



Safexpress Centre for
Data, Learning and
Decision Sciences

exSPLOre 26

Jan 13-17, 2026



Organising committee

V Borkar (IIT Bombay), S Juneja (Ashoka), P Netrapalli (Google DeepMind),
KS Mallikarjuna Rao (IIT Bombay), D Shah (MIT), A Thakkar (Ashoka)



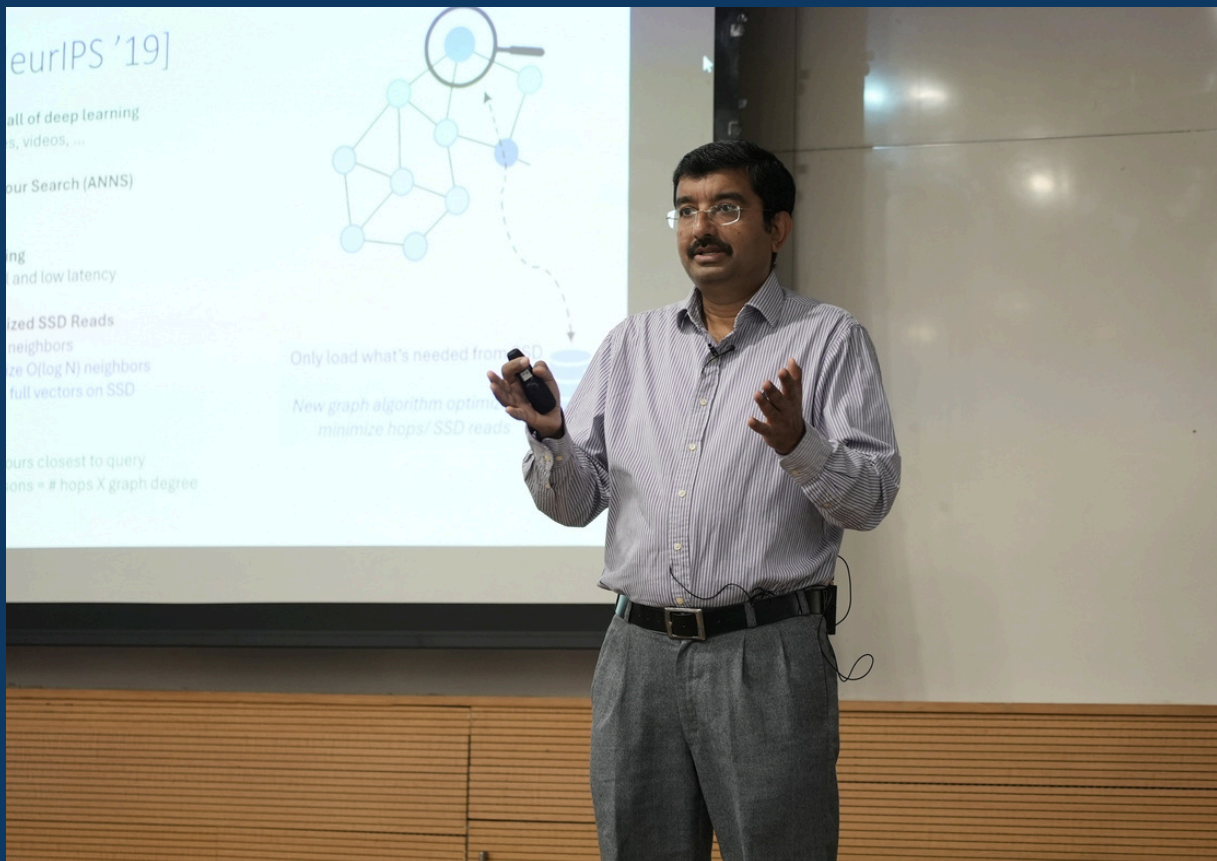
Welcome address by Vice Chancellor Somak Raychaudhury



Peter Glynn (Standord University) delivering inaugural keynote talk on Online linear programming.



