



Public Affairs Forum of India

PRESS RELEASE

“We need to reform the way we think about gender in our country”

“Under the government’s Awas Yojana, 2 crore houses have been allotted to women; out of 4 Crore people trained in IT under DISHA Scheme, 58% were women candidates” - ***Smriti Irani***

22 September 2022, New Delhi: Ms Smriti Irani, the Hon’ble Minister of Women & Child Development and Minister of Minority Affairs, Government of India stressed the need for women to become more self-aware at the Public Affairs Forum of India’s 9th annual Forum 2022. She mentioned that under the Swachh Bharat Mission, 33 crore households that were deprived of basic sanitary facilities including toilets have now been covered.

The Hon’ble Minister further informed that the poor sanitary infrastructure in India put a 6 per cent burden on GDP that can be done away with by maintaining proper hygiene and cleanliness. It’s under the able leadership of Mr Narendra Modi that the sanitary napkin, which was once considered a luxury item, is now available at only one rupee cost making it available to every section of society.

The Minister said that the main problem in India is that we look at gender equality differently. If we really want to change the condition, we’ll have to change our outlook. We’ll have to break the barriers of past assumptions. We’ll have to develop a progressive outlook. Today women are taking the front seat at village panchayats. According to World Economic Forum (WEF), our country stands at 48th place in Women Empowerment Index (WEI).

Giving insights into the schemes of the Government for women Ms Smriti Irani said that under the government’s Awas Yojana, 2 crore houses have been allotted to women candidates. She further informed that out of 4 Crore people trained in IT under DISHA Scheme, 58 per cent were women candidates.

Talking about the security of girls and women, Ms Smriti Irani said that the government has set up one-stop centers in 700+ districts for which there is a need to increase awareness. Around 7 crore self-help groups have been enabled with an investment of INR 480 Crores.

Finally, she stressed the need for technology as a great enabler. She said that women should not wait for others’ support to enable them but should enable themselves with the technology in their hands.

The event was moderated by the **Mr Navika Kumar, Group Editor, Times Network, Editor-In-Chief, Times Now Navbharat** and welcome speech was given by **Ms Shweta Rajpal Kohli, Managing Committee Member, PAFI.**

Mr Ajay Khanna, Co-Founder & Forum Chairman, PAFI gave the vote of thanks.



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PAFI (Public Affairs Forum of India)

PAFI is dedicated to raise and maintain standards in Public Affairs to enable the profession to attain recognition and credibility by bringing in a paradigm shift in the way businesses engage with stakeholders - Government, Media, Civil Society and Academia. It also endeavors to deepen and broaden the talent pool to create young leaders from diverse backgrounds while planning to expand its footprint across India. Since its inception in 2008, PAFI has been actively promoting and upholding transparency, probity, inclusion, and diversity across the wider remit of Public Affairs Profession Spanning Policy Advocacy, Government Relations, Corporate Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility. It acts as a cross-sector networking platform for public affairs professionals and provides opportunities to benefit from interactions with one other as well as with key policymakers and influencers through evidence-based research, closed-door dialogues, interactive panel discussions, seminars, an Annual Lecture and the National Forum, its annual flagship event. For more information, visit: www.pafi.in and Twitter: [@PAFI India](https://twitter.com/PAFI_India)

For more information contact:

Manisha Sharma, RV VeKommunicate; + 91 9818043897; manisha@vekommunicate.com

Nadeem Anwar, RV VeKommunicate, +91 9971978791; nadeem@vekommunicate.com