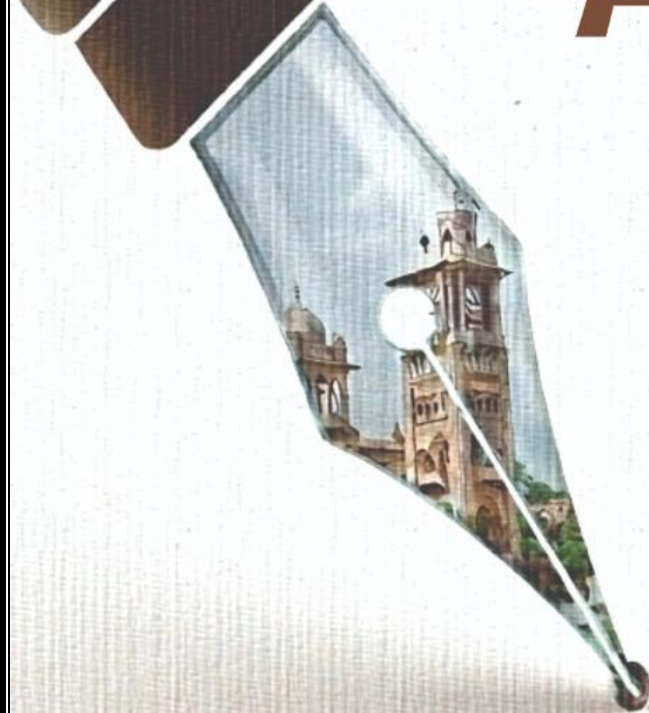




VOLUME 41, MAY - OCTOBER 2025

AU TALK



Editorial Board

AU TALK is a monthly digital newsletter of the University of Allahabad. AU TALK, a long-cherished dream and a brainchild of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, has been regularly and successfully disseminating news and information on various academic and research activities happening across the departments/centres of the university. The original idea behind the digital platform is not only to spread information about various developments related to the departments but also to revitalize a connection among them. AU TALK, as a digital space, facilitates its faculty members to publish their own informative articles, research accomplishments and potential future plans.

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Department of English and Modern European Languages

Gyan Kumbh at the Department of English and Modern European Languages

Ancient Hindu mythology speaks of the Samudra Manthan giving rise to the pot (kumbh) of amrit, implying that anything worthwhile is born of a manthan or churning. Prayagyaj is the land of the Kumbh.

In keeping with this spirit of the Kumbh, the Department of English & M.E.L along with the IQAC team of the University of Allahabad, under the able guidance of our Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. S. Srivastava, organized a series of thought provoking lectures, beginning on the 24th of January, 2025, in which national and international speakers of renowned scholarship were invited to speak on issues of contemporary relevance. This series was appropriately titled the “Gyan Kumbh Lectures.”

The inaugural lecture was delivered by Prof. Priyadarshi Patanaik of IIT, Kharagpur on “Abhinaya” as understood in Indian Aesthetics, on 24th January 2025.

On 7th February 2025 Dr. H.Lucy Guest talked about the need to decolonize young minds. Hailing from the UK, Dr. Guest who holds a doctorate in Sanskrit grammar and promotes the Sanatan Dharma and Bhartiya Sanskriti for global welfare. Speaking in Hindi throughout, Dr. Guest pointed out the need to preserve indigenous Indian languages and cultures.

Prof. Ananta Kumar Giri, from the Madras Institute of Development Studies spoke on “Savitri Satyagraha,” emphasising the struggles for creativity, truth and transformation in Mahatama Gandhi and Sri Aurobindo on 21st February, 2025.

The Department was once again graced by Prof. Priyadarshi Patanaik from IIT Kharagpur on 28th February, 2025, when she spoke about the Rasa theory, the readers and the science of emotions from the perspective of Indian Aesthetics.

On the 10th and the 11th of March 2025, we had the honour of hosting Ms. Joanna Tuczynska from the University of Warsaw, Poland. Fluent in Bengali and English, Ms Tuczynska delivered her lecture on Tagore's Gitanjali in Polish translation and the transcreation processes accompanying translation.

