

Sir Asutosh Mukherjee Charcha Kendra Memorial Lecture

Report

- **TITLE OF EVENT:** Sir Asutosh Mukherjee Charcha Kendra Memorial Lecture
- **THEME OF THE EVENT/ PROGRAMME:** Cosmic Voyage
- **ACADEMIC SESSION:** 2025-26
- **DATE:** 05.08.2025
- **TIME:** 01:00 pm
- **VENUE:** Centenary Building, Asutosh College
- **OBJECTIVE/ PURPOSE:** Annual Event
- **SPEAKER:** Dr. Debiprasad Duari
- **TARGET AUDIENCE:** All the faculty members and students

- **ATTENDANCE SHEET:**

- **BRIEF REPORT ABOUT THE EVENT:**

The proceedings began with a brief overview of the programme by Dr. Arpita Paul, Convenor of SAMCK, setting the tone for the day's events. IQAC Coordinator Dr. Sraboni Roy extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries, faculty members, students, and guests, highlighting the significance of the Memorial Lecture. Keeping in tradition of the college, floral tribute was paid to Sir Asutosh Mukherjee by the invited Speaker and senior faculty members, and other participants, honouring his memory and legacy. Next the invited Speaker and other invitees of the event were felicitated with plant saplings by Dr. Sanchita Sanyal and Dr. Aditi Das, Convenors of SAMCK and Dr. Subhasri Ghosh.

Dr. Prabir Rudra of Dept of Mathematics introduced the theme of the Memorial talk, providing historical and contextual background for the audience. Dr. Sritama Chaudhuri introduced the guest speaker, outlining his professional achievements and connection to the event theme. The Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr. Debiprosad Duari, eminent astrophysicist and former Director of the M. P. Birla Planetarium, who is widely celebrated for his engaging public lectures that bring the mysteries of the cosmos within the grasp of general audiences. Across multiple platforms—from academic webinars to cultural forums—his talks have blended scientific depth with an inspiring narrative style, making astronomy both accessible and captivating.

In his audio visual talk Dr. Duari explored the wonders of celestial phenomena including the changing seasons, total solar eclipses, and the collision–ejection theory explaining the Moon's origin. He frequently enriched his presentations with rare images and data from significant NASA and ISRO missions such as Chandrayaan-2, Gaganyaan, Mangalyaan-2, and Shukrayaan, offering audiences a front-row view of India's strides in space exploration. He had taken listeners on a journey through the history and relevance of astronomy—the oldest of sciences — touching upon the Sun, Moon, stars, asteroids, Earth, and planetary bodies. By interweaving scientific explanation with historical context, he deepened the audience's understanding of humanity's relationship with the universe while sparking curiosity about the latest developments in space research. His talk exemplified his ability to demystify even the most complex astrophysical topics, such as black holes, through clear explanations and vivid storytelling.

Whether discussing the nature of spacetime, cosmic evolution, or the cutting-edge findings of modern astrophysics, Dr. Duari consistently engaged audiences from all backgrounds. Across all these public engagements, Dr. Duari's hallmark is his skill in balancing technical accuracy with simplicity, encouraging young minds to consider careers in astrophysics and inspiring a broader public to appreciate the grandeur and relevance of the universe. His lectures are not merely scientific presentations—these are voyages into space and time, leaving audiences both informed and awestruck. Throughout his talk, Dr. Duari masterfully blended scientific rigor with approachability—ending his talk by a Tagore Song depicting the wonder of the Cosmos.

In the 2nd half of the programme, Principal Dr. Manas Kabi felicitated Dr Duari with a special memento and talked about the significance of cosmos in literature, citing Tagore's work. He

was felicitated by Dr. Taniya Roy, Convenor of SAMCK. Next Dr. Shyamalina Halder introduced the special documentary prepared by the Charcha Kendra as part of the programme. Dr. Prabir Rudra, Ms. Tina Saha, and Ms. Nima Doma Lama were felicitated by Dr. Arpita Roy Director of Research and Development Cell, in appreciation of their contributions in preparing the documentary.

The documentary titled “ Tribute to Indian Astronauts” was screened, offering visual insights into the historical and cultural legacy of astronauts like Rakesh Sharma and Subhangshu Shukla of India and Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams of Indian American origin.

Dr. Chandramalli Sengupta, Convenor of SAMCK delivered the formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all guests, organisers, and participants. The event concluded with coffee and snacks providing attendees with an opportunity for informal discussion and networking.

- **EXPECTED OUTCOME:**

The memorial lecture was an intellectually enriching event, blending respectful homage to Indian astronomers with thought-provoking discourse. It brought together academics, students, and guests in a shared celebration of science and astronomy. The combination of lecture, tributes, felicitation, and documentary screening made the programme both reflective and inspiring, in true alignment with the mission of Sir Asutosh Mukherjee Charcha Kendra.

- **GEO-TAGGED PHOTOGRAPHS**