



# International Women's Day



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The Editors Perspective



## **Celebrating International Women's Day: Embracing Feminism Together**

As we celebrate International Women's Day, let's for a moment and sit back to think about what feminism really means. Feminism is not just about women's issues; actually, it's a value that everyone can embrace—both men and women. True feminism should transcend beyond genders. At its heart, it's about recognizing the dignity and equality of every single person.

Feminism is about creating balance and harmony in our world. It encourages men and women to support each other on their journeys. While we can challenge old ideas about gender roles, men can embrace qualities like compassion and empathy, while women can tap into their strength and determination. This way, feminism becomes something we all share, fostering respect and equality for everyone.

On this Women's Day, let's celebrate feminism and recognize that we all have a role to play. Let's honor the spirit of feminism as a quality that lives in each of us irrespective of our gender ; inspiring us to create a community where everyone can thrive free from stereotypes. Together, we can build a future that is inclusive and empowering for all!

**Rtn. Milind Pandit**  
Editor



# बोले

## Message from the President



Dear Club Members,

As we celebrate International Women's Day, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible women in our club and community. This day serves as a powerful reminder of the strength, resilience, and achievements of women everywhere.

In our pursuit of "Service Above Self," let us recognize that empowering women is vital to creating a better world. When women thrive, families flourish, communities grow stronger, and future generations benefit. We are fortunate to be part of an organization that champions diversity and inclusion, exemplifying the very spirit of collaboration and service.

I urge each of you to reflect on the women who have inspired you in your own lives. Consider how we can further amplify their voices and support their dreams, whether through mentorship, advocacy, or collaborative projects.

As we honor the achievements, let us commit ourselves to fostering an environment where every woman feels empowered to pursue her passions and ambitions. Together, we can pave the way for a brighter, more equitable future.

**Happy International Women's Day!**

Warm regards,

**Rtn. Chetna Singh**

President



# इश्रुति

A compilation of club activities  
by Aditi Bhattacharjee



## 1. First Official Club Visit of RCHI:

RCHI organized its first OCV - Official Club Visit of Governor on 9th Feb 2025, Sunday and welcomed DG Rtn Dinesh Mehta and other district dignitaries. Some of the events at the OCV included closed door meeting is for RCHI core team and District team, club assembly for interaction between all club members and DG and general assembly for all club members. The event was attended by Rotarians, family members of RCHI, co-presidents from other Rotary clubs, etc , prospects. Four new members were also pinned and inducted to Rotary on this day. The official meeting was followed by fellowship and cocktail dinner.



## 2. Meditation Programme for Cancer Patients:

The RCHI-sponsored meditation program for cancer patients and their families was conducted from February 20 to 23, 2025, at Shiv Kalyan Kendra, Sion Koliwada. The initiative aimed to provide emotional and mental well-being support through guided meditation sessions. The program was led by Rtn. Anil Kumar, accompanied by Mrs. Anita, and witnessed the participation of around 400 residents. Each session ran for 45 minutes, from 7:00 PM to 7:45 PM, offering participants a serene environment to practice mindfulness and relaxation techniques. Rtn. Anil Kumar introduced various meditation methods, focusing on breathwork, visualization, and stress reduction. Mrs. Anita assisted in ensuring a smooth flow of the sessions and provided personalized guidance to participants. The program received an overwhelming response, with participants expressing gratitude for the calming and therapeutic experience.





### 3. RCHI Hosts Fundraiser Cricket Tournament - Ivan Cricket League 1.1:

RCHI successfully organized the Ivan Cricket League, a fundraiser cricket tournament, under the leadership of Club President Chetna Singh, along with Project Chairs Priyank Bhatia and Rohit Maheshwari. RCHI is grateful to Satish Deore for organizing the title sponsorship.

The event was graced by MLA Shri Sanjay Kelkar, who encouraged the players and even took to the pitch for a few deliveries.

The tournament concluded with Rotary District Governor Rtn Dinesh Mehta presenting the championship trophy and a cash prize to the winning and runners-up team. DG and other district officials thoroughly enjoyed the thrilling final match.

