



**PSG COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Coimbatore 641 004



## **PLATINUM JUBILEE - POPULAR LECTURE SERIES**

### **Technical Report of Popular Lecture on**

### **“Innovative Questions and Success of Nations”**

Date: 21 January 2026, Time: 03:30 PM, Venue: D-Block Conference Hall (Ground floor)

As a part of Platinum Jubilee Celebration of PSG College of Technology, the popular lecture series was initiated and the first popular lecture given by Prof. E.D. Jemmis, Padma Shri Awardee, National Science Chair Professor – ANRF, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore was held on 21 January 2026 at 03:30 PM in the D-Block Conference Hall (Ground Floor). The event began with a welcome address by Dr. P. R. Thyla, Dean - Research, PSG College of Technology.



Welcome Address by Dr.P.R Thyla, 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 highlighted the history and legacy of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), tracing its origins from the vision of its founders and the influence of Swami Vivekananda and his disciple Sister Nivedita, through the colonial period, to its role in nation-building. He emphasized the importance of understanding history to appreciate how such institutions have significantly contributed to scientific and technological advancements in the country. Referring to emerging areas such as quantum computing and advanced systems, he noted the importance of questioning and critical thinking. He stated that learning science is an inspiring and infinite journey driven by human curiosity and imagination, urging students to continue exploring and questioning without limits. He further encouraged the students to actively participate in the lecture and make effective use of the opportunity to learn from such an eminent scientist and Padma Shri awardee.

Prof. E.D. Jemmis, Padma Shri Awardee, National Science Chair Professor – ANRF, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, delivered a popular lecture on the Innovative Questions and Success of Nations. The professor began the lecture by sharing his thoughts on our institution's platinum jubilee celebration. He highlighted the value of asking questions in science and stated that the success of nations depends on the ability of individuals to pose innovative questions. He explained that while early questions are often broad, original questions have a greater impact, and that the habit of questioning can be developed through experiences, exposure, and learning from different people.

He shared his personal experiences as a faculty member at IISc to illustrate the role of specialization and interdisciplinary work. Using examples such as Eric Lander, a mathematician who became a biologist, and Edward Witten, a historian turned physicist and mathematician, he explained that exploring multiple disciplines can enhance understanding and lead to new insights. He encouraged students to ask questions carefully and avoid rushing to general conclusions.



Special Lecture delivered by Prof. E.D. Jemmis.

. The professor also shared a turning point from his own student days. As a BSc student, he became curious about the chemistry of boron after studying carbon allotropes. Over the years, this initial question evolved into a focused area of research, yielding successful findings. He emphasized that quantitative research requires a strong qualitative understanding, referring to Carlo Mealli's work to illustrate this point.

Finally, he discussed the current academic scenario and opportunities offered by the New Education Policy (NEP), encouraging students to explore interdisciplinary learning and continue developing the habit of asking meaningful questions.



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 the Prof. E.D. Jemmis. 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.