

# EMP-RISE

*A STUDENT WEB-MAGAZINE  
BY ECONOMICS, MATHEMATICS & PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENTS*

**ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL MISSION COLLEGE**

**33/1, Raja Rammohan Roy Sarani, Kolkata - 700009**



**Issue I (May 2026)**

# Theme of the Issue

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026

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**Justice for women  
and girls must be  
a cornerstone of the  
world we seek to build.**



**António Guterres**

United Nations Secretary-General  
9 March 2026

*In an age defined by complexity, no single discipline holds all the answers. The most pressing questions of our times spill across traditional boundaries and demand conversations that are as fluid and interconnected as the world itself. This web-magazine (or Web-zine) was created to be a meeting ground for those conversations, especially for the students.*

*Gender, as we all know, is a multi-faceted and multi-layered concept and is best understood from an interdisciplinary perspective. This year the Gender Studies Group of the College has collaborated with different departments to spread awareness among students regarding different aspects of gender. Hence, in the first issue of this Web-zine, students of the departments of Economics, Mathematics & Philosophy (EMP) rise for a more equal world as they come together to commemorate International Women's Day 2026. Students have used different media like poetry, posters, images and write-ups to express their feelings and voice their opinion. Of course, not all are original piece of work; instead, they represent an effort by the students to use available information for establishing their perspective.*



# Message from the Coordinator of Gender Studies Group

*Under the guidance of the IQAC, various departments of the college, in collaboration with the Gender Studies Group, have organized a series of gender awareness programmes. EMP-RISE, the student web magazine jointly brought out by the Departments of Economics, Mathematics and Philosophy, stands as a significant outcome of this initiative. The chosen theme for this issue—International Women's Day—is indeed very meaningful. I thoroughly enjoyed going through the students' contributions, all of which are truly commendable for creativity and critical thinking on contemporary gender issues. I extend my sincere thanks to the Heads and faculty members of the three departments for their dedicated efforts and constant encouragement to the students. I would also like to express special gratitude to the IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Jaya Mukherjee, whose vision and initiative made this endeavour possible. I look forward to many more such initiatives with wholehearted student participation and interdisciplinary collaboration. Such efforts will undoubtedly help the Gender Studies Group move closer to its goal of creating a common platform for student interaction, dialogue, and awareness on diverse gender-related issues.*

**Dr. Sutapa Rani Dasgupta**

**Coordinator, Gender Studies Group**



# Messages from the Departmental Faculty

*On International Women's Day, we recognize a simple economic truth: when women rise, economies grow. India's female labour force participation, women-led startups, and representation in banking have come far — but still gaps in wages, property rights, and leadership remain. As a department, we pledge to study these gaps and teach our students honestly to realise the fact that "investing in women is not a cost — it's the highest return asset." As EMP-rise bridges Economics, Mathematics and Philosophy, let us commit to academic endeavour that counts every woman's contribution.*

## **Department of Economics**

*On the occasion of International Women's Day 2026, the Department of Mathematics extends heartfelt greetings and respect to all women. The creativity, perseverance, and achievements of women in Mathematics, Science, and Philosophy make us proud. We hope that their pursuit of knowledge and contributions will guide and inspire future generations. Let us work together to build an environment of equality and inclusivity that will empower our future generations.*

## **Department of Mathematics**

*Philosophy teaches us to question, to think deeply, and to value the voice of every human and their freedom. Simone de Beauvoir, one of the great feminist thinkers, once said: "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman." This reminds us that being a woman is about more than just biology; it is about the freedom to choose your own path and define your own identity. Diversity is our greatest strength, and when we support women, we uplift the entire community. This year's theme will give our students a wonderful opportunity by using this e-magazine to express their thoughts on equality, justice, dignity and the power of women's contributions to our world. We encourage every student to write with honesty and courage and also encourage to keep questioning, dreaming, leading, inspiring and breaking barriers. Wishing all the students and the faculty of the three departments a meaningful and successful magazine.*

