DTU TIMES

A Utopian Escapade

CON TENT

EDITORS' NOTE

In *The Matrix,* Morpheus offers Neo a red pill that would allow him to discover that reality, as he knows it, is an illusion created by overlords to keep humans enslaved. While it is compelling to ponder that your own consciousness is an illusion created by your brain, it is tough to overlook the rife banality of reality. Symbolising a world too realistic to be unattainable, yet too radical to be achievable, the concept of utopia borders on assuming an oxymoronic value. All explorers have their unique idea of utopia; however, for each one, it represents the hope of a better future, within the bounds of reality, but unconstrained by pragmatism. It signifies a life often far removed from one's own - an escape from the hackneyed perception of a *'normal'* life ingrained in us.

Searching for escapes isn't just a product of your egocentric perception but the illusory, dreamlike nature of every single day that we spend. Still *somewhere,* in a backdrop of this brickscape in Bawana, we manage to unearth a corner of solace where our prosaic misery is muted away. These havens offer subtle mindfulness which can remind you of the pleasures of platitude and the ability to interact with your emotions in an instant, just like conscious breathing. It is these escapes that serve to break the insipidity of our everyday life and, in the ideal case, impart to it a definite purpose. They remind us of our inherent humanness and the versatility of our minds, and provide us with the personality that differentiates us from others of our species.

Across the spectrum of classes, assignments, projects and examinations, we seek an aperture to vent our vapid vexations and persistently pursue our passions. For some of us, this escape comes in the form of writing our hearts out or capturing the momentary memories, illustrating and designing a montage of dreams or developing reactive web elements. Unlike Neo in *The Matrix,* you shouldn't want to escape this illusory world into a utopian one for it is a benign one, designed by evolutionary processes to help you thrive. But you shouldn't mistake it for reality either. So take the liberty to cherish this precious product of judicious realism in between your long bouts of utopian wishfulness and sterile escapism.

दैवी ह्येषा गुणमयी मम माया दुरत्यया |
मामेव ये प्रपद्यन्ते मायामेतां तरन्ति ते ||

-Shivam Jha, Vishesh Kashyap

Delhi Technological University continues to be one of the premier engineering institutes in the nation. The eminent University strives to set a higher standard for excellence every year. Now, in the 79th year since its inception, it is our onus to give the bright minds of the nation access to the best technical education in our capacity.

The 6th Convocation Ceremony was held in the month of December, wherein degrees were conferred to the students of the Class of 2019. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Anil Baijal, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Hon'ble Chancellor, DTU, and Mr. Vinod Dham, Founder, IndoUS Venture Partners and the 'Father of the Pentium Chip'.

The University organises several workshops, seminars, and conferences for the students and faculty throughout the year, such as the recent editions of CAMNP and ICAPIE. Leading experts from eminent institutes as well as industry are invited to deliver lectures. Through these activities, the students gain insight into various technical and non-technical fields.

Apart from technical education, a student's holistic development is also essential. To this effect, this period sees many cultural events take place in DTU, from the Literary and Film Festival, Yuvaan, to the celebrated cultural festival, Engifest. These events give students a chance to express their creative sides and apply their management acumen to real-life situations.

The students of DTU took our pride a notch higher as they participated in and won various competitions across the country. Be it at technical festivals, scientific symposiums or cultural extravaganzas, our students excel everywhere. It gives me immense pleasure to see them grow in every sphere of life and further motivate and guide their peers towards success.

INAUGURATION OF KIDS DAY CARE CENTRE

A day-care centre, **Kidz Den**, has been set up near the staff residential area for the wards of the faculty and staff members. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* inaugurated the centre on the occasion of Children's Day in November 2019.

GRAPH THEORY AND ITS APPLICATIONS

Department of Applied Mathematics, DTU, organised a TEQIP - III sponsored one - week Short - Term Training Program on **"Graph Theory and its Applications"** in November 2019. *Prof. Yogesh Singh*, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Chief Patron and **Prof. S.K. Garg**, *Pro-Vice Chancellor*, *DTU* was the Patron. **Prof. Sangita Kansal**, *HoD, Applied Mathematics* chaired the program and **Prof. Anjana Gupta**, *Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics* served as the coordinator.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Department of Mechanical Engineering, DTU, organised a TEQIP-III sponsored one-week Faculty Development Program on *"Recent Developments in Renewable Energy Systems"* in November 2019. **Prof. Vipin**, *HoD, Department of Mechanical Engineering*, was the Chairman. **Prof. Amit Pal**, **Dr. Anil Kumar** and **Dr. N.A. Ansari**, *Department of Mechanical Engineering* served as the Course Coordinators.

TRAINING PROGRAM ON E-RTI ONLINE PORTAL

Human Resource Development Centre, DTU organised a Training Program on **"e-RTI Online Portal"** for the officers and officials of DTU in December 2019. **Prof. Nirendra Dev**, *Director, Human Resource Development Cell* was present at the event.

RECENT TRENDS IN SECURITY AND CRYPTOGRAPHY

Department of Applied Mathematics, DTU, organised a TEQIP-III sponsored one-week Short-Term Training Program on **"Recent Trends in Security and Cryptography"** in November 2019. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Chief Patron and **Prof. S.K. Garg**, *Pro-Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Patron. **Prof. Sangita Kansal**, *HoD, Department of Applied Mathematics* chaired the program and **Dr. Aditya Kaushik**, *Associate Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics* served as the Course Coordinator.

GEOHAZARD RISK REDUCTION INITIATIVES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Department of Civil Engineering, DTU, organised a TEQIP-III sponsored workshop on **"Geohazard Risk Reduction Initiatives in South-East Asia"** in November 2019. **Prof. Yogesh Singh,** *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Patron. **Prof. Nirendra Dev,** *HoD, Department of Civil Engineering* chaired the event and **Dr. Raju Sarkar**, *Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering* served as the Workshop Coordinator.

DISASTER MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT

Department of Civil Engineering, DTU organised a TEQIP-III sponsored one-week Faculty Development Program on **"Disaster Mitigation and Management"** in November 2019. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* served as the Chief Patron and **Prof. S.K. Garg**, *Pro-Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Patron. **Prof. Nirendra Dev**, *HoD, Department of Civil Engineering* was the Chairman. **Dr. Pradeep K. Goyal**, **Dr. Shilpa Pal** and **Dr. Ritu Raj**, *Department of Civil Engineering* were the coordinators for the program.

RECENT RESEARCH DIRECTIONS AND KEY CONCEPTS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Department of Electrical Engineering, DTU, organised a TEQIP-III sponsored Faculty Development Program on **"Recent Research Directions and Key Concepts in Electrical Engineering"** with Twining Partner *MITS Gwalior* in December 2019. **Prof. Yogesh Singh,** *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Chief Patron and **Prof. S.K. Garg**, *Pro-Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Patron. **Dr. Sudarshan K. Valluru**, *Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering* served as the Course Coordinator.

CONFERENCE ON ATOMIC, MOLECULAR, OPTICAL AND NANOPHYSICS WITH APPLICATIONS 2019

Department of Applied Physics, DTU organised an international conference on **"Atomic, Molecular, Optical and Nano Physics with Applications"** (CAMNP-2019), in association with TEQIP-III and *DRDO-LASTEC*, in December 2019. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Chief Patron. **Prof. S.K. Garg**, *Pro-Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Patron while **Prof. R.P. Tandon**, *University of Delhi* was the Co-Patron. **Prof. Rinku Sharma**, *HoD, Department of Applied Physics* chaired the conference.

ICAPIE 2019

Centre for Advanced Production and Industrial Engineering Research (CAPIER), DTU organised the *4th International Conference on Advanced Production and Industrial Engineering (ICAPIE 2019)* at *Delhi Institute of Tool Engineering, Okhla* in December 2019. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Chief Patron. **Prof. S. Maji,** *Director-cum-Principal, DITE*, was the Organising Chair while **Prof. Ranganath M. Singari**, *HoD, Department of Design* chaired the conference. The conference was graced by the presence of **Prof. H.N. Suresh,** *Military Engineering College, Hyderabad* and **Prof. R.S. Mishra,** *Department of Mechanical Engineering, DTU*.

GEOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Department of Environmental Engineering, DTU organised an invited talk on **"Geoenvironmental Engineering: Challenges and Opportunities"** by **Prof. Krishna Reddy**, *Director, Sustainable Engineering Research Laboratory, Department of Civil and Materials Engineering, University of Illinois, Chicago*. The event was coordinated by **Dr. A.K. Haritash**, *Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Engineering*.

LOHRI NIGHT

DTU Student Association organised **Lohri Night** in January 2020 at the *Aryabhatta Ground*. Students congregated to celebrate the auspicious festival which marks the end of winter by lighting the holy bonfire. Cheered by the warmth of the bonfire, students danced to their hearts' content to the beats of riveting DJ and Dhol performances.
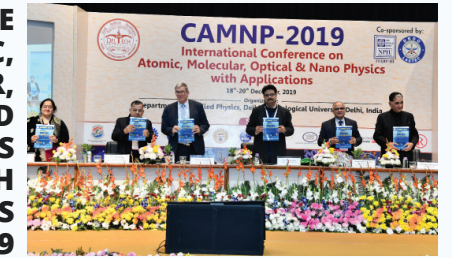
WORKSHOP ON FORM EXPLORATION

Department of Design, DTU organised a two-day workshop on **"Form Exploration"** in association with *Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*, in January 2020. **Prof. Peer M. Sathikh**, *Associate Chair (Academic), School of Art, Design and Media, NTU, Singapore* delivered a lecture and interacted with the students. **Prof. Ranganath M. Singari,** *HoD, Department of Design* coordinated the workshop.

REPUBLIC DAY

DTU celebrated **Republic Day 2020**, which began with the hoisting of the national flag in the presence of the dignitaries. This was followed by Saraswati Vandana in the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* delivered a thought-provoking speech about India's struggle for independence. The wards of the faculty of DTU put up a lively dance performance, followed by a traditional dance performance by Nrityangana. A cricket match was also organised between faculty and students.

Prof. Yogesh Singh inaugurated the newly constructed **Faculty Block**, consisting of 17 rooms on the second floor of the *Department of Computer Science and Engineering*. He also inaugurated the newly built **Corporate Block**. The new block has cabins which will serve as interview rooms and is a part of the *Department of Training & Placement*.

REPUBLIC DAY-2020

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GUEST LECTURE ON BRAND PERSONALISATION AND AWARENESS

Delhi School of Management organised a guest lecture on the topic "**Brand Personalization and Awareness**" in January 2020. Guest speaker **Mr. Abhishek Tandon**, *Marketing Head (APAC & MENA), Empaxis Data Management Pvt. Ltd.*, provided his views on the real meaning of a brand and the importance of data analytics and marketing analytics in the industry.

RESEARCH SEMINAR ON "CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM"

Delhi School of Management organised a Research Seminar in January 2020 on the topic **"Curb your Enthusiasm: The Limits to Offshoring and Globalisation"**. The guest speaker was **Prof. Rajneesh Narula**, *OBE, John H. Dunning Chair of International Business Regulation, Henley Business School, University of Reading, UK*. The seminar revolved around areas of research such as Economic Development, FDI, Innovation, and R&D.

GUEST LECTURE ON DATA ANALYTICS IN FINANCIAL MARKETS

Delhi School of Management organised a guest lecture on **"Use of Data Analytics in Financial Markets"**. **Mr. Rahul Ingle** and **Mr. Janak Shah**, *Co-Founders, Money Roller* were the guest speakers. The attendees were educated on how equity and equity derivatives are traded in the market. They were also briefed on the importance of data analytics.

