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From the Director's Desk

October continues with the festive season which started in September. We celebrated Diwali on campus. Everyone in campus enjoyed the midterm break and got back energized to complete the rest of Term I. October 2017 was busy as usual with a Governing Body Meeting, research degree programmes admission cycle and several other events.

As usual, October is special because it is the month of Nobel prize announcement. This year's prizes were announced in the first week of October. The Nobel prize for Physics went to the scientists at the LIGO/VIRGO collaboration, namely Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish, and Kip Thorne, "for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves."

IndIGO, the consortium of Indian gravitational wave physicists, had also contributed in a big way in the discovery of the gravitational waves. We salute our scientists, late Prof. C. V. Vishveshwara and Sanjeev Dhurandhar, and the thirty-seven Indian scientists who co-authored the seminal paper in Physics Review Letters in 2016 on the detection of the waves. The work on detection of gravitational waves has truly been a global team effort, even though Nobel prize can only be given to three at most and this time to the three who built the LIGO detector. Prof. Vishveshwara was close to IIIT Bangalore. He had given a talk at IIIT Bangalore in 2001 and agreed to talk to us in the year 2015 about gravitational waves, which, unfortunately, had to be cancelled owing to his ill health!

HAPPY READING!

Achievements

To celebrate the **International Day of Girl Child**, the **British High Commission in India** had organised a competition for female students aged between 17 and 25 to win an opportunity to become the British High Commissioner to India for a day. The competitors had to submit a short video presentation on the topic: "Girls rights and two things they would do to bring about change." The entry **Vidhya Y**. (2015 batch MSc Digital Society student) was selected but however she could not travel to Delhi. Hence, she received **a special invitation to be the British Deputy High Commissioner in Bangalore** for half a day on October 16. As a part of her engagement, she met with the British Deputy High Commissioner, Dominic McAllister and the different teams at the British Deputy High Commission and British Council offices in Bengaluru. They briefed her about their work and sought her views about empowerment of girls and women in different spheres of life. They also briefed her about UK-India partnerships in science & innovation, culture, trade & investment.

After her graduation, Vidhya along with Supriya Dey (a former IIITB MS by Research student) has set up Vision Empower, a not-for-profit trust that aims to work towards making science and maths education inclusive for persons with visual impairment. VE is presently incubated at the IIITB Innovation Centre.

The Dean's list was announced on October 17. The Dean's list honors students for their academic performance.

For more details:

https://www.iiitb.ac.in/donates.php?pid=student-iiitb

Campus News

📅 Events

A **Memorandum of Understanding** has been signed **between IIIT Bangalore and Narayana Hrudayalaya** to facilitate a seamless medical/health services on campus, for the faculty, staff and students of IIIT Bangalore, in early October.

The **Theatre Arts Club (IIIT Bangalore) in collaboration with the 'Aikyam' club** (a social service club at IIIT Bangalore), addressed **the issue of Food Wastage through a street play** on October 11. The act threw light on the recent trend in the college hostels wherein students tend to overestimate their food consumption and end up taking more food than they need, also not hesitating in throwing it away. The act ended with the message "Today's Wastage is tomorrow's shortage."

Heartfulness organization organized a talk on **"Self Management and Meditation"** on October 12 at IIIT Bangalore. Followed by the talk, a 15-minute mediation session was conducted.

The eighth of the series of **Ramanujan Math & IT Conference** was held during October 13-14 at IIIT Bangalore. There was a panel discussion on the 14th, with Prof. V. Arvind (IMSc, Chennai), Prof. Srinath Srinivasa (IIIT Bangalore), Prof. R. Balasubramanian (IMSc, Chennai), Prof. B. Sury (ISI Bangalore) and Prof. C. S. Rajan (TIFR, Mumbai) as panelists. The panel discussion was on "God made integers 'and algorithms'; all else is the work of man." The inauguration by Prof S. Sadagopan was followed by several talks, spanned across both the days, given by Prof. V. Aravind, Dr. Ramamurthy Badrinath (Ericsson Research, Bangalore), Prof. Poonacha and Mr. K. Subramani (IIIT Bangalore), Prof. V. Ramasubramanian (IIIT Bangalore), Prof. Suresh Nayak (ISI, Bangalore), Prof. R. Balasubramanian, Prof. C. S. Rajan, and Dr. Radhakrishna Bettadapura (Strand Life Sciences, Bangalore). The conference was organized by Prof. Manisha Kulkarni and team.

