



commuNITy

The official newsletter of NIT Tiruchirappalli

January-February 2019



INSTITUTE



STUDENTS



ALUMNI

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 1





NIT
Tiruchirappalli

Director's Message



Greetings.

It is heartening to know that we have found a place among the top 10 Engineering Colleges in the Country. We have improved our faculty strength by adding 40+ faculty members across various Departments. Our Quality of publications has gone up. Path-breaking outcomes of research are encouraged to be filed as patents. The morale of the faculty members is kept high and long-standing issues related to faculty promotions have been fully addressed. The perception of the Institute has also gone up in the last year.

I had interacted with the outgoing students of NIT, Tiruchirappalli and was encouraged to see the positive metamorphosis that had taken place in the young minds during the stay on campus. The academic eco-system of the Institute should continue to strive harder to bring out the best of the potential from the youth who join the Institute with many expectations. We should continue to improve our assessment standards so as to motivate our students to work harder and learn a great deal during their stay here. Our content delivery methods need constant updating.

Wishing you a fruitful vacation
Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas

CONTENTS

INSTITUTE

Republic Day celebrations.....	1
Professor's family donates Collection of photographs.....	1
Interactive Session on Butterflies.....	2
Leadership for Academicians Program.....	2
Cold Storage Facility.....	3
Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp.....	3
MoU with Airport Authority of India.....	4
National Conference on NCACESD.....	4
Workshop on RTIPA.....	5
Workshop on PRCI.....	5
NSS Special Camp.....	6
IEEE Best Teacher Award.....	6
Fellowship.....	7
Research and Consultancy.....	7

STUDENTS

Sports Contingent wins at NITK.....	8
Champions of the All India Inter NIT Sports meet 2019	8
Virasat 2019.....	8
Pragyan Outreach Event.....	9
Pragyan Hackathon.....	10
DHISAI JEE.....	10
Mettle.....	11
E-Summit 2019.....	11
Interview with Co-founder of SimplyCity.....	

ALUMNI

Global Alumni Meet 2020 Launched.....	13
Guest Lecture by NIT-T ALumnus.....	14

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70th Republic Day Celebrations

The 70th Republic Day was celebrated in all its solemnity and magnificence at NIT Tiruchirappalli on 26th January 2019. Prof. Mini S. Thomas, Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli welcomed the gathering and offered her warm greetings on the 70th Republic day.

In her address to Deans, Registrar, Heads of the Departments, Associate Deans, faculty, staff, and their families, alumni of the institute, invited Guests and students, she urged everyone to remember the immense contribution of the Jawans, and also that of the officers of the Army, Navy and Air force who sacrificed their lives to safeguard our country. She also took this occasion as an opportunity to reminisce some of the greatest milestones that the institution has crossed such as the 'Best Innovation Club' award from the President of India, two green awards, retaining the topmost position in NIRF 2018 ranking, establishment of Siemens Centre of Excellence in Manufacturing and the agreement of many MOUs & collaborations to impact various sectors of technology. With a strategic plan to place NIT Tiruchirappalli amidst the top 500 universities of the world in the next five years, she also emphasized upon the next technology revolution via Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning. She also congratulated the team that won the second prize in the inaugural edition of the Indo-Singapore hackathon from the Prime Minister of India that was held at Nanyang Technological University Singapore in November 2018.

She also envisioned on launching a Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in the institute before the



Independence Day of 2019. She concluded her speech by motivating the students to develop NIT Tiruchirappalli into a globally competent institution trusted for its technical excellence to sustain society and industry via cutting-edge research.

The event concluded with a rendition of patriotic songs by students and members of the campus community. The parade was led by Mr. G. Murugan, Security officer, and Ms. Ramadevi Jawahar, Parade Commander & Cadet Warrant Officer, NCC NITT. Dr. R. Mohan, the NCC officer of NIT Trichy, was also present.

Prof. P. S. Manisundaram's family donates his collection of photographs for archiving



On the 22nd of January, 2019, the alumni of NIT Tiruchirappalli who were amongst the first batch of REC (class of 1969) made a visit to NIT Tiruchirappalli and met the Director, Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas; and handed over the entire collection of precious pictures of Late Prof. P. S. Manisundaram, the founder Principal of REC-Trichy (NIT Tiruchirappalli), for archiving.

The albums included pictures taken over a period of 18 years of Prof. P.S. Manisundaram (from 1964 to 1982). These photographs pretty much describe the first two decades of REC Trichy, in a striking visual manner.

The alumni who facilitated the exchange were Mr. A. V. Karthikeyan and Mr. Srinivasan M from the 1969 batch. The albums were provided to Mr. A. V. Karthikeyan by the family of the late principal as per his wishes. The collection of photographs was formally received by the Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli. The event was also attended by deans, associate deans, members of the Alumni Institute Interaction Cell, RECAL committee members and other senior faculty of NIT Tiruchirappalli, who had fond memories of Prof. Manisundaram. During the event, the alumni spoke fondly of their principal, and the great bond he shared with the students. The alumni and institute also discussed about their upcoming Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Batch scheduled on August 23rd, 2019.

The pictures will now go through the process of archiving by the institute and later on the soft copies would be provided to the family of the late principal. The institute recorded its sincere gratitude to the family of the Principal, for this wonderful gesture; and to the alumni volunteers who made this handing over possible.

Leadership for Academicians Program (LEAP) at National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli

Leadership for Academicians Program (LEAP) at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli was formally inaugurated by R. Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development on February 4, 2019. Mr. Subrahmanyam emphasised that new age leaders should develop great leadership skills, future vision for the institute, good communication and conflict resolution capability. Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT-Tiruchirappalli, in her presidential address encouraged the participants to imbibe the essence of the program and equip themselves with qualities of a true leader and consider themselves to be fortunate to be chosen for such a unique program which is first of its kind. Director of IIIT Guwahati Gowtam Barua delivered the keynote address on 'Ingredients of a Good Academic Leadership'. Director, IIIT-Sri City Dr. Ganesan Kannabiran, elaborated the details of the programme, which covered the domain knowledge areas such as finance, budgeting, project management, attitudinal skills like team building, leadership, conflict management, handling diversity etc. LEAP was an initiative conceived by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to hone and equip the senior faculty members of higher educational institutions with leadership skills and roles. As the global competition gets stronger, the role of Higher Education is a key factor in India's growth strategy and capable academic leaders who will take the institutions forward. As an attempt to face the myriad challenges and opportunities in Higher Education, LEAP was organized by the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli in collaboration with the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and with IIIT, Sri City as the organizing partner. The programme had an exclusive activity based outbound experiential learning module. It is pertinent to mention that NIT Tiruchirappalli is the only institution chosen for conducting the program.



The event was conducted during February 4 to 23 with the participants visiting the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Through a participative learning mode, the programme equipped 23 participants from 16 different universities across the length and breadth of the country – Assam to Uttarakhand to Surat down to Karaikudi and Calicut to take up leadership roles. The MHRD mandate on participant's profile was to ensure diversity, accordingly professors from fields ranging from Science, Engineering to Animal biology & plant protection attended the programme.

