

Edition  
**2.0**



# Recollection...

## 2024-25

**Maa Rama Devi Chair**  
**Rama Devi Women's University**  
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India





# Maa Rama Devi

## A Legacy of Sacrifice and Fearless Leadership

Maa Rama Devi, also known as Ramadevi Choudhury, was born on December 3, 1899, in Cuttack, Odisha. A dedicated freedom fighter and social reformer, she played a crucial role in India's independence movement and devoted her life to the upliftment of women and marginalized communities. Deeply inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, she took part in key movements like the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Salt Satyagraha, mobilizing women to join the struggle.

After independence, she continued her service through social work, promoting women's rights, education, and rural development. Maa Rama Devi passed away on July 22, 1985, leaving behind a powerful legacy of courage, compassion, and commitment to justice.





# About RDWU

Rama Devi Women's University (RDWU) was established in 2015 as the first women's state public university of Odisha with 48 affiliated women's colleges across nine coastal districts under its jurisdiction. It is a teachingcum-affiliating university offering programmes in Science, Arts, Commerce, Management, and Teacher Education.

The objective behind instituting this university was to empower women through higher education as well as to commemorate the spirit of Maa Rama Devi Choudhury who, as a dedicated freedom fighter and social activist, stands as a role model for young women of today.

The university emblem epitomizes its vision– "Sa VidyaYa Vimuktaye" – 'Knowledge is that, which Liberates'. The university is dedicated to creating an academic ecosystem that adheres to the ethical values, governance, and policies which are laid down by the State and UGC.

## Vision

- Holistic development of women through the promotion of quality teaching and research.
- Enhancing global visibility in terms of quality, employability, inclusiveness, and empowerment of women.
- Equipping and enabling girls to lead a meaningful life.





# MESSAGE

I am delighted to note that the Maa Rama Devi Chair of Rama Devi Women's University is publishing the 2nd Edition of its Coffee Table Book. This new edition reflects the sustained dedication and impactful contributions of the Chair in preserving and promoting the ideals and values of Maa Rama Devi.

The Chair's consistent efforts in advancing women's empowerment, leadership, and social transformation through its various initiatives are highly commendable. This edition of the Coffee Table Book beautifully documents these contributions, serving both as a source of inspiration and a valuable record of the remarkable work carried out over the past year.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all those involved in the successful completion of this publication. Best Wishes

**Prof Chandi Charan Rath**  
Vice Chancellor, RDWU



# MESSAGE

It is heartening to note that the Maa Rama Devi Chair of Rama Devi Women's University is bringing out the 2nd Edition of its Coffee Table Book. The book captures the continued dedication, innovative initiatives, and impactful work accomplished by the Chair in the past year. This edition not only reflects the sustained efforts but also highlights new dimensions of the Chair's contributions. I am confident that this initiative will further inspire students and readers to gain deeper insight into the legacy and values of Maa Rama Devi.

*Shyamali*  
29/05/2024

**Shyamali Mohapatra**  
Registrar, RDWU





# EDITOR'S DESK

With great joy and pride, we present to you the second edition of the Coffee Table Book “Recollection” (2024–2025), an initiative of Maa Rama Devi Chair (MRDC). This document celebrates the Chair's vibrant journey through a year filled with creativity, scholarship, cultural engagement and international collaboration.

Building on the success of the inaugural edition, this volume navigates through the rich tapestry of activities spearheaded by MRDC—from the dynamic functioning of the art gallery and meaningful “Waste to Wonder” initiative to the installation of powerful sculptures created from scrap and obsolete materials that now adorn RDWU campus. The 11-foot steel sculpture and the two large female figures made from waste iron rods, reflect the spirit of resilience and creativity that MRDC strives to nurture among students.

In a remarkable stride, two of our students were selected for a one-month internship in Korean art, culture, and Buddhist philosophy at the Hongbeopsa Monastery, Busan, Korea. Further highlighting the international engagement of the Chair, Prof. Sucheta Priyabadini, Chair Professor, delivered an illuminating talk on her research, “Journey of Buddhism: Kalinga to Korea.”

