

# WONDER WOMEN

## Women of substance felicitated: SOULFUL POETRY REGALES AUDIENCE

International Women's Day was celebrated with zeal and fervour at the 'Times Women Extraordinaire' event – an initiative of The Times Group, presented by the Women and Child Development Corporation, Bihar, and Big Apollo Spectra Hospital

Madhuri Kumar

'Times Women Extraordinaire', an initiative of The Times Group, presented by the Women and Child Development Corporation, Bihar and Big Apollo Spectra Hospital, not only celebrated and honoured the contributions, achievements and exemplary work of women in Bihar, but also organised an 'All-Woman Kavi Sammelan', in which four noted poetesses, who have their roots in Patna, touched a chord with their thoughtful and melodious presentations, mostly focussing on women.

International Women's Day, celebrated annually on March 8, seeks to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. This year's theme, #Inspire Inclusion - emphasized the importance of diversity and empowerment in all aspects of society.

The 'Kavi Sammelan' which was witness to some great poetry by noted women poets like Mumtaz Naseem; Ankita Singh; Nidhi Gupta Kashish and Prerna Pratap, kept the audience glued to their seats, who enjoyed each and every couplet presented by them on various issues of social evils including subjugation, male chauvinism, eternal love, motherhood, peace and the various roles that a woman plays in her lifetime both in a family and professional front.

### POETRY HAS TO BE HONEST

Poems of Nidhi Gupta Kashish reflected on how it has helped her explore her sense of self, femininity and feminism. It's the only way, she said, she knows, about processing her inner self. Writing is the only way to untangle all the darkness and mess. Poetry has to be honest, else it's useless. Her couplet: "Gazal giton ki ras Ganga, hriday mein pyar layee hoon, bhale mehman hoon do pal ki, dil mein pyar layee hoon...meri jholi mein aadar, prem aur samman

PICS:PRAMOD SHARMA AND ANJU KUMAR



>> L-R: Dr Vikas Shankar, director, Skinage; Prof Dr Rana Singh, director, CIMP, Patna; Brigadier AK Singh, DDC NCC, Bihar & Jharkhand; Avinash Kumar, S&M head, Big Apollo Spectra Hospital; Sanjay Kumar Agrawal, secretary, Department of Agriculture and Transport, Bihar; Padmashree Sister Sudha Varghese; & Rajiv Verma, director, WCDC, Bihar

bhar dena..." received a thunderous applause. Her poem dedicated to her mother touched every heart. She concluded with a couplet on eternal love: "jidhar se chalna shuru kiya tha, Kashish aaj bhi wahi khadi milegi...jo rango noor tera husn se barasta hai, kisi ke husn mein woh baat nahi payee hamne."

Ankita Singh, another poetess, who is also a technocrat, took the audience on its toes with her recitation of poems, equating mathematics with poetry. "Padhe hain ishq se zyada ganit ke chapter humne, par khal raat apni karwaton ko gin nahi payee." Focussing on the element of love and trust in a relationships, she brilliantly expressed it saying, "Samundar ki kai nadiyan hain, par nadi ka ek samundar hai." Ankita also brilliantly depicted the characters of Radha, Meera, Sita, Urmila, Rukmini and Ahilya. "Yug koi raha, koi kahani jo rahi ho, main adhoore pyar se poori hui hoon."

Another poetess, Prerna Pratap not only anchored the show but also mesmerised the audience

with her 'shayaris' and a heart-touching poem on her mother. Addressing women, she said, "Maine sikha nahi hai dar jana, haar kar hausla bikhar jaana, hadsa ne sikha diya mujhko, jis taraf khauf ho udhar jana." It is only through courage and determination that a woman can overcome all obstacles of life, was what she emphasized on. "Ye kis makam par sojhi tujhe bichadne ki, aab to din sawarne wale hain...khuda mehfooz rakhe tujhe tino balao se..." was Prerna's punchline.

Last, but not the least, Mumtaz Naseem, who



also initiated the 'sammelan' with a Saraswati Vandana in her melodious voice, narrated how a woman is a force to reckon with. She is capable of overcoming her dark past and move ahead in life. "Poetry helps me connect with myself, it helped me realise certain emotions, identify my trauma and accept the problems that I've gone through or am going through. Poetry has helped me accept myself, understand myself. It has helped me connect the dots, resolve problems and given me the space to think before I act," she says.



While speaking about exploring the different nuances of femininity, she says, "Most of the times, things such as femininity and emotions are not embraced. But to embrace love, kindness, sensitivity, is extremely important and to be able to pen them down makes me feel it more," says Mumtaz.

She explained, "Tera chehra yaad raha hai; bas apna chehra hool gayee; pyar ke is mausam mein aye adala-badli raas mujhe, tera muffler jabse mila hai, apna dupatta bhool gayee."

Guests of honour of the gala evening included Sanjay Agrawal, secretary, department of agriculture and transport; Padmashree Sister Sudha Varghese; Brigadier AK Singh-Sena Medal, deputy director general, NCC- Bihar & Jharkhand; Rajiv Verma, director, Women and Child Development Corporation, Bihar, and Prof Dr Rana Singh, director, Chandragupta Institute of Management, Patna.

