

THE FLEET STREET POSTALE

The monthly newsletter by The Fleet Street, student media body of IIT Palakkad

.....

instiinsights

VISTAAR PROGRAM

by Patrick George

CFI is a student lab at IITM formed in 2008 with the vision "to promote informal learning and foster innovation and invention in technology, with a focus on technologies aimed at contributing positively to the environment and to the society". Embarking on an ambitious venture, Centre For Innovation (CFI) conducted a workshop session at IIT Palakkad on April 2 as part of the VISTAAR program aimed at mentoring other institutions to set up a similar space like the CFI. A team from CFI had visited IIT Palakkad in September, 2015 to introduce themselves, their projects and work-ethics. The main goal of their second visit was to motivate first year students to join them on various projects at CFI, IITM during the summer.

The schedule for the day was as follows:

- 9:00 - 10:00 Centre For Innovation (CFI) introduction by Rajiv.
- 10:00 - 12:30 iBot Club Orientation by Sambhit covering the basics of Arduino programming.
- 13:15 - 15:30 CVG Orientation by Pooja and Siddhartha briefing various image processing techniques.
- 15:30 - 18:00 Astronomy Club Orientation by Soma.

The students appreciated the noble initiative by turning up in large numbers. This summer, 27 first-year B.Tech students of IIT Palakkad will be working on a multitude of projects at different clubs of the CFI.

.....

endsemquips

by Ishan Gadgil

Lightning struck me, hope I survive after the results. Thanks to everyone who taught me a day before the exams.
- Harshvardhan Singh (1st Year)

End sem are the last hope of students to make up for the quizzes.

- Ipsita Singh (1st Year)

This semester was challenging for me as I missed 5 weeks' lectures due to my leg injury. I felt I did well in the exams. Let's hope for the best.

- Vishal Choudhari (1st Year)

This end sem was better than previous exams because I had prepared nearly all things as we learned during lecture times.

- Ashutosh Maurya (Civil, 2nd Year)

It was one hell of a ride.

- Sooraj Tom (CSE, 2nd Year)

Bumpy ride, but made it through.

- Abhinav Kumar (Mechanical, 2nd Year)

Easy exams, but again not so easy marks.

- Mayank Kumar Gupta (Mechanical, 2nd Year)

aroundtheworld

by Akshat Choube

PLASTIC-EATING CATERPILLARS COULD HELP GET RID OF THE WORLD'S WASTE

In a recent study published in *Current Biology*, a team comprising of Spanish researcher Federica Bertocchini and two other researchers from University of Cambridge have concluded that the caterpillar of the greater wax moth is capable of breaking down polyethylene, the most common plastic. The researchers say that the caterpillar's digestive feat might be because of structural similarities between plastic and the wax that constitutes part of their usual diet. Though, some scientists believe that using wax worms directly to recycle on an industrial scale might just create new problems. Chewing up plastics could create small fragments that pick up toxins like a sponge, transport them up the food chain, and can cause harm to the environment and human health. But the researchers say that the next step isn't to use the wax worms themselves, but to find the enzyme in their digestive systems that's being used to break up the plastic. If the scientists are successful in isolating the enzyme, it could be used in the treatment of waste in landfills. For further information, visit [here](#).



ISRO INVITES PROPOSALS FOR ITS VENUS MISSION'S SPACE EXPERIMENT

With a mission to Venus on its horizon, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has made an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for space based experiments to study the planet. The AO is addressed to all institutions in the country, and the last date for submitting the proposals is May 19, 2017, Bengaluru-headquartered ISRO said. Those sending proposals may be currently involved in planetary exploration studies, or development of science instruments for space, or willing to develop the experiments. Venus mission's main aim would be to fill the existing gaps in our basic understanding about surface/sub-surface features and processes, super rotation of Venusian atmosphere, interaction with the solar radiation/wind and its evolution.



onthehorizon

by [Jude K Anil](#)

Here are some events to watch out for in the upcoming month of May:

POLITICS

- Iran goes to elections on 19th May to decide their next president. The results are expected to be an indicator of the national sentiment regarding the nuclear deal signed under the incumbent President Hassan Rouhani.

BUSINESS

- India and US will hold trade talks throughout this month covering many sectors like infrastructure, digital technology and smart cities. These talks are particularly significant given the precarious situation of Indians working in the US on H1-B visas.
- Amazon's "Great Indian Sale" will start on May 11th. The four day event is the latest push by the e-commerce giant to dethrone Flipkart as the dominant player in the market. And in a tit for tat move flipkart has announced a Big 10 sale from May 14th to May 18th.