The programme had 31 renowned and prolific speakers from institutes of national reputation and the industry. Industry visits and immersion during the 2nd week at IIIT Sricity leveraging the ecosystem at Sri City followed by international immersion at NTU ranked amongst top universities in the world, concluded the program. The programme was planned to create an opportunity to consolidate best practices created at the national level, benchmark them with international practices and eventually provide a structured approach for institutional transformation. The LEAP programme at NIT Trichy is expected to provide the required insights on emerging international and national contexts of higher education and necessary learnings for taking up leadership roles in institutions such as IITs, NITs, IIITs, Central/State Universities, etc.

Interactive Session on Butterflies organised by Incredible NITT,



Incredible NITT, the official nature and wildlife conservation club of NIT Tiruchirappalli hosted an interactive session on "Butterflies", where Vishvajit Kadam, a second year M.Tech student discussed about identifying features of butterflies and what makes them unique. He explained how they play an important role in our ecosystem. The event was well received by the student community.

NIT Tiruchirappalli campus, spread over 800 acres, is the abode for many different varieties of birds, reptiles and nearly 70 species of butterflies, belonging to five different families (Papilionidae, Pieridae, Nymphalidae, Lycaenidae, and Hesperidae). The members of the club organize several nature walks within the campus, throughout the year, thereby creating awareness about nature.

Solar Photovoltaic powered cold storage facility for fruits and vegetables

National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (NITT) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur (IIFPT) have developed a 2TR prototype solar assisted cold storage (PSCS) system in the Industrial Automation Laboratory in NITT by the team of faculty from both the institutes. This project was fully funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India. This facility was inaugurated on 02 February 2019 by Prof. Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NITT in the presence of Dr.C. Anandharamakrishnan, Director, Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT), Thanjavur, Mr.A.S.Ananthakrishnan, Chairman, CII Trichy Zone & Managing Director, CEEYES Engineering Industries Pvt. Ltd and Dr.S.Rominus Valsalam, Former Associate Director, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Thiruvananthapuram.



The aim of PSCS system is to replicate a mobile multi-commodity cold storage system to store different fruits and vegetables and reduce post-harvest losses specifically from the farmer's field. The PSCS system consists of two cold rooms and a chiller unit kept in between the cold rooms. In this system, the shelf life of fruits and vegetables can be increased by maintaining the temperature and humidity of the fruits and vegetables on the recommended range of standards. The uniqueness of the project is using the Low Melting Temperature Phase Change Material (PCM) to store and circulate in the cold storage rooms instead of direct evaporation of refrigerant. The excess cold energy can be stored in the PCM and is utilized during the absence of solar

energy and grid. This is an energy saving and cost-effective system when compared with battery energy storage.

The project team informed that the technology is ready to be disseminated for the interested stakeholders. The project team members from NIT, Tiruchirappalli are Dr. M.Jaya Bharata Reddy, Dept of Electrical and Electronics Engg, Dr. N. Sivakumaran, Dept of Instrumentation and Control Engg, Dr. V. Mariappan, Dept of Mechanical Engg, Dr.S.Senthil Kumar, Dept of Electrical and Electronics Engg, Dr. G.Saravanallango, Dept of Electrical and Electronics Engg., and Dr. M. Loganathan, Professor and Dr.V. R Siniya, IIFPT, Thanjavur.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp (EAC) by Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation(CEDI) Under DST – NIMAT Project



The 3-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp (EAC) organized by Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation (CEDI), National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (NIT-T), sponsored by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India under DST NIMAT project 2018-19, was held during 9th to 11th January 2019, at Cauvery College for Women, Tiruchirappalli.

It is conducted with a view to expose students as well as the faculty of academic institutions, offering degree/diploma courses in S&T, to entrepreneurship as an alternative career. Entrepreneurship Awareness Camps (EACs) are conducted by nodal agencies in each State/Union Territory of the country. The implementing agency is usually either an educational institution or a professional body specializing in entrepreneurship development.

Camp of 3 days duration, is conducted in the premises of an academic institution and aims at creating awareness among students about various facets of entrepreneurship while highlighting the merits of pursuing such a career option. In each

EAC, about 75 students are exposed to different aspects of entrepreneurship, including opportunity guidance, services offered by agencies of support system etc. A visit to the industries located in the region is also arranged to bring the students in direct touch with practising entrepreneurs.

Around 100 participants from the final year from various disciplines actively participated in the 3 day EAC, which was to create awareness to start their own venture.

During the programme students got an opportunity to interact with successful women entrepreneurs from the state and Mr. N. Kanagasabapathy, President, TIDITSSIA motivated the students. During the feedback session, one of the student said she was really motivated to start business and Principal Dr.Sujatha of the college was well in advance prepared to support various business ideas among the students. Dr Manimekalai from Woman Entrepreneurship Association Tiruchirappalli (WEAT) also gave a wonderful speech on opportunities for women in the current scenario.

MoU with Airport Authority of India (AAI)

National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Airport Authority of India (AAI) on 16th January 2019, to promote joint ventures for the development of innovative technologies for air traffic flow management and control.

The objective of this MoU is to develop a long term collaboration, wherein parties agree to work together to arrive at mutually beneficial solutions for respective problem statements like Air Navigation Services/Airport related research and development activities which would in turn support AAI in addressing aviation infrastructure and air traffic management challenges for the common good of Indian Economy.

Terming the partnership with AAI as a significant step in the history of NIT Trichy, its Director, Prof. Mini Shaji Thomas, said it will offer Transfer of knowledge/skill to AAI experts by NIT Tiruchirappalli through specifically designed training programs in the areas of Air traffic flow management, future air navigation



service, Air traffic management process re-engineering, Airport operations/Engineering solutions, Radar Signal Processing, Multisensor integration etc.,

Permitting research associates/ research scholars/ students of NIT-Trichy to support the research activities in AAI R&D Centre for mutually beneficial projects in terms of offering better research solutions to AAI and AAI providing a research platform for the NIT-Trichy researchers said K. Murali, Joint General Manager (ATM), Corporate Headquarters, AAI. Mr.K Gunasekaran, Director, Trichy Airport and Mr. G.L.Lallu DGM (ATM), Trichy would also be the possible collaboration opportunities in AAI.

National Conference by Department of Architecture, NACACESD 2019

The three day National Conference on "Recent Trends in Architecture & Civil Engineering towards Energy Efficient and Sustainable Development (NCACESD 2019)" organised by Department of Architecture, National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli began on 10th January 2019. The event was organised by the chairpersons NCACESD 2019, Dr. K. Thirumaran and Dr. L. Saikala, and the Convener, NCACESD 2019, Dr. A. Meenatchi Sundaram.



