

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali

Press Release

Education Minister Inaugurates 3-day Science Festival Tattva 2026 at IISER Mohali

Mohali, February 28, 2026

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali inaugurated Tattva 2026, the second edition of its annual science festival celebrating scientific curiosity, innovation, and societal engagement. The festival was inaugurated by S. Harjot Singh Bains, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of Punjab, on Friday during a special ceremony held at the institute.

The Minister visited the student-led science exhibition, where innovative models and demonstrations highlighted the spirit of inquiry and creativity among young researchers. The exhibition showcased interdisciplinary ideas spanning physics, biology, earth sciences, mathematics, and emerging technologies.

In his address, the Director of IISER Mohali welcomed the guests and emphasized the institute's commitment to advancing scientific research, nurturing talent, and strengthening engagement with society and the state of Punjab. During the ceremony, the Minister also released Meraki, the institute's student science magazine, and launched the IISER Mohali Alumni Portal, aimed at strengthening alumni engagement and institutional outreach.

Addressing the students, the Minister appreciated IISER Mohali's role in strengthening scientific education and inspiring young minds. In his interactive address, he encouraged students to make scientists their icons and to chase their dreams with curiosity and determination. Referring to pioneers such as Dr. Har Gobind Khorana and Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany, he noted with concern that too few students are aware of their groundbreaking contributions, and stressed the importance of celebrating scientific role models.

He commended IISER Mohali's outreach initiatives and research contributions, and motivated students to pursue higher studies at premier institutions such as the IISERs and other leading centres of scientific learning.

Tattva 2026 features a rich lineup of activities, including workshops, exhibitions, competitions, and lectures designed to engage students and the wider community. Events include hands-on workshops in spectroscopy, materials science, artificial intelligence, natural hazards, and computational epigraphy; competitions such as Robo Sumo, Star Sprint, and Escape the Room; poster presentations; and panel discussions exploring the intersection of science and society.

On Friday, the keynote address was delivered by Prof. Mewa Singh, INSA Distinguished Professor, and special addresses were delivered by Dr. Kamaljeet Singh, Director General, Semi-Conductor Laboratory, Mohali, and Sh. Priyank Bharti, Administrative Secretary (Science, Technology & Environment), Government of Punjab.

On Saturday, the Science Day Lecture was delivered by Prof. Shantanu Bhattacharya, Director, CSIR-CSIO Chandigarh. An expert panel featuring Prof. Biman B. Nath, Prof. Qudia Tahseen, and Prof. Sitabhra Sinha discussed the evolution of science in contemporary India.

On Sunday, an Alumni Panel featured Dr. Srishti Batra (Qzense Labs), Dr. Gurpreet Kaur (HBCSE-TIFR), Mr. S. Tanmay Krishna (Azim Premji University), and Dr. Ritabrata Sengupta (IISER Berhampur). The Valedictory Talk was delivered by Prof. Sandhya Visweswariah, IISc Bangalore.

Speaking about the event, Prof. Amit Kulshrestha, Dean of International Relations and Outreach at IISER Mohali remarked, "*Tattva 2026 reflects our commitment to taking science beyond classrooms and laboratories, engaging society through meaningful outreach and inspiring the next generation of scientific thinkers.*"

The festival brings together school and college students, educators, researchers, and science enthusiasts, providing a platform for interaction with scientists and exposure to cutting-edge research.