Faculty News and Achievements

Awards, Honours, and Conferences

Prof. S Indu, Dept. of Electronics & Communication Engineering

- Organiser and Co-chair, 'International Heritage Symposium and Exhibition', *National Museum, New Delhi*
- Attendee, International Workshop, 'Science of Intelligence', *IIT Jodhpur*

Prof. Nand Kumar, Dept. of Humanities

- Attendee, International Conference on Advanced Research and Innovation, *Institution of Engineers, Delhi*
- Attendee, International Conference on Advanced Production and Industrial Engineering, *DITE, Okhla, Delhi*

Prof. Laxminarayan Das, Dept. of Applied Mathematics

- Presenter, 'A MATLAB Programming Applied in Gradient Search Method to Solve Quadratic Optimization Problem', National Conference on Emerging Trends in Information Technology, *UGC, New Delhi*

Prof. Pradeep Kumar Suri, Delhi School of Management

- Session chair, Global Conference on Flexibility, Innovation and Sustainable Business, *IIT Roorkee*
- Speaker, 'E-Governance and IT Management' during workshop-cum-training on Educational Administration', *Ambedkar University, Delhi* and *Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Madhya Pradesh*
- Speaker, 'E-governance for Improving Organizational Performance', *National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi*
- Editor, 'Transforming Organizations Through Flexible Systems Management'

Prof. Rajeshwari Pandey, Dept. of Electronics & Communication Engineering

- Attendee, 'Global Exhibition on Services', *Confederation of Indian Industry, Bengaluru*
- Reviewer, International Journal of Circuit Theory and Applications
- Reviewer, Computers and Electrical Engineering

Dr. Rahul Katarya, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

- Keynote Speaker, 'Impact of Social Networks in Human Behavioral Analytics', IEEE International Conference on Information Systems and Computer Networks, *GLA University, Mathura*
- Speaker, 'Role of Artificial Intelligence to Detoxify Social Media Contents', IETE Foundation Day, 'Role of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in the Development of Society', *Institution of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineers, New Delhi*
- Session Chair, 'IEEE International Conference on Information Systems and Computer Networks', *GLA University, Mathura*
- Coordinator, Delegation from Nanjing University of Aeronautics & Astronautics, *China*

- Coordinator, Delegation from Embassy of Germany
- Coordinator, Delegation from National Formosa University, *Taiwan*

- Coordinator, Delegation from Rega Technical University, *Latvia*
- Coordinator, Visit to ICCR with DTU International students

Prof. Pravir Kumar, Dept. of Biotechnology

- Executive Committee Member, National Research Development Corporation, *Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi*
- Specialist panel, Soldier Health & Drug Development Panel, DRDO, *Ministry of Defence, Government of India, New Delhi*
- Grant Reviewer, *Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, New Delhi*
- Reviewer, Annals of Clinical and Translational Neurology
- 'Physiological stressors and pharmacological intervention in neurodegenerative disorders', National Conference on Biotechnology and Bioengineering, Innovation and Advancement for Sustainable Future, *Sharda University, Greater Noida*
- Session chair and speaker, 'Ubiquitination mechanism in Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative disorders', International Conference on Frontiers in Neuroscience and Neurochemistry: Dynamic Challenges and Approaches, *Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi*

Prof. Jai Gopal Sharma, Dept. of Biotechnology

- Participant, Aqua Excel 2020 training course 'Fish Nutrition and Feeding', *Institute National de la Recherche Agronomique, France*

Dr. Chandra Prakash Singh, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Applied Mathematics

- Awarded Fellowship, *Royal Astronomical Society, UK*
- Speaker, 'Decaying vacuum energy in Brans-Dicke theory', International Conference on Differential Geometry and Relativity, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, UP*
- Session Chair, International Conference on Differential Geometry and Relativity, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, UP*

Dr. Ram Singh, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Applied Chemistry

- Attendee, Indian Analytical Congress 2019, *Amity University, Noida*

Dr. S. Anbukumar, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Civil Engineering

- Organiser, 'Training program on e-RTI Online Portal for Officer and Officials of DTU', *DTU*

Dr. Shilpa Pal, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Civil Engineering

- Organiser & Speaker, 'Modeling Dams and Landslides – A route to Mitigate Disaster', 'FDP on Disaster Mitigation and Management', *DTU*

- Speaker, 'Vulnerability and Risk Assessment of Buildings', International Workshop on Geohazards Risk Reduction Initiatives in South and South East Asia, *DTU*
- Speaker, 'Importance of Earthquake Resistant Structures for Smart Cities', FDP on Smart Cities: Challenges and Opportunities, *Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh*
- Presenter, 'Shear Resistance of Hybrid Steel and Basalt Fiber Reinforced Concrete Beams', International

Symposium on Fusion of Science and Technology, *YMCA Faridabad*
- Attendee, 'International Conference on Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience – 2019', *National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi*
- Attendee, 'International seminar on Performance Based Design of buildings & Bridges for Enhanced Seismic Resilience', Indian Association of Structural Engineers, *PHD House, Delhi*

Dr. Sudarshan K. Valluru, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Electrical Engineering

- Coordinator, 'Recent Research Direction and Key Concepts in Electrical Engineering', *DTU*
- Chair, 3rd International Conference, 'Computing and Network Communications CoCoNet-SO-B: Best Paper Session', *IITM, Kerala*
- Chair, Seventh Symposium, 'Control, Automation, Industrial Informatics and Smart Grid', *IITM, Kerala*

Mr. Ashish R. Kulkarni, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Electrical Engineering

- Speaker, Elecrama ETechNxt, *Greater Noida*
- Panellist, 'Startup track on EV and Mobility by IEEMA', *NASSCOM Center of Excellence, Gurugram*

Mr. Anurag Chaturvedi, Asst. Prof., USME

- Presenter, "7th Pan-IIM World Management Conference', *IIM Rohtak*

Dr. Rajeev Kumar Mishra, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Environmental Engineering

- Guest of Honour, 'International Symposium on Air Pollution-Causes, Mitigation and Strategic Planning', *Amity University, Haryana*

Dr. Mohammad Zunaid, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

- Presenter, 'Numerical Analysis of Three-Dimensional Counter flow Multi Droplet Shower Cooling Tower with Variation in Inlet Water Temperature for Industrial Application', International Conference on Atomic, Molecular, Optical & Nano Physics with Applications (CAMNP), *DTU*
- Presenter, 'Numerical Evaluation of Inclined Jet Microchannel Heat Sink Using Nanofluids', CAMNP, *DTU*
- Presenter, 'Numerical Analysis of Microchannel Heat Sink With Pillars', International Conference on Advanced

Production and Industrial Engineering (ICAPIE), *DITE, Okhla*
- Presenter, 'Numerical Evaluation of Three-Dimensional Counter flow Shower Cooling Tower with Variation in Inlet Water to Air Mass Flow Ratio for Industrial Application', ICAPIE, *DITE, Okhla*
- Presenter, 'Performance analysis of Solar Updraft Tower for Power generation in Sultanate of Oman', ICAPIE, *DITE, Okhla*
- Presenter, 'Energy and Exergy Analysis of Three-Dimensional Counter flow Shower Cooling Tower with Variation in Inlet Air Relative Humidity for Human Comfort', ICAPIE, *DITE, Okhla*
- Presenter, 'Mathematical Analysis of Wind Turbine Blade at various Angle of attack and Reynold Number', ISFT-2020, *J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, Faridabad*
- Presenter, 'Mathematical Analysis of Three-Dimensional Counter flow Multi Droplet Shower Cooling Tower with Variation in Inlet Air Dry Bulb Temperature for Human Comfort', ICARI-2020, *International Journal of Advance Research and Innovation, Institution of Engineers, New Delhi*
- Presenter, 'Numerical Analysis of Three-Dimensional Counter flow Multi Droplet Shower Cooling Tower with Variation in Inlet Air Relative Humidity for Industrial Application', ICARI-2020, *Institution of Engineers, New Delhi*
- Presenter, 'Numerical Analysis and Surface Modelling of Air Plane Wings', ICARI-2020, *Institution of Engineers, New Delhi*
- Presenter, 'Heat Transfer Characteristics of Microjet Impingements with Flow Extraction', ICARI-2020, *Institution of Engineers, New Delhi*
- Presenter, 'Fabrication of Rapid Compression Machine with Variable Compression Ratio - A Review', ICARI-2020, *Institution of Engineers, New Delhi*
- Attendee, 'Geohazards Risk Reduction Initiatives in South and SouthEast Asia', *DTU*
- Attendee 'Recent Research Directions and Key Concepts in Electrical Engineering', *DTU*
- Attendee, 'Recent Developments in Renewable Energy System', *DTU*
- Attendee, 'Resource Management and Evaluation' *National Productivity Council, Goa*

Dr. Divyashikha Sethia, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

- Attendee, International Workshop, 'Science of Intelligence', *IIT Jodhpur*

Dr. Mukhtiyar Singh, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Applied Physics

- Attendee, International Workshop, 'Science of Intelligence', *IIT Jodhpur*
- Organiser, Grid Integrated Renewables and Electric Transportation, *DTU*

Dr. Ravindra Singh, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Design

- Member of Editorial Board, *Design for All Institute of India, Design for All Publication*

Mr. Prashant Giridhar Shambharkar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

- Participant, 'Disaster Mitigation and Management', *DTU*
- Dy. Coordinator, Ph.D. Admissions, *DTU*
- Department Representative, Discipline Committee, *DTU*
- Member, Selection Process Committee, USIP Interview, *DTU*
- Member, Preparation of Degrees/Merit Certificates Committee for 6th Convocation, *DTU*
- Member, Overall Coordination Committee for 6th Convocation, *DTU*
- Member, Discipline Committee for 6th convocation, *DTU*
- Member, Technical Conference Committee, 'International Summit on Quality Indices in Higher Education', *DTU*

Publications

Prof. S Indu, Dept. of Electronics & Communication Engineering

- 'Attention-guided deep convolutional neural networks for skin cancer classification', *9th International Conference on Image Processing Theory, Tools and Applications, Turkey*
- 'Artificial Neural Network based Task Scheduling for Heterogeneous Systems', *International Conference on Emerging Technologies in Computer Engineering: Machine Learning and Internet of Things, SKIT, Jaipur*
- 'An Efficient Approach to EEG-Based Emotion Recognition using LSTM Network', *IEEE Colloquium on Signal Processing and its Applications, Malaysia*
- 'A Low Power and High Speed 8-bit ALU Design using 17T Full Adder', *International Conference on Signal Processing & Integrated Networks', Amity University, Noida*
- 'Enhancing Accuracy for Human Trajectory Forecasting in Crowded Scenes', *International Conference on Image and Graphics Processing, Singapore*

Prof. Rajni Jindal, HoD, Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

- 'Pressure dependent piped water theft

detection with IoT based remote billing and location alert', *IEEE/IIAI International Congress on Applied Information Technology, Indonesia*
- 'A Preventive Intrusion Detection Architecture using Adaptive Blockchain Method', *International Conference for Big Data, Machine Learning and Applications, NIT Silchar*
- 'Blockchain-based Integrity Protection System for Cloud Storage', *Technology Innovation Management and Engineering Science International Conference, Thailand*
- 'MTFCT: A Task Offloading Approach for Fog Computing and Cloud Computing', *International Conference on Cloud Computing, Data Science and Engineering, Amity University, Noida*
- 'Accurate Information Extraction from Customer Comments Posted Online', *International Journal of Recent Technology and Engineering*
- 'IoT Stream Data Compression Using LDPC Coding', *FICTA 2020, NIT Surathkal*

