

DTU TIMES



The

age

of

virtual

goodbyes



EDITION 50



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EDITORS' NOTE

In the very last semester of my tryst with engineering, I learnt that we live in a VUCA world - Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous - basically a corporate jargon for "Hey, it's crazy out there!", and to be fair, the world is at peak VUCA right now; but then again, a crisis is the only way we can keep remembering what good is supposed to feel like.

The last day I walked into college, I began to appreciate the world around me a lot more when I was not surrounded by quad digit population density. I drank in the beauty of the flowery verges, the majesty of the memories that suddenly sprang up on me and the sweet sound of birdsong as the sun set on another day. With each footstep embedded with a funnel of memories, scattered across the spectrum of time.

However, I'm confident that none of us could have negotiated life in these four years without the people we've met here - particularly the ones you're ending this chapter with. For one, they are not based simply on proximity or the coincidence of attending the same class or participating in the same events; these are people you've actively sought out and befriended because of your rapport, at a time when most of us have zero compunction to walk away from people. As you move ahead in life, your network becomes your net worth.

It is important to keep in mind that in a rapidly evolving world, the half life of an engineering graduate is 2-5 years - which is a perpetual reminder to reinvent yourself at every step of the way.

Arbitrary grades have, for years, been slipped into notional result sheets accumulated through biannual examinations which are notoriously garnished each time with ideas like the due diligence of a tiger on campus or the presence of unsocial elements in the area that begin and end their lives as enthusiastically supported rumors in a fruitless effort to yield just one more day (night) of preparation to squander. Three years older and wiser me realises the importance of academics. Actual academics and real knowledge that circumference outside the diameters of classrooms and exam halls and the only kind of activity that can induce the change we want to see.

The conventional education structure and the typical collegiate life have been one of the prominent victims to the aftermath of the pandemic - with screens constantly dominating our ever fluctuating span of attention and the absence of classroom interaction - it's safe to say that college will never be the same.

Among other casualties has been the extracurricular prospect of this life that we once knew, and experienced. The 50th Edition of DTU Times is a compendium of weeks of effort, sustained over caffeinated nights (or rather early mornings), in a rendezvous to find a new working cadence in the virtual setting. With this, I present to you the golden jubilee edition that has been 9 months in the making - an ode to the class graduating during an unprecedented pandemic - *in the era of virtual goodbyes*.

निरपेक्षो निर्विकारो निर्भरः शीतलाशयः ।
अगाधबुद्धिरक्षुब्धो भव चिन्मातृवासनः ॥



Vice Chancellor's Interview

DTU Times interviewed Prof. Yogesh Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU on various aspects related to infrastructure, curriculum, and university rankings.

How has DTU evolved from the time you took over as the Vice Chancellor?

Everyone has widely differing opinions, but many things have improved since I joined DTU in 2015. Right now we have over 300 regular teachers, out of whom 90 are full-time professors, and this has never happened before. We have about 400 regular Ph.D. students and about 300 part-time Ph.D. students; in all we have almost 700 Ph.D. students enrolled at the moment.

For the first time, we have also participated in the **Times Higher Education** ranking. Earlier, we were ineligible to participate in it as we could not meet their eligibility criteria of having at least 500 good publications in the best journals and not less than 150 publications in a single year. We achieved that first and then participated. In the University category, we were placed in the 1000+ category and in the Engineering category, we were placed in the 801+

category. Our Computer Engineering department has been placed in the 601+ category, which is commendable. But we are not satisfied with these numbers and are working very hard to improve this in the coming years. The weightage given to the various parameters by the Times ranking is very different from others. According to their parameters, more than 60% weightage is for research and innovation

We have also participated in the **NIRF** ranking where DTU stood at 34th position in the Engineering category. In these rankings, IIT Madras was declared as the best university but in terms of placement, DTU had a higher score than IIT Madras. DTU is doing extremely well in placements. The weightage given to placements in the NIRF is only in the order of 5%, but in magazine rankings, this weightage is quite significant.

This year the average package will be around 11 lakhs. Our strengths are not properly addressed in rankings. That is why we are 34th. But now we are also focusing on the new parameters, and I can assure that in another 3-5 years, our rank will at least be within the top 10. In the magazine rankings, many institutes don't participate, but here all institutions must participate. I look at all the parameters of NIRF ranking as a challenge and think of how we can improve. Every policy and initiative should help us get better marks and this is our focus now.

DTU has been a premier undergraduate teaching institution but now the time has come, people are expecting us to transform; to transform ourselves from an undergraduate teaching institution into a research and innovation institution.

In the NIRF ranking, our research score is not as much as it should be. What steps have we taken to rectify this?

We have taken numerous steps in this direction. Firstly, we have enhanced the number of Ph.D. fellowships. Now we are awarding about 300 Ph.D. fellowships. Secondly, we have made some changes in the undergraduate curriculum as well. Students can take the **Research Track**, the **Entrepreneurship Track** or the **Product Track**. So, from these tracks also we expect a good number of publications because our mass is at the undergraduate level. We have the crème de la crème of the country at the undergraduate level and we are focusing there also.

Moreover, we are recognising the efforts of our students and teachers. We have instituted the **Research Excellence Awards**, where we award the students and faculty members who publish their work in reputed journals. We have categorised the journals into three categories, based on their standing and impact factor. Authors who publish in these journals are awarded cash prizes accordingly. This time we are expecting to spend even more than last year in rewarding the researchers. We believe that this initiative will bring in a good number of publications and will have a direct impact on the ranking.

Another parameter is the ratio of the number of Ph.D. teachers on campus to the number of students. Right now, we are encouraging our teachers to complete their Ph.D. as soon as possible. Many teachers have completed their Ph.D. in the last 3-4 years. We have also recruited a few teachers with a Ph.D. and in the coming years, proper weightage will be given to those teachers coming in with Ph.D. qualification. Earlier, when DTU was just a premier undergraduate teaching institution, most of the teachers that we were recruiting were having M.Tech. qualifications. They were taking time, that is around 6 to 7 years to complete their Ph.D. after that. But now the scenario has changed, and the rules of the game have changed.

Several students who went abroad for summer internships reported that the institutes abroad have better infrastructure, especially in terms of research facilities. What is your say on this?

I do understand this difficulty, and this has already been addressed. The Government of Delhi has sanctioned us Rs. 300 crore and the construction has already begun. We are instituting **two new academic blocks** - centrally air-conditioned high-rise buildings - and **three new hostels**, all centrally air-conditioned. Two of the hostels are for girls, with a capacity of 666, and one is for boys, with a capacity of 333. These hostels will also be centrally air-conditioned. The **Raj Soin Hall** is also being built and can accommodate 3000 students. We are also working on **new sports facilities** and a **central instrumentation facility**.

We have allocated an infrastructure budget to each department. We have requested all the Heads of Departments to identify 3-4 *state-of-the-art* laboratories, which we can replicate. This is a weak spot for us that I request all teachers and HoDs to focus upon. There is no issue from our side - we have adequate funds available with us. If any equipment isn't working, it should be under AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract) or should be repaired. Malfunctioning equipment should not be acceptable. And if there are any other specific issues, please let us know so that we can take appropriate measures.

Where do you see DTU in the next ten years?

We have made a strategic plan to achieve by 2030 and we are working steadily towards it. It covers aspects like resources, course structure, staff and initiatives within our college. I want DTU to stand amongst the first ten best colleges in NIRF and into the 600 bracket in Times Higher Education University Rankings. Secondly, at least 50-100 commercially sustainable and successful startups should be set up by students of our university. We want our students to innovate new useful products, following that if we achieve a few patents, we will establish a technology transfer company apart from the one already existing in the Incubator Centre. In terms of development in the field of sports, a new building is in progress. Lastly, more collaborative working amongst students and happier and more successful young adults is all that we wish for.

Ex EICs & Student Heads

Read on as former council members relive their time at DTU Times.

Prince Jain, Student Head, 2011-12

DTU Times is a matter of pride! It is one of the most dedicated, professional and value-adding work during your Engineering. It was a wonderful experience for me to be a part of this team. I always felt that I was giving something back to the students, faculty and most importantly, my college via this publication. Being selected as the Student Head was one of the proudest moments for me in my four years. We grew from a team of 10-12 to 30 and took over the large Knowledge Park office. All the editions that were published during 2010-2012 are still the most cherished belongings I have in my showcase. All I would want to say to the team would be to put in your heart in this work as this would remain a highlight of your college tenure. All the Best!

Ishita Chawla, Editor-in-Chief, 2012-13

It's great to see DTU Times releasing its 50th edition. Having seen its inception, and having been a part of the core team almost from its beginning, it makes me happy to know that the newsletter has come a long way. I do hope that it continues to be fun, brings all the news, views, and yet, continues to be contemporary and remain relevant forever. My best wishes to the team!

Dhruv Sapra, Student Head, 2013-14

None of us has all the answers, and it is okay to accept that and seek help from those who do. It is also okay to not have a clear direction when you graduate. Try a lot of things before you settle for one you truly love, as Tolkien said, "Not all those who wander are lost".

Namrata Yadav, Editor-in-Chief, 2014-15

Undergrad is the time where you'll get the chance to be as creative as you want to be. So if you haven't yet, take up a project you always wanted to, experiment with different styles of writing/ photography/designing that challenge you.

Damini Goel, Student Head, 2014-15

When I was in my first year at DTU, I'd eagerly await the arrival of the freshly printed copies of DTU Times, this prompted me to join the team, and the experience was truly enriching. I wish you guys in the current team the best and hope that the readers enjoy the newsletter as much as I did back then. Eagerly looking forward to the 50th edition!

Ankit Kumar, Editor-in-Chief, 2015-16

DTU Times has given me some of the best moments and experiences which I'll carry to my death bed. Those meetings, WhatsApp chats, discussions at Mech-C and Mic Mac, proofreading and editing articles, finalising designs and finally hitting the "Send" button to the print partner, the feeling and excitement that follows just before grabbing a copy of the new edition. The importance and power this medium has to relay information and entertainment responsibly, is immense. I congratulate everyone who was a part of DTU Times and hope that the current and future crop continues the fantastic work!

Garima Mishra, Student Head, 2016-17

Everyone has a happy place, and for me, it was DTU Times. The team meetings at Knowledge Park was something I looked forward to. As the editions grew in the number of pages and digital platforms grew in readership, I grew up too. It's the place I met my favourite people and saw people writing lines that are still stuck in my head and probably always will be.

Yasharth Kana, Student Head, 2016-17





Yatharth Rana, Student Head, 2016-17

DTU Times remains one of the strongest student-run newsletters across the country. A lot has been going right in keeping this badge alive: team, enthusiasm, admin support, college and team culture. Once you flip through the pages, don't just look at what comes out on top. Rather, distil the decade long legacy that the newsletter carries.

Shashwat Kishore, Student Coordinator, 2016-17; Alumni Advisor 2018-19

For me, DTU Times was the only haven on campus which helped me to escape the mundane reality of engineering. It is a place where incredibly talented, modest and creative people meet and exchange ideas. I am very proud of the work I did for Times and the way the team has progressed over the years. I wish all the best to the existing team and hope that they continue the phenomenal work they are doing. Godspeed!

Devank Tyagi, Editor-in-Chief, 2017-18

"Jab lage, har ghadi ke, ab iss raat ki, na hai subah koi, Kar yakeen, dekh tu ke, aaftaab wo haseen, hai chhupa yahi ki."

Aaftaab. Sunshine.

You are BoB, a clan of people with the legacy of creating legacies. This thought catalysed our shift from anonymity to prestige, and I hope it spurs us ever onward.

Sirish Oruganti, Editor-in-Chief, 2017-18

I've personally seen the print edition grow from 1000 copies of 4 pages to 4000 copies of 40 pages, and I'm glad the growth has been only positive since then. Producing content worthy of such an investment by the University is a mark of a well-groomed team, with quality standards passed on from seniors to juniors over more than 12 years. I congratulate the team on achieving this milestone of 50 successful editions and wish them all the best for all their future endeavours.

Siddhant Patra, Editor-in-Chief, 2018-19

When extremely enthusiastic engineers engage in euphoric discussions over a misplaced comma, you know it's a bunch of editors from Times finalising their edition in the last moment frenzy. It's this crazy love for creativity and professionalism that keeps DTU Times as one of the best teams of DTU. I'll always cherish the memories of interviews, the editions and the page.

Amit Dogra, Managing Editor, 2018-19

It's about people, always about people. Work stands secondary, but the way you do it, your lasting impact on individuals is what eventually counts.

What? A place which provides the room to grow in and out, and gives you possibly the best blend of people on the campus. Times is the place to be at, hands down.

Gursifath Bhasin, Managing Editor, 2018-19

College years are the best of your life, and you're going to want to remember them fondly. One simple tip to make that happen is to do whatever you want to. Do what your heart says as long as you're not going overboard with any of it. Learn to balance your desires with your college curriculum. Let there be no regrets because they will come back and haunt you. Make mistakes, fight for what is right, fail at something - in the end, you'll emerge as a better version of yourself, and it'll all be worth your while!

Grid Integrated Renewables & Electric Transportation

Department of Electrical Engineering, DTU, organised a two-day workshop on "Grid Integrated Renewables & Electric Transportation" under the aegis of IEEE PELS-IES and IEEE PES-IAS chapters of IEEE Delhi Section, in December 2019. The distinguished speakers of the workshop were **Prof. Tarlochan S. Sidhu**, UOIT, Canada, **Prof. Ambrish Chandra**, ETS, Canada, **Prof. Sheldon Williamson**, UOIT, Canada, **Dr. Subir Sen**, Power Grid, **Er. Tarini Baswal**, IRSEE, COFMOW, **Er. Tilak Raj Seth**, SIEMENS India Ltd., **Prof. Mukhtiar Singh**, DTU. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU was the Patron-in-Chief. **Prof. S. K. Garg**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, DTU and **Prof. Uma Nangia**, HOD EED, DTU were the Patrons. **Prof. Mukhtiar Singh**, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, DTU was the Coordinator.

Geo-Meteorological Hazards and Risk Management

Department of Civil Engineering, DTU in association with the National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government Of India organised a National Level Training Program on "Geo-Meteorological Hazards and Risk Management", to share and exchange knowledge on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (DRR&R) strategies, in February 2020. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU was the Patron. **Prof. Nirendra Dev**, HoD, Department of Civil Engineering served as the Chairman. The program was coordinated by **Dr. Shilpa Pal** and **Dr. Raju Sarkar**, Associate Professors, Department of Civil Engineering.

Recent Trends in Applied Physics and Engineering

Department of Applied Physics, DTU organised a one day National Seminar on "Recent Trends in Applied Physics and Engineering (RTAPE-2020) by Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awardees", in February 2020. **Prof. K.L. Chopra**, Padma Shri Awardee and Former Director, IIT Kharagpur was the Chief Guest and **Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao**, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awardee and Director, IIT Delhi was the Guest of Honour. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU was the Chief Patron and **Prof. Samsher**, Registrar, DTU was the Patron. **Prof. Suresh C. Sharma**, Dean, Academics (PG), DTU and **Prof. Rinku Sharma**, HoD, Department of Applied Physics served as the Chairperson and Co-Chairperson, respectively.



126th Birth Anniversary of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and National Science Day Celebration

Department of Applied Chemistry, DTU in association with American Chemical Society, DTU Chapter organised a one-day guest lecture series to celebrate the "126th Birth Anniversary of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar" and "National Science Day" in February 2020. The event featured expert lectures by **Dr. Shailja V. Gupta**, Senior Advisor, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and **Dr. Sanjay R. Dhakate**, Senior Principal Scientist and Advisor, Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research.



HR Conclave 2020

Delhi School of Management, DTU conducted the HR Conclave 2020 on the theme "Reinventing HR for Creating Competitive Edge" in February 2020. **Prof. Pradeep K. Suri**, Professor, DSM, DTU gave the inaugural speech where he emphasised upon the importance of the HR domain, the industry-academia gap, and the pressing need of bridging this gap. The expert speakers included **Mr. Abhay Kapoor**, Senior HR leader, Amazon, **Mr. Deepak Bharara**, Director, People A2Z, Advisory & Solutions, **Ms. Suditi Bhadauria Rao**, OD Consultant, Express KCS, and **Mr. Sumit Chaudhary**, Managing Director, Third Millennium Business Resource Associates Pvt. Ltd. The event was conducted under the mentorship of **Dr. Shikha N. Khera**, Assistant Professor, DSM, DTU.