Meeting with 5 trustees of **Dakshina Pinakini River Rejuvenation** was held on October 16. Collaborative efforts by way of IIIT Bangalore's contribution to the rejuvenation efforts were discussed in the meeting.

IIIT Bangalore's Innovation Center hosted the Bangalore Semi-final of the **Global edition of Smogathon 2017** - an global initiative focused on "Air Pollution" on October 16 at IIIT Bangalore. The Graviky Labs (our alumni-entrepreneur, Mr. Nitesh Kadyan) and Chakr Innovation won the Semi-finals, securing a place in the 2017 finals.

The **'Aikyam'** club (a social service club at IIIT Bangalore) organised a **Diwali celebratory event** on October 19 for the housekeeping and the security staff of our Institute. The staff members along with their families were invited for the celebrations, and wished with sweets, crackers, diyas, and gifts for the children. Several activities were organized as a part of the event.

On October 25, a **book discussion event** was organized at IIIT Bangalore, where Mr. Vaitheeswaran, co-founder of Fabmart/ Fabmall/ India Plaza who is the pioneer of e-commerce in India, talked about his recently authored book **"Failing to Succeed: The Story of India's First E-Commerce Company"** (bit.ly/ftsaz). He gave his insights about his own venture and why it went through trouble times in the wake of intense competition from Flipkart and Amazon India. Mr. Chinnu Senthilkumar, the CTO of Exfinity Ventures, also joined the discussion. Exfinity (http://exfinityventures.com/) is an early stage frontier technology fund which includes marquee investors such as Rakesh Jhunjhunwala. This event was a part of the "IT Project and Product Management" course, taught by Profs. V. Sridhar and Amit Prakash this semester.
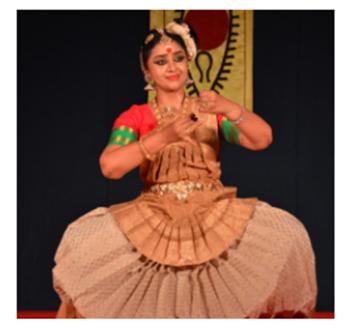
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) from India and **The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)** from Netherlands have organized a **matchmaking R&D workshop** in order to boost the engagement with potential counterparts and to enable the exchange of ideas for joint research projects. The workshop was a two-day event during October 25-26 and held at IIIT Bangalore, India. Scientists from academia and industry with a special interest in the Internet of Things (IoT), Big data-analytics and Emerging areas in ICT participated. Prof. S. Rajagopalan, was the Chair of the workshop. Prof. Debabrata Das, and Prof. Jyotsna Bapat were the Organizing Co-Chairs of the workshop from IIIT Bangalore.
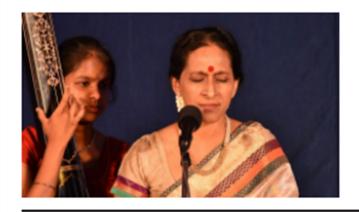
SPIC MACAY chapter of IIIT Bangalore held its first-ever overnight event 'Yamini' **2017** on October 31 to celebrate five major classical art forms. The night boasted back-to-back performances from dusk to dawn. The performances were a fascinating blend of Indian music and dance. Ms. Rama N S, the CEO of ELCITA was the chief guest for the occasion. The event commenced with the beguiling performance of Mohiniyattam by Dr. Methil Devika, a dance research scholar, performer, choreographer, and a professor. It was then followed by the Oscar nominee, Smt. Bombay Jayashri performing a soul-stirring Carnatic vocal concert. Pt. Nityanand Haldipur, a purist in Maihar Gharana tradition, and one of the most sought-after Hindustani Bansuri artistes then amazed the audience with his fascinating performance of Bansuri, a Hindustani classical instrument. Smt. Shruti Sadolikar, a Hindustani singer of the khyal style in the Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana mesmerized the audience with an auditory aesthetic performance. The enthralling event concluded at sunrise with a performance by Vidwan Seshampatti Shivalingam playing Nadaswaram.

Publication Including Presentations

Jaya Sreevalsan Nair presented her poster titled **"Collaborative Design of Visual Analytics Techniques for Survey Data for Community-based Research in Public Health"** co-authoured by Nirmala Murthy (Foundation for Research in Health Systems), Shivam Agarwal (MT2013143), Reddy Rani Vangimalla (PH2016009), and Sanat Ramesh (IMT2012039), at the 8th Workshop on Visual Analytics in Healthcare (VAHC 2017) at Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. during October 1-2. The workshop is part of the IEEE VIS Week 2017. The paper will appear in the Workshop Proceedings.

