



Newsletter | March 2017

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### **From the Director's Desk**

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March 2017 began with the campus getting back into action after the midterm break. Winding up the financial year in March kept IIIT-B administration busy. There have been several Institute events such as RISE and Spandan, lined up for April and preparations for those events kept the students, faculty and staff busy through March. Overall, the month saw a busy campus, including several guests on campus.

However, elsewhere in India, as per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)'s summer forecast, the summer months of March to May 2017 are going to see high temperatures. The IMD has predicted an above normal heat wave (HW) conditions over core heat wave zone. The silver lining, if we must, is that 2016 has been the hottest year since 1901.

Our action-packed month has concluded with preparations for our Convocation in July. I am happy to announce that Prof. Indranil Manna, Director, IIT Kanpur and Dr S. C. Khuntia, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka have graciously agreed to our request to be the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour for our 17th Convocation, which has been scheduled on July 2, 2017.

------HAPPY READING!------

## Achievements

Minu Mathew (MT2016084), Rama Bala (MT2016516), Anuja Morankar (MT2016503) and Sree Dharshini (MS2016004), has won the first prize in the student Maxim Semiconductor sponsored IoT Design contest in the student category held on March 2. The award carries a cash prize of INR 50,000/-. The proposed Internet of Things (IoT) design is for a remote pollution control platform. The team was mentored by Prof. Subajit Sen. After being short-listed in the top-10 teams, the team has been invited to demonstrate the platform at Maxim.

#### More details at: <a href="http://maximcontest.electronicsforu.com/">http://maximcontest.electronicsforu.com/</a>

Team Refugee (Aravind Kashyap (IMT2013019), Turlapaty Kaushik (IMT2013054), Abhiram (IMT2013051), V Abhijay (IMT2012049)) has won the 2nd place with a prize money of INR 2,00,000/- at KONE-IBM Hackathon on March 4 at the KONE India Technology & Engineering Centre (ITEC), Chennai. The event was attended by Mr. Greg Gorman (Director, Developer Ecosystem, IBM) and Mr. Romeo Kienzler (Chief Data Scientist, IBM Watson IoT WW). The jury panel comprised of innovation experts from Silicon Valley and the top management from KONE R&D Division, Finland. The hackathon had a sequence of events, namely, offline idea submission, onsite prototype demonstration, and the grand finale at the KONE ITEC, Chennai.



Ten selected participants from USA, China, India, and Germany of the globally successful Daimler hackathon series "DigitalLife Campus" traveled from Stuttgart to Barcelona on a specially equipped tour bus in time for the start of the Mobile World Congress 2017 (MWC'17). Devarsh K. U. (IMT2013012) and S. L. V. Krishnakumar (IMT2013050) were the two participants who traveled from India to attend the Mobile World Congress representing Daimler AG. MWC'17 hosted 1,08,000 visitors, 2,300 participating companies, and professionals from 208 countries.

More details at: http://media.daimler.com/marsMediaSite/ko/en/15674324 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3sY8mwWY7U&feature=youtu.be

iMtech student Yashvanth Mohan Kondi (IMT2012053) has gotten Ph.D. offers from the Northeastern University, with four years of graduate assistantship and one year of graduate fellowship) and from the Aarhus University, with three years of financial support (in accordance with the collective wage agreements). He has accepted the offer from the Northeastern University. He is working on Garbling Schemes for his M. Tech. thesis and two of his fundamental results on this topic are under submission. For his research work, he collaborated with Prof. Ashish Choudhury and Dr. Arpita Patra (IISc).

