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The Flame That Won’t Fade: India’s Women Rewrite Cricket History

The Festival of Lights may be over, but Indians have found a new reason to glow. Just days after Diwali, the Indian women’s cricket team lit up the nation by lifting their maiden ICC Women’s World Cup title.

On 2nd November 2025, the Indian women defeated the South African women by 52 runs in a historic final and lifted their first-ever Women’s World Cup at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai. Shafali Verma, who came in as a replacement for Pratika Rawal, scored 87 runs and took 2 wickets to be named Player of the Match, while Deep-ti Sharma, who took a crucial five-wicket haul in the final, was named Player of the Tournament.

The nation celebrated as though 1983 had returned, but this time it was led by women. From the cheers of supporters in the cities to the Prime Minister’s congratulatory post, pride echoed across the country. The journey had come full circle, from the tears shed during the final loss in 2017 to the smiles of 2025. Now, as world champions, the women who once watched their dreams fade away can finally stand tall with pride.

Just like every diya (lamp) must be maintained to keep spreading light, this victory too must be nurtured to shine brighter with time. The world saw not just cricketers, but symbols of courage, grace, and resilience

In India, women’s cricket battled for recognition for many years. Formed in 1973, the Women’s Cricket Association of India governed the sport until 2006, when it merged with the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India). The journey before the merger was filled with struggles, as players borrowed equipment, stitched their own kits, travelled in unreserved train compartments, and



played before sparse crowds. With the merger, women’s cricket began receiving structured governance, contracts, support, travel allowances, and better scheduling. But this change was gradual.

Because of the dominance of the men’s team in international cricket, women’s cricket in India didn’t get enough recognition for many years. However, in the early 2020s, the team’s performance improved, reaching ICC tournament finals (2005, 2017), and domestic exposure for women’s cricket increased. The establishment of the WPL (Women’s Premier League), formerly known as the Women’s T20 Challenge, brought more visibility and a professional platform for female players to showcase their talent.

This World Cup win has become a major turning point for women’s cricket in India. It is being called “Women’s own 1983 moment”, a parallel to the men’s 1983 World Cup victory in terms of recognition and its lasting impact on Indian cricket.

This victory isn’t just about lifting a trophy or making history; it’s about lifting the spirit of an entire generation and inspiring the next, not only in India but across the world. Every boundary they hit, every wicket they took, and every run they saved carried the dreams of countless young girls who now know that one day, they too can make history.

Just like every diya (lamp) must be maintained to keep spreading light, this victory too must be nurtured to shine brighter with time. As the team held the trophy high, millions of hearts rose with pride. The world saw not just cricketers, but symbols of courage, grace, and resilience. They have proven that light doesn’t shine only once a year; it glows every time someone breaks a barrier.

This isn’t just a Diwali that comes once a year, it’s a light that will keep shining through the spirit, resilience, and glory of Indian women’s cricket.

Soham Narvekar / TYBAMMC



Mithali Raj with the World Cup trophy a dream she came close to in 2005 and 2017, finally fulfilled by the generation she inspired.



This diwali, while the world was busy in celebration, volunteers at PawDiaries (Kalyan) made pet friendly sweets for our furry friends. Humans and their rescued companions celebrated together, proving that compassion grows stronger when we stand as one.

Odisha And The Silk Of The Seas

India has long been a major hub for traders across the world since the pre-ancient era, with the Silk Route being an integral network for trade connecting the East and the West, allowing not only the exchange of goods but also of ideas and culture. The history of trade and commerce between India and the world is reflected in the celebration of Kartik Purnima in Odisha, with the festival of Boita Bandhana, which celebrates and honours India’s maritime trade past and its spirit of trade and exchange. Kartik Purnima holds a sacred place in Hindu traditions, as it marks the beginning of the holiest month of the Hindu calendar. Hindu devotees observe Kartik Maas throughout this month with strict fasting by consuming only one meal per day, as an act of discipline and spiritual cleansing. The last five days of the month, known as Panchuka, are considered especially auspicious, with the final day celebrated as

Dev Deepavali, the festival of lights and gods. According to traditions, the Sadhaba community, who were skilled traders and sailors, began their overseas journey to South Asian countries like Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, etc. This voyage marked the beginning of a month-long celebration of trade and exchange. Upon their return, the Sadhabas brought back not just goods but also cultural influences from other lands, enriching local traditions and crafts. Bali Jatra is also celebrated in to honour this ancient tradition. Bali Jatra is a grand exhibition and fair that represents and teaches new generations about the commencement of trade interactions between India and South Asian countries.