The main goal of this conference was to share and discuss solutions to achieve energy efficiency for sustainable development through Architecture and Civil Engineering. The significance of this conference was the pressing need for the integration of sustainable principles in the buildings and extends to the built environment and the general need for sustainable development. The highlights of the conference were about the various ideologies & methods of sustainable development and different approaches developed in Architecture and Civil Engineering. This conference provided opportunities to interact with prominent peoples in the field and immensely expand the network of scholars and professionals. Ar.Vijay Garg, President, Council of Architecture, New Delhi inaugurated the conference and delivered his address on Energy efficiency and sustainable development through

Public-private partnership (PPP) as a model. The building sector consumes lot of energy during construction as well as in operation phases. Through the informative expert presentations and educational sessions, this conference opened up an excellent platform to look at the problems in the building sector and its meaningful and practical solutions.



Dr. K. Thirumaran, Chair, NCACESD 19 felicitated Dr Binumol Tom, Professor, Architecture, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology, Kerala and Dr.L.Saikala, Chair NCACESD 19 felicitated Dr Chidambara Swamy, Professor, SPA, University of Mysore during inauguration. More than 300 delegates including professionals, researchers, academicians, students from all around the nation presented their technical papers in the conference. The sessions included the eminent professionals from Architecture & Civil Engineers to assess the presentations. This conference acted as a forum to discuss the various issues faced by the building sector and gave effective solutions to those with energy consciousness and sustainable approach.

Eminent personalities also addressed the gathering were Dr. K. S. Anantha Krishna, Dean, Architecture, CMR University, Bengaluru, Prof. S. Ravi, Former Dean, SAP, Anna University, Chennai, Dr. G. R. Dodagoudar, Professor, Civil engineering, IIT Madras.

The valedictory address was delivered by the chief guest Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan, Director, NIT Puducherry. The guests of

honour who felicitated the sessions were Dr. Monsingh D Devadas, Former Dean, SAP, Anna University, Chennai, Dr. Krishna K Dhote, Professor, Architecture, NIT, Bhopal, Dr. A. K. Kasthurba Professor & Head, Architecture and Planning, NIT, Calicut. The conference discussed various facets of building sector that needs to be conscious about energy usage and creating sustainable developments. Best papers were selected from each session and they were awarded to encourage their research.

Workshop on Recent Trends in Industrial Process Automation

With focus on Cyber Security in Industrial Automation, the Department of Instrumentation and Control Engineering (ICE) and the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE), National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (NIT-T) organised a Workshop on the 'Recent Trends in Industrial Process Automation (RTIPA)' during 1st-5th February 2019. Industrial automation is the key to making the process industries competitive. It is an important component of industrialization. Except for a few operations, many processes and systems could be automated. It would help the companies reduce the expenditure and make them competitive.

Dr N Sivakumaran, Professor & Coordinator, Dept. of ICE welcomed the gathering and spoke on the objective of course to provide knowledge on the state-of-the-art technologies in the field of Wireless, Internet of things (IoT) and Cloud computing, which are handled by the experts from Yokogawa India Limited, Gantner Instruments India Pvt. Ltd., Siemens Centre of Excellence (CoE), BHEL Trichy and faculty members from NIT-T. The hands-on training sessions were provided in the areas on Industrial IoT, PLC, DCS as well as the process test rigs at Industrial Automation Laboratory, Department of Instrumentation and Control Engineering and Seimens centre of excellence (CoE). Dr.B.Vasuki, Head of the Department, Department of ICE briefed about the department facilities and informed the participants to utilise them.

Dr.S. Rominus Valsalam, Former Head of Control & Instrumentation Engineering, Department and Director of ERDCI Institute of Technology, CDAC, Thiruvananthapuram inaugurated the workshop and delivered the inaugural address emphasising the need for close interaction between industry and academia to solve the problems faced by the industry. Consequently, they can offer the masses of the country products and services that are less costly & better quality with fewer emissions to the atmosphere.

This assignment will ensure cyber-security in all the systems and will manifest the characteristics of attack resilience. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Systems, Distributed



Control Systems (DCS), Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) and Remote Terminal Units (RTU) for Industrial Process Automation had been used widely. Presently, these systems are augmented with intelligent systems, advanced controls and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) to fetch data even to the horizon of the Internet. Hosting the data to the cloud enables the comparison of similar systems worldwide to take quick decisions.

This collaborative exercise between the two organizations is advantageous in terms of the transition of technology and the growth of automation intelligence. He also added that the academic institutions can find out solutions to the problems with their strong foundation in Process Modelling, State Estimation, Advanced Control Algorithms, Optimization Techniques, Intelligent System Technologies, Image Processing and Signal Processing Algorithms. The industries can identify the problems, procure necessary equipment and implement the solutions offered by the academia in their plants. The Chief Guest explained these concepts with reference to drinking water, thermal power, solar power, sugar, cement and steel industries.

Eminent professionals from industries like M/s Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL), Karur, Adani Ennore Terminal, Chennai, Sundaram Fasteners Limited, ALSTOM etc., and faculty members from academic institutes attended the workshop.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr N Sivakumaran, Dr K Srinivasan, Department of Instrumentation and Control Engineering and Dr G Saravanallango, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli.



Particle Swarm Optimization, Ant colony techniques, Hidden Markov Model and Introduction to deep learning. Every session was followed by the tutorial sessions which were supervised by the members of PRCI Lab. In particular, the participants expressed happiness about the workbook given to them. This workbook was exclusively prepared for this workshop. Lectures were delivered by the coordinator Dr.E.S.Gopi, Associate professor, Department of ECE, NIT-T.

Workshop on Pattern Recognition and Computational Intelligence

Two days workshop on Pattern Recognition and Computational Intelligence laboratory (PRCI) was conducted by Pattern Recognition and Computational Intelligence Laboratory during 24-25 January, 2019. The workshop focused on the mathematical approach to pattern recognition and computational intelligence techniques. There were 62 participant registrations for the course, which include the faculty, scholars and UG students from various institutions. The workshop explored various topics such as Principle Component Analysis, Linear Discriminant Analysis, Kernel-Discriminant Analysis, Linear model for regression, Probabilistic approach to classification techniques (Logistic regression), Support Vector Machine, Artificial Neural Network,

NSS Special Camp on villages adopted under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

The National Service Scheme (NSS) units of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (NITT) conducted a 7-day special camp from 11th to 17th February 2019 in the surrounding villages of NITT which are adopted under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development. The theme of the NSS camp was to build sustainable villages. Various activities were planned each day by NSS volunteers aiming to achieve the theme of NSS camp. The 7-day camp kick-started in the Government School of Thirunedungulam with the inaugural address by Dr.V. Mariappan, NSS coordinator, NITT. The camp in Thirunedungulam School took place for the first two days. Household survey as per the UBA scheme was an essential activity of the camp. The survey aimed to identify the significant problems faced by the villagers. The NSS volunteers were encouraged to write a project proposal for implementing their innovative ideas to solve the problems of villagers. The successful proposals will be funded by the UBA scheme to implement creative ideas.

Apart from the village survey, the requirements of the Government Schools were identified from the Head of the school. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) technology based Ultrafiltration water purifiers were installed in the Thirunedungulam School to provide potable water to the school students. Other facilities such as dustbins, wall clocks, tree saplings, tree guards and stationeries were donated to the school by the NSS volunteers.



