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STUDENT EDITION

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022



FASHIONING A NEW JOURNEY

LEENA NAIR, Global CEO, Chanel

WHY SHE'S HERE: First female and youngest-ever CEO of luxury brand Chanel
WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: People-focused leadership, approachability

Born and raised in Kolhapur – far cry from a glam world, Nair is now heading one of the legacy brands of high fashion, Chanel. She landed her first job at Unilever in human resources and spent three decades at the FMCG major and became the first woman and Asian to hold the global HR position. Nair is known for putting the 'human' in Human Resources. Experts believe that Nair's stint will be interesting to watch with talks of diversity and inclusivity. Choice of Nair signals that luxury is now understanding that we need to put people at the heart of the industry.



Lift as you climb. Make it easier for those who come after you

SHE PACKS A PUNCH

MARY KOM, boxer

WHY SHE'S HERE: The only female boxer to have won a medal in each one of the first seven World Championships, and the only boxer (male or female) to win eight World Championship medals
WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Tenacity and never-say-die spirit

Mary Kom once said: "Never buy gold, simply earn it." And earn she did. As a petite pugilist, she packs quite a punch and her litany of awards is testimony to that. Hers is a guts-to-glory story. Hailing from a poor family in Manipur, Chungneijang Mary Kom Mangte was at first rejected by her coach for being "too tiny". Proving everyone around that appearances can be deceptive, Kom rose to the challenges the ring threw at her to become a World Champion and World No. 1. Not just that, as mother of three she continued to achieve and tick off more milestones even as everyone around her told her she can't do it. She just did.



Rest if you must, but don't quit it

WOMEN TO THE FORE

WOMEN WHO LEAD. WOMEN WHO INSPIRE. WOMEN WHO #BREAKTHEBIAS.

I have a dream..." that is one powerful phrase. On its own it can be a whimsical line. Add the ellipses to it and it evolves into a loaded statement imbued with a promise of change – a dream for a better tomorrow. This year, the theme for International Women's Day is one we all dream of – a gender-equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. This year, it's a call to come together to #BreakTheBias. Today, we celebrate women who are thinkers, dreamers and over and above, Do-ers. While every woman, every day, is a Superhero in her own right, we bring you stories that inspire, stories of courage and stories that prove this age-old Spanish proverb: "To tell a woman everything she cannot do is to tell her what she can".

TODAY'S EDITION



Wonder women of science, business and MORE
PAGE 2



Women writers, actors, directors...
PAGE 3



Women in sports
PAGE 4

MAKEUP MAGIC

FALGUNI NAYAR, founder, Nykaa

WHY SHE'S HERE: India's first self-made billionaire

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Conviction, can-do spirit

Ask any young woman (or man) about their preferred choice to shop for beauty needs, and chances are, the answer would be Nykaa. In 2012, when former investment banker Falguni Nayar quit her job to start the beauty portal, she was inspired by her visits to Sephora – a beauty store in the US. Ten years hence, Nykaa is now an omnichannel with 73 stores across 38 cities, and generates \$334 million in revenue. The company successfully launched its IPO last year to a resounding success.



I was never a good swimmer but I would always be the first to jump in

GET ECONOMICAL

GITA GOPINATH, economist

WHY SHE'S HERE: First Deputy MD of IMF, its number-two leadership position; first female chief economist of IMF
WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Keep the basics strong

Less than a year after Gita Gopinath took charge at IMF, Covid-19 struck. As economies reeled under the impact, her prescriptions for revival were sought after by governments. In 2021, "Financial Times" named Gopinath among the '25 most influential women of the year'. IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva noted that "She made history as the first female Chief Economist and we benefitted from her sharp intellect and deep knowledge of international finance and macro-economics as we navigate through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression."



Pic: Imf.org

FOR SOME SPACE

SIRISHA BANDLA, commercial astronaut

WHY SHE'S HERE: Second India-born woman to go to space; **WHAT YOU CAN LEARN:** Never stop dreaming

Aeronautical engineer and commercial astronaut, she's vice president of government affairs and research operations for Virgin Galactic. After being rejected by NASA on medical grounds, Bandla joined Virgin Galactic and flew on the Unity 22 mission. Grandfather Dr Bandla Rajaiah said: "From a very young age, Sirisha had set her eyes on space, and I am not at all surprised that she is all set to realise her dream."



WEIGHT UP!

MIRABAI CHANU, weightlifter

WHY SHE'S HERE: The first Indian weightlifter to win silver at the Olympics **WHAT YOU CAN LEARN:** Hard work always pays

Story goes that the family of Saikhom Mirabai Chanu identified her strength at the age of 12, when they noticed how she could easily carry a huge bundle of firewood while her elder brother found it hard to even pick it up! Coming from a humble background, she decided to follow her sporting dreams and started training for weightlifting at the Sports Academy in Manipur. To get there she hitched rides with truck drivers. After winning the Olympic medal, she invited the drivers to offer her gratitude.

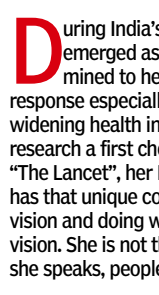


RESEARCH MINDSET

GAGANDEEP KANG, microbiologist

WHY SHE'S HERE: Kang is India's premier voices in research and vaccines; first Indian woman to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society
WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: A commitment to research

During India's fight against Covid-19, Kang emerged as a voice of reason. She is determined to help shape future health system response especially after the pandemic revealed the widening health inequities. She is keen to make research a first choice for students. In an article in "The Lancet", her PhD student had shared: "Kang has that unique combination of 'big picture' vision and doing what it takes to achieve that vision. She is not the loudest voice. But when she speaks, people listen."



