



## Progress In Women's Leadership In India's Panchayati Raj System Discussed In UN

"Today, of the over 3.1 million elected representatives, more than 1.4 million are women." This surge in women's participation reflects a broader societal shift towards recognising and valuing women's contributions to governance and community development.

The local planning process within the Panchayati Raj system, as Ms Kamboj explained, is meticulously aligned with the localisation of sustainable development goals, with a primary focus on empowering women. "The impact of such initiatives has been transformative," she remarked. By integrating gender considerations into development planning, the Panchayati Raj system ensures that women's needs and priorities are effectively addressed, leading to more inclusive and sustainable outcomes, she added.

Commending the efforts of women leaders in breaking traditional barriers, Ms Kamboj emphasised their role in revolutionising communities by enhancing education, healthcare, sanitation, and livelihoods. Women leaders in Panchayati Raj institutions have been instrumental in driving positive change at the grassroots level, leveraging their unique perspectives and experiences to address pressing social and economic challenges.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by women in leadership, Ms Kamboj stressed the need for supportive legal frameworks, robust capacity building initiatives, and collaborative partnerships to advance gender equality. "India's experience provides invaluable insights and lessons on advancing and sustaining women's leadership," she remarked, emphasising the importance of creating an enabling environment for women to thrive in governance roles.

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"As we move forward, let us renew our dedication to fostering women's leadership in local governance, recognising its transformative power in achieving gender equality and the sustainable development goals," Ms Kamboj concluded, invoking the words of Mahatma Gandhi to underline the immeasurable strength of women.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, shed light on the remarkable progress made in women's leadership within India's Panchayati Raj system, saying, "India prides itself on a unique system of rural governance known as the Panchayati Raj - an emblem of decentralised power at the grassroots level."

Speaking at India's #CPD57 side event, "Localising the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Leads the Way," Ms Kamboj emphasised the transformative impact of women's empowerment at the grassroots level.

"The Panchayati Raj is a sterling example of direct democracy that facilitates active participation from all residents of a Panchayat through the Gram Sabha," Ms Kamboj highlighted, underscoring the system's decentralised power structure. This unique aspect sets it apart from conventional municipal governance models found elsewhere in the world, making it a model for fostering inclusive decision-making processes.

Highlighting India's commitment to gender equality, Ms Kamboj noted, "A significant milestone was achieved with the constitutional amendment in 1992, which mandated that at least one third of all elected roles in local governance be reserved for women." This constitutional provision was a landmark step towards ensuring equitable representation of women in decision-making bodies at the grassroots level.

Ms Kamboj also celebrated the elevation of women's representation to 50 per cent in 21 states within India, stating,

Reference: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/progress-in-womens-leadership-in-indias-panchayati-raj-system-highlighted-in-un-5584204>

## These Summer 2024 Bag Trends Are the Only Ones Worth Knowing This Season



Wherever the summer takes you, be sure to have the right bag. And no, we don't mean the most practical, efficient bag. We mean the cutest and trendiest, obviously.

A stylish little It bag in the summer holds a power difficult to put into words, but you just know it when you feel it. There's a confidence you (literally) carry when you have a purse and an outfit you feel great about in the summer. To help you build—or at least buy—that confidence, we've gathered our favorite summer 2024 bag trends that are sure to be your tried-and-trues throughout the warmer months.

From slouchy bags to lady bags to the continued Y2K dominance (manifested here through paillette and barrel bags), there's a chic bag—including some amazing designer options—for every aesthetic you might want to embrace this summer. Get in on the trends and shop below.

# Pink Party empowers women through art and speech



“I don’t know that when I was an undergraduate there were ever events like this about women, for women, supporting women,” Crispin said. “I think that in itself is a really big and important step that we’ve taken.”

Veronica Farr, education outreach coordinator for the museum, said the Pink Party was a women-focused event aimed at celebrating the accomplishments and role of women in society, which she said does not happen enough.

“I think it’s time that there’s more discussion, more awareness, more celebration of what women do, and how much we do,” Farr said. “The professors that are here, they’re incredible, all the things that they have to do in their fields that are male-dominated, to have a voice at their table for their research to be heard. We just thought this was the perfect way to bring that together.”

The “Virgins, Goddesses and Barbie” exhibit showcases the work of women artists’ who interpreted conventional beauty standards and expectations of women throughout the years, and how a cultural icon like Barbie has contributed to these beauty standards and expectations.

