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Grand Queens Leadership Awards 2025 Honors **Women** Achievers

Hyderabad, March 5 – The Grand Queens Global Leadership Awards 2025 – Season 6 was held at Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, recognizing extraordinary women leaders who have demonstrated resilience, leadership, and excellence in their respective fields.

Organized by Celebration Makers in association with Rihira Group and Lions Club of Hyderabad Yuva, Dist. 320A, the prestigious event celebrated women achievers ranging from 16-year-old rising stars to seasoned professionals, promoting mentorship, leadership, and collaboration.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Ajay Mishra (IAS Retd.), Chairman of IRCS Telangana, A. Shyam Mohan, Immediate Past President of HPS Society, Secunderabad and Habeeb Sultan Ali, Founder & Chief Patron of AASRAA International.

The GrandQueens Club, a global platform honoring women achievers, led this initiative with a vision to strengthen women's leadership networks. The event also saw the induction of distinguished personalities into the GrandQueens Advisory Panel, further solidi-



fyng its mission of empowerment.

The awards were spearheaded by Dr. Saurabh Sureka, Awards Convenor & Founder, Rupa Sureka, Co-Founder and Dr. S. Ravinder, Chief Advisor Grand Queen Club.

This year, the prestigious GrandQueens Advisory Panel welcomed several accomplished individuals, including Chanchal Sharma, Kritika Sharma, Chhaya Sharma, Sudha Jain, Ms Abhimanika Yadav, Neha R Gupta, Praveena Naidu Thota, Sravya Manasa, Tulasi KB, Alka Agarwal, Shipra Gandhi, Tina Sequeira, Amrita Nayak, Jhanvi Bajaj, Mahua Sen, Kia Ramchandani, Munmun Singh, Ayushi Vijayvargiya, Anika Khara, Jayalakshmi Naray-

anan, Amtul Ali Lubna, Ria Tuteja, Asma Afreen, Depika Sirwani, Dimple Agarwal, Archana C, Archana Acharya, Shifa Basith, Vishesh Sinha and Dr. Ashish Chauhan.

The Grand Queens Leadership Awards 2025 honored outstanding women across diverse fields for their remarkable contributions. In the Youngstar Category, Shaivi Shreshta Panuganti and Venkata Shrikerthii Gatreddi were recognized for their excellence in dance and music, respectively. The Torchbearer Category celebrated visionaries like Ar. Kiranmaye Kothapalli in architecture, Deepika Kewalramani as a social media influencer, Dr. Megaji Soujanya as a fashionpreneur, and Dr. Serah Vinodini Vilvaraj for cultural inspiration, among others. In the Leader Category, exceptional women such as Adv. Kavitha Gampala in legal affairs, Dr. Ankita R. Chawla in healthcare, and Kamini Verma in media were honored, along with innovators like Dr. Gopi Lavanya Misra in herbal entrepreneurship and Madhusmita Prakash Patil in tech innovation. The awards also acknowledged Prerna Goya Kumtia for corporate training, Sandhya Rani Ko-





The event was backed by prominent media and PR partners, including Deccan Vision, NewsReach, Hybiz TV, The Women Now, KR Bharat, Kalaraj, and Big TV. Attendees were delighted with exclusive gifts from AIO Organic, Lucky Candles, and Namchi, making the evening even more special. The event's photography and videography were managed by The Soul Image & The Intimate Souls.

The Grand Queens Global Leadership Awards 2025 was a resounding success, celebrating and honoring women who



success as a businesswoman, and Vundavilli Sujatha Murthy for her contributions as an author and poet. These remarkable women continue to inspire through their leadership and dedication, leaving a lasting impact in their respective fields.

Hosted by GrandQueens Kritika Sharma & Depika Sirwani, the event featured mesmerizing performances by GrandQueens Jayalakshmi



rvan for women startup initiatives, and Arathi Jackky as an entrepreneur in hospitality. Additionally, Alka Manoj was awarded for fashion and styling, Dr. Bagyalakshmi A D S for medical contributions, and Nandita Kenia as an artpreneur. Further recognitions included Sarlla Bhutoria for spiritual healing, Sudhaa Kimtee for her



Narayanan and Shaivi Shreshta Panuganti, adding to the grandeur of the evening.

A special mention was given to GrandQueen Dr. Sudha Jain, whose contributions were instrumental in the success of the event. Archana Rao K, AGM-HR of Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, played a crucial role in ensuring seamless event operations.

continue to make a meaningful impact on society. The event served as a powerful reminder of the strength, resilience, and leadership of women across various domains. As the curtains closed on another inspiring edition, attendees left motivated and energized to continue making a difference in their respective fields.



Telangana Govt Will Empower Women SHGs To Set Up Rice Mills, Godowns, And Other Facilities

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced that his government will empower women Self Help Groups (SHGs) to set up rice mills, godowns, and other facilities as part of the initiative to make one crore women 'crorepati.' Speaking at a public meeting on the occasion of International Women's Day in Secunderabad, he said the state government will help SHGs procure paddy, store it in godowns, and mill it to supply rice to the state government and the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

He also said the government's goal of a one trilliondollar economy will be achieved only when SHGs thrive. The total number of SHG members in the state is expected to rise to one crore from the current 65 lakhs. The government has relaxed norms, reducing the minimum age for SHG membership from 18 to 15 and increasing the upper age limit from 60 to 65.

As part of the mission to strengthen the women SHGs, Mr Reddy virtually laid the foundation stone for



making the groups to operate solar plants. He also launched a government scheme that facilitates SHGs in purchasing transport buses on loan, which will be leased to the staterun Road Transport Corporation.

He highlighted that the state government is implementing programmes aimed at transforming women SHG members into industrialists, enabling them to operate

in sectors

such as solar powerareas traditionally dominated by large capitalists. Earlier, the Chief Minister has laid the foundationstone for the Chakali Iamma University in Hyderabad, coinciding the International Women's Day. The women's university's infrastructure development is being carried out at a cost of 535 crore rupees.

The chief minister directed the of-

ficials to complete the construction of academic blocks, an auditorium, sports grounds, and other facilities within 30 months. Addressing students, he emphasised on women empowerment, giving examples from history about how so many strong women led the country and excelled in various fields.

He mentioned Telanganas beloved Chakali Iamma, who led a courageous fight against the feudal landlords during the state peasants' armed struggle. He also asked girl students to take inspiration from chief secretary A Santhi Kumari, education principal secretary Yogita Rana, women and child welfare minister Seethakka and others who have been performing their work efficiently while serving the state. He expressed confidence in seeing 33 percent reservation for women being implemented in the Assembly and Parliament soon. He urged the girls to inculcate leadership qualities in themselves and be prepared to serve the country as people's representatives.

In celebration of International Women's Day, the Hyderabad City Police organized a largescale event, "Run for Action - 2025," at Necklace Road People's Plaza on 8th march 2025. The event saw the participation of over 5,000 people and aimed to promote women's empowerment, safety, and wellbeing.

