



भारतीय प्रेस परिषद्
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
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Press Release

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM, 2023

The Press Council of India, since 2012 has been honouring journalists excelling in print journalism in various fields as a mark of recognition to encourage the media to pursue its duties effectively without fear or favour following the dictum of "freedom with responsibility".

The National Awards for Excellence in Journalism, 2023, is conferred today at the National Media Centre, Delhi. The awards were conferred by Veteran Journalists, Shri Ram Bahadur Rai as Chief Guest, and Shri Ashok Tandon, Guest of Honour, in the presence of Hon'ble Chairperson, Press Council of India, Smt. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai. A total of fifteen (15) awardees have been honoured under different categories, the main category being the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award. The awardees have been bestowed with citation and cash prize.

Shri Vishwanath Sachdev, veteran journalist has been awarded in the prestigious category of "**Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award**" for his outstanding contribution in Journalism.

Further, following awardees have been honoured jointly under different award categories:

S NO.	Name of Awardee	Category
1.	Shri Jitu kalita	Rural Journalism
2.	Shri A . K. Sreejith	



3.	Mr. Reji Joseph	Developmental Reporting
4.	Ms. Navamy Sudhish	
5.	Mr. Gibi Sam V.P.	Photojournalism, Single news picture
6.	Mr. Viswajith K	
7.	Mr. Vivek Nigam	Photojournalism, Photo feature
8.	Mr Subhamoy Bhattacharjee	
9.	Mr. Shaik Subhani	Best Newspaper Art : Covering Cartoons, Caricature and Illustration
10.	Shri Ashok Adepal	
11.	Mr. Praveen Mishra	Sports Reporting
12.	Mr. Anthony Marcus Megulhao	
13.	Ms. Jasheena M.	Gender Issue Reporting
14.	Ms Remya K.H.	





**उत्कृष्ट पत्रकारिता हेतु
राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार, 2023**

**National Awards for
Excellence in Journalism, 2023**

**संक्षिप्त परिचय
Profile**

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Views / Opinions expressed are personal views of the contributors and the same do not reflect the views / opinions held by the Council.



Mr. Vishwanath Sachdev
Journalist, Columnist,
Writer, Editor

Category:

Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award

“Outstanding Contribution towards Journalism”

Brief:

When it comes to journalism of truth, meaningful, concern and values, the name of **Vishwanath Sachdev** rises like a comet. Senior journalist, columnist and writer Vishwanath Sachdev is the former editor of **Navbharat Times** and **Dharmayug**. Even at the age of 82, he edits Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's magazine **Navneet** with full energy, dedication and hard work.

Vishwanath Sachdev was born on February 2, 1942 in Sahiwal. This area is now part of Pakistan. He did M.A. (English Literature) from Rajasthan University, Jaipur. He received journalism degree from Nagpur University. When he was in 12th standard, he had decided to become a journalist with the aim of speaking the truth and reducing the difficulties in the lives of the common people. He started journalism in 1962 by editing the literary magazine **Vatayan** published from Bikaner (Rajasthan). He started writing on political-social topics in various newspapers and magazines. It started as a hobby, but eventually journalism became his livelihood.

Vishwanath Sachdev joined the Times of India Group of publications in 1967. He was the editor of **Navbharat Times, Mumbai** from 1987 to 2003. Meanwhile, he also edited **Dharmayug** from 1991 to 1995. He has been the editor of **Navneet Monthly** since 2005. He has been writing on socio-political topics in various Hindi and English newspapers and magazines. He has many programs on radio and TV in the last 50 years to his credit. **Sach Ki Prachhaiyan** on Doordarshan and **Azadi ki Ardh Shatabdi** on Star TV were very popular.

His collection of articles – Tatashtatha ke Viruddh, Sawalon ke Ghare, and Aadhi Sadi ka Phasla- have been published. He has edited the books

Sahityakar Nehru, Gandhi: Punarmulyaknkan, Samta ka Darshanlity and Vishmata. Dr. Rafiq Zakaria's book Patel and Indian Muslims has been translated from English to Hindi by him. He received the Durgabai Saraf Award of Marwari Sammelan, Mumbai for his services in the field of journalism. Sahyog Award for best journalism, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Award for writing on communal harmony, Acharya Tulsi Award, Parivar Award, Giant International Award for best journalism, Sauhard Award of Uttar Pradesh Government, Padmabhushan Jhabarmall Sharma Journalism Award and Madhavrao Sapre National Award for Journalism.

