**7.1.11 Institution celebrates / organizes national and international commemorative days, events and festivals**

HBNI and its CIs/OCC regularly celebrate national and international commemorative days and festivals, and organizes events and take great pride in celebrating them. The nationally important days are observed at the HBNI Central Office and across all CIs/OCC of HBNI by organizing special talks delivered by eminent scientific personalities, screening of documentaries, visit of school students to research facilities etc.

HBNI and its CIs celebrated the **Independence Day** and **Republic Day** of the nation with great vehemence. In the occasion at the central office, the Vice Chancellor of HBNI hoisted the National Flag and addressed the gathering. The function commemorated the great sacrifices made by the freedom fighters. HBNI also organized eminent lecture series to commemorate the 75 years of independence of the nation. The institute celebrated the **Teachers’ Day** at the Central Office on September 5, 2022, in a hybrid mode to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. Prof. Devang Khakhar, Former Director, IIT Bombay, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

HBNI has actively participated in the **DAE iconic week celebration of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**,” a country-wide campaign launched by the Government of India, upon the completion of 75 years of independence. Series of special lectures/webinars by eminent scientists and engineers, and technologists in the country on various subject areas has been one such activity. HBNI also organized talks for the popularization/promotion of science in association with four higher educational institutions in and around Mumbai city, to create awareness among graduate and postgraduate science students regarding the career opportunities in basic science and encouragement for a research career. Apart from this, poster and essay competitions for students were also organized by HBNI. An e-book titled “Atomic Energy in India: Achievements since Independence” jointly edited by Prof. A. K. Tyagi, Director, Chemistry Group, BARC and Prof. P. R. Vasudeva Rao, Former Vice Chancellor, HBNI was also released during these sessions.

As part of DAE's iconic week celebrations, all the CIs of HBNI organized a series of activities including (i) organization of lectures/popular science talks by eminent speakers for school, UG and PG students, (ii) educational visits of school, UG and PG students to CIs, (iii) outreach programs promoting awareness of nuclear power as a source of green energy and the applications of nuclear technologies for societal benefits including industrial applications, healthcare, environment and agriculture. In addition, CIs/OCC also organized tree plantations drive, blood donation and health camps, photo exhibitions, film shows, quizzes and several competitions, viz., essay competitions, poster competitions and poetry competitions etc.

The Women Cell of HBNI organized **International Women’s Day** on March 21, 2023 at the central office by organizing a webinar titled “Reflections of a Nuclear Reactor Scientist,” by Prof. Umasankari Kannan, Head, Reactor Physics Design Division, BARC and Senior Professor, HBNI. HBNI organized a **Memorial Programme** in honor of Dr. Sekhar Basu, Former Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy and Former Chairman, Council of Management, HBNI, on September 23, 2022. Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Member, Atomic Energy Commission and Former Chairman, ISRO, was the chief guest on the occasion. On the 15th of September 2022, HBNI celebrated **Engineer’s Day**. On **Gandhi Jayanthi** (2nd October), all the CIs/OCC organized a cleaning drive under the **Swatch Bharat Abhiyan** program to clean the surroundings of the campus. HBNI celebrated the **Foundation Day** of the institute on June 3, 2023. The function was honored by the auspices presence of Shri S. Somanath, Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). He also delivered a talk on “Technology Disruptions in Space Sector - Our Opportunities”.

VECC, one of the CIs of HBNI celebrated the **Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav** to mark the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramanium Bharati. Dr. Sumit Som, Director-VECC inaugurated the event with the opening of a multi-lingual exhibition with a display of books in different Indian languages and a beautiful flower-rangoli & alpana depicting Indian tradition of unity in diversity. The event was indeed a celebration of India’s rich linguistic harmony among diversity.

Apart from the celebrations of national importance, HBNI and its CIs are also keen in celebrating regional festivals and organize cultural activities of students as part of the celebrations.