



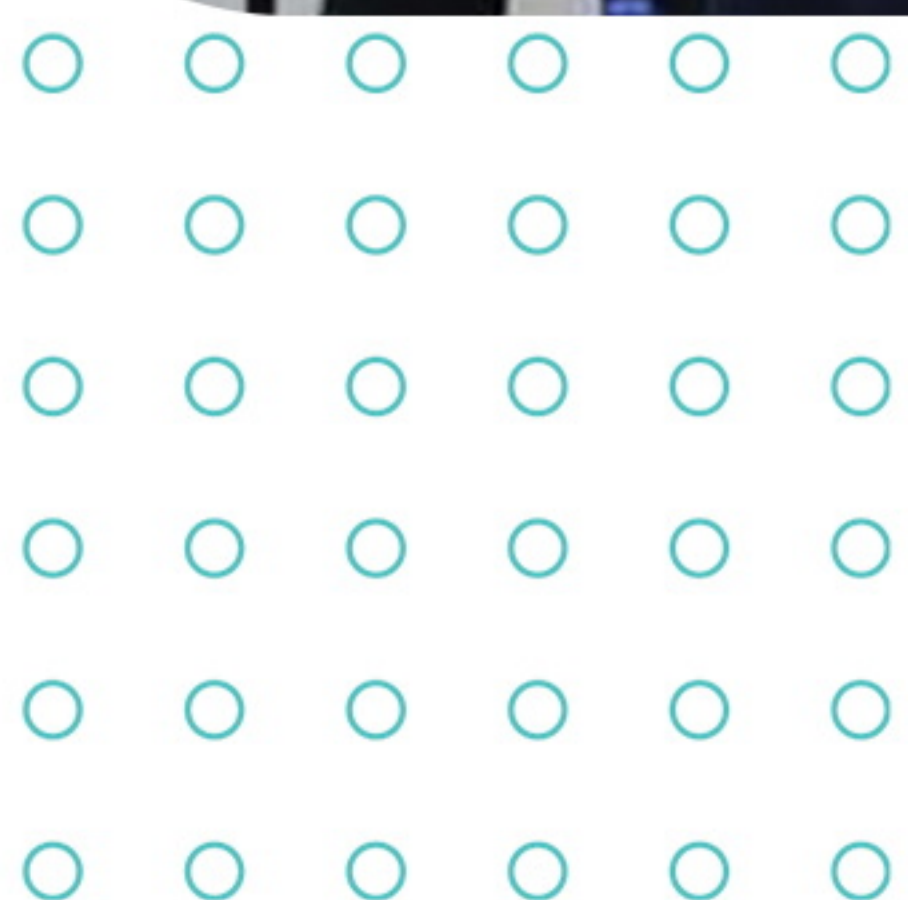
PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

State University - NIRF Rank 59 - NIRF Innovation Band of 11-50
Salem-636011, Tamilnadu, India.



Newsletter

October 2023



Three-day 'Geo-Expo-2023'

The Department of Geology has organized a three-day national-level exhibition - 'Geo-Expo-2023', with many contests from 28th to 30th August 2023, with a theme of a sustainable future.

The chief guest, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. R. Jagannathan, exhorted students to work hard to achieve successful life. Using an analogy revolving around a perfect prize distribution ceremony that requires smart-script, coordinated efforts, and diligent anchor to leave a lasting impression on the audience, he stressed that they must plan every move and channel energy to achieve what they want in their life. He also distributed prizes to the winners of the respective contests.