Vishwanath Sachdev, as a journalist and editor never came under any kind of pressure. He himself showed the courage to put forward the truth and mirror the lies and also instilled it in young journalists. He definitely regrets that mission journalism has now turned into a profession, but he still hopes that in journalism changing from information to entertainment, there will always be islands of concern and the courage to tell the truth will also remain.



Mr. Jitu Kalita
Correspondent,
Niyamiya Barta

Category:

Rural Journalism

“जोरहाट में बहिरागत कम्पनी द्वारा विशुद्ध पेयजल आपूर्ति के नाम पर करोड़ों रुपए के घोटाले का आरोप”

Brief of the Article:

जोरहाट जिले में पिछले चार सालों से करोड़ों रुपए लागत से निर्मित विशुद्ध पेयजल आपूर्ति योजना की आड़ में घोटाला किए जाने के आरोप सामने आए हैं। खास तौर पर उत्तर जोरहाट के साथ ही विभिन्न अंचलों में बाहरी राज्यों की कई कंपनियों ने सौर ऊर्जा से संचालित निर्मल पेयजल आपूर्ति योजना केंद्र की स्थापना की थी। उक्त पेयजल आपूर्ति योजना समूचे जिले में फिसड्डी साबित होने की खबरें विभिन्न समाचार माध्यमों में नियमित रूप से प्रकाशित हुई थी। लेकिन इस दिशा में कारवाई किए जाने के उलट विभाग पिछले दो सालों तक कोविड समस्या की दुहाई देकर पीछा छुड़ाती रही। वर्तमान प्राप्त जानकारी अनुसार तीन बाहरी कंपनियों ने विशुद्ध पेयजल आपूर्ति के नाम पर पानी निकालने और शुद्धिकरण किए जाने वाली मशीनें लगाकर करोड़ों रुपए डकार गए और इस सन्दर्भ में जागरूक लोगों द्वारा जोरहाट जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग को सूचित किए जाने के बाद भी आज तक कोई भी कारवाई नहीं की गई। जोरहाट नगर जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग के अधिकारी कर्मचारियों ने बंद पड़ी पेयजल आपूर्ति केन्द्रों से डाटा जुटाकर कंपनियों को जानकारी दिए जाने का आश्वासन देकर पल्ला झाड़ लिया।

जिले के ग्रामीण इलाकों के स्कूलों, धार्मिक स्थलों और सार्वजनिक स्थानों में बड़े आकार के प्लास्टिक की सौर ऊर्जा से संचालित मशीनें अब बंद पड़ी हैं।



Mr. A.K Shreejith
Staff Reporter,
Mathrubhumi

Category:

Rural Journalism

**“The Climate Change has devastated a
migrat family village economically and
Socially”**

Brief of the Article:

The news series on Pulppally depicts the story of how climate change has impacted a remote hilly village in Wayanad. The climate change combined with changes in land use patterns resulted in severe drought conditions hitting the village as a whole and its agriculture based economy. Once Pulpally was number one in black pepper cultivation in the country. Now the farmers are in a debt trap. Interestingly enough people are migrating from once a green heaven to far away cities in search of livelihood.



Mr. Reji Joseph
Special Correspondent,
Rashtra Deepika

Category:

Developmental Reporting

“The Success Stories Of Tribal Women”

Brief of the Article:

Kerala's Kudumbashree movement celebrates its 50-year golden jubilee with remarkable achievements in eradicating poverty by empowering tribal women, who have emerged as beacons of hope amidst much hardship. (Here are some success stories from Kerala's tribal communities, earlier published in Rashtra Deepika Daily.)

In the Attapadi region, 4,606 women farmers across 1,037 collective groups now cultivate various crops under the Small Grain Village scheme, covering 606.5 acres. These groups soon plan to expand into tuber and spinach cultivation and source traditional seeds locally; thereby fostering self-sufficiency and sustainability.

In Nilambur, tribal groups like Paniya, Kattunaikkar, and Muthuvan have formed the 'Thoduve Community Foundation'. These groups, motivated by the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, now sustain themselves by selling forest products like wild honey, alongside products like lip balms and pain balms.

In Athirapally, the Kudumbashree has initiated a 'light revolution' by training tribal women to produce LED bulbs, significantly enhancing local employment and income generation. Similar entrepreneurial success can be seen in Thamarassery Puthupadi, where Paniya tribal women have excelled in building construction, demonstrating their proficiency by completing houses within a month.

Marayur's women capitalize on local resources, producing and selling fragrant herbal oils and grass oils. Meanwhile, at Attappady Putur, women operate the Millet Cafe, offering traditional delicacies like Champayasam and Ragi Bonda, alongside innovative products like 'Honey Cola', a popular beverage made from forest ingredients.