The event was flagged off by Dr.

making the city a secure place for both locals and visitors.

She also addressed drug abuse, urging people to stay away from narcotics and intoxicants, and called for a societal pledge to fight against substance abuse.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, IPS, highlighted the growing representation of women



'Run for Action 2025' to Mark International Women's Day

Dansari Anasuya Seethakka, Minister for Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, and Women & Child Welfare, along with Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, IPS. The duo officially launched the 5K and 2K runs, symbolizing a commitment to gender equality and women's rights.

Speaking at the event, Minister Seethakka lauded the Hyderabad Police for organizing an initiative that fosters self-confidence among women. She emphasized the importance of mental and physical wellbeing and noted how global gender equality movements have reshaped societal perspectives on women's roles.

"The idea that women are inferior is outdated. Women and men are equal in every way," she stated. She praised the Hyderabad Police's efforts in ensuring women's safety,



in law enforcement, revealing that out of 20 DCPs in Hyderabad, 8 are women, and 30% of the city's 18,000 police force consists of female officers. "In celebration of International Women's Day, we have appointed four female officers as Station House Officers (SHOs) in Law & Order and Traffic Police Stations," he an-

nounced.

He emphasized the crucial role women play in various sectors while also handling family responsibilities, stressing the need to recognize and celebrate their contributions.

At the end of the event, C.V. Anand, IPS, presented awards and prizes to the winners of the 5K and

2K runs. The occasion saw the presence of several senior police officials and dignitaries including Vikram Singh Mann, IPS - Additional CP, Law & Order, P. Vishwaprasad, IPS - Additional CP, Crime, Joel Davis, IPS - Joint CP, Traffic, Parimala Hanna Newton, IPS - Joint CP, Admin, Sneha Mehra, IPS - DCP, South Zone, Rakshita Krishnamurthy, IPS - DCP, Headquarters, Vijay Kumar, IPS - DCP, West Zone, Rashmi Perumal, IPS - DCP, North Zone, Shilpavalli, IPS -

DCP, Central Zone, Lavanya Naik - DCP, Women's Safety, Dhara Kavita - DCP, Cyber Crimes

The event successfully reinforced the importance of women's empowerment, safety, and collective responsibility, promoting a healthier and more inclusive society.

Aparna Sarovar Zenith Hosts Grand Women's Day Celebration in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, March 8 – In a spectacular tribute to womanhood, Aparna Sarovar Zenith, in collaboration with Celebration Makers, hosted an exhilarating Women's Day Celebration, bringing together women from diverse backgrounds to honor their achievements and foster empowerment through engaging activities.

The event was graced by distinguished personalities who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. The esteemed guests included GrandQueen Kritika Sharma – Mrs. India 2018, Celebrity Pageant Organizer, and Entrepreneur, GrandQueen Jhanvi Bajaj – Mrs. India

2019, Fitness Trainer, Actor, and Pageant Jury, GrandQueen, Deepika Siriwani – Renowned Author, Mentor, and Content Creator, GrandQueen Ria Tuteja – Accomplished Chartered Accountant

The celebration was a vibrant blend of glamour, entertainment, and empowerment, creating an unforgettable experience for attendees.

A key highlight of the event was Mission FreedomFromFear, a dedicated segment aimed at women's empowerment, featuring inspiring stories, impactful discussions, and strategies to help women overcome challenges and achieve personal and pro-

fessional freedom.

Adding a cultural touch, the Fashion Walk – "Threads of India" showcased a stunning array of Indian ethnic wear and contemporary styles, celebrating the rich heritage and diversity of Indian women.



The event also kept spirits high with interactive games and activities, ensuring an engaging and joyful atmosphere for all participants.

With an enthusiastic turnout, the event provided a dynamic platform for women to network, celebrate, and embrace empowerment. The evening's festivities were expertly hosted by Emcee Raksha, whose lively energy and engaging interactions kept the audience entertained throughout the celebration.



IIFL Finance Rebrands Seven Existing Branches into All Women Staffed 'Shakti' Branches on Women's Day

IIFL Finance, one of India's largest non-banking financial companies, has rebranded seven existing branches into all women staffed 'Shakti' branches on the occasion of Women's Day. The seven rebranded branches are located across the Delhi National Capital Region and Mumbai Metropolitan Region, underscoring IIFL Finance's commitment to empowering women in financial services.

'Shakti' branches celebrate the strength and resilience of women who drive social and economic change in their communities. These branches will cater to all borrowers and offer financial litera-

cy programs tailored for female entrepreneurs.

These seven 'Shakti' branches, staffed entirely by women will provide employment opportunities to female professionals, thereby bolstering diversity, equity and



inclusion (DEI). Beyond financial services, these branches will offer skill development programs designed to support women entrepreneurs in scaling their business-

es. Women business owners are a vital force in India's economy and form a significant segment of IIFL Finance's customer base. Shakti branches reaffirm IIFL Finance's commitment to extending credit and financial resources to small, unbanked, and underbanked borrowers with focus on women entrepreneurs. Women's Day is the perfect occasion to introduce this initiative.

With a focus on financial inclusion, IIFL Finance serves millions of customers nationwide, primarily from underserved communities operating across India.



President Of India Inaugurates National Conference On The Theme ‘Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat’

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a National Conference on the theme ‘Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat’ in New Delhi on March 8, 2025. This conference is being organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development to celebrate the International Women’s Day.

Speaking on the occasion, the President greeted fellow citizens on International Women’s Day and said that this day is an occasion to honour women’s achievements, raise awareness of their rights, and dedicate ourselves to promoting gender equality.

The President said that today we are celebrating the completion of 50 years of International Women’s Day. There is no doubt that in this period, the women’s community has made unprecedented progress. She said that she considers her life journey to be a part of this progress. She stated that from being born in a simple family and backward area of Odisha, her journey to the Rashtrapati Bhavan is the story of equal opportunities and social justice for women in Indian society. She ex-



pressed confidence that the examples of women’s success will continue to grow.

The President said that a better environment for girls to move forward is necessary for realizing the dream of a developed India. They should get an environment where they can make independent decisions about their lives without pressure or fear. We have to create such an ideal society where no daughter or sister is afraid of going or staying alone anywhere. Only the feeling of respect towards women will create a fear-free social environment. The confidence that girls will get in such an environment will take our country to new heights.

The President said that whenever we have respected the talent of women, they have never disappointed us. We cannot forget the

contribution of eminent personalities like Sarojini Naidu, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sucheta Kriplani and Hansaben Mehta, who were members of the Constituent Assembly. There are many such examples where women have not only achieved the highest position by earning fame on the strength of their intelligence, wisdom and knowledge but also increased the prestige of the country and society. Be it science, sports, politics or social service – in all fields women have instilled respect for their talent.

