

## Geeta becomes first woman CISF officer to scale Everest

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In an extraordinary display of courage, grit and determination, Geeta Samota of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has etched her name into the history books by becoming the first woman officer from the force to scale Mount Everest — the highest peak on Earth at 8,849 m (29,032 ft).

Senior CISF officials hailed the achievement, calling it not just a personal triumph, but a landmark moment for the force and a powerful symbol of the evolving role of women in India's uniformed services.

"Mountains are great levellers. They don't care about your gender. Only those with that X-factor can conquer those heights," says Geeta.

Raised in Chak village in Rajasthan's Sikar district, Geeta's journey from rural India to the top of the world is a testament to perseverance and purpose.



Geeta Samota

Born into a family of four sisters, she was driven from a young age by a desire to break stereotypes and carve out a path of her own. A promising hockey player during her college years, a career-ending injury cut her sporting ambitions short — a setback that unexpectedly opened the door to a new pursuit: mountaineering.

Geeta joined the CISF in 2011, where she found mountaineering to be a largely untapped field. Seizing the opportunity, she enrolled in a basic mountaineering course at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) training insti-

tute in Auli in 2015, the only woman in her batch. Her passion and aptitude led her to complete the advanced course in 2017 — becoming the first CISF personnel to do so.

Her growing mountaineering résumé includes achievements few can match. In 2019, she became the first woman from any CAPF to summit both Mount Satopanth (7,075 m) in Uttarakhand and Mount Lobuche (6,119 m) in Nepal.

After a planned 2021 Everest expedition was cancelled due to technical reasons, Geeta set her sights on a new challenge: "Seven Summits" — climbing the highest peak on each continent.

Meanwhile, an Indian climber died after summiting Mt Lhotse, the world's fourth highest mountain in the Himalayas, according to a media report. Rakesh Bishnoi from Rajasthan breathed his last at Yellow Band near Camp IV after returning from the summit point on Lhotse on Monday, *The Himalayan Times* reported.