PRESS RELEASE

Mumbai, 13th March 2026

National Stock Exchange Hosts ‘Ring the Bell for Gender Equality 2026’ to Advance Women’s Leadership in Capital Markets

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) today hosted the ‘Ring the Bell for Gender Equality 2026’ ceremony at its headquarters in Mumbai, bringing together leaders from the financial ecosystem, policymakers, global institutions, and industry stakeholders to reaffirm the role of capital markets in accelerating gender equality and inclusive economic growth.

The event was part of the global ‘Ring the Bell for Gender Equality’ initiative led by UN Women, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, the World Federation of Exchanges, and the United Nations Global Compact. Observed annually by stock exchanges across the world, the initiative highlights the critical role financial markets play in advancing gender equality and encourages companies to adopt the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs).

Delivering the opening remarks, Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, NSE, emphasised the importance of stronger representation of women across corporate leadership and financial markets. “Today, women make up nearly 25% of our registered investor base. Over the last decade itself, we have added roughly 2.5 crore women to the capital markets. Women are demonstrating a highly disciplined, long-term orientation to wealth creation, building a future where every woman has the opportunity to lead, to invest, and to thrive.”

Commenting on the occasion, Suhela Khan, Country Programme Manager – Women’s Economic Empowerment, and Officer-in-Charge, UN Women India Country Office, said: “Today’s bell ringing, along with the signing of the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs), reflects a growing commitment from businesses and capital market institutions to advance gender equality. By embedding these principles into leadership, workplace practices, and governance, companies can play a critical role in building more inclusive and resilient economies.”

The programme also featured special addresses from other key institutional partners, including representatives from IFC and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs. Speakers shared insights on advancing gender diversity in corporate leadership, building inclusive workplace cultures and expanding opportunities for women across the financial ecosystem.

The ceremony concluded with the symbolic ringing of the closing bell and a renewed commitment from participating organisations to the WEPs, reinforcing collective efforts to promote gender-inclusive workplaces and equal opportunities across corporate India.

About National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE):

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) was the first exchange in India to implement electronic or screen-based trading. It began operations in 1994 and is ranked as the largest stock exchange in India in terms of total and average daily turnover for equity shares every year since 1995, based on SEBI data. NSE has a fully integrated business model comprising exchange listings, trading services, clearing and settlement services, indices, market data feeds, technology solutions and financial education offerings. NSE also oversees compliance by trading, clearing members and listed companies with the rules and regulations of SEBI and the exchange. NSE is a pioneer in technology and ensures the reliability and performance of its systems through a culture of innovation and investment in technology. NSE is the world's largest derivatives exchange by trading volume (contracts) for calendar year 2025 as per the statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association (FIA). NSE is ranked third in the world in equity segment by number of trades (electronic order book) in 2025, as per the statistics maintained by World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).

About UN Women

UN Women exists to advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. As the lead UN entity on gender equality, we shift laws, institutions, social behaviours and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. We keep the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress–always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.

For more information, please visit:

NSE: www.nseindia.com

UN Women India Country Page: https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/india

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