Plaksha University unveils DS Brar Center for Girls and Women in STEM in partnership with Mphasis

Creating pathways for women in STEM through mentorship, collaboration, and innovation

Bengaluru, 05 February, 2025: Plaksha University, a technology university reimagining higher education and research in India, launched the **DS Brar Center for Girls and Women in STEM** with support from **Mphasis**, marking a significant milestone in promoting an inclusive ecosystem for girls and women in STEM.

Despite progress in education and workforce participation, women remain underrepresented in STEM fields. In India, **only 28% of engineering graduates are women**, and while **40% of computer science and informatics graduates are female**, **only 22% of professionals in cutting-edge fields like AI are women**. These disparities underscore the pressing need for initiatives like the DS Brar Center to inspire, educate, and empower girls and women to pursue STEM careers. The center aspires to bridge the gender gap in STEM by offering a robust support network of role models across government, academia, and industry. The Center is launching a 3-month GWiST (Girls and Women in STEM) Fellowship - She Innovates - for women entrepreneurs, where they will have access to accelerator boot camps, masterclasses, and mentorship sessions.

Speaking at the launch, **Prof. Rudra Pratap, Vice Chancellor, Plaksha University**, said, *"The DS Brar Center for Girls and Women in STEM reflects Plaksha's commitment to fostering an inclusive and vibrant ecosystem that empowers women in STEM. Today, more than women needing STEM, it is STEM that needs women—to drive innovation, tackle global challenges, and reimagine the future. At Plaksha, we are dedicated to making STEM accessible to all youth and aim to achieve 50% enrollment of women in our programs, setting a benchmark for equity and excellence in STEM education."*

Commenting upon the launch of the center, **Nitin Rakesh, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Mphasis**, remarked, *"At Mphasis, we believe in driving purposeful innovation, and the DS Brar Center for Girls and Women in STEM exemplifies this ethos. By addressing systemic challenges and building synergies, this initiative empowers young women to not only thrive in STEM careers but also reshape the future of these fields. We are proud to partner with Plaksha University in creating a transformative platform that uplifts and inspires."*

The DS Brar Center builds upon the **Mphasis Foundation's two-decade-long commitment** to promoting the inclusion of girls and women in STEM careers. The foundation's enduring support and Mr. DS Brar's visionary leadership underline the center's dedication to nurturing new ideas, empowering women, and advancing STEM education.

About Mphasis

Mphasis' purpose is to be the "*Driver in Driverless Car*" for Global Enterprises by applying next-generation design, architecture, and engineering services, to deliver scalable and sustainable software and technology

solutions. Customer centricity is foundational to Mphasis and is reflected in the Mphasis'Front2Back™ Transformation approach. Front2Back™ uses the exponential power of cloud and cognitive to provide hyper-personalized (C=X2C2™=1) digital experience to clients and their end customers. Mphasis' Service Transformation approach helps 'shrink the core' through the application of digital technologies across legacy environments within an enterprise, enabling businesses to stay ahead in a changing world. Mphasis' core reference architectures and tools, speed and innovation with domain expertise and specialization, combined with an integrated sustainability and purpose-led approach across its operations and solutions are key to building strong relationships with marquee clients. Click here to know more. (BSE: 526299; NSE: MPHASIS)

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About Plaksha University:

Founded by a global community of more than 100 technology and business leaders, Plaksha envisions reimagining technology education and research for India and the world. With strong partnerships with UC Berkeley, Purdue, UC San Diego, UPenn, IIT Kanpur and IISc Bangalore, Plaksha aims to nurture and empower a generation of catalytic leaders and create an ecosystem of research and innovation. The university collapses the traditional boundaries of engineering and promotes interdisciplinary learning by combining technology, design and entrepreneurship.

Plaksha is guided by an eminent academic board including Vijay Kumar, Nemirovsky Family Dean of Penn Engineering, University of Pennsylvania; Prof. S Shankar Sastry, Thomas Siebel Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, Venkatesh Narayanamurthi, former Dean of the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Sriram Rajamani, Managing Director, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Research India; Julia Ross, Dean of Engineering, Virginia Tech; Krishna Palepu, Ross Graham Walker Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School; Sanjay Sarma, Fred Fort Flowers and Daniel Fort Flowers Professor of Mechanical Engineering, MIT; and business leaders such as Neeraj Aggarwal, Chairman – Asia Pacific, BCG; Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises ;Hitesh Oberoi, Co-promoter & CEO, Info Edge (Naukri.com); Srikanth Velamakanni, Co-founder, Fractal Analytics; Manas Human, Co- Founder, Nagarro; Navin Chaddha, Managing Director, Mayfield Fund; Sujeet Kumar, Co-founder, Udaan.com; Dalip Pathak, Special Limited Partner, Warburg Pincus LLC; CP Gurnani, former MD & CEO, Tech Mahindra; Pramod Bhasin, Chairman, Clix Capital among others. Corporate donors include companies like Bharti Foundation, Havells, HT Parekh Foundation, Mphasis, Axis Bank and Motilal Oswal. The global community of business leaders who founded Plaksha can be seen here.

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