

Anant Sutra

**SASHAKT NARI,
SASHAKT BHARAT**

ANANT SUTRA SASHAKT NARI, SASHAKT BHARAT

अंतरिक्ष से लेकर ओलम्पिक तक, सशस्त्र बलों से
संसद तक, नारी शक्ति के सामर्थ्य की गूँज उठ रही है।
आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी



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INTRODUCTION

The Perennial Truth, Anant Sutra When Women Win, Bharat Wins

Maa Bharti, draped in the vibrant colours of the traditional Indian drape, the saree, is the eternal entity of every daughter, sister, and mother of our nation. That is why She has been revered as our motherland since ancient times. Every Indian citizen, regardless of their background, language, or beliefs, feels a deep bond with this land that is beyond loyalty to a geographic mass. As we enter the tenth year of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, we continue to witness a wave of change that continually seeks to empower women, effectively remediate, and eventually eliminate the injustices they have faced.



On the 75th Republic Day, the nation celebrated the strides of progress made by the Nari Shakti of India while embracing the strength and resilience of women as a matter of great pride. This was seen in the emblematic representation of the Anant Sutra theme, the perennial threads of the various sarees of India showcased by the Ministry of Culture. Their tribute on behalf of the country to Nari Shakti and millions of weavers of India, who have kept this timeless tradition alive, is symbolic of the reverence that all *Bharatiyas* feel.

Over the last decade, the government has taken several proactive, concrete steps towards recreating an India that celebrates its innate strength, with men and women as equal partners, equal contributors. New policies have been introduced, existing ones have been revisited and strengthened, and ubiquitously, elements that support women have been incorporated, even in schemes not specifically designed for women.

Be it the **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** campaign that addresses the declining child sex ratio and promotes the importance of education for girls while prioritising education; the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**, the flagship maternity program that provides succour to pregnant and lactating women; the **eShram portal** and **Mahila E-Haat**, an online marketplace that provides a platform for women entrepreneurs; or the **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana**, **a savings scheme** aimed at ensuring a secure future for the girl child-holistic and sustained women empowerment is an essential cornerstone of India's development.

This booklet delves deeper into myriad achievements and the unstinted journey towards attaining them. Many 'Sutras' or dictums of Nari Shakti have played a pivotal role in India's journey towards continued progress. That is why She, the Indian woman, and She, Maa Bharati is *Anant* – Eternal.

The Change Sutra: Nandini and Yachika Jaglan

What started as a small initiative, spurred by an empowered intent by one father in a small village in Haryana became a catchphrase for the entire country, thanks to PM Modi's huge impetus to that intent, to that campaign: 'Selfie with Daughter' through his monthly radio broadcast, Mann Ki Baat.

In June 2015 Sunil Jaglan, a former sarpanch from Bibipur village in Jind, Haryana started the 'Selfie with Daughter' social media campaign to celebrate the pride he felt as a father to his two daughters. Nine years ago, it was even more imperative to raise awareness about female foeticide, due to the heavily imbalanced sex ratio and lack of sufficient efforts to mitigate it by the previous administrations.

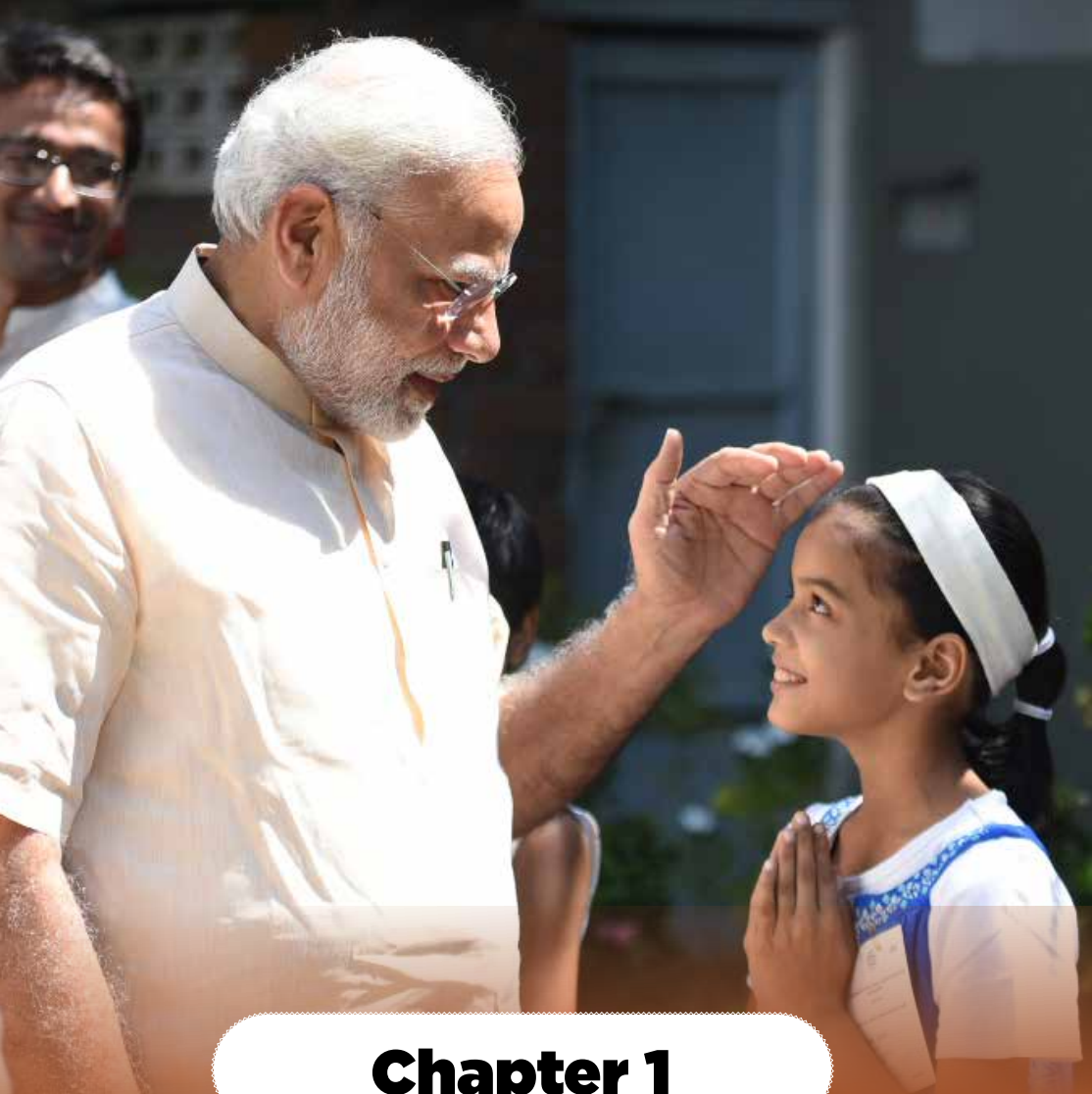
Through the 'Selfie with Daughter' campaign, people were urged to take photographs with their daughters and upload the same on their social media channels. Owing to the tremendous adoption by citizens, and the strong endorsement by the Prime Minister, it became a huge hit and even has a dedicated website for everyday people to share selfies with their daughters.

Nandini and Yachika, students of classes 7 and 4 respectively are Jaglan's daughters. Today, the nameplate outside his home in Jind bears the name of Nandini, his elder daughter.

In the 100th episode, the PM reiterated this perception shift and said that the campaign's objective was much bigger than a social media or tech win. "This campaign sheds light on how big a daughter's place is in a person's life...It is the result of many such efforts that today there has been improvement in the gender ratio in Haryana," he said.

"Prime Minister, Sir, the fourth battle of Panipat ('Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao') that you started from our state is really a big thing for me and for the father of every daughter and for all those who love daughters," said Jaglan.

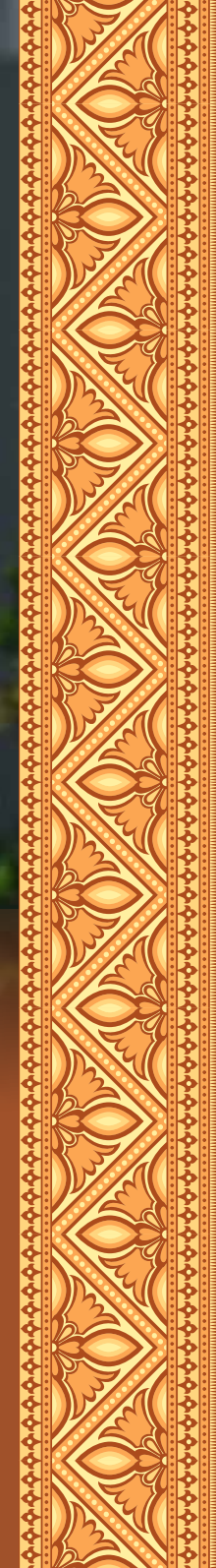
The fact that Jaglan's campaign, baked out of a nondescript village that could be anywhere in India became a viral, time and place agnostic trend that captured the hearts and minds of thousands of countrymen across that globe, goes to show that Bharat was, is ready to embrace the winds of change.



Chapter 1

কন্যা

Kan'yā (Bangla)



A consistent paradigm shift from skewed elitism towards true equality, inclusivity, equity, parity, justice, and opportunity for all has been the cornerstone of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government from the very outset – the inception of this government, and the birth of our future, our children, most importantly, our daughters. By providing opportunities for all, equitable access to quality education, and limitless avenues for employment, we unlock the potential of half the population, leading to a more enlightened and progressive society. As they come into their own, women contribute to various facets of the economy, like breaking barriers in STEM enrolment; driving ongoing social change, such as being nominated to the Haj committee; driving innovation, like creating high-impact startups and fostering cultural harmony, as displayed in the Anant Sutra – an endless thread of unity seen through the saree map of India.

PM Modi's vision has laid a strong foundation for progress over the last several years; however, it requires collective efforts from individuals, communities, and citizens at large to achieve true gender equality. In his inaugural address, he urged all sections of society to abandon the mindset that preferred boys over girls. Fast forward to the present, and India has achieved a significant milestone - for the first time since independence in 1947, the number of women in the country surpasses that of men. This remarkable shift is a testimony to the unwavering efforts and sweeping change throughout the nation.

Similarly, various initiatives such as **Sukanya Samriddhi** Accounts for financial security, **Mission Indradhanush** for timely vaccinations, and **POSHAN Abhiyan** to address nutritional needs, the many schemes leave no aspect of a young girl's life unsupported.

But more than policies and programs, the thrust of the government has been a pivotal change in obsolete mindsets. However, through multiple omnichannel campaigns like **'#SelfieWithDaughter,'** **'#MeriBetiMeraGarv,'** and **'Bharat Ki Laxmi,'** initiated by Prime Minister Modi, the message of empowering daughters has reached every city, village, and state in the country.

Key Takeaways

India's **child sex ratio increased** from 918 in 2011-12 to **937 girls per 1,000 boys** in 2021.

POSHAN Abhiyaan provides **hot cooked meals** as well as **take-home rations**.

Percentage of **institutional deliveries** improved from **87% to 94%**.

Adolescent **girls enrolled at Anganwadi** centres **receive proper nutrition, counselling** as well as access to public services.

Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi (PBPB), an initiative launched to create the world's **largest, universally accessible, high-quality preschool** network at AWCs.



Snapshot

10 crore+
beneficiaries
registered on
POSHAN Tracker

3.77 crore+
Sukanya
Samridhi
Accounts

**₹2.13 lakh
crore+**
deposited in
Sukanya Samridhi
Accounts (SSA)

87% children
reported missing
over the last year
have been found

**1,020
women** per
1,000 men in
India—first time
since records were
kept

19,500+
Sampoorna
Sukanya Gram-
where every
eligible girl has an
SSA

39 crore+
activities related to
POSHAN Abhiyaan in
752 districts of India

**420+
districts**
show improved
Sex Ratio at Birth
due to Beti Bachao
Beti Padhao

94% births
in India are now
institutional, with
better care and
services

Info In-Depth



POSHAN For the Amrit Generation



Over **1.45 crore** hot cooked meals provided in January 2024.



