

Dr. HamsaPadmanabhan Inaugurates Two Day Workshop on Cosmology & Astronomy at the Astronomical Observatory

The Trivandrum Astronomical Observatory is organizing a two-day international workshop on cosmology and astronomy with leading experts in the subject area. Noted cosmologist Dr. HamsaPadmanabhan, the daughter of the Late Prof. ThanuPadmanabhan who works at the University of Geneva inaugurated the workshop. First light images from the observatory which were recently published in the Nature astronomy journal and images of Orion nebula and Venus were released during the inauguration. Delivering the inaugural address, she mentioned that in Kerala there appears to be so much of interest and things happening on the subject. She further mentioned that once upon a time the Americans had all the funding and enthusiasm in this subject and no longer they are the leaders in the subject. Europe has now substantial investments in cosmology research but the enthusiasm is nowhere close to what we Indians have to this subject she added. She said she was looking forward to academically supporting the ThanuPadmanabhan Centre of Excellence in Astronomy and Astrophysics which has been sanctioned to University of Kerala. The Observatory holds a special place to the scientific community as it is the oldest scientific institute of Kerala that has contributed to the global academic community through the early magnetic meridian studies conducted from here said Prof. Gopchandran K, Member of the Syndicate, University of Kerala. Science needs to be practiced and researched in a manner that it contributes to the betterment of humanity said Prof. Gabriel Simon Thattil, The Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell, University of Kerala. Prof. V Biju, Head of the Department of Physics delivered a felicitation note. Dr. R. Jayakrishnan, Honorary Director of the Astronomical Observatory delivered the vote of thanks and appraised that over 60 students from different parts of the state were participating in the two-day event being held at the Trivandrum Observatory for the next two days. Prof. T P Singh from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Dr. Prince Prasad, University College Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. Sibi K S the former Head of the Department of Physics, University of Kerala, Dr. Aswathy R P, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, University of Kerala delivered invited talks on the first day of the workshop. An open house of the observatory for the participants was conducted and later at night a sky watch programme was also organized.