

Four Indian Women Shine in BBC 100 Women 2023 List

Why In News

- The BBC has released its prestigious list of the **11th Edition of 100 Inspiring and Influential Women** from around the world for 2023.
- This prestigious list is categorized into Culture and Education, Entertainment and Sport, Politics and Advocacy, and Science, Health, and Tech.



- The **BBC 100 Women 2023** list not only recognizes the achievements of these four Indian women but also highlights their significant contributions in diverse fields, inspiring others around the globe.
- The inclusion of a **'Climate Pioneers' category** underscores the importance of women leading the charge against the climate crisis, with Arati Kumar-Rao representing India on this front.
- BBC 100 Women 2023 which **includes four Indian women** viz. Actress Dia Mirza, Cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, Photographer Arati Kumar-Rao, and Tibetan Buddhist nun Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo.

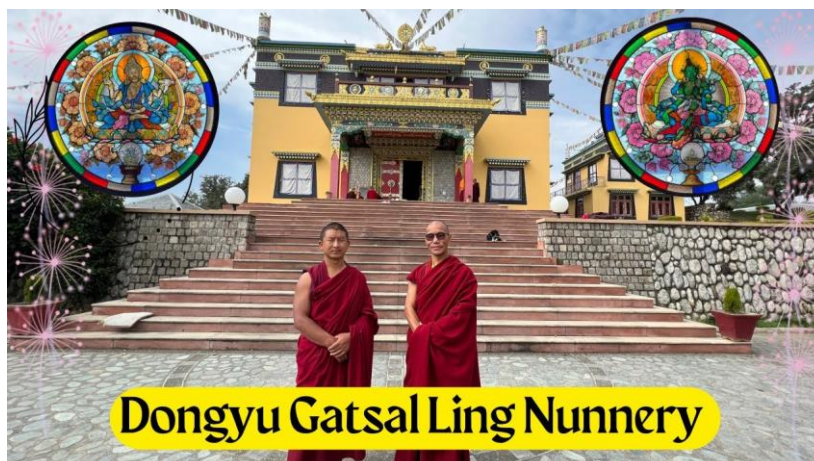


Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo

- Born in England in the 1940s, **Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo** embraced Buddhism during her teenage years.
- At the age of 20, she embarked on a journey to India, where she became one of the first Westerners to be ordained as a Tibetan Buddhist monastic.



- In her commitment to advancing the status of female practitioners, Tenzin Palmo established the **Dongyu Gatsal Ling Nunnery** in Himachal Pradesh, providing a home for over 120 nuns.
- Her most renowned achievement is spending 12 years in a secluded cave in the Himalayas, with three years dedicated to a strict meditation retreat.
- In recognition of her profound dedication, she was honored with the rare title of **Jetsunma, signifying Venerable Master, in 2008.**
- Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo's life is a testament to her unwavering commitment to Buddhism, female empowerment, and spiritual introspection in the serene landscapes of the Himalayas.



Harmanpreet Kaur

- In a groundbreaking achievement, **Harmanpreet Kaur secured her place** in cricket history as the **first Indian woman** named one of Wisden's five Cricketers of the Year this year.
- As the captain of the **India women's national cricket team**, Kaur has showcased her prolific scoring abilities both on home soil and abroad.
- Her leadership led the team to a commendable silver-medal finish at the Commonwealth Games last year, highlighting her impact on the international stage.



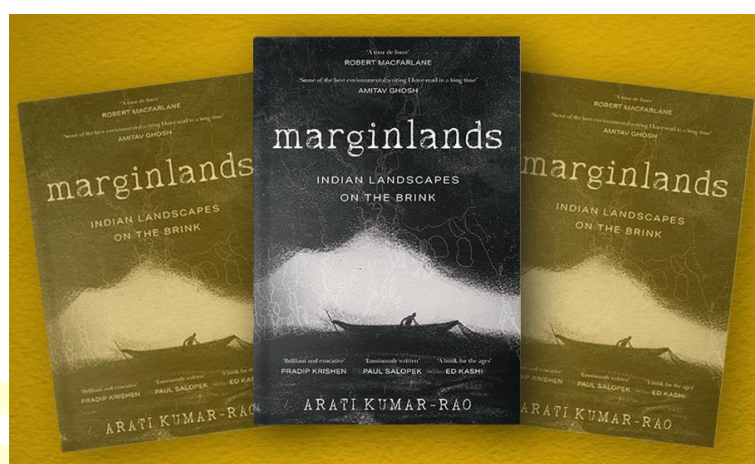
- Kaur's influence extends to domestic cricket as well, where she guided the Mumbai Indians to victory in the inaugural Women's Premier League in March.