The President said that when India is moving towards becoming the third largest economy of the world, the participation of women in the workforce of the country should increase rapidly. She pointed out that not only in India but also in other countries, one of the

reasons for low participation of women in the workforce is the belief that women will take leave to look after their children or will be able to pay less attention to work. But this thinking is not correct. We have to ask ourselves whether society has no responsibility towards children. We all know that the first teacher in the family is the mother. If a mother takes leave to look after children, then this endeavour of hers is also for the betterment of the society. A mother can make her child an ideal citizen through her efforts.

The President said that a developed India could be built only on the strength of self-reliant, self-esteemed, independent and empowered women. The resolve of a developed India is the resolve of all of us, which we all have to fulfill together. Therefore, men must support women at every step in becoming strong, empowered and self-reliant. Women should move ahead in their lives with full confidence, dedication, and hard work and contribute to the development of the country and society.



Five Steps Women Can Take to Achieve Financial Independence

Financial independence is a crucial step toward women’s empowerment. As women continue to pursue their personal and professional goals, developing financial skills is essential for security and independence.

To help women take charge of their financial future, here are some key financial tips to achieve independence and stability.

Define Your Financial Goals: Every journey needs a destination. Defining financial goals helps shape financial behaviour and provides clarity on the steps needed to achieve them. Setting clear objectives is the first step toward financial independence.

Enhance Financial Literacy: Wealth does not simply come to those who earn more, but to those who make smart financial choices. Staying informed about global financial trends, personal

finance, budgeting, saving, and investing is crucial. Read financial books, watch educational videos, and seek reliable sources to improve financial literacy.

Invest in Personal Development: Investing in yourself is one of the best financial decisions you can make. Developing new skills, pursuing side hustles, and learning about business and investment strategies can significantly enhance financial stability and open up new opportunities.

Start Investing: Knowledge without action is futile. Apply what you learn by making informed investment decisions. If you’re unsure, seek advice from experienced family members, friends, or financial advisors who can guide you on where and how to invest.

Diversify Your Portfolio: Di-

versification is key to reducing financial risk. Spread your investments across different asset classes, industries, and regions to maximize returns while minimizing potential losses.

Plan for Emergencies: Building an emergency fund is crucial for financial security. Setting aside a specific amount regularly—whether monthly, weekly, or bi-weekly—creates a financial safety net that can help during unexpected situations.

Smart Financial Tips for Women Living Alone

Prepare a Monthly Budget: Salary day can be exciting, but without proper financial planning, money can disappear quickly. Create a monthly budget to ensure you allocate funds wisely and maximize savings.

Pre-Plan Your Meals: Planning

your meals weekly or monthly helps prevent impulsive spending on food. Knowing what to buy in advance reduces waste and keeps grocery expenses in check.

Practice Mindful Shopping: Avoid impulse purchases by asking yourself:

- Will, I actually wear or use this?
- Do I really like this colour or style?
- Is this item worth its price?
- Can I find a more affordable alternative?

Creating a personal checklist before shopping can help curb unnecessary spending.

Rewire Your Financial Habits: Building good financial habits is key to long-term success. Identify any harmful financial behaviours and replace them with healthier, more productive habits that align with your financial goals.



professional and domestic responsibilities. Dawra emphasized the importance of mentorship programs to prepare women for leadership roles and the need to create safe, inclusive workplaces. She underscored the potential of sectors like STEM, entrepreneurship and startups for women's further involvement. She reiterated the government's commitment to achieving the goal set in the Union Budget 2025-26, aiming for 70% of women to be engaged in economic activities by 2047, aligning with the vision of a developed India.

Maharani Shailja Katoch, Royal

in the digital age, she stressed the need to make heritage appealing to younger generations by integrating modern elements like audiovisual storytelling, social media and contemporary product adaptations. She believes cultural traditions must evolve with the times to remain relevant and engaging.

Tarana Sawhney, Advisor, CII Task Force on Art & Culture emphasized the pivotal role of women in shaping India's cultural landscape. She highlighted that historically, women have been the unseen architects of our cultural fabric—storytellers, artisans, performers,

India, actively participate in global institutions and mentor emerging artists. Despite these advancements, challenges such as unequal pay, limited institutional support and sociocultural biases persist. She advocated for equipping women with technological tools and resources to further their artistic and entrepreneurial endeavours, envisioning a future where gender is an afterthought and equal opportunity is a reality.

Rina Dhaka, Indian Fashion Designer emphasised the pivotal role women play in the fashion industry, contributing significantly across de-

Achieving a 70% female workforce participation by 2047 is pivotal for a Viksit Bharat : Sumita Dawra

The Dialogue on 'Women in Services Sector: Excellence Naturally, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), convened on 5 March 2025 in New Delhi, celebrated, inspired and strengthened the voices of women leaders across diverse services sector. A kick start event to the international women day celebration.

Speaking at the event, Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment highlighted the significant strides made by women in India's economic landscape. She noted that over the past six years, the labour force participation rate for women has risen from 23% in 2017-18 to approximately 42% in 2023-24. This uptick is evident across various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing and services, with a notable increase in educated women joining the workforce. She acknowledges ongoing challenges such as workplace biases, wage disparities, limited leadership opportunities, job security concerns and the balancing act between pro-



family of Kangra- Lambagraon, Himachal Pradesh emphasized the importance of women in society, calling them the backbone of change, nurturing communities while balancing multiple responsibilities. On education, she expressed confidence in India's progressive policies, stating that women with determination can achieve success. She cited examples of girls from Himachal Pradesh excelling in diverse fields, including civil services and corporate roles. Regarding cultural preservation

designers and curators—whose contributions are now gaining rightful recognition. Notable figures such as Amrita Sher-Gil, whose works continue to achieve record sales, and contemporary artists like Mrinalini Mukherjee, Zarina Hashmi, and Nalini Malani have made significant international impacts, with exhibitions at prestigious venues including the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the National Gallery in London. Within the commercial sphere, women lead top contemporary art galleries in

sign, production, retail and entrepreneurship. She highlighted that fashion transcends mere clothing, serving as a reflection of culture, identity and societal progress, with the power to challenge stereotypes and redefine norms. Dhaka advocated for the establishment of skill building initiatives and training programs for female tailors, machine operators and CAD designers to enhance employment opportunities and promote fair compensation. She urged for government and industry collaboration to provide mentorship, tailored policies and financial support, especially for small-scale, women-led businesses. She observed the significant evolution of India's fashion industry, which has grown from a handful of designers to thousands of successful businesses, reaching even small towns. She envisioned the integration of technology, ethical fashion and entrepreneurship as key to empowering women and positioning India as a leader in the global fashion landscape.

Coal India Limited Organizes Kantha Fair to Empower Women Artisans in West Bengal

Coal India Limited (CIL) under the aegis of Ministry of Coal in a remarkable step towards women empowerment and socio-economic development, organized a day-long Kantha Fair to showcase the exquisite embroidery work of 200-250 women artisans from West Bengal at its Atrium, Coal Bhawan, New Town on 7th March 2025. The artisans are the beneficiaries of the Kantha Skill Centre constructed under CSR of CIL.

