

## Unleashing Insurmountable Virtues for All-Round Success



*There goes a great proverb, “Where there is a will, there is a way”. A person who is willing to achieve something cannot be kept far from tasting an all round success in life. Such persons keep unleashing insurmountable virtues and sky is the limit for them. All-round success and limiting beliefs do not go hand in hand. It is when every facet of a person's life is flourishing there comes a sense of fulfilment. But that does not stop achievers from achieving more and they continuously keep making the best use of the opportunities that may cross their paths. Such is the person we are talking about in this article who not only secured her name in the prestigious Limca Book of Records (2018), but also took the nation by storm by becoming the first Indian civilian lady who flew in the MIG-29 fighter plane in Russia. Here is CA. Megha Jain inspiring us with her extraordinary transformational story. Read on to know more what the author has to say...*

*“Opportunity may not knock on everyone’s door; however what matters is how you snatch and make the best out of it.”* Few people have a temperament and an attitude to do extraordinary work within limited opportunities, breaking the barriers. I am lucky to be able to get my name added to the prestigious Limca Book of Records (2018), as the

first Indian civilian lady who flew the MIG-29 fighter plane in Russia.

However, I hope my extraordinary transformational story is inspiring for everyone. I come from a humble background. I completed my primary education at Kosi Kalan in Uttar Pradesh and then, I moved to Delhi with my family at a very



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# Excellence with a difference

young age. My father runs a small garment business, while my mother is a homemaker. I am the eldest of the three siblings. I was born in a very moderate family, where to earn a livelihood was a struggle like any other average Indian family.

Like every ordinary Indian girl child, I had no clear vision while I was pursuing my education. However, I was certain that there was something out there for me that I need to achieve. *What was that?* This was what, I required to figure out. This question has always been there in my mind since my childhood.

For some reason, the above question always remained unanswered and being a girl child, however cliché that sounds, the life of many girls in India starts with the idea of studying and chasing grades, but finally ends in marriage followed by a lifelong household work. That's it. That sadly is the real story of many of the females in India.

As we grow, dreams change and reality kicks in. Study continued along with some dreams. I hoped to get admission in the Science stream in Delhi University and do something in this field, including becoming a scientist and creating something innovative. I was very keen to take admission in the Science stream, but due to financial crunches and limited income at home, it was difficult for me to pursue and carry that dream. So, I took admission in Commerce. Studying Science was a costly affair, I knew.

I was so deeply involved in studies that the only route I knew at that time and I was familiar with, was from home to college and college to home. Only motto then was that if I studied hard and got good grades, it would be my ticket to getting into a profession and landing in a job. There is no retake in life, my father had once told me during my graduation. He told me whatever I wanted to do I should do it in one shot, because we were a middle-class family and couldn't afford any second chance.

However, those words stuck in my mind and always echoed in later phase of my life. I applied for the CA course. I had never thought of this before. In fact, there is an interesting story about getting enrolled in the CA course. One day, me and one of my friends went out for some of her work. She bought the CA prospectus and asked me why I too did not apply for the CA course. She informed me that it was a good and honourable profession and that is why she was applying for it too. I took it casually and brought

the prospectus home. I was thinking of getting enrolled in some mass communication course at that time. But you never know what destiny holds for you. I finally got myself enrolled in the CA course as a Mass Communication course was again a costly affair. For the first time, I entered into the campus of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and I got a sense of immense satisfaction. My professional study started in ICAI under the mentorship of some of its senior members, who helped me thoroughly during this phase of my life.

In these 4-5 years of pursuing the dream course of CA, I did not see the life outside; like other aspirants, I too was engrossed in my studies, coaching and article ship training. Throughout these years, I always had passing thoughts in my mind of dropping out of this course and getting married and into family life, but my mother stood behind me strongly and supported throughout this phase. She kept convincing both me and others around me that I had to and would complete the professional course. It was she who gave confidence to me as well as to others around me that I would do so and come out victorious too as I had been pursuing the course with complete honesty. Her faith in my capability made me all the more confident and I promised myself that I would complete my CA in the very first attempt.

As everybody knows, it was not easy. The journey was very tough and challenging. But, overcoming all that with the help of my determination and hard work, and under the circle of faith of my mother, the day finally arrived when I got the membership of ICAI in the year of 2011 and felt very proud to be called as CA. Megha Jain.

Post completion of the CA course, I joined a company and working for the last 6 years. In the year 2016, I got married. But I continued my job as a CA in the same company. Because of my exceptional work, I was offered a trip to Russia as I was instrumental in cracking a deal that turned out to be one of the best deals the company ever made. And as a reward

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I visited the Sokol Airbase of Nizhny Novgorod in Russia and asked the Captain if I could fly in the fighter jet hoping to be denied at the first instance. But surprisingly, the captain said: *Yes, you can if you are fit to fly.* Going through all medical and other necessary fitness checks that I qualified, I finally flew in the MIG 29 fighter jet as co-pilot, at the height of 18,400 meters (603674 feet) with the top speed of 1,850 km/h over the Sokol Airbase on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and the rest is history.

Interestingly, coming from a conservative family I could never take people around me in confidence as this was a 'daredevil adventure' and assuming that I would not get the permission from family, I just told them that I was just going for some sightseeing. After completing this adventure, I did inform my family and, to my surprise, they were all thrilled and very happy. They congratulated me and then I did share this news with all members of my family. While performing this adventure, I was not sure that it was going to be a milestone of my life and that I would get nominated and selected for *Limca Books of Records (2018)* as first Indian civilian lady to successfully fly in the MIG 29 fighter jet.

Though it was not an easy task for a simple girl with humble background and that too from a society where girls have very limited options after attaining adulthood, where girls are told about marriage since their childhood including how to take care of in-laws; home for most is the only service they are expected and left with to undertake. But those people always forget that there exists a parallel world where girls are playing other than the definitive roles that they have been playing in the society to sustain

the social fabric of their existence, in various stages of life as daughter, sister, wife, mother, or, as grandmother.

While walking through this adventurous journey, I thank my job as a Chartered Accountant, that helped me fulfil my dreams. I got nominated and actually got my name recorded in the *Limca Book of Records*. And then, I finally got the answer to my question. The question that I was seeking an answer to was actually my search for myself—my actions, my efforts and my achievements. As I always wanted to break the social myth that girls can't do this and girls can't do that. By showing my adventurous side, I wanted to set examples for our discriminating society that *girls can do everything that human beings are capable of.* I wanted to break all such barriers that come in the way of our society's understanding with regard to women's competence. Given the right opportunity, they can also create wonders. And that is what I have tried to prove through my actions, by setting new records. I have always said this to myself: *Megha! You can do it!* And I have always got the positive results.

Getting my name in the *Limca Book of Records (2018)* gave me the same feeling that I would have experienced on doing something that I can be proud of. I am happier that my actions have been able to break the social myth for the women of our society. It shows that if we have the *fighter's spirit*, no barriers can stop us in achieving our dream. But the rule remains the same: *work hard and harder, as there is no substitute to that.*

Prior to this achievement, I have also indulged myself in various other daredevil acts, some of them are:

1. Going to the North Pole in August 2015.
2. Steering nuclear ship on the way to North Pole in August 2015.
3. Polar plunge in Arctic Ocean in negative (-) degree centigrade temperature in August 2015.
4. Sky jump from the height of 15000 feet in USA December 2015.

Despite various odds that I faced in my life alike others, particularly women, I did secure my name in the prestigious *Limca Book of Records*. I am sure, my example can inspire others, especially the females in our society, to have faith in them and possess the fire to do everything in life, as this will eventually create hope for the generations to come. ■