



# VIBES



## Newsletter, NISER

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Cover Photo: NISER Administrative Block with historic *Barunei Hills* at skyline.  
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## Director's Desk



Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to know that we are bringing out a newsletter that will cover the events in NISER. This newsletter will be available to all the NISER family including its growing alumni. NISER would like to keep in constant touch with its

alumni and know about their progress and achievements. We are sure, likewise, that the alumni of NISER would also be curious to know how its alma mater has been faring since they left its portals. We are hoping that newsletters such as this will act like a bond that will connect NISER with its alumni. At the moment our alumni data base is not fully complete. Please encourage your colleagues to register as alumni and send their contact details including current address. The Dean, International Affairs and Resource Planning, Dr. Palok Aich, is the nodal person for the alumni activity. He is also the person responsible to bring out this newsletter. Our kudos to him for this effort.

Let me briefly describe to you NISER as it stands today. We have about 85+ faculty and growing. Our student strength stands today at 600+ including 200+ PhD students. As you may be aware the asymptotic strength for the students is about 2000 and for faculty, about 260. We have initiated the process of starting two new schools: school of computer sciences and school of earth and planetary sciences. Faculty recruitment in these new schools have already begun and in fact the first faculty member in the school of computer sciences has already joined NISER. For about a year now, we have been functioning in the new campus at Jatni. At the moment most of the construction is complete and we hope that the campus will be fully complete by March 2017. Already, all the students are staying in the hostels in the new campus and so are many faculty and staff in their quarters. Many amenities including student activity centre, a football ground have started and soon we will have a shopping complex and a food court. The meditation centre on the top of the hill in the campus apart from being the iconic centre of NISER has also served as a location for yoga practice and retreat centre for the NISER family. As you may be aware, the previous year in February, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi, dedicated NISER to the nation and exhorted its students, faculty

and staff to dedicate themselves in the service of the nation. We are confident that NISER will live up to the high expectations of the country.

Finally, I hope that this newsletter will be published at periodic intervals and will be a regular feature that will keep us connected. I strongly encourage our alumni to visit NISER, whenever they have time and maintain the relationship that should be present between an alma mater and its alumni.

Best wishes

Prof. V. Chandrasekhar



NISER, National Institute of Science Education and Research, is an initiative of the Government of India. The primary objective of the Institute is to train and nurture human resources in the Sciences for the knowledge economies of the future. This is in tune with a general shift in social and national thought that seeks to create new sites of knowledge production centered in our country.

Such a strategic shift in perspective has been necessitated by the realization that the unique circumstances of our nation demand unique scientific and pedagogic responses. Consequently, we are called upon to question and account for conventional categorizations of science, technology, environment, learning, innovation, design and being. The predominant discourse that seeks to structure these superficially hard categories is predicated on justifications that till date have not moved beyond regimes of hierarchy, control and access. These strictures are an inherent feature of “Institutionalized



Science” where Newtonian principles of organizing domains of cognition and mechanisms of representation constrain debates on what new conceptualizations of science ought to be like. More problematically this stifles the potential for interdisciplinary approaches of learning. This means we continue to think in and with straight jacketed binaries such as natural / artificial, real / virtual or being / thing. The founding of this Institute is rooted in the understanding that the contexts we inhabit are dynamic

and in flux, while we have not begun to think in terms of solutions to most of these problems we realize that they exist and that we need to quickly participate in the process of finding out some answers.

NISER recognizes that modern scientific research is carried out in interstices amongst fuzzy domains and blurred boundaries. This entails encouraging a new scientific culture where members of our community attain to an intellectual agility unconstrained by the limitations of disciplinary conventions from the past. Faculty and Students will be given generous material support in the pursuit to realize this objective. Time and conversational space will be devoted to nascent propositions and hypothesis and the significantly small student-faculty ratio, an eventual full strength of 2000 students and 300 faculty, manifests the Institutes investment and hope in the future.

To deliver on the promise NISER initiated efforts in 4 major areas of science by establishing Schools of Biological (SBS), Chemical (SCS), Mathematical (SMS) and Physical (SPS) Sciences. A School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) has also been established to understand the positionality of science in a socio-cultural context.

At NISER students are admitted for a 5 year Integrated MSc (iMSc) program or for a PhD program. In the iMSc program, students learn all core subjects in basic sciences and specific courses in the humanities in the first year, following which they select their stream of choice in the basic sciences. Each school has its own program of core and elective courses and a student can finally graduate with one major and two minors in the areas of their choice. Recently, NISER has added two schools in Computer Sciences (CS) and Earth & Planetary Sciences (EPS). SPS is the first school that has also started an Integrated PhD program from 2016.

