

Meher Castelino, India's First Femina Miss India, Passes Away at 81

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The Indian fashion and pageant fraternity is in mourning following the death of **Meher Castelino**, the **first Femina Miss India** and one of the country's most respected **fashion journalists**. She passed away at the age of 81.

Meher Castelino made history in **1964** when she was crowned **Femina Miss India**, earning the honour of representing India on global stages such as **Miss Universe** and **Miss United Nations** contests.

After her early success in pageantry, Castelino transitioned into a distinguished career in **fashion journalism**. She began her journalistic journey with her first article published in *Eve's Weekly* in **1973** and went on to become a full-time fashion writer and syndicated columnist. Over several decades, her work appeared in **numerous national and international publications**, shaping public understanding and appreciation of fashion trends.

Ms. Castelino also served as a columnist and fashion editor for esteemed magazines and worked as the **official fashion writer for major events** including **Lakmé Fashion Week**. Her reporting and essays brought global perspectives to Indian audiences, chronicling the evolution of fashion with depth, elegance, and insight.

Throughout her career, Castelino's contributions were recognised by peers and the wider industry. She was known not only for her impeccable sense of style but also for her **intellectual approach to fashion as a cultural and economic force** — treating it not merely as glamour, but as an integral part of India's creative and lifestyle landscape.

The Miss India Organisation paid tribute to her lasting influence, acknowledging her as a **trailblazer who paved the way for generations of women** in pageantry and fashion.

Meher Castelino is survived by her son Karl, her daughter-in-law Nisha, and her daughter Christina. Her legacy will continue to inspire aspirants in fashion, journalism, and pageantry alike.

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