## **Department of Philosophy**





# Women Shaping the Future of STEM in India and Beyond

Every year, the International Women's Day reminds the world that gender equality is not merely a social aspiration but a fundamental human right. The 2026 theme, "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls," emphasizes the urgent need to move beyond symbolic celebration and take meaningful steps toward inclusion and equal opportunity. In today's rapidly advancing world, the field of STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — stands at the centre of innovation, economic growth, and global progress. Women are no longer silent contributors in laboratories and research institutions; they are leading groundbreaking discoveries, driving technological revolutions, and shaping policy discussions worldwide. In India and across the globe, women scientists, engineers, researchers, and academicians are redefining what leadership in STEM looks like. However, while progress is visible, the journey towards true equality remains ongoing. Understanding their achievements and the challenges they continue to face is essential to ensuring that the future of STEM is inclusive, equitable, and transformative.

## **Rays of hope:**

- ❖ IIT Gandhinagar STEM Conference 2026 recently hosted "*Women Force 2026*" — a three-day conclave celebrating women scientists from across India. About 40 women scientists participated with panels and technical sessions. Focus areas included AI, quantum technologies, cancer therapeutics, and sustainable chemistry. The event focused on mentoring early-career researchers and promoting gender representation in innovation.
- ❖ At National Science Day 2026 celebrations in Trichy and Lucknow, ICAR-NRCB showcased women's contributions to agriculture, biotechnology and space science.

- ❖ India leads global female STEM enrolment at about 43% of all STEM students, higher than the global average.
- ❖ L'Oréal Groupe and UNESCO launched the 2026 National Call for "For Women in Science" awards in Mexico — celebrating 20 years of recognizing women researchers and helping advance their scientific careers.

## **Areas of concern:**

- ❖ A UNESCO study shows that while women earn about 35% of STEM degrees worldwide, participation in science careers and leadership remains far lower due to stereotypes and systemic barriers.
- ❖ A World Bank report (2026) found that even where gender-equality laws exist, enforcement lags — especially in work rights, business ownership, and protections — slowing progress for women globally, including in employment sectors like STEM.
- ❖ Women often leave STEM careers due to workplace bias, unequal pay, limited leadership opportunities, and societal roles outside work.
- ❖ Female researchers are under-represented as authors and inventors, even though they often graduate at similar rates to men.

*Roshni Bandyopadhyay*  
*Economics Major*  
*Semester-I*

## International Women's Day 2026

International Women's Day has always been a time to honour the progress of women, but as we look toward March 8, 2026, the focus is shifting from acknowledgment to accountability. The UN Women theme—Rights, Justice, and Action—reminds us that having rights on paper is not the same as living them in practice. For millions of women and girls, "equality" is still a distant promise. True progress isn't just about passing laws; it's about the justice required to enforce those laws and the action needed to break down the systemic barriers that remain. Whether it is closing the gender pay gap, ensuring safety from violence, or providing equal access to education and leadership, the goal is clear: these rights must belong to all women and girls, regardless of their background or location.

We not only live in a time of rapid change. The theme "Rights. Justice. Action." is a reminder that standing still is the same as moving backward. The International Women's Day is an opportunity to push for mechanisms that make equality a daily reality — such as fair legal systems, economic empowerment, and bodily autonomy. The 2026 initiative emphasizes that justice is a collective responsibility. It asks us to look at our own communities and workplaces and ask: Are we just talking about equality, or are we acting on it? This International Women's Day emphasizes the simple message: "empowerment is the goal, justice is the path, and action is the only way to get there". It's time to ensure that every girl born today grows up in a world where her rights aren't a struggle to maintain, but a foundation she can stand on.

