

AU TAIK VOLUME 18



SEPTEMBER 2023

Allahabad University was established on 23rd of September, 1887; it is the fourth oldest university in India.



Editorial Board

AU TALK is a monthly digital newsletter of the University of Allahabad. AU TALK, a long cherished dream and a brainchild of Kon'ble Dice Chancellor, has been regularly and successfully disseminating news and information on various academic and research activities happening across the Departments/Centres of the University. The original idea behind the digital platform is not only to spread out information about various developments related to the departments, but also, to revitalize a connection among them. AU TALK as a digital space facilitates faculty members to publish informative articles, research accomplishments and potential future plans.

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To publish your news/event in the upcoming edition, please send the write-up along with a relevant picture to:

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Launch of Web Portal for Endowments

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sangita Srivastava has recently launched a web portal for donations to the University in a meeting with the heads/coordinators of all the departments. Distinguished alumni, eminent educationists, industrialists, societies, institutions, trusts, or social workers can directly contribute towards the development of academics, infrastructure and resources of the University, which is committed to providing quality education to one and all. Donations and funds of any value would be highly appreciated.

Under the head 'Expert Talks', funding for expert lectures by renowned resource persons from academia and industry can be supported and sponsored. Eminent speakers of different fields always need time, energy and resources to improve the quality of education and research; their contribution is always looked forward to. Along with this, donations can be made to organize and sponsor Conferences/Short term courses/Training programmes/Seminars at the national and international levels.

Under the head of 'Student Development', scholarships and medals /awards can be funded. Endowments and donations can be made towards offering and promoting scholarships for the poor and meritorious students of the University of Allahabad. Under the head 'Infrastructure Developments', funds can be given to develop new Institutes/ sCentres of excellence and student hostels/ housing facilities. The University of Allahabad plans to develop new institutes and Centre of Excellence in various thrust areas like artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, etc. For student housing, endowments and donations can be made to develop, maintain and improve hostel facilities. Under the fourth head 'Faculty Development', donations can be given for the promotion of different strategies for the consistent growth and development of the faculty and for putting up the money for Young Faculty Awards and Fellowships. Awards and appreciation encourage and reward faculty and keep their morale high.

A Donor's Wall has also been created on the portal to display the names and photos of donors. All donations to the University of Allahabad are exempted U/S 80G of I-Tax Act of Government of India (GoI). Interested Alumni may email their proposals to: endowment@allduniv.ac.in.

The link to the portal is https://donation.allduniv.ac.in/



Executive Council Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Council of the University of Allahabad was convened. The envelopes of the selected candidates for the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the teachers promoted under CAS were opened. Notably, the posts of this department had been vacant for the past 40 years before this recent recruitment. Dr Deepali Pant Joshi, a member of the Executive Council, lauded the efforts of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sangita Srivastava, and said that the extraordinary contribution of the Vice Chancellor ma'am towards a new era of constructive journalism will go a long way and she will always be credited for putting in her best efforts for the multi-dimensional growth of the University and giving a new life to the University.

Many non-teaching staff members have also been recruited for the Allahabad University Health Centre; one Doctor, two Nurses, three Pharmacists, and two Patient Attendants have been appointed. The University of Allahabad Health Centre shall function as an OPD Unit for the University fraternity. The efforts to renovate the building of the AU Health Centre are underway. Thirty faculty members have been given promotions that were due for a long time. Dr Deepali Pant Joshi appreciated law and order in the University; she praised the smooth conduct of all day-to-day work in this prestigious institute of learning.

S.No	Name	Designation	
1.	Harinath Kumar	Assistant Professor	
2.	Ram Awtar Yadav	Assistant Professor	
3.	Ravi Suryavanshi	Assistant Professor	
4.	Amit Sharma	Assistant Professor	
5.	Shiv Gopal	Assistant Professor	

Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication

Allahabad University Felicitates more than 50 Students on Becoming Judges

The glorious tradition of the University of Allahabad continues, as this year, more than 50 students from the Department of Law have been selected for the UPPCS-J, 2022. On 5th September, on the occasion of Teachers' Day, a felicitation ceremony was organized at the Department of Law to celebrate the success of all the selected students. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sangita Srivastava, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and interacted with the students and motivated them to work with integrity and respect for the Indian cultural heritage. Prof. R. K. Chaubey, Head of the Department of Law, gave the welcome address. Prof. J. S. Singh, Dean of the Faculty of Law, also congratulated and motivated the students in his address. The vote of thanks was extended by Prof. Pankaj Kumar, Co-ordinator, B.A. LL.B.(Hons). The event was attended by the teachers, non-teaching staff members, and students of the Department of Law.



Department of Political Science

The Department of Political Science organized poster making and essay writing competitions under the G-20 University Connect Programme in collaboration with RIS. The students from various departments of the University as well as the constituent colleges participated in the competitions with enthusiasm and gusto.





EVENTS

Department of Economics

The Department of Economics organized a special lecture on 'Reinventing Economics' on 1st September 2023. A former senior industrial economist of the World Bank, Dr Dhananjay Kumar, delivered the lecture. The resource person is an alumnus of the Department of Economics, UOA. In his lecture, he invited the students to re-think different aspects of economics in the context of emotions. He also shared his various memories associated with the Department. The Head of the Department, Prof. Kiran Singh, presented a welcome letter and memento to the speaker. The lecture was attended by all the senior professors of the Department, Prof. R.N. Lohkar, Prof. M.M. Krishna and Prof. P.K. Ghosh, besides the other faculty members, research scholars and post-graduation students.



गांधी विचार एवं शांति अध्ययन संस्थान

संस्थान में 'जल साक्षरता एवं जागरूकता' कार्यशाला का तीन दिन का आयोजन । पहले सत्र के मुख्य वक्ता इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय के प्रो. जे.एन.त्रिपाठी ने अपना विशेष व्याख्यान " पृथ्वी और पानी " विषय पर दिया। उन्होंने हिंदी साहित्य के अनेक उदाहरण देते हुए उसका पृथ्वी विज्ञान के साथ पाए जाने वाले संबंधों पर बात की। उन्होंने पृथ्वी की संरचना, संगठन और उसमें पानी की उपस्थिति पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि अर्थात ग्लोबल वार्मिंग पर अपनी चिंताएं जाहिर की । अपने वक्तव्य का अंत में उन्होंने " जल है तो कल है " सूक्त वाक्य से किया।



द्वितीय सत्र में ऑनलाइन व्याख्यान, विषय" हमारा समाज और जल प्रबंधन " पर आयोजित हुआ। जिसके विशिष्ट वक्ता वरिष्ठ लेखक, पत्रकार एवं संपादक पंकज चतुर्वेदी रहे। अपने वक्तव्य में उन्होंने कहा सफल जीवन और सार्थक जीवन में से हमें सार्थक जीवन की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने की जरूरत है। उन्होंने पानी के दुरुपयोग के प्रति हमें चेताया और छोटे-छोटे प्रयासों के द्वारा पानी को कैसे सही तरह से इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है, उन तमाम बिंदुओं पर अपनी बातें रखीं ।



तीसरा सत्र " किताब पर बात : नदी पुत्र " रहा। जिसमें पहले तो कुछ शोधार्थियों ने अपने किताब विषयक विचार व्यक्त किए। उसके बाद इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय (हिंदी) के डॉ.जनार्दन ने किताब पर अपनी बात रखी।उन्होंने कहा पृथ्वी पर रह रहे प्रत्येक प्राणी के अस्तित्व का सवाल है। अगर पानी ही नहीं रहेगा तो हमें कुछ भी नहीं मिलेगा। कार्यशाला के समापन समारोह में तीन दिनों तक चलने वाली कार्यशाला के प्रतिवेदन का वाचन हरिओम कुमार ने किया। प्रतिवेदन (रिपोर्ट) पढ़ने के बाद प्रतिभाग करने वाले सभी प्रतिभागियों को उनके प्रमाण-पत्र प्रदान किए गए।



समापन सत्र की विशिष्ट अतिथि विश्वविद्यालय की जनसंपर्क अधिकारी प्रो. जया कपूर ने अपने वक्तव्य में अयप्पा मसागी के प्रयासों से दक्षिण भारत के एक बड़े हिस्से में जल संचयन से पानी की कमी दूर हुई और धरती पुनः उपजाऊ हुई। उन्होने कहा नदियों के जल में बीमार करने वाले कैमिकल छोड़ दिए जाते हैं और कई बार जल प्रदूषण के कारण नदियां सूख जाती हैं और जिससे जल संकट की समस्या उत्पन्न हो रही है।

विशिष्ट अतिथि प्रो. नरेंद्र कुमार शुक्ल ने कहा कि हम दैनिक कार्यों में अनावश्यक जल के खर्चे पर नियंत्रण करके जल का सही उपयोग कर सकते हैं। यह जल संरक्षण में सबसे अहम योगदान होगा। अपने बचपन की यादों के द्वारा उन्होंने पानी की वर्तमान स्थिति पर बात की। समापन कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षा प्रो. शबनम हमीद ने कहा कि अध्यात्म से लेकर जीवन जीने के हर क्षण में पानी है। पृथ्वी पर पर्याप्त पानी है किंतु व्यक्ति चांद पर पानी की बूंद ढूंढ़ रहा है। उन्होंने अल्लामा इक़बाल के शेर के हवाले " पानी पानी कर गई मुजको क़लंदर की ये बात तू झुका जब ग़ैर के आगे न मन तेरा न तन " से पानी की अहमियत पर प्रकाश डाला।

Department of English & MEL

In continuation of the series of eminent lectures that the Department organizes from time to time, the Department of English & M.E.L. held a special lecture on the 18th September 2023 by Dr. Patrick Corbett on "Composing Meaning (for ourselves) in the Age of AI.



