International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore

Newsletter | February 2018

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From the Director's Desk

February 2018 saw our theme for the year "Research in the Air" take flight through the Samvaad series as well as our RISE event. RISE is an abbreviation for Research, Innovation, Society, and Entrepreneurship. The second edition of RISE has demonstrated its growth in outreach. We saw the involvement and support of alumni in both RISE as well as in an event dedicated exclusively to them, namely Sangam 2018. The Indian cosmonaut, Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, Ashok Chakra, graced our campus as the Chief Guest during Sangam 2018.

February 2018 has been historical for technology sector at home and worldwide in different ways. The Finance Minister, Mr. Arun Jaitley, presented the Union Budget for 2018 on February 1. The budget is hailed to be supportive of Digital India Initiative and

Smart Cities Initiative. February 6, 2018 was the day of the maiden launch of Falcon Heavy by SpaceX. Falcon Heavy is a derivative of Falcon 9, which is a two-stage rocket used for transport of satellites into orbit. Falcon 9 is known to be the first orbital class rocket with the capability of reflight, and is believed to be a breakthrough in space flight.

HAPPY READING!

Achievements

In February 2018, Department of Science and Technology awarded **Prof. Srinivas Vivek an INSPIRE Faculty Award.**

IIIT Bangalore's team (**Team annony-mouse**), comprising of Abhijith M., Agnish Dutta, Arjun Singh Kanwal and Shivam Gupta, won the **second prize at the Haxploit Hackathon**. Haxploit Hackathon was conducted at SJBIT College during February 23-24. It was a 24-hour hackathon with an open theme. The majority of the ideas presented were implemented using Machine Learning and IoT solutions. Team Annoy-mouse has developed a prototype for speech identification using lip movement applying Deep Learning and Neural Networks techniques. The motivation behind this idea has been to enable communication for hearing-disabled people. The team bagged a INR 5000/- cash prize with goodies.

Campus News

The **71st Meeting of the Governing Body** was held on February 7.

The **ribbon cutting for the renovated rooms** in the Main Block, namely, Faculty Lounge, Main Class Room and Board Room was held on February 15.

The three-day research event, **Research, Innovation, Society and Entrepreneurship (RISE)** was held during Feb 16-18, 2018. The Ph.D. Colloquium and IMACX- Summit under RISE 2018 were inaugurated on February 16, by Prof. S. Sadagopan, the Director, along with the keynote speaker of the Ph.D. colloquium Dr. Aditya Rachakonda, a Senior Data Scientist, Flipkart and an IIIT Bangalore alumnus. Prof. Sadagopan gave an introductory talk on 'Research-led Social Innovation and Safe City Solutions' where he stressed the need of 'Safety' in every Research and Innovation that aims at improving the urban life. Dr. Aditya Rachakonda's Keynote 'Piled Higher, Deeper and After that...' dealt with his experiences and learnings as an MS and Ph.D student at IIIT Bangalore, and how these learnings have helped/helping him in his work. He stressed that fundamentals of Computer Science that he learnt during his Ph.D days are helping him in developing codes that are highly scalable and perform billions of calculations.