All the talks were met with enthusiastic response from the faculty members and research scholars of the Department of English & M.E.L. The question and answer sessions at the end of every lecture saw fruitful discussions in which key insights were shared. The Department stands enriched by the experience of these Gyan Kumbh lectures.



Department of English and Modern European Languages

Two – Day Cultural Event

The Department of English, Allahabad University, successfully conducted a two-day cultural event on 24th and 25th July 2025. The first day featured a quiz competition and an open mic session in the Department premises. On the second day, the department staged Yayati, a play by Girish Karnad, at Tilak Bhawan.

Present at the event were the Head of the Department, Prof.Indrani Mukherjee, event convenor Dr.Amarnath Kumar, esteemed faculty members including Dr. Satish Prajapati, Dr. Mona Agnihotri, Dr.Umesh Chandra, Dr. Hariom Singh, Dr. Mrityunjay Parmar, Dr. Prakash Joshi, and Dr. Nakul, whose presence and encouragement greatly contributed to the success of the programme.





Department of English and Modern European Languages

On 14th August 2025, the UG and PG students enthusiastically participated in a poster making competition as part of the cultural festivities in the University to celebrate the Independence Day.

The corridors of the English Department bore a new & vibrant hue when all the innovative posters were displayed, creatively giving positive social messages.

Anushka Srivastava of BA 2nd year took the first position while the 2nd place went to Aditi Pandey also of BA 2nd year.



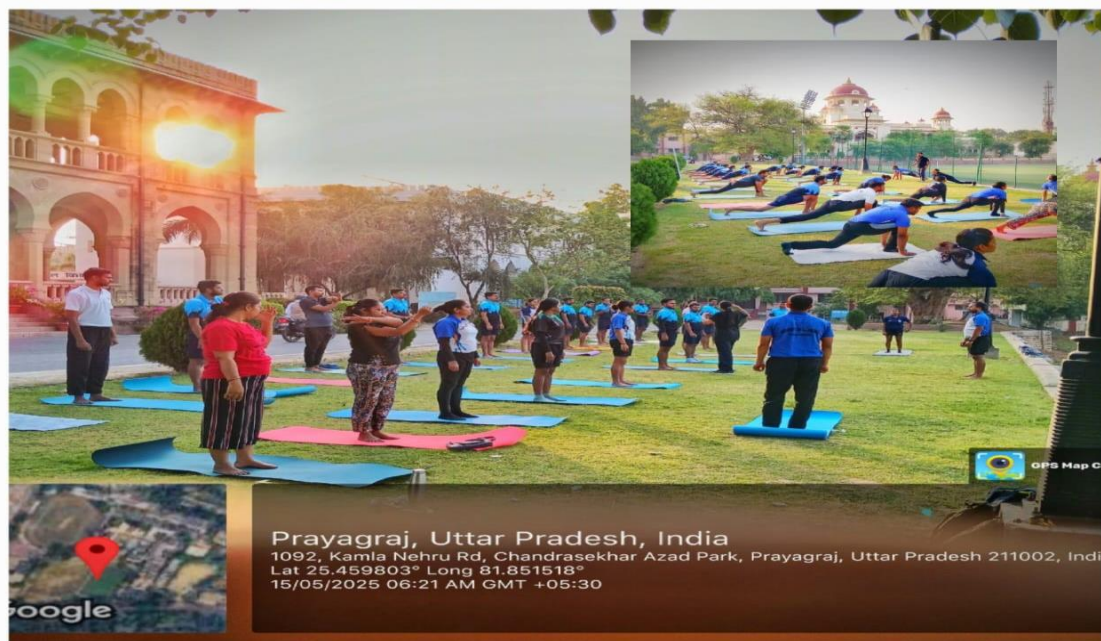
International Yoga Day

Allahabad University, with great enthusiasm, celebrated the 11th International Yoga Day on June 21, 2025, led by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sangita Srivastava at the Vizianagaram Hall, Science Faculty, University of Allahabad, featuring a session by Prof. Archana Chahal, aligning with the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health". The event also witnessed the exuberant participation from students and staff of various hostels, demonstrating a strong commitment towards holistic wellness.



Department of Physical Education

The Department of Physical Education, University of Allahabad, organized a Workshop on Suryanamaskar as part of the International Yoga Day Celebration, under the aegis of IQAC, University of Allahabad.