Over **1.18 crore** adolescent girls provided nutritional benefits.



Close to **3.15 crore** take-home ration packets delivered in January 2024.



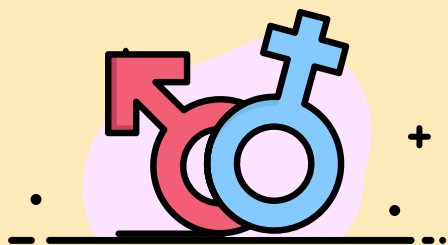
Over **10 crore** beneficiaries covered in total through a network of 14 lakh Anganwadi centers.



6.42 lakh Poshan Vatikas or nutri-gardens planted at Anganwadi centers.



Over **9.55 crore** beneficiaries, constituting **95.39%**, have completed **Aadhaar verification** for secure last-mile tracking and service delivery.



Reversing the Downward Trend in Sex Ratio

***Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
makes a difference***

YEAR	CHILD SEX RATIO
1961	976
1971	964
1991	945
2001	927
2011	918
2020-21	937

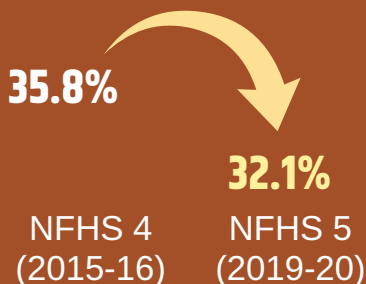
Universalisation of Child Care

Building A Better Future

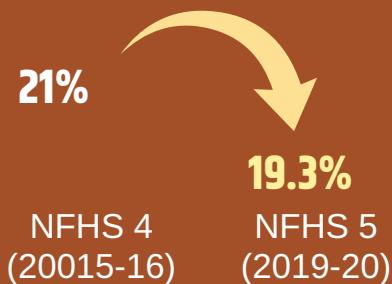
1. Over **8 crore** children under 6 years receiving benefits through **Anganwadi centers**.
2. Over **4.45 crore children** covered under universal immunisation with **Mission Indradhanush**.
3. Over **1.20 lakh children** benefitting from **Mission Vatsalya Scheme**, delivering services for children in difficult circumstances.



Percentage of Underweight Children



Percentage of Wasting in Children





SAFAL

Bhavishya with Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts

Safety - Secure future for the girl child

Affordability - Account can be opened with just ₹250

Flexibility - Transferable anywhere in India

Accessibility - Account can be opened in post offices as well as banks

Liberty - The girl can operate the account herself after the age of 10 years

The Change Sutra

Financial Assistance Ensures Health & Security

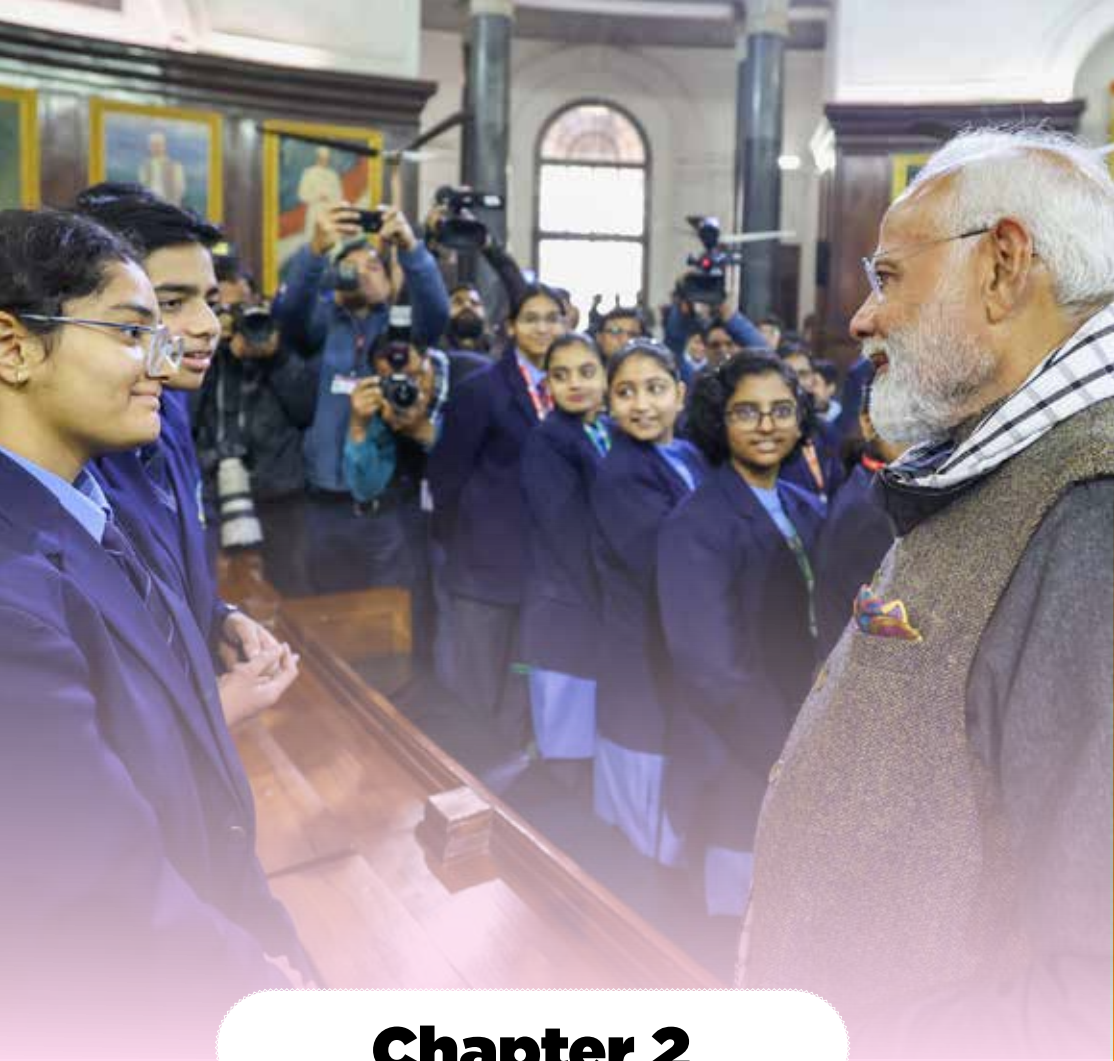


The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has garnered significant public enthusiasm. The purpose of the Yatra is to guarantee that every individual reaps the benefits of government initiatives, ensuring the last mile delivery. The achievements of the programs are documented through an initiative called “**Meri Kahani Meri Zubani**”. Many beneficiaries shared their stories through this platform. One such story documents the positive impact of **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**. While discussing the benefits of the scheme, **Niveditha KB** of Dombaramattur village in Haveri district, Karnataka, has expressed how greatly she has benefitted from the financial assistance under the scheme as being a mother entailed greater demands on her time and energy after delivery. She also expresses gratitude as the health of her children is ensured via nutritious meals offered at Anganwadis.

Mission Indradhanush: A Tale of Resilience

Abaron Bibi, an ASHA worker hailing from West Mora-Gadadhar Char, Dhubri, Assam, is a widow and mother of five children. Despite facing numerous challenges, including traversing water bodies with depths that make foot travel difficult, she goes to great lengths to reach West Mora-Gadadhar Char. Whenever her team needs to cross these water bodies during visits to the Golakganj block of Dhubri, Abaron takes on the arduous task. She courageously pulls the raft alone through neck-deep water to reach the opposite shore, despite being physically drained and completely soaked. Even after this demanding ordeal, she accompanies her team to the session site in wet clothes, dedicated to fulfilling her duties as an ASHA worker and contributing to the success of immunization drives like Mission Indradhanush. Such inspiring stories underscore the dedication and resilience behind the achievements of vaccination campaigns.





Chapter 2

విద్యార్థి

Vidyārthi (Telugu)



The prospects of a nation improve phenomenally as women become equal architects of its growth story. The Modi government's commitment to creating systemic change that fosters this mindset has been key in making gender equality, merit-based parity, and comprehensive inclusivity a reality in India today.

Women empowerment not being a choice but an imperative necessity for India's development is a thought that has long been emphasised by the PM himself. When it comes to fundamental solutions, the significance of educating girl children as a crucial step towards societal progress has always been a top priority over the past decade. The now ubiquitous bugle cry of **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** is not just an advertisement, it is an attitude that is slowly being ingrained in the most inaccessible recesses of our social milieux.

As we enable girls to pursue higher studies or choose careers of their liking, they tend to contribute positively to the progress of the nation while instilling optimism across all aspects of life. The second order benefits, similarly, are of immense importance to the nation's development agenda; as an example, 2.5 crore school students, including young girls, from across the country have participated in **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** campaign activities.

Incremental changes to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is yet another milestone towards ensuring equitable and inclusive education for all children. This policy resonates with the idea that no child should be left behind when it comes to learning opportunities. By providing a level playing field, the NEP 2020 promotes gender equality and makes education an instrument for true empowerment. Laudably, the government has leveraged technology to ensure access to quality education, even in remote areas.

Women empowerment through progressive initiatives such as **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** (PMKVY) for skilling women for the workforce and Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) for empowering women through technical education are encouraging a radical and welcome shift in society. As a result, the ITIs have witnessed a remarkable 100% increase in women's enrolment since 2014.

Today, we recognise that education should come sans restrictions; it should not be limited to age or confined within the walls of schools. To encourage greater participation of women in the workforce, especially in non-traditional sectors, skill development and providing women with the necessary skills and training to enhance their employability is quietly gaining ground. By equipping women with vocational skills, we create an atmosphere that promotes financial independence and opens doors to job opportunities and entrepreneurial ventures.

It is worthy of note that the education of girl children has a multiplier effect on several socio-economic factors. When women are educated, they become agents of change within their families and communities. Educated women are better equipped to make informed decisions regarding health, family planning, and child welfare. They also play an active role in eliminating gender-based discrimination and promoting equality. This attitudinal shift begins most comprehensively at the student stage, for it is then that our fundamental principles are honed. Subsequently, it can only be optimistically accepted that when a young child is a keen student in school, she becomes an avid learner in life.

Key *Takeaways*

In this Amrit Kaal, the **education of the girl child** is of **utmost importance**.

Several government initiatives have increased access to quality education across the country.

Promotion of upskilling and reskilling has helped in **increasing incomes** and **improving lifestyles**.

Reforms introduced have removed hurdles and **increased female enrolment in higher education by 28% in the last ten years**.

Government prioritises cervical cancer vaccination for girls aged 9-14, emphasising proactive health measures in the younger population.