TO MARKET, TO MARKET

MADHABI PURI BUCH, chairperson, SEBI

WHY SHE'S HERE: First woman to lead Securities & Exchange Board of India
WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Adoption of technology, data-driven approach

Puri brings many firsts: first woman to head SEBI; youngest chairperson; the first non-IAS individual since 2002 as well as the first person from the private sector to lead the markets watchdog. She was also the first woman to be a whole-time member (WTM) at SEBI – a post just below the chairman and she's also the first WTM to become a chairperson. The former banker takes over at a time when the markets are reeling under the impact of the Ukraine-Russia war. Also on her plate: restoring faith after the NSE scandal. But Buch is up for any challenge. She's known for her data-driven approach and progressive ways. She once said that turning SEBI into a tech savvy regulator was her single biggest achievement.



BEYOND FILMS

DEEPIKA PADUKONE, actor

WHY SHE'S HERE: For championing gender pay equality, better work-life and mental health
WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: The art of staying relevant

2021 started with Deepika Padukone purging her account. Overnight her entire feed vanished. Since Jan 1, 2021, she added carefully curated content that was more Gen Z, "woke" and relevant. From "women claiming their space" to mental health conversations – all of this is peppered with content about her movies. Padukone had once said in an interview: "I'm a strong believer in the fact that women are born to multi-task." And she proves it.



For years, we've been made to feel we should be OK with settling for less. But you should get what you think you deserve

PLANT PERFECT

TULSI GOWDA, environmentalist

WHY SHE'S HERE: Despite no formal education, Gowda is known as "encyclopaedia of forest"
WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Education is beyond school

Born into a Halakki tribal family, she didn't get to go to school, started working at an early age and was married off even before she turned a teen. Even so, Gowda who worked with the nursery at the Karnataka Forestry Department came to be known as an "Encyclopaedia of Forest". She worked directly to aid the afforestation efforts by the department by using her traditional knowledge of the land. She has personally planted lakhs of saplings and trees.



MOST ADMIRED

INDIA

■ MOTHER TERESA, Missionary: 26%
 ■ MARY KOM, Boxer: 15.6%
 ■ INDIRA GANDHI, Politician: 8.2%
 ■ SAALUMARADA THIMMAKKA, Environmentalist: 5.5%

Known as "Nightingale of India", she was the voice of Indian popular music for over eight decades



WORLD

QUEEN ELIZABETH II: 31.1% PRINCESS DIANA, Public Figure: 17.7%

■ ANGELA MERKEL, German Chancellor: 8.4%
 ■ OPRAH WINFREY, Media Personality: 8.2%

One of the most influential First Lady of the US, her appeal continues to grow beyond her tenure



BEST FROM THE PAST

INDIA

■ SAROJINI NAIDU, Politician: 14.1%
 ■ SAVITRI BAI PHULE, Activist: 6.1%
 ■ AHILYABAI HOLKAR, Maratha Queen: 5.2%
 ■ JIJABAI, Mother of Shivaji Maharaj: 4.9%

The warrior queen of Jhansi fought till her last breath and her legend continues to grow stronger everyday

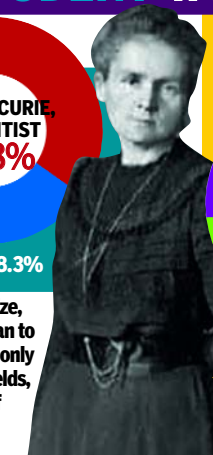


WORLD

ANNE FRANK, Diarist: 23.4%

■ ROSA PARKS, Civil Rights Activist: 19.4%
 ■ JOAN OF ARC, Warrior: 14.1%
 ■ AMELIA EARHART, Explorer: 8.3%

The first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and the only woman to win the Nobel Prize twice, and the only person to win it in two scientific fields, Curie's contributions to the field of science are invaluable



BEST IN CULTURE

INDIA

■ M S SUBBULAKSHMI, Carnatic Vocalist: 24.7%
 ■ MRINALINI SARABHAI, Bharatnatyam Exponent: 21.4%
 ■ KISHORI AMONKAR, Hindustani Vocalist: 16.8%
 ■ SONAL MANSINGH, Odissi: 10%

One of the greatest avant-garde women artists and a "pioneer" of modern Indian art



"Next time you are about to call a little girl 'bossy', say instead: She has executive leadership skills."
— Sheryl Sandberg



BUSINESS

ADITI GUPTA Co-Founder of Menstrupedia

Tired of the myths and misinformation that surrounded menstruation, Aditi Gupta took it upon herself to lead a change. She and her husband co-founded a comic book, Menstrupedia, in 2012. In 2014, she was listed on the Forbes India 30 under 30 list for her work towards breaking the taboo. **FIXING THE BIAS:** A first-of-its-kind comic book, it was widely accepted by parents raising both sons and daughters. It helped in sensitising both the genders that 'periods are normal'. Today, Menstrupedia is being used in more than 6,000 schools and has benefited more than 10,00,000 girls in over 14 languages.



cessories with an Indian touch. Why so? India lacked quirky souvenirs and there was a market to tap 'out-of-the-box fun' memorabilia. Also, she felt 'humour and culture can be married together tastefully and sensitively'. In 2015, the firm saw 300 pc year on year growth.

FIXING THE BIAS: She noticed most countries have several quirky souvenirs to offer. However, India with all its culture and heterogeneity, doesn't. It was time to show the world that we can make quirky souvenirs too.

RICHA KAR Founder, Zivame

Richa Kar is the co-founder and the CEO of Zivame, an online lingerie store. She first conceptualised the idea while studying the lingerie retail market. She found that women felt uncomfortable shopping for lingerie in physical outlet stores. Moreover, most cities, except the top 10 cities, didn't even have good lingerie brands. Zivame gave women a sense of freedom they never had before.

FIXING THE BIAS: Lingerie shopping in India was a hush-hush affair and now, with Zivame, women have become aware of how lingerie, like any other clothing, is important for one's self esteem and confidence.