ARTS AND FESTS

- The 56th Venice Biennale, the biggest art exhibition in the world, will start on 13th May.
- The 21st Annual Webby Awards, considered "The Oscars of the Internet", will be held on May 15th.

- The Ooty summer festival will be held throughout the month with a number of flower shows at various parks.
- The Billboard Music Awards will be held on May 21st. Many artistes are slated to headline the event.

SPORTS

- World Team Chess championships will be hosted on May 15 in Russia.
- FIFA U-20 world cup will be held on May 15th.
- UEFA - EUROPA league final will be held on 24th May.
- The second grand slam of the year and the most physically demanding, the French Open starts on 28th May.



MOVIES

- The Amitabh Bachchan starrer and Ram Gopal Varma directed, political crime thriller, "Sarkar 3" releases on 27th May.
- "Half-girlfriend", the coming of age, romance film based on the eponymous novel by Chetan Bhagat will hit the screens on 19th May.
- "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" releases on May 26th. Johnny Depp will be seen reprising his role as the quirky pirate "Captain Jack Sparrow" and Javier Bardem will play the role of "Captain Salazar", his old foe.

thecollector'spiece

by Gauri Shankar Prasad

"And he wasn't a nutcase, he wasn't a sociopath, he wasn't an outcast. McCandless was something else. . . A pilgrim perhaps." John Krakauer, through these words, tries to defend Christopher Johnson McCandless, a young lad, who, in his early twenties survived 112 days in the wilderness. About three weeks after he died, a group of Alaskans found his skeletal, lifeless body nestled into his sleeping bag and resting quietly in the abandoned bus.

Why would such a young boy go on to die in alaska? Wasn't it an utter foolishness? Where were his parents?

Jon Krakauer answers these questions in his biographical essay, *Into the Wild* which deservedly became a bestseller, and launched Krakauer into the highest order of American outdoor writing.

Into the Wild, commences with an important turning point late in Christopher McCandless' life when he forced his way into ignorance in hopes of testing his own mettle, but little did he know that there was no coming back. Born



In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter...

J O N K R A K A U E R

and raised in a well to do upper middle-class family, McCandless was a bright kid, graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, inspired by the thoughts of Thoreau, Jack London and Tolstoy, the boy was against the material world. Early in his life, he decides to donate all his savings to charity, abandon his car in the desert, and actually burn all his paper money- \$123 on the desert floor and step into the wild with a whole new identity- Alexander Supertramp, calling himself 'master of his own destiny'. Determined to live authentically on the edge, he spends two years exploring as much of the American west as he could, facing lots of challenges, making friends for life. His journey through Krakauer's words is a painful account yet an immensely inspiring one.

In a letter to his sister shortly before he disappeared, Chris wrote of his father and mother, "I'm going to divorce them as my parents once and for all and never speak to either of those idiots again as long as I live." Krakauer writes, "It is

easy, when you are young to believe that what you desire is no less than what you deserve, to assume that if you want something badly enough, it is your God-given right to have it. "Were his parents responsible? or was he merely a "loopy young man who read too many books and lacked even a modicum of common sense?"

Krakauer does not merely trace the path of this journey, he reconstructs the young man's effort to reinvent his life. Chris was not a man for knowledge, money, and power as all do, he gave his life for simplicity and self-reliance in the lap of nature. Chris McCandless' story is somewhat a romantic conquest, one in which his beloved, the American west, the nature itself, not only failed to return his affection, but killed him without even acknowledging his existence.

Was it a tragedy? I think not. Find out for yourself in this unforgettable story by Jon Krakauer.



