

Helpline number launched for women in science

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New Delhi, 09 March (India Science Wire): On international women's day, a helpline number has been launched for women students, researchers, entrepreneurs and scientists. The Helpline no. 011-2656 5285 will help them to get their queries answered and doubts cleared related to programs of Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST). At present this Helpline will provide handholding to women scientists in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and will be available during office hours (09:30 am to 05:30 pm) during working days.

Speaking on the occasion Union Minister for Science and Technology, Earth Science and Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "It is important that women in science explore the opportunities and take benefits of the schemes available for them. All the students and researchers can get information about the schemes on one dedicated number. This will also help them to pursue their career and if they are finding any difficulty with fellowships they can get guidance from here". He also said that as a society we must move from tokenism to totalism, especially when it comes to creating a gender parity culture in Indian science. "The recent special focus on women empowerment by the government has resulted in various special schemes to attract women in science and to provide employment opportunities as well" he added.

On National Science Day, President Ram Nath Kovind announced three key initiatives for gender advancement and equality in academic and research. The theme of this year's National Science Day was 'Women in Science'.

These three initiatives are Vigyan Jyoti, Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) and an online portal for science and technology resources for women. Vigyan Jyoti is an initiative that will create a level-playing field for meritorious girls in high school to pursue STEM subjects in their higher education. The second initiative GATI will develop a comprehensive charter and a framework for assessing gender inequality in STEM. The online portal will provide e-resources related to all women-specific government schemes, scholarships, fellowships, career counselling with details of subject area experts from various disciplines in science and technology. (India Science Wire)

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