**Ashish Goel (Standord University) delivering keynote talk on
Decentralized finance: theory, practice, and architectures**



Venkat Padmanabhan (Microsoft Research) delivered a keynote talk on From FLOPS to Hits: An overview of (AI) explorations at Microsoft Research India



Nisheeth Vishnoi (Yale University) delivering a keynote talk on Creativity, discovery, and learning in the age of AI



**Assaf Zeevi (Columbia University) delivering a keynote talk
on Thompson sampling through an optimization lens**



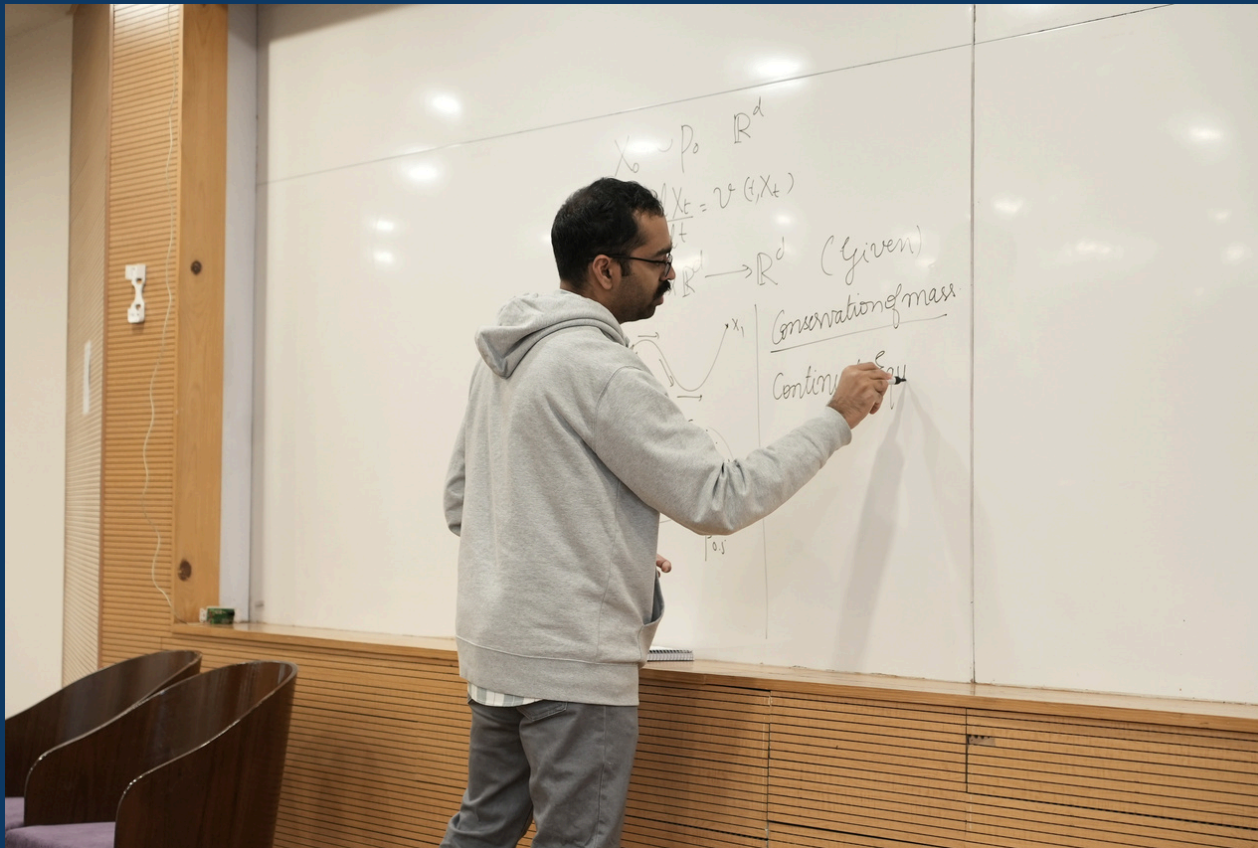
Shubhada Agrawal (IISc) presenting on On stopping times of power-one sequential tests: tight lower and upper bounds



Sarah Cen (Carnegie Mellon University) presenting on Bridging the gap between research and policy in AI safety and accountability



Dootika Vats (IIT Kanpur) presenting on MCMC importance sampling via Moreau-Yosida envelopes



**Dheeraj Nagaraj (Google DeepMind) presenting on
Diffusion and flow models for generative modeling**



Aditya Gopalan (IISc) delivering a lecture on Multi-armed bandits & reinforcement learning



**Vineet Goyal (Columbia University) presenting on
Distributionally robust newsvendor on a metric**



Sumit Kunnumkal (ISB) presenting on Strawberry or vanilla this week? How to optimize tailored



Karthyeck Murthy (USC Los Angeles) presenting on The scaling behaviors in achieving high reliability via chance-constrained optimization



**Alexandre Proutiere (KTH Royal Institute of Technology) presenting on
Emergence of low-rank structures in reinforcement learning**



Bismark Singh (University of Southampton) presenting on Balancing user accessibility and facility load fairness in undesirable facility location problems



**Arun Sai Sugalla (Google DeepMind) leading a tutorial on
understanding state-of-the-art LLMs: from architecture to reasoning**



exSPLOre 26 participants



**Poster presentation by researchers
attending exSPLOre 26**

Panel Discussion: “Why I became a researcher?”



