IIITB - October 2019 Newsletter

Newsletter
October 2019

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From the Director's Desk

Traditionally October ushers in festivities in India with Dusshera and Diwali. We celebrated Ayudha Pooja and Diwali on campus. As a tradition in IIITB, our midterm break coincides with the last few days of Dusshera. Everyone on campus completed the midterm on the first of October, enjoyed the midterm break and got back energized to complete the rest of Term I. October 2019 was busy as usual with a Senate meeting and other events, and ended with a high note of the on-campus activity, RMIT 2019, and Yamini 2019.

The month of October is awaited, worldwide, for the Nobel Prize announcements. The Nobel Prize Winners this year are: Abiy Ahmed (Peace Prize), Peter Handke (Literature), Akira Yoshino, M. Stanley Whittingham and John B. Goodenough (Chemistry), Jim Peebles, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz (Physics), William G. Kaelin Jr, Gregg L. Semenza, Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe (Medicine), Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer (Economic Sciences).

This October was special for us with Mr. Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB) gracing our campus on the 18th, to learn more about "Innovation ecosystem" in India as well as the state of Karnataka, Institute for Innovation and Incubation activities,

and research on start-up.

Achievements

CircuitVerse is an Open Source project, created by iMTech 4th year student Satvik Sunkam Ramprasad (IMT2016008). The project has been picked by Google as one of the approved projects to be offered under Google's Code-in programme, which is a global, online contest focused on open source development.

Campus News

 Events

"Ayudha Pooja", a special day during the 9-day fest of Navratri, for worshipping of "Ayudhas (Tools)", was held on October 4.

Garba Night: IIITB organised Garba night on October 13 as part of Navratri celebrations. The event started at 6:00 pm with much energy and enthusiasm among the students. The campus was decorated with lights and well-rehearsed students performed on various songs in unison. They showed up in traditional attire and played Garba till 9 pm followed by DJ night for another hour. Food stalls were also set up as part of the event.

Senate meeting: The 70th Senate meeting was held on October 16

Open Source India 2019: IIITB is proud to have been a Community Partner in the Open Source India 2019 event held during 17 and 18 October 2019 at NIMHANS Convention Centre, Bengaluru (https://www.opensourceindia.in/). The Academic partnership with Open Source India 2019 event was immensely helpful. The highlights are :
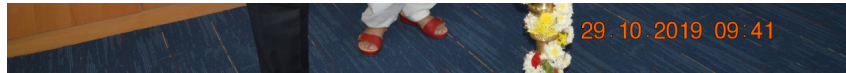
- Eighty-two students from our institute attended the conference, who acknowledged the program was current, very relevant and useful.
- Prof. S. Rajagopalan gave a talk on "Modular Open Source Identity Platform: A Global Digital Public Good" and Prof. B Thangaraju conducted a workshop on "DevOps Framework in Practice" and both the sessions were well-received.
- A MOSIP stall was set up to explain MOSIP activities to the delegates and developers. More than 150 open-source enthusiasts registered to join the MOSIP open source development community.

Deepavali: On the occasion of Deepavali, students at IIITB celebrated the festival in the spirit of "sharing-with-the under-privileged". On October 26, Aikyam (Student's club at IIITB) visited a slum near Sulikunte (about 15 km from the campus) and donated everyday-essentials like blankets, sanitary pads, rice, dal, soaps and used-clothes (collected from students). On 27th October, students celebrated the festivities with the housekeeping, security and mess staff & their families. Students undertook the duty of serving food during lunch, they also organised fun filled events like music, dance and games like musical chair. The staff members along with their kids also participated joyously. The students gave each staff member a set of sweet box, a blanket and books for their kids. Finally, at the end of the day, students organised Tambola after the Karaoke night to raise funds.

RMIT 2019: The tenth edition of RMIT was held at IIITB during 29th-31st October, 2019. It featured 12 invited eminent speakers from across the country. The event witnessed more than 200 registrations, of which, 50 were external registrations. Details of the event are available at https://www.iiitb.ac.in/RMIT-2019/.
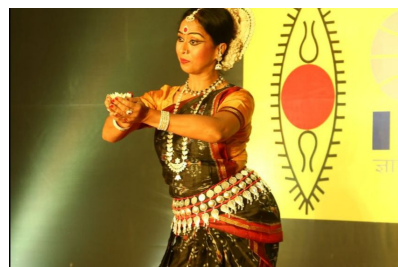
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Yamini 2019: IIITB held Yamini 2019, a dusk-to-dawn experience of Indian culture through mesmerizing classical dance and musical performances on 31st October, under the aegis of SPICMACAY. The highlights are :

- The event began at 6 PM with Madhusmita Mohanty's scintillating Odissi dance performance, followed by a beautiful Carnatic Vocal Duet by Hyderabad Sisters, Bhaskara Lalitha and Bhaskara Haripriya.
- The enthralling performance of Pandit Kushal Das playing Sitar.
- At 1:30 AM, the Akkarai Sisters, Smt. S Subhalakshmi and Smt. S Sornalatha took the stage for a Carnatic Violin Duet.
- At 4:00 AM, Pandit Uday Bhawalkar stepped onto the stage for a Dhrupad Vocal.