CIL and its subsidiaries celebrated the empowerment of women to recognize the achievements of women in their respective offices and areas.

As a lead company, Central Coalfields Ltd, Ranchi, Jharkhand organised a mega programme where tribal art, women led businesses and technical skills were showcased. Others subsidiaries like BCCL, CMPDIL, ECL, NCL SECL, MCL and WCL too con-

ducted programme on common theme of Women Empowerment.

Smt. Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal and Dr. Vinay Ranjan, Director (P&IR), CIL, Headquarters were



present during the function in virtual modes.

Smt. Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal while addressing in virtual mode said that this new initiative is a part

of CIL's commitment to fostering sustainable livelihoods. "CIL and its subsidiaries are committed to implement impactful programs across the nation, positively transforming lives and commu-

nities. We are ensuring empowering women through skill development, entrepreneurship and social initiative under CSR projects," Smt. Brar further added. Dr. Vinay Ranjan, Director

(P&IR), CIL said: "We are proud to promote self-reliance among women by empowering them. CIL and its subsidiaries remain committed to uplifting marginalized communities and fostering opportunities for women to thrive in economic and social spheres. Through such initiatives, CIL continues to contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress while preserving its rich artistic legacy."

Initially, Dr. Vinay Ranjan, Director (P&IR), CIL, Shri Mukesh Agrawal, Director (Finance), CIL, Shri Brajesh Kumar Tripathy, Chief Vigilance Officer, CIL jointly inaugurated Kantha Fair in presence of women artisans. Three women artisans were felicitated by the company. Shri OP Mishra, Executive Director (CD), Smt. Renu Chaturvedi, GM(CSR), CIL and other senior officials were present during the function at CIL Hq, Kolkata.

NSE and Divyaj Foundation sign MOU to enhance Financial Literacy and Investor Awareness

In order to enhance financial literacy and investor awareness in the securities market, National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and Divyaj Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of its founder Smt. Amruta Devendra Fadnavis and Shri Bhushan Gagrani, Hon'ble Municipal Commissioner, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. Bollywood actor Sharvari Wagh also joined the program.

This is indeed a significant step to formalize a partnership that embodies the spirit of financial literacy, investor awareness, investor empowerment

development, health and nutrition, clean-up drives, women's empowerment and childcare.

NSE conducts financial literacy and investor awareness programs throughout the year for diverse participants across society. Divyaj Foundation, leveraging its expertise and community reach, shall assist in identifying, mobilizing, and facilitating the participation of beneficiaries in such program. As part of this partnership, we aim to target women police personnel, BMC employees, Mumbai police, blue-collared women workforce, women from remote villages, self-help groups, students and others. Together, we

education, and awareness is of core importance. We recognize the importance of financial knowledge and investor awareness for enhancing civic services and community development. We are delighted to support this collaboration between NSE and Divyaj Foundation, which will provide our women workforce with essential financial literacy tools, knowledge of savings, investments and financial security which is the key to their empowerment and financial independence."

Smt Amruta Fadnavis, Eminent Banker, Singer and Social Activist said: "Financial literacy is not just about investing;

aware woman can shape the future of her family, community and nation. This women's day as we vouch for accelerating action to break gender stereotypes and strengthen gender equity, we believe financial literacy for women will be a catalyst in the whole process".

Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, NSE said: "At NSE, we believe that financial literacy and investor awareness is the cornerstone of investor protection, social mobility, economic empowerment and financial well-being. Our collaboration with Divyaj Foundation is a very positive step towards ensuring that financial awareness reaches every segment of our society, especially women from diverse backgrounds. By equipping individuals with the right knowledge, we empower them to make informed financial decisions, thereby fostering a more inclusive and resilient economy. Enabling financial literacy with this partnership with Divyaj Foundation is a positive step towards bridging the gaps in financial inclusion and access to economic opportunities for women"

Sharvari Wagh, Actor, said: "I am truly honored to be part of this hugely progressive initiative by Amruta Fadnavis Ji's Divyaj Foundation and the National Stock Exchange, empowering women with financial literacy. This partnership marks a crucial step towards equipping women with the knowledge and tools to secure their future and support their families. As we celebrate this milestone ahead of International Women's Day, I hope this initiative paves the way for greater financial independence for women which is the need of the hour."



and inclusivity. The signing of this MoU between the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and Divyaj Foundation marks a pivotal step in our shared commitment to creating a financially literate and empowered workforce.

Protecting the interest of investors, especially women, in the securities market is of paramount importance to NSE and in the lead up to the International Women's Day, the partnership with Divyaj foundation targeting women audience truly signifies the shared vision.

Divyaj Foundation, a renowned NGO, founded by Smt. Amruta Devendra Fadnavis Ji who is an eminent banker, singer and social activist, is dedicated to uplifting marginalized and underprivileged sections of society by enhancing their quality of life. Guided by its vision of empowerment through knowledge, skill development, and financial assistance, the NGO actively works in areas such as education, financial independence, healthcare, skill

aim to join hands and provide a comprehensive financial literacy program with special focus on women participants.

The MoU signing was followed up with an Investor Awareness Program, the very purpose for which it was signed. The investor awareness program was conducted for over 200 women participants from Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The interactive awareness session was conducted by a

SEBI SMART (Securities Market trainer) at NSE. This program covered basic financial literacy topics such as financial planning investment sutras, capital markets, mutual funds and more.

Shri Bhushan Gagrani, Hon'ble Municipal Commissioner, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, said: "At BMC, we provide a wide range of essential services to the city of Mumbai to improve quality of life and organizing programs and initiatives that support edu-

it is about enabling individuals to take control of their financial future. This initiative, in partnership with NSE and Divyaj Foundation, aims to bridge the knowledge gap and empower women, especially those in public service and blue-collar roles and, women from remote villages with the confidence to make sound financial choices. A financially

About National Stock Exchange of India Limited

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) was the first exchange in India to implement electronic or screen-based trading. It began operations in 1994 and is ranked as the largest stock exchange in India in terms of total and average daily turnover for equity shares every year since 1995, based on SEBI data. NSE has a fully integrated business model comprising exchange listings, trading services, clearing and settlement services, indices, market data feeds, technology solutions and financial education offerings. NSE also oversees compliance by trading, clearing members and listed companies with the rules and regulations of SEBI and the exchange. NSE is a pioneer in technology and ensures the reliability and performance of its systems through a culture of innovation and investment in technology. NSE is the world's largest derivatives exchange by trading volume (contracts) as per the statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association (FIA) for calendar year 2024. NSE is ranked 2nd in the world in equity segment by number of trades (electronic order book) in 2024, as per the statistics maintained by World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).

Grand International Women's Day Celebration at Rain Tree Park Showcases Fashion, Empowerment & Fun



Hyderabad, March 2 – The International Women's Day Celebrations at Rain Tree Park, KPHB, was a grand and vibrant event, bringing together women from various walks of life for an evening of empowerment, entertainment, and networking. Organized by Celebration Makers in association with WAORTP, the event successfully celebrated the spirit of womanhood with an array of exciting activities and inspiring sessions.

