

Empowering India: Nari Shakti Takes Center Stage on International Women's Day

Demonstrating his unwavering commitment to women's empowerment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a groundbreaking initiative, handed over his social media accounts to six inspiring women on the occasion of International Women's Day. This unique step has given the unique opportunity to these exceptional women to share their remarkable journeys, achievements, and challenges with the nation.

These women hail from different corners of the country encompassing South, North, East, West and Central regions. Vaishali Rameshbabu from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Dr. Anjlee Agarwal from Delhi, Anita Devi from Nalanda, Bihar, Elina Mishra from Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Ajaita Shah hailing from Rajasthan, and Shilpi Soni from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

While 4 women presented their experiences individually, two of them - Shilpi and Elina - shared their inspiring journey jointly.

These women represent various diverse spheres including sports, rural entrepreneurship, science & technology and more.

Vaishali Rameshbabu – A chess prodigy, Vaishali has been competing at the highest level since the age of six. Her dedication to the game culminated in her achieving the prestigious title of Chess Grandmaster in 2023. She continues to make India proud on the global stage with her strategic brilliance and perseverance.

Anita Devi – Overcoming the barriers of poverty and adversity, Anita Devi, popularly known as “Mushroom Lady of Bihar”, took a bold step towards self-sufficiency by establishing the Madhopur Farmers Producers Company in 2016. Through mushroom cultivation, she has not only uplifted but has also created employment opportunities for hundreds of rural women, paving the way for financial independence and economic empowerment.

Elina Mishra & Shilpi Soni – These two distinguished scientists exemplify the contributions of Indian women in cutting-edge research and technology. **Elina Mishra** is a nuclear scientist at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, while **Shilpi Soni** is a distinguished space scientist at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Ajaita Shah – As the Founder & CEO of Frontier Markets, Ajaita is transforming rural entrepreneurship by empowering over 35,000 digitally enabled women entrepreneurs. Her initiative helps these women become self-reliant business owners and last-mile distributors of essential goods and services, bridging the gap between rural markets and economic growth.

Dr. Anjlee Agarwal – A leading advocate for universal accessibility, Dr. Agarwal is the founder of Samarthyaam Centre for Universal Accessibility. With a career spanning three decades, she has dedicated her life to ensuring inclusive mobility and barrier-free infrastructure. Her efforts have been instrumental in making schools and public spaces across India more accessible for people with disabilities.

Each of these exceptional women embodies the spirit of Nari Shakti, demonstrating that women are not just participants but pioneers in shaping Viksit Bharat. Their remarkable contributions reinforce the idea that Indian women are breaking barriers, achieving excellence, and shaping the country's future.