Strategy for Water Sustainability for Human and Developmental Needs

Department of Environmental Engineering, DTU in association with Green Institute for Research & Development organised a one day National Conference on "Strategy for Water Sustainability for Human and Developmental Needs", in February 2020, to deliberate on the various issues involved in the process to attain sustainability in the water sector. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU was the Chief Patron. **Dr. S.K. Singh**, HoD, Department of Environmental Engineering and **Shri A. K. Shamsuddeen**, Secretary, Green Institute for Research & Development were the Chairman and Co-Chairman respectively.

Securities Data Company (SDC) Platinum

Central Library, DTU organised a training session on "Securities Data Company (SDC) Platinum" in February 2020. All HoDs, faculty members, Ph.D. scholars and students of Delhi School of Management and USME attended the session.

Bharat Stage VI enforcement

Department of Mechanical, Automobile and Production & Industrial Engineering, DTU organised a seminar on "Bharat Stage-VI enforcement: Challenges and Strategies for Implementation" in February 2020. **Prof. Vipin**, HoD, Department of Mechanical Engineering chaired the event. **Dr. Amit Pal**, **Dr. Anil Kumar** and **Dr M. Zunaid**, Department of Mechanical Engineering served as the Course Coordinators.

Preparation of Rosters, Computing the Reserved and Backlog Vacancies for Persons with Disabilities

Human Resource Development Centre, DTU organised a two-day Training Program on "Preparation of Rosters, computing the reserved and backlog vacancies for Persons with Disabilities" in March 2020, for officers and officials of DTU. The experts for the Training Program were from the Institute of Public Administration, Bengaluru.

Establishment of Energy and Environment Centre

The Energy and Environment Centre was established in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in March 2020. The centre has **Dr. Yogi Goswami**, Alumnus, Class of 1969 as its Chief Advisor and Patron, **Prof. Vipin**, HoD, Department of Mechanical Engineering as Patron, **Prof. Shamsher**, Department of Mechanical Engineering as Coordinator, and **Dr. Anil Kumar**, Department of Mechanical Engineering as Additional Coordinator. The centre will offer postgraduate and doctoral programs in emerging areas of Energy and Environment.

Celebration of International Women's Day

Department of Electrical Engineering, DTU in association with the Equal Opportunity Cell, DTU organised a talk on Women Empowerment to celebrate International Women's Day in March 2020. The session was attended by the faculty members and students of DTU.

Prastuti - 2020

Department of Environmental Engineering, DTU in association with Jagan Institute of Management Studies, organised an annual students' convention "Prastuti - 2020" in March 2020. The event served as an inter-college techno management presentation competition based on "Pollution Control and Sustainable Development". **Shri Gopal Rai**, Minister for Employment, Development, Labour, General Administration and Irrigation, Government of Delhi, was the Chief Guest. **Dr. Nitin Malik**, Registrar, Ambedkar University, **Dr. S.K. Singh**, HoD, Department of Environmental Engineering, DTU and **Dr. Anshuman Kumar**, Director, Surgical Oncology, Dharamshila Hospital were the Guests of Honour. The competition focused on encouraging more undergraduate and postgraduate students to come up with ideas to combat pollution and environmental degradation.

3rd Research Excellence Awards Function

Delhi Technological University organised its third Research Excellence Awards Ceremony in March 2020. **Prof. Dinesh Singh**, Padma Shri Awardee and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi, graced the event as Chief Guest and was welcomed by **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU and **Prof. Ashutosh Trivedi**, Dean, IRD, DTU. **Prof. Dinesh Singh** addressed the distinguished gathering, and stressed on the importance of research and innovation in the advancement of technology. More than seventy researchers and over a hundred qualifying research papers were conferred with awards.



UnravellEd: The Hidden Pandemic

Artika Sharma, 4th Year, ENE
Anoushka Raj, 3rd Year, ENE
Pratiksha Pradhan, 3rd Year, ECE



The year 2020 has been synonymous with disaster. The most recent tragedy in the list of the never-ending catastrophes this year is the death of our beloved star and one of DTU's most renowned super-seniors, Sushant Singh Rajput. The narrative about Sushant's suicide seems to follow you everywhere on the internet. No one wants to stay mum anymore and everyone has something to bring to the table. But some popular ideas that are currently being propagated are a tad troublesome. A common question being asked by people is, "What could have gone wrong in the life of a man who seemingly had everything?"

There's something very inherently wrong with this question and mentality. It seems as if it's hard for us to dissociate the idol we found in him from the human being he really was. Is it our outright insensitivity, or the temporary high of associating ourselves with a deceased celebrity? Our idols aren't the superheroes we make them out to be. It's crucial, hence, that we focus on the right questions, and most importantly, on how we can prevent others from facing the same fate.

The primary step is to normalise the idea of seeking professional help. Therapy is a lot more than a cup of warm chamomile tea and listening to inspiring podcasts. Sadness is a multifaceted evil that affects everyone in different ways. For some, it is days in a blacked-out room without food; for some, it is over posting on social media; for some, it is a huge bucket of fried chicken eaten mindlessly over a daily soap; for some, it is a bottle of pills that provide temporary relief; and for some, it is a combination of all these. Depression cannot be quantified or compared. Those suffering from depression, thus, need scientific diagnosis and treatment which only professionals can provide.

The help further needs to be coupled with support from loved ones and constant reminders that they are not alone, which brings us to the second idea that is often misunderstood and glorified: the idea of being there for someone. 'Being there' doesn't equate to solving someone's problems or curing them of their illness. You can simply be there for someone and tell them that it's okay to not be okay. But the question to ask yourself before you take the onus of sticking alongside a suffering individual is, "Are you truly capable of being emotionally available for another human being? Are you capable of listening to them without your judgements and biases blinding you? Are you prepared to deal with the dark thoughts they might share?" If the answer to these questions is 'no', then for the sake of your own mental health, please don't offer that kind of help. You cannot, after all, pour from an empty cup.

It is about time that help is made accessible to all financially and emotionally. We need more counsellors who are objective and virtuous, and we need more institutions that help promote the importance of mental health. We need constant dialogue in all communities, educational institutions, workplaces, and above all, families, or we will end up losing more and more promising individuals. Grief can no longer be commemorative. We need to be told that the solution to improve one's mental health goes beyond 'meditating' and 'choosing to be optimistic'. As long as we don't recognise trauma as a medical illness, we cannot progress.

Sushant was one of the few extremely talented yet grounded artists to make it big in a predominantly nepotistic industry despite coming from a very humble background. He was self-made in its truest essence. There is no single way we can fill the void that is left after his passing, but the one thing we can do is to be better and to do better. Let the memory of Sushant stay fresh in our heads as a cry for help that wasn't paid heed to, and stop this cycle of hate and negativity that we're perpetrating. Let's not inadvertently drive more people to the edge of committing suicide, and let's ensure they get the help they deserve. Let's be there for each other, and above all, be there for ourselves!



**And while some of us whip coffee and scan statistics,
There are others who wage war, who give life**

**There are others who protect, who defend, who urge us to stay home
And yet others, who've long gone, casualties of a ceaseless war**

For them, the world is one, in pain, and in endurance

परदे के पीछे

Here's your exclusive all-access pass to witness the inner-workings of DTU's notoriously clandestine newsletter, DTU Times.

-Parangat Mittal, 4th Year, ECE
Priyansh Soni, 4th Year, SE
Angad Sethi, 3rd Year, COE



Week 0 The Serene Mayhem

Critical Scrutiny

If you thought our editions were flawless fusions of alluring art, potent prose and remarkable reportage, you are absolutely right. Nevertheless, before discussing ideas for the forthcoming edition, we host an intense session of critical scrutiny where we rip apart our previous edition, metaphorically, *of course*. All kinds of errors are disinterred and elucidated, after which the team returns to the drawing board to ensure these *hideous anomalies* never crop up again. *Never*.

An Idea is Born

After each member of the team has begun their descent into an abyss of self-scrutiny which is sure to end in self-destruction, the Editors pull us back up into the land of the living. Each member, then, brings up their set of mental notes and throws in their two cents. The ideas which withstand the criticism of each member, are chiselled and shaped into the ideas which are incorporated into the edition. At the end of the meeting, an idea is born. The nascent idea acts as a lighthouse for the coming weeks, to bring us back to our chosen path, should we ever deviate from it.

Week 1 The Cadence of Content Collection

Our remarkable and extensive reportage is meticulously divided into *University News*, *Faculty News*, *Society News*, *Student News*, *Alumni News* & *Interviews*.

The *University News* is our handcrafted time machine, custom made for you. If you are willing to spare the time, this time machine will take you back in time, and provide you with the chance to explore the events taking place in the university.

The *Society News* focuses on all the workshops, seminars and achievements organised by the various societies, while the *Student News* focuses on the achievements of our meritorious students in the past quarter.

Towards the end of each edition, we feature ravishing articles written by our imaginative columnists. Our writers, literally, put the "pro" in procrastination. Add to this, an unhealthy amount of pure perfectionism and a dash of unbridled ambition, and you have yourselves a dangerously late, but an immensely alluring article.



Week 2 The Exacting Editing

Rome wasn't built in a day!

In week two, our team embarks on an arduous journey of scrupulous editing. Every sheet is read, re-read and then re-read to weed out all factual anomalies and inconsistencies. Then there's our old archenemy, *fake news*. In our fifty editions long battle, we have managed to prevail over this deceitful force. A part of our journey includes fact-checking and cross-referencing every received detail against our pre-existing database and Google's infinite pool of knowledge, while also employing columnists to manually verify some information!

Week 3 The Magnificent Makeover

DTU Times isn't something you refer to for acing the midsems, but we always recommend our editions as an escapade from the long late night *study sessions*. Instead of hitting you with a blob of dull black text on equally dull white paper, we ensure our editions are sublime amalgamations of elegance and glamour, but never ostentatious. The job of embellishing the editions with bright pastels that play well with the text and enhance the very soul of the editions, falls upon our team of visionary designers.

Each designer, inventive and imaginative as they are, unleashes their overflowing creativity onto the pages as they arduously labour over striking the perfect balance between page layout, colour scheme, placement, font face, font size, page bleed (*Bet you didn't know that one!*) and whatnot. This herculean task of creating the perfect page is shouldered by our illustrious designers who live up to the editor's surreal design goals, or so we would like to believe.

Week 4 Putting It All Together

In the week following the splendiferous makeover of the edition, the *designer-editor control system*, aka DECS, kicks in. Acting as a conduit between the designers and the editors, the success of the edition banks on the efficient functioning of the DECS. The Editors and Designers review, and re-review, and re-re-review each section, each spread, each page and each line. They, then, indulge in a back and forth volley of reviews and ideas, constantly deluging the other group with an avalanche of information.

To achieve the perfect level of lucidity and clarity, the editors and designers spend countless hours working on each illustration and each word that features in each of these elements. After the edition has received *the nod* of approval by all members of the family, it is rushed off to the printers.

Done! The edition is welcomed into the campus grounds and shoved into the hands of unwitting students so that we can see their mouths gaping and know that the toil and grind over the last few weeks was worth it. In the end, the edition transforms into something bigger than us. It transforms into a beacon of pride, for every student, teacher and faculty member to wield as they proudly display the achievements of DTU to kith & kin. Once it achieves this dreamlike status, the members of DTU Times discreetly fade into the background, basking in the resplendent afterglow of the entrancing edition.

* As opposed to our conventionally forty-page long editions, this edition, our *pièce de résistance*, features fifty-six pages.

Week 1: Last Count
Parangit ki mink, saara edition end mai "A" lagun de karna, kutton farewell edition the "sharad" me
kit bas kya baram, saayab rahi the band koo
Thek gaya hum de "aha"



Faculty News and Achievements

Awards, Honours, Conferences

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

- Awardee, Received Commendable Research Award, DTU



Prof. Jai Gopal Sharma, HoD, Dept. of Biotechnology

- Awardee, Commendable Research Excellence Award, DTU, for: 'Production potential of greater duckweed *Spirodela polyrhiza* (L. Schleiden) and its biochemical composition evaluation', *Aquaculture*
- 'Immunostimulatory properties of prickly chaff flower *Achyranthes aspera* in rohu *Labeo rohita* fry in pond conditions', *Aquaculture*

Mrs. Saroj Bala, Assoc. Prof., Department of Humanities

- Presenter, 'Contemporization of Mythology in Shiva Trilogy', An Overview of Literatures in English Language: Continuity and Departure, *Magadh University*
- Speaker, '21st Century Skills', *Kasturba Institute of Technology*,

Delhi

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

- Organiser, National Level Training Programme 'Geo-meteorological Hazard Risk Management', DTU
- Speaker, 'Landslides Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment', National Level Training Programme on 'Geo-meteorological Hazard Risk Management', DTU



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

- Presenter, 'Activity prediction for Elderly using Radio Frequency Identification sensors', International Conference on Evolutionary Computing and Mobile Sustainable Networks, *Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Bangalore*

Mr. Rahul, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering

- Presenter, 'Machine Learning Methods for Text Summarization', 4th International Conference on Computing Methodologies and Communication, *Surya Engineering College, Erode, Tamil Nadu*
- Presenter, 'Deep Learning based various methods analysis of Text Summarization', 5th International Conference on Inventive Computation Technologies, *Hotel Arcadia, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu*

Dr. Sonal Thukral, Asst. Prof., Delhi School of Management

- Presenter, 'Geographical Spread and Target Allocation under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)', 3rd International Conference on Business, Economics and Sustainable Development, *TERI School of Advanced Studies and National Institute of Securities Markets, Mumbai*

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

- Awardee, Commendable Research Excellence Award, DTU

Publications

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

- 'Artificial Neural Network based Task Scheduling for Heterogeneous Systems', 3rd 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', 16th IEEE Colloquium

on *Signal Processing and its Applications 2020*, Langkawi Island, Malaysia

- 'A Low Power and High Speed 8-bit ALU Design using 17T Full Adder', 7th International Conference on Signal

Processing & Integrated Networks, Amity University, Noida

- 'FPGA Simulation of Fingertip Digit Recognition Using CNN', *International Conference on Signal Processing and Integrated Networks, Amity University, Noida*
- 'Enhancing Accuracy for Human Trajectory Forecasting in Crowded Scenes', *3rd International Conference on Image and Graphics Processing, Singapore*
- 'Comparing domain wall synapse with other non-volatile memory devices for on-chip learning in analog hardware neural network', *AIP Advances*
- 'An efficient solar energy harvesting system for wireless sensor network nodes', *Journal of Information and Optimization Sciences Issue 1: Recent trends in Optimization, Signal Processing and Automation*
- 'Hybrid Model for Lung Nodule Segmentation based on Support Vector Machine and k-Nearest Neighbour', *4th International Conference on Computing Methodologies And Communication, Surya Engineering College, Erode, Tamil Nadu*
- 'A Comparative Study of Subject-Dependent and Subject-Independent Strategies for EEG-Based Emotion Recognition using LSTM Network', *International Conference on Compute and Data Analysis, International Technological University, USA*
- 'Smart Phone Traffic Analysis: A Contemporary Survey of the State-of-the-art', *6th International Conference on Mathematics & Computing, Department of Computer Applications, Sikkim University, Gangtok, Sikkim*
- 'Recent Advances in Android Malware Detection – A Survey', *International Conference on Communication Computing and Signal Processing, NIT Jalandhar*

Prof. Jai Gopal Sharma, HoD, Dept. of Biotechnology

- 'Microbial remediation approaches for explosive contaminated soil: Critical assessment of available technologies', *Recent Innovations and Future Prospects Environmental Technology & Innovation*
- 'Growth and digestive enzyme activities of rohu labeo rohita fed diets containing macrophytes and almond oil cake', *Animal Feed Science and Technology*

Prof. Nand Kumar, Dept. of Humanities

- 'The impact of agricultural technology adoption on income inequality: A propensity score matching analysis for rural Ethiopia', *International Journal of Information and Decision Science*

Prof. Radhey Shyam Mishra, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

- 'Performance evaluation of single effect Li/Br-H₂O vapour absorption systems using multi cascading of vapour compression cycles for ultra-low temperature applications', *International Journal of Research in Engineering and Innovation*
- 'Thermal performance of multi cascaded vapour compression NH₃H₂O absorption systems for ultra-low temperature applications', *International Journal of Research in Engineering and Innovation*
- 'Energy-exergy performance evaluation of new HFO refrigerants in the modified vapour compression refrigeration systems using liquid vapour heat exchanger', *International Journal of Research in Engineering and Innovation*
- 'Single and multiple cascading of VCRS in NH₃H₂O vapour absorption refrigeration systems for improving thermodynamic (energy-exergy)

performances using five ecofriendly new HFOs and other low GWP refrigerants for replacing R134a', *International Journal of Research in Engineering and Innovation*

- 'Thermal Performance of three stage cascade vapour compression refrigeration systems using new HFO in high and intermediate temperature cycle and R32 ethylene and hydrocarbons in ultra-low temperature cycle refrigerants', *International Journal of Research in Engineering and Innovation*

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

- 'Biodegradation studies of Polypropylene/Natural fiber composites', *SN Applied Sciences*

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

- 'Strength characteristics and microstructure of hooked-end steel fiber reinforced concrete containing fly ash, bottom ash and their combination', *Construction and Building Materials*

Dr. Dinesh Udar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Applied Mathematics

- 'Strongly P-clean and semi-Boolean group rings', *Ukrainian Mathematical Journal*

Mr. Rahul, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering

- 'A Review: Predicting the Performance of Students Using Machine Learning Classification Techniques', *3rd IEEE International Conference, IOT in Social, Mobile, Analytics and Cloud, SCAD Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu*



DTU Times interviewed **Prof. Ajoy Ghatak**, Emeritus Professor at IIT Delhi, who was a speaker at the Recent Trends in Applied Physics and Engineering (RTAPE-2020) organised by the Department of Applied Physics, DTU. He is also an awardee of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Science and Technology.