This year also witnessed the second Advisory Committee Meeting of MRDC, where insightful discussions were held regarding the growth and future vision of the Chair. As the nodal officer of the Cultural Committee, MRDC also played a pivotal role in organizing an engaging cultural programme for the NAAC visit. The



creative corner at the library and the installation of busts of Rama Devi and Kuntala Kumari Sabat in the art gallery are further steps towards preserving and celebrating our legacy.

An exciting new initiative was the introduction of a Non-Credit Course on Maa Rama Devi for undergraduate second-semester students—an important academic step in honouring the life and philosophy of our revered icon.

In the pursuit of meaningful dialogue and learning, several lectures were organised under the Maa Rama Devi Lecture Series. Esteemed speakers such as Prof. Sanghamitra Mishra, Prof. Jitendra Nayak, Prof. Subudhi, and Dr. Gaurahari Das, enriched the series with their insights. We were also privileged to host a special session on “Women & Mental Wellness” by Dr. Bhaswati Mishra, Senior Psychiatrist from Monash Medical, Australia, and a powerful talk titled “Overcoming Obstacles: Personal Journey” by Neely Baugh and Pratik Dash from the USA, which inspired both students and the faculty.

A major highlight of this year was the successful hosting of an International Conference on 28th February and 1st March 2025. Distinguished scholars from Australia, USA, Egypt, Argentina, Turkey, South Korea, Mexico and China participated in the conference. With 83 research papers selected and 74 presentations made in both offline and online modes, the event was a testament to MRDC's growing academic footprint. We were honoured to have Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, as the Chief Guest for the inaugural session.

This edition of “Recollection” stands as a testament to our commitment to excellence in education, cultural heritage and global dialogue. We thank every contributor, participant and supporter who has made this journey possible. May the pages to follow inspire, inform and ignite the mind and hearts of our readers.



**Prof. (Dr) Sucheta Priyabadini**  
Chair Professor, Maa Rama Devi Chair,  
Rama Devi Women's University



“

Illiteracy, Poverty and Diseases  
Adversely Affect Nation's  
Development

Maa Rama Devi ”

ରମାଦେବୀ ମହିଳା ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ



RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY



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# MAA RAMA DEVI CHAIR

Maa Rama Devi Chair was created in Rama Devi Women's University and became operational w.e.f. 1st May 2023. Prof. SuchetaPriyabadini has taken position as the Chair Professor.

## Vision

To promote multi-disciplinary research in Humanities and Social Sciences, aimed at promoting sustainable development of women of Odisha.

## Mission

To promote collaborative and multidisciplinary research across diverse domains in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences.

To undertake in-depth analytical and comparative studies on various socio-cultural issues affecting women.

## Objectives

To conduct and invest in multi-disciplinary social science research affecting women in Odisha by connecting all the stakeholders to contribute towards achieving diversity, gender parity, justice and empowerment.

To inspire and translate women's contribution in various fields and amplify the voices of women to achieve equality and inclusiveness.

To promote study on women achievers and their contribution towards sustainable development in Odisha in particular and India in general.

Besides working on Research, Training and Documentation, the Chair also undertakes substantial community engagement through outreach programmes, duly associating the internal and external stakeholders, including the

government and non-government agencies whose routine engagement is focused on sustainable development of women.

The above rationale is also keeping in line with the 2030 agenda of UN wherein one of the major goals of Sustainable Development is to end poverty and discrimination against women.