SHUBHRA CHADDA Co-founder, Chumbak

Shubhra co-founded Chumbak, an online store for funky ac-



CATCHING UP...



ANUSHKA JOLLY: She is 13 years old. She is armed with a business plan for an app that she is passionate about. From Pathways School, Gurgaon, Jolly, who has drawn the blueprint for her anti-bullying app, calls it a 'revolutionary move' to bring justice and a shield (read Kavach, as she proudly calls it) for all those bullied in the 'dark corridors of the schools'.

VINUSHA MK: From Amrita Vidyalayam Higher Secondary School, Chennai, this teen believes 'life is as you bake it'. She has set up her own pastry shop, Four Seasons Pastry, and likes being addressed to as the 'chief baking officer'.



ENVIRONMENT

ALMITRA PATEL Anti-pollution activist



Almitra Patel, 84, is an anti-pollution activist and Environmental Policy Advocate. Patel has been involved in issues concerning the environment that included saving the Gir Lions, protecting Ulsoor Lake, solid waste management, and building low-cost homes. In 1996, she was appointed to a Supreme Court Committee for Solid Waste Management. Patel was instrumental in the drafting of the country's first Municipal Solid Waste Management Rule that requires minimising waste to landfill by recycling dry waste.

FIXING THE BIAS: Patel was among the first girls to study science in Barnes High School, Deolali. Her legacy continued in 1959 when she became the first Indian woman engineer to graduate from MIT.

RAHIBAI POPERE Known as 'seed mother'

Rahibai Popere, known as seed mother, is from Kombhane village in Maharashtra. When her grandchild fell ill, Rahibai realised that it was caused due to the hybrid seeds in the foodgrains. To counter the large usage of hybrid seeds, she began to conserve native seeds. She conserved over 43 acres of farmland where she grew 17 crops. Popere was awarded Nari Shakti Puraskar in 2018 and the Padma Shri in 2020 for her 'native seed bank'.

FIXING THE BIAS: Without formal education in agriculture, she brought back native seeds and built a seed bank.

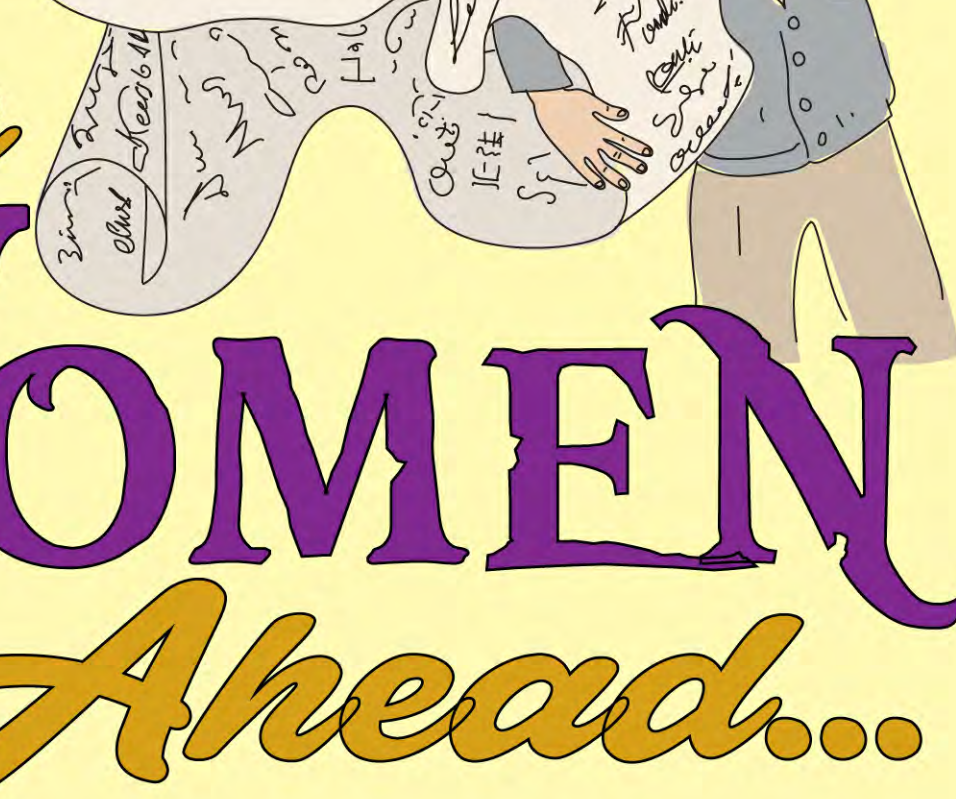


CATCHING UP...

LICYPRIYA KANGUJAM: Hailing from Manipur, Licypriya Kangujam is one of the youngest environmental activists in the world. At the age of seven, Kangujam began raising her voice against the problem of climate change. In June 2019, she protested in front of Parliament for the pass-



ing of the climate change law in India. **VINISHA UMASHANKAR:** In October 2020, Vinisha Umashankar, grade 9 (then), SKP Vanitha Int'l School, built a solar iron cart, which was seen as a gamechanger in the crusade against climate change. Her project won the Children's Climate Prize 2020.



She marches ahead fearlessly. She rebels against society's conventional norms by telling them, 'you are in my way'. The new woman of India is not afraid to speak her mind, pursue her ambition passionately, push boundaries, or move mountains. Meet the women and young girls from boardrooms, courtrooms, farms to classrooms, who know what to bring to the table, and transform the world...

EDUCATION

CHANDANA DUTTA Teacher from Bihar's Madhubani district



Chandana Dutta was among the 44 teachers selected from across the country for the National Award to Teachers in 2021. Dutta was awarded for supporting girls from minority communities and low-income families in the field of education.