*Souradeep Sarkar*  
*Economics Major*  
*Semester-I*

## She Writes The Dawn

A woman's voice, the rising sun,  
Her rights matter, like everyone's  
Justice calls, a level field,  
Where strength and worth are both revealed.  
No longer silent, no more fear,  
Action speaks, the message clear.  
She builds, she leads, she breaks the chain,  
Empowered now, she rises again.  
Like a seed, she starts to grow,  
To blossom bright, for all to know.  
No more whispers, hushed and low,  
But voices clear, for all to show.  
Feminine energy, a lively form,  
Spirited soul, a dynamic storm.  
Fire in the heart, bright and warm,  
A vibrant nature, a great reform.  
Her story is written, strong and bright,  
A future forged, in equal light.

*Debopriyo Bhattacharjee*  
*Mathematics Major*  
*Semester-I*

## ন্যায় বিচার---- সুরক্ষিত হোক নারী ও কন্যার অধিকার

নারী ও কন্যার মর্যাদা, সমঅধিকার এবং ন্যায়বিচার নিশ্চিত করা শুধু একটি প্রতিশ্রুতি নয়, এটি একটি মানবিক ও ন্যায়ভিত্তিক সমাজ গঠনের অপরিহার্য শর্ত। সচেতনতা এবং সমন্বিত উদ্যোগের মাধ্যমে গড়ে তুলতে পারি এমন এক বিশ্ব যেখানে প্রাতিটি নারী ও কন্যা নিরাপদ, সম্মানিত ও ক্ষমতায়িত। তবে এর জন্যে প্রয়োজন এক সঠিক পদক্ষেপ, যা হবে ন্যায়সঙ্গত ও মানবিক। মূলত, নারীবাদ হলো সেই মতাদর্শ যা সব নারীর জন্যে সমান অধিকারের দাবি করে। নারীবাদের মুখ্য আসল লক্ষ্য হলো সাম্যের ভিত্তিতে সমাজ বদল। নারীদের লক্ষ্য হলো এটা ব্যাখ্যা করা, কেন নারী নির্যাতন ও অধীনস্ত, অথচ পুরুষ নয়; এবং নৈতিকভাবে সম্ভাব্য উপায় নির্দেশ করা যাতে নারী, পুরুষের মতো একই স্বাধীনতা, ন্যায়বিচার ও সাম্য পেতে পারে। নারীবাদ শুধু সমানাধিকার চেয়েই ক্ষান্ত হবে না, চাইবে সাম্য এবং তাদের বিপরীতের সবরকম বৈষম্যের অবসান। তাই, সমাজে পুরুষের মতোই নারীরও একই শিক্ষাগত ও বৃত্তিগত সুযোগ থাকা উচিত। আধুনিক বিশ্বে নারীর সামাজিক স্থান ও মর্যাদাকে কেন্দ্র করে ঘটে চলেছে অনেক পরিবর্তন, আর এই পরিবর্তনের মূলে থাকা উচিত এক উদারপন্থী ভাবাদর্শ। আসলে, ব্যক্তিজীবনে সুবিচার পেতে হলে ন্যায়নীতির দ্বারস্থ হতেই হবে। এই ন্যায়নীতির কোন লিঙ্গ-পরিচয় নেই।

তাই ন্যায়-নীতির কোন পক্ষপাতও থাকতে পারে না। প্রসঙ্গত বলা চলে যে, Simone-de-Beauvoir বলেছেন, ‘কেউ নারী হয়ে জন্মায় না, বরং হয়ে ওঠে নারী’। তিনি বলতে চেয়েছেন যে, নারী হয়ে কেউ জন্মায় না, সমাজ তাকে নারীতে পরিণত করে। পুরুষ নারীকে নির্দেশ করে, নারীর স্বাভাবিক বোঝায় নিজের সঙ্গে তুলনা করে। পুরুষ হল অনিবার্য, অবধারিত, আর নারী হল আকস্মিক, অতিরিক্ত। নারীদের যতদিন ‘অপর’ হিসেবে দেখা হবে ততদিন ‘তারা পুরুষ নয়’ এভাবেই বিবেচিত হবে। নারীদের নিজেদের চেষ্টা করতে হবে যাতে তারা পরসত্বা থেকে স্বসত্তায় উন্নীত হতে পারে। আর তাই যা করতে হবে তা হল উদারপন্থী ভাবাদর্শের দ্বারা নিজেদের চালিত করা। বিশ্ব

