

# Woman's era

*Presents*

## Pathbreakers: Raising The Bar

Woman's Era celebrates women leaders who are driving change and inspiring generations. Our feature "PATHBREAKERS" highlights their journeys – from ideas to challenges to milestones.



AMISHA VORA



GITA GOPINATH



DR. MADHU CHITKARA



DR. JASPRIYA BAL



JASNA BEDI



WING COMMANDER VYOMIKA SINGH



DR. PREETI MAHESH KULKARNI



KAMALINI PAUL



DR. MANJULA POOJA SHROFF



KAVERI INGALE



DR. LATIKA NATH



DR. K. R. MAALATHI



DR. SABHYATA GUPTA



ALPANA PARIDA



KARUNA NUNDY



DR. RADHIKA SHETH



DR. RICHA JAGTAP



DR. SUNITA CHHAPOLA



INDIA GARY-MARTIN



DR. SHARMILA H. AMIN

# Dr. Madhu Chitkara

## Redefining Education And Empowering Generations

**Dr. Madhu Chitkara**

Pro Chancellor of Chitkara University (Punjab & Himachal Pradesh),  
Chairperson of Chitkara International School



**D**r. Madhu Chitkara, Pro Chancellor of Chitkara University (Punjab & Himachal Pradesh) and Chairperson of Chitkara International School, is a visionary education leader whose journey from a mathematics teacher to a pioneering edupreneur exemplifies courage, resilience and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Recognised among India's most distinguished academicians, her story inspires countless women and aspiring leaders to redefine their horizons and aim for transformative societal impact.

Dr. Chitkara began her illustrious career as a mathematics teacher, where her exceptional pedagogical skills earned her the State Award for Teachers in 1987, recognising her as a Teacher of Outstanding Merit. Her passion for nurturing young minds soon evolved into a broader mission—to establish institutions that promote holistic learning, innovation and global competitiveness. Together with her life partner, Dr. Ashok K Chitkara, she co-founded the Chitkara Institute of Engineering and Technology (CIET) in Punjab. At a time when women entrepreneurs were rare, Dr. Chitkara's leadership broke conventional boundaries, laying the foundation for an institution built on integrity, fairness and academic excellence.

Under her stewardship, Chitkara University has grown into a vibrant academic ecosystem with over 30,000+ students and 5,500+ faculty and staff members across its campuses in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Offering more than 90+

industry-integrated programs at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels, the university emphasizes employability, global relevance and innovation. Initiatives such as Global Week provide students opportunities to interact with international faculty and peers, fostering cross-cultural understanding and intellectual growth.

Chitkara University, accredited with an A+ grade by NAAC and recognized under UGC 12(B), has emerged as one of India's leading higher education institutions. In NIRF 2025, it ranked 16th in Pharmacy, 38th in Architecture, 78th in Management, 89th in Engineering, 78th among universities and within the 11–50 band for Innovation. It also achieved 1st position in research quality by Times Higher Education in India. On the global front, the university secured distinction in the THE Impact Rankings 2025, attaining 10th, 1st, 3rd and 5th positions in SDGs 17, 11 and 13, highlighting Dr. Chitkara's dedication to sustainability-driven education and institutional excellence.

A pioneer in research and innovation, Dr. Chitkara established the Chitkara University Research and Innovation Network (CURIN) to foster creativity and problem-solving. Under CURIN, researchers have published over 19,000+ Scopus-indexed papers and filed 4,500+ patents, positioning the university as a hub for impactful and translational research. The Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) has mentored over 280+ startups, many led by women, demonstrating her commitment to empowering young innovators and advancing gender equity in entrepreneurship. Today, 67% of the workforce at Chitkara University are women holding key academic and administrative positions.

Dr. Chitkara's visionary leadership has earned her numerous accolades, including recognition as a Visionary Edu-Leader of India by former President Shri Pranab Mukherjee,

the Women Entrepreneur Award and the International Achiever's Award for Women Entrepreneurs. She was honoured with the Life-Time Achievement Gold Medal Award by the Global Society for Health & Educational Growth, acknowledging her outstanding contributions to the advancement of education and her enduring commitment to social progress. She serves as Co-Chair of the National Council on Education, ASSOCHAM, New Delhi and was recently awarded the Indo-Malaysian Highest Civilian Award of Excellence in 'Empowering Education & Philanthropy' by Asia Inc. 500 in association with the Government of Malaysia. Additionally, she has been recognized by the World Education Congress for her pioneering contributions to entrepreneurship education, further cementing her status as a global edupreneur.

Beyond academics, Dr. Chitkara is deeply committed to social welfare and community development. Under her guidance, Chitkara University has adopted five villages, implementing initiatives to improve health, education, livelihoods, water conservation and waste management. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she spearheaded initiatives providing essential supplies, medicines and awareness campaigns through Radio Chitkara FM 107.8, which broadcast non-stop information for five months and



received recognition from the United Nations SDG Action Awards.

Dr. Chitkara's commitment to women empowerment and leadership is exemplified through her participation in the Women Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (WEED) Initiative, launched by Punjab Angels Network. Dr. Chitkara ensures students achieve holistic growth through vibrant platforms in sports, arts and culture. She has built partnerships with over 300+ Global Universities like Deakin University, George Brown College, Arizona State University and corporations like Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Tata Group, providing students with hands-on training and global exposure. She has hosted luminaries including His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, who inaugurated the Chitkara Happiness Centre and conceptualised cultural projects like Kala Kumbh, a seven-day collaborative scroll painting celebrating India's freedom struggle, blending academic rigor with cultural consciousness.

With an enduring spirit and an unshakable belief in the power of education to transform lives, Dr. Madhu Chitkara continues to illuminate the path for future generations. Her leadership is not merely institutional- it is inspirational, rooted in compassion, inclusivity and the relentless pursuit of excellence. She stands as a symbol of empowerment and progress, inspiring thousands to dream fearlessly and act purposefully. Her vision transcends conventional boundaries, harmonizing academic brilliance with social responsibility and creating a ripple effect of change that extends far beyond the walls of the university. Through her wisdom, resilience and foresight, Dr. Chitkara remains a driving force behind India's evolving education landscape- a true architect of empowered generations and transformative learning.

***"Education is not just about knowledge; it's about redefining possibilities and empowering every generation to build a better tomorrow."***