

Published Date:	28 Nov 2023	Publication:	The Times of India [Bangalore]
Journalist:	TNN	Page No:	3

5 from IISc selected for fellowship for women

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a pioneering move to address gender imbalances in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) Monday introduced the HUL STEM Fellowship for women

HUL STEM

pursuing PhD linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"While HUL, across its R&D units, has managed to achieve gender balance with nearly 400 of the 780+ scien-

MEET THE 2023 FELLOWS

- **Amrapali Datta** | PhD area – Health & hygiene
- **Ananya Sarkar** | PhD area – Climate action & sustainability
- **Rasmi Mohan T** | PhD area – Clean water & sanitation
- **Sonali** | PhD area – Climate action & sustainability
- **Tadge Tejaswini Somnath** | PhD area – Health & hygiene

“Women in STEM face many challenges, including a shortage of role models and opportunities for professional development. The HUL fellowship not only recognises the immense potential of women in STEM but also underscores the importance of creating an inclusive environment”

G Rangarajan | IISc DIRECTOR

tists being women, the share of women in STEM and R&D careers is exceedingly low globally. A significant num-

ber of women STEM graduates tend to opt out at a later stage, leading to a gender imbalance in the scientific com-

munity and jobs. In fact, the ratio of women in STEM-related jobs in India, including the private sector, is one female scientist to every six male scientists. This prompted us to take up this initiative,” HUL executive director (R&D) Vibhav Sanzgiri.

The inaugural edition of the fellowship, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science, has five women scientists from IISc — Amrapali Datta, Ananya Sarkar, Rasmi Mohan T, Sonali, and Tadge Tejaswini Somnath — who, aside from the scholarship, will also have access to senior mentors both from Unilever

and its external ecosystem.

The announcement was made at an event that featured a panel of accomplished women leaders in STEM from across India, who shared insights into the challenges faced by women in the field.

Rohit Jawa, CEO & MD of HUL, said, “We believe this multi-year fellowship will serve as a catalyst for transformative change, inspiring the next generation of top Indian women scientists, engineers, and innovators.”

The fellows will receive a financial award covering the entire five-year duration of their PhD programmes.