Snapshot

6.88 lakh girls
have enrolled in
**Kasturba Gandhi
Balika Vidyalaya
(KGBV)**

97.45% of
Government
schools have
**gender-
segregated toilets**

**More than
14,500
PM SHRI Schools
(PM Schools for
Rising India)
sanctioned**

2.5 crore
school students
from across the
country have
participated in **Ek
Bharat Shreshtha
Bharat Campaign
activities**

311 ITIs
set up exclusively
for women

**More than
30,000
girls of Class
IX-XII from 200
districts have
been benefitted by
various interventions
under Vigyan Jyoti
Programme**

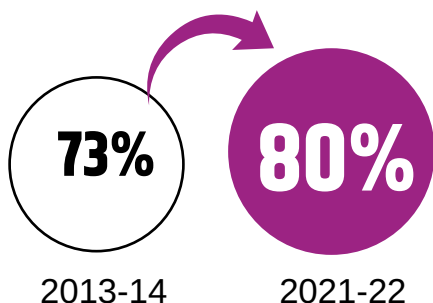
61 Lakh
women candidates
have been trained
from 2015 to 2023
under PMKVY

12.65 lakh
growth monitoring
devices have been
provided under
**Mission Saksham
Anganwadi and
Poshan 2.0**

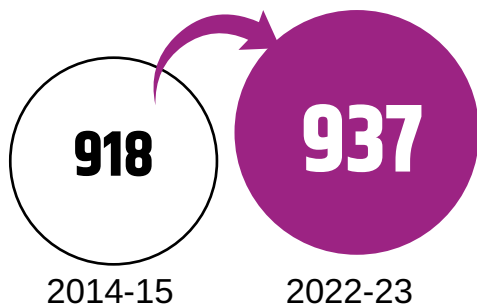
**Over
12.29 crore**
girls are enrolled
**in primary to
higher secondary
in 2021-22**

Info In-Depth

Increase in Girl Enrolment in Secondary Schools

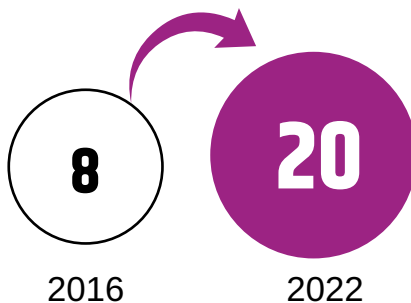


India's Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)

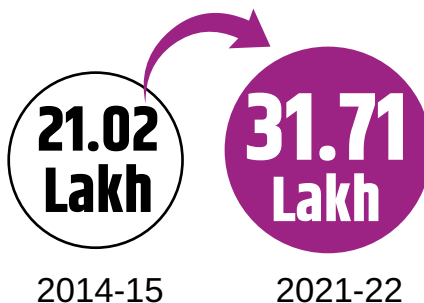




Female Enrolment in IITs (%)



Increase in SC Female Students Enrolled in Higher Education



The Change Sutra

Scripting Success with PMKVY

Mangal Jyoti's childhood was marked by a daily 30 km commute, often on a bicycle, to attend classes in the absence of proper local transport. Despite facing limitations in resources and safety concerns, she persevered. The lack of accessibility to higher education

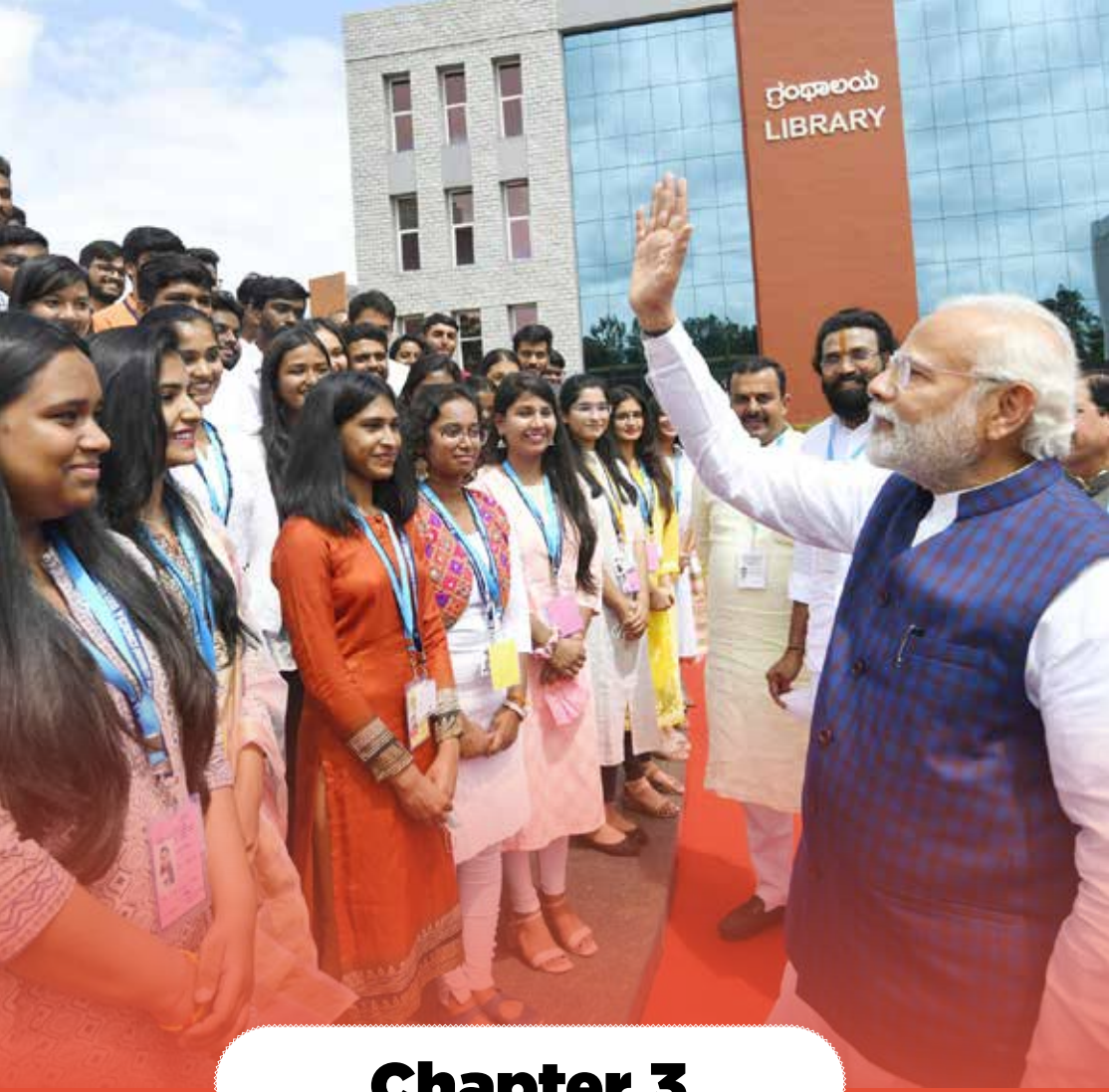


forced her to put her college aspirations on hold. Unable to pursue higher education, she found hope in free vocational training by PMDC through PMKK-Ratlam. This opportunity not only restored her self-esteem but also equipped her with the knowledge and confidence needed to overcome obstacles. It became the platform where she could set ambitious goals for her future. Landing a job at 'Reliance Smart', she now earns Rs. 8,500/- monthly plus incentives, serving as a brand ambassador for NSDC's skill development project, symbolising her success.

Skills, Success & Security




Ankita Auddy, a Victoria Institution for Girls graduate in Kolkata, discovered the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) through the Bengali daily newspaper Karma Sansthan. The scheme's professional hospitality course immediately captured her interest, prompting her to enroll at Orion Edutech upon completing her graduation. Reflecting on her experience, Ankita describes the training as highly productive, providing her with a foundational understanding of the hospitality industry and enhancing her soft skills. The supportive faculty played a crucial role in guiding her throughout the training and continued to offer counsel even after its completion. It led to her selection as a Sales Executive at Pride Hotel in Chennai. Grateful for initiatives like PMKVY, she thanks Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the opportunities it provided.



Chapter 3

व्यवसायी

(Maithili)



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, great emphasis has been placed on utilising the potential of our Nari Shakti towards building a Bharat that is truly inclusive and equitable in character. Strengthening the entrepreneurial skills of women has been at the forefront of PM Modi's vision of promoting them as catalysts of growth. The **Lakhpati Didi scheme** galvanising rural prosperity is a shining example of this approach. Today the government is aiming to create 3 crore Lakhpati Didis. Under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, almost **10 crore** women from rural poor households have been mobilised into more than **90 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.

Women in India are now playing a pivotal role in realising the vibrant vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. More than **55,000** DPIIT-recognised startups have at least one **woman director**. **84% of the loans under Stand-up India** have been sanctioned to women. Overall, the country is seeing a remarkable impact on and of women entrepreneurs. By providing wherewithal and necessary guidance, progressive policies are paving the way for women to establish and expand their businesses.

Today, women entrepreneurs are the largest beneficiaries of many programs, such as Mudra and Start-Up India, reflecting their passion and determination towards achieving financial independence and contributing to job creation.

Under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** (PMMY) scheme, **30.64 crore loans** (69%) have been sanctioned to women. This statistic highlights the government's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship among women. PMMY has enabled countless women to not only pursue their entrepreneurial dreams, but create employment opportunities for others as well, thus strengthening their own economic status and stimulating overall societal growth.

Removing barriers is what leads to women realising their immense potential thus improving the ease of doing business. The government has taken significant strides in creating a conducive environment for business ventures related to women entrepreneurs. One such noteworthy achievement is the '**Government e-Marketplace' (GeM)**. More than **1.45 lakh women MSMEs** are registered on the GeM portal and have triumphantly fulfilled lakhs of orders, amounting to a staggering sum of over 15 crores. This remarkable feat showcases the entrepreneurial spirit of women and their innate sense of both optimism and pride in being able to fully live out their potential.

As stated above, thanks to a more seamless ecosystem, we are witnessing the creation of large-scale employment opportunities across the country. By encouraging women to start their own businesses, rural and remote communities have witnessed a surge in economic activity and are strong partners in society. These enterprises have gone on to become catalysts for transforming marginalised communities, while simultaneously bridging the gender gap.

In the ongoing Amrit Kaal, the Nari Shakti in India is raring to go—outgrowing traditional mores, breaking psychological barriers, and seizing promising opportunities even as they receive complete institutional and governmental support.

Key Takeaways

84% bank loans under the **Stand-Up India** scheme have been sanctioned to **women entrepreneurs**.

69% of the loan accounts under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** have been sanctioned to women.

More than **1.45 lakh women MSEs** have fulfilled **7.32 lakh orders** worth : **Rs. 15,922 crore** via **Government e Marketplace (GeM)**.

More than **55,000** DPIIT-recognised startups have at least one **woman director**.

Of the **2.94 lakh artisans** have benefitted under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (**SFURTI**), around **1.6 lakh** are women.

Rural prosperity elevated as the **Lakshpati Didi** scheme will now cover **3 crore** women beneficiaries.

Snapshot

Over
30 crore loans
extended to women
entrepreneurs under
Pradhan Mantri
Mudra Yojana PMMY

1.77 lakh
loans (84%)
sanctioned to women
entrepreneurs under
Stand-up India

More than
55,000
DPIIT-recognised
startups have at
least one **woman**
director

Over
900 women
entrepreneurs
benefitted
through Women
Entrepreneurship
Platform (WEP)

More than
213 women
startups/
entrepreneurs supported
under the Innovation and
Agri-Entrepreneurship
Development programme.

Over ₹8 lakh
crore in credit
support for over
90 lakh SHGs

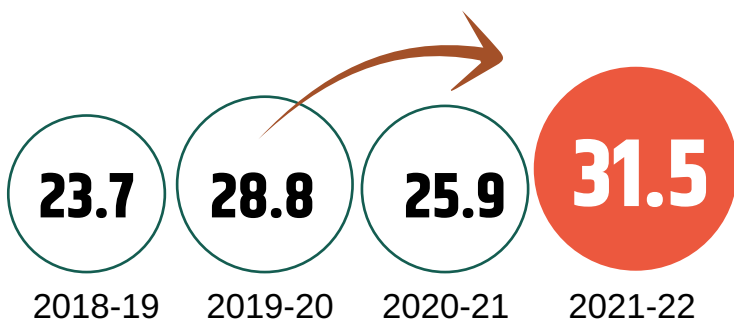
Nearly **4,500**
women
registered on the
Udyam Sakhi
portal

Over
1.4 crore
MSMEs owned by
women

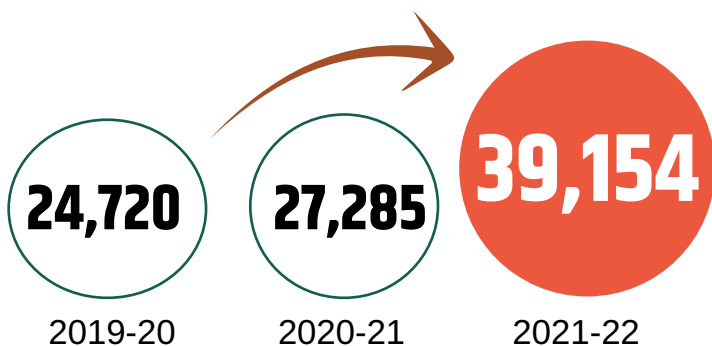
More than
1.45 lakh
women MSMEs
registered on the
GeM portal

Info In-Depth

Distribution of Women SHGs Financed by Banks (%)

