

Mithali Raj listed in BBC's 100 Most Influential Women 2017 list



Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has been included in BBC's 100 Most Influential Women 2017 list across the world, for she has broken the Indian stereotype of men in cricket field and has consistently proved her talent.

BBC introduced the idea of listing top influential women back in 2013, which was the first edition of 100 Most Influential Women. The list includes women across all professions including sports, business, engineering and much more - who have been influential and inspirational because of significant work in their fields. Each year, BBC hosts the BBC 100 Women Challenge and then the list of most influential ladies gets published. This year, Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has been enlisted in the prestigious BBC list for her contribution to the game and her country.

Mithali Raj had hit headlines after she led the Indian women's cricket team at ICC World Cup final in England where the Indian team lost just by 0 runs, recently. But she has contributed 18 years of her life to women's cricket. Currently the highest run-getter in women ODI, has helped Indian team to reach the World Cup finals twice - in 2005 and 2017. She has played 186 ODIs for India where she has scored 6190 runs at an average of 51.58. She is India's only batter to average more than 50 in Tests and ODIs. It is not just numbers to show, Mithali hopes to inspire young girls to explore sports career and also hopes to win a World Cup for India. And Mithali has been awarded with an Arjuna Awards and the Padma Shri in 2015, India's fourth highest civilian award for her contribution to cricket.

Other sportswomen in the BBC list are Brazilian rower Fernanda Nunes, legendary Hungarian athlete Nadia Comaneci, and England football player Steph Houghton. The current BBC list, includes 60 women from across the globe who are spreading their voices and are associated with various campaigns regarding global issues, inspiring other women. The remaining 40 women on the list will be named places once the challenge progresses, over a few weeks from now.