Sulakshana Thombre, a 39-year-old resident of Airoli, gave up her desk-bound, otherwise comfortable job for one field.
There's a certain confidence which is difficult to miss. After all, being a woman bouncer takes a whole lot more than just the job description. Sulakshana Thombre, a 39-year-old resident of Airoli, gave up her desk-bound, otherwise comfortable job for one in a male-dominated field. In her nine years as a bouncer, Sulakshana she relives some of her experiences.

**Breaking the norm**

“I was working with as a receptionist but was never truly happy. Though it’s a relatively simpler and no-stress job, sitting all day attending to queries was not my calling. In 2008, a friend of mine mentioned that there was a cricket match happening in DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai and that they required women who were willing to work as security personnel to control the crowd. I had no clue what it really meant, but took it up anyway.”

“On my first assignment at DY Patil, I was given a general brief as to what my role was. For the first time ever, I enjoyed being on the field, being responsible for something important and being a part of something more than paperwork and telephones. With a walkie-talkie and a pager, I felt empowered. At that moment, I knew this is what I wanted to do and now I work with Topsgrup.”

"I can now spot a lie or recognise if someone is hiding something. Today, I am more confident than I ever was,” says Sulakshana

**Support system**

“I am lucky to have a family who supported my decision to change careers. Given that the job comes with a lot of late nights and field work that stretches to more than 12 hours a day, my lifestyle has changed drastically. I am much fitter and active now. If you love your job and it demands good fitness levels, you automatically start eating healthy.
However, the long hours of standing leaves little room for physical training, if any.”

“The profile of the job itself plays a great role in transforming you as a person. For instance, I am more alert, whether I am working or not. Over the years, it has also helped me learn reading people. I can now spot a lie or recognise if someone is hiding something. Today, I am more confident than I ever was.”

Living the dream
“The job has more to it than making sure no one creates nuisance. Many a times women at clubs get drunk and women bouncers are called to take care of them as well as make sure that no one else misbehaves with them.”

“Moreover, I also get to live the dream. I don’t just get to meet celebrities, but also work with them in my capacity. One of my most memorable moments was when I was escorting Malaika Arora Khan at Sunburn and Salman Khan happened to tag along. Looking at my favourite actor at such close quarters not only gave me goosebumps, but also reminded me how big a responsibility I have.”