Jai Bane SYBAMMC JOURNALISM (E)



The Sound of Togetherness

Did you know that when we hear a drumbeat, our heartbeat starts matching its rhythm? Scientists call this “entrainment,” the way music connects our bodies and emotions. Every Indian festival comes alive with sound: the dhol, dhaak, bells, songs, and cheers. These sounds are not just background noise; they are the heartbeat of our celebrations, bringing people together in joy.

When we talk about festivals, we often think of lights, colours, and sweets. But sound is what truly unites people. The first beat of a drum says, “Let’s celebrate!” The temple bell calls people to prayer, and the chants connect hearts. A campaign by JBL India beautifully shared how “the dhol of Ganesh Chaturthi, the dhaak of Durga Puja, and the chenda of Onam together create the sound of India’s unity.”

Every part of India has its own sound. In Maharashtra, we have dhol-tasha during Ganesh Utsav. In Bengal, people play the dhaak for Durga Puja. In Kerala, the chenda melam fills the air during Onam. These instruments may sound different, but they all spread the same message: togetherness. When the beats start, people forget their worries and come together to celebrate.

Music also makes us move; we dance, clap, and sing without thinking. From the colourful garba of Gujarat to the joyful bhangra of Punjab, rhythm connects people from all walks of life. A blog by Pristine Magazine said that festivals are places where “differences



disappear in the shared energy of sound.” Whether it is a small local celebration or a big concert, the beat brings everyone into the same happy mood.

Sounds also help us remember special moments. The ring of a bell or the beats of a dhol can remind us of our childhood, family, and festive memories. These sounds connect generations. Our grandparents’ songs become ours, and we pass them on to the next. In this way, music keeps traditions alive.

But sometimes, too much sound turns into noise. In cities, loudspeakers and high-volume music can disturb others. The Free Press Journal once wrote that loud music often crosses safe limits during festivals. True celebration should never harm anyone. The best beats are those that spread happiness without hurting ears or peace.

So, the next time you hear drums playing in the distance, stop for a moment. Feel how that rhythm travels through the air, joining many hearts together. That is the magic of our festivals. The beats do not just fill the streets; they fill our hearts with unity and joy.

Shamika Jadhav
(TYBAMMC)
English Editor

Are we really protecting our sisters?

As Meera tied a rakhi on her brother’s wrist, she said to him calmly, “I know that you will definitely protect another woman as well who is harassed in front of you. You will, right?” That particular question holds the real meaning of Raksha Bandhan in the modern era. We typically think Raksha Bandhan is only about a brother protecting his sister. But what about those sisters who don’t have brothers? Protection has real meaning only when it is extended beyond relationships. Instead, it is an ethical obligation for every person out there.

Raksha Bandhan is more than a festival, it is a promise that needs to be celebrated every day and night. The term Raksha Bandhan has the power to turn an ancestral tradition into an opportunity for social commitment. This can lead to a safer life for women, rather than cutting down their dreams and preventing them from stepping out of their homes. According to the NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau), more than 4 lakh crime cases against women are reported every year in India. Each of those cases carries fear, inequality, injustice, and an intangible certificate of failure. By promoting the responsibility of protecting women through this festival, every female can breathe freely.

Educational institutes such as schools, colleges, and NGOs across India have already begun to reconsider this festival through social awareness campaigns. To educate the world, it is essential to educate ourselves. That’s what awareness campaigns and NGOs like Women’s Self-Help Groups (SHGs) aim to do with their positive intentions. Boys and girls make promises to respect each other; students tie rakhi to respected police officers and sanitation workers, appreciating their duties by tying the rakhi as a thread of gratitude and admiration.