The audience, which comprised of students, faculty members and people from all over the city were overwhelmed with such beautiful and skilled performances. Pandit Uday Bhawalkar beseeched the audience that the young generation must preserve Indian culture, by actively participating in classical events like these. He also thanked SPICMACAY for supporting such events. As part of the event, various food stalls were set up for the audience.

MOSIP team Meets Bill Gates: The MOSIP team, on 30th October 2019 had the pleasure of providing Bill Gates with an update on their progress. The team sought his feedback on the future roadmap of MOSIP. During the discussions, Bill Gates provided important pointers for follow up. The MOSIP team used this opportunity to thank the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Funders (Omidyar Network & Tata Trusts) for their support, in the mission to create digital public goods for enabling foundational identity platforms globally.

Publication Including Presentations

MTech student **Tilak Purohit** (MT2017129) presented the following paper (oral), jointly with Kaajal Gupta (Grade 12, The International School Bangalore), at the premier flag-ship International conference, Interspeech-2019 held during September 16-19 at Graz, Austria. The paper titled **"Detection of emotional states of OCD patients in an exposure-response prevention therapy scenario"**, in the Satellite Workshop "Speech, Music and Mind 2019 - Detecting and Influencing Mental States with Audio" at Vienna, Austria. This work was co-authored by two Samsung M.Tech. students (work arising as part of their M.Tech. thesis, Jan-Jun 2019) **Anzar Zulfiqar (SMT2016001), Pushpa Ramu (SMT2016013)**, along with Prof. V. Ramasubramanian.

PhD student, **Debanjali Bhattacharya (PH2015018)**, presented the following two papers (oral) at TENCON 2019 - IEEE Region 10 International Conference, held at Kochi, Kerala, during October 17 to October 20, 2019.

1. Debanjali Bhattacharya, Neelam Sinha and Jitender Saini, **"Detection of chromosomal arms 1p/19q codeletion in low graded glioma using probability distribution of MRI volume heterogeneity"**.

2. Debanjali Bhattacharya, Sunil Kumar Vengalil (PH2014010), Neelam Sinha, Jitender Saini, Pramod Pal, Sandhya M. **"Structural MRI based texture analysis of corpus callosum in patients with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy"**.

The paper co-authors, Jitender Saini, Pramod Pal and Sandhya M, are affiliated to NIMHANS, Bangalore.

PhD students **Surya P (PH2015020)** and **Chinmaye R. (PH2017006)** presented their paper titled **"Calibration Techniques for Pipelined ADCs"**, at the 4th ISSE (Indian Society of Systems for Science and Engineering) National Conference -2019, held at Space Applications Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad, during 26-27 September, 2019. The paper was co-authored with **Prof. Subhajit Sen, Prof. Chetan Parikh, Hari Shankar Gupta, Scientist at SAC, ISRO Ahmadabad and Rinku Agrawal, Scientist at SAC, ISRO Ahmedabad.**

Two papers, titled **"Design of a Tactile Audio Gallery for Visually Impaired Students**" and **"Live Demonstration: a Tactile Audio Gallery for Visually Impaired**

Students" were presented at the IEEE Sensors 2019 conference held in Montreal, Canada during October 27-30, 2019. **Ajay Ramesh (IMT2017502), Nithin Raj (IMT2017511)**, Prof. T K Srikanth and Prof. Madhav Rao are the co-authors.

The paper was presented under the category **"Emerging Healthcare and Wearable Applications"**. The Tactile Audio Gallery device was demonstrated at the live demonstration session. The feedback received was positive and the device received appreciation.

Links:

1. https://bit.ly/2OVpLlM

2. https://bit.ly/33VEh1h

3. https://bit.ly/2RoPIvG

Faculty & Staff

Prof. V. Ramasubramanian was an examiner of 2 PhD theses (IIT-Bombay, Mumbai and CSIR-CEERI, Pilani):

1. "Corpus-based Approach to the Computational Modeling of Melody in Raga Music" Kaustuv Kanti Ganguli, Dept. of Electrical Engineering, IIT-Bombay, Mumbai held on September 15.

2."Optimization and Machine Learning Techniques for Audio Separation and Enhancement", Sriharsha R Koundinya V, Integrated Systems Group, CSIR-CEERI, Pilani held on October 1.

Prof. Meenakshi D'Souza presented the paper titled **"Static analysis for detecting high-level races in RTOS kernels"** at the 3rd World Congress of Formal Methods - The Next 30 Years (event held every 10 years once), at Porto, Portugal during October 7-11. The first author of the paper is **Abhishek Singh (PH2015001)** and is co-authored by researchers from IISc. The paper details are as follows: Singh A., Pai R., D'Souza D., D'Souza M. (2019) Static Analysis for Detecting High-Level Races in RTOS Kernels. In: ter Beek M., McIver A., Oliveira J. (eds) Formal Methods – The Next 30 Years. FM 2019. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 11800. pp.337-353.

