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Lights, Camera, Awards!

President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu confers 70th National Film Awards

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the 70th National Film Awards in various categories in New Delhi October 8, 2024. She also conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2022 on Shri Mithun Chakraborty.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that our films reflect the artistic sense of our society. Life is changing. The standards of art are changing. New aspirations are arising. New problems are emerging. New awareness is rising. Amidst all these changes, the unchanging values



"Never allow your dreams to sleep, even if you are asleep". These are the golden words of film legend Mithun Da to young awardees who received the 70th National Film Award in various categories in the national capital. The entire auditorium of Vigyan Bhawan rose to their feet in a standing ovation when President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu honoured Mithun Chakraborty with the Dada Saheb Phalke award for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema. Addressing the gathering, Mithun Da, shared the experiences of his struggle in the film industry. He recalled the discrimination he faced due to his dusky complexion and shared his dancing success mantra with the awardees and audience present in the auditorium. His message to the aspiring young talent artists was to identify their talent while chasing their dreams.

decades, Mithun ji has not only portrayed serious characters on screen but has also portrayed with success many ordinary stories with his unique energy.

The President said that though the languages and backgrounds of award-winning films may be different, they all are reflections of India. These films are a treasure trove of experiences of Indian society. Indian traditions and their diversity come alive in these films.

The President said that films and social media are the most powerful mediums to bring changes in



of love, compassion, and service are still making our individual and collective lives meaningful. We can see all these values portrayed in the films awarded today.

The President said that Indian cinema is the largest film industry in the world, with films being produced in multiple languages and in all regions of the country. It is also the most diverse art form. She congratulated the all award winners and appreciated the people associated with the film industry.

The President congratulated Shri Mithun Chakraborty for receiving the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award. She said that in his artistic journey of almost five

society. These mediums have, as more impact in creating awareness among people than any other medium. She noted that out of more than 85 awards distributed today, only 15 awards have been received by women awardees. She said that the film industry could make more efforts towards women-led development.

The President pointed out that meaningful films often do not find an audience. She urged aware citizens, social organizations, and governments to work together to increase the reach of meaningful cinema to the audience.

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting (I&B), Rail-



ways and Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of State for I&B Dr. L. Murugan, Sh. Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Shri Rahul Rawail, Sh. Nila Madhab Panda, & Shri Gangadhar Mudaliar as Jury were also present at the event.

Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw warmly welcomed all the attendees, expressing his honor to be part of this prestigious event, which celebrates the brilliance of filmmakers, actors, technicians, and all stakeholders involved in the art of cinema. He also paid tribute to legendary actor Mithun Chakraborty, who was honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his extraordinary contributions to Indian cinema and society. "Mithunda, your life is your message. You are an icon for our society, both on and off the screen," he said, acknowledging the veteran

the IICT will focus on developing creative skills and knowledge. This new institution will serve as a hub for innovation, creativity, and talent development, ensuring India stays at the forefront of the global creative economy.

He also outlined the government's vision to develop the film industry with three key pillars:

1. Development of Talent Pipeline: Recognizing the increasing role of technology in filmmaking, he emphasized the need for a strong talent pipeline.

support the evolving needs of the film industry. He invited industry leaders to contribute ideas for creating a foundation that will propel Indian

ers, making it easier for them to use diverse locations, such as railways, forests, and archaeological sites, in their projects. Streamlining these processes will encourage creativity and reduce bureaucratic hurdles.

Shri Vaishnaw also emphasized the importance of preserving India's rich film heritage, from classic

films to posters and newspaper clippings. He shared that decisions have been made to safeguard these invaluable treasures for future generations.

On this occasion, Secretary Shri Sanjay Jaju, also mentioned that 309 films in 32 different languages were received in Feature Films category and 128 films in 17 languages in Non-Feature Films category of 70th National Film Awards, thereby signifying the richness of our cultural landscape and inclusivity of our story telling. Recognising the resilience of Film industry in the background of global pandemic, he praised the film makers for captivating the audience through their art of storytelling.

Highlights from the 70th National Film Awards

Some of the other award winners include "Brahmastra - Part 1: Shiva" in the Best Film in AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comic) category, "Kantara" for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment, and "Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography" for Best Book on Cinema.



cinema to

This year's National Film Awards continue the tradition of recognizing excellence across a diverse array of films and talent. The awards for 2022 feature several standout winners :

- ◆ Best Feature Film: "Aattam (The Play)", a Malayalam film directed by Anand Ekarshi, has won this prestigious award for its artistic brilliance.
- ◆ Best Non-Feature Film: "Ayena (Mirror)", directed by Sidhant Sarin, takes home this honor
- ◆ Best Actor in a Leading Role: Rishab Shetty wins the award for his captivating performance in "Kantara" (Kannada)
- ◆ Best Actress in a Leading Role: The Best Actress award will be shared by Nithya Menen for her portrayal in "Thiruchitrambalam" (Tamil) and Manasi Parekh for "Kutch Express" (Gujarati).
- ◆ Best Direction: Sooraj R. Barjatya wins for his work in the Hindi film "Uunchai"



actor's exemplary career and public service.

Shri Vaishnaw highlighted the remarkable achievements of nine debut directors, applauding their bold storytelling, and celebrated the role of young innovators, whether in the film industry or startups, in driving the creative economy.

Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)

To further support the growth of creative industries, Sh. Vaishnaw announced a landmark initiative - the establishment of the first Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) in Mumbai. Modeled after prestigious institutions like the IITs and IIMs, which have produced some of the world's finest technical and managerial talent (some of them leading the big giants like Google, Microsoft, etc),

Drawing parallels with India's success in IT and semiconductor sectors, he highlighted the importance of nurturing talent in creative technologies, with IICTs playing a pivotal role.

2. Infrastructure Development: Shri Vaishnaw stressed the need for world-class infrastructure to

global standards.

3. Simplification of Processes: The Minister discussed simplifying permissions for filmmak-



Voice Of Grand Queen



Women have endured suffering for centuries, and it's time for change. We need a shift in mindset—a rethinking of how we view gender roles and equality. Instead of perpetuating discrimination, society should nurture and empower women, just as we would raise a child—with care, respect, and opportunity. Women deserve to be valued for their potential, not constrained by outdated norms. It's crucial to break free from harmful stereotypes and create an environment where women can thrive without fear of judgment or bias. Only by changing our perspective and fostering inclusivity can we ensure a more just and equal world for future generations of women. The time for transformation is now.

Dr. Poulomi Ghosh
Psychologist

Grandqueen's Club, through its bilingual monthly magazine *The Women Now*, is proudly launching its year-long campaign, *Freedom from Fear*, dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of women everywhere. This initiative aims to raise awareness about the challenges women face daily, from street harassment to domestic violence, and provide tangible solutions for both individuals and communities to address these issues. The campaign seeks to amplify the voices of women from all walks of life, empowering them to speak out and take action. Through insightful articles, personal stories, expert opinions, and resources, *The Women Now* will serve as a powerful platform for women to unite and demand safer spaces and better policies. At the heart of this campaign is the vision of Grandqueen's Club to create a world where every woman, regardless of her background or location, can live without

fear of violence or discrimination. *Freedom from Fear* is not just a slogan but a call to action for governments, organizations, and individuals to prioritize the safety of women in every sphere of life. The magazine will also feature success stories of women who have overcome obstacles and are actively working to create safer environments for others. As the Voice of Grandqueens, this campaign represents the collective strength of women—united in their desire to live in a world where safety is a right, not a privilege. Grandqueen's Club and *The Women Now* magazine are committed to bringing attention to these vital issues, shedding light on the barriers to safety, and championing solutions that will empower women for generations to come. Through solidarity, advocacy, and education, we can create a future where every woman is free from fear and free to thrive.



Everyone has the right to live free from fear. In our society, however, men often live without fear, while women are constantly burdened by it. Why is it that, even though both men and women are integral parts of society, they are treated so differently? The system should ensure that both can live equally, without fear or discrimination. Stronger laws are needed to prevent crimes against women and create an environment where they can live freely and confidently. Gender equality is not just a right but a necessity for a just and harmonious society. It's time to build a system that respects both equally and allows all individuals to thrive without fear.

Dr. Khushboo Fatima,
Senior Clinical Dietitian
(Diabetes Specialist)



Women have the right to equality, yet too often, they live in fear—whether alone or with family. Why must women bear this burden? It's time for change. As women, we will no longer tolerate violence or fear. We are independent, capable of earning and living our own lives, and we are unstoppable. If every girl learns self-defense techniques like karate in school, she will be better equipped to fight back against any attacker. Recently, a Jain woman who learned karate fought off an attacker with a gun, capturing him and handing him over to the police. Her courage inspired me deeply. I, too, experienced a dangerous situation as a child, but by biting and scratching my kidnaper, I escaped and helped catch him.

Suman Saraf,
Autism expert



The recent tragic incident in Kolkata involving a doctor is a wake-up call for women to be more vigilant and aware of their surroundings. Are we truly equipping women to handle any situation with the right skills? In a world where danger can strike unexpectedly, it's crucial to teach women to sense potential threats, react swiftly, and trust their instincts. Empowerment goes hand in hand with awareness, quick thinking, and a strong support network. However, the responsibility also lies with the government, police, and law enforcement. They must implement and enforce robust safety measures, prioritize regular audits of public spaces, and provide clear channels for reporting concerns. The police need to be more accessible, while legal systems should act swiftly to deliver justice.

