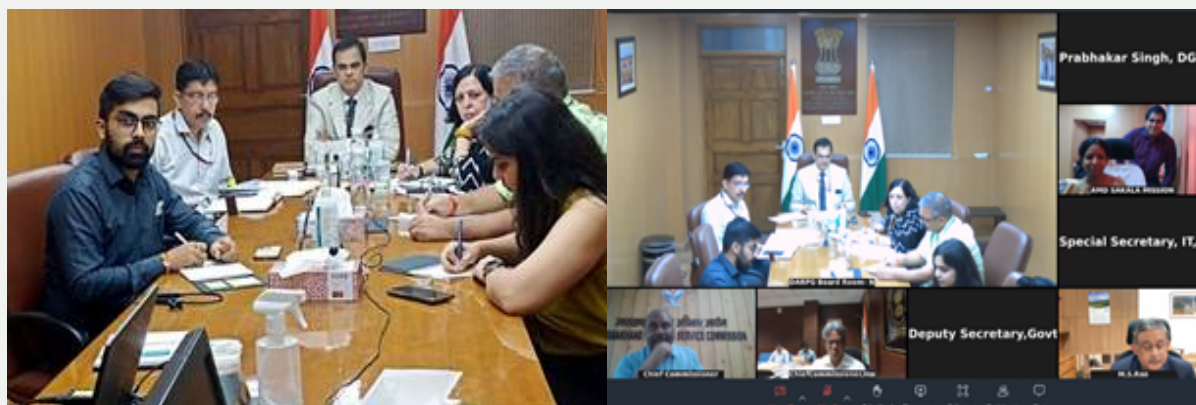
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The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) convened the second meeting with the Right to Service Commissioners of various States/UTs in-line with “National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) Way Forward’s” objective to boost e-governance and improve e-service delivery in the nation on 9th October, 2023.

The RTS Chief Commissioners were also sensitized about the “NeSDA way forward” undertaken by the Department. Six NeSDA Way Forward Monthly reports have been released by the Department, for States/UTs. The reports set baseline for number of e-services and mandatory e-services provided by States/UTs on *NeSDA – Way Forward* dashboard. It also underlines the status of faceless, suo-moto delivery and unified service delivery portals. Moreover, the report assesses and compares the sector-wise e-services and highlights the state-specific opportunities to transition offline services to online platforms. Major Key Highlights of August Report were Departments across States/UTs provide 14,736 e-services with Jammu & Kashmir (1028) provides the maximum number of e-services. Besides, 1,505 out of 2,016 mandatory e-services are available, making saturation at 74.6%. Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Odisha provide 100% of their services through their identified Single Unified Service Delivery Portal i.e., e-UNNAT, e-Sevanam and Odisha One, respectively

Consensus was reached on the following issues:

A total of 27 officials including Chief Commissioners and Nodal officers from the States/UTs of Haryana, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, and Karnataka participated and shared their valuable insights and actively engaged in discussions. The DARPG will curate a workshop of RTS Commissioners and other nodal officers from states/UTs at Dehradun in November, 2023.



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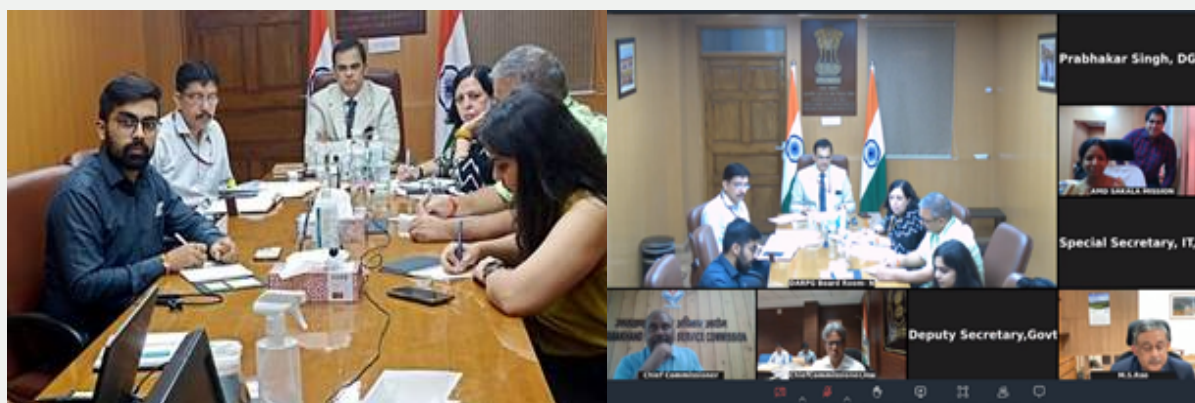
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UNION HOME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION SHRI AMIT SHAH INAUGURATED SAMAU SHAHEED MEMORIAL AND LIBRARY IN GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT TODAY