There are various ways to measure the academic evolution of institutes like NISER, a few such metrics, such as publications, student intake and graduates, extramural grants secured, and faculty recruitment, are shown in the pages that follow.

## Three red letter days for NISER

- Conception and laying of NISER foundation by the then Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Manmohan Singh on Sep 06, 2006
- Laying foundation of NISER for its permanent campus in Jatni, Odisha by the then Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Manmohan Singh on Dec 27, 2009
- Dedicating NISER to the service of the Nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on Feb 07, 2016

# Dedication of NISER to the Nation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (Feb 7, 2016)



## Foundation Day Lectures

Since the inception of NISER in 2009, the institute has been celebrating its foundation day every year. On the occasion eminent scientists are invited to deliver Foundation Day Lectures. A list of the invited speakers is given below.

Foundation Day	Year	Speakers	Affiliation
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor Michael Atiyah	Edinburg University, UK
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor D Balasubramanian	LVPEI, India
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor David Gross	Kavli Institute of Theoretical Physics, UCSB, USA
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor HR Krishnamurthy	IISc Bangalore, India
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor Tapas K Kundu	JNCASR, India
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor Sanjay Mathur	University of Cologne, germany
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor Dipendra Prasad	TIFR Mumbai, India
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor T. Ramasami	DST, India
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor Kanury Rao	ICGEB, India
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor C.S. Seshadri	Chennai Mathematical Institute, India
1 <sup>st</sup>	2010	Professor Tarun Sauradeep	IUCAA, India
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2011	Professor Bikash Sinha	VECC, India
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2011	Professor Pierre Cartier	Institute des Hautes Etudes Scientifique, France
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2011	Professor T.P. Singh	AIIMS, India
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2011	Professor SR Srinivasa Varadan	Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, USA
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2012	Professor MS Narasimhan	IISc Bangalore, India
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2012	Professor Shiraz Minwalla	TIFR Mumbai, India
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2012	Professor Dulal Panda	IIT Bombay, India
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2012	Professor Ajaya Ghosh	NIIST(CSIR), Trivandrum, India
4 <sup>th</sup>	2013	Professor T. Ramasami	DST, India
4 <sup>th</sup>	2013	Professor R. Balasubramanian	IMSc Chennai, India
4 <sup>th</sup>	2013	Professor Deepak Dhar	TIFR Mumbai, India
5 <sup>th</sup>	2014	Professor Manindra Agrawal	IIT Kanpur, India
6 <sup>th</sup>	2015	Professor CNR Rao	JNCASR, India
6 <sup>th</sup>	2015	Professor Mustansir Barma	TIFR Mumbai, India
7 <sup>th</sup>	2016	Professor S. Ramaswamy	TIFR Center for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Hyderabad, India
7 <sup>th</sup>	2016	Professor Narayanasami Satyamurthy	IISER Mohali, India
7 <sup>th</sup>	2016	Professor Ajay Sood	IISc Bangalore, India

## Awards / Achievements

An important measure of NISER's standing is reflected in the awards received by its members. A few of the important awards/achievements of NISER faculty members are listed below.

#	Name	Name of Award	Year
1	Bedangadas Mohanty	Elected Fellow of Indian National Science Academy	2016
2	Palok Aich	Honorary Diploma, Medical University Varna, Bulgaria	2016
3	Bedangadas Mohanty	Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Physical Sciences	2015
4	Nishikanta Khandai	RAMANUJAN Fellowship	2015
5	Jnanadeva Maharana	Satyendranath Bose Medal	2015
6	Vellat Krishna Kumar	INSA Teachers Award for 2015	2015
7	A. Srinivasan	CSIR Bronze Medal	2014
8	Subhankar Bedanta	Young scientist award	2014
9	Prolay K Mal	RAMANUJAN Fellowship	2013
10	Subhadip Ghosh	RAMANUJAN Fellowship	2012
11	Bedangadas Mohanty	SwarnaJayanti Fellowship	2011
12	C. Gunanathan	RAMANUJAN Fellowship	2011
13	Krishnan Venkatsubbaiah	RAMANUJAN Fellowship	2011
14	Palok Aich	Ramalingaswamy Fellowship	2009

