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## From the Director's Desk



The Institute has embarked on several journeys, some of walking down memory lanes and others, of turning over new leaves, in the month of February. The Alumni Day on the 4th was an opportunity to bring the alumni back to campus. The Board Meeting on the 8th, which officiated the new Deans, was special. The CCSEER Programme kicked off its first continuing education program of Cyber Security Basics on the 18th. Prof. Thangaraju joined as a faculty member on the 23rd.

The theme of journeys pervaded everywhere else in the globe. We are proud of the first of its kind launch of 104 satellites in a single flight of ISRO's PSLV-C37, in its 39th flight, on the 15th. Prof. Mildred Dresselhaus of MIT, popularly known as the Queen of Carbon, sadly passed away on the 20th at the age of 86. Her research in properties of Carbon has essentially pioneered the work in nano science. Her advocacy for gender equity in science will be well-remembered globally for upcoming International Women's Day on March 8. There was a news splash in space science on the 22nd, when several scientists at CalTech discovered seven potentially habitable exoplanets orbiting the star, TRAPPIST-1, using the Spitzer Space Telescope. This is a new record of habitable planets in a single star system, outside of the solar system.

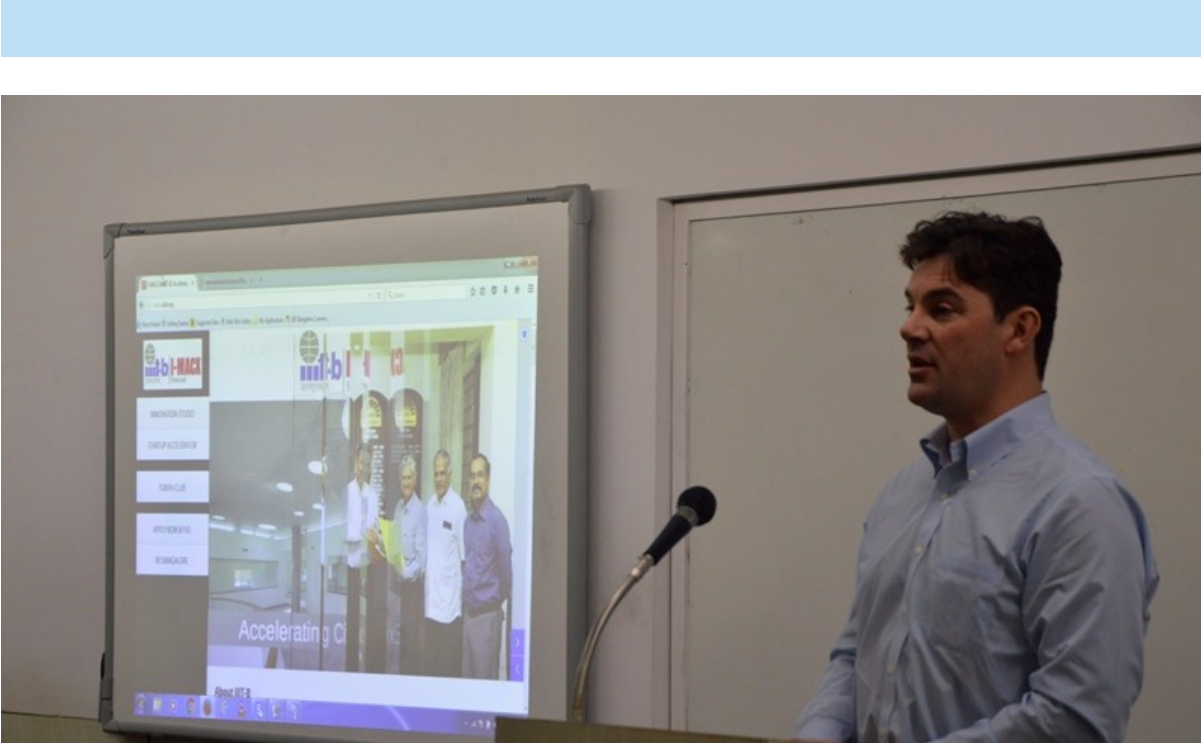
.....HAPPY READING!

## Achievements

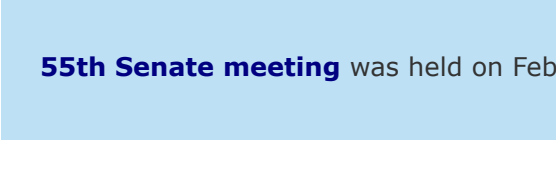
Rahul Ambati (IMT2014043) has been selected for **IWeek** that is going to be held in Paris, France during March 4-11. IWeek is an association of IT students from the French school EFREI, the Engineering Institute for Information Technologies and Business Applications located in Paris. Each year since 1999, students of EFREI have organized an international week in which EFREI selects students from its partner universities throughout the world from over 30 countries to interact and discover Paris.

