

IUCAA Sponsored Introductory Workshop on Astronomy & Astrophysics at Bhattadev University, Assam



Bhawanipur Anchalik College, in joint collaboration with Bhattadev University, successfully organized the IUCAA Sponsored “Introductory Workshop on Astronomy & Astrophysics” during 16 – 17 February 2026 at Bhattadev University, Bajali, Assam. The two-day in-person workshop aimed to introduce students and young researchers to the fundamental concepts and emerging areas of astronomy and astrophysics, while fostering scientific curiosity and critical thinking, particularly among participants from the western Brahmaputra belt of Assam.

The programme commenced with an inaugural session and welcome address by the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of Bhattadev University, marking the formal beginning of the workshop. The event was coordinated by Dr. Vivek Baruah Thapa (Bhawanipur Anchalik College) and Dr. Debajyoti Dutta (Bhattadev University), with Prof. Kanak Saha (IUCAA, Pune) serving as the IUCAA coordinator. The organizers highlighted the need to bridge the academic and infrastructural gap in access to advanced scientific disciplines in rural and semi-urban regions, in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020 for inclusive and equitable science education. The workshop featured a series of invited lectures by distinguished resource persons, including Dr. Sukanta Deb (Cotton University), Dr. Rupjyoti Gogoi (Tezpur University), Dr. Biman Jyoti Medhi (Gauhati University) and Dr. Debasish Borah (IIT

Guwahati). The lectures covered a wide spectrum of topics such as stellar and galactic astronomy, observational techniques, cosmology and connections between astrophysics and fundamental physics. The sessions were designed to provide both conceptual understanding and exposure to modern research methodologies in astronomy and astrophysics. The workshop also included an interactive session on careers and research opportunities in astronomy and astrophysics, along with participant engagement activities such as discussions and feedback sessions.

The workshop attracted around 40 participants, comprising M.Sc. Physics students, final-year B.Sc. students and early-

stage PhD scholars selected based on academic merit and interest in the field. The participation reflected a healthy academic engagement from institutions across the region, fulfilling the objective of extending scientific outreach to a wider student community. The programme concluded with a valedictory session, during which participants shared their feedback and certificates were distributed. The workshop successfully achieved its intended outcomes by enhancing awareness, motivating students towards higher studies in astrophysics, and laying the groundwork for future academic collaborations and outreach initiatives in the region.



The workshop was financially supported by the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune. The organizers express their sincere gratitude to IUCAA for their generous support, which played a pivotal role in the successful organization of the event. The event also received strong institutional support from Bhattadev University and Bhawanipur Anchalik College, whose coordinated efforts contributed significantly to its effective execution. The successful conduct of the workshop highlights the importance of collaborative initiatives in promoting scientific outreach and capacity building in emerging areas such as astronomy and astrophysics.



A few snapshots of the event are provided here:

