



PLATINUM JUBILEE - POPULAR LECTURE SERIES

Technical Report of Popular Lecture on

“Science and Scientists in the New Millennium: A Brave New World”

Date: 09 March 2026, Time: 11:00 AM, Venue: D-Block Conference Hall (Ground floor)

As a continuation of the Popular Lecture Series organized as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of PSG College of Technology, the second lecture given by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Padma Shri Awardee, Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India was held on 09 March 2026 at 11:00 AM in the D-Block Conference Hall (Ground Floor). The event began with a welcome address by Dr. J.Krishnamoorthi, Associate Dean - Research, PSG College of Technology.



Welcome Address by Dr.J.Krishnamoorthi, Associate Dean – Research, PSG College of Technology.



Presidential Address by Dr.K.Prakasan, Principal, PSG College of Technology.

Dr. K. Prakasan, Principal, PSG College of Technology, gave the Presidential Address. In his presidential address, he welcomed the gathering for the lecture and thanked the Department of Science and Technology for its continuous support to the college through research projects, infrastructure development under the FIST programme, and the organization of FDPs, conferences, and other academic activities. He also thanked Prof. Ashutosh Sharma for his support in facilitating such initiatives.

Referring to the lecture theme, he said that the idea of a “Brave New World” raises the question of who should be brave and what kind of bravery is needed in research. He cited the example of an Indian researcher from MIT who said that his work in structural topology in mathematics may become useful only after 150 years, describing such dedication as true courage in the pursuit of knowledge. He further noted that the Indian knowledge tradition includes many discoveries made by individuals with courage and conviction. In this context, he recalled the story of Nachiketa from the Upanishads, highlighting that true bravery in the pursuit of knowledge involves sacrifice, determination, and commitment to truth. He added that scientists who made great contributions shared faith in themselves, dedication to humanity, and a relentless pursuit of truth. He concluded by expressing confidence that Prof. Ashutosh Sharma’s experience would inspire students and faculty.

Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, delivered a popular lecture on the “Science and Scientists in the New Millennium: A Brave New World”. The professor began the lecture by thanking the Principal and the institution for hosting the programme. He also congratulated the institution on its platinum jubilee celebration. He spoke on the challenges of predicting the future and discussed the changing role of science and technology in an exponential world. He highlighted key areas such as intelligent machines, sustainability, climate change, quantum technologies, CRISPR, antimicrobial resistance, innovation, inclusion, and learning.



Special Lecture delivered by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma.

He explained that science and technology depend on invention, innovation, education, research, policy, and strong links among industry, society, and government. He noted that cultural and behavioural factors often influence progress more than intelligence or training. He pointed out India’s strengths in research output, institutions, STEM graduates, policies, and markets, while also stressing the need for better quality, relevance, creativity, risk-taking, and stronger stakeholder connection. He also discussed ESG, sustainable development, AI, interdisciplinary thinking, creativity, and innovation, concluding that openness to change, confidence, diversity, and connectedness are essential for future scientific progress.



Gathering of participants during the Popular Lecture.



Vote of thanks by Dr.P.Kathirvel.

A short question-and-answer session followed, during which participants actively interacted with Prof. Ashutosh Sharma. About 150 participants attended the lecture, and the program provided valuable insights and an opportunity for students to interact with such an eminent scientist. The program was formally concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr.P.Kathirvel, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, PSG College of Technology.