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# Biocon chief stresses gender equality

Lauds Telangana's efforts in bringing women-focused incubator

BUSINESS BUREAU

Hyderabad

Entrepreneurial journey for women is a journey of building credibility and trying to prove to the world that what they are doing was the right thing, said Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar Shaw here on Thursday.

Speaking at the inauguration of newly-built facility of We-Hub here, the Biocon chief maintained that entrepreneurs provide the most important economic activity for a country like India as they create jobs. "I believe that women have an innate sense of entrepreneurship and only when they leverage on these innate senses they become productive economic contributors," she told the aspiring women entrepreneurs.

Taking personal examples, she said she hoped to be born 40 years later so that she could have avoided all the struggles for setting up Biocon. Shaw built the company at a time when women were not really welcomed in business and had to face financial issues and credibility risks as not many understood her business.

"I built the credibility slowly and steadily. Not having money in the bank was not an issue, but having a great idea and executing it



Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar Shaw interacting with participants at the We-Hub, on Thursday.

is important," Shaw said. She emphasised on the role of women in India's growing economy and said the country's economy would be world class when women have equitable share in it. She applauded the efforts made by the Telangana government to bring a women-focused incubator and said the mark of a successful government was to become a true partner in the private ecosystem.

The newly inaugurated first women-only incubator's facility is situated at the Ambedkar Open University campus in the TSAY building. The 50-seater facility will offer women entrepreneurs a physical space to work and the incubator has child care centre along with a room for mothers. It will

be open 24x7 and has already selected 26 women-led startups for its first cohort. IT and Industries Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said We-Hub will follow the unique model based on partnerships. Women entrepreneur could approach for help to ideate any time.

The inauguration also saw We-Hub signing MoUs with different stakeholders including MNR College, 50K Ventures, P&G Corporation, UNDP Youth Colab, Swissnex India, US India Business Council, GIZ and Australian High Commission - which will be supporting We-Hub with AUS \$60,000. We-Hub CEO Deepthi Ravula and US Consul General in Hyderabad Katherine Hadda were also present.