

The 1st Annual QEDS Conference 2024 themed, “**Data driven Analytics in Contemporary Economics and Business**” was organised by the Centre for Quantitative Economics and Data Science (CQEDS), Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra for two and a half-days between 5th March-7th March, 2024. The conference showcased contemporary developments in various sub-disciplines of Economics, Statistics and Data Science. In a landscape increasingly reliant on informed data-driven decision-making, this conference fostered the exchange of latest research ideas and facilitate the development of more accurate predictive models, evidence-based policy recommendations, and informed business strategies. The inaugural session was held in the presence of Vice Chancellor of BIT Mesra, Professor Indranil Manna, Professor Rahul Mukherjee, the National Science Chair at IIM Calcutta, Professor Partha Ray of NIBM, Pune, Professor Mousumi Dutta of Presidency University, Kolkata and Head of the Centre, Professor Kunal Mukhopadhyay.

The conference meticulously planned by the faculties of the Centre as members of the Organising committee led by Dr. Shrimoyee Ganguly as the Convenor, featured plenary lectures and invited talks by distinguished scholars personalities in the fields of economics, statistics and data science. The inaugural plenary lecture by Professor Rahul Mukherjee, delivered a talk on Block Likelihood Inference based on effective sample size that is computationally feasible alternative to full likelihood inference for large correlated datasets. Professor Partha Ray described the evolutionary journey of non-performing assets (NPA) in the Indian banking sector between 2008-09 till 2019-20. On 6th March, Professor Vimal Kumar of Department of Economic Sciences, IIT Kanpur delivered an invited lecture on the economics of e-commerce platforms, emphasizing their role in the modern economy, the challenges they face, and the changes they bring to how we do business, and the driving forces behind their origin. Professor Mousumi Dutta delivered a talk on Spatial Econometrics and how it can be used to incorporate locational aspect in conventional regression techniques. On the final day, Professor Anup Dewanji of ISI Kolkata introduced the students to Lifetime Data Analysis, or Survival Analysis and its applications, particularly in the health sector. Professor Animesh Mukherjee of Computer Science Engineering Department of IIT Kharagpur discussed the biases in e-commerce platforms and how Amazon over promotes its private label products across its sponsored recommendations.

The conference, through paper presentations, also provided a platform to research scholars and young faculty members across the country to present their research. The papers were presented by scholars from St. Xaviers University Kolkata, Ranchi University, Amity University, Ranchi, IIPS Mumbai as well as BIT Mesra.