

# Empowering Women in Science:

## Celebrating Excellence with the Neelam Roy “Women in Biological Sciences” Research Award

**O**n **23 August, 2024**, the family and friends of Priyanka Gupta gathered at the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs (ODAA) for a special event filled with joy and celebration. The atmosphere was lively with conversation among attendees before the official proceedings began.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from Prof. K.J. Vinoy, Chair of the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs (ODAA), who greeted the gathering. This was followed by an opening address from Prof. S.P. Arun, Chair of the Centre for Neuroscience, who set the tone for the occasion.

Prof. Sridharan Devarajan then took the stage to introduce the **Neelam Roy “Women in Biological Sciences” Research Award**. He explained that this prestigious award is presented annually to female Ph.D. scholars within the Biological Sciences division who are in the final year of their doctoral program. The award, which recognizes outstanding academic research in various fields of biology, was instituted by Mr. Kunal Roy, an alumnus from the B.E. (Met) batch of IISc (1969-72), and his wife, Mrs. Neelam Roy. The award includes a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a citation.

Following Prof. Devarajan's introduction, Prof. Usha Vijayraghavan presented the citation, mock cheque, and a bouquet to the awardee, Priyanka Gupta. This was accompanied by a photo session and a short speech from Prof. Vijayraghavan, highlighting the importance of such awards in recognizing and supporting women in science.

[Watch here.](#)



Prof. Balasubramanian Gopal then spoke about the overwhelming response the award received, with 40 students applying for it. He emphasized the difficulty the committee faced in selecting just one recipient, underscoring the need for more awards of this nature to support talented female scientists.



The awardee, Priyanka Gupta, then expressed her gratitude and spoke about the significance of receiving the award, as well as her research contributions. [Watch here.](#)

The event concluded with refreshments, allowing attendees to mingle and engage in casual conversations, bringing the successful event to a close.