



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
BANGALORE



Newsletter

February 2020

(i) From the Director's Desk

(ii) Achievements

(iii) Campus News

(a) Events

(b) Publications

(c) Faculty & Staff

(d) Students

(e) IITB in Media

(f) Samvaad

(g) Visitors

(h) Upcoming Events

(i) FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



This month, National Science Day was celebrated on February 28 with "women in science" as the focal theme of the programme. President Ram Nath Kovind presented several awards for science communication and popularization as well as for women scientists

At IIITB this month we had a whole bunch of activities that included:

- (a) Graduation Day for the first batch of Big Data in Biology Program participants on Feb 23, 2020
- (b) SANGAM 2020 - an outstanding event organised by our students during February 23, 2020
- (c) Web Science for Development Workshop Feb 12-14, 2020
- (d) MOSIP Workshop on Feb 14, 2020 at Samsung Opera Hall

Besides, IIITB hosted a 3-Day Workshop for Cybercrime Police Personnel during 14-15 Feb 2020. It was well received, and we were "thanked" by the City Commissioner of Police, Mr Bhaskar Rao, IPS, himself ! The Vice Chancellor of RGHUS (Apex body for all Medical Institutions in Karnataka) visited us on February 17, 2020. It was followed with an interaction of IIITB representatives with a large delegate of personnel from RGHUS. Both RGHUS and IIITB are exploring the possibility of jointly developing courses at different levels in the area of Technology & Health. IIITB's EHRC will play a major role in this effort.

You will find more details in the Newsletter. Happy reading!

(ii) ACHIEVEMENTS

On 1st February 2020, **Parvaaz participated in "Pravega"** IISc's Annual Science, Technology and Cultural Fest. The team had submitted a 12 minutes' video for the preliminary round and got shortlisted in the top five finalists. They performed the popular fable "Andher Nagari Chaupat Raja" based on one of the mandatory themes "From Minor Character's Point of View" and **won the 2nd prize.**

Congratulations!



IIT Bangalore together with NIMHANS was awarded one of the **five best stalls for showcasing Surgical and Assistive device work at National Science Day events** conducted during 12th and 13th February, 2020 at NIMHANS, Bangalore.

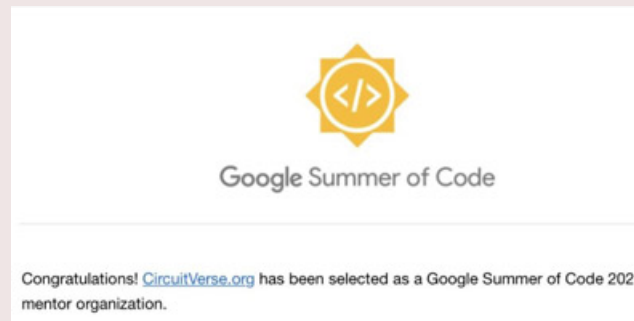
Overall 69 teams presented their stalls in the event. Vinay C K (IMT2015523), Yashaswi (IMT2016092), Kavya Bora (IMT2016125), Sriram Marisetty (IMT2016120), and Pavan Kumar (IMT2016127) showcased Upper limb assistive device, Lower limb DVT prophylaxis device, Ultrasound imaging device, and MRI guided surgical drilling system in the stall under the theme of "Technology and Neuroscience".

Professors Subhajit Sen, Madhav Rao, and T K Srikanth with IIITB students are working on these projects in collaboration with Dr. Vikas Vazhiyal, and Dr. Laxmi Rao from NIMHANS. These projects are currently developed in SARL lab affiliated to EHRC at IIITB.

Prof. Sadagopan was conferred "**Lifetime achievement**" Award by Padode Foundation. Dr Anil Sahasrabuddhe, AICTE Chairman handed over the Award at Taj West End, on February 19.



