

Workshop on “The development of Science in Ancient India: Myth and Reality”

16th Aug 2015, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

A state level workshop on the topic “The development of Science in Ancient India: Myth and Reality” was held at the Auditorium hall of Institute of Physics (IOP), Bhubaneswar on 16 August 2015. Prof. Birendra Nayak, retired professor of mathematics, Utkal University inaugurated the day long workshop with a call to propagate scientific temper. More than 250 delegates from different parts of Odisha actively participated in the workshop. Prof. Ajit Srivastava, Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar discussed the false claims made in **102nd Indian Science Congress** regarding the aviation science in ancient India. He stressed on the fact that any such claims should be based on verifiable evidence. In a highly elating talk Prof. Soumitro Banerjee, General Secretary Breakthrough Science Society, thoroughly discussed the development of science in Indus Valley civilization and the Vedic period.



It helped to clarify how science and mathematics developed during the Vedic Period. In the post lunch session Prof. Birendra Nayak discussed on the misnomer “Vedic Mathematics”. He said that the contents of the book named Vedic Mathematics is not from any of the Vedas and not at all related to the mathematics in the Vedic period.



Sri Biswabasu Das, Vice President Breakthrough Science Society, deliberated on the Philosophical currents in ancient India. He clearly showed that primitive man had no other option but to be materialist. The material condition for the development of idealist philosophy developed only at a much later stage. Quoting from ancient texts he demonstrated that contrary to the popular belief that only idealist philosophy was preached in ancient India, several trends of materialist philosophy were also guiding the thought process in ancient India. Sri P. K. Rath discussed the reasons for the decline of science in ancient India. Many eminent personalities from different parts of Odisha participated in the workshop.