**Understanding Behaviour 2019**

The Behaviour and Ecology Group of DBS organized the **Understanding Behaviour 2019**

Conference during 11-13 January 2019. This conference aimed to bring together researchers interested in various aspects of behaviour, working on different model systems at different scales. The conference was a grand success, with nearly 238 registered participants from 23 different institutions across the country. The conference was inaugurated by the Director, Prof. Sourav Pal and the keynote address was delivered by Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar (IISc). The three-day conference had 11 invited talks, several contributed talks by faculty members, speed talks by senior PhD students and postdocs and poster presentations by UG, PG and PhD students. A panel discussion on “Why should behavioural research be funded” brought together behavioural biologists and two faculty members from DPS and DCS of IISER Kolkata and led to a very lively discussion. The public lecture by eminent wildlife photographer Dhritiman Mukherjee drew a large crowd. Workshops on (i) Data analysis using R, (ii) Asking questions in behaviour, (iii) Communicating research and (iv) Bird watching were conducted for participants during the conference. The conference was sponsored by IISER Kolkata, SERB, DBT and Springer Nature. A workshop on animal behaviour for school children funded by the Global Young Academy was conducted on 12th January as a side event of UB19, which was attended by 230 children from classes VI to VIII of 4 local schools. This has been the biggest ever behaviour conference in India and it was suggested by several of the participants that this conference should continue, once every two years, in different institutions of the country.

Conference website: <https://sites.google.com/view/understanding-behaviour-2019/about?authuser=0>