The NSS volunteers also conducted various competitions such as elocution, drawing, singing, dancing and sports to the school students. Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners.

Motivational talk about various topics such as competitive exams and methods to succeed in the exams, awareness about the educational opportunities in the higher level institutions especially about NEET and IIT JEE exams were offered to the school students by NSS programme officers, Dr. K.Panneerselvam, Prof. R. K. Kavitha, Dr. N. Gunavathi, Dr. M. Brindha and Dr. Ganesh Chandra Nandi, NSS core committee members, postgraduate and PhD scholar Mr. R. Dinesh Kumar.

The same exercise was done in the Government School of Ayyampatti for the next two days and Panchayat Union Middle School, Vaalavandhankottai for the 5th day. This was also an opportunity for the NSS volunteers to interact, play and understand the students from a poor financial background.

On day 6, NSS NIT Trichy visited Anbagam, an orphanage in Thirunedungulam. After personally interacting with the children of the orphanage for a while, the volunteers conducted a musical chair competition, separately for a set of two different age groups. Gifts were presented to the winners. This was followed by a cake cutting session, marking the birthday celebrations of one of the resident students. The joy and fun prevailed, as everyone at the orphanage, tapped their feet to the music played, swayed in their dance moves and smiled. Dinner was served for all the students and staffs at the orphanage later, which lit up the happy faces even more. The students personally thanked the volunteers for making their day memorable.

On day 7, the camp was held in the Thirunedungulanadhar temple and about 50 volunteers involved in the temple cleaning activities. The cobwebs, leaves, dust, bushes and dirt campus were cleared from the temple premises. The NSS volunteers of the institute are continually planning events for the nearby villages, schools and orphanages, as well as for developments within their campus. The true spirit of NSS is depicted by their ever striving work nature and dedication on everything they do with the support of Director Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas and Dr. Samson Mathew - Dean (Students Welfare).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas receives IEEE Best Teacher Award



Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas, Director of NIT Tiruchirappalli, received the IEEE Kerala Section 2019 Best Teacher Award in a glittering ceremony in Kozhikode in the presence of Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan of Infosys and Dr. Sivaji Chakraborti, Director of NIT Calicut.

Mr. Satish Babu, Chairperson of the Awards Committee recognized her as “an outstanding teacher who has promoted value-based education that combined academic excellence with compassion and service to humanity.” He further added that she is “an inspiration to students and teachers alike.”

Dr. Mini Thomas in her acceptance speech, emphasized that she chose teaching profession out of love for imparting knowledge to others, as a service to society, although she had many other job offers and opportunities. She was excited to receive an award for teaching and encouraged the younger generation to aspire to be good quality teachers which is the need of the hour for all educational Institutions. It was also heartening that the award ceremony in Kozhikode brought her back to REC/NIT Calicut, after 3 decades, where she started her teaching career.

Recently, during the floods that ravaged large parts of Kerala and caused massive power shut down, Dr. Mini Thomas responded to a call from the IEEE Kerala Section by providing 500 low cost electric distribution boards as minimum power outlet, with the help of students and faculty of NIT Tiruchirappalli.

An electrical engineer from IIT Delhi, Mini Thomas is internationally recognized for her work in the areas of Power System Automation and SCADA. She was head of the Electrical Engineering Department at Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi before assuming charge as Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli.

Under her able guidance, NIT Tiruchirappalli has improved in national and international rankings. A 180-crore Centre of Excellence in Manufacturing was set up in partnership with Siemens. The Institute signed MoUs with Tata Motors for an augmented engineering program. BHEL, Trichy is developing the prototype of an electric vehicle at NIT

Fellowship

Dr. Velmathi, Professor, Department of Chemistry has been selected as Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) and is the only person selected from NITT. With 175 years of history Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) is the oldest chemical society in the world. Queen Victoria granted a Royal Charter to the Society, confirming its purpose of "the general advancement of Chemical Science. RSC has more than 50,000 members in 125 countries, and a global network of thousands working with and passionate about the chemical sciences. FRSC is given as a recognition of the accomplishments by the person and confirming, his/her efforts have made an impact in any field of the chemical sciences. It also represents high professional standing not just within chemistry but also to the wider community.



Ms. Sereena Sunny, awarded DST-Inspire, 19.65 lakhs for 5 years under the research guidance of Dr. R. Karvembu. Professor, Department of Chemistry, NITT.

Mr. Praveen Kumar Rajan, awarded DST-Inspire, 19.65 lakhs for 5 years under the research guidance of Dr. K. Murugesan, Professor, Department of Mathematics, NITT.

Mr. Neju Mathew Philip, awarded DST-Inspire, 19.65 lakhs for 5 years under the research guidance of Dr. M.C. Santhosh Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, NITT.

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Dr. A E Manjunath, Computer Applications, funded by Nihon Communications, Bangalore for 6 months, under the mentorship of Dr. B. Ramadoss, Professor, Department of Computer Applications, NITT.

Research & Consultancy

Sponsored Research Projects

Design and development of a dual bank RF Energy Harvester for Wireless Sensor Networks using Aerosol Jetting Technology, 53.06 lakhs, funded by SERB, DST, 3 years - Dr. S.S. Karthikeyan, Department of Civil Engineering.

Depth Investigation on Corrosion & Tribological Studies on Expendable Engine, 96.84 lakhs, funded by DRDO, 3 years, Dr. S. Natarajan, CECASE.

Industry Outreach Activities

Dr. A.K. Bakthavatsalam, Professor & Head, Department of Training & Placement awarded Industry Outreach Activities & Scholarship under University Relationship Programme, by Boeing, USA, US\$ 13600/-, 2 years.

Sponsored Seminar / Workshop / Conference

Dr. K.M. Meera Sheriffa Begum, Dr. K.N. Sheeba, Department of Chemical Engineering, Dr. M. Venkatakirthiga, Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Dr. Nisha Radhakrishnan, Department of Civil Engineering, NITT received a seminar grant from National Commission for Women on the title Women in science and technology: Breaking the glass ceiling, 3 lakhs, 6 days.

MOUs / Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreements

Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T Construction) signed on 21/02/2019 for 5 years.

Sports Contingent wins at NITK

The All India Inter NIT Sports Tournament 2019 for Swimming, Lawn Tennis and Powerlifting was held at NITK Surathkal from 18th to 20th January 2019. A total of 16 NITs participated in the tournament. Five teams - Swimming (Men & Women), Tennis (Men) and Powerlifting (Men), represented our institute in this tournament. After 3 days of intense rivalry, NIT Tiruchirappalli finished second overall, after being named Winners in Swimming (Women) and Powerlifting (Men) and Runner-up in Swimming (Men) and Tennis (Men).

The swimming team won a total of 29 medals across three days and CH Esha was named the individual Champion for Swimming (Women). The Powerlifting team won the overall championship with just 5 lifters and Mervin Moses was named the best Power-lifter in the tournament. In the Lawn Tennis event, NIT Tiruchirappalli came second overall with Karunya Kumar winning the Best Player Award. On the whole, it was an incredible achievement by the sports contingent of NIT Tiruchirappalli.



