

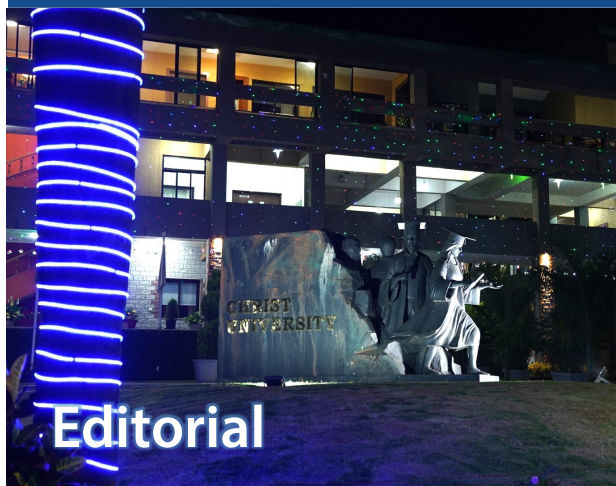
# Accolade Chronicles



CHRIST University, Bangalore, India

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Issue: December 2023



## Editorial



Welcome to the third issue of our university newsletter, which highlights our faculty members' motivating tales and outstanding accomplishments during October and November 2023.

CHRIST University reached a remarkable milestone this November: we have surpassed the faculty-per-publication ratio of 1:1, reaching more than one publication per faculty member. This accomplishment showcases the collective efforts and the unwavering dedication of our faculty members, resulting in 1480 Scopus-indexed publications in 2023, surpassing 2022's record of 1281. We appreciate former director, Centre for Research, Dr Fr Joseph Varghese, whose strategic initiatives resulted in research and publications to this degree.

Another milestone is the inauguration of CHRIST University Higher Education Leadership Institute (CUHELI) at the Bangalore Kengeri Campus on 28 November 2023, a moment of pride for all Christites. CUHELI was established in partnership with the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia to offer training in higher education leadership in India and Asian countries based on evidence-based research. The presence of our beloved ex-Vice-Chancellor and the Prior General CMI, Dr Fr Thomas C Mathew at the campus for the inauguration of CUHELI was a matter of pride and motivation.

The inauguration of the even semester 2023-24 was marked with Dr Fr Joseph CC, Vice Chancellor's call to achieving our mission through effective teaching-learning practices and enriching the campus experience of students. The Strategic Plan book release was another highlight of the event. The strategic plan tagline: Nurturing Excellence, Enriching Lives and Transforming futures' echo in our mind.

As we approach the festive season, we wish all our faculty members, staff and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024! May this season be filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones. In the spirit of Christmas, Accolade Chronicles celebrates not only academic achievements but also heart-warming stories that enrich our campus culture. This season paves the way for universal good news and a season of new beginnings—a beginning of campus culture that fosters good mental well-being and collectively builds a supporting community.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Let us celebrate the spirit of learning, innovation, and unity that defines our institution.

Sincerely,

Editors

Accolade Chronicles



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024**

<b>In this Issue</b>	Editorial	01	Accolades	03	CRP	06
	Testimonials	02	Major Book Publications	04	Social Impact	07
	External Grants	03	Inventions and Innovations	05	Editorial Board	08

# Down Memory Lane

We commemorate the remarkable dedication and commitment of some of our faculty members who have devoted an incredible 35 years of their careers in CHRIST university. This milestone celebration is dedicated to their unwavering passion and invaluable contributions for shaping our institution. Their journey at the university in the spans of three and a half decades, made profound impact they have made on generations of students and colleagues.