### **Campus News**

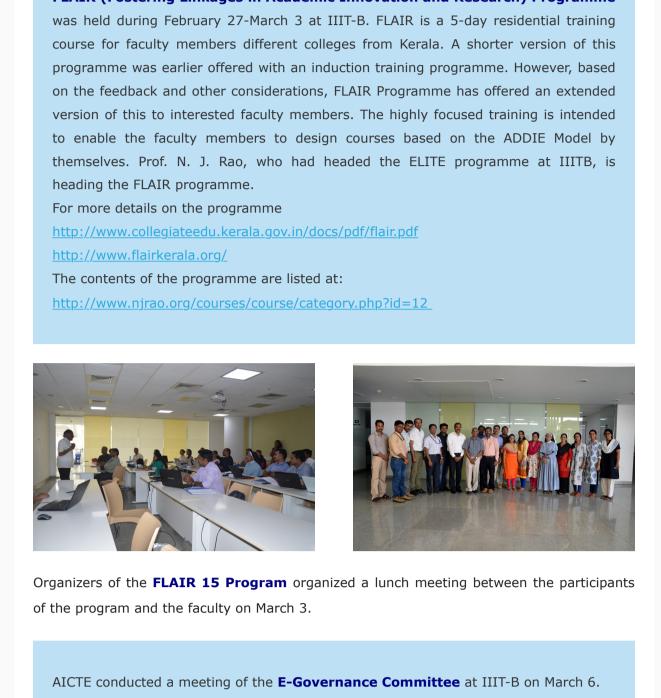
### Events

The Internet Researchers' Conference 2017 (IRC17) was held during March 3-5 at IIIT-B. The event was organized by CITAPP (IIIT-B) and Centre for Internet and Society (CIS).





FLAIR (Fostering Linkages in Academic Innovation and Research) Programme



Holi Celebrations at IIIT-B was held onMarch 12. This year, students celebrated the event with lots of color and music to pump up the mood. The event was a roaring success, with everyone involved having a lot of fun.

The International Women's Day 2017 was celebrated worldwide on March 8, with the theme "be bold for change." At IIIT-B, the day was celebrated on March 15 with screening the movie, "Nil Battey Sannata," a debut direction by Ashwini Iyer Tiwari.



Knowledge Sharing Meeting (KSM) are internal faculty meetings, organized by Prof. Srinath Srinivasa, Dean (R&D), on Wednesdays. The agenda for the KSM on March 8 included the internal portal for sharing research resources and outcomes, and introductions to IIIT-B Challenges Portal and E-Health Research Center. On March 15, Dr. Prasad Ram, CEO, Gooru Inc., and Prof. Srinath Srinivasa gave a joint presentation on Gooru model of pedagogy and proposed Gooru Web Science Research Center at IIIT-B. External members, Mr. Sundara Nagarajan, Operating Partner, IndusAge Partners and Adjunct faculty member, IIIT-B, and Dr. Sridhar Mitta, Founder, NextGen Entrepreneurs attended the KSM. During the KSM on March 22, Prof. Chandrashekar Ramanathan (Dean-Academic) introduced his research to the faculty.



In an attempt to promote world heritage, SPIC MACAY IIIT-B chapter presented Balázs Fülei, a renowned pianist from Hungary on March 15. He played piano pieces, most of which were composed by Franz Liszt, a 19th-century revolutionary virtuoso pianist. During the performance, he explained to the audience and each piece narrated the story and emotion behind it, before playing the piece on the piano.



Prof. Meenakshi D'Souza and Prof. Srinath Srinivasa, Dean-R&D, IIIT-B hosted the Southern Hub Executive Committee Meeting of National Knowledge Functional Hub (NKFH) on March 16. The meeting was held in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng) and the Education sector of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The meeting was attended by members of FICCI, RAEng and all the beneficiaries of the sponsored projects from South India. Profs. Meenakshi D'Souza and Srinath Srinivasa are PI's of their projects, sponsored by RAEng.



Dr. Haripriya Rangan, Associate Professor and Director, Research and Academic Programmes, Australia India Institute, Melbourne, headed a delegation of three faculty members from the University of Melbourne and Monash University that visited IIIT-B during March 16-17. The University of Melbourne delegation included Profs. Rachel Fensham (Culture and Communication), Frank Vetere (Computing and Information Systems), and Sean Maynard (Computing and Information Systems). The Monash University delegation included Pro Vice Chancellor Mohan Krishnamoorthy and Prof. Ann Nicholson (Information Technology). The delegation came to explore the possibilities for broad-based collaboration, especially academic collaboration with the M.Sc. (Digital Society) degree. Profs. Nicholson and Krishnamoorthy delivered talks on Bayesian Networks and on Applied Operations Research, respectively, on the 17th.