**Prof. (Dr) Sucheta Priyabadini**

Chair Professor



**Ms. Jyotatsi Jangyanseni**

Research Assistant



**Mr. Satyabrata Sahoo**

Office Assistant



# HIGHLIGHTS OF MRDC

*May 2024-May 2025*

- Organised International webinar on “Representation of Women in Film and Television: Trends and Changes” on 1st May 2024. Professors and leaders in their respective fields from nine countries were invited as speakers, duly attended by students of four Universities.
- Four sculptures made of scrap materials, generated from various departments, were installed in four locations of the campus.
- National Seminar organized on “Maa Rama Devi’s Vision in Navigating Challenges in Contemporary Times”. An edited book with ISBN and a Journal with ISSN(Special issue of IIJSRR peer reviewed journal) were released on the occasion. A coffee table book on MRDC(2023-2024) was also launched on 23rd July 2024.
- Hannarae Cultural Foundation, Hongbeopsa Monastery, Busan, South Korea signed MoU on 3rd December 2023 and provided one month internship to two students in Korean art and culture and Buddhist philosophy from 8th August 2024 to 8th September 2024 and invited MRDCP for a talk on her research work, “Journey of Buddhism: Kalinga to Korea”.
- Two huge women sculptures were made from waste iron rods in the campus by students under guidance of MRDCP.
- MRDCP was awarded Dr Sarojini Naidu International Award by ICMEI and International Women’s Forum at New Delhi in October 2024 for her contribution to Education.
- 2nd Advisory Committee meeting was held on 05.11.24 regarding growth and future goals of Maa Rama Devi Chair.
- Proposal for opening MRD Museum & Art Gallery for visit of school and college students, one day every month was approved by syndicate members. SOP was to facilitate the process.
- Organized cultural programme of the students for NAAC visit as nodal officer of the cultural Committee. One huge sculpture, 11 feet tall, made from steel scrap materials was installed in the campus. A creative corner was set up at the library. Two busts of Rama Devi and Kuntala Kumari Sabat were installed in the art gallery. Two walls of RDWU were painted and designed with shells, for NAAC visit. Stage design and other paintings at various places in the campuses were made for NAAC visit.

- Non-Credit Course on Maa Rama Devi Studies was introduced for 2nd Sem Students of UG program.
- MRDCP published two articles on Maa Rama Devi in the news paper on the Birth Anniversary and Foundation day of the University on 3rd December 2024.
- A talk by Neely Baugh, (Immigration Attorney) and Pratik Dash (Political Director. Tennessee Immigration & Refugee Rights Coalition), USA on "Overcoming Obstacles: Personal Journey, was organised on 13th Nov. 2024 for students and faculty members of RDWU.
- Project proposal on "Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction: A Focus on Cyclone-Prone Coastal Regions of Odisha," submitted to Odisha State Commission for Women, was sanctioned by them.
- MRDCP delivered a talk during the Fourteenth Edition of the UNESCO Chair Lecture Series on "Digital Divide in Gender Space," organised by IIMT Bhubaneswar.
- Planned for International "Digital Internship on Leadership" for students and faculty for five days inviting Experts from Out side India.
- A 15-part lecture series on Maa Rama Devi was inaugurated on 9th November 2024 for the academic session 2024–25. The resource person for the first session was Prof. Jatindra Kumar Nayak, Former Professor of English, Utkal University. The second session, held on 20th December 2024, included a talk by Prof. Sanghamitra Mishra, Retired

Professor of Odia, Utkal University, and a special talk on Women and Mental Wellness by Dr. Bhaswati Mishra, Senior Psychiatrist at Monash Medical, Australia. The third session was delivered by Prof. Rabi Narayan Subudhi, Mentor-Advisor and Adjunct Professor at the School of Management, CUTM, Paralakhemundi. The fourth session was conducted by Dr. Gourahari Das, a renowned writer, journalist, and academician, and the fifth session by Shri Prahlad Singh, Senior Journalist and Social Activist.

- A two-day International Conference 2025 on Women's Journey of Resilience and Empowerment: Stories and Strategies – Spiritual Strength was organized by the Maa Rama Devi Chair at RDWU on 28th February and 1st March. Graced by eminent national and international dignitaries, the event featured keynote speeches, plenary sessions, and technical paper presentations across diverse disciplines. The conference highlighted women's empowerment, resilience, and spiritual strength through vibrant academic discourse and concluded with a cultural program showcasing artistic talent. An abstract book with ISBN was released and MRDC logo was also launched.