CircuitVerse (<https://circuitverse.org>) is an easy to use online digital circuit simulator which aims to provide a platform to create, share and learn digital circuits. The project (mentored by Prof. Subhajit Sen) primarily developed by Satvik Ramaprasad (IMT2018006) & Zense (Student Club at IIITB) has grown to be an active open source organization. **CircuitVerse is accepted in Google Code-In 2019 as a mentor Organization.** They mentored over 40 high school students to complete more than 150 tasks over a period of 2 months. They also got accepted in Google Summer of Code 2020 for the second time after successfully mentoring 3 students in GSoC 2019. During GSoC, college students from across the world contribute to the open source project and get paid for the same. GSoC 2020 Link – <https://summerofcode.withgoogle.com/organizations/4965092153622528/>



We are happy to inform that, M.Sc. Digital Society student **Nibin Mathew** won the National Blind Tennis Championship in the B1 category held at Jaipur on February 20, 2020.

Congratulations!



Whatfix, Co-founded by our **alumnus Khadim Batti** has raised \$32 million to drive digital adoption of enterprise apps. Whatfix is a software as a service (SaaS) based platform which provides in-app guidance and performance support for web applications and software products.

Congratulations!



(iii) CAMPUS NEWS

(a) Events

Considering the concept of "SPORTS FOR ALL" IIT Bangalore's students Sports committee organized Inter-college sports tournament named "**UMANG**" on 1st and 2nd February at IIT Bangalore. Around 400 Students from 35 colleges participated in the event. The following events have been organized in Umang:

- BASKETBALL(MEN AND WOMEN)
- VOLLEYBALL(MEN)
- FOOTBALL(MEN)
- THROWBALL(WOMEN)

Winners:

Football:

1st place: IFIM FC

Runners up: Krupanidhi Degree College

Volleyball

Winners: Christ University

Runners up: New Horizon College of Engineering

Basketball(Men)

Winners: Alliance University

Runners up: IIT Bangalore

Basketball(Women)

Winners: Amrita College of Engineering

Runners up: IIT Bangalore

Throwball

Winners: St . Joseph's College of commerce

Runners up: Amrita College of Engineering



IIITB formally became part of the worldwide network of laboratories on Web Science, called WSTNet. As part of this, the Web Science Research Group at **IIIT Bangalore conducted the Second Workshop on Web Science for Development (WS4D 2020)**, between Feb 12-14. The workshop was supported by the Mphasis FI Foundation, as part of the Centre of Excellence on Cognitive Computing. Details at :

Workshop url: <http://cognitive.iiitb.ac.in/ws4d/>

Workshop photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ImcpaHFkiCnaAnKd6>



IIT Bangalore marked the release of **version 1.0 of MOSIP 1.0** with two events during 12-14 Feb. MOSIP is an open source platform, which aims to create a digital public good to enable digital identity projects across the globe.

A two day workshop was held at the campus for individuals and companies who can make use of the open source platform. On February 14th, MOSIP Open Source Day was organized to share this significant milestone with the world at Samsung Opera House, Brigade Road, Bengaluru/ Samsung Opera House, Bengaluru. Dame Wendy Hall, Regius Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton delivered the keynote address.



A two-day Cyber Forensics Workshop for the personnel of the Karnataka State Police was held at the Institute during 14-15 February. 30 Law Enforcement Officers of various ranks attended the event; it also featured talks by invited experts on Cyber-Forensics.



The **Alumni Day of IITB, "Sangam"**, was held on 22nd February 2020. The president of the Alumni Council, Mr Hemachandra Rao V, welcomed the audience and handed the stage to the hosts, Mr Deep Inder (IMT2017013) and Ms Tarini Chandrashekar (alum). The stage event began with a classical song followed by a high energy dance by some students. Director, Prof. S Sadagopan, updated the alumni, their families, faculty members, staff and students about the highlights of the year. The audience enjoyed the performance given by the students, alumni and staff.

The audience was treated to a rib-tickling performance by stand-up comedian, Mr Naveen Richard. This event also witnessed a rocking performance by The Jukeradio (A famous band based out of Bangalore) and the event ended with DJ night.