A lot of countries are levelling up their funding in the field of quantum technology. How do you see this technology affecting the spheres of life of an ordinary citizen in the near future?

It is very difficult to predict, but you can observe how technology has affected our lives. The way you use the Internet or YouTube is up to you. You can either waste your time or you can actually learn stuff. However, if you want to harness technology and effectively reduce poverty, you must back it via education. I knew a taxi driver, and I asked him why he hadn't registered himself on *Uber*. He said he couldn't speak English. This man could earn four times as much with technology, but his education hampers him.

Education and health must be in the hands of the government and should not be privatised. We require Nobel Laureates and great minds, but we also need industry builders, and institution founders, people who lay the foundations for others to succeed, like **Jamshedji Tata**, **Abdul Kalam**, **Meghnad Saha**, **Homi Bhabha**, **Vikram Sarabhai**, etc. Innovations of one man today lead to several innovations in the future, and development of the country.

Often science and religion end up in conflicts over their separate ideologies. As future researchers, how can we ensure science and religion coexist in harmony?

In my opinion, religion aims to make you a good human being, ensures you have compassion for others so that you can do good for society. Islam teaches you that if your neighbour does not have food, then your food is of no value. You must share your food, giving *sevai* to the entire community on the occasion of *Eid*. But people make it divisive and that is wrong. Religion is supposed to make you a better person, irrespective of the religion you follow. I tell all my younger relatives that the most important thing is compassion towards mankind as a whole. Have compassion towards those 300 million who live below the poverty line and are much less privileged than you. However, India's strength has and will always be our diversity. **Homi Bhabha** was a Parsi, **Jamshedji Tata** was a Parsi, **Abdul Kalam** was a Muslim and **Meghnad Saha** a Dalit. When the Constitution doesn't discriminate, why should we?

What message would you like to give to the students who aspire to become as accomplished as you one day?

Much better than me, I hope! I have just worked hard. The **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar** Award is a good thing, and I am fortunate to get it. There are a lot of people who are more competent than me and still haven't got it. Renowned scientists built institutes for us, for the future generations to follow in their steps. My message is that your generation has technology in its hand; use it judiciously and wisely. You have so much information available to you, learn from it. Whatever you do, give back to society and future generations.

VIEWS

DTU Times interviewed **Prof. K.L. Chopra**, Former Director, IIT Kharagpur, who was the Chief Guest at the Recent Trends in Applied Physics and Engineering (RTAPE-2020) organized by the Department of Applied Physics, DTU. He is also an awardee of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Science and Technology.



Nowadays, students are worried about their grades, securing jobs, clearing competitive exams, or getting admits in foreign universities after their undergraduation. Do you think there needs to be a shift in the mindset of the current engineering undergraduate?

I agree profoundly that a monumental change is required in our education system and the mindset of students. There should be a lot more focussed seminars, discussions and workshops exploring the multitude of career choices that lie ahead. In fact, a multidisciplinary course should be made mandatory, where students express and talk about what they aspire to be. Incidentally, this is also done in MIT and you get credits for it. Here, you can have a group of 30 students where they all talk about what they wish to study and provide reasoning. It's all a part of the learning process. Why does a student wish to pursue electronics? Is it because of his rank or parental pressure? Nowadays, everyone wishes to go into computer science due to high-paying jobs. In any case, everybody is using computers today and if you want to improve your knowledge of higher level computers, there is always a way and should be.

In fact, a degree cannot be defined by 4 years. It has no meaning at all. It is defined by how much quantum you want to learn. Come and learn; take courses and go out. Only the limitations of the university should be well defined. It should not matter whether you are a student from any branch or discipline. Why should people not be able to take a course in the IIT's? When I was director of IIT-KGP, MIT wished to send some students to IIT Kharagpur. A student specified which courses she wished to study and the departments. She took the courses in exchange for credits and with MIT's approval. So, I think learning has to be your objective, your aim and your effort. Ownership of education and its benefits lie with you. If you are not happy with some course, you can demand to take another course. But the most important thing is to try to be more multidisciplinary. The problem lies in the fact that our system does not allow students to pursue multidisciplinary courses. All the student bodies should be primarily concerned about the quality of education. How will we create jobs if we aren't preparing our future generations properly?

How can we include students in the process of academic decision making?

I think very fundamental things have gone wrong and that is because we are not involving you, the youth, in the process of thinking as a good and responsible future citizen. Without this, the country cannot move forward. We're simply giving you orders, assignments, degrees and jobs. You're being told to create this and that, instead of letting you decide. I think we require very basic changes. It's not going to be easy but it has to be done. And it should be done soon because we have 1.3 billion people and a very high unemployment rate, which shall continue to rise.

Read the full interviews on dtutimes.dtu.ac.in/blog

PROF. K. L. CHOPRA

Underwhelmed UNDERGRADUATES AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

-Vishesh Kashyap, Editor-in-Chief, 2019-20

August 16, 2010. India is taking on Sri Lanka in the 3rd match of the Triangular Series at Dambulla. Batting second, India needs one run to win. Virender Sehwag, batting on 99, is on strike. Suraj Randiv bowls a half-tracker – Sehwag charges down the pitch and smashes it over the long on boundary for six. He holds his hands aloft and acknowledges the crowd as it cheers India's win, made sweeter by yet another century from India's swashbuckling opener. Except, there is no century. Randiv has bowled a huge no-ball, awarding the winning run to India before the six was hit. Sehwag remains not-out one run short of his century, while India wins the match.

That is how the last few months have felt to the Class of 2020. We did manage to complete our studies but were deprived of experiencing the celebration of our four years at DTU – the final semester. The position of our choice at the annual batch photograph could never be taken. We never got the opportunity to decide our plans on each day of the farewell week. Scores of vacations scheduled for the summer could never be undertaken. All the experiences that could've been had, all the choreographed memories that had been arranged to be made, were replaced by their underwhelming stay-at-home versions. What started as a welcome reprieve from the hustle of the campus slowly turned into reluctant resignation of our days at DTU having unceremoniously ended.

A chapter of our English course-book in class 6 was a short story by Ruskin Bond titled 'The Wish'. The first line of the chapter went – "Things seldom turn out the way you want them to." Never has this been more relevant than in the previous few months. The positivity of the many life lessons we imbibe from this experience will forever be peppered with the regret of promises not realised and plans not fulfilled.

The longer this period stretches on, the greater grows our longing for the imaginary, yet realistic scenarios that could've been if not for it. The pandemic threw up opportunities for many, but casualties for all, and has presented us with the uncertainty of our place in the archives. Will we be remembered as the batch that had it the hardest, or will our resilience fade away into the fog of history as scores of other instances have? Will things ever be back to normal, or has the very definition of normal been forced to change through the collective austerity of seven billion people? Is this just a blip in the otherwise linear progression of our race, or a point there's no looking back from?

A lot of us might get a chance to complete our century; a lot of us won't. Perhaps, in the long run, all that matters is that India was victorious. Or, perhaps, as the hackneyed adage goes, cricket is the real winner.

to pimp a butterfly

-*Shivam Jha, Editor-in-Chief, 2019-20*



Time and again, I figure that anything worth saying in life has already been said by some ageing rockstar wearing eyeshadow. Case in point - *And if I claim to be a wise man, then it surely means that I don't know* - Kerry Livgren for Kansas.

Over the years, I have witnessed the fates of the people around me unfold, I've seen more and more of them dissatisfied with themselves, alienating from the others as the underachievements kick in. I can guarantee you that not a single one of them had begun college with the deliberate strategy of plunging academics and sinking into drugs or growing socially distant. And yet a shocking number of people have implemented this strategy. The reason? They did not keep the purpose of their life in a university front and centre as they decided how to spend their time, talents and energy.

And for the longest time, this person was me. Much of my time here has been spent salvaging the substance fuelled fornications of my first year misadventures, and making up for lost potential - plumbing to the depths of my failures to bring myself back up and rebuild into the person I am today. Academics was always the last thing on my list right from high school. Not something that I'm proud of now, but the extra had always superseded any of my curricular inclinations.

Most students witness an inflection point somewhere in the 4th or 5th semester that becomes a watershed phase and turns things diametrically around.

I've always believed in incessant growth in life, to the point where I fling myself at opportunities that vaguely hint of growth at the margins, like a caterpillar that is a prisoner to the streets that conceived it, where your only ambition is to consume the environment around you. Learning how to evolve while being cocooned in an institutional trap that serves as a microcosm of the world beyond it - the proclaimed 'real life' - while drowning in fatigue, is your key takeaway. With faint hues of Ozymandias, it is a reminder that ephemerality of anything does not indicate its worth. Your legacy might last a few months only, but that should not stop you from creating it.

Another belief which pervades my every investment is that if you are imitating your idols, you are not learning from them. Always aim to forge your own trajectory, chart your own path, for this is your story to weave. During this course I

have become a firm believer that every avenue in life can be traced, not with the conception of 'One peak, many routes' but 'One ocean, many shores'.

The second thing is to avoid the '*Marginal Costs*' mistake, because you know, it is easier to hold on to your principles 100% of the time than 98% of the time. Essentially, if you let yourself make an exception of '*oh it's alright, just this once*', chances are you'll let yourself slip again. And I have often found myself at the pavement of such crossroads plenty of times, particularly one time in the third semester, I was right at the verge of relapse and looking back, resisting the temptation in this one extenuating circumstance proved to be one of the most significant decisions of my life. Why? Because life is just one unending stream of extenuating circumstances.

And throughout this, the learning-unlearning-relearning cycle doesn't stop; it shouldn't. So we should constantly, actively and persistently seek failure. Your character is necessarily forged out of adversity and it's a shame people think failure is the opposite to success and they are a mutually exclusive binary. We overestimate the events, and underestimate the process.

The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism. When you lie to people, when you veil their flaws under a cajole, you're essentially setting them up for failure. If you want to have a fulfilling experience here, the most important step: get over yourself. If you start seeking validation, being concerned about how people perceive you, that is the moment you put limitations on your abilities.

We are nothing but things that labour under the illusion of having a self. That accretion of sensory experience and feelings, programmed with total assurance that we are each somebody, when in fact everybody's nobody. Most people spend their lives in futile rebellion against things they can't change, in passive resignation to things they can - and never attempting to learn the difference between chronic guilt and self-doubt - on both counts.

So may God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference, for I'm just a mortal man.

Prashant Kumar



DTU Times interviewed Prashant Kumar, EE, Class of 2020, who got placed at Gail Limited as an Executive Trainee (Electrical).

How is the recruitment process for PSUs like GAIL different from that of other companies? What was your preparation strategy for the placement season?

The recruitment process of PSUs is quite different from that of the other companies. PSUs don't conduct online aptitude tests to shortlist students for the interviews; they consider the academic performance of the students and their resumes. The shortlisted students have to appear for a GD round followed by personal interviews based on which the final selections are made.

I focused on improving my aptitude skills and worked on the subjects related to the job profiles of the companies I was aiming for. For the technical interview preparation, I worked hard on core subjects, especially those which were related to my projects and internships.

How important a role did the academic curriculum of your course play for you in the process, and to what extent does one's CGPA matter?

Our academic curriculum includes all the subject matter and knowledge that is essential to crack the placement tests and interviews of core companies. Therefore, studying and learning my core subjects played a vital role in my selection. When it comes to CGPA, it is crucial to maintain a decent score because the CGPA cut-off for most of the core companies ranges from 7.5 to 8.5. Sometimes CGPA becomes a decisive factor in the interview process and can eventually affect the selection of the candidate. Students who are aiming for PSUs are required to maintain their CGPA at at least 9.0 to get shortlisted for the interview.

Harshit Tanwar



DTU Times interviewed Harshit Tanwar, ME, Class of 2020, who got placed at Daikin Europe N.V. as a Development Engineer.

How is the placement preparation for core profiles different from that of coding/non-tech roles, and what are some must-have skills for candidates?

Placement preparation for core profiles is similar, in my opinion, to coding/non-tech roles. The preparation for language proficiency, data interpretation, and aptitude is the same in any profile you are looking for. The difference occurs in the technical section where one has to study hard, practice, and go through a lot of questions in their respective domain.

The candidate has to be confident and must have excellent communication skills. It makes a huge difference when someone speaks proficiently and confidently at the time of personal interviews or GDs. You must go through every word of your resume because it is the only piece of information interviewers have about you before the personal interviews.

Does being a part of a tech team/society provide you with an edge in the process?

It does help to be a part of a tech team/society. I was the team captain of Deltech Baja, and it has provided me with massive exposure and in-depth knowledge in the field of designing an all-terrain vehicle. It also taught me to work with and manage a team.

Interviewers at the time of my interview kept on asking questions about the team, what we do, how we do it, and different conceptual questions related to the domain they are interested in. If you have been part of a team, then be prepared to answer questions about the department you were working for.

Ankush Mangla

DTU Times interviewed Ankush Mangla, ECE, Class of 2019, who secured AIR 2 in Engineering Services Exam (ESE-2019), and is currently a Junior Grade Engineer.



Can you walk us through the process of selection, from the IES exam to getting placed?

The IES exam is a 3-tier exam combining the prelims, mains, followed by an interview. One can appear for the mains only after clearing the prelims. The interview focuses more upon current affairs and questions related to one's personality. They give several case studies regarding social issues and there is no scope of bluffing. After clearing the interview, there is a training process of 78 weeks in which you are required to travel across the country. Currently, my joining date has been postponed due to the prevailing circumstances.

Did you focus solely on these competitive exams or did you prepare for the campus placements as well?

In my first year, I wanted to pursue post graduation from abroad. However, I got an internship in my 2nd year with Samsung and then a PPO as well. It was then that I realized I didn't want to work in a private sector firm. I wanted to pursue a career in government service. Consequently, I started preparing for the Engineering Services Exam and casually appeared for my first attempt with little hopes. I was lucky enough to have fared well in my initial attempt.

When did you start preparing for this exam and why did you prefer IES over other civil services?

I wasn't regular in my coaching classes and my attendance fluctuated. I had to miss four months of classes due to my internship. I began preparing on my own. I used to study for 10-12 hours on the weekend. I believe that self-study played a crucial role in my journey.

Honestly, the idea of becoming an IES officer hadn't crossed my mind. After the end of third year, I was truly motivated to pursue civil services. Being an engineer, this job involved a lot of technical aspects along with the management part. It has a very dynamic approach, and everyday you are faced with new challenges to overcome. You can even switch to other civil services later if you wish. It is flexible in that aspect.

What advice would you like to give to fellow students who aspire to pursue civil services?

I feel that one should definitely have a backup option. Always prepare for the campus placements as well. When one is in college, there isn't much pressure of clearing an exam, but once you enter the corporate field it becomes difficult to manage a job along with exam preparation. So, one should judiciously utilise the free time available in college. The core mantra is to be motivated throughout the process. One should always have self-confidence and belief. There are ample opportunities and courses available on the internet. Keep a limited number of sources that you refer to, and revise multiple times in order to have a better understanding of the topic.

Engifest, the cultural festival of Delhi Technological University, was organised in February 2020. The theme of the fest was 'A Utopian Escapade'. The fest was inaugurated by Mr. Ranjit Kapoor, Director, Actor, and Lyricist, in the presence of Prof. Yogesh Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU.

The first day had a host of activities with events ranging from debates to fashion competitions. The events held included Anushthan - a solo and duet singing competition, Spandan - a solo dance competition, Shoe Painting, Mr. and Ms. Exquisite, The Screen Patti screening, and a performance by Rooh Band. The highlight of the first day of the fest was a fusion night featuring artists Papon and DIVINE, which saw massive footfall as crowds gathered from all across Delhi.