Centre of Environmental Studies
Outreach Program

Dated: 08th August 2025 and 22nd August 2025.

Location: Bhidiura Tharwai Village and Gayadeen Vishwakarma Inter College, Soraon, Prayagraj

On 8th & 22nd August 2025, an outreach program was conducted by the Centre of Environmental Studies, University of Allahabad, under the guidance of Prof. Umesh Kumar Singh, Coordinator, Centre of Environmental Studies, at Bhidiura Tharwai Village and Gayadeen Vishwakarma Inter College Soraon, Prayagraj, with the aim of spreading awareness regarding environmental issues and scientific concepts related to soil, water, air and sustainable practices among school students and community members. The programme included live demonstrations, interactive discussions, and hands-on activities to engage school students and to promote practical understanding.

The objectives of the visit were:

- raising awareness regarding environment protection among the children
- use of fun activities and games to spread awareness among the children about their surroundings
- distribution of stationary supplies to fulfil the educational needs of school children
- engagement of local community members for promoting cleanliness and greenery
- conducting a plantation drive to create awareness among local people
- distribution of sanitary napkins among rural women to promote menstrual hygiene management
- conducting a rally in the village to motivate and infuse the values of environmental importance

Activities conducted:

- ☐ interaction with students

- ☐ rock weathering model demonstration
- ☐ interactive session with students
- ☐ water cycle demonstration
- ☐ freshwater and marine water
- ☐ candle light experiment
- ☐ soil Composition and Layers of Soil Explained
- ☐ water filtration activity
- ☐ pH and TDS demonstration
- ☐ distribution of sweets and stationery
- ☐ plantation drive
- ☐ awareness rally

Outcomes of the Programme: Enhanced environmental awareness, practical learning, community participation, health & hygiene promotion, youth motivation, green initiative and social bonding

Other faculty members Dr. Puneeta Pandey, Dr. Kumar Suranjit Prasad, Dr. Pawan Kumar Jha, Dr. Pankaj Srivastava, Dr. Jitendra Ahirwal and non- teaching staff Sneha Tripathi, Pooja, Pratiksha Srivastava, Dhananjay, and Abhishek Mishra of the Centre of Environmental Studies were also present.

Conclusion

The outreach program conducted on 08th and 22nd August 2025 by the Centre of Environmental Studies, was highly successful in integrating scientific education with social responsibility. By engaging school students and local people through interactive demonstrations, plantation drives, and an awareness rally, the program not only disseminated knowledge but also inspired participants to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. The collaboration between the University of Allahabad and the local community served as an effective platform for addressing environmental challenges, spreading awareness on health and hygiene, and nurturing future generations to become responsible

towards the environment. The event marked an important step towards creating environmentally conscious citizens and promoting a culture of sustainability in rural areas

AU takes pledge to protect environment with students

SANTAMBARA

Prayagraj: The Centre for Environmental Studies of Allahabad University, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell and the Centre for Science and Society, Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies, organised a one-day outreach programme at Gayaadeen Vishwakarma Intermediate College, Bhidura, Prayagraj. The main objective of the programme was to make students and society aware of environmental protection and motivate them to adopt an environment-friendly lifestyle.

On this occasion, the Head of the Department, Prof. Umesh Kumar Singh said that in the present times, the environmental crisis has become a serious challenge for the whole world. In such a situation, the university's initiative to make children and youth aware of the environment is a commendable initiative. Apart from this, Dr. Punita Pandey, Dr. Rohit Kumar Mishra, Dr. Pawan Kumar Jha, Dr. Kumar Suman, Dr. Pankaj Srivastava, Dr. Jitendra, Dr. Arpana Pandey and Dr. Shashikant Shukla also presented their views and called for making environmental awareness an integral part of life.