Balaji Parthasarathy delivered a talk on **"Deploying ICTs for social change in India"** on Tuesday, 11 October, at the Brown Bag Lecture series of the Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (the German Development Institute), Bonn.

Prof. V. Sridhar delivered an invited Key Note on **"Cyber Security Strategy for the state of Karnataka"** at Workshop on Cyber Privacy and Security Engineering. Karnataka Cyber Security Centre of Excellence Workshop, Bengaluru, on 12 Oct.

Balaji Parthasarathy is the Lead Investigator (India) for a multi-national research project titled **"Fairwork Foundation: Towards fairwork in the platform economy"**, with Prof. Janaki Srinivasan as Co-investigator. The project is being undertaken in collaboration with the University of Oxford, UK, and the University of Cape Town, South Africa, with support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeiten (GiZ) GmbH. IIITB has been granted GBP 70,520 (INR 61,35,250) towards the research to be pursued until 31 August 2020**.**

Prof. V. Sridhar gave an invited Key Note on **"The Six Pillars of Cyber Security: From Protection to Governance"** at XII National Cyber Defense Summit, held at Bengaluru, during 18-19 Oct.

Balaji Parthasarathy was a panellist to discuss **"Digital revolution - Towards a bright future or mass unemployment and Orwellian societies"** on Wednesday, 16 October, at the Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (the German Development Institute), Bonn. The panel discussion was among a series of events to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the publication of "The Imperative of Responsibility: In Search of an Ethics for the Technological Age", by the philosopher/ethicist Han Jonas.

Prof. Meenakshi D'Souza attended a panel discussion on **"The role of diversity, equity and inclusion in system engineering leadership"** held as part of Asia Oceania Systems Engineering Conference 2019, at Shangri-La hotel, on 18 October 2019. The discussion focused on the current state of affairs in engineering education and gender diversity in India.

Balaji Parthasarathy was invited to speak on **"Changing work and employment in the gig economy"** at TEDx Bangalore on Sunday, 20 October.

Prof. G N Srinivasa Prasanna conducted a Service Science session at INFORMS Annual Meeting 2019 at Seattle, Washington on October 22nd. As part of the session, he delivered a talk titled **"Issues and Challenges in Service Science Analytics in a**

nutshell" along with Anushka Chandrababu(PH2012001).

Mr. Ramesh Sundararaman, CEO (Innovation Center, IIITB) represented IIIT Bangalore at Finland Day and shared his thoughts on **"Inclusive Innovation"**. The event was held at Taj West End, Bangalore, on October 24.

Prof. Chetan Parikh attended a workshop on **"Developing Campus-based Youth Mental Health Promotion Initiatives in Institutes of Higher Education"** at NIMHANS during 28-29 October. The learnings from the workshop will now be utilized to promote mental health initiatives at IIITB.

Samvaad

October 14: **"Shifting Landscapes of Assessment in Elementary School Education"** by Prof. Sindhu Mathai, Azim Premji University

October 21: **"Assessment for Good Learning"** by Prof. N. J. Rao

October 28: **"Scalable and Secure Architecture for Online Assessments and Evaluation"** by Prof. Chandrashekar Ramanathan

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Academic Milestones

October 14: Oindrila Matilal (PH2015019) Completed State of the art seminar

October 15: Pooja Rao S. B. (MS2015009) completed Oral Examination in Defense of her thesis titled **"Improving Asynchronous Interview System With Automatic Assessment And Follow-Up Question Generation"**

October 18: Swapnil Shrivastava (PH2016012) Completed State of the art seminar

October 31: Sowmya R. (PH2014008) Completed Oral Examination in Defense of her thesis titled **"Computational Analysis of Communication Skill in Job Interview Scenarios"**

Visitors

October 09: Prof. M K Sridhar, Canara Bank School of Management Studies

October 14: Mrs Ujjala & Mr Manish Karle, ARAI (Automotive Research Association of India)

October 18: Dr. Yasuyuki Sawada, The Chief Economist, ADB (Asian Development Bank)

October 23: Visit by Business Finland Delegation.

1. Dr. Jukka Holappa, Commercial Counselor, India Country Head, Business Finland

2. Dr. Eero Silvennoinen, Head of Innovation Collaboration, Business Finland

3. Dr. Mika Tirronen, Counselor of Education Science, Embassy of Finland

4. Mr. Puneet Thakur, Head of Invest in and Innovation Collaboration, Business Finland, India

5. Mr. Santeri Ojala, Project Manager- Talent Boost India, Business Finland

October 29: Vasanthi Ramesh, Head, Pricing and Forecasting - Engineering team, Zalando**.**

Month in Pictures

Aikyam (club at IIITB) celebrated Deepavali in slum near Sulikunte (about 15 km from the campus)

IIITB students in Garba night organised in the campus.

Debanjali Bhattacharya (PH2015018), presented two papers (oral) at TENCON 2019 - IEEE Region 10 International Conference held at Kochi, Kerala, during October 17 to October 20, 2019.

Campus Calendar for November 2019

November 16: Prom Night 2019