The event, held at society premises was meticulously curated to create a festive yet empowering atmosphere. With a mix of fashion, discussions, performances, shopping, and entertainment, the celebration catered to a wide audience, making it an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

One of the major highlights of the evening was Mission FreedomFromFear, a special segment dedicated to women's empowerment. This inspiring session featured motivational talks, real-life success stories, and engaging discussions aimed at helping women overcome challenges, break barriers, and achieve personal and professional freedom.

Adding an element of grace and tradition, the Fashion Walk – "Threads of India" was a breath-taking display of Indian ethnic wear and contemporary styles, celebrating the rich cultural heritage and diversity of Indian women. Models and participants walked the

ramp in stunning ensembles, reflecting both modern and traditional Indian fashion.

The event was further enhanced by a range of performances, games, and fun-filled activities, ensuring an interactive and lively experience.



Attendees were treated to Dance and Drama Performances that highlighted themes of empowerment and self-expression. Interactive Games and Competitions, keeping the energy levels high and



fostering a sense of camaraderie among participants. Shopping Stalls, featuring products from high-performance vendors and brands, allowing women to indulge in retail therapy.

The event saw an overwhelming turnout, with women from diverse professional and social backgrounds coming together to celebrate, connect, and uplift one another. It provided an excellent platform for networking, personal growth, and community engagement, reinforcing the message of unity, empowerment, and self-confidence.

The event was expertly curated by Celebration Makers, known for their innovative and community-driven events. As winners of the Excellence Award in Event Management by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of Telangana, Celebration Makers have been pioneers in Hyderabad's longest-running gated community outdoor experiential events. Their dedication to creating meaningful and impactful experiences was evident in the flawless execution of this grand celebration.

The International Women's Day celebrations at Rain Tree Park were a resounding success, leaving attendees inspired, empowered, and connected. The event not only celebrated the achievements and strength of women but also paved the way for future initiatives aimed at fostering gender equality, empowerment, and personal growth.



Mother Is Epitome Of Compassion & Affection : LS Speaker

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched the third phase of Suposhit Maa Abhiyan on 5th March 2025, saying that mother is an epitome of compassion and affection.

Addressing the public at the function organised at the Police Parade Ground in Bundi, Birla said that this campaign is dedicated to the empowerment of the mother power and protection of the health of pregnant mothers and newborns.

Mentioning that Suposhit Maa Abhiyan is not just a campaign but it has also taken the form of a mass movement, Birla said that if the mother is healthy, the child will be

healthy and only a healthy child will build a strong society.

This campaign is an attempt to lay the foundation of a healthy and self-reliant society by making the mother power aware, he added.

Birla noted that mother is not only a life-giver, but is also the epitome of compassion, affection and sacrifice.

Taking care of their health is no less than worship. Our goal is to reach out to women of every needy family in the society and make them well-nourished, Birla stressed.



In the programme, while giving the gift of development works in Bundi and Talera Panchayat Samiti areas, Birla also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development works worth Rs 17.13 crore. Lok Sabha Speaker started the campaign by presenting nutrition kits to pregnant women.

For the campaign, with the help of social workers, more than 1800 pregnant women from deprived families have been identified, who will be provided health check-up and consultation facilities along with free nutrition kits every month till delivery.

To ensure that women get essential nutrition and a balanced diet during pregnancy, a 12.5 kg nutrition kit has been prepared for pregnant women on the advice of

expert doctors and nutritionists.

Under the kit given every month, the beneficiary women will receive 1 kg Moong Laddu made of Desi Ghee, 3 kg Wheat flour, 1 kg Maize flour, 1 kg Millet flour, 1 kg Rice, 500 gm Soyabean, 300 gm Moong peel, 300 gm Chana dal, 300 gm Moong dal Mogar, 300 gm Urad dal chhilka, 1 kg Jaggery, 500 grams of peanuts, 500 grams of roasted gram, 500 grams of dates and 1 kg of edible oil.

Health cards have also been made for continuous monitoring of the health of women. Through this, along with distribution of nutrition kits in the follow-up camp organised every month, doctors will be available to arrange various types of free health check-ups and consultation for these women. Its report will be recorded in the health card, which will help in arranging follow-ups.

Apart from the necessary precautions to be taken for health, these women will also be given basic information for proper care of the children.



NITI Aayog launched the report titled “From Borrowers to Builders: Women’s Role in India’s Financial Growth Story”. The report launched by CEO NITI Aayog, Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam reveals that more women in India are seeking credit and actively monitoring their credit scores. As of December 2024, 27 million women were monitoring their credit, marking a 42% increase from the previous year, signaling growing financial awareness. The

regions are actively self-monitoring their credit compared to those in metro areas, with growth of 48% in non-metro regions and 30% in metro areas. In 2024, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana accounted for 49% of all self-monitoring women, with the southern region leading at 10.2 million. Northern and central states, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, saw the highest compounded annual growth

Niti Aayog Launches Report On From Borrowers To Builders Women’s Role In India’s Financial Growth Story”



report has been published by TransUnion CIBIL, Women Entrepreneurship Platform’s (WEP) of NITI Aayog and MicroSave Consulting (MSC).

During the launch, Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, highlighted the critical role of access to finance in empowering women entrepreneurs. He stated, “the government recognizes that access to finance is a fundamental enabler for women’s entrepreneurship. The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) continues to work towards building an inclusive ecosystem that fosters financial literacy, access to credit, mentorship, and market linkages. However, ensuring equitable financial access requires a collective effort. The role of financial institutions in designing inclusive products tailored to women’s needs, along with policy initiatives that address structural barriers, will be instrumental in accelerating this momentum. To achieve this goal under the aegis of WEP, Financing Women Collaborative (FWC) has been constituted. We seek more financial sector stakeholders to join FWC and contribute to this mission.”

Anna Roy, Principal Economic Advisor, NITI Aayog and Mission Director WEP, said: “Encouraging women entrepreneurship is one way of ensuring employment opportunities for women entering the workforce in India. It also serves as a viable strategy for accelerating equitable economic growth. Promoting women’s entrepreneurship could create employment opportunities for 150 to 170 million people while driving greater participation from women in the labour force.

The report highlights that women’s share of the total self-monitoring base increased to 19.43% in December 2024, up from 17.89% in 2023. More women from non-metro re-

gions are actively self-monitoring their credit compared to those in metro areas, with growth of 48% in non-metro regions and 30% in metro areas. In 2024, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana accounted for 49% of all self-monitoring women, with the southern region leading at 10.2 million. Northern and central states, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, saw the highest compounded annual growth

rates (CAGR) in active women borrowers over the past five years. Since 2019, women’s share in business loan origination has increased by 14% and their share in gold loans has grown by 6%, with women accounting for 35% of business borrowers by December 2024. However, challenges such as credit aversion, poor banking experiences, barriers to credit readiness and issues with collateral and guarantors persist. With rising credit awareness and improved scores, financial institutions have the opportunity to offer gender-smart financial products tailored to women’s unique needs.

yet effective tool will help women RPF personnel tackle challenging situations swiftly, particularly while safeguarding female passengers traveling alone or with children for ensuring safer train journeys for women passengers.

