

## Nari Shakti: The Real Power Behind India's Progress

### Introduction

Today's India is not merely witnessing changes; it is actively creating it and at the heart of this transformation lies Nari Shakti. Nari shakti is not a single branch or a limited role; it is a force that must be experienced, felt, and embraced. In the present era, technology has become so accessible that ideas, emotions, and skills can reach the world in an instant. Whether it is expressing opinions on social media, accessing online education, or exploring new opportunities, technology has opened countless doors for women.

However, when this technological power is used wisely, positively, and with self-confidence, Nari Shakti becomes stronger, more independent, and more progressive. Today, Indian women are stepping forward with determination in every field education, defense, industry, agriculture, sports, politics, and technology.

Sometimes as teachers shaping generations, sometimes as entrepreneurs creating employment, and sometimes as soldiers, athletes, pilots, or policymakers, women are strengthening the foundation of the nation's progress.

### Past Scenario: How Things Were Earlier

- ❖ Since Independence, Indian society has undertaken a long journey to improve the status of women. Reforms related to the right to education, voting rights, equal pay, widow remarriage, and movements against child marriage brought meaningful changes to women's lives. However, despite these efforts, women continued to face social discrimination, economic dependence, insecurity, and limited participation in decision-making processes.
- ❖ **Before 2014**, several schemes for women were in place, but most of them were largely welfare-oriented. While these initiatives provided support, they did not sufficiently focus on making women self-reliant, empowering them as decision-makers, or preparing them for leadership roles.
- ❖ **After 2014**, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the concept of "Nari Shakti" acquired a new and broader meaning. Women empowerment was no longer confined to social welfare alone; instead, it was pursued through a comprehensive approach encompassing education, health, safety, economic independence, entrepreneurship, and political participation.

- ❖ Schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana, Mission Shakti, MUDRA Loans, and Lakhpati Didi not only provided facilities to women but also strengthened their ability to make independent decisions and boosted their self-confidence. As a result, Nari Shakti emerged as an active force contributing to national development rather than remaining limited to the household sphere.
- ❖ The pioneering women who led this transformation left an indelible mark on Indian history. Savitribai Phule ignited the light of education, Indira Gandhi demonstrated the strength of women's leadership, and Kalpana Chawla carried India's identity into space. The paths they forged through courage and determination are now being confidently walked by ordinary women across the country. Thus, Nari Shakti has evolved from a mere concept into a true driving force of India's development.

### **From Strength to Success: The Rise of Nari Shakti**

These schemes have transformed lives beyond numbers. Women now lead self-help groups, run businesses, and actively contribute to education and health, becoming true partners in India's development.

#### 1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

launched by the Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2015 Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme has become a strong foundation for Nari Shakti. The objective of this initiative is not limited to improving the child sex ratio alone; it also seeks to instill in society the understanding that education for girls is not an expense but an investment in the future. Through this programme, girls develop self-confidence, positive thinking, and faith in their own abilities. A visible increase in girls' school enrollment and retention reflects its impact.

**“Beti bojh nahi, desh ka bhavishya hai.”**

By reinforcing this belief, the scheme encourages girls to pursue education, build their own identity, and actively contribute to nation-building.

#### 2. Mission Shakti / Mission POSHAN 2.0

- Earlier, many women lacked adequate awareness about personal safety, self-reliance, and nutrition. Mission Shakti focuses on women's safety, self-reliance, and empowerment, aiming to create a secure and supportive environment for women.

- Complementing this initiative, Mission POSHAN 2.0 ensures proper nutrition and healthcare for pregnant women, mothers, and adolescent girls.
- Together, these schemes are enabling women to become more aware, capable, and self-reliant, marking an important step towards building a healthy and empowered future generation.

### 3. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

For rural and economically weaker women, the Ujjwala Yojana is not merely a scheme that provides LPG gas connections; it has emerged as a revolution that ensures better health, dignity, and time savings. By freeing women from smoke-filled kitchens, the scheme has reduced health-related illnesses. The reduced burden of household work has also given women more time to focus on education, employment, and their personal development.

### 4. MUDRA Loans / Stand-Up India

Earlier, many women did not have personal financial resources, a financial identity, or the opportunity to start a business. Even when they had ideas and aspirations, they lacked the necessary support to turn them into reality. MUDRA Loans and Stand-Up India have changed this situation. These schemes are not merely forms of financial assistance; they provide women with a new direction to build their own identity and grow as entrepreneurs.

