



## **Expert/Student Panel Discussion (November 30, 2021)**

**Organized by**

**IEEE GRSS Bangalore Section and NITK IEEE GRSS Student  
Branch Chapter**

### **Virtual Event**

National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) IEEE GRSS Student Branch Chapter has been on the works since filing the petition in July 2021. It was formally approved on September 21, 2021. This is a red letter day for the IEEE GRSS Bangalore Section, given the formation of its very first student chapter. We wish the student chapter great success! The branch is mentored by Dr. Shyam Lal, who is a faculty member of NITK Suratkal and also serving as the Vice-Chair of the IEEE GRSS Bangalore Section.

The inauguration of the student chapter is a 4-event program consisting of:

- Opening Ceremony on November 26, 2021
- Webinar Series on “Applications of Geospatial Data” on November 26, 2021
- Student Hackathon on AI for Remote Sensing Applications (AIRSA-2021), November 29-30, 2021
- Panel discussion by experts and students on “Strategizing professional opportunities for students in the wake of the liberalized national geospatial policy” on November 30, 2021

The event is jointly organized by IEEE GRSS Bangalore Section and NITK IEEE GRSS Student Branch Chapter

The concluding panel discussion is an expert and student endeavor to discuss the effects of access to open data in the ecosystem involving students. The details of the panel discussion are:

Panel discussion by experts and students on “Strategizing professional opportunities for students in the wake of the liberalized national geospatial policy”

Time: November 30, 2021, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm IST  
Meeting Link on Microsoft Teams: <https://bit.ly/3leFlsD>

Panelists:

- \* Prof. Rama Rao Nidanamuri, IIST, Thiruvananthapuram and IEEE GRSS Kerala ([LinkedIn](#))
- \* Mr. Arun Kumar, Aaron GSD, Bengaluru ([LinkedIn](#))
- \* Mr. Jayachandran Mani, K-GIS, Bengaluru ([LinkedIn](#))
- \* Ms. Rahisha Thottolil, IIIT Bangalore and IEEE GRSS Bangalore ([LinkedIn](#))
- \* Mr. Vasala Saicharan, NITK Surathkal, IEEE GRSS Bangalore and NITK IEEE GRSS Student Chapter ([LinkedIn](#))

Moderators:

- \* Dr. Jaya Sreevalsan Nair and Dr. Shyam Lal, IEEE GRSS Bangalore Slate

The panel discussion is scheduled to follow the announcement of prizes for the student hackathon.

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Brief biographies of panelists:

**Dr. Rama Rao Nidamanuri** is a Full Professor at the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST, Trivandrum, India). He is specialized in Remote Sensing Image Processing. He had his education, M.Sc (Space Physics), M.Tech (Remote Sensing), and PhD (Remote Sensing and Image Processing) respectively from the Andhra University, Birla Institute of Technology (Mesra), and the Indian Institute of Technology (Roorkee). He has been a Visiting Professor to University of Kassel, Germany, and University of Kassel, Germany. He has published widely on the topics of remote sensing and hyperspectral image classification. He is the founding chair of the Kerala GRSS Chapter, and is an IEEE Senior Member.

**Mr. Jayachandran Mani** is currently the Project Director of the K-GIS, at the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Center. On successful completion of K-GIS project for 3 yrs on Mission mode, it is integrated within e-governance department as an integral part of governance system. Mr. Mani's primary role has been to enable all departments of the government to use K-GIS as a platform for Planning and decision making. He is also the solution architect of the program and every departmental application being developed. The K-GIS is now successfully being used as a platform for monitoring the progress, planning alternatives, decision making and payments to beneficiaries through the Direct benefit transfer / Khajane system of Government. Prior to this role, Mr. Mani has also worked in the industry for more than a decade, and also served as a scientist at the National Remote Sensing Center, ISRO. Mr. Mani is a graduate of the Anna University, Chennai.

**Mr. Arun Kumar** is the Founder and CEO of Aaron Geospatial Designs, a geospatial consulting firm based out of Bangalore. He has more than 2 decades of work experience in the Geospatial domain. He has been actively involved in Management, Database design, Client Interaction, Training and Capacity Building on Urban Planning projects involving Geospatial technology. He has worked with various Government agencies in Sri Lanka, France, Libya and with state Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra. He holds a Post Graduate degree in Life Science from Bangalore University.

**Ms. Rahisha Thottolil** is pursuing PhD in spatial data science at IIIT Bangalore. She has received M.Tech. degree in Geoinformatics from Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) in 2016 and B.Tech in Civil Engineering (2009) from Government College of Engineering, Kannur. Her contribution was an integral part of shoreline prediction model in

Mangalore region during her thesis. Rahisha has research experience from her stints at the National Institute of Technology Calicut; CSIR Centre for Mathematical Modelling & Computer Simulation; Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre; and the Institute for Social and Economic Change. She has worked on various geospatial projects such as climate change and its impact studies and coastal zone management, multi-modal Vegetation Index analysis, Field Margin Vegetation mapping and urban studies. She has received UGIT Young Technologist Award in 2015, University Honour in 2014-2016 batch, and authored three journal papers and six international conference papers. Her research interest includes machine learning, Remote Sensing and GIS, Digital Image Processing, urban-informatics, urban sprawl: pattern recognition and modelling, environmental and natural resource management, multi-source and multi-format data handling; To take on more challenging research problems in the future and strengthen my career as Geospatial Data Scientist.

[rahisha.thottolil@iiitb.org](mailto:rahisha.thottolil@iiitb.org)

[rahisha.thottolil@iiitb.ac.in](mailto:rahisha.thottolil@iiitb.ac.in)

ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Rahisha-Thottolil-2>

**Mr. Vasala Saicharan** is a Ph.D. candidate at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, India (NITK). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's degree in Geo-Informatics and Surveying Technology from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad. His research interests include remote sensing in the water resources domain for water resource assessment, accounting, management, water scarcity analysis, and water sustainability. His current research focuses on employing remote sensing to assess water resources in tropical regions.

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vasala-Saicharan>

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