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India's startup landscape has witnessed a significant surge in women-led ventures, underscoring a remarkable wave of women entrepreneurship.

Development In Numbers

According to a recent report by data platform Tracxn, India has seen the emergence of over 8,000 tech-based startups founded by women, collectively raising nearly USD 23 billion in funding. This figure represents a noteworthy 14.8 per cent share of the overall tech funding in the country, reflecting the growing influence and success of women founders in the ecosystem.

Of these 8,000 startups, 2,316 have successfully secured funding, demonstrating investor confidence in the potential and innovation brought forth by women entrepreneurs. Despite the vast number of unfunded startups, a substantial 590 companies have achieved revenues exceeding USD 30,000, signalling their sustainability and growth prospects in the market.

Braving The Headwinds

However, the less encouraging news reveals a stark reality. Despite their significant contributions, women entrepreneurs continue to face systemic barriers, particularly in accessing venture capital funding. Shockingly, less than 3 per cent of the VC funding goes to women in the country, according to the Encubay report.

Given tumultuous times in India's startup ecosystem where funding dryness looms large, these women left no stone unturned to make lives better for customers in various reigns. Across sectors, these women are the innovators and disruptors who are rewriting the rulebook. These women changemakers are not only offering innovation-led solutions for gaps across sectors but also contributing immensely to India's economic growth story.

The Initiative

As we observe International Women's Day, it's crucial to highlight the remarkable contributions of women to the startup ecosystem.

Today, as we mark International Women's Day under the theme of 'Invest in Women', we are unveiling the second edition of BW Disrupt Most Influential Women List. This annual initiative, supported by BW Businessworld, showcases the remarkable achievements of women across various sectors. Through this platform, we celebrate their invaluable contributions to shaping the entrepreneurial landscape.

In order to arrive at this year's influential names, BW Disrupt and BW Businessworld appointed an eminent advisory board, whose experience and expertise helped us in our final list.

The advisory for this year comprised the editorial boards of BW Businessworld, BW Disrupt and editors from BW's sibling brands in addition to community representation from names such as TCM Sundaram, Founder and Vice Chairman, Chiratae Ventures, Ntasha, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Ankurit Capital, Ritu Verma, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Ankur Capital Fund among others.

20 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS 2024

1 Anupama Katkar, Chief Operational Excellence, Quick Heal and Chairperson, Quick Heal Foundation
2 Ayushi Gudwani, Founder and CEO, FS Life
3 Chinu Kala, Founder, Rubans Accessories
4 Falguni Nayar,Founder and CEO, Nykaa
5 Gazal Kalra, Co-founder, Rivigo
6 Ghazal Alagh, Co-founder and Chief Mama and Chief Innovation Officer, Mamaearth
7 Hardika Shah,Founder and CEO, Kinara Capital
8 Mabel Chacko, Co-founder and COO, Open
9 Neha Bansal, Co-founder, Lenskart
10 Nikita Prasad, Co-founder and Creative Head, GIVA
11 Radha Basu, Chief Executive Officer, iMerit Technology
12 Rashi Narang, Founder, Heads Up For Tails

13 Rithika Agnishwar, Co-founder and Chief Information Officer, Gaurda Aerospace

14 Ruchi Deepak, Founder and CEO, Airloom, Co-Founder, Acko

15 Ruchi Kalra, Co-founder,OfBusiness

16 Sai Gole, Co-founder, BharatAgri

17 Saumya Singh Rathore, Co-founder, WinZO

18 Shreedha Singh, Co-founder and CEO, The Ayurveda Co - T.A.C

19 Upasana Taku, Co-founder and CFO, Mobikwik

20 Vineeta Singh, Co-founder and CEO, SUGAR