In Kollam Kalathukadavu, Kudumbashree units craft cane and bamboo trophies and handicrafts, showcasing local craftsmanship at

Kudumbashree bazaars and fairs. Further south in Sholay Perume village, Vanasundari Chicken, specially flavored with local herbs and spices, has now gained popularity beyond Kerala, highlighting the culinary skills of tribal women

Additionally, the Irular, Kurumbar, and Muthukar communities in Attappadi Hills rear their own breed of goats, expanding into goat milk and meat production, while preserving their indigenous livestock through dedicated farming initiatives.

Such initiatives not only empower tribal women economically - but also preserve and promote indigenous knowledge and resources; setting inspiring examples of community-driven development and sustainability in some of Kerala's tribal regions.



Ms. Navamy Sudhish
Principal Correspondent,
The Hindu

Category:
Developmental Reporting

“POCSO Survivors Left to fend for themselves”

Brief of the Article:

POCSO Survivors Left to Fend for Themselves' investigates the plight of POCSO survivors in Kerala, a State that has been consistently maintaining its top slot in the Human Development Index. Though the Department of Women and Child Development is expected to monitor minor survivors and offer them psychosocial support, the process is more of a farce. While 90% of the children are sent back to vulnerable homes where they once again face multiple forms of violence including sexual abuse, some drop out of school. Institutional care is another ordeal as pregnant girls and those who have undergone Medical Termination of Pregnancy are kept at an isolated facility in the State capital. Social isolation affects the physical and emotional well-being of most girls, especially child brides from tribal communities. Most of the girls, especially under age mothers from lower socio-economic sections, battle different types of physical and mental health issues making it impossible for them to recover from the trauma. The report finds that even a decade into the enactment of the POCSO Act, the system still fails to properly support, socially integrate, and rehabilitate the survivors.



Mr. Gibi Sam.V.P.

**Photographer,
Malayala Manorama Daily**

Category:

**Photo Journalism
(Single News Picture)**

“Strength and Care.....”

Photograph:



Brief

Sudarsana, 64 years old woman has been selling lottery tickets in Kottayam town, Kerala, for 10 years with her differently abled son on the shoulder. Sinoj, Sudarsana's son, now 43 years old, lost his eyesight in boyhood days due to Meningitis. Everyday, Sudarsana walks to town from her Chimachery home at Perumbayikkad and back home in the late hours of the evening giving her shoulder to the helpless son.



Mr. Viswajith. K
Photojournalist,
Madhyamam Daily

Category:

Photojournalism
(Single News Picture)

“A women inmate of Kozhikode Kuthiravattam Mental Health Center reaches out her arms to the light outside from the dark room inside and shouts out her grief. Symbolises her sorrow and urge to live in a better enviroment ”

Photograph:



Brief:

Started in 1872 as the Lunatic Asylum of Calicut and now called as the Kuthiravattom Mental Health Centre, the Center laments over its poor pathetic condition owing to insufficient funds to implement more development here. Over 500 inmates in the center live in a dilapidated environment, wanting for a better life and air.

The center started some 150 years ago to house patients who were British soldiers and suffering from mental illness has undergone several changes. From Asylum it became a Mental Hospital and then Mental Health Centre symbolising the change in the attitude of people and society towards the issue of mental illness. Several inmates have tried to escape from the center owing to an insufficient security system, which has led to the death of several inmates.

Despite getting cured from mental illness, still several people prefer to stay here due to the social stigma they face. It is not just the native people who stay here, but the center also houses several other state men and women who come here seeking treatment. Despite allocating several crores of money for the infrastructural development of the center, things remain just in papers and fake promises.

“कैंसर मरीजों के लिए बालदान”



Mr. Vivek Nigam
Senior Photographer,
Amar Ujala

Category:

**Photo Journalism
(Photo Feature)**

Photo Feature:



Brief :

15 फरवरी, 2022 को कैंसर मरीजों के लिए 120 लोगों ने एम्स में अपने बाल दान किए। कीमो, रेडियोथेरेपी से बाल झड़ने के कारण कैंसर मरीजों खासकर महिला व बच्चों को मानसिक चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है। यही वजह थी की दिल्ली स्थित एम्स में मरीजों के विग के लिए पहली बार हेयर डोनेशन कैम्प लगाया गया। मुहिम में एम्स के नर्सिंग स्टाफ, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के कर्मचारी सहित एक गर्भवती महिला मोक्ष्मा और पांच साल की दिव्यांशी ने भी अपने बाल दान में दिए। कहते हैं कि महिलाओं के लिए उनके बाल सबसे प्रिय होते हैं। लेकिन, जब वजह इतनी बड़ी हो तो उन्होंने अपने बाल खुशी से दान करने की ठानी। हालांकि, अब भी बहुत से लोग इसके बारे में अनजान हैं। इस फोटो स्टोरी के माध्यम से कैंसर मरीजों की मदद के लिए जन-जन तक इस अभियान को पहुंचाने की कोशिश की गई है।

