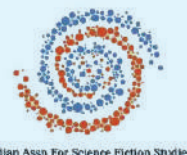


REPORT



International Science Fiction Virtual Conference



19th Annual/5th International Science Fiction Conference 2020

Srinarahari

THE 19th Annual and 5th International Science Fiction Conference was organised by the Indian Association for Science Fiction Studies (IASFS), Bangalore in collaboration with Bangalore University from 7 to 10 December 2020.

A variety of activities and Parallel Sessions were simultaneously beamed from twelve channels. The event was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor of the University Professor Venugopal, Secretary-General of IASFS Dr Srinarahari, the Convener of the conference Dr Krishna Murthy and coordinators of the respective twelve channels. It was followed by the inauguration of each channel individually.

Dr Krishna Murthy G. informed that there would be three hundred paper presentations and two hundred fifty special guest lectures from eminent personalities from various parts of the world. He added that the selected scholarly papers presented during the conference would be published in the University's four international journals – *Journal of Physics*; *Journal of Computational and Life Sciences including Biological Sciences*; *Journal of Current Research in Humanities and Social Sciences*, and *Journal of Engineering*.

Dr Srinarahari while reading the report of the IASFS informed that the association is dedicated to providing guidance, material, and platform for the development and progress of research in the field of Science Fiction. He appealed to the Government of Karnataka and the Vice-Chancellor of the University to consider establishing a Virtual Science Fiction Study Chair with an honorary Chairperson supported by a technical team of the University.

Mr Yeddyurappa, honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka, quoted Albert Einstein who had stated that imagination is more important than knowledge. The amalgamation of imagination and curiosity are crucial for Science. It requires speculation and skepticism. Science fiction can inspire, educate and entertain. Themes like teleportation, time travel, and mind control often deal with futuristic concepts. He hoped that the deliberations would churn out many ideas that will help the growth of Science and Technology and be useful to humanity.

Dr Ashwath Narayan, Deputy Chief Minister, Cabinet Minister for Higher Education, Information Technology, Biotechnology, Science and Technology and Skill Development, Mr Suresh Kumar; Cabinet Minister for Primary and Secondary Education as well as Mr Manu

Baligar, President of Kannada Sahithya Parishad, spoke on the occasion.

While delivering the presidential address, the honourable Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University dealt with mythology, Science Fiction, aliens and artificial intelligence in detail and interconnected them.

Apart from the parallel sessions, there were programmes like panel discussions involving editors of Science Fiction magazines, webmasters of Webzines and Online Forums; and a Panel discussion on framing science fiction curriculum for undergraduate degree students. Several self-authored SF stories were also presented in the sessions “Narrating Stories of Tomorrow”. The stories were in English, Hindi and vernacular languages.

There were also sessions on “Authors Speak”; Special Lectures from Dr John RoLacco (Singapore); Ms Lucie Lukacovicova and Ms Julie Nováková (from the Czech Republic); Dr Ashish Mahabal (Pasadena, Caltech, the USA); Mr A.P. Deshpande (Marathi Vidhyan Parishad, Mumbai); Dr Rajeev Ranjan Upadhyaya (Chief Editor of *Vigyan Katha*, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh); Mr Dip Ghosh (Webmaster of *Kalpabignyan – Kalpabishwas*, Kolkata, West Bengal); Dr Tarlochan Singh Anand (Chief Editor of *Literary Voice*, Canada), Mr Prasanna Karandikar (Chief of *Sci-Fi Katta*, an online forum, Kudal, Sindudurga, Maharashtra); and Mr Soham Guha (Writer, West Bengal).

In addition, there were plenary talks by eminent scientists, astrophysicists, Nobel Laureate for Physics (2019) Professor Didier Patrick Queloz; Dr Ravikumar Koppurapu Scientist, NASA, the USA; Dr Radhakrishna K., Former Chairperson of Indian Space Research Organization; Dr Annapurni Subramaniam, Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore; Dr C.S. Sharma, Director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bangalore; Dr Sujan Sengupta, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore; Mr Manu Baliga, President of Kannada Sahithya Parishad, Bangalore.

Videos pertaining to Inauguration, Keynote by Nobel Laureate, special lectures by eminent personalities, deliberations of presentations, panel discussions, interviews, plenary sessions, authors' interviews, and other sessions are accessible at <https://iasfs.in>.

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