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PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Hosts Insightful Talks as Part of Science Fest

The Department of Physics at the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad is hosting Science Fest, a month-long celebration of discovery and innovation. As part of this event, renowned astrophysicist Dr. Esha Kundu, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics at IIT (ISM), delivered an engaging talk today on *Vikram Sarabhai - The Pioneer of the Indian Space Program*.

Dr. Kundu, who also serves as a Visiting Assistant Professor (Adjunct) at the Australian National University, Canberra, captivated the audience at Raman Hall, Academic Complex, with her insights into Vikram Sarabhai's invaluable contributions to India's space research and nuclear power development.

"Establishing the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was one of his greatest achievements, as he was the visionary who convinced the government about the importance of a space program for a developing country like India," remarked Dr. Kundu. Her research primarily focuses on compact objects such as black hole binaries in globular clusters, radio emissions from supernovae, and fast radio bursts.

As part of the Science Fest, IIT (ISM) also hosted distinguished speakers who shared groundbreaking research in their respective fields:

- Dr. Manish Kumar Mohanta, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Virginia Commonwealth University, USA, presented an enlightening talk on February 7, titled *Anomalous Spin Texture Representation in Quantum Materials: Insights from Density Functional Theory and Analytical Models*. His research focuses on computational materials science, utilizing advanced Density Functional Theory to explore quantum materials.
- Dr. Sudipta Pattanayak, a postdoctoral researcher at the Physics Unit, Institut Curie, Université Paris Sciences et Lettres, France, and Collège de France, Université Paris Sciences et Lettres, France, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on February 13. His talk, *Force Balance of Opposing Diffusive Motors Generates Polarity-Sorted Microtubule Patterns and Coarsening of the Patterns*, provided crucial insights into cellular mechanics and molecular transport.

Science Fest at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad continues to be a platform for intellectual exchange, inspiring students and researchers alike by bringing together experts from diverse scientific domains. The event is a testament to the institute's commitment to fostering academic excellence and scientific curiosity.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)