Relevant for: null | Topic: Miscellaneous Facts

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated Samau Shaheed Memorial and Library in Gandhinagar, Gujarat today.



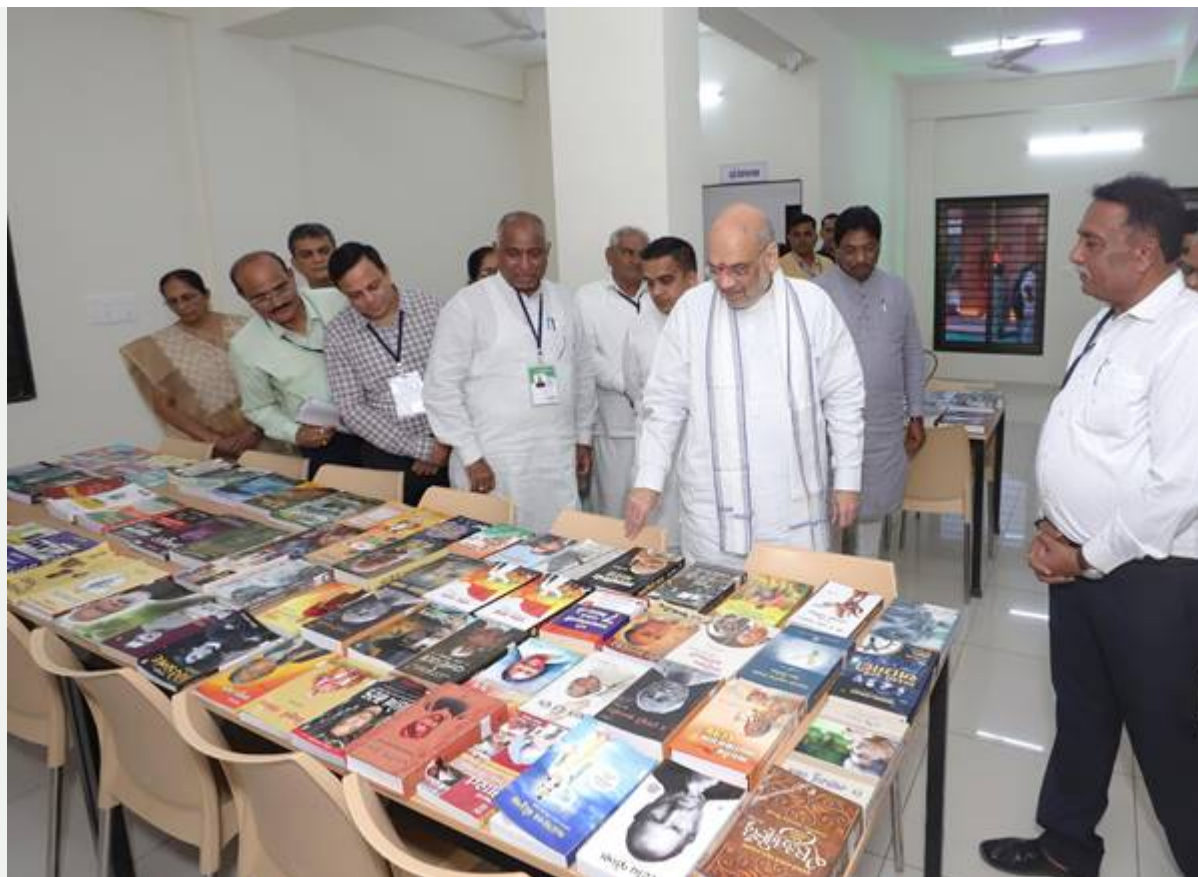
At the beginning of his address, Shri Amit Shah wished all the countrymen a happy Navratri festival. He said that he had come to Samau during the last Navratri and performed Bhoomi Pujan of Shaheed Memorial and today, on the first day of Navratri, this Shaheed Memorial has been inaugurated. Shri Shah said that during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji started initiatives to build memorials of countless unsung martyrs across the country who sacrificed their lives in the 90 years of freedom struggle from 1857 to 1947 and revive their history so that the youth and the new generation could draw inspiration from them. He said that 12 valiant heroes had sacrificed their lives during the freedom struggle in Samau in November, 1857, but there was no memorial for them till 2022-23. The memorial inaugurated today will serve to immortalize their stories of bravery. He said that he wrote a letter to the Chief Minister of Gujarat at that time that the Youth and Cultural Activities Department of the Gujarat Government should build a beautiful memorial with 12 pillars in the memory of those martyrs, so that when the national flag hoisting takes place on 15 August and 26 January every year, these martyrs are also respected. Along with this, a library should also be built to connect the youth with the history, language and culture of the country.



