

**Science Communication Outreach and Public Engagement (SCOPE)**

**5-days Capacity Building Workshop on Science Communication for STEM Faculty**

**March 01-05, 2025**

**Initiative Under  
Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP)  
by the Ministry of Education, GoI**

**Organized By  
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad  
In Association With  
Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS), New Delhi**

**Press Release of the Inauguration Session on March 01, 2025**

The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad in association with the Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS), New Delhi inaugurated SCOPE: Science Communication Outreach and Public Engagement, a 5 day long fully residential Capacity Building Workshop on Science Communication for STEM Faculty under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP) of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The initiative advocates to equip STEM faculty members with requisite science communication and public interaction skills to foster effective public engagement and bridging the gap between science and society. The workshop provided a vast platform to 40 participants from 24 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) spread across India.

The inaugural session was initiated with a welcome and opening remarks by Dr. Sriparna Chatterjee, INYAS member. She cordially welcomed the participants and dignitaries, announced the commencement of the 5-day long programme, highlighted the 11 expert resource persons and underlined the broad topics to be covered during the workshop. The session was then followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the initiation of this noteworthy training programme. Following the programme trajectory the welcome address was delivered by Prof. B.S. Murty, Director of Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. Prof. Murty vocalised about the institute's recent initiatives and emphasized the urgent necessity to identify collaborative opportunities that align with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He generously congratulated the organizing committee for conceptualizing this much-appreciated workshop and extended his best wishes to all participants.

The inaugural session was then carried ahead by Prof. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Professor at IIT Hyderabad and Co-Chair of the Global Young Academy who showcased an overview of the entire workshop, spotlighting India's exponential growth in research output, particularly in the fields of technology, healthcare and renewable energy. He emphasized the significance of altering the perception of science and setting milestones to make research more accessible to the public through effective science communication. As mentioned, the workshop is designed to offer hands-on

sessions, expert lectures and course modules on utilizing social media, visual storytelling, infographics, AI tools, audience analysis and the integration of policy-making. He also focussed on the significance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the demand for initiatives like such to address challenges faced in upskilling faculty in science communication.

Ahead of the detailed workshop introduction a special lecture titled "The Joy of Research" was delivered by Prof. B.S. Murty, where he flagged the importance of undertaking high-quality research and communicating it to relevant audiences effectively and passionately. Additionally, he shared insights on the role of quality research in amplifying India's global academic standing, discussing aspects like QS rankings, publishing in reputed journals and the urgency of quality over quantity in scientific publications. He emphasized fostering independent research ideas among faculty and students, thus uplifting the youth in science. He mentioned building an environment where excitement for research and exploration sustains a continuous zeal for learning among professors. He encouraged the fellows for stepping out of one's comfort zone to drive academic growth and innovation. Stressing upon the fact that peer recognition is the natural consequence of impactful work, therefore urging young researchers to have a clear vision and goal. Prof. Murty further articulated about IIT Hyderabad's interdisciplinary PhD program, which empowers students from different departments to collaborate. He introduced IIT Hyderabad's Mission 365 and highlighted several of the institute's innovative initiatives. He further reiterated that education must be student-centric, advocating for flexibility in learning composition that encourages innovation. He emphasized the urgent need of nurturing startups and developing indigenous technologies to contribute to India's self-reliance and growth.

Towards the end, the inaugural session was concluded with a word of thanks by Dr. Nishant Chakravorty, Chair of Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS) and Associate Professor at IIT Kharagpur. He expressed his warm gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, resource persons, IIT Hyderabad, INYAS, the Ministry of Education and the organizing committee members for their tireless efforts and unparalleled contributions for conceptualizing and arranging the workshop. The inauguration concluded on an enthusiastic note with a group photograph, marking the official commencement of this impactful residential science communication workshop.