



Operating Principle: |Read - Reflect - Respond|

THE CATALYST

"A fortnightly newsletter-cum-magazine, published as Odd and Even Issues, spotlighting the academic, creative, and cultural life of IFIM College — featuring student voices, faculty insights, and campus highlights."

IFIM College's Biweekly Periodical | Since September 2024

Volume: 04 | Issue: 03 & 04

February Issue

Coverage: February 1-28



Institute of Finance and International Management

An Autonomous Institution | Affiliated to Bangalore University

Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC

Bengaluru - 560 100



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1.INDUSTRIAL VISIT REPORT – CYBERVERSE FOUNDATION, MYSORE

An industrial visit was organized for the VI Semester students of the Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA), IFIM College, School of Technology, with the aim of providing practical exposure to real-world cybersecurity practices. The visit helped bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and industry application by allowing students to observe how cybersecurity measures are implemented in professional environments. It also helped students understand the importance of digital security, ethical hacking concepts, and data protection in today's technology-driven world.



The visit took place on 7th February 2026 at Cyberverser Foundation, Mysore, with 49 students participating under the guidance of Dr. Sunetra and Dr. Vishal. Cyberverser Foundation is an organization that focuses on cybersecurity awareness, training, and modern security practices. During the session, students were introduced to the importance of cybersecurity in the digital era and were given insights into common cyber threats such as phishing, malware, and data breaches. The experts also demonstrated security tools used for monitoring and protecting systems, and explained concepts related to ethical hacking and penetration testing. Students actively interacted with the professionals and learned about best practices followed in organizations to secure networks and sensitive data.

The industrial visit helped students gain practical understanding of cybersecurity concepts and increased their awareness of real-time cyber threats and security solutions. They also learned about industry-level tools, professional practices, and career opportunities in the cybersecurity domain. Feedback collected from students showed a highly positive response, with 64.3% rating the visit as excellent and 35.7% rating it as good, indicating that the experience was informative and beneficial.

Overall, the industrial visit to Cyberverser Foundation was a valuable learning experience for the students. It provided meaningful exposure to real-world cybersecurity practices and enhanced their understanding of industry expectations and challenges. Such visits play an important role in strengthening practical knowledge and preparing students for future careers in the IT and cybersecurity field.



2. VISIT TO OLD AGE HOME – KANYATHON INITIATIVE (VALENTINE’S DAY)

On the occasion of Valentine’s Day, the Kanyathon team organized a visit to an old age home with the aim of spreading love, warmth, and happiness among the elderly residents. The initiative was undertaken to make them feel valued, remembered, and cared for, reinforcing the spirit of compassion and social responsibility.



During the visit, the team distributed roses and red balloons as small tokens of love and appreciation. A lively jamming session was organized where the residents enthusiastically participated, sang along, and enjoyed the music. Their smiles and joyful responses made the celebration truly memorable and emotional for everyone present.

The team also distributed fruits and served lunch, ensuring that the residents felt included and well cared for. In addition, the members introduced the Kanyathon initiative and shared its social mission. Many residents expressed genuine interest in learning about the initiative and appreciated the efforts taken by the team.



The visit created a deep emotional connection between the team and the residents, making it a heart-touching and unforgettable experience. It served as a reminder that small acts of kindness and meaningful interactions can bring immense joy and comfort to others.

3. INDUSTRIAL VISIT TO DANDELI & COASTAL KARNATAKA

An industrial tour was organized from 4th to 8th February 2026 to Dandeli and Coastal Karnataka with the participation of 45 students and two faculty mentors. The primary objective of the visit was to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world industry exposure, enabling students to understand production processes, quality standards, and management practices.

The journey began from Bengaluru to Dandeli, where students stayed at White Jungle Pearl Resort. The first day included recreational activities such as badminton, swimming, and archery, encouraging team bonding and interaction among participants. A scenic sunset visit followed by a campfire session provided students with an opportunity to reflect and share their experiences.



On the second day, students explored the unique geological formations at Yana Caves and later visited Honnavar Backwaters, where they experienced boating while learning about coastal ecosystems and tourism. The group stayed at Silver Moon Beach Resort, where another interactive campfire session was organized.

