

## Jayshree Satpute

Human Rights - APAC Region

## Congratulations!

The Frost & Sullivan Institute is proud to honor Jayshree Satpute with this prestigious recognition for her exceptional foresight and innovative solutions to global Human Rights challenges. Her visionary leadership continues to inspire transformative change and advance a more sustainable future for all.

### David Frigstad

Chairman, Frost & Sullivan  
Executive Director, Frost & Sullivan Institute

## Why Us?

Frost & Sullivan Institute recognizes leaders who not only achieve commercial success but also drive meaningful change across environmental, social, and technological domains. Our evaluation is backed by decades of industry expertise, global research, and a commitment to fostering leadership that creates inclusive and sustainable futures.

## Why Now?

Across emerging economies, access to justice remains deeply unequal, particularly for marginalized populations such as women, informal workers, refugees, and rural communities. Legal systems are often complex, inaccessible, and costly, leaving vulnerable groups unable to claim basic socio-economic rights related to health, housing, and dignity. At the same time, there is growing global recognition that legal empowerment, which enables individuals to understand, use, and shape the law, is essential to achieving inclusive development, gender equity, and human rights protection. In this context, the work of Jayshree Satpute is especially critical. Her approach shifts the focus from top-down legal systems to community-driven justice, equipping marginalized populations with the tools and knowledge to assert their rights. As governments and institutions increasingly recognize the role of legal empowerment in development, her work provides a scalable and rights-based framework for bridging the justice gap.

## About Frost & Sullivan Institute

The Frost & Sullivan Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to leveraging business practices to address global priorities. Our mission "Innovating to Zero" focuses on driving innovations that eliminate critical challenges such as carbon emissions, food and water scarcity, poor healthcare access, and digital exclusion.

## Visionary Leadership

Jayshree Satpute has demonstrated transformative leadership in advancing access to justice across the APAC region, where marginalized communities often face systemic legal exclusion, weak institutional access, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. As co-founder of Nazdeek, she has built an integrated model combining community training, legal advocacy, and strategic litigation to address injustices in maternal health, housing rights, and refugee protection, issues that are highly prevalent across South and Southeast Asia. Her work is particularly significant in the APAC region, where informal labor sectors, displaced populations, and underserved rural and urban communities often lack legal awareness and representation. By empowering groups such as textile and garment sector workers in South Asia, she demonstrates how grassroots legal mobilization can bridge gaps between vulnerable populations and formal justice systems. This model is highly adaptable across the region and beyond, offering a scalable framework for addressing similar challenges in other low-resource settings. Her leadership aligns with Frost & Sullivan Institute's focus on inclusive, community-driven solutions that strengthen institutional access and deliver systemic social impact.



## Recognition Criteria

- Innovation:** Pioneered a legal empowerment model that combines grassroots capacity-building with strategic litigation to address systemic socio-economic injustices. Her approach trains community members, particularly women, to understand and use legal mechanisms, transforming them from passive beneficiaries into active rights-holders. By linking community-level action with court-based advocacy, her model ensures that legal victories translate into tangible social impact. Her contributions to legal scholarship, including co-authoring work on the right to safe motherhood, further strengthen the theoretical and practical foundations of rights-based approaches.
- Implementation:** Effectively operationalized her model through Nazdeek, working closely with grassroots communities, NGOs, legal clinics, and academic institutions. Her initiatives have been implemented in diverse contexts, including tea plantation communities, people working in the textile and garments industries in Southeast Asia. Through partnerships with law colleges and legal networks, she has created sustainable support systems that extend legal services to underserved populations. Her appointment as amicus curiae in multiple cases reflects her credibility and influence within the legal system.
- Impact:** Delivered meaningful impact by improving access to justice for marginalized communities and advancing key socio-economic rights. Her work has strengthened legal protections around maternal health, housing, and labor rights, particularly for women and vulnerable groups. Notably, her litigation in the Laxmi Mandal case established that maternal mortality is a violation of human rights, setting a precedent for accountability and emphasizing the legal recognition of women's right to safe motherhood. She has also worked to construct exclusive shelter homes for homeless pregnant and lactating women, ensuring access to medical care, food, and safe accommodation. By empowering communities to engage with legal systems, her model has enhanced accountability, improved service delivery, and worked for long-term systemic change.

## Key Accomplishments

### Legal Empowerment of Marginalized Communities:

Developed and implemented training programs that equip grassroots women, and urban poor communities with legal knowledge and tools to assert their rights.

### Strategic Litigation for Socio-Economic Rights:

Led and contributed to high-impact litigation addressing maternal health, housing rights, and refugee protections, creating precedents that benefit large populations.

### Institutional Leadership through Nazdeek:

Co-founded Nazdeek, establishing a leading platform for community-centered legal advocacy in India.

### Advocacy for Safe Motherhood:

Co-authored influential work on the right to safe motherhood, contributing to legal and policy discourse on maternal health as a fundamental right.

### Support for Textile and Garment Industry workers:

Worked extensively with people working in the textile and garment industry across South Asia, addressing systemic inequalities in labor, health, and housing.

### Collaboration and Network Building:

Partnered with activists, researchers, legal scholars, and international organizations to strengthen legal empowerment ecosystems.

### Amicus Curiae Contributions:

Appointed as amicus (friend of the court) in multiple cases, providing expert legal insights to support judicial decision-making.

### Thought Leadership and Publications:

Co-edited and contributed to key publications on refugee law and socio-economic rights, influencing both academic and policy debates. Satpute has also contributed to public discourse through a TEDx talk on The Importance of Greater Access to Justice, where she highlighted how legal empowerment transforms law from an abstract principle into a living tool for safeguarding rights and dignity.

### Global Recognition:

Nazdeek received the Namati Justice Prize, a global award honoring sustainable, high-impact grassroots legal empowerment work that strengthens community capacity to use the law to improve lives. Satpute has been named among The Guardian 100 Most Inspirational Women and is a recipient of the World Justice Challenge Prize.

### Strengthening Access to Justice Systems:

Advanced models that connect grassroots communities with formal legal institutions, improving accessibility, accountability, and inclusivity.

## Conclusion

Our research at the Frost & Sullivan Institute demonstrates that inclusive growth and long-term societal resilience are fundamentally dependent on equitable access to justice, particularly marginalized populations in emerging economies. The Institute's analysis highlights legal empowerment as a critical enabler of human rights protection, gender equity, and accountable governance systems. Jayshree Satpute's work directly reflects these priorities by advancing a scalable, community-driven model that transforms legal systems from inaccessible structures into tools for social inclusion and systemic change. Her integration of grassroots empowerment with strategic litigation exemplifies the type of high-impact, rights-based innovation necessary to close justice gaps and strengthen institutional trust. In recognizing Satpute, we affirm her leadership in shaping a replicable framework that advances human dignity, reinforces legal security, and contributes meaningfully to sustainable and inclusive development.

*"Jayshree Satpute's work demonstrates that access to justice is not merely a legal issue but a foundation for equity and human dignity. By empowering communities to understand and use the law, she has created pathways for systemic change and inclusive development."*

- Shreya Ghimire, Research Analyst, Frost & Sullivan Institute