Champions of the All India Inter NIT Sports meet 2019 at NIT-T

Inter-NIT is the annual sports fiesta where participants from NITs all over India come together to compete in a variety of exhilarating sports. Different sports were held in different NITs, usually two to three in a single campus. This time, NIT Tiruchirappalli was the proud host of three of these games, basketball, volleyball and cricket.

Out of the 31 existing NITs, participants from 24 of them participated in the tournament. NITs from the corners of India,



like Srinagar, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Rourkela, Nagpur, Surathkal, Calicut, Mizoram, Jalandhar etc., participated in this extravaganza. Over a span of four days, from 20th of February to the 23rd, 2019, students were competing to achieve victory for their respective colleges and attain the title of 'champions'.

Arjuna awardee and former captain of India's volleyball team and the Chief Guest Shri Tom Joseph inaugurated the sports event and expressed his happiness in inaugurating the Inter NIT Sports in a prestigious institute.

Shri.A. Myilvaganan IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, C&T, Tiruchirappalli congratulated the overall winner of the tournament NIT, Tiruchirappalli for their efforts. He also appreciated the various teams for their active participation in the tournament. He also remembered that renowned engineers from NIT system had shown their achievements in sports and this would be the future combination for every individuals. Moreover institute like IIT and NITs organizing the sports events is really appreciable. He enjoyed seeing final matches.

Around 1400 players participated in more than 200 match league and knockout tournaments in basketball, volleyball and cricket. Dr Rajendra Kumar, Physical Director, NIT, Tiruchirappalli thanked all the participants who came, across the country.

Dr. Shivram, NIT observer expressed his happiness over the overall hospitality, facilities provided by the institute. Moreover he appreciated the excellent coordination rendered by Dr.Samson Mathew, Dean (Students Welfare) for organizing this meet.

Dr. Samson Mathew, Dean (Students Welfare) appreciated the efforts of various committees in organizing the sports meet and Mr. Lalit, Student coordinator, NIT, Tiruchirappalli thanked the entire administration.

Virasat 2019



Virasat, a five-day cultural extravaganza was organised by SPIC MACAY - NITT CHAPTER between the 13th and 17th of February. Variety of events, aimed towards the promotion of Indian Culture amongst youth had an extremely favourable response from the people of NIT Tiruchirappalli

The sensory spectacle began with a soul-stirring sitar recital by Pandit Shubhendra Rao and his team. Spellbinding to the listener it was, as one could guess from the standing ovation the audience gave as the performance ended. Day 2 of Virasat was adorned with even more grandeur as Smt. Lakshmi Parthasarathy Athreya and her team graced us with a Bharatanatyam performance.

More colors were brought into light as the mural painting workshop by Shri. K.R.Babu began on the third day. The third day also saw the start of the screening of legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray's infamous Apu Trilogy. The workshop and the movie screening continued for the next two days.

One couldn't have asked for a better conclusion for Virasat '19 than from the wonderful words of Dr. V. R. Devika from The Aseema Trust. Her enlightening talk on Gandhian Principles and Philosophies beguiled everyone. The last day thus ended, changing the impression of the modern day youth on Indian Culture for better and left everyone's senses, tingling for more.



Pragyan 2019 – Outreach Event Square One @ Salem



The second edition of Square One, the annual outreach event of Pragyan, NIT Tiruchirappalli's techno-managerial organisation, was conducted at the GCE (Government College of Engineering), Salem on the 5th of January 2019. The event was attended by 200 odd students from colleges across the nearby districts. The inauguration ceremony of the edition of Square One was graced by the presence of Dr G. Vimala Rosaline, the Principal of GCE, Salem and Mr R. Sundaram, the guest speaker for the day. Mr R. Sundaram, while speaking about his journey as an entrepreneur in India before 2000, encouraged the youngsters to serve the nation, without having to migrate to other countries. He conspires those in the hall, and encouraged them to serve the nation.

Two workshops and three events were conducted through the course of the day, which was beneficial to the participants and tested their technical and managerial aptitude. Prize money worth INR 15000 were distributed to the winners (top three finalists) of

the various events. 10 teams participated in the event 'Marketing Hub'. This event aimed to be a platform for participants to unleash their inner marketer, with 3 successive rounds of elimination. The event 'Circuitrix' was aimed at building simple and innovative circuits, and consisted of 2 rounds - the MCQ round and a subjective round.

The winners were given direct entry to the second round of Circuitrix, during Pragyan '19. A total of 30 teams registered for the 'Pragyan Memory Challenge' that focused on improving the mnemonic skills of the participants with a series of fun rounds, namely, The Memo-Essay, Confucius Colour and Memolog.

The Industrial Automation workshop was conducted in two batches in the Digital Library building. Organised by Innoviance Technologies, the workshop saw 36 registrations in total. The Ethical Hacking workshop was conducted by Innoviance Technologies and recorded 22 registrations.

Both the workshops were well received by the participants, which gave an insight to the participants about the latest in technology to the participants. The winners of the different competitions were felicitated in the valediction program.

Square One Salem, succeeded in familiarizing those present with the present day technology, at the same time honing their scientific aptitude and managerial skills. The day proved to be a memorable experience for the participants.

Pragyan Hackathon



Pragyan Hackathon 2019, presented by Visteon, took place on 19th & 20th January at Olympia Tech Park, Chennai. The aim of the hackathon was to support developers and aspiring entrepreneurs looking to architect their ideas. This was the fifth edition of the Pragyan Hackathon, offering participants a chance to win INR 400,000 in cash prizes and goodies. It was inaugurated by Mr Raghvendra Singh Chauhan, Head of

the Pragyan Marketing Team, who welcomed the participants and gave them an overview of Pragyan. Ms Shripriya, Marketing and Communications Manager at Visteon briefed the gathering about the hackathon, detailing the rules and regulations of the programme. Mr Hari, Software Head at Visteon, delivered an engaging speech intertwined with humorous personal anecdotes about the need to adapt to the upcoming trends in technology. The hackathon then went on for a gruelling 30 hours during which teams had to fabricate an idea and develop the product. The ideas had to be based on one of the three domains presented to them. These included Automotive Sector, Smart and Secure PDS and Agritech. An initial shortlist of 6 teams were selected by the judging panel, based on the teams' selected problem statement and their approach to it.

The hackathon came to a conclusion on 20th January. Following which, the shortlisted teams were judged by a panel based on the authenticity and novelty of their ideas as well as the functionality of the software.

As the hackathon drew to a close, all the participants were thoroughly satisfied with a productive and informative weekend and the event was declared a success.

DHISAI JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) awareness event for School students-Pragyan 2019

DHISAI, the annual social responsibility event organized by Pragyan, took place at the premises of the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, from the 22nd to the 25th of January 2019. Organised in association with SBI Foundation, the social responsibility partner of Pragyan, the event (falling under the scheme of Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan) saw students from the schools of Thanjavur and Trichy visit various places of importance in NIT Tiruchirappalli campus.

