

Only Women Engages Political Leaders on Ideology & Change



(L-R) Aavrutti Sharma, Vidyottama Sharma, Clyde Crasto, Neeta Kolhatkar, Sachin Sawant, Ruben Mascarenhas, Sanjay Nirupam

On 26 July 2025, Only Women hosted an engaging session in Mumbai centred on the relevant theme: “Does Political Ideology Come with an Expiry Date?” The session brought together four political leaders from different parties, fostering an engaging exchange on ideology, relevance, and the evolving political landscape. TradeMaker Magazine was the exclusive media presence at the event.

The discussion was moderated with characteristic clarity by Neeta Kolhatkar, who guided a panel of four political leaders representing different parties. Despite being a women-led initiative, the panellists were men — an intentional choice that set the stage for candid cross-gender dialogue. The session brought together the perspectives of Sanjay Nirupam (Leader, Shiv Sena – Balasahebanchi), Ruben Mascarenhas (National Joint Secretary & Mumbai Working President, Aam Aadmi Party), Sachin Sawant (General Secretary, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee), and Clyde Crasto (National Spokesperson & National Secretary, Nationalist Congress Party – SP).

The panellists spoke with conviction about their respective ideologies and engaged the audience in a spirited discussion.

“The four participants spoke eloquently and each put their point across regarding their ideology and its relevance today. The panel discussion spurred the participants of Only Women to ask more questions regarding the value of their votes, the importance of elections and adequate representation of people to

make a positive difference for the welfare of the public. This discussion has definitely been a starting point to empower the participants to be better informed voters.”
— **Neeta Kolhatkar, Independent Journalist and Author of *The Feared: Conversations with Political Prisoners***

Voices from the Panel

“Only Women is a vital platform connecting women leaders from across society. The questions raised today were important, and such interactions are crucial. If women come together, organised and focused on society’s interests, it benefits everyone. I wish success to Only Women and all the women associated with it.”
— **Sanjay Nirupam**

“I firmly believe that what men can do, women can often do better. I congratulate Only Women for this fantastic initiative of bringing together women from different walks of life. Women-centred issues still lack adequate platforms, and this discussion took the bull by its horns. Initiatives like this nurture leadership, and I look forward to seeing more women emerge as leaders through Only Women.”
— **Ruben Mascarenhas**

“Encouraging greater participation from all, especially women, is essential. It is not just about equality; it is about action. From their presentation, we saw that many experts from various walks of life have engaged with them. I admire Only Women for creating a free and inclusive environment. Such initiatives must be taken to the next level, as eminent women across



Sapna & Vidyottama

sectors have the ability to take society forward. My best wishes to Only Women.”

— **Sachin Sawant**

“It is important to have organisations like Only Women that empower women, bring them together, and give them a platform. Their voices must be heard on a larger

scale. I am sure Only Women will continue to grow and make a significant impact in the future. I thank Vidyottama for inviting me.”

— **Clyde Crasto**



Aavrutti & Shaline

We aspire to create a space where women leaders support one another and collectively inspire change within society and beyond.”

— **Vidyottama Sharma, Founder & CEO, Only Women**

“At Only Women, we focus on inclusivity, empowerment, and shared experiences. Our members celebrate and amplify one another’s journeys. The vision is to create a vibrant community where women support each other and make a tangible impact.”

— **Aavrutti Sharma, Director, Only Women, and Associate Creative Director, Ogilvy**

“Only Women is an empowering community where professionals and entrepreneurs connect, learn, and grow. When a woman dares to dream, she transforms the world. Truly a wonderful platform.”

— **Shaline Serpes, Core Committee Member, Only Women, and Director (MICE), Holiday Crafters**

“Being part of Only Women has been inspiring. Every interaction leaves me feeling motivated and valued. This is not just a network — it is a space where ideas flourish and friendships deepen.”

— **Ashmi Parekh, Core Committee Member, Only Women, and Director, Maplle Group of Companies**

“I have seen Only Women grow in the last one year. The diversity of its members makes it special. The meetings, lectures and discussions have helped me and many others expand our network and gain holistic knowledge. It is still a growing community, and I believe it has a very bright future.”

— **Sapna Srivastava, Core Committee Member, Only Women, and Editor, Realty+**

Voices from the Community

“Only Women is a community where senior women professionals from diverse domains come together for professional, personal, and leadership growth. We believe that leadership among women thrives when it is both inclusive and collaborative. Our aim is to build not only a powerful professional network but also a legacy of solidarity and inspiration. Every engagement — whether a serious panel discussion, an expert talk, or even a shared experience — is thoughtfully curated to provide knowledge, collaboration, and camaraderie.

“Only Women is not just a group, it is the beginning of a movement. We are women from all walks of life, capable of real influence when we come together. Our voices matter. We laugh, rejoice, clap together, and adjust each other’s crowns. I am grateful to be part of this achievers’ community.”

— **Nilu Kohli, Member, Only Women, and Actor & Entrepreneur**

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Only Women, founded by former print and TV journalist Vidyottama Sharma, is a domain-agnostic community of senior women professionals committed to shared learning, upskilling, leadership, and mutual support. Membership is by invitation and includes women from a wide spectrum — business leaders, CXOs, doctors, architects, media professionals, authors, designers, entrepreneurs, and more.

Through events such as panel discussions, summits, expert talks, and shared experiences, Only Women fosters collaboration, builds networks, and inspires collective change. Its mission is to create a space where women connect meaningfully, share knowledge, and amplify each other’s voices — not just for professional growth, but for the larger good of society.