Prof. Nand Kumar, Dept. of Humanities

- 'The Effect of Technology on Agricultural Production in Awi Zone, Ethiopia: ECM Approach', *International Journal of Ecological Economics and Statistics*
- 'Economic Benefit of Agricultural Technology on Teff and Maize Crops in Ethiopia: The Blinder-Oaxaca Decomposition', *Journal of Poverty*

Prof. A. S. Rao, Dept. of Applied Physics

- 'Structural, Luminescence and EPR properties of deep red emitting $MgY_2Al_4SiO_{12}:Cr^{3+}$ garnet Phosphors', *Journal of Luminescence*
- 'EPR and Optical properties of green emitting Mn activated $Sr_2ZnSi_2O_7$ Phosphors prepared by sol-gel method', *Journal of Electronic Materials*
- 'A study on up-conversion and energy transfer kinetics of $KGdF_4:Yb_{3+}/Er_{3+}$ nanophosphors', *Journal of Molecular Structure*
- 'Ultraviolet B emitting Gd3+ doped LaP_3O_9 phosphors prepared by co-precipitation procedure', *Optik*
- 'Luminescence and EPR properties of UV-B emitting Gd doped $NaBaPO_4$ Phosphors prepared by co-precipitation method', *Optik*
- 'Photoluminescence and electron spin resonance study on narrow-band UVB emitting Gd-doped $LaPO_4$ phosphors', *Optik*
- 'Photoluminescence and EPR studies of narrowband ultraviolet B emitting trivalent gadolinium activated $CaLaAl_3O_7$ Phosphors', *Optik*
- 'PL and EPR characteristics of Gd3+ activated $SrMgSi_2O_6$ phosphor prepared by sol-gel procedure', *Optik*
- 'UVB-emitting gadolinium-doped Ba_2YZrO_6 perovskite ceramic phosphor', *Optik*
- 'Narrowband ultraviolet B emitting Gd3+ activated $NaSrPO_4$ phosphor prepared by co-precipitation method', *Optik*

Prof. Jai Gopal Sharma, Dept. of Biotechnology

- 'Production potential of greater duckweed Spirodela polyrhiza (L. Schleiden) and its biochemical composition evaluation', *Aquaculture*

Prof. Laxminarayan Das, Dept. of Applied Mathematics

- 'A MATLAB Programming Applied in Gradient Search Method to Solve Quadratic Optimization Problem', *Proceedings Emerging Trends in Information Technology*
- 'Fibonacci Algorithm for Determining Minimum Value of a Unimodal Function using MATLAB Programmed Computing Software', *International Journal of Recent Technology and Engineering*
- 'Electrical power system transmission quality and power supplier micro grid control functional reliability', *International Journal of System Assurance Engineering and Management*

Prof. Pravir Kumar, Dept. of Biotechnology

- 'Pharmacological intervention of histone deacetylase enzymes in the neurodegenerative disorders', *Life Sciences*
- 'Aβ, Tau, and α-Synuclein aggregation and integrated role of PARK2 in the regulation and clearance of toxic peptides', *Neuropeptide*
- 'An In-Silico Investigation of Key Lysine Residues and Their Selection for Clearing off Aβ and Holo-AβPP through Ubiquitination', *Interdisciplinary Science*

Prof. Qasim Murtaza, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

- 'Characterization and parametric optimization of % change in residual stress of Mo composite coating using Taguchi approach', *Materials Research Express*
- 'Experimentation and modelling of CNT additive abrasive media for micro finishing', *Measurement*
- 'Tribological behavior of HVOF carbon coating for wear resistance applications', *Materials Research Express*

Prof. Rajeshwari Pandey, Dept. of Electronics & Communication Engineering

- 'CFOA Based Negative Floating Capacitance Multiplier', *Advances in Electronics Engineering*

Prof. Vijay Gautam, Dept. Of Mechanical Engineering

- 'Prediction of residual stresses in biaxial stretching of tailor welded blanks by finite element analysis', *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering*
- 'Experimental and Numerical Characterization of Residual Stresses in Tailor Welded Blanks After Springback', *Springer, Singapore*

Dr. Chandra Prakash Singh, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Applied Mathematics

- 'Matter creation in Brans-Dicke theory: Observational tests and thermodynamic analysis', *Physical Review D*
- 'Probing bulk viscous matter dominated model in Brans-Dicke theory, Astrophysics and Space', *Science*
- 'New holographic dark energy with bulk viscosity in f(R,T) gravity', *Indian Journal of Physics*

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Vishwakarma, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Information Technology

- 'View-invariant Deep Architecture for Human Action Recognition using Two-stream Motion and Shape Temporal Dynamics', *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing*
- 'A Two-fold Transformation Model for Human Action Recognition using Decisive Pose', *Cognitive Systems Research*
- 'Sentiment Analysis using Deep Learning Architectures: A Review', *Artificial Intelligence Review*

Dr. Rahul Katarya, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

- 'Opinion Leader discovery based on Text analysis in Online Social Network', IEEE International Conference on Information Systems and Computer Networks (ISCON 2019), *GLA University, Uttar Pradesh*
- 'A survey of Different Methods in finding Latent Relationships among Complex Networks', ISCON 2019, *GLA University, Uttar Pradesh*
- 'Deep Learning for Opinion Mining: A Systematic Survey', ISCON 2019, *GLA University, Uttar Pradesh*

Dr. Ram Singh, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Applied Chemistry

- 'Design, synthesis and evaluation of Coumarin-Phenylthiazole conjugates as cholinesterase inhibitors', *Chemical Biology Letters*
- 'Facile Synthesis of 2-Arylimidazo[1,2-a] pyridines catalyzed by DBU in Aqueous ethanol', *Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences*

Dr. Shilpa Pal, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Civil Engineering

- 'Shear resistance of steel fibre reinforced concrete beams', *Journal of Structural Engineering*
- 'Optimization of base isolation parameters using genetic algorithm', *Journal of Statistics and Management*

Dr. Sudarshan K. Valluru, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Electrical Engineering

- 'Design and implementation of L-PID and IO-PID Controllers for Twin Rotor MIMO System', *International Conference on Power Electronics Control and Automation, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi*
- 'Design of Intelligent Fuzzy Logic Controllers to Control Trajectory Tracking and Stabilization of Twin Rotor MIMO System', *IEEE International Conference on Engineering Technologies and Applied Sciences 2019, Malaysia*
- 'Design and Real Time implementation of fmincon , MOGA tuned IO-PID and FO-PIλDμ Controllers for Stabilization of TRMS', *International Conference on Computing and Network Communications (CoCoNet), Kerala*
- 'Experimental Investigation of Fully Informed Particle Swarm Optimization tuned Multi Loop L-PID and NL-PID Controllers for Gantry Crane System', *CoCoNet, Kerala*
- 'Optimization Strategy of Bio-Inspired Metaheuristic Algorithms Tuned PID Controller for PMBDC Actuated Robotic Manipulator', *CoCoNet, Kerala*

Dr. Anup Kumar Mandpura, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Electrical Engineering

- 'Stacking seismic data based on Ramanujan sums', *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters*

Mr. Deshraj Meena, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Applied Physics

- 'Phase dependent selectivity shifting behavior of Cd2SnO4 nanoparticles based gas sensor towards volatile organic compounds (VOC) at low operating temperature', *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*
- 'Synthesis, characterization and gas sensing properties of the rhombohedral ilmenite CdSnO3 nanoparticles', *Physica B: Condensed Matter*

Dr. Mukhtiyar Singh, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Applied Physics

- 'Graphene as charge transport layers in lead free perovskite solar cell', *Material Research Express*

Ms. Navneeta Bharadvaja, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Biotechnology

- 'Degradation of dyes using biologically synthesized silver and copper nanoparticles', *Environmental Nanotechnology, Monitoring & Management*
- 'Media optimization using Box Behnken Design for enhanced production of biomass, beta-carotene and lipid from Dunaliella salina', *Vegetos*
- 'Bio-plastic: An Alternative Solution to Beat Plastic Hazard', *Fundamentals of Plastic Waste Management*
- 'Microbial Remediation of Heavy Metals', *Microbial Bioremediation & Biodegradation*

Mr. Paras Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

- 'Microwave cladding on metallic surfaces: A review', *Materials Today: Proceedings*

Mr. Prashant Giridhar Shambharkar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

- 'Multiple Resource Management and Burst Time Prediction using Deep Reinforcement Learning', *International Journal of Advances in Computer Science & Its Applications*

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Asst. Prof., USME

- 'Mapping disparities in education across low-and middle-income countries', *Nature*
- 'Mapping child growth failure across low-and middle-income countries', *Nature*

Ms. Ritu Agarwal, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Information Technology

- 'A Two-Phase Image Classification Approach with Very Less Data', *Computational Vision and Bio-Inspired Computing*

Mr. Rohit Beniwal, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

- 'A Smart Discussion Forum Website', *International Conference on Soft Computing and Pattern Recognition 2019, Hyderabad*

Dr. Sudipta Majumdar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Electronics & Communication Engineering

- 'Extended Kalman Filter Based Nonlinear System Identification Described in Terms of Kronecker Product', *International Journal of Electronics & Communications*
- 'Extended Kalman Filter Based State Estimation of MOSFET Circuit', *The International Journal of Computation and Mathematics in Electronics & Electrical Engineering*

*DTU Times interviewed **Mr. Vinod Dham**, 'Father of the Pentium Chip', a DCE alumnus of the 1971 batch, who was the Chief Guest at Convocation 2019. We also interviewed his batchmates **Mr. Gulshan Kapur, Mr. Subha Rao, Mr. Sudhir Khanna, Mr. Suman K. Kwatra,** and **Mr. Umesh Chaddha**.*

What are the major changes you have seen between DCE of 1971 and DTU of 2019?

The DCE in 1971 was a small place. I can draw a whole map for you consisting of the library and the four departments. This campus is a huge one, of area 165 acres, while our campus was only around 10 acres at Kashmere Gate. There is no comparison; what you are doing here is amazing. In 1971, probably less than 250 students passed out, while here, almost 1800 students graduated this year.

Engineers today in India are failing to capture the wide gap between the academic curriculum and industry requirements. What do you think students should do at an individual level to bridge this gap?

There always will be a difference in the industry here and the industry abroad, and that is why I went abroad to get my Master's degree. Nowadays, however, I see a lot of Ph.D. students here, so hopefully, we are improving the scope for higher studies here as well. But earlier, going abroad was the only way to dig deeper into a subject. There are a number of job-ready courses these days which are gaining prominence. These are aimed at bridging the gap between what is taught in the university and what is required in the industry.
Don't work too long for one organisation. 5-7 years is a good time to switch. If you are there in any organisation, look for opportunities to show your brilliance. Every organisation has, whether you like it or not, Power Centres, which would really put you into a proper perspective. Don't just blindly work and deliver, but also observe the people around you and learn from them.

A lot of engineers generally go for non-technical jobs, as opposed to core technical work. How can we interest more students in the core field?

Engineering gives you excellent analytical skills that are used in every field. Lots of engineers go into business-related sectors and many of the skills taught in engineering come in handy there. Nowadays technology is in everything, so to maximise your benefits, you have to be able to utilise the best of both. To be honest, I don't think it's a negative thing. Some students have an aptitude in the sciences, but it is not practical for everybody to go towards research. You will find a lot of engineers in the civil services as well. It's a way of life.

The alumni of DCE are in every single industry in the world. How do you think that the alumni network of DCE will be able to help future students of DTU who will enter different industries?

