

Indian March for Science Campaign

REPORT

Department of Life Sciences has organized a rally on 29th August 2025 at 10:00 a.m. as part of the Indian March for Science Campaign. The rally commenced from college campus and proceeded towards the Engineering College in the Osmania University campus. The rally began with a flag off done by Prof Ramachandraiah, Prof.A.Pramila, Prof. Gangadhar, Prof.B.N.Reddy and Prof.Vasundhara. Students of B.Sc. BZC and BtZC participated enthusiastically, carrying placards and raising slogans to promote scientific temper. The event emphasized the significance of research, innovation, and evidence-based thinking in addressing societal and global challenges. The rally concluded with a collective pledge to uphold scientific values & rational thinking. After the rally, participants were taken by buses to the auditorium of Hindi Mahavidyalaya, where the program began with an inauguration ceremony. It was followed by several speakers who came forward to express their support for the Indian March for Science and share their views and ideologies.

Inaugural Session

The event commenced with an introductory gathering, attended by eminent dignitaries, intellectuals, and social activists. The meeting was graced by the presence of:

Dr. Bala Kumari, Principal (Hindi Mahavidyalaya)

Representatives from Jana Vignana Vedika

Prof. BN Reddy

Prof. Koya Venkateshwara

IMFS Ramachandraya (IIT Warangal)

Prof. A.Pramila (AMS)

In their addresses, all the speakers warmly extended their wishes and reiterated the urgency of organizing such an event annually. They highlighted that in the present times, science and research are increasingly facing suppression, underfunding, and neglect, while superstitions and pseudoscientific practices continue to proliferate.

Purpose and Themes

The central purpose of the India March for Science 2025 was to raise awareness about the challenges threatening scientific research and society. The following themes guided the event:

Suppression of Scientific Research – Concerns were raised about bureaucratic and political interference that hampers independent research.

Proliferation of Superstitions and Myths – Participants condemned the rising tide of pseudoscience, myths, and unscientific beliefs that hinder progress. Budget Cuts in Research – Repeated demands were made to address inadequate government funding for science and technology.

Industrial Safety Negligence – Speakers stressed the urgent need for safety protocols in industries to prevent disasters.

Environmental Degradation & Climate Change – The march called for stronger, evidence-based environmental policies to tackle pollution and the ongoing climate crisis.

Science Budget Demands:

Allocation of 10% of GDP to research.

Minimum 30% of the national budget to be directed towards scientific development.

Stronger safety regulations in laboratories and industries.

Climate Change & Environmental Policies:

Call for strict legislation to reduce air, water, and soil pollution.

Emphasis on promoting renewable energy, eco-friendly living, and sustainable urban planning.

Tribute to Dr. J.V. Narlikar

A solemn homage was paid to Padma Vibhushan Dr. Jayanth V. Narlikar, one of India's most celebrated astrophysicists and the co-founder of the steady state theory of the universe. His life's contributions to cosmology and science communication were remembered. A minute of silence was observed in his honour, acknowledging his lifelong mission of popularizing science among the masses.

Lecture by Prof. Mehta S. Banerji (Retired, NIN, 1994):

Delivered a detailed talk on "Health and Nutrition Security in India."

He addressed the dual burden of malnutrition and lifestyle diseases like hypertension and cardiovascular illnesses. In his talk he highlighted the critical first 1000 days of life, stressing on maternal health, safe childbirth, and neonatal nutrition (as per WHO guidelines). His speech advocated for breastfeeding practices, noting that while 60% of mothers initiate breastfeeding within 1 hour, malnutrition persists, with 17% of new-borns underweight. He promoted the consumption of traditional grains (millets, jowar) and the revival of local food systems' unsustainable practices introduced during the Green Revolution, instead encouraging the Evergreen Revolution envisioned by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. Sustainable agriculture, home gardens, backyard poultry, and organic alternatives like neem-based fertilizers were highlighted

Speeches on Education & Social Responsibility

Principal Bala Kumari addressed the gathering on the role of teachers as the backbone of the nation. She stressed the need to revamp B.Ed curriculum to incorporate awareness on nutrition, hygiene, and child psychology. She pointed out the importance of teachers in tackling malnutrition, hygiene-related illnesses, and childhood trauma and encouraged sustainable lifestyles and eco-friendly practices, including the use of clay Ganeshas during Ganesh Chaturthi.

Closing Ceremony

Distribution of participation certificates to students and faculty members.

Conclusion

The India March for Science 2025 stood as a powerful collective voice demanding respect, freedom, and proper funding for science in India. By bringing together students, educators, scientists, and socially conscious citizens, the event succeeded in creating awareness about the

dangers of pseudoscience, the need for scientific ethics, and the urgency of addressing climate change.

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