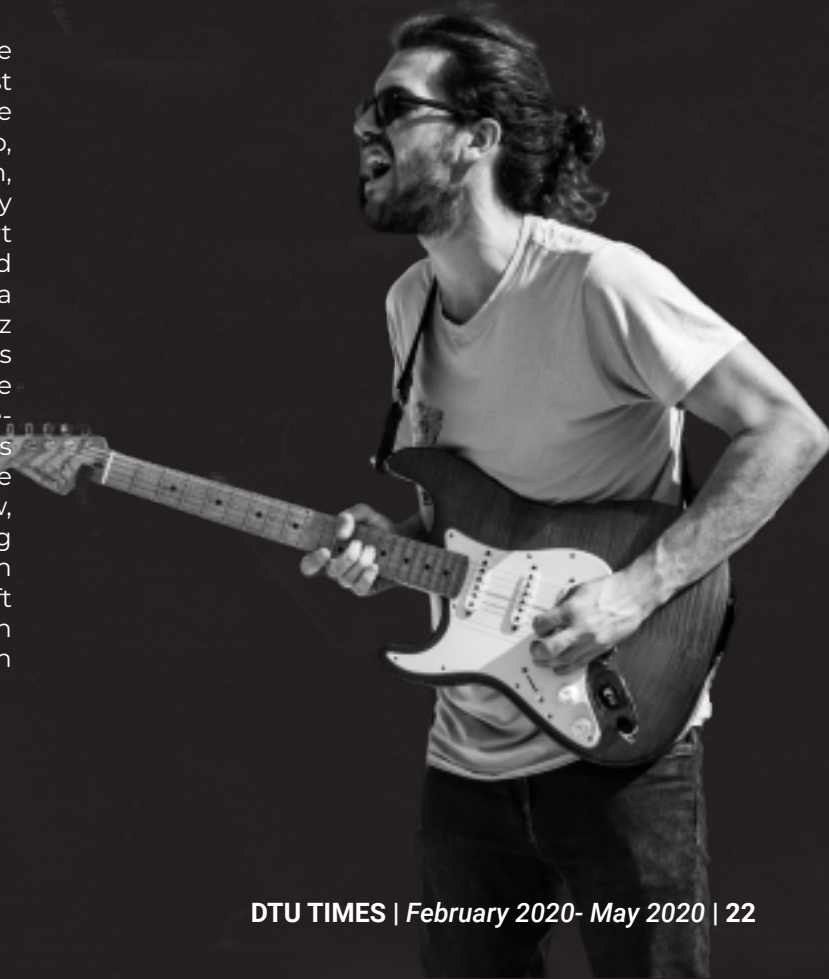
The penultimate day included events catering the creative side of the fest attendees. From Big Canvas Paintings and Battle of the Bands to Engi Idol and Hindi Slam Poetry, it was a chance for the attendees to exhibit their talent in all spheres. A YouTube Fiesta that hosted YouTube stars like Jatt Prabhjot, was also held. The evening concluded with the highly popular Punjabi night concert by Sidhu Moosewala, which attracted crowds of humongous proportions and was an acute celebration of the musical culture of Punjab.

The cultural grandeur came to an upbeat end on the final day of Engifest 2020. The ultimate day of the fest kicked off with multiple formal and informal events. The cultural competitions included, but were not limited to, Vrind - an Indian classical group singing competition, Spandan - a group dance competition, A-prose-trophy affair - a creative writing competition, and a T-shirt Painting competition. The ornate affair continued throughout the day, with Nepali artists such as Pramisha Luitel wooing the crowd at the OAT. Mario Gonzalez Serrano, a famed Spanish puppeteer, showcased his remarkable talent of manipulating puppets to the audience. Performances from Alessandro Vasta, a one-man-band from Italy, and Borja Catanesi, a famous guitarist from Spain, also followed, fascinating the attendees. A spectacular LED Light Painting Show, organised by Kupava Chernenko, provided a relaxing and mesmerising visual experience. The much anticipated comedy show by Anubhav Singh Bassi left the audience in splits. The cultural fest concluded with great pomp owing to the ecstatic beats of well known EDM artist DJ Vinai.

Engifest

A Utopian Escapade

2020





AAHVAAN 2020

The fourth edition of **Aahvaan**, the inter-college sports fest of Delhi Technological University, was organised in February 2020, with an aim to provide a competitive platform for college students from all over India, to showcase their sporting talent. The sports festival kicked off with an inaugural ceremony in the Sports Complex which was graced by the presence of **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU*, among other dignitaries including **Dr. R.C. Singh**, *Chairman, Sports Council* and **Dr. A. K. Srivastava**, *Director, Physical Education*. *Prof. Yogesh Singh*, through his address, motivated every participant to compete with a true spirit of sportsmanship, and urged them to engage in healthy competition.

With over 2500 participants, the three days of the fest encapsulated a multitude of sporting events for both men and women including cricket, football, and many other sports. Students from different disciplines, hailing from various institutes, competed against each other. Aahvaan concluded on a high note with a closing ceremony that witnessed the felicitation of all the winners with medals, trophies, certificates and cash prizes.



ARENA 2020

Arena, the inter-departmental sports tournament of Delhi Technological University, was organised in January 2020 by **Sports Council, DTU**. Students of all departments and courses including B.Tech., M.Tech., B.Des., B.A., B.B.A., M.B.A., and Ph.D., participated in the events. The sports included Cricket (men), Football (men), Badminton (men/women), Handball (men), Chess (men), Kabaddi (men/women), Table tennis (men/women), Lawn tennis (men/women), Athletics (men/women), Volleyball (men/women), Basketball (men/women) and Skipping (men/women). Different branches went up against one another in a pool of fixtures, and the tournament concluded with the felicitation of winners.



STARTUP CONCLAVE AND INTERNSHIP FAIR

The **University School of Management & Entrepreneurship**, Delhi Technological University organised its first **Startup Conclave and Internship Fair** in February 2020. The Startup Conclave was held with the aim of promoting entrepreneurial spirit and developing leadership skills in students. The event was graced by the presence of **Prof. Yogesh Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU**, who gave an inaugural address. He was also presented with the book 'Good Economics for Bad Times' by **Prof. Amit Mookerjee, HoD, USME**. Several entrepreneurs including **Sharad Sagar, Joe Madiath** and **Priti Nanda Sibal** attended the Startup Conclave as guests and narrated their success stories to the attendees.

The Internship Fair over a span of three days saw 28 companies offering 343 internships on the spot. Besides guest lectures and workshops for the students, interactive Q&A sessions were also organised as a part of the event. The event concluded with a humorous standup act by comedian **Rajat Sood**.



MOMENTS

- Zara Khan, Student Head, 2019-20

“It is the oldest story in the world. One day you’re seventeen and planning for someday. And then quietly and without you ever really noticing, someday is today, and then today is yesterday.”

Ever since I came across this quote, I’ve wondered about the ephemeral sense of being. Someday, today, and yesterday are just moments which pass by leaving behind a fortuitous impression. These feelings of joy, gloom, anxiety, pride, or even dismay linger for a while, testing us, maybe even looking after us, and then disappear. No matter the efforts we put in to keep some of them forever or the prayers we say, the changes never come to an end.

I too have felt the bittersweet sentiment of being a passenger in this journey of *moments*, probably the most during the four years of the beautiful but tumultuous journey through DTU. The eighteen-year-old me who was looking forward to college life often wondered what it would be like at the end of the road. At this juncture, I would like to go back and tell her to stop worrying, to start living in the present, and to let the *moments* weave their magic.

Didn’t we all get our fair share of magical moments?

From the adventurous first month when we used to collectively get lost in the campus to the final semester which was majorly spent at

home owing to a pandemic. From the samosas in MechC to finding a car to go to Uncle’s. From cussing over low marks in tests to sobbing on the final day of the last Engifest. From using society meetings to bunk classes to giving juniors unsolicited *gyaan*. From planning funds to host a party in GTB to planning for the future. From crying at the TnP on rejections to voluntarily jumping in the fountain on that one fateful *Placement Day*. Lastly, from reading a 32 page DTU Times edition to perusing the 56 pages of the special 50th edition.

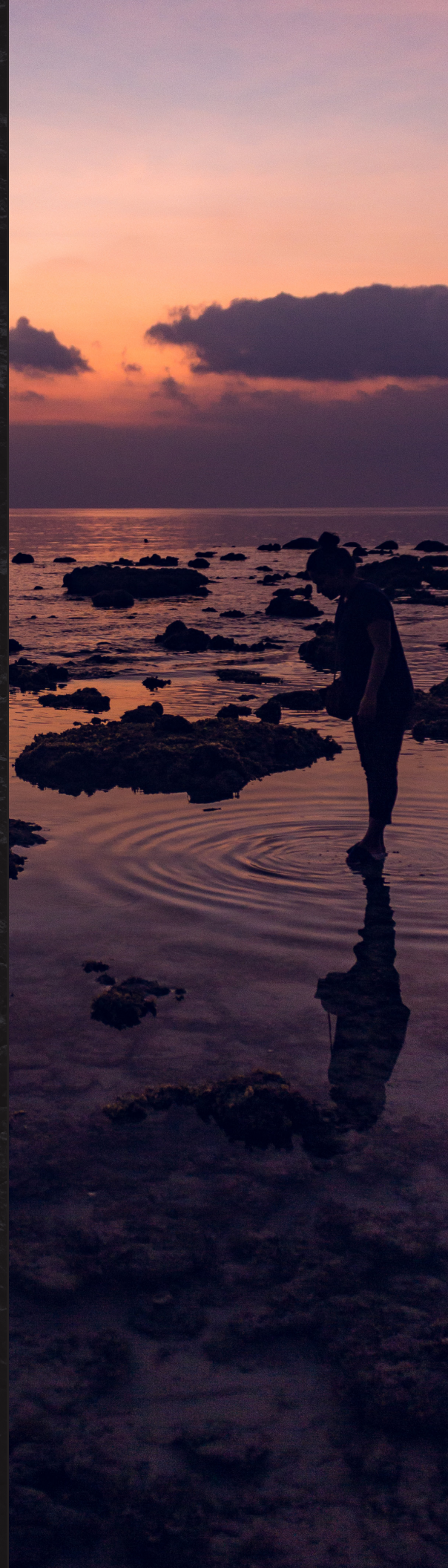
The mind slowed down once again, as if it needed a photograph of the recollections.

There is, indeed, an immense amount of grief in leaving a much-loved place, where fond memories grew as fast as clover in the grass. While the bygone *moments* will stay in the backdrop timelessly as if they are almost alive, but for now, it is our time to depart, to make the changes, and to tread on our chosen journeys.

“Four years of engineering will pass by in a jiffy, but the memories we are going to make will surely last a lifetime.”

(The Experience of a Fresher, Zara Khan, 1st Year PSCT, DTU Times, Edition 36)

P.S. I had no idea back then that my first ever piece of writing for DTU Times would be foreshadowing the end.









5.7 Million Blocks
2500 Hours
186 Acres
42 Buildings
1 Emotion

A BONA FIDE STAR



-N. Krithika, 2nd year, ENE

"We should never forget the inevitable, as we will lose everything eventually. So why fret over any kind of security? The idea is to just fly and experience it all while it lasts."

The young ticket collector sat on a bench on a lonely platform as a cold breeze swept his face. His baffled mind couldn't make any decisions, his futile attempts to understand his own thoughts rendering him numb and cold. Staring at those distant tracks, he spotted a tiny glowing light and heard some raucous shrieks which heralded the arrival of the chugging train. The flickering reflections of the train's lights amidst the fog appeared like a ray of hope, a ray which transformed all his dreams and desires into a train that came rambling towards him.

This was a scene from the iconic movie MS Dhoni - The Untold Story, a movie which successfully managed to set a benchmark in the world of Indian cinema and won worldwide applause. It extensively unleashed the potential of its lead actor. The time for the fulfilment of the dreams of the reel life MS Dhoni - Sushant Singh Rajput - had come.

From being a National Physics Olympiad winner to securing one of the top ranks in the AIEEE exam, subsequently getting admission in one of the most prestigious colleges in the country, Delhi College of Engineering, his academic achievements were exemplary. However, he decided to quit engineering and soon made his television debut. Rajput paved his way through one of the most challenging, nepotism-driven industries of the country - Bollywood. He set remarkably high standards through his awe-inspiring performances and the choices of the films he acted in. His dynamic debut in Kai Po Che is the embodiment of how sheer talent and hard work can make one achieve all the success in life.

His raw talent swept the industry like a hurricane. He left the public awestruck and mesmerised by his performance in the MS Dhoni biopic. Be it a lighthearted comedy such as PK, an

emotional, nostalgic story like Chhichhore, or a powerful narrative like Sonchiriya, the choices of such myriad classics showcase his versatility as an artist and as a performer. Sushant vividly portrayed his creativity through his Instagram handle, inspiring thousands of young minds. One such fascinating post was a picture of his bucket list, which enumerated a series of stunning and inspiring events. He explored the infinities of space and the scintillating stars through his telescope, yet always kept his feet firmly on the ground.

He checked off many of the items on his bucket list, which included visiting his alma mater - Delhi College of Engineering. The memory is still fresh in the minds of the thousands of students who happened to be present in the college that day. It was a tense Sunday morning, with nervous faces anxiously revising their notes and virtually anticipating the grades which they would be getting. However, Sushant completely altered the vibe through his dynamic demeanour and charismatic personality.

Be it reel life or real life, he never failed to enchant his audience. His sudden demise has left us all horrified, creating a void which will remain hollow and unfilled. He has taught us the most crucial life lessons: the importance of love, hard work, faith in one's dreams and most importantly, the brevity of human life.

The film industry has lost a precious star, a soul who with his outstanding performances illuminated the cinematic world and paved his way to the big screen. The avid stargazer concluded a beautiful journey and commenced on a new one, a journey where he now illuminates the boundless sky, scattering his sequin starlight like embers of a dying fire, winking and smiling at all his fans; for within their hearts, he shall always remain the number one star.

WINGING IT

- Pratyush Thakur, Managing Editor, 2019-20

It feels a little weird writing my last article for this magazine, but as they say, all good things come to an end. The old guard must always make way for new blood. This article was written in quarantine, and all I did was reminisce about my four years in the university excluding these last few odd months taken away from me because some guy in China decided to eat a bat.

They say that something good comes out of everything. Quarantine gives you free time to think (or overthink). I think I speak for all of my fellow fourth years when I say that when we think about our four years in college, the nostalgia train always starts with a little kid, a bit nervous about entering this new world. Like a train bustling through a curvy mountain track, the memories come rushing to you. From your first GPL to your first midsems, to doing your assignments, your freshers' night (and the subsequent freshers' nights you attended just to relive your time as a starry-eyed fresher), the ethnic day which is a staple, and getting used to *Jatta Da Chhora* playing at the end of every event. It doesn't matter what event - if there's a DJ, this song will play. Maybe that's how the genetic code of DTU is written. Don't get me wrong; you might be the poshest, most liberal, most woke millennial out there who only listens to The Beatles, but when this song plays, you like it. You may cringe or crinkle your nose on the outside, but deep down, you're going to miss this.

They never tell you that you'll miss so many things. *Bhasad, GT, BT, Proxy, MechC, MicMac, Mall Road, Engi* - if I started writing about all of these things, I would probably fill up this entire edition. You complain daily about the excess of students, GTB Nagar is a second home for the day scholars, and the rest of the cool kids will go to *Panditji*. You've seen Chandan in all his moods; tell me, do you think that anyone, other than Chandan, can prepare you for a horrible, apathetic boss?

The campus is eye candy. How can you ever forget the beautiful sunsets that turned into nights? Nights that filled the OAT with couples and made every single person want to join the Bajrang Dal. I don't know about everyone else, but I am in love with the roads of DTU. You'll miss your juniors and you'll miss interacting with them. You'll be separated from your juniors, especially from all the cute ones you meet every now and then, with whom you can chat just because she wants to know "*placement kaise lagegi sir?*"

To my hostel fam, especially the animals that live in the boys' hostels, your journey is filled with life lessons from wise "*Old Monks*" and trying to take "*Pride*" in what you do. You undertake "*joint*" efforts and find "*stuff*" to "*advance*" further in your life and go for "*high*"er studies. Scientists say that if a nuclear holocaust happens, the cockroaches will survive. They forget to include the guy who lives next to my room who hasn't taken a bath for 42 days (true story).

