



# Woman's World



pg 16-17 Go uber feminine and accessorise with these great floral bags

ADC

pg 18 We tell you why we love the latest collection from Furla

Afternoon Despatch & Courier

MUMBAI | THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013

# WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

Women can understand womankind like no one else. **Rhea Dhanbhoora & Priyanka Singh** suggest being more like these women, who have achieved things against the odds and done so much for women that we can't stop raving about them

Whether it's as simple as making other women laugh (who doesn't need a dose of that?) or helping us travel without a care in the world, we'll always appreciate the women on our list for doing what they have for the rest of us. With Women's Day right around the corner, we thought we'd celebrate them and give you a little inspiration to follow in their footsteps.



## MIRIAM BATLIWALA, AUTHOR

She's an author, Iyengar yoga instructor, a mother and a wife – but visually impaired Miriam Batliwala still doesn't see her plate as too full.

Not only is she an inspiration to women all over the country because of the way she went about accomplishing her goals no matter the obstacles, she is also currently a trustee of the D.M. Girls Orphanage Trust and Wecan (Women's Empowerment Centre and Network) in Mumbai.

The orphanage houses orphan girls who are over 6-years-old and helps them as they grow. She's providing the girl child with education and a chance at a different future, which we really admire her for. Last August, she won the award for Achievers of Excellence – Women Achievers in the field of Social Work.

Not only do we think she deserved the award, the multi lingual lady, who can speak several languages including Italian and French, promises that this isn't the last we'll see of her! With everything she's already done, we can't wait to see what's next for her.



## RIDDHI DOSHI, ENTREPRENEUR

We've all dealt with our fair share of lost keys and bag disasters. So, here's a girl who refused to let the jumble in her bag get in the way of anything and helped other women to do the same. The brain child of the popular Bag Switcher, Riddhi Doshi made the lives of women in the city that much easier, by giving them something to help them get organised (funnily enough, from her company named Organice).

The young woman, with a degree in business, is doing all she can to fulfill the need for convenience and comfort for women across the country.

We love the idea of switching a well organised pouch with all your essentials from one bag to the other and the fact that she's made it even more attractive for us with the customisable option. With a travel jewellery organiser, wire manager and a host of different space saving items, she's on our list because of how easy she's making our daily lives.

Continued on pg 14 <<

# ADC

Afternoon  
DESPATCH & COURIER

1hrs | 2hrs | 3hrs | 4hrs | 6hrs | 8hrs | 12hrs | 16hrs

# 48hrs



« IN OUR ISSUE TOMORROW

### « Feature

Happy Women's Day! We bring you some of the best deals that you can avail of to celebrate this day

### « Food

We review Shocck and Funjabi, two new places that have opened up in Bandra

### « Shop

We tell you why we're in love with Great Eastern Homes. We also bring you great men's collections

### « Events

IMPS launches a theatre workshop, catch new art shows and gigs

### « More

Don't miss the weekend deals, discounts and offers

8 PAGES THIS FRIDAY! BOOK YOUR COPY NOW!

Continued from pg 13 <<

## SUMITRA SENAPATY, FOUNDER OF WOMEN ON WANDERLUST

When we think of Sumitra Senapaty, we think WOW — for more reasons than one. She's definitely a winner, but in this case, WOW stands for Women on Wanderlust, the travel club she set up especially for women who want to see the world. She's seen and done her fair share of travelling, so why shouldn't you? We're sure you've often thought of visiting a country and then let go of the idea because you couldn't find anyone to go with you. And of course, travelling alone as a woman is usually for only for the brave. But, with WOW, women can now travel to almost any destination. The travel writer wanted so badly to share her travel experiences with us that she set up the club to help women see the world like she has.



## SHRIMATI REVATHI ROY, FOUNDER OF VIIRA CABS

Shrimati Revathi Roy is not only the proud winner of the Godfrey Philips Bravery award, she's also responsible for helping women travel safely. While her life has been an uphill climb, she's settled it down by founding Viira Cabs, a taxi service for women, with women drivers. Her passion for driving made her think about whether there were other women who liked to drive and wouldn't mind doing that as a job, not to mention the several women scared to go home on their own because of unsafe transport. So, she took a step forward and instead of complaining, did something to help, so we're grateful. As if you didn't already feel secure, all the women drivers are also trained in martial arts, so they're prepared for any sort of danger.



