The 2nd Workshop on Predictive Analytics with R

Centre for Research Studies (CRS), Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) organised a workshop on "Predictive analytics with R" during 15th and 16th December 2018 at the Greater Noida campus. The workshop was an attempt to empower the budding researchers, academicians and faculty the "R programming language". R is a user friendly and open source language, which has become a vehicle of choice for researchers to conduct data analysis. It is widely used among researchers for statistical analysis (linear and nonlinear modelling, classical statistical tests, time-series analysis, classification, clustering) and graphical presentation. It is also utilized for data mining and text mining applications. The strengths of "R" are its well-designed publishing quality with mathematical symbols, formulae, organized documentation, high quality plots, designs and graphics. The workshop was an initiative by the CRS to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge of R for faculty and research scholars in their journey to conduct high quality research.

The workshop was conducted by two facilitators, Prof. Amarnath Bose and Prof. Amrendra Pandey both being faculty members of the Institute. The introduction of "R" and Structure Equation Modelling was moderated by Prof. Amarnath Bose, who is an alumnus of ISI Kolkata and a faculty in Decision Sciences at BIMTECH. His research interests lie in the areas of statistical modelling, operations research and artificial intelligence (AI) techniques including genetic algorithms and neural network. The text mining session was moderated by Prof. Amrendra Pandey, Fellow of BIMTECH and faculty in the area of Economics. His research interests lie in macroeconomics, financial risk, retail economics and text mining techniques.

There were 20 participants in total. The first two sessions covered the background of "R", a quick brief on the importance of "R" and factors that distinguish it from other software such as Python. Post lunch sessions covered Text Mining, extraction of data from Facebook and cleaning of data.

On day two, morning sessions continued with Text mining using Twitter as a data source and approach to modelling . In the second half of the day the sessions covered Structured Equation Modelling. The workshop was appreciated by the participants.