#52 DTU TIMES

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Goodbyes are really tough. Bidding adieu to a team that has given me an identity amidst the sea of faces on campus is like bidding farewell to a version of myself that I can no longer hold onto. I've been putting off writing this since so long; I never thought writing a final Editor's Note would be so difficult.

It was an August evening when I hurriedly got on the metro from Kashmere Gate to make it on time for the interview of the coveted DTU Times. That evening turned out to be a riveting teaser of the wondrous journey I would embark upon here. To think that the pandemic would pour cold water on the closing phase of this journey and on our hopes for a proper signoff!

Thanks to the seat matrix of DTU, everything except the hostels here are dominated by the *Delhiites*. I experienced the same in Times as well. Not being from the capital made me feel that I wasn't exposed to many *modern* ideas that people from my year put forward during the first meeting at OAT. I was intimidated and felt like an outsider. During the initial few weeks, I was very reserved and self-contained. But the people here were so accommodating and welcoming, that right after the first major event, NFEST-2017, all my scepticism went away. I began to see myself as an insider, and realized that this team welcomes everyone with open arms and hearts.

I haven't been an active member of any other society, nor was I much involved in any fest, so this team was like a family for me away from home. I used to look forward to team meetings, treats from seniors, interviews, get-togethers and what not! You talk about mess meals and curfews with your hostelmates, and borrow extensive notes from your classmates. But with my colleagues from DTU Times, there was no limit to any discussion. This is where I found seniors to take guidance from, juniors to mentor and friends to rant about literally anything.

Bidding farewell to seniors over the years never makes you want to be at the receiving end. Sooner or later everything has to end, and you try to accept the reality. You prepare yourself to experience everything one last time from the last lecture to the last nap in the hostel room. The feathers of this imaginary train of thought were clipped by the meandering waves of the pandemic.

The absence of that *last moment* from the four-year journey makes the end very difficult. I have already talked about the pain of bidding farewell to the home of four (or maybe three) years in "~~Virtual~~ Incomplete Goodbyes". The pain of parting with this team without a formal end will sting me the most. I always wanted to conduct a *Times meeting* in the ECE Seminar Hall as the head of the team, but never got a chance. Saying goodbye to everyone and everything on a pre-scheduled Google Meet doesn't do justice to what the team has given me over the years.

While nothing can replace traditional goodbyes, we have to adapt to these tough times and accept our fate. Through this farewell edition and my final edition of DTU Times, we humbly try to bid a warm farewell to the graduating batch with a hope that everyone fondly remembers the time when our team members used to hand out the new editions to you all in the campus.

Hoping to see you on campus at the convocation!

Signing off!

- Parangat Mittal, Editor-in-Chief

FROM THE DESK OF THE
VICE-CHANCELLOR

Setting foot into its 80th year, Delhi Technological University continues to sustain its manifest eminence and profound fraternity. The university has persevered with the various exponential advancements and has continued to facilitate better furtherance of excellence in scientific and technical education, management and allied areas. The university encourages the development of human potential to its full extent and aims to shape an environment of collaboration, experimentation, imagination and creativity.

With the world experiencing an unabated surge in a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic causing untold sufferings and unraveling of social interactions, innumerable impediments to the conventional functioning of the university became apparent. At the present juncture, giving paramount importance to everyone's safety has been compromised in no way and the mandatory shift to an online infrastructure was hence done quickly and seamlessly.

Nevertheless, education is boundless, and withstanding the scenario of uncertainty, the faculty members, staff and students have cooperated and consented to every unanticipated resolution. As another academic year comes full circle, I commend the resilience of our students, who remain relentlessly dedicated and continue to strive for excellence in their academics and beyond; and I sincerely applaud the efforts of the faculty and staff members, who, through their actionable guidance continue to shape these young minds through these difficult times.

Over the past year, we witnessed the batch of 2021 persist through the pandemic and yet shine through by bagging placements at top companies in India and abroad, as well as receiving admits to some of the most prestigious universities throughout the world. They are testament to what our student community can achieve despite any number of hurdles. I would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2021, and wish them the very best for their future endeavors.

With continual efforts towards improvements in teaching pedagogy, the university acclaimed the launch of the newly constructed building of the Department of Design and a new classroom complex, 'Pragya Bhawan'. These, without a doubt, were substantial inaugurations for the entire varsity. Furthermore, the launch of the 'Lab on Wheels' programme was an exceptional initiative for the expansion of digital literacy to the underserved areas of Delhi and will be taken forward by the students of the university. I extend my sincere appreciation to all the volunteers.

It gives me immense pleasure to see the students excel in various aspects of their lives and also provide their peers with relevant assistance and guidance towards success. In the end, I also offer my warmest congratulations to the team of DTU Times for their resolute efforts in the publication of their 52nd edition.

THE BULLETIN

Information Security in the Era of Deep Learning

Department of Computer Science Engineering, DTU organised an Online Short Term Training Program on *"Information Security in the Era of Deep Learning : Challenges and Opportunities"* in February, 2021. The program was sponsored by **ISEA project**, *Phase-II, MeitY, Government of India.* **Prof. Yogesh Singh,** *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,* DTU served as the Patron.

Session on US Higher Education

Education USA organised an online session on *"Your 5 steps to U.S. Higher Education"* in February, 2021. **Dr. Sonal Thakur,** *Coordinator, Scholarship & Intern, Office of International Affairs,* DTU was the head of the event. The event aimed at enlightening the students about the abundant higher studies opportunities offered by the U.S.

Session on Cloud Computing

Department of Training & Placement, DTU, in association with **The Royal Bank of Scotland** organised a session on *"The Overview of Cloud including Cloud Concepts"* in February, 2021. **Prof. Rajesh Rohilla,** *Head, Training & Placement Department,* DTU was the head of the event. The students got innumerous insights into cloud computing, which is a thriving topic in the field of computer science.

Pandemic Fitness Run

Sports Council, DTU organised the *"Pandemic Fitness Run",* a marathon for the students of DTU, in March, 2021. **Prof. Yogesh Singh,** *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,* DTU, was the Chief Guest of the event. The event aimed to give the students a refreshing break from the ongoing pandemic stress.

Inauguration of the Department of Software Engineering

Delhi Technological University inaugurated its newly formed **Department of Software Engineering** in March, 2021. It had its first inauguration meeting with **Prof. Yogesh Singh,** *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* and **Dr. Ruchika Malhotra**, *HoD, Department of Software Engineering,* to discuss the future goals and initiatives for the newly formed department.

EPWRF India Time series

The Central Library, DTU organised an online training session on *"EPWRF India Time Series (EPWRF ITS)"* in March, 2021. The training session was open to all students and faculty members of the **Department of Humanities,** *Delhi School of Management (DSM)* and **University School of Management and Entrepreneurship (USME)**, *DTU.* It aimed at training students and the faculty about the EPWRF ITS online database.

Inauguration of Manthan Hall

University School of Management and Entrepreneurship (USME), DTU inaugurated its newly constructed **Mathan Hall** in March, 2021. **Mr. Manish Sisodia,** *Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister* inaugurated the Hall in the presence of P**rof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU.* Later on, he interacted with the students of the MBA course on '*Family Business and Entrepreneurship*'.

Inauguration of the Samsung Innovation Lab

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, DTU inaugurated the **Samsung Innovation Lab** in March, 2021. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* and **Mr. Kyungyun Roo**, *Managing Director, Samsung R&D Institute, Noida (SRI-N)* inaugurated the lab. **Prof. Rajni Jindal**, *Head of Department, Computer Science and Engineering, DTU* and **Dr. Divyashikha Sethia,** *Faculty, Computer Science and Engineering* coordinated the event.

