

## **IIT Mandi organised AstraX'19, from 30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

The Space Technology and Astronomy Cell of IIT Mandi organised a two day, inter - college Astro-meet event, **AstraX'19**, which featured a panel of national and international speakers, on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**The event also hosted Dr. Chandra Kanth Mishra, IIT Madras faculty, and Indian Contributor to the Nobel Prize 2017 winning paper (Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger).**

The event provided an opportunity for students to seek first-hand knowledge of Scientific Collaborations of Gravitational Wave Detector Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) LIGO India, Astronomical Society of India, European Space Agency and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), as well.

**Talking about the AstraX'19 event, Dr. Arnav Bhavsar, Faculty advisor, Space Technology and Astronomy Cell and Assistant Professor, School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, IIT Mandi, said,** *"Organizing AstraX 2019 was a stellar achievement of the Space Technology and Astronomy Club (STAC) at IIT Mandi. Activities from STAC student members are now gaining visibility at national and international level. Such consistent and enthusiastic efforts from the students are enabling them to invite prominent scientists and researchers, and to organize a major event like AstraX. I am confident that the STAC will keep expanding further in various avenues such as observational and radio astronomy as well as applications of data science to astronomy and astrophysics, an upcoming field. We thank IIT Mandi for their continued support and encouragement to the club, which is enabling the students to follow their passions in astronomy and space technology".*

The key speakers in this event were:

**Dr. Chandra Kanth Mishra**, Assistant Professor, IIT Madras, along with a member of LIGO India, delivered a lecture on, 'Black holes and Neutron stars'.

**Dr. Redouane Boumghar**, Data Scientist, European Space Agency and AI and Robotics Mentor, NASA Frontier Development laboratory, delivered a lecture on 'How machine learning on spacecraft operations supports the acquisition of good scientific data'.

**Dr. Nandivada Rathnasree**, Director, Nehru Planetarium, Delhi, delivered a lecture on 'Astronomy data visualisations in planetarium domes/ software and Jantar Mantar observations.

**Mr. Juan Luis Cano Rodriguez**, Astrospace Engineer, Satellogic and Python Professor, Instituto Empresa and Barcelona Technology School, delivered a lecture on 'Open source in the space industry, open source communities, the importance on open science.'

These lectures were helpful for students who are keen to pursue a career in Gravitational Physics.

In addition to these lectures, there were several competitive events that saw active participation from other colleges including IIT Roorkee, IISER Mohali, PEC and many more. Another important aspect of the event was the workshop on Satellite Technology and Space

Communication by Space Development Nexus that provided the participants with an exposure to the science behind satellite missions.