As a result, women are now moving beyond being job seekers to becoming job creators, strengthening not only their economic independence but also their confidence and position in society.

### 5. Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam (Women Reservation Bill)

The Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, which provides 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies, is regarded as a historic step. This law will increase women's participation in decision-making processes and ensure that women's perspectives are more effectively reflected in policy formulation. It goes beyond mere representation and grants women a rightful place in leadership.

### 6. One Stop Centers & Women Helpline

One Stop Centers serve as an important support system for women facing domestic violence, sexual abuse, or social crises. These centers provide legal, medical,

psychological, and emergency assistance under one roof, making them a trusted space for women in distress. In addition, the 181 women's helpline operates nationwide, ensuring immediate support and timely help for women in crisis.

### **Empowering Change in Women's Lives**

Today's woman is capable of shaping her own destiny. She is actively engaged in agriculture, runs enterprises ranging from handloom and garment design to saree manufacturing, and creates unique styles that reflect both tradition and innovation. She serves as an officer, contributes to nation-building, and even brings powerful stories to life through cinema and creative fields. Beyond her roles, it is her thoughts, aspirations, and vision that define her true strength. This awakening of confidence and purpose is the real expression of Nari Shakti, inspiring not only her own journey but also generations to come.

#### Empowering Changes – Then and Now

Earlier, a woman's role was considered limited to the household, but today she has stepped beyond those boundaries and is creating history. Women now represent the nation in sports like cricket and achieve remarkable success across various fields. They balance careers, manage households, and confidently fulfill their dream of owning a home. Schemes like MUDRA Loans have provided women not just financial assistance, but the confidence to establish their own businesses. Her journey from agriculture to entrepreneurship is now closely linked with technology, showing a powerful shift from farming to flying drones. Because of this empowerment, women no longer hesitate; they move forward with courage, take charge, and even fly aircraft. Today, nearly 15% of pilots in India are women, a living example of this transformation.

#### Nari Shakti Vandan Act: A New Identity of Leadership

Strengthening this change further, the Nari Shakti Vandan Act does not merely ensure representation for women, but grants them the right to leadership. Today, a woman advocate stands up for herself, fights for justice, and guides society in a new direction. She raises her voice not only for her own rights, but also for others. Such women prove that women's empowerment is not about endurance alone, but about self-respect, courage, and the power to lead.

### **Nari Shakti Today, Vision for Tomorrow**

- Today, Nari Shakti is no longer limited to slogans or promises; it is visible through real actions shaping the nation's future. During 2024–25, several Indian women created history across diverse fields, proving that women's power is not just an idea, but a living capability.
- In the field of sports, Sheetal Devi brought global recognition to India by refusing to see disability as a limitation. Her success in para-archery is not merely about medals, but about the strength to rise above barriers. In cinema, Payal Kapadia gained international recognition, showcasing the creative excellence of Indian women on the global stage. In the corporate world, leaders like Isha Ambani demonstrated that modern women are decision-makers, policy-shapers, and creators of employment.
- Across India, countless women have demonstrated that determination, skill, and perseverance can turn aspirations into achievements. These women have excelled in diverse fields sports, education, entrepreneurship, social work, science, arts, and administration and have been honored with national and international awards for their contributions. Their accomplishments show that Nari Shakti is not just an idea, but a tangible force brought to life through action and commitment.
- A significant step toward women's empowerment was taken in August 2024 under the leadership of Maharashtra's Chief Minister Eknath Shinde with the launch of the **“Mukhyamantri Mazi Ladki Bahin Yojana.”** This scheme was introduced to provide financial support to women, with the main objective of making their daily needs, health, education, and self-reliance more accessible. Under this scheme, women receive regular financial assistance, which has boosted their confidence and demonstrated that even small support can bring significant positive changes in their lives. Under the Chief Minister's leadership, this initiative has opened pathways for women to gain opportunities, security, and self-reliance.

## Conclusion

Women's empowerment in India is no longer just a concept on paper—it is visible in real action across every sphere of life. From leading businesses, running self-help groups, excelling in education and sports, to contributing in health and governance, women have moved from being mere beneficiaries to active leaders and innovators. Their courage, resilience, and

achievements inspire the next generation, proving that Nari Shakti is a true force shaping the nation's future.

RICHHA CARES



POWERED BY

RAIIIDEV

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES