

Conference Report

Report on National Science Day 2023 Celebrated at Jhargram Raj College (Girls' Wing), Jhargram, West Bengal

National Science Day commemorates the discovery of the “*Raman Effect*” by Sir C.V. Raman FRS, the world-renowned Indian physicist who was awarded the Nobel Prize for the year 1930 for his discovery. A National Science Day Seminar was organized on 28 February 2023 by the Department of Bioscience, Jhargram Raj College (Girls' Wing), Government of West Bengal. The theme for National Science Day this year was “*Global Science for Global Wellbeing*”. The program began with an inaugural dance by Ms. Anindita Dandapat, a student of the Department of Bioscience. This was followed by garlanding of the photo of Sir C.V. Raman by the Chief Guest,

Dr. Kaushik Bharati. Other guests included Dr. Susil Kumar Barman, Principal, Jhargram Raj College (Girls' Wing) and Dr. Debnarayan Roy, Principal, Jhargram Raj College. The guests on the dais were felicitated by the organizers. Then Dr. Barman delivered the Welcome Address, followed by a speech by Dr. Roy.

After the inaugural session, the scientific deliberations began. There were two speakers – Dr. Kaushik Bharati and Dr. Uma Bhaumik. Dr. Bharati- PhD, MIPHA, FRSPH (London), is currently Team Lead, COVID-19 Research Trackers at UNESCO and is based in New Delhi. With regard to the Institute of Science,



Education and Culture (ISEC), he is a Member of the Executive Council and Chairman and Convener of the Seminar Committee, as well as Editor of the journal "Indian Science Cruiser". Dr. Bhaumik is Principal, Vivekananda Satavarshiki Mahavidyalaya, Manikpara, Jhargram.

The *Keynote Lecture* was delivered by Dr. Kaushik Bharati on the topic "*Ending the COVID-19 Pandemic – Challenges & Prospects*". The lecture highlighted the challenges that are being faced in stopping COVID-19 once and for all. Dr. Bharati also proposed that there could be a "silver lining" among the havoc wreaked by the pandemic. Highlighting the prospects in the concluding remarks allowed the lecture to end on an optimistic note. This was followed by a lunch break.

In the post-lunch session, Dr. Uma Bhaumik delivered a lecture on "*Raman Effect – Pioneer Discovery in Science*". She traced the history of this seminal discovery right from the very beginning, when Sir C.V. Raman was returning from England by ship in 1921. He was looking at the ocean and asked himself why its colour is blue. This thought led to crystallization of the idea of the "Raman Effect" in his mind. Upon returning to India, he immediately started his research that culminated in the discovery of a new type of light scattering effect in February 1928 that was named after him and the rest, as they say, is history! Both the lectures were well-received by the audience.

After this, Dr. Bharati delivered a Special Lecture on "*Snake, Snakebite and its Management*". His lecture was divided into three sections. Firstly, he talked about the various venomous and non-venomous snakes that are most prevalent in India. He also talked about snake myths and sense organ of snakes, namely, the Jacobson's organ. He also deliberated in detail on venom glands, venom production and secretion, venom composition, and venom toxins. This was followed by discussion about the snakebite problem in India, highlighting the mortality and morbidity statistics to illustrate the magnitude of the problem. He also covered other aspects, such as bite marks, snakebite symptoms, pathology of envenomation, and the factors responsible for the outcome of venomous snakebites. The last part of the lecture covered the snakebite management strategies, which included psychological support, first aid, and definitive treatment, involving antivenom therapy. The lecture was highly appreciated by the audience and the students and faculty eagerly asked many questions, all of which were satisfactorily answered by Dr. Bharati.

The day's proceedings ended with a "*Vote of Thanks*" by Dr. Sutapa Das, the convener of the seminar.

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