Name of Centre / Overseas Chapter:	**Meerut Local Centre**

Title of Activity:	**World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**	
Theme	**Gender Equality in Digital Transformation**	
Date: **17-05-2025**	Venue:	**Conference Hall, Administrative Block, SCRIET, Meerut**

Photos of the Event

Brief Details about the Programme:

The event was celebrated in association with Sir Chhotu Ram Institute of Engineering & Technology, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut in their conference hall. The programme started with the lighting of lamp and presentation of bouquets to guests.

Er. R.P. Agrawal welcomed the chief guest Dr. Niraj Singhal, Director SCRIET Meerut and speakers Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Assistant Professor, SCRIET Meerut and Dr. Nidhi Chauhan, Assistant Professor, SCRIET Meerut.

Details of the Sessions:

Speaker: Dr. Pankaj Kumar, presents the *"Breaking Digital Barriers" A Roadmap to Gender Equality*

Contents
1. **Gender Equality**
2. **Digital Divide**
3. **Opportunities**
4. **Challenges**
5. **Conclusion**

1) "Gender equality in digital spaces isn't just about access—it's about **representation, safety, and empowerment**. Imagine a world where:

2) "Globally, **62% of men** use the internet compared to **57% of women**—a gap that seems small but hides stark disparities. In low-income countries, this divide deepens. Why?

   A) **Internet usage statistics by gender:** As of 2024, 70% of men and 65% of women globally use the internet. The gender gap, consistently 5–7%, is more pronounced in low-income countries due to social and economic barriers.

   B) **Barriers to access:** Women often face affordability issues, restrictive social norms, and limited digital literacy, which hinder their ability to access and use the internet.

   C) **Impact on low-income countries:** In low-income regions, lack of internet access limits women's access to education, jobs, and services—reinforcing poverty and reducing opportunities for empowerment.

3) **Opportunities**

   A) **Legal and Policy Reform:**
   Gender-responsive laws inspired by international frameworks help eliminate discrimination

   and promote equality through government action.

   B) **Education and Empowerment:**
   Educating women boosts economic participation, health outcomes, and challenges gender stereotypes, creating lasting societal change.

   C) **Technological Access:**
   Digital tools like online learning and mobile banking empower women by improving access to services, education, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

4) **Challenges**

 A) **Cultural and Social Norms:** Patriarchal values and gender stereotypes limit women's access to leadership, education, and employment, reinforcing systemic inequality over Generations.

   B) **Gender-Based Violence:** Widespread issues like domestic abuse and sexual harassment

   threaten women's safety and autonomy, hindering their full participation in society.

   D) **Unequal Economic Participation:**
   Women face wage gaps, limited financial access, and are overrepresented in informal work, restricting their economic independence and growth.

   B) **Limited Access to Education:**
   In many regions, girls face barriers to education due to poverty, early marriage, or gender bias—limiting their future opportunities and empowerment.

5) Gender equality in digital spaces benefits everyone and enhances the quality of information.

By working together, we can build safer, more inclusive online platforms.
Every voice matters—let's commit to making digital spaces fair and equitable for all.

Speaker: Dr. Nidhi Chauhan, presents on **"Gender Equality in Digital Transformation"** on World Telecommunication Day 2025 as below.

1. **Introduction to World Telecommunication Day**

Celebrated annually on May 17 since 1969 to raise awareness on the importance of ICTs globally.

The topic focused on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment through digital innovation.

Highlights the role of communication in building understanding, intimacy, and mutual valuing in communities.

2. **Digital Innovations by Engineers**

Engineers develop digital tools and platforms to empower women.

Aim to increase women's participation in STEM by overcoming barriers with skills and technology access.

3. **Key Barriers Limiting Women's Use of Technology**

Cost and affordability

Literacy and digital literacy gaps

Time constraints and mobility issues

Safety concerns and social norms

Perceived relevance and self-esteem/self-efficacy challenges

4. Changing Technologies, Not Women

Current technologies often adopt a one-size-fits-all approach ignoring gender-specific needs.

Emphasis on redesigning technology to accommodate women's realities rather than expecting women to adapt.

5. Digital Transformation Across Sectors

Health: Telemedicine, maternal health apps, reducing gender health disparities.

Education: Online learning platforms, gender-sensitive teaching, lifelong digital skills.

Finance: Mobile banking, microfinance, digital entrepreneurship tools empowering economic independence.

6. Digital Literacy Programs

Events like those in Sikhera village in Meerut promotes digital skills among women to bridge the digital divide.

7. Impacts of Digital Equality

Economic Empowerment: Access to jobs, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion.

Educational Access: Flexible learning, improved digital competencies, global knowledge access.

Health & Wellbeing: Better access to health services, awareness of gender-based violence, remote healthcare.

Social & Civic Participation: Amplified voices via social media, participation in governance, peer networking.

Confidence & Self-Efficacy: Leadership in STEM, challenging stereotypes, role modeling.

Safety & Autonomy: Emergency apps, anonymous reporting, enhanced decision-making freedom.

8. Digital Innovations & Sustainable Development

Digital tech supports multiple UN SDGs:

SDG 4 (Quality Education)

SDG 5 (Gender Equality)

SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)

SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure)

SDG 13 (Climate Action)

Empowering women digitally strengthens economies, communities, and resilience to crises.

9. Sector-specific innovations:

Climate Tech: Supports women farmers with weather and sustainability data.

Agri Tech: Market access and smart farming tools for women in agriculture.

Ed Tech: Removes barriers to education for girls in remote/conservative areas.

10. Conclusions

Closing the gender digital divide is essential not only as a rights issue but as an economic and development imperative.

Finally, Er. Ramesh Chand, Joint Secretary, Meerut Local Centre, The Institution of Engineers (India), delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions.

Er. Nikhil Kishore convened the entire programme very successfully.

The event was covered by leading newspapers in Meerut, featuring news and photos of the celebration.