নারীদিবসে একজন নারী তথা কন্যা রূপে আমাদের অঙ্গীকার হওয়া উচিত, নারীরা যাতে সসন্মানে বাঁচতে পারে, পুরুষের সঙ্গে সমানাধিকার পায়, এমনকি গুণগত দিক থেকে মহিলারা যাতে প্রশাসনিক ক্ষেত্রেও যথাযথ মর্যাদাপূর্ণ পদে নিযুক্ত হতে পারে- এমন বহুবিধ বিষয়ে সকলেরই যত্নবান হওয়া প্রয়োজন বলে আমাদের সকলের মনে করা উচিত।

**Sonali Mondal**  
**Philosophy Major**  
**Semester-III**



## Without Justice, Rights Can Never Empower

**“There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.”** — Kofi Annan

Every year on International Women’s Day, we celebrate women’s achievements. But the real question remains: do women truly experience equality every day? From rural fields to urban offices, women contribute in countless ways. A rural woman labors tirelessly, a domestic worker supports families, an urban professional balance career and home, while scientists, judges, and leaders shape the world. Despite different roles, all deserve equal rights, dignity, and respect.

**“I raise up my voice... so that those without a voice can be heard.”** — Malala Yousafzai

The Indian Constitution ensures equality through Articles 14, 15, and 21, and the judiciary has strengthened women’s rights through important laws and decisions. Yet, justice must go beyond paper into real life. Science has empowered women—from Marie Curie to Kalpana Chawla—proving ability knows no gender. Mathematics teaches balance: just as an equation must be equal, society must ensure equal opportunities for all. Inequality itself is a flaw in the system.

Faith also supports equality: **“There is neither male nor female, for you are all one.”** —Galatians 3:28

History is shaped by strong women like Savitribai Phule, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Mother Teresa. Their courage reminds us that change is possible. However, awareness is not enough—action is essential. This means educating every girl, respecting every woman, and challenging stereotypes. The fight for women’s rights is a human

responsibility. A society that uplifts women progresses as a whole.  
**Let us make equality not just an idea, but a daily practice.**

*Susmita Chakraborty*

*Mathematics Major*

*Semester-I*

### নারীত্ব

অবলা নয় তারা, শক্তি অসীম, অধিকারের পথে, দৃঢ় অবিচল টিম।

ন্যায় বিচার চায়, বাঁচার সম্মানে, ভেঙে দেয় বাধা, রুখে দাঁড়ায় প্রাণে।

ঘরে বাইরে আজ, সমান তাদের দাম, শিক্ষা আর কাজে, উজ্জ্বল সব নাম।

নিজের পায়ে দাঁড়ায়, নিজের হাতে গড়ে, নতুন এক পৃথিবী, বুকে সাহস ভরে।

অন্যায় দেখলে আর রবে না চুপ, এক হয়ে লড়বে, ভাঙবে যত স্তূপ।

নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন, মুক্তির দিশা, আলো ঝলমলে এক নতুন সূচনা।

