

HARMONICITY

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Department of Physics, IISc

COVER STORY



A FERVENT SPIRIT FOR OUTREACH

In an eventful start to the year, the first three months of 2026 saw an enthusiastic effort by the Department in several activities targeting public outreach through events and social media. The year began with the closing of the Inaugural Online Winter School 'Recent Frontiers in Physics Research: Matter, Life and Cosmos' by the Department that saw the participation of over 800 students from across the country.

In mid-January, the Department hosted a Telescope-making workshop for over 80 school children aged 12-16 in collaboration with Young Innovators and the M.P. Birla Institute of Fundamental Research. Several speakers delivered talks during the workshop, including the city's renowned amateur astronomers, student members of Astrae, researchers from IIA, RRI, and ISRO.

The major highlight of the quarter was the Institute Open Day, which was held with great

fanfare, seeing a massive footfall of over 10,000 people from Bangalore and elsewhere. In a first, the Department's demonstrations and talks were categorized into zones, based on their subfields, which became a great attraction.

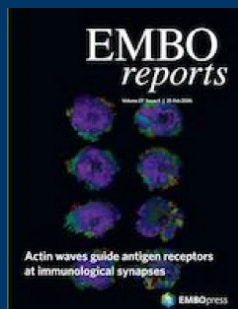
The Department's social media handles were revamped, launching two new series to highlight research conducted by the Department: [phys.xparse](#) & [#FreshOffThePress](#), simplifying research to attract and inform a large audience. The Department also launched its Official YouTube Channel, through which several public lectures are now being livestreamed and hosted.

The increased reach on social media and consistent engagement with the community reflect the Department's ambition to cultivate the spirit of science in society.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

ON THE COVER

A recent paper by Samuel Kiangte, Prof Sumantra Sarkar, and collaborators was featured on the cover of EMBO Reports. The study uncovered novel dynamics of T Cell Receptors at the immunological synapse, where they were driven outward by Actin waves, with the simultaneous inward movement that was previously known.



PROF. SRIRAM WINS GOYAL PRIZE

Prof. Sriram Ramaswamy, Honorary Faculty at the Department, was awarded the Goyal Prize in the Physical Sciences for the year 2023-24 by the Kurukshetra University.



PROF. ANINDYA ELECTED TO IAS

Prof. Anindya Das was elected Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences for the year 2026 in the Physics section.



THESES DEFENDED

Raushan Kant

Nonreciprocity, condensation and chirality in active granular systems

Dayakrishn Purohit (MS)

Thermal annealing induced changes in structural and optical properties of Sb_2Se_3 thin films

Aniket Majumdar

Investigation of electrical and thermal transport in ultra-clean graphene

Priyanshi

Non-Hermitian Quantum Theory via Hermitian Operators: A Unified Framework with Applications to Anyons

Palash Sunil Sarate

Entangled Granular Chains: Geometry, Cohesion, and Emergent Mechanics

Jishnu Sai P

Non-Gaussian Signatures of Inflationary Gauge Fields: Higher-Order Correlations and Associated Soft Theorems

THIS QUARTER A GLANCE

48 PUBLICATIONS

Jan-Mar 2026

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

12	Seminars
4	Colloquia
3	Talks
2	Memorial Lectures

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED



The 7th International Conference on Molecular Simulation to be held between October 4-8, 2026 was announced. The call for abstract submissions is open till June 10.