dribblenibbles

by Somasekharan

MEN PREVAIL AGAINST BOYS

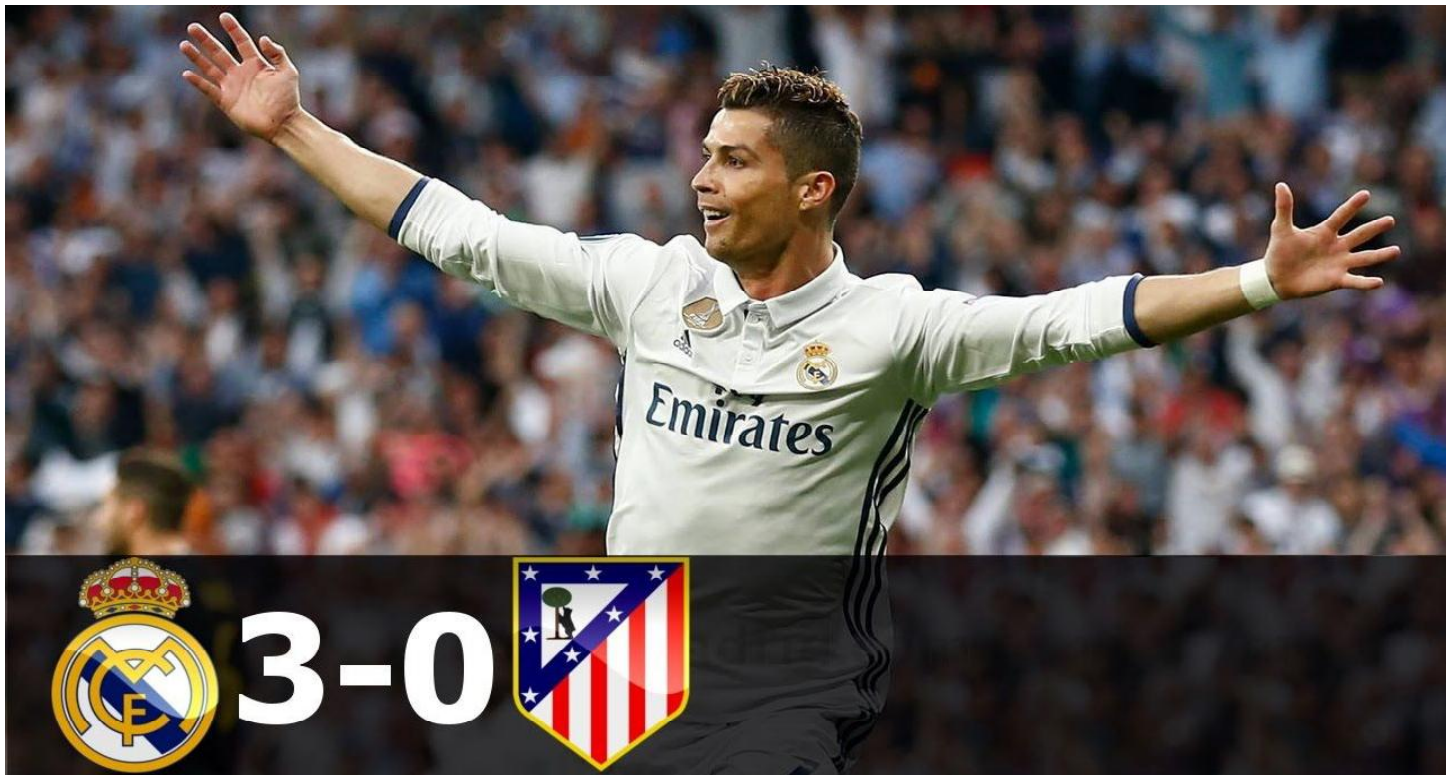


It seems as though the semi-final is done and dusted barring a stunning comeback from Atlético at the Vicente Calderón stadium, hosting its final European game. Fans would be hoping that they would come up with the goods and reach their third final in four years. Juventus reaffirmed their status as one of the favourites to win this year's Champions League with an impressive win over the highest goal scorers across Europe, AS Monaco. Juve's record signing Gonzalo Higuain scored twice as the experienced Italians overcame the young starlets of Monaco at the Stade Louis II.

AS Monaco started the game on the front foot with their 18-year old striker Kylian Mbappé having a couple of good chances to give them an early lead in the tie but was denied by the 39-year old Gianluigi Buffon in the Juve goal, who was making his 100th Champions League appearance having made his debut even before Mbappé was born. Juve took the lead against the run of play when Dybala's delightful flick set up Dani Alves, who ran at the Monaco defence before back-heeling the ball into Higuain's path, for him to slot home the opener in the 29th minute. They doubled their lead just before the hour mark, when Higuain was again at the end of Dani Alves' pinpoint cross from the right wing, to put the tie beyond Monaco's reach. Despite Monaco's best efforts, the meanest defence in this year's Champions League held on to record a very important victory which takes them one step closer to Cardiff.

