



THE FIRST

STORY OF SUCCESSFUL WOMENS

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*On the Occasion of 8th March
Womens Day*

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First Woman Physician

Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi (31 March 1865–26 February 1887) was one of the earliest Indian female physicians. She was the first woman from the erstwhile Bombay presidency of India to study and graduate with a two-year degree in western medicine in the United States.

She was also been referred as Anandibai Joshi and Anandi Gopal Joshi where Gopal came from Gopalrao which is her husband's first name. She is referred as the first lady doctor of India.

As was the practice at that time and due to pressure from her mother, she was married at the age of nine to Gopalrao Joshi, a widower almost twenty years older than her. Gopalrao Joshi worked as a postal clerk. He was a progressive thinker, and, unusually for that time, strongly supported education for women. Her husband encouraged her to study medicine.

At the age of fourteen, Anandibai gave birth to a boy, but the child lived only for ten days for lack of medical care. This proved to be a turning point in Anandi's life and inspired her to become a physician.



Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi

“

Be grateful for challenges because... Had there been no difficulties and no thorns in the way, then [each woman and] man would have been in his primitive state and no progress made in civilisation and mental culture.

”

First Woman President

Pratibha Devisingh Patil (born 19 December 1934 Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India) is an Indian lawyer and politician who was the first woman to serve as president of India (2007–12).

A member of the Indian National Congress, Patil is the only woman to hold the office. She previously served as the Governor of Rajasthan from 2004 to 2007. Pratibha Patil has held various official offices during her career.

Pratibha Patil was educated initially at R. R. Vidyalaya, Jalgaon, and subsequently was awarded a master's degree in Political Science and Economics by Mooljee Jetha College, Jalgaon (then under Pune University), and then a Bachelor of Law degree by Government Law College, Mumbai, affiliated to the University of Mumbai.

Patil then began to practice law at the Jalgaon District Court, while also taking interest in social issues such as improving the conditions faced by Indian women. Smt. Pratibha Patil was constantly thinking of ways and means to improve the position of women in our country.



Pratibhatai Patil

“

I am deeply committed to the cause of education and would like to see every person, man and woman, boy and girl, be touched by the light of modern education. Empowerment of women is particularly important to me as I believe this leads to the empowerment of the nation.

”

First Woman IPS Officer

Kiran Bedi (born 9 June 1949) is a retired Indian Police Service officer, social activist, former tennis player and politician who is the current Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. She is the first woman to join the Indian Police Service (IPS). She remained in service for 35 years before taking voluntary retirement in 2007 as Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Development.

As a teenager, between 1965 and 1978, she won several titles at national and state-level championships in Tennis. After joining IPS, Bedi served in Delhi, Goa, Chandigarh and Mizoram. She started her career as an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Chanakyapuri area of Delhi, and won the President's Police Medal in 1979.

As a young woman, Bedi frequented the Service Club in Amritsar, where interaction with senior civil servants inspired her to take up a public service career. On 16 July 1972, Bedi started her police training at the National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie. She was the only woman in a batch of 80 men, and became the first woman IPS officer.



Kiran Bedi

“

Corruption cannot be removed without reducing the gap between the governing and the governed.

”

First Woman Teacher

Savitribai Phule (3 January 1831 – 10 March 1897) was an Indian social reformer, educationalist, anti-abortionist and poet from Maharashtra.

She is regarded as the first female teacher of India. Along with her husband, Jyotirao Phule, she played an important role in improving women's rights in India during British rule.

Phule and her husband founded the first Indian run girls' school in Pune, at Bhide wada in 1848. She worked to abolish the discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste and gender. She is regarded as an important figure of the social reform movement in Maharashtra.

The couple also opened a care centre called Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (literally, "Child-killing Prohibition Home") for pregnant rape victims and helped deliver and save their children.

Savitribai Phule wrote many poems against discrimination and advised people to get educated. Two books of her poems were published posthumously, Kavya Phule (1954) and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1982).



Savitribai Phule

“

Be self-reliant, be industrious Work, gather wisdom and riches, All gets lost without knowledge we become animal without wisdom, Sit idle no more, go, get education end misery of the oppressed and forsaken, You've got a golden chance to learn So learn and break the chains of caste.

”

First Woman Win Nobel Peace Prize

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia, on August 26, 1910. Her family was of Albanian descent.

At the age of twelve, she felt strongly the call of God. She knew she had to be a missionary to spread the love of Christ.

suffering and poverty she glimpsed outside the convent walls made such a deep impression on her that in 1948 she received permission from her superiors to leave the convent school and devote herself to working among the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta. Although she had no funds, she depended on Divine Providence, and started an open-air school for slum children. Soon she was joined by voluntary helpers, and financial support was also forthcoming. This made it possible for her to extend the scope of her work.

Mother Teresa's work has been recognised and acclaimed throughout the world and she has received a number of awards and distinctions, including the Nehru Prize for her promotion of international peace and understanding (1972).



Mother Teresa

“

I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, ‘How many good things have you done in your life?’ rather he will ask, ‘How much love did you put into what you did?’

