



International
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Technology Bangalore

Newsletter | March 2018



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From the Director's Desk



March 2018 was yet another active month on campus, sparked off by our intra-collegiate sports event, Spandan. The month also saw several collaborative efforts sparking off between faculty members and different entities of governmental, industrial, and non-governmental organizations. There were MoU's being signed, grants being approved, hackathons being won, and several more. The month closed with the first edition of TEDxIITBangalore going live. Overall, March 2018 was a month of hope for several new innings.

We pay respect to Prof. Stephen Hawking, the renowned English theoretical physicist and cosmologist, who passed away on March 14, 2018, coincidentally the Pi (π) Day. March is also the month for announcements of Turing Award. On March 21, 2018,

the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) named Profs. John L. Hennessy (Stanford University) and David A. Patterson (University of California, Berkeley) as recipients of the 2017 ACM A.M. Turing Award for pioneering a systematic, quantitative approach to the design and evaluation of computer architectures with enduring impact on the microprocessor industry. The announcement has an academic flair to it, as it mentions their influential textbook *Computer Architecture: A Quantitative Approach*, now in its sixth edition. Congratulations to Hennessy-Patterson duo!

HAPPY READING!

Achievements

IIIT Bangalore alumnus, **Vidhya Y., co-founder of Vision Empower, is the 'Rising Star of the Year' at the Namma Bengaluru Awards 2018.** Congratulations to Vidhya!

The team **Sizzling Six** consisting of Akash Shendge (MT2017010), Akshay Dake (MT2017011), Amitabh Tiwari (MT2017018), Rachit Kulkarni (MT2017087), Supriya Supugade (MT2017121), Vinayak Ghatul (MT2017130) won the **2nd Runners-up at Smart India Hackathon 2018** held during March 30-31. The problem statement given to the team was 'Finding Bus Occupancy' and Solution from the team is mentioned below:

"Real-time bus occupancy can be found using various interfaces including mobile apps, echo devices and chatbots. The commuter will also be able to book their ticket for the selected bus through these interfaces. Apart from real-time occupancy, the predicted occupancy of the selected bus before its arrival to the stop can be found using machine learning algorithm on previous data collected." Congratulations to the team!



The paper titled "**Human Weapon-Activity Recognition in Surveillance Videos Using Structural-RNN**" received the Best Student Paper award in the 2nd Mediterranean Conference on Pattern Recognition and Artificial Intelligence (MedPRAI-2018), held in Rabat, Morocco, during March 27-28. The authors are Susarla Praneeth (IMT2012043), Utkarsh Agrawal (IMT2015044) and Prof. Dinesh Babu J.

On February 27, 2018, **IIIT Bangalore and Sonata Software Ltd. entered into a partnership as part of the latter's corporate social responsibility initiative.** Sonata has agreed to provide INR 1,05,00,000/- to IIIT Bangalore for a period of 3 years. Research, summer internships and outreach programmes such as workshops etc. are part of this initiative. The theme of research is 'Platforms and Data Security' and this component is managed by Prof. Srinivas Vivek.

Campus News



The annual sports event **Spandan 2018** was held during March 9-11 at IIIT

Bangalore. The event featured several sports events including Basketball, Carrom, Chess, Computer games, Cricket, Football, Gully Cricket, Lawn Tennis, Marathon, Table Tennis, Throwball, Tug of War, and Volleyball with the active participation by over 600 students, alumni, faculty and staff. As always the event was entirely organised by the student's sports committee and student volunteers, with active support from faculty and staff.



The **Theory Club talks** had a line-up of several external speakers. On March 14, Sushravya G.M., a researcher at the Accenture Artificial Intelligence Lab, as well as an alumna of IIIT Bangalore, gave a talk on "Classical and Quantum Information: Exploring the Abstract Limits of Computation and Cognition." On March 28, Tanmayee Narendra, a Research Software

Engineer at IBM Research AI and an alumnus of IIIT Bangalore, gave a talk on “Beyond Correlation: Counterfactual Reasoning, Causality, and Inference.”

Mock fire drill was held on March 17 at the IIIT Bangalore campus.

The Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP) co-organized a one-day **Symposium on Technology and Trafficking**, with an India-based non-governmental organization, Justice and Care, on March 20 at the IIIT Bangalore campus. The symposium targeted in spreading awareness of the use of technology in human trafficking, for both promoting it as well as for preventing it. The event included introductory talks by Prof. Srinath Srinivasa, Dean R&D, IIIT Bangalore, and representatives of Justice and Care. This was followed by a panel discussion on “Technological Challenges in Anti Human Trafficking,” moderated by Ms. Gayathri Kalia, Senior Advisor, Strategy and Operations, Justice and Care. The panelists included Shri Pronab Mohanty, Deputy Director General, UIDAI, Regional Office South, Government of Karnataka; Mr. Pankaj Bafna, Managing Partner, Bafna Law Associates; a representative from Deloitte; Mr. Sam Inocencio, National Director, International Justice Mission, Philippines; Mr. Rizwan Shaikh, CTO & Founder, Pristine InfoSolutions; and Mr. Peter Roxburgh, Senior Director, Impact & Analysis, Justice and Care and another panel discussion on “Technology Solutions in the Area of Human Trafficking and Child Protection” was moderated by Prof. Manish Gupta, Infosys Chair Professor, IIIT Bangalore. The panelists included Ms. Kirra Hughes, VCMS Project Manager, Liberty Asia; Mr. Valmeeka Nathan, Member, Executive Council, Nasscom Foundation; Mr. Mohan Ram Chandrashekar, Chief Mission Integrator and Innovator - Forensic Intelligence Surveillance & Security Technologies/ Centre for Cyber Security Education and Research; Mr. Nataraj K. S., VP - Open Innovation and Tech4Good, Accenture Labs, Mr. Prateek Dubey, Director, HR, IDFC Bank; and Dr. Srujana Merugu, Machine Learning researcher & Data Science consultant. The panel discussions were followed by an ideathon, chaired by Prof. Ramesh Sundararaman, CEO, Innovation Center, IIIT Bangalore. The event concluded with pointers on the way forward and a vote of thanks. Profs. Amit Prakash, Bidisha Chaudhuri, and Ramesh Sundararaman were part of the organizing team.



IIIT Bangalore Innovation Center and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 20. The MoU, signed between Prof. S. Sadagopan, Director, IIIT Bangalore, and Mr. Naresh Shah, Director, HPE, is valid for a year and is part of a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) grant. The grant is directed towards **launching the HPE Innovation Center** and provides a hardware kit, consisting of network switches, network controllers, BLE beacons, management software and others. The grant will support civic-tech and other innovative solutions of I-MACX Studios, IIIT Bangalore Innovation Centre.

Prof. Janaki Srinivasan led an **#VisibleWikiWomen editathon** for adding media content and contributions of renowned women in different walks of life in Wikipedia, on March 24 at the IIIT Bangalore campus and on March 25 at the Center for Internet and Society, Domlur. There were volunteers from faculty, students, and alumni. Prof. Preeti Mudliar had contributed to the event as well. They procured portrait images of famous women under the right - Creative Commons License, which Wikipedia expects. They have added images to include: C.S.Lakshmi (writer), Chiki Sarkar (publisher), Gauri Lankesh (journalist), Isher Judge Ahluwalia (economist), Dhondutai Kulkarni (musician), Tessy Thomas (scientist), and Geeta Phogat (sports person). They have also added a profile (of the ISRO scientist Moumita Dutta), and requested image permissions for several others.

Huawei Innovation Lab was inaugurated at IIIT Bangalore on March 26. The

inauguration was attended by Mr. William Zhao (CEO, Huawei Technologies India), Mr. Gilbert Joseph (Head Corporate Affairs, Huawei), Prof. S. Sadagopan (Director, IIIT Bangalore) and Prof. Tricha Anjali (Lab Director, IIIT Bangalore). The current focus of the lab is on Software Defined Network (SDN). Equipped with the complete SDN hardware and software, the Huawei Innovation Lab will provide the IIIT Bangalore students a platform to learn traditional telecom network solution and understand key challenges in enabling agile services in the networks.



Theatre Arts Club performed a **Mime act on the occasion of International Women's Day Celebration** on March 28. The Mime portrayed the struggles of a working woman in balancing her family and career; and the struggles of a sports enthusiast in a male dominated sport. The mime was followed by the screening of the movie, "Hidden Figures," which is a 2016 biographical movie conceptualized and directed by Theodore Melfi. The movie is based on an eponymous book by Margaret Lee Shetterley, and is about female black mathematicians who worked at NASA during the Space Race in mid 1950s and 1960s.