Event was sponsored by CEAT, co-sponsored by Regency Group and kind sponsors as Clear, Ankit sports, KrishnaConchem Products.

The funds raised from this event will be dedicated to providing free paediatric heart surgeries for underprivileged children. In India, approximately 240,000 babies are born with congenital heart disease (CHD) each year, with nearly 60,000 infants requiring critical heart procedures annually. Unfortunately, 90% of these life-saving surgeries remain unperformed, leaving thousands of children without the urgent cardiac care they need. 9 teams played match and winners and runners-up were awarded with Trophy and cash prize.





# prerna

## Tales Of Inspiration

**Deepti Pandit**

### **Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges**

If someone had told me years ago that I'd be leading strategy in consumer finance, coaching aspiring leaders, and championing wellness in leadership, I wouldn't have believed them. Like many of us, my journey hasn't followed a straight path. It has been shaped by learning curves, unexpected detours, and moments of self-doubt. But looking back, every challenge has played a role in shaping who I am today.

I began with a science background and found myself in sales—an industry I knew little about. My first role had me explaining car loans when I barely knew anything about cars! It was daunting, but I embraced the discomfort, learned quickly, and pushed forward. Over time, I moved into leadership, managing teams and driving strategic initiatives. But along the way, I realized something important: leadership isn't just about hitting targets—it's about people.

That realization led me to coaching. I saw firsthand how meaningful conversations could transform careers and lives, and I knew I wanted to do more. So, I trained as a coach, earned my certifications, and began integrating coaching into leadership. Helping others unlock their potential became a passion, reinforcing my belief that true success is about growth—both our own and that of those around us.

But growth isn't just professional—it's personal, too. A few years ago, I decided to prioritize health, not just for myself but as a leadership philosophy. The best leaders, I've learned, take care of their minds and bodies while inspiring others to do the same.

As a woman, balancing professional ambitions with personal responsibilities has been a journey in itself. There were sacrifices—missed family moments, late nights, and difficult choices—but I was never alone in this journey. My family's unwavering support made all the difference. Their belief in me gave me the strength to keep pushing forward, even when self-doubt crept in. Like many working women, I've navigated the constant juggle—career, family, personal growth—all while proving that success doesn't mean choosing one over the other. It has meant setting priorities, being resilient, and redefining balance on my own terms.

At the same time, I continue evolving in banking, payments, and financial innovation. With Fintech and Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) reshaping financial services, I aim to bridge traditional banking with digital transformation, ensuring businesses and consumers can navigate this shift.

My journey is far from over. I'm still learning—pursuing certifications like PMP and ACC, exploring the future of banking, and finding new ways to make an impact. If there's one lesson I hold close, it's this: reinvention is a lifelong process.

(Deepti Pandit is heading the Sales Strategy Unit of Consumer Finance at HDFC Bank, with 28 years of experience in banking, sales management, and payments.)





## Nishika Bhatia

### From passion to purpose: My Journey in Hospital Operations

My professional journey began in the field of hospital operations, where I discovered my passion for improving healthcare systems and creating efficient, patient-centered environments. Growing up, I always had a keen interest in problem-solving and understanding how complex systems work, which naturally led me to the healthcare sector. I was drawn to the idea of making a tangible difference in people's lives, and hospital operations became the perfect platform for me to pursue that passion.

I started my career in 2010 as a junior executive in hospital operations, and it was here that I learned the intricacies of managing day-to-day activities while ensuring optimal patient care. From managing staff schedules to overseeing resources and ensuring compliance with healthcare regulations, I was fortunate to gain valuable insights into what makes a hospital function smoothly. Over time, I moved on to take on more leadership responsibilities, leading teams, optimizing processes, and working on initiatives that positively impacted both patients and staff and that's where today I am heading the patient care operations of one of the most leading hospitals of the town "Fortis hospitals".

Throughout my journey, I've always focused on creating systems that not only streamline hospital operations but also prioritize the experience of those we serve. Whether it was introducing new technologies or implementing efficient workflows, the goal has always been to improve patient outcomes and make healthcare more accessible and efficient. Each challenge I faced in the healthcare environment only fueled my determination to make a positive impact.

