



Left to Right: Parnika Reddy, Undram Chinbat, Monica Fein, Ann Linde, Salman Khurshid, Pallam Raju at Bharat Summit in Hyderabad on Friday

Bharat Summit lays emphasis on gender justice

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The Bharat Summit in Hyderabad witnessed a powerful session on Gender Justice and a Feminist Future, where international leaders, policymakers, and advocates called for structural reforms—from equal pay policies to shared family responsibilities—to advance gender equality.

The session, held under the broader theme Delivering Global Justice, brought together prominent voices from across the world. Speakers pointed out that real change begins at the grassroots level and urged governments to adopt inclusive policies that recognise the role of women not just as supporters, but as leaders and decision-makers.

Highlighting the urgency of reform, former Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde said, "If families cannot combine work and parenting, gender equality will remain

out of reach. We must reform taxation systems, introduce universal childcare, and counter backlash against feminism."

She stressed that despite progress in countries like Sweden, structural biases and underrepresentation of women in politics and leadership persist globally. "The UN has never had a woman Secretary-General. I hope that changes in the next *election*," she added.

Linde also acknowledged India's leadership, stating, "India has had more female leaders than Sweden. Gender equality leads to reduced violence and more effective conflict resolution."

Salman Khurshid, former Union minister, questioned the lack of female representation in industries like infrastructure and called for tax incentives to increase women's employment.

"The answer is not just the right laws—but the right mindset—and the right men who stand for this cause he said.

MM Pallam Raju, former

Human Resource Development minister, pointed to successful policy frameworks such as MGNREGA, the Right to Education Act, and Telangana's Mahalakshmi Scheme, which offers free bus travel for women.

"When a woman in a family is educated, the whole family gets educated; he noted, highlighting the broader impact of empowering women.

Other key speakers included Rabia Abdullah (Tanzania), Monica Fein (Argentina), Maria Alejandra Panay (Panama), Undram Chinbat (Mongolia), Hamid Maysoon, and Wael Alatoom.

Together, they advocated for universal representation, equal access to resources, and reforms that enable women to participate equally in governance and the economy.

Monica Fein added a powerful note on leadership: "We don't just want to support men—we want to lead. True democracy is inclusive, gender-diverse, and supported by systems that reflect that: