

Permanent Mission of India
New York

Press Release

Dr. Hansa Mehta Memorial Lecture

The third edition of Dr. Hansa Mehta Memorial Lecture was held on 7 March 2025, at the United Nations Headquarters. This year's Memorial Lecture focused on "*Global South and Women's Leadership: Hansa Mehta Framework for Inclusive Diplomacy*".

2. In his welcome remarks, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish recalled Dr. Mehta's approach to inclusive diplomacy, and the utmost relevance of India's civilisational vision of "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*" [the whole world is one family] in today's divisive world. Renowned business leader, philanthropist and Grammy award winning musician Ms. Chandrika Tandon delivered the keynote address. She reflected on how power and purpose, of mind and life, helped her shape her life, find greater meaning and a vision for her future. She highlighted that Dr. Mehta's life continues to inspire many women across the world.

3. The event celebrated the rising influence of women in emerging economies while exploring the transformative impact that women from the Global South have had, not only in their own countries but also on the global stage. The Permanent Representatives of Qatar, H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Malawi, H.E. Mrs. Agnes Mary Chimbiri Molande, and the Netherlands, H.E. Mrs. Lise Gregoire-van Haaren, addressed the gathering and shared their experiences and anecdotes from both at United Nations and in their own countries.

4. The Memorial Lecture is a tribute to Dr. Hansa Mehta, the freedom fighter, educationist and reformer who famously changed the phrase "All men are born free and equal" to "All human beings are born free and equal" in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, marking a crucial milestone for gender equality. The Memorial lecture was instituted to coincide with International Women's Day and honour the legacy and work of Dr. Hansa Mehta.

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