



IIT Kanpur Celebrates National Technology Day with Invited Talks

Kanpur, U.P: Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur celebrated National Technology Day on 11 May, 2017 with a series of invited lectures and an exhibition of the innovations from the institute. The theme of the event was ***From Tinkering to Technology*** and the Chief Guest on the occasion was **Dr. Shailesh Nayak**, Distinguished Scientist, Earth System Science Organisation, Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The event began with a welcome address by Prof. Indranil Manna, Director, IIT Kanpur, who talked about the importance of cultivating a culture of innovation in the institute. Stressing on the two points of focus of IITs in the country – knowledge creation and knowledge dissemination – he said, *“In our 50 years, we have and will continue to do research. In India, in the field of engineering, IIT Kanpur is the gold standard. We must justify the investment the country has made in us by finding technological solutions to the country’s most pressing problems.”*

This year, the celebration was organized keeping in mind young children and all the talks were delivered in a simple and easy-to-comprehend manner. Students from schools in Kanpur city had also been invited to attend the talks.

The first in the series of lectures was by Dr Nayak on ***Innovations in Earth Sciences***, in which he talked about the challenges and opportunities in this field. His talk touched upon a number of current issues which require further research and study such as oxygen deficient ecosystems in the Arabian Sea, climate change, an early Tsunami warning system and algorithms which can sift through huge amounts of data.

Talks by IIT Kanpur faculty included ones on ***Unmanned Aerial Vehicle*** by Prof. Ajoy K. Ghosh, ***Cyber Security*** by Prof. Sandeep Shukla and ***Bio-inspired Bioengineering*** by Prof. Animangsu Ghatak. In these talks, the faculty talked about current issues in their respective topics and the research work that is going on in the institute. For example, Prof. Ghosh talked about a bird-like aerial vehicle that has been developed at the institute, Prof. Shukla about the upcoming cyber security centre and Prof. Ghatak about a reusable paper that has been developed by a student.

The second half of the event included talks by IIT Kanpur alumni on their start-up journeys. While Binventor Labs Pvt. Ltd. has developed a bio-inspired UV-protective laundry detergent, Weather Risk Management Services Pvt. Ltd. discussed solutions for climate risks.

The exhibition by students, in which they displayed their latest research projects, had a water purification device, a solar-powered aerial vehicle and a redesigned dentist’s chair amongst other inventions on display.