The Open House and I-MACX workshop were held on the second day of the event, February 17. The aim of the Open House was to inform students, faculty, and industry participants about the research being conducted by our faculty in various domains. Two parallel lecture sessions were organised, with one focusing on the research conducted in individual labs and centres of the Institute, such as the E-Health Research Centre, and the
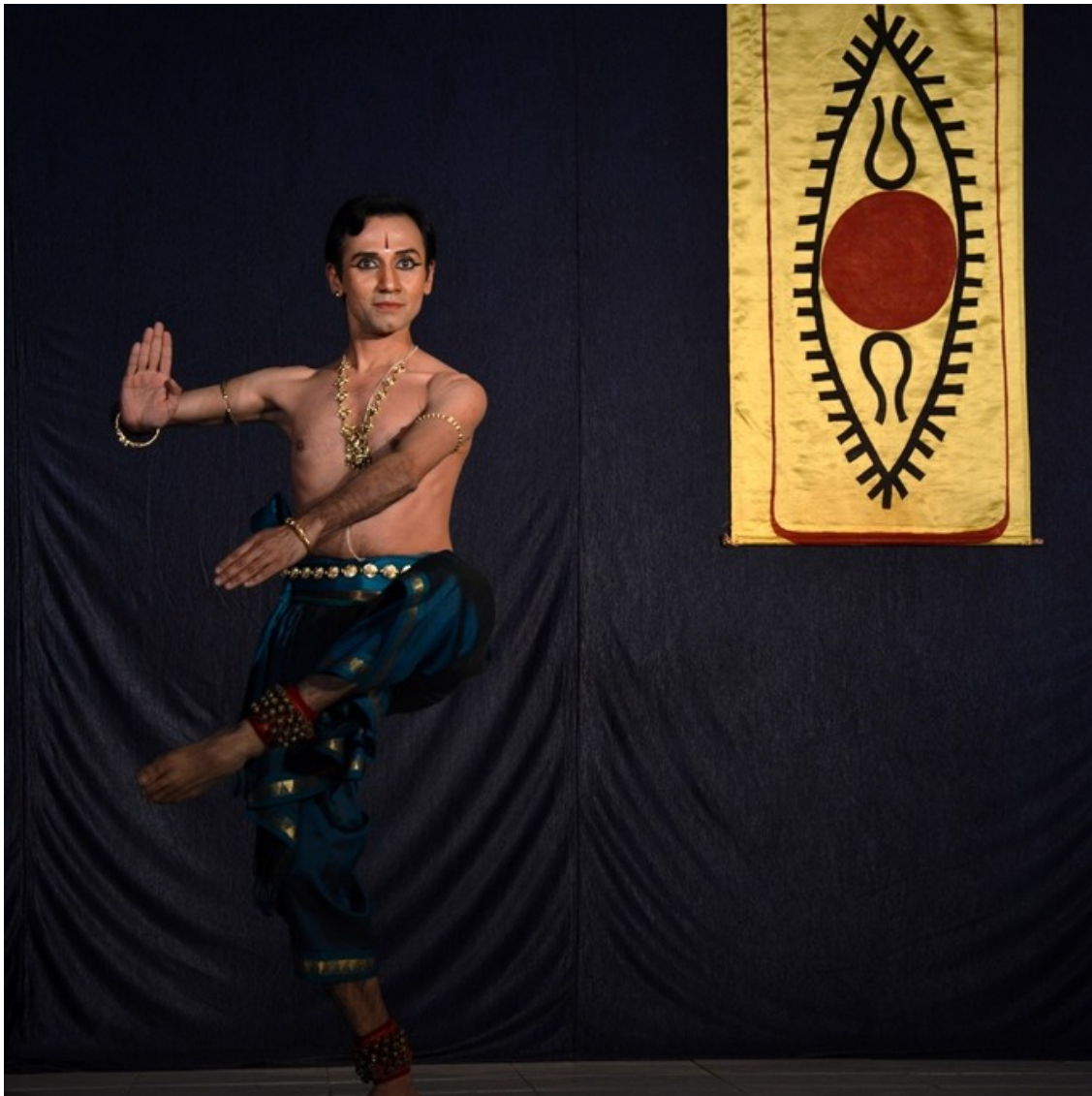
second on giving an overview of the nature of problems being researched in specific domains such as Data Sciences and IT & Society. As part of the Open House event, a poster session was also organised which showcased over 40 posters and exhibits prepared by our students. Prof. U. B. Desai, Director, IIT Hyderabad, delivered the keynote address for the Open House; where his lecture was directed towards those who are aspirants or in the early stages of a research career. The last day of RISE 2018, February 18, was dedicated to Open Studio.

For photos, visit https://photos.app.goo.gl/k39wyCnYL7ZQojHj2

The **BITES Board Meeting** was held at IIIT Bangalore on February 17.

