

National Science Day celebration at VECC-SINP campus-2017.

This year Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) celebrated National Science Day jointly with Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP). About 600 school students, accompanied by their teachers from the different parts of the state visited VECC-SINP campus on 10th March. We observed the day in a later date, instead of 28th February to accommodate students completing the annual school examinations.



The day long program for school students started with breakfast followed by a guided tour to the cyclotron facilities and different laboratories. They were explained about the science we are pursuing at the two research centres. After the visits students and teachers assembled at the Meghnad Saha Auditorium at SINP campus.

The visitors were formally welcomed by the Directors of VECC and SINP, who encouraged the students to take science as a career and explained the students how the basic science helps for the progress of mankind, including the direct benefit to the society. This year, the theme of the science day was “Computers and its applications and benefits”. Dr. Biswajit Sarkar, a scientist of VECC talked about a software for societal application “Mounisara”, developed by the scientists of the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) in collaboration with the industry. The software converts text into sign language for the hearing-impaired persons and helps them to communicate better and provides an effective educational aid for the specially abled children. Prof. Subir Sarkar of SINP talked to the students how the need of basic research made the innovation of Internet (developed at CERN) which is part of our daily life now.

A panel of scientists from the two research centres interacted with the students for more than an hour and answered to their interesting queries. The students were interested to know, how the cyclotrons can be used to produce radioisotopes that are used in treating cancer patients.

The students took the lunch with the volunteers and after the lunch the students took part in the science quiz hosted by the research scholars. Directors of VECC and SINP had given away prizes to the top three teams of the quiz competition. All the participating schools were also given a memento for the Day.