

GYRA Newsletter

March 2024 Edition



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www.thinkgyra.org



Upcoming Events

IRCC - 2024



EDITORIAL

Gig

"Finally," said Rahul's dad, "she got a gig in her own country!" "Gig? What's that?" Asked Rahul blankly. "You don't know what it means, Rahul?" Dad was surprised. "Why don't you consider it as your week's research?"

That was a great idea. Rahul went after the word gig. His search revealed to him stories about jazz musicians of the 1920s. They used the word "gig" to mean their concerts. If they got a booking, they said, "We got our gig!" As decades passed, the word traveled from the jazz musicians to others and then to common marketplaces. It then began to represent a temporary job of any kind. "Druv got three gigs, one after the other!" would mean that Druv had three short-term jobs.

Why did we speak about gigs? Because language can be an area of research. Following a word in your language can reveal stories, cultural events, historical facts, and sometimes surprising and funny connections. Thus, language research can be a gig that gives you a lot of fun and surprises. Let your curiosity see no boundaries. Unwind your questions to whatever you come across. GYRA encourages you to arouse your curiosity. That's the way to research.

Team GYRA

Virtual Symposium



For those interested in hosting the Virtual Symposium in June & July, please drop an email to thinkgyra@gmail.com

"Research is seeing what everybody else has seen and thinking what nobody else has thought."

- Albert Szent-Györgyi

GYRA Schools

- 1.St. John's School, Anchal, Kollam-Kerala
- 2. Sheron School-Mumbai
- 3. Jeevodaya Special School, Kasargod-Kerala
- 4. Assisi Vidhyanikethan Public School, Kakkanad, Kochi-Kerala

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CURIOUS FACTS

Betavolt atomic energy batteries are under trial.

Betavolt nuclear battery works by converting the energy released by decaying isotopes into electricity, through a process, first explored in the 20th century.

Scientists in the Soviet Union and United States were able to develop the technology for use in spacecraft, underwater systems and remote scientific stations, however the thermonuclear batteries were both costly and bulky.

The quest to miniaturise and commercialise nuclear batteries was taken up under China. Betavolt, the Beijing based company said its first nuclear battery can deliver 100 microwatts of power and a voltage of 3V, while measuring 15x15x5 cubic millimetres, however it plans to produce a battery with 1 watt of power by 2025.

Their small size means they could be used in series to produce more power, with the company imagining mobile phones that never need to be charged and drones that can fly forever. "It is suitable for use in medical devices such as pacemakers, artificial hearts and cochleas in the human body," claims the company

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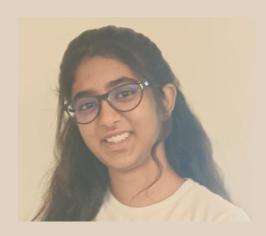


Welcome on Board



Dr. Vipindev Vasudevan

Vipindev is a postdoctoral associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He received the B. Tech. from the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, the M. Tech. from the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, and the Ph.D. from the University of Vigo, Spain. He was a Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Patras, Greece during his Ph.D. His research interests include but are not limited to network coding, network security, 5G and beyond networks, and the Internet of Things



Ms. Jahnavi Chowdary Gutta

Jahnavi is an adventurous person with a passion for aiding children and marginalised communities which led her to pursue psychology. She is currently pursuing her third-year bachelor's degree in psychology and planning to specialize in Children's Psychological Disorders for her master's. Her experiences of working as a facilitator with organizations supporting both neurodivergent and neurotypical children fostered her research interests in child development, education systems, and environmental influences on development.



36th Kerala Science

Jeevodava Special School Kasaragod, Kerala, from insightful their presented research on the prevalence of African snails in their area. Through a detailed survey conducted around the school premises, they examined the influence of different soil types on the presence of snails, shedding light on an important ecological aspect.

Congress-24



The enthusiastic scholars from Don Bosco Special School, Kannur, delved into the biodiversity of butterflies and moths in Kannur district. Their diligent efforts resulted in the identification of numerous lepidopterans from their surroundings, showcasing their keen observation skills.

Additionally, the intellectually challenged scholars from Holy Cross Special School shared their study on the growth difference of Anabas fish fed with various fish foods. Their findings highlighted the environmental impact of using kitchen and food waste for fish cultivation, contributing valuable insights to sustainable practices.

The presentations made by these young scholars at the Kerala Science Congress were not just informative but also inspirational. They demonstrated their capabilities alongside their peers and left a lasting impact on the audience. Teachers from all participating schools noted a significant boost in the students' confidence levels, attributing it to their involvement in GYRA's activities. Participation in such initiatives has not only enhanced their thinking ability, memory, learning, and observation skills but has also propelled them forward in their unique and challenging journey. We applaud their dedication and achievements and look forward to more groundbreaking research from our special scholars.

Empowering Special Scholars in Scientific Research

We are delighted to share the latest updates from our inclusive research program, where GYRA has extended its support to the less privileged people with disabilities, nurturing their scientific temper and research aptitude. Currently, students from more than 10 special schools across Kerala are actively engaged in various research projects under our mentorship. One of the recent highlights was the participation of scholars from three special schools in the prestigious Kerala Science Congress, an event organized by the Kerala State Government. This platform provided an opportunity for budding researchers from all over India to showcase their studies and findings.





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