## अनिल कुमार चौधरी अध्यक्ष ANIL KUMAR CHAUDHARY Chairman



## स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इण्डिया लिमिटेड STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED

## MESSAGE

"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform."

Wishing everyone a Happy Women's Day!!

Every man ever born on this planet owes his existence to a woman be it as mother, sister, friend, teacher, wife or daughter. Her role in shaping our lives is widely acclaimed. Women are not behind in the specific contribution to the society as well. Marie Curie, Jane Austen, Anne Frank, Maya Angelou, Margaret Thatcher, Ada Lovelace, Rani Lakhmi Bai, Sarojini Naidu, Shakuntala Devi are just a few names from that elite list. Added to this, are the names from current generations like Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg, Oprah Winfrey, etc. who are spreading awareness on critical issues such as women empowerment, environment protection, social and cultural equality, etc. Inspirational names from India include Indira Nooyi, Moumita Dutta, Mary Kom, Gita Gopinath, Avani Chaturvedi who have carved out a niche for themselves and are shining on the global stage.

However, it is ironic that despite acknowledgement of the pivotal role played by women in building the society at large, women have been made to suffer for ages. It is disappointing to see the bias against women in all walks of life whether at home or at work. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Woman is the companion of Man, gifted with equal mental capacity", I too believe that women are in no way inferior to men, they are born equal in all respects. Accordingly, we need to work towards building a world that grants everyone with equal rights, opportunities and freedom irrespective of gender — no one more, no one less.

It is heartening to see the consciousness coming into the society on this subject. In recognition of the contribution by women towards building of the Society, UN has marked March 8 to be observed as International Women's Day every year. As the ultimate goal is still far from being achieved, it is high time the present generations adopt this as their responsibility and moral. UN has also adopted the theme for this year as "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights".

At SAIL, we have always strived towards ensuring equal pay and similar growth opportunities to all irrespective of gender. We can proudly say that women in SAIL have been working shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts in almost all areas and making their present felt even in senior positions. Our current Director (Commercial), Ms Soma Mondal is the first female functional director in SAIL. Women employees are regular awardees amongst Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar, Jawahar-Nehru Awards, etc. Here, I would make a special mention of Smt. Rajani Rajak from BSP who was conferred upon with Nari Shakti Samman 2018 from the Hon'ble President on Women's Day last year for outstanding contribution to women's empowerment.

Meanwhile, we need to work towards increasing the percentage of women significantly in our workforce from the present level of 6%. As we plan to grow holistically, let us pledge to remove this disparity by addressing specific issues that affect women like difficult working conditions in Plants and Mines Operations, providing a safer work place, etc.

Once again, I convey my best wishes on this occasion. I hope equality and empowerment of women becomes a reality getting imbibed deep into our culture.

nil Kumar Chaudhary

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