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BITS Pilani
K K Birla Goa Campus

BITS Goa students took part in the SKA Week at Vigyan Samagam 2019

In order to highlight the value and impact of fundamental research to a broad cross-section of audience including students, academicians and industry, and to further strengthen India's participation in mega-science projects, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Department of Science and Technology (DST) and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) are jointly organising a multi-venue mega-science exhibition, Vigyan Samagam 2019. Six major International/National projects (1) European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), (2) Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR), (3) India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO), (4) International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) (5) Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO), (6) Square Kilometer Array (SKA) and (7) Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) take part in this mega-science exhibition, Vigyan Samagam.

A first-of-its-kind, Vigyan Samagam shall be hosted in a caravan mode at four major Indian cities as per the following schedule: Mumbai: 8th May to 7th July, 2019 Bengaluru: 29th July to 28th September, 2019 Kolkata: 4th November to 31st December, 2019 Delhi: 21st January to 20th March, 2020.

The SKA week in Vigyan Samagam for the Mumbai leg was held during 17-23 June 2019. Various activities which includes lectures from astronomers, astrophysicists and engineers working with the GMRT (the Indian SKA pathfinder), quizzes, Radio Telescope making workshop involving students and the general public highlighting the importance of SKA.

Students Chinmay (Co-ordinator), Nikhil, Prajakta, Aditya & Aniriddha from BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus under the leadership of Prof. Prasanta Kumar Das, Department of Physics took part in this SKA week event and conducted two sessions: (i) Astro Quiz competition and Radio Telescope workshop: Make your own telescope.



Astro Quiz: The Astro Quiz was organised by Nikhil (co-ordinator) and his other BITS friends on 18th June afternoon. This was attended by 15 students from different parts of the country. Three

participants: Tanmay Kabla (winner); Abhishek Chitnis (1st runner-up) and Aayushi Rajgur (2nd runner up) were given prizes which were mementos related to the GMRT.

Radio-Telescope making workshop: Make your own telescope was also organised by Chinmay (Co-ordinator) and his entire team members from BITS-Pilani, Goa on 19th June and 20th June 2019 afternoons. On 19th June about 30 participants, and on 20th June about 35 participants from different parts of India took part in this event.



The demonstration involved making a small radio telescope using a simple kit. The attendees were mostly students. They asked many questions regarding all subsystems of the telescope and both the session were quite interacting. All participants enjoyed the activity immensely.



Overall the week helped a lot in communicating the exciting aspects of radio astronomy and capabilities of the SKA to interested students and the general public.