

The Preamble

The most anticipated annual event of South Campus - “National Science Day Symposium (NSDS)” – is here, sixth time in a row, in all its glory and extravaganza to enrich our academic pursuit outside the confines of class-rooms, hallowed offices and laboratories and beyond the boundaries of departments. On February 29, 2016, the student community of life sciences departments brings to life NSDS 2016. The annual scientific cum cultural festival to commemorate the National Science Day on February 28 has now become a part and parcel of the serene campus. This event of the students, by the students, for the students, promises to be a soulful enrichment that will last long in our memories as we go about performing our mundane daily routine.

The success of an event is measured by its ability to adapt to the changing needs of the time and yet deliver the punch necessary. NSDS 2016 lives up to the expectations. While the last five years celebrated the event over two days, NSDS 2016 took up the challenge to deliver the same intensity in half the amount of time. The extremely tight semester schedules, the lack of time all around and the paucity of funds needed NSDS to respond to a change of

plan and it did so with elan. This year's event has been all planned in a days' time and promises not to cut down either on academic joy or cultural activities. NSDS 2016 will potentially be tight and breezy but promises to be short, sweet and eventful with plenty of memories to cherish.

NSDS has given a new meaning to National Science Day celebrations on campus. It has infused life into scientific activities on the campus. It has brightened the already shining student force on the campus. It has created a common platform for the diverse life sciences research on campus, allowing students and teachers to share their discoveries and deliberate on scientific issues. It has allowed us to share the ecstasy and agony that invariably accompany research at the highest level. It has given us a reason and it has forced everyone to step out of the confines of a small world we fondly called "laboratory". It has allowed students to wander into other departments, to interact scientifically and to widen their horizon of scientific quest and knowledge. The fruits of such an exercise are sure to explode in terms of more collaborations, camaraderie, scientific relationship and tolerance, sense of justice and compassion and better understanding of biology in general. NSDS will surely help forge many a bonds, create memories to cherish, induce healthy competition and above all an element of fun that will go a long way in every student

growing up into a respectable and responsible citizen of the country.

NSDS has ushered in glorious key note lectures in the past. Luminaries like Dr. G.P. Talwar, Dr. Manju Sharma, Dr. K. Vijayaraghavan and Dr. S.K. Sarin have enthralled us in the last few years with their wisdom, vision and high quality oration. The tradition lives on and doubles up this year – with not one but two key note lectures. The one in the morning will be delivered by Prof. Anil K. Gupta, IIM Ahmedabad, on creativity and innovation. The one in the afternoon will be delivered by Prof. M.S. Raghunathan, IIT Bombay on mathematical past, present and future of India. I am sure what excites the reader is the diversity of the key note lectures and their diversion from biology or medical science witnessed in the previous years. While biology entertains us round the year, a pleasant shift from the familiar might be a welcome break and an opportunity for different perspectives to prosper. Amid the change of subject of key note lectures, the constant is the fact that like the previous year, the plenary lectures are being hosted and organized by INSA-TWAS India Chapter. The INSA-TWAS association has surely added a distinction to NSDS 2016.

Another aspect of dynamism and an experimental change that

NSDS 2016 will witness is that the faculty talks from the campus have been kept on hold this year. Instead, students from all life sciences departments will present their work and generate excitement in both fellow students and teachers. This is an eagerly awaited event since the oral presentations are assessed and prizes awarded. NSDS is not all about talks though and a repertoire of other events adds to its aura and is present in full flavor this year as well. Poster presentations by students will represent the landscape of life science research in the campus. Team events like quiz competitions, which are immensely popular, will surely command full house. The novelty of NSDSs also lies in the “idea” presentations, which is a fiercely competed team event as well, with each team coming out with a novel concept in science. These presentations will add color to the event and provide insight into the fertile brains of students. Awards in each of these events promote healthy competition and helps sustain high quality.

NSDS over the five years has been marked by innovations and new entrees. This year is no exception. In a moment of inspiration, students came up with the idea that such an interdisciplinary platform should also be used to felicitate our faculties who have been beacon of shining light over the years in the campus and who have met with the inevitable, we term “retirement” or “super-annuation”. They deserve a fitting and rousing farewell and loads

of good wishes. It is of striking coincidence that Prof. Deepak Pental officially ends his long and illustrious career on 29th Feb itself. The other star, Prof. R.K. Saxena, ended his fabulous journey on 31st December, 2015. Both these practitioners of life sciences will be felicitated with fondness.

Cultural programme at the end of the day will add color, vibrancy and dynamism to the NSDS. It will provide an avenue for talents to flourish and a snapshot of our cultural strength. NSDS 2016 thus leaves no stone unturned to make this a memorable event.

It needs no mention that an event of such magnitude needs help and support from all quarters. The event would not have survived without the generous financial, infrastructural and moral support from the administration. The Director of South Campus Prof. Umesh Rai deserves special accolades for his unconditional support. The finance and academic sections of South Campus have been magnanimous in their support as well. The dynamic Dean of FIAS, Dr. Pradeep Burma, has always lent a helping hand with a smile for bonus. All heads of the departments and every single teacher have been instrumental to NSDS success. Financial support has also been provided by students themselves and faculties in terms of contributions. Several corporate establishments came forward with generous support as well and their help is

appreciated. We are sure we will receive help from all other staff of South Campus including security on those days of the event. There are faculties who have helped behind the curtain with generosity, who will never be forgotten. Over and above, the entire dream that NSDS is owes to our fabulous students who work day and night to make this wholesome event an outright success!!!

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