

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali

Press Release: Science Festival of IISER Mohali inaugurated by the Education Minister of Punjab

February 28, 2025

Mohali, February 28. *Tattva*, the annual Science Festival of IISER Mohali, celebrating the essence of scientific curiosity and its deep-rooted connection with society, was inaugurated on National Science Day. IISER Mohali, a premier science institute in the country, embodies the ethos of *Tattva*, the essence or the core, by pioneering cutting-edge scientific research and training the next generation of India's scientists.

The two-day festival features thought-provoking discussions, interactive workshops, and engaging competitions aimed at students. The workshops, led by faculty members and research scholars of the institute, cover diverse themes ranging from model organisms in Biology to remote sensing in Earth Sciences. Students also participated in fun events such as quizzes, debates, and an integration bee.

Inaugurating the festival, the Education Minister of Punjab, S. Harjot Singh Bains, emphasized the need for students from Punjab to pursue science and address the state's challenges using its rich resources, such as agriculture. He was particularly impressed by the Science Exhibition presented by the students of IISER Mohali's academic clubs. He, along with other dignitaries released, *Meraki*, the students Science Magazine of the Institute.

Students from various schools across Punjab, including Meritorious School Mohali, School of Eminence, Phase 11, and GHS Mauli Baidwan, attended the inaugural ceremony.

Prof. Anil Kumar Tripathi, Director of IISER Mohali, welcomed the Minister and the visiting students, expressing the institute's enthusiasm for collaborating with Punjab on areas of mutual and societal interest through scientific ideas and technology. The festival's inaugural lecture was delivered by Dr. Anjan Ray, former Director of the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun. He gave an engaging talk on *Science and Social Media: Sifting Facts from Misinformation*.

In the evening, a panel discussion explored the interactions between Science and Society, focusing on how science shapes society and how society, in turn, influences novel scientific avenues. The closing talk of the festival will be delivered on Saturday by Dr. Srivari Chandrashekhar, Former Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology and Former Director of the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad.

Speaking about the event, Prof. Amit Kulshrestha, Dean of International Relations at IISER Mohali, remarked, "Science extends beyond laboratory walls, and *Tattva* offers a platform to inspire young minds and showcase the impact of science in everyday life."