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PRESS-RELEASE

Leading Women Technocrats and Academicians Discuss Empowerment at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's International Conference

The three day 1st International Conference on Smart and Sustainable Developments in Electrical Engineering at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad witnessed an inspiring session on 'Empowering Women in Engineering' on the second day of the event, today. The special session, held at the Golden Jubilee Lecture Theatre, brought together distinguished women engineers from academia and research to share their insights on leadership, inclusivity, and gender equity in engineering.

The session commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by a rendition of Saraswati Vandana performed by girl student volunteers. The panel discussion featured eminent speakers, including Prof. Prerna Gaur, Director, Netaji Subhash University of Technology, West Campus; Prof. Rachna Garg, Delhi Technical University; Dr. Sunanda Sinha, MNIT Jaipur; Dr. Vigya Saxena, Scientist, C-DAC; Prof. Asma Achhib, Associate Professor, University Gustave Eiffle, France; and Prof. Bhawana Singh, IIT (ISM) Electrical Engineering.

Prof. Prerna Gaur, in her address titled 'Women in Engineering: Unlocking Leadership Potential,' highlighted key challenges preventing women from reaching senior leadership roles, including unconscious bias in hiring and promotions. She emphasized the importance of increasing visibility for women in IEEE and encouraged them to join IEEE Society and IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE). She further elaborated on initiatives such as creating a database of women in engineering, nominating them for awards and leadership positions, and celebrating their achievements.

Prof. Rachna Garg, in her talk on 'Global Strategies for Attracting and Retaining Women in Engineering and Technology,' outlined the various barriers to women's empowerment, such as crimes against women, child marriages, poverty, gender discrimination, and lack of safety and education. She stressed that overcoming these challenges requires policy changes, judicial sensitivity, education, self-reliance, and improved healthcare facilities.

The session also featured valuable insights from Dr. Sunanda Sinha, Dr. Vigya Saxena, Prof. Asma Achhib, and Prof. Bhawana Singh, who shared their perspectives on fostering gender inclusivity and supporting women's professional growth in engineering.

The conference provided a significant platform for discussions on gender equity and strategies to enhance women's participation in engineering and technology. With thought-provoking deliberations and actionable recommendations, the event reaffirmed IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's commitment to fostering a more inclusive and empowered engineering community.

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