



The Most Powerful Women In Business Club:

- Chanda Kochhar**, Executive Director, ICICI Bank;
- Aroon Purie**, Editor-in-Chief, *Business Today* and CEO, Living Media India Ltd;
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon; **Anuj Rakyant**, President, Asmi Group; **Mallika Srinivasan**, Director, Tractors and Farm Equipment; **Meg Whitman**, CEO, eBay Inc.; **Falguni Nayar**, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Capital;
- Preeti Vyas Giannetti**, CEO, Vyas Giannetti Creative;
- Swati Piramal**, Director (Strategic Alliances and - Communications), Nicholas Piramal; **Lalita Gupte**, Joint Managing Director, ICICI Bank; **Manisha Girotra**, Chairperson and Managing Director, UBS Securities;
- Punita Lal**, Executive Director (Marketing), PepsiCo India;
- Shikha Sharma**, CEO, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance;
- Kalpna Morparia**, Deputy Managing Director, ICICI Bank; and **Madhabi Puri-Buch**, Senior General Manager, ICICI Bank

POWER OF WOMEN

Honchos come together to honour the 25 Most Powerful Women at the recent *Business Today* event in Mumbai.

IT IS USUALLY DIFFICULT FOR A parent to choose favourites among his or her children, however, Aroon Purie, Editor-in-Chief of *Business Today* and CEO, Living Media India Ltd, had no doubts in his mind when he said that among *BT*'s manifold events through the year, this was "undoubtedly his favourite". And the gala evening at ITC's Grand Central Sheraton in midtown Mumbai began on a really positive note. The ballroom was overflowing with guests and it wasn't just the women, who were being honoured, who came, also among the attendees were Financial Services honcho

Uday Kotak, i-Flex's Deepak Ghasias, Aditya Birla Group's Sanrupt Mishra, previous years' awardee Anu Aga and her daughter Meher Pudumjee (the current boss of Thermax), besides Geetanjali Kirloskar, Bajaj Electricals' Shekhar Bajaj, Munesh Khanna, Bollywood actress Koel Purie and in their husband roles, Sanjay Nayar of Citibank (Falguni Nayar's husband) and Ajay Piramal (Swati Piramal's husband), and this is just an indicative list.

After Mr Purie's welcome address to the awardees and other guests, where he highlighted the growing role of women in the corporate sector, particularly the services



Aron Purie and Meg Whitman with a copy of *Business Today*



THE 25 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN IN INDIAN BUSINESS

- Vinita Bali**, CEO, Britannia Industries
Vedika Bhandarkar, Managing Director & Head (Investment Banking), JP Morgan India
Shobhana Bhartia, Vice Chairperson & Editorial Director, HT Media
Elaben Bhatt, Founder, SEWA
Neelam Dhawan, Managing Director, Microsoft India
Manisha Girotra, Chairperson and Managing Director, UBS Securities
Lalita Gupte, Joint Managing Director, ICICI Bank
Ekta Kapoor, Creative Director, Balaji Telefilms
Renu Karnad, Executive Director, HDFC
Chanda Kochhar, Executive Director, ICICI Bank
Naina Lal Kidwai, Deputy CEO, HSBC
Punita Lal, Executive Director (Marketing), PepsiCo India
Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon
Zia Mody, Partner, AZB & Partners
Kalpana Morparia, Deputy Managing Director, ICICI Bank
Falguni Nayar, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Capital
Amrita Patel, Chairperson, National Dairy Development Board
Swati Piramal, Director (Strategic Alliances and Communications), Nicholas Piramal
Madhabi Puri-Buch, Sr General Manager and Country Head (Customer Delivery and Operations, Products and Technology, and Brand Management), ICICI Bank
Renuka Ramnath, CEO, ICICI Venture
Preetha Reddy, MD, Apollo Hospitals Group
Radhika Roy, Managing Director, NDTV
Shikha Sharma, CEO, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
Mallika Srinivasan, Director, Tractors and Farm Equipment
Preeti Vyas Giannetti, CEO, Vyas Giannetti Creative

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industry, Hemchandra Javeri, President, Madura Garments, makers of Allen Solly who were the event sponsors, addressed the audience. Mr Javeri mentioned that the role of women in industry was only going to go from strength to strength and events like *BT*'s 'Most Powerful Women In Indian Business' played an important role in highlighting them. After that, it was on to the main event of the evening, the keynote address by eBay Inc. CEO Meg Whitman, who is undoubtedly one of the most powerful women in

global business. Having literally taken the firm from the bottom of the pile during the heydays of the internet boom, Whitman not only ensured that eBay survived the dot.com bust, but transformed the company into an internet powerhouse. Today, eBay's market capitalisation stands at just under \$60 billion (Rs 2,70,000 crore).

Ms Whitman, who was making her first trip to India, almost didn't make it to the event when a colleague of hers fell ill enroute, but true to her word, she made it here



"The event celebrates achievement and it celebrates women"

Aron Purie,
Editor-in-Chief, *Business Today*



"*BT*'s event highlights the growing role of women in the industry"

Hemchandra Javeri,
President, Madura Garments



"eBay helped women reach a market previously inaccessible"

Meg Whitman,
CEO, eBay Inc.



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and started out by mentioning one very co-incidental fact. Ms Whitman's first job in college was selling advertisements for a college magazine, also called '*Business Today*'. She highlighted how eBay, which facilitates \$1,500 (Rs 67,500) in trading every single second, had given women entrepreneurs the opportunity to reach a market that was previously inaccessible to them. She gave examples of women in Delhi and Bangalore who used eBay to supplement their families income.

Ms Whitman also spoke of how important it is for a business not to look at only short-term benefits, but to always keep their eyes on the long-term strategy and to always listen to the community, "Some decisions which might seem

1. **From left:** Lalita Gupte; Renuka Ramnath; and Falguni Nayar
2. **From left:** Meg Whitman; Aroon Purie; and Mallika Srinivasan
3. **From left:** Naina Lal Kidwai; Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw; Mallika Srinivasan; and Meg Whitman
4. **From left:** Mallika Srinivasan; Shekhar Bajaj; Chanda Kochhar; and Geetanjali Kirloskar

AD



1. **From left:** Meg Whitman; Punita Lal; Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw; and Kalpana Morparia
2. Meg Whitman explaining a finer point
3. **From left:** Aroon Purie; Anuj Rakyam; Meg Whitman; Shikha Sharma; Mallika Srinivasan; and Preeti Vyas Giannetti
4. **From left:** Aroon Purie; Meg Whitman; Falguni Nayar; Swati Piralal; Madhabi Puri-Buch; and Renuka Ramnath

counter-intuitive today might pay big dividends later.” She gave the example of eBay’s foray into the fixed price business which might have been against eBay’s core ‘auction’ model, but today generates a third of eBay’s volumes.

After her well-received speech, Sanjoy Narayan, Editor, *Business Today*, conducted a short question and answer session with her, where issues ranging from eBay India, Skype and how mobile technology is changing eBay were discussed.

Then, Ms Whitman presented awards to the 25 women who had been chosen by the magazine.

Even though some of the ladies were unable to make it to the event, including Amrita Patel and Vinita Bali, most others revelled in the spotlight and took the opportunity to speak to Ms Whitman and ‘compare notes’. Now, it isn’t all that hard to imagine why Mr Purie likes this event. ■