Arati Kumar-Rao

- **Independent photographer, writer, and National Geographic Explorer Arati Kumar-Rao** dedicates her work to capturing the evolving landscape influenced by climate change across South Asia.



- For over a decade, Kumar-Rao has traversed the Indian subcontinent, chronicling the severe depletion of groundwater, habitat destruction, and land acquisition for industrial purposes.
- Her documentation unveils the devastating impact on **biodiversity, the shrinking of common lands, and the displacement of millions**, pushing various species towards extinction.
- Kumar-Rao's stories are hard-hitting, revealing the profound effects of environmental destruction on both **livelihoods and biodiversity**.



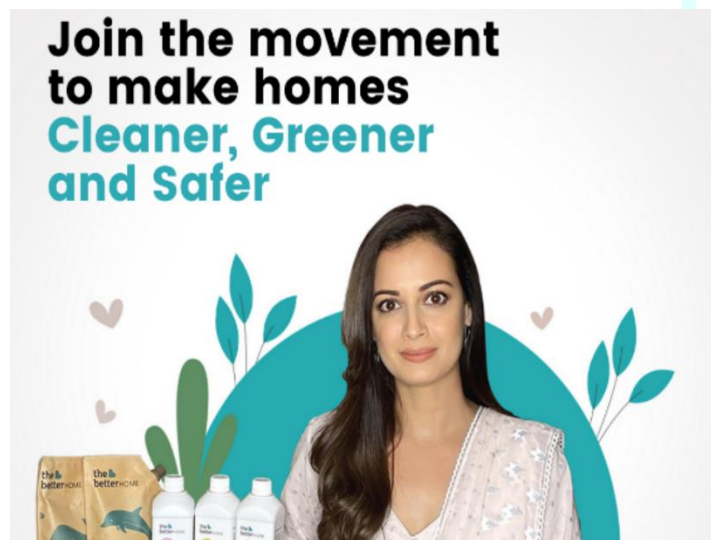
- Her extensive body of work serves as a poignant reflection of the interconnectedness between human activities and the natural world.
- In her book, **“Marginlands: India’s Landscapes on the Brink,”** Kumar-Rao encapsulates the experiences of those residing in India’s most challenging environments.
- Through her lens and words, she sheds light on the urgent need for environmental awareness and sustainable practices to preserve the delicate balance between humanity and nature.

Dia Mirza

- Beyond her accolades in **Indian cinema**, actress **Dia Mirza** distinguishes herself through her active involvement in **environmental and humanitarian initiatives**.
- As a **goodwill ambassador of the United Nations Environment Programme**, Mirza advocates for critical issues like climate change, clean air, and wildlife protection.



- Her role extends beyond the silver screen as she passionately spreads awareness and mobilizes action.
- Adding another dimension to her impactful contributions, Mirza is the founder of **One India Stories**, a production house with a mission to tell compelling stories that provoke contemplation.
- Mirza's commitment to social causes extends further as she serves as an **ambassador for Save the Children and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.**
- Additionally, she holds a significant role as a board member of the Sanctuary Nature Foundation.



Other Names In List

- **Other notable names** in it are former First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama; human rights lawyer Amal Clooney, Ballon d'Or-winning footballer Aitana Bonmatí, AI expert Timnit Gebru, feminist icon Gloria Steinem, Hollywood star America Ferrera, and beauty mogul Huda Kattan.



Impact of the BBC 100 Women List

- Since its inception, the BBC 100 Women list has had a profound impact on the lives of the women featured and on the broader conversation about gender equality. The list has:
- **Raised awareness** of the achievements of women worldwide.
- Provided a platform for women to **share their stories** and inspire others.
- Encouraged dialogue and action to **promote gender equality**.
- Contributed to a more inclusive and representative **global media landscape**.

