

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021



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## A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON WOMEN'S DAY!

International Women's Day, 2021 celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme for 2021 is **Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world**. Women leaders and women's organizations have demonstrated their skills, knowledge and networks to effectively lead in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Today there is more acceptance than ever before that women bring different experiences, perspectives and skills to the table, and make irreplaceable contributions to decisions, policies and laws that work better for all.

SOURCE: [UNWOMEN](#)

## ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGN

Youngistaan Foundation held a month-long campaign throughout the month of March 2021 by conducting webinars on every Sunday of the month focusing on a different aspect of the 2021 theme: **Women in Leadership**.

The Women's Day campaign had a three-pronged approach to "Enable, Orient and Sustain women in leadership. The campaign's objectives include:



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- To celebrate women leaders and their achievements that promote and inspire women and girls.
- To advance dialogue among diverse stakeholders on ways in which women in leadership roles can remove barriers and drive positive changes to accelerate progress for a gender-just world.

## IMPACT

Over the past 4 Sundays, over 1,000 students and aspiring entrepreneurs participated in Youngistaan Foundation's Women's Day webinars focusing on Women in Leadership.

The participants had the opportunity to learn from over 16 speakers who are women leaders from the Government (IAS officers), the Police (IPS officers), medical pioneers, professors, leaders in business, journalists, and accomplished professionals in entertainment and media.

In addition to the webinar videos which will be available as a learning resource, Youngistaan Foundation will provide future mentoring opportunities to help young women who aspire to become entrepreneurs, and assist them with opportunities to connect their aspirations to real on-ground possibilities.

In this effort, we have held conversations through a post-event survey with over 250 young women who have expressed interest in further developing their entrepreneurial and leadership skills. Youngistaan Foundation is organizing a boot camp to get them started on their entrepreneurial path and is in the process of exploring seed funding opportunities for their ventures.

## PARTNERS

Our campaign sponsors are: Telangana State Police, Women's Safety Wing, and Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK), Indian School of Business (ISB), URLife, Annapurna Studios, Paalaguttapalle Bags, WomComMatters, and other organizations.



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# WEEK 1 | MARCH 7th 2021

Youngistaan Foundation's 'Enabling Young Leaders' webinar on Sunday, March 7th was the first in a 4-part webinar series with 700+ young female participants who took part in an engaging webinar on issues of entrepreneurship, leadership, social service, personal motivation and more.

The webinar was an interactive 2-hour session which included a robust and meaningful discussion and also incorporated the participants' questions, which reflected the young audience's interests and concerns on mentorship, community development, innovation, success and impact.

## SPEAKERS

**Sumathi Badugula**

IPS, DIG, CID, Women Safety Wing

**Akhila Yadav**

Sarpanch of Madanapuram Village and the youngest Sarpanch in Telangana State

**Supriya Yarlaga**

Chief Executive Officer at Annapurna Studios

**Upasana Kamineni Konidela**

Editor and Founder of URLife, Managing Director of Family Health Plan Insurance TPA Ltd., Vice Chairperson CSR of Apollo Hospitals Group

**Kaus Manjita**

CEO of Kubric

Moderated by:

**Uma Sudhir**

Executive Director of NDTV

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## WEEK 2 | MARCH 14th 2021

Youngistaan Foundation's 'Master Class on Leadership' hosted on Sunday, March 14th was the second in a 4-part webinar series.

The two-hour webinar covered the essential skills that young women need to be equipped with to become effective future leaders. The webinar also took the 300+ participants through important lessons that are required to understand leadership and make good decisions to become good future leaders.

The two-hour webinar was facilitated by Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) and has featured senior women leaders who addressed the young female audience on topics around leadership.

The webinar also took the participants through important lessons that are required to understand leadership and make good decisions to become good future leaders.

### SPEAKERS

Anjali Bhole Desai, Senior HR and OD Advisor interacted with the audience on 'Being Your Own Leader: Taking Control of Your Life'

Manisha Saboo, AVP and Development Centre Head of Infosys, Hyderabad SEZ (Pocharam) debriefed the concept of 'Leadership in Today's World: What Does it Take To Be a Leader?'

Shrikant Sinha, CEO of Telangana Academy of Skill and Knowledge (TASK) who moderated the sessions.



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## WEEK 3 - MARCH 21st 2021

The third webinar was conducted on 21 March 2021 and was titled 'Awaken the Entrepreneur in You', in observance of International Women's Day. Over 300 young women took part in the interactive webinar.

Among the 300+ students and aspiring entrepreneurs, we got overwhelming positive feedback on the sessions which covered:

- Important entrepreneurial characteristics
- Plans and processes to start a business
- Learning from successful entrepreneurial journeys
- Getting connected and getting started!