Various activities were organized in the program, in which

plantation was carried out in the school premises, in which teachers, students and guests together planted saplings of different species. Through tree

but also towards environmental responsibilities. He expressed confidence that such events will continue to be organized in the future as well. Along with this, the man-



quiz competition, drama performance and awareness rally were special attractions. Students presented environmental problems and their solutions in a creative way through their presentations. The drama presentations deeply impressed the audience, while the rally spread the message of cleanliness and greenery in the entire area. On this occasion, a massive tree

plantation, everyone gave the message of a green future and reiterated their commitment towards environmental protection. The school's manager, Tribhai Vishwakarma praised the program and said that this joint effort of Allahabad University and Gayaadeen Vishwakarma Intermediate College is a meaningful step towards making students sensitive not only towards education

of the school honored all the guests and teachers present in the program by presenting them mementos. The school family, teachers and students participated enthusiastically in the program and made it a success. In the end, everyone took an oath that they will adopt eco-friendly habits in life to protect the environment and will also spread this message in the society.

इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा गयादीन विश्वकर्मा इंटर कालेज में आयोजित हुआ आउटरीच कार्यक्रम

प्रयागराज। इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय के पर्यावरण अध्ययन केंद्र द्वारा आंतरिक गुणवत्ता

आश्वासन प्रकोष्ठ के तत्वावधान में गयादीन

विश्वकर्मा इंटरमीडिएट कालेज, भिदुरा,

थरवई, प्रयागराज में आउटरीच कार्यक्रम का

आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य छात्रों

और स्थानीय समुदाय को पर्यावरण संरक्षण,

जलवायु परिवर्तन, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा एवं सतत विकास

जैसे महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर जागरूक करना था।

विशेषज्ञ वक्ताओं ने पर्यावरणीय समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु सामुदायिक भागीदारी, वृक्षारोपण,

जल-संरक्षण, प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण नियंत्रण तथा हरित जीवनशैली अपनाने पर विस्तृत जानकारी

दी। विभागाध्यक्ष प्रो. उमेश कुमार सिंह ने कहा कि पर्यावरण संरक्षण केवल सरकारी नीतियों

पर निर्भर नहीं है, बल्कि यह हमारे व्यक्तिगत और सामुहिक प्रयासों से ही संभव है। कार्यक्रम

में डॉ. पवन कुमार झा, डॉ. पुनीता पांडेय, डॉ. जितेंद्र, डॉ. कुमार सुरजीत एवं डॉ. पंकज

श्रीवास्तव ने भी अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किए। कार्यक्रम के दौरान प्रश्नोत्तरी, नाटक एवं

जागरूकता रैली जैसी रचनात्मक गतिविधियों के माध्यम से पर्यावरणीय मुद्दों से जोड़ा गया।

कार्यक्रम में विद्यालय के प्रबंधक तीर्थराज विश्वकर्मा, शिक्षकगण एवं छात्र-छात्राओं ने सक्रिय

सहभागिता की। अंत में सभी ने पर्यावरण के अनुकूल आदतें अपनाने का संकल्प लिया।



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Inauguration of Karmayogi Training

Rashtriya Karmayogi- Large scale Jan Sewa Program was conducted on 6th September at Department of Education and Department of Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology, University of Allahabad. The chief guest of its inauguration was Prof. Dhananjai Yadav, Head, Department of Education and Director, Faculty Recruitment Cell, UoA. Teaching and Non Teaching employees of Department of Education, Department of Ancient History, Culture and archaeology, Department of Music and Performing Arts, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Centre of Film and Theatre actively participated in the training



University Foundation Day- 2025

The University of Allahabad celebrated its 138th Foundation Day on September 23, 2025. Established on September 23, 1887, it is recognized as the fourth oldest Modern University in India, often referred to as the "Oxford of the East". The 138th Foundation Day event took place on September 23, 2025. The main function was held at the Senate Hall auditorium.

During the event, the acclaimed folk singer Padma Shri Malini Awasthi was conferred an honorary degree of 'Honoris Causa' by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sangita Srivastava. The Hon' ble Vice-Chancellor highlighted the university's historical journey and its role in producing nation-builders. She also mentioned recent developments, such as the appointments of new faculty and staff, construction of new buildings and the University's first time ranking in the QS World Ranking. Various key academic updates were discussed, including the adoption of a four-year undergraduate program and changes to Ph.D. admissions, which will now use UGC-NET scores instead of the prior CRET exam.