SAMSUNG LAB MAR 2021

SAMSUNG LAB MAR 2021

Prototype/Process Design and Development Prototyping

Department of Mechanical Engineering, **DTU** and **DTU Innovation And Incubation Foundation** organised a one day workshop on **"Prototype/Process Design and Development Prototyping"** in March, 2021. **Prof. Samsher**, *Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, DTU* was the Chair of the event. **Prof. Qasim Murtaza**, *Department of Mechanical Engineering, DTU* was the Coordinator of the event while **Mr. Deepak Kumar** and **Dr. Ravi Butola**, *Department of Mechanical Engineering, DTU* served as the co-coordinators.

Mentorship Session for Student Entrepreneurs

The Department of Civil Engineering, **DTU,** in association with **Innovation and Incubation Foundation,** DTU organised a one day long Online Workshop on **"Mentorship Session for Innovators or Student Entrepreneurs through Experts (or) Innovation Ambassadors/Innovation Agent"** in March, 2021. **Prof. V. K Minocha**, *HoD, Department of Civil Engineering* was the Chairperson while **Prof. Raju Sarkar**, *Department of Civil Engineering* served as the coordinator for the event.

Formation of Anti-Cyberbullying Cell

Delhi Technological University announced the formation of an **Anti-Cyberbullying Cell** in March, 2021, to deal with various issues related to cyberbullying. **Prof. S. Indu**, *Dean Student Affairs* was appointed as its Chairperson.

Workshop on Deep Learning and its Applications

Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, **DTU** organised a one week long online workshop on **"Deep Learning and its Applications"** in March, 2021. **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* served as the Patron. **Prof. N.S. Raghava,** *HoD, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering* was the Convener, while **Prof. R.K. Agrawal**, *School of Computer and System Sciences, JNU* served as the Speaker for the event. **Prof. S. Indu**, *Dean Student Welfare* and **Asst. Prof. N. Jayanthi,** *Department of Electronics and Communications* were the coordinators for the event.

Collaboration with the Embassy of France

Delhi Technological University, in association with the **Embassy of France,** organised an online webinar in April, 2021, for the students of the university. The webinar was aimed to orient the students about further studies as well as scholarship opportunities in France.

FDP on National Education Policy 2020

Centre for Value Based Education, DTU organised an Online Faculty Development Program on **"Ethics and values in Technical Education in Context of National Education Policy 2020"** in April 2021. **Prof. Yogesh Singh,** *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU* was the Chief Patron of the event and **Dr. T. Vijay Kumar,** *Head, Centre for Value Based Education, DTU* served as the Chairman. **Dr. Pradeep K. Goyal**, *University Co-coordinator AICTE-UHV Program & Associate Professor Dept. of Civil Engg, DTU, Delhi* was the Course Coordinator of the event.

Lab on Wheels

Delhi Technological University launched the **'Lab on Wheels'** programme on April 6, 2021. The mobile lab is customised to bring forth accessible schooling to students in Delhi with an aim to bring further provision of quality school education along with higher education.

Mr. Manish Sisodia, *Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister* inaugurated the programme, which will act as an information and guidance cell for the students of Delhi Government's schools. The programme was attended by eminent officials including **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU*, **Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar**, *Director, Secretory (TTE), Govt. of NCT of Delhi*, and **Mr. Udit Prakash Rai**, *Director of Education*. The dignitaries also inaugurated the newly constructed classroom complex- **'Pragya Bhavan'**.

Launched under the **'Education Reaches You'** initiative of DTU, the **'Lab on Wheels'** is a customised bus equipped with **17 computers, two televisions, a 3D printer, cameras and a printer** to mentor **44 lakh government school students** and assist them in becoming future-ready. Apart from this, the scheme also centres on **basic computer training, teaching regular classwork to class 10th and 12th students and 3D printing training**.

INAU. PRAGYA BHAVAN 2021

Inauguration of the Department of Design

Delhi Technological University inaugurated the newly built infrastructure of the *Department of Design* on April 6, 2021. The inauguration of the new centre was held in the presence of **Mr. Manish Sisodia**, *Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister*, and **Prof. Yogesh Singh,** *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, DTU*. The inauguration was also addressed by the Guest of Honour, **Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar**, *Director, Secretary (TTE), Govt. of NCT of Delhi.*

On the occasion, **Mr. Manish Sisodia** was acquainted with the various aspects of the Department of Design by the students. The **Department of Design**, DTU is envisioned to pursue excellence in design thinking, design scholarship and design practice for the holistic development of the society. It aims to bring forth graduates devoted to exacting professional excellence and distinctive integrity and strategise the development of Centres of Excellence in **Service Design, Interactive Design, Product Design, Visual Communication and allied areas.**

INAU. DESIGN DEPT. 2021

INAU. DESIGN DEPT. 2021

Interview

Parth Batra

DTU Times interviewed Parth Batra, ECE, Class of 2020, who secured an AIR 2 in the Engineering Services Exam (ESE-2020).

How was your experience during the internship and placement season?

I went off-campus to join a startup in my fourth semester. At the end of the sixth semester, I did my internship there itself. I also didn't sit for placements because I wanted to go for a Master's.

Why did you choose to go for a startup internship?

The kind of work you get to do at a startup is not comparable to any big company. Unlike big companies, startups usually don't have a lot of capital or workforce. A startup has one single idea with a limited set of people who are also managing things. During my startup journey, I learned technical work in the Electronics division, but I was also involved in the HR department and helped out with the recruitments.

What motivated you to prepare for ESE and GATE, and how were you so decisive about your career choice?

My family definitely motivated me to pursue such a career path. I was 90% sure by the second year that this is what I wanted to do. I kept my options open till then, just in case something better came up. I didn't find anything better, so I went with this option in the end. My sole motivation was the kind of impact these professions can have on society. The basic idea is to serve my country in a way that would make my engineering skills useful.

How did you prepare for these exams, and what role did DTU and coaching play in your preparation?

At the beginning of college, preparation and success are more about mindset. After that, it's just about grasping concepts properly. During my second year, I focused on my college curriculum. I joined DTU because I wanted to do ESE. Most concepts related to the exam were first formed at DTU. The faculty is great, and they helped me throughout the preparation of the exam. They were really approachable and made sure that I cleared my doubts and understood the concepts. The library had plenty of resources and provided me with a place to study. I also tried to build my profile in Electronics by working on projects that helped in my interview. In my third year, I joined coaching classes as I thought it would be better to have some guidance from people whose job is to guide students. It is possible to do this even without coaching, but there needs to be some advice and a source of direction.

Should the preparation for ESE Mains start after Prelims? What order would you recommend for future aspirants?

ESE Prelims is about speed and accuracy, while the Mains exam tests your concepts and detailing. If you have a strong grasp of the concepts before Prelims while studying for the first time or are revising, then there's not much difference in preparation for the two stages. Mains, being subjective, tests for the derivations and deeper concepts which can be prepared for after Prelims also, so it is important to first grasp the concepts.

What advice would you give to the ESE aspirants regarding the personality test round?

For the personality test round, focus on building your personality through the work you have done. I worked at a startup, and that definitely helped with the interview. Most of my interview revolved around the projects I did, which helped me increase my interview score.

What final piece of advice would you give to juniors who are aspiring to follow in your footsteps?