## Campus News

### Events

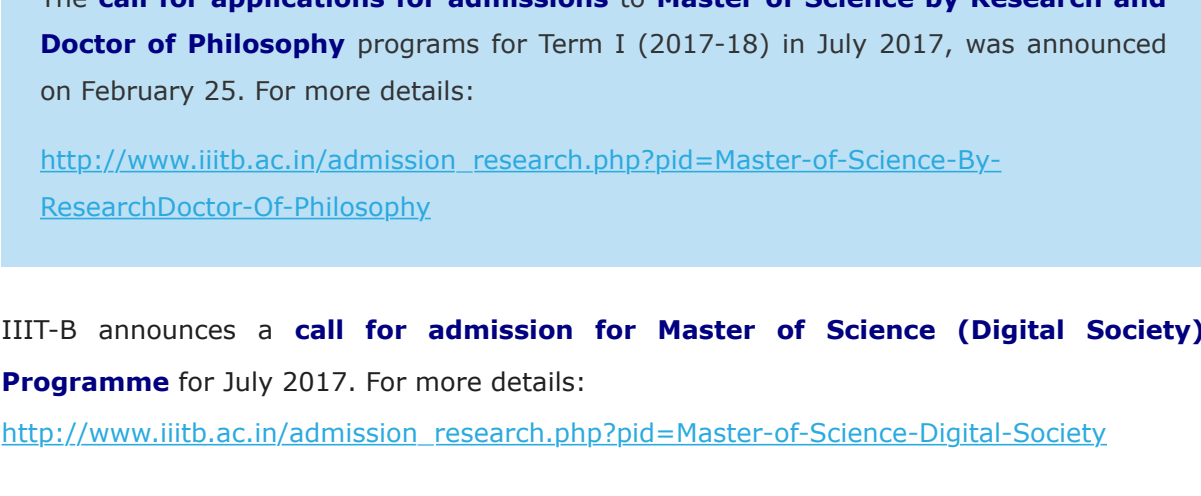


IIIT-B organized its **Alumni Day** on February 4. The faculty, staff and alumni attended the event with their families. The event began with the traditional invocation song and lighting of the lamp followed by the Director's address to the alumni which brought back lots of old memories. The highlight of the event was an inspiring talk titled **"Back to Future"** by **Mr. Yashavant Kanetkar**. Mr. Yashavant Kanetkar is known for his books and Quest Video Courseware DVDs on several programming languages. For his contributions in the last two decades towards preparing individuals for IT careers, he has received numerous awards, such as "Distinguished Alumnus" award by IIT Kanpur, "Best .NET Technical Contributor" and "Most Valuable Professional" awards by Microsoft for 5 successive years. Mr. Kanetkar holds a BE from VJTI Mumbai, an M.Tech. from IIT Kanpur and is currently the Director of KICIT Pvt. Ltd. and KSET Pvt. Ltd. The event was followed by the institute updates by Prof. Debabrata Das, Dean Academics, Prof. Chetan Parikh, IIIT Coordinator, Prof. Tricha Anjali, PGDDA Coordinator, and Mr. D V Jagadish, IIIT-B CEO. As a promotional event for entrepreneurs, a fireside chat was organized with alumnus Sandeep Sreenath (2011 Graduate), the co-founder of Jiffstore, which has been acquired by Peppertap. The IIIT-B Innovation center was the highlight of the event and various opportunities for alumni contributions were discussed. The event included cultural programme by current students and concluded with networking between alumni and students during lunch. This year's event was special with childcare arrangements for families attending the event, and the faculty was organized by student volunteers.



