



SIX COLOURS OF LGBTQIA+ IS UMBRELLA ACRONYM THAT REPRESENTS A BROAD SPECTRUM OF SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS AND GENDER IDENTITIES BECOME SILENT

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ABSTRACT

LGBTQ is an umbrella acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (or Questioning). It is used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Because human diversity is vast, the acronym is frequently expanded to LGBTQIA+ to include other sexual and gender minorities, with the "+" sign representing the spectrum of additional identities.

1. L - Lesbian: A woman who is emotionally, romantically, and/or physically attracted to other women.
2. G - Gay: People who are attracted to members of the same sex. While this can apply to women, it is primarily used to describe men who are attracted to other men.
3. B - Bisexual: A person who is attracted to more than one gender.
4. T - Transgender: An individual whose gender identity or expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.
5. Q - Queer / Questioning: "Queer" is an inclusive umbrella term used for anyone whose sexual orientation or gender identity is not strictly heterosexual or cisgender. "Questioning" refers to someone who is in the process of exploring their own sexual orientation or gender identity.
6. I - Intersex: People born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the typical definitions of female or male.
7. A - Asexual / Aromantic: Asexual individuals experience little to no sexual attraction, while aromantic individuals experience little to no romantic attraction.
8. + (Plus): Represents all other identities on the gender and sexuality spectrum, such as Pansexual (attraction to people regardless of their gender) or Nonbinary (identifying as neither strictly male nor female).

KEYWORDS: LGBTQIA+, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Plus.

INTRODUCTION

LGBTQIA+ is an umbrella acronym that represents a diverse spectrum of sexual orientations, gender identities, and sex characteristics. It celebrates communities outside of heterosexual and cisgender norms.

Homosexuality is legal in India, as the Supreme Court decriminalized consensual same-sex relations in 2018. However, the country does not legally recognize same-sex marriage or civil unions. While queer couples can cohabit, they are not afforded federal marriage rights, including adoption and joint parenting rights.

While India's STEM fields and tech industry are increasingly diverse, several notable scientists, tech

innovators, and inventors openly identify as LGBTQ+ or are making significant strides for the community.

Dr. Arti Agrawal: [Arti Agrawal is a scientist and engineer known for her work on computational photonics as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM; she has been recognized in both of these areas by a number of awards] An openly queer scientist and engineer who grew up in Delhi. She is known for her research in computational photonics, which involves using computer modeling to simulate the behavior of light in optical devices (like fiber optics). Formerly based in India, she is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in Australia, where she also champions diversity in STEM.



Figure 1: National LGBTQ figures.

Suraj Shankar: He is a gay scientist working at the intersection between physics and biology. His interests span a wide range of topics from the elasticity and fluid dynamics of soft materials to collective behavior and morphogenesis in living systems, often involving tools from geometry and topology. He grew up in India and moved to the US for his PhD in physics. Ever since, he's been fortunate to have supportive mentors. Nonetheless, navigating his personal identity in STEM remains "work in progress". A physicist originally from India who openly identifies as gay. He is a scientist working at the intersection of physics and biology, studying the physical properties of soft materials and living systems.

Deepali Lakhanpal & Ayushi Verma: Tech innovators who founded FirstContact, India's first metaverse platform for the LGBTQ+ community. Their invention provides a safe, anonymous space for queer individuals to connect, interact, and access support, particularly for those in smaller cities who face severe social isolation. India has made significant strides in LGBTQ+ representation, championed by prominent figures across law, entertainment, sports, and business. These

trailblazers have broken long-standing social stigmas, led landmark legal battles, and paved the way for greater visibility and civil rights in the country. Trailblazers and Icons

Menaka Guruswamy: A prominent Supreme Court senior advocate who made history by becoming India's first openly queer Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha. She was also a lead lawyer in the landmark 2018 case that decriminalized homosexuality.

Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil: The first openly gay royal in the world. He openly discussed his sexuality to combat stigma and founded the Lakshya Trust, an organization providing shelter and advocacy for the vulnerable LGBTQ+ community in Gujarat. Manvendra Singh Gohil (born 23 September 1965) is a son and probable heir of former Maharaja of Rajpipla. He is considered to be the first openly gay prince in the world, and he is known for being one of India's foremost LGBT activist.

Laxmi Narayan Tripathi: A highly influential transgender rights activist, Bollywood actress, and

Bharatanatyam dancer. She played a pivotal role in the 2014 Supreme Court ruling that legally recognized third-gender status.

Dutee Chand: An Indian Olympian and sprinter. She made international headlines as the first openly gay Indian athlete to win a medal at the Asian Games, speaking openly about her same-sex relationship to inspire others in sports.

Keshav Suri: A prominent business leader and the Executive Director of The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group. He is known for championing inclusive workplace policies and opening Kitty Su, one of India's most famous inclusive nightclub franchises. For a firsthand look at the journey of self.



Figure 2: LGBTQ Flag.

