

## Seminar on “Serendipitous Discoveries in Science” and “Future of STI : Impact on Education, Skills and Work”

Date: 01-03-2021

Participants: 72

Dr. Pruthul R Desai, Department of Physics, Sir P. T. Sarvajanik College of Science, Surat

Dr. Sambhav Vora, Department of Chemistry, Sir P. T. Sarvajanik College of Science, Surat

### Brief Report:

#### National Science Day Celebration – 2021

National Science day commemorates the wonderful discovery of the *Raman Effect* of by Sir C V Raman, the first Indian who won the Nobel Prize in Science. Every year, Sir P T Sarvajanik College of Science celebrates **National Science Day**. The year 2021 was not an exception. As per our tradition, the college celebrated the **National Science Day** on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021. Various activities were planned on this special occasion for students.

The program began with a brief inaugural function which was presided over by Prof. Kishor Chikhaliya (Department of Chemistry) and Prof. V G Joshi (Department of Physics) from Veer Narmad South Gujarat University. Ms. Priti Singaraju invoked the blessings of the almighty with a wonderful rendition of sloka. The Chief guest Dr. Kishor Chikhaliya threw light on the significance of national science day.

In morning session, two talks were organized.

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Dr. Sambhav Vora explained “Future of STI: Impact on Education, Skills and Work” through the lens of experience. The talk started with the comparison of old method of Teaching and new pedagogy. In his talk Dr. Vora also elaborated the uses of ITC in new pedagogy. The talk was concluded with the discussion of pros and cons of the use of the technology as far as teaching process is concerned.

The second talk “Serendipitous Discoveries in Science” was delivered by Prin. Dr. Pruthul Desai. He began the talk with his characteristic style of elaborately explaining the meaning of serendipity, giving etymological details of the word. The talk lucidly followed into description of examples from all branches of science with a special emphasis on the role of serendipity in the discovery of penicilline.

He stressed the importance of “prepared mind” and the role it played in leading to momentous discoveries.

The talk was initiated with different definitions of serendipity, later on evolved with examples from different fields of science in which serendipity has played a role in major discoveries. Dr. Desai concluded his talk stating the fact that preparedness of mind is much more important than luck, for those major discoveries. In a way, he gave a message to the students to develop scientific approach.

The afternoon session was dedicated for the Poster Presentation Competition. The theme for the Poster Presentation Competition was “**Nobel Prize in Physics-2020**”. Total 10 Teams from various college of South Gujarat region participated in this competition. Prof. V G Joshi and Dr. N D Patel served as the Judges for the competition. The day ended with the announcement of winners and a note of encouragement and motivation for the students by the judges.