Spanning around six hours each day, the campus tour for the students typically began at the Central Library of the institute, followed by visits to the Physics and Chemistry departments, along with a break at the plaza of MIG-24 Aircraft. The next place of interest was the Central Workshop where the students were demonstrated carpentry, foundry and welding, and also shown around the machines lab. This was followed by a brief awareness about the JEE (Joint Entrance Examination), letting them know the avenue to joining acclaimed institutes of the country.



With over 600 students visiting the college campus in the duration of four days and getting enlightened about the JEE in the process, the event was a grand success.

Mettle –the annual technical student symposium

Mettle - the annual technical symposium of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering (MME) Department, NIT Tiruchirappalli follows the motto of striving towards excellence since its inception. Following along these ideals, Mettle '19 kick-started on 25th of January, 2019. This version proved to be bigger, transcending over all odds, achieving rough with the smooth after days of persistent and tireless efforts of students and faculty members of MME Department, NIT Tiruchirappalli. With Ordinance Factory, Tiruchirappalli being the title sponsor and VBCC as the associate sponsor, Mettle has showed once again that persevering to reach the zenith is always possible if you follow your vision. With a footfall of 1.1k students from different participating

colleges, the tempo is set quite high. Various guest lectures, IIM Quiz, Case study events, workshops conducted by AMZ automotive lead the journey ahead.

The panoramic world of Metallurgy and Material science is bound to leave anyone captive. To add more colours to it, Mettle '19 had Mr. Maruthamuthu GM, BHEL Trichy as the chief guest of the auspicious occasion. His words of wisdom inculcated in a thirst for knowledge to explore the unexplored in the next two days to the extent possible. The presidential speech of Director, Prof. Mini Shaji Thomas made student community realize that they can make even the impossible possible and to grab every opportunity

E-CELL organises E-Summit 2019



From 15th to 17th February 2019, the E-Cell of NIT Trichy conducted its annual flagship event called E-Summit in the premises of the campus. The event started off with the inauguration event which was presided over by Mr. Harishankaran, the Founder of HackerRank, who's also an alumnus of the institute. He spoke about his journey with HackerRank and held an interactive session with the students of NIT-T.

E-Summit also housed the finals of Ventura wherein teams from multiple colleges participated over a period of 3 months. The participants received mentorship from professionals across 5 sectors identified and the winners would continue to receive after the Contest as well.

Over the period of 3 days, multiple events and workshops were conducted from A workshop on Stock Market to a contest called Pitch Fest that saw participants from many colleges across India. Contests called Startup Tycoon and Stock Market Challenge were also conducted.

A leadership conclave was also organized which saw prominent personalities like Rajan Singh, CEO of ConceptOwl, Ravi Kumar

Narra, Social Worker & Entrepreneur, Lt. Col. Suresh Patil, Army Veteran and Sumit Goswami, Group CEO of QX Ltd. present at the event, the event also provided the attendees a chance to network with the personalities and learn from them directly.

Apart from a series of other events, E-Cell also conducted a Case Study Challenge in association with the company Ernst & Young, which provided the winners an internship experience in the company. A Quora Meetup was also organized where 3 famous writers of Quora were present which included, Rana Ashish, Alcatraz Dey and Shreya Badonia. The fans got to interact with them and hear their side of the story.

The event ended with the valediction Ceremony, which was graced by Dr. N. Kamakodi, the CEO and MD of City Union bank, who's also an alumnus of NIT-T, who motivated the students and shared his journey.



Interview with Co-founder of SimplyCity, a startup in NIT-T.

Media Cell of NIT Tiruchirappalli had the opportunity to interview Shubham and Paritosh, co-founders of Simplicity, a successful and thriving startup originating from NIT Trichy. Shubham is the Prime mover of the startup. He takes care of all operational, management, finance and other non-technical details. However, he does get involved in deciding the flow and UI/UX of the app. Paritosh, on the other hand, is the developer of Simplicity App. He along with 4 other members have been given the task of app development. His team was responsible for preparing the app and taking it to the public. Both co-founders were asked about Simplicity and how its services function. As said by Shubham Simplicity is a “hyperlocal, on-demand delivery solution”. Currently they are focussing on their featured market, i.e., NIT Tiruchirappalli. As pointed out by Shubham, “Currently we are involved in food and beverage segment only but later on, in the near future, we do plan to expand other products and services.” As claimed by the co-founders, “Currently Simplicity is able to cater to all restaurants, local shops and other big names in Trichy, and bringing them down to campus.” To know a bit more about this interesting startup we asked them both to share with us how this idea sparked up in their minds. Paritosh remembered it quite well and shared with us how in September 2017 he met Shubham, who had this “raw idea” in mind. With just this they started out, made a team and developed an app for the same. As explained by Shubham, “We were inspired by the problems that we faced after coming to college, one of them being books itself, for which we either had to approach seniors or go all the way to the city.” They explained how they wanted to bridge this gap by building a product that could integrate the shop owner, the consumer and the logistics person onto a single platform, which could be made available to the students. Having been around for more than a year, we asked the co-founders to share their experience so far with Simplicity. “it has been a roller coaster ride,” said Shubham. “When we initiated it, we weren’t sure how the journey would unfold. We were very naïve and unaware about so many things, but that’s what kept us motivated all through,” he said. “We hit many brick walls, faced many problems. This did bring down our confidence but our goal of turning into a reality kept on making us push harder and further,” the co-founder added.

All this hard work did payoff for the team when they saw their app, trending #2 on the Google Play Store. Being a member of the ‘AppDev Team’ of Spider: R&D club of NIT-T, we asked Paritosh his take on this journey and how different was it from the projects that they took up, as members, in Spider.



As quite honestly put by him he explained us how those projects were usually done on a prototype scale, never meant to user friendly, while here during the app development for Simplicity, they had to account for all consumer-based factors so as to make the app easy-to-use. When asked of future plans of expansion, both co-founders responded that currently, they want to add more categories keeping the same crowd (i.e. NIT-T students) in mind, and then probably move out to near-by townships and areas. On further questioning, the co-founders shared with us how quickly (in a matter of a few months, in fact) Simplicity became a profit-making venture. They even shared the many problems faced by them on a day-to-day basis and how they tackled each one smartly. They further shared with us how they, at time, faced a lot of problems together but they kept themselves motivated and solved it through successfully. To add to this, Shubham also shared a few skills like patience, collaborating with the team to do work, time management and many more, which could make someone a good and an influential leader. Speaking of competitors like Zomato, Food Panda, Swiggy which have much more technical and financial support, we asked the co-founders how Simplicity is keeping up with them and where all does it stand out. Agreeing to their greater support in both fields, Paritosh said that they are doing good as they are able to retain customers. To add to this Shubham rightly said, “We offer in-campus delivery unlike others and hence stand out in terms of service.” When asked for their advice to the budding entrepreneurs in-campus, both co-founders gave a very honest reply. “Grow organically and don’t be afraid to fail. Even if you fail, start back again. Only through failure can you learn something new and innovative,” said Shubham. To add to this, Paritosh said, “Do something different while you are here in college; that is the motivation which has been driving us and that is what he would like to see in other students who come to this campus have new, impactful ideas.

