

Roundtable on bridging gender equality in science and technology

World Trade Center Jaipur organized a program to celebrate the roaring success of Chandrayaan 3 and invited guest speakers and participants to a roundtable discussion to brainstorm the increasing Role of Women in Science, Space and Technology at Rajasthan International Center, near Bhamashah State Data Centre, Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur.

Mrs. Utsav Sharma, Nodal officer, *Mahila Adhikarita*, Directorate of Women Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan Jaipur graced the occasion as a special guest and enlightened the participants with her immense knowledge and experience. Guest speakers Mrs. Girija Sharma, President, of Dream World Foundation, Jaipur and Mrs. Hemlata Vyas, Agency Partner, Kotak Life Insurance, Jaipur also participated and shared their views with the attendees.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Assistant Director, World Trade Center Jaipur congratulated all and remarked, "It is a proud moment for all of us today, with Chandrayaan-3's success, we have become the first country to land on the south pole of the Moon. It's a milestone moment and today the perception of the entire world towards the capabilities of Indian scientists and researchers working on limited resources has changed and the humanity will remember our contribution in space research forever. The nation once again comes united and congratulates the entire ISRO team."

Mrs. Utsav Sharma said, "The four disciplines of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) are the four pillars of our economy and it is expected that the future generations will learn, understand and apply the concepts of science and technology for the progress of the nation. Today, enrollment of female in primary school education is on the rise and consequently, the number of women taking STEM courses in higher education has risen leading to improved ratio of boys and girls seeking education in science, mathematics and technology from all sections of the society."

Mrs. Utsav Sharma concluded by pointing out, "I believe that such awareness sessions could be organized at various primary and secondary schools and even at institutional levels so that women participants are made aware of the emerging opportunities in the field of Science, space, and technology and rapid progress could be made through their hard work, innovative ideas and meticulous thinking."

In her remarks, Mrs. Hemlata Vyas recalled the government's initiative, "In addition to multiple fellowship programmes today, to enhance women's participation in S&T domain, DST (Department of Science and Technology) has launched several schemes to support research infrastructure, including state-of-the-art laboratories under the 'Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence (CURIE) Programme'."

Mrs. Girija Sharma recalled, "The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has supported government initiatives further, giving a relaxation of five years in the upper age limit to women candidates to be eligible for award of Fellowships to pursue doctoral and post-doctoral research in science & technology."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal proposed vote of thanks for the program.

The program was conducted on 26 August 2023 at Jaipur



Photo caption: Mrs. Utsav Sharma, Nodal officer, *Mahila Adhikarita*, Directorate of Women Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan (4th from left) addressing the roundtable on “Role of Women in Science, Space and Technology”