

Union Sakshar six-month Functional Literacy Programme

Certificate Distribution Ceremony at Angul, Odisha

The six-month *Union Sakshar Functional Literacy Programme*, sponsored by Union Bank of India and coordinated by Indian Adult Education Association, concluded with certificate distribution ceremonies held in Angul, Odisha and Peraiyur, Tamil Nadu.

At Angul, the ceremony took place at Bajirut Chhatrabas and featured cultural performances by learners, including songs, dances, and demonstrations of digital learning. Participants shared how the programme enhanced their understanding of basic banking services, government welfare schemes, and digital tools such as mobile phones, television, and radio. Many learners also expressed interest in continuing their education through the National Institute of Open Schooling.

The event was presided over by Prof. L. Raja, who commended the dedication of programme coordinator Shri Suriyanarayan Nath. Distinguished guests included Shri Antaryami Baral and Smt. Krishna Mohanty, along with educationists and social activists.

In Peraiyur, the ceremony was led by Chief Guest Smt. Peryadharshini E. Varusai Muhamed, Vice-Chairman of the Peraiyur Town Panchayat. A total of 30 women learners received certificates, celebrating their achievements in literacy and practical skills such as independent banking and digital transactions.

Officials from Union Bank of India and the Indian Adult Education Association praised the programme's impact, highlighting real-life transformations among participants, including improved reading and writing skills, financial independence, and confidence in using modern technology.

The initiative stands as a strong example of how collaboration between financial institutions and educational organizations can empower communities, promote lifelong learning, and advance women's literacy.