

Women entrepreneurs honoured

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Recognising women who managed to continue their entrepreneurial efforts through the pandemic, the Working Women's Forum India honoured nine women from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on the occasion of the 89th birth anniversary of its founder Jaya Arunachalam.

The recipients of the best poor women entrepreneur awards were all recognised as "COVID-19 warriors and heroines". "All the award-winners are members of the Indian Cooperative Network for Women (ICNW), stood strong and fought their way through the pandemic that



Great survivors: Nandini Azad, president of Working Women Forum, with best poor woman entrepreneur award-winners in Chennai on Monday. ■ K.V. SRINIVASAN

resulted in the loss of livelihood and income for many," said Nandini Azad, president, Working Women's Forum and ICNW.

Dr. Azad said the criteria to select the award-winners

involved both quantitative and qualitative aspects. "The award-winners were among nearly 1,500 women who, we realised, have never defaulted in their loan repayments and have been pillars

of the cooperative network," she said.

Lakshmi Narayanaswamy from Chennai, one of the award-winners, had to support five children after her husband died nearly 37 years ago.

Nageshwari Sathya from Karnataka said that she approached the ICNW after her husband, who was a painter, lost an arm and a leg.

Chandra Mani and Chandira Isakivel from Chennai, Ponnesean Subramani from Thanjavur district, Maruthayee Sekar from Dindigul, Rajalakshmi Krishnamurthi from Karnataka and Vemana Manga and Mutta Kasi Annapurna from Andhra Pradesh were the other winners.