FIXING THE BIAS: She continues to encourage parents to send their daughters to school. From the time she took up teaching in 2005, there has been an increase in enrollment of girls - nearly 60 pc of around 850 students, mostly from minority communities and poor families.

CATCHING UP...

RADHIKA BERI WAL, a resident of Mukundgarh in Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan, topped the ICAI CA Final India level this time. Beriwal said she never imagined she'd top in a field that was once considered a man's domain.



SCI-TECH

ANNIE SINHA ROY Project Sr Resident Engineer



After her graduation in mechanical engineering from Nagpur University, Annie Sinha Roy started working with Chennai Metro project in 2009 and later with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation in 2015. She single-handedly steered the tunnel-boring machine, carving out an underground

track. **FIXING THE BIAS:** Arguably the only woman tunnel engineer in the country, "She must be a visitor" - that's the murmur she heard when Roy walked into the construction site of Delhi Metro on the first day of her job. "There were about 100 men, most of them labourers and a few engineers. They thought I would not last long. There were no toilets, no place to sit and debris all around," she said.

CATCHING UP...

NAGA VARA APARNA AKULA received the IET India Young Women Engineer Award in 2021. Akula, principal scientist, CSIR-CSIO, was also awarded the Young Women Engineer of 2021 by The Institution of Engineering and Technology as part of the first edition of the IET India Awards 2021.



HEALTH

LATA DESAI Winner of Padma Shri in medicine 2022

Lata Desai founded the Society for Education, Welfare and Action-Rural (SEWA Rural) with her husband Anil Desai in 1980 in Jhagadia, Bharuch, and dedicated her life towards holistic, integrated well-being of tribal communities in Gujarat.

FIXING THE BIAS: Lata Desai left a lucrative medical career in the US and dedicated her life for rural development. This 80-year-old doctor took this decision four decades ago, and plunged to follow her heart and mission.



KK SHAILAJA Winner of CEU Open Society



KK Shailaja, the former Health Minister of Kerala, fondly known as 'Teacher Shailaja', was awarded the Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize for 2021. She was honoured for her community-based public health work and determined leadership at saving lives during Covid.

FIXING THE BIAS: Shailaja Teacher's example inspires young women to enter public service - a space still largely dominated by men in India.

CATCHING UP...

JO AGGARWAL, CEO of AI-powered mental health app Wysa, Jo started this revolutionary app after she couldn't find a product to help cope with depression. The app started in 2015 and seven years down the line, it has major investors - from a Kae Capital to Google.



FORCES

VAISHALI HIWASE First woman officer commanding in BRO

Vaishali S Hiwase became the first woman officer to be appointed as Officer Commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), India. She is responsible for connectivity through an Indo-China border road, according to BRO.



BHAWANA KANTH Fighter pilot

Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became the first woman fighter pilot to take part in the Republic Day parade, showcasing the Sukhoi-30.

THE INSPIRATION CONTINUES ON Toistudent.com

SPEAK YOUR MIND

"Women - the embodiment of Shakti have been the most revered, adored and respected in all ages. Let us stand together, for ourselves and for each other, nurturing and supporting each other. Let us rise above the negativity."

— SONAL NARANG, vice principal, Anand Niketan, Ahmedabad

MORE words of wisdoms by educators and students in SCHOOL IS COOL Section

WE MAKE THE NEWS

We profile four top women who have created a buzz in our NEWSMAKERS segment

FACT CHECK

Why purple, green and white are the colours of International Women's Day? How did this day start? Previous slogans. Get the low-down on the history of IWD in EXPLAINER



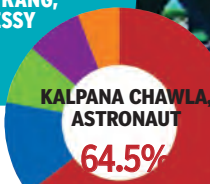
THE BEST OF THE BEST LIST

TOISTUDENT WOMEN'S DAY SURVEY

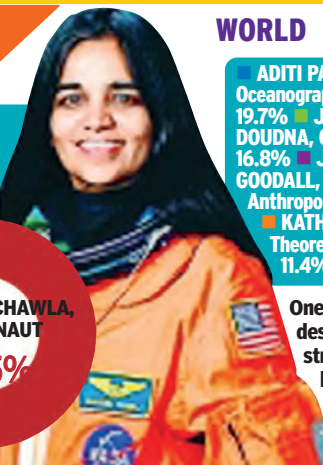
BEST IN SCIENCE

INDIA

MUTHAYYA VANITHA & RITU KARIDHAL, ISRO: 13.3%
SUNITA SARAWAGI, Professor, Computer Science & Engineering, IIT Bombay: 8.4%
GAGANDEEP KANG, Virologist: 7.9%
TESSY THOMAS, DG Aeronautical Systems: 5.9%



The first woman of Indian origin to go to space, she continues to inspire a new generation of hopefuls even from the great beyond



WORLD

ADITI PANT, Oceanographer: 19.7%
JENNIFER DOUDNA, Geneticist: 16.8%
JANE GOODALL, Primatologist and Anthropologist: 12.1%
KATHERINE FREESE, Theoretical Astrophysicist: 11.4%

One of the key designers and structural analysts building the Space Launch System for NASA that'll send people to Mars



BEST IN BUSINESS

INDIA

ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA, Former Chairperson of SBI: 27%
KIRAN MAZUMDAR SHAW, BioCon: 17.6%
NAMITA THAPAR, Emcure Pharma: 15.8%
ROSHNI NADAR, MALHOTRA, HCL: 12.3%



Started Nykaa at the age of 49 and has become India's wealthiest self-made female billionaire



WORLD

INDRA NOOYI, former CEO PepsiCo: 22.3%
LEENA NAIR, CEO, Chanel: 12.3%
LISA SU, CEO, AMD: 12%
MARY BARRA, CEO, General Motors: 9.8%

From Google's first marketing manager in 1999 to CEO of YouTube in 2014, she has been described by 'Time' as "the most powerful woman on the Internet"



BEST IN ARTS & CULTURE

WORLD

AUGUSTA SAVAGE, Sculptor: 21.7%
FRIDA KAHLO, Artist: 20.3%
MISTY COPELAND, Ballet Dancer: 18%
CECILIA BARTOLI, Opera Singer: 15.8%



Georgia O'Keeffe is known as the "Mother of American Modernism" and in our survey she bears pop culture's favourite icon Kahlo



GUTS, AMBITION, SUCCESS

Different ages, different ambitions, but these women have a few things in common. They have charted their path to success on their own terms. There are a few lessons to be learnt from them...



