

## **Sminu Jindal**

Managing Director, Jindal SAW Ltd. & Founder, Svayam

Ms. Sminu Jindal has made exemplary and historic contributions to the building of modern steel industry by breaking the glass ceiling in the Steel, Oil & Gas sector in India. She is the first lady entrant in the country to do her gender proud by having rose to the position of the Managing Director of Jindal SAW Ltd. a part of the fourth largest industrial house in India, the O.P. Jindal Group, Sminu Jindal's contribution to the growth of the organization has been phenomenal.

An alumna of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Sminu Jindal went on to pursue MBA from Fore School of Management, with specialization in Finance. Her outstanding academic performance won her a Silver Medal and later on Institute of Marketing & Management bestowed upon her the Award for Excellence as top woman entrepreneur.

Ingrained in Ms. Jindal's corporate DNA is an unstinting commitment for making a difference in the lives of people with reduced mobility especially the elderly & the disabled. A wheelchair user due to an accident at a tender age of 11, she understands the negativity that come with these situations and feels the only way to overcome this is by providing independence & dignity through accessible public infrastructure & transportation systems. Through her initiative 'Svayam' she works very closely almost hand-in-hand with policy makers, govt. agencies, civic bodies, industry associations to nurture a complete inclusive ecosystem which understands, develops and maintains accessible built environment for all sections of the society.

Ms. Jindal is the driving force in the promotion of an inclusive and barrier free public infrastructure that facilitates dignity for people with reduced mobility and their active participation in the mainstream society. Her single-minded dedication to the cause has not only given it the right impetus but also influenced policymakers to incorporate steps to meet the rising demands for 'inclusivity for all'.

'Svayam' has not only been highlighting the need of accessibility in public infrastructure through undertaking access audits, write ups, sensitization workshops, focused training sessions, sustained campaigns to promote the concept of barrier free environment, but actively handholds the process of implementing access solutions suggested to the government and civic agencies at various levels.

Her visionary efforts were crowned with success when Svayam was conferred the 'National Tourism Award of Excellence' jointly with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), for making the World Heritage Sites, the Qutub Minar and the Red Fort in Delhi as well as the Fatehpur Sikri Group of Monuments in Agra as the 'Most Accessible & Disabled Friendly Historical Monument' in 2009, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

### **INDIAN GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY CHAMBER MEMBERSHIPS**

Ms. Jindal is a member of the Core Committee on Accessible Tourism constituted by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India

• She is also a member of the Technical Advisory Committee constituted to research on present status of Inclusive Tourism in India.

• She is also involved with the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India as a member on the Committee to harmonize the guidelines on norms and standards for barrier free environment.

She is also a member of the Screening Committee of National Award for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, 2009-10 under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India.

She has been nominated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India to be on the Executive Committee of IPH (Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped).

She is also the Chairperson of ASSOCHAM National Council on Iron & Steel since 2009.

• She is on the Committee on Functional Requirements in Buildings of Bureau of Indian Standards, Govt. of India.

- She is also a member of the Young Global Leaders (YGL), World Economic Forum.
- She is also the Chair – International Steering Committee of TRANSED 2012 conference.

#### AWARDS AND RECOGNISATION

- Conferred with the 'Global Youth ICON Award' at the 9th International Youth Peace Festival (IYPF 2014) for her commendable work in promoting the rights and dignity of the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Received the L'oreal Femina Women Award in the 'Favourite Face of a Cause' category in 2014.
- She was one of the four 'Veers' of the Veer Campaign – an initiative by Being Human, CNN IBN and Thums Up, which encourages every Indian citizen to play the role of an enabler and help people with disability unleash their true potential.
- National Tourism Award of Excellence, jointly with ASI, for making the World Heritage Sites, the Qutub Minar and the Red Fort in Delhi as well as the Fatehpur Sikri Group of Monuments in Agra, the 'Most Accessible and Disabled Friendly Historical Monument' in 2009, 2011 & 2012 respectively.
- Svayam's project titled 'Enabling access to World Heritage' was shortlisted as one of the innovative practices on accessibility and was showcased through a poster to around 300 participants from across 50 countries at the Zero Project Conference on Accessibility: Innovative Policies and Practices for Persons with Disabilities held at United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria during February 2014.
- Asia-Pacific Enterprise Leadership Award (APELA) in the category of Social Service in 2012.
- Best poster award at TRANSED 2010, Hong Kong for the poster titled 'Accessible Public Road Transportation System' under the theme 'Design guidelines, case studies, manuals, best practices'.
- Women Entrepreneur of the Year 2009 Award by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)
- Young Global Leaders (YGL) 2009 by World Economic Forum.
- Times of India (TOI) Social Impact Awards had shortlisted Svayam as one of the three organizations in the Empowerment & Advocacy category.

#### ['Accessible India' Isn't Just For 2% Of The Population. Let's All Make It Work](#)

For the Accessible India Campaign to be a success, it must become a movement first. And each of us must embrace it because, at some point in our lives, we all stand to benefit from it.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.in/author/sminu-jindal/>