This innovative move reflects Indian Railways’ strong commitment to gender inclusivity, women empowerment, and enhanced security across its vast network. By providing chilli spray cans, women RPF personnel will have an additional layer of security, allowing them to deter threats, respond to incidents of harassment, and handle emergencies effectively — especially in sensitive areas like isolated stations, running trains, and remote railway locations where immediate backup might not be available. Backing this initiative, the Director General of RPF, Shri. Manoj Yadav stated “The initiative aligns with the Prime Minister’s vision of empowering women and ensuring safer public spaces. Indian Railways has consistently introduced several measures to improve the travel experience for women passengers. Our women RPF personnel stand as symbols of strength, care and resilience. By equipping them with chilli spray cans, we are enhancing their confidence and operational capability,

Jan Aushadhi- Ek Kadam Matri Shakti Ki Ore

The fourth day of 7th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025 was celebrated with a special focus on the women of the country across 30 major cities in 30 states. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary, Member of Parliament, addressed the crowd in

Kendras. During these programs, sanitary pads were distributed to make women aware about the high quality and affordability of Jan Aushadhi products.

Presently, more than 15,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across the country covering all the districts of the country. Under the scheme, the Government has set a target to



his constituency, Udupi Chikmagalur, Karnataka and spread awareness about Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. Smt. Savita Kapoor, Member of Legislative Assembly, Uttarakhand also attended a program in Dehradun to spread the message of Jan Aushadhi.

In order to felicitate women for their efforts, Jan Aushadhi organized various programs in 30 cities across the country. In these programs women were given information about various women-centric products which are being sold through Jan Aushadhi



open 25000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by 31st March, 2027 across the country.

At the initiative of the Prime Minister, the 7th of March is celebrated every year as “Jan Aushadhi Diwas” with a view to enhance awareness about the scheme and promote generic medicines. As in earlier years, week-long events have been planned at various locations across the country from the 1st to the 7th of March 2025.

while sending a clear message that passenger safety — especially the safety of women — is our highest priority.”

One such impactful policy has been the deliberate induction of more women into the RPF. Today, the RPF proudly boasts the highest proportion of women (9%) among all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). Many of these women RPF personnel are part of the ‘Meri Saheli’ teams, whose core responsibility is to ensure safe journey for women travellers. Over 250 ‘Meri Saheli’ teams interact with nearly 12,900 female passengers daily, offering both security and reassurance.

The role of women RPF personnel extends far beyond security. They frequently assist female passengers in distress, including expectant mothers who go into labor during train journeys. Under ‘Operation Matrishakti’, women RPF personnel have helped 174 women safely give birth onboard trains in 2024 alone, ensuring privacy, dignity, and timely

medical aid. During major events like the Mahakumbh, RPF’s women personnel worked tirelessly alongside their male counterparts, offering prompt assistance to thousands of women pilgrims who arrived for the holy dip at Prayagraj.

Armed with the new tool in hand, women RPF personnel will embody strength, compassion and resilience, reaffirming Indian Railways’ dedication to safe and secure journey for women passengers.

Indian Railways has decided to equip women personnel of the Railway Protection Force with chilli spray cans. This non-lethal



Indian Railways decides to equip Women RPF personnel with Chilli Spray Cans

Ministers, Athletes Joins Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya in Unique Cycle Rally to Mark International Women's Day

State sports Ministers, athletes and administrators joined Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya in a special cycle rally to mark International Women's Day at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Telangana on 8th March 2025.

Speaking during the flag off of the rally, Dr. Mandaviya said, "This cycle rally is a testament to our Nari Shakti, showcasing the determination, leadership, and excellence of women in sports and beyond".

Held on the sidelines of the Chintan Shivir, a national meet of State ministers and key stakeholders discussing India's preparation for 2028 LA Olympics and the bid to host the 2036 Summer Games, the cycle rally drew keen interest from members of the Kanha Shanti Vanam, a wellness and spiritual centre.

To mark Women's Day, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Secretary (Sports) Smt. Sujata Chaturvedi and former Olympian and badminton star Pulella Gopichand along with other prominent athletes launched the ASMITA newsletter. The newsletter captures the essence of 'Sports For Women' mission started by the government in 2021. The newsletter also highlights the amazing reach of ASMITA leagues and how they are transforming the lives of young women who are aspiring to take up sports as a career.

Former All-England champion Gopichand, who has coached Olym-



pic medallists like Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu, said: "As they say women have won more Olympic medals for India and it is only fair that they need to be promoted even more. ASMITA is a great platform and when 15 sports ministers join Dr

women trainees of the Gopichand badminton academy and para-athlete and a bronze medallist at the Paris Paralympics 2024, Deepthi Jeevanji.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya joined the cycling rally and reiterated the

come a fashion and a tool to fight obesity and lifestyle diseases. I urge all citizens to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement by dedicating at least an hour every Sunday to fitness," he said.

It was a sea of yellow at the Kanha Shanti Vanam where all participants enjoyed the cool early morning breeze and cycled the winding 3-km route with great enthusiasm.

Smt. Gorlosa said: "I have cycled after 30 years. It brought me back some wonderful memories. When Dr. Mandaviya said that I have to cycle, I could not say no and I don't regret it. On Women's Day, it was a special feeling and I fully agree with the message that cycling means fitness and a good way to channel your energies."

ABOUT ASMITA:

ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women) is part of Khelo India's gender-neutral mission to promote sports among women through leagues and competition. As such, the



Mandaviya to talk about the future of sports and chase our Olympics dreams, it is a great initiative. Only the right policies have to be made properly and implemented."

The cycling rally was led by the Hon'ble Sports minister of Assam Shrimati Nandita Gorlosa,

importance of making cycling a regular habit for a healthier lifestyle. The Sundays on Cycle initiative, a key effort led by Dr. Mandaviya, has gained traction across the country, encouraging people to adopt cycling as part of their routine.

"Cycling should be-

Sports Authority of India supports National Sports Federations to conduct Khelo India women's leagues across multiple age groups at both zonal and national levels. Started in 2021, ASMITA leagues not only aim to increase the participation of women in sports but to utilise the leagues as a platform for identification of new talent across the length and breadth of India.

The Cottage Celebrates International Women's Day

Exclusive Exhibition showcasing the works of National and State Award-winning women artisans

Revenue, Ministry of Finance on 8th March in the presence of Shri Manoj Lal, Managing Director, the Central Cottage Industries Corporation Ltd (CCIC).

