

# Hyderabad Regional Webinar on Women Entrepreneurship & Boardroom Diversity

March 4, 2021 | Hyderabad

**Institute of Directors (IOD), Hyderabad Region** organised a regional webinar on 'Women Entrepreneurship & Boardroom Diversity', in light of International Women's Day, to deliberate the challenges and opportunities for women directors as Board leaders and the crucial role of women entrepreneurs.

The event was attended by business leaders, women entrepreneurs, direc-

tors, board members, senior executives from across businesses & industry sectors.

**Ms. V. S. Swathi Kantamani**, Director, Natco Pharma Limited, Managing Trustee, Natco Trust & IOD Telangana State Advisory Committee Member delivered the 'Welcome Address' and highlighted that according to a recent study on 'Women On Board 2020', "India

ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the world, with 55% percent of listed companies having women directors".

The programme was inaugurated by **Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli**, Hon. Chairman, Institute of Directors, Hyderabad Region, Chairman Emeritus, Phoenix Group & Honorary Consul General, Republic of Korea in Hyderabad.



**Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli**  
Hon. Chairman, Institute of Directors,  
Hyderabad Region & Chairman Emeritus  
Phoenix Group & Honorary Consul General,  
Republic of Korea in Hyderabad



**Ms. Deepanwita Chattopadhyay**  
Chairman and CEO  
IKP Knowledge Park  
Hyderabad



**Ms. V. S. Swathi Kantamani**  
Director, Natco Pharma Limited &  
Managing Trustee, Natco Trust  
Hyderabad



**Dr. Nandita Sethi**  
Founder & Managing Director  
The Entrepreneur Zone (TEZ)  
Hyderabad



**Ms. Dharitri Patnaik**  
Managing Director  
Jivada Ventures Private Limited  
Bhubaneswar



**Ms. Lakshmi Mukkavilli**  
Managing Director  
Patra BPO Services  
Visakhapatnam



**Ms. Sreedevi Devireddy**  
CEO  
SRiX (SR Innovation Exchange)  
Warangal



**Mr. Shiva Rao Tummalapalli**  
Hon. Secretary  
Institute of Directors,  
Hyderabad Region &  
CEO, Future Labs, Hyderabad

**Dr. Nandita Sethi**, Founder & Managing Director, The Entrepreneur Zone (TEZ), delivered the '**Theme Address**' highlighting the power of women entrepreneurship to create positive outcomes for individuals, societies and economies. She also stated that gender diverse boards have more effective functioning and improved corporate reputation.

A special '**Keynote Address**' focusing on the urgent need, now more than ever to invest in women leadership, to have more women leaders as role models for all, was delivered by **Ms. Deepanwita Chatto padhyay**, Chairman and CEO, IKP Knowledge Park, Hyderabad.

An interactive panel discussion also took place with distinguished speakers including **Ms. Dharitri Patnaik**, Managing Director, Jivada Ventures

Private Limited & IOD Odisha State Advisory Committee Member; **Ms. Lakshmi Mukkavilli**, Managing Director, Patra BPO Services, Visakhapatnam, and IOD Andhra Pradesh State Advisory Committee Member; **Ms. Sreedevi Devireddy**, CEO, SR Innovation Exchange, shared their personal insights and road to success. They also shared practical hurdles and their journey of overcoming them for success. This session was chaired by **Ms. V. S. Swathi Kantamani**.

**Mr. Shiva Rao Tummalapalli**, Hon. Secretary, Institute of Directors, Hyderabad Region & CEO, Future Labs, Hyderabad concluded the session by delivering the '**Vote of Thanks**' to the Distinguished Speakers, State Advisory Committees and business participants who had joined the webinar.

The webinar highlighted the importance of women at workplaces, and that of women as entrepreneurs in the corporate world. Long-term, multi-faceted benefits of promoting women entrepreneurship are many. Today, India boasts of a number of successful women entrepreneurs in MSMEs sectors. Women will have a big role to play in the Indian economic growth story. For this growth to reflect in societal development, it will be crucial for to ensure economic inclusion and empower women in the workforce, and also for women to increasingly take up leadership roles. ■

Compiled by:

**Ms. Karuna Grover**

Senior Manager - GPA & Conferences  
Institute of Directors  
Hyderabad Region