The program began with the convener Dr. S. Venkateswaran, department head, welcoming the gathering. The exhibition received adequate footfalls and an overwhelming response. ★

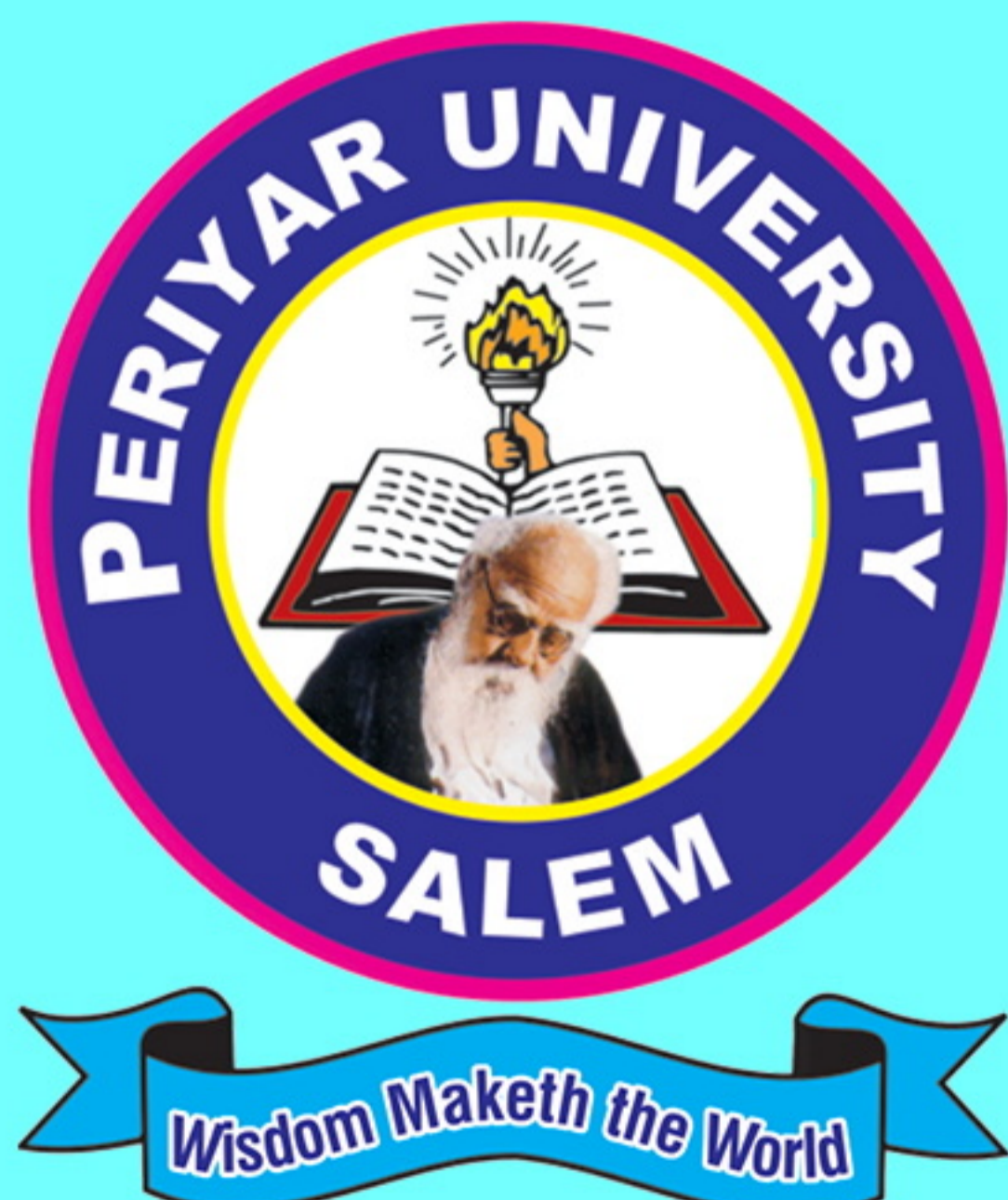


Weekly online workshop

The Department of Geology has organized the Weekly Online Workshop program at Seminar Hall. Around 79 participants comprising M.Sc. students, research scholars, staff and faculty members took part in the program. ★