The celebrations included various activities, such as an exhibition depicting the university's progress, a friendly Kabaddi match, and a live webcast of the main function. The university community celebrated under its motto, "Quot Rami Tot Arbores" ("as many branches, so many trees"), which emphasizes the cultivation of diverse academic disciplines. The foundation day served as a moment to reflect on the institution's rich intellectual heritage and its ongoing commitment to academic excellence and national service.



Centre of Food Technology

September - National Nutrition Month

Centre of Food Technology in association with Association of Food Scientists & Technologists – India (AFSTI), Allahabad chapter celebrated National Nutrition Month-2025 based on the theme “Eat right for a better life” which emphasises the importance of balanced diets and mindful food choices for improving overall health and well-being across all age groups. Two activities namely- “Eat right for a Better Life” –a poster competition and “*Gluten Free for a Better Life*”- a recipe contest were organized on September 18th and 22nd, 2025. The UG, PG and Ph.D. students of the food technology programme participated in both the competitions with great zest. Fifteen teams participated in the poster competition whereas sixteen teams participated in the recipe competition with great zest. Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners of poster and recipe contests.

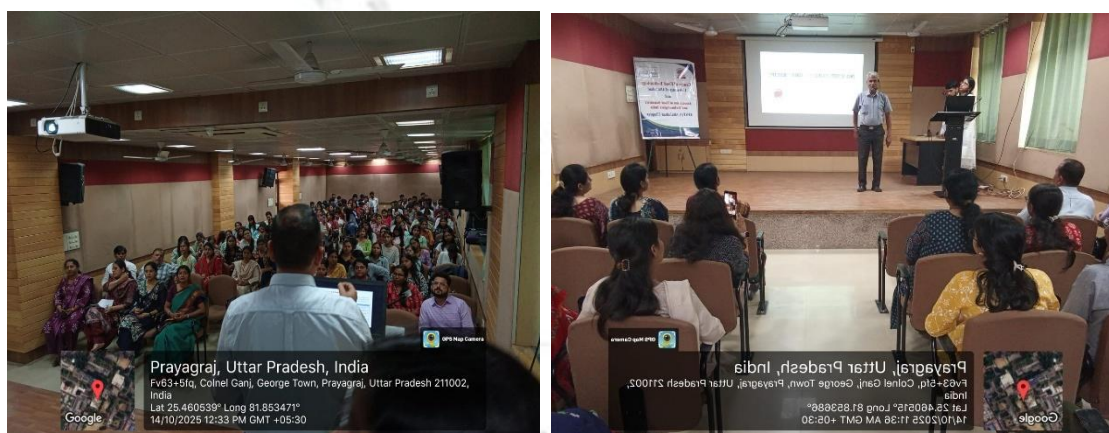


World Food Day-October

Centre of Food Technology in association with AFSTI Allahabad Chapter has celebrated World Food Day -2023 on 14th October on the focal theme “**Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future**” which highlights the critical importance of global cooperation and collective action in addressing food safety, security and nutrition challenges. On this occasion, two distinguished speakers were invited for special lectures. Renowned Professor Dr. C.P. Mishra from IMS, Department of Community Medicine, BHU, emphasized on the need of nutritious, diverse, and culturally appropriate

diets in prevention of hidden hunger and malnutrition. He estimated that by 2050 the population will reach 9.1 billion which will be 34% higher than today. This situation will lead to land scarcity and to overcome this problem, he emphasised the need for vertical farming and aquaponics. Newer advance technologies like future lab grown meat, cellular milk, sustainable sea foods, genetically modified foods would be a sustainable approach to address the problem of food security as this will produce less carbon footprint.

Dr. S.K. Chauhan, Former Deputy Director, Food Processing & Horticulture, Govt. of U.P, encouraged the students to set up start-ups related to fruits and vegetable, cereals, millets as it is a promising venture of today and future. He also sensitized the students about the start-ups in the food processing sector and about the various subsidies and initiatives which aim at enhancing food security, boosting employment, and attracting investments. Prizes and certificates were distributed by the distinguished speakers to the winners of the poster and recipe contest on 14th October 2025 on the celebratory occasion of World Food Day event.