SPICMACAY IIIT BANGALORE chapter hosted **Bharatnatyam Recital** by renowned artist **P Praveen Kumar** on February 21. The artists were accorded a traditional welcome and the programme commenced with the lighting of the lamp by Prof. G S Raghavan and the artists. P. Praveen Kumar is an accomplished Bharatnatyam performer, who has been awarded the prestigious Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Purskar 2010 from Central Sangeet Natak Academy; the Mohan Khokar Award 2010; Obbul Reddy Senior Dancer Award from Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai & Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Pratibha Sanman 2016 in Bhubaneshwar. His performance began with a Shiv Stuti and ended with a playground story of Bal Krishna. Students interacted with the maestro after the performance.

The **60th Senate Meeting of IIIT Bangalore** was held on February 21.

IIIT Bangalore has submitted the **application for AICTE recognition** of its Integrated M. Tech. and M. Tech. courses. The Registrar has presented the documents pertaining to the institute to the AICTE Scrutiny Committee on February 17, 2018 and February 24, 2018. AICTE has given IIIT Bangalore a "NIL DISCREPANCY REPORT" and cleared for the next stage of approval. The Institute now awaits the AICTE Expert Committee visit as part of the approval process.

On February 22, the **Theory Club** announced their **official website**
https://iiitbtheoryclub.github.io/

Sangam 2018 (Alumni Day) was held on February 24. Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, Ashok Chakra, Hero of the Soviet Union was the Chief Guest for the event. After an introduction by Prof. S. Sadagopan, Shri Rakesh Sharma addressed the gathering with inspiring words. Towards the end when he was asked to say the famous one-liner which he said to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Wg Cdr sang the first few lines of "sare jahan se achcha." Jatin Chaudhary (member of Alumni Council) gave the alumni council updates and Prof. Debabrata Das updated on what is new at IIIT Bangalore. The Theatre Club and Chhayachitra jointly released two videos celebrating the event, which are at:

https://youtu.be/fRDxS3maIYk

https://youtu.be/alwAZWKf41k

Publication Including Presentations

Meenakshi D'Souza and Gracy Philip (PH2013002) attended the 11th Innovations in Software Engineering Conference (ISEC) that was held in Hyderabad during February 10-11 in Hyderabad. Gracy Philip presented a paper titled **"Automatic Generation of Safety Validation Test cases from System Architecture Fault Trees"**, co-authored by Varsha P. Suresh (PH2016013) and Meenakshi D'Souza.

Balaji Parthasarathy was invited to present on **"Institutional Roles and Challenges for International Development in the Digital Economy"** at a workshop on theory and methods for a project titled "Development Implications of the Digital Economy". This multi-year international project is led by the University of Manchester, UK, while the workshop was held at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, during January 22-23.

IIIT Bangalore in Media

Bulletin Board

IIIT-Hyderabad students reach finals of international programming contest

IIT-P team makes it to computer Olympic

Know your wellbeing through Nimhans app

One-way ticket to Mars not for me: Rakesh Sharma

Samsung Hiring 1000 Engineers For R&D To Consolidate The No.1 Position In India

Samsung to hire 2500 engineers for AI & machine learning to bolster position in India

Space travel for Indians a reality soon: Rakesh Sharma

Why Indian startups like Myntra, Jabong are tying up with top-tier universities for research goals

Faculty, Staff and Students

Prof. Sridhar V. was invited to participate in the meeting of experts at the **TRAI Open House Discussions on National Telecom Policy 2018**, Bengaluru, on January 24. He has submitted the response on the TRAI consultation paper on inputs to the formulation of National Telecom Policy 2018.

Balaji Parthasarathy's book, **"The Rise of the Hybrid Domain: Collaborative Governance for Social Innovation"**, co-authored with Prof. Yuko Aoyama, and published by Edward Elgar, had its formal India release on February 6, at the Bangalore International Center. The release was followed by a panel discussion.

