

## Indian Women Rising : 75 Years Of Struggle And Success

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### Introduction

In the last 75 years, Indian women have made incredible progress in a variety of professions, shattering stereotypes and establishing new standards for achievement. Women have shaped the future of the country by carving out a niche for themselves in various fields, including politics, science, sports, business, education, and technology.

They have come a long way, but there's still a long journey ahead. While there have been many achievements in empowering women, there are still many challenges that need to be addressed. In this article, the emphasis is to explore the current status of women in India, the efforts by the government to empower them, and the challenges they face

### Intellectual Growth

Women's literacy rates were pitifully low after independence, but persistent efforts have resulted in a notable increase. Female literacy and school enrollment have increased as a result of initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, scholarships for females, and gender-inclusive educational policy. Female literacy is reaching 77%. More girls are attending school and completing higher education than ever before.

Indian women nowadays are leading esteemed institutions, advancing research and development, and succeeding in a variety of academic domains. Intellectually brilliant pioneers include Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw in biotechnology, Dr. Tessy Thomas in missile technology, and Gagandeep Kang in medical research. Yet, there are still gaps, especially in rural areas where access to quality education remains a challenge. Work force participation remain low due to social norms and unpaid labour and work place discrimination .

### Economic Growth

In India, women are no longer restricted to household duties but are becoming prosperous professionals and business owners.

They are increasingly participating in the economy, especially in rural areas. Indian data reveals rural women are more economically empowered than urban women, with a sharp increase in women engaged in agricultural work.

Women-led enterprises have increased as a result of government programs like the Mudra Yojana, which have promoted female entrepreneurship. The business scene has been reshaped by individuals such as Vandana Luthra (VLCC), Richa Kar (Zivame), and Falguni Nayar (Nykaa). With more and more of them holding senior executive roles in global corporations, women are also significantly contributing to corporate leadership. However urban women still face significant barriers to economic participation

### Political Growth: From Silent Spectators to Nation Builders

Women's political growth in India remains low. Despite some progress, women are still underrepresented in political offices. Increasing women's participation in politics is crucial for achieving gender equality. This requires not only policy changes but also a shift in societal attitudes towards women leaders.

Still from the margins to the core of decision-making, Indian women have played a pivotal role in politics. An important turning point was reached in 1966 when Indira Gandhi was elected as India's first female prime minister. Leaders like Droupadi Murmu, India's first tribal woman president, and Pratibha Patil, the country's first female president, have since cleared the path for

increased participation. Because of the 33% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions, women now hold important positions in state assembly, local government, and Parliament.

### **Scientific and Sports Contributions**

In the domains of science, technology, and space exploration, Indian women have achieved remarkable success. Ritu Karidhal and Muthayya Vanitha were instrumental in India's Mars and Moon missions, while Dr. Kalpana Chawla and Dr. Sunita Williams created space history. At the vanguard of innovation, women scientists and engineers are demonstrating their abilities in sectors that have historically been controlled by males.

Indian sportswomen have brought honors to the nation and broken stereotypes. Legends like P.T. Usha, Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu, and Dutee Chand are among those who have made India a major player in international sports. Their success at the Asian, Commonwealth, and Olympic Games has encouraged many young girls to become athletes.

### **Media and Literature**

The influence of Indian women in cinema, literature, and media has grown tremendously. Authors like Arundhati Roy, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Sudha Murthy have earned international acclaim, while filmmakers and journalists like Gauri Lankesh, Barkha Dutt, and Deepa Mehta have pushed boundaries in storytelling. The representation of women in Indian cinema has evolved, with strong female protagonists redefining narratives.

### **Challenges and Future Aspects**

Notwithstanding these developments, Indian women continue to confront obstacles like the gender pay gap, discrimination at work, and cultural conventions that limit their options. Maintaining equal opportunity, healthcare, and educational access is still a top focus. Nonetheless, Indian women's tenacity and resolve keep shattering stereotypes and creating new records.

One thing is evident as we reflect on 75 years of advancement: Indian women are not only contributing to the development of their country but also paving the path for a more promising and inclusive future. They still have a long way to go, and the upcoming decades should bring even more success.

The ascent of Indian women is a monument to the fortitude, bravery, and unwavering spirit of half a billion ambitions, not only a tale of advancement.

The future of Indian women is growing in fast paces though challenges remain. With continued advancement in education, legal reforms and participation at global level; Indian women are ready to play major roles in shaping the future of our country. We can have a promising future with a collective efforts of the government, society and private sector. We can say that Women's empowerment is not only for equal rights; it is the key to Indian economic and social progress. Govt. policies like paid maternity leave; adjustment in work will help women work with more enthusiasm and positive attitude.

### **Conclusion :-**

By survey of various fields, it is clear that the rise of Indian Women is a testament to their determination and growing social mindset. From the silent spectators in Politics, economy, business, science and technology along with deep rooted gender discrimination; women in India are ready to shape a more progressive future. As India strides ahead; empowering women will not only lead to personal success stories but also help in the contribution of nations overall growth and prosperity. The overall journey continues and Indian women are not just rising but leading.