

The Institution of Engineers (India)

AN ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED ORGANISATION
(ESTABLISHED 1920, INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1935)

JAMMU LOCAL CENTRE

Institutional Complex, Sector-3, Channi Himmat, Jammu -180 015

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PRESS RELEASE

IEI Jammu celebrates World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)



Photo Caption : Sh. Adarsh Verma, Chief Operating officer, Bharti Airtel Ltd. J&K, speaking on the occasion

The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Local Centre celebrated the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) on 17th May 2023 with the theme ***“Empowering the Least Developed Countries through Information and Communication Technologies”***, the event was attended by Engineers from various Departments, Organizations and Senior Engineers along with Members of the Committee of IEI, Jammu Local Centre.

The day is celebrated every year on 17th May to mark the founding of **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. **The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.**

The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

On this occasion, Adarsh Verma, Chief Operating officer Bharti Airtel Ltd. J&K was the *Chief Guest*, whereas Prof. (Dr.) Bhawna Sharma, Chairman, IEI Jammu Centre presided over the function.

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At the outset, Prof. (Dr.) Bhawna Sharma presented the Welcome Address and introduced the relevance of the day to the audience. She said that the digitization is not happening equally all over the world and this imbalance is known as digital divide. She informed that the purpose of the day is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that use of the internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide. She said that the access to the internet has enabled many of us to get on with our lives despite the Covid pandemic, thanks to the modalities such as remote working and online education but the reality isn't the same for all over the world.

While speaking on the occasion, Adarsh Verma, Chief Operating officer Bharti Airtel Ltd. J&K, stressed that corporates are taking all measures to make the last mile digital connectivity a reality and handing over the power of telecommunication into the hands of common man. The world is continuously evolving on this, and every day new ways and means to reduce the digital divide are emerging. He appreciated the role of this premier institution in spreading awareness among the masses that more needs to be done to use the ICTs in making the life of common people smooth cutting across the global boundaries.

Three numbers technical papers on the theme were presented by Er. Joy Ganjoo, Member Technologist, Er. Akash Dusgotra, AMIE & Er. Anil Kumar, AMIE.

Er. Sachin Tickoo, MIE, Honorary Secretary conducted the proceedings of the event, while speaking on the occasion he said Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have been transforming the way people communicate, learn, and do business. ICTs are also empowering nations to achieve sustainable development goals and improve their economies. However, many Least Developed Countries (LDCs), characterized by low levels of human development, weak institutional structures are still lagging behind in the adoption and utilization of ICTs. Therefore, it is essential to empower LDCs through ICTs to enhance their social and economic development. The role of ICTs was pivotal in making the mammoth COVID vaccination programme successful in the most populous country of the world "India". He further presented the Vote of Thanks to the august gathering and media personnel for active participation.

Sd/-

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