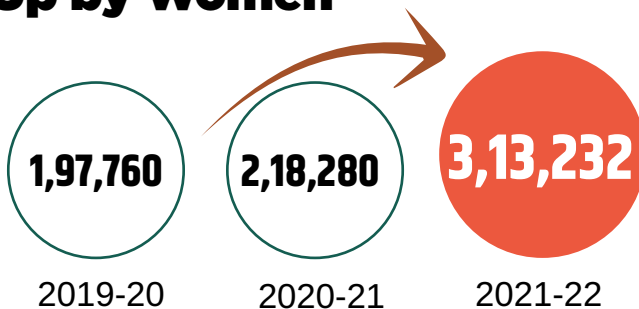


Number of Micro Enterprises Set Up by Women Under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme

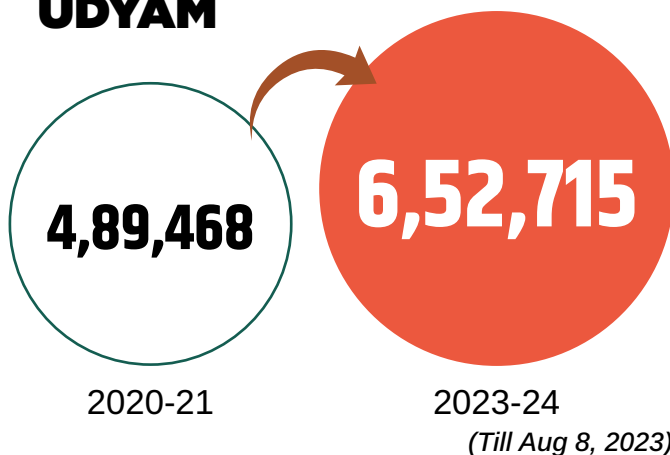




Estimated Employment Generated in Units Set Up by Women



Women-owned MSMEs Registered Under UDYAM



The Change Sutra

DAY-NRLM Empowers A Young Dreamer

In the scenic Pulwama district of Jammu & Kashmir, Insha Shabir, born into a modest family in Aarigam, has emerged as a symbol of independence and resilience. Through the Central Government's Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission, she found support to pursue her passion for designing clothes. Attending a local tailoring school backed by DAY-NRLM, she received training and with a PMEGP Umeed loan, opened her boutique. Grateful for the opportunity, she recognizes government support as vital for rural youth, especially women like herself. Insha, now a successful entrepreneur, runs her boutique independently, providing employment and symbolizing progress and self-reliance.



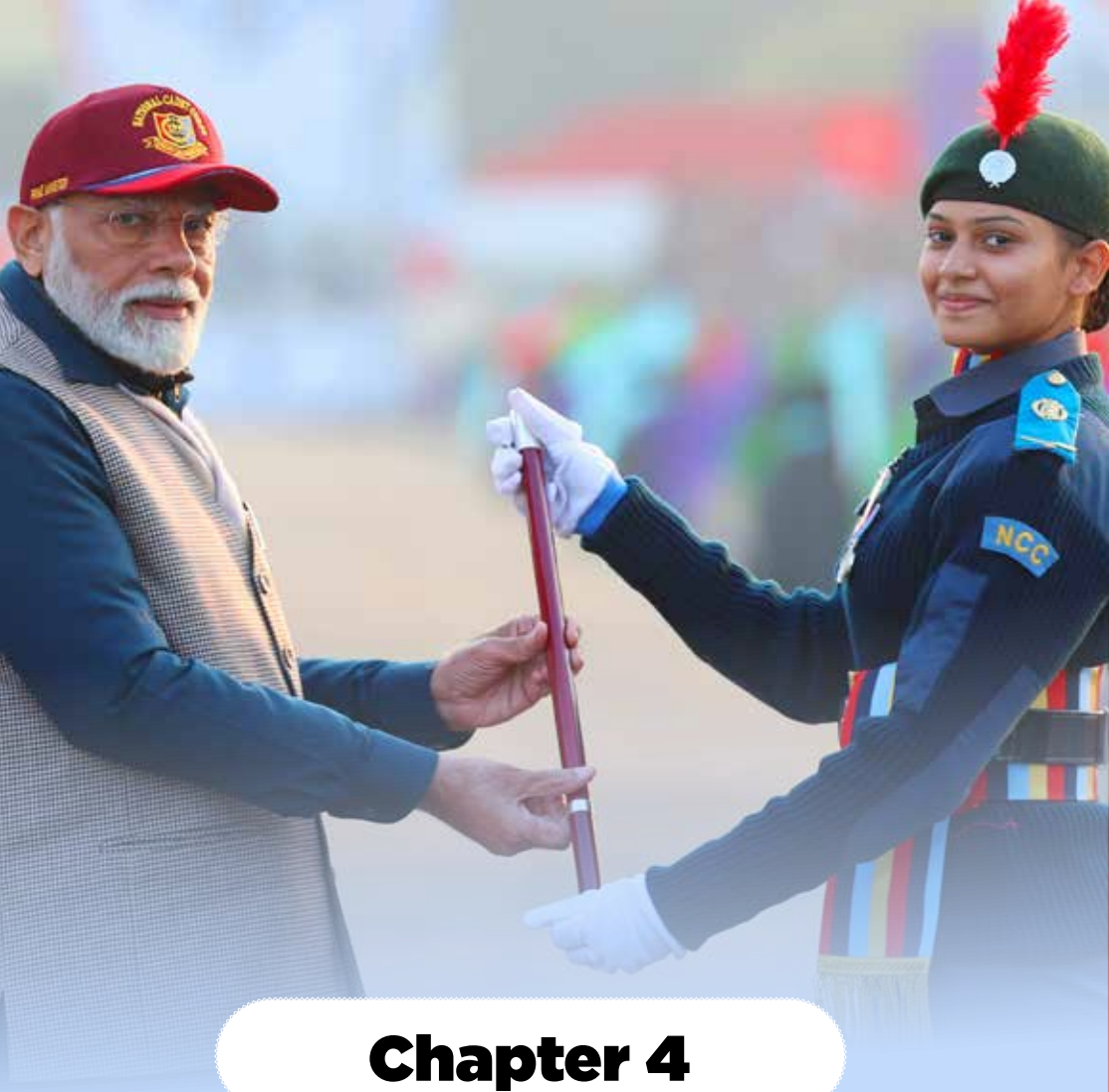
PM MUDRA Fuels Entrepreneurial Zeal

Ratna Deb, a resident of Moranhat town in Assam, faced financial challenges as her husband's modest income from a private firm was insufficient to support her family



including two school-going children. Despite being a skilled baker, Ratna only pursued it as a hobby due to financial constraints. One day, a friend ordered a cake and informed her about the Prime Minister Mudra Yojna (PMMY), a scheme offering bank loans for new businesses.


Encouraged, Ratna approached the State Bank of India in the Moran Branch. The bank manager, impressed by her determination to start a small bakery, approved a loan of Rs. 1,00,000 under PMMY. With this support, Ratna, alongside her husband, established a bakery and confectionery store. The delightful aroma of her cakes quickly garnered popularity, leading to an expansion of her bakery business. Gradually, Ratna began earning a monthly net profit of Rs. 15,000, even after paying the bank installment.



Chapter 4

சிப்பாய்

Cippāy (Tamil)



A crucial catalyst in the development of any nation is the safety and security of its borders, both those that adumbrate it and those that define it. In all his notable communications, PM Modi continues to emphasise the significant contribution of women freedom fighters who embodied the spirit of Nari Shakti in the past, and the valour of those who continue to do so in the present times. This empowering message that has instilled self-confidence in women, especially those aspiring to serve their nation in India's Defence Forces, was seen in full splendour in the 75th Republic Day Parade, which was led by successive contingents of *VEERANGANAS*. For the first time, an all-women tri-service contingent marched down the Kartavya Path during our Republic Day Parade.

Needless to say, this government has taken commendable steps to promote equal opportunities for women to serve the nation. Today, 20% of the Indian Navy's Agnipath scheme is reserved for women, and 108 women officers in the Indian Army are being considered for a full Colonel Rank. Reflecting the positive impact of these initiatives, it is numbers such as these that lead to the number of young women in uniform witnessing a remarkable

increase. Another notable reform is the acceptance of girls into Sainik schools. This initiative aims to provide an early opportunity for girls as soldiers of tomorrow, enabling them to pursue their dreams of serving the nation, in uniform. By integrating girls into Sainik schools, India is ushering in a new era of progressive reforms, propelling the country to the forefront of change and progress in the Defence sector.

Bharat's women soldiers have made remarkable strides in our armed forces, including the tri-services (Indian Army, IAF and the Indian Navy), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), and ancillary security contingents. Nari Shakti is now widely recognised for its exceptional contribution during UN Peacekeeping missions and International and Joint Military Exercises.

The achievement of women in the Defence forces is a source of inspiration for the next generation; over 7,000 women officers serve in the Army today. These women soldiers and others in uniform like them have excelled in non-traditional roles, ranging from serving in the treacherous terrains of Siachen to handling modern fighter planes, drones, flying helicopters and more recently, artillery. Their exceptional stories have motivated young girls nationwide to pursue their dreams fearlessly. With unwavering support from the nation, it can be truly said that these aspiring female soldiers have a bright future ahead.

While women's empowerment in India's defence forces is undoubtedly on an upward trajectory, the momentum must constantly be encouraged. Women empowerment, personified as soldiers of the nation is not just a moral imperative but also a key marker for our development. It is evident of the transformative power of breaking outdated and unfair barriers to women. By continuing to promote ambitious opportunities for aspiring female soldiers, we can embrace the true power of Shakti, and witness Bharat's remarkable progress unfold.

Key *Takeaways*

Indian defence is advancing fast towards **gender inclusivity**.

Women have spearheaded a New India, where men and women are seen as equal contributors to the nation.

From receiving gallantry awards to assuming pivotal roles in combat units, women in defence forces continue to make new records.

Army sends the **largest contingent of women peacekeepers for UN**.

For the first time ever, **All-Women Tri-Service Contingent Marches Down Kartavya Path** during the **75th Republic Day Parade**.

Opportunities unfold as the doors of Sainik School and NDA now open for aspiring women.

Snapshot

Captain Shiva Chauhan is the **1st female officer** operationally deployed in Siachen

Major Mitali Madhumita, **1st woman** to receive **gallantry award** in Army

108 women officers considered for full Colonel Rank

Women Officers are now being granted **Permanent Commissions** in 12 Arms & Service

Women can **serve as commandos** (Marcos in Navy) and (Garud in IAF)

Women inducted in **National Defence Academy (NDA)** from June 2022

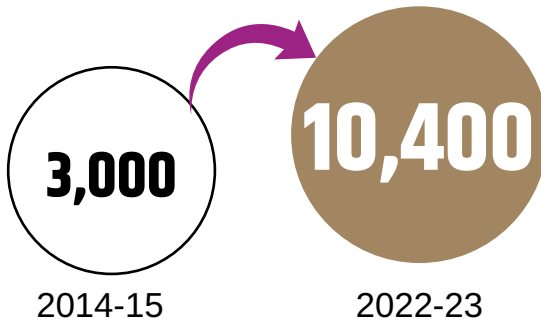
Lance Naik Manju, **1st woman skydiver** to jump **10,000 ft.**

20% of the Navy AGNIPATH Scheme is reserved for women

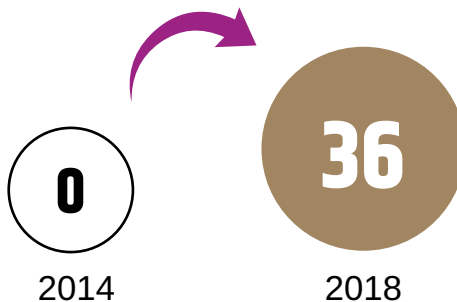
More than **1000 women Aginveers** were enlisted into the Navy in 2023

Info In-Depth

Women Officers in Defence Forces – 7 fold



All Women SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics)





Enrolment of Girls in Sainik Schools

6

2018



1,602

2023

(as on July 18, 2023)

Remarkable Jump in Girl Cadet Participation in NCC

13%

2010



35%

2023

The Change Sutra



Scripting Gender Inclusivity in Defence

Havildar Preeti Rajak became the 'First Woman Subedar' of the Indian Army on 27 January 2024. She is an accomplished trap shooter and clinched a silver medal in the Trap Women Team Event in October 2023. Her achievement stands as a remarkable testament to the strength and capability of women amidst the 12-lakh strong Army. Her path from the backstreets of Madhya Pradesh's Itarsi to the elite military corridors is a testament to tenacity, perseverance, and excellence. Stories such as those of Preeti Rajak will inspire many young women to lead the nation globally.