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### SPEAKERS

**Jayesh Ranjan**

IAS, Principal Secretary of Industries & Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments of Telangana Government

**Nanditha Sethi**

Founder of The Entrepreneur Zone

**Sruthi Niveditha**

Program Manager at We Hub

**Anitha and Roopa**

Rural Entrepreneurs and  
Co-Founders of Paalaguttapalle Bags

**Vedika Lall**

Founder of School ki Ghanti

## WEEK 4 - MARCH 28th 2021

In our fourth and final webinar on 'Sustaining Women in Leadership Roles' over 300 young female participants engaged with prominent speakers who focused on the following topics:

- developing leadership skills and characteristics
- the importance of consistent hard work and perseverance
- the innate leadership skills of women
- facing - and tackling - sexism in the workplace



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### SPEAKERS

Rema Rajeshwari, IPS

Superintendent of Police Mahabubnagar

Hari Chandana Dasari, IPS

Collector and District Magistrate in Narayanpet

Dr. Manjula Anagani

Padmashree awardee and accomplished laparoscopic surgeon and gynecologist

Shweta Kothari

Managing Editor of The Logical Indian



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# TESTIMONIES

*"These events and workshops on entrepreneurship were great to listen to, especially from young and rural speakers. The highlight of the session for me was Roopa and Anitha's advice on self-sustenance, which is crucial for everyone. Lessons on empathy, intuition and a forward-thinking approach through unlearning were helpful lessons from the session. Nanditha Ma'am's introduction to the concept of Ikigai was also another interesting idea to reflect upon."*

*Ramya*

*Undergraduate student*

*"This was a very powerful programme. The experiences of these 16 speakers may help us to make the right decisions in our life. We need more sessions like these in the coming future."*

*Sri Chandana*

*Undergraduate student*

*"This was an inspiring and delightful session on entrepreneurship which will definitely help me and others like me to understand my strengths and focus more on passion, while learning the ways to overcome fear and any other kinds of barriers. Special thanks to Jayesh Ranjan Sir for introducing me to the resources provided by Telangana Government for budding entrepreneurs."*

*Lavanya*

*Corporate employee*

*"Attending these sessions has been nothing but an eye-opener for me. I am massively inspired by these uplifting women who joined these sessions. I have gotten a vision and an idea on how to change society for the better. All and all I would like to thank the organisers for providing us a platform to interact with such powerful women."*

*Tanishka*

*Undergraduate student*



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# Leadership for young women

As part of its month-long campaign celebrating the spirit of International Women's Day, the Hyderabad NGO continues its 2nd session - 'A Master class on Leadership to Enable Young Women in Leadership'

Observing the theme of International Women's Day 'Women in Leadership', Youngistaan Foundation's Gender Program organised the 'Masterclass on Leadership' to orient young women on leadership roles. The session was facilitated by Shrikant Sinha the CEO of Telangana Academy of Skill and Knowledge (TASK) and Shruti Gaddam of TASK, and featured senior women leaders Anjali Bhole Desai, Senior HR and OD Advisor and Manisha Saboo, AVP and Development Centre Head of Infosys Hyderabad SEZ (Pocharam) who addressed the 300+ young female audience on topics around leadership.

The two-hour webinar covered the essential skills that young women need to be equipped with to become effective future leaders. The webinar also took the 300+ participants through important lessons that are required to understand leadership and make good decisions to become good future leaders.

The major topics addressed included good leadership practices to incorporate, the importance of leadership thinking, the different types of leaders and self-development for leadership. A common theme throughout the webinar centered on the focus a young person should have in order to manage their work and achieve the best results possible.

Addressing the topic 'How to Be Your Own Leader' Anjali



Bhole Desai, Senior HR and OD Advisor shared that self-reflection is one of the most under-used and powerful tools for success. It provides us with continual feedback which is very important in helping us become good leaders. She also encouraged young women to create a simple to-do-list to tackle the problem of having too little time.

Manisha Saboo, AVP and Development Centre Head of Infosys, Hyderabad SEZ (Pocharam) engaged the audience by asking them the difference between a manager and a leader, and debriefed the concept of 'Leadership in Today's World, What Does it Take to Become a Leader'. She encouraged everyone to dream big in life. If their dreams are not scary enough, they are not worth it.

Appreciating the time and effort of each of the speakers, partners and participants, Arun Daniel Yellamaty, the founder of Youngistaan Foundation said that People don't know how much you know until they know

how much you care. Become a leader who is the hardest working person in the room, who treats everyone with a touch of kindness, care and identifies the strengths of each and every one in the organization.

The session was interactive and each of the speakers spent ample time taking questions from the young female participants on their specific topics. This Q&A session gave the young participants the opportunity to speak directly with accomplished and experienced women leaders about education, career and leadership skills and significantly, made important mentor connections with each of the speakers.

Soumya, a student pursuing her Masters in gender studies and an attendee said "This is a one-of-a-kind session and I have not attended these kinds before. I learnt the fact that in order to be a great leader one can only start it small because leadership is a continuous process and not a one time achievement."