05/06

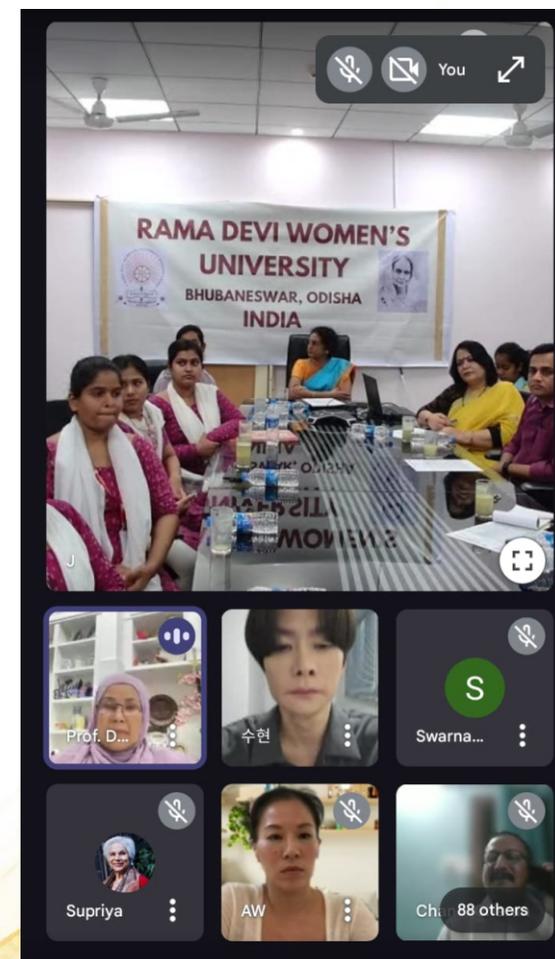
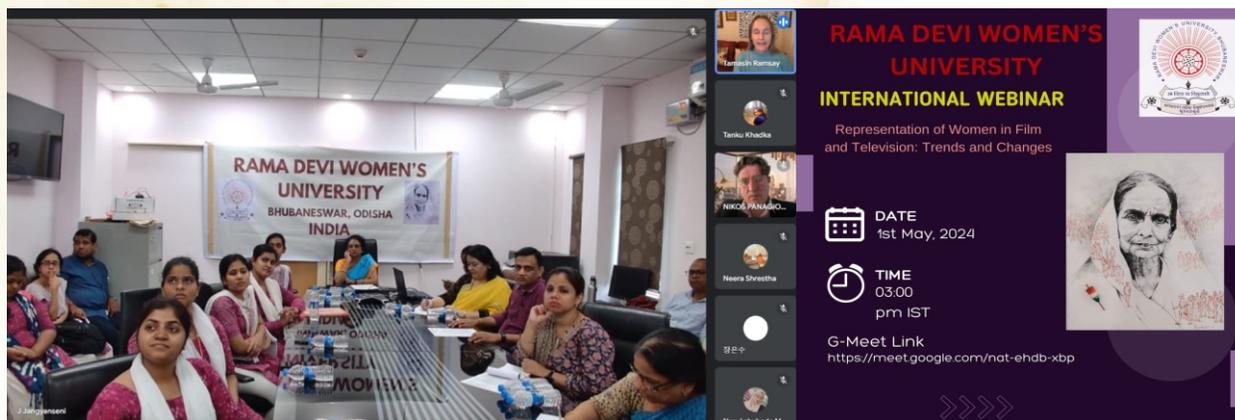
# INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON “REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN FILMS & TELEVISION: TRENDS & CHANGES”

To mark the first anniversary of Maa Rama Devi Chair, an **International Webinar** was organized on **1st May 2024 at 3:00 PM IST**, bringing together speakers and students from **Australia, South Korea, Greece, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, and South Africa**.

With the theme "**Representation of Women in Films and Television: Trends and Changes**," the session featured thought-provoking discussion by distinguished speakers, including **Dr. Tamasin Ramsay (Australia), Prof.**

**Supriya Singh (Australia), Song Su Hyeon (South Korea), Prof. Nikos Panagiotou (Greece), Prof. Dato' Dr. Nik Maheran Binti Nik Muhammad (Malaysia), Able Wanamakok (Thailand), Dr. Tiale Motlalepule Nathane (South Africa), and Dr. Maria Van Staden (South Africa)**.

The insightful exchange of ideas provided a global perspective on the evolving portrayal of women in media, making the webinar an enriching experience for all.





