

National Science Day 2026 Celebrated at Agharkar Research Institute, Pune

Theme: “Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat”

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Pune, 27 February 2026

Pune, 27 February 2026: The Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, celebrated National Science Day 2026 with great enthusiasm and academic fervour. This year's theme, “Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat”, underscored the critical role of women scientists in driving innovation, sustainability, and national development.



The programme was graced by Dr. Sangita M. Kasture, Scientist 'G', Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, as the Chief Guest. In her keynote address, Dr. Kasture highlighted India's significant strides in renewable energy, including advancements in bioenergy, green hydrogen, solar power, and other clean energy technologies. She emphasized that scientific innovation, strong policy frameworks, and institutional research are

central to accelerating the clean energy transition and achieving the national vision of Viksit Bharat. She also stressed the importance of enhancing women's participation and leadership in STEM fields to build an inclusive and innovation-driven ecosystem.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Prashant K. Dhakephalkar, Director, ARI. In his remarks, he highlighted the significance of National Science Day in fostering scientific temper and innovation across the country. Paying tribute to Sir C. V. Raman, whose discovery of the Raman Effect led to India's first Nobel Prize in Physics, he noted that curiosity-driven research and dedication to scientific excellence continue to inspire generations of researchers and students. He reiterated ARI's commitment to cutting-edge research, translational science, and societal outreach aligned with national missions.

Following the lecture, the Guest visited ARI's major research facilities, including the Biohydrogen Production Facility and other advanced laboratories. The visit facilitated meaningful discussions on renewable energy technologies, translational research pathways, and potential collaborative initiatives in sustainable energy systems.



A major highlight of the celebration was the Open House and Exhibition, organized as part of the outreach activities. Various research divisions of ARI showcased innovative projects, technologies, and community-oriented initiatives. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from school students, who interacted directly with scientists and research scholars. Through demonstrations, exhibits, and interactive sessions, students gained first-hand exposure to ongoing research and its real-world applications, reflecting the true spirit of National Science Day in inspiring young minds.

The celebration concluded with a renewed resolve to strengthen scientific research, promote gender inclusivity in STEM, and advance India's journey towards a sustainable and developed nation.

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