Praveena Naidu Thota,
Entrepreneur,
GomayaPushpam



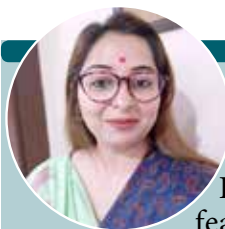
Women are the unsung heroes of society, playing vital roles that are essential for a harmonious world. From nurturing families to leading nations, they demonstrate unmatched resilience, empathy, and grace in every aspect of life. Their ability to overcome challenges and inspire those around them is a testament to their strength and leadership. Empowering women is not only a matter of justice but also a catalyst for creating a more inclusive and prosperous future for all. When women thrive, society as a whole benefits—economically, socially, and culturally. Recognizing their contributions and providing equal opportunities paves the way for a better, more equitable world for everyone.

Vasini Shyama Charan Jha
classical artistry



Kolkata is grappling with social unrest following the horrific rape and murder of a junior doctor at RG Kar Medical College in August 2024. This tragedy has ignited widespread protests, with a central focus on ensuring safety for women in public spaces. The protests have highlighted the deep-seated issues of women's safety and the urgent need for reform. There is a strong demand for systemic changes in law enforcement and a shift in societal attitudes toward gender equality. The protests call not only for justice for the victim but also for a cultural transformation that guarantees women's rights and freedoms, fostering a safer environment for all. It is clear that change is essential to protect women and restore trust in the system.

Anushree Mitra, Dietitian



Freedom from fear is essential for women's empowerment and well-being. Sadly, women across the world, including in India, continue to face various forms of fear that impact their everyday lives. These fears manifest in several areas like Fear of violence, domestic abuse, harassment, and assault. Fear of being attacked, stalked, or molested in public. Fear of cyberbullying, stalking, and digital abuse. Fear of societal judgment, rejection, and mental health stigma. Fear of financial insecurity, unequal pay, and entrepreneurial failure. Fear of challenging patriarchal norms, and not meeting beauty, marriage, or career expectations. Fear of restricted reproductive rights and inadequate healthcare access. To combat these fears, we need comprehensive changes like policy reforms, awareness campaigns, empowerment programs, safe spaces, and active community engagement. By promoting gender equality, challenging stereotypes, and supporting women's organizations, we can build a society where women live without fear.

Arjita Singh,
Educationist



It's deeply painful to describe the current reality where women are treated as disposable, often with less value than animals. Even in the animal kingdom, consent is respected, yet recent incidents have shattered my hopes for change. As a mother of a teenage daughter, I feel unsafe for her in this world where women's safety is overlooked. How can we protect our girls in such a scenario? Mahatma Gandhi once said that true independence will come when women can walk freely at night. So, when will we achieve that freedom? It's heartbreaking to live in a society where women are constantly subjected to humiliation, even when they've done no wrong. We must demand change for the safety, dignity, and respect of women everywhere.

Sudipta Mishra
Author & Researcher

In recent years, the trend of women-only trips—both domestic and international—has gained remarkable popularity among Indian women. As they embrace independence and seek meaningful experiences, these trips have become more than just vacations; they are opportunities for empowerment, exploration, and self-discovery. This article delves into the reasons behind this trend, its benefits, and highlights popular domestic and international destinations.

There are strong Reasons Behind the Trend like Empowerment and Independence: Women-only trips allow Indian women to break free from traditional roles and societal expectations. Traveling together fosters a sense of empowerment, encouraging women to embrace their independence and explore new horizons.

Safety and Comfort: Safety is often a primary concern for women travellers. Women-only trips provide a supportive environment where participants feel secure, allowing them to enjoy their journeys without the usual worries associated with solo travel.

Connection and Bonding: Traveling with like-minded women helps create strong bonds and friendships. Shared experiences—be it adventures or challenges—forge deeper connections, leading to lasting relationships.

Tailored Experiences: Many travel companies now offer itineraries designed specifically for women, focusing on interests such as wellness, adventure, and cultural experiences. This customization enhances the overall enjoyment of the trip.

Challenging Stereotypes: Women-only trips challenge conventional gender roles and perceptions of travel. By embracing adventure, women are redefining what it means to travel and showcasing their capability to explore the world on their own terms.

There are several Benefits of Women-Only Trips like Personal Growth: Traveling with other women promotes self-discovery and personal growth. Participants often step out of their comfort zones, leading to increased confidence and a sense of achievement.

Emotional Support: These trips

The Trend of Women-Only Trips Empowerment and Adventure



provide a safe space for women to share their stories, experiences, and challenges, fostering empathy and emotional connections among participants.

Networking Opportunities: Women-only trips attract individuals from diverse back-

grounds, creating valuable networking opportunities for both personal and professional growth.

Mental Well-Being: Travel has been shown to reduce stress and improve mental health. Women-only trips provide a break from

“Divas Sojourn: Pioneering Women-Only Travel Founded in 2015, Divas Sojourn was created to provide women with a unique platform to travel solo while feeling safe in a group setting. As a trailblazing travel company, Divas Sojourn specializes in curating transformative journeys exclusively for women.

our expertly designed itineraries prioritize exploration, wellness, and personal growth, offering Unique Experiences to Enjoy exclusive access to local events, workshops, and cultural encounters that enrich your journey. Empowerment Workshops to Participate in guided sessions focused on mindfulness, self-care, and personal development. Our Small Group Sizes Intimate group settings ensure personalized attention and foster meaningful connections among travellers. We are particular about Safety and Support with Experienced guides and 24/7 support provide a secure and enjoyable travel experience. By creating a space for women to explore, connect, and grow, Divas Sojourn truly embodies the spirit of women-only travel.”

Pooja Malhotra, Founder of Divas Sojourn

mursions, enhancing their overall travel experiences.

Popular Domestic Destinations: With its rich culture and heritage, Rajasthan offers a perfect backdrop for women-only trips. Exploring the colourful streets of Jaipur, the royal palaces of Udaipur, and the sand dunes of Jaisalmer provides a mix of adventure and history.

Known as "God's Own Country," Kerala's serene backwaters, lush greenery, and wellness retreats attract women seeking relaxation and rejuvenation. Ayurvedic spas and yoga retreats are popular choices. For adventure enthusiasts, destinations like Manali, Dharamshala, and Kasol provide opportunities for trekking, skiing, and exploring stunning landscapes. The breath-taking views and vibrant culture make it a favourite. Renowned for its beaches and vi-

brant nightlife, Goa is an ideal destination for women wanting to unwind. Beach parties, water sports, and wellness retreats create a perfect blend of fun and relaxation. Famous for its yoga centres, Mysore attracts women looking for spiritual growth. The serene environment and wellness retreats offer an enriching escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Popular International Destinations which is so fascinating is attracting women. Known for its stunning beaches and wellness retreats, Bali is a favourite among Indian women. Yoga, meditation, and cultural experiences make it a holistic getaway. Thailand's vibrant culture, beautiful islands, and affordable travel options attract women looking for adventure and relaxation. Destinations like Phuket and Bangkok offer a mix of fun and cultural immersion.

Europe: Countries like Spain, Italy, and France have become increasingly popular for women-only trips. The opportunity to explore historical sites, indulge in culinary delights, and enjoy the rich culture appeals to many. Dubai is a popular choice for Indian women seeking luxury and adventure. From shopping in extravagant malls to exploring desert safaris, Dubai offers a blend of experiences. Known for its breath-taking landscapes and adventure sports, New Zealand is perfect for women seeking thrill and exploration. Activities like bungee jumping and hiking

attract adventurous spirits.

The trend of women-only trips—both domestic and international—reflects a significant cultural shift in India, emphasizing empowerment, connection, and exploration. As Indian women increasingly embrace travel as a means of self-discovery, they are creating vibrant communities and experiences that challenge traditional norms.

These journeys not only offer a chance to explore new places but also foster lasting friendships and personal growth. As the trend continues to flourish, it opens up a world of possibilities for women to step out, embark on adventures, and celebrate their freedom together. The future of women-only travel in India is bright, promising a path filled with empowerment, adventure, and endless exploration.



Celebrating Community Spirit at the 327th Grand Society Brand Expo For

Karva Chauth



educational piece aimed to raise awareness about safety during the festivities, reminding attendees of their role in keeping traditions safe and enjoyable.

The essence of Karva Chauth was beautifully captured in the "Mehndi Ki Raat," organized by the GrandQueens Club. Women gathered to celebrate their strength and beauty as talented Mehndi artists adorned their hands with intricate designs. The event pulsated with music and dance, creating an atmosphere of

joy and empowerment.

A standout feature was the traditional Ramp Walk, which saw enthusiastic participation from women and couples flaunting their festive attire. Titles such as "Best Traditional Jodi" and "Mehndi Queen" were awarded, adding a competitive yet celebratory flair to the evening.