It is very important to understand "why" you want to do this. Once that is done, figuring out the "how" part will be easy for you. You'll find the proper guidance and direction once you understand your reason for doing this. Have a clear aim and direction in which you want to proceed. You'll then have a hard time succeeding at either of those things. That's why it is crucial to find a solid reason to go for one thing and stick to it till the end.

Faculty News & Achievements

Awards, Honours, and Conferences

Prof. S. Indu, Dept. of Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Awardee, Commendable Research Award, *DTU*
- Member, Selection Committee of IES, *Union Public Service Commission*
- Organiser, Workshop, 'Deep Learning and its Applications', *DTU*

Prof. Rachna Garg, Dept. of Electrical Engineering
- Nominee, Chairperson, *IEEE, Delhi Section*

Prof. Rahul Katarya, Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering
- Awardee, Commendable Research Award, *DTU*

Prof. Vinod Kumar Yadav, Dept. of Electrical Engineering
- Awardee, Commendable Research Award, *DTU*

Dr. A. K. Haritash, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Environmental Engineering
- Awardee, Prominent Alumnus Award (Citation), *Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar*

Dr. Saroj Bala, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Humanities
- Attendee, Conference, 'Amish Tripathi's Vision of Inclusivity', *Manipal University, Jaipur*
- Speaker, 'Interview Skills', *Kasturba Institute of Technology*
- Participant, FDP, 'Emotional Intelligence', *NPTEL*
- Presenter, 'Parshuram as a Role Model: A Perspective', *Dyal Singh College, Karnal*

Dr. Shilpa Pal, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Civil Engineering
- Attendee, 'Ethics and Values in Technical Education in Context of National Education Policy 2020', *DTU*
- Speaker, 'Seismic effect on Structures', *Govt. Polytechnic, Odisha*
- Elected, Governing Council Member, *Indian Association of Structural Engineers*

Dr. Yasha Hasija, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Biotechnology
- Awardee, Premier Research Award, *DTU*
- Attendee, FDP, 'Ethics and Values in Technical Education in Context of National Education Policy 2020', *DTU*
- Presenter, 'Single-Cell RNA Sequencing Data Analysis: An Overview', International Conference on Recent Challenges in Engineering Science and Technology, *Ramachandra College of Engineering, Eluru*
- Presenter, 'A brief overview of Artificial Intelligence in the field of Medical and Healthcare', International Conference on Recent Challenges in Engineering Science and Technology, *Ramachandra College of Engineering, Eluru*
- Presenter, 'Misinformation- A challenge to medical sciences: A systematic review', International Conference on Machine Learning and Big Data Analytics, *IIT Patna*
- Presenter, 'NLP based tools for decoding the language for life', International Conference on Emerging Trends and Technologies on Intelligent Systems, *Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Noida*
- Presenter, 'Recall based Machine Learning approach in early detection of cervical cancer', IEEE International Conference for Convergence in Technology, *Lonavala*

Dr. Akshay Mann, Asst. Prof., Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Attendee, FDP, 'Machine Learning for Computer Vision', *DTU*

Dr. Anurag Goel, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering
- Attendee, 'Graduate Symposium', *Google Research, India*
- Attendee, 'Recent Trends in Image Processing and Security Under TEQIP-III', *MITS, Gwalior*

Dr. Chhavi Dhiman, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Awardee, Premier Research Award, *DTU*

Dr. Dinesh Udar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Applied Mathematics
- Attendee, 'International Conference on Mathematical

Modeling, Computational Intelligence Techniques and Renewable Energy', *Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gujarat*
- Presenter, 'Rings whose Nonunits Are Multiple of Unit and Strongly Nilpotent Element', International Conference on Mathematical Modelling, Computational Intelligence Techniques and Renewable Energy, *Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, Gujarat*

Dr. Lokesh Gautam, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Attendee, Short-term Course, 'Analog Integrated Circuit Design', *IIT Delhi*

Dr. Mohan Singh Mehata, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Applied Physics
- Patent Granted, 'Apparatus and Method for Detecting Electric Field Modulated Absorption and Photoluminescence of a Sample'

Dr. Prashant Giridhar Shambharkar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering
- Awardee, Commendable Research Award, *DTU*
- Attendee, Workshop, 'Recent Trends in Image Processing and Security', *Madhav Institute of Technology*

Dr. Ravindra Singh, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Design
- External Examiner, *Institute of Design, Noida*

Dr. Smita Rastogi Verma, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Biotechnology
- Attendee, Workshop, 'Intellectual Property Rights and IP Management', *DTU*
- Attendee, FDP, 'Good Laboratory Practices', *Sharda University, Noida*
- Attendee, International Symposium, 'Women in Science', *Department of Biotechnology, DTU*
- Attendee, International Workshop, 'Computational Approaches in Drug Design & Therapeutics', *Drug Discovery & Development Cluster, Amity University, Chhattisgarh*

Dr. Sumit Kale, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Participant, Symposium, 'Recent Technological Advancement in Wide/Ultra-wide Bandgap Semiconductor Materials, Devices and Applications: A Step Towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat', *BITS Pilani*

Publications

Prof. S. Indu, Dept. of Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Editor, *Digital Techniques for Heritage Presentation and Preservation*
- Author, 'Chapter 1: Introduction to Heritages and Heritage Management: A Preview', Book Chapter, *Digital Techniques for Heritage Presentation and Preservation*
- Author, 'Chapter 2: Language-Based Text Categorization: A Survey', Book Chapter, *Digital Techniques for Heritage Presentation and Preservation*
- Author, 'Chapter 9: Improving Landmark Recognition Using Saliency Detection and Feature Classification', Book Chapter, *Digital Techniques for Heritage Presentation and Preservation*

Prof. Pravir Kumar, HoD, Dept. of Biotechnology
- 'Post-translational modifications: Regulators of neurodegenerative proteinopathies', *Ageing Research Review*
- 'Deep learning approach: an excellent and modernised tool for drug discovery', *Molecular Diversity*
- 'Computational analysis indicates that PARP1 acts as HDAC interactor sharing common lysine residues for acetylation, ubiquitination, and SUMOylation in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease', *ACS Omega*

Prof. A.S. Rao, Dept. of Applied Physics
- 'UV-B (ultraviolet-B) emitting Gd^{3+} activated Ba_2SiO_4 phosphor prepared by sol-gel method', *Optik*
- 'Enhanced visible green and 1.5µm radiative emission of Er^{3+} ions in $Li_2O-PbO-Al_2O_3-B_2O_3$ glasses for photonic applications', *Journal of Rare Earths*
- 'Judd-Ofelt itemization and influence of energy transfer on Sm^{3+} ions activated $B_2O_3-ZnF_2-SrO-SiO_2$ glasses for orange-red emitting devices', *Journal of Luminescence*
- 'Luminescence features of Mn^{2+}-doped Zn_2SiO_4: A green color emitting phosphor for solid state lighting', *Optik*
- 'NIR Photoluminescence studies of Nd^{3+} doped $B_2O_3-BaF_2-PbF_2-Al_2O_3$ glasses for 1.063 µm laser applications', *Journal of Luminescence*
- 'Luminescence and EPR studies of UVB emitting YPO_4 doped with Gd^{3+} ions', *Optik*
- 'Ultraviolet emission from sol-gel derived $Ca_3MgSi_2O_8$ doped with trivalent gadolinium phosphors', Optik
- 'Narrow-band Ultraviolet B (UVB) emitting $CaZr_4(PO_4)_6$ doped with Gd^{3+} phosphor', *Optik*
- 'Spectral Characterization of Dy^{3+} ions doped phosphate glasses for yellow laser applications', *Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids*
- 'Structural, optical and photoluminescence properties of alkaline-earth boro tellurite glasses doped with trivalent Neodymium for 1.06µm optoelectronic devices', *Optical Materials*