Balancing my professional ambitions with my personal life has been crucial to my growth. I've learned to stay grounded by nurturing relationships and taking time for self-care, which has given me the strength to handle the demands of a fast-paced career. Being in hospital operations has provided me with a unique opportunity to touch lives every day, and it's a reminder that no matter how challenging the work gets, the purpose behind it is always worth it.

As a woman in a field that is constantly evolving, I've faced my share of challenges. However, I've always believed in the power of resilience, and every obstacle has only strengthened my resolve. Today, I look back with pride on the path I've carved in hospital operations, knowing that my journey has allowed me to make meaningful contributions to both the healthcare system and the people it serves.

(Nishika Bhatia, Head - patient care services, Fortis Hospitals, Mulund)





## **Bhakti Kapadia**

### **Better Late than Never**

My passion for dance started budding when I was a petite eight year old school girl in two ponytails. Surprisingly the root cause of this wasn't only "Bollywood," but also classical dancers like Yamini Krishnamurthy, Pandit Birju Maharaj and Mallika Sarabhai. Having cherished this dream of learning a classical dance form, I approached my parents for the permission to join a formal class.

Unfortunately, not so many classes sprung out in our neighborhood at that time. This meant travelling a distance. Before the seed could even sprout into a sapling, my dream was quashed with a firm negative response. I saw my dream shattering in front of me. I was down but not out. Like rays of sunshine, I stumbled upon the chance to perform folk dances in my school and continued in my university days as well. Like all other aspiring dancers, I also mimicked Bollywood dance numbers and sang as well as performed them at home with my friend in front of the mirror. One of our neighbors peered through her windows and warned my mom that I would end up doing no good. Alas! Bollywood dancing took a backseat. Academics took the centre stage and I discovered yet another passion of teaching.

Thus began the journey of a dedicated teacher, till the time that I got married and was blessed with a son. This time round along with my renewed hobby of dance, I chanced upon drama as well. My son is also a graceful dancer, which ensured that mummy returns to dance. Now both of us practiced our own set of choreographies and had the golden opportunity to perform on stage. It was total fun while it lasted. I was teaching academics, drama and dabbling in dance choreographies for the tiny tots at "The Reading Tree School". Once again life had different plans in store. Out of the blue, my husband, Himanshu was promoted and shifted to Singapore. For ten years I was away from all my already discovered hobbies and a new one to travel with Himanshu germinated. My Zumba classes ensured that my dance skills didn't get rusted and the dream was yet alive. Once we were back in Mumbai, Covid had reared its ugly head up. Dance again took the side stage. I however continued dancing while cooking. It sounds amusing, but I feel that the meals turn out to be finger-licking, provided you enjoy the process. What better way to achieve it

Post covid, I latched on to the chance of performing a "Garba and Dandiya" during our building annual day. My performance was greatly appreciated. Lo and Behold! My neighbour shared with me information about a kathak class right at our doorstep. I grabbed this greedily with both my hands. Since then, for two years I am learning Kathak from my guru Dr. Roopali Deshpande. There has been no turning back. I am absolutely enjoying this new journey. My forte is getting under the skin of the piece to be performed, which resulted in conveying through expressions and movements. While I was actually living my dream, I wished my parents were alive for them to be a part of this dream. The "Rotal talent contest" organized by Rotary was my golden ticket to reiterate dance is still alive in me and the joy can be seen in my smile as I perform.

Thus I would like to say, never give up your dreams. It is better late than never to pursue your passion.

(Bhakti Kapadia is a trained Kathak dancer and has performed several stage shows including ROTAL)





# parichay

## Know your fellow members...

### Rtn. Anjali K

Hello fellow Rotarians! I'm Anjali, a new member of RCHI eager to contribute to our shared mission of community betterment through Rotary's impactful initiatives.

As a single parent, I've built a life centered on love, resilience, and service. My two children—a 29-year-old son and a 23-year-old daughter—are my greatest achievements and continually inspire me to lead with integrity and compassion.