The third day focused on industrial exposure. At DKMUL (Udupi), students observed the milk processing and packaging processes, along with hygiene practices and quality control measures. At Gurucharan Industries, they learned about maintaining consistency, brand value, and professional standards through direct interaction with industry officials. The visit provided students with practical exposure to industrial operations and helped them understand production cycles, quality control procedures, and workplace practices. It also strengthened teamwork, coordination, and planning skills. Overall, the industrial tour was both educational and memorable, giving students a deeper understanding of how industries function in real-world settings.

1. MEET YOUR DIRECTOR



Dr. A.V. Arunkumar

Dr. A.V. Arunkumar is a Professor and Director at IFIM Institutions, bringing a rich blend of academic excellence, industry leadership, and policy expertise. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, and has further strengthened his credentials with certifications in Financial Risk Management (CISI, London) and MSME credit, along with international training in management.

With a career spanning both academia and the banking sector, Dr. Arunkumar has held significant leadership roles, including Assistant General Manager (Economist) at the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), and senior positions such as Deputy General Manager and General Manager in credit and risk management. He has also served as Chief Risk Officer in commercial banking, both in India and internationally, leading large-scale projects and driving operational and policy improvements.

In academia, he has extensive experience managing undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programs, with a strong focus on integrating theoretical knowledge with practical, industry-relevant skills. His teaching and academic leadership emphasize experiential learning and preparing students for dynamic business environments.

Dr. Arunkumar's research interests include financial inclusion, microfinance, development banking, sustainable finance, and digital financial systems. He has contributed widely through journal publications, book chapters, and books, and is an active commentator on financial and economic issues in mainstream media. His recent co-edited book, "Institutions and Public Policy for India's Sustainable Development" (2025), reflects his continued engagement with policy and sustainable development discourse.

2. UNION BUDGET 2026–27 PANEL DISCUSSION: FISCAL CHOICES, ECONOMIC FUTURES

A panel discussion on the Union Budget 2026–27 was organized at IFIM College to help students understand the government’s fiscal priorities and their long-term impact on the Indian economy. The session aimed to connect classroom knowledge with real-world economic decisions and encourage students to think critically about India’s financial and economic future.

The discussion featured a distinguished panel of experts including Prof. Vinod Vyasulu, Distinguished Professor and Founder Chairman of CBPS; Dr. Madhavankutty G, Chief Economist at Canara Bank; CA Nilay Mehta, Director at Deloitte; and CA Shruti Agarwal, a practicing Chartered Accountant. The panel brought together perspectives from academia, banking, and the corporate sector, creating a well-rounded and insightful discussion.

During the session, the experts analyzed the key fiscal priorities presented in the Union Budget 2026–27. They discussed the implications of taxation policies, regulatory measures, and financial reforms on economic growth and business development. The panelists also highlighted how budget decisions influence industries, financial markets, and employment opportunities for young professionals. Students actively participated in the interactive Q&A session, raising thoughtful questions and engaging in discussions with the experts. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to participants in recognition of their involvement and enthusiasm.



The panel discussion helped students gain a clearer understanding of fiscal policy and its real-world implications. They were able to learn from the diverse viewpoints of experts across different sectors and understand how government budget decisions affect industries, businesses, and career opportunities. Overall, the interactive nature of the session encouraged critical thinking and helped students develop a deeper awareness of India’s economic landscape.

3.FUN FIESTA – RUN WITH LOVE

The Fun Fiesta celebrated on 13th February was organized under the theme “Run with Love.” The event aimed to spread positivity and excitement among students while building enthusiasm for the upcoming Kanyathon. The campus was filled with energy, joy, and a strong sense of unity as students and faculty members came together to celebrate the occasion.



Students and faculty members participated in the event by dressing in vibrant shades of red and white, symbolizing love, togetherness, and support. Food stalls organized by both students and faculty added flavor and fun to the celebration, offering a variety of delicious treats that everyone enjoyed. One of the most popular attractions of the event was the song dedication corner, where participants dedicated songs to their favorite people, creating a lively and entertaining atmosphere.