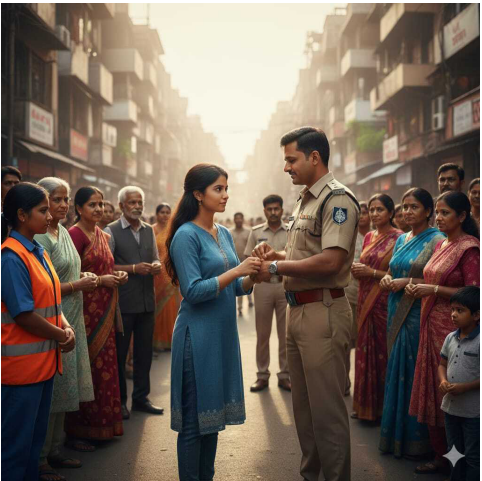
Similarly, in many cities, women’s groups organize events like “Rakhi of Responsibility,” where men commit to fighting against discrimination and harassment. And the real yet positive results of these small movements can be seen among the younger generation. Additionally, NGOs are conducting awareness drives regarding women’s helplines, self-defense training, and more. For instance, initiatives like the Nirbhaya Squad (Mumbai), Women in Distress, Domestic Abuse Reports, and many others in every state. Police

departments are also organizing open sessions where women can freely discuss safety concerns.

There are so many people out there trying to put our nation and its security on top of the world. Instead of just posting and liking content about women’s rights on social media, let’s get out of our bubbles and fight for the nation’s pride. These inspiring moments should not just be limited for a day or two; they will persist for a long time if we truly shift our mindsets towards the brighter side. India’s upcoming history will pave its path to be appreciated by the world.

Although the saddest part is that Raksha Bandhan, a festive season that shows hope, unity, and reliability, still exists in a world where women are unsafe. Women’s safety is not a seasonal issue. Moreover, Raksha Bandhan is more than a ritual, it’s a festival not just limited to one’s sister but to every woman out there. On behalf of the saying, “All Indians are my brothers and sisters,” let’s transform our society into the beautiful and protective bond of Krishna and Subhadra. Meera represents every girl out there. Let us not only answer her question with a resounding ‘Yes’ in our hearts but prove it with our actions every single day. By doing so, we extend the sacred thread of Raksha beyond blood relation, turning an annual ritual into a collective promise of a safer nation for every woman.

– Swasthika Natekar
(TYBAMMC - Eng)



Climbing Towards Equality!

Maharashtra’s streets craze with thrill, anticipation, and the echoing chant of “Govinda aala re!” as human pyramids rise high toward clay pots filled with curd. Dahi Handi, the day after Krishna Janmashtami, is a lively festival when teams enter towns and cities, getting ready to build up human towers; singing, dancing, and shouting to touch the handi hanging at a height. In the past, Dahi Handi was a male-dominated event, which reflected social norms that excluded women and others from climbing. However, the festival changed gradually as it welcomed new members and challenged old norms.

The turning point in the history of Dahi Handi was the establishment of the Gorakhnath Dahi Handi Pathak by Bhau and Shalaka Korgaonkar in 1995, the first women’s Govinda pathak in India. What started out with a membership of 25 women has now expanded to over 200, including students, professionals, and doctors who climb together, breaking not only the vertical boundary but also centuries of wrong influence on tradition. They have declared that strength and leadership skills are part of human nature and are not dependent on gender, proving through every pyramid that unity can knock down gender-created barriers.

This did not stop here. History was rewritten in 2023 when Pune hosted Maharashtra’s first Govinda team of transgender and non-binary climbers, made possible by the Mangalmukhi Kinnar Charitable Trust. More than a hundred members climbed together, gaining attention, questions, and even backlash from society, but eventually earned respect and a seat at the center of tradition. Their entry transformed the festival into a festival of identity and equality, proving that Dahi Handi belongs to anyone who celebrates together. Their courage showed that determination and leadership are not bound by society. Their climb was a statement that tradition can evolve and festivals can become platforms for social change.