Agniveer In Action

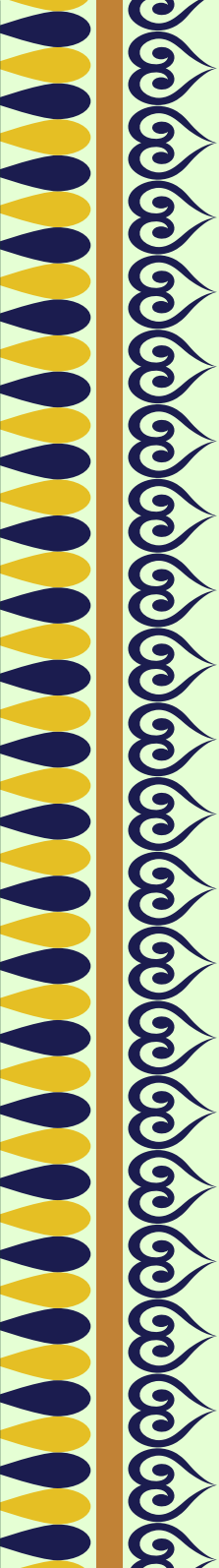
Shweta Singh Antal, aged 21, excelled Her path from the backstreets of Madhya Pradesh's Itarsi to the elite military corridors is a testament to tenacity, perseverance, and excellence. 96% in the Class 12 Board exams and completed BA (Hons) in sociology from Miranda House, University of Delhi. Chosen under the innovative Agnipath scheme for short-term recruitment of personnel below officer rank (PBOR) in the three services, she embarked on basic naval training at INS Chilka in 2022. Reflecting on her journey, she sees it as a stepping stone towards her ambition of becoming an officer earning the office grade in defence services. She expressed confidence in her preparedness to handle challenges and unforeseen situations after completing her four-month training.



Chapter 5

મિલન

(Gujarati)



Honouring our mothers is an indispensable element in our journey towards holistic development in this Amrit Kaal. A vibrant ecosystem has been put in place by the government to facilitate women to flourish and harness their full potential in Matritva roop; the pivotal role played by mothers in nurturing future generations and shaping society. Cutting across barriers and divisive lines, this is symbolic of Bharat's deep-rooted reverence for motherhood per se.

Today, women have ownership rights to over 2 crore houses allotted under **PM Awas Yojana**. 10 crore women have joined like-minded self-help groups (SHGs) fuelled by their own initiative. Bharat is witnessing several positive outcomes, spurred by **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** evident, as an example, in the increasing number of institutional deliveries, a decline in the maternal mortality ratio fostering a change of mind-set throughout the nation.

The vital role played by mothers in the nation's progress is manifested more and more as they take on unconventional roles as leaders of tomorrow. PM Modi's government has implemented the **PM Matru Vandana Yojana** as one such endeavour. With 3.69 crore beneficiaries, it provides incentives to pregnant women and lactating mothers for their nutritional needs to be met, further aiming to reduce malnutrition and promote the overall

wellbeing of women, empowering them to raise healthier generations. This kind of earnest support is a testament to the fact that the government acknowledges and respects sacrifices mothers make for their families incessantly.

The **PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan** with over 4.61 crore antenatal check-ups emphasizes the importance of regular check-ups and healthcare monitoring during pregnancy. By providing free antenatal services on the 9th of every month, this initiative aims to reduce the maternal mortality ratio and ensure the safety of both mother and child.

Mission Indradhanush is another significant initiative undertaken by the government for the health of mothers and their little ones. This campaign aims to immunize all children and pregnant women against preventable diseases. Coupled with the establishment of fully operational Anganwadi centres across the country, **Mission Indradhanush** is playing a pivotal role in empowering women with the knowledge and resources needed to safeguard their children's health.

India has achieved significant reduction in instances of anaemia deficiency through **Anaemia Mukd Bharat** program as one example of the

transformative shift towards a comprehensive framework that is already yielding positive outcomes. The increasing number of institutional deliveries reflects the growing confidence in the healthcare system, indicating improved maternal care and safety. Moreover, the declining maternal mortality ratio signifies the effectiveness of targeted interventions and initiatives aimed at enhancing maternal health. These encouraging trends highlight the commitment and dedication of the PM Modi led government in fulfilling their duty as responsible office bearers.

It will not be misleading to say that almost all the policy initiatives undertaken by the government in ensuring the dignity, safety, equity and parity of women, is to honour them as mothers, first and foremost. Today, Bharat stands poised to unlock the latent as well as overt potential of our mothers and sisters, fostering a brighter and more inclusive future for them.

Key *Takeaways*

India@75 is now relying on **women-led development** for growth.

Women's role changes from being a passive recipient of the fruits of development to **that of a nation builder**.

Women are also **leading a silent revolution** in the nation with greater control over their lives.

U-WIN developed as one-stop portal for **mother and child immunisation**.



Snapshot

3.69 crore
beneficiaries
Pradhan Mantri
Matru Vandana
Yojana

**757 one stop
centres** Serve
States/UTs

29 outstanding
women achievers
Nari Shakti
Puraskar- 2020
and 2021

937 per 1000
males (Improved
Overall Sex Ratio,
2021-22)

Nearly
14 lakh
Anganwadis

Over 25,000
'Delivery Points'
Quality care in
labour room

4.61 crore
antenatal
check-ups under
PM Surakshit
Matritva Abhiyan

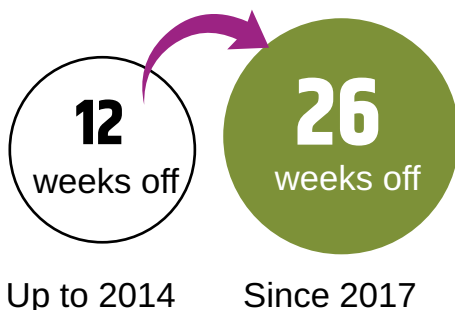
10 crore
breast cancer
screening; 1.6
lakh Operational
Ayushman Bharat
Health & Wellness
Centers

over **2 crore**
women have
ownership rights
in PM Awas Yojana

Info In-Depth

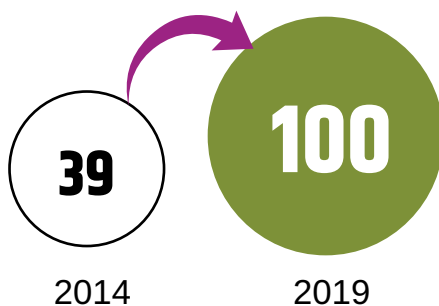


Increase in Paid Maternity Leaves



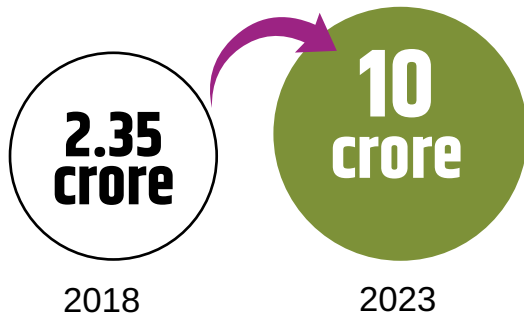
Toilets - Freedom, Health And Dignity To Women

(Sanitation Coverage in %)



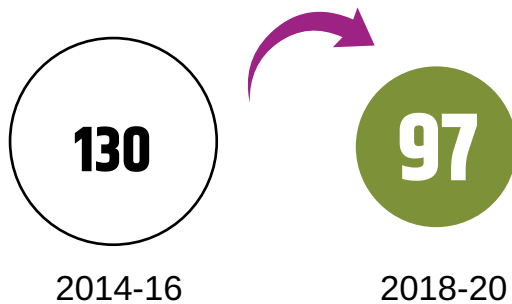


Self-Help Groups Membership On the Rise



Maternal Mortality Ratio On the Decline

(per lakh live birth)



The Change Sutra

Adequate Nourishment Through POSHAN Guaranteed

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra that concluded in January 2024 received tremendous public response and attracted sizable audiences. The

Yatra intends to ensure that all individuals benefit from government schemes and benefits of government schemes reach every intended beneficiary across all Gram Panchayats. The success of the programs get reported through an initiative “Meri Kahani



Meri Zubani”. Karma Dechin, a recipient of POSHAN Abhiyaan, expressed her experience during one such visit in Jobrang & Ringyang Gram Panchayat in Arunachal Pradesh. She was delighted to voice out the transformative impact of Government schemes on her life claiming that Anganwadi staff come by once a month to measure the children’s growth, talk to them about the value of nursing, and provide them food.

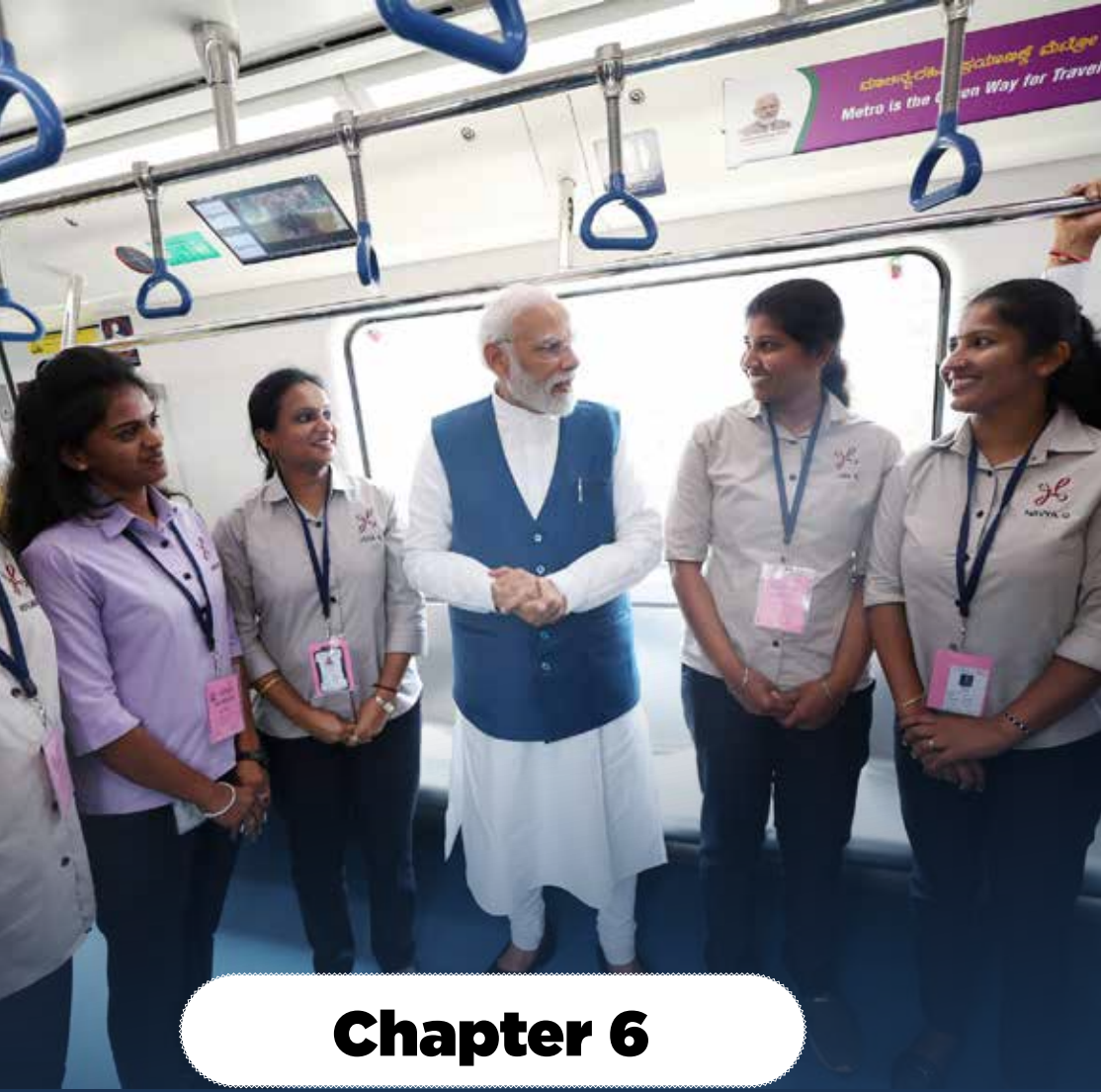
Financial Security During Pregnancy Enabled

Sangeetha of Chatnahalli hamlet in the Karnataka taluk, who is a beneficiary of **PM Matru Vandana**



Yojana gladly shared that she received Rs 5,000 for her first delivery. She shared her experiences from the programs and was accustomed to related initiatives such as the “Swasth Balak Spardha (SBS)” that highlights the importance of a healthy diet, increase


community involvement by recognising and honoring children who are in good health. She gladly shared that each month, ASHA employees helped with hospital deliveries and offered wholesome food.