Prof. Dinesh K. Vishwakarma, Dept. of Information Technology

- 'A Temporal Ensembling based Semi supervised ConvNet for the Detection of Fake News Articles', *Expert Systems with Applications*
- '3D Human Activity Recognition by Forming a Movement Polygon using Posture Skeletal Data from Depth Sensor', *ETRI Journal*
- 'HAN, Image Captioning, and Forensics Ensemble Multimodal Fake News Detection', *Information Sciences*
- 'Crowd Anomaly Detection with LSTMs Using Optical Features and Domain Knowledge for Improved Inferring', *The Visual Computer*
- 'Clickbait in Social Media: Detection and Analysis of the Bait', Conference on Information Sciences and Systems, *Johns Hopkins University, USA*
- 'A Unified Audio Analysis Framework For Movie Genre Classification Using Movie Trailers', *IEEE International Conference on Emerging Smart Computing and Informatics, IIT Pune*
- 'Machine Learned Classifiers for Trustworthiness Assessment of Web Information Contents', *IEEE International Conference on Computing, Communication, and Intelligent Systems, Sharda University, Noida*
- 'Deep Neural Architecture for Veracity Analysis of Multimodal Online Information', *IEEE International Conference on Cloud Computing, Data Science & Engineering, Amity University, Noida*

Prof. Nand Kumar, Dept. of Humanities

- 'Are exports and imports of India's trading partners cointegrated? Evidence from Fourier bootstrap ARDI procedure', *Empirical Economics*
- 'An Empirical Investigation of the Disaggregated Import Demand Function: Non-linear ARDL Framework', *Empirical Economics*

Prof. Neeta Pandey, Dept. of Electronics and Communication Engineering

- 'A data-independent 9T SRAM cell with enhanced ION/IOFF ratio and RBL voltage swing in near threshold and sub-threshold region', *International Journal of Circuit Theory and Applications*
- 'Hybrid Dynamic CML with Modified Current Source (H-MDyCML): A Low-Power Dynamic MCML Style', *Advances in Electrical and Electronic Engineering*
- 'Electronically Tunable VDTA-Based Multi-function Inverse Filter', *Iranian Journal of Science and Technology*
- 'Electronically Tunable Multifunction Transadmittance-Mode Fractional-Order Filter', *Arabian Journal for Science and Engineering*
- 'Approximate Karatsuba multiplier for error-resilient applications', *AEU - International Journal of Electronics and Communications*

Prof. Pradeep Kumar Suri, Delhi School of Management

- 'Framework for agricultural e-trading platform adoption using neural networks', *International Journal of Information Technology*
- 'Modeling the Enablers of e-Trading Adoption in Agricultural Marketing: A TISM Based Analysis of eNAM', *Vision: The Journal of Business Perspective*

Prof. Radheshyam Saha, Dept. of Electrical Engineering

- 'An Adaptive Master-Slave Technique using Converter Current Modulation in VSC-based MTDC System', *IEEE International Conference for Convergence in Technology, Pune*
- 'Two Stage Stochastic programming model for optimal scheduling of RE based Virtual Power Plants in Electricity Markets'. *IEEE International Conference for Convergence in Technology, Pune*

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

- 'EnPSO: An AutoML Technique For Generating Ensemble Recommender System', *Arabian Journal for Science and Engineering*
- 'CoVNet-19: A Deep Learning Model for the Detection and Analysis of COVID-19 Patients', *Applied Soft Computing*

Prof. Vinay Gautam, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

- 'Analytical and Numerical Prediction of Springback of SS/Al-Alloy Cladded Sheet in V-Bending', *Journal of Manufacturing Science and Engineering*

Prof. Vinod Kumar Yadav, Dept. of Electrical Engineering

- 'Critical review of Indian power sector reform strategies through combined Shannon's entropy and data envelopment analysis model', *Utilities Policy*

Dr. A. K. Haritash, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Environmental Engineering

- 'Catabolic enzyme activities during biodegradation of three-ring PAHs by novel DTU-1Y and DTU-7P strains isolated from petroleum-contaminated soil', *Archives of Microbiology*
- 'Hydrogeochemical Assessment of Groundwater for Drinking and Agricultural Use: A Case Study of Rural Areas of Alwar, Rajasthan', *Environmental Management*

Dr. Janardan Prasad Kesari, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

- 'Analysis of Photovoltaic (PV) Power Technology', *International Journal of Engineering Research & Technology*
- 'Solar Roadways: The Roadways To Next Generation', *International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology*
- 'Study On The Solar Pond Mechanism', *International*

Research Journal of Modernization in Engineering Technology and Science

- 'A Review on Floating Photovoltaic Power Plant', *International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology*

Dr. Yasha Hasija, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Biotechnology
- 'A Review of Deep Learning for Protein Function Prediction', *International Conference for Emerging Technology, Belgaum*
- 'Next generation 5G Wireless Technologies in Healthcare', *International Conference on ICT for Intelligent Systems, Ahmedabad*
- 'Recall-based Machine Learning approach for early detection of Cervical Cancer', *IEEE International Conference for Convergence in Technology, Pune*
- Author, *Hands on Data Science for Biologists using Python*

Dr. Ashish Girdhar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering
- 'A novel grayscale image encryption approach based on chaotic maps and image blocks', *Applied Physics B*

Dr. Lokesh Gautam, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Electronics and Communication Engineering
- 'From Classical to Quantum: A review of recent progress in Reinforcement Learning', *IEEE International Conference of Emerging Technologies, Belgaum*

Dr. Manish Jain, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Applied Chemistry
- 'Artificial Neural Network-based modeling of the dehydration of the alcohol-water system using pervaporation process', *International Online Congress on Membranes and Membrane Assisted Processes, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kolkata*
- 'Artificial Neural Network based modeling of the vacuum membrane distillation process: Effects of operating parameters on membrane foulin', *Chemical Engineering and Processing: Process Intensification*

Dr. Meha Joshi, Asst. Prof., Delhi School of Management
- 'Understanding the moderation effect of age and gender on the relationship between employee career attitude and organisational citizenship behaviour: A developing country perspective', *Managerial and Decision Economics*

Dr. Mohan Singh Mehata, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Applied Physics
- 'An efficient excited-state proton transfer fluorescence quenching based probe (7-hydroxyquinoline) for sensing trivalent cations in aqueous environment', *Journal of Molecular Liquids*
- 'Synthesis of fluorescent graphene quantum dots from graphene oxide and their application in fabrication of GQDs AgNPs nanohybrids and sensing of H2O2.', *Ceramics International*

- 'Interaction between picric acid and 5-aminoquinoline: A theoretical study', *Journal of Atomic, Molecular, Condensed Matter & Nano Physics*
- 'Synthesis of photoactivated highly fluorescent Mn2+-doped ZnSe quantum dots as effective lead sensor in drinking water', *Materials Research Bulletin*

