Smt. Smriti Irani ji Dated: October 30, 2021

Union Minister for Women and Child Development
Government of India, New Delhi.

**Request to grace as Chief Guest during First Anniversary of Aahaar Kranti - an Awareness Campaign for Positive Nutrition to be held on Saturday April 30, 2022, 7.00-8.00 PM**

Respected Smriti ji,

 Namaskar. Global Indian Scientists and Technocrats (GIST) Forum, our parent organization, Vijnana Bharati, and our multiple partners across the globe recognizes the immediate need of this awareness campaign in Bharat today.

 Any study of peer-reviewed journals establishes that a big determinant of a person’s health, mental well being, and longevity is the health of the mother even before conception. Our culture portrays a mother as the epitome of sacrifice. Nature behaves accordingly: through any pregnancy, it prefers the foetus’s nutrition. At birth, while families shower the new-born with attention, the mother often deals with postpartum symptoms by herself. During infancy it’s the lactation that lays the foundation for a child’s future health and offspring via its immune system and gut microbiome. Any pledge for long life will be meaningless unless a big part of the focus is on women’s health.

On the other hand, despite India’s enviable agricultural productivity of four times against our requirements, why are vast swaths of Bharat’s population either undernourished or malnourished? The irrefutable answer is a lack of awareness about positive nutrition both from consumption and production perspectives. The result of this is an increase in the number of deaths due to dietary risks, in spite of the average life span having increased to 71 years from 59 years in the last three decades.

 In order to address this situation, on April 13, 2021, Aahaar Kranti, was launched by the then Honorable Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan Ji with a simple motto of उत्तम आहार उत्तम विचार. Since then teams around the world have been working tirelessly to spread a message of positive nutrition rooted in *Ayurveda*, modern science, and our culinary heritage; to create a mechanism with thousands of teachers and modern technology for spreading this message; and to emphasize the importance of nutrition specifically for mothers.

Perhaps no one understands this better than yourself. You have been a relentless advocate for women’s health, safety and equity even before you took responsibilities with the government. The transformative ideas behind Gender Budgeting and Poshan Abhiyaan speak for themselves. You have also proven that simple acts speak louder than entire national agendas; acts like shouldering what is traditionally known to be a man’s weight in a rite.

We are celebrating the FIRST Anniversary on Saturday April 30, 2022 that coincides with Ayushman Bharat Diwas as well. We cannot think of a better leader to grace us on this occasion.

We request you to spare an hour on that day from 7:00pm IST and grace the occasion as CHief Guest. We will use the occasion to update you on our activities, partnering agencies in Bharat, and the outcomes so far. We will also share the vision for tackling malnourishment and undernourishment in the country. If tackled successfully, Bharat could become *Vidwan, Ayushman, Ayurvedic*, and *Krushi-pradhan*. These are the precursors for making “*Samruddha Bharat” and* “*Vishwa Guru”*.

We look forward to your wisdom and words of encouragement. You are already an inspiration to so many. Your presence will truly motivate the scientists and technocrats committed to this mission and the Karyakartas who are carrying the charge. Most importantly, the message coming from you will inspire crores of women and mothers, and their families who would then focus, better than today, fulfilling nutritional needs of children for a long life that is both healthy and happy.

With humility and gratitude we hope for a positive answer.