Another special highlight was the “Message to Your Favorite Person” corner, where students wrote heartfelt notes expressing their appreciation and emotions. These activities made the event more personal, meaningful, and engaging for everyone involved. The entire campus atmosphere remained lively, cheerful, and full of excitement throughout the celebration.



Overall, the event successfully created a positive and motivating environment within the college. It brought students together, strengthened bonds among them, and built greater enthusiasm for the upcoming Kanyathon. The celebration served as a memorable and joyful experience for everyone who participated.

4.SIMULATION TECHNIQUES IN BUSINESS DECISION-MAKING

A session on “Simulation Techniques in Business Decision-Making” was conducted on 25th February 2026 at BF 3. The session was led by Dr. A. M. Sakthivel, Principal of IFIM College, and witnessed the active participation of 75 students. The session aimed to help students understand the concept of simulation modeling and its relevance in modern business environments. It also focused on explaining how simulation tools can be used to analyze business problems and support effective decision-making through data-based outcomes.



During the session, Dr. Sakthivel introduced the fundamental concepts of simulation modeling and explained its importance in business decision-making. He highlighted how managers and organizations can test strategies in a virtual and risk-free environment before implementing them in real-world situations. The session followed a hands-on approach, allowing students to actively engage with simulation tools and explore different business scenarios.

Participants worked on examples related to organizational decision-making strategies, market share analysis, pricing strategies, and the impact of these decisions on revenue and profitability. Through these practical exercises, students were able to understand how different strategic choices can influence overall business performance. The session provided valuable practical exposure to the use of simulation tools in business strategy and decision-making.



Students developed a better understanding of how simulated scenarios can help analyze complex business situations and evaluate different outcomes. The interactive nature of the session encouraged analytical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills among participants. Overall, the experience strengthened students’ understanding of how business strategies affect market performance, pricing decisions, and profitability, making the session both informative and impactful.

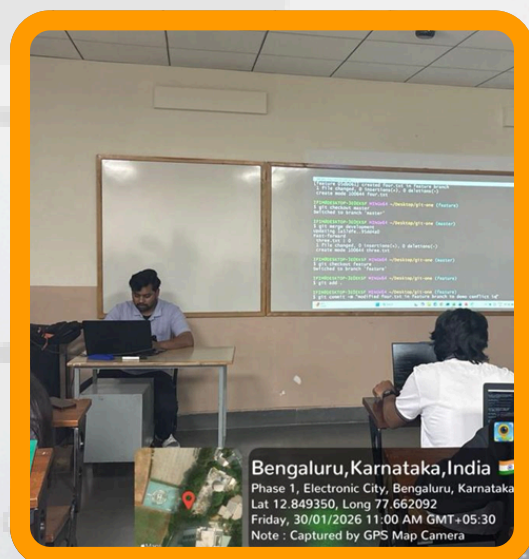
5. HANDS-ON WORKSHOP: VERSION CONTROL WITH GIT & GITHUB

The School of Technology at IFIM College organized a two-day hands-on workshop on “Version Control with Git & GitHub” on 29th and 30th January 2026. The workshop aimed to introduce BCA students to the fundamentals of version control systems and provide practical exposure to Git and GitHub. The primary objective of the session was to help students understand how version control works in collaborative software development and to enhance their technical readiness for industry practices.



The workshop was conducted separately for first-year and second-year BCA students to ensure better interaction and focused learning. The sessions began with an introduction to version control concepts and the importance of managing code efficiently in software development. The resource persons explained the structure and working of Git and demonstrated commonly used commands such as init, add, commit, branch, merge, and reset. Students were also introduced to the key differences between Git and GitHub.

Live demonstrations were conducted on creating repositories and pushing code to GitHub, allowing students to gain practical experience. The workshop also highlighted important industry practices, including writing meaningful commit messages and managing branches effectively during collaborative projects. The workshop provided valuable practical exposure to Git and GitHub.