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# 300 women discuss leadership roles

OVER 300 young women took part in the interactive webinar which featured esteemed women speakers: Hari Chandana Dasari (IAS), Rema Rajeshwari (IPS), Padmashree awardee Dr. Manjula Anagani, and Shweta Kothari who shared their leadership experience and lessons with the participants recently. The practical session led by Hari Chandana Dasari, IAS Collector and District Magistrate in Narayanpet, Telangana highlighted the significance of developing courage, commitment, confidence and creativity (or, the 4Cs of success) and the important role of this development towards becoming a good leader. She also emphasised on the importance of deleting

**'When we're accepted as leaders at home, why aren't we accepted as leaders outside?'**

phrases such as "Am I capable of doing that" from your dictionary.

The event was the fourth and final webinar on 'Sustaining Women in Leadership Roles' as part of their month-long campaign hosted observing International Women's Day by the Hyderabad-based Youngistaan Foundation in partnership with Telangana Academy of Skill and Knowledge (TASK), Indian School of Business (ISB), Telangana Police and Women's Safety Wing. In the first session of this webinar, Rema Rajeshwari, IPS District Police Chief discussed at length the crucial role of being prepared and committed to consistent hard work and innovation to make our mark

in the desired career, constantly improve our skills and importantly, focusing on becoming a professional without creating gender segregated careers in our minds. Equipped with decades of experience, Dr Manjula Anagani, emphasised on the innate leadership skills of women and said, "When we're accepted as leaders at home, why aren't we accepted as leaders outside? Be mindful, be inclusive, and be interested in creating an environment around you that respects the diversity within yourself." Sri Chandana, a student pursuing her bachelors in Government Degree College said, "This was a powerful programme. The experiences of these 16 speakers may help us to make the right decisions in our life. We need more sessions like these in the coming future."



*The New Indian Express*

## Youngistaan organises webinar

**CITY BUREAU**

Hyderabad

In an attempt to increase the knowledge of entrepreneurship among young women, city-based NGO Youngistaan Foundation conducted a webinar titled 'Awaken the Entrepreneur in You', as a part of their month-long observance of International Women's Day.

A master-class held in partnership with Telangana Academy of Skill and Knowledge (TASK), Indian School of Business, Telangana Police and Women's Safety Wing, the online event had IT Secretary Jayesh Ranjan as chief guest while Nanditha Sethi, founder of The Entrepreneur Zone, Sruthi Niveditha, Program Manager at We

Hub, rural entrepreneurs Anitha and Roopa and young entrepreneur Vedika Lall were among the speakers. Jayesh Ranjan emphasised on the importance of entrepreneurship and said, "Students go for a job or pursue higher education after graduation but those who pursue entrepreneurship, are future leaders and change makers."

*Telangana Today*



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## Redefining Women's Leadership In The 21st Century

MARCH 29, 2021



***Final Webinar on 'Sustaining Young Women in Leadership Roles' conducted by Youngistaan Foundation as part of their month-long campaign***

Life and Trendz

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News Meter



# OUR PAST WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

## **2020:** Each for Equal. I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights

Under the theme of 'Generation Equality', we performed a skit on shattering gender stereotypes at an event hosted by the Telangana Women Safety Wing.

The stories that we chose to share had the power to shake gender stereotypes, break barriers, and create countless opportunities for both women and men.



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## 2019: Better the Balance, Better the World

Observing the theme, we hosted a panel discussion inviting three distinguished speakers: Smt Swati Lakra, IPS, Additional DGP, Telangana Women Safety Wing; Smt Amrapali Kata, IAS, Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Smt Mithali Raj, ODI captain of the women's national cricket team.

The discussion was centred around a gender-balanced world wherein women are better represented everywhere, both qualitatively and quantitatively from boardrooms and governments to media and sports.



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## 2018: Time Is Now

Echoing the theme, we conducted a writing, speaking, poetry, and painting competition for children from local slums to nurture their mindsets and sustain conversations about the importance of gender equality. To enhance this, the topic we chose for the competition was: "A Superwoman In Your Life". The stories and paintings were an eye opener!



# ABOUT YOUNGISTAAN FOUNDATION'S GENDER PROGRAM

The gender awareness program aims to build safe spaces of dialogue, and engage and empower adolescent girls and boys in government schools, slums and orphanages. It sparks and sustains crucial conversations on safe touch / unsafe touch, and safety rights.

It discusses menstrual hygiene and taboos and myths around menstruation. So far, we have reached 14,000 girls with awareness education and distributed sanitary napkins.

In order to end period poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic, the team also distributed 10,000+ sanitary napkins to families of migrant and daily wage workers.

TO PARTNER with Youngistaan Foundation for future online and on-ground campaigns, contact us at:

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