Report on the IARP Workshop on Beneficial Effects of Radiation and the Indian Nuclear Energy Programme

Inaugural Session



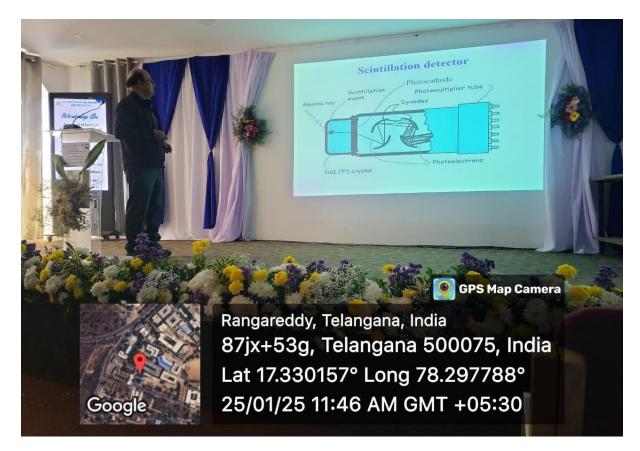
The IARP Workshop on "Beneficial Effects of Radiation and the Indian Nuclear Energy Programme" was successfully conducted at JBIET on January 25th, Saturday, 2025. Sponsored by the Indian Association for Radiation Protection (IARP), the event brought together experts, faculty, and over 150 registered participants for an insightful and engaging experience.

The event commenced with a warm welcome by Ms. Keerthana K and Ms. Annie S Dev, Assistant Professors in the Department of Sciences and Humanities, who invited the dignitaries onto the dais and addressed the participants. Dr. P. C. Krishnamachary, Principal of JBIET, delivered the welcome address, expressing his enthusiasm for the workshop and his optimism for future collaborations with IARP. This was followed by an address from Prof. Ch. Sanjay, Director of JBES, who reflected on his previous association with IARP and BARC employees and extended his best wishes for the workshop's success. Dr. Seshadri Murali, an Ex-Senior Scientist at BARC, then provided a comprehensive overview of IARP's activities and outlined the workshop agenda. The inaugural session concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. L. Vaikunta Rao, Dean of R&D, acknowledging the efforts of all involved, after which the participants proceeded for a tea break.

Technical Sessions

Post-tea, the workshop transitioned into a series of technical lectures delivered by:

Dr. D. Vidya Sagar, Former Senior Scientist, BARC, handled the initial sessions.



Dr. D. Vidya Sagar delivered two insightful lectures on "Introduction to Radioactivity, Radiation Quantities, Units and Effects, and the Principle of Radiation Detection." He began with the fundamentals of nuclear physics, explaining the atomic structure and why certain elements exhibit instability and radioactivity. He then introduced the concept of radiation, detailing its quantification and classification into ionizing and non-ionizing types. The lecture further explored various radiation sources, both natural and man-made, highlighting Radon (Rn) as a particularly hazardous radioactive element due to its long half-life.

A key focus of the lecture was ionizing radiations—alpha, beta, and gamma—which can penetrate human tissue and cause significant health effects. Dr. Vidya Sagar explained the origin and characteristics of each type of radiation, emphasizing how their range is influenced by their mass. He elaborated on shielding techniques, noting that while alpha particles can be blocked by a sheet of paper, gamma radiation requires dense materials like thick concrete for effective protection.

The session then shifted to radiation quantification, introducing the Sievert (Sv) as the standard unit for measuring ionizing radiation exposure and its biological effects. Participants learned that the average annual radiation exposure for humans is approximately 27 mSv and that alpha

particles, due to their greater mass, cause more damage to human tissue. The discussion also covered radioactive decay, half-life, and activity measurement, with 1 Curie (Ci) representing the activity of 1 gram of ²²⁶Ra, expressed as activity per unit mass or volume.