## Institute and Alumni

In addition to the various schools, NISER also has five Deans to look after key activities in the areas of Academics, R&D, Students affairs, Faculty affairs and International Affairs and Resource Planning (IARP). The current newsletter is an endeavour to inform members of NISER, including alumni, of key events and achievements. Alumni play an important and special role, not only in building and establishing an institute, but also in bringing recognition to the alma mater. It would perhaps be difficult to find even a single academic establishment of repute that achieved its

status without significant contributions from its alumni. NISER is a new institute and so are the alumni. IARP on behalf of NISER wants to play an important role in liaising with its alumni. NISER through IARP not only wants to keep the bond intact but also seeks to make it stronger over time. With this objective in mind, a brief note on mandates and goals of IARP is given below. Details of various funding opportunities and assistance regarding foreign visits etc. are also listed on IARP website on NISER homepage.

We live in an age where boundaries no longer constrain human knowledge, the ability to collaborate is an integral part of research today. NISER realizes this fact and also acknowledges that cutting-edge research does not and cannot happen in isolation. The IARP was formed by the director, Professor V. Chandrasekhar, to address this deficit.

## Mandates of IARP

IARP has two major components.

### 1. International Affairs

### 2. Resource Planning.

International Affairs/IARP will co-ordinate and administer all international academic activities related to NISER, such as;

- Development of international partnerships with universities and institutes for academic collaboration and student exchange/visiting programs
- Setting guidelines for international agreements
- Opening dialogue with government offices, industry and other institutions on matters of broad international interest related to science education
- Hosting visiting international delegations and dignitaries

## Action

- To develop strategic research plans in emerging areas and support international collaboration in R&D.
- Facilitate international student exchange (NISE) program (UG and PhD)
- Accept international PDFs
- Enable NISER to host eminent scientists through visiting programs

## Resource Planning

One of the major activities of Resource Planning would be to generate funds that support faculty and students in their research. The contribution of Alumni will eventually play a significant part in this process. To begin with, we will be creating a database of alumni, both undergraduate and PhD students. A dynamic format will be placed for our students to update their current information. Alumni will be regularly informed of developments and relevant programs in NISER that

might pique their interest. Resource planning will also include;

- Human resource planning
- Budget planning and management
- IPR and patents
- Built environment and academic space.
- Library

Regarding the current state of alumni outreach, IARP has already built a database consisting of 60% of its graduates. We hope to have information on all of you in a very short while. On this note we request our graduates to kindly fill in and submit the online registration form available under the International tab on NISER homepage at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKpHiGBcWMogxuznrTXnPATThmUCDimGX4H7LcIpgVi\\_e86w/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKpHiGBcWMogxuznrTXnPATThmUCDimGX4H7LcIpgVi_e86w/viewform?c=0&w=1)

IARP has also hosted a few talks by alumni who visited the campus recently. We want to encourage more such interactions and I request students to inform Dr. Palok Aich ([palok.aich@niser.ac.in](mailto:palok.aich@niser.ac.in)) when you plan your visit to the campus. We would also like you to help us identify potential faculty candidates for NISER.

I am hopeful that our graduates will soon grow to be an indispensable part of the future of NISER. We look forward to Alumni meets and hearing from you on ways to better mark our presence both on the national and global stage.

Library is an integral part of NISER started at the time of its inception in 2007. It was started with acquisitions of curriculum text books to serve students. Objective of library is to fulfil the information needs of the community, build and preserve a collection of specialized literature in S&T fields. It has been functioning under the supervisory of Library advisory committee constituted by the head of the institution. The Chairperson of library advisory committee works as Faculty in-charge of library and the Librarian in-charge is secretary for the committee.

The collection is developed in a democratic way so that resources can be acquired for all stakeholders. Information resources both in print and digital format have been added to the library. The collection mostly focuses on biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, humanities and other interdisciplinary areas. Approximately 18,000 Print and 10,000 digital books are available; Library also receives books that are gifted by donors and books from the NBHM. Library Automation along with RFID system has been made operational using open source software Koha. Metadata for all the e books are collected from the publishers and imported in Koha, so users can search the entire collection, both print and digital, in a single interface. Links are also provided in library OPAC to access electronic books directly from the publisher.

Journals mostly in electronic format published by reputed publishers, societies and institutes from across the globe are available in the library. Research protocols, and well-known databases such as Web of Science, SCIFINDER, Scopus, and Jstor have also been subscribed. Multimedia journals like JoVE (Journal of Visual Experiments) have also been added to the collection. As NISER is a constituent institute of DAE, it has the privilege to access DAE-Science Direct consortium journals which covers all the journals published by Science Direct. In all, around 3500 reputed journals can be accessed in NISER. An Institutional repository using DSpace has been activated for NISER publications and theses. The library has recently shifted to its permanent location, occupying for now a single level of the total complement of four floors available to it.

