

FM among six Indians on *Forbes* powerful women list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, 7 December

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar are among six Indians who have made it to the *Forbes*' annual list of *The World's 100 Most Powerful Women*.

Ranked at number 36, Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fourth time in a row. In 2021, the 63-year-old minister was ranked at number 37 in the list, while she was in the 41st spot in 2020 and 34th in 2019.

The other Indians to feature on the list are HCLTech Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra (rank: 53), Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (rank: 54), and Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal (rank: 67).

Malhotra, Mazumdar-Shaw and Nayar had made it to the prestigious list last year also at 52nd, 72nd and 88th spots respectively.

This year Mazumdar-Shaw is ranked 72, while Nayar is at 89th spot, according to the list released by *Forbes* on Tuesday.



The list includes 39 CEOs; 10 heads of state; and 11 billionaires worth a combined \$115 billion.

Highlighting Nayar's profile, the *Forbes* list noted that the 59-year-old businessman "worked as an investment banker for two decades, leading IPOs and helping other entrepreneurs achieve their dreams. In 2012, she decided to work for herself, investing \$2 million of her own savings to launch the beauty and retail company Nykaa. She took it public in 2021 and became India's richest self-made woman".

According to the *Forbes* website, 41-year-old Malhotra is responsible for all strategic

decisions for the \$12 billion technology company.

"Founded by her father, Shiv Nadar, in 1976, HCL became a central player in India's rise as an IT hub," it noted.

On March 1, 56-year-old Buch became the first female chair of the SEBI, which oversees India's more-than \$3 trillion stock market ecosystem.

Mondal, 59, who became the first woman to chair the state-run Steel Authority of India (SAIL) in January 2021, has led the company to record financial growth since taking over. The company's profits surged three-fold to ₹120 billion in her first year at the helm, according to the *Forbes* website.

It described 69-year-old Mazumdar-Shaw as one of India's richest self-made women. She founded India's largest listed biopharmaceutical firm by revenue, in 1978. The firm has successfully forayed into the lucrative US market. The company has Asia's largest insulin factory in Malaysia's Johor region, it noted.

While European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde is placed at 2nd position, US Vice President Kamala Harris ranked 3rd in the list.