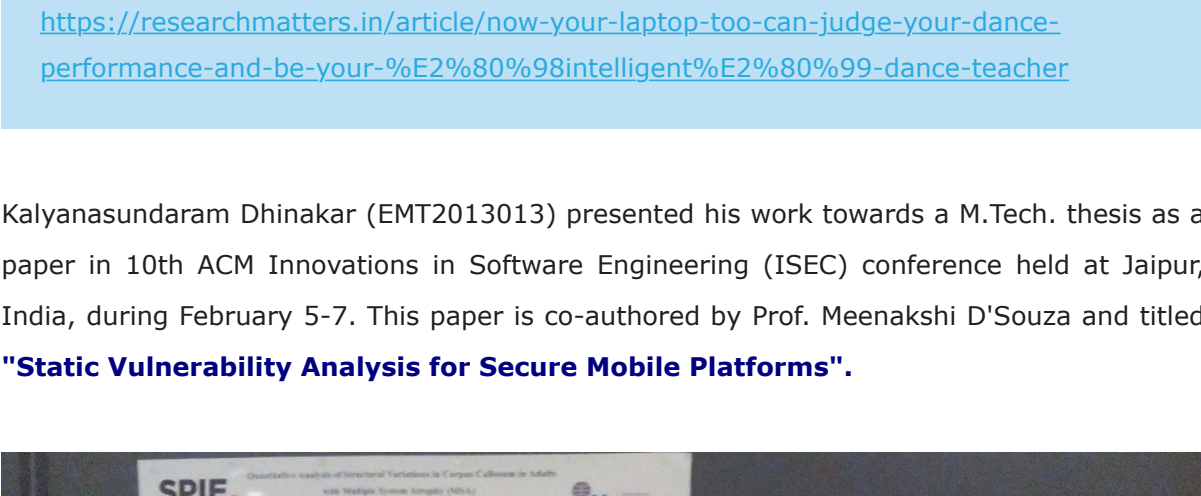
The **67th meeting of the Governing Body of IIIT-B** was on February 8, when the appointment of new Deans, upon completion of the 3-year term of the current Deans, was approved. Prof. Chandrashekar Ramanathan took charge as Dean (Academics), Prof. Jyotsna Bapat as Dean (Faculty), and Prof. Srinath Srinivasa as Dean (R&D) with immediate effect. Prof. Debabrata Das is the outgoing Dean (Academics and R&D) and Prof. Balaji Parthasarathy, the outgoing Dean (Faculty).

Prof. Madhav Rao has taken over as the **Coordinator (IMTech)** on February 9. Prof. Jyotsna Bapat is the outgoing Coordinator (IMTech).



The **Canadian delegation** (18 members) visited IIIT-B's Innovation Center on February 9, 2017. At their visit, they had an interactive session with our 10 startups. Prof. Balaji Parthasarathy addressed the gathering and reinforcing our ongoing, strong collaborative work with various Canadian institutions.

The delegation visited us, as a part of Canada International innovation Programme (CIIP) and Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA, India) for joint partnership, for the shortlisted projects, funding will be provided by Governments of both the countries for the pilot project.



**55th Senate meeting** was held on February 15.



The first course under the IIIT-B Center for Cyber Security Education and Research (CCSEER), called **IT Security Essentials (ITSEC)** was launched on February 18 at IIIT-B. The Chief Guest of the inauguration was Dr. Sarat Chandra Babu, Executive Director, C-DAC. Other participants included Prof. S. Sadagopan, Director, Prof. R. Chandrashekar, Dean (Academics), Prof. Tricha Anjali, Co-ordinator, CCSEER, Mr. Mohan Ram C., Program Director, CCSEER and many industry experts. The course covers basic functions of security set-up with tools and settings for prevention of attacks as well as fixing the breach as quickly as possible using internal resources. The courses will be conducted by IIIT-B faculty along with experts from the industry.

For more details: [Course on IT Security Essentials \(ITSEC\)](#)

**Mid-Term examinations** were held during February 20-25.

### Announcements

The **call for applications for admissions to Master of Science by Research and Doctor of Philosophy** programs for Term I (2017-18) in July 2017, was announced on February 25. For more details:

[http://www.iiitb.ac.in/admission\\_research.php?nid=Master-of-Science-By-ResearchDoctor-Of-Philosophy](http://www.iiitb.ac.in/admission_research.php?nid=Master-of-Science-By-ResearchDoctor-Of-Philosophy)

IIIT-B announces a **call for admission for Master of Science (Digital Society) Programme** for July 2017. For more details:

[http://www.iiitb.ac.in/admission\\_research.php?nid=Master-of-Science-Digital-Society](http://www.iiitb.ac.in/admission_research.php?nid=Master-of-Science-Digital-Society)

### Publication Including Presentations

Prof. Ashish Choudhury presented his paper titled **"Multi-valued Asynchronous Reliable Broadcast with a Strict Honest Majority. ICDCN 2017: 1"** at the 18th International Conference on Distributed Computing and Networking (ICDCN 2017) during January 4-7, in Hyderabad.

