

Assocham bats for universal basic income for women

'Move will empower women, raise their social status'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 8

On the International Women's Day, industry body Assocham advocated for introduction of universal basic income for women, saying it can lead to a significant transformation in India's socio-economic landscape.

The chamber drew the idea from the Economic Survey 2016-17, which had said: "A UBI for women can not only reduce the fiscal cost of providing a UBI (to about half) but

have large multiplier effects on the household.

"Giving money to women also improves the bargaining power of women within households and reduces concerns of money being splurged on conspicuous goods," it said.

The Economic Survey 2016-17 was tabled by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in Parliament on January 31.

"While India may not be ready for an all-encompassing UBI, given the country's scale of development where the difference between the rich and poor remains quite wide and it may not be an equitable thing to extend similar benefits across all strata of the economic



Assocham has said that giving money directly to women will improve their bargaining power with the household

paradigm, the women-only UBI can be considered favourably," Assocham said.

It argued that if women have money in their accounts, their economic and social status would see a tremendous uplift. In the long

run, this would also bring in corrections in the adverse sex ratio as the society would see women as an empowered lot.

The concept of universal basic income entails a fixed amount being transferred to the accounts of beneficiaries

irrespective of their economic or social status. It is premised on the principle that an equitable society should guarantee a minimum income to each individual for access to basic needs.

"The issues of child mortality, infant mortality and even nutrition during pregnancy can be addressed if UBI is extended to women.

"It could be argued that women from the rich and upper middle income groups do not deserve to be provided government support. But the problem of identifying correct beneficiaries is far greater than the cost of an all-inclusive scheme," said Revati Jain, Chairperson, Assocham Women Foundation.

Women leaders awarded at Assocham Gujarat Council session

Trade body's first initiative is aimed at encouraging women from various fields

OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, March 8

As its first-ever initiative to encourage and felicitate successful women leaders, the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Gujarat Council on Wednesday organised a mentoring session. The event, which marks the International Women's Day celebration, was inaugurated by Anandiben Patel, former Gujarat chief minister.

Under the leadership of Bhagyesh Soneji, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM Gujarat council organised a one-day session named "Beyond Pink - The Power of SHE (Soaring Heights of Empowerment)" to celebrate the success of women from different walks of life. Experts from a variety of fields and leaders deliberated on the challenges faced by women in the current social structure and shared the success stories.

Women at helm

Assocham Gujarat Council felicitated chief guest Patel, who handed over the Mahila



"Everyday is women's day in India, as women of India have had voting right from the very first election after Independence."

BHAGYESH SONEJI
Chairperson, Assocham Gujarat Council

Shakti Awards to women in the areas of social cause, sports and entertainment.

The awardees included Sarika Mehta, psychologist and Founder, Biking Queens, for setting a Guinness record for the longest bike journey of 10,000 km (Surat to Singapore) promoting the cause of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (Save Girl Child, Educate Girl Child); Shital Shah, Gujarati Film personality, and International Women Master (Chess) Dhyani Dave for being the only International chess master from Gujarat.

"Needless to mention March 8 was the day when American women marched in

times square for voting rights. In the land of Laxmi, Kali and Saraswati, women should not be deprived of empowerment," said Soneji.

Empowering women

In her address, Gujarat's former chief minister, Patel emphasised on the importance of education, health, and economic independence for women.

Elaborating on various supportive schemes of the State government for helping promoting women in the state,

Patel informed about free medical education for girls, 33 per cent reservation in police department for women besides free medical treatment to the underprivileged women and increase in the female sex ratio.

The event, supported by title sponsor Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) with Welspun India and ONGC as the industry partners and *BusinessLine* as its media partner was attended by over 120 women participants from different industries.

Sarika Mehta shared anecdotes of her adventurous journey. Shah discussed the obstacles she had to face and how she overcame them. Ushma Anerao, Principal, Government Polytechnic for Girls congratulated ASSOCHAM Gujarat council and shared her experience as a Principal government institution.

The panelists included Ruzan Khambatta, Founder of Wajra O'Force Empowerment; Nina Jaipuria, business head, Viacom 18 and Radio City RJ Arti Boriya, among others.



Former Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel delivering her address at 'Beyond Pink - The Power of SHE (Soaring Heights of Empowerment)' to celebrate International Women's Day

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Amdavadis raise a toast to women

From health care to business tips, various programmes held in city to celebrate the



Beyond Pink, a mentoring session

An event to mark Women's Day was organised by the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Gujarat Council, at Hotel Pride Plaza. The event was inaugurated by Anandiben Patel, former chief minister of Gujarat. Patel also distributed 'Mahila Shakti Awards' to felicitate women for contribution in their respective fields.

'Women should create opportunities'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 8

FORMER GUJARAT CM Anandiben Patel inaugurated the first mentoring session of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Gujarat Council, in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. It was titled "Beyond Pink" The Power of SHE (Soaring Heights of Empowerment).

Addressing the gathering, Patel said, "I brought in 33% reservation in the police forces for women and now you can see women with batons on the streets of Ahmedabad and thousand of women have enrolled as police personnel. A lot of police-



Former CM Anandiben Patel in Ahmedabad Wednesday.

Express

men told me that more women in the police force has brought in a new discipline and improved the atmosphere in these stations ...Also one must recall what did Narendrabhai (Modi) do? He decided and ensured that women

from the armed forces were leading from the front during the 15th August and 26th January parades in Delhi. And women readily took up the challenge and showed leadership skills. So, women are capable of anything. They only need to get the platform. Women should ensure to pick up every opportunity that comes their way and even create opportunities for themselves to move forth. Women should not wait for opportunities anymore as it is such an old idea, but should learn to create and seize them."

Patel also made special mention of the women guards working at Gir National Park, the abode of the Asiatic lions in Gujarat and lauded their bravery.

