Dear Readers,

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome back to yet another issue of Visleshana with interesting articles and information.

The holiday season has been hectic with conferences and courses. I had the privilege of delivering two keynote addresses at international conferences sponsored by IEEE and more importantly, offering a 7-day course on "Big Data Analytics for Humanitarian Causes," sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India, through its GIAN program. Read more about the course contents and a perspective on research in these areas, based on the experience from the program, in two different articles inside.

Healthcare is probably the biggest challenge and opportunity of this century. In their article, Dr. Aruru and Prof. Pyne point out that WHO has identified over a thousand epidemics and talk about using Big Data Analytics for watching over such disease outbreaks. Visleshana has always endeavored to bring a perspective from the industry in every issue. Mr. Surya and Ms. Sreshta, in their article discuss about use cases of companies using analytics to predict sales prospects and future revenues. The article presents interesting insights into opportunity scoring, channel analyses and pipeline forecasting.

Text continues to be a substantial part of the Big Data revolution. Dr. Padmaja et al. present a Knowledge Representation framework for Textual Analysis, in their article inside. Representation of Knowledge is key to its processing, manipulation, and value generation. Algorithms substantially depend on the representation of knowledge. There is still ample scope for enhancing the representation for improved value generation from knowledge. We can expect more research in this area as Big Data Analytics evolves.

New year always brings with it, new hope, new engagements, and new directions. I am happy to inform that CSI SIGBDA has signed an MoU with NITW to offer courses that count towards either a Certificate or a PG Diploma. Read more about it inside. Another development is the progress in orienting the SIG towards the industry needs. Please also read inside about the SIG's first meet with the industry leaders, the beginning of membership enrollments, and news about the international conferences where our executive council members played a major role.

Please remember that Visleshana is now indexed by Google Scholar, as can be seen from
https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=visleshana+big+data
Also, you can now follow Visleshana on Twitter and Facebook and participate in the discussions.

I'm also glad to report that in about 7 months, Visleshana earned more than 10,000 impressions, 1,000+ reads on issuu.com, and more than 100 followers on FaceBook. I strongly urge you to contribute to the publication and be part of its increasingly growing popularity. I thank my colleague, Radhika Pakala for helping me with some editorial work for two of the articles included in this issue and look forward to more help from more professionals. As always, happy reading and happiness always!

With Every Best Wish,
Vishnu Pendyala
San Jose, California, USA