

Actionable advice for better employability of women

Eminent women achievers from across all professions from the city gather to come up with concrete suggestions to the Ministry of Labour and Employment

Express Features

Women in the informal sector will now soon be covered under the Provident Fund and State Insurance, said Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bandaru Dattatreya on Tuesday.

Speaking at the Round Table on Women Employability organised by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment on the eve of Women's International Day at Taj Krishna, he said that Anganwadi workers, ASHA and those working in mid-day meal schemes at schools will come under this ambit.

The roundtable, under the leadership of Futuristic Cities founder Karuna Gopal, invited about 40 women achievers from across all professions from the city to share their actionable thoughts on how to make women

employable and create a better working environment for them. Karuna emphasised on the need for women to rise to managerial and supervisory jobs to be able to add to the country's rapid growth. "The Gross Domestic Product will increase by 27 percent if the female employment rate matches up to that of men," she said. Women must leverage new age social tools to stay at work, she advised.

Social activist and MV Foundation's Shanta Sinha suggested the government schemes such as Kalyana Lakshmi should be reframed to encourage education rather than marriage for women.

Vanitha Datla, Vice Chairperson of Elico Ltd, spoke about creating 'male champions' who will mentor and support women in making them employable.

Dr Vasuprada Kartic, psychothera-



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pist and counsellor, said that it is time to stop cracking jokes on menopausal women. She also suggested

training more and more women to be nannies as women are natural nurturers and there is a huge demand for

caretakers in the country.

Hema Balakrishnan of Color D Earth, a social enterprise, said that technology should meet art and crafts to be able to push these unique Indian products into the world markets.

Among the other suggestions were to open creches in companies which will be managed by family members of employees, opening nurseries for women employees to bring their children to work for short hours where the kids are safe and taken care of, government to give discounts or loans in helping women use high-end laptops and date packages to be able to work from home and still be employable. The minister promised to follow up the suggestions. The event ended with all the participants being felicitated by the minister on the occasion of the International Women's Day.