

# National-level workshop on 'Experimental Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience' held at BITS-Pilani

BY A STAFF REPORTER  
reporters@gomantaktimes.com

**Panaji:** The Cognitive Neuroscience Lab of Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus organised a two-day national workshop on "Experimental Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience" at its campus on December 15 and 16.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof Narayanan Srinivasan, Head, Centre for Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (CBCS), University of Allahabad in the presence of Prof Raghurama G, Director of BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus; organising secretary Dr Veeky Baths, Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus and co-organiser Dr Ramesh K Mishra, Centre for Neural and Cognitive Sciences (CNCS), University of Hyderabad.

Around 30 participants



The participants and eminent speakers at the two-day national-level workshop on "Experimental Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience" at BITS-Pilani campus, Zuarinagar.

from various colleges and universities from different parts of India attended the workshop.

The eminent speakers from India and abroad who participated in interactive sessions were Aditya Murthy, Centre for Neuroscience, IISc Bangalore; Ashima Nehra, Department of

Neuropsychology, AIIMS, New Delhi; Narayanan Srinivasan, CBCS, University of Allahabad; Pratik Mutha, Department of Biological Engineering, IIT Gandhinagar;

Raghavendra Singh, India Research Laboratory IBM; Ramesh Kumar Mishra, CNCS Universi-

ty of Hyderabad; Sachin Deshmukh, Centre for Neuroscience, IISc Bangalore and Samit Chakrabarty, School of Bio-Medical Sciences, University of Leeds.

The topics discussed during the two-day workshop were neural motor control; neuropsychological rehabilitation, introduc-

tion to EEG and ERP studies; computation modelling using deep learning; neural representation of spatial maps in the brain; eye tracking and neural organisation of the visuomotor learning.

Two technical demonstrations from Tobii and EGI were conducted during the workshop. Tobii technologies are front runners in the field of eye tracking manufacturing technologies. Vitasta India handles the Indian sales of Tobii products. Kunal and Parag provided hands on demonstration of the screen based eye tracker and the mobile eye trackers to the participants. EGI is one of the largest vendors of dense array EEG, EMG and other neuro-observation systems.

At the workshop, EGI representative Suhas spoke about the various offerings from EGI and also spoke about the success stories of Neuroscience Labs across the world.

The subject of cognitive neuroscience is, in a broad sense, the human mind. Cognitive neuroscience helps to understand how the human brain supports thought, perception, affection, action, social process and other aspects of cognition and behavior. Questions about the mind are studied from different scientific perspectives in philosophy, linguistics, psychology, neuroscience, and computer science. Cognitive Neuroscience is an interdisciplinary approach to understand the neural substrates of mental processes.

It is a broad area where insights from psychology, neurobiology, bioengineering, physics, computer science, linguistics, mathematics and philosophy find relevance. This diversity in the researchers' background necessitates standardisation and discussion of latest experimental methods was the focus for this workshop.