



Bharath
INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(Declared as Deemed - to - be - University under section 3 of UGC Act 1956)

Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research Signs MOU with Harvard University (Dr Irene M. Pepperberg (President, Alex Foundation and Associate, Harvard University))

The MoU is for understanding of research on parrots and parrot-inspired therapeutic robot on Chennai, 19 October 2020: Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Harvard University for research on Parrots robots. The purpose of this Memorandum is to facilitate and promote cooperation between Dr Irene M. Pepperberg (President, Alex Foundation and Associate, Harvard University) and Psychosocial Aspects in Robotics (PAIR) Labs, Centre for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research. Dr Jaishankar Bharathraj, is the co-director of Robotics Lab at Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research. He has worked on a thesis, titled- Development of a Parrot-inspired Therapeutic Robot to Improve Learning and Social Interaction of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The research also aims to reduce stress levels of participants through robot-assisted therapy.

Commenting on the occasion, Dr J Sundeep Anand, President - Bharath University, said, "It is indeed a matter of privilege for us to be able to associate with a reputed knowledge centre such as Harvard. The aim of our Robotics Research Center is to encourage and facilitate fundamental robotics research, both theoretical and experimental. We hope to make fruitful progress in the said research area through our collaboration."

Commenting on the occasion, Dr R.M Suresh, Pro Vice Chancellor, Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research, said, "At Bharath University, our vision is to motivate research to partner with us in the expansion of knowledge discovery and the translation of discoveries into tangible benefits for society. Dr Irene Pepperberg is renowned for her work on studies in animal cognition. We are glad to be able to associate with someone of her stature for this Parrot Robot research Project. She has done extensive research on cognitive abilities of parrots for various purposes and results of this collaboration are sure to be path-breaking." Dr. Irene Pepperberg is a Research Associate and lecturer at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. The focus of her work is to determine the cognitive and communicative abilities of these birds, and compare their abilities with those of great apes, marine mammals, and young children. She is studying the mechanisms of their learning as well as the outcomes.

Commenting on the occasion, Dr Irene M Pepperberg, President, Alex Foundation and Associate, Harvard University, said, "Birds are separated from us by 300 million years of evolution, and their brains are organized differently than ours. However, it is interesting to note that they have great cognitive abilities. I'm glad to be associated with Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research, to further the cause of my research for the welfare of people."