Dr Louis George

**Dr Louis George** has been with Christ University for 37 years, and his journey here has been nothing short of a transformative experience. When queried about their tenure at CHRIST, Dr Louis responded, "The University has provided me with a nurturing environment that resonated deeply with its mission. From arriving as a postgraduate and a Bachelor of Education candidate, to becoming an academician and administrator today, CHRIST University has shaped me by fostering academic excellence. It also enabled me for numerous international academic visits." Talking about one of the memorable experiences from his tenure, Dr Louis said that "I was truly blessed when Fr. Thomas C Mathew, the finance officer, shared student feedback for the Pre-University program. It was a defining moment when he informed me that students had named my classes among their top three favourites." In addition, he added that "good students are the ones who make good teachers. Constructive criticism from students is invaluable and helps in bringing out the best in educators." Describing the university's evolution over the years, Dr Louis mentioned that he has witnessed a gradual but significant transformation in the

University. He stated, "Initially, the growth was steady, but after the post-liberalization phase in 1996, there was an acceleration in the University's development." Regarding the major contributions, Dr Louis highlighted initiating the undergraduate biotechnology course in 2007, which was initiated from converting a vacant classroom into a place which is useful for biotechnology laboratories. Another milestone was overcoming challenges to launch the postgraduate program in Chemistry. Despite initial rejections, perseverance paid off when finally, the department received approval on the sixth attempt, exceeding their expected student intake. When asked about any useful advices for the early career faculty members venturing into teaching and research, Dr Louis said that "I offer this advice: prioritize the institution, students, department, and then yourself. The myth of having loads of work can be removed by effective prioritization and a calm, adaptive approach." In conclusion, Dr Louis added "My years at CHRIST University have been a journey of growth and transformation. The university's ethos of nurturing talent and fostering academic excellence has not only shaped my career but has also contributed significantly to the department's advancement and my personal development."



Dr Joseph T V

**Dr Joseph T V** has been with Christ University since 31 July 1987. When queried about the experience at the university, Dr Joseph responded "My journey here has been outstanding. I can truly say that I have evolved from 'nothing to something' within this institution. The university's commitment to faculty development programs, capacity building initiatives, and various courses geared towards enhancing teaching and learning experiences truly sets it apart." When asked about the most memorable experience at CHRIST university, Dr Joseph said "One of the most memorable aspects of my tenure at CHRIST University has been the everyday joy and happiness I experience. This institution has not only given me a label but has also provided me with a second home. The management's trust and the vibrant energy of youthful students in the classroom make each day feel fresh." He added that "Over the years, I have witnessed the remarkable evolution of the University. Starting as a small arts and science college, it has progressed to achieve autonomous status and eventually deemed-to-be-university status. It has

transformed from a small plant to a massive banyan tree, offering shade and support to the students." Among his major contributions, Dr Joseph played a key role in integrating research initiatives within the Department of Mathematics. Dr Joseph intended granting complete autonomy for PhD administration within the department, ensuring freedom from university administration. Dr Joseph's aspiration is to enhance the visibility of the School of Science. When asked about any new advices to the early career faculty members, he said "The faculty members should utilize the resources, research and development block, and the management's support to elevate the school's glory and the university as a whole. I would ask everyone for teaching with passion and sincerity. Make the most of your time here and strive for excellence. In the classroom, think outside the box and contribute to shaping a new future." Dr Joseph's years at CHRIST University have been guided by four principles: dedication, determination, discipline, and direction—the '4D's. He encourages all faculty members to adopt these principles for personal and professional growth.



# External Grants

The faculty at CHRIST university have successfully secured a series of external grants, demonstrating their exceptional expertise and dedication in various fields.



Dr Shibu K Mani

To contribute to the crucial step towards proactive disaster management, **Dr Shibu K Mani** from the School of Engineering and Technology, Kengeri Campus, has procured a grant of ₹ 12,00,000/- as a Co-Investigator for a project titled 'Assessment of landslide disaster recovery pattern and development of recovery framework for Idukki and Kottayam districts, Kerala, India' from

the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi.



Dr Rajesh Kanna R

**Dr Rajesh Kanna R**, Department of Computer Science, Central Campus received a grant of ₹ 1,00,000/- for organizing a "National Symposium on Code Cosmos – Gateways 2023" from the DST-SERB (Science and Engineering Research Board), New Delhi. The symposium will foster innovation and collaboration within the tech community.



Dr Raju G

In a significant stride for advancements in healthcare and diagnosis, **Dr Raju G**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology, Kengeri Campus, received a Grant of ₹ 7,20,840/- for a project titled "Research prototype of a remote screening system for diabetic retinopathy" under India – Belarus

Joint Call for Proposals-International Cooperation Division from the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.