Shri Manoj Lal underscored the significance of artisans and weavers in the cottage industries sector and he highlighted that the CCIC is empowering over 2000 women artisans and weavers across India by providing them with a marketing platform. This initiative directly contributes to the Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local. Furthermore, Shri Manoj Lal emphasized that CCIC is motivating skilled women artisans to become entrepreneurs, fostering self-reliance and increasing their participation in the country's economic growth.

To commemorate International

celebration and interact with the talented women artisans who showcased their handmade products and demonstrated their skills. National & State Award Winning Women Artisans to showcase their products/ live demonstration in the exhibition at Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan Janpath New Delhi from 8th- 13th March 2025.



International Women's Day 2025 with a unique exhibition showcasing the works of National and State Award-winning women artisans. The event was inaugurated by Ms. Katyayani Sanjay Bhatia (Deputy Commissioner) Department of

The central cottage industries corporation Ltd, "The Cottage" proudly celebrated

Shri Jayant Chaudhary launches Swavalambini, a Women Entrepreneurship Programme

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with NITI Aayog, launched Swavalambini— a Women Entrepreneurship Programme at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, taking a significant step towards strengthening women entrepreneurship in India. This initiative empowers female students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by providing them with the necessary entrepreneurial mindset, resources, and mentorship to successfully build and scale their ventures.

Minister of State (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and MoS for Education Shri Jayant Chaudhary during his address, said “The Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme is an initiative aimed at empowering young women with the skills and confidence needed to establish their own businesses. We want to move beyond programmes that enlist women as beneficiaries of the schemes, we want to move to women-led development initiatives and this is our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s conceptualisation as well. Women’s participation is crucial for India’s progress. Imagine the limitless possibilities if we break barriers and provide women with the right resources, training, and financial support, we can unlock their true potential. Women’s empowerment is not just an economic necessity but a social transformation. When a woman is empowered, she uplifts her family, her community, and the entire nation.”

Shri Jayant Chaudhary also added, “The Government of India has consistently focused on providing equal opportunities to youth of India through the National Education Policy which has given them the vision to learn and excel in their careers. We look forward to introducing a curriculum with AI related courses in schools and colleges, to create awareness and upskill the youth of our country”

Under the aegis of MSDE and implemented by the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and in joint partnership with NITI Ayog, Swavalambini aims to establish a structured and stage-wise entrepreneurial journey for young women. The programme will take participants through various stages, including awareness-building, skill development, mentorship, and funding support. By promoting and recognising promising women-led ventures, the initiative seeks to set a benchmark for the future of women

entrepreneurship in India.

Following its successful introduction across several HEIs in the Eastern region, including IIT Bhubaneswar and Utkal University in Odisha; North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong; Kiang Nangbah Government College, Jowai and Ri Bhoi College in Meghalaya; Mizoram University; Government Champhai College, Champhai and Lunglei Government College in Mizoram; Handique Girls’ College, Guwahati; Dispur College and Gauhati University in Assam, among others, Swavalambini is now being expanded to other regions of the country.

The event also marked the virtual launch of Swavalambini in Banaras Hindu University (BHU), University of Hyderabad, and Maulana Azad

ment Programme (EDP), a 40-hour training initiative for 300 selected students. The EDP covers critical aspects of business development, finance access, market linkages, compliance, and legal support. Additionally, a six-month mentorship and handholding support system has been incorporated to help participants transform their ideas into sustainable business ventures.

To ensure long-term impact, the programme also includes a Faculty Development Programme (FDP), where faculty members from participating HEIs undergo a five-day training session. This initiative equips educators with the necessary skills to mentor and guide aspiring women entrepreneurs within their institutions. Furthermore, Swav-

alambini will recognise and reward successful women entrepreneurs emerging from the programme through the Award to Rewards Initiative, inspiring future participants. The programme will leverage workshops, seed funding, and structured mentoring to support the growth of women-led enterprises.

By advocating an ecosystem that nurtures women entrepreneurs, Swavalambini is poised to create a significant impact in North India and beyond. The initiative aspires to see at least 10% of the EDP-trained participants establish successful enterprises, contributing to the larger vision of a self-reliant, women-led entrepreneurial landscape in India. With the launch in Meerut, Varanasi and Telangana and the successful implementation in the East, the programme continues to empower women as business leaders, innovators, and change makers. Through structured training, mentorship, and policy support, Swavalambini is set to redefine the future of women entrepreneurship in the country.

TWO MOU SIGNING

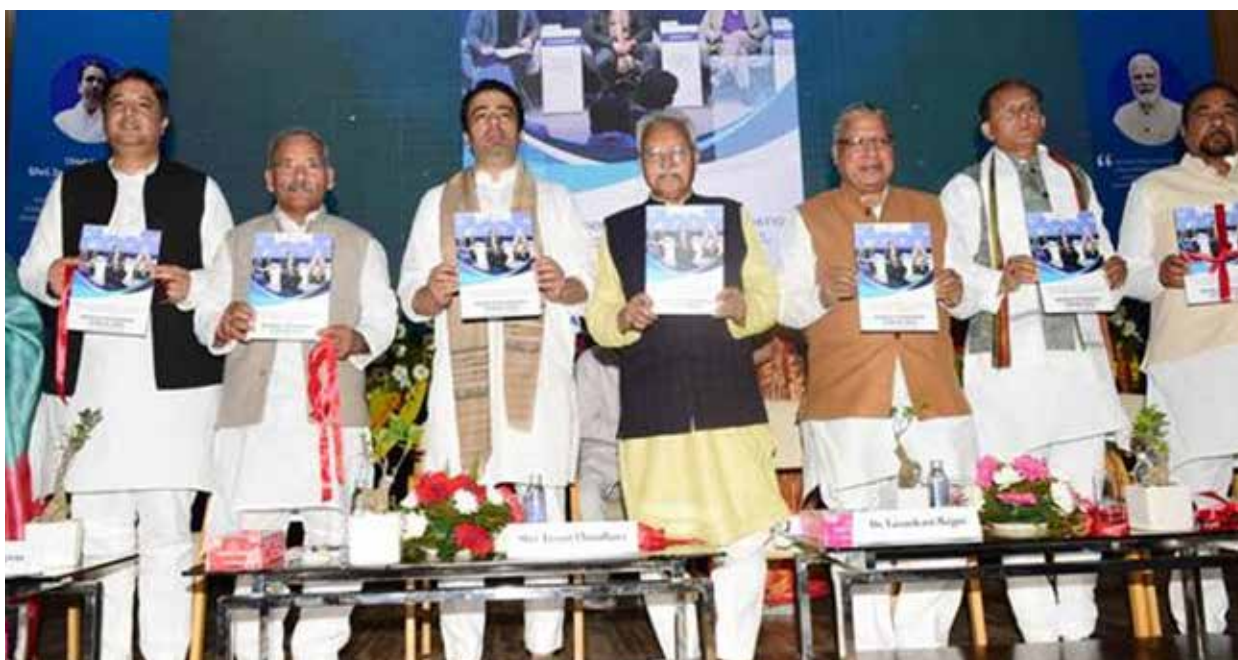
Marking the occasion, the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) has signed two MoUs with the Skills Development Network (SDN), an Indian Trust registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulations) Act, 2010 and implementing partner of Wadhvani Foundation in India; and with Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, to enhance entrepreneurial skills, develop curricula, and promote self-employment through training, workshops, and incubation support, thereby strengthening entrepreneurship education and ecosystem development for economic growth.