In Silicon Valley, there are a substantial number of DCE graduates who are doing amazing things. There are lots of them, dozens and dozens. I don't know how to bring all of them together but I wish there was a network like there is at Harvard University. Harvard has a brilliant alumni network which the alumni constantly use for years after graduation to get jobs and connections. Maybe the newer batches can take an initiative towards making a social networking website exclusive to DTU students and alumni.

Read the complete interview on dtutimes.dtu.ac.in/blog

GOLDEN PRIDE FUNCTION

The Convocation Ceremony was preceded by the **Golden Pride Function** on 12 December 2019, which celebrated the achievements of gold medalists and Ph.D. awardees. **Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta**, *IAS, Competition Commissioner of India* was the Chief Guest and **Dr. Durga Das Agarwal**, *Founder & President, Piping Technology & Products Inc.* graced the event as the Guest of Honour.

The dignitaries bestowed the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor Gold Medals on the awardees. From the Class of 2019, **Mudita Saxena**, *M.Tech., CSE* and **Jatin**, *B.Tech., ECE* were awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal. 15 students from B.Tech., 4 from B.Tech. (Evening), 20 from M.Tech., 2 from M.B.A. and 1 from E.M.B.A. were awarded the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal. 25 other medals and scholarships were also awarded.

CONVOCATION

The **6th Convocation Ceremony** for the **Class of 2019**, held on 13 December 2019, witnessed great gusto and jubilance all over DTU as graduates and postgraduates clad in black robes and convocation hats congregated one last time to mark the end of their college lives.

The day kicked off with the inauguration of the newly installed National Flag by **Mr. Anil Baijal**, *Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, NCT of Delhi* and *Chancellor, DTU*, following which the graduates assembled in the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium for the Convocation Ceremony to commence. **Mr. Vinod Dham**, *Founder, IndoUS Venture Partners*, 'Father of the Pentium Chip', and a DCE alumnus served as the Chief Guest for the event. The ceremony saw the conferring of 2135 degrees, along with 2 Chancellor's Medals and 42 Vice Chancellor's medals.

Number of Degrees Conferred

Degree	Count
B.Tech.	1501
B.Tech. (Evening)	135
M.Tech.	257
M.B.A.	150
E.M.B.A.	40
Ph.D.	62
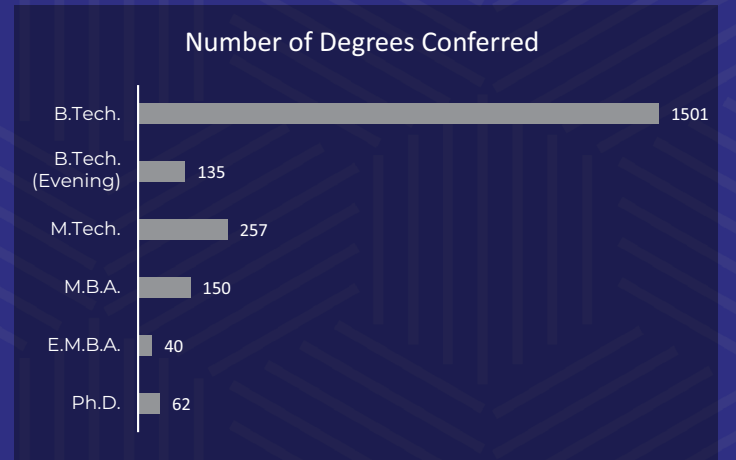
This was followed by the Convocation Address by the Chief Guest who recounted his experience as an alumnus of DCE and reminisced about his time at Silicon Valley, first as an employee and later on as an employer in his own company. He emphasised the value of discipline, integrity, and smart work to achieve one's goals. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* also addressed the gathering and wished the graduates luck for their future ventures. The 48th edition of DTU Times was released by the dignitaries along with the Booklet of Achievements (2015-2019).

Nostalgia erupted around the college as the students, now graduates, walked around the university one last time and were photographed with their peers and parents. With their degrees in their hands and convocation hats in the air, the graduates bade their college days a final adieu as they set out on a new journey.

HOMECOMING ALUMNI MEET

Organised by Delhi Technological University in association with the *DCE-DTU Alumni Association*, the **Homecoming Alumni Meet** was held on 10 January 2020 to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Batch of 1970. **Prof. Pravir Kumar**, *Dean Alumni Affairs* welcomed all alumni present and expressed his immense gratitude on seeing the Class of 1970 revisit their alma mater after three decades. Following this, **Prof. Anu Singh Lather**, *Vice Chancellor, Ambedkar University, Delhi* was welcomed onstage where she reflected upon her experience of being one of the founding members of the *Office of Alumni Affairs*. Prof. Lather's speech swept up all the guests present in a wave of nostalgia as she narrated anecdotes and insightful memories of her time as the *Pro-Vice Chancellor, DTU*.

The Chief Guest, **Mr. Mukesh C. Gupta**, *Former Chief Technical Advisor, International Labour Organisation, United Nations*, expressed his gratitude at having been invited to such a momentous occasion and marvelled at the strength of the alumni's connection with the spirit of DTU, which urged them to visit the campus three decades after graduating.

The meet was a whirlwind of emotions, nostalgia, and euphoria. It concluded with some alumni visiting the DCE campus at Kashmiri Gate, visiting their old stomping grounds and reliving their days of absolute bliss and youthful vigour.

SOCIETY NEWS

Sahitya *wins* accolades

Angad Sethi bagged the **1st** position at the **KC Garg Memorial Turncoat Debate** held at *Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology*. He was also awarded the title of **2nd Best Speaker** at the **Annual Freshers Intercollege Conventional Debate** organised by *Deshbandhu College*. At **Symvaad National Parliamentary Debate, Angad Sethi** and **Mihir Ranjan** were **Breaking Adjudicators. Mihir Ranjan** was also a **finals judge.**

At *IIT Bombay*, **Nilesh Nishant** won the **1st** position in both **Hindi Slam Poetry** and the **Best of Competitions** event. **R Sahil** bagged the **1st** position in **Online Mascot Designing**, while **S. Aditya** was awarded **2nd** position in **Bollywood Quiz. Shubhang Gopal** secured **3rd** position in **Turncoat Debate**.

180 Degrees Consulting DTU *wins* laurels

The team of **Ekansh Prasad, Param Chhura** and **Shivam Jha** secured the **1st** position at **Encephalon - Live Business Case Competition** at the **Operations and Technology Conclave** of *XLRI, Jamshedpur*. **Param Chhura** and **Shivam Jha** also secured the **2nd** position at **Enigma, HR Cross Competition** at the **Annual HR Conclave** of *IIM Lucknow*.

Aman Kalra and **Saransh Garg** bagged the **1st** position at **Pragyan - HR Case Competition** at *IIM Kashipur*. They were also the *national finalists* at **Case Club League 2019**, *St. Stephen's College*. **Kshitij Rastogi** and **Vikhyat Tomar** were **National Finalists** at the **PMx Product Management Expedition** at *IIT Guwahati*. **Ansh Agrawal** reached the National Finals of **El Empresario**, the flagship management competition at *IIM Rohtak*.

DTU Supermileage *drives* ahead

DTU Supermileage bagged the **1st position** in the *Urban Concept Category* at the **Shell Eco Marathon** held in *Bangalore*. The team was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 3 lakhs.

DTU Supermileage

Sahitya

180 Degrees Consulting DTU

IOSD DTU *holds* FOSSASIA OpenTechSummit

In January 2020, **IOSD DTU** organised the **FOSSASIA OpenTechSummit Day.** The special guests included **Mario Behling**, *co-founder*, *FOSSASIA,* and **Mitch Altman,** the inventor of *TV-B-Gone*. The guests delivered talks and workshops on OS Development and building a sustainable open source ecosystem with FOSSASIA and OPEN-TEC. An **Open Hardware workshop** was held by **Mitch Altman** to teach students about soldering and various internal components of hardware.

NSS DTU *champions* for a cause

In November 2019, **NSS DTU** launched its initiative **'The Recycle Box'** in an attempt to recycle paper waste generated around the canteen and the stationery shop. An awareness session on *Rights and Responsibilities for Gender Equality* was conducted by **NSS DTU** in collaboration with *Sakshi Foundation* and *The Rakshin Project*. It was an interactive seminar with the aim to prevent, prohibit and intervene in instances of sexual offences against children.

NSS DTU in association with *Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS)* organised its **Annual Rural Camp** at Gopalpura, Alwar in December 2019, with special emphasis on the preservation and protection of water bodies. Volunteers participated in activities such as learning about organic farming practices, setting up library facilities at the community school, offering 'Shramdaan', setting up solar panels, painting walls, performing a Nukkad Natak and cooking in the community kitchen. They also got a chance to interact with **Dr. Rajendra Singh**, *'the Waterman of India'* regarding various water preservation and river revival techniques.

In January 2020, the volunteers of **NSS DTU** collected clothes that were donated at government-established night shelters through the NGO *Safe Approach for Nascent Termination of Social Hazard*.

NSS DTU

IOSD DTU

IGTS DTU

IGTS DTU *organises* Stratazenith

In December 2019, the **Indian Game Theory Society DTU** in partnership with *Team Manan, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune* organised **Stratazenith**. Another edition of the same was successfully conducted by them at **Techfest**, *IIT Bombay* and at the **Management Fest**, *IIM Lucknow (Noida Campus)*.

Team Inferno *blazes* ahead

Team Inferno secured the **8th** position in the **Indian Rover Challenge** held at *VIT Chennai*. Their Preliminary Design Report has been accepted for participation in the **University Rover Challenge** to be held in Utah, USA. Team members **Karan Singh Bora** and **Vishal Sharma** presented a detailed report of their robotic manipulator at the **1st South Asian Annual Mars Convention.**

Team Inferno

MACS DTU *conducts* AI workshop

MACS DTU organised guest lectures on the *Democratization of AI* which were delivered by **Kazuya Saginawa**, *CEO, DataGateway* and **Tetsuro Masunaga**, *Director and Co-Founder, bitgrit*. A workshop on Blockchain & AI was organised in association with *bitgrit*.

Pratibimb *forges* ahead

Pratibimb won the **1st** position at **Aagaz - the Street Play Event** at **Mood Indigo**, *IIT Bombay*. The team also performed at the Delhi International Queer Theater And Film Festival **Tarang 2019**. In January 2020, the Stage Wing performed at the **Shorts Live Festival** at the Little Theatre Group Auditorium.

Delhi-42 *bags* awards

Delhi-42 organised **Quizzing 101 - The Fresher's Quiz** in October 2019. At *Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce*, **Bramhdeep Singh** and **Harshit Gupta** won the **1st** position in the **Business Quiz**, with **Bramhdeep Singh** also bagging the **3rd** position in the **Fin-Biz Quiz**. **Aaryendra Kashyap** secured the **1st** position at the quiz held at *SRCC*.

Panache *wins* big

Panache bagged the **3rd** position in the fashion show held at *Antaragni*, IIT Kanpur. **Vikhyat Singh** bagged the title of **Mr. Antaragni 2019**, while **Jeevika Wadhwa** was awarded the title of **Ms. Antaragni 2019**. **Dikshita Saxena** was crowned **Ms. Impresionante 2019.**

Vibe *swipes* laurels

Vibe won the title of **'Don't Kill the Streets'** at the **Street Dance Competition** held at *Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology, Delhi*. In a **1-on-1 Street Dance Battle** held at *IIT Bombay*, **Kapil Nagnyal** secured the **1st** position. In January 2020, **Vibe** conducted a **Popping Dance Workshop** for DTU students.