I firmly believe in karma and the power of positive energy, making kindness and empathy the foundations of my personal and professional life. To maintain balance, I practice yoga regularly, aligning my body and mind, and indulge in reading to fuel my passion for lifelong learning.

With a natural talent for languages, I transformed my hobby of learning German into a fulfilling profession. Over the past 30 years, I've amassed extensive corporate experience in roles such as German language expert, Quality Assurance professional, Lead ISO Auditor, and Contract Management Associate. Additionally, I've served as an interview panelist and soft skills trainer, sharing my knowledge to help others grow.

Driven by a strong sense of civic responsibility, I embraced the role of a Life Coach, co-authoring a self-help book to share actionable insights and empower others on their personal transformation journeys.

Children hold a special place in my heart. Recognizing their affinity for storytelling, I created a YouTube channel dedicated to sharing moral stories and have coauthored a book of these tales to impart valuable lessons to young minds.

Committed to continuous learning, I've expanded my expertise as a certified Lean Expert and ISO Lead Auditor. Currently, I serve as the director of Aatman Infomatics LLP, a registered start-up where I blend analytical precision with creative expression to drive meaningful change.

I am honored to join this esteemed group of service-minded individuals and look forward to collaborating with you all to make a positive impact in our community.





## Rtn Anchal Bhatia

When I'm not exploring new corners of the globe, I'm making waves in the tech world as a Program Manager at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). With a keen interest in technology and a knack for problem-solving, I have been instrumental in leading innovative projects.

My passion for travel has led me to explore seven countries and many states within India, immersing myself in diverse cultures and creating unforgettable memories. Every journey has left me with deep, blessed memories that I cherish. Despite my busy schedule, I expertly balance my career, travel adventures, and family time, ensuring I stay connected with my loved ones while exploring the world.

In 2019, I faced a significant challenge when I was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), which left me unable to walk, move, and perform basic tasks. With the unwavering support of my family and my strong willpower, I overcame this adversity and emerged as a stronger version of myself. This experience reinforced my belief that everything can be solved with strong willpower.

My husband, Rajat, is a chartered accountant, and together we have built a beautiful family with our two wonderful children, Prerit (11 years) and Shaurya (6 years). My story is a testament to my remarkable ability to juggle my professional and personal life while pursuing my passions wholeheartedly. I believe in the mantra, 'Explore, Dream, Discover,' and live by it every day, encouraging my children to embrace curiosity and adventure.