Apart from the records, Dahi Handi reflects the society we must aspire to. Every floor of the human pyramid represents differences in society. But altogether they are Govindas; no one can see differences among them. In that unity, we see the shape of the nation we dream of; equal, fearless,



and rising together. Years ago, it was uncommon to see hands that had been ignored being lifted up, reminding us that no success is achieved without unity.

This festival is not just about how high individuals can climb, but how high a society can climb together. Every cheer, every climb, and every hand held in the pyramid tells a story of will and effort. Equality is not just an idea; it is the practice of sacrifice and understanding. Questioning customs and traditions is not bad, but one should know what and when to question. It’s on us how we adapt to the future. In the end, when the curd falls, one thing remains, are they not humans? If women, trans, and non-binary athletes can rise together on the shoulders of tradition and faith, when will society fully stand with them on the ground?

By Shubham Lad
FYBAMMC

Diwali 2025: When Joy Met the Economy

This Diwali in 2025, homes across India were shining with lights, laughter, and sweets. But the happiness wasn't just inside homes but it also reached the tall buildings of the stock market. Every year on Diwali, the market opens for a special hour called Muhurat Trading,a lucky start to the new financial year.

That evening, both the Sensex and Nifty, which reflect the market's performance, closed slightly higher. A small gain, yet enough to bring broad smiles. For many, the cheer came from good news: after a long break, foreign investors had started investing in India again. Others said the excitement was due to talks of a possible India-US trade deal, which could make selling Indian goods abroad easier. Together, all this made Diwali feel like a festival not only of lights but also of confidence and hope.

Not to be left behind, gold too joined the celebration. Its price shot up to a new high, yet that didn't stop families from buying the yellow metal on Dhanteras and Diwali. Jewellery shops were bus-

ting with customers, sparkling with ornaments they joyfully picked,proving once again that gold remains India's favourite tradition. Even experts noted that the rise in prices, caused by a weaker rupee and global uncertainty, couldn't dampen the festive spark.

As the festivities came to an end, gold buying slowed down, but the sense of joy still lingered. Diwali 2025 was more than just another festival of lights, people renewed their trust in gold, investors trusted the market, and together they turned the festival of lights into a symbol of trust, stability, and hope for the coming year. Through all the ups and downs, investors stayed calm and rational, proving that Diwali truly brightened not just homes, but India's economic spirit as well.

- By Shubham Lad
FYBAMMC



Working through Ashes, to Dazzle

Celebration is something for which people are very curious and excited. People all over the world are always eager to celebrate events like birthdays, New Year parties, and Christmas Eve. Celebrations also take place during festivals such as Ganeshotsav, Navratri, and most prominently, Diwali. A common thing done by everyone is bursting firecrackers. Watching their dazzle in the sky and hearing the crackling sound gives people joy and makes them feel the essence of celebration.

Behind the dazzle of these crackers are hands covered with ashes that relentlessly make the sky shine. All these crackers are crafted in factories where numerous workers toil throughout the day. The workforce belongs to almost every age group, from children as young as seven or eight to elders nearing eighty. Field research and reports from major production centers, however, confirm a darker reality: child labor, involving workers as young as five, remains a tragic practice, with these individuals paid extremely low wages despite the daily, life-threatening risks they face. They work in heated places filled with gunpowder, ashes, and other explosive materials, suffering risky conditions and facing the constant threat of explosions and physical injuries like eye or hearing damage. This environment severely affects the workers' health; studies confirm that constant exposure to explosive chemicals makes them highly susceptible to severe occupational issues, including tuberculosis (TB) and irreversible lung damage, especially among the child workers.