“ When a Clinic comes sailing ”



**Mr. Subhamoy
Bhattacharjee**

Freelance/Photojournalist

Category:

**Photo Journalism
(Photo Feature)**

Photo Feature:



Brief :

According to National Health Mission (NHM), the islands of river Brahmaputra popularly known as “Chars” or “Sapori” are among the most backward areas of the state, nearly six percent of Assam’s land is covered by these islands and a total of ten percent population of the state i.e. more than 30 lacs populace resides in those islands. These areas are frequently devastated by flood as results the health status of the people living in those areas are badly affected. There are more than 2000 villages in these char areas, where as a few health facilities with little or no manpower, which are not sufficient to cover the entire population.

The main threats to these islands are from frequent floods which play a role in the devastation of the communities residing in these islands, thus causing a major concern to the health status of the communities. Construction of permanent infrastructure and health facilities is one of the major challenges in these islands due to the recurring floods. The situation is even worsened by the fact that the people residing in

NHM already provides health services to the communities residing in the remote river islands (Char/Saporis) of the River Brahmaputra in 13 (Thirteen) Districts of the State with 15 (Fifteen) Boat Clinic units. Fifteen (15) Boat Clinic units are operational at Dhubri, Barpeta, Nalbari, Morigaon, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Jorhat, Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Kamrup District and one each additional units in Dhubri and Barpeta District. Boat clinics provided the health services including Reproductive and Child Care, Curative Care, Family Planning Services, Basic Laboratory Services etc. (Source : <https://nhm.assam.gov.in/schemes/boat-clinic>)

The Photo feature published in Deccan Herald newspaper (Print) on 21st May 2022 has shown the importance of a boat clinic which has a large scale impact in rural health management in the river islands of the state with special emphasis to the health service facility provided by the boat clinic in Bongaigaon district of Assam.



Mr. Shaik Subhani

**Cartoon Editor,
Deccan Chronicle**

Category:

**Best Newspaper Art :
Covering Cartoons, Caricatures
and Illustrations**

“Milking the caste”

Illustration



Brief :

If religion is the defining factor of India, caste is the driving force. Caste plays such a key role in the electoral politics of the country that it wouldn't be inappropriate to say that it trumps even the twin goals of progress and development. And politicians have become adept at milking the caste with consummate ease!



Mr. Ashok Adepal
Senior Infographics Designer,
The Times of India

Category:

**Best Newspaper Art :
Covering Cartoons,
Caricatures and Illustrations**

Illustration



Brief:

The collage featured the caricature of a number of politicians, both from the ruling party and the opposition, each holding a different type of firecracker. The firecrackers were meant to represent the different strategies that the politicians would be using to defeat their rivals in the upcoming elections. Some of the politicians were shown using powerful firecrackers, such as rockets and bombs, while others were using smaller, more delicate firecrackers, such as sparklers and diyas. Despite the use of firecrackers as metaphors for political strategies, the collage also showed the politicians respecting the elections and the democratic process. Most of them are smiling and two voters are looking at them and thinking. The collage conveys the message that, while the elections would be a competitive battle, they would also be a time for celebration and joy. Along with this, attention has also been



Mr. Praveen Mishra

**Senior Correspondent
Hindustan, Ranchi**

Category:

**Sports Reporting/
Sports Photo Feature**

**“जेएसएसपीएस : लक्ष्य ओलंपिक गोल्ड, कोचिंग
सहायक कोच व हेल्पर के भरोसे”**

Brief of the Article:

झारखंड सरकार और सीसीएल द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से 2016 से खेलगांव में जेएसएसपीएस (झारखंड स्टेट स्पोर्ट्स प्रमोशन सोसाइटी) का संचालन हो रहा है।

- मिशन ओलंपिक गोल्ड लक्ष्य के साथ इसकी शुरुआत की गई थी।
- जेएसएसपीएस के तहत खेलगांव में 10 खेलों की एकेडमी चलती है। कोरोना काल (2021) के बाद से एक-एक कर अधिकांश प्रशिक्षकों ने सेंटर छोड़ दिया और अबतक इसमें अच्छे कोच नहीं आए हैं।
- कुछ सहायक कोच और हेल्पर के साथ बच्चों की ट्रेनिंग कराई जा रही थी। इसी पर आधारित यह स्टोरी थी।
- इस स्टोरी के बाद प्रशिक्षकों की नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया शुरू की गई थी। हालांकि अभी तक नियुक्ति नहीं हो पाई है। नियमावली में भी कुछ संशोधन किया गया था।