In other news…

- Members of **CASRAE** attended the **8th International Symposium on Fusion of Science and Technology** and presented their research papers in various fields of Mechanical Engineering.
- **Crescita,** the HR Club of USME, conducted a seminar on *Team Building.* The seminar was delivered by **Ms. Neha Kalra,** an HR specialist.
- **Cubix DTU** in association with *Capital Cubing and Cubelelo* organised the **PB Smashathon Delhi 2019,** an official *World Cube Association* cubing competition.
- **DTU Toastmasters** conducted a demonstration meeting attended by its members and speakers from different *Toastmasters* clubs across Delhi.
- **D_CODER** organised **'Seniors Se Mulaqaat',** in which they invited DTU alumni to interact with and guide current students.
- **Hertz Electric** participated in **Formula Bharat 2020.**
- **IMechE DTU Chapter** served as the Knowledge Partners for the **8th International Symposium on Fusion of Science and Technology.**
- **Jijnasa DTU** started the **GrateFULL** Program, under which they provide Sattvic meals to DTU students in exchange for volunteering or donations.
- **Pradarshani**, the Dramatics Society of USME, secured the **2nd** position at the **Ad Mad** competitions at both *Rukmini Devi Institute of Advanced Studies* and *Ideal Institute of Management and Technology.*
- **Round Table DTU** conducted recruitments for *MAD (Make A Difference)*, an NGO that teaches underprivileged children across India.
- **SCEE DTU** organised a **Motivational Seminar** hosted by **Aman Dhattarwal**, *Founder, Apni Kaksha.*

Abhivyakti

Kalakriti organised the 3rd edition of its annual Art Competition **Abhivyakti** in November 2019. The competition consisted of categories such as *Big Canvas, Doodling, Mandala, Go Virtual, Befree, Craft* and *Below 15 Years.* A showcase of artistic masterpieces in the form of an **Art Exhibition** from the Creative Arts societies of various colleges was held at the Mini OAT. The event also saw enthusiastic participation from the students of the NGOs *Gyankunj* and *Navjoyti.* The two-day competition came to an end with a lively performance by the band **Ikhtyaar.**

In January 2020, **Kalakriti** participated in **Rangsrijan**, the Art Exhibition of *Hindu College* and received the **Popular Choice Award.**

DIWALI MELA

The Rotaract Club of DTU Regency organised its annual fundraising event **Diwali Mela** in October 2019. The members of the club organised games, competitions, and lantern lighting. **Prof. Yogesh Singh,** *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU,* **Prof. S.K. Garg,** *Pro-Vice Chancellor,* and **Prof. S. Indu**, *Dean Student Welfare* graced the event with their presence. Students from NGO *Gyankunj* also participated enthusiastically in the festivities. All collections from the event summed up to INR 30,000 and were donated to NGO CRY - *Child Rights & You.*

On the occasion of World Polio Day, the members of **RCDTUR** participated in the flagging off of the Mission Indhradhanush Message Car organised by *Rotary Club of Delhi Regency Next.* The club also collaborated with the *Rotaract Club of Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies* for **Project Srijan,** which focuses on the collection, recycling, and disposal of e-waste from college campuses.

RCDTUR started a **Girl Empowerment Project** aimed at empowering girls residing in urban slums of Delhi by conducting workshops on sanitation, hygiene, fitness, sports training, and self-defense training. Promotional drives were conducted in Shakurpur Basti to register 45 girls under the program, followed by **Sanitation and Hygiene Workshops** as well as **Basketball Training.**

DELTECH MUN '20

The 9th edition of **DelTech Model United Nations** was organised by **DelTech MUN and Debating Society** in January 2020. The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of **Justice R.K. Agarwal** as the Hon'ble Chief Guest. The event simulated 5 committees: the United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Security Council, United Nations Human Rights Council, Development Committee and the Delimitation Commission of India. With a footfall of over 350 from over 15 institutes, the conference witnessed unique constructive on global issues such as the right to self-determination, arms control, and the refugee crisis. The **Best Delegation** award was won by *Amity International School, Noida.*

First Years

The fuchhas are at their peak excitement levels, since the stellar pronites, intense competitions and beautiful decorations are a novelty to them. They are punctually present at every event. Irrespective of their (un)familiarity with the performing artists, you can spot them proudly spamming posters everywhere.

Third Years

Though all of them claim that they have 'lowkey given up' and are too busy stressing about their futures, the third years find a refreshing solace in Engifest. Seeing their immediate seniors lamenting their final fest season probably makes them cherish the experience even more.

Fourth Years

The fest veterans, the seniors, feel a forbidden sense of nostalgia. You may find them shedding a surreptitious tear during the concerts or rushing to capture one final group picture with long-lost friends. The approaching midsems don't scare them, but the beginning of the end surely does.

Second Years

While freshers travel in large packs, the second years have significantly trimmed down their friend circle to the bare essentials. A chunk of them have become co-heads and are being pestered by friends who pop out of nowhere to ask for VIP passes.

A UTOPIAN ESCAPADE
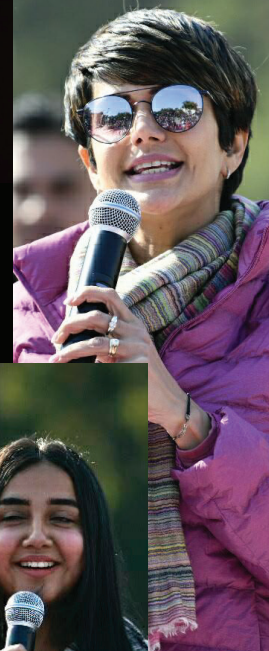
YUVAAN

Delhi Technological University held the fourth edition of **Yuvaan** - the Literature and Film Festival in January 2020. The theme of the event was "Eden de Ubermensch", which loosely translates to 'a garden of supermen'. The three-day extravaganza saw a huge turnout as students and experts alike congregated to celebrate literature and cinema. The festivities commenced with an inauguration ceremony with **Dr. Sachidanand Joshi**, *Member Secretary, IGNCA, Ministry of Culture* as the Chief Guest, while **Mr. Ran Mor**, *Founder, Life Art Festival* and **Mr. Kim Kum Pyoung**, *Director, Korean Cultural Centre* were the Guests of Honour. The ceremony included the lighting of the lamp by **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU.*

The first day of Yuvaan saw the *Filtercopy* team comprising of **Ayush Mehra, Devika Vats, Kriti Vij, Priyam Saha**, and **Sanjana Sanghi** alongside **Rohit Varghese** interacting with the students of DTU. **Mandira Bedi** launched her book 'Happy For No Reason'. The *India Film Project* hosted a film-making workshop under its campus connect program. **Stained Pages**, a bilingual creative writing contest, was also organised. The day wrapped up with an energetic performance by singers **Vivek Singh** and **Zaeden.**

The artistic gala continued the next day with **'Social Nation: An Interactive Panel'** in which actress **Mithila Palkar** and YouTuber **Prajakta Koli** fascinated the crowd with their affable interaction. **Shabdutsav**, a literary event comprising a slew of sub-events such as **Stand-Up Comedy, Hindi Paricharcha** and **Urdu Mushaira**, was organised in association with Kavi Kumbh. **Farhat Ehsas, Lakshmi Shankar Vajpayee** and many other acclaimed poets recited their poetry and engaged in conversations about their art. **Manthan**, the Hindi debate competition, and **Samarpan**, the Hindi slam poetry competition, saw avid participation. An array of competitive events such as **RJ Hunt, Netflix-and-Bid**, and **Quiz Time** were organised throughout the day.

On the final day, **Entretein**, a panel graced by actor and director **Dhruv Sehgal** and content creator **Viraj Ghelani** intensified the fervor of the fest. Debaters gathered to argue at **Socratic Circle**, an English debate competition. **Comic Kaun**, a stand-up comedy show hosted **by Raunaq Rajani**, tickled the funny bone of the audience. The fest ended on a hearty note with the crowd dancing to **DJ Shaan**'s beats at the concert ground.

Interviews

Juliette Ménager

DTU Times interviewed Juliette Ménager, Casting Director and the founder of Joule Casting Studio, Paris, who appeared as a guest in Yuvaan Literature and Film Festival 2020.

What are the main requirements for anyone wishing to take up being a Casting Director as their profession?

Casting directors have to keep their eyes open for new protégées, and it has to be done in collaboration with the director, the script, the story, and of course, the budget. Casting directors scout for talent that aligns with the projects that people undertake. Whether in films, fashion, music or TV serials, every platform has different requirements and prerequisites.

How do you think the profession has changed over the years?

Cinema is a field that runs on insight. A lot of casting directors are women, perhaps because casting has a lot of feminine aspects. Casting directors have become increasingly important because of the shortage of time. Platforms like Life Art thus become integral, as here one can upload their profile and create communities, increasing their reach to the masses. The means of becoming famous have changed now. Earlier, one had pictures and papers. But now, with the advent of Netflix, Amazon, Hulu and a lot of other online streaming platforms, talent has to be scouted at a much faster rate. However, I believe you still need to see the people, audition them, and walk the old-fashioned path. You can tell a lot about people just by the way they shake hands, and no amount of online knowledge can ever compensate for that.

What do you look for when you're casting someone for a specified role?

Charisma. The person should be someone I can remember and someone who can remember me in return. Looking for someone to cast in a role is very much like looking for someone to fall in love with, and I believe love is always at first sight.

There are many other factors that come into play later, such as whether or not the actor is right for the film and if the director and producer would get along with him. When the relationship is finally established, it is a little bit like a marriage. You have to know that someone is the right fit and then work with them through all upcoming challenges.

What are the differences between the various platforms that portray cinema?

It'll take anyone an entire year to understand the intricacies of the varied platforms. I've been a casting director all around the world, and each industry wants something different. Films need people who are willing to work for longer durations and have specific skills, while in a music video, appearance becomes vital. Every role has different requirements. In India, sometimes a very famous model goes on to become an actress. It depends on whether one has to talk, dance or listen.

Ran Mor

DTU Times interviewed Ran Mor, Founder of the Life Arts Festival, who was a Guest of Honour at the Inauguration Ceremony of Yuvaan Literature and Film Festival 2020.

As the Founder of the Life Arts Festival, what has been your motivation to come up with this concept that has turned into a worldwide phenomenon?

For the past 30 years, I've produced many festivals, shows, and movies, and I've seen the industry change. I believed in creating a single stage for every artist, film star or even a YouTube celebrity. At the end of the day, all of them create art. We've created a platform where you can submit your film and can communicate with the global community of artists. We've just launched and already received thousands of submissions from around the world. With Life Arts, we're trying to create a supportive network of artists with no intention of commercialisation. The festival gives professionals a chance to engage and see what's happening in the industry.

You mentioned that the industry has been changing due to platforms like YouTube and Netflix. Do you think that these platforms have changed our perception of art?

Yes, of course. First of all, fewer people are going to cinemas or Film Festivals because everyone has a list of movies they'd like to see on Netflix. The rules are different now and these are great platforms for the future. There's a lot of creative freedom and this is a more democratic form of art.

FilterCopy Cast

DTU Times interviewed the cast of the FilterCopy YouTube channel, who were guests at the Yuvaan Literature and Film Festival 2020.

Did you ever plan on becoming a YouTube celebrity or was it something you stumbled upon?

My plan was very simple as I was always interested in the world of films. The beautiful cinematic representations of mundane things were always exciting. I wanted to stick with this field. Even if I hadn't been acting, I would either be writing or producing. I wish to direct my own feature someday.

I had zero plans. Initially, I wanted to be Miss World but I fell short in terms of height. I really enjoyed acting and I was always looking to get away from studies. During college, I started acting in street plays and fell in love with it. I believe I am extremely comfortable in front of the camera due to my time doing theatre in school. I never planned this career and just went with the flow.