Dr. Navneeta Bharadwaj, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Biotechnology
- 'Nanomaterials for remediation of contaminants: a review', *Environmental Chemistry Letters*
- 'Phycoremediation of effluents containing dyes and its prospects for value-added products: A review of opportunities', *Journal of Water Process Engineering*
- 'Algal-Based Wastewater Treatment and Biorefinery', *Wastewater Treatment*
- '14 Biodiesel Additives. Biodiesel Fuels: Science', *Technology, Health, and Environment*

Dr. Rajeev Kumar Mishra, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Environmental Engineering
- 'Evaluation of urban transport-environment sustainable indicators during Odd–Even scheme in India', *Environment, Development and Sustainability*

Dr. Ravindra Singh, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Design
- 'A designer's perspective on ankylosis spondylitis and it's impact on quality of life', *Ergonomics International Journal*

Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
- 'Numerical study for dynamic fracture toughness of AA7075-T651 under dynamic loading', *Materials Today: Proceedings*

Dr. Smita Rastogi Verma, Asst. Prof., Dept. of Biotechnology
- 'Molecular Detection and Exploration of Diversity Among Fungal Consortium Involved in Phosphate Solubilization', *Geomicrobiology Journal*

Parangat Mittal (Editor-in-Chief): My biggest takeaway from DTU would be to manage, to multitask but also to have fun. Times is very close to my heart, and being immersed in its workflow has always felt like a personal connection.

Pratik Anand (Student Head): I made a ton of memories in college and got into quite a lot of trouble as well. Once, I was in the Haunted lane with a friend at night. A professor pulled up in his car right behind us and demanded an explanation!

Priyansh Gupta (Student Head): Whenever the realization hits that college is going to end soon and we're all going to move to separate cities, it becomes a lot to take in.

Nandana Tiwari (Head of Development): I'll miss the memories I made with my friends and just the whole experience outside of studies. What I will definitely not miss is the stress. There are no more deadlines after deadlines!

Ankit Dutta (Head of Photography): I think I'll miss the hostel the most, especially all those nights I spent playing volleyball at 2 AM in the morning and all the time I spent hanging out at Mic Mac and Amul.
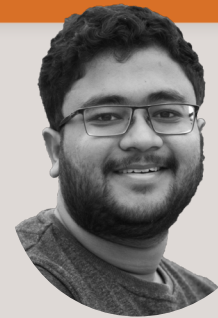
Kushagra Krishna Agrawal (Student Advisor): Though I've only had about two and a half years of a "proper" college experience, I would still say that college life is the most fun anybody has.

Meet
Tea

Karan Singh Bora (Associate Editor): A common theme in DTU is that either your first fest would be your favourite or your last. Since I never got my last one, my first fest is my favourite.
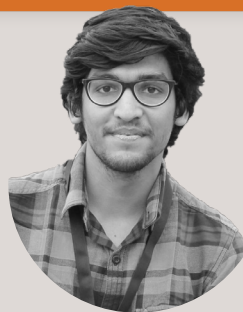
Sambhav Jain (Associate Developer): हॉस्टल की मटरगश्तियाँ, खासकर रात के 11 बजे के बाद का जो समय था, मेरे लिए कॉलेज के सबसे यादगार पलों में से रहेगा। प्रथम वर्ष में हम दोस्तों का ग्रुप बना था, थोड़े ही समय में सभी ऐसे घुल-मिल गये कि दूसरे साल से अपने कमरे के दर्शन तभी होते थे जब सोने का इरादा हो।

G. Uday Sai (Columnist): Last year, around the same time, we had made fun of our seniors because they weren't able to get a proper farewell but today, I find myself in the same boat!

The Team

Srishti Mittal (Managing Editor): I've done a lot of 'e-lafdas' but they helped me grow as a person, so I don't regret them!

Anushka Sharma (Managing Editor): I'd really miss the dogs. They really have my heart. Even when everything was shut down, I used to go to college with a box of Pedigree to feed them!

Sidharth Bhasin (Head of Design): On exam days, my friends and I would arrive as early as 6 AM. The plan was to study everything there itself!

Tripti Khulbe (Student Advisor): I spent a lot of time being puzzled about 'karna kya hai'. One thing that I have learnt in DTU is to be well prepared for the life ahead.

Artika Sharma (Student Coordinator): In school, I used to be in this bubble where I believed that I couldn't get along with everyone. DTU changed that perception entirely as I met a diverse set of people.

Aavriti Arora (Associate Designer): As soon as any class ended, I would rush to Nescafe and get a cup of coffee. During winters, I would often get a headache from all the caffeine I had consumed throughout the day.

Lokesh Shankar (Associate Editor): वो कहते हैं न कि, 'सब इस्तेमाल करो, फिर विश्वास करो', कठिन से कठिन परिस्थिति में अटकना और फिर किसी नए और क्रिएटिव सॉल्यूशन के साथ बाहर निकल आना। इन चार सालों में इतना तो सीख चुके हैं कि अब चुनौतियों से डर नहीं लगता।

Prakhar Chaudhary (Columnist): Once, I joined a class and went off to have breakfast. Sadly, our teacher un-muted everyone and the entire class heard me shouting, "Mumma, ek aur Paratha, please!" While I was wondering what happened, a bewildered teacher was asking the class: "Arey, kon Paratha maang raha hai साढे नौ baje?"

Priyansh Verma (Photographer): I'll miss how we go about doing assignments and any other kind of work. Somehow, ho jata hai.

Beyond the Horizons: International Offers

Software Engineer, Fast Retailing, Tokyo, Japan

*DTU Times interviewed **Vaibhav Agarwal**, SE, Class of 2021, who got an international offer as a Software Engineer from Fast Retailing at Tokyo, Japan.*

Software Engineer, Bloomberg, London, United Kingdom

*DTU Times interviewed **Srishti Dabola**, COE, Class of 2021, who got an international offer as a Software Engineer from Bloomberg at London, United Kingdom.*

What do international companies look for in a candidate? How is the preparation different from preparing for a domestic company?

Domestic companies purely focus on skills. If I talk about Software Development roles, they will focus only on Data Structures and Algorithms. Even if you know something else, they won't ask you. But it is not the same with international companies. They would ask for technical skills but won't stop there. They focus a lot on business knowledge as well.

If I talk about my experience with Fast Retailing, after each technical round, there were business-related questions too, like how would you expand our business in India. They were pretty focused on the candidates having a business-oriented mind.

How important are grades in securing a good placement?

Grades are very important, and this is coming from someone who didn't have good grades! My aggregate was around 7.4 for most of my college life. Before the commencement of placement season, my GPA was 7.49, due to which I wasn't able to cross the 7.5 barrier, which almost all the major companies keep. CGPA plays a significant role in DTU since many students are sitting for internships and placements.

You can say that CGPA is like an elevator to reach the final destination early, but it's not the only way to get there!

What advice would you like to give to the students who are going through a career crisis?

I'm not the best person to advise on this. I'd say that enjoy college life to the fullest; you won't get this time back. Try to keep your grades high. Keep developing new skills and improving existing ones. If you keep developing skills, you won't sit empty-handed. Something will definitely come your way. Keep working hard without worrying much about the results. Best of luck!

There is a widely-held perception that bagging placement opportunities off-campus is a difficult and tedious task. What has your personal experience been like with this process?

I would say it is a myth that bagging placement opportunities off-campus is tedious. It all depends on your preparation and mindset. There are always ample opportunities for every kind of profile.

What challenges did you face due to the whole placement process being shifted online?

I didn't face any significant challenges because the placement process was more or less the same. An added advantage was that you could give it from the comfort of your home.

Which factors do you feel have been instrumental for your success in securing this offer?