Dr Tamasin Ramsay, Actor, Academician and Social Activist, Australia



Dr Supriya Singh, Sociologist, La Trobe University, Australia



Song Su Hyeon, Actor, South Korea



Prof. Nikos Panagiotou Professor, School of Journalism & Mass Media, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece



Prof Dato' Dr Nik Maheran Nik Muhammad, Dy. Vice Chancellor Academic and International Affairs, University of Kalantan, Malaysia



Able Wanamakok, Int'l Artist, Emcee & Actress, Thailand



Dr Tlale Motlalepule Nathane Witwatersr and, South Africa



Maria Van Staden, Gender Equity Unit, University of the Western Cape, South Africa





07/08

# NATIONAL SEMINAR ON MAA RAMA DEVI

## Theme: Maa Rama Devi's Vision in Navigating Challenges in Contemporary Times

The two-day National Seminar, commemorating the 39th Punyatithi of Maa Rama Devi held on 22nd-23rd July 2024, was graced by eminent guests—Ms. Nandita Das, Eminent Actor & Filmmaker; Prof. Jnanadev Maharana, Honorary Scientist & Grandson of Maa Rama Devi; Padmashree Aruna Mohanty, Renowned Odissi Dancer; Prof. Rabi Narayan Das, Former Professor, KISS; and Dr. Pravati Panigrahi, Founder & Director,

Pink Umbrella International (PUI). The event featured insightful discussions, thought-provoking paper presentations and the launch of significant publications, including a book with an ISBN, a printed and online journal with IISRR (<https://www.iisr.in/iisrr-ijr-vol-10-issue-iii-july-2024/>) and a Coffee Table Book chronicling the journey of Maa Rama Devi Chair—a tribute to wisdom, empowerment and enduring legacy.



COMES YOU

22.07.2024

WELCOM

Prof. Sacheta Priyadarshini  
Chair, Professor  
KISS, Women's University

Smt. Shyamali Mahapatra  
Bhargava  
R.D. Women's University

Ms. Nandita Das  
Eminent Actress & Director

Prof. Anuradha Choudhary  
Former Vice-Chancellor  
R.D. Women's University

Prof. Chandni Charan Rath  
Chairman, PUI Council  
R.D. Women's University

Dr. Navneet Kaur  
Dr. Registrar & Co-ordinator  
R.D. Women's University





# INTERNSHIP AT HANNARAE CULTURAL FOUNDATION, HONGBEOPSA MONASTERY, BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA

## Bridging Cultures: RDWU at Hongbeopsa Temple, Busan, South Korea

As per the MoU signed between RDWU and the Hannarae Cultural Foundation, South Korea, the first one-month internship program was held from August 8, 2024, to September 8, 2024.

Prof. Sucheta Priyabadini was invited by Hongbeopsa Temple, South Korea, to present her research paper on “Journey of Buddhism: Kalinga to Korea.” Two students from RDWU, Ms. Sushree Subhrasweta Hota and Ms. Shanti Sivani Mohanty, were nominated for the fully sponsored one-month internship program at Hongbeopsa Temple, funded by the Hannarae Cultural Centre, Busan. The program focused on Korean language,

music and culture.

During the internship, the students explored world heritage sites, monasteries, cultural shows, film studios and academic institutions such as Busan University of Foreign Studies, enriching their global learning experience. The celebration of Rakhi Purnima at the temple featured traditional Indian décor, cuisine, saree draping and rangoli-making, fostering deep cultural assimilation, which was warmly received by the Korean guests. This exchange served as an inspiration for RDWU students to embrace global exposure in education and cultural space.







