



BMU
BML Munjal University



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP (WIL) 2025 REPORT



Theme: Power, Progress, and Possibilities

Venue: The Bristol Hotel, Gurugram

Date: April 30, 2025

Organized by: BML Munjal University

Opening Ceremony

The third edition of the Women in Leadership (WIL) conference commenced with a strong message of vision, inclusion, and transformation. Inaugurated by Ms. Swati Munjal, President, BML Munjal University, and Prof. Shyam Menon, Vice-Chancellor, the event welcomed over 200 participants including industry professionals, students, policymakers, and academics. In his opening remarks, Prof. Menon emphasized that “global leadership needs more enlightened women,” positioning the conference as a powerful platform for reimagining leadership in the 21st century. The chosen theme—Power, Progress, and Possibilities—framed every dialogue with the intention to ignite change and inspire future-ready leadership.

Keynote Address by Ms. Tanu Kashyap

Delivering a captivating keynote, Ms. Tanu Kashyap, Director General, NIFT, challenged traditional perceptions of leadership that lean heavily on masculine traits. She encouraged the audience to lead with empathy, resilience, and authenticity. Ms. Kashyap redefined the theme as Possibility, Progress, and Power, emphasizing that leadership must stem from clarity of purpose and integrity, not dominance. Drawing from personal stories and professional milestones, she dismantled the myth of work-life balance and advocated for consistent delivery over perfection. Her message was clear: empowerment begins with mindset, and real progress lies in purpose-led action.

Fireside Chat with Mamta Saikia

In a deeply reflective fireside chat, Ms. Mamta Saikia, CEO, Bharti Airtel Foundation, engaged in an insightful conversation with Dr. Prateek Modi, Dean, School of Management, BMU. Ms. Saikia shared her leadership philosophy centered around two often-overlooked tools: laughter and silence. She stressed the importance of being purpose-driven and underscored that resilience is forged in moments of doubt and challenge. Reflecting on her journey from being underestimated during her MBA to becoming a CEO, she offered a compelling reminder of the power of calmness and emotional intelligence in high-stakes environments. Her message to young professionals was direct and empowering: “What you can do, you must do.”

Panel Discussion: The Future of Work—AI, Innovation & Changing Leadership Landscapes

Moderated by Ms. Rachna Bhanot, Strategic HR Leader and Former Chief of Staff, IBM, the panel brought together industry veterans to explore how technological disruption is reshaping leadership.

Ms. Lakshmi Venkatesh (VP & GM, Kent Engineering India) illustrated how AI is driving smarter decision-making and operational efficiency.

Ms. Priya Kashyap (Chief Human Potential Officer, Hero FinCorp) emphasized using AI to unlock human creativity and build people-centric workplaces.

Mr. Prakhar Kasar (CEO, Hero Vired) brought a startup lens, advocating for continuous learning and rapid experimentation.

The panel discussed redefining leadership through a blend of emotional intelligence, digital fluency, and inclusive thinking. Diversity, adaptability, and psychological safety emerged as recurring themes for building future-ready organizations.

Workshops: Experiential Learning for Transformative Leadership

Following the panel discussion, WIL 2025 hosted two parallel, hands-on masterclasses designed to provide practical tools and immersive learning experiences:

Workshop 1: Mastering AI Strategies – Empowering Future-Ready Leadership

Facilitator: Mr. Anurag Upadhyay (TEDx Speaker & Digital Transformation Manager)

This session delved into the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on modern leadership practices. Participants learned how to integrate AI into strategic decision-making, harness data insights for performance optimization, and develop frameworks for AI-driven organizational transformation. The workshop emphasized AI not as a threat, but as a partner in driving innovation and agility in today's volatile business landscape.

Key Takeaways:

Building AI strategies aligned with organizational vision

Enhancing decision-making through data analytics and predictive tools

Applying AI to foster adaptability and continuous improvement

Workshop 2: Nukkad Se Corporate Tak – The Art of Business Storytelling

Facilitator: Ms. Nirupama Subramanian (Leadership Development Facilitator & PCC Coach)

This interactive workshop explored the power of storytelling in business and leadership communication. Drawing inspiration from grassroots formats like Nukkad Natak, the session taught participants how to craft compelling narratives that resonate with audiences, build emotional connection, and elevate brand authenticity. It offered practical techniques to integrate storytelling into leadership, marketing, and organizational change efforts.