I would say that the most important factor has been constant practice. Also, it is vital to study a little about the interview process of the companies in general and see what type of questions they frequently ask and the pattern they follow.

How did you go about preparing for the various interviews and technical rounds that are a vital part of the placement process?

It is important to devise a schedule and set up a target for yourself. As I mentioned previously, it is important to study the patterns being followed by the companies. Being regular is necessary and it is advisable to give mock interviews and get an understanding of where you are underperforming.

In what way does the selection procedure for securing an international placement offer differ from the one usually followed for domestic roles?

Your resume is very important when it comes to international offers. They do shortlist candidates based on their experience. Apart from this, the process is similar to any domestic interview

process consisting of HR and behavioural questions, coding and subject based questions and system design.

Which activities/projects have you been a part of while at college and how have they been instrumental in making your application stand out?

I have worked as a leader for the DTU chapter of an NGO called JUGNU. This has helped me develop some of the widely required skills like leadership, philanthropy and effective communication.

MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University

*DTU Times interviewed **Aviral Agarwal**, ENE, Class of 2021, who received an admit for MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Stanford University.*

Which important aspect of applying to international postgraduate programs is missed out most often?

The general perception about applying for a Masters degree is that you need to have an amazing GPA in college. But this isn't enough; most international schools look for a well-rounded personality, which can only be developed by pursuing extracurriculars in college.

There is a general lack of awareness about the various career paths available in the field of Environmental Engineering. How do you suggest people get more information about the various opportunities available in this field?

Most seniors who have recently graduated from DTU gave me a lot of good advice regarding the application process. At the end of the day, it comes down to what drives you and what you are passionate about. You also need to be self-motivated enough to continue with your academics and go beyond that too, if required. If you do this, you will find many new opportunities coming your way because the competition in this field is quite less.

How did you find the time to learn these additional skills while also focusing on the college curriculum?

In my case, the coursework during online classes was not very hectic and this helped me to prepare for GRE, write research papers and score well in online exams. Even when it comes to the regular course structure, Environmental Engineering does not have a very hectic course and the teachers are helpful. You will definitely find time to pursue extra-curricular activities.

You have also pursued a research intern at IIT Bombay. How was your internship experience?

I believe that it was sheer luck that allowed me to get an internship at IIT Bombay and was able to work on a project aligned with my own interest. This internship experience was everything I could have ever asked for and went a long way in making me technically sound. It also allowed me to work directly under a professor from a reputed institution, something I had been looking forward to for a while.

MS in Physics, University of British Columbia

*DTU Times interviewed **Pranav Kairon**, EP, Class of 2021, who received a fully-funded admit for MS in Physics at the University of British Columbia.*

What were the pivotal factors in your application that helped you secure scholarships at such prestigious universities?

I had a lot of research experience, which is not expected from an undergraduate student. I had also published papers in respected journals. I had a number of internships that added to my CV. But I guess the most important reason was my networking skills. I had started emailing professors from the summer of 2020 and attending events they were organizing. This helped me maintain a healthy relationship with them, which was a plus point.

How did you prepare your profile for admission to these foreign programs? How would you recommend your juniors to go about it?

Do internships every winter and summer break. Contact professors in your field and do research projects under them. Try to convert them into good publications. Try to do a foreign internship in the summer of your third year. I had done around five industrial internships and had three publications. I worked with an MIT-based startup on the White House Covid-19 HPC consortium, where we used supercomputers to model a drug for Covid-19.

How would you recommend preparing for the GRE?

In the GRE, there are three sections: Quantitative, Verbal, and Essay Writing. You need not worry about the Quantitative section- just go through the numericals from the Manhattan Prep 5Lb. book and learn the formulae. For Essay Writing, there's a YouTube channel by the name of "Greg Mat". For Verbal, do vocabulary from the Barron's 1100 Words book. For Reading Comprehension, follow the 5Lb. book religiously. Two weeks before the GRE, start doing mock tests and scrutinize your performance in each.

How important is the undergraduate CGPA for obtaining admits with scholarships to most universities?

If your application is a building, the CGPA is the foundation. Many universities have a CGPA cutoff of 8.0. I would advise everyone to keep their GPA at least 8.5. If you have a low GPA, you need to have amazing projects on your CV.

PCs Speak Up

Photo by DTU studio

DTU Times interviewed the outgoing placement coordinators of the session 2020-2021 on various aspects related to securing on-campus internships and placements.

How was the experience of being a placement coordinator in the pandemic different from what it used to be in the offline mode?

The experience of the PC team for 2020-21 session has been unique. We were the first to organise the entire placement and internship session in the virtual mode, so there were no templates for us to follow. The planning started in June last year to understand the challenges we might face and the possible solutions. Initially, it was challenging. PPT halls and GD rooms were replaced by WhatsApp groups and meeting links. The hardest part was to stick around your phone all day, ensuring that the test and interview schedules are on track, forwarding important messages immediately to various groups, and responding to plenty of calls and messages. In these unprecedented times, the students were also often tensed due to the lack of opportunities. So, we were also providing support and the much-needed reassurance to students. Gradually, as we started tackling diverse scenarios, we were able to find solutions to different problems. In times of crisis, "clear cache and cookies, then restart your device" became our go-to.

We did miss out on the actual PC experience. However, the pros and cons balanced out. The offline mode would have

been fun, although we would have to fulfill logistical requirements. In the online mode, the lines between working hours and non-working hours became blurred. It drained the human touch from the process, but it also gave us the ability to convince companies operating in very distant areas, as well as international organisations, to conduct their recruitments on our campus.

What was the effect of the pandemic on placements for core branches?

The core sector does not have the luxury of carrying out everything online, resulting in reduced demands and projects. This affected the number of opportunities. However, eventually, many major companies for some of the core branches came for hiring. Our team targeted and converted various companies which were not approached

earlier, boosting the figures. Also, the figures were almost unaffected for the students from core branches targeting coding and non-tech roles.

In the new work-from-home environment, have recruiters changed their criteria? If so, how can a student be prepared for the same?

Some of the crucial criteria mentioned by companies idemanded the students having a functional, up-to-date device, stable internet connection, and a working webcam and microphone. It has also become imperative for the students to be well-versed with MS Office applications. Due to technical difficulties, recruiters are replacing virtual group discussions with impromptu speech or removing them altogether. However, students need to understand that this is temporary, and they should regularly practice mock GDs.
Recruiters have become specific about what kind of students they want to hire, so the CGPA cut-off has increased. Several companies added extra rounds to get a complete idea of the candidate, with more one-on-one interactions and fewer computer-based tests. Other criteria of recruiting have remained more or less the same. Additionally, the process has become a little less stressful. Many companies prefer to spread their interviews throughout the week, giving candidates enough time to rest in between, unlike the offline interviews, which had to be conducted within a day or two.

What was the secret behind the exemplary technical placements of the academic year 2020-21? What lessons can juniors learn to duplicate their success?

Tech-oriented job roles were very much immune to the pandemic, being independent of in-office presence. Also, the new world witnessed unprecedented dependence on the digital realm. This led to increased engagement on digital platforms, directly leading to an expansion in the workforce to keep up with the demand. With the entire semester being online, students also had a lot of time to prepare for both on-campus and off-campus opportunities.
The juniors should contact their respective seniors and leverage this opportunity by taking their advice. The 2021 batch experienced a virtual placement session, which can prove beneficial in the upcoming years. Create a few projects, practice various questions from any rank-based platform, and maintain a CGPA of 8.5 and above.