Generous contributions from partners like Aalankrita Resorts, District 150, and Jagadamba Pearls enriched the event. Lucky draw winners walked away with



The 327th Grand-Society Brand Expo, hosted by Celebration Makers in collaboration with the Grand Queen Club, transformed Rain Tree Park into a vibrant hub of fun, shopping, food, and entertainment. This year's Pre-Diwali and Karva Chauth celebrations provided a delightful array of activities designed for families, ensuring that everyone left with cherished memories.

The event began with the lively "Dad N Me Colorama," where fathers and their children engaged in a joyous coloring session. This heartwarming activity not only fostered creativity but also sparked laughter and connection, culminating in prizes for the winners, which further enhanced the festive spirit.

In a meaningful highlight, the Leo Club of Hyderabad Yuva, Dist 320A, presented a skit emphasizing "Safe Diwali." Through a captivating performance, the children conveyed the importance of celebrating the festival responsibly while respecting its historical roots. This engaging



the festive season. The Grand Society Brand Expo received robust support from Deccan Vision, Hybiz TV, and The Women Now E-Magazine, alongside contributions from the WAORTP Festival Committee, Talent Club, and Creative Minds Club.

Overall, the day-long celebration encapsulated the joy and excitement of the festive season, uniting the community in a shared experience that celebrated culture, creativity, and connection.

silver coins, courtesy of HNR Speech & Hearing Clinic, adding to the excitement of the day. The culinary experience, catered by Grand Food Story, was a feast



Mehndi Show..



Piyush Goyal urges industry associations to engage with start-ups and women entrepreneurs

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, delivered a compelling address at the Annual Plenary Session of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in New Delhi, where he urged industry associations to play a proactive role in engaging with startups and promoting young leadership within their chambers. He specifically called on the attendees to include more women entrepreneurs in industry associations, stressing the need for a more diverse and inclusive approach to leadership.

In his speech, Shri Goyal highlighted the untapped potential of tourism as a major driver of economic growth, urging industry bodies to actively promote tourism through their global representative offices. He pointed out that tourism has the power to not only bolster the economy but also create numerous job opportunities. To unlock this potential, the Minister emphasized the importance of developing language skills, which could help bridge communication barriers and open up new roles such as interpreters and tour operators. He underscored that while there is significant demand for jobs in the tourism sector, skill development is critical to bridging the gap between job availability and the right talent. "India will lead the world in tourism and hospitality," Shri Goyal confidently stated.

The Minister also referenced Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guiding principle of Reform, Perform, Transform, urging the participants to take a more active role in showcasing India's progress on the global stage. He remarked that India is on the path to becoming a global powerhouse

of clean energy, and this emerging trend must be communicated to the world. "We must inform the world about India's advancements in sectors like artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and data analytics," he said. This, he noted, is part of India's broader vision to grow its GDP and move from being the fifth-largest economy in the world to becoming the third-largest. Shri Goyal



further emphasized that in order to achieve these ambitious goals, the country would need to invest even more energy and effort during Prime Minister Modi's third term. He highlighted that achieving larger and better outcomes will require "three times the energy, three times the effort, and three times the commitment," referring to the critical role of sustained momentum and focused action.

A key theme in his address was the empowerment of India's youth. Shri Goyal applauded the government's efforts to enhance digital connectivity and ensure that young people, particularly

from the aspirational sections of society, are given the tools they need to succeed. "The aspirational youth of India deserve the Government's attention," he said, noting that the Government is actively working to bring them into the mainstream as part of the journey toward building a Viksit Bharat by 2047. He pointed to the launch of several initiatives in the 2024 Budget, designed to boost skill development and job creation. He called on industry bodies and their members to partner with the Government in providing opportunities for youth, thereby contributing to India's long-term economic growth. Inclusivity, he stated, will be the defining factor of India's success story in the coming decades. Shri Goyal urged industry leaders to create platforms that promote gender equality and youth leadership, and to ensure that no section of society is left behind as the country marches forward.

The Minister also took the opportunity to commend the ICC for setting a positive example by actively involving young leaders and giving them the opportunity to take up leadership roles. He congratulated the organization for being a unified voice for 35 diverse sectors, helping to drive forward the country's economic interests and fostering collaboration among businesses. In conclusion, Shri Goyal's address was a call to action for the business community to embrace innovation, inclusivity, and skill development as the foundation for India's future growth. By aligning with government initiatives and focusing on youth empowerment, he believes the country can achieve its ambitious vision of becoming a global economic powerhouse by 2047.

Revanth Reddy participates in Police Flag Day Parade

On 21st October 2024, Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy participated in the "Police Flag Day Parade" at the Police Martyrs Memorial in Hyderabad, where he paid heartfelt tributes to the courageous police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. The occasion was a solemn reminder of their bravery and dedication in protecting the citizens of Telangana.

In his address, the Chief Minister expressed the deep gratitude of the people of Telangana to the police force, recognizing their crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of 140 crore citizens across India. He underscored that peace and security are the pillars of development, emphasizing that no state can attract investments or thrive economically without a stable law and order situation. He praised the Telangana police for their commitment to upholding peace and order, often at great personal cost, and acknowledged their indispensable role in maintaining the state's stability and growth.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the significance of Police Commemoration Day, which is dedicated to remembering the fallen heroes who gave their lives for the safety of the state. He paid tribute to officers like KS Vyas, Pardesi Naidu, Umesh Chandra, and Krishna Prasad, whose sacrifices continue to inspire and shape the strength of Telangana's law enforcement. The event was not just a moment of remembrance but also a reaffirmation

of the government's commitment to supporting the families of martyrs.

Addressing the evolving nature of crime, Chief Minister Reddy praised the Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) and the Greyhounds for their proactive and effective response to emerging challenges. He noted that Telangana's efforts, particularly in combating cybercrime, have set a model for other states to follow. He mentioned that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had



publicly lauded Telangana's police for their success in tackling cybercrime, especially as educated individuals are increasingly being targeted. The Chief Minister emphasized that law enforcement must remain vigilant and adaptive to the changing dynamics of crime in the digital age.

The issue of drug abuse was also a

key concern. Chief Minister Reddy expressed alarm at the rising influx of narcotics, including Ganja, Heroin, and Cocaine, into the state. He reassured the public that the Telangana government has taken decisive action to address the problem, including the establishment of the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau. He emphasized that the government is fully committed to supporting this bureau in its mission to eradicate drug trafficking and protect the youth of the state from the dangers of substance abuse.

On the topic of traffic congestion in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister highlighted the growing challenges in managing the city's expanding traffic. He advocated for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to streamline traffic management, enhance efficiency, and reduce congestion, making the city safer and more accessible for its residents.

The Chief Minister also condemned the recent attack on the Mutyalamma temple, an incident that shook the state. He urged the people of Telangana to remain united and vigilant against any forces seeking to disrupt the peace. The swift action of the police in apprehending the culprits sent a strong message that such criminal activities would not be tolerated.

In his speech, the Chief Minister acknowledged the tireless efforts of the police, particularly during major festivals such as Moharram, Bakrid, Christmas, VinayakaChavithi, and Hanuman Jayanti. He emphasized

that police officers serve not just for a salary, but out of a deep sense of duty and responsibility to the public. Their dedication during these challenging times reflects their commitment to maintaining peace and harmony in society.

In closing, Chief Minister Reddy urged the public to recognize the hard work and sacrifices of the police force. He called for officers to continue their noble work, stressing the importance of remaining firm with criminals while showing compassion and support for victims. He also announced initiatives aimed at enhancing the dignity and self-respect of the police, including the establishment of a "Young India Police School" on 50 acres of land. This school, offering international-standard education and sports facilities, will provide a bright future for the children of police personnel. The Chief Minister further reiterated the government's commitment to increasing compensation for the families of police martyrs. Special provisions, such as the appointment of the son of late IPS officer Rajiv Ratan to a Grade-2 Municipal Commissioner post, were highlighted as part of the government's ongoing efforts to honor and support the families of fallen officers. Chief Minister Reddy concluded his address by urging the police force to continue their exemplary work, serving as role models for society and upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and dedication.

New Statue of Lady Justice Unveiled in Supreme Court Library

The unveiling of the new statue of Lady Justice in the Supreme Court library marks a pivotal transformation in the representation of justice within the Indian legal framework. Unlike traditional depictions, this statue has removed its blindfold and replaced the sword with the Constitution, symbolizing that Indian law is neither blind nor punitive. Commissioned by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, this bold change reflects a commitment to a more inclusive and humane legal system, resonating deeply with contemporary values of justice and equality.

About the Old Statue

Historically, Lady Justice has been portrayed wearing a blindfold, symbolizing impartiality and the principle that justice should be administered without bias, regardless of an individual's social status or power. This traditional representation included a sword, which signified authority and the power to punish wrongdoing, often conveying a punitive approach to justice. Furthermore, the statue's robe echoed colonial-era judicial symbolism, reinforcing a legacy that many now seek to move away from.