The standard LGBTQ+ rainbow flag has 6 colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple). However, the original 1978 design had 8 colors (adding hot pink and turquoise), and today's popular "Progress Pride" flag

incorporates 5 additional colors (black, brown, white, pink, and light blue) to represent marginalized communities. Here is how the colors in the common 6-stripe flag are typically defined:

1. **Red: Life**
2. **Orange: Healing**
3. **Yellow: Sunlight**
4. **Green: Nature**
5. **Blue: Serenity**
6. **Purple: Spirit**

Omnisexual is a sexual orientation describing someone attracted to people of all genders. It falls under the multisexual umbrella and is closely related to bisexuality. Unlike pansexuality—where attraction happens regardless of gender—gender plays a distinct role in how an omnisexual person experiences and feels that attraction. **Pansexuality** refers to the capacity for emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction to people of any gender identity, often without gender being a deciding factor. The prefix "pan-" comes from the Greek word for "all". Pansexuality refers to the capacity for emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction to people of any gender identity, often without gender being a deciding factor. The prefix "pan-" comes from the Greek word for "all". The LGBTQ+ community isn't started by a single founder, but evolved through generations of activists, organizations, and historic uprisings. Key milestones include the Scientific Humanitarian Committee, founded in 1897 by sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld, and the 1969 Stonewall Riots, which sparked the modern, global rights movement. The modern movement involves centuries of history shaped by many key figures:



Figure 3: International LGBTQ Figures.

Magnus Hirschfeld: A German-Jewish physician who co-founded the first advocacy group in 1897 and established the first gender identity clinic. Magnus Hirschfeld (14 May 1868 – 14 May 1935) was a German physician, sexologist, and LGBTQ advocate whose German citizenship was revoked in 1933 by the Nazi government due to his advocacy.

Harry Hay: Founder of the Mattachine Society in 1950, one of the earliest gay rights organizations in the United States. Henry Hay Jr. (April 7, 1912 – October 24, 2002) was an American gay rights activist, communist, and labor advocate. He cofounded the Mattachine Society, the first sustained gay rights group in the United States,

as well as the Radical Faeries, a loosely affiliated gay spiritual movement. Hay has been described as "the Founder of the Modern Gay Movement" and "the father of gay liberation."

Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera: Trailblazing transgender activists who were central figures during the 1969 Stonewall uprising in New York City. Marsha P. Johnson (August 24, 1945 – July 3, 1992) was an American LGBTQ activist, sex worker and performer. Sometimes known as the "Saint of Christopher Street", she is considered an important figure in the LGBTQ and transgender rights movements due to her involvement in the Stonewall riots, her work with Street Transvestite

Action Revolutionaries (STAR), and her advocacy for people with AIDS. Sylvia Rivera (July 2, 1951 – February 19, 2002) was an American gay liberation and transgender rights activist who was also a noted community worker in New York. Rivera, who identified as a drag queen for most of her life and later as a transgender person, participated in demonstrations with the Gay Liberation Front.

National LGBTQ persons

Menaka Guruswamy: A prominent Supreme Court senior advocate who made history by becoming India's first openly queer Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha. She was also a lead lawyer in the landmark 2018 case that decriminalized homosexuality. Menaka Guruswamy (born 27 November 1974), Kolkata.

Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil: The first openly gay royal in the world. He openly discussed his sexuality to combat stigma and founded the Lakshya Trust, an organization providing shelter and advocacy for the vulnerable LGBTQ+ community in Gujarat. Manvendra Singh Gohil (born 23 September 1965) is a son and probable heir of former Maharaja of Rajpipla. He is considered to be the first openly gay prince in the world, and he is known for being one of India's foremost LGBT activists. He is the Managing Director and Co-founder of Search Ends Inclusion Impact, an initiative driving transformative change through inclusive practices. He runs a charity, the Lakshya Trust, which works with the LGBT community.

Laxmi Narayan Tripathi: A highly influential transgender rights activist, Bollywood actress, and Bharatanatyam dancer. She played a pivotal role in the 2014 Supreme Court ruling that legally recognized third-gender status. Laxmi Narayan Tripathi (known as Laxmi, sometimes transliterated as Lakshmi) is a transgender/hijra rights activist, actress, Bharatanatyam dancer, choreographer and motivational speaker in Mumbai, India. (Born 13 December 1978). She is also the Acharya Mahamandaleswar of the Kinnar Akhada.

Dutee Chand: An Indian Olympian and sprinter. She made international headlines as the first openly gay Indian athlete to win a medal at the Asian Games, speaking openly about her same-sex relationship to inspire others in sports. Dutee Chand (born 3 February 1996) is an Indian former sprinter who specialized in the women's 100 m and 200 m events.

Rituparno Ghosh (31 August 1963 – 30 May 2013) was an Indian film director, actor, writer and lyricist. Ghosh was one of the openly homosexual personalities in Indian cinema.

CONCLUSION

LGBTQIA+ is an umbrella abbreviation representing a diverse community of people whose sexual orientations

or gender identities differ from heterosexual (straight) or cisgender norms. The letters stand for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual, with the plus sign representing all other related identities.

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