MSME Ministry marks Women Entrepreneurship Day (19 Nov) in New Delhi

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News

The Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), with the India SME Forum, celebrated Women Entrepreneurship Day 2026 in New Delhi on 19 November 2026, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said on 21 November. Union MSME Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi was chief guest and Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje guest of honour; former Governor Kalraj Mishra, MSME Secretary Bharat Khera and Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner Dr Rajneesh also spoke. Dr Rajneesh called women entrepreneurs a key driver of India's 7.8% growth. Technical sessions were held on four themes – Enable, Accelerate, Digitise and Globalise. Speakers said about 38% of the more than 10 crore enterprises registered with the Ministry are women-owned, that PMEGP has generated over 25 lakh jobs for women, and that public procurement from women-owned micro and small enterprises (MSEs) has crossed the mandatory 3% target. Lakhpati Didi, the TReDS platform for timely payments, the 2026 amendments to the MSME Development Act and RBI's recognition of women's self-help groups as reliable borrowers were cited. UN Women, SIDBI, GeM, MeitY, the Rural Development Ministry, the State Rural Livelihood Missions of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir, and the Gates Foundation took part (PIB).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Date, place	19 Nov 2026 – New Delhi
Organisers	MSME Ministry + India SME Forum
Chief guest	Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi
Guest of honour	MoS Shobha Karandlaje
Themes	Enable, Accelerate, Digitise, Globalise
Women's share	About 38% of 10 crore+ registered enterprises
PMEGP	Over 25 lakh jobs for women
Procurement	Women-owned MSEs: above mandatory 3%
Cited	Lakhpati Didi, TReDS, 2026 amendments to MSME Development Act

Background

- The day: Women's Entrepreneurship Day is observed worldwide on 19 November; it was first held at the UN headquarters in New York in 2014, started by US entrepreneur Wendy Diamond. It is not an official UN-declared day. India's National Entrepreneurship Day on 9 November is separate.
- Public Procurement Policy for MSEs Order, 2012 (amended 9 November 2018): Central ministries, departments and CPSEs must buy at least 25% of their annual procurement from micro and small enterprises; within this, 4% is for SC/ST-owned MSEs and 3% for women-owned MSEs (the 3% women sub-target and the 25% level came with the 2018 amendment).
- Finance: TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System) is an electronic platform where MSMEs get invoices raised on corporates, government departments and PSUs discounted by many financiers; RBI authorises it under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. SIDBI was set up by an Act of Parliament on 2 April 1990, with its head office at Lucknow.
- Rural livelihoods: 'Lakhpati Didi' is not a separate scheme but an outcome goal – SHG members whose annual income crosses ₹1 lakh. It comes under the Rural Development Ministry's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) (PIB).

Tamil Nadu link: According to the Sixth Economic Census, Tamil Nadu had the largest number of women-run establishments in India (10.87 lakh units), followed by Keralam. Nationally, women ran 13.76% (80.50 lakh) of the 5.84 crore establishments (MoSPI – Sixth Economic Census).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), with the India SME Forum, celebrated Women Entrepreneurship Day 2026 in New Delhi on 19 November 2026, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said on 21 November.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Date, place: 19 Nov 2026 – New Delhi; Organisers: MSME Ministry + India SME Forum; Chief guest: Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi; Guest of honour: MoS Shobha Karandlaje.

What is the background to this news?

The day: Women's Entrepreneurship Day is observed worldwide on 19 November; it was first held at the UN headquarters in New York in 2014, started by US entrepreneur Wendy Diamond.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which body regulates TReDS, the platform that helps MSMEs get early payment on their invoices?

A) RBI

B) SEBI

C) NABARD

D) IRDAI

Answer: A – Explanation: RBI – platforms are authorised under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Several financiers discount invoices raised on corporates and government bodies.

2. Where is the head office of SIDBI, the principal financial institution for small industries?

A) Mumbai

B) New Delhi

C) Chennai

D) Lucknow

Answer: D – Explanation: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh – set up by an Act of Parliament on 2 April 1990. NABARD and EXIM Bank are headquartered in Mumbai.

3. Under the Public Procurement Policy for MSEs, what share of annual buying by Central ministries and CPSEs is reserved for women-owned MSEs?

A) 2%

B) 3%

C) 4%

D) 5%

Answer: B – Explanation: 3% – within the overall 25% MSE target (2012 Order, as amended in 2018). Another 4% of that 25% is reserved for SC/ST-owned MSEs.

4. As per the Sixth Economic Census, which State had the largest number of women-run establishments?

A) Keralam

B) Maharashtra

C) West Bengal

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: D – Explanation: Tamil Nadu – 10.87 lakh units, followed by Keralam. Nationally, women ran 13.76% of all establishments.

5. The 'Lakhpati Didi' goal, for SHG women to earn over ₹1 lakh a year, comes under which mission?

A) PM Vishwakarma

B) Stand-Up India

C) DAY-NRLM

D) PMEGP

Answer: C – Explanation: Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Rural Development Ministry. Lakhpati Didi is an outcome goal, not a separate scheme.

Sources: PIB – MSME (PRID 2339456, 21 Nov 2026); DC-MSME PPP FAQ (dcmsme.gov.in); PIB (Lakhpati Didi); RBI (TReDS); SIDBI (sidbi.in); MoSPI – All India Report of Sixth Economic Census (for TN women-run establishments); UN (for the note that it is not a UN-designated day). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.