BUSINESS LEADERS

Savitri Jindal: leading a steel and power empire, and serving Hisar

Thrust into leadership after her husband O.P. Jindal's death in 2005, Savitri Jindal has guided one of India's biggest industrial families while also building a career in public life.

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Savitri Jindal, chairperson emerita of the O.P. Jindal Group. (Photo: Ah507 / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0)

In 60 seconds

1. Took over leadership of the O.P. Jindal Group after her husband's death in 2005.
2. Her four sons lead group companies including JSW Steel and Jindal Steel and Power.
3. Won the Hisar assembly seat as an independent in October 2024.
4. Regularly ranked as India's wealthiest woman.

Savitri Jindal was born in 1950 in Tinsukia, Assam, and married industrialist Om Prakash Jindal in 1970. For most of the next 35 years she stayed out of the public eye while her husband built a steel business from Hisar in Haryana into one of India's leading industrial groups.

A sudden responsibility

That changed in March 2005, when O.P. Jindal died in a helicopter crash. Savitri Jindal took on the leadership of the O.P. Jindal Group, a role few had expected her to play. She helped keep the family's businesses together while each of her four sons took charge of different companies.

A family of steel companies

The group's businesses are run by the family's next generation. Sajjan Jindal leads the JSW Group, whose JSW Steel is one of India's largest steelmakers, with interests in energy, cement, infrastructure and more. Naveen Jindal leads Jindal Steel and Power, while Prithviraj and Ratan Jindal oversee other parts of the group, including Jindal SAW and Jindal Stainless.

> *Her role has been to hold the family together while each business grows under its own leadership.*

A life in public service

Jindal also followed her husband into politics. She represented Hisar in the Haryana assembly, winning in 2005 and 2009, and served as a minister in the state government. In October 2024 she won the Hisar seat again, this time as an independent candidate, by a margin of nearly 19,000 votes.

India's wealthiest woman

Jindal is regularly ranked by Forbes and others as India's richest woman, reflecting the combined value of the family's companies. Her story shows how leadership can be thrust upon someone unexpectedly, and how stewardship of a family enterprise can matter as much as founding one.