Chapter 6

ಪೋಷಕ

Pōṣaka (Kannada)



It is imperative that those that nurture us, those who provide for us be armed with the best resources and fuelled by the highest intent. Recognising the nurturing, wholesome role played by women, right from their journey as daughters, all the way to mothers, PM Modi has ensured the implementation of several reforms and schemes over the last decade to ensure equity, parity and safety for women in all aspects of our socio-economic entity. Today, 69% **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** loans have been sanctioned to women entrepreneurs. **Mission Shakti** that focusses on the twin prongs of safety (Sambal) and empowerment (Samarthya) are becoming the bedrock for a sweeping change towards betterment. Initiatives like this have laid the foundation for women to become equal and independent partners in India's progress, regardless of their background, ethos, or geographical location.

The government's strategic planning and implementation of programs and schemes since 2014 have paved the way for women to benefit from various opportunities – both systemic and social. One such scheme is

the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, which is the largest health assurance scheme in the country. Under the scheme, nearly **15.7 crore Ayushman Cards have been created for women**—making **49%** of all Ayushman Cards issued. Further **48% of all treatments** have been availed by women beneficiaries.

From ensuring equal access to education and creating a conducive environment for learning, to facilitating equity in employment opportunities, key factors have emerged in order for women to achieve their goals and aspirations. More than 15 crore women workers registered on e-SHRAM Portal ensuring their contributions across the economic spectrum are fully recognised and leveraged.

An improvement in the overall quality of life of women is vital in their empowerment journey. The immensely successful trifecta of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**, and **Har Ghar Jal** have not only enhanced the living standards of women but have also given them a sense of control over their lives as they now have access to clean cooking fuel, affordable housing, and safe drinking water. Over 10 crore cooking gas connections were awarded to women below the poverty line. The provision of these basic amenities has contributed significantly to women's well-being and their sense of optimism about the future of their families.

A changing Bharat continues to recognise the tremendous hidden potential of women as they come forward to conquer many bastions. Over the decade, this substantial and timely shift in the social paradigm for women in India. Women are no longer confined to predetermined roles or limited by their background or geographic location. They are now embracing many unprecedented opportunities to utilise their potential for the greater good of the country.

As a case in point, a simple but significant data point: Over **50 crore Jan Aushadhi Suvidha sanitary pads** sold at Jan Aushadhi Kendras at Rs. 1 per pad, has so many dividends in that a young child is thus empowered to attend school, sports, follow through on her dreams of entrepreneurship and in the process become employed, perhaps become an employer over time, and in the long run, a better woman, a better human being. All towards a better Bharat!

Key *Takeaways*

In the last decade, PM Modi has been able to **shift the perception** of women from **homemakers to nation builders**.

Women in India are being provided with **socio-economic security**.

The government has ensured **last-mile delivery** of women-centric schemes.

Opportunities for women are no longer restricted to **urban areas** but have risen in **rural areas** as well.

Entrepreneurship amongst women is on the rise with the increase in support from the government through various schemes.

Healthcare cover under the **Ayushman Bharat insurance** scheme will be extended to **ASHA and Anganwadi workers**.

Snapshot

69% Pradhan
Mantri Mudra
Yojana accounts
held by women
entrepreneurs

NRLM
transforming
the lives of
**nearly
10 crore**
rural poor women

**₹ 3 lakh
crore**
Emergency
Working Capital
Facility for women
entrepreneurs
during Covid-19

10 crore+
clean cooking gas
connections given
to women below
the poverty line

15 crore+
women workers
registered on
eShram Portal

About
3 crore
women
beneficiaries
under the PM
Kisan Samman
Nidhi

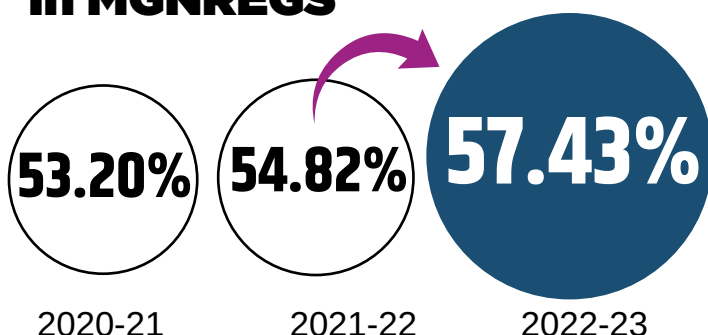
₹8,300 crore
disbursed via National
Minority Development
Finance Corporation
with over 85%
beneficiaries being
women

Atal Pension
Yojana ensures
monetary
security to nearly
2.65 crore
women
subscribers

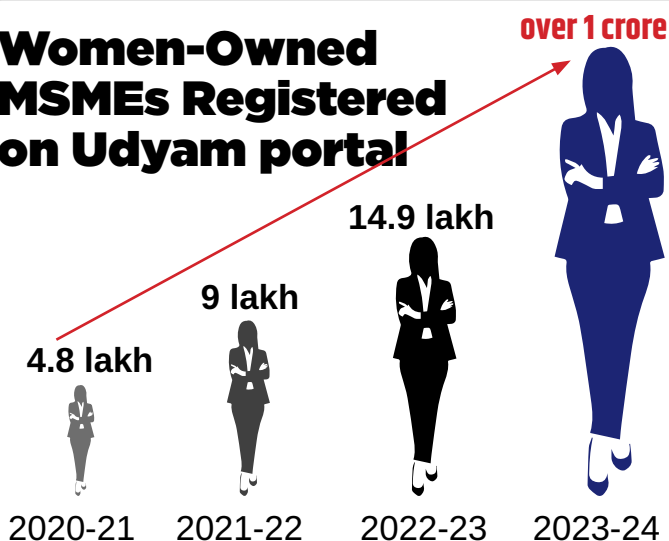
50 crore+
Jan Aushadhi
Suvidha Sanitary
Pads sold at Jan
Aushadhi Kendras
at Rs. 1 per pad

Info In-Depth

Increase In The Participation Of Women In MGNREGS



Women-Owned MSMEs Registered on Udyam portal





Empowering and providing security to women: More than 70% of the houses under **PM Awas Yojana (Gramin)** owned either solely or jointly by women



TOILETS

Protecting Dignity And Improving Healthcare

- **93%** of women reported that they were **no longer afraid of being hurt** by someone or harmed by animals while defecating
- **93%** of women reported they are **no longer afraid of** contracting infections

The Change Sutra

PM Ujjwala: Harbinger of Health & Happiness



Seema Kumari, from Chandauli district in Uttar Pradesh, used to face daily kitchen challenges like many Indian households, collecting firewood and suffering from smoke-induced headaches. Traditional cooking practices took a toll on her time and

well-being, making a smoke-free kitchen seem like a distant dream. Thankfully, the government's 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' came to her aid, providing an LPG cylinder that transformed her kitchen. Now, free from smoke, Seema effortlessly cooks meals for her family, saving time and making her daily routine easier. The LPG cylinder brought convenience, allowing swift and hassle-free cooking, especially for her children. Seema expressed immense gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this invaluable support that significantly improved her life.

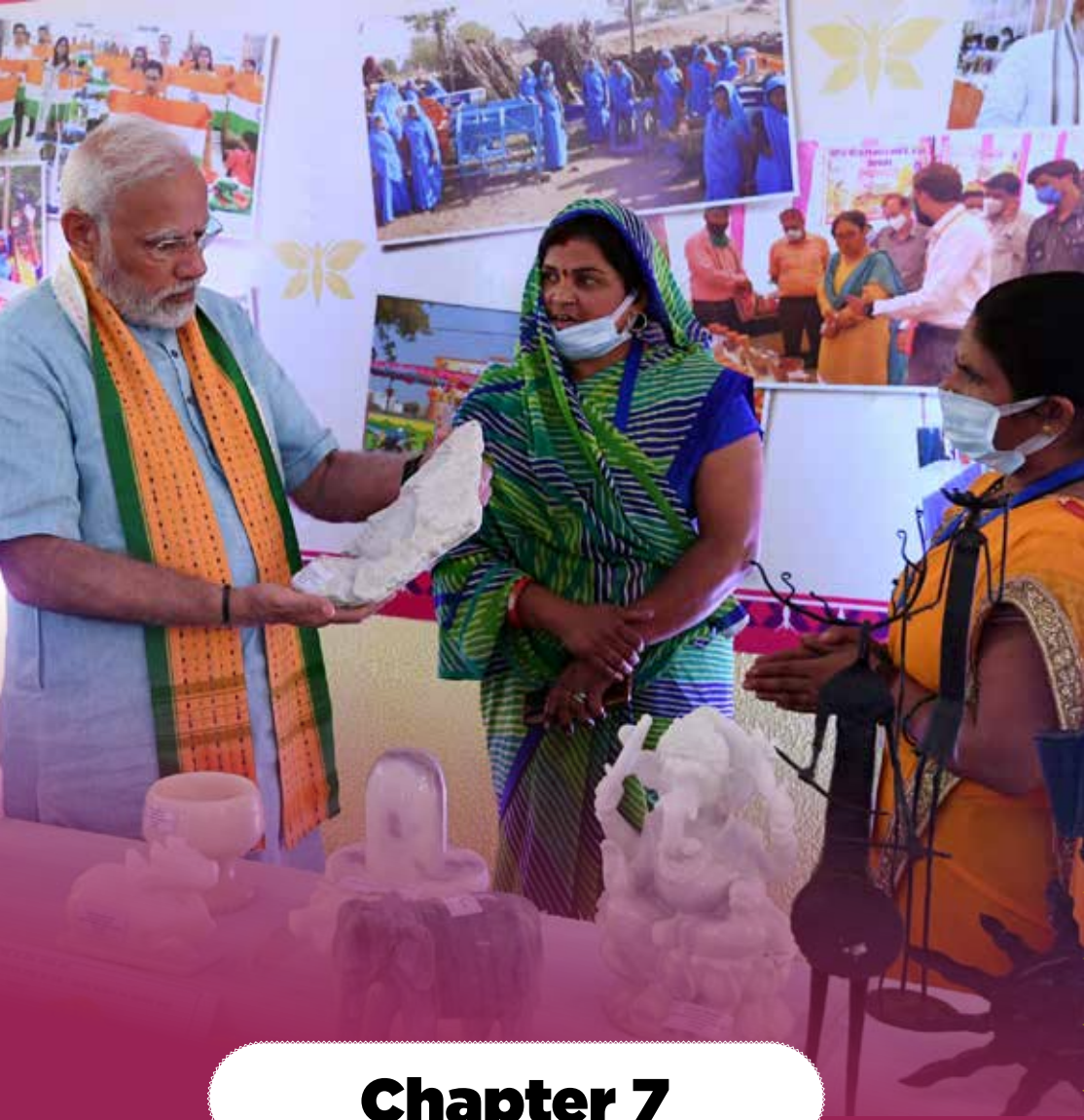
PM AWAS: Sheltering Aspirations

Kalyani Sarasa, a resilient 56-year-old widow, faced daunting challenges after her husband, a cobbler supporting a family of ten, passed away unexpectedly. Left with inadequate income, they lived in a basic thatched house without essential facilities like a kitchen, toilet, electricity, and water supply. Cooking outdoors became a struggle, especially




during the rainy season, and the absence of a toilet forced them to trek long distances for basic needs, exposing the women and girls to safety concerns.