Dr Manikandan Rajagopal



Dr Praveen Kumar T

**Dr Manikandan Rajagopal** and **Dr Praveen Kumar T**, School of Business and Management, Bangalore Central Campus have jointly received a grant-in-aid of ₹ 3,50,000/- for conducting the development program titled 'Face to Face Faculty Development Programme' from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Training and Learning (ATAL), New Delhi. This program will nurture and refine the skills of educators and promote excellence in teaching and learning.

# Accolades

The faculty members have been honoured with prestigious awards recognizing their outstanding contributions and accomplishments in academia, showcasing their dedication, expertise, and significant impact within their respective fields, uplifting the university's academic reputation.



Dr Mallika Krishnaswami

**Dr Mallika Krishnaswami**, Professor, Department of Languages, Central Campus received the 'Exceptional French Teacher Award' from the French Ambassador in India within the Higher Education South Zone category for 2023. The award stands as a testament of the promotion of the French language education in India, thereby elevating the university's reputation in language instruction and cultural exchange.



Dr Chandan Kumar

**Dr Chandan Kumar**, Department of English and Cultural Studies, Bannerghatta Campus, was selected for the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program at the University of Illinois, Chicago, USA. The Fulbright FLTA Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). As part of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, the Fulbright FLTA Program is designed to develop Americans' knowledge of foreign cultures and languages by supporting teaching assistantships in more than 35 languages at hundreds of U.S. institutions of higher education.

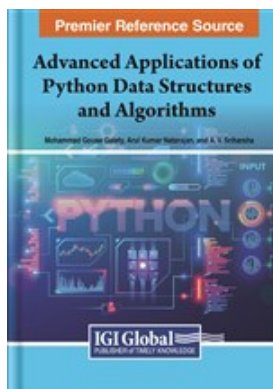


Prof Sarala V

**Prof Sarala V**, Department of Languages (Tamil), Central Campus received Nobel world records for taking part in the world's first biggest Tamil poetry book which constitutes of 10,000 poems written by 100 poets in a single book. This award not only celebrates Tamil literature but also exemplifies Prof. Sarala V's dedication to promoting cultural heritage on a global scale.

# Major Book Publications

University faculty members have collaborated to publish major books that integrate their diverse expertise, serving as a ground-breaking resource in their respective fields. This publication showcases their collective research efforts, offering valuable insights and contributing significantly to the academic community.



**Dr Arul Kumar N**, Department of Statistics and Data Science, Central Campus published a book titled 'Advanced Applications of Python Data Structures and Algorithms' with IGI-Global, USA. This book has earned recognition by being indexed in the Scopus database. Within its pages, we delve deep into the world of Python's data structures and algorithms, illuminating their versatile applications across various fields. This book caters to a diverse audience, catering to both seasoned professionals seeking to elevate their skills and beginners eager to master the intricacies of data manipulation and algorithmic problem-solving. The primary goal is to contribute to the realm of data structures and algorithms by harnessing the power of Python and showcasing its applications in various domains.



Dr Arul Kumar N

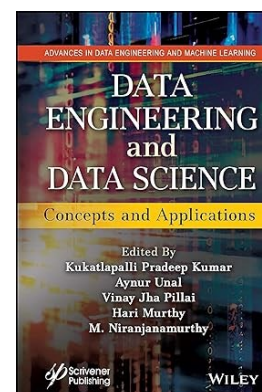


Dr Kukatlapalli Pradeep Kumar



Dr Vinay Jha Pillai

**Dr Kukatlapalli Pradeep Kumar**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology and **Dr Vinay Jha Pillai**, **Dr Hari Murthy**, Department of Electronics and Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology, Kengeri Campus jointly authored a book entitled "Data Engineering and Data Science: Concepts and Applications" with Wiley Publishers. In this exciting new volume, the team of editors and contributors sketch the broad outlines of data engineering, then walk through more specific descriptions that illustrate specific data engineering roles. Data-driven discovery is revolutionizing the modeling, prediction, and control of complex systems. This book brings together machine learning, engineering mathematics, and mathematical physics to integrate modeling and control of dynamical systems with modern methods in data science. It highlights many of the recent advances in scientific computing that enable data-driven methods to be applied to a diverse range of complex systems, such as turbulence, the brain, climate, epidemiology, finance, robotics, and autonomy.