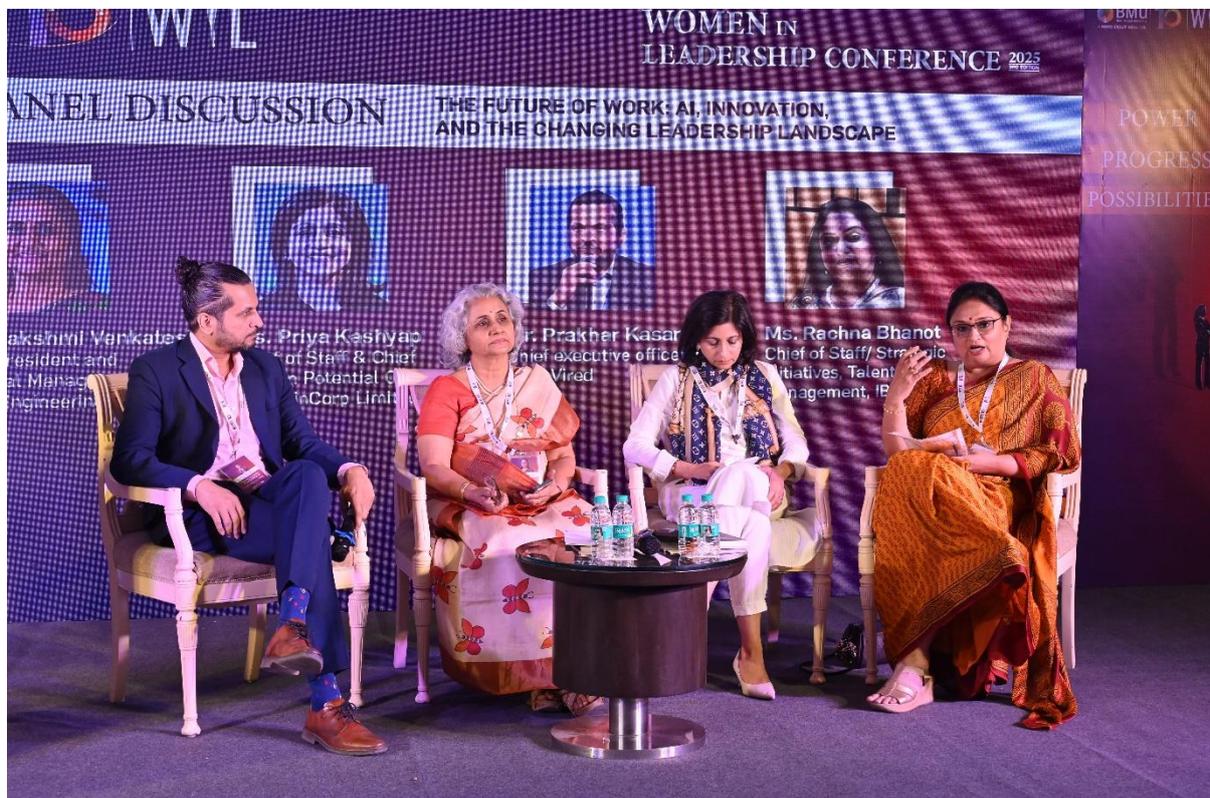
Key Takeaways:

Crafting authentic and engaging business narratives

Leveraging storytelling as a strategic communication tool

Using stories to build trust, influence stakeholders, and drive cultural transformation

These workshops not only complemented the conference's thematic focus but also equipped attendees with actionable skills for real-world leadership challenges.





Closing Reflections

The conference concluded on a high note with a moving address by Mr. Dharm Rakshit, who emphasized that true inclusivity begins with inclusive thinking. He spoke of leadership as a collective responsibility and highlighted that achieving India's \$5 trillion economy goal is possible only when equal opportunities are extended to all genders, across every sector. His words were a fitting call to action for organizations and individuals alike.

Dr. Sakshi Chhabra, Assistant Professor, School of Management, BMU, delivered a gracious vote of thanks, acknowledging all speakers, facilitators, attendees, and the organizing team for contributing to a day filled with insight, dialogue, and transformation.

Conclusion

WIL 2025 was more than just a conference—it was a movement. It celebrated the strength of women leaders, offered new perspectives on leadership in the digital era, and equipped attendees with practical tools to lead with confidence and authenticity. Through meaningful dialogue, thought-provoking keynotes, and experiential workshops, the event empowered individuals to rethink leadership, challenge biases, and take action.

As BMU continues to foster inclusive leadership and innovation-driven education, Women in Leadership will remain a cornerstone platform for dialogue, mentorship, and collective progress—shaping a future where leadership is diverse, dynamic, and deeply human.