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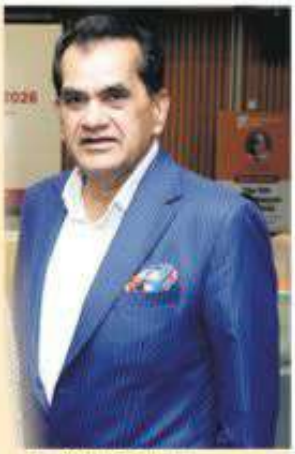
A tribute to Rohini Nayyar's work and vision for rural India



Prashant Chaudhary, founder, CodeYogi Foundation



SK Misra, former Principal Secretary to 8th PM Chandra Shekhar



Amitabh Kant, Former G20 Sherpa



Economist Deepak Nayyar

Economist Dhiraj Nayyar

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Putting rural communities at the heart of India's development story, the fifth *Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development* brought together policymakers, economists and development practitioners to the Capital on Saturday. The evening celebrated the legacy of late economist and former Planning Commission member Dr **Rohini Nayyar**, while recognising young changemakers.

Former G20 Sherpa **Amitabh Kant**, who was the chief guest, said, "Dr Rohini Nayyar's career reminds us that rural transformation requires both policy and proximity. Policy creates entitlements, budgets, programmes and institutions. But proximity tells us whether these arrangements actually work."

Remembering his wife's contribution to rural development, **Deepak Nayyar** said, "Rohini might not have been visible in the public domain, but she was incredibly influential in shaping public policy. She worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make a lasting impact on rural development."

The prize, instituted in her memory by the Nayyar Foundation for Social and Economic Purpose, recognises individuals aged below 40 whose work improves the lives of rural communities. This year's award went to **Prashant Chaudhary**, founder of CodeYogi Foundation, for making coding and AI education accessible to students in government schools and rural areas through a smartphone-first learning model.



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Dodging diplomatic glamour to sketch a candid portrait of life

Former Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj turns author with her recently released memoir mapping doubt, grief, resilience, parenting and duty of nation





Work is worship
"I did very little for the house. But I was fortunate to have tremendous support at home, so I could fulfil the challenging tasks at work... This can make all the difference to women who aspire to pursue their ambitions and fulfil their potential."

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Sheer grace and steel are how the world saw former diplomat Ruchira Kamboj. Off duty now, the former Ambassador who was India's first female permanent representative to the United Nations is penning a new chapter with her memoir, *On the World Stage: A Life in Diplomacy*.

LOSS TURNED INTO AMBITION

Recounting how her father "embodied the quintessential Army officer" and left a deep imprint on her life, Kamboj shares, "I was only 16 when he left us suddenly. He was the one who gave me the dream and inspired me to join the Indian Foreign Service... My life as an IFS officer, and this book is an homage to him."

OF WORLDLY WISDOM AND WOMANLY DUTIES

The book traces milestones across nearly four decades of Kamboj's professional life, during which time India transformed from a country still finding its economic and diplomatic footing into a global power. Though she won arguments in rooms full of men primarily making decisions, she recalls feeling 'mom guilt'. "I would imagine most women would feel guilty because it is a very instinctive role that you love playing at home... I was fortunate to have the support of my mother-in-law and my mother, who looked after my daughter, an electrical engineer today," shares Kamboj, who also wrote about battling loneliness in unfamiliar postings.

KEEPING IT SUCCINCT

Despite the arduous journey, her writing remains crisp and nourishing. "Time is precious, not just mine but also of the reader," she says, adding, "The effort was to be as honest as one can."