



Indian Assn For Science Fiction Studies

## **Indian Association for Science Fiction Studies ®**

**Bangalore, Karnataka, India**

(Geographic Coordinates: 13.0527° N, 77.5685° E)

### **A Brief Report of Channel 1 – Science Fiction Group**

19<sup>th</sup> Annual/5<sup>th</sup> International Science Fiction Virtual Conference ISFC 2020

December 7 -10, 2020

- Dr. Srinarahari

Coordinator for Channel 1

The four-day science fiction festival in the form of virtual conference was unique in providing various platforms for the heterogenous group of personalities to beam the varied angles of the genre converging them to “All Roads Lead to Science Fiction”. The 17 sessions which took place during the event comprised of paper presentations by academic practitioners at the Universities, Ph.D. research scholars, students at the undergraduate level, retired officials, senior citizens, medical doctors, engineers, lawyers, farmers, industrialists, writers, critics, media persons and others. In addition, there were panel discussions involving Chief Editors of the Science Fiction Magazines, Web masters of webzines and online forums; a Panel discussion on framing science fiction curriculum at the undergraduate degree level. Furthermore, there were sessions on “Authors Speak”; Special Lectures from Dr. John RoLacco (Singapore); Ms. Lucie Lukacovicova and Ms. Julie Nováková (both from Czech Republic – for celebrating 100 years of the play *Rossums’ Universal Robots* by Carl Capek); Dr. Ashish Mahabal (Pasadena, Caltech, the USA); Mr. AP Deshpande (Marathi Vidhyan Parishad, Mumbai, MH); Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Upadhyaya (Chief Editor of *Vignyan Katha*, Ayodhya, UP); Mr. Dip Ghosh (Webmaster of *Kalpabignyan – Kalpabishwas*, Kolkata, WB); Dr. Tarlochan Singh Anand (Chief Editor for *Literary Voice*, Canada), Prasanna Karandikar (Chief of *Sci-Fi Katta* – online forum, Sindudurga, MH); and Mr. Soham Guha (Writer, WB).

There were several “Narrating Stories of Tomorrow” session wherein the self-authored SF stories were presented. There was one exclusive session for presenting self-authored Kannada Science Fiction short stories.

The first day program was inaugurated by honorable Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University, Bangalore – Professor Venugopal KR. The second day program was declared open by Dr. BD Joshi the Medical doctor and executive secretary of IASFS; the opening remarks for the third day was by Dr. Purushothaman the Founder – President of IASFS and representing students’ community Ms. Deepa Kamal (Salem, Tamil Nadu) declared open the fourth day programs.

The pre-recorded videos in each session used to begin with Anchor person’s self-introduction and introducing the chair/ co-chair, paper presenters/guest speakers/panelists. The Chair/Co-Chair persons remarks used to follow the assigned scheduled presentations.

Covid 19 has had its impact on this mega event. Out of 122 submissions about 70% of them could send us the pre-recorded videos. This had hit a few of the chairpersons and guest speakers who had consented earlier but could not make it at the appointed hour. It was a Herculean task for the organizers to find the right substitutes. The group has uploaded the videos pertaining to all the sessions over Facebook and YouTube channels. The requests for the links may kindly be made to [doctorhari567@gmail.com](mailto:doctorhari567@gmail.com);

However, the group is happy to report that this is one of the memorable events in the history of the organization and it owes to the Bangalore University and IASFS teams for its success.

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