The second part of the lecture focused on Radiation Detection and Measurement. Dr. Vidya Sagar explained key radiation-matter interaction phenomena such as the photoelectric effect, Compton effect, and pair production. He then introduced various radiation detection techniques, starting with gas detectors, which utilize inert Argon gas to detect ionizing events. He explained the working principles of Geiger-Müller (GM) counters, which detect alpha, beta, and gamma radiation, and teletectors, whose adjustable length makes them useful in nuclear accident scenarios. Other detection methods discussed included scintillation detectors, personal radiation detectors, radiation identifiers, and aerial gamma detectors, which can identify underground radiation sources.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, where participants posed insightful questions about radiation and its effects. Dr. Vidya Sagar addressed all queries with clarity, ensuring that attendees left with a comprehensive understanding of radiation physics and detection techniques.

Dr. Seshadri Murali delivered a series of insightful lectures on radiation protection, India's nuclear energy program, and the beneficial applications of radiation technology.

The first session, "Introduction to Radiation Protection," focused on the fundamental concepts of radiation exposure, safety measures, and detection techniques. Dr. Murali emphasized that radiation cannot be perceived by human senses and must be detected using specialized instruments. He explained that exposure to radiation can be both external and internal, with potential health effects ranging from immediate reactions to long-term consequences like cancer. However, he reassured participants that radiation is not inherently dangerous if proper precautions are taken. He outlined three key strategies for minimizing exposure: reducing exposure time by working efficiently or in shifts, using appropriate shielding, and maintaining a safe distance, as intensity decreases with the square of the distance. He concluded by debunking common misconceptions, asserting that working inside a nuclear reactor, with stringent safety measures in place, is often safer than living near one.

Following this, the session on "Indian Nuclear Energy Program" delved into India's advancements in nuclear technology. Dr. Murali provided a comprehensive overview of the nation's nuclear energy initiatives, governance structure, and strategic goals. He highlighted

the immense potential of nuclear power, citing that just 1 gram of uranium could generate enough electricity to power a colony of 1,000 families for a day—an astonishing fact that captivated the audience. He detailed India's three-stage nuclear power program: Stage 1 utilizes Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), Stage 2 employs Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) that produce plutonium, and Stage 3 focuses on advanced thorium-based reactors, aiming for a sustainable nuclear fuel cycle by reprocessing spent fuel. He also addressed concerns about nuclear waste, explaining that it is securely stored in solid form within thick underground containers, ensuring environmental safety.

The final lecture, "Beneficial Effects of Radiation Technology," explored the wide-ranging applications of radiation in various fields. Dr. Murali demonstrated how radiation, often feared for its risks, plays a crucial role in medicine, agriculture, industry, and national security. In healthcare, low doses of radiation are used for imaging, while higher doses help destroy harmful cells in cancer treatment. In agriculture, radiation-induced mutations enhance crop quality, while food sterilization through irradiation ensures safer exports. Industrial applications include gamma scanning for detecting material defects and field radiography for identifying underground pipeline leaks. He also discussed its role in national security, from developing lightweight bulletproof jackets for soldiers to night vision cameras using fluorescent materials.

Dr. Murali's lectures provided a balanced perspective on radiation, emphasizing its risks while showcasing its immense benefits. The sessions left participants with a deeper understanding of radiation science, its practical applications, and the critical role of nuclear technology in India's future. The technical session was continued by Dr. Seshadri Murali, Ex-Senior Scientist, BARC.

Following the lecture series, an engaging discussion and Q&A session allowed participants to address their concerns about nuclear radiation and its perceived risks. The experts provided well-informed responses, dispelling common fears and misconceptions surrounding radiation exposure and the occupational hazards of working in the nuclear field. They emphasized the stringent safety protocols in place, the minimal risks when proper precautions are followed, and the vast benefits of nuclear technology. By the end of the session, participants gained a more balanced and informed perspective, realizing that nuclear energy and radiation, when managed responsibly, are not only safe but also essential for various scientific and industrial advancements.

After the lunch break, Dr. Seshadri Murali conducted a special lecture on "Career Opportunities in the Scientific Field", inspiring participants to explore research and scientific professions.