**Mr. Anthony Marcus
Mergulhao**
Sports Editor,
The Times of India

Category:

**Sports Reporting/
Sports Photo Feature**

**“6 games in 10 days: For third year in a row,
Goa's football matches fixed”**

Brief of the Article:

Football is Goa's state sport, the only one in India to accord the state sport status to football since 2012. But for some time now, the beautiful sport has been sullied with match fixing allegations. In 2020, London-based Sportradar—a company that monitors betting odds, movements and patterns worldwide – red flagged several matches for suspicious betting patterns, indicative of match fixing.

The suspicious betting patterns continued even in 2021, and in 2022 fears turned true when integrity reports compiled were said to be highly concerning. There was rampant match-fixing with six games in 10 days being red-flagged. There were not just reports from international betting monitors but even the Goa Football Association (GFA) president Churchill Alemao confirmed that his own team, Churchill Brothers, had suffered due to match manipulation.



Ms. Jasheena. M
Senior Reporter,
Deshabhimani

Category:

Gender Issue Reporting

“She Places, Work Places”

Brief of the Articles:

The news series "she places, work places" published in Deshabhimani newspaper from 6th to 9th November 2022 is an investigation into the problems faced by women at work places. The news series reveals that many of the women who are employed in the government and private sectors are still facing a great deal of pressure and exploitation. Many are hesitant to speak out. There are people who don't know where to file a complaint. Gender discrimination is the root cause of violence and psychological harassment against women in the workplace. The news series was able to convey the situation as well as create awareness about the legal mechanisms available. Information was given on the POSH Act, Grievance Redressal Mechanisms like Sahaja, She Box and the necessity of Internal Committees. The news series was widely shared and good response was received. It is also learned that some private organisations have formed internal complaint committees since then.

The news pointed out the inadequacy in accepting complaints at workplaces and taking follow-up actions in a time-bound manner. It was also reported that most organisations do not have internal compliance committees. These issues were brought to the attention of the Minister of Women and Child Development Department, Govt. of Kerala, Smt. Veena George. It was given as a special news on November 10, 2022 that the minister announced that the departmental level measures to solving the problems of women in workplaces will be expedited. The department has decided to launch a special portal to submit internal complaint committees reports of institutions and for further action. This is also given as news on December 31, 2022. All the issues were also brought to the attention of Women's Commission Chairperson, Adv. P. Satheedevi. Commission informed that there will be effective intervention. In short, it was possible to make a considerable impact in the formation of the internal committee and creating legal awareness through the news series.



Remya. K.H.
Assistant Content Manager,
Mathrubhumi

Category:

Gender Issue Reporting

“Oh Themis, open thy eyes...”

Brief:

Isn't it high time our courtrooms became survivor-friendly?

All facets of life are undergoing timely restructuring; we are witnessing a social transformation to the new-normal. But our judicial system remains outdated, our courtrooms archaic. Do we want this to continue? Isn't it high time we made courtrooms survivor-friendly? How they travail in pain! From a complaint to a long-drawn-out trial, and finally to the verdict of justice... from a hapless victim to a gritty survivor...it is a crawl from one point to the other, the distance is endless, the journey hard. So proves their experience during different timelines.

In a way a survivor of rape is assaulted again inside the courtroom. She is subjected to a verbal rape! All through her life, she has to keep proving, “I did not do any crime, this was done to me without my consent.” Victim shaming accompanies her, so does mental trauma.

She loses her face, her identity, and shrinks to the label of her gender, prefixed by a place's name.

Each step forward is a difficult task. All those girls and women who walked along this path, and those who are now following them, tell us the same thing- this journey is not easy. And the big question arises, What should be corrected?

In my article, I attempted to capture the suffering of a survivor, particularly the traumatic experience of being verbally abused during cross-examination in court. My series was an in-depth examination of the pressing need for reforms in our justice system and laws, as well as the need to challenge the patriarchal attitudes still prevalent in the judiciary. The series featured insights and recommendations from rape survivors, legal experts, and many others. Notably, in a rape case judgment that followed the series in Kerala, the judge ruled that the survivor should be cross-examined in a manner that does not cause her undue distress. This ruling was hailed as a significant victory.

भारतीय प्रेस परिषद
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

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