SHE LIT UP 2022 NITA PROSE, Debut author

WHY SHE'S HERE: Canadian author Nita Prose's debut novel, 'The Maid', became a 'New York Times' and Canadian bestseller just a few weeks after its January 4 release. An instant bestseller within the first week of sales, 'The Maid' hit the 'New York Times' hardcover list at No 8, and broke in at No 1 in Canadian Fiction and No 2 in Original Fiction on 'Toronto Star'. Apple recently

I don't think I've ever been accused of being lazy. Many other things, but not that. At the time, I was getting up at 5 am to write. I love that time of the day to write: it's as though a piece of your subconscious mind has come alive in the night and is still dancing on the page...

chose the book as one of their January Must-Listens. A film adaptation is already on its way as film rights were brought by Universal Pictures, with Academy Award nominated Florence Pugh set to star as the title character, Molly the maid.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Experience pays off

Having worked at several publishing houses during her career, Prose is a veteran of the publishing world. She is the Vice President/Editorial Director at Simon & Schuster in Canada which has published notable authors like as Rupri Kaur ('Milk and Honey') and Jason Reynolds, author ('Long Way Down' and 'Look Both Ways' among others. 'The Maid' is her debut novel – a cozy mystery which has an unusual protagonist, Molly the hotel maid. Interestingly, she had worked as a teacher for special needs students, which she says, taught her a lot.

“IF I AM A PRODUCER... I CAN SUPPORT NEW TALENT”

ALIA BHATT, actress

WHY SHE'S HERE: The 28-year-old actor's accolades include four Filmfare Awards. She has appeared in 'Forbes' India's Celebrity 100 list since 2014 and was featured by Forbes Asia in their 30 Under 30 list of 2017.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: You can get over your initial missteps with sheer hard work and talent



When she first came into the spotlight, Bhatt was trolled for an interview where she couldn't name the Indian President. She has come a long way from that. A movie starring Bhatt is the USP of top-notch directors in Bollywood right now. She has successfully planted herself at the top of the blockbuster chart and become the darling of film critics. Basking in the success of her latest film, 'Gangubai Kathiawadi', Bhatt says she has dreams of being a producer soon. "If I am a producer, I can support new talent. It's not just for fueling my engine... I can use that to fuel other engines with it." Like in the West, actresses, who have proved their mettle in the acting craft, Bhatt will be following the footsteps of successful women actors who are venturing more and more in production. The result? More films made from the point of view of women, something still sorely lacking in India.

“MY GENERATION HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE WORLD”

ZENDAYA, actress

WHY SHE'S HERE: Zendaya Maree Stoermer Coleman has had an amazingly successful year. All of 25, the former Disney Channel star has gone on to become a blockbuster star in the last two years. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her works. In the last three years, she has starred in all the Marvel Spiderman films, one of the biggest sci-fi fantasy, 'Dune', and HBO's teen 'mature' drama 'Euphoria', a Critics' Choice Movie Award for Best Actress nomination for 'Malcolm & Marie'. She is also a singer, has her own clothing line and is known for her philanthropic work. **WHAT YOU CAN LEARN:** Be smart, fierce and speak up when bullied and counter bad behaviour.



said her dreadlocks must have smelled of 'patchouli'. The fierce teen star responded with a widely-applauded Instagram post that said: "There is a fine line between what is funny and what is disrespectful... My wearing my hair in locs on an Oscar red carpet was to showcase them in a positive light, to remind people of colour that our hair is good enough. To me, locs are a symbol of strength and beauty [sic]." Later that year, Mattel created a Barbie that matched her red-carpet look to honour the young star for being a role model.

I think women are very powerful and I think we're more powerful together than separated. I want to show that you don't have to be older to live your dreams; you can do it at any age



SHE'S OUR VERY OWN DR SEUSS ANUSHKA RAVISHANKAR, CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

WHY SHE'S HERE: With 17 volumes under her belt, this software developer-turned-editor has taught countless Indian children to rhyme. **WHAT YOU CAN LEARN:** There is sense in nonsense



A book can be used as a springboard to talk about many things. I don't write books with any pedagogical intention in mind, however. I write books that children can enjoy reading

Anushka Ravishankar is credited with establishing the Indian English nonsense verse form and bringing it to the notice of the rest of the world. Born in Nashik, this mathematics graduate from Pune's Fergusson College worked in IT before becoming a full time author. Ravishankar's stories are excellent, with the most written in verse with metre and rhyme that would make Dr. Seuss proud. Ravishankar's books of nonsensical verse have grown popular with multiple generations of youngsters, ranging from 'Alphabets are Amazing Animals' to 'Excuse Me, Is This India?' The acclaimed author is also co-founder of Duckbill Books, a publishing house.

