**PRESS RELEASE**

**B.PAC and CGI Launched Auto driver training program**

**for Women & Transgender**

**Bengaluru, 12 July 2025** – In a significant step toward inclusive urban mobility and financial empowerment, the ***Auto Driving Skills Training for Women & Transgender Persons***was officially launched today. This program is supported by **CGI** under their CSR initiative. The launch marked the beginning of a program that will train over 100 women and transgender individuals to become professional auto drivers, equipping them with the skills and resources to access dignified livelihood opportunities.

The launch event was graced by **Ms. Shobha Karandlaje**, Hon’ble Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour and Employment, Government of India, as **Chief Guest**, along with **Ms. Srividya Natraj** and **Ms. Sarika Pradhan**, Vice Presidents – CGI; Mr. Sudhakar Pai, **Ms. Chitra Talwar,** Member – B.PAC and **Ms. Mimi Partha Sarathy**, Member – B.PAC.

The program seeks to bridge existing gaps in employment and mobility by offering comprehensive training and support to women and transgender individuals, enabling them to become professional auto drivers. Beyond financial empowerment, the initiative aims to create a safer and more inclusive paratransit system in Bengaluru. It will integrate transgender persons into mainstream livelihoods and support women from marginalized communities in achieving financial independence. By increasing the presence of women and transgender drivers, the program aims to enhance first and last-mile connectivity and contribute to safer public transportation. The initiative includes holistic training in driving, life skills, road safety, and financial literacy, and facilitates access to auto-rickshaws through seed funding and partnerships with financial institutions.

**Program Highlights**

* **Aims to train over 100 beneficiaries** (women and transgender individuals)
* **60 days of training** covering:
  + Driving skills
  + Life skills & financial literacy
  + Rental & fuel support
  + Driving license facilitation
  + Community outreach and coordination
* **Outcome**: Financial independence, employment access, and increased safety in Bengaluru’s transport sector.

**Ms. Shobha Karandlaje, Hon’ble Union Minister “**Empowering women through skill development and dignified livelihood opportunities is a key priority of our government. I commend B.PAC and CGI for launching this free auto driver training program for women and transgenders, which aligns with our vision of Nari Shakti and inclusive growth. We are committed to enabling such transformative initiatives through supportive policy frameworks and will continue working to ensure women’s safety and economic independence in every sphere”

**Ms. Srividya Natraj, Vice President – CGI** “This initiative demonstrates how technology when combined with meaningful community partnerships, can be a powerful force for sustainable development. By leveraging digital innovation and collaboration, we can help address real-world challenges and build stronger, more inclusive communities.**”**  
  
**Ms. Sarika Pradhan, Vice President, HR, CGI Asia Pacific** - “Our association with B.PAC reflects CGI’s ongoing commitment to inclusive economic growth. At CGI, we believe that true inclusion starts with empowering every individual. By supporting this initiative, we are not only empowering women and transgender people but also contributing to the creation of a more equitable society.”

With this initiative, Bengaluru takes a decisive step toward building a gender-sensitive and inclusive transport system—while creating sustainable livelihood options and transforming lives through mobility.

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**About B.PAC**

Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC) is a non-partisan nonprofit organization that aims to improve governance in Bengaluru and to enhance the quality of life of every citizen. B.PAC is specifically targeting good governance practices, integrity and transparency in all arms of the government, improving the quality of infrastructure in the city, and identification and support of strong candidates for public office at all levels of governance in Bengaluru city. Learn more at <https://bpac.in/>

**About CGI:**

Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world. Insights-driven and outcomes-based they help accelerate returns on IT and business investments. Across 21 industry sectors in 400 locations worldwide, 80,000 professionals provide comprehensive, scalable, and sustainable IT and business consulting services that are informed globally and delivered locally. Learn more at <https://www.cgi.com/>