

No STEM-ming this tide

Ahead of Women's Day, an upcoming event this weekend aims to explore gender discrimination in the fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)

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Khana, legend goes, was a gifted astrologer and the daughter-in-law of Varahamihira, the famous court astrologer of King Vikramaditya in ancient India. Khana, not only matched up but surpassed her father-in-law and her husband, Mihir. Once she cracked a tough astrological problem posed by the King that even her husband and father-in-law couldn't. Afraid they would lose their place in the court, Mihir cut off Khana's tongue so she would never be able to speak again. The facts of this story may be questionable, but when it comes to participation of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), the percentage is quite dismal.

Feminist sociologist Geeta Chadha says poor participation and exclusion of women in sciences is often explained "in terms of innate abilities" or in terms of "the social role of women as homemakers and the constraints that role entails".

To explore the role of women in STEM, Chadha will join *Mission Possible*, a day-long event that revolves around 'Conversations



(Clockwise) Sanjukta Wagh, Nandita Jayaraj, Geeta Chadha and Aashima Dogra

on the Breakthroughs of Indian Women in STEM'.

The event, hosted by Godrej India Culture Lab and Point of View (a Mumbai-based non-profit platform which works with women) on the eve of International Women's Day, will combine discussions, per-

formances and art installations to draw out the gendered nuances in this field, and how it can and should align with the arts. With artists like Vidya Shah, Sanjukta Wagh, K Sridhar and Afrah Shafiq performing, this is an event where sciences and arts converse, and converge.



According to Koninika Roy of Godrej India Culture Lab, the idea is to have arts blend into STEM disciplines. "We wanted to explore what happens when we don't in fact put STEM and art at odds with each other," says Roy.

One of the highlights of this day-

long event is a master class on 'The Life Of Science'. The session aims to explain how subversion through education is an antidote to a patriarchal system. Co-founders of TheLifeofScience.com, a feminist collective generating multimedia news and content about science in India, Nandita Jayaraj and Aashima Dogra say that their feminist science media project — the only one in the country — has revealed "the problem of the gender gap in Indian science is complex and requires engagement with gender issues. Four years ago, we chose to collect and record stories of Indian women in science because we were tired of hearing only of the male genius scientist."

Co-founder and executive director of Point of View, Bishakha Datta, who works extensively in the domain of gender, intersectionality and minorities, shares similar views about women in STEM. She says, "It's interesting because women are marginalised within STEM — there are much fewer women than men in these disciplines. And there are fewer non-binary and trans folk in these spaces too. Even though women have broken ground with significant innovations, these are still viewed as male spaces; women's contributions are rarely given the place they deserve." With *Mission Possible*, the organisers and the experts participating at the event want to change that perspective and start a conversation about the same.

Mission Possible will be held at Godrej One, Vikhroli on Mar 7, 11 am onwards. **RSVP** at indiaculturelab@godrejindia.com

PLAN AHEAD

WHERE: Call organisers for meeting point details

Lakeside camping at Pawna

This weekend, skip the cacophony and embark on a trip to a relaxing camp by a beautiful lake with your loved ones. You could also just fly solo. The trip has been organised by Adventure Geek. After setting

up tents and lighting the campfire, watch the sun set over Pawna Lake, walk around the campsite, enjoy the barbecue, or just lie back and relax. The cost of trip is inclusive of food and tented accommodation.

WHEN: Mar 7 ENTRY: Rs 999 LOG: www.adventuregeek.in

WWW.ADVENTUREGEEK.IN



MUST ATTEND

WHERE: Mustard, Worli

Readings in The Shed – Waves

Fighting for women's equality has been going on for ages. Even today women are fighting for equality — in terms of opportunities at workplace and in society. On the occasion of International Women's Day, this edition of Readings in The Shade, titled *Waves*, will feature artists Faezeh Jalali, Kyla D'Souza, Reshma Shetty and Jhelum Gosalia, who will present stories of inspiring women and feminism.

WHEN: Mar 8, 6 pm ENTRY: Rs 500
LOG: www.bookmyshow.com

CHECK OUT



WHERE: The Leela Club, Imperial Towers, Tardeo

The Boho Love Bazaar

Fashionistas and shopaholics, take note. *The Boho Love Bazaar 2020* is a fashion pop-up which aims at giving a boho-chic update to your wardrobe. At this curated event traditional style blend with modern cuts. From handcrafted shararas, Indo-Western silhouettes to tribal bags and rustic hand woven rugs, you'll be spoilt for choice. Some of the participating brands are Joey & Pooh, Pause, LoveShafali, Kangana Trehan, The Clay Company, Amala Patel, among others.

WHEN: Mar 5, 10 am to 7 pm
ENTRY: Free CALL: 61677000



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