The guest, Dr. Corbett, a speaker of eminence, is an Assistant Professor at the New York City college of Technology, Brooklyn, New York, USA was felicitated by the convenor Prof. Jaya Kapoor. Sir is working on a mega book project and his talk was based on this book he is writing. Dr Patrick talked about AI tools, storytelling & the Humanities. He talked about using tools like Canva, Jasper & AI shaping our thoughts and meanings in a new way.Dr.Corbett also talked about the concepts of play and creativity. Prof. Saksena, Head of the Department, commented what it would be like living with and interacting with cyborgs. The session was concluded with a Question - Answer round moderated by Prof. P. Joshi and a vote of thanks by Dr. Kundra.

The event was graced by former Faculty of the Department, Prof. M.M. Das, Prof. Gaur, Prof. K.G. Srivastava, Prof. K.N. Dwivedi, Prof. S.Dutta Roy. Also present were Prof. Sanjoy Saksena, Head of the Department, English & M.E.L, Prof. Jaya Kapoor and other faculty members. The programme was anchored by Dr. Sadaf Siddiqui.



सर्वाइकल कैंसर और वैक्सीन जागरूकता विषय पर एक व्याख्यान का आयोजन

माननीय कुलपति इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय प्रोफेसर संगीता श्रीवास्तव के सहयोग से महिला अध्ययन केंद्र ने 22 सितंबर 2023 को इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ प्रोफेशनल स्टडीज, इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय के सभागार में सर्वाइकल कैंसर और वैक्सीन जागरूकता विषय पर एक व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया।

अतिथि वक्ता डॉ. अर्पित बंसल, निदेशक, जीवन ज्योति अस्पताल ने सर्वाइकल कैंसर के मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने पेप-समीयर टेस्ट, एचपीवी टेस्ट, टीकाकरण और सर्वाइकल कैंसर के मुद्दों और समस्याओं पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने सर्वाइकल कैंसर के मुद्दों और समस्याओं पर एक लघु फिल्म भी दिखाई। उन्होंने एचपीवी वायरस की सावधानियों एवं रोकथाम पर चर्चा की।

प्रोफेसर अनुराधा अग्रवाल, निदेशक महिला अध्ययन केन्द्र ने अतिथियों का स्वागत किया।

कार्यक्रम के अध्यक्ष प्रोफेसर बेचन शर्मा, डीन, विज्ञान संकाय, इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय ने दर्शकों को सर्वाइकल कैंसर के कारणों के बारे में बताया और वैक्सीन के बारे में जागरूक किया। श्रीमती अमृता अग्रवाल ने सर्वाइकल कैंसर पर अपने विचार साझा किये। कार्यक्रम का संचालन डॉ. कपेसा ने किया। धन्यवाद ज्ञापन डॉ. गुरपिंदर कुमार ने किया। इस कार्यक्रम में शिक्षकों एवं विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया।







Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology, celebrated the Teacher's Day befittingly with colorful cultural events of song, dance, poetry recitation and mimicry by the students on 5th September, 2023. While addressing the gathering, Prof. Ashish Saxena congratulated and thanked the students for their deep love and affection to the department. The students expressed their gratitude to the Head and the faculty members for developing their scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of enquiry.





Student's Corner

An open debate on the topic "One Nation One Election" was organized by **UMANG- The Civil Services Society** on 14th September 2023. The students participated and shared their views on the topic. The motto of the programme was **All Round Development and Critical Thinking about all the socio-political topics**. It was also decided to increase the frequency of such academic events.



AWARDS/ HONOURS & LECTURES

- Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Associate Professor Department of Geography has received the ICSSR minor research project 2022-23. The research project titled "Rural Transformation for New India through Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna (SAGY): A new approach to evaluation, identification and implementation (A case study of Rajasthan, Zone 2).
- Prof. Umesh Kumar Singh, Professor and Coordinator, Centre of Environmental Studies, has been nominated as a member of the Academic Council (AC) of Mahatma Gandhi Central University (MGCU), Motihari, Bihar for a period of three years from July 2023 to July 2026.

Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.

— Albert Szent-Gyorgyi —

A winning effort begins with preparation.

Dr. Prashant Khattri, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Allahabad, successfully completed a three months fellowship-in-residence in Social Anthropology at the Queen's University, Belfast, United Kingdom. During his stay from April-June, 2023, besides conducting his research, he delivered the Annual India Lecture at the Queen's University and a special lecture at the Oxford Brookes University, Oxford.



 Dr. Prashant Khattri, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Allahabad, was also awarded the Certificate of Recognition for his promising contribution in the field of Anthropology at the World Anthropology Congress held at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubhaneswar between 9th – 14th August, 2023 in collaboration with the United Indian Anthropology Forum, and University of Delhi.



S. No.	Name of the author	Department /Centre	Name of the Journal/ Book Chapter	Indexing
1.	Dr. Harmanjit Kaur	Department of Botany	South African Journal of Botany	SCI, SCOPUS
2.	Dr. Brajendra Singh	Centre of Material Sciences	Journal of Rare Earths, Volume 41, Issue 9	SCI, SCOPUS
3.	Dr. Somanjana Khatua	Department of Botany	Biogredatation	and the
4.	Dr. Vaibhav Srivastava	Department of Botany	Environment, Development and Sustainability	SCIE
5.	Dr. Vaibhav Srivastava	Department of Botany	Sustainability	SCIE
6.	Dr. Vaibhav Srivastava	Department of Botany	Total Environment Research Themes	
7.	Dr. Sunil Kumar Singh	Department of Botany	Journal of Environmental Management	Web of Science, Scopus
8.	Dr. Surya Kant Maharana	Department of Philosophy	Philosophical Thinking	ISBN: 978-93-95032 32-2

Research Publications

Clean Campus promotes Leadership

 Maintaining a clean college environment sets a good example to students to encourage them to potentially make a bigger effort to maintain their environment

Clean Campus promotes Hygiene

 It improves hygiene level in campus and also helps to reduce the spread of sickness

Impact of lifestyle on Cancer Risk Dr. Jyoti Parmar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology

Cancer is a large group of diseases that can start in almost any organ or tissue of the body when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably and go beyond their usual boundaries to invade adjoining parts of the body and/or spread to other organs. The latter process is called metastasizing and is a major cause of death from cancer.

Millions of people are affected by cancer every year and it has been estimated that about eight lakh new cancer cases are being added each year in India alone. Cancer can happen in any part of the body and can affect both young and old equally. The exact cause of cancer is not known, and theories project genetic and environmental factors. But the World Health Organization categorizes cancer as a lifestyle



disease and proposes that faulty lifestyle practices are the predominant and predisposing factor for the occurrence of cancer. According to the WHO, about 270 million people are susceptible to this lifestyle disease, and soon it will top the leaderboard as the number one killer disease in the coming years. Epidemiological studies have shown that 70-90% of all cancers are environmental. Lifestyle- related factors are the most important and preventable among the environmental exposures. Common causes of cancer are chewing tobacco, smoking, consuming excess quantities of red meat, alcohol, fats, sugars, and foods rich in preservatives and additives. Excessive consumption of foods that are rich in meat and low in fruits and vegetables can contribute to the formation of cancer. Industrialization and the presence of excess pollutants in the water and air can also lead people to develop cancers. Thus, without any doubt, the causes of most forms of cancer are the faulty lifestyle habits of people, and no wonder it has been categorized as a lifestyle disorder.

Symptoms

Signs and symptoms caused by cancer will vary depending on what part of the body is affected. Some general signs and symptoms associated with, but not specific to, cancer include: Fatigue, lump, or area of thickening that can be felt under the skin; weight changes, including unintended loss or gain; skin changes such as yellowing, darkening, or redness of the skin; sores that won't heal, or changes to existing moles; changes in bowel or bladder habits; persistent cough or trouble breathing; difficulty swallowing; hoarseness; persistent indigestion or discomfort after eating; persistent and unexplained muscle or joint pain; persistent and unexplained fevers or night sweats; unexplained bleeding or bruising.



Prevention

The role of diet takes special importance in countries like India, which is fast moving towards industrialization and westernization. We had a predominantly plant-based diet, and with the advent of

western lifestyles, we are moving towards a diet rich in animal proteins. This, coupled with other habits like smoking and alcohol, will lead to an increase in the chronic disease burden, especially cancer and cardiovascular diseases. Prompt action has to be taken to spread the message of healthy lifestyle and dietary practices.