Maria Gutierrez ’27 attended the event with friend Ana Soler ’27. Gutierrez said the exhibit showed Barbie’s impact on women through the decades, and continues to be an inspiration for all women.

“Barbie has always been a hero,” Gutierrez said. “She is literally everything. She can be whatever she wants.”

For Soler, the diversity of Barbies was particularly empowering.

“As an international student, I like seeing that [the Barbies] also not only represent the USA, they also represent other countries and other ethnicities,” Soler said. “She’s a person to look up to because, if Barbie can be everything, I can be everything.”

Usha Rao, PhD., professor of chemistry and another Pink Pioneer who was honored, concluded the night with her 100-second speech by saying the event was one that honored solidarity and fierceness amongst women of St. Joe’s.

“There are very few spaces in the world that mostly draw women. This event tonight has been one of those,” said Rao.

**T**he Frances M. Maguire Art Museum partnered with the St. Joe’s Women’s Center to host its first-ever Pink Party April 25. About 200 people attended the opening of the “Virgins, Goddesses and Barbie” exhibit on both floors of the museum.

The City Belles and the University Singers performed throughout the night. The main highlight of the event was a focus on St. Joe’s “Pink Pioneers,” women faculty members who excelled in their fields. Each Pink Pioneer gave a 100-second speech about being a woman in their field. Speakers included Laura M. Crispin, Ph.D., professor and chair of the economics department, and the first woman president of St. Joe’s, Cheryl A. McConnell, Ph.D.

McConnell spoke about how society tells women they’d be great leaders, “if only” women “leaned in,” “learned how to negotiate” or “smiled more.” McConnell’s answer to these suggestions were firm. “Let me say it loud and clear. We. Are. Not. Broken. And we don’t need to be fixed,” McConnell said. “If only the world stopped trying to fix us. Because we are truly wonderful the way we are.”

Crispin said the event opened up conversations and created opportunities for support amongst women.

<https://sjuhawnews.com/33209/news/pink-party-womens-center-st-joes/>



## Meet the leading women of 'Laapataa Ladies'- Nitanshi Goel and Pratibha Rantta

**N**itanshi Goel and Pratibha Rantta are currently basking in the success of their latest film 'Laapataa Ladies'. The two play small-town brides who land up in the wrong place owing to their veils. The film follows the story of villagers trying to correct the confusion with the help of the police.

Pratibha Rantta essays the role of Jaya in the film. Her character accidentally reaches the hometown of the protagonist Dipak. As she has the bridal veil over her head, Dipak fails to identify his real wife and ends up bringing Jaya to his hometown. It leads to a quest of him hunting down his real wife, Phool Kumari.

Phool is essayed by the 16-year-old Nitanshi Goel. She effortlessly portrays the innocence that is required by the character.

While Nitanshi and Pratibha Rantta have become familiar with their onscreen persona in the film.

**Pratibha Rantta:** The actress has a totally different persona on Instagram and here we look at some of her posts that appeal to her fashion sensibilities.

**Nitanshi Goel:** Born in Uttar Pradesh, 16-year-old Nitanshi has won over the audience with her innocent performance as Phool Kumari in Laapataa Ladies. She began her journey in the world of showbiz at a very young age when she started participating in fashion shows. She gradually appeared in ad films. She made her acting debut at the age of 9 on TV. She acted in TV shows like Naagarjuna: Ek Yoddha, Karmaphal Daata Shani, Ishqbaaz, Daayan, Peshwa Bajirao and many more. Apart from TV shows, Nitanshi was also seen in films like M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story, Indu Sarkar, Hurdang.

<https://www.mid-day.com/celebrity-life/fashion-and-beauty/article/meet-the-leading-women-of-laapataa-ladies-nitanshi-goel-and-pratibha-rantta-23347305>

## Embracing Herbal Science: A Path to Natural Wellness



In a world buzzing with modern medicine, the ancient wisdom of herbal science stands as a beacon of natural healing. Womanews recently had the privilege of hosting Dr. Manshaali, the CEO of NATTUREZONE, a trailblazer in herbal science. With a passion for botanicals and a mission to empower individuals towards holistic wellness, Dr. Manshaali shared insights into the realm of herbal medicine and its significance in today's society. The journey of NATTUREZONE began as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which shed light on the importance of medicinal plants. Dr. Manshaali, armed with her expertise in herbal science, recognized the need to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. NATTUREZONE, under her leadership, endeavors to harness the innate healing capabilities of the human body through a range of natural products. Herbal science, deeply rooted in traditions spanning over 4000 years, offers a gentle yet effective approach to healthcare. While allopathic medicines address emergencies, herbal remedies focus on long-term wellness, free from adulteration and chemicals. Dr. Manshaali advocates for a shift towards herbal alternatives, emphasizing their ability to treat ailments at their root cause. Challenges in integrating herbal medicine into modern healthcare are met with education and awareness. Dr. Manshaali highlights the misconception that potent painkillers provide a cure,

