

ALU – WOMEN’S STUDIES E. NEWS LETTER

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Editor’s Desk

“Whatever glory belongs to the race for a development unprecedented in history for the given length of time, a full share belongs to the womanhood of the race” - Mary McLeod Bethune

Women’s Day is celebrated globally on 8 March every year in honour of their remarkable contribution to our society. The day commemorates the inspiring role of women around the world to secure women’s rights and build more equitable societies.

The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Woman – the power to create, nurture and transform! The word ‘woman’ conjures up the images of selfless love, care and affection. At the same time, women ignite the spirit of power and hope. The objective of women’s Day is to express love and gratitude towards women’s contribution to our lives and society. It honours the power and struggles of women who have broken all barriers and reached the pinnacle of success in every sphere of life. Today, women across the globe actively participate in politics, education, social work, corporate, sports, IT, research & development, innovation and diverse fields, and have left their footprints. Several resolutions to protect women’s rights have also been passed globally, which has opened up broader avenues for the growth and development of women in our society. The day honours the voices that go unheard, the rights that are dominated and the tears that go unnoticed. Even today, there are millions of women around the world who are either speechless or are struggling hard to secure their rights.

The discrimination and inequality is still very prominent, especially in developing and backward countries. Despite all pessimism, International Women's Day is a special day dedicated to women for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. Culture and ethnicity has given a new dimension to this day where the tradition of gifting presents to women is popular in some countries. Personalized gifts and greeting cards dedicated to Women's Day have become exceptionally popular today. Many people think it is the ideal way to express their love and gratitude for women in life. Though, the true essence of the day lies in identifying the rights and power of women and giving them a stature that they deserve.

International Women's Day timeline journey

- **1909** The first National Women's Day was observed in United States on 28 February. The Socialist Party of America designated this day in honour of the garment workers' strike in New York on 1908, where women protested against working conditions.
- **1910** The Socialist International, meeting in Copenhagen, established a Women's Day, international in character, to honour the movement for women's rights and to build support for achieving universal suffrage for women. The proposal was greeted with unanimous approval by the conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, which included the first three women elected to the Finnish Parliament. No fixed date was selected for the observance.
- **1911** As a result of the Copenhagen initiative, International Women's Day was marked for the first time (19 March) in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. In addition to the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded women's rights to work, to vocational training and to an end to discrimination on the job.
- **1913-1914** International Women's Day also became a mechanism for protesting World War I. As part of the peace movement, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around 8 March of the following year, women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with other activists.

- **1917** Against the backdrop of the war, women in Russia again chose to protest and strike for "Bread and Peace" on the last Sunday in February (which fell on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar). Four days later, the Czar abdicated and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote.
- The date the women's strike commenced was Sunday 23 February on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia. This day on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere was 8 March.
- **1975** International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time by the United Nations in 1975.



The eight session of the United Nations General Assembly elected Madam Vijayalakshmi Pandit, of India, as its President. Madam Pandit is photographed here with U.N. secretary – General Dag Hammarskjöld.

Women down the Ages Vs Women Now

Women down the ages were not given their due respects yet they went on without complaints. Women since time immemorial had powers to bring a change. Women fought with all odds to emerge as a winner. History is replete with examples of courageous women like Lakshmi Bai, Indira Gandhi, Hellen Keller and so on.

Women now are more empowered and aware of their rights and the society has accepted their stand. The society is changing and paving way for the growth of the women. The changes can be seen in the fields of education, healthcare, equality and job opportunity. The new decade has

seen a marked change in attitude towards women at large. Women have made strides in every field like politics, space exploration.

Official UN themes

Year	UN Theme
1996	Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future
1997	Women and the Peace Table
1998	Women and Human Rights
1999	World Free of Violence Against Women
2000	Women Uniting for Peace
2001	Women and Peace: Women Managing Conflicts
2002	Afghan Women Today: Realities and Opportunities
2003	Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals
2004	Women and HIV/AIDS
2005	Gender Equality Beyond 2005; Building a More Secure Future
2006	Women in Decision-making
2007	Ending Impunity for Violence Against Women and Girls
2008	Investing in Women and Girls
2009	Women and Men United to End Violence Against Women and Girls
2010	Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All
2011	Equal Access to Education, Training, and Science and Technology: Pathway to Decent Work for Women
2012	Empower Rural Women, End Poverty and Hunger
2013	A Promise is a Promise: Time for Action to End Violence Against Women
2014	Equality for Women is Progress for All
2015	Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!
2016	Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality
2017	Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030

Padma Awardees 2017



The government of India announced *Padma awards* to citizens of the country in recognition of their distinguished contribution in various spheres. These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. This year the President of India has approved conferment of *Padma Awards* to 89 persons. The list comprises of **7 Padma Vibhushan**, **7 Padma Bhushan** and **75 Padma Shri** Awardees. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 5 persons from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs and 6 posthumous awardees.

