Report: 1st Lecture of the Commemorative Lecture Series on the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) Space Mission

Organised by: Department of Physics, St. Aloysius College, Edathua
Date: 4.8.2025

Time: 3.40pm
Venue: M.Sc. Classroom
Coordinator: Dr. Lakshmi Vijayan
Speakers: Ms. Ashly Anil & Mr. Albin J (II B.Sc. (Hons), Physics)

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1. Objective

To inaugurate the Commemorative Lecture Series with an engaging, student-led session that introduces the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission, highlights India's growing participation in commercial spaceflight, and inspires undergraduates to explore contemporary frontiers in space science, technology, and policy.

2. Overview of the Session

The first lecture of the series was delivered by second-year B.Sc. (Hons) Physics students, **Ms. Ashly Anil** and **Mr. Albin J**. The session combined a concise mission briefing with explanatory visuals to demystify private orbital missions, mission architecture, and life/science aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The programme was coordinated by **Dr. Lakshmi Vijayan**, who set the context for the series and emphasised student research communication as a core learning outcome.

3. Programme Flow

- **Opening & Context Setting:** Dr. Lakshmi Vijayan welcomed participants, outlined the aims of the lecture series, and introduced the speakers.
- **Lecture Part I (Mission Brief):** Ashly Anil presented the Axiom-4 mission profile—timeline, launch partners, crew composition (private astronauts and mission specialists), flight duration, docking/undocking milestones, and payload summary.
- **Lecture Part II (Science & Technology):** Albin J discussed onboard experiments, microgravity platforms, crew training, safety protocols, and the role of commercial missions in accelerating ISS utilisation and technology demonstrations for future commercial space stations.
- **Q&A and Discussion:** Audience questions covered mission costs, human factors in microgravity, data access for educational institutions, and pathways for Indian students in space careers.