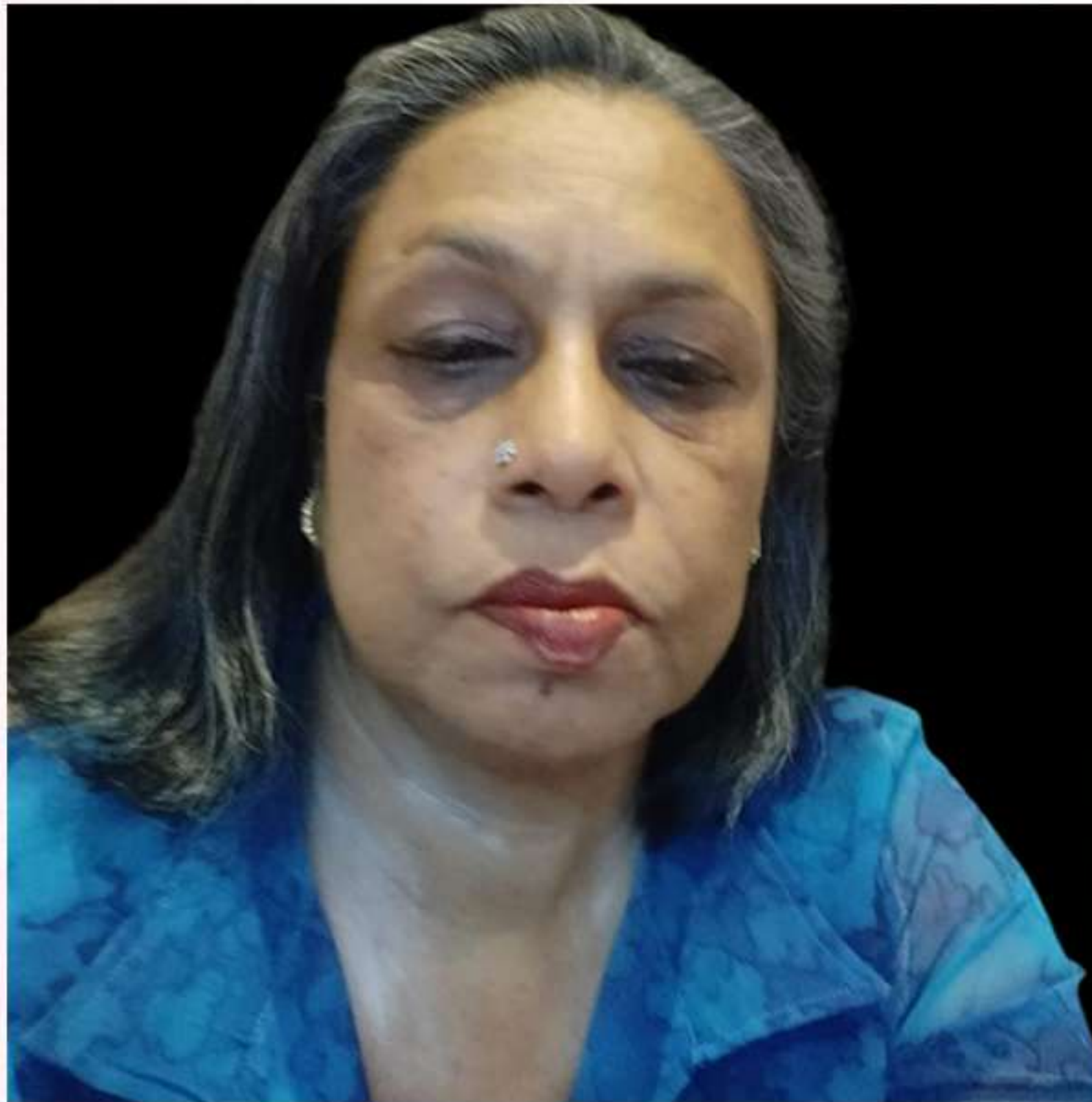
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## Member's corner

### What Women's Day Means to Me

Women's Day is more than just a date on the calendar—it's a celebration of strength, resilience, and the countless contributions of women across the world. It's a moment to reflect, to honor, and to recognize the voices that shape our lives every day.

Here are a few heartfelt perspectives on what Women's Day truly means.



#### Rtn Leena Shah

Women's Day for me is about celebrating the versatility, resilience and uniqueness of being a women. I take pride in being a daughter, wife mother and grandmother and salute my fellow Rotarian women for their progressive approach in life. Let's celebrate us everyday!



#### Rtn Kavita Deore

Women's day to me is when every women can celebrate herself, beyond the roles she plays in her life, The day when she won't be judged for not being perfect, when she will be given a right to live , to breath ( even before she is actually born)