# 15 LECTURE SERIES ON MAA RAMA DEVI

## Maa Rama Devi Lecture Series: A Journey of Knowledge & Inspiration

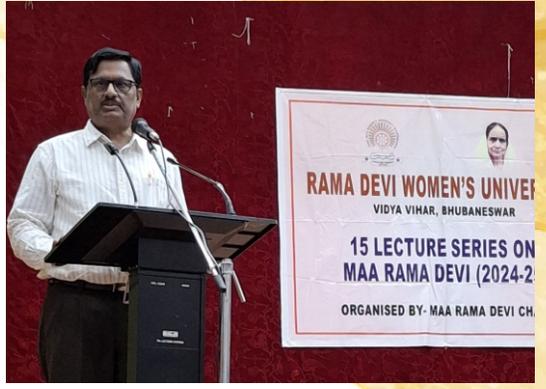
The Maa Rama Devi Certificate Lecture Series (15 Lectures) for this academic session was inaugurated on 8th November 2024 to honor and preserve the legacy of Maa Rama Devi through insightful discussions by esteemed scholars. It is planned to be an ongoing exercise.

The speaker for the first session was Prof. Jatindra Kumar Nayak (Retired Professor, Utkal University), who provided a deep dive into Maa Rama Devi's early life and the key figures who influenced her journey. The second session, held on 20th December 2024, included a special talk on "Mental Health in Women" by Dr. Bhaswati Mishra (Psychiatry Registrar, Monash Health, Australia), shedding light on the importance of mental well-being. Prof. Sanghamitra Mishra, eminent Odia writer, captivated the audience with a compelling storytelling session on Maa Rama Devi, followed by an interactive discussion. The third session, conducted on 2nd February 2025, had Prof. Rabi Narayan

Subudhi (Mentor-Advisor & Adjunct Professor, CUTM, School of Management, Parlakhemundi) as the speaker. His interactive and insightful session on Maa Rama Devi left a lasting impact on the attendees.

With each lecture offering a unique perspective, this series serves as an intellectual tribute to Maa Rama Devi, fostering discussions on history, culture and contemporary issues while inspiring scholars and students alike. The fourth session was presided by Dr. Gourahari Das, a renowned writer, journalist and academician. His storytelling session on Maa Rama Devi kept the audience engaged and inspired them to safeguard her legacy. The fifth lecture was delivered by Shri Prahlad Singh, a senior journalist and social activist. He was closely associated with Maa Rama Devi and shared his experiences with the students, inspiring them to follow her legacy.







13/14

## 2nd ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

### 2nd Advisory Committee Meeting of Maa Rama Devi Chair: Key Deliberations & Future Roadmap

The meeting reviewed the past year's achievements of Maa Rama Devi Chair and engaged in strategic discussion on preserving and promoting Maa Rama Devi's legacy. Key focus areas included digital documentation, state-level competitions, cultural collaborations and exploring internship opportunities.







# ACTIVITIES DURING NAAC VISIT

The NAAC Peer Team (1st cycle) visited RDWU in September 2024. The cultural activities and the visit to the Maa Rama Devi Art Museum and Gallery were coordinated by MRDC. The students of RDWU also made portraits under the guidance of Prof. Sucheta Priyabadini. A vibrant Creative

Corner was also set up in the library—a space where imagination could take flight. Designed to encourage reflection, expression, and relaxation, it invites students to pause, draw, dream, and let their creativity flow freely in an atmosphere of calm inspiration.







# SPECIAL INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MRS. NEELY BAUGH-DASH & MR. PRATIK DASH

On 13th November 2024, Maa Rama Devi Chair hosted an engaging interactive session with Neely Baugh-Dash, a distinguished immigration attorney from the U.S. and Pratik Dash, Political Director of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition and a Grammy performer. The session provided RDWU students a unique

opportunity to learn from their inspiring journeys, challenges and contribution to social justice, law and advocacy. A lively Q&A session followed, where students gained insight into career paths, immigration law and equity.







# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 2025

## International Conference 2025: A Celebration of Women's Resilience & Empowerment

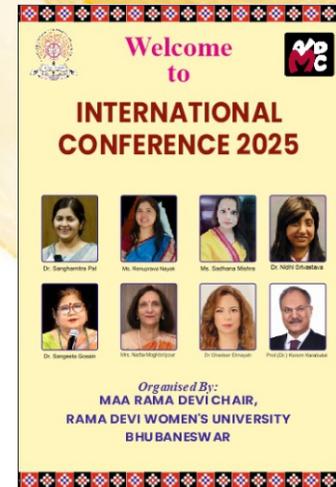
International Conference 2025, organized by Maa Rama Devi Chair on the theme-Women's Journey of Resilience and Empowerment Stories and Strategies: Spiritual Strength, brought together 400+ participants from around the world, to discuss issues relating to women's empowerment, resilience and spiritual strength. Distinguished speakers, including academicians, social

activists and international scholars, shared insights across plenary and technical sessions. The event also featured research presentations and the launch of 'Sankalp' (Abstract Book). The conference concluded with a valedictory session, celebrating intellectual exchange and artistic expression.