The blindfold was meant to represent a form of objectivity, implying that justice should be administered without favoritism. However, this portrayal has faced criticism for its implications—suggesting that justice should ignore societal contexts and individual circumstances. The sword, while a symbol

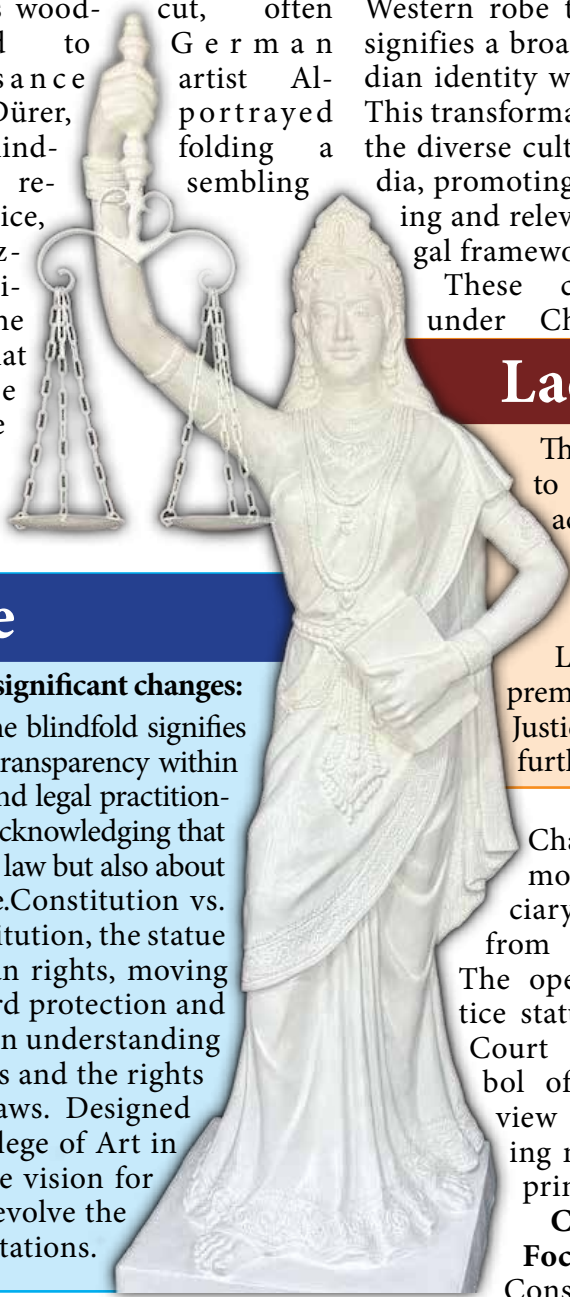
of law enforcement, also evokes notions of power and punishment, which some argue detracts from the more protective and rehabilitative aspects of justice.

dom, and good counsel, is often depicted holding scales and a sword. In Roman tradition, Justitia, akin to Themis, did not wear a blindfold, suggesting a different interpretation of justice—one that recognizes the importance of context.

Legal scholar Desmond Mander-



son noted that the first known image of a blindfolded Lady Justice emerged in a 1494 woodcut, which critiqued the concept of blind justice. This woodcut, often attributed to German Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer, portrayed a fool blindfolding a woman resembling Lady Justice, symbolizing a critique of the idea that justice could be applied without consideration of societal realities. By the early 17th century, however, the image had lost its satirical connotations and became synonymous with the very notion of justice itself.



About the New Statue

The newly unveiled statue introduces several significant changes:

Blindfold Removed: The decision to remove the blindfold signifies an awareness of societal realities and promotes transparency within judicial processes. This shift encourages judges and legal practitioners to consider the broader context of each case, acknowledging that justice is not merely about strict adherence to the law but also about understanding the nuances of human experience.

Constitution vs. Sword: By replacing the sword with the Constitution, the statue emphasizes democratic principles and human rights, moving the focus away from punitive measures toward protection and empowerment. This change signifies a modern understanding of justice that prioritizes constitutional values and the rights of individuals over the power to enforce laws. Designed by Vinod Goswami, a muralist from the College of Art in Delhi, the new statue embodies a progressive vision for justice in India, reflecting a commitment to evolve the legal system in line with contemporary expectations.

of law enforcement, also evokes notions of power and punishment, which some argue detracts from the more protective and rehabilitative aspects of justice.

Lady Justice Statue History

The representation of Lady Justice has deep roots in Greek and Roman mythology. Themis, a Titan associated with justice, wis-

dom, and good counsel, is often depicted holding scales and a sword. In Roman tradition, Justitia, akin to Themis, did not wear a blindfold, suggesting a different interpretation of justice—one that recognizes the importance of context.

Symbolic Changes and Their Meaning

Removing the Blindfold : The decision to remove the blind-

fold represents a significant shift toward a justice system that acknowledges societal complexities. It reflects an understanding that justice must consider the multifaceted nature of human circumstances rather than being an abstract concept devoid of context.

Constitution vs. Sword : The old statue's sword symbolized enforcement and punishment. In contrast, the new statue's focus on

ences. This approach moves away from the idea of a one-size-fits-all application of the law, acknowledging the individuality of each case.

Rejection of Colonial Legacy : The renovation serves as a purposeful act to move away from manifestations of the colonial era, fostering a legal identity that is authentically Indian.

Balance and Integrity : The re-

Importance of Open Eyes

Awareness and Engagement: Open eyes signify a profound understanding of societal complexities. This representation contrasts sharply with the traditional image of detached impartiality, suggesting that true justice must engage with the realities of those affected by the law.

constitutional justice illustrates a more rehabilitative approach that aligns with India's evolving legal landscape, where human rights and individual dignity are paramount.

Dress : The transition from a Western robe to an Indian saree signifies a broader embrace of Indian identity within the judiciary. This transformation acknowledges the diverse cultural context of India, promoting a sense of belonging and relevance within the legal framework.

These changes, initiated under Chief Justice D.Y.

placement of the sword with scales underscores a continued dedication to balance and fairness in judicial decisions, reaffirming the importance of equitable justice.

In summary, the new statue of Lady Justice in the Supreme Court library represents an enlightened approach to justice in India. It embodies a vigilant, inclusive legal philosophy that is firmly rooted in constitutional principles, moving away from outdated notions of blind impartiality toward a more nuanced understanding of justice that reflects the complexities of contemporary society. This trans-

Lady Justice in India

The British Raj introduced the iconography of Lady Justice to India, a tradition that remains prevalent in courthouses across the country. For example, the Calcutta High Court features carved images of Lady Justice, with some representations blindfolded and others with their eyes open. Similarly, the Bombay High Court displays a statue of Lady Justice without a blindfold. The new statue at the Supreme Court closely resembles a nearby mural depicting Lady Justice in a saree, holding scales and a book instead of a sword, further emphasizing cultural identity.

Chandrachud, aim to modernize the judiciary and break away from colonial legacies. The open-eyed Lady Justice statue at the Supreme Court serves as a symbol of a transformative view of justice, reflecting modern values and principles.

Constitutional Focus : Holding the Constitution emphasizes that justice is deeply rooted in constitutional values rather than punishment. This shift indicates a commitment to uphold rights and fairness, distancing the legal system from symbols of colonial authority and violence.

Inclusivity and Fairness : The design promotes inclusivity, recognizing that justice must consider diverse perspectives and experi-

formative vision heralds a new era for the Indian judiciary, one that aspires to uphold dignity, fairness, and human rights for all.

SCBA Opposes Unveiling of Lady Justice Statue Without Blindfold, Calls for Caution Against 'Radical Changes' in Supreme Court

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has recently passed a unanimous resolution expressing strong objections to the "radical changes" made to the statue of Lady Justice and the Supreme Court emblem, citing a lack of consultation with the Bar.

In the resolution, the Executive Committee of the SCBA stated, "It has come to our attention that recent significant changes, including the alteration of the emblem and the statue of Lady Justice, have been made unilaterally by the Supreme Court. These changes were

not discussed with us, despite our being equal stakeholders in the administration of justice. We are completely unaware of the rationale behind these alterations.”

The resolution, signed by SCBA president Kapil Sibal and other executive committee members, also criticized a proposed museum in a location where the Bar had requested a cafe-cum-lounge for its members.

“It has come to our notice that a museum has been proposed in the

former Judges' Library, whereas we had advocated for a Library and Cafe-cum-Lounge for our members, as the current cafeteria is inadequate to meet their needs. We are troubled that, despite our objections regarding the proposed museum, work has commenced,” the resolution continued. “We unanimously oppose the establishment of a museum in the High Security Zone and reiterate our demand for a Library and Cafe-cum-Lounge for our members in-

stead.” The discussion around the statue of Lady Justice gained traction after reports circulated about the removal of its blindfold. The six-foot-tall sculpture, which depicts Lady Justice holding scales in one hand and the Constitution in the other, was installed in the judges' library around 2021.

Traditionally, Lady Justice is portrayed wearing a blindfold and holding a sword. However, the new statue, dressed in white traditional attire and adorned with

a crown, lacks these symbols. Instead, it holds the Constitution in one hand and scales in the other. Notably, this version of Lady Justice without a blindfold has been in the judges' library for nearly three years.

The SCBA's resolution highlights concerns about transparency and communication between the judiciary and the Bar, emphasizing the need for collaborative decision-making in matters that affect the legal community.