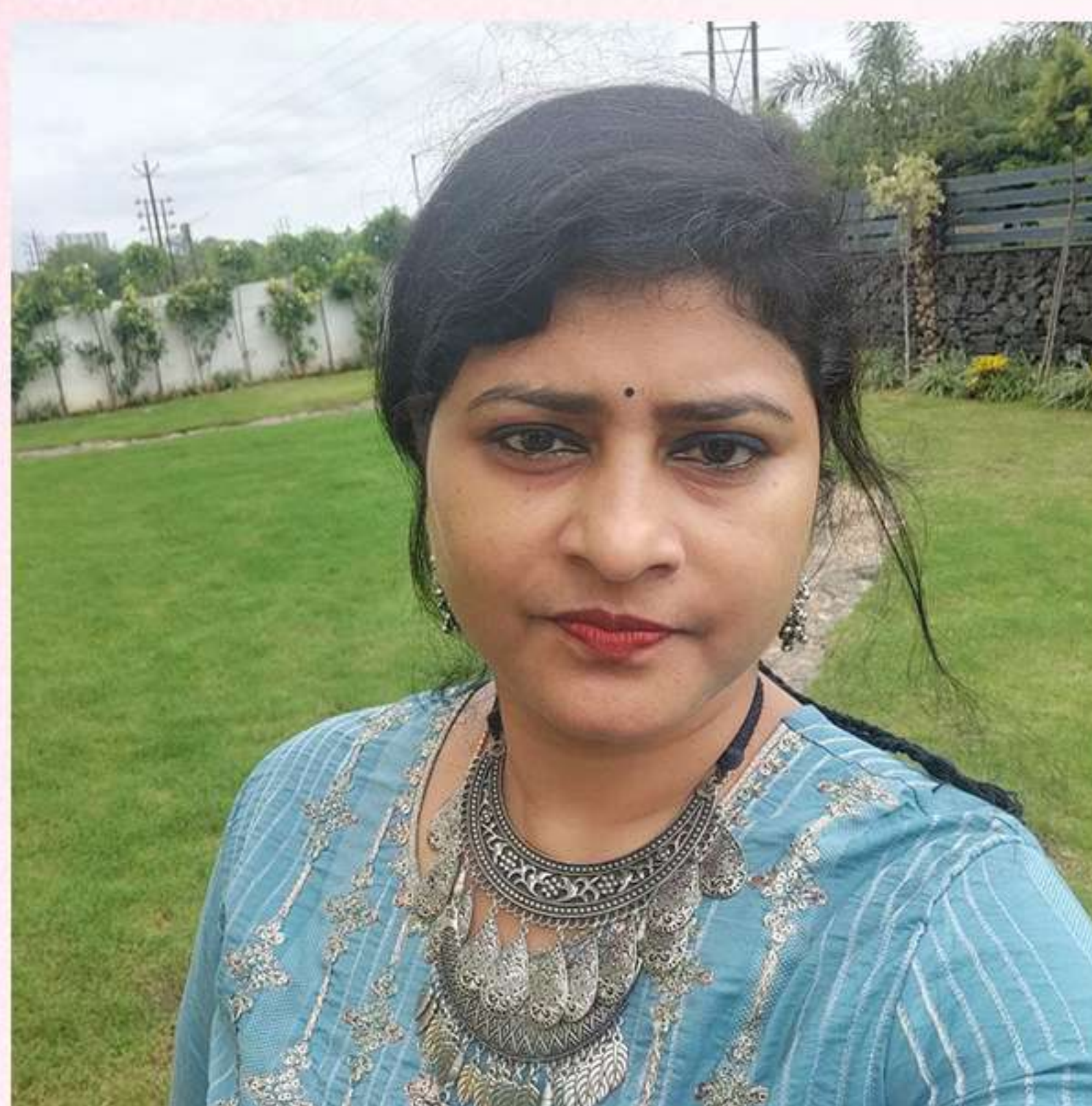
#### Chetna Maheswari

When women support each other, incredible things happen. We all have a 'Wonder Woman' inside us. 😊  
Happy Women's Day!

જ્યારે સ્ત્રીઓ એકબીજાને ટેકો આપે છે, ત્યારે અવિશ્વસનીય વસ્તુઓ થાય છે.

આપણાં બધાની અંદર એક 'વન્ડર વુમન' છે.