Dr Hari Murthy



**Dr Samiksha Shukla**, School of Engineering and Technology, Kengeri Campus and **Dr Shahid Bashir**, Lavasa Campus along with Ms Kritica Bisht and Mr Kapil Tiwari published a book titled 'Data Economy in the Digital Age' with Springer Publisher. The book is a comprehensive guide that explores the concept of data economy and its implications in today's world. The book discusses the principles and components of the ecosystem, the challenges and opportunities presented by data monetization, and the potential risks related to data privacy. Real-life examples and case studies are included to understand the concepts better. The book is suitable for individuals in data science, economics, business, and technology, and public policy. It is an excellent read for anyone interested in the data economy.



Dr Samiksha Shukla



Dr Shahid Bashir



# Major Book Publications



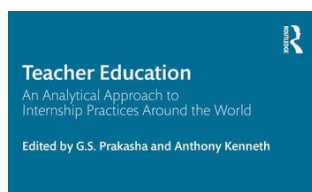
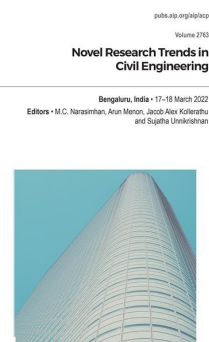
Dr Jacob Alex



Dr Sujatha Unnikrishnan

**Dr Jacob Alex** and **Dr Sujatha Unnikrishnan**, Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology, Kengeri Campus were the Editors for the Conference Proceeding published by AIP Conference Proceedings titled 'Novel Research Trends in Civil Engineering'. The proceedings give insight to innovative methodologies and emerging technologies in the field of civil engineering.

AIP Conference Proceedings



**Dr Prakasha G S**, School of Education, Central Campus published a book titled 'Teacher Education: An analytical approach to internship practices around the world' by Taylor and Francis Group. This book analyses how teaching internships that support teacher education programmes are conducted across the globe. Teaching internships are important learning experiences in teacher training programmes – a core experiential component that enables teachers-intraining to acquire skills in practical setups. Drawn from expert research, this book will be of interest to students, teachers and researchers of education, teacher education, sociology of education, and politics of education. It will also be useful for teacher trainees, academicians, teacher educators, policymakers, school teachers, curriculum developers, teacher training institutes and universities offering teacher education programmes.



Dr Prakasha G S

## Inventions and Innovations

### Water Purifier with Flavour



Dr Beulah M

**Dr Beulah M** published a patent on 'A Water Purifier with Flavour Infusion', Design No.: 347808-001, marking an advancement in the conventional purification systems by offering enhanced functionality.

### Whole Earth Blazar Telescope consortium



Dr Jitesh V

**Dr Jitesh V**, Department of Physics and Electronics, Central Campus, was involved in a large collaborative research work of the Whole Earth Blazar Telescope (WEBT) international consortium, and the work is published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society titled 'Extreme photometric and polarimetric variability of blazar S4 0954+65 at its maximum optical and  $\gamma$ -ray brightness levels'. CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru and

ARIES, Nainital, are the two institutions from India that participated in this work.

### Sustainable Bricks



Prof (Col) Sudhir M R

**Dr Beulah M**, **Prof (Col) Sudhir M R** and research scholar, **Mr Pratap Kumar J** from the Department of Civil Engineering, Kengeri Campus received a patent on 'Manufacture of Red Mud and Waste Foundry Sand Based Sustainable Bricks', Patent No.: 429868, a significant stride towards eco-friendly construction practices.

### Present state of photography



Mr Rajat Sebastian

**Mr Rajat Sebastian**, Department of English and Cultural Studies at Bannerghatta Road Campus secured a copyright from the Government of India for his descriptive reflection on the present state of photography as a practice. The reflections penned by Mr. Rajat not only provide a comprehensive analysis of the present state of photography but also introduce a unique definition coined by the faculty member himself.