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that Youth & Cultural Activities Department of the Government of Gujarat has created a library of complete Gujarati grammar books, for which they deserve applaud. He said that by bringing children and youth towards this library, the future of Gujarat and the entire country will be improved. Shri Shah said that countless martyrs have made supreme sacrifice for the freedom of the country and Gujarati language will keep that culture and spirit alive with pride. He said that this modern library also houses many books related to computer education in digital form.

Shri Amit Shah said that it is the responsibility of teachers to direct students, youth and children towards this library. He said that teachers should work towards making children knowledgeable about the subject in which they are interested, which will provide good citizens to Gujarat and the country. Shri Shah said that Shri Narendra Modi had started the Vanche Gujarat campaign here and at that time had planned to enrich all the libraries of entire Gujarat, with the same inspiration the library of Samau village has been built. Along with this, reading facility for 100 students has been provided in the library.

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Union Home Minister said that when the national flag will be hoisted here on every 15th August and 26th January, the souls of those 12 martyrs will find eternal peace. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India of the dreams of martyrs will occupy the highest position in the world. Shri Shah said that recently many works like G20 conference, construction of new Parliament building, landing of India's Chandrayaan on the Moon, 33 percent reservation for 'matrishakti' in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies have been done in the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.



Shri Amit Shah told the youth of Samau that the government can provide facilities but the work of maintaining those facilities will have to be done by the villagers and local youth. He said that a

beautiful garden, martyr memorial and library have been built by the Gujarat government at an expense of about Rs.2 crore and a committee of youth can be formed to take care of them. Shri Shah said that if the youth do not take up this responsibility then this entire system will not be able to function properly. He said that if the youth take up this responsibility, it will be a true tribute to those martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice for the freedom of the country. He said that we should carry forward the legacy of all those martyrs.

