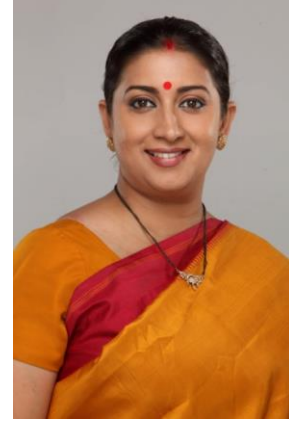




**MESSAGE**  
**FROM SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI**  
**HON'BLE MINISTER OF HUMAN**  
**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**ON**  
**THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL**  
**WOMEN'S DAY, March 8, 2015**



International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March every year worldwide. It is an occasion for us not only to celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of women but also to renew our resolve to empower women keeping in view inter-alia this year's UN theme for International Women's Day "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!"

The multifaceted role of a woman in the society unsung in the past is now being recognized more and more worldwide. Today she looks ahead of her roles and aspires to celebrate her individuality.

However, redressing inequalities between men and women is still a challenge that needs to be met. New horizons of opportunities are needed to be opened up to meet this challenge and to improve standards of life for all those women who lag behind in the race of empowerment especially our rural sisters. Female literacy including financial literacy is one such platform that provides necessary opportunities for women to break the mould.

International Women's Day is also an occasion to salute all those who are dedicated to the cause of women's empowerment and their upliftment. I appeal to one and all to participate and involve themselves actively and effectively to encourage women to achieve their rightful place in the society.