The **graduation ceremony of the batch of 2019 of Post Graduate Diploma Programmes in Big Data Biology (PGDBDB)** was held on February 23. The diploma programme is supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and is implemented jointly by the Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB) and IIT Bangalore. 14 students of the batch of 2019 received their degrees at the event, and 2 received them in absentia. Mr. Pankaj Rai, Vice President (Strategy), Wells Fargo, and Dr. Gopichand Katragadda, CEO, Myelin Foundry, graced the occasion as Guests of Honor. Prof. S. Sadagopan, Director, IIT Bangalore, gave the welcome address, and Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi,

Faculty Scientist at IBAB and Programme Coordinator presented the annual report. In addition to the degree conferment, Ms. Paulami Das also received the award for 'student with the highest CGPA'. Both the Guests of Honor addressed the gathering followed by the valedictorian speech by Ms. Jyotsna Singh. Prof. H. S. Subramanya, Director, IBAB, gave the vote of thanks. The Registrars and faculty members involved in the programme from both the Institutes along with the current batch of PGDBDB students attended the ceremony, which was followed by lunch.



(b) Publications



"Physics Simulation based Approach to Node Clustering", was presented in the **3rd International Conference on Engineering Mathematics and Modelling in Haldia, W.B., India** on February 5. The authors of the paper are : Kapil Kalra, Nikhila KN (PH2017003), and Prof. Sujit Kumar Chakrabarti. Kapil Kalra was an intern from BITS, Goa.



Rathin Bhargava(IMT2017522) presented the paper "**Minimum Conflict Free Colouring Parameterised by Treewidth**" at CALDAM 2020 - 6th Annual International Conference on Algorithms and Discrete Applied Mathematics, held at IIT Hyderabad during February 13-15. The paper is co-authored by Prof. Pradeesha Ashok, Mohammad Khalid (IMT2017028), Dolly Yadav(MS2018003) and Naman Gupta(IISER Pune).



Karthika Venkatesan (PH2014004), presented a paper titled "**StaBL: Statecharts with Local Variables**", in Innovation in Software Engineering conference in IIITDM, Jabalpur on Feb. 29. The paper is co-authored by Prof. Sujit Kumar Chakrabarti.



"Automatic Multimodal Assessment of Soft Skills in Social Interactions: A Review", by S. Rasipuram (PH2014008) and Prof. Dinesh Babu Jayagopi, is published in Springer Multimedia Tools and Applications. Online version is available at :
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11042-019-08561-6>



"Conventional vs non-conventional methods for job interviews"

- a joint work between Prof. Marianne Schmid Mast, Dr. Emmanuelle Kleinlogel (both at University of Lausanne, Switzerland) and Prof. Dinesh Babu Jayagopi, was presented at the Applied ML days workshop, EPFL. The presentation was made in the "AI and Human Resources"

session held on January 29. The workshop had 29 tracks on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, with top speakers from around the world.

(c) Faculty & Staff



Prof. V. Sridhar was an invited panelist for the session **"New Age Competition & Regulatory Challenges and the Way Forward"** in the workshop on **"Digital Economy - Hitting the reset button on competition and regulatory governance"**. This event was organized by Consumer Unity & Trust Society.



Prof. V. Sridhar delivered invited talks on authored book – **"Emerging ICT Policies and Regulations: Roadmap to Digital Economies"** at Carnegie India (5 Feb 2020) and Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (29 Feb 2020).



Prof. S. Sadagopan addressed the **"All Hands Meet"** of Happiest Minds at St. Johns Auditorium on Feb 11, 2020



Meenakshi D'Souza attended the **IRISS Symposium and ACM India annual event**, held at IIT Gandhinagar, during 13-15 February, as a council member of ACM India.



Balaji Parthasarathy delivered a lecture titled "**The Resurgence of Artificial Intelligence: Implications for the Platform Economy and the Labour Market**", at the 3rd Executive Education Programme for the Government of Karnataka, organized by the Institute for Social and Economic Change, on 17th February.



An article authored by Prof. Sridhar V and Kotta Chandana (IMT2014027) was featured as a chapter in a Report titled : Competition and Regulation in India 2019: Digital Economy - Hitting the rest button on Competition and Regulatory Governance. The chapter is titled : **Regulatory Framework for the National AI Market Place**"; Page No: 131-147; ISBN: 978-81-

8257-281-2; Publisher: Consumer Unity Trust & Society (CUTS) International

Prof. V. Sridhar was the examiner for the below mentioned Ph.D. theses :

1. Shounak Pal, Indian Institute of Management - Lucknow Thesis title : IT-Governance and Risk Management Framework for Healthcare Organizations.
2. Ashutosh Jha, Indian Institute of Management - Calcutta. Thesis title : Studies on Techno-Managerial Aspects in the Deployment of Next Generation Mobile Broadband Services

3. Shankhadeep Banerjee, Indian Institute of Management - Calcutta. Thesis title : A discourse on technology patrons: Insights from crowdfunding.



