



Press Release

“Being Effective without being aggressive”

On Wednesday, 26th April 2017, Ananta Aspen Centre in partnership with CII and Young Indians got together to bring four dynamic and passionate game changers who have set unprecedented trends in their own fields in a session titled “#Be Bold For Change”. They have not only set examples for everyone but have also contributed to a progressive change in the society. **Mr Amitav Virmani**, *CEO, The Education Alliance* moderated the panel which had **Ms Meeran Borwankar**, *Director General Police, Bureau of Police Research and Development*, **Ms Bhairavi Jani**, *Chairperson and Founder, IEF Entrepreneurship Foundation and Executive Director, SCA Group*, **Ms Sairee Chahal**, *Founder & CEO, Sheroes* and **Ms Gunjan Shah**, *Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.* The audience present got a glimpse into what drove the panellists to make their respective career choices and what inspired them in their quest of carving a niche for themselves. It was a struggle of challenging the status quo in a society where women’s role is constantly undermined.

Ms Borwankar emphasised how leadership is gender neutral and how playing the role of a team leader with an open mind and thinking is important. **Ms Jani** also spoke of her journey and life transforming events. She asserted that “it’s an all women running the show and contributing to the GDP.” **Ms Chahal** spoke about her enterprise and how it is breaking all taboos in creating an all women community in connecting them to their aspirations. She also pointed out how India has the most ready graduate women in the world and yet has the lowest women workforce. She further stated that India has a unique opportunity to marry women at work with future at work as there are new opportunities of employment in remote areas, micro-entrepreneurship and local economy. There is a need to create technology backed ecosystem to make it more scalable and cool, she added. For **Ms Shah**, it was important to have a change in the public policy and legislative action in addition to ensuring its implementation. She further said “We need to have like-minded people to educate others and have campaigns to fight for equal rights with a multi-pronged approach to the situation”. She drives her inspiration from within and always looks inwards while working in a male dominated industry. When asked what change these passionate game-changers would like to see, **Ms Borwankar** was quick to assert that “over-dependence on government should be curtailed as ‘YOU’ vs. ‘US’ attitude can no longer work. Citizens need to participate equally and help the government implement”. For **Ms Jani**, “we need to look at the youth not as a consumer market or demographic dividend but shapers for the nation and the world and engage them in shaping the country.” **Ms Sairee** said that “India has the ability to leapfrog and needs to adopt its own model; it doesn’t need prescriptive models of development and has the potential to define its own development with the help of human capital and technology.” **Ms Shah** highlighted the need for getting legislation for maintaining gender balance in the work environment.

About Ananta Aspen Centre:

Engaging India, Nurturing Change

Ananta Aspen Centre is an educational and policy studies organisation based in New Delhi. It focusses on values based leadership and open dialogue on challenges facing Indian society to help foster its transformation. The Centre engages civil society, business, governments and other key stakeholders to share ideas and bring a wide range of perspectives on issues important to India’s development, foreign policy, strategic affairs and national security. Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent non-profit organization registered under the Indian Trusts Act and under 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act. For more information, contact:

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