

CIEU · LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE  
• THE 2026 CONCLAVE

# Women Who Shape Nations

Politics · Diplomacy · Enterprise · Leadership — a day of dialogue on women's leadership and nation-building.

Council for International Economic Understanding · Programme / 2026

DATE  
8 June 2026

VENUE  
The Imperial Hotel

CITY  
New Delhi

## MORNING

SESSION I

10:00  
10:30 AM

REGISTRATION, NETWORKING & TEA

10:30  
10:40 AM

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

### Women, Self-Reliance & Nation-Building: Setting the Vision for an Atmanirbhar Bharat

A formal opening of the conclave — framing women's leadership as central to economic self-reliance, swadeshi enterprise and India's journey to 2047.

**Dr. Ashwani Mahajan**

Member, Governing Board, CIEU; National Co-Convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch

10:40  
11:00 AM

WELCOME ADDRESS · BOOK CONVERSATION

### Leadership, Governance & Public Life

A welcome and dialogue introducing the day's featured publications — their ideas, themes and inspiration, and their relevance to contemporary leadership and governance.

FEATURED BOOKS

*What Women Want: Understanding the Female Voter in Modern India* — Ruhi Tewari

*Kautilya's Arthaśāstra: Timeless Strategies for Modern Governance* — Tejusvi Shukla (co-author)

IN CONVERSATION

**Carly Partridge**

Minister Counsellor High Commission of Australia

**Manisha Priyam**

Sir Louis Matheson Distinguished Professor, Monash University

**Ruhi Tewari**

Author & Independent Journalist

**Tejusvi Shukla**

Assistant Director (Research), Bharat ki Soch · National security & governance through a Kautilyan lens · Co-author, *Kautilya's Arthaśāstra: Timeless Strategies for Modern Governance*

**11:00**  
11:20 AM

**SPECIAL ADDRESS**

## **The Rwanda Model**

Rwanda's globally recognised model of women's political participation and inclusive governance.

**H.E. Jacqueline Mukangira**

*High Commissioner of Rwanda to India*

**Meenakshi Lekhi**

*Former Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture; Senior Advocate*

**11:20**  
11:50 AM

**LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE · PANEL**

## **Women in Politics: Representation, Participation & Leadership**

Reservation and representation, barriers to public life, leadership pathways and mentorship, and building inclusive institutions.

**PANELLISTS**

**Manisha Ahlawat**

*Member, UP State Women's Commission; National Secretary, Rashtriya Lok Dal*

**Rekha Sharma**

*Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; former Chairperson, National Commission for Women*

**Chhavi Rajawat**

*Former Sarpanch, Soda (Rajasthan); India's first MBA Sarpanch*

**Malvika Mudgal**

*Founder, Jagan Foundation; Public Policy Planner, Rajasthan*

**11:50**  
12:30 PM

**LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE · PANEL**

## **Indian Capital, Women's Leadership: Financing the Next Era of Innovation**

How Indian capital — angel, venture and family-office — can back women founders and investors, and finance the country's next era of innovation and nation-building.

**PANELLISTS**

**Padmaja Ruparel**

*Co-Founder & President, Indian Angel Network*

**Sandeep Aggarwal**

*Founder, ShopClues & Droom; serial entrepreneur & angel investor*

**Aastha Grover**

*Director, Corporate Affairs & Public Policy, Prosus Group; former Head, Startup India (DPIIT)*

**Dr. Aarti Gupta**

*CIO, DM Gupta Family Office & Anikarth Ventures; National Head, FICCI FLO Start-ups*

**12:30**  
1:00 PM

**OPEN FLOOR**

## **Audience Interaction**

Questions, reflections and engagement with the authors and discussants.

**1:00**  
2:00 PM

**NETWORKING LUNCH**

*Celebrating women whose leadership shapes institutions, influences policy, and contributes to nation-building across politics, diplomacy, enterprise and public life.*

MORNING THEME

**2:15**  
2:30 PM

REASSEMBLY, NETWORKING & TEA

**2:30**  
2:40 PM

OPENING REMARKS

## The Economic Imperative

Why women's leadership matters for India's growth story — and how policy can better support women as entrepreneurs, employers, innovators and investors.

### R.K. Pachnanda, IPS (Retd.)

*Director, Bharat ki Soch · Former Chairman, Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (Minister rank) · Former Chairman, Haryana Public Service Commission · Former Security Advisor, Assam (Minister rank) · Former DG, ITBP · Former DG, NDRF · Former Commissioner of Police, Kolkata*

**2:40**  
3:00 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

## The Gender Dividend: Women's Participation & India's Growth Story

The macroeconomics of women's workforce participation, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship — and what unlocking it means for India on the road to 2047.

### Dr. Shamika Ravi

*Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM); Secretary to the Government of India*

**3:00**  
3:20 PM

SPECIAL ADDRESS

## The Sri Lankan Model

Sri Lanka's experience of women's leadership, representation and economic participation — and the lessons it offers for the region.

### H.E. Mahishini Colonne

*High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India*

**3:20**  
3:40 PM

LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE · PANEL I

## Women, Enterprise & Economic Policy

What women need from government and policymakers: access to capital, women-led MSMEs, ease of doing business, public procurement and globally competitive enterprises.

PANELLISTS

### Poorvi Mehta

*Designation to be added*

### Neeta Khanna

*Designation to be added*

**3:40**  
4:00 PM

LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE · PANEL II

## Women, Governance & Public Institutions

Building inclusive, future-ready institutions: governance, security, digital inclusion, skills and the leadership pathways that strengthen women's economic participation.

PANELLISTS

### Meghna Modi

*Executive Director & Head — Indian Subcontinent, Revlon*

### Dr. Payal Kanodia

*Chairperson & Trustee, M3M Foundation*

**4:00**  
4:20 PM

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS**

## **The Female Electorate: A Quiet Force Transforming Asian Democracies**

How women voters are reshaping the political landscape across Asia — and what their rising power means for the future of democracy and representation.

**VALEDICTORY SPEAKER**

**Tsai Ing-wen**

*Former President of the Republic of China*

**4:20**  
4:35 PM

**OPEN FLOOR**

## **Audience Q&A**

**4:35**  
4:40 PM

**CLOSING**

## **Concluding Reflections**

**4:40**  
4:50 PM

**CLOSING**

## **Vote of Thanks**

**4:50**  
Onwards

**HIGH TEA & INFORMAL NETWORKING**

*Leadership is strongest not when it is divided by gender, but when women and men work together to shape stronger institutions, stronger economies and stronger nations.*

**CLOSING THEME**