The first edition of **TEDxIIITBangalore** was held on March 31 at IIIT Bangalore. The theme of the independently organized event, licensed by TED, was **Demystify**. The event had a captivating line-up of speakers, with talks ranging from cyber forensics and cloud computing, to fashion to branding. The tone for the event was set by the warm welcome extended by Prof. Srinath Srinivasa, Dean (R&D), IIIT Bangalore. The event began with a technical talk by Chirag Gandhi, an alumnus of IIT Bombay establishing a link between chess and business strategies in an exquisite manner. Jhansi Munukoti's talk on Smart Art focused on the democratization of creativity. The buzzword of cryptocurrency and the fascinations of cyber forensics were demystified to the rapt audience by Ajeet Khurana (Head, Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Committee, India) and Sebastian Edassery (Director and CSO for Deloitte India) respectively. Oyindrila Ray Ghosh, Celebrity and Fashion Stylist demystified the fashion world through her talk. Vidhya Y., an alumnus of IIIT Bangalore talked of her journey till Vision Empower, her start-up that aims to provide accessible solutions to the visually impaired. Saurabh Uboweja (International Brand Expert and Founder CEO of Brands of Desire) presented the ideas of breaking the conventional notions of branding and enabling the individual to contribute to true branding in some form. Sudhanshu Kaushik (Young India Foundation) talked about the socio-political effect that social media has on India.



IIIT Bangalore calls for Admissions, for the following programmes, for the Academic year 2018-2019 starting in August 2018, have been announced:

[M.Tech CSE](#)

[M.Tech ECE](#)

[Master of Science \(Digital Society\).](#)

[MS by Research & Ph.D.](#)



Publication Including Presentations

A journal paper titled "**Automatic assessment of communication skill in interview-based interactions**" has been accepted for publication in Springer Multimedia Tools and Applications Journal 2018, and has been published online. The authors are Sowmya Rasipuram (PH2014008) and Prof. Dinesh Babu J.

An article, "**Development and Pilot Testing of an Internet-based Self-help Intervention for Depression for Indian Users,**" has been published on March 22, in Behavioral Sciences 2018, 8(4), 36, doi: [10.3390/bs8040036](https://doi.org/10.3390/bs8040036)

The authors of the article include researchers from NIMHANS, namely, Dr. Seema Mehrotra, Dr. Paulomi Sudhir, Dr. Girish Rao, and Dr. Jagadisha Thirthalli, and from E-Health Research Center, IIIT Bangalore namely, Prof. T. K. Srikanth.

The article is at <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-328X/8/4/36>



IIIT Bangalore in Media

[Dept. of IT & BT rechristened Dept. of Innovation and Technology.](#)

[Huawei opens innovation lab in IIIT Bangalore](#)

[Huawei set up SDN Innovation Lab at IIIT Bangalore](#)

[Huawei Technologies India sponsors innovation lab in IIIT Bangalore](#)

[IIIT students finalists in global contest](#)

[IIIT-H team in world finals of programming contest](#)

[IIIT-Hyderabad students reach finals of international programming contest](#)

[IIT Kharagpur to inaugurate INAE Youth Conclave on March 23](#)

[Interspeech comes to India in September 2018](#)

[Karnataka brings all innovation initiatives under one umbrella](#)

[Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah Launches Innovate Karnataka For ...](#)

[Karnataka CM launches umbrella brand for tech revolution in state](#)

[Karnataka Govt. launches umbrella brand for tech revolution in state](#)

[Karnataka's tech push: Govt launches umbrella brand for innovation ...](#)

[Meet the 2018 NBF awardees: Rukmini Krishnaswamy wins 'Namma Bengalurean of the Year'](#)

['Need to address human trafficking in IT Act'](#)

[Siddaramaiah brings technology innovation under single umbrella](#)

[Techies tease out Internet from 'White Space'](#)

[Traffickers using social media to trap girls: Experts](#)

[With backing from Zeroth.ai, this son-of-soil founder kickstarts agritech startup Fasal](#)

['Wonder' spectrum is largely vacant](#)



Faculty, Staff and Students

The **Karnataka Vision 2025 report** was released by the Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Siddaramaiah in the Nava Karnataka Nirmana Conclave on 3 March 2018. Profs. V. Sridhar, S. Rajagopalan and Amit Prakash contributed to the Information Technology Sector Report, with IIIT Bangalore as one of the sector consultants for Information Technology & Bio-Technology.

