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Leading with grace and grit: Honouring the women driving change at ET Now Impactful Women Leaders of India 2025

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Article Content:

The inaugural **ET NOW Impactful Women Leaders of India 2025** event brought together trailblazing women from across industries at the **JW Marriott, New Delhi**, under the theme “*Empower. Inspire. Lead.*” The evening celebrated women who are not only shaping business and governance but also redefining leadership with purpose, resilience, and impact. The event set the tone for an evening dedicated to stories of influence, courage, and transformative leadership.

Dr **Rashmi Singh, IAS**, Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, delivered a thought-provoking keynote on “Influence Without Noise.” She highlighted the power of steady, grounded leadership that drives

real change without seeking the spotlight. Drawing on her extensive work in community empowerment and institutional reform, Dr Singh emphasised how silent determination can strengthen systems, shift mindsets, and uplift the marginalised.

The evening's **power panel** brought together six distinguished women leaders sharing stories of leadership, vision, and belief. From corporate boardrooms to philanthropic initiatives, the panellists—**Arneeta Vasudeva, Deeksha Suri, Somdutta Singh, Alka Kapur, and Neeta Sinha**—offered candid reflections on the moments and values that have shaped their journeys. Moderated by **Upasna Dash**, the discussion celebrated authenticity, purpose, and the diverse ways women lead and inspire.

In a candid “**In Conversation**” segment, **Kavya Velu** and **Manik Kaur**, moderated by **Savitha Kuttan**, peeled back the layers of leadership to share unseen struggles and victories. The session revealed the human side of success, exploring the perseverance, resilience, and quiet determination that define impactful leadership.

Dr Vinusha Reddy, Official Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party – Andhra Pradesh, addressed the audience on the theme of transforming grassroots participation into meaningful leadership. Her speech highlighted the vital role women play in building inclusive governance models and fostering participatory change.

The event featured a **research partner presentation** by **Monica Shevgan**, General Manager, Coherent Market Insights, followed by the session “**Begin Bold**”. **Dr Upasana Arora** and **Shaili Chopra** discussed the importance of leading with bold intent, embracing innovation, and creating inclusive ecosystems that elevate diverse perspectives.

A highlight of the evening was the **unveiling of the ET NOW Impactful Women Leaders of India Coffee Table Book**, followed by the felicitation of women leaders who have made exceptional contributions across sectors.

Here's the list of trailblazers honoured at the event:

Name of the Winner	Designation
Aishwarya Bansal	Co-Founder, Smartworld Developers
Ananya Birla	Businessperson and Artist
Anjaleka Kripalani	Managing Director & Interior Architect, Angie Homes Angie Kripalani Design

Anjali Gulati	Founder & CEO, People Konnect
Arpita Vinay	Senior Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Spark Capital PWM
Arushi Verma	Co-founder, FITPASS
Charu Malhotra	Co-Founder & Managing Director, Primus Partners
Chitra Gurnani Daga	CEO & Co-founder, Thrillophilia
Deeksha Suri	Executive Director, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group
Dr. Upasana Arora	Managing Director & Group CEO, Yashoda Medicity
Dr. Alka Kapur	Philanthropist & Principal, Modern Public School
Dr. Seema Pai	President, Indian Society for Clinical Research
Kavya Velu	Executive Director & President – Corporate Strategy and Operations, Neuberg Diagnostics
Manik Kaur	Founder, Mindful Living
Neeta Sinha	Founder, Astroarchitect, Neeta Sinha Consultancy
Pallavi Kudtarkar	Executive Director, Globe Teleservices
Prikansha Luthra	Co-Founder & Director, Vijayan Trishul Defence Solutions
Priya Prakash	Managing Director, Eco Pallet
Pushpa Bector	Senior Executive Director, DLF Malls
Rachana Gupta	Co-founder, Gynoveda
Ritu Nathani	Head, Cybage Foundation
Savitha Kuttan	Chief Executive Officer

Shaili Chopra	Founder, SheThePeople & Gytree; Titan on Ideabaaz
Shefali Johnson	CEO, Comic Con India
Shilpa Arora	Co-founder & COO, Insurance Samadhan
Shilpa Khanna Thakkar	Co-Founder, Chicnutrix
Somdutta Singh	Founder & CEO, Assiduus Global
Sreepriya NS	Co-Founder & CEO, Entrust Family Office
Shahnaz Husain	Founder & Chairperson, Shahnaz Husain Group
Yamini Kumar (Jaipuria)	Managing Trustee, Cosmo Foundation

The event concluded with **closing remarks** and a **networking cocktail and dinner**, providing a space for attendees to connect, collaborate, and continue the conversation on leadership, empowerment, and impact. The **1st Edition of ET NOW Impactful Women Leaders of India** successfully celebrated the transformative power of women across industries, shining a spotlight on stories that inspire, challenge, and redefine leadership for the next generation.