Padma Bhushan Awardee

H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner)	Literature and Education	Thailand
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Padma Shri Awardees

S.No	NAME	FIELD	STATE
1.	Smt.Meenakshi amma	Others-Martial art	Kerala
2.	Smt.Nivedita Raghunath Bhide	Social work	Tamil nadu
3.	Smt.Baoa devi	Arts-Painting	Bihar
4.	Smt.Basanti bisht	Arts-Music	Uttarakhand
5.	Smt.Dipa karmakar	Sports-gymnastics	Tripura
6.	Smt.Anuradha koirala (Foreigner)	Social work	Nepal
7.	Smt.V.Koteswaramma	Education & Literature	Andhrapradesh
8.	Smt.Deepa Malik	Sports-Athletics	Haryana
9.	Smt.Sakshi Malik	Sports-wrestling	Haryana
10.	Smt.Aruna Mohanty	Art-Dance	Odisha
11.	Smt.Anuradha Paudwal	Arts-Music	Maharashtra
12.	Smt.Parassal B Ponnammal	Arts-Music	Kerala
13.	Smt.Bhawana somaaya	Education&literature,journalism	Maharashtra
14.	Late(Smt).Suniti Solomon (Posthumous)	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
15.	Smt. Bharathi Vishnuvardhan	Art- Cinema	Karnataka
16.	Smt. Sukri Bommagowda	Art - Music	Karnataka
17.	Smt. Eli Ahmed	Literature & Education	Assam
18.	Dr.(Smt) Bhakthi Yadav	Medicine	Madhya pradesh

Here is a list of women achievers who brought accolades to the country and dazzled everyone with their brilliance in 2016!

Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (Andhra Pradesh; born 5 July 1995) became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the Rio Olympics 2016. She is in the Top 20 in 2012, and is currently ranked no. 10 in the world. She is the second-highest-ranked women's singles player from India after Olympic bronze medalist (London 2012) Saina Nehwal. Sindhu had previously won the bronze medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, and the silver medal at 2016 South Asian Games in Guwahati. In March 2015, P.V. Sindhu became the youngest recipient of the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honour.

Sakshi Malik (Haryana; born 3 September 1992) is an Indian freestyle wrestler. At the 2016 Summer Olympics, She won the bronze medal in the 58 kg category, becoming the first Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the Olympics. Malik had previously won the silver medal at 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, and the bronze medal at 2015 Asian Wrestling Championships in Doha. Sakshi Malik entered the top-five in the latest United World Wrestling rankings, rising to a career-best 4th position in women's 58kg category.

Dipa Karmakar (Tripura, born 9 August 1993) is an artistic gymnast represented India at the 2016 Summer Olympics. She is the first Indian female gymnast ever to compete in the Olympics, and the first Indian gymnast to do so in 52 years. She attained 4th position in Women's Vault Gymnastics event of Rio Olympics 2016 with an overall score of 15.066. She first gained attention when she won a bronze medal at 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and she has become the first Indian female gymnast to do so in the history of the Games. Karmakar is one of only five women who have successfully landed the Produnova, the most difficult vault currently performed in women's gymnastics. She also won a bronze medal at the Asian Gymnastics Championships and finished fifth at 2015 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships

Sania Mirza has established herself as the most successful female Indian tennis player ever and one of the highest paid and high-profile athletes in the country. Sania Mirza was named in TIME Magazine's 2016 list of the 100 most influential people in the world. She was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2016.

CELEBRATION OF WOMAN POWER

Olympic stars P.V. Sindhu, Sakshi Malik and Dipa Karmakar were conferred India's highest sporting honour the *Rajive Gandhi Khel Ratna* at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.