# An Interview with Dr Sheeja Karalam, Coordinator, Centre for Research Projects



Dr Sheeja Karalam

**Dr Sheeja Karalam**, Professor, Department of Social Work, is the Coordinator at the Centre for Research Projects. Here is Dr Sheeja's response to our queries on the Centre for Research Projects.

## What are the major functions of the centre?

The Centre for Research Projects (CRP) at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) was established in 2010 to promote advanced academic research projects in diverse disciplines and to engage critically with intellectual and social relevance issues. The Centre monitors and supports University Projects under the Seed Money Scheme and External Funded Projects undertaken by Faculty Members from various government and non-government institutions, including international organizations.

## Can you tell us about the seed money scheme?

The Seed Money Scheme is designed to stimulate competitive research in strategic areas. The Seed Money Scheme projects will assist all faculty members in piloting their research project ideas and scaling up existing data to strengthen the application for external funds. Managing Seed Money Scheme projects will enhance faculty members' competitiveness in obtaining external funding by improving their research project skills and enhancing engagement with government and industry partners. The Seed Money Scheme Project Proposal call will be sent periodically and the Centre will also support faculty members in writing the proposal and budget development. Interested faculty members can reach out to the Centre for Research Projects.

## What are the support services that faculty members avail from the Centre?

Centre support services are available to all faculty members based on their specific requirements, including:

- Grant writing assistance
- Grant budget development
- Administrative assistance for the project proposal submission and management
- Specific information on Seed Money Scheme, regional, national and international funding opportunities
- School/Department-specific orientation sessions, workshops and training programmes on Project proposal writing and Management for students and PhD scholars to support faculty members.

## What specific support is given to faculty members applying for externally funded?

**Funding:** The Centre for Research Projects aids faculty by assisting in tailored proposal writing and networking for diverse funding sources. It actively connects faculty members with national and international funding organizations and reviews ongoing projects for external funding possibilities. Additionally, the center keeps faculty updated on global research calls and facilitates collaborative submissions while maintaining constant communication with agencies for new funding updates.

**Administration:** The Center provides comprehensive aid to faculty managing External Projects, issuing Endorsement Letters, Letters of Support, and assisting with registrations and documentations in the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), alongside addressing funding agency queries. It liaises with various university offices and departments while supporting faculty members throughout different phases of their External Projects, including appointment of project staff, maintaining digital records, and managing project files since 2010. Moreover, it serves as the primary contact point for inquiries about the Center's services, providing support through multiple communication channels, responding to University members' inquiries, and ensuring prompt action during Centre-related emergencies.

## What are the Centre's other initiatives?

We have multiple initiatives to support and equip faculty members. The initiative includes:-

**Professional Development Program:** The Program is a regular 15-hour interactive and activity-based course. This is open to all teaching and non-teaching staff of the University.

**Train the Trainer (TTT) workshop:** This workshop on PROJECT PROPOSAL WRITING (5 Phases) is run regularly to the selected Faculty members from all schools across campuses. The TTT concept was initiated to encourage faculty groups to be involved in the project proposal writing process.

**Experiential Learning in Project Development and Management:** One month course is offered to the Current students of Master of Social Work (MSW) and fresh MSW graduates from recognized Indian Universities twice a year.

**Capacity Development Program:** Five-day capacity development workshops are held regularly on "Well-Being and Professional Grooming, Digital Skills for Research, Research Methodology, Publications and Project Proposal Writing" for the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka.

**CDT-CHRIST Fellowship:** The Centre, in collaboration with Cheshire Disability Trust (CDT), annually offers CDT-CHRIST Fellowships on 8 March for early-career woman faculty members of CHRIST (Deemed to be University). These fellowships aim to encourage women faculty members to undertake research projects.

