Celebrating the sciences*

In its quest to spread the culture of science and research and create pathways for India's collective future, the Infosys Science Foundation (Box 1) brought together great minds with a view to 'celebrating the sciences'. The event was inaugurated by the Governor of Kerala, Justice P. Sathasivam.

This unique event was organized with an objective to provide students a glimpse into inspiring research, as an endeavour to champion the cause of securing India's scientific future by motivating young minds to take careers in the field of pure and social sciences. The event commenced with a welcome address by S. D. Shibulal (Infosys Science Foundation). This was followed by an engaging talk by Ayyappanpillai Ajayaghosh (National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), CSIR, Thiruvananthapuram and winner of the Infosys Prize 2012 for Physical Sciences) and Shamnad Basheer (Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access, and Founder, SpicyIP and winner of the Infosys Prize 2014 for Humanities).

During his keynote address, the Governor emphasized the transformative power of science as a medium to feed innovation and progress in society. He also dwelled upon the need for recognition and encouragement for researchers in Kerala to carry out world-class research and lauded the Infosys Science Foundation for epitomizing these virtues in the country.

Speaking on the occasion S. D. Shibulal said, 'There has been tremendous

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Box 1. About the Infosys Science Foundation

The Infosys Prize is awarded under the aegis of the Infosys Science Foundation, a not-for-profit trust instituted in 2009. The Infosys Science Foundation is funded by a corpus which today stands at over INR 120 crores, contributed by the trustees and Infosys.

For more information, visit www. infosys-science-foundation.com

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growth in academic facilities at all levels of education in Kerala in the past few decades. It is heartening to note that the Government of Kerala is focussing on creating opportunities for people to take up research as a career and their support is remarkable.' He further added, 'We hope that the Infosys Prize winners will serve as role models for Young India. "Celebrating the Sciences" is an attempt to highlight excellent research in India, especially Kerala.'

The event provided an opportunity for the audience to interact with two reputed scientists from Kerala, and get a glimpse of their association with the Infosys Science Foundation, their current research work, achievements so far and opportunities in their fields. The session concluded with discussions on current trends in the field of education and the future of research in India.

The event was well attended by students, faculties and researchers from universities in Thiruvananthapuram, who got insights on the importance of science and research in a country like India and opportunities to explore viable career options in the field.

*A report on the event 'Celebrating the Sciences' organized by the Infosys Science Foundation at Thiruvananthapuram on 26 June 2015.