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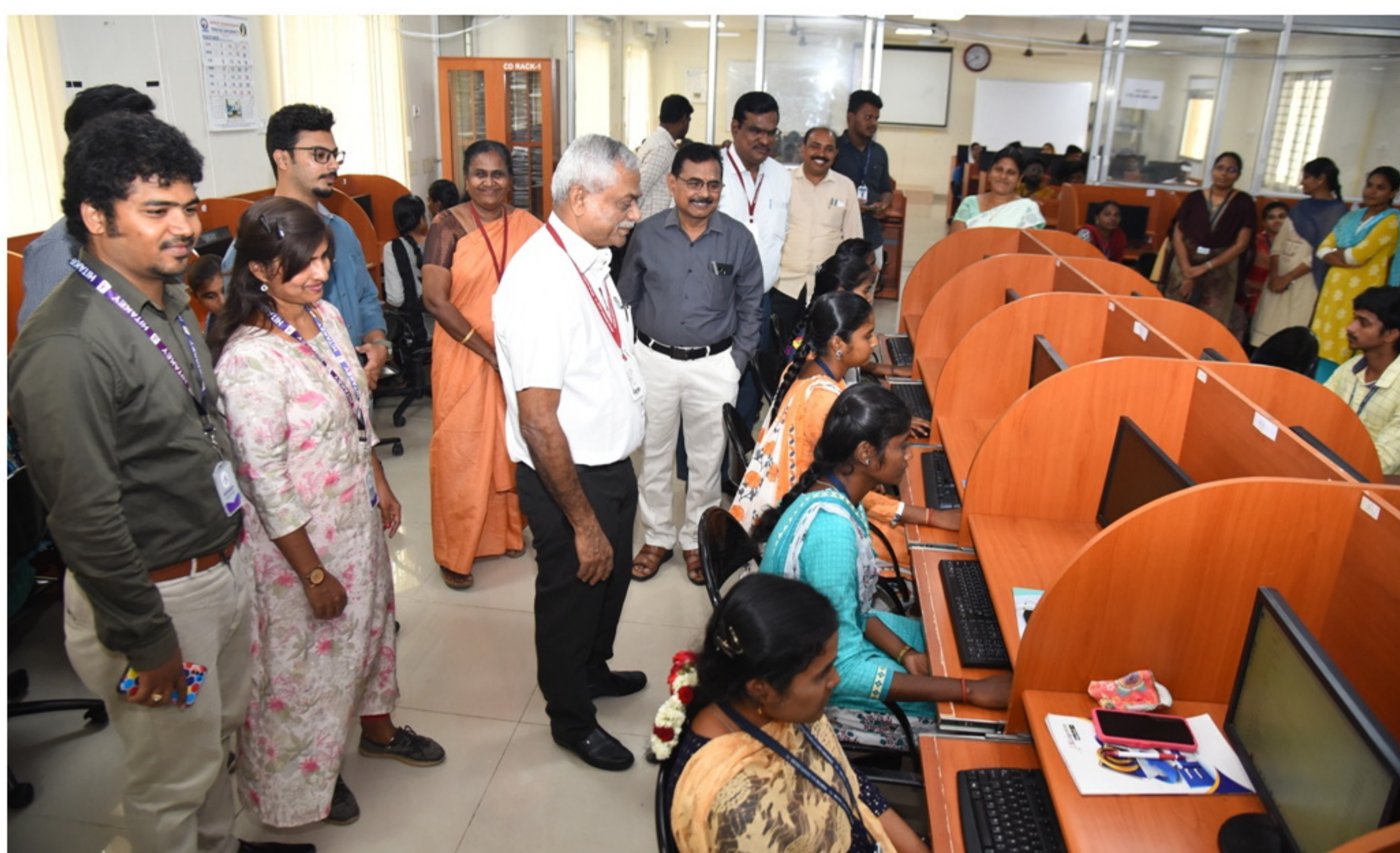
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Workshop on AI Modules in Python

The Department of Computer Science recently hosted a two-day workshop on AI Modules in Python. On the occasion, the expert laid bare the associated technical know-how and pragmatic aspects of the topic to the participants. Dr. K. Thangavel, Registrar (FAC), extended a warm welcome to the gathering and spoke about the importance using Python for AI Modules.