23/24

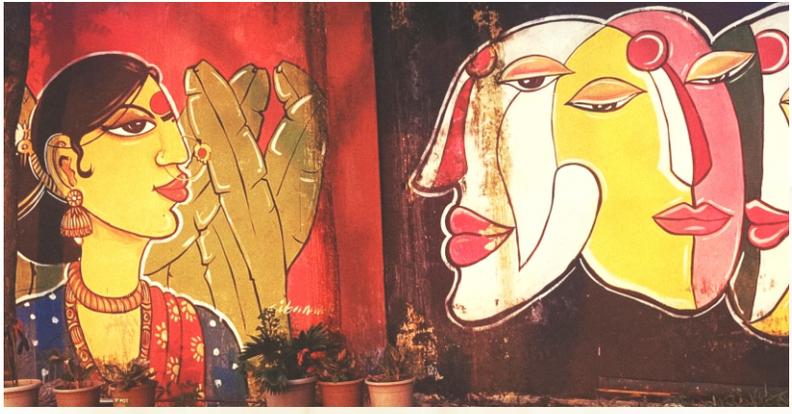
# VISUAL ARTISTRY

## Transforming Waste into Art: A Creative Campus Initiative

Four sculptures made from scrap materials were installed across the campus, including an 11-foot steel scrap sculpture. Students, under the guidance of MRDCP, crafted two massive women sculptures from waste iron rods. A creative corner was set up in the library and the art gallery

now features busts of Rama Devi and Kuntala Kumari Sabat. Additionally, two walls of RDWU beautifully designed with shells and various paintings and stage designs, enhanced the campus visibility during the NAAC visit.



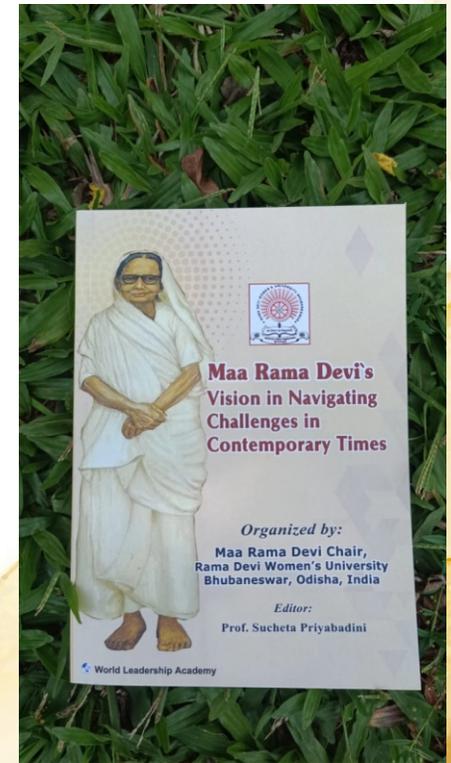
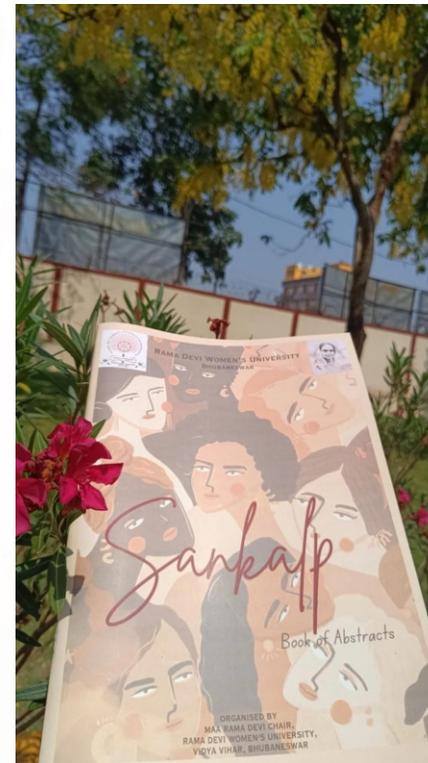