In the midst of their hardships, Kalyani discovered a glimmer of hope through a mobile van announcing the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**, a scheme offering financial aid for constructing solid houses for the underprivileged. Viewing this as an answer to her prayers, Kalyani promptly applied for the scheme and, fortunately, qualified for assistance. The turning point came when she received a pucca house under PMAY(U). Since then, Kalyani and her family have experienced a positive transformation, leaving behind the struggles of the past.



Chapter 7

सुरक्षा आणि आदर (Marathi)



Bharat's commitment to women-led development complements our intrinsic regard for the feminine principle. Recognising the importance of women's safety, security, and overall empowerment, the government has continually implemented initiatives to strengthen Nari Shakti. Not just government initiatives, but legislative reforms, and the overall outlook towards women empowerment has shifted gears positively.

One noteworthy scheme introduced by the Indian government is **Mission Shakti**. Its main objective is to create a safe, secure, and empowered ecosystem for women. With a budgetary allocation of Rs. 3,144 crore in FY 2023-24, this scheme aims to position women as equal partners in the nation-building process through increased access to economic and social freedom. A government initiative, it has two sub-schemes called "Sambal" and "Samarthya". "Sambal", a sub-scheme focusses on the safety and security incorporating existing initiatives such as One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti

Padhao (BBBP), and introduces an innovative component called Nari Adalat - women collective. "Samarthya", a sub-scheme aims at empowerment through improved, modified versions of programs such as Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh Scheme, Working Women Hostel, National Creche Scheme, and PMMVY. In addition, a new component called Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment has also been introduced within the Sambal scheme.

To take the example of one subset of Sambal, the establishment and continual support to One Stop Centers (OSCs), which serve as comprehensive assistance centers for women affected by violence, is a crucial component. These centers provide medical, legal, psychological, and social support, addressing a wide range of issues faced by women. Similarly, in response to heinous acts of violence against girls, the government demonstrated its strong resolve by enacting the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018. This amendment aimed to make laws more stringent, providing greater protection to girls and ensuring that perpetrators face the consequences of their actions through stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years. Such measures send a strong message that violence against girls will not be tolerated.

Recognizing the need for legislative reforms to facilitate women empowerment, in 2017, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 was amended, extending paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. This reform not only acknowledges the

importance of a mother's role in nurturing a child but also ensures her well-being and helps her balance work and family responsibilities.

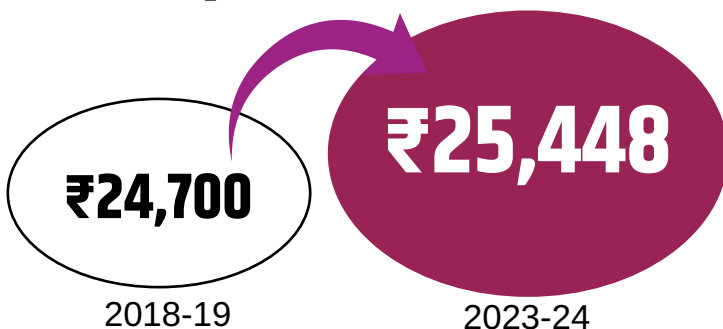
In an effort to safeguard the rights of married Muslim women and promote gender equality, the government passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019. This act declared the practice of 'Triple Talaq' as void and illegal, emphasising Bharat's commitment to eradicating discriminatory practices. It is, in fact an enlightened and liberated thought which led to Munnawari Begum & Mafuja Khatun becoming the first women to be elected as top office-bearers to the Haj Committee of India.

The importance of gender equality in the workplace is also a core focus area and several steps have been put in place to reduce gender-based discrimination and harbour a more inclusive work environment. The crucial idea behind it is for women to be able to work effectively and to the best of their ability without any encumbrances.

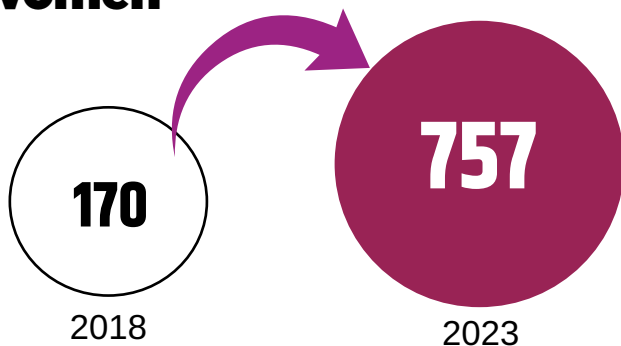
Gradually, citizens are realising the notion that it is only by prioritising the wellness, freedom, safety. It is about intrinsic empowerment of all hitherto marginalised sections, including women across all sections and spectrums, that Bharat will become a nation where women can stand tall - not just as partners but as forerunners in nation-building.

Info In-Depth

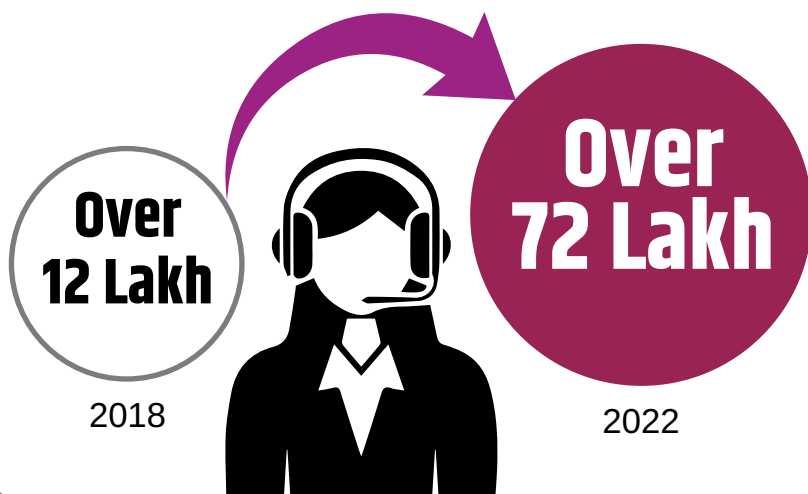
Budget Estimates Of Allocation to the Ministry Of Women and Child Development (In Crore)



Functional One Stop Centres to Support Women



Complaints Redressal Through Universalisation of Women Helpline Scheme (In Lakh)



Key *Takeaways*

The priority of PM Modi led government has always been to enable modern Nari as **Shakti Swaroop**.

Schemes such as '**Mission Shakti**', '**Sambal**' and '**Samarthya**' have successfully created significant positive impacts at the grassroot level.

Visionary and bold legislative reforms have been enacted by the government to ensure the welfare, security, and empowerment of women through a **more women-friendly work environment**.

Indian women also aspire to become critical partners of the government in nation building.



Snapshot

Mission Shakti
Budget allocation
2023-24: ₹3144
(Approx)

757
Operational
One Stop
Centres

72 lakh
Women
Assisted by
Women Helpline
(Till Dec 2023)

494 Sakhi
Niwas
support 40,303
working women

Number of
Shakti
Sadans
432

One Stop
Centres Assist
8.39 lakh
Women

August 1,
is Observed
as **Muslim**
Women
Rights Day

Triple Talaq
82% reduction in
cases since 2019

Munnawari
Begum &
Mafuja Khatun
First-time women
elected to the
Haj Committee of
India

The Change Sutra

Mission Shakti Empowers Rural Women

A success story of **Mission Shakti** has emerged from the district of Malkangiri where Hill Broom

Grass has become a widely cultivated cash crop. This eco-friendly product has proven to be of great utility. Bonda women have taken up the activity as a commercial enterprise. This initiative has not only empowered the tribal women but also provided them with a livelihood, along with the due share of dignity and respect.



SHGs Move Up The Learning Curve

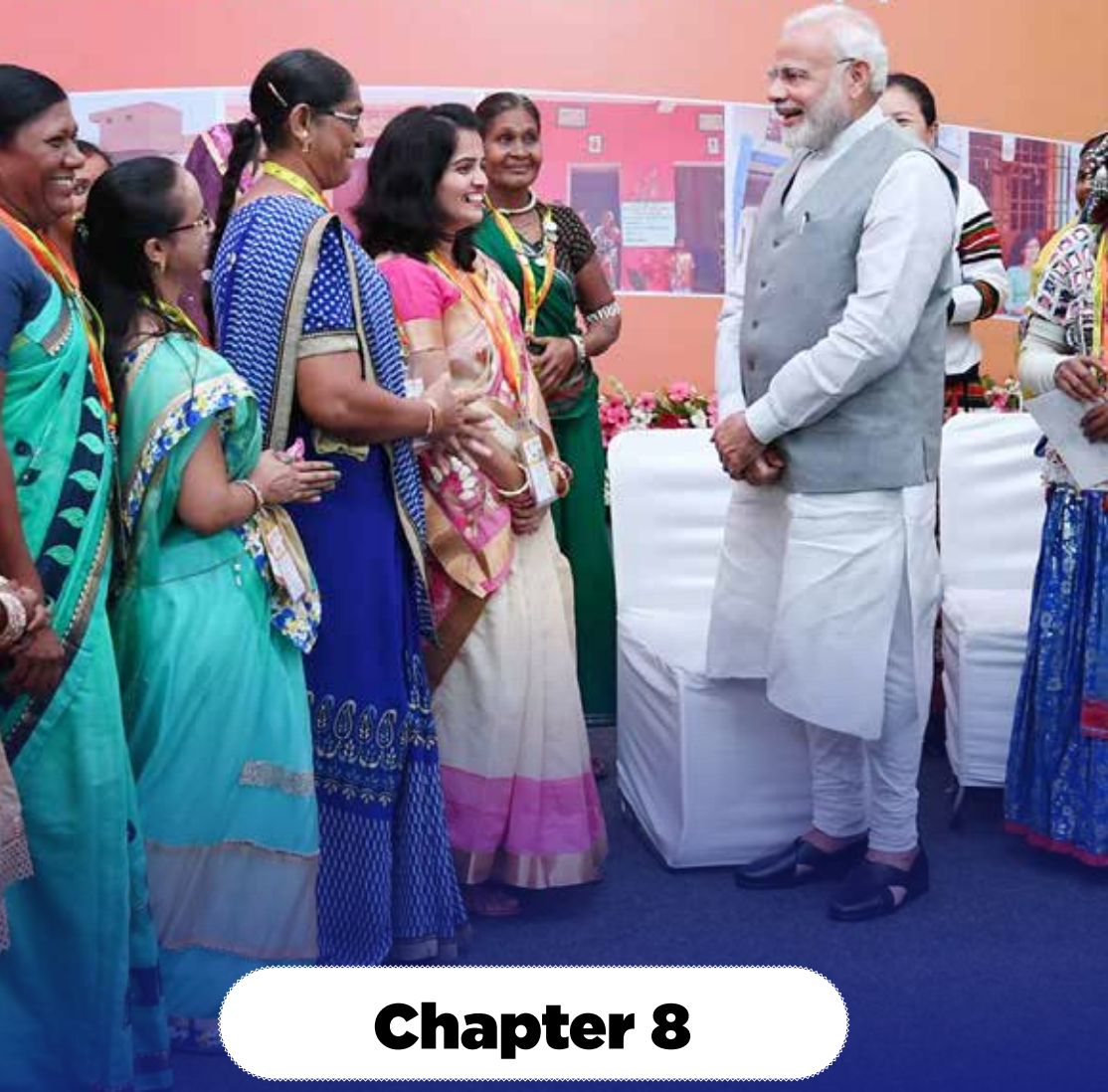
Arati Behera, a resident of Kumanda, talks about the initiative which involves the introduction of



low-cost sanitary napkins to address the challenges around personal hygiene for women and adolescent girls in urban and rural markets of Angul district. Motivated by the overwhelming success of this initiative, further

the SHG also diversified into new verticals such as manufacturing of LED bulbs. These bulbs are then marketed at a low cost to make them affordable for the rural women.