Rachel Gupta Makes History as First Indian to Win Miss Grand International 2024

In a ground-breaking achievement for Indian pageantry, 20-year-old Rachel Gupta from Jalandhar has made history by becoming the first Indian to be crowned Miss Grand International 2024. This monumental win took place on October 25, where she faced fierce competition from contestants representing over 70 countries around the world. Gupta's victory not only highlights her exceptional talent but also marks a significant milestone in the history of Indian beauty contests.

In addition to securing the prestigious crown, Gupta also won the Grand Pageants Choice Award 2024, further solidifying her status as a rising star in international pageantry. Her uncle, Minhas, proudly stated, “Rachel now holds the record for the most number of global pageant crown wins by an Indian and



is currently tied with former Miss Universe Lara Dutta.” This accolade underscores the growing prominence of Indian representatives on the global stage.

Following her historic win, Gupta took to Instagram to share her excitement with her followers. “WE DID IT! We won the first Golden Crown in Indian history,” she exclaimed. “Thank you so much to everyone who believed in me! I promise, I will not let you down. I vow to be a Queen whose reign you'll remember forever.” Her heartfelt message resonated with fans and supporters, showcasing her dedication to her new role.

The pageant organizers celebrated Gupta's victory on social media, highlighting her qualities as a remarkable contestant. They noted, “She embodies beauty, el-

gance, and true talent. May her journey to success shine even brighter with every step she takes.” Such endorsements reflect the admiration and respect she has garnered within the pageantry community.

Gupta's journey to the Miss Grand International title has been impressive. She previously won the ‘Miss Super Talent of the World’ title in 2022, showcasing her consistent excellence in international competitions. Her path to the crown began in August 2024 when she won the Miss Grand India title, setting the stage for her historic achievement on the global stage.

With over a million followers on Instagram, Gupta has already established herself as a significant influencer in the digital space. In her capacity as Miss Grand International, she will serve as a global ambassador, advocating for peace and stability across the world—a role she embraces with enthusiasm and commitment.

Beyond her pageantry success, Gupta has consistently expressed her desire to inspire others. In a 2022 interview, she shared her vision for empowering young women. “I understand that a lot of women hesitate in pursuing their dreams due to various challenges,” she remarked. “I hope my journey inspires and encourages them to have aspirations, break the chains, and work towards accomplishing their dreams.” This commitment to uplifting others is a cornerstone of her mission.

Minhas proudly added, “This is the first time in Miss Grand International's history that an Indian has won the golden crown, and it's a super proud moment for Jalandhar, Punjab, and India. Her performance was exceptional, and she maintained the top position throughout.” His words reflect the pride felt by her family and community in her ground-breaking achievement.

Despite her demanding pageantry career, Gupta has maintained a strong focus on her academics and entrepreneurial ventures. She serves as a role model for young women looking to balance multiple aspirations and pursue their dreams relentlessly.

As the 12th Miss Grand International and the first winner from India, Rachel Gupta's historic victory not only marks a significant milestone in Indian pageantry but also opens new doors for future generations of Indian contestants on the global stage.

Her journey serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration, encouraging others to strive for their dreams while making history in the process.



Smt. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar appointed as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women

Smt. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), becoming the ninth individual to hold this esteemed position. With a proven track record in leadership across various political and social domains, Smt. Rahatkar brings valuable experience to the role.

During her tenure as Chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women from 2016 to 2021, she championed several impactful initiatives. Notable programs included “Sakshama,” which provided support for acid attack survivors; “Prajwala,” which connected self-help groups to central government schemes; and “Suhita,” a 24/7 helpline service for women. Smt. Rahatkar also focused on legal reforms, addressing critical issues such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, anti-triple talaq measures, and the establishment of anti-human trafficking units. Her commitment to digital literacy for women was evident through various programs, and she launched a publication titled “Saad,” dedicated to addressing women's issues.

Before her role at the Maharashtra Commission, Smt. Rahatkar served as the Mayor of Chatrapati Sambhajnagar from 2007 to 2010, where she successfully implemented significant developmental projects in healthcare and infrastructure. Educationally, Smt. Rahatkar holds a bachelor's degree in Physics and a master's degree in History from the University of Pune. She is also an accomplished author, with works that include ‘Vidhikhit,’ focusing on women's legal issues, and ‘Aurangabad: Leading to Wide Roads.’ Her dedication to women's empowerment has garnered her several accolades, including the National Law Award and the Savitribai Phule Award from a national literary council. In addition to Smt. Rahatkar's appointment, Dr. Archana Majumdar has been named as a member of the National Commission for Women, further strengthening the commission's commitment to advancing women's rights in India.



“The Rising Pen” is a dynamic platform within our magazine dedicated to showcasing the talent, creativity, and fresh perspectives of young writers. This section celebrates the power of the written word and the remarkable potential of the next generation of storytellers, poets, and essayists. It is a space where young voices—untamed, unfiltered, and unapologetic—can share their thoughts, experiences, and visions for the future.

The title “The Rising Pen” symbolizes the awakening of young talent and the growing influence of youth in shaping tomorrow’s narratives. It evokes the image of a pen in motion, poised to make its mark on the world, much like the writers who contribute to this section. Whether exploring social issues, personal journeys, or imaginative worlds, the writers featured in “The Rising Pen” offer bold, insightful, and

thought-provoking pieces that reflect the concerns, hopes, and dreams of today’s youth.

This corner of the magazine serves as an incubator for emerging voices, giving them a platform to be heard and encouraging them to engage with the world around them. It’s a celebration of creativity, diversity, and the infinite possibilities of the future—captured through the power of storytelling.

THE RISING PEN

Through “The Rising Pen”, we aim to amplify the voices of tomorrow, giving space for

young writers to share their stories and inspire change, one word at a time.

“It’s not just a story about characters; it’s about real-life friendships, challenges, and the strength we find when we support one another,” Manyata Bagla

At just 12 years old, Manyata Bagla has already made her mark as an author with her debut book, *Rising Together*. As a Class 6 student at Heritage School, Kolkata, Manyata is eager to share her story, which embodies her core values of unity, empathy, and the strength that comes from standing together. For Manyata, writing this book has been a transformative

experience. The theme of unity runs through every page, reminding readers that no matter what obstacles we encounter, we are stronger together.

Manyata credits her own family, friends, and teachers for their unwavering support in bringing *Rising Together* to life. “My family, friends, and teachers have been my greatest support,” she shares. Her mother Suman Bagla, in particular, has been a key inspiration. “My mother showed me how kindness can make us all stronger,” she says, noting that her mother’s belief in the power of kindness kept

her motivated throughout the writing process.

Writing a book at the age of 12 is no small feat, and Manyata admits that she faced moments of doubt. “Writing a book at my age wasn’t easy,” she reflects. “There were moments when I felt unsure.” But instead of giving up, Manyata took the process one step at a time. “With each page, my confidence grew,” she says. Through perseverance, she learned that writing was not just about putting words on paper but about creating something meaningful that could inspire others. “Every chapter of *Rising Together* is a reminder that we are stronger together, and no dream is too big when we have the courage to pursue it,” Manyata shares. Her experience taught her that believing in yourself and staying committed to your goals are key to turning dreams into reality. One of Manyata’s main goals for *Rising Together* is to inspire other young readers. She hopes her characters’ experiences will resonate with those facing their own challenges. By celebrating friendship, resilience, and the power of unity, Manyata wants her readers to feel empowered and understand that they, too, can make a positive difference in the world.

Writing has also taught Manyata about the re-

sponsibility that comes with being a storyteller.

“With each story I tell, I want to uplift, encourage, and spread positivity,” she says. Manyata recognizes the power of words to shape how others think and feel, and she ap-

proaches her writing with this responsibility in mind. “I am not only to entertain but also to make readers feel understood and connected to something greater,” Manyata explains. For her, writing is not just about creating an engaging story—it’s about fostering connection, kindness, and resilience. She believes that stories can help remind people of the values that matter most in life.

Though *Rising Together* is Manyata’s debut, it’s just the beginning of her writing journey. “This experience has taught me so much, and I look forward to writing more stories that celebrate kindness, courage, and the beauty of friendship,” she shares. Manyata is eager to continue creating stories that inspire young readers to pursue their dreams, support one another, and make a difference in the world. For Manyata, writing *Rising Together* has shown her that age is no barrier to making a meaningful impact. As she continues to grow as a writer, her stories will undoubtedly inspire countless others to believe in their dreams and rise above their challenges. Manyata’s journey is a testament to the power of resilience, unity, and the courage to chase one’s dreams—no matter how young you are.

Rising Together : A Journey of Dreams, Unity, and Resilience by Manyata Bagla

experience, blending her love for storytelling with lessons on perseverance and self-discovery.

Manyata’s journey into the world of storytelling began early in her life. “Books became my escape and inspiration,” she says, reflecting on how reading sparked her imagination. Like many children, she was drawn to the magical worlds found within the pages of books, where every new story opened up endless possibilities. But soon, reading wasn’t enough—she wanted to create her own worlds.



