

CELEBRATING WOMEN WHO PAVE THE WAY FORWARD

Times Women Icons 2022, presented by Times Ascent, felicitated women entrepreneurs who have made a positive impact in their fields and the society at large

Women in India contribute greatly towards India's economic growth and prosperity. As per a recent report, there are 432 million women of employment age in India, out of which 343 million are employed in the unorganised sector. Statistics have also estimated that just by offering equal opportunities to women, India could add USD 770 billion to its GDP by 2025.

RECOGNISING SUCCESS

To celebrate women and their success stories, and to inspire them to make a difference, Times Ascent recently organised the Times Women Icons 2022. The event felicitated women who've made a mark in the fields of entrepreneurship, education, social work, and arts.

Talking about the pivotal roles played by women, Jalpa H Vithalani, director, Cosmic Heart Gallery and JTB Jupiter Express Services Pvt. Ltd., said, "I would like to draw an analogy between a woman and a river. In India, we revere our rivers. As she flows, she nurtures everything that comes her way—the soil gets fertile and the vegetation grows. In the same way, when a woman spearheads a social cause, a project or a business, she creates change and evolution in her home and in the society at large. She is compassionate, instinctive and driven as she achieves her goals and purpose."

At the event, women leaders shared their success stories, the challenges they've faced and how they overcame them. "The Times Women Icons 2022 is truly an occasion to celebrate. Leading with compassion and an all-inclusive spirit is the key for a better future," expressed Dr Minnie Bodhanwala, CEO, Wadia Hospital at the event.

While echoing this sentiment, Nehha Kandhari, CEO, Vinfab Engineers India Pvt. Ltd., added, "An iconic woman is one who wins the hearts of others through her compassion, care,



love, gratitude and selfless deeds. Such women must always be celebrated."

Among the many women achievers who were felicitated at the event were Dr Geeta Lathkar, director, MGM's College of Engineering and Technology; Jalpa H Vithalani, director, Cos-



mic Heart Gallery and JTB Jupiter Express Services Pvt. Ltd.; Adv. Chandni Kapadi, executive director, GLS University; Harshita Jain, director, Consulting Engineers Group Ltd.; Dr Hina Shah, founder and director, International Centre for En-

trepreneurship and Career Development; Loveena Mehta and Priyanka Ashar, partners, Little Tricks Media; Masuuma Namjoshi, director, CritiCare Asia Multispecialty Hospital and Research Centre; Vrushali Sambhaji Gosavi, MD, Sky Kitchen and Banquets; Ankita Smriti, director, Xiphias Immigration Pvt. Ltd.; Vandana Sharma, founder, Sekhem Healing Centre Pvt. Ltd.; Dr Minnie Bodhanwala, CEO, Wadia Hospital; Neha Kamani Sundesha, CEO, Seven Hats Consulting; Nehha Kandhari, CEO, Vinfab Engineers India Pvt. Ltd.; Dr Manjula Pooja Shroff, MD, Kalorex Group; Jahnvi Reddy, founder, Probackers (OPC) Pvt. Ltd.; Archana Sinha, director, Hungry Mind Learning Pvt. Ltd.; Dr Manimekalai Mohan, founder and managing trustee, SSVM Institutions; Deepika Chalasani, co-founder, Fit4Life India; Dr Neha Sachde, founder, Metamorphosis Clinics;

Kanchan Khera, founder and CEO, Zykr Technologies Pvt. Ltd.; Raëll Padamsee, founder, Raëll Padamsee's ACE Productions; and Dr Priti Vishal Warke, director, HiMedia Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.

THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Throughout the country,



women have been achieving new milestones every day. Despite the many challenges they face, many have attained financial independence, established businesses, and inspired those around them. To discuss entrepreneurship and the way forward for women in various fields, Harshita Jain, director, Consulting Engineers Group

Ltd., Dr Hina Shah, founder and director, International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Development, and Dr Geeta Lathkar, director, MGM's College of Engineering and Technology held a panel discussion.

At the discussion, Shah spoke about why women are still wary of establishing their own businesses and why they don't see it as a good career opportunity. "In our society, and our education system, the focus has always been on how job-oriented a student or professional is. The focus has always been on securing high grades and the right job. Therefore, most professionals, and not only women, seldom think about establishing an enterprise. Several research reports indicate that women have never been encouraged and nurtured to become entrepreneurs. Women need to look for opportunities to become entrepreneurs. They must be trained, encouraged and facilitated to make a difference through ventures and causes that they are passionate about," she explained.

Responding to the points raised at the panel discussion, Masuuma Namjoshi said, "If we want to be the change, we must begin with initiating the same ourselves. We must nurture women in our family and around us, educate, encourage, and empower them to become entrepreneurs. A strong support system is crucial to the success of a woman. Women are no lesser than men, and they must be given equal opportunities. There will be challenges that come a woman's way. However, the right attitude, approach and good education will help them overcome them."



Dr Manimekalai Mohan



Dr Minnie Bodhanwala



Adv. Chandni Kapadia



Ankita Smriti



Jahnvi Reddy



Kanchan Khera



Vrushali Sambhaji Gosavi