Engineering prepares us for life. It may not make us engineers in the true sense, except a minuscule percentage whom we call *ghissus*. But for the majority of us, it actually makes us exceptional at handling pressure. From your syllabus not being complete before an exam to the difficult time at the TnP where everything seems lost. From "*bhai company hi nahi nikal rahi yaar*" to "*bhai lag gyi*", it's a journey that toughens you up. If you can survive TnP and the GPL that follows on getting placed, you can survive anything.

That's the spirit of engineering - winging it. You put in the least effort and somehow maximise your output. No other course teaches this; it's unique to engineering, believe me. And that's why I say that maybe this is what engineering is all about - winging things, making things happen. We have all undertaken this beautiful journey; we've grown as people. To the class of 2020, I'd like to say, "We are engineers now, we've made it!"



Medhavi Thakur, Illustrator, 2019-20

OBSESSION

Shashank Shekhar Jha, Managing Editor, 2019-20

I have developed a hobby lately.
It's more of an obsession
I am in her profile again. Her recent uploads tell me she's been busy with college lately. I keep scrolling down, green-eyed to all those guy-friends of her featuring in her tagged pictures. I continue delving deeper. You must be thinking, what am I looking for!
Nothing.

They say time doesn't halt for anyone. I say otherwise.
It still feels like yesterday, when we met for the first time. It was over a cup of Espresso. We clicked. Our confabs became more frequent. I fell in love with the thought of falling in love with her.
The feeling just got stronger, as I paved ridges and bridges over her delicate shell with my fingers and she swayed in consent.
We healed each other on our deepest levels of being, at least I believed so.
Then she left, leaving behind a version of me I never thought existed.
Crippled me.

Sorry.
I have to break this chain of thought because it's 4:00 P.M. It's time. I have to be at GTB. She boards from Vishwavidyalaya at 4:20. She always occupies a place in the connector of the third and fourth coach, along with two of her mates who alight at New Delhi. I know all this because I am always there.
In the fourth coach.

I would have followed her to her house too, like always, but I cannot. I have to pack my bag.
Oh! I didn't mention? She is leaving for Bangalore tomorrow morning. (Courtesy: her Facebook feed)
Binoculars, check.
Wigs, check.
Fake moustache, check.

We are here. She is in Room No. 289. I am right across the hallway, 298.
She is going to a bar. I accompany her, secretly. She is two pegs down; it is my cue.
I appear in front of her, remove my fake moustache.
She is aghast.
This is why I coughed up all that money on the makeup.
My hands move to the under pocket of my jacket to reach for the knife I picked from the fruit basket.

I know I always had the option to move on. But what if something eerier would have come my way? Better the devil I know than the devil I don't.

She is looking at me, puzzled, scouring the oblivion for a connection between my familiar face and the scene. She gasps as she sees the knife in my hands.
Her pupils dilate and heart starts racing as the adrenaline kicks into her system.
She wails for help as I cut her throat open. She falls down. Her ambitions, dreams, life, shattered. I lean down to gaze at her beautiful face. Drowned in a pool of her own blood, she still looks so divine.
I slaughtered the *devil*.

BROKEN ANDA

- Gul Asnani, Student Coordinator, 2019-20

“Life is a race... if you don't run fast, you'll be like a broken anda!”

When I saw Rancho mimic Virus in the movie ‘3 idiots’ with his grumpy face and pulled-up pants, my eyes lit up with laughter as the fearful taste of the original dialogue by Virus was swept away. The theory of the rat race got a humorous take that day. Years later, it hits home.

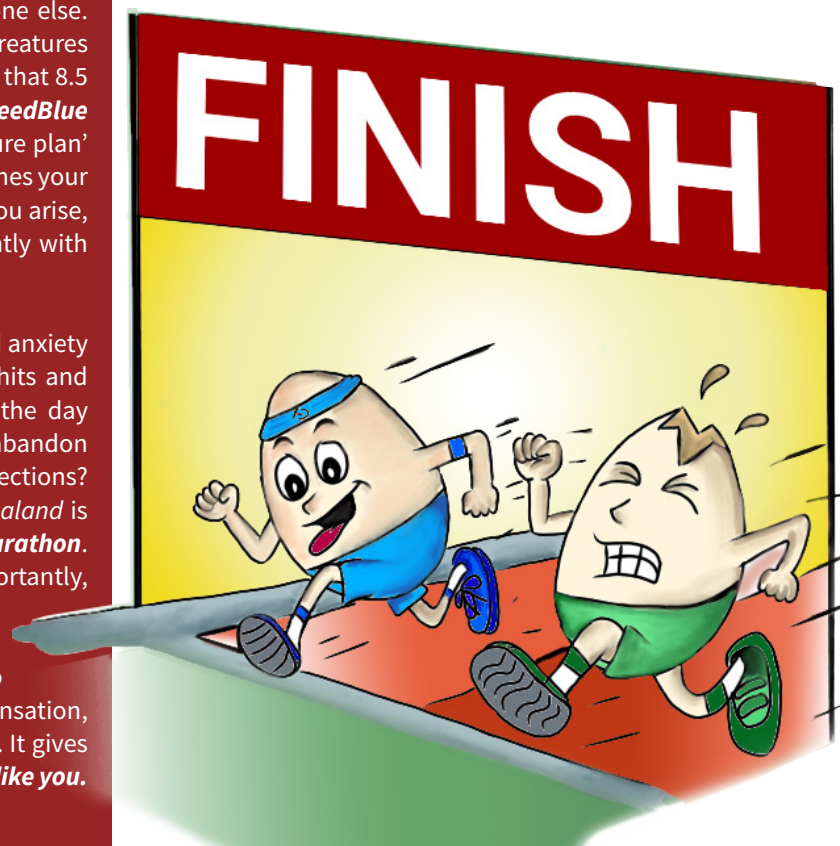
Farewell is generally synonymous with nostalgia, goodbyes, hugs, being-in-touch promises, the beginning of the end of college life, and the end of the beginning of one's life as a whole. Generally, life at DTU treats you well. You get your share of memories in the backdrop of the beautiful campus, MechC's samosas, Maggi Baba's rants, Chandan bhaiya's speedy Rajma Chawal, his 2 (hundred) minute Maggi, Nescafe's expensive-but-why-not-waste-money coffee, the eleventh-hour exam preparation, first year's ED/Workshop rants, but most importantly, the salty smiles on ‘your day’ at the TnP.

But all these rosy offerings are reminisced only when you start counting the days you have left on the campus. For you, the rest of the days, life is a **race** here, and you **think** you have to save yourself from being the ‘broken anda’ of the group. You start running the race as fast as you can, not unlike everyone else. Eventually, friends seem to transform into mysterious creatures who study behind your back (and get referrals), getting that 8.5 in the next semester becomes more than a meme, **#BleedBlue** becomes synonymous with your battle at TnP, the ‘future plan’ comes in the present tense, and ‘*Jatta da Chhora*’ becomes your anthem. Life seems to take blind turns at every point. You arise, struggle, fall, overcome, and the cycle repeats differently with every deadline, test, exam or interview.

But you know why all the memories of sweat, pain, and anxiety erode by the end of these four years? Why nostalgia hits and the walks in the campus are all you can remember the day you leave? Why the tears of happiness the day you abandon your blue shirts weigh heavier than the tears of rejections? It's because that is when you realize that life in *Bawanaland* is not a race. There are no ‘broken andas’ here. It's a **marathon**. Even if you finish last, you learn, grow, and most importantly, you complete the marathon. It's a marathon where your perseverance matters more than your speed. It takes you through meandering roads where you have to watch your manoeuvres at various points, but in compensation, it gives you loads of snacks to savour in your backpack. It gives you time. It gives you opportunities. It gives you **people like you**.

So take a deep breath, open your backpack, and sit and munch a snack for a while. Life in **Bawanaland** is not limited to your career. It gives you enough time and opportunities to build a successful career. More importantly, it is also the tunnel out of which when you emerge, you are considered an **adult**, and **adulthood** is much more than building a career. It involves managing your relationships with friends and family (and also the ones you hear about less often in an engineering college). It involves exploring your hobbies and nurturing them. It involves experiencing everything and having absolutely no regrets. It involves developing your personality. It involves **you** getting to know **you**.

Because when you graduate, you'll look back and miss running the marathon. You'll miss the manoeuvres. You'll miss the snacks. And you'll ask yourself what you could have done differently to make it more memorable and what more you could've learned. And you don't know what your life out of Bawanaland is going to be like. A race with ‘**broken andas**’? Or a marathon?



Tanmay Singh, Student Advisor, 2019-20

Why Pajamas Mean More Than My Farewell Saree

Anjali Singh, Columnist, 2019-20

We were just 15 minutes into our class when we huddled in the back bench of the classroom and my friend turned her notebook to the last page. She began sketching blouse ideas for our farewell sarees. Much before we knew what 'quarantine' even meant, all of my girlfriends had blocked dates on their calendars to flock every shop of Chandni Chowk and Lajpat Nagar for the infamous farewell saree shopping. Confession: while we did attend the farewell last year for the love of our seniors, it would be a lie to deny that we were secretly scanning everyone and crossing out the shades and styles of the saree we would don the coming year.

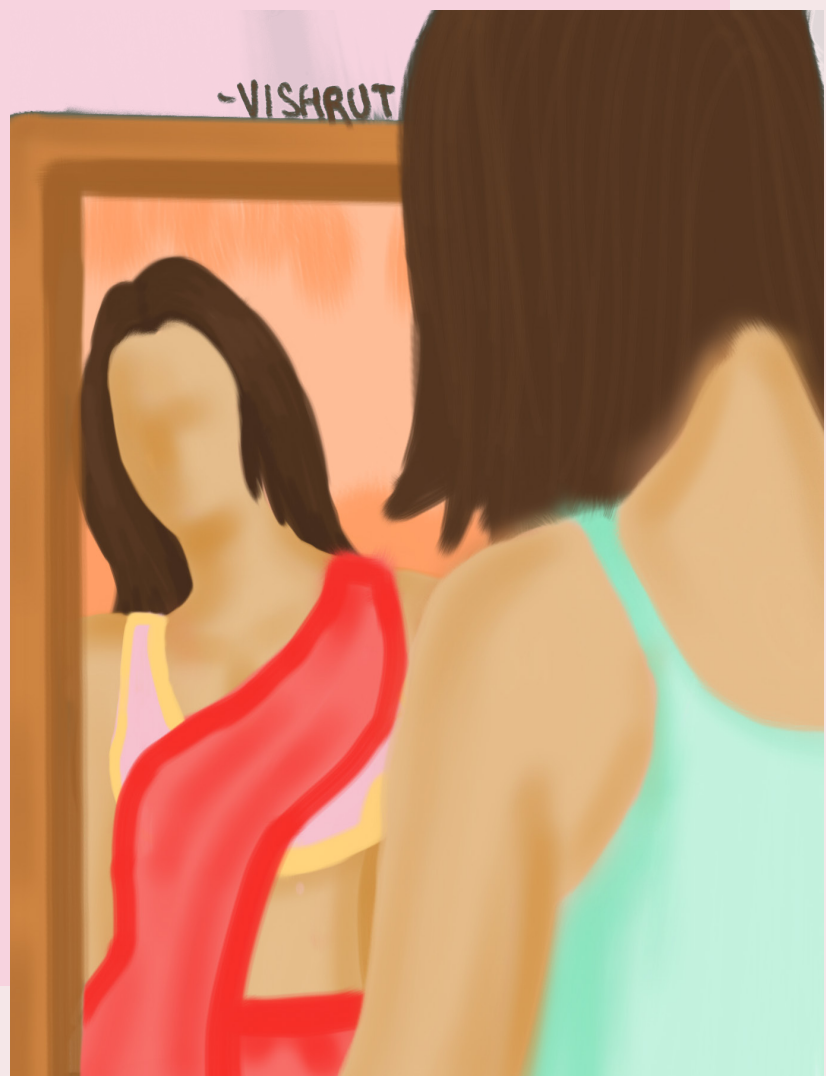
However, this isn't an ode to that 2-meter-long, rectangular piece of fabric, but rather, to the polka-dotted pajamas that have seen every day of my undergraduate life. Ever since the beginning, they asked for nothing. A stroll to the market next door is all that it takes to get a pair for yourself. What's more? It doesn't even dig a hole half as deep in your pockets as a saree would. Basically, pajamas are the low maintenance friends who are ever-ready for a trip to GTB or to bless you with notes the night before an exam. But this still isn't why my overpriced 'farewell' saree will not remind me of college as much as my prized pajamas will.

The story starts ages ago when I stepped in as a first year. Thankfully, it didn't take much time to realize that this might be the only time in my life when I can live in the comfort of my pajamas on weekends and weekdays alike! Knowing this, I made sure that I unfriended jeans, blocked trousers, and went on to form some of my fondest memories in a pair of pajamas in a pair of pajamas. One look at their polka dots takes me away to the night we stargazed at the OAT, and the very next day, dared each other to attend Engifest in the very same pajamas. Here's to the 8 AM classes we went to in the thick winter fog and to the evening jogs to Rohini market to get our admit cards printed on midsem-eve!

Pajamas were a trademark of the hostellers, and we felt a hint of privilege over the day-scholars as

we wore them around the campus. Let's admit it, a throwback to college life is never complete without a mention of what made it our home – the hostels! It's in these matchbox-sized rooms that while being always surrounded by people, we learnt how to be on our own.

A look into the future and I can imagine myself sipping coffee on the weekend, touching the hem of my pajamas and wondering how much I miss the kittens that tugged on it while I sat in the SNH mess with a plate full of tasteless food but an earful of spicy gossip! While my farewell saree would have found a place in the photographs, it's the pajamas that'll rule the memories in my head.



SOCIETY NEWS

Delhi-42 organises Fortitude

Delhi-42, the Quiz Club of DTU, hosted the fifth edition of its annual quizzing festival **Fortitude 2020**. Over a period of 3 days, various quizzes were organised, including **Molybdenum** - The SciBizTech Quiz, **Dugout** - The Sports Quiz, **Legacy** - The College General Quiz, **NH42** - India Quiz, and **Fahrenheit 42** - The Open MELA Quiz. The fest also included an **Open General Quiz** hosted by **Major Chandrakant Nair**. **Bramhdeep Jakhar and Harshit Gupta** secured the 1st position at the **IIFT BizTech Quiz, IIT Delhi Biz Quiz**, and the college round of **Airtel TechQ IT Quiz**. They came in 2nd at the **Delhi School of Economics Biz Quiz** and 3rd at **IPCW Biz Quiz**.

Sahitya sweeps awards

Virat Yadhuvanshi secured the 2nd position in the **Poetry Slam** at **Lady Irwin College** and **Shaheed Bhagat Singh College**. He also bagged the 2nd position in **Hindi Poetry Slam** at **Miranda House**. In a **Turncoat Debate** held at **Daulat Ram College**, **Angad Sethi** secured the 2nd position.

Kalakriti bags awards

Kalakriti bagged the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions at the art exhibitions at **Lady Irwin College**, **Ramlal College**, and **Zakir Husain College** respectively. **Vipul Kumar** bagged the 1st position in the **Online Painting Competition** organised by **Kirorimal College**.

Pratibimb wins big

The Street Wing of **Pratibimb** bagged the 3rd position at the street play event at **Jesus and Mary College**. **Siddharth Saini** was recognised as the **Best Performer** at the street play event of **Hansraj College**. The Street Wing also performed at **Advitya'20**, the street play event of the **21st Bharat Rang Mahotsav, National School of Drama**.

The Stage Wing performed at the **Old World Collegiate Theatre Festival, India Habitat Centre** as well as at **Act'12, Ateliers Theatre Festival**. The team won the 3rd **Best Production** at the **Noida Rang Mahotsav**. At the stage play events of **Maharaja Agrasen College** and **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College**, the Stage Wing won 1st and 2nd positions respectively. At the stage play event of **Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies**, the Stage Wing secured the position of the **Best Technical Team**.



The Film Wing won the 1st position in the Screenwriting Competition and 2nd position in **B-roll Making Competition** held at **IIT Roorkee** and **IIT Delhi** respectively. In **Short Film Making Competitions**, the team won 1st position at **Shri Venkateshwara College**, 2nd position at **Ram Lal Anand College**, 3rd position at **Lady Irwin College**, and was screened amongst the top five at **Mood Indigo, IIT Mumbai**. In the **Ad-making Competition** held at **Shri Venkateshwara College**, the team bagged the 2nd position. They got the **Best Production (People's Choice) Award** at **Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College**.



180 Degrees Consulting DTU wins laurels

The team of **Ankit Keswani, Aakriti Khurania** and **Rohit Gupta** came in 1st at **Enthrall**, HR Case Competition at **Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi**. **Ekansh Prasad, Param Chhura** and **Shivam Jha** secured the 2nd position at **Ace The Case**, Strategy Case Study Competition at **IIM Lucknow**.