Outreach Activity on Food Safety and Balanced Diet – August

An outreach activity was organized by the Centre of Food Technology on 29th August 2025. The faculty members along with the students of Centre of Food Technology visited PrathmikVidhyalaya, Gram Panchayat Sikandarpur Bajaha, Vikas Khand-Muratgang, Kaushambi. Knowledge on food safety and balanced diet was imparted to the students of primary standard during the outreach activity. The students of CFT presented posters and a street play [nukkad natak] on the theme of food safety

and balanced diet. The participants gained the clear understanding of what constitutes a balanced diet and how to include various food groups in daily meals so as to get the necessary vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients. Participants learnt about the affordable and local food items to meet their nutritional needs (e.g., pulses, green leafy vegetables, eggs, etc.). Students expressed willingness to adopt the hand washing habit before meals and after using the toilet. The outreach activity successfully raised awareness and motivated participants toward healthier eating habits and better hygiene practices.



Outreach Activity on Nutritional Importance of Millets- September

An outreach activity was organized by the Centre of Food Technology on 12th September 2025. The faculty members along with the students of Centre of Food Technology visited Mahavir Prasad Inter College, Gram Panchayat Alamchand, Vikas Khand-Muratgang, Kaushambi and PrathmikVidhyalaya, Gram Panchayat Kasenda, Chayal, Kaushambi. During the outreach activity, the students of primary and secondary standards were imparted knowledge about millets and its health benefits. The students of CFT presented posters on the nutritional importance of millets and a nukkad natak on the theme of Food Safety. Through a questionnaire, it was concluded that the knowledge about millets was low to medium among the participants. This activity sensitized the participants about the health benefits of millets in their daily diet. The participants discovered that millets are rich in essential nutrients, including dietary fiber, calcium, iron, and B-complex vitamins and beneficial for managing diabetes, obesity, and heart diseases. The participants were made aware of different

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food products and recipes based on millets. The activity motivated the participants to grow millets as these crops are climate-resilient that require less water and grow well in dry and marginal areas, which are important for sustainable farming. The participants were also made aware about various hygienic practices. The participants expressed willingness to adopt hand washing practice before meals and after using the toilet.



Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology at the University of Allahabad, in collaboration with Panch Parmeshwar Vidyapeeth (School of Vivekwan Leadership), organized a one-day National Workshop on “Gram Swaraj: Ek Vimarsh” on October 4th, 2025. The National Workshop commenced with an inaugural session, followed by a panel discussion on Gram Swaraj, a student forum on Gandhi, and was concluded with a valedictory session.



The inaugural session was honored by the presence of Prof. Ashish Saxena, Dr. Chandrashekhar Pran, Prof. K.B. Pandey, and Prof. A.K. Sharma. Dr. Chandrashekhar Pran, Chairperson of Panch Parmeshwar Vidyapeeth, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the goals of the third government, namely Gram Swaraj. Prof. A. K. Sharma, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kanpur (Retd.), emphasized the significance of Hind Swaraj and urged the students to read it before delving into a sociology textbook. He also traced the evolution of swaraj through Swami Dayanand Saraswati's Satyarth Prakash, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Jawaharlal Nehru respectively. Prof. K. B. Pandey, former Vice-Chancellor of Gramoday Vishwavidyala, Chitrakoot, deliberated on the relevance of Gandhi's ideas as a reference point for developing models for village management. He stated, “One should go to villages to learn from them, only then can we contribute to village life.”

The panel discussion on Gram Swaraj was honored by Prof. M.P. Dube, former Vice-Chancellor, UPRTOU, Prayagraj, Shri. Sunil Kumar, Former Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, GOI, New Delhi and Prof. V. K. Rai, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Allahabad, Shri. Arun Jain,

Founder, Mission Samrudhi, Chennai. Prof. M. P. Dube critiqued the Western model of civilization, particularly its body-centered focus, loss of spirituality, insatiable demands, excessive reliance on machinery, declining religious values, coercion, and diminishing morality. Consequently, he stated that Western modernization is polluting our society. He asserted that Gram Swaraj is achieved through self-control, self-regulation, honesty, dharma, absolute reality, and ahimsa. Prof. V. K. Rai, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Allahabad, spoke about the novel vision of “स्व” — an idea derived from the Vedic culture. He stated that materialistic desires hinder the growth of the self. He also emphasized the concepts of Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha as the four great mantras of life. According to him, one should move towards the village for true swaraj, or liberation.