RK/AY/ASH/AKS

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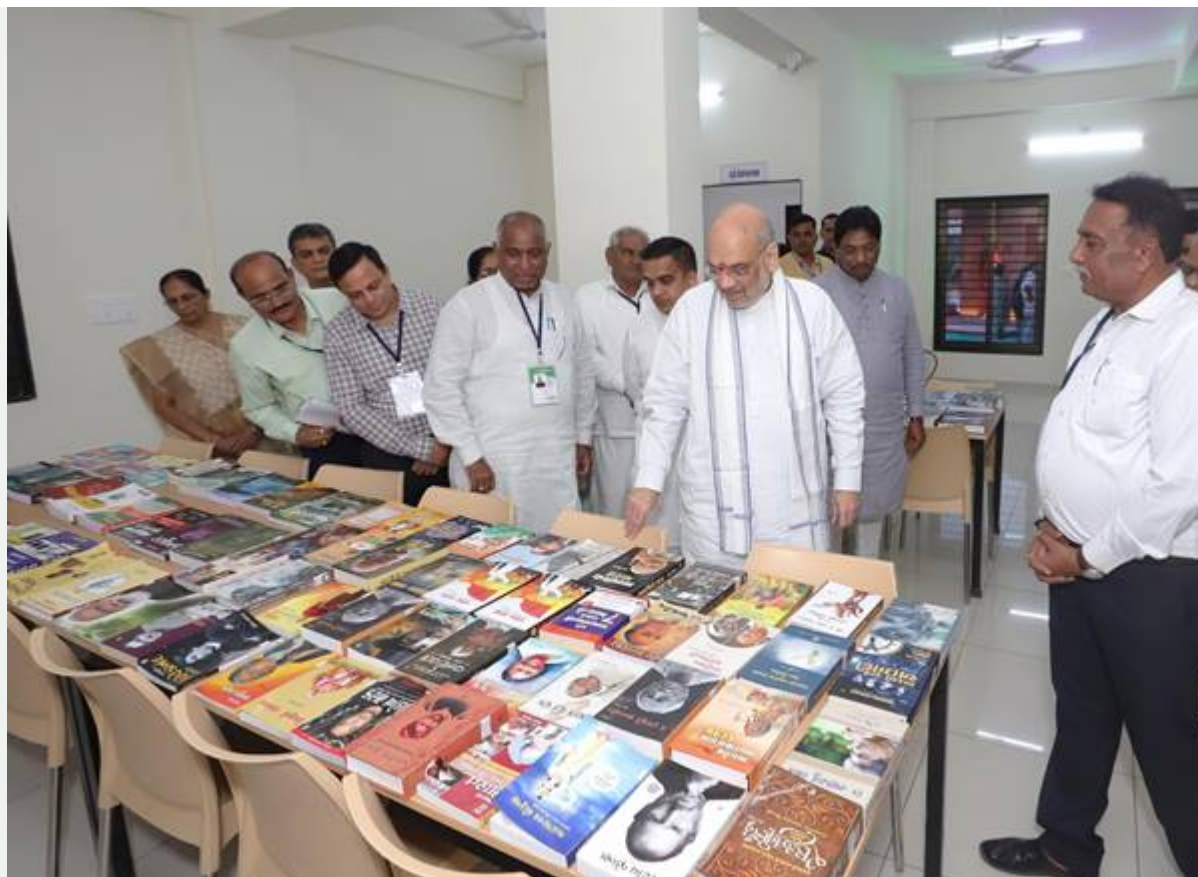
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ECI CONDOLES THE PASSING AWAY OF FORMER CEC DR. MANOHAR SINGH GILL

Relevant for: Current Affairs | Topic: Current Affairs

The Election Commission of India has deeply mourned the passing away of former Chief Election Commissioner Dr. M S Gill today at New Delhi.



Late Shri M S Gill, Former CEC

“Dr. M.S. Gill was the 11th Chief Election Commissioner of India. The Election Commission of India deeply mourns the demise of its 11th Chief Election Commissioner. Dr. M S Gill, a brilliant officer of the 1958 batch of Indian Administrative Services Punjab cadre was CEC during the period from 12th December 1996 to 13th June 2001. He succeeded Shri T N Seshan as the CEC of India.

During his tenure as CEC, ECI successfully conducted the General Elections to the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998 and 13th Lok Sabha in 1999; 11th Presidential Elections and Vice-Presidential Elections in 1997, and General Elections to Legislative Assemblies in more than 20 states.

His leadership and commitment to the electoral process will continue to inspire us at the Election Commission of India. Shri Gill was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in the year 2000 for his exceptional and distinguished services as a civil servant.

We pray for the noble departed soul and convey our profound condolences.”

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PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF HOW DIGITAL CONNECTION AND EMOTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY CAN COME TOGETHER - SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

The National Event on Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) was held at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra today (27th October 2023). The event started off with the technical workshop session on the New PMMVY portal. The session was introduced by Shri Bhaskar, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development and was addressed by Dr. Preetam B. Yashvant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development and was facilitated by NIC team.