নিজেকে চিনবে নিজের জোরে, স্বপ্ন দেখবে আকাশ ভরে।

অজানা পথের সন্ধানে গিয়ে, খুঁজে পাবে সেই মনি, মুক্ত, হিরে।

মা, বোন, স্ত্রী, কন্যা - রূপে মহান, তাদের জয়গানে মুখরিত প্রাণ।

তাদের শক্তিতেই দেশ হবে জয়ী, প্রগতির পথে তাই মোরা অগ্রগামী হই।

*Debopriyo Bhattacharjee*

*Mathematics Major*

*Semester-I*



# Gender Equality is a Pre-condition for Sustainable Development

Every year on 8th March, the world comes together to celebrate International Women's Day. But beyond the flowers, social media posts, and celebrations, this day carries a much deeper meaning. It is a reminder of the struggles women have faced for generations — and the strength they continue to show every single day. The theme for 2026, “Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls,” is powerful because it is not just about recognition — it is about responsibility. Think about the women in our own lives — our mothers, sisters, friends, teachers. They work tirelessly, often balancing family responsibilities, careers, and personal dreams. Yet many of them still face unequal pay, limited opportunities, and unfair treatment simply because of their gender. In many parts of the world, girls are still denied education. Many women live in fear of violence or discrimination. These realities show us that equality is still a work in progress. “Rights” means that every woman and girl deserves the same basic freedoms and opportunities as anyone else — the right to education, the right to work, the right to speak freely, and the right to feel safe. These are not special privileges; they are basic human rights. “Justice” means creating a world where these rights are protected. It means standing against unfair laws, harmful traditions, and social biases. Justice is not just about punishment; it is about fairness and dignity. It is about ensuring that women are heard, respected, and valued. And then comes “Action.” Because change does not happen through words alone. It happens when people speak up, challenge stereotypes, support girls' education, and treat women as equals in homes, schools, workplaces, and society. Action can be small — like encouraging a girl to follow her dreams — or large, like changing policies and laws. Every step matters. When women rise, societies rise. When girls are educated, economies grow. When women are empowered, communities become stronger and more compassionate. Gender equality benefits everyone — not just

women. International Women's Day 2026 is not just a celebration; it is a call to do better. It asks each of us to reflect on how we can contribute to a world where every woman and girl can live freely, safely, and confidently. Because true progress is not achieved until all women and girls have equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunities.

*Kaustav Ghosh*  
*Economics Major*  
*Semester-I*



## We Rise Together for Gender Justice

**Today, on International Women's Day 2026, we do not just celebrate—we stand in solidarity to demand Rights, Justice, and Action.**

We live in a world where 1 in 4 countries reports a backlash on women's rights. We know that in nearly 70% of surveyed countries, women face more barriers accessing justice than men. This is not merely a statistic; it is a profound injustice that restricts the potential of millions.

**This year, the call is clear: Justice.**

- It is justice for the survivor who is too often silenced.
- It is economic justice for the woman whose work is undervalued.
- It is legal justice, ensuring laws actually protect girls from child marriage and women from violence.

**But justice is not passive. It requires Action.**

- It means dismantling the structural barriers, the discriminatory laws, and the harmful social norms that erode our rights.
- It means ensuring women are at every table where decisions are made.
- It means holding perpetrators accountable and providing legal aid that is accessible to all.

### Key Historical Actions and Milestones

**1828 – Sojourner Truth:** Became the first Black woman to win a custody battle against a white man in US history, recovering her son from slavery.

**1951 – Doria Shafik:** Led 1,500 women in storming the Egyptian Parliament, demanding political rights, pay equality, and reform in personal status laws, paving the way for suffrage in 1956.

**1993 – Vienna Conference:** A major breakthrough where women's rights were explicitly recognized as human rights by the international community, shifting the record on international law.

**2026 Women's Health Campaigns:** India achieved three Guinness World Records in late 2025/2026 under the nationwide 'Swasth Nari & Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' campaign, focusing on women's healthcare.

Gender equality must be increased across all sectors of society, with a particular focus on economic participation, political leadership, safety, and education, to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 by 2030. Based on 2026, the International Women's Day theme "Rights. Justice. Action For ALL Women and Girls" highlights the need for immediate, targeted interventions to close the 36% legal gap between men and women.

*Soumick Dey,  
Mathematics Major  
Semester-I*





## Rights, Justice, and Action for All Women and Girls

I am proud to be a woman because I embody strength, sincerity and compassion. To be a woman is to be adaptable and resilient, capable of handling complex challenges while maintaining empathy. It means navigating societal expectations - often balancing personal dreams with responsibilities - and proving, day after day, that we are worthy of equal respect and opportunity. This picture presents the philosophy of women's equality, justice and empowerment. It shows that equality is a basic human right, not a privilege. The poster highlights three main ideas - Rights, Justice and Action.