Students gained a better understanding of how to track and manage code changes in a collaborative environment. Overall, the session helped improve students' technical skills and prepared them for internships, academic projects, and real-world software development practices.

6. REPORT ON THE ART OF STORY TELLING – HR NARRATIVES

An event titled “The Art of Storytelling – HR Narratives” was conducted on 26th February 2026 at IFIM College. The session aimed to help students understand how storytelling can be used as an effective tool in Human Resource management. The activity encouraged students to connect HR theories with real-life organizational situations and develop better communication and presentation skills.



The main objective of the event was to develop students' ability to connect HR concepts with real organizational practices. The session also aimed to enhance critical thinking skills by encouraging students to analyze real HR situations, conflicts, and decision-making scenarios through storytelling. The HR Clb Euphrasia organized the activity with enthusiastic participation from 12 student groups. Students displayed strong dedication and preparation while presenting their HR narratives.

Many participants delivered their presentations extempore, demonstrating confidence, clarity of thought, and a deep understanding of the topic.

Several students stood out as exceptional presenters, including Manav, Rachana, Mounika, Christian Benny, Dhvani, Omkar, Shanthanu, Aswathi, Apoorva, and Stephy. Apoorva received special appreciation for overcoming stage fear through consistent practice, while Koushika was recognized for her creativity and unique approach to storytelling.



Before the presentations, students were provided with structured inputs on storytelling techniques through a dedicated session and video resources. These preparatory sessions helped students improve the quality and structure of their presentations.

The activity created a significant academic and developmental impact on the students. It enhanced their communication skills, confidence, creativity, and presentation abilities. Overall, the event was successful in encouraging students to think critically and present HR concepts in an engaging and practical manner. It also highlighted the importance of storytelling as a powerful tool in professional communication and human resource management.



7. WORKSHOP ON EXCEL TO INSIGHTS ON DATA ANALYTICS

The Department of Commerce, IFIM College organized a one-day workshop titled “Excel to Insights on Data Analytics” to help students strengthen their practical skills in Microsoft Excel. The session aimed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry requirements by showing how Excel can be used effectively in real business situations.

The workshop covered both basic and advanced Excel concepts. Students learned about creating and formatting spreadsheets, using rows and columns efficiently, and applying important formulas such as SUM, AVERAGE, IF, and VLOOKUP. Special focus was given to keyboard shortcuts that improve speed and productivity. The session also included data sorting, filtering, conditional formatting, and basic data analysis techniques.



The workshop followed a hands-on approach where students created small datasets, applied formulas, and analyzed data to generate meaningful insights. This practical exposure helped them understand how Excel supports decision-making in finance, accounting, and business analytics.

Overall, the session was interactive, informative, and highly useful. It enhanced students' confidence in using Excel and improved their analytical and problem-solving skills, preparing them better for internships and future careers.

8. WORKSHOP ON MANAGING DIFFERENCES IN COLLEGE LIFE

A workshop titled “Managing Differences in College Life” was conducted on 27th February 2026 from 10:40 AM to 12:40 PM at the Startup Foundry, IFIM College. The session was led by Prof. Ramini and was organized for BBA 1st and 2nd year students. The main purpose of the workshop was to help students better understand how to handle differences, misunderstandings, and conflicts that naturally arise in college life. Since college is a space where students from different backgrounds, personalities, and perspectives come together, the session focused on improving interpersonal communication and conflict management skills.



What made the workshop special was its interactive and practical approach. Instead of just listening to theory, students actively participated in various activities. A Johari Window–based exercise helped students understand how they see themselves and how others perceive them. A conflict-handling assessment allowed students to identify their personal conflict style and reflect on their behavior during disagreements. Scenario-based discussions and group activities encouraged open conversations, self-reflection, and teamwork.

Throughout the session, students were engaged and thoughtful. They shared opinions, listened to different viewpoints, and reflected on their own communication patterns. The activities helped them realize how perception, emotions, and communication styles influence relationships.

Overall, the workshop was insightful and relatable. It provided practical tools that students can use in everyday college life to manage differences in a healthier and more mature way. The session not only improved awareness but also encouraged empathy, understanding, and stronger peer relationships.

9. SOFTWARE CLUB ACTIVITY: FRAME & FAME – THE ULTIMATE CANVA SHOWDOWN

The Software Club of IFIM College organized “Frame & Fame – The Ultimate Canva Showdown” on 9th February 2026. The event aimed to encourage students to enhance their creativity and editing skills using digital tools like Canva. Prof. Sinzy Silvester inaugurated the session and motivated students to actively participate and explore their creative potential.

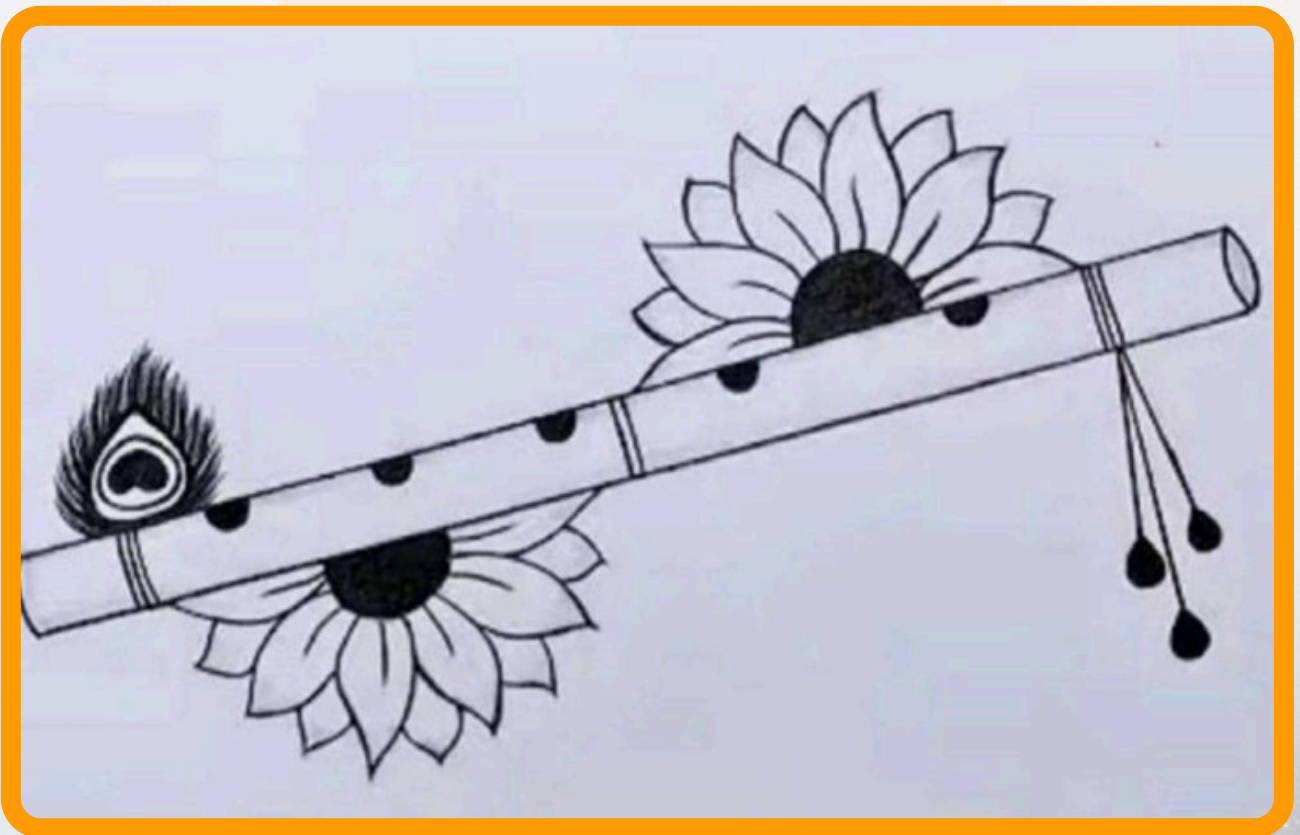


The event began at 3:00 PM, with the student coordinators explaining the theme, rules, and process. Participants were assigned poster and video creation tasks using Canva, including AI-based features. Students worked enthusiastically, applying their ideas and design skills to create innovative outputs.

