

Press Report on World GIS Day 2020

International Webinar on “Mapping the Future with GIS” on the occasion of World GIS Day, held in JSS AHER, Mysore

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, Division of Geoinformatics, Faculty of Natural Sciences to commemorate **World GIS Day** (celebrated worldwide on 18th November), celebrated the special event by conducting a webinar on “**Mapping the Future with GIS**” with keynote addresses by **Dr. Balasubramani K. and Mr. Peejush Pani** on 19th November 2020. The webinar was organized under the able guidance of Dr. B. Suresh, Pro-Chancellor, and Dr. Surinder Singh, Vice-Chancellor, and support from Dr. Manjunath B. Registrar, Dr. Kushalappa P.A, Director Dean (Academics), Dr. Balasubramanian S. Director (Research) and Prof. K.A. Raveesha, Head, Department of Water and Health. This webinar was conceived and convened by Mr. Sawant Sushant, Co-ordinator, Division of Geoinformatics, with support from Dr. Ravikumar M., Division of Geoinformatics, JSS AHER.

The explosion of geospatial technology in the last twenty years has introduced an idea of global event that shows how geography and the real-world applications of GIS are making a difference in business, government, and society. It is a chance for an organization to share accomplishments and inspire others to discover and use GIS for the welfare of society. The webinar had 248 participants including students and faculties from various institutes across the country and many participants from abroad representing Nepal, Bangladesh and African countries.

The program began with Mr. Sawant Sushant welcoming the enthusiastic participants and introducing the keynote speakers. Dr. K.A. Raveesha, Professor and Head, Department of Water and Health, rendered the opening remarks and spoke about the importance and applications of GIS in a variety of fields including disaster management. He highlighted the contribution of the Division of Geoinformatics in health sciences with special reference to understanding the epidemiological aspects of disease spread including COVID-19.

The first keynote address was delivered by Dr. Balasubramani K., Professor, School of Earth Sciences, Central University of Tamil Nadu. He highlighted the essential skills of GIS viz. Geospatial intelligence, Remote sensing and Photogrammetry, Structured Query Language (SQL), programming language and leadership and project management skills to become successful in the GIS field. He explained the basic concepts of GIS and introduced recent trends and techniques to be learnt by the GIS students to attain excellence in the field.

The second keynote address was delivered by Mr. Peejush Pani, Researcher in the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (RADI), Chinese Academy of Sciences posted in Beijing. He emphasized the application of GIS & Remote Sensing in the study of water resource management and water induced disasters. He also explained how geospatial technology is getting better day by day by incorporating new techniques like Big Data Analytics, Web GIS, Cloud GIS, and Machine Learning.

Both the speakers gave an enlightening presentation which was followed by an interactive question & answer session moderated by Mr. Sawant Sushant. The speakers answered all the questions posed by the participants about essential skills required for becoming a GIS specialist. The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks rendered by Dr. Ravikumar M.



Webinar Keynote Speaker Dr. Balasubramani K., (Top Left) and Mr. Peejush Pani (Top Right). Prof. K.A. Raveesha, Prof. & Head, Department of Water and Health, Mr. Sawant Sushant, Co-ordinator, Division of Geoinformatics, and Dr. Ravikumar M., Division of Geoinformatics FNS, JSS AHER were also present.