

International Women's Day-2020 celebrated at IIT Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar, March 8: International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March every year to celebrate the womanhood and is a time to reflect courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

A three day programme starting from 6th March – 8th March, 2020 was organized at IIT Bhubaneswar by Women Welfare Committee (WWC), as part of International Women's day Celebration. This year's theme for International Women Day, *"I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights."* explores the way to mobilize global action to achieve gender equality and human rights of all women and girls. The Chief Guest of the event was Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Director, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar. The event was presided over by Prof. R.V. Raja Kumar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof RV Raja Kumar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar said, "International Women's Day encourages us all to reflect on the importance of maintaining gender equality, to celebrate the successes of women, and to acknowledge the work that is still left to be done. We are all here to recapitulate about the status of world today particularly on the eve of International Women's day and express our commitment towards our functioning for gender parity with deep feelings and in a spirited manner. We should take actions such that automatically they come to parity and they claim their right to position in the society. Needless to mention, there is strong need for us to work assiduously on providing gender parity."

“Fortunately the MHRD has arranged supernumerary seat allocation and as a result we had last year 17.06% women admitted and this year it is going to be 20% including the 8 % which nationally automatically gets admitted to the IIT system.

Fortunately the percentage is better in MSC, Master’s and Ph.D programme, this is a positive sign in this direction. I would also want to share with you my experience of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies as the founding Vice-Chancellor where I got the opportunity to witness the pass out of more than 5800 students from the first batch out of which 45% were women and about a third of them were toppers of the branches, so that was the changing scenario, they were all from rural areas, so given an opportunity they can come up well.,” he added.

The celebration was a three day affair with a series of activities ranging from debate, poetry writing on first day followed by interesting talks. Also present at the event were Dr. (Col) Subodh Kumar and Dr. Sankarsan Mohapatra, President, Student Gymkhana. The event was followed by the illumination of the lamp, welcome address by Dr. Remya Neelancherry, Chairperson, WWC, IIT Bhubaneswar, prize distribution ceremony, cultural programs followed by vote of thanks.