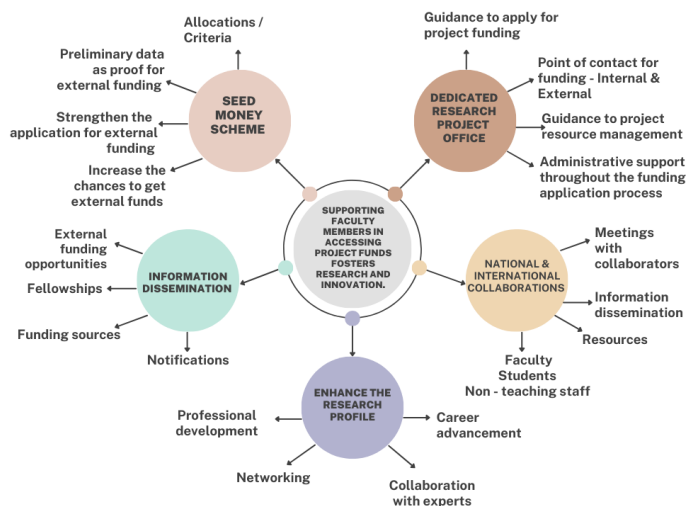
**Talk Series:** In collaboration with all departments, the Centre organizes the Talk Series by inviting eminent scholars in research from various research project funding organizations.

### How has your journey been at CHRIST University?

My journey at CHRIST University commenced in 2011, and it has been an immensely transformative experience, characterized by abundant support and unparalleled opportunities provided by this esteemed institution. Initially, as I attended Prof. DNS Kumar's enlightening session as the Associate Director of the Centre for Research Projects, I embarked on a trajectory that helped me evolve from a mere researcher to taking diverse roles as a research assistant, research associate, and eventually a project coordinator. The real research rigor truly started after becoming a part of the vibrant academic ecosystem at CHRIST University. Here, my passion for the welfare of the women and children was nurtured. Encouraged by the guidance from former research director Dr Fr Joseph Varghese, and the unwavering support of my department, I delved into government evaluations and embraced larger-scale research initiatives. The best moment in my memory dates back to August 2011, when I successfully submitted a research proposal to the Seed Money Scheme, marking a milestone in my academic career at our university. Over the span of several years, I've had the privilege of completing 21 projects while also engaging in interdisciplinary collaborations as a Co-investigator and director to many government program grants from ICMR, ICSSR-SRC, ICPS and DWCD. These experiences have not only increased my research skills but also increased my expertise in managing diverse projects.

I would like the early career faculty members to persistently strive towards pushing the boundaries of knowledge and never look back. The Centre for Research Projects stands as support, ever-ready to assist each of you in securing and executing invaluable research projects. The honorable Vice-Chancellor Dr Fr Joseph CC's visionary leadership and direction for the Centre is enabling us to succeed as an instrument for nurturing research culture and engaging with all of our university's faculty members.

The support services provided by the Centre for Research Projects are depicted in the pictogram below.



Faculty members can schedule an appointment with all our staff by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/VV8sB4sug4Ar1rq56>

#### Email IDs :

office.crp@christuniversity.in  
coordinator.crp@christuniversity.in

#### Landlines :

Coordinator : 080 4012 9018  
Assistant Coordinators : 080 4012 9043 / 080 4012 9052  
Administrative Assistants : 080 4012 9026 / 080 4012 9019

## Social Impact

The School of Business and Management at Bannerghatta Road Campus embarked on a initiative aimed at empowering individuals with visual impairment. The project "TECH4ALL" was designed to train candidates in the domains of office management, insurance, banking, finance, and accounts from February 2023 to October 2023. Under the guidance of esteemed faculty members including the Dean **Dr Jyothi Kumar, Dr Aarthi, Dr Sumathi, Dr Niranjana, Dr Anubha, Dr Gowri Shankar, Dr Muthu G, Dr Sathish, Dr Arjun B.S, Dr John Paul, Dr Deepika, Dr Roshna, Dr Shivi, Dr Anand Patil, Dr Gowri Shankar, Dr Vijayalaya, and Dr Sunitha Kumar**, this project worked to bridge the gap in accessible education for individuals facing visual challenges.



Beneficiaries with Faculty Members from School of Business and Management at Bannerghatta Road Campus for the Project "TECH4ALL"





Inauguration of Even Semester 2023-24: Release of Strategic Plan 2023-26 and Release of Books authored by Faculty Members

## Editorial Board

Dr Georgy P Kurien

Dr Bhavani S

Dr Anupama Nayar C V

Mr Zubin Philip

Mr Ditto Abraham Thadathil

Mr Alan Homes

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