SHE IS A MASTERCLASS IN HUMILITY SUDHA MURTHY, Author

It doesn't matter how intelligent you are, how well off you are, or how well-connected you are. Your perseverance, your courage -- if you keep that intact -- will always make you successful



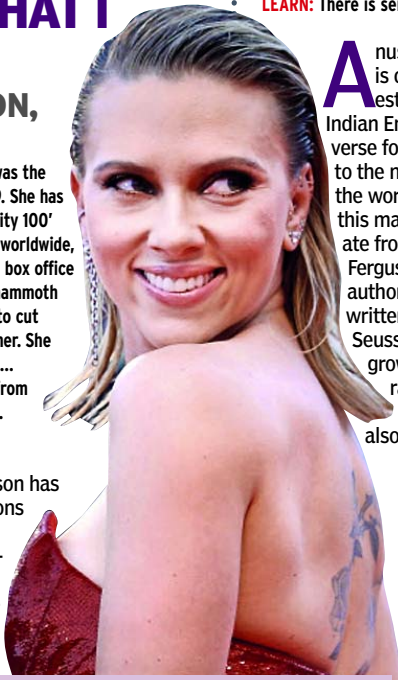
WHY SHE'S HERE: The simple Sudha Murthy is the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, a non-profit organisation based in Karnataka that supports a variety of underprivileged and marginalised areas. She is well known for penning multiple bestsellers including 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read', 'Here, There and Everywhere', 'The Mother I Never Knew', and 'Three Thousand Stitches', 'Gopi' and more. However, she says her true calling is to serve others

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Excellence is a habit

“I’VE HAD TO FIGHT FOR EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE”

SCARLETT JOHANSSON, actor

WHY SHE'S HERE: Scarlett Ingrid Johansson was the world's highest-paid actress in 2018 and 2019. She has featured multiple times on the 'Forbes Celebrity 100' list. Her films have grossed over \$14.3 billion worldwide, making Johansson the ninth-highest-grossing box office star of all time. This year though she won a mammoth legal battle against Disney; they were trying to cut 'Black Widow's' money and profit share from her. She made sure she wasn't one to be meddled with... **WHAT YOU CAN LEARN:** Don't ever shy away from asking or ensuring you get what you deserve. Accolades or money.



On numerous occasions Johansson has called out misogynistic questions asked by the media to her and her woman co-stars. Not one to be trifled with, she has made her displeasure known to every interviewer crossing the decency boundary, without caring about consequences.

SHE CHANGED THE WORLD WITH ONE STORY

J K ROWLING, author

WHY SHE'S HERE: With a net worth of \$1 billion in 2022, JK Rowling who wrote the 'Harry Potter' series changed the course of children's literature. Today her 'Harry Potter' series is an evergreen property, which sells over USD 100m each year over the last few years. According to online reports, the total sales of all of J K Rowling's 'Harry Potter' series exceeded 55 million copies, across 300 editions of her many titles for children and adults. That's not all. The British novelist uses her wealth to support children's literacy and charity via her foundation Lumos **WHAT YOU CAN LEARN:** Success requires grit



Born in Yate, Gloucestershire, England, Rowling grew up a dedicated bookworm with an interest in writing. She graduated from the University of Exeter in 1987 and began working as a bilingual secretary on the side. While waiting aboard a delayed train in 1990, she had the idea for the Harry Potter characters. Soon after though she lost her mother to multiple sclerosis, which had a profound impact on Rowling and her work, followed by the birth of her first child and the divorce from her first husband during the next seven years. It was while living in near poverty as a single parent when she wrote 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' (1997). It was rejected by multiple publishers, and only a 1000 copies were printed in the first run. Today 'Harry Potter' is one of the most successful licenses in the entertainment industry.

“I DON'T SECOND-GUESS MY INSTINCTS”

ANUSHKA SHARMA, actor

WHY SHE'S HERE: She has received several awards, including a Filmfare Award. She has appeared in 'Forbes' India's Celebrity 100 since 2012 and was featured by 'Forbes' Asia in their 30 Under 30 list of 2018. Anushka Sharma strated producing films around the time when well-established women stars like her weren't thinking beyond their acting gigs. With OTT platforms, now a lot of women are stepping up the production game, but she was a first among top-notch actors. It's especially heartening because she is also an outsider, who made it big in Bollywood as an actor. It takes guts to step into the production zone in Bollywood when you are not from a 'filmi' family.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Dream Big. Act on it.



She said in an interview to a newspaper, "I have built a position for myself as an actor. I wanted to leverage that for myself, to be able to back content and ideas, which are truly phenomenal and path-breaking in the stories that we tell as producers. It is not something people do very early on in their career, I am aware it's a unique thing that I did but then I am someone who has always done things which are different from the norm. And that's only because I don't want to second guess when my instincts are very strong about doing something." Atta girl!

It is impossible to live without failing at something unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default.

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Sheryl Sandberg had one message for women in the workforce: "Sit at the table - have the confidence to reach for opportunities." Learn more from her and other women leaders in LEADERSHIP

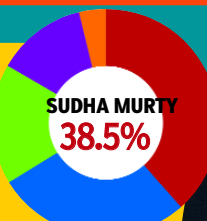
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BEST IN LITERATURE

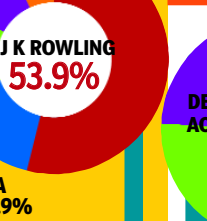
INDIA

- ARUNDHATI ROY: 27.7%
- KIRAN DESAI: 17.2%
- JHUMPA LAHIRI: 12.8%
- PARO ANAND: 3.8%



WORLD

- AGATHA CHRISTIE: 15.3%
- JANE AUSTEN: 13.9%
- ENID BLYTON: 10%
- MAYA ANGELOU: 6.9%



BEST IN CINEMA

INDIA

- DEEPIKA PADUKONE, ACTRESS/PRODUCER: 35%
- ALIA BHATT, Actor/Producer: 21%
- KATRINA KAIF, Actress and Founder, Kay Beauty: 19.9%
- ZOYA AKHTAR, Director: 15.1%
- ANUPAMA CHOPRA, Critic: 9%

One of the top actors in India, she's not only known for her acting chops but has used her platform to raise awareness about mental health, equal pay and work-life balance for the industry