What would be your message to the students who wish to pursue arts after engineering?

I want to tell them that it is alright to fail. Failure is very important in life. It is okay if one fails 55 times, since he may succeed in his next attempt. Just keep at it. Do not lose your will, which is the most important thing in life. I believe one needs to have a healthy detachment from what one is pursuing at the moment. It might not always be the thing you end up doing later in life. Whatever you end up studying in college can always prove beneficial in the future, even if you end up pursuing something entirely different. Having formal education gives you an edge, but not going to college doesn't disqualify you from being successful in this field either.

E-SUMMIT 2020

E-Cell DTU, in collaboration with *DCE-DTU Alumni Association*, organised the 13th version of its annual flagship event **UDAAN Entrepreneurship Summit** in January 2020. The summit was inaugurated by **Prof. Yogesh Singh,** *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* along with **Prof. M.M. Tripathi** and **Mr. Akhil Choudhary,** *Head, DCE-DTU Alumni Association.* They lit the ceremonial lamp and addressed the audience.

The first day boasted the **Leadership & Disruption Series,** a series of interactions with eminent personalities who inspired the audience with their success stories. The keynote speaker was **Mr. Alok Goel,** *Managing Director, SAIF Partners;* other speakers included **Mr. Adarsh Nair,** *CEO, Wynk,* **Mr. Ashwani Lohani,** *Chairman & MD, Air India,* **Mr. Rajesh Sawhney,** *CEO & Founder, InnerChef,* and **Ms. Vishakha Singh,** *Actress, Producer & Entrepreneur.* This was followed by a panel discussion between YouTube Entrepreneurs **RJ Abhinav, Mr. Ameen Khan** and **Mr. Pawan Yadav**

from *NazarBattu Productions, Slayy Point,* and **Mr. Pranav Panpolia,** *Founder, Opraahfx.* The day ended on a hilarious note with comedian, artist, and singer **Kenny Sebastian** amusing the crowd with his talent and humour.

The following day kicked off with a talk session and a panel discussion on *'Chasing Unicorns'.* This was followed by **Startupthon: Business Plan Competition,** in which the top 15 startups presented their pitch to the judges. The first position was bagged by the startups *Projexel Technologies* and *United by Players,* who also received a cash prize. A networking dinner was organised, giving the participants a chance to interact with venture capitalists and raise funding.

The final day saw 800 passionate students flock to the **Startup Internship Fair,** where more than 40 startups offered internships. In **HR Conundrum,** HR experts from various companies participated in a panel discussion on the topic *'Entrepreneurship vs Jobs vs Higher Education'.* They also shared hacks for cracking difficult interviews. The summit wrapped up with a highly scintillating performance by the band **Lagori.**
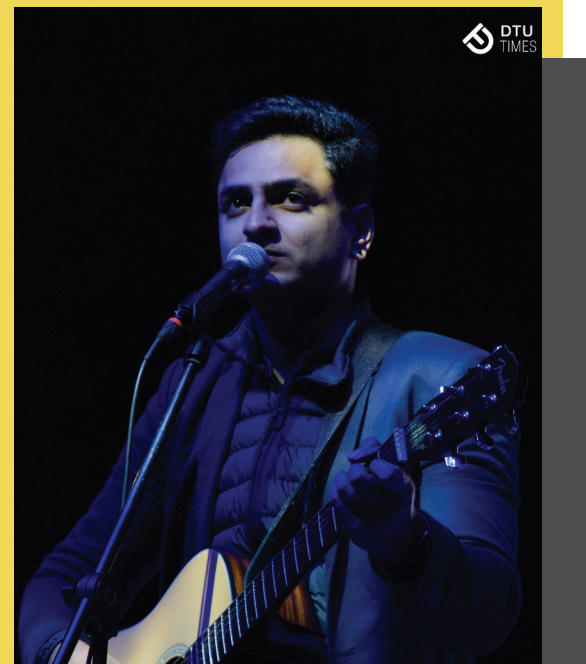
INTERVIEWS

Dr. R.K. Rana

DTU Times interviewed Commodore (Dr.) R.K. Rana, Honorary Startup Advisor, who was a guest at the Entrepreneurship Summit 2020 organised by E-Cell DTU.

You have spent a long time serving in the Navy. How do you think the Naval Environment has changed in terms of technology and infrastructure?
When I joined in 1980, we started with the good old boilers and steam turbine. The technology has improved considerably, especially in the case of onboard ships and self-noise generation. Whether you see the weapon systems or the control system, the computing technology has advanced the ability of these systems. The control has shifted from manual to more technologically advanced techniques.

Most engineering graduates deviate towards post-graduate studies or a job. What made you join the military?
I am from a military background. My father was also in the Army. I grew up in that environment and that is what motivated me to join the military. Fortunately, I have gained experience in all domains while serving in the Navy. People look at the Navy only as a ship for fighting, but there is a lot that goes on as supporting acts for the fighting platform to deliver its best. Many people ask me about our activities in such extreme circumstances, so I tell them that the moment we join the Armed Forces, we sign our death warrant - that is our mindset.

Mr. Anubhav Tiwari

DTU Times interviewed Mr. Anubhav Tiwari, Head Outreach, Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, IIIT Hyderabad, who was a guest at the Entrepreneurship Summit 2020 organised by E-Cell DTU.

What basic points do you look for in an idea that can be termed as feasible for a startup?
The idea should be big enough to cater to the problems that exist. The ideology that 'my college is facing this problem, so I should build this product' is wrong. Since your college is not an accurate market size, you will have to see whether that problem is actually being faced by the masses. Any potential idea should be the solution to a problem being faced by the masses. That's when you have the potential to scale.

Do you think the use of Artificial Intelligence in startups today is a beneficial step?
AI is the future and it is catching up. If you're building something around AI, you're being futuristic, since it will cover most of the operational aspects of your company pretty soon. Everything today is based on data and how you use that data to make decisions. If any process has less human involvement and more unbiased algorithms, the results will surely be better.

Does age become a barrier for entrepreneurs, given that the willingness to take risks is generally varying?
No. The problem is not age, but the liabilities that you have to take care of. If you have to take care of education loans, it will stop you from taking risks. If you have a family to look after, you won't put everything at stake for a start-up. So, it's the liabilities that stop you, not the age.

Mr. Akhil Choudhary

DTU Times interviewed Mr. Akhil Choudhary, CEO & Founder, Binary Semantics and member of the DCE-DTU Alumni Association, who was a guest at the Entrepreneurship Summit 2020 organised by E-Cell DTU.

What were the difficulties you had to face when you started Binary Semantics 34 years ago?
One of the hardest things in the startup culture is convincing your family about pursuing a startup. Many people asked my parents why they didn't discourage me from leaving my public sector job. Another challenge was the flow of capital. There was nothing like incubation or seed fund back then. Even the banks wouldn't give us a loan because we started Binary Semantics as a software company and banks did not understand the word 'software' back then.

As an entrepreneur, one has to play multiple roles. Did this excessive workload ever burn you out?
Initially, we didn't have the capacity to employ many people. I was the Developer, Project Manager, and the Tester simultaneously. There were times when I had to work for eighteen hours straight. However, if I had to do just one thing for eighteen hours, I would get a burnout. Doing five different things kept me energetic. After all, variety is the spice of life.

What was your vision when you started, and what's been motivating you all these years?
I was passionate about entrepreneurship right from my childhood. Despite not having businesspeople in my family, it somehow came into my head. When I was in school, I wanted to be a doctor and set up a chain of hospitals. Back then, my vision was limited to just India. I eventually ended up in engineering and computer sciences, and my vision changed to something global.

Mr. Atish Bhattacharya

DTU Times interviewed Mr. Atish Bhattacharya, Head, Talent Acquisition Leader, DGM HR, Greenlam, who was a guest at the Entrepreneurship Summit 2020 organised by E-Cell DTU.

How do you think the appeal of DCE has changed ever since it transformed into DTU?
DTU has always been a brand name in itself. It was always one of the top choices for anyone who wished to pursue engineering. The campus size has definitely increased after the transition and the facilities have also been upgraded. I have often recruited from DTU and realised that the students of this college have recognisable leadership qualities. This makes us want to visit the campus year after year.

What is that one red flag that you recognise before you decide to hire any failed entrepreneur?
I think that it's not about failure, but the situation that one has been through. This depends upon many internal and external factors such as the market not being ready, the target audience not being the exact fit, or the marketing strategies not working out. Although these things might lead to failure, they do not judge a person's capabilities in the long run. Organisations are happy to have workers back if they work diligently.
Perception is also a major factor. Once, BATA, the shoe company, wanted to launch its brand in Africa. A lot of critics were against this idea, arguing that the majority don't wear shoes in Africa. Someone saw this as an opportunity and it eventually became a big success. It is important to remember that every company starts with just one problem statement. Thus, it is important that a candidate can look through any problem statement and devise their ideas around it.

ESPERANZA

Esperanza - the Online Winter Photofest of Delhi Technological University was conducted by DTU Times in December 2019. The competition saw over 250 spectacular entries from all across the country. The themes were - Travel, Expressions, Street, Macro, Black and White, Architecture, Nature, Special Effects, Minimalism, Festive. Rohit Singh, a professional photographer specialising in advertising and corporate photography, was the judge of the contest.

Ashu Gupta

Hemant Saxena

Manvaditya

1st

Raghav Yadav
Delhi Technological University

3rd

Nishit Goel
Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce

Abhinav Bansal

2nd

Astitva Kumar
Delhi Technological University

Kartikeya Bector
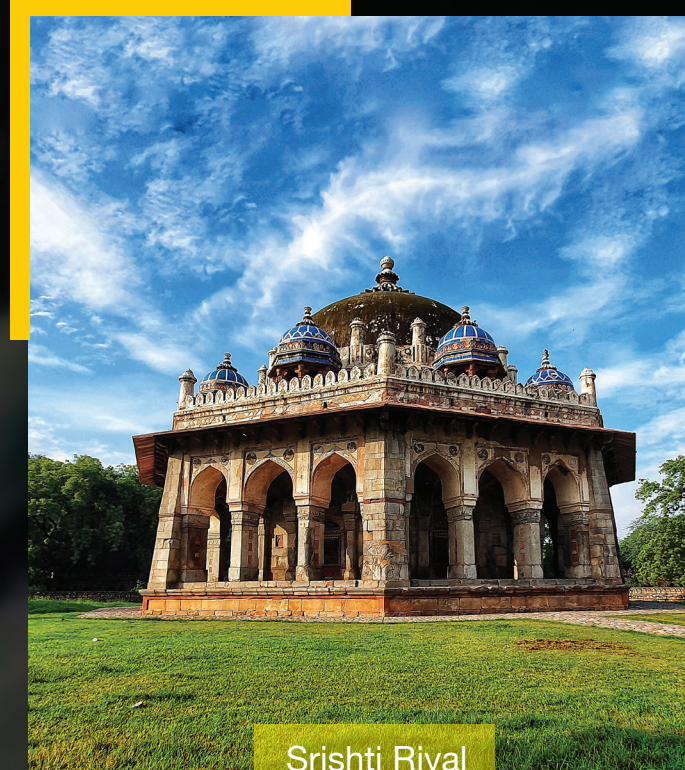
Srishti Riyal

STUDENT NEWS

AWARDS & COMPETITIONS WON

Milind Sahay, B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year
Mohammed Mohsin Hussain., B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year
Rahul Singh, B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year
• Runner-up, *Infineon India Campus Hackathon, Bangalore, India*

Rohan Sharma, B.Tech., EP, 4th Year
• Best Poster Award, *International Conference on Atomic, Molecular, Optical & Nano Physics with Applications, Delhi Technological University, Delhi, India*