BRING WOMEN THROUGH PMAY(U)



Chapter 8

HLENC HHUAK

Trendsetter (Mizo)



A decade ago, while advancing the cause of women's empowerment, PM Modi steered the nation towards building a New India with abundance of opportunities for everyone. To that end, no stone has been left unturned by the government. Upskilling and reskilling are the twin keys to equipping women with the resources they need to excel. Resultantly, training programs that focus on imparting vocational skills, entrepreneurship training, and financial literacy have been upvoted by the administration enthusiastically.

Empowering women through action-oriented reforms, through effective changes in legislation and forward-thinking initiatives have driven India towards gender neutrality and greater optimism about the future.

Women today are becoming economically empowered to make decisions because they are equipped with determination, and a strong will to dream big dreams and work on realising them. Over 52% women candidates have been provided training under PMKVY between 2015-2023.

By infusing new energy into the nation, by exploring new possibilities and scripting new successes, by fuelling the nation's growth, it wouldn't be a misnomer to say that the Nari Shakti of India is becoming the cornerstone of our Amrit Kaal. Today, 79% women are operating bank accounts and over 53 % of those trained under **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan** (PMGDISHA) are women who are contributing to the nation's development and sculpting a better future for themselves and generations to come.

In order for women to dispense their duty safely, the government has set up **13,101 Police Stations with Women's Help Desks** across the country. These are staffed by female police officers specially trained to handle sensitive cases related to women. Not only do they provide a safe space for women to fearlessly report crimes, seek timely assistance, and receive help and support from qualified practitioners, but by creating a sense of security among women, they are also encouraged to continue to pursue their goals without any real or imagined boundaries. Similarly, the establishment of **'Special Fast Track Courts'** for delivering swift justice to women are fundamentally effective in expediting a fair legal process and ensuring timely justice.

Not only do these courts instill confidence in women but also deter potential offenders. Just the idea of an **all-women PCR** on a lonely road is welcome safe reality for multitudes, men and women alike!

Changing decades-old perceptions of society, women's sphere of influence is increasing across fields like education, science, politics, business, sports, etc. Nari Shakti is now leading from the front, scaling undiscovered pinnacles, and rightfully becoming the pride of her family, community and of the nation. They are today setting the trends for the future and stepping away from the ones that have served their purpose. As women's representation increases across all sectors of the economy, so does the success of the country, making both, the women and the nation '**Sampoorna, Samagra, and Sarthak**'.

Key *Takeaways*

Over 55.6% of PM Jan Dhan Yojana accounts opened by women.

Over 53% of those trained under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) are women.

Over 57% of e-Sanjeevani beneficiaries are women

The rate of participation of women in MGNREGS in FY23 is **over 59%**



Snapshot

Around
90.39 lakh
women's
SHGs
under DAY NRLM

More than 52%
women candidates
trained
under
PMKVY from
2015 to 2023

2.67 crore
domestic and
household women
workers registered
on eShram portal

Over
12 lakh women
candidates have
been provided
employment
under PMKVY
between
2015-2023

494 Working
Women
Hostels are
functional in the
country

416 Shakti
Sadans
functional

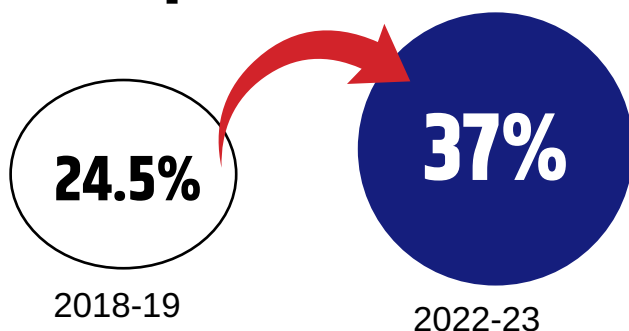
412
exclusive
POCSO
Courts are
operationalised

Women Help
Desks set up in
13,101
Police Stations

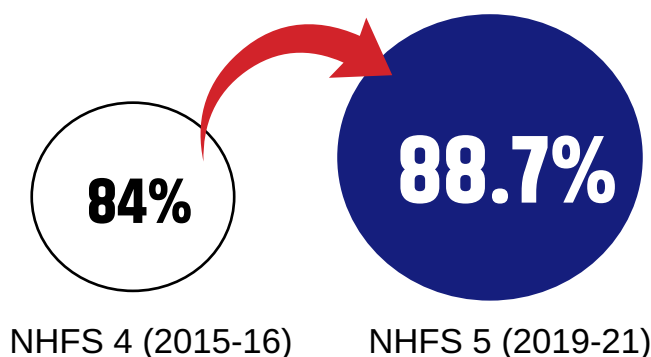
758 Fast Track
Special Courts
(FTSCs) disposed
more than 1.7 lakh
Cases

Info In-Depth

Increase In Female Labour Force Participation Rate



Women Participation in Major Household Decisions

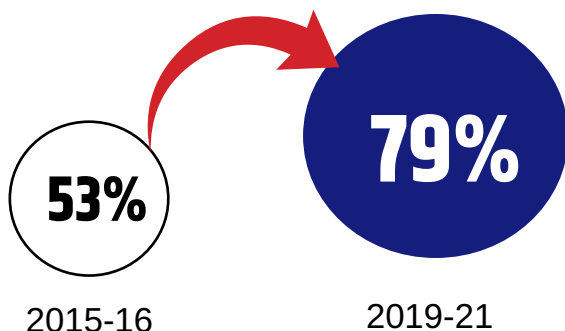




Dip In Unemployment Rate Among Women



Women Operating Bank Accounts At All-India Level



The Change Sutra

Dreams Materialised With PM Mudra & PMKVY



Archana Pawar from Mumbai, Maharashtra, exemplifies the transformative impact of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Driven by a passion for entrepreneurship and a desire to break free from economic limitations, she enrolled in a skill development programme facilitated by PMKVY and learned how to drive.

After completing her training under the PMKVY, Archana acquired a loan under yet another Government of India scheme called Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. With this money, she bought a two-wheeler and a four-wheeler vehicle. Eventually, supported by the financial aid facilitated by PMMY, she materialised her vision of establishing her own motor driving school. These two government schemes gave her wings to fly as they springboarded her dreams into reality.

Re-skilling and Up-skilling Secures Careers



Premkumari Devi, a resident of Assam, hails from a family of six, with her father being a dedicated public servant who has consistently prioritised their education. Despite completing her schooling, Premkumari faced a period of unemployment. She joined a program in the health care sector (GDA) in


Assam under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, which she successfully completed. As a result of her training, she secured a job in Bangalore, bringing her great joy and satisfaction. She currently makes a good living and is exploring to gain more experience and certifications.



Chapter 9

फुडारी

NETRITVA (Konkani)



Transformative change begins with transformative leadership. Bharat has acquired this under the leadership of PM Modi. We are now fully aware of how prioritisation of gender equality became a mainstream slogan when the government scaled up and advocated strong systemic changes towards the goal of women empowerment. By appointing women leaders in key positions, such as the election of Droupadi Murmu as the President of India, the induction of Nirmala Sitharaman as the first full-time Finance and Defence Minister, significant progress has already been made. These landmark appointments have not only inspired the nation but have also set an example for creating hitherto unthought of opportunities for women. Women leaders in the political arena are actively contributing to the policy-making and decision-making processes, thus empowering India from within.

Political empowerment through increasing the number of women in Lok Sabha – one such manifestation – signifies a societal shift towards fostering an affirmative environment for women's growth and prosperity.

The introduction of the gender budget to close the gender gap and support holistic development is a step in the right direction. In the Budget 2023-24, an allocation of Rs. 2.23 lakh crore representing a 30% increase compared to the previous year's budget was made. This substantial investment demonstrates PM Modi's commitment towards not just upliftment and revival but true empowerment as it opens doors for women leadership in delivering solutions for equalising resource access, poverty alleviation, and bridging regional gaps that had riddled and hampered the growth of the economy.

Sports arenas are another area where the growing representation of women is a matter of great pride for the country. The impact of women sports leaders in India extends to other areas as they are emergent role models for all youngsters. Athletes continue to excel on the global stage and bring home accolades. The Tokyo Olympics 2021 witnessed the outstanding performance of Indian women athletes as three out of the seven athletes who won medals were women. Similarly, in the 2022 Commonwealth Games, Indian women

athletes claimed 23 out of the 61 medals. These achievements highlight the ongoing efforts to support and promote women's participation in sports, resulting in their remarkable success.

Women's participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields is also burgeoning with enthusiasm over the last decade. We have seen what can only be defined as a remarkable 43% increase in women's participation in these crucial sectors. Furthermore, India proudly boasts the largest number of women commercial pilots compared to developed nations, showcasing the ambitious drive – or, in this case, flight – women in the aviation industry are soaring toward. These outcomes are a reflection of the iron-willed commitment of the Modi government towards women-led development of the nation beyond mere endorsement.

Key *Takeaways*

The election of **Droupadi Murmu** to the highest office in the country - a **first from the Scheduled Tribes** - is a milestone for the Bharatiya Nari

Nirmala Sitharaman became the first woman to be appointed as the **full-time Minister of Finance**

The representation of female MPs in 17th Lok Sabha has risen to 14.4%, i.e., 78 MPs, highest ever

Women athletes won three out of the seven medals in Tokyo Olympics 2020

FIFA U-17 World Women's Football World Cup was hosted in India



Snapshot

First full-time

Defence Minister
- Nirmala
Sitharaman
(2017-2019)

First full-time

Finance Minister
– Nirmala
Sitharaman
(since 2019)

Droupadi Murmu

First President
from Scheduled
Tribes

Highest number of women

MPS in 17th
Lok Sabha: 78

3 out of 7 medals won

by women in Tokyo
Olympics 2021

23 out of 61 medals

Won by women
in Commonwealth
Games 2022

Reservation of 33% seats for women

in Lok Sabha and
state legislative
assemblies

Women athletes made history

at the 2023 Asian
Para Games,
securing 40
medals out of the
total 111 won

Women athletes clinched over half of the

107 medals at Asian Games 2022

Info In-Depth

Voting For Women Leaders In Politics Will No Longer Be A Rarity in Bharat

<10% women reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

Pre 2014



33% women reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

2023

Share of Women Founders In Startups Rises

10% of 6,000

Pre 2017



18% of 80,000

2022

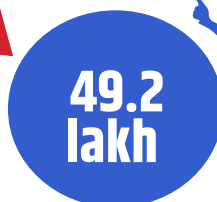


First-time, Female Teachers Are More Than Male Teachers in Indian Schools.



2012-13

Unified District Information on School Education (UDISE)



2019-20



Leadership At Grassroot Promote Better Livelihood Opportunities



2013



SHG members



2023

The Change Sutra

Rocket Women Of India & Laurels For the Nation



Referred to as the “Rocket Woman” of India; Ritu Karidhal Srivastava received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in aerospace and physics from Lucknow University. When she joined ISRO in 1997, she was instrumental

in the creation of India’s Mars Orbiter Mission, Mangalyaan, which is still regarded as one of ISRO’s greatest successes. With this mission, India became the fourth nation in history to successfully reach Mars at a substantially lesser cost and in an astounding 18 months.

The main responsibility of Srivastava was to design and develop the onboard autonomy system for the craft, which would enable it to function autonomously in space. As mission director, she also oversaw the Chandrayaan-2 mission, which sadly ran into technical issues and was unsuccessful. Nevertheless, she played a leading role in Chandrayaan-3 mission, which proved successful.

Gender Neutrality In Indian Sports; A Reality



Smriti Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development personally congratulated the Indian women's blind cricket team for winning a gold medal at the 2023 International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games in Birmingham, triumphing over Australia by 9 wickets in August 2023.

Their remarkable performance captured the hearts of spectators worldwide and the entire nation was in awe of India's daughters, who created an indelible mark on the global stage.

PM Modi has in his address indicated that our admiration has been primarily directed towards the achievements of able-bodied male cricketers. However, the triumph of the blind cricket team signifies a transformative moment, showcasing a shift in our perspective towards sporting excellence and the concept of victory promoting gender neutrality in sports.

