

## Fourteenth Science Communicators' Meet

The Indian Science News Association (ISNA), Kolkata and Vigyan Prasar, DST, New Delhi have been organizing jointly a course titled 'Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice' for the last 35 years. As a concluding part of the XXXV Training Programme, the Fourteenth Science Communicators' Meet was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Meghnad Saha Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan, Rajabazar Campus, 92, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata – 700 009.

The programme started with the welcome address of Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary of ISNA. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary of ISNA and Convener spoke on the course and the upcoming activities of ISNA. Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman of the Organizing Committee described about the programme. ISNA's e-paper *Scientifica Communica*, Vol. 2, Issue 2 was released by the Editor of *Anandabazar Patrika*, Ms. Ishani Datta Ray. Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer of ISNA gave the vote of thanks.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Session was chaired by Ms. Madhumita Datta, Special Correspondent of *Anandabazar Patrika*. Prof. Moumita De Das of Adamas University spoke about

'Overview of Journalism Education vis-à-vis Science Communication'. Prof. Ambika Ghosh of The Heritage Academy described about 'The Specific Role We Play as Science Communicators' and at the end of the lecture, she raised one question "Is Science a blessing or a curse?" Dr. Bakul Srimany of Vijaygarh Jyotish Roy College narrated about the 'Digitalization as a Tool to Communicate Science'. She provided many information of science blogs, twitters and websites. Rapporteur Dr. Shefalika Ghosh Samaddar of ISNA summed up the 1<sup>st</sup> Session.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session was chaired by Dr. Minakshi De of ISNA. The main focus of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session was on health communication. Health is an important issue in our day-to-day life. Dr. Sujata Mukherjee from *Ei Samay* Online and Health Writer spoke about 'The Story by a Health Writer' and narrated the stories of health issue writers of different media. She described examples from her own personal experiences. Dr. Madhumita Dobe, Former Director-Professor, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health shared experiences of Public Health Professionals and hazards of this type of job. Mrs. Rezwana Parvin of ISNA was the Rapporteur of this Session.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Session was chaired by Prof. Julie Banerji, Vice-President of ISNA. The speakers were Dr. Sumitra Choudhuri, President of Bangiya Bijnan Parishad. She explained 'Women in Science Education and Communication since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century'. The scenario was

very tough for women during that period. She remembered the contributions of great and strong women of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the development of Science, mentioned names of male members of the then orthodox society who encouraged women to go ahead and made a mark in Science Communication. The next speaker was Dr. Sima Mukhopadhyay. She described 'The Role of Puppetry in Science Education in Schools'. She gave emphasis that puppetry is a strong medium through which Science Communication can be made possible. Ms. Sahoni Sarkar from ISNA was the Rapporteur.



(L to R) Dr. Amit Krishna De, Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Shri Prasanta K Bose, Professor Prabir Kumar Saha and Ms. Ishani Datta Ray

The Valedictory Session was chaired by Dr. Srabanti Basu, Heritage Institute of Technology and it was addressed by Dr. Reshmi Naskar, HoD of Journalism and Mass Communication, St. Xavier's University. In her presentation titled 'The Road Ahead for Women Science Communicators', Dr. Naskar emphasised that Science Communication is a male-dominated area. But women communicators are also required in village areas where village women will feel comfortable to talk to other women.

Mrs. Arpita Chakraborty and Ms. Tithi Roy of ISNA acted as Comperes. At the end of the programme, Mrs. Jaya Bandopadhyay sang two beautiful Rabindrasangeets. People left the auditorium with a good mood carrying the memories of this the day long programme. □

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## Report on National Science Day 2023

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 Indian Science News Association (ISNA), National Environment Science Academy (NESA), W.B. Chapter and West Bengal State University jointly observed National Science Day and remembered the life and work of Dr. Har Gobind Khorana, an eminent scientist and a Nobel Laureate who had made significant contributions in Molecular Biology. The programme was held in the N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan, Rajabazar Campus, 92,



(L to R) Dr. Subhendu B. Patra, Dr. Amit Krishna De, Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Prof. Ashok Ranjan Thakur and Dr. Ambika C. Banerjee

Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, Kolkata – 700 009. The occasion was graced by the presence of Dr. Ambika C. Banerjee, Former Corporate Advisor, R&D, East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited, Prof. Ashok Ranjan Thakur, Former Vice-Chancellor, Techno India University, Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal State University, Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Technology and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Dr. Amit Krishna De, Chairman of NESA and Honorary Secretary, ISNA and Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA and former Professor of Bose Institute, Kolkata.

At first Dr. De welcomed the guests. He mentioned the contributions of NESA and ISNA in the field of Science. Then Professor Chakrabarty briefly talked about the past and present activities of ISNA, its mouthpiece *Science and Culture* and two e-papers. Then he talked about how the concept of National Science Day (NSD) cropped up and about its theme for 2023. He concluded his talk with a view of courses compatible with the objectives of the national science day and wished the celebration a grant success.

Dr. Thakur gave a lecture on different aspects of science. He gave emphasis on developing scientific temperament. He pointed out that in nature, there is no division like Physics, Chemistry or Biology. He addressed young generations to become scientifically more conscious.

At the end, Dr. Ambika C. Banerjee started his lecture on 'Dr. Har Gobinda Khorana, a scientist and pioneer in solving mysteries of life' by slide show. In around a fifty-minute-lecture, he described Khorana's research work elaborately. He fondly remembered Dr. Khorana as a person. The audience was spellbound to hear Dr. Banerjee's lecture and they came to know about so many unknown aspects of Khorana's life through this lecture.

The organizers presented a sapling to each of the two dignitaries. At the end, Dr. Shubendu B. Patra, Convener, NESA, W.B. Chapter, gave a Vote of Thanks to everybody associated with this outstanding programme. □

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