The technical session was followed by the inaugural session under the Chairpersonship of Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Sambhaji Shinde and Union Minister of Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani in the presence of Union Minister of State, Ministry of Women and Child Development and AYUSH, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai. The other dignitaries present on the occasion included the Minister for Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, Ms. Aditi Sunil Tatkare, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of Maharashtra, Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Ashish Shelar and Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shri. Indevar Pandey. Senior Officers from Government of India and various State Governments and UT Administrations participated in the event. The event was also attended by frontline functionaries including Lady Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers and ASHA workers.

The event highlighted significant aspects and achievements of PMMVY, its journey, and the features of the PMMVY Portal and Mobile App. In line with the Prime Minister's vision to promote 'Digital India,' 'Make in India,' and '*Atma Nirbhar Bharat*,' a new PMMVY Portal (PMMVYsoft MIS) has been developed. This portal includes new features such as 'facial authentication technology' by UIDAI for proper verification of eligible beneficiaries. Additionally, it incorporates NPCI Verification of beneficiary bank accounts to ensure smooth fund transfers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Furthermore, it introduces a paperless online registration system for beneficiaries and Anganwadi/ASHA workers to register directly through the portal.

The primary objective of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) launched on 1st January 2017 and revised and incorporated as a component of Mission Shakti from 1st April 2022, as PMMVY 2.0 is to provide cash incentive for partial compensation of the wage loss during pregnancy so that women can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the child; and to improve health seeking behaviour amongst the Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM). The PMMVY Portal and Mobile App is committed to delivering technical excellence, prioritizing a citizen-friendly experience ensuring smooth fund transfers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Post the welcome address and lighting of lamp an introductory address was given by the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development. Introducing the new features of the new portal and the mobile app of PMMVY, he emphasized on how the use of portal and mobile app simplifies the process of registration and service delivery. The new features of the portal and mobile app introduce face authentication, DBT enabled account transfer, NPCI mapper

integration to reduce delays and enhance transparency. For the first time cash incentive of Rs. 6000 for the second girl - child has been introduced in PMMVY 2.0. He provided additional information regarding the event's importance, highlighting the launch of the User Manual, portal, and the mobile application.

An address by Shri. Ashish Shelar, Member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, emphasizes the significance of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) as a tribute to women, coinciding with Navratri. He acknowledged the crucial collaboration between the State Government and the Central Government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the fight against malnutrition and hunger, especially among pregnant and lactating women. He also underscored the scheme's substantial benefits for daily wage-earning mothers and sisters and the added importance brought by the participation of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

Government of Maharashtra's Women and Child Development Minister, Ms. Aditi Sunil Tatkare, highlighted the state's dedication to maternal and child health. She emphasized the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana's role in reducing maternal and child mortality and the effective collaboration between the women and child development department and the public health department. The government is focused on facilitating smooth institutional deliveries in tribal areas. The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme aims to connect tribal villages to main roads, benefiting 17 tribal districts. The Chief Minister Mahila Sakthikaran Abhiyan will streamline the implementation of government schemes. She also mentioned the Lek Ladki Scheme, promoting girls' education from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.. She affirmed the commitment to reaching children in both rural and urban areas through the dedicated efforts of Anganwadis and ASHA workers.

Union Minister of State, Ministry of Women and Child Development and AYUSH, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai, highlighted the implementation of the PMMVY 2.0 scheme across the nation through the PMMVYsoft MIS portal. This aligns with the Mission Shakti guidelines aimed at empowering women, as discussed by the Minister. The user-friendly e-Governance portal streamlines the registration process for Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and citizens, promoting a paperless approach. It incorporates the Aadhar Enabled Payment System to verify beneficiaries and enables direct fund transfers, thereby enhancing transparency. The integrated Tracking system empowers citizens to monitor their application status, and the POSHAN tracker helpline offers support throughout the process.

This was followed by the release of a comprehensive User Manual for various stakeholders. A new PMMVY portal (PMMVYsoft MIS) was launched at the event. On this occasion of PMMVY 'A Salutation to Motherhood' direct benefit cash transfer was released for 5.68 lac first-child beneficiaries for total Rs 173.8 crore. For the first time release of benefits to 2.46 Lakh mothers of 2nd Girl-child total of Rs. 147.8 crore. Total direct cash transfer was released to 8,14,612 beneficiaries for Rs 321.57 crore at the occasion. Since inception, more than 3.19 Crore beneficiaries have been given financial support with a total disbursement of more than Rs. 14,424.57 Crores.

Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs in her keynote address highlighted the achievements of the scheme. Till date, 3.50 lakh beneficiaries have been covered under the scheme. The scheme has led to improvements in several key indicators including an increase in child-birth registrations, institutional births, and ANC registrations. She elaborated on the other initiative of the Ministry that aim at providing safety and security to women. 733 One Stop Centres (OSCs) have been established to support women in distress. Similarly, Women Help Line has been integrated with ERSS, Fast Track Courts for speedy disposal of cases and Anti-human trafficking units have been set up. Under Nirbhaya, integrated Emergency Response Management System is at 983 Railway Stations.

“The Prime Minister’s vision for building an equitable nation for the girl child was reflected through the success of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. In continuance of this vision, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana was framed and implemented. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a prime example of how Digital Connection and emotional and administrative responsibility can come together” - Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani

In a special address, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Sambhaji Shinde, paid tribute to mothers through the PMMVY event, recognizing the crucial role of women in society. He highlighted initiatives such as women's reservation in Parliament and the Swachh Bharat campaign. Mr. Shinde emphasized women's empowerment as a driver of the country's progress. The government's efforts to support girls' education through the 'Lek Ladki Yojana 2023' were mentioned. He announced a Women's Empowerment Campaign and the successful implementation of the PM Matru Vandana Yojana. Plans to empower two crore women through self-help groups and promote self-help groups through food sales were noted. The CM reaffirmed the government's dedication to uplifting the common people via various government schemes in Maharashtra.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Preetam B Yashvant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. The event served as a platform to share the successful Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana initiatives.

Today marks a significant milestone in the celebration of motherhood and the empowerment of women across India. Under the leadership of PM [@NarendraModi](#) Ji, we have taken a historic step to further enhance the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

As part of our mission... pic.twitter.com/TMAJ65PhtQ

Join us live for the launch

of New Portal and Mobile App of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana at a national event at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Mumbai, October 27th.

Link : <https://t.co/F8NXWELfvl#pmmvy> #AmritMahotsav

SS/AKS

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Link : <https://t.co/F8NXWELfvI#pmmvy> [#AmritMahotsav](#)

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MOS SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI INAUGURATES POPULAR SARAS MELA AT GURUGRAM TODAY

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

Minister of State for Rural Development, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurated the popular SARAS Mela showcasing best of Crafts by Rural SHG Women at Gurugram today. In her address, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti said that it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream to enable at least 2 Crore Lakhpati Didis soon from now 10 Crore large family of SHG Didis of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission. The SARAS Melas organised by the Ministry of Rural Development and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) is an important initiative to support livelihood enhancement support initiatives.

This is the second edition of Saras Ajeevika Mela organised in Gurugram where over 800 SHG women from across the country are showcasing their handicraft and handloom products along with regional culinary delight. The two-week-long cultural fest is organised at the Leisure Valley ground in Sector 29 will continue till November 11. The fair will be open daily from 11am to 9.30pm with no entry fee. Around 400 stalls are on display with a variety of art and craft and workshops will be organised for women of self-help groups to develop marketing skills.

DAY-NRLM is a flagship rural poverty alleviation program of the Government of India and today it is the world's largest initiative to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor. Addressing multiple dimensions of poverty, the programme aims to reach out to 10 Crore rural poor households and organize one woman member from each rural household into affinity-based women SHGs. These SHGs provide close, long-term handholding support to their members, enabling them to access financial services from banks, diversify and stabilize their livelihoods, and effectively access their entitlements with ease. The core objective of the programme is to ensure that each family, once it is in SHG for 6-8 years, is able to achieve household food security and have more than one stabilized livelihood source. The Mission seeks to achieve its objective through investing in four core components viz.,

- a. Social mobilization, promotion and strengthening of self-managed and financially sustainable community institutions of the rural poor
- b. Financial inclusion of the rural poor
- c. Sustainable livelihoods; and
- d. Social inclusion, social development, and convergence

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