

National Science Day 2020 with the theme “Women in Science” was celebrated at Biomedical Technology (BMT) Wing of SCTIMST. Students and faculty members from NSS College for Women, Neeramankara, Thiruvananthapuram attended the program. Dr. Ruby John Anto, Scientist, RGCB was the Chief Guest and delivered the Science day message. This was followed by a science quiz, science magic and the lab visit by the students.



















श्री चित्रा तिरुनाल आयुर्विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, तिरुवनन्तपुरम, केरल- 695 011

(एक राष्ट्रीय महत्त्व का संस्थान, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, भारत सरकार)

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## **A REPORT ON NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS AT SCTIMST**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Venue: Biomedical Technology Wing, SCTIMST**

**Theme: “Women in Science”**

National Science Day 2020 was celebrated at the ‘Natakashala’ hall of the Biomedical Technology (BMT) Wing, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Poojappura campus, Trivandrum. About 85 students and three faculty members from NSS College for Women, Neeramankara, Thiruvananthapuram attended the program. The theme of this year’s National Science Day celebration was ‘Women in Science’.

The inaugural session of the program started at 10.00 am with the welcome speech of Dr. Santhosh Kumar B., Registrar, SCTIMST. He stressed the importance of having scientific curiosity while doing science. In his motivating speech he encouraged students to pursue PhD programs and seek answers to interesting scientific questions.

Dr. Ruby John Anto, Scientist G, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Poojapura, Trivandrum was the Chief guest and delivered the Science day message. She spoke about the challenges she faced as a woman while pursuing career in Science. She stressed the need of strong family support and courage and passion for doing science. She presented anti-cancer compounds derived from natural resources such as plants, and their effectiveness in treating cancer in animal models.

Felicitations were given by Dr. Harikrishna Varma, Head BMT Wing, and Dr. Shankara Sarma, Dean, SCTIMST. Dr. Varma recalled the discovery of superconductivity of Lanthanum Barium Copper oxide complex that won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1987. Dr. Sarma highlighted the low percentage (~15%) of women in key decision-making legislative assemblies or Parliament in India. The percentage of women active in Scientific Research and Development is also low (~15%) and he stressed the need to bridge this gap for parity in social development.

Dr. Roy Joseph, Scientist G, and Associate Dean (PhD program) offered the vote of thanks for the inspirational speech by Dr. Ruby John Anto, and hoped that more women shall pursue career in science.

The inaugural ceremony was concluded by National Anthem.

This was followed by scientific activities of the Day.

Dr. Manoj Komath, Scientist G and Head of the Department of Biomaterial Science and Technology, BMT Wing, delivered a talk that took audience through the history of Royal family of Travancore and the foundation of SCTIMST. He told inspirational stories and challenges involved in the development of SCTIMST flagship products, namely, artificial human heart valve and blood storage bags. He briefed on the Technical Research Committee (TRC) Projects, and gave a glimpse on the future programs of the Institute.

Science day quiz program was conducted by Dr. Renjith S, Scientist B, Central Analytical Facility, BMT Wing. It was an enlightening session remembering the contributions of pioneering women scientists and Nobel laureates. Winners of the Quiz competition were gifted with chocolates.

A Science Magic show was performed by Dr. Gijo Raj, Scientist C, Division of Polymeric Medical Devices, BMT Wing. He demonstrated the working of several scientific principles using improvised single use plastics. He explained the Bernoulli's principle, principle of flight, magnetism, Newtons Laws of motion, center of gravity, persistence of vision, periscope, kaleidoscope, propagation of sound waves, all in a fun way to students.

After this session students were given lunch. Post lunch session started at 2pm. The students were divided into 8 groups and taken to different labs for showing the facilities and research activities. The lab visits were concluded by 4pm and after having snacks and tea, they left the campus appreciating the program and thanking the organizers.

Date : 28.02.2020