## PUBLICATIONS

The Maa Rama Devi Chair has made significant academic contributions through the publication of a book with an ISBN, as well as a peer-reviewed journal—available both in print and online (ISSN: <https://www.iisr.in/iisrr-ijr-vol-10-issue-iii-july-2024/> )—during the National Seminar 2024.

Additionally, an Abstract Book with ISBN no. was published during the International Conference 2025, further reflecting the Chair's commitment to scholarly research and dissemination of knowledge.





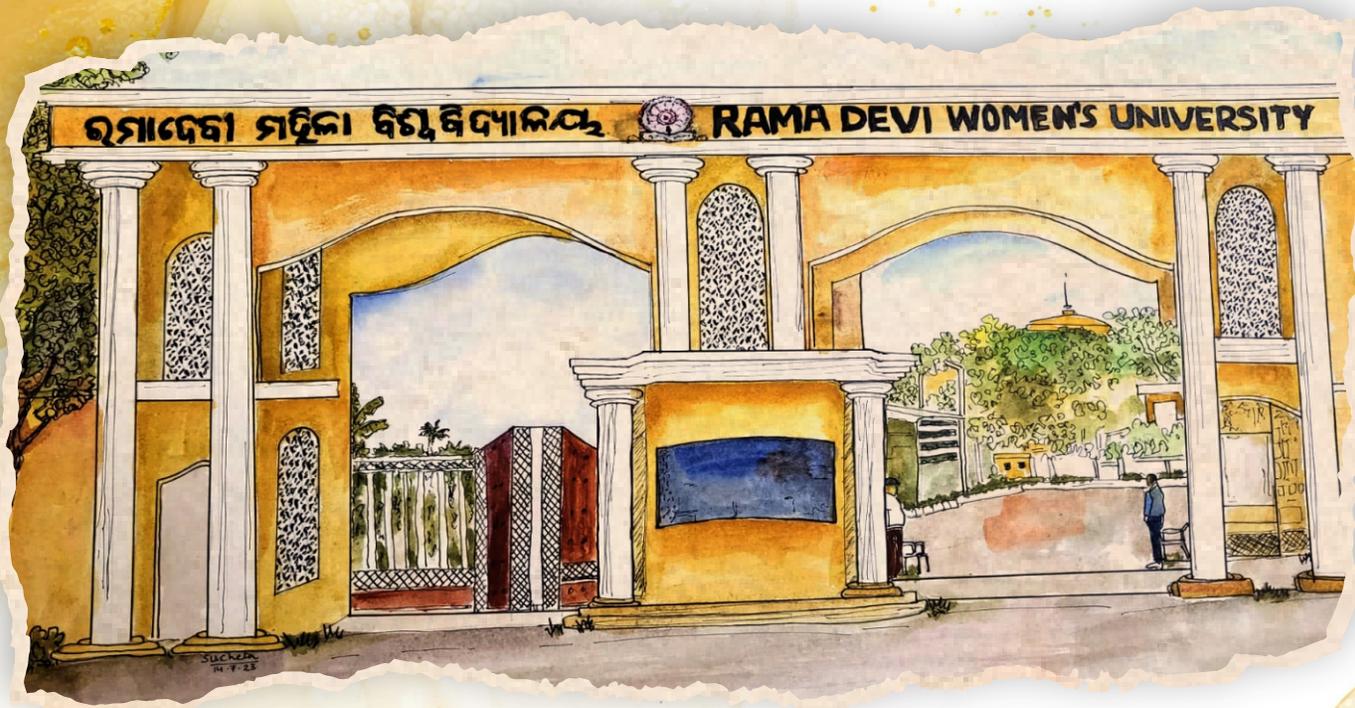






*Maa Rama Devi*  
*Chair*





## **Rama Devi Women's University**

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