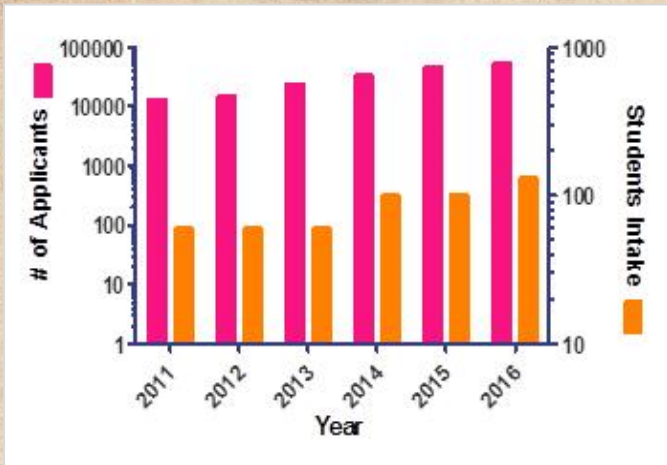


## Future Plan

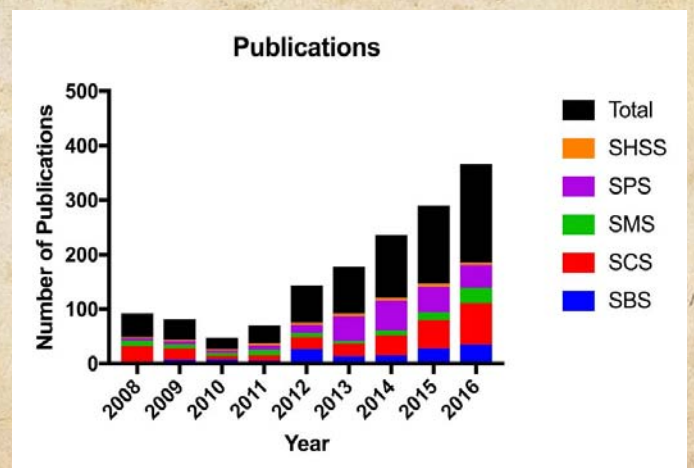
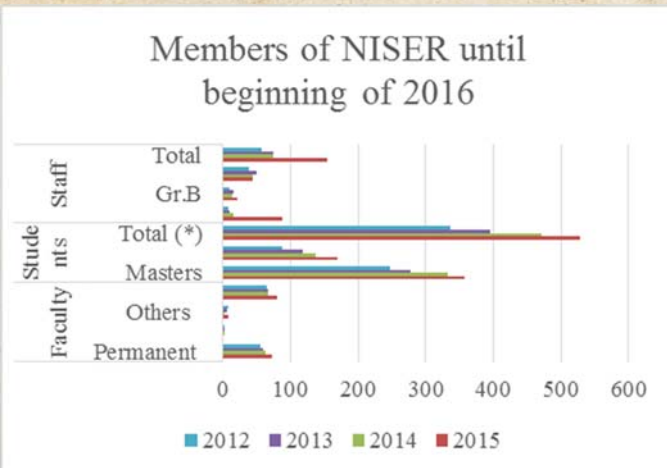
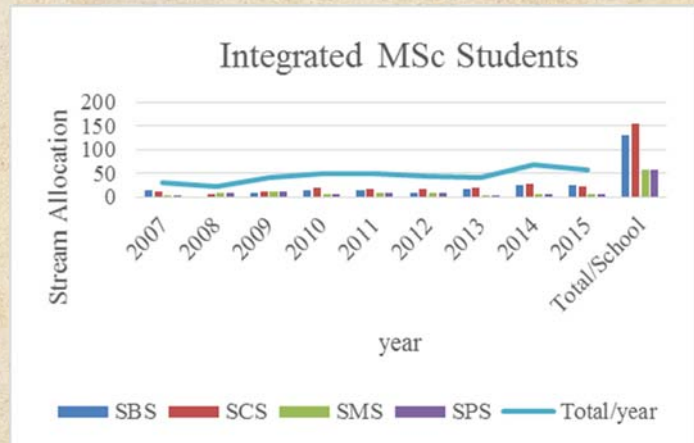
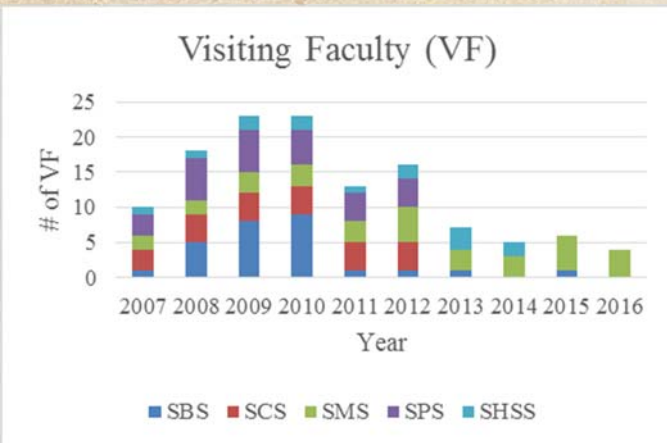
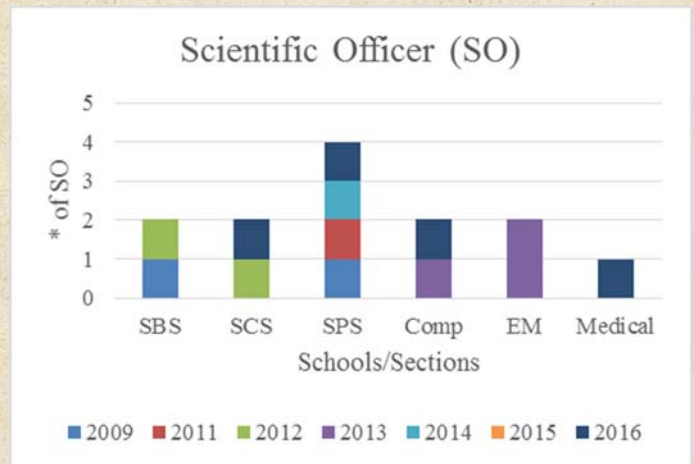
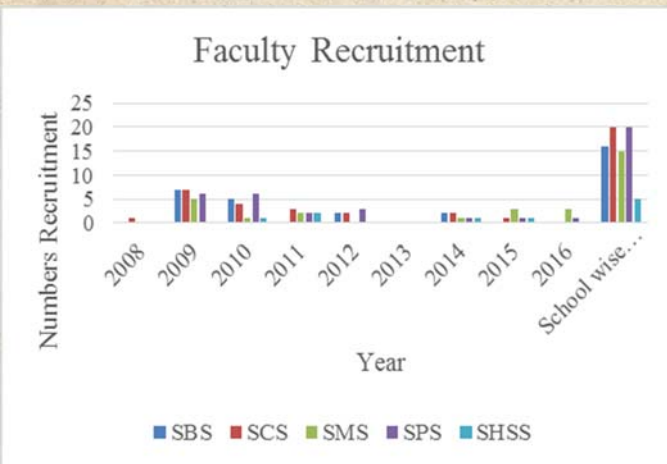
- Library is all set to acquire library apps/remote access facility to use library resources in digital gadgets including mobiles. The library is also in the final stages of acquiring licenses for Turnitin (anti-plagiarism tool).
- To acquire texts and documents which can help researchers working on tribal health, mining, and climate change.
- Creating an environment for conversation among library users relating to scientific and social issues of contemporary and geographic interest.
- Facilitating outreach activities such as publisher-user instruction programme, author-reader interaction and domain related workshops/symposia.
- Developing a special section in the library for children, both from the campus and from the neighbourhood.