Param Chhura and **Shivam Jha** were the **Runners Up** at **Conq-Ops**, Supply Chain and Operations Management Quiz, **NMIMS Hyderabad**. They were also the **National Finalists** at **Business Quiz, IMT Hyderabad**. At **Aspire'20**, Annual Entrepreneurship Convention, **NSUT**, **Aavriti Arora** secured the 2nd prize in **Public Policy Case Competition**. **Atishay Katiyar** and **Satvik Chhabra** were the **Finalists** at **Netaji Subhash Business Case Competition (NSBC v4.0)**, **NSUT**.

Enactus DTU organises Soch 2.0

Enactus DTU organised their annual fest **Soch 2.0 - The Social Ideathon**. The event was presided over by **Prof. Yogesh Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU**. The chief guest of the event was **Ms. Neha Saini, National Program Manager, Enactus India**. **Social Ideathon, Weave A Tale** and **Fun Arcade - A Trade & Negotiation Game** were the events organised. Several **Enactus** chapters set up stalls to display their projects and products.

Global Youth conducts workshops

Global Youth DTU Chapter organised a panel discussion on the agenda '**Role of Creative Industries in Building the Brand of India**'. The panellists were **Ms. Priya Mishra, Founder, Hempvati** and **Mr. Manoranjan Manish, Chief Program Officer, Viacom India**. A workshop on '**Design Thinking for an Immersive Product**' was also conducted by **Mr. Sachin Rathi, UX Researcher, Nagarro**.

Assets brings laurels

At **Monumentals of Trade** organised by **Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women**, the 1st position was bagged by **Avibhav, Kamal**, and **Mukul Singla**, and the 3rd position was awarded to **Abhishek Gupta, Shresth Jain**, and **Siddharth Bihani**. Also at **SRCASW**, **Aditya Shekhar** and **Deepanshu Verma** secured the 2nd prize in the **Financial Strategy and Case Study Competition**.

The team of **Mayank Tomar, Satyam Jaiswal**, and **Shreshth Nagpal** secured the 1st and 3rd positions at two **Mockstock** competitions conducted at **Netaji Subhash University of Technology**. **Avibhav** and **Mukul Singla** came in 2nd at **Mockstocks** at **Hindu College**. At **Delhi Technological University**, the team of **Aanchal Batra** and **Harshit Kumar** was awarded the 2nd prize in **Case Study Competition**. **Mukul Singla** secured the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions at the **Mockcryptotrading** challenges at **Shri Ram College of Commerce, IIT Roorkee**, and **IIT Delhi** respectively.

Vibe wins accolades

Vibe conducted a **Diversity Workshop** involving the categories **Freestyle Hip-Hop, Wacking, Animation** and **Popping**, taken by renowned dancers **Bedroc Boogie, Prachi Dadwal, Yash Dobhal & Vineeth**. Vibe won the **1st** prize in the **Street Dance Competition** at **Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur**. **Vishal Dhiman** bagged the **2nd** prize at **Synnove Dance Competition** conducted at **Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women**.



Madhurima forges ahead

At **Gargi College**, the duo of **Manas Singh** and **Pranshu Kukreti** secured the **2nd** position in the duet category, while **Manas Singh** bagged the **3rd** position in the solo singing contest. **Manas Singh** and **Pranshu Kukreti** secured the **1st** position in the duet contest at **Shri Venkateshwara College** and **Daulat Ram College**. **Jahnvi Rajaraam** bagged the **2nd** and **3rd** positions at **Lady Shri Ram College** and **Jesus and Mary College** respectively in the solo category.



Cognitive Minds DTU bags awards

In the **Word Games** competition held at **Kashiyatra, IIT BHU**, **Annoy Roy** and **Vibhor Gautam** secured the **1st** position, with **Hrutiya Meshram, Pratik Dev, Rohit Roychoudhury** and **Sarthak Jain** coming in **2nd**. The **3rd** place was secured by **Anirudh Kumar Aheer** and **Archana Meena**. **Shubhang Shukla** won the **3rd** prize in the **English Debate Competition**.



Art and Design Society organises Shilpam

Art and Design Society, USME, DTU organised the first edition of its art fest, **'Shilpam'**. The exhibition consisted of a wide array of watercolour paintings, acrylic on fabric, pencil sketches, photographs, and various other mediums of art. The event was inaugurated by **Dr. Amit Mookerjee, Head of the Department, USME** and attended by all faculty members of USME.



Team Raftaar speeds ahead

Team Raftaar participated in the **ASME E-Fest 2020, Asia Pacific** held at **Marwadi University, Rajkot**. They achieved **2nd** position in the **Analysis** category, **6th** position in the **Design** category, and **6th** position in the **Male Drag Competition**.



SCEE DTU spreads awareness

SCEE DTU in association with **KVIC MSME, Govt. of India**, conducted a **National Level Awareness Program on Employment Generation** which was graced by the presence of **Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**, through a video conference. A mega plantation & donation drive was conducted at **NGO Shubhakshika**.



NSS DTU champions for a cause

NSS DTU organised an **EWS Admission Campaign** in **Sardar Colony** for the children belonging to economically weaker sections. They also participated in the **National Social Summit** organised by **NSS, IIT Roorkee**, securing the **2nd** position in the **Work Presentation Competition**.



IN OTHER NEWS

- **DTU Altair** participated in the preliminary design phase of the **CanSat Competition** organised by **NASA Goddard** and **American Astronautical Society**, achieving a world ranking of **6th**.
- **AnuSandhaan**, the **Research and Analytics Society of USME, DTU**, organised a **National Online Essay Writing Competition**.
- **DTU Bhangra** won the **2nd** prize at **Maitreyi College** and **3rd** prize at **Mata Sundri College**.
- At **BAJA SAEINDIA 2020** held at **Chitkara University, Rajpura**, **DelTech Baja** bagged the **7th** position in the **Sales Presentation Event**. The team had the second lightest vehicle in the event.
- **Ecotech - the Economics Society of USME, DTU** launched their blog 'Paradox - Removing Conjectures'. They also organised the second edition of their **Bilingual Open Forum**, discussing **'to cut or not to cut taxes with special emphasis on corporate taxes'**.
- The **Machine Learning Wing of Google Developer Student Club** of DTU conducted a workshop on **Python and Data Analytics** for MBA students.
- **Rotaract Club of USME** launched **Project Sakhi**, an initiative that aims to promote talks about menstruation and the taboos surrounding it.
- **Society of Automotive Engineers - DTU Chapter** in partnership with **Envo Projects** will set up a new **Biogas Plant** in the college premises. They organised a seminar in association with **Envo Projects** regarding the same.
- **DTU Toastmasters** organised their **Golden Jubilee meeting** which included improv games and a standup act by **Rahul Girdhar**.



Gul Asnani

*DTU Times interviewed **Gul Asnani**, Computer Engineering, Class of 2020, who secured a 99.92 percentile in CAT 2019 and received admits for the MBA program from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, & Calcutta. She also received a placement offer from Google India and a pre-placement offer from Samsung R&D Bangalore.*

How did you simultaneously prepare for the placement season and CAT? What was your thought-process while deciding these options?

As I got an early PPO, I was lucky enough to be spared from the placement season. It is always a blessing to get an intern early in the season. The companies which come early give a higher proportion of PPOs, and also have a higher rate of acceptance of PPOs by students. This is, of course, the most ideal scenario. There have been times when I had more than one thing to focus on. Although there were relatively few overlaps, whenever I faced one, I tried to prioritize stuff and take-on one thing at a time. When you have to focus on multiple things and a number of uncertainties attached to your daily routine, it is better to plan flexibly and do whatever comes your way. It was usually not that difficult a task, but it did keep my hands full at times. The intention behind choosing both fields was a result of a dilemma- I wanted a career in one and also wanted to keep the other as a backup.

What was the single most valuable habit that you think helped you achieve these laurels?

I worked for everything as much as I could, and judiciously utilise the slightest bit of time. However, working hard is something everyone does; what's even more important is having a positive attitude and a constant belief in oneself- it helps you maintain focus.

What suggestions would you give to juniors who are sitting for internships or placements this year? What is the best way to practice and how should one formulate his or her plan?

Placement and internship seasons are very unpredictable. Your company tests will test your knowledge, whereas the overall process of landing up an opportunity during the season will test your mental strength. Hence, it is important to work on both these skills. Everybody gets what they deserve sooner or later. One needs to be patient.

Build a strong resume with good quality projects. If you're worried about your projects, be aware that you still have time, and talk about the kind of projects you should take up with your seniors. Your resume should be well worded, properly indented and presented. Try and get it reviewed by a senior, if possible. It is crucial as your resume speaks volumes about you. Work on the soft skills that'll help you speak about what you know. Soft skills include your way of addressing an interviewer, way of communication, confidence, etc.

Since times are uncertain, try to stay calm and not let the negativity affect your mental health; try not to overthink about the impact of the crisis on your future. Everyone is in the same boat as yours, and the uncertainty might go on for long. In such circumstances, building your skills is all you can do right now, and if you let the crisis play with your mind, you might lose out on productivity. Stay focussed, stay calm!

Madhusudan Bansal

DTU Times interviewed **Madhusudan Bansal**, AE, Class of 2020, who got recommended for the Indian Army, Indian Navy, as well as the Indian Air Force.

What was your preparation strategy for the exam and the SSB Interview?

Having cleared JEE, passing end semesters and aptitude tests at TNP, I think we all have enough strategies to ace any written exam. The real challenge was the SSB, with a selection rate of around 3-5% and many batches having zero selections.

It is said that the first step towards improvement is acceptance. So, I began to observe my behaviour, actions and emotions while trying to keep judgements away. This helped me become more aware of myself and my surroundings. I joined a Toastmasters Club that gave me a platform to speak my mind, working in and leading a team. SSB is not about reading particular books and memorising facts. Their assessment is based on 15 OLQs (Officer Like Qualities). My strategy was to understand their requirements and build those OLQs from within. Everybody has it in them. The trick lies in being able to present them appropriately.

What was the most challenging aspect of the interview for you? How did you prepare for it?

The SSB is divided into three phases of assessment - Psychological Testing (*Manasa*), Interview Testing (*Vacha*) and Group Testing (*Karmana*). For me, the tricky part was to analyse my psychology and mould my responses to match those of an ideal candidate. Some present their ideas impromptu and believe in spontaneity. I believe in practice, so I strategise accordingly. Writing stories, sentences, practising reactions and self-description was something I made a habit.

Even after my first recommendation, I continued working on improving the quality of my responses with my other defence aspirant friends. Evaluating each other helped us to identify gaps, come up with better ideas and keep the motivation high. The interviewing officer may even dig into intimate details of your life, including bad habits, girlfriends, biggest mistake, fears, weaknesses, regrets, etc. The best thing about truth is that you don't have to memorise it. I am not that truthful, to be honest. I prepared for my lies, looked him directly in the eye and told him stories that I had rehearsed to support those lies. My father tells me, "Speak the truth, always. But when you have to lie, do it with confidence".

How was your overall experience of the 5-day selection process? How did you deal with the pressure involved?

The overall experience depends on the result. Once you get through, you stop thinking about the mistakes you've made, or the questions you didn't know the answers to. You stop worrying about the parts you messed up. Once you're in, it becomes a memorable experience. You reminisce the witty answers you gave in the interview, the point in the group discussion that flummoxed everybody. Up until then, it's a lot of pressure, anxiety and mental exhaustion. You force a smile on your face, trying to make everyone like you, especially the assessors and your groupmates. The SSB is like playing a sport. The pressure is part of the process. You can't let it get to your head or reflect on your face. The trick is to smile through it.

Read the full interviews on dtutimes.dtu.ac.in/blog



Student News

Awards & Competitions Won

Riya Singh, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year

Winner, Infrastructure Track, MIT Bitcoin Hackathon 2020, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States

Rishav Sethi, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year

Shikhar Zutshi, B.Tech., MAM, 4th Year

Best Content Award, Asian Youth Leaders Travel and Learning Camp, Singapore

Rohan Sharma, B.Tech., EP, 4th Year

Best Poster Award, International OSA Network of Students, India

Harshit Sharma, B.Tech., ENE, 2nd Year

Best Presentation Award, Inter College Techno-management

Presentation Contest on Pollution Control And Sustainable Development, Delhi, India

Mihir Ranjan, B.Tech., EE, 2nd Year

Maulik Khanna, B.Tech., COE, 1st Year

Winner, Corporate Strategy, Excelsior, Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Delhi, India

Simran Kaur, B.Tech., BT, 2nd Year

Second runner-up, Oral Presentation, International Conference on Biotechnology and Applied Microbiology, Ghaziabad, India

International Internships & Scholarships Awarded

Anadi Shankar Jha, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year

Siddharth Basu, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year

Toshiba Global Internship, Tokyo, Japan

Samarth Gupta, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year

Richard E. Merwin Student Scholarship, IEEE Computer Society



Research Papers Published & Conferences Attended

Suresh Kumar Nagar, Ph.D., CE

'Effect of Proximity between two plus plan-shaped Tall Buildings on Wind Induced Pressure', 2nd ASCE India Conference on Challenges of Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Emerging Economies, Kolkata, India

Debarshi Nath, M.Tech., CSE, 2nd Year

Diksha Kalra, M.Tech., SPD, 2nd Year

Anubhav, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year

Mrigank Singh, B.Tech., COE, 3rd Year

'A Comparative Study of Subject-Dependent and Subject-Independent Strategies for EEG-Based Emotion Recognition using LSTM Network', 4th International Conference on Compute and Data Analysis, Silicon Valley, San Jose, United States

'An Efficient Approach to EEG-Based Emotion Recognition using LSTM Network', 16th IEEE Colloquium on Signal Processing and its Applications, Langkawi, Malaysia

Nikhil Gaur, M.Tech., STE, 2nd Year

'Effects of Corner Configuration on Tall Buildings under Wind Loads using CFD and Wind Tunnel Technique', 2nd ASCE Conference in India on Challenges of Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Emerging Economies, Kolkata, India

Rajat Gautam, M.Tech., GTE, 1st Year

Shubham Gupta, M.Tech., GTE, 1st Year

Vishal Sharma, M.Tech., GTE, 1st Year

'In situ shear wave velocity from MASW tests at six sites of Delhi Technological University', International Conference on Innovative Advancement in Engineering & Technology, Jaipur National University, Jaipur, India

Ananya Bajaj, B.Tech., IT, 4th Year

Meghna Bhatnagar, B.Tech., IT, 4th Year

'Recent trends in Internet of medical things: A review' Modelling, Simulation & Intelligent Computing Conference, BITS Pilani Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Arindaam Roy, B.Tech., IT, 4th Year

Divjeet Singh Das, B.Tech., IT, 4th Year

Gitanjali Jaggi, B.Tech., IT, 4th Year

'Android Malware Detection based on Vulnerable Feature Aggregation' International Conference on Smart Sustainable Intelligent Computing and Applications, Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Delhi, India

Ashmin Gangal, B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year

Varun Bhanoo, B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year

'New realization of OFCC Universal TAM filter: A Differentiator based approach', 7th International Conference on Signal Processing & Integrated Networks, Amity University, Noida, India

'Differentiator based Universal TAM filter topology using Operational Floating Current Conveyors', International Conference on Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Galgotias University, Noida, India

Nishant Tanwar, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year

Sanskar Jain, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year

Vaibhav Jain, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year

'Cross-Domain Ambiguity Detection using Linear Transformation of Word Embedding Spaces', 3rd Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Requirements Engineering, Pisa, Italy

Saloni Gupta, B.Tech., IT, 4th Year

'Movie Recommendation using Content-based and Collaborative Filtering', International Conference On Innovative Computing and Communication, Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Delhi, India

Shivansh Agarwal, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year

Shivansh Gupta, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year

Tushar Gautam, B.Tech., COE, 4th Year

'Analyzing Vocal Patterns for Speech Emotion Recognition using Deep Learning', International Conference On Sentiment Analysis And Deep Learning, KGISL Institute of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Shreyansh Singh, B.Tech., CE, 4th Year

Shubhangi Jha, B.Tech., CE, 4th Year

Siddhant Choudhary B.Tech., CE, 4th Year

'Effects of square and plus shape on wind loads using different structural systems', 2nd ASCE India Conference on Challenges of Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Emerging Economies, Kolkata, India

Tushar Sethi, B.Tech., CE, 4th year

'Fracture Characteristics of High Strength Fiber Concrete', 2nd ASCE Conference in India on Challenges of Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Emerging Economies, Kolkata, India

Vishal Bachchas, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year

Yash Saini, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year

Yogesh Kumar, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year

'Emotion Scanning of the World's Best Colleges Using Real Time Tweets', International Conference On Evolutionary Computing And Mobile Sustainable Networks, Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Bangalore, India

Uday Sai Garavandala, B.B.A., 2nd Year

'An Integrative Approach to Strategic Management in Health Services', International Journal of Research in Commerce & Management

PCs Speak Up

DTU Times interviewed the outgoing Placement Coordinators of the session 2019-20 on various aspects related to securing on-campus internships and placements.

