

The background features a dark blue gradient with faint, light blue circular patterns. These patterns include concentric circles, dashed lines, and degree markings (e.g., 40, 150, 160, 170, 180, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) that suggest a circular or cyclical theme.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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INTRODUCTION

- **Women form ~50% of India's population**
- **Their status has changed over time – from ancient respect to medieval decline, to modern empowerment.**
- **Reflects the progress of Indian society.**

STATUS IN ANCIENT INDIA

- **Women enjoyed high respect and freedom.**
- **Participation in education, philosophy, and politics.**
- **Examples: Gargi, Maitreyi, Rani Lakshmibai.**
- **Property rights in some communities.**

STATUS IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- **Decline in position due to invasions and conservative practices.**
- **Prevalence of child marriage, purdah, sati, dowry.**
- **Restricted access to education and freedom.**

STATUS IN MODERN INDIA (POST-INDEPENDENCE)

- **Constitutional equality (Article 14, 15, 16).**
- **Right to vote, property, and education.**
- **Increased participation in politics, business, education, and science.**
- **Laws against dowry, domestic violence, sexual harassment.**

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- **Gender discrimination and wage gap.**
- **Violence and crimes against women.**
- **Underrepresentation in leadership roles.**
- **Cultural and social restrictions in rural areas.**

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Rise in literacy and higher education enrollment.**
- **Women in armed forces, politics, business, sports.**
- **Growth of self-help groups and entrepreneurship.**
- **Success stories: Indira Gandhi, Kalpana Chawla, PV Sindhu, Sudha Murthy.**

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**
- **National Commission for Women (NCW)**
- **Maternity Benefit Act**
- **Reservations in Panchayati Raj**
- **Schemes for women's education and employment**

WAY FORWARD

- **Equal opportunities in all sectors.**
- **Strict law enforcement against crimes.**
- **Women's empowerment through education and skill training.**
- **Changing social mindset towards gender equality.**

CONCLUSION

- **Status of women in India has improved but challenges remain.**
- **True progress depends on equality, safety, and empowerment.**
- **Women are key to building a strong and inclusive India.**