WORLD

- SCARLETT JOHANSSON, ACTRESS: 38.8%
- ZENDAYA, Actress: 32%
- LUPITA NYONGO, Actress: 10.9%
- CHLOE ZHAO, Director: 10.5%
- GRETA GERWIG, Director: 7.8%

The world's highest-paid actress in 2018 and 2019, she has featured multiple times on the Forbes Celebrity 100 list



BEST IN MUSIC

INDIA

- ASHA BHONSLA: 35.3%
- LISA MISHRA: 7.3%
- USHA UTHUP: 5.1%
- REKHA BHARADWAJ: 4.7%

The current "it" girl of the Indian film music circuit, she is also one of the highest-paid singers in India today



PERFECT TO THE TEE

ADITI ASHOK, Golf

WHY SHE'S HERE: The only female golfer to represent India at the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics, the first-ever Indian to win a Ladies European Tour title, the first Indian woman golfer to play the Youth Olympics, the Youth Asian Games, the Asian Games, the only Indian on the LPGA Tour. If this isn't an achievement in itself, mention must be made that Aditi missed a historic Olympic medal at Tokyo by a whisker. Goes without saying that she has just started to show what she is capable of.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Love and relentless ambition to excel at every opportunity.

What started as a family weekend activity at the age of five eventually led to a sensation and revolution for women's golf in the country. This 1998 born Bengaluru girl has quite a few 'firsts' in her career though she is all of 22. Given that India lacks the infrastructure needed for the growth of this sport, it has required tremendous dedication to make a career in a sport that is not the most popular. It has been a lonely journey for Ashok, having kept the Tricolour flying high right from her amateur days. This would not have been possible without the immense support she has got from her family. This support was evident at the Rio and Tokyo Olympics where her parents doubled up as her caddies.



People in India woke up at 4 am to watch golf and learn about golf; I think that's the biggest victory from the Olympic week for me

SHUTTling FOR EXCELLENCE

MALVIKA BANSOD, Badminton

WHY SHE'S HERE: Shuttle Malvika Bansod recently defeated the former world no. 1 and 2012 Olympic bronze medalist, Saina Nehwal, at the India Open 2022. The 20-year old shuttler from Nagpur is the only Indian after PV Sindhu to defeat Nehwal in an international tournament.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Consistency and being focused

praise from Saina as well. Her consistent performances saw her ranking go up from 452 in 2019 to 111 at present. She aims to be among the top 100.

During the pandemic, Bansod took special permission to train in Raipur under coach Sanjay Mishra. Both she and her coach kept their lessons on and in her own words, "My coach took special effort to keep my training on during these difficult times."

You're constantly competing at the elite level. It's very necessary to be in form. It's my aim to keep enhancing myself, play much better, and win a lot

Bansod has always idolised Nehwal since the latter was the 'flag bearer of women's badminton for more than a decade'. Bansod said while referring to Saina "That's the reason I took up badminton. When I started out I used to get overawed by her game, style of play, and power." Her performance had earned



THE GREAT WALL OF INDIA

SAVITA PUNIA, Hockey

WHY SHE'S HERE: Standing tall and withstanding a barrage of penalty corners, she helped India qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics after 36 years. Her heroics in front of the goal post helped India win the 2017 Asia Cup and qualify for the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup, and she was adjudged the best goalkeeper in the tournament.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Hard work always pays. Be patient and keep digging.

My grandfather was adamant I give up taking care of the home to achieve something more, and every one at home was very supportive

From listening to hockey commentary on radio as a child to becoming the centre of that commentary, from carrying a 20 kg baggage to the training centre to becoming the captain of the Indian Women's Hockey team, this 5'7" tall Haryana girl has stood rock solid and watched the Indian Women's Hockey Team gain new heights in recent times. Named as 'The Wall' for her stellar role as goalkeeper, Punia thwarted every Australian attack to help India register a 1-0 win and reach the semi-finals of the Tokyo Olympics, eventually finishing the tournament in the 4th position, their best ever performance at the Olympic's stage. A recipient of the Arjuna Award, Savita Punia is going to take the Indian Women's Hockey team to more glory in the days ahead.

Fun fact : If it wasn't for her grandfather, she would have taken up Judo or Badminton.



GET YOUR MOTIVATION ON

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Get to know women who came up in the world of science and technology in the last two years in our SCI-TECH section

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Do you know that women are considered the keepers of the environment and the preservers of ecology? We tell you how and why women are important for a better planet in ENVIRONMENT

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Women are the weaker sex? Says who? We share interesting scientific researches that tell you women are stronger and how in LIFESTYLE

SHE'S A SPORT
Take our Women's Day quiz on famous sportswomen in SPORTS section and don't forget to share your score-card with us

WOMAN POWER

ON THE FIELD

Like in every other field, sportswomen too have had to work much harder to prove themselves and gain the admiration of the country. Yet, over the years, our women have come out blazing a trail, and setting new standards. We look at a few of the many who have been trendsetters in their chosen game

THROWING FEAR TO THE WIND

KAMALPREET KAUR, Discus throw

WHY SHE'S HERE: Kamalpreet is the first Indian woman to breach the 65m barriers in a discus throw. She qualified for the discus throw final at Tokyo Olympics 2020 but finished 6th on the final day of competition after rain interrupted play and turned the situation tricky. Hers was the second best in the qualification round and she finished only behind gold medalist Valarie Allman from the United States.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Overcome fears

Born in a middle-class family, this girl from Punjab was initially interested in the game of Shot Put. However, her focus gradually shifted towards discus throw and after completing her schooling, she began her professional training in this field at the SAI centre in her village. Kaur has decided to practice on a damp or wet discus circle after the Tokyo Olympics 2020. She believes that it will help her overcome her fear ahead of the World Athletics Championships in July. She also plans to work on her speed and technique. "I think my technique is a bit slow in comparison to others and the American gold medalist (Valarie Allman at Tokyo 2020). I will try to reduce my spin time inside the circle," Kaur had said.





