



Prof. Sandip Kumar Chakrabarti received his PhD degree from the University of Chicago (1985) after completing BSc from Narendrapur RKMRC (Calcutta University topper in Physics), and MSc from IIT/Kanpur (First Divn. w. Distinction). He was R.C. Tolman Faculty Fellow at California Institute of Technology, Senior Research Associate at NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre and held many positions elsewhere. He received Honorary DSc from the Univ. of Gour Banga, Banga Ratna from West Bengal Govt. and many awards. He has written over 1200 articles and books as per Google Scholar. His citation is over 13300 with h-index 56. As per Stanford University ranking every year, he remains the topmost Astrophysicist of India. He has produced 59 PhDs. He is an adjunct faculty of International Centre for Relativistic Astrophysics, Italy. His expertises are: Black Holes Astrophysics; Ionospheric Physics; Astrobiology/Astrochemistry and Balloon borne space exploration. He founded Indian Centre for Space Physics (ICSP) in 1999 and is currently its Director and Distinguished Professor. At his initiative and mainly from his collection, the Museum of Astronomy and Space Science has been created at ICSP with over 1200 rare exhibits. An observatory with 60 bed hostel with a 24 inch major optical telescope (largest in Eastern India) has been created under ICSP in West Medinipur and a balloon launching station is being created near Suri.

Sourav Palit



He completed his Ph.D. in physics from ICSP/Jadavpur University in 2013 and pursued postdoctoral research at the Center for Radio Astronomy at Mackenzie Presbyterian University, São Paulo, Brazil and at IIT Bombay. Since 2021, he has been an Assistant Professor-II at the ICSP. His research in high-energy astronomy and astrophysics includes developing and assessing high-energy astrophysics missions using Monte Carlo simulations and exploring space radiation's impact on Earth and other celestial bodies. He also studies the use of small rockets in astronomical research, adding a unique dimension to his work.

Devendra Bisht



He was awarded a Ph.D. degree in 2016 at Kumaun University/ARIES, Nainital, India. He held postdoctoral positions at Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, USTC, China, and Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore. On August 24, 2022, He began his role as a Scientist-C in the Optical Astronomy Department at ICSP Kolkata. Since March 2024, he has been an Assistant Professor-I. His research interests include Stellar Astronomy, Star Clusters, and Transiting Exoplanets, etc. He has published 34 research articles in international refereed journals. Three students are registered for Ph.D. under his supervision (2) and joint supervision (1). He has mentored several BS-MS students. He's a life member of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) and an individual member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

Ashish Raj



He began his academic journey in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, and earned B.Sc. (Physics Hons.) and M.Sc. (Physics) degrees from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). After clearing JEST 2007 (AIR 51), he joined Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, for his Ph.D. He was awarded the degree in 2013. Post-Ph.D., he held postdoc positions at PRL, KASI, and IIA Bangalore. He then worked as a Research Associate at the University of Delhi. Since August 25, 2022, he has been an Assistant Professor-II at ICSP Kolkata. His primary focus of research lies in the exploration of transient sources, early type stars, and star clusters. He has published about 30 research articles. He's a Life Member of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) and an IAU member. Two students are registered for Ph.D. under his supervision (1) and joint supervision (1). He has mentored several BS-MS students.

Tamal Basak



He works as an Assistant Professor-II in Indian Centre for Space Physics, Kolkata. Previously, he was an Assistant Professor at Amity University Kolkata, where he taught several UG & PG courses. After doing M.Sc. in Physics from Presidency College, Kolkata, he completed his Ph.D. from S.N. Bose National Center for Basic Sciences, Kolkata. He was selected for the 'URSI - InRaSS Young Indian Radio Scientist Award' in "Asia Pacific Radio Science Conference 2019". He worked as a 'Postdoctoral Researcher' in the University of Electro-communications, Tokyo, Japan. His field of research is the numerical modeling of the lower ionospheric variabilities in presence of solar energetic perturbations using sub-ionospheric Very Low Frequency (VLF) signal propagation effects. He published several research papers in international peer reviewed journals and presented the works in many overseas international conferences in the USA, Japan, Germany, UAE, Turkey etc. Currently, he's supervising two doctoral research scholars. He is instrumental in popularizing space science and astronomy among students.