The resource person, Mrs. C. Salom Jerlin, Head-Hitakey Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Trichy, explained the Carla Simulator and engaged students in hands-on training. She guided the participants in developing various environments using Conda prompt and, subsequently, executing them within CarlaUE4 application.

The event received an overwhelming response from across the board. ★

Blood donation camp



University's Health Centre, in association with the Lions Club of Salem, has recently organized a blood donation camp. On the occasion, teaching, non-teaching, administrative staff, and students from different departments donated blood. The Lions Club will hand over the donated units of blood to the needy in different hospitals. ★

The varsity observes Vigilance Awareness Week

As a precursor to Vigilance Awareness Week, the varsity has organized a public awareness program on the perils of corruption on 30th October 2023. On the occasion, the audience was informed about the vicious impact of burgeoning corruption in society and its spiralling effect on the future generation.



The program started with officials taking an integrity pledge and urging the gathering to take a vow to see that corruption gets completely eradicated to see India develop. They were told, this could only happen when an individual maintains his/her integrity by outrightly saying no to corruption. ★

Key to reproductive health: Preventive measures and nutrition

Periyar University's Women's Studies Centre (WSC) has recently organized a daylong workshop on women's reproductive health. Many healthcare personnel from diverse clinical areas spoke and shared their valuable expertise on the related topics with the gathering.

The program began with Dr. P. Nazni, WSC Director, welcoming the gathering. She emphasized the importance of addressing critical issues related to women's health and reproductive well-being. Dr. S. Kadiravan, Controller of Examinations, lauded the university for hosting such a program.

The resource person, Dr. K. Bharathi, a medical officer, discussed the latest developments and trends in women's reproductive health and stressed accessibility and quality healthcare. Explaining about the link between urinary tract infection and reproductive well-being, she strongly underscored the need for early detection and preventive measures to promote optimal health.

Dr. Rukmani, a nutritionist, exemplified the significance of a balanced diet including nutrients to maintain optimal reproductive health and delved into dietary choices which impact fertility, maternal health, and overall well-being.

Dr. G. Prema Priya, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, sensitized the gathering about proper menstrual hygiene practices and methods during menstruation and spoke about various contraceptive options, family planning and awareness to handle these critical areas.



In his valedictory address, Dr. K. Thangavel, Registrar (FAC), appreciated WSC for promoting reproductive health behaviour among the rural women. The program received an overwhelming response. ★

Planning Forum discusses Nobel laureates' contribution

The Planning Forum formed by students of Periyar University pursuing Masters, M.Phil, and Ph.D has organised a lecture series to discuss key topics including far-reaching impact and valuable contributions made by 2023 Nobel Laureates of Economics.



On the occasion, Dr. A. Saravanadurai gave an awareness narration on the Nobel prize, and explained to the gathering about the immense intellectual, practically result-driven theories, and potential scientific modalities that have depth to nurse or heal the ailing economy get rewarded. ★

Educational trip to Botanical Survey of India

Department of Biotechnology has recently organized a daylong educational trip to the Botanical Survey of India, Yercaud, as a part of the M.Sc curriculum. The trip aimed at apprising students of the diversified flora at BSI Southern Regional Centre.

On this occasion, the resource person, Dr. S. Kaliamoorthy, welcomed the faculty members and students. He gave an overview of Southern Regional Centre and informed about govt-sponsored awareness drive – Mission Life (lifestyle for the environment). The core climatic change issue and its impact on the environment and plant life were also discussed.



