



**PALE BLUE DOT 3- IIT PALAKKAD PUBLIC LECTURE  
SERIES**



INDIAN INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY  
**PALAKKAD**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Pale Blue Dot is the Public Lecture Series that IIT Palakkad organises jointly with the Palakkad District Library and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. The series features eminent professionals and academicians engaging with the general public on a wide range of topics in science and technology. The confluence of cultures that characterises this border region is the perfect locale for a regular assemblage of intellectually stimulating interactions, encouraging us to question the known and explore the unknown. As a young institute, we look forward to participating in, learn from, and contribute to the vibrant intellectual and cultural life of this region and we consider the lecture series to be a step towards that.

### **PALE BLUE DOT 3**

IIT Palakkad with Palakkad District Library and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan jointly organised its third public lecture series online on the topic, ‘ Learning Online- Opportunities and Challenges’ on 17 July 2020 from 05.15 pm to 6.45 pm. Shri. K. Anvar Sadath, Chief Executive Officer, Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) and Prof. Andrew Thangaraj (IIT Madras), a National MOOCs Coordinator for National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) in the Swayam project of the MHRD were the key speakers. The moderated conversation was preceded by the brief individual presentations by both speakers. While Shri K Anvar Sadath focussed on how Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) has accelerated digital education in Kerala, particularly school education, Prof. Thangaraj discussed the formidable role and experience NPTEL has had in making online college education unprecedentedly mainstream in the country. Prof. Thangaraj also talked about IIT Madras's new online diploma and BSc degree in programming and data science. Their interaction provided valuable insights on both the opportunities and challenges that this new pedagogy presents to learners and teachers. The discussion session concluded the workshop. The collective feedback from the participants was that the workshop was prolific and insightful. The discussion marked the attendance of about 180 participants.



Sunitha K Nayar



Andrew Thangaraj



Anvar Sadat

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