

Reports from conferences, theme meetings, workshops, and outreach



# Opening the doors to Very High Energy Astrophysics

*Young minds converge at BARC's GOALS Observatory in Mount Abu, Rajasthan*

**A** premier scientific R&D organization of the Department of Atomic Energy, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), organizes an array of scientific outreach programs regularly with an aim to reinvigorate and infuse the spirit of scientific inquiry in the minds of younger generation. As part of this, it has recently conducted two-day outreach program during April 23-24, 2024 at its Very High Energy (VHE) Gamma Ray Astronomy facility – GOALS (Gurushikhar Observatory for Astrophysical Sciences) – situated in Mount Abu for the benefit of students of Uttar Pradesh based Hiralal Ramniwas Intermediate College.

The program focused on popularizing research and development activities of BARC through lectures, particularly in the field of VHE, gamma-ray Astronomy and Astrophysics. It may be noted that BARC has a robust R&D program in these niche areas of physics and had recently commissioned state-of-the-art MACE telescope - a national facility for high energy astrophysics research at Hanle in Ladakh.

During the two-day outreach program, scientific officers of Astrophysical Sciences Division (ApSD), part of BARC Physics Group, briefed the visiting students on the gamut of scientific research activities at its GOALS facility as well as the MACE facility situated in Hanle. Students were arranged a site visit to GOALS wherein ApSD officials demonstrated the key functional and operational aspects of the facility, including source localization, tracking of astronomical sources, control room features of the TACTIC (TeV Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescope with Imaging Camera) telescope deployed at GOALS. A quiz session was also organized as part of the program, which saw enthusiastic participation from the students. Certificates of merit and prizes were awarded to meritorious students in the quiz competition by the officer-in-charge of GOALS. In addition to this, students were briefed on career opportunities in BARC and DAE.

Few glimpses of student outreach program held recently at GOALS Observatory in Mount Abu, Rajasthan.

