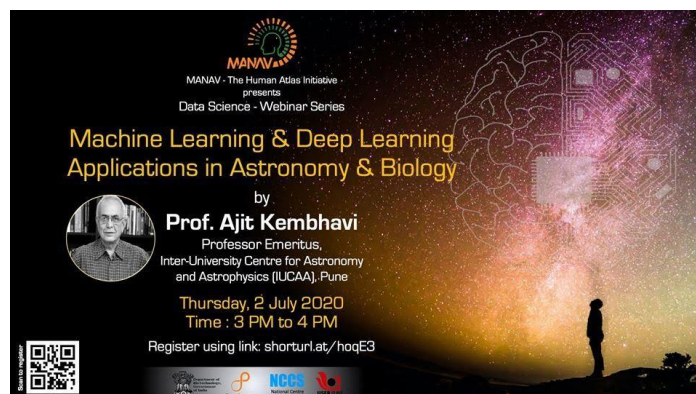


DBT-NCCS holds a webinar on AI's application in astronomy and biology



New Delhi, July 08: Artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and deep learning have become buzzwords in recent times. However, the power of AI techniques, and the widening scope for its application is not known to the common man. While people are usually aware that technologies like driverless cars depend on AI, they may be ignorant about the fact that AI also plays a big role in scientific data analysis in basic sciences.

To give science enthusiasts an opportunity to learn how AI is now becoming an integral part of almost every sphere of life, a webinar on the topic, “Machine Learning & Deep Learning Applications in Astronomy & Biology”, was held on 2nd July, 2020. The session was conducted by Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, Professor Emeritus, IUCAA, Pune.

The webinar was part of a weekly ‘Data Science’ webinar series organized by “Manav - The Human Atlas Initiative”, a collaborative project between the National Centre for Cell Science (DBT-NCCS), IISER-Pune and Persistent Systems. The series is open to all and is free of cost. Those interested can register at the link: <http://shorturl.at/hoqE3>.

The programme was initiated to meaningfully engage students and other science enthusiasts in an interactive educational experience during the lockdown, and help increase scientific awareness about diverse aspects of data science, and its applications in various disciplines, especially biology.

It was kick-started at the end of April with a webinar on “R0: How scientists quantify the intensity of an outbreak”. This was followed by webinars on diverse topics, including “Data Science Approaches for Genomics and Pandemics”, “Biomedical NLP at Scale: Automated inference of Biological Networks”, “The Future Research Scientist in the Age of AI and Big Data”, “When and where to divide to conquer: Personalized medicine using systems and

machine-based biology approaches”, “Game Theory: Applications in biology & in a pandemic” and “Networks matter! Estimating the spread of disease in heterogenous, connected environments”. This series has been hugely successful, having attracted well over a thousand registrations, mainly from students. The webinars also give the participants an opportunity to interact with experts from diverse fields around the world, through the Q&A session.

Given the popularity of this series, the webinars have now also been uploaded on the ‘Manav’ YouTube channel. The ‘Manav’ initiative, exemplary of a public-private partnership, is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and co-funded by Persistent Systems. It aims to annotate the extensive data from the scientific literature related to the human body, to initiate steps towards creating a virtual human atlas eventually. The project will help students across India to learn how to comprehend and extract relevant information from scientific literature using a digital annotation tool.

Students and researchers interested in participating can learn more from the project’s website (<https://manav.gov.in/>) and social media - Twitter: Manav Human Atlas & Facebook: MANAV Human Atlas.

Rajya Sabha TV has also featured it in ‘Gyan Vigyan’ (<https://youtu.be/Ule08azR1ww>) and Science Monitor (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMgTw6rXTGQ>).

Links -

* Twitter : @DBT_NCCS_Pune

(https://twitter.com/DBT_NCCS_Pune/status/1276402581355425792)

* Facebook : DBT - National Centre for Cell Science

(https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=3179406838785119&id=509782325747597¬if_id=1593153024760398¬if_t=page_post_reaction)

*IndiaBioscience: : <https://indiabioscience.org/events/webinar-on-machine-learning-deep-learning-applications-in-astronomy-biology>

* YouTube Channel (archived webinars):Manav - The Human Atlas Initiative

* Gyaan Vigyaan: <https://youtu.be/Ule08azR1ww>

Science Monitor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMgTw6rXTGQ>

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