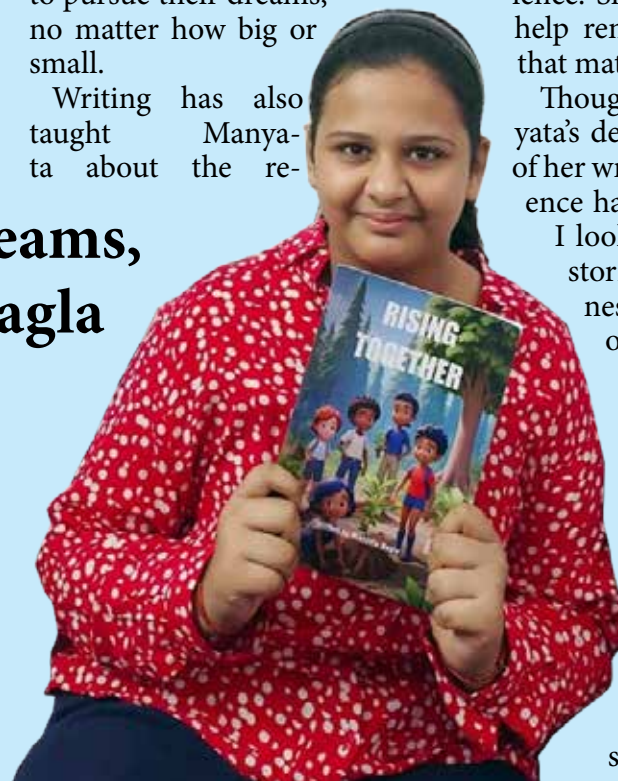
“I found that reading alone wasn’t enough; I wanted to create worlds of my own,” Manyata explains. This shift from a reader to a writer marked the beginning of her creative journey. The idea for *Rising Together* emerged from this desire to craft stories that not only entertained but also conveyed important life lessons about friendship, resilience, and the power of unity.

Rising Together is more than just a fictional narrative—it’s a story about the power of relationships and the strength we derive from supporting each other. The book centers on characters who, despite facing personal challenges, find their greatest strength in unity. This message of resilience and solidarity is at the heart of the story and reflects Manyata’s own belief that no one has to face struggles alone. “It’s not just a story about characters; it’s about real-life friendships, challenges, and the strength we find when we support one another,” Man-

ya says. The theme of unity runs through every page, reminding readers that no matter what obstacles we encounter, we are stronger together.

Manyata credits her own family, friends, and teachers for their unwavering support in bringing *Rising Together* to life. “My family, friends, and teachers have been my greatest support,” she shares. Her mother Suman Bagla, in particular, has been a key inspiration. “My mother showed me how kindness can make us all stronger,” she says, noting that her mother’s belief in the power of kindness kept her motivated throughout the writing process. Writing a book at the age of 12 is no small feat, and Manyata admits that she faced moments of doubt. “Writing a book at my age wasn’t easy,” she reflects. “There were moments when I felt unsure.” But instead of giving up, Manyata took the process one step at a time. “With each page, my confidence grew,” she says. Through perseverance, she learned that writing was not just about putting words on paper but about creating something meaningful that could inspire others. “Every chapter of *Rising Together* is a reminder that we are stronger together, and no dream is too big when we have the courage to pursue it,” Manyata shares. Her experience taught her that believing in yourself and staying committed to your goals are key to turning dreams into reality. One of Manyata’s main goals for *Rising Together* is to inspire other young readers. She hopes her characters’ experiences will resonate with those facing their own challenges. By celebrating friendship, resilience, and the power of unity, Manyata wants her readers to feel empowered and understand that they, too, can make a positive difference in the world.

“Through *Rising Together*, I want to show that we all have the power to make a positive impact, no matter our age,” Manyata says. She believes that every young person has a unique story worth sharing, and



proaches her writing with this responsibility in mind. “I am not only to entertain but also to make readers feel understood and connected to something greater,” Manyata explains. For her, writing is not just about creating an engaging story—it’s about fostering connection, kindness, and resilience. She believes that stories can help remind people of the values that matter most in life.

Though *Rising Together* is Manyata’s debut, it’s just the beginning of her writing journey. “This experience has taught me so much, and I look forward to writing more stories that celebrate kindness, courage, and the beauty of friendship,” she shares. Manyata is eager to continue creating stories that inspire young readers to pursue their dreams, support one another, and make a difference in the world. For Manyata, writing *Rising Together* has shown her that age is no barrier to making a meaningful impact. As she continues to grow as a writer, her stories will undoubtedly inspire countless others to believe in their dreams and rise above their challenges. Manyata’s journey is a testament to the power of resilience, unity, and the courage to chase one’s dreams—no matter how young you are.

Every Girl has a Voice

*Every girl has a voice
And she has a choice*

*The gender 'girl' does not describe limits
It describes delimits*

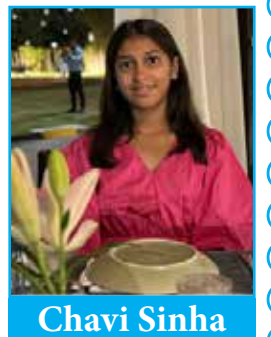
*The power of a girl is not as strong as a boy's
but it is different with its joy
The voice of a girl can change the whole world
and make a new, better world*

*They have the right to be heard because they have the soul to be told
that they are bold*

*Their every thought can be held in the hands of the world,
which can be helped to create a new world with all its happiness*

*They also need to be raised to live in a good place
Their needs should be filled because they have work to do,
to make a much happier place than before*

We can live together and make our lives even better



Chavi Sinha

International Day of the Girl Child

Empowering Girls for a Brighter Future

The International Day of the Girl Child, celebrated annually on October 11, serves as a powerful reminder of the need to empower and protect girls worldwide. This day highlights the importance of gender equality, education, and opportunities for young girls. This day acts as a reminder to create an environment where girls can thrive, ensuring they are equipped with the tools to lead and shape their futures.

International Day of the Girl Child In 1995, the World Conference on Women in Beijing marked a turning point for advancing the rights of women and girls worldwide. Countries unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive framework ever established to promote gender equality. For the first time, the declaration specifically acknowledged the distinct rights of girls and called for comprehensive global action to address their unique needs and challenges.

Building on this global momentum, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 66/170 on December 19, 2011, designating October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child. This day is dedicated to recognizing the rights of girls and raising awareness of the unique obstacles they face globally. The International Day of the Girl Child highlights the urgent need to empower girls and secure their human rights. It serves as a reminder that adolescent girls should have equal opportunities for education, safety, and healthcare, just as boys do. If girls are effectively supported during their formative years, they have the power to become the workers, entrepreneurs, leaders, and change-makers of tomorrow, driving social and economic transformation across the globe.

Girls' Vision for the Future: Theme 2024

The theme of this year's International Day of the Girl Child is "Girls' Vision for the Future." Research by UNICEF shows that girls, despite facing numerous challenges, remain hopeful and determined to create a better future. Every day, girls around the world are working toward a vision in which they are protected, respected, and empowered.

But they cannot achieve this alone. They need allies: governments, communities, and individuals—who listen to and respond to their needs. When girls are supported with the right resources and opportunities, their potential is limitless. And when they lead, the positive impact ex-

tends beyond themselves to their families, communities, and economies.

Why Advocate for Girls' Rights?

The simple fact of being born a girl should not determine the scope of one's future. Unfortunately, for millions of girls around the world, their gender still restricts their choices, limits their futures, and denies them basic rights.

However, these challenges are not insurmountable. With correct initiatives and collective efforts, it is possible to fast-track progress toward a future where every girl has access to the health care, education, and skills necessary to succeed.

Gender Equality in the Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution upholds the principle of gender equality. It not only guarantees equality to

women but also empowers the state to take affirmative measures to counteract centuries of socio-economic and political discrimination. Women are granted fundamental rights that protect them from discrimination based on sex and gender. They are also entitled to equal protection under the law, and it is the duty of

dignity of women, free from derogatory practices.

Empowerment of women is more than just policy; it is a transformative process that allows women to

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRL CHILD

THEME 2024

Girls' Vision For The Future



claim equal opportunities across economic, cultural, social, and political spheres. This includes the ability to make decisions both inside and outside the home and to influence social change for a better future.

Schemes for Girl Child: Government Initiatives

The total population



of Women is registered at 58.75 Crore, as per the 2011 Census, underscoring the critical role of their empowerment and protection in fostering sustainable development. Ensuring their holistic growth is not only crucial for their individual well-being but also for the overall advancement of society. In particular, recognizing and upholding the rights and opportunities of girls is essential for building a more equitable future.

The Indian government has introduced a comprehensive range of schemes aimed at empowering girls, recognizing their pivotal role in society. Initiatives such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana underscore efforts to promote gender equality and secure the future of girls by encouraging savings for education and marriage. Launched in 2015, the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana allows parents to invest in their daughters' futures, ensuring financial security and equal opportunities. In addition to these, the

Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) and the Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene address health and nutritional needs among women. Udaan is an innovative project launched in 2014 aims at addressing the low enrolment of girl students in prestigious engineering institutions and bridging the gap between school education and engineering entrance examinations. The National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE), launched in May 2008, aims to enhance educational opportunities for girls, particularly those from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities. While Educational initiatives like Udaan and the National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education are designed to improve access to education and reduce dropout rates.

