



**PALE BLUE DOT 1- IIT PALAKKAD PUBLIC LECTURE
SERIES**



INDIAN INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
PALAKKAD

INTRODUCTION

Pale Blue Dot is the Public Lecture Series that IIT Palakkad organises jointly with the Palakkad District Library and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. The series features eminent professionals and academicians engaging with the general public on a wide range of topics in science and technology. The confluence of cultures that characterises this border region is the perfect locale for a regular assemblage of intellectually stimulating interactions, encouraging us to question the known and explore the unknown. As a young institute, we look forward to participating in, learn from, and contribute to the vibrant intellectual and cultural life of this region and we consider the lecture series to be a step towards that.

PALE BLUE DOT 1

IIT Palakkad, in partnership with the District Public Library, Palakkad jointly organised a Public Lecture on January 24, 2020. The first of the lecture in this series was delivered by Prof Amitabh Joshi, renowned for his research and perspectives in Evolutionary Biology.

Evolution is often considered a topic of only academic interest and few if any applications. It is also, unfortunately, a rather neglected field in India despite the fact that some of the most significant Indian contributions to the growth of biological knowledge have come from our small community of ecologists and evolutionary biologists. There is also a tendency in many quarters to dismiss evolutionary biology as “merely a theory” and fundamentally flawed. In the talk, Prof. Amitabh addressed some of these misconceptions about evolution and showed that (A) evolutionary biology is a very well established and verified body of scientific knowledge, and (B) an evolutionary perspective is not just central to biology as a discipline but is crucial to how we address many pressing societal problems. He also mentioned some of the significant Indian contributions to the development of evolutionary thinking over the three decades or so.

