

REPORT

Science Awareness Week at AMU

B.P. Singh

A week-long “Science Awareness Programme”, designated as Science Week was held during 22-28 February 2022 at the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. The programme was organized under the “Synergistic Training program Utilizing the Scientific and Technological Infrastructure (STUTI)” supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.



Inaugural Session: (L to R) Prof. B.P. Singh (Chairman), Prof. M.U. Rabbani (Chief Guest), Dr M. Wasi Khan (Co-PI STUTI), Dr Jai Prakash (Co-PI STUTI), releasing the brochure of the Science Awareness Week programme.

The “Science Awareness Programme”, held as part of the “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebrations, was inaugurated on 22 February 2022 in the Conference Hall of the Physics Department and culminated on 28 February 2022 – the National Science Day. The events during the programme were aimed at arousing and inculcating the scientific spirit and temperament among young school children.

Prof. M.U. Rabbani, Chairperson, Department of Cardiology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU, was the Chief Guest. While inaugurating the programme, Prof. Rabbani stressed that science is useful for the betterment of society. He discussed how penicillin was discovered and how its discovery would lead to saving of innumerable lives in the years to come. Prof. Rabbani also released the brochure of the week-long programme.

Earlier, Prof. B.P. Singh, Chairperson, Physics Department and Coordinator, Programme Management Unit (PMU), STUTI while welcoming the Chief Guest, faculty and students, highlighted the importance and usefulness of organising a Science Awareness Week. He also stressed on the importance of scientific temperament and scientific spirit in the development of technological applications and the need for a science-society connect.

Dr M. Wasi Khan, Co-PI, STUTI, introduced the STUTI initiative of DST to the audience and discussed its main features and components. Dr Jai Prakash, Co-PI, STUTI conducted the proceedings.

During the Science Awareness Week students of class 11th and 12th (Science Stream), not only from the AMU campus but also from nearby places, were invited to participate. The participating schools from Aligarh included Saiyyid Hamid Senior Secondary School (Boys); Senior Secondary School (Girls); Range Hills Public School; Babu Lal Jain Inter College; Shri Maheshwar Girls



Concluding Session: (R to L) Dr Wasi Khan (Co-PI STUTI), Prof. B.P. Singh (Coordinator-PMU STUTI, AMU), Prof. S.K. Singh (Chief Guest) and Dr Jai Prakash (Co-PI STUTI)

Inter College; Mother’s Touch Senior Secondary School, and Naurangi Lal Govt. Inter College, while the Angels Public International School from Bulandshahr also participated.

Under the women empowerment initiative of the Government of India, the participation of girl students in the programme was stressed. During the entire week, each day about 50 students met with prominent faculty members working in the leading areas of science. Several activities such as popular science lectures on a variety of topics, science quizzes, elocution, hands-on activities, equipment demonstrations were conducted, apart from the screening of short films showcasing the scientific glory of India.

Interesting & Enlightening Activities

Enlightening and interesting popular science lectures were a major draw of the “Science Awareness Week”.

While Dr S.S.Z. Ashraf, Department of Physics talked about “The Universal Laws of Thermodynamics driving Life on Earth”, Prof. M. Sajjad Athar delivered a lecture on “Understanding Neutrinos for the Mankind” where he highlighted the connection between science and society, origin of the universe and understanding of fundamental particles.

In his lecture, “Nuclear Radiations for Human Welfare”, Prof. B.P. Singh, Chairperson, Physics Department focused on various ways of energy production and how radiations are useful for society. While Dr S.M. Afzal



Snapshots of student participants during the “Science Awareness Week” programme at Aligarh Muslim University

discussed the versatile applications of lasers in daily life, Dr Jai Prakash in his lecture “The Fascinating World of Liquid Crystal” talked about discussed the versatility of liquid crystals in display and other devices.

The origin of the universe was eloquently explained by Dr Sudhir Kumar Gupta in his lecture “Exploring Cosmos: From Smallest to Largest”. And in his lecture entitled “Quantum Light Sources and Emerging Optical Technologies”, Dr Faraz A. Inam covered various aspects of light.

Students also participated in Science Quiz and Elocution competitions. A short video film on “Atomic Energy in India: Glorious past and Resplendent Future” was also

shown to the students. In “Hands-on training activities” the students were familiarised with scientific equipments such as Spectrometers, Microscopes, Liquid Crystals, Telescope, Oscilloscope, Diffractometers, etc.

Concluding Function

On the last day, students also participated in the National Science Day 2022 celebrations organised by the Department of Physics. As part of the celebration, Prof. Archana Sharma (Senior Advisor for Relations with International Organizations, Principal Scientist, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland), delivered a talk on “Blue Sky Mega Science Research, Corona Virus, Why Should I Care?” Prof. Sharma discussed how

the internet was initially used at CERN and now has become an important tool of communication.

The concluding function of the programme was conducted at the Department of Physics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Prof. S.K. Singh, former Vice-Chancellor, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Uttarakhand and former Dean, Faculty of Science, AMU was the Chief Guest. Addressing the young minds in the programme, Prof. S.K. Singh guided the students in making the right career choices.

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