The article authored by Prof. V. Sridhar titled **"Start-ups' importance lies more than in just their valuations; check out the benefits to be derived"** has appeared in Financial Express on February 9. The article answers the question of "Is there more to startups than its valuations?" Sourya Sarthak (IMT2014053) and S. Praneeth Nagu (IMT2014054) have contributed to the article. The same can be accessed at:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/start-ups-importance-lies-more-than-in-just-their-valuations-check-out-the-benefits-to-be-derived/543325/>

Research work at IIIT-B's **Multimodal Perception Lab** has been highlighted with Research Matters, a forum to popularize scientific findings, through two articles. These articles were written by Ms. Mira M., affiliated with Science Media Center at IISc. Automatic skill assessment using visual and auditory perception is an important focus of the Multimodal Perception Lab, headed by Dr. Dinesh Babu Jayagopi. One of the articles describes how machines can be used for automatic assessment of communication skill, highlighting the work by Sowmya Rasiapuram (PH2014008) and Pooja Rao (MS2015009). The second article also describes how machines can be used for automatic assessment of communication skill, highlighting the work by Pooja Venkatesh (MS2014004). The articles are at:

<https://researchmatters.in/article/scientists-develop-machines-judge-human-communications-skill-0>

<https://researchmatters.in/article/now-your-laptop-too-can-judge-your-dance-performance-and-be-your-%E2%80%98intelligent%E2%80%99-dance-teacher>

Kalyanasundaram Dhinakar (EMT2013013) presented his work towards a M.Tech. thesis as a paper in 10th ACM Innovations in Software Engineering (ISEC) conference held at Jaipur, India, during February 5-7. This paper is co-authored by Prof. Meenakshi D'Souza and titled **"Static Vulnerability Analysis for Secure Mobile Platforms"**.



Debanjali Bhattacharya (PH2015018) presented her paper titled **"Quantitative analysis of structural variations in corpus callosum in adults with multiple system atrophy (MSA)"** (paper number 10137-71), in SPIE international conference of "Biomedical Applications in Molecular, Structural, and Functional Imaging", held in Orlando, Florida, USA, on February 13. Co-authors of this paper are Prof. Neelam Sinha and Dr. Jitender Saini, NIMHANS, Bangalore.

Jaya Sreevalsan Nair presented her paper, **"NodeTriX-CommunityHierarchy: Techniques for Finding Hierarchical Communities for Visual Analytics of Small-World Networks,"** co-authored by Shivam Agarwal, at the 8th International Conference on Information Visualization Theory and Applications (IVAPP2017) in Porto, Portugal during February 27-March 1. The paper was the best paper finalist and a preprint of the paper is available at:

<http://www.iiitb.ac.in/GVCL/pubs.html>

The proceedings are available at the SCITEPRESS Digital Library.

### IIITB In Media

[Demand for letter-writing startups grows as Valentine's day nears](#)

[5BARz launches Wi-Fi ROVR IoT Hub in India](#)

[Corporate Legacy: Almost A Perfect Record](#)

### Faculty and Staff

Prof. Shrishta Rao gave invited lectures at the Coimbatore Institute of Technology and PSG College of Technology in Coimbatore on January 19 and 20, respectively, under the auspices of the **ACM Distinguished Speaker Program**.

Prof. Ashish Choudhury gave an invited talk on **"Secure Multi-party Computation"** at 2017 edition of Network University, organized by HPE Aruba in association with IIIT-B in January.

Shivam Agarwal and Nilay Engineer, project staff members at IIIT-B, presented their work on the project, **"Interactive Three-dimensional Visualization of Large-scale ARGO Data,"** with Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), during the 5th PMC (Project Monitoring Committee) Meeting at INCOIS, Hyderabad during February 28-March 1. Jaya Sreevalsan Nair is the PI for the project.

Prof. Sujit Kumar Chakrabarti was the Workshop co-chair and Prof. Meenakshi D'Souza was one of the Publicity Members at the **10th ACM Innovations in Software Engineering Conference (ISEC) 2017** held during February 5-7 at Jaipur: <http://www.isec2017.in/#work>

Prof. Sujit Kumar Chakrabarti co-organized the Workshop on **"Software Engineering Education (SEED)"**, collocated with ISEC 2017. Prof. Meenakshi D'Souza co-organized a workshop on **"Developmental aspects of Intelligent Adaptive Systems (DIAS)"** collocated with ISEC 2017. The DIAS workshop, which was co-organized by researchers from Ericsson India, featured invited talks by colleagues from IIT-Kharagpur, ISI-Calcutta, and ABB along with peer-reviewed paper presentations.