## ASMI SHAH, MANAGING TRUSTEE, KINNARI FOUNDATION

Asmi Shah holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (Marketing). But, she decided to give up her 15-year-long career to give her full attention to Kinnari Foundation. Her mother, Late Kusum Chhatrapati, founded the NGO in 1972 to help downtrodden women by selling their products. The NGO provided education and medical aid. In 2000, after her death, Asmi took up the challenge to run the NGO as part of a promise she made her mother. And she has not wavered from it since then. Kinnari Foundation provides education to children and adults as well as helps them to develop skill and confidence through a team effort of skilled teachers. They aim to develop physical and mental skills of children between 3-14, with the help of experts. For women, they organise classes such as yoga, ceramic painting, embroidery, saree draping, murals, vegetable carving and more to make help them developing their skills and being self-independent.



## SHIBANI JAIN: FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER, BAAYA DESIGN

She is not just working with traditional women artisans and helping them get employment, but also impressively towards Indian ethnic arts and crafts. For more than a decade, Shibani Jain has specifically worked with various groups and NGOs in Maharashtra, Orissa, Bengal and Rajasthan, helping them bring their products to contemporary markets. She founded Baaya Design in 2009 and collaborates with several women artisans around the country. Her passion for the pool of talent in rustic India and women empowerment is what drives Shibani to travel to remote tribal areas and meet artisans who craft the artwork. Bridging this crucial gap between rural and urban, Shibani is trying to do her best for women in her own way.



## ADITI MITTAL, COMEDIAN

She is most popular for being one of the few female stand-up comedians in the country, but Aditi Mittal is also an actress, a writer and a voice over artist. A couple of years ago, a woman couldn't even think of being a comedian, because cracking those tongue-in-cheek one-liners, sometimes full of sexual innuendos, in front of an audience, could never be imagined. With Aditi doing shows more frequently and people loving her act, it has opened the doors for many other women who have a funny bone and want to make a living out of it.



## POOJA BAJAJ, FOUNDER OF EXTRA MILE CAFE

We think it's great how Pooja Bajaj started Extra Mile, a cafe where the city can pursue their hobbies. But, we really admire her for the self-defense classes that she started after realising that women need to learn to avoid sticky situations and use their instincts instead of their fists. And, she didn't charge, because she didn't want women to think twice before attending. She found sponsors, accommodated students and reached out to corporate organisations just so we women could sleep easier. Kudos to her for that!

## LAVINA KHANNA, DANCE INSTRUCTOR

Lavina Khanna is the co-owner of Pulse, a dance studio that teaches aero dance and yoga with a twist. It wasn't easy for Lavina to convert her passion into her profession as her father and husband were not too keen on her working. However, crossing all those hurdles, Lavina has come a long way. Dancing is therapeutic and she is spreading this therapy among various women who feel the most uninhibited when they are in the studio. She also teaches pole dancing, which has helped several women become comfortable with their bodies and have started carrying themselves more confidently than before.



## CHANDA SHROFF, FOUNDER OF SHRUJAN

Another woman who has not just helped the women but an entire dwindling community of traditional artisans, Chanda Shroff is the recipient of the Rolex Award of Enterprise for her work in promoting Kutchi embroidery and bringing it back from the verge of a decline. She started Shrujan to help the women of the Kutch communities to help keep their art alive and provide means of survival.

## MALLIKA DUTT: PRESIDENT AND CEO, BREAKTHROUGH

Ex-lawyer Mallika Dutt started Breakthrough, a human rights' organisation that came out with *Mann ke Manjeere*. It was a song and video based on the true story of a woman who leaves an abusive marriage and becomes a truck driver to support herself and her daughter. Breakthrough has become a global entity welding change and focusing on women's rights. Mallika Dutt doesn't just inspire women, but everyone who is shackled in their daily routine, wanting to do so much but unable to get around to it.