Akshit Goel, B.Tech., EE, 2nd Year
• Second runner-up, *Dell Campassador Program*

Anoushka Raj, B.Tech., ENE, 2nd Year
• Second runner-up, *Creative Writing Event, Odyssey, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, India*

Aniket Gupta, B.Tech., PIE, 2nd Year
Yashaswi Raj, B.Tech., ME, 2nd Year
• Runner-up, Research Poster Presentation, *8th International Symposium on Fusion of Science & Technology, Faridabad, India*

RESEARCH PAPERS PUBLISHED AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Tushar Srivastava, M.Tech., PSY, Class of 2019
• 'Predictive Analysis of NARX, NLIO and RNN Networks for Short-term Wind Power Forecasting', *International Conference on Data Sciences, Security and Applications, Delhi, India*

Maitree Leekha, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
Mansi Agarwal, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
• 'Crisis-DIAS: Towards Multimodal Damage Analysis - Deployment, Challenges and Assessment'. *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference (AAAI) 2020, New York, USA*
• 'Emotion Analysis on Social Media: Impact of Psychological and Contextual Cues'. *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference (AAAI) 2020, New York, USA*

Maitree Leekha, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
Mononito Goswami, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
• 'A Multi-task Approach to Open Domain Suggestion Mining'. *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference (AAAI) 2020, New York, USA*

Maitree Leekha, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
Utkarsh Chawla, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
Ayush Agarwal, B.Tech., IT, 3rd Year
• 'Multidimensional Analysis of Trust in News Articles'. *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference (AAAI) 2020, New York, USA*

Minkush Manuja, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
Mononito Goswami, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
• 'A Binary PSO Approach for Improving the Performance of Wireless Sensor Networks', *Wireless Personal Communications, 2020*

Mononito Goswami, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
• 'Discriminating Cognitive Disequilibrium and Flow in Problem Solving: A Semi-supervised Approach Using Involuntary Dynamic Behavioral Signals', *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference (AAAI) 2020, New York, USA*
• 'Modeling Involuntary Dynamic Behaviors to Support Intelligent Tutoring', *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference (AAAI) 2020, New York, USA*
• 'Detecting Patterns of Physiological Response to Hemodynamic Stress via Deep Unsupervised Learning', *Machine Learning for Health Workshop, NeurIPS 2019, Vancouver, Canada*

Tanmay Singh, B.Tech., IT, 4th Year
• 'Detection of Flooding Attacks using Multivariate Analysis', *2nd International Conference on Computer Networks, Big Data and IoT, Madurai, India*

Anshu Gupta, B.A. (Hons.), Eco., 3rd Year
Vanshaj Gupta, B.A. (Hons.), Eco., 3rd Year
• Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies Annual Research Conference, *Pune, India*

Sidharth Bhasin, B.Tech., BT, 3rd Year
• 'In Silico Identification of Dengue inhibitors in Giloy (Tinospora cordifolia)', *International Conference on Advances in Biosciences and Biotechnology 2020, Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida, India*

Priyansh Kedia, B.Tech., EE, 2nd Year
• International Conference on Sustainable Computing in Science, Technology and Management, *Amity University Rajasthan, Jaipur, India*

Rohit Kumar Mishra, B.Tech., ME, 2nd Year
• Drone Festival of India, *New Delhi, India*

Anshuman Pandey, B.Des., 1st Year
• 'Sustainable Biodiversity in Urban Landscape', *Young Scientists' Conference, Indian International Science Festival, Kolkata, India*

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Maitree Leekha, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
Mononito Goswami, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year
• Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) Student Scholarship
• Microsoft Research Travel Grant

Tanushree Ghosh, B.Tech., PSCT, 3rd Year
Sumit Chaudhary, B.Tech., PSCT, 2nd Year
• Goswami Brothers Alumni Gold Medal, *Delhi Technological University, Delhi, India*

जब हम छोटे थे

.अंकित कुमार, द्वितीय वर्ष, आई.टी

जब हम छोटे थे तो शामें बहुत लंबी हुआ करती थी,
हम घंटो पतंग उड़ाया करते थे,
हर शाम थक के चूर होना और मां के गोद में लेटना,
अब तो पता ही नहीं चलता शाम कब होती है,
दिन कब ढलता है और रात कब हो जाती है,
शायद वक़्त सिमट रहा है।

जब हम छोटे थे दोस्ती भी बहुत गहरी हुआ करती थी,
दिनभर हूज़ूम बनाकर हंसना-खेलना, घूमना और खाना,
लेकिन अब तो पता नहीं दोस्ती भी क्या होती,
बस हाय हैलो करो और चलते बनो,
शायद रिश्ते सिमट रहे हैं।

जब हम छोटे थे तो खेल भी अजीब हुआ करते थे,
जैसे की पोषमपा, छूपनछूपाई और लंगड़ी टांग,
लेकिन अब खेल के नाम पर तो बस ई-स्पोर्ट्स बचे हैं,
शायद बचपन सिमट रहा है।

जब हम छोटे थे तो दुनिया भी बहुत बड़ी हुआ करती थी,
अभी भी याद है हमारा घर से स्कूल तक का वो रास्ता,
क्या-क्या नहीं था वहाँ,
चाट के ठेले से लेकर बर्फ के गोले तक,
पर आज तो वहाँ बस साइबर कैफे और मोबाइल की दुकानें है,
शायद दुनिया सिमट रही है।

जब हम छोटे थे तो ज़िन्दगी भी कितनी अजीब थी,
ना पढ़ने की चिंता और ना खाने की बस खेलो-कुदो मस्त रहो,
अब तो पढ़ने से लेकर खाने तक की भी चिंता,
शायद ज़िंदगी सिमट रही है।

जब हम छोटे थे तो ज़िद भी कैसी हुआ करती थी,
दशहरे के मेले में खिलौने और जलेबी की ज़िद,
दीवाली के मेले में पटाखे खरीदने की ज़िद,
अब ना पटाखे फोड़ने का मन होता,
ना ही खिलौने खरीदने का मन,
शायद दिल की आरज़ू सिमट रही है।

Expedition 4201: Mission Utopia

Prakhar Chaudhary, 2nd year, BAE

Waking up to the view of the seamless watching window and the incessant beeps coming from computer screens showing blue-green dots, Orthon realizes that he slept again in the Radar Room. The sky is a sooty orange, and this gloomy shade will linger on for another 5,000 hours. The hour count, bound in an endless loop of 0-5832, the number of hours in a day, reads 832. The Ministry's decision to follow Earth's sleep cycle has wreaked havoc on Venus. The entire Planet is enveloped by sleep-deprived, disorganized, yawning Venusians.

"'Believer' by Queen breaks all records and becomes the top-grossing album!" – written in an outrageously bright red, this is the main headline of the 12-hour Venus Bulletin. Lately, the Ministry, in an attempt to match the humans' apparently high level of efficiency, is going insane copying them. From listening to the same type of songs to wearing clothes, all of it has been stretched to the extent of becoming obnoxious.

Immediately after Orthon steps into his cabin, it is engulfed by the monotonous, mechanical voice of a reminder: "16 hours to Expedition 4201: Mission Utopia".

Every Venusian has been eagerly waiting to leave this 464°C furnace of a planet since their ancestors surrendered to Earth. Now they, 6,923rd generation Venusians, are toiling hard to reach Utopia first.

A final revision of our plan: we will travel across time frames, gather all intelligence about the location of Utopia, and reach it before anyone else.

The lights of the vessel go red. When they turn green, the Venusians are in the year 1516. Thomas More has just published his book titled "Utopia", which is set in a city called Amaurot. There is another Utopia - Palmanova's fortress of 1593. Further, there is the Pantisocratic, egalitarian community of 1794. The vivid faces of Utopia seem to be infinite in number, yet all attempts at locating them on the map fall futile.

Following a general consensus, the vessel is navigated towards the first-ever mention of Utopia. A disappointed sigh follows. They have been so desperately searching for a place that literally means No Place. To hell with these humans and their metaphors.

Back on Venus, the expedition report has been filed. The rather philosophical first lines read, "Perfection can't be found, it can only be built. Progression is Utopia."
To this, the Ministry's prompt reply is, "A human, Adolf Hitler, tried to convert Germany into a Utopian city. We want your research on this."

With a sigh of resignation, Orthon contemplates that perhaps this Monkey Syndrome, this lust for perfection is why we continue to steer away from what is good. Neither best nor perfect, but good.

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

Akanksha Tanwar, 2nd Year, IT

Whenever I get time to catch my breath between the classes and the 'code-chefs' of our college, I remain still and try to find purpose.
Do you ever cross the line of inspiration into the warzone of self-loathe? This seemingly harmless practice slowly makes us feel dubious about our own journey. Habits of self-proclaimed prodigies spread like wildfire and the benches that surround us transform into the deep end of a swimming pool.
These feelings, when not channeled properly, are the gateway to a sense of worthlessness. We quickly start iterating over our shiny badges, marking them insignificant. We calculate our worth like a commodity. We make promises to ourselves because we feel obliged to do so, only for them to haunt us in the future, extending the long list of checkboxes that mock us for not being good enough.
It's easy to lose focus on what matters - our own self - and shift it to the people who do not. The only way those big LinkedIn updates won't make us question our own worth is when we stop defining our success in terms of things unrelated to us. Appreciating the path and possibilities that landed us where we are is an achievement in itself. Sometimes, the best we can do is introspect, free from external factors. We need to listen to ourselves more and block out the noise.

To Be or Not To Be

Angad Sethi, 2nd Year, COE
Anoushka Raj, 2nd Year, ENE

"*Abey side ho na!*" bellowed someone as he received a resounding smack across the face. While this might have invoked an outburst of rage from someone inexperienced in the Delhi metro, he merely surrendered to the overpowering wave of people. As he sprinted towards his boss's office, he scrolled through an 'excuses to make if late' article, trying to tune out his colleagues' sniggers. Though they improvised on their jokes every day, they mainly played at the same central idea: how his potbelly seemed to have a mind of its own, achieving horizontal and vertical motion completely independent of his body.

After another arduously long day, he reached his home, a concrete container in disarray. The kitchen was everything but; the wardrobe was empty, for the floor bore the burden of housing his clothes; and the less said about the washroom, the better.

Although he had just completed three decades on this planet, he could easily have passed for a fifty-year old. Thinning hair and a receding hairline brought his bald spots into the spotlight. The six months of his internship seemed to have wreaked more havoc on his face than teenage acne. Over the years, his belly had evolved from slightly bulging to completely spherical.

Sitting in incongruity, bearing witness to the world in the corner was a mirror. He took three steps and stood in front of his reflection.

It was like the first Harry Potter book come alive, when Harry stands in front of the Mirror of Erised. I rubbed my hands across my perfect face, which lacked my familiar double chin. I lifted up my shirt ever so slightly and gently ran my fingers over the shaped skin of my stomach, as if touching it with additional pressure would cause my body to collapse. The scar across my lips, a reminder of the bullying I had suffered in school, was nowhere to be found. I smiled, and my lips felt strange and awkward against my whitened teeth. My hair was sleek and shiny. I brushed it gently, the rich texture reminding me of the softness of the silken sheets that I now owned.

I could feel it around me, the aura of a person who'd made it. The sense of contentment in my heart reminded me of my loving family, that I finally had those meaningful relationships I'd craved at every stage of my life. There was money, enough

of it to give me comfort, security, and pride. I wasn't just a face in the crowd anymore, generic, lost, unnoticed. When I walked, heads turned. There were the compliments I'd craved since I was a child; there was respect in the voices of those who spoke of me.