Prof. Shiva Kumar Malapaka and Jaya Sreevalsan Nair represented IIIT-B at the meeting convened by the **NSM Expert Group on HR Development**, on February 7, at C-DAC, Pune. This meeting is a part of the initial discussions for Human Resources Development through the National Supercomputing Mission. More details of the mission is available at <https://www.nsmindia.in/> Prof. Malapaka and Nair were nominated by the Director, Prof. Sadagopan, upon invitation from Dr. Rajat Moona, Director General, C-DAC.

Prof. B. Ashok was an Invited Speaker at the **8th International Conference** on Advancements in Polymeric Materials (APM 2017), organized by ARSTPS, R&D wing of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Dept. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India, held at IISc, Bangalore, during February 11-13. The talk was entitled **"On the effect of electrostatics on polymeric systems"**.

**Prof. Sadagopan attended a talk by Mr. Satya Nadella, CEO, Microsoft** on February 20.



Prof. Madhav Rao, S. Sadagopan, Debabrata Das, Subir Roy and Subajit Sen with few students attended **IESA Vision Summit** held during February 21-22.

Prof. Srinath Srinivasa, Dean (R&D) has started organizing weekly internal faculty meeting series for research knowledge sharing, the **"Research KSM"** from February 22.

Prof. Sadagopan was the **Chief Guest for the Science Day Function at ISTRAC/ISRO** on February 28. He delivered a guest talk.

Prof. T. K. Srikanth, Sachit Rao, and Dinesh Babu Jayagopi visited **Continental AG's** campus in Electronics City Phase II, upon invitation, to discuss collaboration opportunities, on February 28.

### Students

**I-MACX Innovation Studio will support "select, socially-relevant & innovative tech-ventures"** by offering a stipend of **Rs. 10,000 / month for 5 months (Feb thru Jun / Aug thru Dec)**. **I-MACX Innovation Studio's plan** is to support at least 5 "qualified student-ventures" involving up to a maximum of 10-12 student-entrepreneurs, every year.

This year **Mr. S. Bhargav (MT2015093)** got selected for this plan for his **clickPickle** venture

**Venture Overview:**

clickPickle is an online portal to find and book a best-fit photographer for all your photography needs. Taking an informed decision about someone who will preserve your memories is as important as the memory itself. Serving the users to choose from an ocean of photographers who earlier used to choose from a bowl, clickPickle aims at bridging the information asymmetry and bring price standardization enabling users to make a faster and an efficient booking. Guaranteed payments and post-shoot photograph sharing create a win-win situation for all the stakeholders. From the moment, you decide to hire a photographer till you receive the printed albums, the portal does it all. Power-packed with multiple features surrounding the pain-points of users and photographers, the product aims at being a one-stop shop for all photography related needs. The platform also lets the user sell their creations online.

There are new faces and roles on campus. Details of their joining:

**Feb 1:** Prof. V Ramasubramanian, Faculty Member

**Feb 23:** Prof. Thangaraju, Faculty Member

### Academic Milestones

February 23: Khusbu Bubna (MS2013009) Oral Examination on **"Use of Formal Specifications in Web Application Testing"**.

### Guest Talk

February 1: **"Experiments with Empathy,"** by Mr. Ram, co-founder and CEO, Rand De and Habba.



February 8: **"Changing Soundscapes- History and evolution of sound recording in India"** by Mr. Vikram Sampath, author/historian/musician, Founder of Bangalore Literature, Festival and Archive of Indian Music, and Director, SSMC.

February 15: Guest talk by Mr. Viraaj Tyagi (CEO) and Ms. Kanta Mishra (VP- Marketing and Advocacy), eGovernments Foundation.

### Campus Visitors

**February 1:** Dr. Gangadhar, Director, NIMHANS and team

**February 2:** Dr. Ashish Surekha, ABB Research

**February 2:** A delegation from University of Twente, the Netherlands

**February 6:** Mr. Nikhil Tiwari, Senior Manager – Enterprise Business, AMD

**February 7:** Mr. Rajkumar Srivatsav, IFS, MD KEONICS

### Campus Calendar for March

**March 3-5:** Internet Researchers' Conference (IRC) 17 at IIIT-B

**March 6:** Classes begins after Mid-term break

**March 8:** Application process for admissions to Master of Science by Research and Doctor of Philosophy programs for July 2017 opens

**March 8:** Application process for admissions to Master of Science (Digital Society) for July 2017 opens

**March 8:** Application process for admissions to Master of Science by Research and Doctor of Philosophy programs for July 2017 opens

**March 15:** Talk by Dr. Prasad Ram, CEO, Georui

**March 15:** On campus celebration of International Women's Day

**March 28:** BBC Talk Show: Student Entrepreneurship (Room 307)