WEF2025 REPORT LAUNCH

Shri Jayant Chaudhary, also launched a report on his participation at the World Economic Forum 2025—“LEADING WITH VISION FOR SKILLS AND INNOVATION.” The booklet highlights India’s transformative advancements in skill development and innovation, reinforcing the nation’s commitment to equipping its workforce with future-ready capabilities. The report outlines key insights shared across roundtables and panel discussions held at WEF2025 on emerging job trends, industry collaborations, and India’s role in shaping the global skilling agenda.

Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai, MP, Rajya Sabha; Dr. Raj Kumar Sangwan, MP, Lok Sabha, Baghpat; Shri. Chandan Chauhan, MP, Lok Sabha, Bijnor; Shri. Dharmendra Bharadwaj, MLC, Uttar Pradesh; Shri. Haji Ghulam Muhammad, MLA Siwalkhas, Meerut; Shri. Atul Pradhan, MLA, Sardhana, Meerut; Shri. Gaurav Chaudhary, Jila Panchayat Adhyaksh, Meerut; Shri. Amit Agarwal, MLA, Meerut Contonment, Meerut and partner institutions, graced the occasion.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Shreeshail Malge, Smt Sangeeta Shukla, Vice Chancellor, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut and other officials of the MSDE were also present on the occasion.



National Urdu University, thereby extending the reach of this initiative across different regions of the country.

The programme introduces a structured, multi-stage training approach to help young women transition from ideation to successful enterprise creation. It begins with an Entrepreneurship Awareness

Programme (EAP), a two-day workshop designed to introduce around 600 female students to fundamental entrepreneurial concepts, market opportunities, and essential business skills. This is followed by the Women Entrepreneurship Develop-



nurtures women entrepreneurs, Swavalambini is poised to create a significant impact in North India and beyond. The initiative aspires to see at least 10% of the EDP-trained participants establish successful enterprises, contributing to the larger

Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats Initiative Launched

The National Convention on Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats was organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in New Delhi on 5th March, 2025, with an aim to establish at least one Model Gram Panchayat in each District in the country that is both women and girl friendly. The national convention, held as part of the International Women's Day 2025 celebrations, witnessed participation from over 1500 elected representatives and officials from selected Gram Panchayats across the country in physical and virtual mode. The event was graced by Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Smt. Anupriya Patel and Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel. Senior officials of the ministry including Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary and Shri Sushil Kumar Lohani, Additional Secretary along

with representatives from various Ministries/Departments, State Institutes of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PRs), and international organizations, including United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), also participated in the event. The National Convention unveiled initiatives including Virtual Training Programs for Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats and a comprehensive Real-Time Monitoring Dashboard for gauging the progress of these women friendly gram panchayats in India. This digital platform is a technological intervention to measure, analyze, and improve women's participation and welfare at the grassroots level. The dash-

board promises real-time insights and data-driven interventions to support women leaders in the country.

In her address, Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare Smt. Anupriya Patel presented a comprehensive overview of several health initiatives of the central government designed to support women and children. She said that women elected representatives have a key role in ensuring that schemes of the central government reach the most vulnerable. The Union Minister of State highlighted that there is a Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committee, present in every

Gram Panchayat that makes a robust framework for community health. The Ayushman Arogya Mandir offers 12 types of medical services, including geriatric care, dental care, screening for various diseases including cancer, tele-medicine etc. She said that women pradhans need to actively educate their panchayats about these initiatives of the government such that maximum people can benefit. Smt. Anupriya Patel also laid emphasis on programs like Janani Suraksha Yojana and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram that focus on maternal and child health, promoting institutional deliveries and establishing a culture of safe motherhood. She said that Panchayat-level collabo-

ration is crucial in ensuring the success of health-related initiatives at village level, reinforcing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Sashakt Mahila, Sashakt Panchayat leads to Sashakt Bharat". Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel announced the selection of 770 Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats i.e. one Model Gram Panchayat in each District, for specialized training for development of leadership skills. Prof. Baghel urged women gram pradhans to take the lead in implementing central government schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha

Bill (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam), a landmark legislation ensuring greater participation of women in policy-making along with basic initiatives like providing toilets, clean fuel, menstrual hygiene, education, nutrition etc. that comprehensively address a woman's basic needs. A nationwide Mahila Gram Sabha is scheduled to be organized on 8th March 2025 in all Gram Panchayats across the country. This will serve as a platform for furthering the objectives of the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat initiative at the grassroots level, reinforcing the commitment to gender equality and sustainable rural development.

successful regional gram panchayat models in Kerala, Odisha, and Rajasthan, Dr. Deepa Prasad, Chief of Programmes, UNFPA, highlighted the pivotal role of local governance in ensuring women's protection and empowerment. She highlighted Kerala's Jagratha Samithi, a vigilance committee dedicated to safeguarding women and children, Odisha's initiatives aimed at preventing social evils such as child marriage, and UNFPA's collaboration with the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Department to develop women-friendly and child-friendly Gram Panchayats. This National Convention marks a significant step further from women-



centric towards women-led development, reflecting the progress made over the past eleven years. A key milestone in this journey has been the enactment of the Women's Reservation

Bill (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam), a landmark legislation ensuring greater participation of women in policy-making along with basic initiatives like providing toilets, clean fuel, menstrual hygiene, education, nutrition etc. that comprehensively address a woman's basic needs. A nationwide Mahila Gram Sabha is scheduled to be organized on 8th March 2025 in all Gram Panchayats across the country. This will serve as a platform for furthering the objectives of the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat initiative at the grassroots level, reinforcing the commitment to gender equality and sustainable rural development.

Drawing inspiration from suc-

"Cyber Security Handbook for Mahila Suraksha" Booklet releases on International Women's Day

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has been designated to serve as National agency for incident response under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000. CERT-In operates 24x7 incident response Help Desk for providing timely response to reported cyber security incidents. CERT-In provides Incident Prevention and Response services as well as Security Quality Management Services. CERT-In is regularly carrying out awareness activities to educate the users about cyber security

best practices to protect them against cyber security threats. CERT-In also publishes awareness booklets and posters through its website and social media handles on a regular basis to promote cyber awareness across the country. On the occasion of International Women's Day, CERT-In has released the "Cyber Security Handbook for Mahila Suraksha," a comprehensive guide aimed at empowering women across the country with essential cyber hygiene practices. The booklet provides the best practices that women can adopt to safeguard their online presence and stay protected in today's digital world.