whereas herbal remedies aim to address underlying health issues comprehensively. Patience and investment in plant-based medicines yield lasting benefits, distinct from the quick-fix approach of allopathy. Nanoextraction, a cutting-edge technology embraced by NATTUREZONE, amplifies the potency of herbal extracts. Dr. Manshaali explains its capacity to condense the nutrients of multiple fruits into a single formula, catering to individual health needs with precision. PCOS/PCOD, prevalent in today's lifestyle, underscores the importance of holistic health practices. Dr. Manshaali advocates for a return to home remedies, promoting a diet rich in fresh produce, probiotics, and turmeric-infused milk. Embracing nature in daily life offers a myriad of benefits, from radiant skin to enhanced vitality. NATTURE ZONE, with its dedicated team of researchers and state-of-the-art facilities, epitomizes excellence in herbal science. Their bestselling Sea Buckthorn Juice, reminiscent of the legendary Sanjivani Booti, encapsulates the therapeutic potential of natural remedies. In conclusion, herbal science holds the key to a healthier society. Dr. Manshaali encourages individuals to explore career opportunities in plant-based medicine and embrace the healing power of nature. As we journey towards wellness, let us heed the wisdom of herbal science, fostering a harmonious relationship between humanity and the natural world.

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# Aditya Textile & Ultra Denim in Palsana: Women Entrepreneurs' Visit



quality denim at affordable prices. They manufacture cotton fabric, denim jeans, cotton jeans, and denim fabric in the same factory.

The Ultra Denim unit, established at Palsana, is the second-largest producer of denim fabric in India. The stitching and washing sections have state-of-the-art machinery, and the plant has a

capacity of 4000 garments per day. Ultra Denim supplies wholesale high-grade denim fabric directly to major clothing brands worldwide.

Women entrepreneurs studied the production processes behind denim fabric and denim garments in addition to home textile fabric production. During the meet, women entrepreneurs gained insights into the textile industry's nuances, from production processes to global market strategies.

"Women are the pillars of all work in the world, Women are creators," she added. The officers and employees of NIOS recited poems at the Kavi Sammelan.



**W**omen Entrepreneurs of the Chamber's Women Entrepreneur Cell conducted a business meet with an industrial visit to the unit of Aditya Textile Solutions and Ultra Denim in Palsana.

Surat: More than 25 women entrepreneurs including Chairperson Ms. Krutikaben Shah, Co-Chairperson Ms. Roshniben Taylor and Advisors Ms. Jyotsnaben Gujarati and Ms. Swatiben Shethwala, Member Ms. Janviben Shroff and Ms. Binaben Bhagat of the Women Entrepreneur Cell of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Thursday, May 2, 2024, visited Aditya Textile Solutions and Ultra Denim Pvt Ltd located in Gujarat Eco Textile Park at Palsana. The women entrepreneurs met the business and learned about the factory outlet that manufactures and exhibits a wide range of denims and home textiles.

Mr. Ashish Gujarati and Mr. Karan Gujarati, Directors of Aditya Textile Solutions, while informing the women entrepreneurs about their unit, said that Aditya Textile Solutions can fulfill the clear need of yarn, gray cloth, and other fabrics in the textile capital. Their unit manufactures home textile fabric including bedsheets, dohar, pillow covers, curtains, and blackout curtains. A direct study of what happens was done by the women entrepreneurs of the Women Entrepreneur Cell by visiting their entire unit in person. Apart from this, the women entrepreneurs also studied and gained an understanding of the manufacturing processes behind denim fabric and denim garments.

Ultra Denim Pvt. and Mr. Bharatbhai Patel, Managing Director of Ultra Denim Lifestyle Pvt. Ltd., while informing the women entrepreneurs said that Ultra Denim manufactures denim fabric for the domestic market and export. Acts as a global brand while producing sustainable goods from resources and recycled materials. Ultra Denim exports denim fabric to around 20 countries. Using state-of-the-art technology, they produce high-

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