

Public Lecture



The wonderful lab called home! (what the pandemic taught us about science education)

Arnab Bhattacharya (HBCSE-TIFR)

Lecture Hall 5, IISER Mohali

4:00pm

November 15, 2022

A special public lecture on the occasion of the National Education Day, to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (November 11), independent India's first education minister.

The lecture will also be available on the YouTube channel of IISER Mohali:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/IISERMohaliOfficialChannel>

Even in the best of times, making the science curriculum exciting and inviting to a school student has been a challenge. The closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic led to a complete disruption in the educational system across the country. For the learning of science, which can only be done through asking questions and doing experiments, the pandemic was an outright disaster.

An exciting experiment is often the best way to engender curiosity in a student. Thankfully, opportunities for doing interesting science experiments are all around us, and I will show several examples of experiments at all school levels that can be carried out even at home. Many of us tried to provide continuity to students via online engagement, but this leaves out those without access to smartphones or a fast network. I will also highlight some efforts at HBCSE to reach out to this segment, especially in marginalized tribal communities.

The wow of science is just waiting to be discovered. In the most wonderful lab called home!

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About the speaker: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya is a scientist, tinkerer, and science communicator at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai where he leads a research group in semiconductor opto-electronics, and is also the Centre Director of TIFR's Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai. Beyond the research lab, Arnab is passionate about science outreach, and enjoys talking about science and demonstrating science experiments to all audiences, particularly school/college students, and developing low-cost science experiments. Arnab pioneered “Chai and Why?” Mumbai’s popular science café. He also has a whole bunch of crazy interests – including music, cooking, hiking, photography, marathon running, etc.