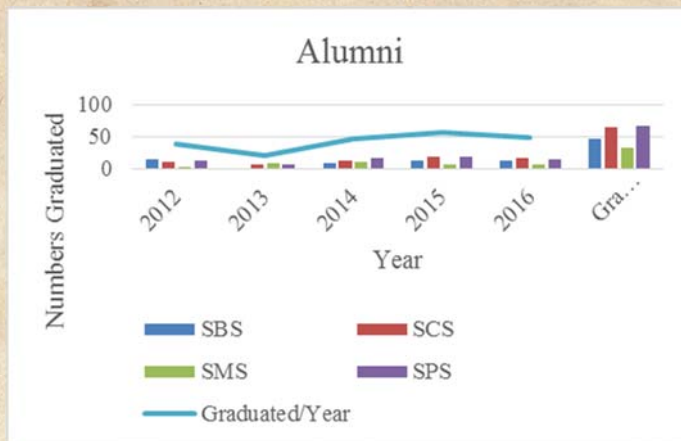
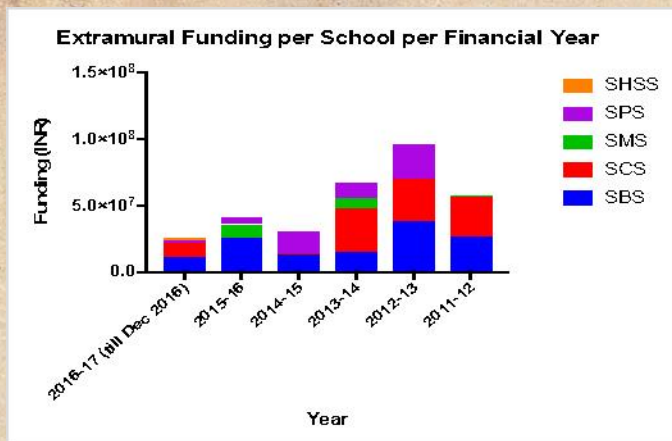


# A few Important Facts at a glance



National Entrance Screening Test or NEST is the entrance test to join iMSc @ NISER. Number (#) of applicants is increasing exponentially every year as is evident from the graph.





## Student Activities



**Zaariya Food-fest** (Fund raiser): Zaariya is a social organisation managed by our students. Its primary objective is to stimulate social responsibility amongst NISER

students and promote processes which are sustainable, socially inclusive and gender equitable, enabling marginalized communities to achieve a dignified quality of life. Since its inception, it has taken quite a few initiatives to help underprivileged kids in attaining primary education by providing them financial aid as well as moral support. As a part of this they organised a food fest as a fund raiser for the two kids Tehasin and Sukriya on 30th October 2016. And that evening the MSc., the PhD. and our faculty all came together with smiles and a lot of excitement for the cause.

**Dandiya Night:** On the 15th of October, 2016 we organised a Dandiya Raas. Dandiya is a traditional folk dance form, primarily, of Gujarat and is generally performed during Navaratri. The lights, music and the colourful choli, ghagra and bandhani dupattas added a different flavour to the evening.

**Cultural Night:** The inaugural event in the Amphitheatre was held on 2nd November 2016. The Drama and Music Club coordinated the event and staged our very own talents. Vocalists and instrumentalists along with poets and stand-up comedians were the major attractions of the evening.

**The Weekly:** The Quizone Club conducts a weekly e-quiz for the members of our institute. Interesting and

intriguing might be the only words which could describe it.

**Inter IISER sports meet:** The IISM is the only sporting event in which NISER participates every year along with the other IISER's and a few other national science institutes. Even with a hectic academic schedule our students would find time at some hour of the day and practice for the meet. And it paid off in the form of two silver medals, two bronze medals and a couple of heart warming performances. Dipanshu Kumar (Discus) got us off to a start in the meet with a Bronze followed by Linkan Dash (Shotput) again with a Bronze. The Chess teams and the Volleyball team performed superbly and added silver medals to the overall medal tally.

**Science Activities Club:** The SAC is actively engaged in conducting various types of sessions for the science enthusiasts. Seminars, Skype sessions (Webinar) with experts from various fields of science and observation sessions are some of the activities of the Science Activities Club. Various renowned scientists such as Prof. Kishore Marathe, Prof. Sanjay Puri etc., have had extended sessions with the students. They have had various Astronomy sessions, telescope handling sessions and LIGO webinars.

**Cleanliness Drive:** The youngest members of our NISER family, the first-year Integrated MSc. Students, have continuously made efforts towards keeping our campus clean. In order to create awareness amongst the students they even performed a street play (Nukkad). And after that we all wore safety gloves and cleaned our hostel premises. The first years continue to pursue their goal till date. They have taken the initiative to put up dustbins on the sidewalks leading to our hostels.

Four in one: Being a national institute we house students from various corners of our country, all with different cultural backgrounds. However, we never realized the diversity that is present in our institute. So, we decided to change things around by celebrating Makar Sankranti,

Pongal, Lohri and Bihu, all on the same day.

All of these festivals mark the onset of Uttarayan apart from being harvest festivals. The first-year students organised various events to celebrate the occasion.

The following events were held: 1.Kite flying 2.Bonfire 3.Folk Dance 4.Matka Fod.

**Halloween Night:** We have a kind of ritual here, wherein the first-year MSc. guys organize a Halloween night every year. The guys did put in a lot of effort to prepare the Students Activities Centre for the night.