Balaji Parthasarathy was invited by **Mobile World Capital** to participate in the "**Digital Future Society Working**" session on the Future of Work held in Barcelona during 23-24 February.

(d) Students



Kumar Shubham (MS2018008) is an exchange student at University of Lausanne, Switzerland. He is working with Prof. Marianne Schmid Mast for three months starting Feb 11, 2020. His Master's thesis explores Modern AI techniques for Social Psychology.

(e) IITB in Media

- 22-year old Tripti Agarwal and Parth Trehan win the SafeCity Datathon organized by UK's.
- Software results phase1 is announced. More results will be announced shortly
- There's no blindsiding this 25-year-old Bengaluru student on a tennis court
- UK's University of Southampton in collaboration with IIT-B to organize 'SafeCity Datathon' in
- When the blind lead the blind, to success

(f) Samvaad

February 3: "**Turbulent Flow Modeling with Focus on (a) Financial Systems, (b) Invariants and Cascades in MHD**" by Prof. Shiva Kumar Malapaka.

February 10: "**The physics of things: modelling across length scales**" by Prof. Balakrishnan Ashok.

February 17: "**Geometric Signatures of Airborne LiDAR Point Clouds**" by Prof. Jaya Sreevalsan Nair.

February 24: "**Reflections on Work, Technology and the Economy**"
by Prof. Vinod Vyasulu (Retired) and Prof. Janaki Srinivasan.

(g) Visitors

February 07 : Dr. Karunakar, Emeritus Scientist, ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency)

February 10 : Delegation from University of Stuttgart

1. Dr Marco Aiello,
2. Dr. Ilche Georgievski, and
3. Mr. Brian Setz

February 10 : British Deputy High Commission Bengaluru and UK Artificial Intelligence Delegation to India

February 10 : Mr. Mohan, Former CEO, Ashok Leyland IT Services

February 10 : Delegation from Network of Women in Media, India (NWMI)

1. Raihana Maqbool
2. Sana Irshad Mattoo
3. Marouf Gazi
4. Masrat Zahra
5. Rifat Mohi-ud-din
6. Laxmi Murthy
7. Vasanthi Hariprakash

February 11 : Prof. Rahul De', IIM Bangalore

February 12 : Dame Wendy Hall, Web Science Institute

February 13 : Anni Rowland-Campbell and Bel Campbell, Intersticia UK

February 13 : Noshir Contractor, Northwestern University

February 13 : Jai Ganesh, Mphasis Inc

February 13 : Sabu Padamdas, University of Southampton

February 13 : Nandan Sudarsanam, IIT Madras

February 13 : Pauline Leonard, Web Science Institute

February 13 : Pathik Pathak, University of Southampton

February 14 : Team of Neuro Surgeons, Narayana Hrudayala

February 17 : Dr. S Sacchidanand, Vice Chancellor RGUHS & Team

February 18 : Delegation from Ministry of Communications and Informatics, Republic of Indonesia

February 19 : Dr Mika Tironnen, Counsellor of Education & Science, Embassy of Finland and Mr. Santeri Ojala, Project Manager, Talent Boost India, Embassy of Finland

February 19 : A team from Infineon's Bengaluru office (<https://www.infineon.com/>) visited the Institute to explore collaborations in the areas of Cyber Security, Hardware Design and Machine Learning.

February 24 : Prof. Peter Edwards, University of Aberdeen, UK

February 25 : Mr. Kevin O' Neil, Rockefeller Foundation

February 28 : Faculty and Students of Er. Perumal Manimekalai
College of Engineering

(h) Upcoming Events

(1) Campus Calendar for March 2020

29th Feb, 2020 to 7th March, 2020- Mid-term exams

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