”

First Woman Climb Mount Everest

Bachendri Pal, (born May 24, 1954, Nakuri, India), Indian mountaineer who in 1984 became the first Indian woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

Pal was born into a rural working-class family in what is now Uttarakhand and was one of seven children. A gifted student, she encountered stiff opposition from her family and relatives when she decided to opt for a career as a professional mountaineer rather than as a schoolteacher.

She soon found success in her chosen field, however.

Pal achieved immediate fame, and in 1985 she returned to Mount Everest to successfully lead an all-woman team to the summit. She led an all-woman rafting expedition down the Ganges River in 1994, covering over 1,500 miles (2,500 km). In 1997 she led an all-woman team on a successful 2,500-mile (4,000-km) transit of the Himalayas, beginning in Arunachal Pradesh and concluding at the Siachen Glacier. She was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award, in 1984.



Bachendri Pal

“

The biggest risk in life is not to take the risk. Always remember that. Climbing the Everest was certainly more difficult than I thought, but my willpower to prove that a tribal girl can do something kept me going.

”

First Woman

Miss Universe

Sushmita Sen (born 19 November 1975) is an Indian film actress and model who was crowned Femina Miss India Universe in 1994 and she later won the Miss Universe 1994 contest at the age of 18. Sen is the first Indian woman to win the competition.

Primarily known for her work in Hindi films, she has also appeared in Tamil and Bengali language films. She has won several accolades including a Filmfare Award.

After completing her reign as Miss Universe, Sen began receiving various offers to act in movies.

In addition to acting in films, Sen has been an active stage performer and has stood up for social causes and was honoured at the Mother Teresa Awards 2013 for her social works. At the Indian Leadership Conclave 2016, she was awarded with the “Eternal Beauty & Actress of the Decade” award for her contribution in the field of Arts. She has also judged the Miss Universe 2016 beauty pageant.

Sen adopted a baby girl in 2000 and a second girl in 2010. Sen is a single mother of two daughters.



Sushmita Sen

“

I don't know what “enough” is but as long as I do everything I choose to do with everything I got, that to me is being successful.

”

First Woman Astronaut

Kalpana Chawla (March 17, 1962 – February 1, 2003) was an American astronaut of Indian origin. She was the first Indian-American astronaut and the first Indian woman to go into space.

She was born in Karnal, Haryana. She got a degree in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering elementary school.

She moved to America and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in the 1990s. She earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Texas. She got her doctorate from the University of Colorado in 1993.

She began flying with people for NASA at the Ames Research the same year.

In 2000, Chawla was selected for her second voyage into space, serving again as a mission specialist on STS-107. The mission was delayed several times, and finally launched in 2003. Over the course of the 16-day flight, the crew completed more than 80 experiments. Kalpana was one of the seven people killed in the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy on February 1, 2003.



Kalpana Chawala

“

The path from dreams to success does exist. May you have the vision to find it, the courage to get on to it, and the perseverance to follow it.

”

First Woman Governor of Independent India

Sarojini Naidu (née Chattopadhyay; 13 February 1879 – 2 March 1949) was an Indian independence activist and poet.

She was born in a Bengali Hindu family at Hyderabad and was educated in Chennai, London and Cambridge. She married Dr. Govindarajulu Naidu and settled down in Hyderabad.

She took part in the Indian Nationalist Movement, became a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and fought for the attainment of Swaraj or independence.

She became the President of Indian National Congress and later she was appointed to the Governor of the United Provinces, now Uttar Pradesh. Known as the 'Nightingale of India', .

She was also a noted poet. Her poetry includes children's poems, nature poems, patriotic poems and poems of love and death. She also wrote poetry in praise of Muslim figures like Imam Hussain.

Her collected poems, all of which she wrote in English, have been published under the titles The Sceptred Flute (1928) and The Feather of the Dawn (1961).



Sarojini Naidu

“

We want deeper sincerity of motive, a greater courage in speech and earnestness in action.

”

First Woman Receive Ashoka Chakra

Neerja Bhanot, Ashoka Chakra, Tamgha-e-Pakistan (7 September 1963 – 5 September 1986) was an Indian model and purser for the airline who gave her life saving passengers on Pan Am Flight 73 which was hijacked by terrorists during a stopover in Karachi, Pakistan, on 5 September 1986.

Posthumously, she became the youngest recipient of India's highest peacetime gallantry, the Ashoka Chakra Award, as well as several other accolades from the government of Pakistan and the United States. She was shot while helping passengers escape through the emergency exits. Her life and heroism inspired the biopic *Neerja*, released in 2016.

After her death, her family set up the Neerja Bhanot Pan Am Trust with insurance money and an equal contribution from Pan Am. The trust presents two awards every year, one for a flight crew member, worldwide, who acts beyond the call of duty and another, the Neerja Bhanot Award, to an Indian woman who when faced with social injustice, bravely faced the situation and helped other women in similar social distress.



Neerja Bhanot

“

Do your Duty. Come what may. Never Tolerate any injustice and never Compromise on you Self-respect.

”

Womens are not behind in any field today. Womens are working in every field. On the occasion of Women's Day, these successful women who have achieved sucess by overcoming many problems in varoious field, have given a brief introduction to the work of getting their position in the world and encouraging other women to create this book. The book seeks to collect information on the basis of various websites, reminding the great personalities of the first of its kind in India. Hoping that you will get encouragement from their journey of life.

-Rajshri Kulkarni.