Alumni Association RECAL launches Global Alumni Meet (GAM) 2020



NIT Tiruchirappalli's alumni association (RECAL) conducted an alumni get-together on Saturday, Feb 2nd 2019 at Hotel Turyaa, OMR, Chennai. It was also their occasion to launch the Global Alumni Meet 2020 (GAM 2020) and the recently graduated class of NIT, Tiruchirappalli in to RECAL.

Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli and Dr. Raman, Dean Alumni Relations, NIT Tiruchirappalli and distinguished alumni from the field of academia, entrepreneurship and corporate were present for the meeting. Welcoming the initiative by the alumni, Dr. Thomas said "Tiruchirappalli is very fortunate to have leading luminaries as its alumni and is very keen to utilize their passion to give back to the college". Dr. Raman, Dean Alumni Relations, NIT Tiruchirappalli spoke about the newly established Alumni Institute Interactive Cell (AIIC) at the Institute and the how they will work with RECAL to improve the alumni interaction with the institute and to ensure that support Alumni who are thinkers, healers, innovators, guides and keepers of their alma mater. He mentioned some of the initiatives taken such as Alumni Visiting Faculty Program, Alumni Designing Industry specific Courses for students, Alumni Mentorship Program and Internship for students in institutions, companies headed or founded by Alumni. RECAL has chapters in Tiruchirappalli, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, UAE, Singapore and USA (East & West Coast).

Distinguished Alumni of NIT Tiruchirappalli are leading several corporates including Tata & Son's, TCS, Adobe, Bloom Energy (USA) there are many excelling in Universities & Research Institutions across the globe.

RECAL also unveiled the Internet of Things (IoT) lab sponsored by the batch of 1981 and the Multidisciplinary Student Innovation Center (SCIEnT) that was set-up through the efforts of the batch of 1990. "We are planning to expand the alumni interaction and work closely with the institute to enhance the

brand NIT Tiruchirappalli" said Mr. Krishna Sai, the president of RECAL.

The Chennai chapter headed by Mr. James Walter welcomed the gathering. Most of the RECAL activities including building of the school in the campus for teaching and non-teaching Staff and also for the children of the surrounding villages, IoT, SCIEnT, student scholarships for 52 students are being done through the RECAL Foundation.

As part of the occasion, the Global Alumni Meet (GAM 2020) web site was launched and the registrations were open for the Alumni. Global Alumni Meet (GAM) 2020 is a Mega Event, curated to explore the realm of old memories and new bonds. More than 2000 Alumni across the globe will be present for GAM 2020 to revisit all the important friendships and enlightened conversations, very interesting panels and talks by distinguished Alumni, past & current directors, past & current deans and professors with a side of fabulous entertainment.

The Hall of Fame will be launched during GAM 2020 to showcase the achievements of a handful of our Alumni who have scaled the greatest heights. This Hall of Fame will become a permanent affair and will be set up in the institute. It is also intended to add memorabilia and photographs of nostalgic moments of the alumni, professors and institute as a display alongside the Hall of Fame so any alumni visiting the institute will have a memorable experience. The GAM is expected to have more than 2000 alumni present across the globe with a focus on Entrepreneurship Development, Start Ups and recognising eminent Alumni for their contributions to academia, entrepreneurship and corporate. GAM 2020 is scheduled to be held on Jan 4th 2020 at Chennai.

The IVTL Infoview Technologies Pvt Ltd owned by alumni has already signed to be a lead sponsor for GAM 2020.

NITT Alumnus of 2005 batch ignites the minds of youngsters



On 6th February 2019, the students of ProfNITT at NIT Trichy had the opportunity and honor of welcoming and comforting Mr. Prasanna Mathiannal, an alumnus of the 2005 batch of NIT Tiruchirappalli. ProfNITT – a student interest group in Finance and Investments, organized two guest lectures. Being a graduate of the CSE Department, ProfNITT, in partnership with the CSE Association, held an interactive session with the alumnus for all the students. The alumnus spoke to the students on technologies and topics which are being given great importance in the industry like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big Data and its Analysis, Blockchain, Cybersecurity and many more. He repeatedly stressed on the fact that how these technologies are

going to impact the world on an unprecedented scale and shape the future for decades to come. Being an alumni mentor of ProfNITT, Mr. Prasanna also engaged with students of Department of Management Studies, NIT Trichy, along with members of the club. The participants had the pleasure of listening to his life experiences as a student in NIT Trichy and IIM Bangalore, and also as a professional in the field of banking and trading at the financial hub of HongKong. From this informative session, students realized the importance of inculcating within themselves the habit of implementing principles of management in their day-to-day activities in order to achieve harmony and success, in both, their private and professional lives.

NIT-T triumphs in annual sports championship

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tiruchy

IN the four-day annual inter-NIT sports festival, NIT-Tiruchy won the championship this year. Twenty-four of the total 31 NITs including Sringeri, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagpur, Surathkal, Calicut, Mizoram and Jalandhar participated in the event.

On Saturday at the valedictory, Tiruchy Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime and Traffic) A. Mylvaganan awarded the NIT-T players with the championship trophy.

In his address, the police officer spoke about how he felt great to see both healthy sport and quality education come together in the form of this championship with premier institutes in technology having intense competition.

Mylvaganan also asked for one's continuous participation in sport and dwelled on how the combination of proper education and sports went hand in hand for the holistic development of an individual.



DCP A Mylvaganan (centre) presents the championship trophy to NIT-T players on Sunday | express

More than 1,400 participants competed in 200 match league and knockout tournaments in basketball, volleyball and cricket. Except for basketball in the women's category where NIT Calicut beat the girls from Jalandhar in the finals, NIT-T came first in all the other sports categories.

In cricket, NIT-T beat NIT Surathkal while the men and women beat Nagpur and Jalandhar in the finals respectively in volleyball. In basket-

ball, NIT Surathkal came second behind NIT-T. During the inauguration of the event last week, Arjuna award recipient and former Indian men's volleyball team captain Tom Joseph was the chief guest.

Mr. Rominus Valsalam made this observation while inaugurating a five-day workshop on 'Recent Trends in Industrial Process Automation (RTIPA)' organised by the department of Instrumentation Engineering (ICE) and the department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE), National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli.

Five-day workshop on automation begins at NIT-T

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHY, FEB 1

Dr S. Rominus Valsalam, former head of Control & Instrumentation Engineering department and director of ERDCI Institute of Technology, CDAC, Thiruvananthapuram emphasised the need for close interaction between industry and academia to solve the problems faced by the industry. Consequently, they can offer the masses products and services that are less costly and of better quality with fewer emissions.

Mr. Rominus Valsalam made this observation while inaugurating a five-day workshop on 'Recent Trends in Industrial Process Automation (RTIPA)' organised by the department of Instrumentation Engineering (ICE) and the department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE), National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli.