To prevent such health issues, some local NGOs work for the welfare of these workers. They take care of those who get injured in factory accidents or explosions, providing free treatment so they do not face financial crises. These NGOs also provide free education to young or child workers for their brighter future. They offer shelter, food, and healthcare facilities to kids who do not have parents. Even though these organizations help the workers, working in such factories is like consum-

ing slow poison. It gradually damages their health, which cannot be cured even after taking many precautions. The factory workers earn very low wages despite risking their lives. The crackers they make are harmful not only to them but also to us. The firecrackers people burst with joy can take away our smiles within seconds. The ingredients used in making these crackers are extremely harmful to the environment. They cause air pollution, which can lead to serious problems in the future and contribute to an unsafe and unhealthy life for those workers.

Not only this, but many communities have started celebrating 'Green Diwali' or 'Safe Diwali'. Organizations like WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature, India), CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board), DPCC (Delhi Pollution Control Committee), and many more are coming together to protect our environment. Even some indigenous groups, such as the Warli and Kokna, have long celebrated nature-centric and eco-friendly versions of Diwali. Avoiding firecrackers and using eco-friendly decorations not only protects the environment but also makes the festival more joyful and alive. These small steps help preserve nature and keep the true spirit of Diwali shining bright. Reducing the use of crackers is the only way to stay safe from unfortunate incidents and to protect the workers from further harm. This will lead to a safe and healthy future for both us and them. Let us be the reason for the people who are working through the ashes, to dazzle.

- Daksh Gharve
F.Y. BAMMC



Lighting Hearts,not just Homes!

Diwali is a festival all about the glow of diyas, family time, new clothes, and sweets for most of us. But for many, this festival passes quietly, without the comfort of celebration or the joy of something new. To bridge this gap, Team Everest, an organisation run by volunteers, began a campaign called 'Diwali for All'. This initiative is built on the hope that everyone gets to celebrate this festival with joy.

Unlike most organisations that prefer to distribute used or old clothes, Diwali for All does something different. Volunteers collect funds to buy new clothes for people and families who cannot afford to buy them on their own. The idea is simple yet powerful :gifting new clothes not only helps but also makes people feel valued. This campaign, which started a few years ago, has now grown bigger and stronger. From villages to small towns, volunteers across India work tirelessly to reach underprivileged people before the festival. This process includes identifying families in need, collaborating with local shops, and ensuring that every parcel carries not just clothes but also a sense of belonging.

Over the years, this campaign has become more than just a festive act. It reflects a deeper com-

mitment to inclusivity and reminds us that celebration should not be a privilege limited to a few. The act of giving something new may seem small, but it brings immense joy to those who are often overlooked.The volunteers who work for this campaign often share how this movement changes them too, teaching care, gratitude, and the true spirit of Diwali. It brightens both sides ,the giver and the receiver creating a shared celebration that transcends social and financial barriers.

As Diwali for All continues to spread light, the organisation plans to expand its reach in the coming years, aiming to cover more regions, include more young volunteers, and add essentials like sweets, lamps, and school supplies to their festive kits.In a world where kindness is often measured in grand gestures, 'Diwali for All' reminds us that kindness can be as simple as a new kurta or saree something that says, "You matter, and you belong in the celebration."

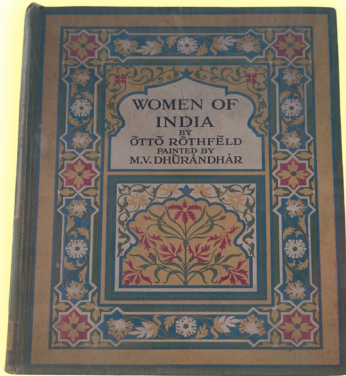
- By Shivani Kedar
SYBAMMC Eng



From Canvas to Culture :

