

Report on International Women's Day 2025 Celebration

Organized by the Indian Ceramic Society

Theme: **Empower, Elevate, Celebrate**

Date: **March 4–8, 2025**

The Indian Ceramic Society proudly hosted a vibrant and meaningful celebration of International Women's Day 2025 through a weeklong series of online events, held from March 4 to March 8, under the inspiring theme “*Empower, Elevate, Celebrate.*” This event was not just a celebration, but a platform to recognize and amplify the voices, achievements and aspirations of women across diverse fields – science, academia, industry and entrepreneurship. The entire event was planned and coordinated by Ms Sanghamitra Bharati, Council member, Indian Ceramic Society.

The celebration brought together students, scientists, industry professionals, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders for a series of interactive, enlightening and empowering sessions. Below is an overview of the week's activities:

Day 1: She Leads – The Beginning of a Powerful Week!

Date: March 4, 2025

The program began on an enthusiastic note with the Flash Talk Presentation Competition. Student members from various Student Chapters of the Indian Ceramic Society participated in this engaging event. A total number of 19 flash talks were presented. The flash talks showcased innovative research, creative ideas and emerging trends in ceramics and materials science. The youthful energy and insightful contributions by students highlighted the importance of nurturing young talent and empowering the next generation of leaders in the field. The vibrant participation demonstrated the strong presence and growing impact of women in scientific education and early research.

The session was moderated by Ms Piyali Chakrabarty from Indian Ceramic Society. The flash talk presentations were evaluated by the jury members Dr Emila Panda (IIT-Gandhinagar) and Dr M. Navya Rani (Nagarajuna College of Engineering and Technology, Bangalore).

Day 2: Celebrating Women in Science – “Innovate to Elevate”

Date: March 5, 2025

The second day featured a session dedicated to women scientists who are at the forefront of materials innovation and ceramic technology. Titled “Innovate to Elevate: Women Scientists Shaping the Future,” this session provided an opportunity for attendees to learn from the work and journeys of leading women scientists, which were as follows:

1. Dr Papiya Biswas (ARCI, Hyderabad) – *Transparent Polycrystalline Ceramic Technologies developed at ARCI for the Nation*
2. Dr Indrani Sen (IIT Kharagpur) – *A Material to Remember – Shape Memory Alloys*

3. Dr R. V. Lakshmi (CSIR-NAL, Bengaluru) – *Sprayable Paint with Ceramic Fillers for Thermal Insulation Application on Aircraft Structures*
4. Dr Jui Chakraborty (CSIR-CGCRI, Kolkata) – *Stop to Bleed, Start to Clot: Introducing Bioactive Glass Based Hemoglass Patch*
5. Dr Asha Anil (CSIR-CGCRI, Naroda) – *Sustainable Developmental Activities for the Benefit of Traditional Ceramics Sector*

The session was expertly moderated by Ms Moumita Nag (Tata Steel) and offered attendees a glimpse into the wide-ranging impact of women scientists in shaping the future of ceramic science and technology.



Dr. Papiya Biswas
Scientist, Centre for Advanced
Ceramic Materials, ARCI



Dr. Indrani Sen
Assistant Professor, IIT Kharagpur



Dr. R.V. Lakshmi
Scientist, CSIR-National
Aerospace Laboratories



Dr. Jui Chakraborty
Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-CGCRI



Dr. Asha T Anil
Principal Scientist, CSIR-CGCRI

Invited lecture presenters – women scientists

Day 3: Celebrating Women in Industry – “Built to Lead”

Date: March 6, 2025

The third day was devoted to recognizing women professionals in the industrial sector through a panel discussion titled “Built to Lead: Breaking the Barriers in Industry.” The conversation focused on navigating leadership, overcoming systemic barriers, and driving change in industries often perceived as male-dominated. Panelists included:



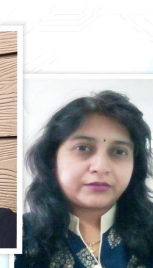
Ms. Anushri Nag
Principal Researcher, Tata Steel



Ms. Antara Banal
Sr. Manager, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.



Ms. Baisakhi Shetia
R&D, Senior Manager
(Project Monitoring)



Ms. Seemantini Sahu
Asst. General Manager
Iron Making Division and Corporate
Communication, MECON LIMITED

Women industry professionals – panel discussion participants

- Ms Anushri Nag (Tata Steel, Jamshedpur)
- Ms Antara Baral (BHEL, Bengaluru)
- Ms Baisakhi Shetia (RINL, Visakhapatnam)
- Ms Seemantini Sahu (MECON, Ranchi)

Moderated by Ms Rashmita Pulsam (Tata Steel), the session offered rich, real-world perspectives on building careers in technical fields. The discussion emphasized the importance of mentorship, resilience, and supportive ecosystems in creating inclusive workplaces.

Day 4: Celebrating Women Entrepreneurs – “From Vision to Victory”

Date: March 7, 2025

The fourth day featured an inspiring podcast session with successful women entrepreneurs in the ceramic and materials industries. The theme, “From Vision to Victory: Women Entrepreneurs in Action,” spotlighted entrepreneurial journeys, challenges, and the innovative spirit that drives business success. Featured entrepreneurs:

- Ms Rashmi Dharmadhikari (Metwiz Materials Pvt Ltd, Vasai East)
- Ms Rita Sen (Refsol Marketing Pvt Ltd, Kolkata)
- Ms Amita Singh (Indian Ceramics Asia, Mumbai)
- Dr Leela Bordia (Neerja International Inc, Jaipur)

The session, moderated by Ms Deepsikha Brahma (Tata Steel), resonated with audiences as the panelists shared stories of risk-taking, perseverance and creative enterprise. Their experiences highlighted how women are redefining business landscapes and serving as role models for aspiring entrepreneurs.



Discussion panel featuring prominent women entrepreneurs

Day 5: She Wins – The Victorious End

Date: March 8, 2025

The final day of the celebration marked the conclusion of an inspiring and empowering journey. The closing session included a recap of the week's events, offering highlights and reflections on the memorable moments shared throughout. It

also included the much-anticipated announcement of the winners of the Flash Talk Presentation Competition, a celebration of student excellence and the promise of bright futures.

Ms Ishika Dutta from GCECT, Kolkata, was awarded the First Prize. The Second Prize went to Ms Sukanya Saha,



Winners of the Flash Talk Presentation Competition

also from GCECT, Kolkata. Ms Aditi Gupta from IIT-BHU, Varanasi, received the Third Prize.

The concluding remarks underscored a collective call to action: to continue fostering inclusion, mentorship and equal opportunity. Participants were reminded that while the celebration might end, the mission to Empower, Elevate, and Celebrate women must continue throughout the year.

Conclusion

The Indian Ceramic Society's celebration of International Women's Day 2025 was a resounding success – enlightening, empowering and deeply impactful. Through focused sessions on science, industry, and entrepreneurship, and with meaningful student engagement, the event brought to life the spirit of “Empower, Elevate, Celebrate”. It served as a powerful reminder that women's contributions are integral to the advancement of science, technology and industry.

Through this successful series of events, we honored past achievements, recognized current leaders, and inspired future innovators. The Society extends its heartfelt thanks to all speakers, panelists, student participants, moderators and volunteers for their invaluable contributions.

As we move forward, let us remember: Empowerment is not just a moment; it is a movement. Let us continue to uplift, inspire, and lead – together. Because when women rise, we all rise.



Organizing Team