Apart from these, we have the Film club which shows movies from different genres, languages and countries. The literary club and the arts club are gradually getting into the act.

### Food Fest 2016



### Blood Donation Camp



### Plantation



## BIOLOGY

### 3rd Biennial PAi Conference & International Symposium on Stress, Microbiome & Probiotics

Jointly Organized by Probiotic Association of India (PAi) & NISER

Mar 11-13, 2016

Organizing Secretary: Dr. Palok Aich

For more detail please visit:

<http://home.niser.ac.in/~pai-conference/contact.html>

### Workshop on Applications of Systems and Mathematical Biology in Stress, Microbiome & Probiotics

Mar 6-11, 2016

Convener: Dr. Palok Aich

For more details please visit:

<http://home.niser.ac.in/~workshop-asmbssmp/>

## MATHEMATICS

### Upcoming Events:

#### J-Holomorphic Curves and Gromov-Witten Invariants

Date/Time: July 10 - 22, 2017

This will be an introductory summer school on "J-Holomorphic Curves and Gromov-Witten Invariants". We hope to cover the foundations of this subject by following the book "J-Holomorphic Curves and Symplectic Topology" by Dusa McDuff and Dietmar Salamon. Quite a few young mathematicians from India have agreed to give lectures in this summer school. Those who are interested in Differential Geometry, Differential Topology, Complex Analysis and (Complex) Algebraic Geometry are particularly encouraged to participate in this programme.

#### The Summer Outreach Program in Mathematics 2017

Date/Time: June 19 --July 01, 2017.

The Summer Outreach Program in Mathematics (SOPM 2017) will provide training in different branches of Mathematics to students who are in the Master's program. The primary objective is to expand the domain knowledge of students who do not have the opportunity to access higher level Mathematics.

### Past Events:

#### Discussion Meeting on Automorphic Forms

Date/Time: December 21 - 27, 2016

We brought together mathematicians working in the area of Automorphic forms, especially on modular forms, Jacobi forms and Siegel modular forms, to share their current research. There were thematic lectures on the theory of Jacobi forms following the monograph of M. Eichler and D. Zagier. The discussion meeting was of enormous benefit to research scholars and young mathematicians working in India.

## CENTER FOR FUNDAMENTAL STUDIES

### School and Workshop on Modular Forms and Black Holes

Date/Time: January 5 - 14, 2017

The School and Workshop fostered interactions between Physics and Mathematics in the area of Modular Forms and Black Holes. In recent years there has been a lot of interdisciplinary research activity in this area. In counting black hole microstates in string theory, various kinds of modular forms play very important roles. In addition, tantalizing connections between elliptic genus of K3 surfaces, Mathieu group and Mock Modular forms have been an interesting subject of study.

The School gave pedagogical expositions by leading researchers of international repute on various subjects in Modular Forms and Black Holes to students and young researchers in India. The Workshop provided an opportunity for research interaction between Physicists and Mathematicians.

## HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The school started its postgraduate program in the summer of 2016. There are currently five students in the disciplines of Economics, Psychology and Sociology. The school organised the prestigious Indian Econometric Society conference in December on our campus. This was the first time the event took place in Odisha.

## IOAA

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Olympiad on Astronomy & Astrophysics (IOAA), 2016, was held during December 9 – 19, 2016, and IOAA-2016 Outreach Programme during December 17 – 20, 2016, at NISER. A total of 47 teams from 41 countries (from 5 continents) participated in this 10 day event. There were 243 contestants and all were high school students. About 20 school students from Jatni and Bhubaneswar visited and participated in the outreach programmes.



The Olympiad consisted of the following rounds – Planetarium problem, Sky Map test, Night sky observation test, a 5 hour Theoretical exam, Data analysis round and team competition. The Planetarium round was held at Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Night Sky observation test was carried out at Oneness International School (Khurda) and the rest of the tests took place in the Lecture Hall complex of NISER.

The top three teams in the medal tally were Russia (3G, 2S, 4B), India (2G, 4S, 2B) and Iran (2G, 2S, 1B).



The Opening and Closing ceremonies were held in NISER campus and Hon'ble Governor of Odisha was the chief guest in the closing ceremony and distributed the gold medals to the winners. The cultural

programme in both the ceremonies was organized with the help of Spic Macay.



