

## Women Entrepreneurship Event Organized by IIM Jammu, Srinagar Off-Campus



On 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021, IIM Jammu, Srinagar Off-Campus and Entrepreneurship Development Cell, IIM Jammu hosted a Virtual event where ten exceptionally talented women entrepreneurs of Kashmir were invited to share their views, struggles and way forward on promoting women entrepreneurship in Kashmir. The event was also attended by the Director, IIM Jammu Professor B.S Sahay who promised all possible support from IIM Jammu in promoting and encouraging women entrepreneurship in J&K. Prof. Sahay also suggested entrepreneurs from Kashmir to leverage and benefit from the resources and facilities offered by IIM Jammu through its off-campus in Srinagar. The program was moderated by Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson IIM Jammu, Srinagar Off-campus who interacted with the women entrepreneurs through question answer session.

The program featured proud business owners from Fashion, Bakery, and Design Industry running some promising ventures like Zaytuna Label by Ms. Samreen, Sunny Smile Bakes by Ms. Mehtab, Hangers the Closet by Ms. Sadia, Rabia Shahnaz by Ms. Naila Shah, Mehak Suhail Architects, Verv the Artelier by Ms. Iqra Khan, and Poash by Ms. Asma Wali. The women entrepreneurs shared their experiences and challenges that they and other entrepreneurs face in Kashmir.

Female Entrepreneurship remains a challenging path, particularly within the male-dominated society. The increasing presence of women as entrepreneurs has led to a change in the demographic characteristics of business and economic growth in Kashmir. Women-owned business enterprises play a prominent role in the society by inspiring others and generating more employment opportunities in the Kashmir region.

It was awe-inspiring to hear the stories of these extraordinary women. Despite facing numerous obstacles, they are now successfully running their businesses. A society in which women cannot realise their full potential loses out on the significant potential for innovation, economic growth, and job creation. It has never been easy for women to prove their resilience. But fighting against the odds, these leading ladies have made valuable contributions to women entrepreneurship. With the new era, more and more women entrepreneurs are rising. IIM Jammu is planning to have a similar kind of events for women entrepreneurs in Jammu and is organizing Women Entrepreneurship Summit at its main campus at Jammu and off-campus located in Srinagar. Promoting entrepreneurship in J&K, IIM Jammu is starting business incubators at Jammu and Srinagar to support young entrepreneurs through training, ideation, seed funding, workspace and acceleration