

The International Day of Light celebration at Aligarh

BP Singh and Jai Prakash

THE International Day of Light (IDL) is celebrated annually on 16 May to commemorate the first successful laser operation in 1960 by physicist Theodore Maiman. This day is a global initiative highlighting the importance of light and its role in science, culture, education, and sustainable development. UNESCO leads this celebration to underscore the critical impact of light on a wide range of fields, from medicine and communications to energy and art.

UNESCO established the International Day of Light to promote the benefits of light-based technologies and to emphasise their role in advancing sustainable development and improving quality of life. The light and applications hold potential solutions for global energy, education, and healthcare challenges. By celebrating IDL, UNESCO aims to increase awareness about how light can aid in achieving its broader goals of promoting peace, education, equality, and international cooperation.

This year's theme, enunciated as "Light in our Lives," gives stress on the significant role light plays in our everyday lives and the things around us. It also emphasises the integral role of light in bringing technological advancements and fostering sustainable practices for the benefit of humanity.

In view of the above, on 16 May 2024, the International Day of Light was celebrated at the Brilliant Public School (BPS), Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with the Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS). More than 200 students attended the programme. It was a vibrant celebration of the day, involving young budding students of classes 11th and 12th. The Hall was decorated with drawings and posters prepared by the students highlighting the role of light, the importance of saving the environment, and sustainable energy practices. The event was marked by educational enthusiasm, giving students an enriching experience about the significance of light in various domains.

Prof. BP Singh, former Chairperson of the Physics Department at Aligarh Muslim University, delivered an interesting keynote address on the topic "Light and Energy", covering a broad spectrum of applications of light and its



Prof. BP Singh, former Chairperson of Physics Department at AMU

significant impact on our planet. He explained how light illuminates Earth, revealing its forms and structures. Prof. Singh delved into light's essential role in the water cycle, facilitating evaporation, condensation, and precipitation processes.



(Extreme left) Principal Dr Shyam Kuntail, with students attending the programme

Giving an emphasis on the connection of light with fire, he discussed its role in generating heat and energy. He highlighted how light travels through air, enabling human perception of the surrounding world and through space, helping us understand the cosmos. He also explored the pivotal