**Peter Glynn, Venkat Padmanabhan, Alexandre Proutiere, and
Nisheeth Vishnoi, Moderated by: Gautam Menon**

Panel Discussion: Collaborations between academia and industry - What works and what doesn't



Panelists: Arko Chatterjee , Peter Glynn , Ashish Goel , Gautam Shroff, Moderated by: Debayan Gupta

Panel Discussion: “Next Decade of AI: Reshaping Business & Society” held at The Quorum, Gurugram

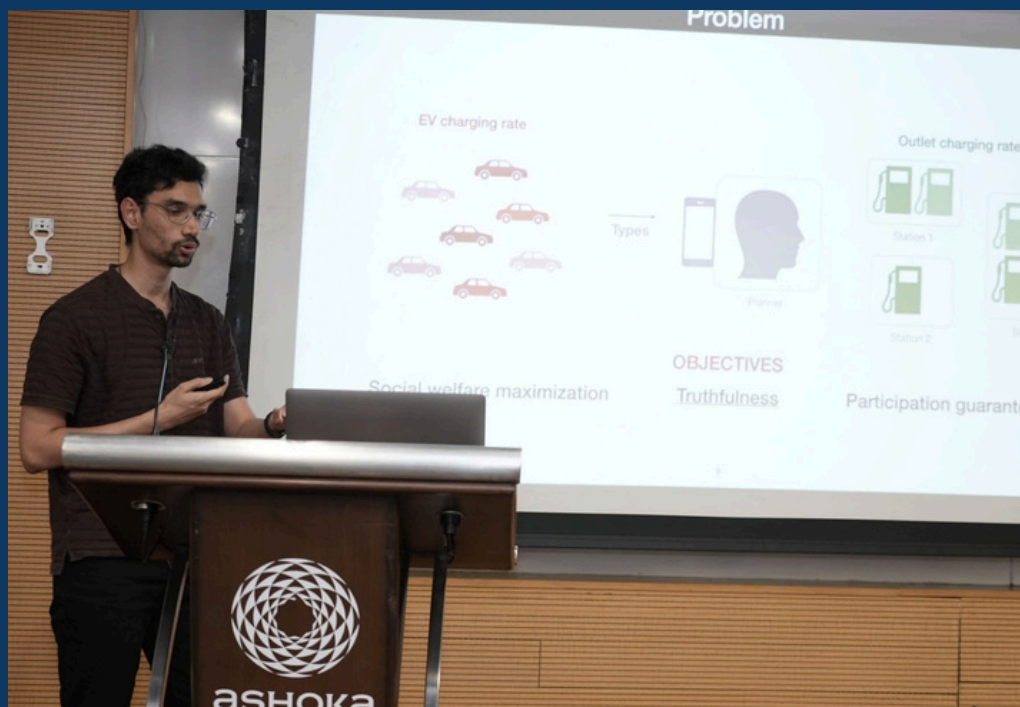


Panelists: Ashish Goel, Venkat Padmanabhan, Nisheeth Vishnoi and Assaf Zevi, Moderator: Puneet Chandok



exSPLOre 26 Industry Day: Students and exSPLOre 26 participants interacting at stalls setup by companies including Aditya Birla Group, Wadhvani AI, AltCarbon, Moolya, Vehant, Kyndryl, DRDO, and Citi.

Best Young Researcher Paper Competition: Presentations by the winners



Ramsundar Anandanarayanan (IIT Bombay), Winner of the award



Tamojit Sadhukhan (ISI Kolkata), runner-up for the award



Cultural event featuring live music by Swayam Nath, Raghav Ghei, and Sudarshan Chariar, followed by a performance by Charmi Badlani

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Explorations in Statistics, Probability, Learning and Optimization Research

Supported by



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