Prof. Manish Gupta gave three invited lectures on **"Applying Machine Learning to Support Human Learning"** organized by BITES, at PES University (Feb 23), K S Institute of Technology (March 2) and Reva University (March 9).

Prof. V. Sridhar gave an invited talk on **"Spectrum allocation challenges for 5G deployment in India"** at IEEE CONNECT 2018 held during March 16-17 at MSR Hotel and Spa, Bengaluru.

Prof. Dinesh Babu J gave a talk titled **"Sequence Modeling Using Deep Learning and Applications"** at the Computer Science Department of IIT Ropar on March 16.

Prof. Meenakshi and Sujit represented IIIT Bangalore as invited participants of the **ABB R&D Workshop** at their Mahadevapura office during March 22-23. The workshop was organised by ABB R&D as an ideation platform for collaborative research with top academic institutions of the country. Delegates involved members of faculty from IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati, IIIT Delhi, CMI, NIT Trichy among others.

Prof. Madhav Rao and Jaya Sreevalsan Nair have received **grants from IBM Shared University Research (SUR) program**. The approvals were notified on March 23. Prof. Madhav Rao's grant on "AI-assisted Anthropomorphic Device for Upper Limb Project," will be implemented in collaboration with NIMHANS. Prof. T. K. Srikanth from IIIT Bangalore, and Drs. Vikas V. and Lakshmi Rao from NIMHANS are co-PI's of the project. Prof. Jaya Sreevalsan Nair's grant on "Visual analytics of population health surveys" will be implemented on National Family Health survey data. Both the projects will be implemented at the E-health Research Center, IIIT Bangalore.

Prof. Manish Gupta gave an invited talk on **"Applying Machine Learning to Healthcare and Human Learning"** at INAE Young Engineers Pre-Conclave at IIT Kharagpur, March 25. More details at: <http://www.inae2018.iitkgp.ac.in/guestlectures.php>

Ajith Kumar Vlutheri (EMT2013002) has **finished his M.Tech thesis oral examination** on "Mobile Web Browser User Experience and Enhancement" on March 7.



Campus Visitors

March 1: Dr. D. B. Kiran, Anand Kalidoss, Mr. Sudarshan, Microsoft

March 2: AICTE Expert Committee

March 7: Ms. Vasanthi Hariprakash, Founder, Pickle Jar

March 8: Mr. Nagendra Desai, Director & Head of Product Development, Mindtuit Analytics Pvt Ltd

March 12: Mr. Binod Hampapur, Infosys Foundation

March 13: Dr. C. S. Kedar, IAS(R) and Team

March 13: Mr. P. Venugopal, Regional Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations

March 13: H.E. Mr. Veljko Kajtazi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Croatia, accompanied by his Advisor Mr. Emir Grabic



March 14: Mr. Vincent Quah, Education Lead, APJ, Amazon Web Services

March 14: Mr. Vikram Ahuja & Mr. Lalit Ahuja

March 15: Mr. Srivastav Suvira, Springer



Samvaad Talks

March 12: **“Information Convergence – Need, Applications, and Strategies”** by Prof. Chandrashekar Ramanathan

March 19: **A calibration technique for current-steering digital-to-analog converters and “The Difficulty of Knowing What is Ethical”** by Prof. Chetan Parikh

March 26: **“Power Saving in Next Generation Base Station and Network Slicing in 5G”** by Prof. Debabrata Das



Guest Talks



March 12: **“Catching-up and Leapfrogging: How East Asia has redefined the Integrated Circuit Industry”** by Prof. Rajah Rasiah, Asia Europe Institute, University of Malaya

March 14: **“Leading Science and Technology: India Next?”** by Varun Aggarwal, CTO, Aspiring Minds

March 23: **“Theorising Media, Censorship, and Creative Resistant in India”**, Guest talk by Dr. Lion Koenig, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at St. Antony’s College, The University of Oxford



Campus Calendar for April-May

April 28-May 5: Semester Final Exams week

May 6-June 3: Term break

May 30: 62nd Senate Meeting



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