Women Extraordinaire was an endeavour to encourage the good work being done by several women in their respective fields as well as in nation building. The initiative was partnered by Big Apollo Spectra Hospital, Heera Panna Jewellers, Ruban Group of Hospitals, Nature Polyplast, Skinage and SK Mandal Group of Institutions. Chandragupta Institute of Management was the knowledge partner and Hotel AmalfiGrand, the Hospitality Partner.

### HONOUR FOR ACHIEVERS

A host of women achievers from the state were bestowed with the 'Women Extraordinaire' honour at a gala event at the auditorium of CIMP. Hailing from diverse backgrounds and working in myriad areas such as social sector, education, healthcare, hospitality, banking these women were felicitated for excellence in their professional fields.

This was the second season of Times Women Extraordinaire' in Bihar. The event started with the lighting of lamp by Padmashree Sister Sudha Varghese; Sanjay Kumar Agrawal; Brigadier AK Singh; Rajiv Verma and Prof Dr Rana Singh Thereafter, the distinguished guests handed out mementos and certificates to the achievers.

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### CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

## QUOTE UNQUOTE

Massive efforts are on to create awareness about the Civil Seva Protsahan Yojana, formation of self-help groups, and skill development of women. The government also wants that every department must have a share exclusively for the development of women and is determined that women hailing even from the remotest corner of the state must be aware of their rights through schemes like, "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" and Sakhi Yarta."  
— Bandana Preyashi, MD, WCDC, Bihar

Support and engagement from all stakeholders are crucial as we continue to break barriers and foster an inclusive environment where women thrive. As part of the agriculture and transport departments, I am proud to share the strides we are making towards gender equality and women's empowerment. Our commitment is evident in the programmes and initiatives designed to enhance women leadership in critical sectors."  
— Sanjay Agrawal, secretary, department of agriculture and transport

Women, along with social security, education and employment, need land to construct homes with toilets so that their dignity can be protected."  
— Padmashree Sister Sudha Varghese

CIMP is running various entrepreneurial programmes and laying emphasis on CM Mahila Udyami Yojana, to empower women."  
— Prof Rana Singh, director, CIMP

Women have been revered through times immemorial and women empowerment is now our highest priority."  
— Brigadier AK Singh, Sena Medal, deputy director general, NCC: Bihar & Jharkhand

Throughout history, women have been at the forefront of change, breaking barriers, and challenging norms. We celebrate International Women's Day, a day dedicated to honouring the achievements, contributions, and struggles of women worldwide."  
— Shradha Keshri, director, operations, Hira Panna Jewellers

Empower a woman, and you empower a community. Together, we can build a future where every woman's voice is heard."  
— Avinash Kumar, Big Apollo Spectra Hospital

Behind every successful woman stands a host of other successful women and together they rise and shine."  
— Dr Vikas Shankar, Skinage

Most of the empowered women also empower the world by breaking barriers. They also create a legacy of courage, determination and strength."  
— SK Mandal group

Let the courage and strength of women around the world inspire us to strive for a more equitable society."  
— Dr Satyajit Singh, MD, Ruban Group of hospitals

Women have discovered that they cannot rely on men's chivalry to give them justice."  
— Rajesh Sureka, MD, Nature Polyplast

### THE ACHIEVERS

- Mukta Mohini : Autism & Dyslexia expert
- Nitu Kumari Navgeet : Prolific folk singer, Patna
- Dr Niharika Roy : Breast onco-surgeon, Jay Prabha Medanta Hospital, Patna
- Smrita Singh : Director, Varma Foundation
- Sumita Kumari : Nutrition Expert
- Richa Sinha : Social entrepreneur and activist
- Dr Priyadarshini : Director, Composite Regional Centre for persons with disabilities, M/O Social justice and empowerment, GOI
- Sr Mary Neha Snd : Principal, Notre Dame Academy, Patna
- Dr Ritu Singh : Associate professor, Department of Critical Care Medicine, IGIMS
- Dr Bhavna Shekhar : Author & poet, teacher at AN College, Patna
- Astha Singh : Founder & CEO of Gramshree Kisan
- Meera Sinha : Social entrepreneur and director of Shemford School
- Kumari Shish : Sustainability and ecological farming activist, Patna
- Pallavi Kumari : NCC cadet of 1 Bihar Girls Bn NCC
- Mausam Kumari : NCC cadet of 1 Bihar Girls Bn NCC
- Shahina Khan : Director of ST Group of Institutions
- Namrata Singh : Social activist at Lions Club, Patna

- Sarita Nopani : Social worker and president of Marwari Sammelan
- Priya Lal : Director, Maple Bear Canadian Pre school
- Neeta K Choudhary : Acting director, Delhi World Public School
- Dr Bindu Sinha : Gynecologist and obstetrician
- Ragini Kumari : Social activist, Motihari
- Dr Sachin Gunjan : Autism activist
- Manju Sinha : Social entrepreneur
- Namrata Anand : Social activist
- Vijaya Bhandopadhyay : Associate professor, CIMP
- Dr Richa Roy : Obstetricians and gynaecologist, Ruban Group of Hospitals
- Rashmi Singh : HR professional
- Dr Aupama Sharma : Obstetricians and gynaecologist, PMCH
- Ruchi Sinha : Managing director of NexViz Services
- Harsha Tripathy : HR professional
- Sajina V S : Nursing superintendent
- Anmol Adarsh : Accounting expert
- Dr Madhulika Singh : Dentist & member of the Indian Dental Association