Do you have a funny anecdote to narrate from your time as a placement coordinator?

The one where lies rained

Sometimes, the students were unable to sit for a company since they were involved in other processes. So, we had to come up with creative excuses to justify the student's absence to the executives. Once, it was raining very heavily in the morning, so we told the executives that this particular student who didn't want to sit for the process had slipped in the water and had hurt his arm. The executives bought it and were really concerned.

The one with genius students

Once, a company was conducting a pen & paper test. The company's executive handed over a set of sheets to us and asked us to get them a

certain number of copies. We weren't aware that the set of sheets also had the answer keys along with the question paper, and as soon as the copies were received, they were directly distributed amongst the students. When the sheets were received back for evaluation, the company officials observed that all the students had marked the right answers. It was then that they realized what had happened and the students were shortlisted for the next round based on their performance in the GDs.

The one where palates took precedence

Students generally don't take workshops seriously, so the number of attendees is usually low. This one time, even though the students were informed that the workshop would lead to PPI offers, the turnout was low. Just before the workshop was about to start, the students were informed that lunch would be provided to the attendees. Within 15 minutes, more students turned up, and a few even called to confirm this. They were more interested in the food than the placements.

Coding Placements

What is more critical for a successful placement - competitive coding skills or proficiency in app/web/software development?

Competitive Coding skills is the first criterion for shortlisting for most companies. They expect their candidates to have strong programming fundamentals and problem-solving skills. To successfully crack the campus placements, one must also have a firm grasp over Data Structures & Algorithms. Proficiency in app/web development will definitely help in later interview stages.

Is there a difference in the profiles offered to B.Tech. and M.Tech. candidates? Do the companies have a preference?

It depends on the company. Mostly, the profile offered is the same, but sometimes there are a few differences in terms of profile and the corresponding CTC. For instance, Qualcomm offers a higher pay package to M.Tech. candidates. Some companies also have 6-months internships followed by a full-time offer for M.Tech. candidates which are not on the table for B.Tech. candidates as of now.

Core Electronics Placements

Since most of the students applying for internships are second-year undergraduates, what are companies looking for in them?

The companies do not expect the candidates to know a lot. It's mostly the learning ability and thought process of the candidates that companies focus on. Students should be well versed with the basics, and also practice GATE Questions





for online tests. Basic knowledge of Verilog gives an edge. Doing a simple project or internship might help but is not necessary.

How much importance does a company lay on extra-curricular projects? Does the absence of such a project hamper a student's chances?

For placements, a lot of emphasis is laid on what you put in your project. It gives the interviewer something to talk about during an interview. The projects need not always be research-oriented or very high level, basic implementations would also suffice.

As far as the internship is concerned, knowledge of subjects is more than enough. Interviewers rarely look into the CV of the candidate. But having a few basic Verilog projects always increases your chances.

Core Mechanical Placements

What is the importance of theoretical research projects in a mechanical engineer's profile?

Theoretical research projects can provide the candidates with an edge while applying for roles aimed at Research & Development. Generally, the recruiters are looking for candidates who have a strong conceptual foundation of the core mechanical subjects, such as Thermal Engineering etc. These hands-on projects are of direct relevance, especially in the aerospace and automotive sector.

How valuable is the work experience that one receives in a tech team? Does it translate to core placements?

While the grades of a candidate are only an indicator of theoretical knowledge, the work a student has done as part of a technical team has a myriad benefits: it gives the recruiters a glimpse into how a student would perform in a practical environment, whether they can translate their theoretical knowledge to accomplish some real-life objectives within a given deadline, their ability to work in teams etc. It also provides the student with a greater confidence in their own abilities which leads to a more confident persona during the placement interviews.

If you could narrow down the requirements of all mechanical companies and select a few, what would they be?

The primary requirements include a strong conceptual foundation of core subjects and technical skills, which should be evidenced by your grades, technical projects and internships. Decent communication skills, an active learning mindset and general awareness about the developments in the mechanical field are also required, to clear the rigorous interview process conducted to seek the perfect candidate.

Non-Technical Placements

How does one build a "non-tech profile" and what are the absolute essentials of it?

One of the primary requirements for an excellent non-tech profile is having coveted non-tech internships and projects on your CV. A good CGPA and knowledge of data languages like R, Alteryx, Python etc. would be a plus. Microsoft Office tools, Tableau, and languages like SQL, C and C++ give your profile a boost, and this sets you apart from other applicants.

It is often heard that the pay package of non-tech companies is low. How true is that?

Yes, the average package offered in non-tech profiles, in general, is lesser than coding profiles. The initial phase is purely a learning phase, and in the corporate sector, you get paid in terms of experience.

Is it possible to have a technical/core profile and still catch the attention of the non-tech recruiters?

Most of the students have a technical or core background when they sit for non-tech placements, without having a single non-tech internship. Non-tech recruiters look for your IQ, personality, communication skills and last but not the least how strong you are in whatever you have mentioned in your CV.

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



Anil Sardana

- Class of 1980, B.E., Electrical Engineering
- Currently serving as the CEO & Managing Director of Adani Transmission Limited
- Has served in the role of Senior Manager at NTPC for fourteen years
- Has served as the CEO & the Managing Director of Tata Power Company for seven years
- Has served as the Managing Director of Tata Teleservices
- Led the transition of Tata Teleservices Limited (TTSL) through the launch of famous Tata DOCOMO and Tata

Photon brands

- Has more than 39 years of experience in the infrastructure space, particularly in the Energy and Telecom sector

Subhash Chandra Agarwal

- Class of 1971, B.E., Mechanical Engineering
- Holds the current Guinness World Record for “the most published letters written to newspaper editors over an individual’s lifetime”
- Has received the National RTI Award by Public Cause Research Foundation
- Has filed more than 6,000 RTI applications
- Has penned 3,699 letters, published in various newspapers
- Has waged a decade-long struggle that led to the office of the Chief Justice of India coming under the Right to Information Act
- Author of “The Change Maker: A Crusade Through Letters”



Avinash Pant

- Class of 1995, B.Tech., Electrical Engineering
- Graduated from IIM Ahmedabad with a degree in Business Administration in 1997
- Serving in the newly created role of Marketing Director at Facebook India
- Has held several marketing roles in various companies including The Coca-Cola Company, The Walt Disney Company, Nike and Red Bull
- Specialises in Brand Management, Media Management, Advertising Development and Strategic Marketing

An Uncertain Future

-Gehna Sharma, 3rd Year, BAE

“My colleagues registering for voluntary services complain about a dearth of doctors. If summoned by the authorities, I won’t have any option but to go. We need not worry.”, assured my mom as she sipped her tea. She loves green tea as much as she loves making it for me.

However, my thoughts went into a frenzy with this news, and the fear experienced by the families of frontline soldiers fighting the battles being waged all year round suddenly became clear. Precautions to control the spread of the disease were taken. The number of new cases emerging should have been brought down soon, yet, somehow we managed to enter stage three of this pandemic.

Knowing how fragile our healthcare system is (though not more than my mom, who lives off green tea and thinks she is invincible), the bulk of the burden to cure diseases falls upon doctors. Many healthcare workers treating infected patients have embraced their situation and made peace with the possibility that it could be their last goodbye to their families. In a country where it is not possible to feed the poor during a pandemic, ensuring the safety of its doctors is a far cry.

There is no need to worry. I thank God my mom is here with me and pray for all healthcare workers to be united with their families. Soon enough, it’ll be over. I hope to wake up the next day to hear the number of cases fall dramatically. They won’t have to hire more doctors. Those treating the sick with no protective gear shall miraculously survive to tell tales about this strange pandemic to their children over a cup of tea in their living room. With these thoughts, I pull my mind back into the present, back to my living room, where we finish the rest of our tea and hope for everything to return to normal.

I don’t have a word for the opposite of loneliness, but if I did, I could say that’s what I want in life, what I’m grateful to have found at DTU, and what I’m afraid of losing when we wake up tomorrow and leave this place. It’s neither an attachment nor an association; it’s just this sentiment that there are people - an abundance of people - who are in this together. Who are on your side. Who are yours to lose. When the cheque is paid and you sit at the table for hours. When it’s 4 AM and no one goes to bed. That night with the guitar. That night we can’t remember. That time we went, we saw, we laughed, and we felt — the beauty of being alive.

DTU is a world of circles we pull ourselves around - groups, teams, societies, hostellers. These small groups make us feel safe and loved. We become a part of something and, on our loneliest nights when we stumble home to our phones — alone, tired, awake - we don’t feel alone. We won’t have an annoyingly high number of group-texts next year, nor will we be living in the same hostel as all our friends. We won’t get to call Bawanaland our home next year.

This thought frightens me. More than finding the right job or profile, I’m scared of losing this network we are a part of. This intangible, inexplicable opposite of loneliness. This warm fuzzy feeling I feel right now. Obviously, we had regrets too, things we wished for like a better GPA (next sem), a better job, more papers published, that girl I could never ask out. We’re our own harshest critics, and it’s easy to let ourselves down. Sleeping too late. Procrastinating. Cutting corners. More than once, I’ve looked back on my school self and thought: how did I do that? How did I work so hard? Our private insecurities follow us and always will.

I don’t have a word for the opposite of loneliness, but how I feel leaving DTU today comes pretty close to being one. Here. With all of you. In love, impressed, humbled, scared. And we don’t have to lose that. Ever. When they say the final year is one of the best of your life, they don’t tell you it will be more heartbreak than hope. But looking back on my own, at 3:22 AM the night before I graduate, I know I wouldn’t trade mine for anything.

“Are you glad you’re done with college?” Of course, I am, but of course, I’m not.

Are you glad you’re done with college?

-Rajyavardhan Singh, Head of Web Development, 2019-20



PRAJYA SHARMA

DTU Times interviewed Prajya Sharma, Electrical Engineering, Class of 2015, who received admits for the MBA program from Harvard Business School, Stanford Graduate School of Business, Wharton (University of Pennsylvania) and Kellogg School of Management (Northwestern University). She has also received the Stanford Reliance Dhirubhai Fellowship, which is awarded to only 2-3 students in the entire country.

What motivated you to apply for an MBA abroad against studying in India?

Studying in a global business school, especially the top universities in the world has always been my dream. If you see the statistics in any of these business schools - above 40% of their classes have international students and they come from 150 different universities across the globe. Hence, the learning environment is quite progressive. The relationships you make, things you learn about businesses, governments and happenings across the world are quite intriguing. While the education system in India is great, I feel like we lack global exposure.

Despite the shortcomings that we face in the Indian education system, what would you identify as the positive factors while studying in DTU that pushed you towards achieving these goals?

Time management skills as well as the logical and analytical skills are some important abilities we develop through our rigorous coursework and the challenging entrance exams. These abilities come in handy wherever you are and not just in applying to B-Schools. It definitely helps in securing a good GMAT score and also in our professional lives. I also felt that studying in a good university like DTU gives you a great ecosystem, a network of peers who are driven and accomplished and a launchpad for your career. The progressive environment really eggs you on and pushes one to achieve more. Also, while I was at DTU, I got a chance to explore and get involved in research projects, community initiatives etc. that were pivotal in understanding what career I want to pursue and bolstered my B-school application.

What advice would you give students aspiring to study at top international business schools?

I would suggest students utilise their time in university judiciously. Work in areas you are interested in and build something out of those experiences - do research projects, get involved in impactful community initiatives, maybe even start your own project/start-up/non-profit, research about B-schools, talk to students and alumni and attend admissions events, find opportunities to intern/work remotely with overseas organizations/colleges abroad etc. You are never going to have this time again so do something that makes an impact, but don't neglect your CGPA. Stellar academic performance is very important - graduate with high honours.

Would you suggest doing things that specifically tailor one's profile, or pursue one's passion and hope that coincidentally it helps with the applications somehow?

I would suggest one to choose a middle ground. Whichever sector/career trajectory you are interested in (consulting, energy, data analytics, investing etc.), find job opportunities in the top few companies in that space. Find accomplished people who are working in that sector and follow their career trajectories as a reference to chart out your own path.

Don't be naive and just pick projects that you think might help to build your B-school profile as recruiters and admissions committees will see right through these; be smart about these things. In your career, always seek out international project opportunities, secondments, identify upcoming projects/teams/initiatives and get involved in building it, seek out promotions/increasing work responsibilities to show career progression, find mentors and build strong relations with managers/seniors. Also, give your GMAT in 1-2 years after graduating (don't procrastinate and delay it till the very end) so that you can focus on building your profile and application in the time leading up to the application deadline.

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

Why the World is Not Ready to End Yet

The world escaped from the brink of a World War, only to be disturbed by riots and protests shortly after. The cherry on top? COVID-19. One could conclude that the apocalypse predicted for 2012 is materialising in 2020, but who knows what the rest of the year has in store for us. But is this the only takeaway from the pandemic - that our world is about to end and we're facilitating this?

The problem is this: we're led to believe only what we want to, aka the Cocktail Party Effect. It's the brain's ability to 'tune into' the singular voice of rumours and hearsay, and 'tune out' the voice of reason and rationality, similar to how a partygoer can focus on a single conversation in a noisy room. This is why bad news draws more attention than good. However, the choice is up to the partygoer - would they rather give into such pessimistic claims, or believe that they're going to come out of this more aware and tolerant?

Because the world didn't end in 2012, it witnessed Leonardo DiCaprio win an Oscar as well as the underwhelming ending of Game of Thrones. So, no, the world isn't ready to end. Yet. We are yet to see how Taarak Mehta ka Ulta Chashma concludes; we are yet to witness Apple release an iPhone that holds its charge. Most importantly, we are yet to beat this pandemic and finally see a smile on the faces of the frontline workers who've been at it 24x7. And of course, we are yet to tell our kids and grandkids the stories of how we saved the world by sitting at home doing nothing. Don't lose hope in the world just yet.

-Pratiksha Pradhan, 3rd Year, ECE



The Rhythmic Rigour

A big yellow bus balloons the chaos from throngs of vehicles at the crossroad. There is a scrawny teenage boy, polishing the shoes of a man with a gleaming belt buckle. There is a food stall, a fountain, some hoardings, and a girl rushing by with a maroon backpack. Across the road are two kids, donning navy-blue uniforms, chasing the yellow bu-

BUZZ...The phone's screen shows an unknown number. Its vibration pinches Aaron away from his painting. Seconds after picking up, he realizes it is another of those art-school promotion calls. Exasperated, he throws his phone on the table and turns around. He can hear someone chopping vegetables, his creaking fan, a trite voice reading the 5 PM bulletin, and the incessant beeps from his discharged watch.

Aaron shuts his eyes, his mind drifting back towards the hustling street. He thinks about the shoeshiner. How much will that man pay him? Is he saving money to start his own shop? Is that girl with the maroon backpack going to some important meeting? What are those two children going to do with their lives?

He turns back towards the desk. A heavy sigh follows, and it all blurs. With wet cheeks, he looks at his painting as a thick layer of water engulfs the entire sheet. On top of it is the capsized water-bowl and his phone, the culprit. Under the water-film, everything seems to be moving. The cacophony of honks, the shoe brush rubbing leather, children's shoes clapping on the footpath, all add on to the existing sounds. He puts the bleeding sheet aside.

Minutes back, Aaron was dwelling on the future of people who are now a vague amalgam of colours. He picks up a new, blank sheet and starts scribbling while Katy Perry sings 'Chained to the Rhythm' on the radio.

-Prakhar Chaudhary, 3rd Year, BAE



Quarantine: Far From Home

-Anubha Kabra, Associate Designer, 2019-20

It was 8 PM on a rainy night when I, sitting in the hostel mess chewing on tasteless rice, suddenly heard loud thunder. A few minutes later, it was announced that India was entering a complete lockdown, and the panic began. Quarantining in an abandoned campus far from home seemed like a nightmare for some. Would the mess continue to be operational? Would they ask us to evacuate? Would we run out of essential items? I was more annoyed than concerned. To me, it seemed like my senior year was going down the drain. Then reality hit me - I would be trapped within the confines of my hostel for days to come. A clear image of the abandoned campus with furious ninjas and watered-down mess daal started surfacing in my head.