Later, the Centre’s technical staff shed light on the cultivation, maintenance and medicinal use of orchids, herbal, insectivore, and endangered plant species. The habitat and growth features of species like *Costus spicatus*, spiked spiral-flag ginger or Indian head ginger; *Epidendrum radicans*, species of orchid; *Mangifera andamanica* belonging to the family Anacardiaceae; *Australopithecus anamensis*, *Cycus*, *Pandanus* and *Thunbergia mysorensis* were exemplified. 50 students and four faculty members participated. ★

‘Fossil Day’ observed

The Department of Geology has observed ‘Fossil Day’. The event aimed at highlighting the scientific and educational value of palaeontology and the importance of preserving fossils for future generations.



To mark this event, the Students Earth Science Forum has organized various competitions and discussions of which all faculties, staff, and students of the department were part. A lecture revolving around fossil’s value, general understanding of how it is formed and preserved, etc. was delivered by one of the experts. ★

International Day for Rural Women

The Women’s Studies Centre (WSC) has organized a daylong program to observe ‘International Day for Rural Women’ at Sangeethapatty village involving rural women and discussed issues bogging them and appraising them of remedial measures.

The program began with Dr. Radhika, WSC Deputy Director, welcoming the gathering followed by Dr. D. V. Nithyanandan who in his address maintained that rural women must be empowered by ensuring required social support and improved mental health services to enable them to deal with their emotional issues. He also sensitized them about how limited mental health resources and embedded gender bias prevent them from leading a healthy life.

Similarly, the resource person, Dr. S. Thilagavathi, dwelling upon the ‘Influence of urbanization on dietary habits,’ said that increasing urbanization causes insidious influence on their dietary habits as they easily fall prey to processed and fast food, which shift them away from traditional and locally sourced diet leading to health challenges and potential loss of culinary heritage. She called for preserving cultural traditions and promotion of healthier dietary choices in rural areas.



Dr. P. Nazni, WSC Director, sensitised the participants on the role of the Women’s Studies Centre at Periyar University and how they can utilize the centre’s resources for the betterment of biopsychosocial life and be empowered. ★

Industrial visit at TRACO, Kerala

The Department of Statistics has recently organized a two-day industrial visit to TRACO Cable Company Limited (Kerala state enterprise) for M.Sc students from 19th to 20th October, 2023. The purpose of this visit was to get all students thoroughly acquainted with the potential features of the cable manufacturing industry including production, manufacturing, safety measures, and environmental issues.

On the occasion, students could get hands-on experience wherein they witnessed and interacted with various technical, administrative, and professional manpower technicians engaged in core processes of manufacturing, assembling and even intricacies of supply chain marketing, etc.



TRACO is one of the Public Sector Undertakings of Kerala and is an ISO 9001 certified Company, established in 1964. It is in the forefront in meeting the needs of major customers like various Electricity Boards, Railways, BSNL and ESCOMS of other states and to the various project groups. It envisions growing in the country as one of the pioneers in the cable industry. ★

Industrial visit to Kerala firms

The Department of Biochemistry has organised a two-day industrial visit to Kerala state firms from 26th to 27th October 2023. The primary motive of the visit was to get students acquainted with the nitty-gritty of production, business, supply chain management, employees' welfare, training, etc.

The team comprised around 30 members including faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students. The team visited Malanad Cooperative Tea Factory, Vagamon, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Ernakulum, and Central Coir Research Institute (CCRI), Alleppey. ★



Special lecture on 'Mechano-photonics'

The Department of Energy Science and Technology has recently hosted a special lecture on 'Mechano-photonics of molecular crystals for Nextgen photonic devices' at the Department's Smart Classroom. Dr. K. A. Ramesh Kumar, department head, in his address, underscored the significance of energy conservation. Dr. M. Annadhasan from IIT (Hyderabad) was the resource person and enlightened the gathering on the role of Mechano-photonics.