OSM Mapping Party was organized by Tejas Pande (M.Sc. Digital Society, DT2015007). The motivation behind the mapping party is to introduce amateur cartographers to mapping on digital platforms. The event included an introduction to the crowd-sourced OSM (Open Street Map) project, mapping parties, a rapid tutorial on OSM, and a hands-on mapping exercise with the participants.

AICTE e-Governance Project Workshop was held at IIIT-B on March 27.

#### Publication Including Presentations

"Higher Education as Soft Power" by Prof. S. Sadagopan (Director, IIIT-B) has appeared in Higher Education Review on March 17. The same can be accessed at: <u>http://www.thehighereducationreview.com/mentors-</u> opinion/higher-education-as--soft-power-fid-30.html

Priyanka Ivatury (DT2015006) and Angel Jeena (Research Associate, EHRC) presented their paper titled "Relevance of participatory approaches in creating ICT systems for public health programmes" co-authored by Prof. Amit Prakash, at the 10th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV 2017) held during March 7-9 at New Delhi. It was nominated for the Best Research Paper category at the conference. This paper presents a case for using participatory approaches in the design and development of ICT-based systems that incorporate the complexities embedded in the Indian public health system and bring desired changes, especially in programme implementation processes. The ICEGOV series is coordinated by the United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) in Portugal. It brings together academia, governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector on the use of technology to transform the working of government and its relationships with citizens, businesses and other non-state actors in order to improve public governance and its contribution to public policy and development.

Balaji Parthasarathy and Amit Prakash presented a paper titled "Imagined Technologists?: The evolution of the IT engineer as an occupational category in India" at the conference "Engineers and Society in India: from c.1850 to Present Times". The conference was held on 27th and 28th March 2017 by the Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud (CEIAS), Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris. It was the final event of the ENGIND (Engineers and Society in Colonial and Post-Colonial India - https://engind.hypotheses.org/) project that was underway since 2013. The paper was co-authored by MS student Supriya Dey.



#### IIITB In Media

City to have centre for Artificial Intelligence, robotics research

Digital India over the decades

Edtech Startup Impartus Innovations Further Strengthens Presence ...

GATE 2017: Career options for low and good scorers

Karnataka keen on centre of excellence for cyber security

Knowlarity appoints OYO Rooms' Ajay Shrivastava as CTO - ET Tech

Top innovators under 35 in India

Your social media footprint can take you places

### Faculty and Staff

Prof. Debabrata Das, as Chairman IEEE Bangalore Section was invited by IEEE to attend the IEEE Region 10 AGM (Japan, China, India, Australia, New Zeland, Asia Pacific etc.). He attended the meeting in Tokyo during March 4-5. He was part of discussions on strategies for improving the quality of conferences in Asia Pacific region.

Prof. Sujit Kumar Chakrabarti was the editor of the joint online proceedings for ISEC 2017 workshops. http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-1819/.

Prof. S. Sadagopan attended the State e-Governance Awards 2017 Committee meeting on March 6.

Prof. S. Sadagopan attended a discussion on 'Higher Education and Global Cities: Prospects of Bengaluru' at the National Law School on March 11.

Prof. Srinath Srinivasa (Dean-R&D) and Balaji Parthasarathy met the Regional Head of the UK Science and Innovation Network Sarah Mooney, and the Network's country teams from India, South Africa, Israel, UAE, Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, Turkey, etc., on March 20. The meet was hosted by Mr Dominic McAllister, the British Deputy High Commissioner, Bengaluru.

Prof. S. Sadagopan attended a round table meeting on "Evolving Jurisprudence on Patent Remedies (PatRem)" at the National Law School on March 25.

- There are new faces and roles on campus. Details of their joining: March 1: Apoorva Bhalla, Project Staff, CITAPP
- March 6: Munish Singh, Project Staff, Digital Identity Project

# Academic Milestones

March 13: "Visual SLAM for Blind Navigation" by Shivakumar Venkataraman (PH2012010) for his State-of-the-Art Seminar.

March 23: "Enhancement of Mac Performance Through Efficient Self-Organizing Techniques In An LTE-Advanced Network" by Irfan Baig (MS2014001) for his Thesis Oral Examination

March 30: "Clustering on Heterogeneous Data Using a De-centralized Analytics **Framework**," by J. Yogalakshmi (PH2011002) for her Open Seminar.





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