For details of the event: http://www.bicentre.org/events/hybrid.html

For more on the book:

https://elgar.blog/2017/01/13/collaborative-governance-for-social-innovation-and-the-rise-of-the-hybrid-domain/

Graphics-Visualization-Computing Lab (GVCL) co-organized and participated in the **Bangalore Visualization Workshop 2018**, held at Indian Institute of Science on February 10. Profs. Amit Chattopadhyay, Jaya Sreevalsan Nair and T. K. Srikanth and GVCL members attended the event. This is the third in the series, which is in collaboration with the Visualization Graphics Lab, Indian Institute of Science, headed by Prof. Vijay Natarajan.

Prof. S. Sadagopan, Director, was the Chief Guest at the **Foundation Day of NIMHANS** on February 14. At the event, Prof. T. K. Srikanth had another app released (after an earlier PUSH-D): Wellness-Check https://echargementalhealth.nimhans.ac.in/wellness-check/ NIMHANS felicitated Profs. T. K. Srikanth and Amit Prakash for their technical contributions in improving healthcare delivery at NIMHANS. While Prof. T. K. Srikanth has been actively leading work on several ICT-based solutions for scaling up operations in various departments at NIMHANS, Prof. Amit Prakash has been involved in the Outpatient Department (OPD). Prof. Amit Prakash, along with his team comprising of several IT & Society students from Ph.D., Master of Science by Research, and Digital Society programmes has conducted a brief study in April 2016 and further delibrations with NIMHANS on restructuring the screening/OPD processes in NIMHANS. It has been observed that implementation of recommendations in their report, which includes suggestions from a team from Indian Institute of Science, led by Prof. Akhilesh, has led to better patient satisfaction outcome.

Prof. Sridhar V. gave a keynote on **"Architecting digital platforms for social impact"** at Research, Innovation, Society and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Annual event held during February 16-18.

Prof. S. Sadgopan launched **CtrlS Data Center at Electronics City** on February 22.

Prof. Sridhar V. gave an invited talk on **"Big Data and its implications"** at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conference on Big Data Analysis and Cyber Security Bangalore on February 23, at Fern Citadel Hotel, Bengaluru.

Academic Milestones

Anshu Bhardwaj (MS2013005) completed her oral examination of Master of Science by Research titled **"Secure Architecture For High Assurance System Design"** on February 15.

Kulkarni Uma Mukund (MS2015013) completed her oral examination of Master of Science by Research titled **"A Novel Approach to Deciding the Weights of Capacitors in the DAC of a Non-binary Redundant SAR ADC"** on February 23.

Campus Visitors

February 2: Ms. Sarita and Mr. Kamal, Indian Angel Network

February 5: A delegation from Daimler, headed by Mr. Dharmesh Viswanathan, IT/QIS, Mercedes-Benz Research & Development India, Daimler

February 6: Dr. Vinutha Narayanan, Head AI Research, Wipro Technologies

February 15: Mr. Sanjay Anandaram, Mentor, StartUps

February 15: Mr. Anjaneyulu Kuchibhotla, Finuno

February 22: Mr. T. A. N. Moorthy, Executive Vice President, Infosys Technologies Ltd

February 24: Barrister Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu, Minister of Communications, Nigeria

Samvaad Talks

February 5: "Quantum Computing - An Introduction from a Novice in the Field" by Prof. K. V. Dinesha

February 12: "Dynamics & Soft Matter: from Bubble Oscillators to Living Systems" by Prof. B Ashok

February 19: "Technology, Politics and Practice" by Prof. Bidisha Chaudhuri

February 26: "Weak Interactions between Molecules" by Prof. Brijesh Kumar Mishra

Guest Talks

February 5: "Cool Asia: Technology and Culture in the Evolution of the Video Game Industry" by Yuko Aoyama, Professor of Geography, Clark University

February 14: "Looking at (Almost) Nothing, Understanding Everything: Deep Learning for Hand-drawn Sketches" by Mr. Ravi Kiran Sarvadevabhatla, a Research

Associate at Qualcomm India

Campus Calendar for March

March 9-11: Spandan 2018

March 20: One-day symposium on Human Trafficking and Technology, co-organized by Justice and Care and CITAPP, IIIT Bangalore

March 31: TEDxIIITBangalore