



Giving Wings to Women

Women in Aviation India are re-writing history by spreading awareness about the opportunities that exist in this sector for girls

A clarion call, "Beti ki Udaan, Desh Ka Swabhimaan", has been the inspiration and guiding light for Women in Aviation India (WAI), a group of dynamic women who are determined to re-write the history of women in aviation. During this path-breaking journey, Girls in Aviation Day (GIAD) has been celebrated every year, touching the lives of thousands of girls across 35 cities in India.

WAI has networked, collaborated and received invaluable support from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, its associated organisations, state governments, airport operators, airlines and other stakeholders.

Flying on the wings of a surging economy, these women embarked on a mission in 2015 to spread awareness about the opportunities that exist in aviation and the huge demand in it.

BRINGING EQUITY

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, "Beti padao, beti bachao", WAI under the leadership of its president, Radha Bhatia, made it their mission eight years ago to bring equity in a hitherto male dominated industry. This was especially so in remote towns and cities where education may have paved a way, but there was a noticeable lack of skill development and awareness. Bhatia always tells these students, "Dream big! Set your

goals high and don't stop till you achieve them!"

Through the Girls in Aviation Day programmes, WAI members reach out to girls through curated events held in schools, colleges and mostly at airports in order to provide them a glimpse of an aviation ecosystem.

A mission like this is fuelled by the support of stakeholders who believe that change is possible when all forces unite, especially the Union and state ministries. This year, GIAD programmes are being celebrated with the support of Delhi International Airport Ltd., GMR; Airport Authority of India; Kempegowda International Airport; Cochin International Airport; Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad; Thiruvananthapuram International Airport; Make My Trip; Blue Dart; Millennium Aerodynamics; Directorate General of Training, National Skill Training Institute, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Confederation of Indian Industry and Bird Group.

CURATED BOOKLETS

Girls in Aviation Day 2024 celebrations recently culminated at the General Aviation Terminal, IGI Airport and Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram, Agra and Srinagar Airports. As part of signature merchandise, WAI presents all students, curated booklets of career opportunities in aviation.

Forthcoming programmes include Mumbai, Ladakh, Dehradun, Odisha, Varanasi, Allahabad, Kanpur, Cochin, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Goa, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and other stations. WAI invites stakeholders and corporate entities in aviation to join their endeavours as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility missions. GIAD programmes will culminate with a grand awards ceremony this November, celebrating the achievements of women in aviation – "Giving Wings to Dreams".

Without doubt, when all forces align, magic happens. And when women progress, a nation progresses.



"DREAM BIG! SET YOUR GOALS HIGH AND DON'T STOP TILL YOU ACHIEVE THEM!"

RADHA BHATIA

President, Women in Aviation India

