

From Resilience to Leadership: The Journey of Milan Sachin Salunke

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Milan Sachin Salunke's journey is not a story of overnight success—it is a story shaped by resilience, discipline, and steady self-belief. Born in Dahivali, Chiplun, Maharashtra, she grew up in a middle-class household where education and responsibility were non-negotiable values. Opportunities were limited, but determination was not.

After completing her BSc in Biology from DBJ College in 2010, Milan faced the uncertainty familiar to many graduates—ambition without a clear roadmap. What she did possess was the resolve to build an independent identity.

Learning the Reality of Business in Mumbai

In 2011, Milan moved to Mumbai and began her career as a Sales Executive in the scientific and laboratory instrumentation sector. The role demanded confidence and persistence. Sales became her first real teacher—introducing her to rejection, patience, and the slow process of earning trust.

Her consistency led to growth, and she soon became Assistant Manager – Sales, handling teams and targets while developing leadership skills. Between 2012 and 2014, she pursued an MBA alongside full-time work—years that tested her endurance but shaped her managerial outlook.

Marriage, Partnership, and Entrepreneurship

In 2014, Milan married Sachin Salunke, marking the beginning of a partnership that would extend beyond personal life into business. The same year, the couple founded **Athena Instruments Pvt Ltd** from their home with a small, focused team.

Their roles evolved naturally—Milan led sales, branding, administration, and strategy, while Sachin handled technical expertise, manufacturing, and operations. The balance became the company's backbone.

“I never thought about building a big company. I thought about doing my work honestly, taking responsibility, and growing one step at a time.”

— *Milan Salunke*

Building Structure Over Speed

Athena Instruments gradually transformed from a home-based venture into a recognised manufacturer and supplier of Gas Generators and advanced laboratory & analytical instruments. The company today serves laboratories, industries, and institutions across sectors.

What began with two people has grown into a workforce of **70+ employees**, reflecting planned and sustainable expansion. In **2025, Athena Instruments was formally incorporated as a Private Limited Company**, with Milan Salunke as Director overseeing sales strategy, people leadership, and organisational growth.

Athena Instruments now operates through:

- Manufacturing facility in Rabale
- Operations in Jalgaon
- Corporate office in Thane
- International offices in Dubai and South Africa

Leadership Beyond Athena

Milan also serves as **Executive Director at Prama Instruments Pvt Ltd**, further strengthening her presence in the scientific instrumentation industry. Her credibility is built on ground-level experience rather than titles.

Championing Women in the Workplace

A strong advocate of women empowerment, Milan has ensured significant representation of women across key roles within Athena. Her belief is simple—opportunity combined with responsibility creates leaders.

Recognition and Meaningful Success

In **2025, Milan Salunke received the Women Entrepreneur Award**, acknowledging her transition from a modest background to leading an international manufacturing enterprise.

Her journey reflects what many aspire to—growth achieved not through shortcuts but through discipline, partnership, and accountability. As Athena Instruments continues to expand globally, Milan Sachin Salunke's story stands as proof that businesses built patiently often stand the strongest.

Selected for Maharashtra's Prestigious Awards

Recognizing her dedication and achievements, she has been selected for the prestigious "**Maharashtra Business Icon 2025 / Maharashtra Style Icon 2025 / Maharashtra Fashion Icon 2025**" awards.

This honour is being presented by **Reseal.in and India Fashion Icon Magazine**, celebrating Maharashtra's emerging entrepreneurs and artists.

The selection marks a proud moment not only for her, but also for the entire region.

Presence of Renowned Film Personalities

The grand award ceremony will be graced by celebrated film personalities:

- **Ms. Varsha Usgaonkar (Bollywood Actress)**
- **Ms. Sonalee Kulkarni (Indian Actress)**
- **Ms. Prarthana Behere (Indian Actress)**

Event Hosted Under Expert Leadership

The event is organized under the leadership of **Mr. Sudhir Kumar Pathade**, Founder & CEO of Reseal.in (Sure Me Multipurpose Pvt. Ltd.), who continues to provide a national platform for Maharashtra's rising entrepreneurs, designers, and creative talents.

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