

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR

Prof. Rakesh Popli and Mrs. Rama Popli Distinguished Lecture Series on "The Wonderful Lab called Home"



Prof. Rakesh Kumar Popli

Prof. Rakesh Kumar Popli (1952 - 15 September 2007) was a faculty member in the Department of Physics at IIT Kanpur from 1981 to 1983. He left his job at IIT Kanpur to work for the education and upliftment of the tribal population of India. He is a brilliant academician, was a passionate advocate of science popularization. He was instrumental in the establishment of Ekal Vidyalaya, a non-profit organization that aims to provide education to children in rural and remote areas of India. Additionally, he actively engaged in popularizing science through his writings.



Mrs. Rama Popli

Mrs. Rama Popli, wife of professor Rakesh Popli, is a specialist in elementary education for children with more than 40 years of experience in the field research, action research, and rural social development. She founded Kislaya Vidya Mandir, which later became an incubator for the creation of curricula for Ekal Vidyalaya. Through her non-profit organisation Panini foundation, she continues to contribute in the field of elementary education for children.

Abstract

Making the science curriculum exciting and inviting to students at all levels has been a challenge. 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 often in the activities we often take for granted in our daily lives. I will show several examples where experiments at all levels can be carried out at home and in our immediate surroundings with just the very basic "apparatus" available in the kitchen, bathroom, playground etc. From pouring rice grains and atta, to looking at boiling water for a cup of chai, and from hearing a bucket fill up to emptying water from a matka, there is a lot that can be made fun and engaging (and even publishable!)The wow of science is just waiting to be discovered. In the most wonderful lab called home!

Speaker



Scientist, Tinkerer, and Science Communicator

Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya – Centre Director of HBCSE, TIFR Mumbai

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. Arnab has a B.Tech. degree from IIT-Bombay, MS and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and did a post-doc at the Ferdinand-Braun-Institute in Berlin before coming back to TIFR.

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 and is presently the chair of Science Popularization and Public Outreach at TIFR. He also has a whole bunch of crazy interests – including music, cooking, quizzing, photography, marathon running, etc.