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, Former Secretary of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, GOI, New Delhi, deliberated on the constitutional safeguards necessary for achieving Gram Swaraj. He emphasized that citizen-centric governance is essential for attaining swaraj. He expressed concern that the central government, state authorities, and bureaucracy are disconnected from the masses, while local governments are the most accessible. Shri. Arun Jain, Founder, Mission Samrudhi, Chennai discussed the new dimension of Gram, which symbolizes beauty and scenic views. He believes that the farmer is the greatest entrepreneur, nurturing all relationships. He emphasized a citizen-centric approach to Gram Swaraj.

The valedictory session was honored by Shri. Yogesh Andley, Member of Advisory Council, Panch Parmeshwar Vidyapeeth, Prof. Janak Pandey, former Vice-Chancellor, Central University of South Bihar and Shri. Anil Tiwari, Teesri Sarkar Abhiyan, Panch Parmeshwar Vidyapeeth. Prof. Janak Pandey highlighted the issues at the grassroots level for future research. He stated that the Panchayati Raj institutions have become a business for those involved with them. Consequently, village development is ensnared in a social trap. The vivekwan leadership intervention can make Gram Swaraj more impactful. Shri. Yogesh Andley lamented that even after 79 years of India's Independence, no village is free from poverty. He stated that self-responsibility is the ultimate solution to these problems and will assist us in fulfilling the objectives of Gram Swaraj.

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Dr. Muneer Illath, Dr. Sathish C., and Dr. Debrah Darlianmawii, Faculty members of Department of Sociology at the University of Allahabad, received mementos for their contributions to the success of the National Workshop. Furthermore, Dr. Muneer Illath and Dr. Deborah Darlianmawii moderated the sessions, while Dr. Sathish C. provided a brief overview of the Department's achievements.

Title– The Hidden Hunter among Red Ants

Dr. Bharat Pandram
Assistant Professor Zoology

It was the first rainy morning. Along the edge of the leaf, my eyes caught sight of a red ants' nest hidden among the dense bushes. Hundreds of worker ants were busy sewing leaves together to build a strong home. Their lines moved back and forth with perfect discipline, as if guided by some invisible traffic signal.

I knelt down to watch them closely when something unusual caught my eye — an ant that somehow looked... different. At first glance, it seemed like just another red ant — same color, same brisk movement, and even the front pair of legs moved like antennae. But on closer inspection, I realized it wasn't an ant at all — it was a spider!

This was **Amyciaea**, a master of disguise from the crab spider family. I had read that such insects and spiders that mimic ants are called myrmecomorphic. But to see one with my own eyes was an entirely different thrill.

The **Amyciaea** moved seamlessly among the ants, blending in perfectly as if it were one of them. In reality, it was a genius trickster — using its appearance to avoid predators like birds, lizards, and other hunters, while also preying on the very ants it imitated.

That day, I witnessed its hunting technique firsthand. The hungry **Amyciaes** sat perfectly still on the edge of a leaf, right beside the ants' busy highway. Suddenly, a large worker ant approached and with lightning speed, the spider sprang forward, using its hind legs for support, and sank its fangs deep into the ant's neck.

It was a dramatic moment — the ant lifted its head to bite back, but with its neck pinned, it couldn't reach the attacker. I thought it might spray formic acid in defense, but before that could happen, the spider quickly released its grip and moved away.

Within seconds, the venom took effect. The ant stood frozen like a lifeless statue. The spider carefully rubbed off any traces of acid from the ant's body, folded its legs inward, gripped it in its jaws, and swiftly dragged it away from the ant trail. A few angry worker ants chased after it, but the agile **Amyciaea** disappeared into the undergrowth with its prize.

About an hour later, when I returned, I found the spider resting among curled leaves, having completely drained the liquid from its prey. The next day, it would hunt again — such was its daily life.

There were other fascinating things about this little hunter — for instance, the female **Amyciaea** lays about 20–25 eggs wrapped in a silk cocoon inside curled leaves, and in about 25 days, tiny spiderlings emerge.

If you ever find a red ants' nest near your home, look closely — perhaps, hidden among the leaves, disguised as one of them, sits a clever, beautiful, and dangerous hunter — the **Amyciaea**.