gain control of a fight. A strong advocate for Mixed Martial Arts in India, she is on a mission to become the nation's first-ever female champion. "We as a nation need to widen our acceptance of other sports apart from cricket and football. While wrestling, MMA and other combat sports are rising in popularity in some states, it is important that authorities take notice of these sports and hunt and nurture talented youngsters that are interested in pursuing MMA," said Phogat.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Dedication and hard work, coupled with an undying spirit

The third daughter of former wrestler Mahavir Singh Phogat, she grew up following in the footsteps of her sisters, wrestlers Geeta and Babita Phogat. Her decision to shift to MMA was well supported by her family, especially her father who has been her trainer from a young age and her main motivator. "I live to win and dare to dedicate my all," says a confident Ritu of her sporting journey. Known as 'The Indian Tigress', she uses her wrestling skills to her advantage in the ring to



BLEEDING BLUE
JEMIMAH RODRIGUES, Cricket

WHY SHE'S HERE: Considering her striking achievements after scoring 202* in 163 balls in November 2017 Jemimah Rodrigues made heads turn as she became the second woman after Smriti Mandhana to score a double century in a 50 over cricket match. Her remarkable performance has seen her bag multiples award, including the Jagmohan Dalmiya Award for Best Domestic Junior Women's Cricketer by the BCCI in June 2018. Her attacking batting style and bowling skills have helped the Indian Women's team achieve great laurel. Awarded with the Best Woman Cricketer award (Jr Domestic) at the BCCI awards for the 2017-18 season, Jemimah is one of the finest next-gen women cricketers of India.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: Age is just a number, if you have the passion and dedication, you can excel in your domain.

In a country where people are smitten by cricket, it is an extraordinary feeling as a women to done the blue jersey, stepping inside the cricket pitch and dictating it on her own terms. With sports in her genes, this Mumbaikar proved her penchant towards sports when she debuted for the under 19 state cricket team at the age of 13. It's a very rare sight to see a sportsperson excelling in two different sports at the same time, and Jemima is among these few.

She will soon be playing a hockey tournament. The cricketer has some incredible dribbling skills and her fans can't wait to see her dazzle with the hockey stick

She has played for the state cricket and hockey teams at the junior level. Even after making her name in International cricket, she hasn't forgotten her love for the game of hockey and will be featuring in an upcoming domestic hockey tournament.

"JOSH" ALL THE WAY

JOSHNA CHINAPPA, Squash

WHY SHE'S HERE: The player with many firsts to her credit, Joshna Chinappa has cemented her place as India's No.1 squash player and reclaimed her spot among the world's top ten. She was the first Indian to win a British Junior Open title in 2005. She was also the first Indian to claim a gold medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games Doubles event, partnering with Dipika Pallikal. It was also the year when she claimed victories in both the Winter Club Women's Open and the Richmond Open. In April 2018, Chinappa defeated eight-time World Champion and former world number one, Nicol David in straight sets, an achievement that came on the back of her Commonwealth outing. Though she has been on the squash circuit for over two decades now, the 35-year-old continues to hold her own in the court.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN: The focus on improving and becoming better.

It's obviously great to be back in the top-10. But the goal is to keep improving and go higher

Hailing from a family of sportspersons, she is a fourth-generation squash player, who has had to live up to the standards of her great-grandfather, the legendary Field Marshal K M Cariappa, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. Born in Chennai, she started playing squash at the age of 8, after having explored the options of playing badminton or tennis. Often compared to and pitched against her compatriot and doubles partner Dipika Pallikal, she says the so-called rivalry between the two is much hyped. They are both competitive and get along well.



THE BEST OF THE BEST LIST

TOISTUDENT WOMEN'S DAY SURVEY

BEST IN SPORTS

INDIA

- BABITA PHOGAT, Wrestler: 13%
- MIRABAI CHANU, Boxer: 8.6%
- DIPA KARMAKAR, Gymnast: 6.5%
- HIMA DAS, Sprinter: 5.6%

Sindhu is considered one of India's most successful sportspersons and is also one of the highest-paid female athletes in the country

WORLD

- MEGAN RAPINOE, Footballer: 16.2%
- CAROLINA MARIN, Badminton Player: 14.7%
- NAOMI OSAKA, Tennis Player: 14.3%
- SIMONE BILES, Gymnast: 9.9%

Widely considered one of the greatest tennis players of all time, she has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most by any player in the Open Era

INDIA

- MAMATA BANERJEE, CM, West Bengal: 26.4%
- MEHBOOBA MUFTI SAYEED, J&K PDP: 7.6%
- MAHUA MOITRA, TMC MP: 7.2%
- SUPRIYA SULE, NCP MP: 5.1%

A constant in all "Most Powerful Lists", she is the current Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs – the second only after Indira Gandhi to hold this position

WORLD

- GRETA THUNBERG, Environmental Activist: 23.7%
- JACINDA ARDERN, New Zealand PM: 16.3%
- SHEIKH HASINA, Bangladesh PM: 14.5%
- MELINDA GATES, Philanthropist: 10.8%

The first female vice president and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, as well as the first African American and first Asian American vice president

BEST IN MUSIC

WORLD

- ARIANA GRANDE: 22.3%
- BILLIE EILISH: 21.9%
- RIHANNA: 12.6%
- ADELE: 7%

Having sold over 200 million records worldwide, Swift is one of the best-selling musicians of all time, she also uses her platform to talk about advocacy of artists' rights and women empowerment in the music industry

INDIA

- PV SINDHU, BADMINTON PLAYER: 66.3%
- KAMALA HARRIS, US VICE-PRESIDENT: 34.8%
- TAYLOR SWIFT: 36.3%