Sovan Saha



He's a Scientist-C at the ICSP, specializing in space physics, which includes the Earth's ionosphere-thermosphere system, solar-terrestrial physics, etc. He completed his Ph.D. in Physics from the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, with the degree awarded by IIT Gandhinagar in 2022, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship there. He has published several articles in peer-reviewed international journals and collaborated with renowned scientists from institutions, such as, Boston University, University of Colorado, NCAR, etc. He has presented at over ten conferences, served as a Student/Early-career convener at AGU Fall Meeting 2022, and reviewed for esteemed journals, such as, Earth, Planet and Space and Journal of Geophysical Research-Space Physics. He also received the Outstanding Paper Award for Young Scientists 2022 from Committee on Space Research.

Prantik Nandi



He began his academic journey at Kishore Bharati, WB, and earned his B.Sc. from the University of Calcutta, followed by an M.Sc. from Presidency University, Kolkata. In 2022, he received a Ph.D. under the supervision of Prof. Sandip K. Chakrabarti. Post-Ph.D., he joined the Physical Research Laboratory as a Postdoctoral Fellow, collaborating internationally. Since 2024, he has been a Scientist C at ICSP, Kolkata. Throughout his research career, he has published 15 research articles in international refereed journals. His research focuses on compact objects, particularly supermassive black holes. These black holes, the brightest persistent sources of radiation in the cosmos, play a crucial role in galactic evolution over cosmic timescales. He analyzes high-energy photons and multiwavelength observations to study the accreting material around these compact objects, with a particular interest in X-ray variability in active galactic nuclei.

Rupnath Sikdar



He's experienced in computer language and data analysis software such as Linux / Windows operating systems, C, C++, and ROOT (CERN). He has been working as a research scholar under the supervision of Prof. Sandip K. Chakrabarti at the ICSP since 2018 and recently submitted the thesis to University of Calcutta. He has published five research papers. His research interests include X-ray astronomy, stratospheric balloon-borne experiments, strong cosmic X-ray sources, and instrumentation (X-ray / gamma-ray detectors).

Abhrajit Bhattacharjee



He's a Junior Research Scientist (JRS) at the ICSP specializing in General Relativity and High Energy Astrophysics. Prior to that, he had obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Delhi. His primary research focuses on elucidating the complex mechanisms that drives accretion of matter in the extreme environments near black holes. His work often involves theoretical modelling and numerical simulations to unravel the mysteries of black holes.

Kuldeep Belwal



He holds a Post-Graduate degree from Kumaun University, Nainital. He has prior experience operating and observing with India's largest 3.6 m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT). Currently, He's posted at the Observatory, IERCOO campus, ICSP, where he acquires data using our 24-inch and 10-inch optical telescopes and performs data reduction and analysis. He has presented his research at many national conferences and is actively involved in science popularization activities, including conducting sky-watching sessions and delivering talks to school and college students.

Mohit Singh Bisht



He holds a Post-Graduate degree from Kumaun University, Nainital. He has qualified GATE 2023 with AIR 986. He has prior experience of operating and observing with 3.6 m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT). Currently, he's posted at the Observatory, IERCOO campus, ICSP, where he acquires data using our 24-inch and 10-inch optical telescopes and performs data reduction and analysis. He has presented his research at numerous national conferences and is actively involved in science popularization activities, including conducting sky-watching sessions and delivering talks to school and college students.

Shraddha Biswas



She completed her Post-Graduation from Central University of Chhattisgarh with 84.58% marks (University Second Rank). She has an expertise on TTV analysis in close-in exoplanets, using several ground based and space based surveys. Additionally, she does the photometric analysis of the observational data for the stars, with already discovered exoplanets, in Open Cluster Environments. She has been awarded the best poster presentation award entitled "Probing the Transit Timing Variations in the TrES-2 system with TESS data" during MSMICFP-2023 held from November 22-24, 2023 organized by the University of Allahabad, India. She has mentored several B.Sc. and M.Sc. students in their project work.