Balaji Parthasarathy and Yuko Aoyama published the paper **"Deploying ICTs for development: An evolutionary perspective"** in the journal Information Technologies & International Development.
13:157-170. http://itidjournal.org/index.php/itid/article/view/1588/581

Balaji Parthasarathy presented a paper titled **"Beyond the impasse of the state-market dichotomy: Social entrepreneurship and new institutional actors for the underserved"** at the 15th Globelics (Global Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems) International Conference held in Athens, Greece, during October 11-13. Yuko Aoyama was the co-author.

The article titled **"Before rolling out 5G services, here is what Centre must do first"** by Prof. V. Sridhar, IIIT Bangalore and Prof. Rohit Prasad, MDI Gurgaon has appeared in Financial Express on October 11.
The same can be accessed at:
http://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/before-rolling-out-5g-services-here-is-what-centre-must-do-first/889478/

A paper titled **"Online Peer-to-peer Discussions: A Platform for Automatic Assessment of Communication Skill"** authored by Sowmya Rasipuram (PH2014008), Pooja Rao (MS2015009), Rahul Das (MS2015011) and Prof. Dinesh Babu Jayagopi was published in the Conference Proceedings - Context Based Affect Recognition Workshop, Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII), San Antonio, Texas, USA, October 23-26, 2017.

Prof. Meenakshi D'Souza attended International Symposium on Dependable Software Engineering: Theories, Tools and Applications (SETTA) held in Changsha, China during October 23-25 and presented her paper **"Formal Modeling and Verification of IoT Protocols"** co-authored by Maithily Diwan (MS2015006).

In collaboration with ABB Corporate Research and under the guidance of Prof. Meenakshi D' Souza, Avijit Mandal (PH2015016) has worked on **a program analysis tool for Robotics programming language - Rapid**. The paper regarding this tool was presented at the 28th IEEE International Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering. Dr. Raoul Jetley from ABB Corporate Research attended the Symposium and presented the paper and the tool during October 23-26.

Raksha P S(PH2015009) presented her paper titled **"Identifying Opinion Drivers on Social Media"** at the 16th International Conference on Ontologies, Databases and Applications of Semantics (ODBASE 2017) (http://www.otmconferences.org/index.php/conferences/odbase-2017), held during October 24-25 at Rhodes, Greece.

The full paper citation is: Bhanushali A., Subbanarasimha R.P., Srinivasa S. (2017) Identifying Opinion Drivers on Social Media. In: Panetto H. et al. (eds) On the Move to Meaningful Internet Systems. OTM 2017 Conferences. OTM 2017. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 10574. Springer, Cham.

IIIT Bangalore in Media

Faculty and Staff

Balaji Parthasarathy was interviewed by the Pufendorf Institute of Advanced Studies, Lund University, Sweden, when he visited in September as the Samuel von Pufendorf Visiting Research Fellow.

The interview has been published on October 24 at:

http://www.pi.lu.se/en/activities/theme-social-innovation/balaji-parthasarathy

Academic Milestones

Raksha P. S. (PH2015009) completed her state of the art presentation with thesis titled "Characterising Online Social Cognition as a Marketplace of Opinions" on October 16.

Banerjee Shilpi Tushar (PH2012002) completed her thesis oral examination on her Ph.D. thesis titled "Design of Quality Assessment Instruments for Engineering Courses" on October 30.

Guest Talks

October 11: "NLP + Computational Social Science - The Emerging Trend," Dr. Amitava Das, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, IIIT Sri City, Andra Pradesh.

Campus Visitors

October 5: Prof. K.N.B Murthy, BITES Chairman

October 13: Ms. Salma, IAS, Director, ITBT and Mr. Manivannan P., IAS, Secretary, Department of Information & Public Relations.

October 16: Mr. Om Prakash Subbarao, Sonata Software

October 23: Mr. Nipun Mehrotra,VP - Digital Business Group and Chief Digital Officer, IBM India

October 27: Mr. Raman, MD, NESL and Mr. V.R.Govindarajan, MD, Perfios Software Solutions

October 31: Dr. Rao Maddukuri, Poland

Campus Calendar for November

November 1: Kannada Rajyotsava

Upcoming Special Events

December 11-13: "Digital and the Everyday: from codes to cloud," a 3-day winter school organised by the Center for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP) at IIIT Bangalore.