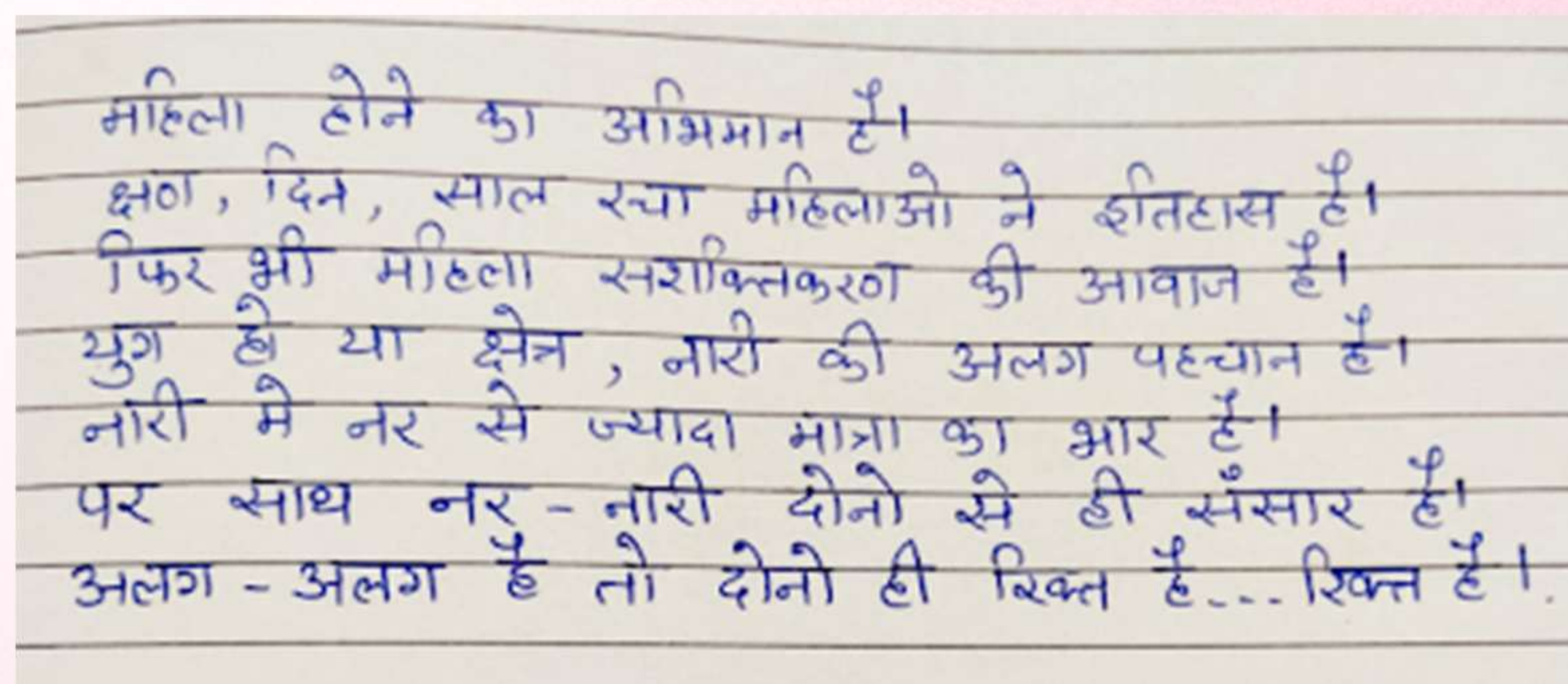


## Priya Mahapatra

Today, as we celebrate the spirit of womanhood, I'd like to share my thoughts on what this day means to me. For me, Women's Day is a reminder of my responsibilities - towards my family, my work, and my relationships. Just as blood flows through every part of our body, nourishing and sustaining it, the woman of the house plays a vital role in keeping everything together. My responsibility is to ensure that every aspect of my life is functioning harmoniously, like a well-oiled machine. Whether it's managing my household, pursuing my passions, or nurturing my relationships, I strive to be the glue that holds everything together. Today, I celebrate not just myself, but all the incredible women in my life who inspire me with their strength, resilience, and love. Here's to the women who make our world a better place, one day at a time!



## Yashwini Shinde



## Saroj Chopra

International Women's Day is a special day to celebrate the strength, courage, and achievements of women all over the world. For me, it is a reminder of how far women have come in getting equal rights and how much more still needs to be done. It encourages me to dream big, speak up for what I believe in, and go after my goals without fear. This day makes me grateful for the women who fought for the rights I have today, and it also pushes me to support those who still face unfair treatment. Women's Day teaches me that we are stronger together and that helping each other makes a big difference.





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