Further, Legal measures to empower and protect the girl child include several key initiatives. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, aims to eliminate child marriage by penalizing those involved. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, addresses child abuse, with updated rules in 2020 to enhance its implementation. The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, ensures the care and protection of children in need. Mission Vatsalya focuses on child development and protection, with services like the Child Helpline and the Track Child portal to assist missing children. Track Child portal has been made functional since the year 2012. This portal facilitates the matching of 'missing' children being reported at Police stations with those 'found' children who are residing in the Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The PM CARES for Children Scheme supports children orphaned by COVID-19. Additionally, collaborations with NIMHANS and the E-SAMPARK program provide mental health and medical care.

Together, these efforts foster a secure environment, promoting the rights and well-being of girls in India.

ITUWTSA 2024 Champions Gender Equality

in Telecommunication Standards with Historic Milestone in Women's Leadership Participation

The ITU-WTSA 24 which is being held in Delhi in collaboration with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, saw a landmark event on 18th October 2024, focused on promoting gender diversity in the field of telecommunication standardization. The special event, The Network of Women in Standards (NoW), led by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T), underscored the commitment to advancing women's leadership roles in STEM and standardisation. This topic is particularly significant for India as the

government is implementing various measures to create an inclusive technology sector and empower women through technology platforms, in line with the vision of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, who advocates for women-led development. India is making progress in this area, with an increasing number of women co-founders in startups and over 40% of participants in STEM education being women. Initiatives such as Namu Drone Didi, Bank Sakhi, and Mahila E-Haat are empowering women to take on leadership roles in technology.

The Network of Women (NoW) in ITU-T, aligned with WTSA Resolution 55 (Rev. Geneva, 2022), is dedicated to fostering active female participation in standardization activities and ensuring a gender-inclusive approach across all ITU-T processes. This initiative is critical as the global push for digital inclusion accelerates, with women playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of technology.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary General of the ITU, emphasized the importance of addressing gender imbalances in the field. She stated, "We can, and we must, increase the number of women in leadership roles, especially in our standards study groups. It's crucial for women to step up, take the floor, and make their voices heard. This is what the Network of Women stands for—creating an environment where women feel empowered and supported. Mentorship plays a vital role in this transformation. It's through mentoring, creating opportunities, and sharing our knowledge that we can truly progress. If there is no seat at the table, we must bring our own chair—and bring one more for those who will follow. Let's continue pushing forward, lifting each other up, and ensuring that the digital future is shaped by all of humanity. Together, we can and will make real progress toward digital inclusion."

Dr. Rim Belhassine-Cherif, Chair of NoW, ITU-T, and Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer responsible for Digital Transformation at Tunisie Télécom, highlighted the progress made in achieving gender balance at ITU-WTSA 2024. She noted, "One of

the key objectives of ITU-WTSA 2024 was to promote gender-balanced delegations and increase the number of women in leadership roles, particularly as heads of delegations. Through various initiatives such as panel discussions, training sessions, tutorials, and the support of regional preparatory groups, we have achieved the highest-ever participation rate of women in ITU-WTSA history."

The increasing involvement of women in ICT standardization is crucial as disruptive technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerge. Women's contributions can help ensure the development of inclu-

sive, equitable, and sustainable standards that will drive technological progress for the benefit of all humanity. The event featured a dynamic fireside chat, moderated by Doreen Bogdan-Martin, with Dr. Aminata Zerbo/Sabane, Minister of Digital Transition, Posts and Electronic Communications, Burkina Faso, and Neha Satak, Founder & CEO of Astrome. The discussion focused on closing the gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and in standardization. Panelists stressed the importance of a supportive environment and early capacity building to encourage more girls to pursue careers in tech. Expert panelists examined and discussed the challenges surrounding gender equality in AI and shed light on incentives and opportunities for technical standards to support inclusive AI during panel discussion on "Standards for inclusive AI". Also discussed were the ways to explore how standards could help address gender bias and ensure an equitable future. The session was moderated by Ms Susan Ferguson, UN Women India Representative and panelists were Prof Sandra Maximiano, Chair of the Board, Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (Portugal's national regulatory authority for the communications sector), Mr Vishnu Ram, AI expert, Vice Chair of ITU Focus Group on Autonomous Networks, Dr Alessandra Sala, Sr. Director of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, Shutterstock, Global President of Women in AI, Dr Ebtesam Almazrouei, Founder and CEO of AIE3, Expert AI Executive and Tech Visionary Leader and MsPico Velazquez, founder & CEO at VIIRA, Computational Architect & Multiverse Thought Leader.

The session also recognised the leading women in ITU Standardisation. Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and Ms. Madhu Arora, Member, Technology/Digital Communication Commission, Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications, Government of India felicitated Dr. Rim Belhassine-Cherif, Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer, TunisieTélécom, Tunisia; Dr. Hyoung Jun Kim, Vice Chair, NoW, Chair of ITU-T; Ms. Rebecca MukiteNoW in ITU-T Regional

Representatives, Africa; Ms. Tania Villa, Federal Institute of Telecommunications (IFT), Mexico; Ms Basma Tawfik, International Organizations Manager National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt; Ms Miho Naganuma, TSAG Vice Chair, Senior Executive professional, NEC Corporation, Japan;

Ms Maria Bolshakova, Acting Deputy Director General, Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC), Russia; Ms Izabela Iglewska, Minister Advisor, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland; Additionally, member states from Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ghana and Europe were also felicitated for their high female participation rates in delegations.

ITU-WTSA 2024 continues to drive pivotal conversations on gender equality in telecommunications, addressing both statistical and stereotypical biases, mitigating biases, and promoting active participation of women in the telecom and tech sector.

WTSA 2024, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), serves as a platform for the development and implementation of global telecommunications standards, uniting regulators, industry leaders, and policymakers to shape the future of communications worldwide.



आधुनिक समय में मातृत्व: बदलती अपेक्षाएँ और अनुभव

मातृत्व, जिसे अक्सर एक प्राकृतिक और शाश्वत प्रक्रिया माना जाता है, अब आधुनिक समय में एक नई परिभाषा प्राप्त कर चुका है। पहले जहाँ मातृत्व केवल एक पारंपरिक भूमिका के रूप में देखा जाता था, वहाँ अब यह एक व्यक्ति की जीवन यात्रा का गहरा और जटिल पहलू बन चुका है। बदलते समय के साथ-साथ समाज की अपेक्षाएँ, मातृत्व के अनुभव और उसकी परिभाषाएँ भी बदल गई हैं। आज महिलाएँ मातृत्व को केवल एक पारिवारिक दायित्व के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि एक व्यक्तिगत और पेशेवर भूमिका के रूप में भी देख रही हैं।

समाज की बदलती अपेक्षाएँ : आज के समय में समाज में मातृत्व को लेकर अपेक्षाएँ पहले से कहीं अधिक जटिल और विविध हो गई हैं। जबकि एक ओर महिलाएँ पारंपरिक रूप से मातृत्व की भूमिका में खुद को पाती हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर, वे अपने पेशेवर जीवन, आत्मनिर्भरता और व्यक्तिगत विकास की ओर भी बढ़ रही हैं।

पहले मातृत्व का मतलब था कि महिला को परिवार और बच्चों की देखभाल के लिए अपनी पूरी जिंदगी समर्पित करनी होती थी, लेकिन अब यह अपेक्षा बदल चुकी है। अब महिलाएँ अपनी व्यक्तिगत आकांक्षाओं को भी प्राथमिकता देती हैं और साथ ही परिवार के दायित्वों को निभाती हैं। इस संतुलन को बनाने में महिलाएँ न केवल खुद को साबित करती हैं, बल्कि समाज के समक्ष नए उदाहरण भी पेश कर रही हैं। आजकल के समय में महिलाओं पर यह दबाव भी है कि वे खुद को न केवल एक आदर्श माँ के रूप में, बल्कि एक सफल पेशेवर के रूप में भी स्थापित करें। मातृत्व का यह परिदृश्य कई बार महिलाओं के लिए तनावपूर्ण हो सकता है, क्योंकि उन्हें दोनों भूमिकाओं को समान रूप से निभाने की उम्मीद की जाती है।

मातृत्व और करियर का संतुलन : आधुनिक समय में महिलाएँ पहले की तुलना में अपने करियर को लेकर कहीं अधिक जागरूक और प्रतिबद्ध हैं। कई महिलाएँ मातृत्व के साथ-साथ अपने पेशेवर

जीवन में भी सफलता प्राप्त करने की कोशिश करती हैं। कामकाजी महिलाओं को मातृत्व की दोहरी जिम्मेदारी का सामना करना पड़ता है, जहाँ उन्हें न केवल घर की देखभाल करनी होती है, बल्कि अपने करियर में भी उत्कृष्टता प्राप्त करनी होती है।

इस संतुलन को बनाना आसान नहीं है, और इसके लिए महिलाओं को सही समय प्रबंधन, मानसिक संतुलन और सहायक नेटवर्क की आवश्यकता होती है। कई कामकाजी महिलाएँ अपने कार्यस्थल पर मातृत्व अवकाश लेने के बावजूद काम से जुड़े रहती हैं, और साथ ही घर पर बच्चों की देखभाल