The old English proverb "prevention is better than cure" applies to cancer. Certain forms of cancer are amenable to primary and secondary prevention. This would mean increasing awareness and education programs targeting the promotion of healthy lifestyles with physical activity, reducing tobacco use, cutting down on alcohol, maintaining sexual hygiene, investing to change social attitudes and personal habits, improving cancer registries, and mass



screening for some cancers. This could reduce the risk of developing cancers. About one-third of cancer diseases can be prevented by consuming a plant-based diet that is rich in fiber content, such as fruits and vegetables. The delivery of this has to be prioritized.



Cancer Treatment

Many procedures and drugs are available to treat cancer. Some are "local" treatments like surgery and radiation therapy, which are used to treat a specific tumor or area of the body. Drug treatments (such as chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or targeted therapy) are often called "systemic" treatments because they can affect the entire body. Researchers Uncover Encouraging Results Highlighting Biochar's Potential in Mitigating Chromium-Related Health Hazard Discharged in Aquatic Body by Tannery Industry

Dr. Suranjit Prasad, Assistant Professor, Centre of Environmental Sciences

Municipal wastewater contains pollutants like organic matter, nutrients, pathogens, and chemicals from households. It is less toxic than industrial wastewater. Leather tanneries are highly polluting and a major concern is the presence of toxic chromium salts, particularly hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)), which is a known carcinogen. Cr(VI) exposure can lead to respiratory problems, skin irritation, damage to the liver and kidneys and increase the risk of cancer. Proper handling and treatment of leather wastewater are crucial to minimize its impact. Tannery effluent treatment is challenging globally due to its hazardous nature. Conventional treatment plants use physicochemical, biological, and tertiary treatments. Advancements are being made in end-of-pipeline treatment methods to improve efficiency and meet standards effectively. Conventional wastewater treatment methods have been insufficient in adequately reducing pollution levels, especially for persistent and hard-to-degrade pollutants such as heavy metals and toxic chemicals. These substances can have long-lasting detrimental effects on both the environment and human health. To address this issue, there is a critical need for innovative and cost-effective treatment technologies that can efficiently remove these pollutants from wastewater.

A recent report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the Kanpur CETPS (Common Effluent Treatment Plants) revealed that the current treatment systems are ineffective in completely removing chromium from tannery wastewater. They only achieve a modest removal rate of approximately 50-60%. After treatment, the water from tanneries is discharged into rivers,

posing a significant health risk to those who rely on it. The study also detected the presence of other elements in the water. The experimental findings showed alarming levels of chemical oxygen demand, well above the acceptable limit of 250 ppm, and chloride concentrations exceeding double the recommended limit of 600 ppm. While the presence of other elements may not pose immediate dangers, chromium, in particular, is associated with serious health risks, including lung cancer, eczema, skin diseases, and asthma. Furthermore, it weakens the body's immune system.

To tackle these challenges, low-cost adsorbents for wastewater treatment have emerged as promising and sustainable technology. Among them, nanostructured metal oxides modified biochar materials have shown great potential due to their high surface area, surface-to-bulk ratio, and functional groups that can interact with chromium, organic pollutants, and dyes. Biochar has demonstrated the ability to remove up to 95% of chromium present in tannery wastewater, making it a promising solution. Given that chromium is genotoxic and current technology's limited capability to remove only 50% of the chromium in tanneries is hazardous to human health.

The adoption of biochar as an adsorbent represents a crucial step towards effective wastewater treatment. It offers a sustainable and cost-effective approach to mitigate the harmful effects of chromium and other pollutants. However, further research and development are necessary to optimize the technology and achieve comprehensive removal of these hazardous substances from tannery wastewater, ensuring the protection of both the environment and human well-being.

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Some Important Instructions for AU TALK

AU Talk is a monthly digital newsletter of the University of Allahabad that shares latest curricular and extra-curricular activities of the university. It seeks to enhance the perception of the university by highlighting its accomplishments in diverse fields of undertaking. Please note that

- AU TALK publishes news about seminars/workshops/conferences that have taken place at any Department or Centre of the University. A piece of news along with a photograph of the organizers should be emailed at <u>vizianagramcurator.au@gmail.com</u>
- The magazine publishes informative articles also. Articles should aim to bring out important scientific, ethical, and environmental issues and must be lucid in their message to society. They can be written in Hindi or English. In one edition, the magazine can publish up to four such articles.
- Do not send pictures capturing garlanding or shawl/memento-giving moments.
- The magazine should be widely circulated among students and faculty and on all social media platforms so that the excellent work done under the auspices of the University of Allahabad reaches far and wide and benefits all.

For any query feel free to contact the Editorial Board.