Women of India

As part of its 75th anniversary celebration, Dr. Bedekar Hospital for Women and Children organized a painting exhibition titled “Women of India” in association with the Institute for Oriental Study, Thane. The exhibition aimed to highlight the creative and cultural documentation of Indian women through the iconic paintings of noted artist M. V. Dhurandhar, originally published in Otto Rothfeld’s 1920 book Women of India. The exhibition was held at two venues. Institute for Oriental Study, Thane from 9–11 November 2025 and theVPM’s Joshi Bedekar College, from 13–15 November 2025 . The event at the college campus was inaugurated by Dr. Mahesh Bedekar, in the presence of dignitaries including Principal Dr. Suchitra Naik, Dr. D. K. Nayak, Prof. Narayan Barse, Prof. Ankur Kane, and Dr. Mahesh Patil. The showcased paint-



ings provided a vivid representation of the customs, attire, and social identity of women from different regions of India during the British era. A major highlight of the exhibition was the preserved original 1920 edition of the book, displayed for visitors and greatly appreciated for its historical value. During the event, Dr. Mahesh Bedekar offered a thematic explanation that emphasized the historical significance of Dhurandhar’s illustrations and their relevance in understanding cultural evolution. A special comparative visual panel titled “1920: Womenof India–TheBook”and“2025: Women of India – ‘The Cup’” highlighted the progress and achievements of contemporary Indian women. The exhibition successfully connected the past with the present, fostering cultural awareness, historical understanding, and a deeper appreciation of women’s identities across time.

Swasthika Natekar
TYBAMMC – ENG

NSS Diwali Celebration:

Spreading Light via Service

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit celebrated Diwali in a socially responsible and community-oriented manner. The celebration emphasized the values of service, unity, environmental awareness, and compassion, truly reflecting the essence of the festival of lights.

As part of the celebration, the NSS Unit organized an E-Waste Collection Drive, encouraging students and community members to donate their unused or damaged electronic items. The collected e-waste was responsibly handed over to the UrjaFoundationforproperrecyclingandsafedisposal.

NSS volunteers also conducted a cleaning drive in the adopted village, Umbermali, to promote cleanliness and hygiene in public areas. The drive was carried out with great enthusiasm and teamwork, inspiring the villagers to maintain cleanliness in their surroundings.

Following up on their social outreach efforts, NSS volunteers visited the Dilasa Day Care Cen-

ter in Dombivli, an old age ashram, where they interacted with the residents. The volunteers painted diyas, prepared cotton wicks, and created greeting cards. These handmade items were later distributed to people in need through the ashram, fostering a sense of empathy, inclusion, and festive cheer.

Additionally, the NSS Unit celebrated National Unity Day in honor of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s birth anniversary. Volunteers took a Unity Pledge and participated in a rally to spread the message of national integration and unity.

All these activities collectively aimed to promote environmental protection, community cleanliness, social welfare, and national unity. The celebration was a meaningful blend of service and festivals, inspiring everyone to contribute positively to society. It truly embodied the NSS motto — “Not Me, But You.”

Rhea Vishwakarma

Diwali is a festival celebrated with joy, light, and togetherness. While most people spend the day exchanging sweets and blessings with their families, there are many who do not have a home or loved ones to celebrate with. To bring a sense of warmth and belonging to such individuals, the RTA team visited the Navdisha Shahar Sah Sangh – Deen-



dayal Antyodaya Yojana Urban Homeless Shelter in Thane.

At the shelter, around 14–15 residents eagerly welcomed the team. The interaction began with introductions and soon extended into heartfelt conversations. The residents shared nostalgic memories of their earlier Diwali celebrations, while the team distributed faral, bringing wide smiles to the faces of the shelter members. The cheerful atmosphere, enhanced by the room’s

A Visit to the

Wisdom Circle

decorations of lights and diyas, created a festive and comfortable environment.

The visit concluded on an emotional note, with many residents expressing their

gratitude and joy. The experience highlighted the importance of celebrating festivals with compassion and reaching out to those who often remain unnoticed.

The event proved to be a meaningful initiative, reminding everyone involved that true celebration

lies in sharing happiness with those who need it the most.

– Daksh Gharve
F.Y. BAMMC



Leadership. Learning. Legacy.



Every achievement starts with the teachers and leaders who believe in us.
These portraits are our way of honouring the people who help shape our minds.