करती हैं। इस संतुलन को बनाना न केवल महिलाओं के लिए चुनौतीपूर्ण होता है, बल्कि समाज की ओर से भी ऐसी अपेक्षाएँ होती हैं कि वे दोनों भूमिकाओं में उत्तम प्रदर्शन करें।

इसके अलावा, समाज और कार्यस्थलों पर मातृत्व से जुड़ी नीतियाँ भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं। मातृत्व अवकाश, कार्यस्थल पर सहायक सुविधाएँ और लचीला कार्य समय, जैसे पहलू कामकाजी माताओं के लिए सहायक हो सकते हैं। हालांकि, अब भी कई देशों और कार्यस्थलों पर इन पहलुओं का अभाव है, जिससे महिलाओं को कई बार अपनी दोनों भूमिकाओं में संघर्ष करना पड़ता है।

स्वास्थ्य और मातृत्व : स्वास्थ्य को लेकर महिलाओं के लिए आधुनिक समय में अपेक्षाएँ और दबाव अधिक बढ़ गए हैं। पहले के समय में

मातृत्व के दौरान शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य के संदर्भ में केवल बच्चे के जन्म पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाता था, लेकिन अब मानसिक और शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य दोनों ही महत्वपूर्ण माने जाते हैं। आजकल महिलाएँ केवल बच्चे के स्वास्थ्य पर ध्यान नहीं देती, बल्कि खुद के मानसिक और शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य को भी प्राथमिकता देती हैं।

मातृत्व के दौरान महिला का शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य और मानसिक स्थिति दोनों पर प्रभाव पड़ता है। प्रसवोत्तर अवसाद, शरीर में बदलाव और भावनात्मक तनाव से जूझते हुए, महिलाएँ अपने स्वास्थ्य की देखभाल के लिए विभिन्न तरीकों को अपनाती हैं। सही आहार, व्यायाम, योग, मानसिक स्वास्थ्य के उपाय और चिकित्सकीय परामर्श आजकल के मातृत्व अनुभव का अहम हिस्सा बन चुके हैं।

महिलाओं को यह समझने की जरूरत है कि वे खुद को प्राथमिकता दें ताकि वे अपने बच्चों के लिए बेहतर देखभाल कर सकें। इसलिए, आज की महिला अपने स्वास्थ्य को लेकर पहले से अधिक जागरूक और सतर्क है।

मातृत्व के अनुभव में विविधता देखी जा रही है जैसे हर महिला का मातृत्व का अनुभव अलग होता है। समाज में मातृत्व के विषय में एक सामान्य छवि बनाई गई है, लेकिन यह जरूरी नहीं कि हर महिला का अनुभव वैसा ही हो। कुछ महिलाएँ मातृत्व को बहुत आसानी से अपना लेती हैं, जबकि कुछ के लिए यह एक कठिन यात्रा हो सकती है। इसके अलावा, महिलाओं की व्यक्तिगत और सामाजिक परिस्थितियाँ भी उनके मातृत्व अनुभव को प्रभावित करती हैं।

कुछ महिलाएँ अपने जीवन के पहले कुछ सालों में मातृत्व का आनंद लेती हैं, जबकि कुछ महिलाएँ कार्य, परिवार और बच्चों के बीच संतुलन बनाने में संघर्ष करती हैं। साथ ही, कुछ महिलाएँ माता-पिता बनने के बाद भी अपनी करियर योजनाओं पर ध्यान केंद्रित करती हैं, जबकि कुछ महिलाएँ

पूरी तरह से अपने परिवार के दायित्वों में लीन हो जाती हैं।

इसके अलावा, आजकल की महिलाएँ अपनी मातृत्व यात्रा को भी साझा करने और एक-दूसरे से सीखने में विश्वास रखती हैं। सोशल मीडिया और अन्य ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म ने मातृत्व के अनुभव को साझा करने के लिए एक मंच प्रदान किया है, जहाँ महिलाएँ एक-दूसरे से अपने अनुभव, संघर्ष और सफलता की कहानियाँ साझा करती हैं। यह भी मातृत्व के अनुभव को और अधिक खुला और वास्तविक बनाता है, जिससे महिलाएँ अपने भीतर आत्मविश्वास महसूस करती हैं।

आधुनिक मातृत्व के लिए जरूरी बदलाव : समाज में मातृत्व को लेकर जो परंपराएँ और अपेक्षाएँ थीं, उन्हें अब चुनौती दी जा रही है। आधुनिक मातृत्व को लेकर यह समझ भी विकसित हो रही है कि महिलाओं को उनकी भूमिका के लिए न केवल सम्मान मिलना चाहिए, बल्कि उन्हें अपनी पसंद और इच्छाओं के अनुसार निर्णय लेने का अधिकार भी होना चाहिए।

मातृत्व को लेकर अब महिलाओं की आवाज़ पहले से अधिक सशक्त हो चुकी है। महिलाएँ अब यह समझने लगी हैं कि मातृत्व का अनुभव पूरी तरह से व्यक्तिगत होता है और इसे उसी रूप में स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिए, जैसा कि प्रत्येक महिला का अनुभव है। महिलाओं को उनके निर्णयों के लिए न्यायपूर्ण समर्थन और समर्थन की आवश्यकता है, चाहे वह उनके परिवार, कार्यस्थल या समाज से हो।

आधुनिक समय में मातृत्व एक बहुआयामी अनुभव बन चुका है, जिसमें महिलाओं को शारीरिक, मानसिक, और सामाजिक दबावों का सामना करना पड़ता है। बदलती अपेक्षाएँ, कार्यस्थल पर चुनौतीपूर्ण परिस्थितियाँ, और व्यक्तिगत स्वास्थ्य पर ध्यान देने की जरूरत, सभी इस अनुभव का हिस्सा हैं। महिलाओं को मातृत्व के साथ-साथ अपनी पहचान और स्वाभाविक इच्छाओं को भी पूरा करने का अवसर मिलना चाहिए। समाज को यह समझना होगा कि मातृत्व का प्रत्येक अनुभव अनूठा होता है, और हर महिला को अपनी यात्रा के लिए पर्याप्त सम्मान और समर्थन मिलना चाहिए।

तेजस लड़ाकू विमान उड़ाने वाली पहली महिला बनीं मोहना सिंह

भारत की महिलाएँ हर क्षेत्र में मुकाम हासिल कर रही हैं। भारत की महिला फाइटर में एक नाम मोहना सिंह का भी जुड़ गया है, जो कि 'मेड इन इंडिया' तेजस लड़ाकू विमान उड़ाने वाली पहली महिला बन गई हैं। मोहना सिंह ने बड़ी उपलब्धि हासिल कर इतिहास में अपना नाम दर्ज करा लिया है। उन्हें भारतीय वायु सेना के स्पेशल 18 'फ्लाईंग बुलेट्स' स्क्वाड्रन में शामिल किया गया। इसी के साथ मोहना स्क्वाड्रन में शामिल होने वाली पहली महिला फाइटर पायलट बन गई हैं।

32 वर्षीय ख-क्र अधिकारी ने हाल ही में हुए सैन्य अभ्यास 'तरंग शक्ति' के दौरान यह उपलब्धि हासिल की है। उनकी यह सफलता लैंगिक समानता और महिला सशक्तिकरण का बेहतरीन उदाहरण है। आइए अब मोहना सिंह के बारे में विस्तार से जानते हैं।

मोहना सिंह का जन्म जनवरी 1992 में



पृष्ठभूमि से जुड़ी हुई है। मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार, उनके पिता, प्रताप सिंह जीतरवाल, एक सेवानिवृत्त ख-क्र मास्टर वारंट अधिकारी हैं और उनकी माँ एक शिक्षिका के साथ गृहिणी भी थीं। इतना ही नहीं, उनके दादा भी सशस्त्र बलों में शामिल थे और उन्हें मरणोपरांत वीर चक्र से सम्मानित किया गया था। इसी कारण मोहना को भी बचपन से ही इसमें रुचि थी। वह पढ़ाई में भी अक्वल रहीं। हालांकि, उनकी असली ख्वाहिश एक फाइटर



इमर्जिंग टेक्नोलॉजीज से इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और संचार में बीटेक किया।

मोहना सिंह भारत की पहली महिला लड़ाकू पायलट बन गई हैं। वे 'नारी शक्ति पुरस्कार-2020' भी जीत चुकी हैं। मोहना सिंह के इस कारनामे ने महिलाओं के लिए मिसाल कायम कर दी है। वह, अपनी चतुर्वेदी और भावना कंठ के साथ पहली महिला फाइटर पायलटों के समूह का हिस्सा बन गई हैं। जहाँ अपनी चतुर्वेदी मिग-21 बाइसन उड़ाकर अकेले लड़ाकू विमान उड़ाने वाली पहली भारतीय महिला बनीं थी।



राजस्थान के झुंझुनू में हुआ था। वह एक ऐसे परिवार से आती हैं, जिनकी पृष्ठभूमि सैन्य

पायलट बनने की थी। मोहना सिंह की पूरी स्कूली शिक्षा नई दिल्ली के एयर फोर्स स्कूल में हुई। इसके बाद उन्होंने 2016 में अमृतसर के ग्लोबल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट एंड