Department of Physics St. Philomena's College (Autonomous), Mysuru Special Lecture on "Life and Contributions of Albert Einstein"

Chief Guest: Prof. B A Kagali

Time: 10: 30 am

Date: April 18, 2024 Venue: UG Auditorium, St. Philomena's College, Mysuru

Report

The Department of Physics at St. Philomena's College (Autonomous), Mysore, organized a special lecture on the "Life and Contributions of Albert Einstein" on April 18, 2024, commemorating the death anniversary of the eminent physicist. The event commenced at 10:30 am in the UG Auditorium, featuring Prof. B A Kagali, Former Chairperson of the Department of Physics, Bangalore University, as the distinguished resource person. The lecture witnessed active participation from 138 attendees.

The formal inauguration began with a welcome address by Ms. Meenakshi G, Assistant Professor, PG Department of Physics. Following this, Prof. B A Kagali delivered an insightful lecture detailing Albert Einstein's remarkable life and groundbreaking contributions to physics.

Albert Einstein, born on March 14, 1879, in Ulm, Germany, and deceased on April 18, 1955, in Princeton, New Jersey, USA, revolutionized physics with his theories of relativity and quantum mechanics. Prof. Kagali highlighted Einstein's early life, noting his education at the Swiss Federal Polytechnic in Zurich and his early career at the Swiss Patent Office in Bern, where he produced significant work.

The lecture delved into Einstein's Annus Mirabilis (Miracle Year) of 1905, during which he published four pivotal papers in the "Annalen der Physik." These included his explanation of the photoelectric effect, which earned him the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics, his empirical evidence for atoms through Brownian motion, his theory of special relativity, and the famous equation $E = mc^{2}$.

Prof. Kagali further explored Einstein's later career, discussing his tenure at various universities and his formulation of the general theory of relativity in 1915. This theory, describing gravity as a curvature of spacetime, was confirmed in 1919 by Arthur Eddington's solar eclipse observations.

The lecture also addressed Einstein's complex relationship with quantum mechanics and his pursuit of a unified field theory. His emigration to the United States in 1933, subsequent position at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and his indirect influence on the Manhattan Project were also covered.

Einstein's legacy, including his Nobel Prize, his role as a public figure advocating for pacifism and civil rights, and the preservation of his brain for scientific study, was emphasized. Prof. Kagali concluded by underscoring Einstein's enduring impact on modern physics and science.

The event provided a comprehensive overview of Einstein's life, inspiring participants with the profound and lasting influence of his scientific achievements.