I could feel a sense of completeness, like all parts of me had finally aligned together in ways I had never thought possible. For the first time in my thirty-odd years on earth, I felt like I belonged. The strange sense of complete calmness, of not being burned out with one problem or another, felt surreal. Every shooting star I'd ever wished on seemed to have listened.

Yet, when I tried to smile, I felt an unsettling sense of hollowness slowly gnawing at my heart. Once you've peaked in life, where do you go from there? There seemed to be no scope for improvement, and all my accomplishments suddenly felt like lucky twists of fate.

Amongst the many ordeals of being utopian is having to live up to the perfect version of yourself. He had what everyone wanted, but there was no rulebook that told him how to sustain it. How does one grow when one is so thoroughly contented?

The existential dread was stuck in his throat like a guttural scream. His reflection faded away, leaving him with a choice - to enter the Elysian Fields, replete with astounding success and colossal wealth as the malevolent spirit of emptiness cradled his soul; or to live out his time on Earth as a man possessed, constantly seeking out his idyllic reflection as a reminder of what wasn't.

NEW YEAR, OLD ME

Pratiksha Pradhan, 2nd year, ECE

Robots making our lives easier, flying cars, and colonies on Mars - no poverty, no hunger, gender equality - the expectations from a utopian future meet no horizon. But in a world where human desire is volatile and commitment is rare, what should actually be considered utopian? A good contender is the rare practice of sticking to one's New Year's resolution.

It is breathtaking to see the New Year instill new optimism among people across the globe who stay hopeful of a time when the universe will vouch for them and everything will go as planned. During the ceremony of forging a New Year's resolution, thought overtakes action as one thinks "this time, I'll follow them through", only to fail on the very next day.

Abandonment of resolutions can be a slow process in which the memory of its details slowly fades away, whereas 156 million people probably give up on their resolution before one can say "confetti". So why, despite all the big plans being made during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, do these resolutions take a miserable turn?

A significant contributor to the failure of resolutions is our tendency to overestimate what we can do in a day and underestimate what we can do in a lifetime. When the goals are too high, the chance of running out of motivation quickly is higher, hence leading to the abandonment of said resolution before any progress can be made.

Moreover, knowing *what* the soul desires is equally important to knowing *why*. One wants to lose weight - but *why?* To follow the herd, to appease a mean relative, or to increase one's own self-confidence? If a resolution lacks a clear and pure motivating factor, it is destined for doom. People are inclined to complete tasks to the best of their abilities when they do so out of curiosity and enjoyment. Emotional investment is imperative during the forging ceremony. You have to enjoy the process; only then will the outcome follow.

Break the resolution into doable daily goals, then set out to accomplish them. This will eventually ease the path to accomplishing a bigger goal. Most importantly, make resolutions for nobody else's soul but your own.

YOUR LIFE'S A MAGIC REALISM PROJECT

Ishaan Gupta, 2nd Year, ME

As omnipresent as God is, I've rarely met him one-on-one. Despite what everyone has led me to believe, altitude, in no way, makes a difference to the number of questions one keeps under his tongue. For when I stand at a mountain top, the only thing that may clear up is the cloud behind my eyes as dawn fades away and the horizon's gradient defines itself.

The very act of rising above holds just as much evasion as running away does. The lesson of finding a purposeful utopia is a laborious one. This may be because rarely have we known the depth of an ocean without diving into one. If heaven exists, and indeed, if it exists here, we should begin our search somewhere between the home that brought us up and the dream that we keep holding hands with.

It scatters equally across different phases of life. From a blissfully oblivious childhood to the first taste of freedom that adulthood brings, seeking utopia feels almost redundant. This happiness leaves a memory on your lips only after you've tasted rebellion for the first time. This happiness refracts golden light into your eyes and sticks to your feet only once you get comfortable with walking barefoot on the sand. There's a form of happiness out there made up of equal parts in fulfillment and wonder. It breathes itself into your lungs every time you look at another sunset and call it prettier than the last. You learn that the softness inside your palms isn't the fog making a home—it's the grass, it's the light, it's the voice behind your eyeballs that seeks a new home every morning—but you're fine with it. You're fine with your version of utopia that doesn't dwell in altars or the footsteps of a mosque but in rainstorms, in incessant snowfall, and once in a while, in a forest fire. God often refuses to meet me, but welcomes me with teary eyes as mine snap shut; the waterfall is always a good place to make peace with him.

A PERFECT SOCIETY FOR IMPERFECT HUMANS

Mihir Ranjan, 2nd Year, EE

The title is, effectively, what a utopia wishes to achieve. Humans tend to strive for the next best thing, regardless of where they stand currently. We strive not for excellence, but for perfection. Be it the exam taken or the interview appeared in, we always come out thinking about what could have gone better. There is an inherent flaw in this rationale of judging by not a relative but an absolute metric, which lies in a question deeply rooted in our psyche.

Is mankind meant to be perfect?

Since the original sin, philosophers have yearned to decipher the eldritch truth about our race. Some say that man is inherently good, yet it is his institutions that make him bad; others say that man is bad and his institutions serve as a reflection of his self, giving him a path to absolution by blaming it on unfavourable circumstances. In the words of Jose Ortega y Gasset, "Man, in a word, has no nature; what he has is - history.". Are we inherently hardwired to pursue perfection, or are we a function of our environment, constrained by variables set before us by society?

I ask a different question: does it matter? In today's competitive society, where each one is trying to outdo the other, mistakes are an inevitability of existence. The smallest of mistakes may birth dire consequences, such as the loss of admission into a dream institute by a single negative mark. Even the Matrix wound up to the same conclusion: humanity cannot thrive in a utopia; something within feels off. A race such as ours requires constant sacrifice, struggle, and a proportional success to truly stay engrossed in the game of life, seeking improvement, not perfection. No human being is born perfect, and no one dies that way. The standards set to reach are destinations to be fulfilled alone.

After all, the word utopia itself is coined from 'ou topos', meaning nowhere or noplace. Rather, utopia is a realization that the world we are born into has its merits and its flaws. Love this world, and do a little to make it a better place, for what are our scars if not a lesson from our past?

A SPORADIC DISPUTE

N. Krithika, 1st year, ENE

As my thoughts wandered from cheerful memories to dazing regrets, a silence prevailed, a silence so loud it was coherent with my milieu. Perhaps the process of introspection had begun, and when it had begun I couldn't help but ponder:

For all the tidings I have heard,
the one which I find the most absurd
despondent and wretched did it sound
unfolding the jittery strain which made the scars profound.

Those scars, I heard were made unseen
enveloped by a layer of dismal sheen.
My mind wanted to be big and proud,
but the inner voice was silenced by the crowd.

Nobody did support the plan that seemed to be outlandish,
the impulse to do something big slowly started to vanish.
Perhaps following the stereotype is the trend,
I ought to remain mundane so that no one is offend?

My mind became a silly place, struggling with new ideas
and causing self menace.
For every struggle is a victory, it fails to understand,
dancing barefoot is a way to create history.

And the path to success is always alone,
only self determination can carve the stone.
Idiosyncratic soul I'd kiss,
for solitude is the eternal bliss.

A SERENDIPITOUS EPIPHANY

Sankhaya Singh Chandel, 2nd year, COE

Thud! Peter is roused from his mindless stupor by an uncharacteristically loud bang. He regains consciousness only to realize that, to his utter horror, his car has forsaken its intended path and is intent on venturing into the thickets that intersperse the road. He swings into action and rams the brakes, but fails to stall its rapid advance into the darkness of the forest. Beads of perspiration crowd his forehead as he struggles to take the reins of his frenzied metal horse. The wilderness soon transitions into a clearing; Peter finds himself swiftly approaching a cliff.

Jumping off a cliff. This thought has occurred incessantly to Peter this evening, ever since the news of his ailing mother's death was broken to him. Peter's bond with his mother ran deep: she had rescued him from an abominable orphanage, catapulting him into the loving arms of a mother who stood by him through thick and thin, leaving an indelible mark. His eyes glistened with an unending deluge of tears as he set out on the arduous journey to his mother. The wee hours had aggravated his insurmountable sorrow; before long, he found himself overcome with grief and slipped into a slumber.

Peter reckons that he has a couple of seconds before the car goes headlong into the nearing abyss. The brakes are already a lost cause. He slams the door open. To his dismay, it refuses to give way, perhaps owing to the tussle in the woods, accelerating his rapidly beating heart.

"Use the headrest!" whispers his mother into his ears. Peter finds a glimmer of hope as he recounts how, as a child, his mother enlightened him on the utility of a headrest to break out of a car. The episode invigorates him. To buy time, he kills the engine and uproots the headrest from his seat. He takes a huge gasp of air just before he jolts the headrest into the glass pane, shattering it thereupon. He leaps out of the broken pane like a hare and crashes onto the ground.

Supporting himself on his elbows, he watches dismally as his car plummets into oblivion. He flops on the ground, engulfed by the night sky. He looks on as if to thank his mother in the stars. The question that accosts him now? How to get back home.

अमृतसर

कपिल शर्मा, प्रथम वर्ष, सी. ओ. ई.

पिछली बार मैं अमृतसर 7 वर्ष पूर्व गया था, और तब की बहुत सी धुंधली यादें बार-बार वापस उधर जाने का आग्रह करती थीं। तो दिसम्बर में जैसे ही कॉलेज की छुट्टियाँ प्रारंभ हुईं, मैंने अमृतसर की राह पकड़ ली। ट्रेन से उतर कर पहले एक बार मन भर चारों ओर देखा और स्वयं को कहा, "लो भई, आ गए", और मामा के घर की ओर चल दिया। यूँ तो मुझे सब शहर एक से ही लगते हैं, किंतु स्टेशन से मामा के घर के रास्ते में जहाँ नज़र पड़ती, लगता बदलाव झलक रहा है। अनजान जगह, अनजानी इमारत; सब के सब एक धुन में बदलाव का गुणगान कर रहे थे। वैसे तो बचपन में भी मामा के घर आया था, तब तो ये घर कोई बहुत नया नहीं था, परंतु अब देखा तो उम्मीद से अधिक पुराना-सा लगा, मानो बूढ़ा हो गया हो। गली भी जैसे कुछ सकरी-सी हो गई है। ऐसे आश्चर्य से चीज़ों को देखने का सिलसिला दो-तीन दिन चला और फिर जब मै अभ्यस्त हो गया तो

सब कुछ पहले जैसा लगने लगा। घर, गली, इमारतें; लगने लगा की सब पहले भी ऐसा ही था। तब मुझे आभास हुआ कि यादों के आकार में जब वास्तविकता के रंग फीके पड़ गए थे तो मैंने उन्मे कल्पना के रंग भर दिए थे। रंग, जिनका कोई अस्तित्व ही नहीं था। अब जब वास्तविक रंग फिर उभर आए थे तो यहाँ आने से पहले जो अमृतसर की यादें थीं वो सब मुरझा गईं। हम सभी के मन में बचपन को पुनः जीने की चाह होती है। जानता हूँ बचपन अमृतसर की तरह कोई जगह नहीं है, परंतु अब लगता है की अगर एक बार फिर बचपन जीने को मिल जाएगा तो शायद दोबारा उसे भी जीने का मन न करेगा। वास्तविकता और कल्पना पर चिंतन के इस निष्कर्ष से जूझता जब मैं स्टेशन पर खड़ा हो वापस दिल्ली जाने वाली ट्रेन का इंतज़ार कर रहा था, तो अज्ञेय के यात्रा वृतांत का शीर्षक बार-बार दिमाग में गूँज रहा था, "अरे यायावर! रहेगा याद?"।