Monaco have a mountain to climb if they are to maintain their stunning run in this year's competition. Juve with the home support behind them would be near impossible to beat at the Juventus stadium when they play the second leg next week.

COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH THE MAN



Real Madrid put one foot into the UEFA Champions League final with a comprehensive win in the Madrid derby. Cristiano Ronaldo proved once again why he is considered a talisman for the Galáticos of Real by bagging his seventh Champions League hat-trick to go level with arch rival Lionel Messi. His treble also saw him become the first player to reach 50 goals in the knockout stages of the competition (52 in total).

Real were quick out of the blocks with both full backs looking dangerous in the early exchanges. Carvajal nearly opened the scoring with a surging run and a good shot well saved by Oblak. But the opener came just minutes later when Casemiro's mishit shot was headed past the Atlético keeper by Ronaldo. The first half was a clear indication of Real's domination over their local rivals with Isco being the brightest spark for them, playing in a free role behind Ronaldo and Benzema. Carvajal's injury just before halftime gave Atlético some belief going into the second half. But any hopes of their comeback were dashed when Ronaldo grabbed his second with a wonderful volley in the 73rd minute. Ronaldo piled more misery on them when he combined with substitute Lucas Vázquez to claim his third goal on the night with just four minutes of regulation time left.

.....

veteran'svoice

by **Ishita Lalan**



The great Sir Edmund Hillary once said, "It is not the mountain that we conquer but ourselves". If you think you have the passion for adventure and strength of mind, body and spirit to do something that will change your life, do a mountaineering course.

When I completed my Basic and Advance Mountaineering Courses from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in Uttarkashi, I gained more than just a new hobby. These courses introduce you to a way of life that you can only imagine in your wildest dreams. Learning rock climbing, ice craft, snow craft, trekking and reaching the summit not only help you learn skills as a future mountain climber, but it will also leave you with a bunch of memories and lifelong friends. But most importantly, it will reignite your belief in yourself and give you the confidence that you can achieve almost anything that you set your mind to.

Imagine one month spent in the lap of nature. You will be living in tents with your mates, nothing to distract you as no cell phones work there. Living as ancient humans did, you wake up as the sun rises and sleep when it sets. The days are spent in various activities which may or may not exhaust you but will surely exhilarate you. You get to have and live your own adventure. And at the end of it, you will get to summit your very first mountain, watch sunsets and sunrises not many people have seen, and be sleep with content after the hard work everyday. When you go to bed, the satisfaction of doing a job well will be reward enough for all the hardships you go through.



I learnt how to survive with the most limited resources available. I learnt how to work as a team, to give and to accept help, and to be firm in my decisions and their actions. I got to interact with some amazing people who acted as my mentors and my friends. I met people who lived in the hardships that I could only live with for a few weeks and yet be satisfied and love the nature around them.



I agree that it's not a comfortable life. You may want to sleep in your nice cozy beds, watch TV, chat on facebook, and carry on living your normal life. But mountaineering is for those who yearn for something more beyond the mere ordinary. It is for people who think there is more to life than just work and play. If you want to feel alive, go to the mountains. I am not saying that it is easy, it maybe one of the toughest and most

physically demanding thing that you will ever do. But trust me, it will be worth it.

If not mountaineering, go for a trek. You may be inspired to do more. For more information on these courses and institutes, contact me at ishitalalan@gmail.com

objetd'art

SHE BELONGED TO NONE

by Gauri Shankar Prasad

I looked at her, I craved for her,
She was so appealing, I even prayed for her,
I could feel her need, I begged for her.
Not even a glance and she went on her way,
As if I was some toddler, whom she sees everyday.

I was determined, I didn't give up.
I ran, I walked, I even crawled half dead,
Just to find out that she was yet ahead.
When I couldn't take more, I cried from behind,
"Dear, Oh Dear! Do you take me for a crook?
Am I that unpleasant, unworthy of your look?"

Off on her way, she replied faintly,
"O traveller! you must have mistaken me for someone,
I won't pause for you as I have paused for none.
Many have come and many have gone,
Time, they call me, I don't belong to any one."

With a heavy heart, I had to return,
Cruel, she was, she couldn't even turn.
Ah, time, she was and she belonged to none.

Editors: **Prasanna Venkatesan R** | +91 949 720 4503 & **Ankit Singh** | +91 889 660 3146

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are not to be construed in any manner as the official views of IIT Palakkad.

For Permissions to reuse any content herein, you can reach us out at tfs.iitpkd@gmail.com