Regarding the organizational aspect, the students and staff of NISER played an outstanding role in making the IOAA a great success. Particularly, our Director extended all possible help that we needed to organize the event. All the student participants were housed in D3 and A1 apartments, which were converted to fully furnished dormitories for the event. Each country team was assisted by our student volunteers. The kitchen was set up in front of the Library building and the hall inside was used for dining. Our student volunteers were also responsible for telescope handling during the Night sky observation round and bringing out extremely high quality Newsletter every morning during the event. The contestants and their leaders were taken to Nandankanan, Konark and Dhauli-Mukteswar for excursions.

## INSA – Annual meet 2016

The INSA annual meeting was held in our campus between 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The council members, Fellows, New Fellows, Fellows for Induction, Young INSA scientists and teacher awardees were part of this program and altogether 150 delegates attended this meeting. The program was inaugurated by our Director and followed by remarks by INSA president Prof. R. Gadagkar.

A series of lectures were delivered during the annual meeting which included; a) introduction of the symposium on food security in a changing world, where the lecture was delivered by INYAS members; b) mini-symposium organized by NISER colleagues; c) the golden jubilee commemoration medal lecture by our Director; d) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar medal (2013 and 2016) lecture by Prof. Indira Nath and Prof. V. Ravindranath; e) CV Raman medal lecture by Prof. N. Sathyamurthy; f) Sunder Lal Hora Medal lecture by Prof. B.K. Thelma; g) INSA Vainu Bappu Memorial

award lecture by Dr. Anil Bhardwaj and h) Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary lecture (2014) by Prof. Sudhir Sopory. On the last day, the session started with display of INSA App by Prof. LS Shashidhara followed by Anniversary address by the President, INSA.

Finally the annual meeting ended with Felicitation functions, where, 24 new fellows, 9 fellows for induction, 13 teacher awardees and 18 young scientist awardees and 1 Historian awardee were felicitated. As a newly elected fellow, Prof. Bedangadas Mohanty, Chairperson of the School of Physical Sciences at NISER, was felicitated during this occasion.



### **TIES Conference (The Indian Econometric Society)**

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NISER in collaboration with Nabakrusha Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCDS), Bhubaneswar organised the 53rd annual conference of TIES during December 22-24, 2016.

Around 350 participants from all over India and 5 from other countries participated in the conference. Prof Arvind Panagariya, Vice-Chairman of NITI Ayog was the chief guest of the conference in the inaugural session. Prof V Chandrasekhar, Director of NISER chaired the inaugural session. Dr R B Barman, Chairman of National Statistical Commission was the chief guest in the valedictory session of the conference. A number of past presidents of TIES were present in the conference. Prof M Govinda Rao, Member of the Finance Commission –XIV also delivered a talk in the conference. Apart from the 310 paper presenters, there were 30 special invitees for the conference from all over the country. About 50 faculty and research scholars from leading universities and colleges of Odisha were invited to participate in the conference. A special panel discussion was organized to deliberate on the issues relating to Odisha. The panellists were: Prof Santosh Panda, Vice President, South Asian University, Prof. Sudhakar Panda, Ex-Chairman, Third State Finance Commission, Govt. of Odisha and Prof.

Kishore Samala, Retired Prof NCDS. This was chaired by Prof Padmaja Mishra, Vice Chancellor Ramadevi University, Bhubaneswar. Dr Amarendra Das, organising secretary of the conference, was nominated as the Joint Secretary of TIES in the general body meeting of TIES held at NISER.



## **Outreach**

### **NISER Open Day**

NISER Open Day was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 as part of the Institute's outreach activity. Around 225 students from classes VIII to XII and accompanying teachers from various schools in and around Jatni participated in the program. The program was divided into two parts with engaging talks on contemporary topics of "Gravitational Waves" and "Zika Virus" delivered by NISER faculty in the first half, followed by laboratory visits in the second half. The laboratory sessions were primarily coordinated by the NISER Integrated MSc and PhD students.



## Republic Day, 2017 (Staff Awards)



*Dr. Arun Kumar, SO-E, School of Chemical Sciences*



*Mr. Ram Prasad Panigrahi, Technician, School of Physical Sciences*



*Fire Safety group at NISER*



*Ms. Apolina Lakra, Office Assistant (Multi skill),  
Faculty Affairs section*



*Mr. G. K. Rath, Assistant Personnel Officer, Finance &  
Accounts section*

### SNIPPETS

When someone tells me something is impossible,  
all I hear that in particular he or she cannot do it. If it can be thought, it can be done

Everything begins with an idea

Hurt me with the truth But never Comfort me with a lie

--Brian Vaszily

--Earl Nightingale

--Anonymous





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