In the session titled "Career Opportunities: Science and Research", Dr. Seshadri Murali emphasized the significance of discipline, determination, and hard work in achieving one's goals. He provided insights into various career and research opportunities available in the scientific domain, offering valuable guidance on how to navigate and excel in these fields. The session concluded on a motivating note with his powerful statement: "Be successful and remain successful."

Dr. Murali also provided a comprehensive overview of the career pathways in scientific research, focusing on organizations like BARC, DRDO, ISRO, and other national and private research institutions. He elaborated on the application process, examination patterns, and selection criteria for these prestigious scientific bodies.

The discussion included insights into the recruitment process, including the importance of competitive exams like the BARC Online Exam, GATE, and other national-level qualifying tests. He detailed the various stages of selection, such as written tests, technical interviews, and personal interviews, emphasizing the skills and knowledge required to excel.

Additionally, Dr. Murali highlighted the pay scales and benefits associated with careers in these organizations, discussing entry-level salaries, career progression, and research opportunities. He also addressed the potential for working in private research firms, emphasizing the growing demand for skilled professionals in nuclear science, radiation technology, and allied scientific domains.

Through this session, participants gained valuable knowledge about the structured pathways to secure a career in the scientific field and the rewarding prospects it offers.

Demonstrations and Practical Sessions



The workshop continued with a hands-on segment led by Mr. Praveen Kumar, Senior Engineer at Nucleotech Solutions, Hyderabad, who guided participants through practical demonstrations on Gamma Spectrometry, Half-Life and Activity Estimation, and the use of Radiation Monitoring Kits and Protective Gear. The final part of the session was particularly engaging, as participants were taught how to interpret readings from the devices and were challenged to find hidden radioactive materials within the venue, blending learning with an interactive and fun experience.

Valedictory and Felicitation





The workshop concluded with a feedback session, followed by a Valedictory Ceremony where certificates were presented to the participants. The dignitaries were honoured by the JBIET team for their invaluable contributions. Dr. B V Swarnalathamma, Dean of 1st Year and Head of the Department of Sciences and Humanities, delivered the Vote of Thanks on behalf of the Department and JBIET, expressing gratitude to all the speakers, participants, and organizers for making the event a success. This marked the end of a productive and insightful workshop, leaving attendees with valuable knowledge and experiences.

Registration and Attendees List

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21	KESHAPALLY VINETHA	Chemistry	Faculty	9959323150 Wetty W
22	MR. G. RAVI KUMAR	Chemistry	Faculty	9912148256
23	DR.P. KARTHEEK	Chemistry	Faculty	9701577399
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Ref: JBIET/IARP Workshop /2025

Date: 20-01-2025

<u>CIRCULAR</u>

This is to inform that the **BARC & JBIET** Jointly organizing a one-day workshop in association with **Indian Association of Radiation protection (IARP)** on 25th January 2025 at MNR **Auditorium** from 9:30 AM onwards. Free registration is available for the faculty members and students who wish to attend the workshop. The students and faculty participants will be provided Workshop kit, Participation certificate and lunch.

The google form for registration as participant is given below. It is requested to fill in and submit before 22.01.2025 for only the limited mentioned number of participants.

Google link for details submission:

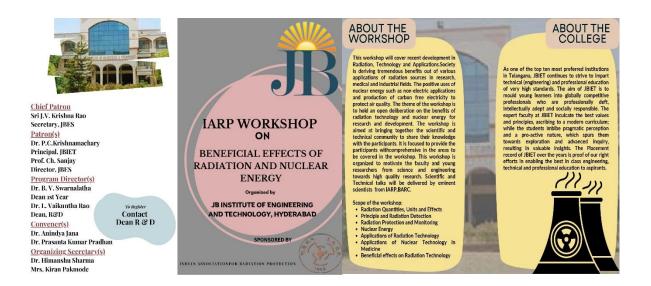
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Brochure



Certificate

