

Clip: 1 of 1



"There's no such thing as special ability. I had to work very hard to not let the perceptions get to me. I've spent my whole life trying to make it look effortless."



SMINU JINDAL



Winner, L'Oréal Paris Femina Women Awards 2014

FACE OF A CAUSE

Sminu has been working tirelessly to make public areas more accessible to the physically challenged through her organisation Swayam. Despite her efforts, though, she is yet to see a film in a movie theatre. "There are theatres abroad that have removable seats. Just unscrew the seats and make room for a wheelchair," says the cheerful MD of Jindal Saw, who has several such ideas to make life for the differently-abled filled with possibilities. Sminu, who has been wheelchair-bound since an accident left her immobile from the waist down when she was just 11, has managed to convince the government and private organisations to make public places like historical monuments

more accessible. "People ask me how many people get affected by lack of accessibility. My question is, how many don't? There are pregnant women, children, aged people, people with acquired disabilities, people born with disabilities. Accessibility makes life easier for everybody. If things are accessible, you'll find more people visiting, and more visits mean more money."

Sminu credits her parents with raising her to be independent. "There's no such thing as special ability. I want to be recognised as a normal human being," says Sminu. "I had to work very hard to not let the perceptions get to me. It wasn't easy; I've spent my whole life trying to make it look effortless." >