Dr S. Rominus Valsalam, Former Head of Control & Instrumentation Engineering, Department and Director of ERDCI Institute of Technology, CDAC, Thiruvananthapuram inaugurating a five-day workshop on the Recent Trends in Industrial Process Automation at NIT-T on Friday. —DC

(NIT-T) here on Friday. Eminent professionals from industries like M/s Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL), Karur, Adani Ennore Terminal, Chennai, Sundaram Fasteners Limited, Alstom, and faculty members from academic insti-

tutes are attending the workshop. Dr N Sivakumaran, professor & coordinator, department of ICE, welcomed the gathering, while Dr K.Srinivasan, associate professor & coordinator, Department of ICE, proposed a vote of thanks.

Prototype solar-driven cold storage switched on at NIT-T

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
TIRUCHY, FEB 2

National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (NIT-T), in collaboration with Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur (IIFPT) has developed a '2TR prototype solar assisted cold storage (PSCS) system' in the Industrial Automation Laboratory at NIT-T by a team of faculty from the both the institutes.

Inaugurating the facility, Prof. Mini Shaji Thomas, director, NIT-T in the presence of Dr C. Anandharamakrishnan, director, IIFPT Thanjavur, and others, said that this project was fully funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and called for greater innovation in science and technology.

Dr Mini Thomas said that the PSCS system comprises two cold rooms and a chiller unit kept in between the cold rooms. In this system, the shelf life of fruits and vegetables can be increased by maintaining the temperature and humidity of the fruits and vegetables on recommended range of standards, she explained.

The uniqueness of the project is using the 'Low Melting Temperature Phase Change Material



Prof. Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT-T inaugurates the prototype solar assisted cold storage (PSCS) system in the presence of Dr C. Anandharamakrishnan, Director, IIFPT Thanjavur, and others at NIT-T on Saturday. —DC

(PCM)' to store and circulate in the cold storage rooms instead of direct evaporation of the refrigerant, she elaborated.

She said that this is an energy saving and cost effective system when compared to the battery energy storage. The project team consisting of Dr M. Jaya Bharata Reddy, department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Dr N. Sivakumaran, department of Instrumentation and Control Engineering, Dr V. Mariappan, department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr S. Senthil Kumar, department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Dr G. Saravanalingo, department of Electrical and

Electronics Engineering of NIT-T. From the IIFPT, Thanjavur, Dr M. Loganathan, professor and Dr V R Sinija, IIFPT, Thanjavur, are in the team. The technology was ready to be disseminated for interested stakeholders, she added.

In his address Dr C. Anandharamakrishnan, director, IIFPT, Thanjavur, said the main aim of the PSCS system was to replicate a mobile multi-commodity cold storage system to store different fruits and vegetables and reduce post-harvest losses specifically from the farmer's field to the cold storage facility, which is the major issue faced by the Indian farming community.

Today's education must sync with tomorrow's jobs, says Foxconn MD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tirupati

THE biggest challenge in our country is not unemployment but underemployment and there is a need to address it more seriously, country head and managing director of Foxconn, Josh Foulger, has said.

He was addressing the senior professors of various institutions from across the country at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Sri City, on Monday.

He was speaking at the leadership for academicians programme (LEAP) which was organised to enhance the decision-making skills of senior faculty and encourage them to become future leaders.

Elaborating the significance of industry-focused higher education, Josh urged that the curriculum should be in sync with the industry needs.

Josh offered to provide training to faculty and offer certificate courses to students on latest



Josh Foulger, managing director of Foxconn

technologies. Calling for a curriculum and policy change, Director of NIT, Tiruchirappalli, Mini Shaji Thomas, underlined the significance of bridging

the industry-academia gap. Academic leaders are expected to work in an environment where stringent targets are to be achieved, Mini said.

Explaining the objective of LEAP, Director of IIIT-Sri City G Kannabiran said the programme will open doors to aspiring academicians to widen their horizons, imbibe the best practices and develop a strategic plan for a structured approach to enhance the quality of higher education.

Managing director of Sri City Ravindra Sannareddy spoke on how Sri City aims at building a holistic ecosystem to provide a sustainable environment for the best brands to set up ventures and strengthen the concept of providing urban amenities in rural areas, a concrete step towards boosting rural economy.

Ravindra Sannareddy said that the educational institutes in Sri City have to play a significant role in achieving this goal.

NIT-T expertise to address challenges faced by AAI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tiruchy

NATIONAL Institute of Technology-Tiruchy (NIT-T) signed a memorandum of understanding with Airport Authority of India (AAI) for collaboration in areas of aviation infrastructure and air traffic management challenges.

NIT-T director Mini Shaji Thomas said the institution would offer specifically designed training programmes in areas of air traffic flow management, future air navigation service, air traffic management process re-engineering, airport operations/engineering solutions, radar signal processing, multi-sen-

sor integration among others for AAI if and when required.

The MoU would enable research associates, scholars and students of NIT-Tiruchy to support research activities in AAI's R&D Centre, simultaneously benefiting from it by having access to the research platform.

K Murali, Joint General Manager, Air Traffic Monitoring (ATM) at Corporate Headquarters, AAI Airport Director of Tiruchy International Airport, K. Gunasekaran and G L Lallu Deputy General Manager (ATM), Tiruchy were among those present during the signing ceremony of the MoU.



NIT-T director Mini Shaji Thomas exchanging an MoU with K Murali, Joint General Manager (Air Traffic Monitoring), Airport Authority of India on Friday | express

Award for Mini Thomas, NIT-T head

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
TIRUCHY, JAN 13

Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas, director of National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli (NIT-T) Tiruchirappalli, received the 'IEEE Kerala Section 2019 Best Teacher Award' at a function at Kozhikode in the presence of Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan of software major, Infosys, and Dr Sivaji Chakraborti, director of NIT-Calicut, recently.

A NIT-T release at Tiruchy on Sunday said that Mr. Satish Babu, chairperson of the awards com-



mittee recognized her as an outstanding teacher who has promoted value-based education that combines academic excellence with compassion and service to humanity.

In her acceptance speech,

From left: Mr Satish Babu, Awards committee chair, Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-Founder Infosys, Mr. Amarnath Raja, CEO, Inapp, Dr. Mini Thomas, Dr Sameer, Chair, IEEE Kerala Section. —DC

Mrs Mini Thomas emphasized that she chose teaching profession out of love for imparting knowledge to others, as a service to society, although she had many other job offers and opportunities. It was also heart-

ening to note that the award ceremony took place at Kozhikode, which brought her back to REC/NIT Calicut, after three decades, where she started her teaching career.

An electrical engineer from IIT-Delhi, Dr Mini Shaji Thomas is internationally recognized for her work in the areas of Power System Automation and 'SCADA'.

She was head of the Electrical Engineering department at Jamia Milia Islamia before assuming charge as director, NIT Tiruchirappalli.

NITT

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI



*Institute
Students
Alumni*

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