

# How trans persons are finding their unique

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**MUMBAI:** After her sixth cosmetic surgery in September 2022, Suchita M\* (name changed to protect identity) thought her transformation from male to female was complete. She was keen to share her happiness with near and dear ones, in person and over the phone. But then, a seemingly insurmountable hurdle cropped up.

The 31-year-old realised that though she had acquired a new look, the masculine vocal cords still remained and she sounded like a man whenever she spoke.

"Voice reveals your identity. I am a woman by appearance, but when I start speaking, my masculine identity is revealed. I had a voice modulation which was not satisfying. So, I stopped interacting with people and speaking on phone," said Suchita.

But now, after shutting herself off for nearly a year, she is



Above: Members of the International Association of Trans Voice Surgeons. Right: Dr Nupur Nerurkar. HT PHOTO

Hospital and one of the thirteen doctors who formed the International Association of Trans Voice Surgeons (IATVS). The association, which was formed in Berlin last year, seeks to help transgender persons get the voice they deserve in the journey to discover their true selves. Suchita's surgery will be performed during the association's first conference, scheduled in Mumbai from

to become a man, the voice becomes masculine within six months of getting a testosterone injection. But in cases males want to become female, the voice poses a major hindrance," said Dr Nerurkar.

Trans persons in India who want to feminise their voice rely on voice modulations, she noted.

"They are taken off guard when they sneeze, cry, cough



Wendlers Glottoplasty, named