What is the scope of securing a non-tech placement from college? What are companies looking for in candidates?

There is a good chance of securing a non-tech placement if you prepare. All the top consultancy firms visit our college and

hire in staggering numbers. This year, due to the pandemic, non-tech companies have visited DTU in the later half of the year, with fewer companies taking fewer students. But the situation will become better as DTU has a good placement history in the non-tech sector.

Non-tech companies look for a strong analytical mind, good problem-solving skills, and above-average communication skills in a prospective hire. The candidate should be familiar with everything written in the resume, and should have knowledge about guesstimates and case studies. A profile maintaining a good balance between academics and co-curriculars is a significant plus. Skills like Advanced Excel, SQL, R/Python, Tableau are always an advantage in non-tech placements. The comapnies look for students who have the eagerness to learn.

What are some common mistakes students make during HR interviews?

Overconfidence is one of the biggest mistakes students make in this round. They go unprepared for HR rounds as generally 80-90% of the process is completed by then. Always get in-depth knowledge about your company and the job profile. Prepare for some common questions but don't make the answers sound too generic as that would result in rejection.

Is it true that students without on-campus internships are at a disadvantage during placements? If so, how can they make up for the same in their third year?

If you're a third-year student with no on-campus internship, it is highly recommended to have an off-campus internship/research project. This will give you an understanding of your field and will play an essential role for core companies. The recruiters majorly focus on internships/projects for the discussion during the tech rounds. We have even started the In-house Training Programme for the benefit of the third-year students. But it's essential to keep in mind that experience is just a portion of your profile.

Good grades are one of the primary requirements. Students aiming for core placements should practise some aptitude basics. It is also a good idea to practice GATE questions for online tests and be well-versed with the basics for the interview rounds of core companies. One must utilise the time in improving the skillset and profile.

STUDENT NEWS

RESEARCH PAPERS PUBLISHED AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Kunal Rao, M.B.A., Business Analytics, 2nd Year
• 'Can Machine Learning Predict an Employee's Mental Health?', *6th International Conference on Information, Communication & Computing Technology, Jagan Institute of Management Studies, Rohini, Delhi, India*

Pawan Raj Gopal, M.B.A., Business Analytics, 2nd Year
• 'Computational Analysis of Machine Learning Algorithms to Predict Heart Disease', *11th International Conference on Cloud Computing, Data Science & Engineering, Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India*

Apra Sancerwal, M.Sc., Physics, 2nd Year
Ikshvaku Shyam, M.Sc., Physics, 2nd Year
• 'Optimization and Simulation of Perovskite Based Solar Cells', *8th International Conference on Energy and Environment, Jyothi Engineering College,Thrissur, Kerala, India*

Kartikeya Pandey, B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year
Parangat Mittal, B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year
Peeyush Tewani, B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year
• 'CNN-based Person Recognition System for Masked Faces in a post-pandemic world', *2nd International Conference of Emerging Technologies, Belgaum, Karnataka, India*

Vibhor Chander, B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year
Vishal Bharti, B.Tech., ECE, 4th Year
• 'Comparison between Conventional Fast Multipliers and Improved Fast Multipliers using PTL Logic', *3rd International Conference on Trends in Material Science and Inventive Materials, JCT college of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India*

Aishwarya Mangarath, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
Ashish Kumar, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
Vikas Kumar, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
• 'Implementation of Optimized Contactless Parking System using Microcontroller & Web Application', *Latest Trends in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India*

Avinash Choudhary, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
Sanskar Jethi, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
Yash Gupta, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
• 'Creating and Implementing a Smart Speaker', *Journal of Information Technology in Industry*

Karan Singh Bora, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
Saksham Sangwan, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
Vishal Sharma, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
• 'Development and Control of Modular 5 DoF Robotic Arm using ROS', *International Journal of Engineering Research & Technology*

Kunal Diwakar, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
Lalit Bansal, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
• 'Development of Robust Control Using H∞ Technique for DC/DC Converters', *Elementary Education Online*

Artika Sharma, B.Tech., ENE, 4th Year
Deepti Aggarwal, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year
Muskan Gupta, B.Tech., EE, 4th Year
• 'CLIMB: Case Study of a Women Centric Student Society in an Engineering Institution', *International Conference on Women Empowerment on Science and Technology, National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Telangana, India*

Harshit Tongaria, B.Tech., MAM, 4th Year
Karn Parashar, B.Tech., MAM, 4th Year
• 'Advancement in Heliostats Power Generation Systems: Development and performance', *8th International Conference on Energy and Environment, Jyothi Engineering College, Thrissur, Kerala, India*

Aniket Gupta, B.Tech., PSCT, 4th Year
Saksham Srivastava, B.Tech., PSCT, 4th Year
Srishti Mittal, B.Tech., PSCT, 4th Year
• 'Artificial Neural Network based modeling of the vacuum membrane distillation process: Effects of operating parameters on membrane fouling', *Chemical Engineering and Processing: Process Intensification*

Tanushree Ghosh, B.Tech., PSCT, 4th Year
Trisha Das, B.Tech., PSCT, 4th Year
• 'Moringa oleifera gum/poly(vinyl alcohol) blend solutions: Phase separation and rheological properties', *2nd International Conference on Aspects of Materials Science and Engineering, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Punjab, India*

Divyansh Singh Panwar, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year
Samarth Garg, B.Tech., SE, 4th Year
• 'Comprehensive opinion analysis on recent QUAD formation in Indo Pacific region using Twitter corpus', *7th International Conference on Advanced Computing and Communication Systems, Sri Eshwar College of Engineering, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India*

Mohammad Sabih, B.Tech., EE, 3rd Year
• 'Crowd anomaly detection with LSTMs using optical features and domain knowledge for improved inferring', *The Visual Computer*

Harshit Jain, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
Himanshu Bhatt, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
Himanshu Bist, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
Kanishk Yadav, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
• 'Additive Manufacturing in Aerospace and Defense Industries: A Review', *Journal of Production Research & Management*

Harshit Jain, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
Kanishk Yadav, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
• 'Modeling and Finite Element Analysis of Universal Joint', *Advancement in Mechanical Engineering and Technology*

Mridul Gupta, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
• 'Modelling and Analysis of an H22 Engine Flywheel', *Advancement in Mechanical Engineering and Technology*

Mridul Gupta, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
Muhsin Ahmad Khan, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
• 'Advances in Applications of Non-Destructive Testing (NDT): A Review', *Advances in Material and Processing Technologies*

Anshuman Pandey, B.Des., 2nd Year
• 'A Designer's Perspective on Ankylosing Spondylitis and its Impact on Quality of Life', *Ergonomics International Journal*

Aditya Kumar, B.Tech., MAM, 1st Year
• 'Solar Roadways: The Roadways to next generation', *International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology*

Aryan Rastogi, B.Tech., ME, 1st Year
Kishu Kumar, B.Tech., ME, 1st Year
• 'Wireless Technology and its Application', *International Research Journal of Modernization in Engineering Technology and Science*

Krishang Gupta, B.Tech., ME, 1st Year
• 'A Case Study on Sizing Calculation for Single Stage Restriction Orifice for Incompressible Fuel Application in a Typical Thermal Plant', *International Research Journal of Modernization in Engineering Technology and Science*

Sachin, B.Tech., ME, 1st Year
Sahil Chouhan, B.Tech., ME, 1st Year
• 'A Review on Nuclear Power Plant', *International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology*