**Rights :** Education, Freedom and Dignity for all women.

**Justice :** Equal laws, No discrimination, Fair opportunities.

**Action :** Speaking against injustice and supporting each other. It is also about opposing social problems like child marriage and demanding equal rights.

I embrace my identity fully. Being a woman is not just a gender; it is a force of dedication, duty and dedication. I see no reason to lag behind and I am proud to hold up my half of the sky with determination and grace.

*Rupsa Halder*  
*Philosophy Major*  
*Semester-I*



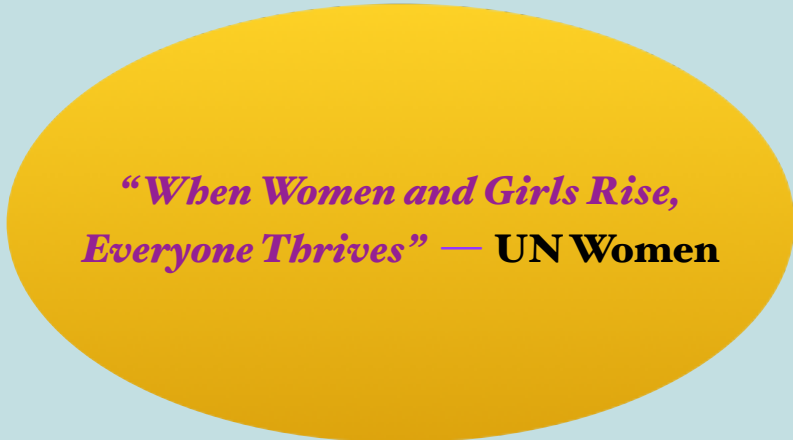


## More Than a Celebration: A Call for Justice and Action

International Women's Day is often seen as a blend of celebration and a call to action. To me, it represents a moment to pause and recognize the profound impact women have on every facet of human existence—from the quiet strength within families to the transformative leadership in science, politics, and the arts. It is a day that bridges the gap between historical struggle and future aspirations, reminding us that progress is both a legacy to honour and a responsibility to uphold. The day serves as a vital reminder of how far we've come. It honors the pioneers who fought for suffrage, education, and labour rights. When we celebrate IWD, we aren't just giving out flowers or sharing social media posts; we are acknowledging a seismic shift in the global consciousness regarding equity. It is a day to celebrate the "glass ceilings" that have been shattered and the doors that have been kicked open for future generations. This progress is not just a victory for women, but a victory for humanity as a whole, as it fosters a more balanced, diverse, and empathetic society. By acknowledging these milestones, we validate the courage of those who came before us. However, I believe the true value of Women's Day lies in its ability to highlight the work that remains. It's a day to look beyond the surface level and address critical gaps that still persist in the modern world. This includes recognizing intersectionality—understanding that the experiences of women vary wildly based on race, class, geography, and identity. A one-size-fits-all approach to empowerment often leaves the most vulnerable behind. Furthermore, it means acknowledging invisible labour, such as the unpaid care work and emotional support that often go unseen but are essential to the functioning of our world. We must move past symbolic gestures toward genuine policy changes that ensure safety, equal pay, and accessible healthcare for all. Ultimately, my perspective is that while March 8th is a beautiful focal point, its spirit must be integrated into the other 364 days of the year. True appreciation isn't a 24-hour

event; it's a daily commitment to building a world where a woman's potential is never limited by her gender. It involves creating environments where "womanhood" is not a hurdle to clear, but a diverse and powerful identity to be celebrated. By turning the awareness of this day into consistent action, we ensure that equality becomes a lived reality rather than just a yearly theme.

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***“When Women and Girls Rise,  
Everyone Thrives” — UN Women***