Surprisingly enough, my gloom soon transformed into joy. In a matter of a few days, I realized that uncertainty makes you appreciate those little things which you otherwise tend to ignore. In this time of crisis, the staff and students stuck in the hostels united (while social distancing, of course), and everyone had a hearty time laughing, sharing stories, information, resources, and helping out whenever possible. As the saying goes, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. But what about when even the lemons are sold out? As much as I am thankful to the mess for their provision of food, the monotonous diet and restrictions on ordering really bought out a Jugaad-Cook in all of us. It only took a nationwide lockdown for us to realize that Maggi is that friend we neglected all this while, but it always has our back in times of crisis.

My final days as a hosteller have become some of the best days of my college life. The drastic drop in pollution made the campus pristine and alluring. With humans in their cages, the animals started stepping out. The diversity was enthralling, nothing like what I had seen in four years of living here. The overgrown grass, clear skies, brimming animal life, and hustling trees made the campus look like something out of a Ruskin Bond book. I vividly remember that night when Orion, the hunter constellation, was shining bright before my eyes. A soothing song was playing in the background and soft winds were playfully touching my cheeks in an empty OAT. This moment was amongst the most beautiful ones I've experienced on this campus. In this solitude and quiet, I suddenly felt alive and elated.

To Messy New Beginnings

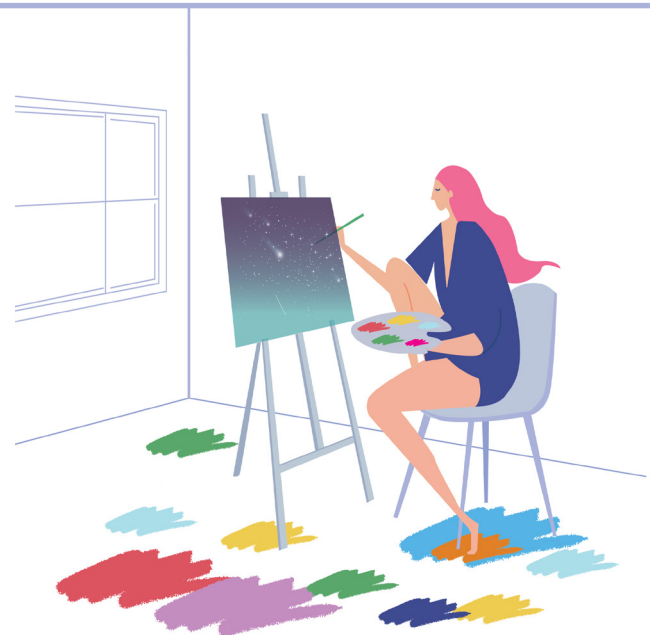
-Artika Sharma, 4th Year, ENE

The other day, as I was quarantined and bored, I decided to paint. I gathered my humble art supplies, sat down, and went straight for the dark blue paint. My paintbrush was well-dipped in paint when I realised I had completely forgotten about the water. I ran to fetch some; meanwhile, my paintbrush decided to go on a rolling adventure by itself. The dark blue paint on the floor wasn't going to sit well with my mother, and so I got up to fetch a pocha, and in the process, I knocked the paint box over. Courtesy of the haste induced in me by the fear of my old lady's wrath, I accidentally placed my hand right on the paint and by reflex, wiped it off on my t-shirt.

I think that was what made me give up: the failure that I had experienced on my very first try. I was messy, all over the place, and once I cleaned up and sat down to resume my painting, I had no idea where to begin. Sometimes, I imagine an alternate ending to this story, had I not been so impatient. I see myself, two weeks later, sitting at my desk with my art supplies well-arranged. I make smooth and gentle strokes on the canvas, painting the night sky like I wanted to.

Wistfulness then consumes me. What if I hadn't given up? I wonder how stupid it is for me to expect that I'd excel at anything in my first go. Aren't hobbies supposed to be about having fun, and you just happen to get better at them as you go? With these thoughts in my mind, I pick up the brush again. I'll continue to be messy till the day I'm not; mostly because it's fun, but also because the day I end up painting something worthwhile, I'll be grateful for the journey.

Here's to messy new beginnings!



@oyechadha_

Why We Stay Up Late: A Millennial's Guide

Srishti Mittal, 4th Year, PSCT
Anoushka Raj, 3rd Year, ENE

At the beginning of the lockdown, we promised ourselves that we'd fix our sleep schedules. However, we still ended up staying up all night, and it got us thinking - what is it about the night that's so attractive? How come our parents live by the adage 'early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise', but our generation finds it increasingly harder to do so?

The answer that your parents will give you is that there's a lot more to do now than there was 30 years ago. If you stayed up late into the night 20 years ago, you could study, read a book, make art, or maybe watch an old VCR on the family television. Now, we have an endless stream of distractions to keep us up. Sometimes the clock slips from PM to AM in a blur of cat videos, Netflix shows, and, if you're lucky, texts from a certain someone. Our thumbs and eyes have already scrolled through miles of content, and yet there is no stopping until we are entirely exhausted. The ever-lasting fear of missing out makes even mindless Instagram scrolling and aimless conversation more attractive than logging out and shutting down, lest we skip over something seemingly significant.

Add to this the perception of the ever-growing competition in the academic and professional spheres. We are intensely aware of the accomplishments of everyone around us, and this makes us want to accomplish more and more in a single day. If we aren't doing something productive, in the back of our minds we're fretting about not doing something productive. Our ever-growing to-do list eventually bleeds into the night, and every minute spent sleeping feels like time wasted. Just like we don't know when it's time to log out of social media, we don't know how to switch off our work brains.

The cover of the night offers an unparalleled sense of privacy from family and friends alike. In a way, it's a time when we can drop the pretence and be ourselves. Of course, there's also the fleeting sense of rebellion that one gets from not adhering to the social construct of time. Be it thinking about what you could have said differently in an argument or contemplating the varied mysteries of life, the lack of social expectation and a welcome feeling of isolation makes it easy to lean back and let our thoughts take over us.

But is that the real reason for our generation's fascination with the after-hours?

The way we look at it, nightfall has a certain magic to it that mornings just cannot replicate. In a world whose cogs are continually turning, the emptiness of the night seems like a good chance to slow down and oil them. Post-midnight, everything decelerates and comes to a gradual halt, noises fade from loud sirens to the gentle murmur of the night breeze, and the hours seem to have more minutes. The influence of the inky night sky with the illustrious moon that it brings along has been romanticized across pop and indie culture. We have movies like *Midnight in Paris*, books like *Midnight's Children*, entire sonnets dedicated to the beauty of the moon, and various passing references in paintings which talk about the mystery and magnificence of the night.

But millennials find the late hours appealing for more reasons than just a poeticized aesthetic, for it is also a chance to reflect and assess the self without external disturbances. When one has no obligation to indulge in needless human interactions, it gives us time to switch off, introspect, and ponder. With stress and anxiety levels on a steady rise, overthinking has taken over us like the plague (too soon?). What better time to overthink than the night? And as the Arctic Monkeys put it, "the nights were mainly made for saying things that you can't say, tomorrow day".





Nostalgia is a seductive liar

no matter if you're thinking of something good or bad, it always leaves you a little emptier afterwards.



Dear Class of 2020,

My calendar serves as a bleak reminder that just a few months ago we were making plans for the 'lasts' that we have to tick off the list before the semester ends, and now we don't even know when we will meet next. Despite your best efforts to sugarcoat the heartache, I suppose by now most of us have come to terms with the harsh reality that this year, there will be no batch photoday, no week-long farewell, no last exam shenanigans and all the paraphernalia in between as we leave without a flurry of emotional goodbyes, or teary eyed last photographs.

When we are graduating in such a

numerically balanced year, it had to be particularly prolific after all.

For the past four years, most of us had pictured this exact moment, and even passenger-ed with our seniors who enthusiastically exalted about the last semester being objectively the best time of your life. All of us had mentally rehearsed the unfolding of the events of the last month, but perhaps your last midsem ended up being your last day in college, and your quixotic Goa trip probably never happened.

But what we do have with us, is a far greater appreciation and gratitude for the time we spent here. Regardless

of this cold, unceremonious ending, our college years together have been nothing short of a dream — a dream full of late nights suffocated with haphazard revisions, loud nights immersed in indie music from someone's borrowed bluetooth speakers in the hostel, intoxicated night(out)s drowning in the hysterical laughter over the same old joke somewhere on the streets of Delhi - nights that are now stories worth commemorating for years.

It seems like forever and a half ago when, after the initial apprehension of first year, we discovered how this place carries an intrinsic charm with



herself. Over time, things unravel like a montage of orchestrated chaos as she engulfs you in and marinates herself within you; slowly, and then all at once.

Au contraire, these days - they seem slowly sinking, wishfully reminiscent of the ones when every morning was an avenue into working with excited accountability, every day was a quest to quench the tireless thirst for fresh experiences and every night soaked in a gratifying slumber.

Somewhere between the briefly comforting messages of 'We are all in this together', we stumble upon

some sporadic resilience; resilience which has been permeated with the proficiency in navigating through the crowd at Amul to find your friends; or ingrained through the patience cultivated while waiting for Chandan's maggi; or the resilience which has been soaked in you while consuming the misery sprinkled in the mess food.

So, dear class of 2020, it has been nothing short of an honour learning and growing with all of you. In these past years, I have found the most passionate and ambitious people. Dreamers and doers. People who will never stop fighting for what they believe in.

In the distant future, we would be remembered as the ones who faced unprecedented challenges right before stepping into the 'real world'. Having the infliction of being at the cusp of this inflection point, we will be a part of a new wave of problem solvers who will approach challenges in a radically different manner without taking future opportunities and relationships for granted.

gam zeh ya'avor - because that's the only inevitable thing we have, as of now, to hold on to.

Your fellow batchmate,
Shivam Jha

A GUIDE TO SOCIAL MEDIA WILDLIFE

-Ananya Kapoor, 2nd Year, EE

Welcome to today's class of Social Media 101, in which you'll learn about the strange creatures that populate the vast jungle of social media.

The Bootlicker

Often found lurking on celebrities' Instagram and Twitter pages, the bootlicker is an extremely loyal creature. It is devoted to one particular celebrity/politician/party and becomes extremely aggressive if its master is insulted.

The SJW

One of the most ubiquitous creatures of the social media jungle, the Social Justice Warrior believes in its own moral superiority and ignores all voices of fact and reason. Any sort of aggressive behaviour on your part is liable to be met with outraged howls.

The Perfectionist

Found in the boroughs of Instagram, the perfectionist is an incredibly sleek and well-groomed creature. It occupies a cotton-candy universe of international travel, exotic food and self-promotion. Though completely non-violent, it often inspires self-loathing in the casual observer and prolonged contact may even lead to depression. Better to steer clear.

The Spammer

The most annoying creature of the jungle, the spammer is often found residing in family WhatsApp groups. Its method of attack is ruining your day by flooding your inbox with 'good morning' messages, inspirational videos, or even fake news. Blocking is the only way to stop it from creating chaos.

The Meme Lord

The meme lord is the king of the jungle and the only source of entertainment in these bleak surroundings. It is the only creature you may feel proud of yourself for befriending.

AN ODE TO THE MISSING MONTHS

-Akanksha Tanwar, 3rd Year, IT

Usually, you can spot me cursing college for curating 99% of my daily problems. It took a pandemic for me to realise how much DTU means to me. When I gaze at it from afar, it stands tall and empty, a pompous monument. I saw a picture of our campus on Instagram; monotonous, failing to capture its grey traits and the celestial bodies above, unable to capture the transcendent nature of this carefully structured brick palace. I took a moment to assess my relationship with this university, minus all the hustle and the people that reside inside it; that moment held me captive against my own motifs and dreams. Had I not walked along the sleek and idiosyncratic paths, would my life be the same?

If you take a night stroll, you can feel a light breeze take over you and might want to contemplate how this college gives a part of it to everyone who leaves. You can never quite get rid of the scent of DTU. The aforementioned stars can be figuratively thought of as the people who took souvenirs from this college and decorated them as luminous ornaments above and beyond it, which makes me think of DTU as the confetti of a glitter-filled milky way. If I were to leave soon, I would derange from the thought of partition. To top it up, some apocalyptic scenario taking over would tick away precious days from my timeline. I miss the crowded MechC, students blasting music near the PR desks, lads wearing goggles and eating away a lollipop, and above all, our sacred relationship. I wish that before parting for this long, indefinite vacation, I could pay you back - or rather steal something from you - for I want to be forever in your debt.





HARRY POTTER AND THE PROCRASTINATOR'S DON'TS

-Mandeep Singh, 3rd Year, COE

It was a rather murky night when I heard my phone buzz. The text on the phone read: "PUBG at 10, be online!". With a mild feeling of defiance and some pity towards the incomplete assignment lying on my table, I mustered enough courage to send a negative response. However, my deference was quickly turned down, and it was at that moment when I was first notified, "You are a gamer, Mandy!"

With this life-altering revelation began the arduous journey of a bright, expeditious teen against the 'Dark Art of Procrastination'. As it turned out, the sophisticated world of hard work and punctuality was grappled by the dark forces of an evil infamously termed as 'sleep'. It was said that even thinking about it would have severe repercussions, such as falling asleep during classes, deferring assignments to the next day and then to the next day, and so on. As if this wasn't enough, the Dark Lord had a slew of accomplices called the 'Time Eaters', the most powerful of them being 'Social Media', joined by two others, namely 'Binge-Watching' and 'Videogames'.

As the clouds of procrastination loomed over my hopes of acing the end-semester exams once again, I found myself locked in a duel with the Dark Lord. "From this day forth, you shall put all your time in me", proclaimed the Dark Lord, followed by a powerful burst of indolence. Aggregating all the spirits, I too, let out a resistance and thus, having collided with each other, the two energies fused to grow into a dazzling sphere, only to blind everyone.

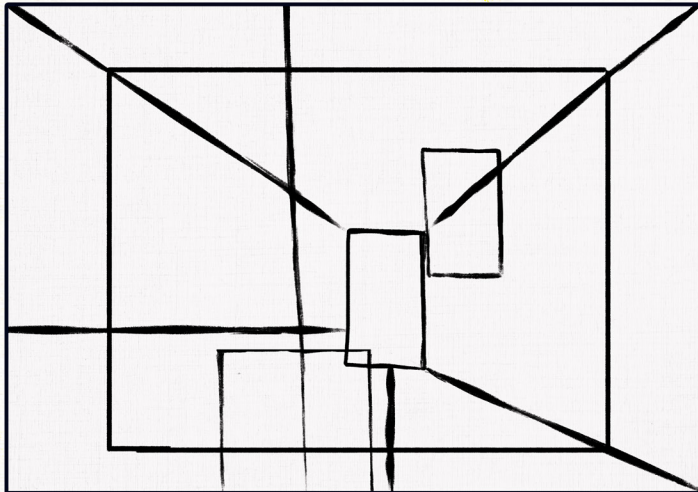
I regained consciousness after hearing a loud thud on my door. Entering the room in haste, my mother questioned, "Aren't you supposed to stay up late to study for your exam tomorrow? Have you been sleeping, after all this time?"

"Always!", I muttered.

✓
JUST DO IT. LATER

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

-Sourajit Bhattacharjee, Head of Illustrations, 2019-20



Set perspective lines on a blank canvas or imagine them



Make a rough sketch focusing on the subject's placement



Fill in colours and make sure they blend with each other



Fix the direction of light source. Add shades and highlights

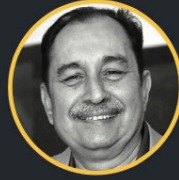


Add more details to the subjects and background



Add final touches to the illustration and adjust the colours

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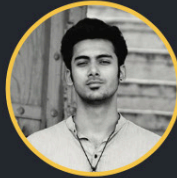


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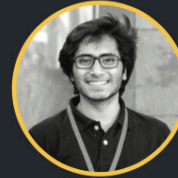
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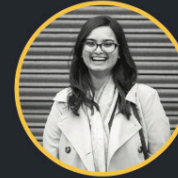
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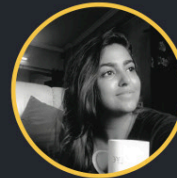
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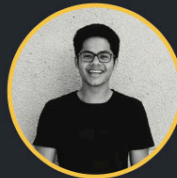
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Dear Class of 2020,
As we bid you a one of a kind e-farewell,
we assure you that this forgettable send-off
has not watered down our longing
to gossip with you over that last cup of tea,
to pester you one last time for relationship advice,
to say those heart-wrenching final goodbyes.
And every time navigating college
will feel harrowing, we'll think about
all those times when you
were there to make it easy for us.



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