Mechano-photonics is a field of research that combines the principles of mechanics and photonics to study the interaction between light and mechanical motion in materials. It aims to understand and predict the optical and mechanical properties of functional materials in solid-state and design and develop optical components and photonic circuits for the next generation of optoelectronic and photonic devices. ★

Health awareness drive at Samminakkenpatti

The Department of Zoology has recently conducted a health awareness program over mosquito control and vermi-composting at the Government Middle School of Samminakkenpatti village in Salem.

The campaign was conducted in the wake of mosquito-borne infections like dengue causing havoc in recent times in the surrounding areas. School being the place of learning where students acquire knowledge, learn lifestyle practices and understand health-seeking attitudes, the department preferred to conduct this awareness program at Samminakkenpatti village's school.



Mr. Chinrasu, village panchayat president, graciously extended his cooperation to Dr. N. Kayalvizhi, Dr. P. Tirichenthilnathan, Dr. R. Thangaraj and Dr. R. Maheswaran of the Department of Zoology in organizing this drive. On the occasion, faculty members and university students briefed the school kids about the mode of transmission, and control of dengue, malaria, and elephant encephalitis. They also distributed pamphlets containing information about the habitat of mosquitoes, breeding, symptoms, prevention, and treatment measures.

Around 81 students including postgraduate and Ph.D scholars of the Zoology Department were part of this drive. Over 150 school kids and villagers participated in this program. ★

Workshop on 'small molecules'

Periyar University's Centre for Instrumentation and Maintenance Facility (CIMF) has recently organized a daylong workshop on 'High-resolution structure determination of small molecules.'

The workshop focused on the latest developments in analytical techniques including X-ray crystallography - principles, crystals, symmetry, data reduction, space group determination, phase determination, X-ray diffraction intensity measurements, and structure solution.

Dr. K. Murugesan, Director-CIMF, welcomed the gathering and explained about the existing facilities and services provided to the research community. Currently, the Centre has single crystal XRD, GC-MS, SEM-EDX, and AAS supported by RUSA. He reiterated that the university authorities strongly support the Centre and its facilities. CIMF staff later provided a demo of SC-XRD and crystal analysis.



Later, he informed the participants that the Centre may launch an internship program on various analytical techniques for students and scholars to create skilled human resources to meet industrial requirements. ★

International Seminar on 'Revolutionising Health and Harvest

In a significant endeavour to explore the latest advancements in the field of Biotechnology and its profound impact on both medicine and agriculture, the bio-tech department hosted an International Seminar on "Revolutionising Health and Harvest: Biotechnology Advancements in Medicine and Agriculture."

Prof. R. Jagannathan, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor welcomed participants and experts from around the globe to engage in insightful discussions and knowledge sharing regarding the transformative potential of Biotechnology. Further, he explained important of Food and nutrition security to the students.

The event's Convener, Dr. R. Kavitha, Professor & Head of the Department of Biotechnology shared her excitement about the diverse range of topics that will be covered during the seminar.



Dr. G. Vivekanandhan, MD from Farmer's Bio-fertilizers & Organics, Coimbatore, delivered a lecture about advantage of organic farm. An organic farm is an agricultural system that places a strong emphasis on sustainability, biodiversity and environmentally friendly practices while eschewing the use of synthetic chemicals, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and conventional pesticides and fertilizers. Organic farming seeks to work in harmony with nature to produce healthy crops, maintain soil fertility, and promote overall ecosystem health. Further he explained Bio-fertilizers and bio-control advantages.

Dr. Duraisamy Saravanakumar, an expert in Plant Pathology and the Head of the Department of Food Production Faculty of Food and Agriculture at the University of the West Indies, noted the importance of sustainable agricultural practices in the context of evolving global challenges.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Krishnan, a Senior Postdoctoral Researcher and Team Leader at DKFZ, emphasized the significance of bridging the gap between Biotechnology advancements and their practical applications in medicine.

The best poster presentation awards were also delivered to various categories viz., UG, PG and Ph.D. ★