The activity helped students improve their technical knowledge, creativity, teamwork, time management, and presentation skills. It also boosted their confidence in using modern digital tools effectively. Overall, the event successfully combined creativity and technology, providing students with a valuable hands-on learning experience.



ART SUBMISSION BY VARNIKA



COLLEGE *Varnika*
Autonomous II BBA

1. RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION AT IIM NAGPUR

Ineyaa and Shweta Sekar, 4th Semester BBA students, presented their research paper at the prestigious Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Nagpur under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Fredrick Ruban A. Presenting at such a respected institution was a proud and significant academic achievement.



The research paper titled “Deconstruction and Reconstruction of the Sex-Gender System: A Social Constructionist Reading of Kalki Subramaniam” critically examined how society shapes and defines gender. The study challenged the idea that gender is fixed or purely biological and instead explained how it is influenced by social norms, culture, and institutions.

Through the work and activism of Kalki Subramaniam, the paper highlighted the need to question rigid gender binaries and promote more inclusive and equal perspectives. The research showed strong understanding, critical thinking, and the ability to connect theory with real social issues. Presenting at IIM Nagpur gave them the opportunity to engage with scholars and researchers from different institutions. Their participation reflected academic strength, confidence, and serious commitment to meaningful research. This achievement marks an important milestone in their academic journey and brings pride to the institution. It stands as proof of their dedication to research, social awareness, and intellectual growth.



2. THIRD PRIZE – PRODUCT PITCH COMPETITION

Shanthanu achieved a commendable milestone by securing 3rd Prize in the Product Pitch Competition. His presentation stood out for its clarity, innovative idea, and confident delivery. Through his pitch, he effectively demonstrated his ability to communicate business ideas, analyze market potential, and present solutions in a structured and persuasive manner.

His achievement reflects strong entrepreneurial thinking, creativity, and presentation skills. The recognition not only highlights his individual effort and dedication but also brings pride to the institution. The accomplishment serves as an inspiration for other students to actively participate in such competitions and explore their innovative potential.

Participating in such competitions also provides students with valuable exposure to real-world business challenges. Shanthanu's performance demonstrated his ability to think strategically, respond confidently to questions, and present ideas with professionalism. His achievement highlights the importance of innovation, preparation, and determination in achieving success



CONFERMENT OF PH.D. TO PROF. SWARNIKA DIXIT

It is with great pride and happiness that we share the news that Prof. Swarnika Dixit has been conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) at the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) Convocation Ceremony.

This remarkable achievement reflects her dedication to academic excellence, consistent hard work, and deep commitment to research. Earning a Ph.D. is not just a degree, but a symbol of perseverance, intellectual strength, and contribution to knowledge in one's field.

Prof. Swarnika Dixit's accomplishment is a proud moment for the entire institution. Her success serves as an inspiration to students and colleagues alike, encouraging a culture of research, curiosity, and continuous learning.

On behalf of the academic community, heartfelt congratulations are extended to her on this significant milestone. May this achievement mark the beginning of many more scholarly contributions and continued success in her professional journey.



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THE GRATITUDE EDIT

Dear Readers,

We're thrilled to bring you a fresh and inspiring edition of *The Catalyst*! Your energy and enthusiasm keep us going as we strive to share stories and ideas that spark curiosity, challenge perspectives, and start conversations that matter. Every article and feature has been handpicked to inform, inspire, and connect with you.

Thank you for being such an important part of *The Catalyst* community—your support and feedback fuel everything we do!

With gratitude,

The Editorial Team

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Catalyst invites contributions from students and faculty members for the "Creative Nexus" and "Critical Perspectives" columns, respectively. "Creative Nexus" accepts creative works such as verses, short fiction, and cartoons, whereas "Critical Perspectives" welcomes critical write-ups from faculty on current issues, with a word limit of 500–800 words. Kindly submit your contributions to thecatalyst@ifim.edu.in