AWARDS & COMPETITIONS WON

Dhruv, B.Tech., ME, 4th Year
Megha Goyal, B.Tech., EE, 3rd Year
Mihir Ranjan, B.Tech., EE, 3rd Year
Purshottam Kandhari, B.Tech., EE, 3rd Year
Riddhima Jain, B.Tech., EE, 3rd Year
Shaurya Parashar, B.Tech., EP, 3rd Year
• Winner, *Smart India Hackathon (Hardware Edition), 2020*

Angad Sethi, B.Tech., COE, 3rd Year
• Winner, *HackMerced VI, Hackathon, University of California, United States*

Akanksha Tanwar, B.Tech., IT, 3rd Year
Anima Jain, B.Tech., IT, 3rd Year
Shreoshi Roy, B.Tech., IT, 3rd Year
• Winner, *WomenTechies '21, Hackathon, Vellore Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu, India*

Abhilasha Bansal, B.Tech., COE, 2nd Year
Areeshaa Parveen, B.Tech., COE, 2nd Year
• Best All-Girls Team & Overall Runners-up, *Hack-NU-thon, Hackathon, Nirma University, Delhi, India*

Akshansh Gupta, B.Tech., ENE, 1st Year
• Runner-up, *Comedic Paribus, Economania '21, Daulat Ram College, Delhi, India*

Shubh Pratap Singh, B.Tech., IT, 1st Year
• Runner-up, *Standup Comedy Contest, SSN Instincts, Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India*
• Winner, *Comedy Hunt, Rendezvous '21, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India*

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Megha Goyal, B.Tech., EE, 3rd Year
• Global Impact Scholarship, *Palantir*

Ney Vatsa, B.Tech., ME, 3rd Year
• MITACS Globalink Research Internship, *University of Calgary, Canada*

Vagisha Aggarwal, B.Tech., PSCT, 3rd Year
• MITACS Globalink Research Internship, *University of Windsor, Canada*

Tushar Mehra, B.Tech., PSCT, 3rd Year
• NTU-India Connect Research Internship, *Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*
• Research Internship, *University of Bordeaux, France*

SOCIETY NEWS

180 Degrees Consulting *maintains* its winning streak

180 Degrees Consulting DTU won the **Best New Branch: Global Category** in the 180 Degrees Consulting Global Awards among 70+ branches worldwide. **Nikunj Garg** and **Samarth Garg** were the **runners-up** at the **National Case Study Competition**, *IIM Udaipur*. **Atishay Katiyar**, **N.Krithika**, and **Satvik Chhabra** were the finalists at **Pragyan 5.0 HR Case Competition**, *IIM Kashipur*.
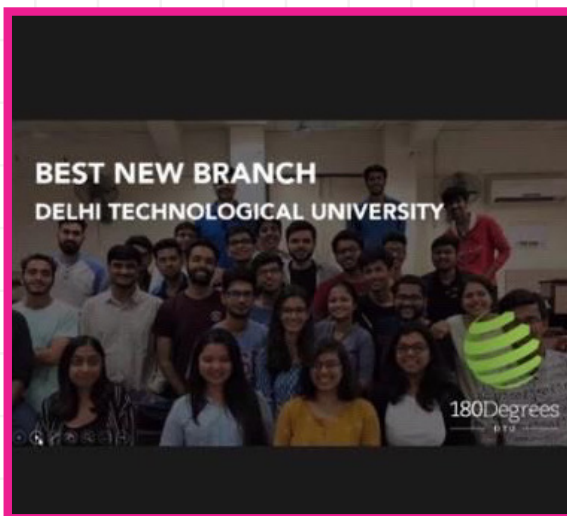
CLIMB *organises* DTU's first all-women hackathon

In March 2021, **CLIMB** organised **Cup It Up** - a menstrual cup workshop, and a self-defense workshop with **Prajna Foundation**. They conducted a workshop on '**Laws Concerning Harassment**' with **Ms. Radha Sharma**. In April 2021, they organised **SheHacks DTU** - DTU's first all-women hackathon, and **Design Zen** - a two-day design symposium. Finally, they also organised '**Master It Up**' - a session on pursuing Master's courses, and '**Get That Job**' - placement preparation session with **Ruchika Rocque**.

Cognitive Minds *organises* 'Out of the Box talks'

Cognitive Minds organized a series of '**Out of the Box**' talks on YouTube with **Sumeet Malik**, *Founder, Pepcoding*, **Vipul Aggarwal**, *Engineer, Microsoft*, **Sanghamitra Pattanayak**, *Co-founder, KleverMind*, and **Srishti Sharma**, *Founder, GAME and SHAKTI*.

Apoorva won the **1st** prize in **BioDebate** held at *CBIT Hyderabad*. She was also shortlisted for **Global Biotech Council** at *IIT Madras*.

D_CODER *organises* webinars and online events

In January 2021, **D_Coder DTU** conducted a placement talk with **Rajneesh Kumar**. In April 2021, they conducted an '**Entrepreneurship Webinar**' with **Mr. Shashank Singh**. **Karan Bajaj, Puneet Sehrawat, Vanshika Gupta**, and **Sameer Ahmed** won the **1st runner-up** position at **Abhigyan Hackathon**. **Riya Dev Varshney, Garvit Gulati, and Ridham Jain** bagged a **special mention** in the same event.

The Indian Game Theory Society *organises* events

The Indian Game Theory Society conducted its online flagship event, '**Startathon**' at **Manan - the Economics Fest**, *GIPE, Pune*. '**Startathon**' was also conducted at **Exilir '21 - Annual Economics Fest**, *Ruia College, Mumbai* and at **Moksha-Innovision '21 - Cultural and Technical Fest**, *NSUT, Delhi* in February 2021. In collaboration with *Global Youth India-Russia Forum*, they conducted '**Nashify**', which saw participation from both Indian and Russian students. It also conducted an open to all anti-chess tournament, '**Wonder Blunder Anti-Chess Tournament**'. The society, in collaboration with the *Economics Department, JMC*,

hosted 'Strat-Wars' at Ecovantage' 21 - The Annual Economics Fest, *JMC, DU*.

Apart from that, it conducted 'Nashathon' at *MCC, Bangalore*, in March 2021. They emerged as the winner against the *IGTS NSUT chapter* in an intra-chapter event. They conducted a seminar titled, 'Survival of the Wittiest' with Mr. Manoj Gadia, *Founder, IGTS*.

INNOVA *hosts competitions*

INNOVA DTU organised a series of competitions - *Hack-A-Nova, Crescendo, Inquest, Mock stock, E-Ideas, CAD-Craft, Capture The Flag, Pro Memer*. They also organised a number of workshops - Cloud Computing, Tech Barn, Tezos workshop on cryptocurrency, Hackershala Workshop, Coding Blocks ML workshop, UI/UX Workshop, Jigsaw Minds- Basics of App development, OpenDevs- Basics of Web development, AI, Tips and tricks for Competitive Coding, Intro to GSOC.

The society also conducted numerous guest lectures with Simerjeet Singh, Saurabh Jain, Aman Dhattarwal, Yashraj Nayak, Ritesh Shergill, Amogh Lila Das, Aarnav Jindal, Khushi Misra.

Kalakriti *paints the sky glorious*

Kalakriti was placed 1st at Rajnigandha, a virtual art exhibition organised by *Dyal Singh College*. The team also won the 2nd position at Srijan, a virtual art exhibition in *SPMC*. Abhishek Kumar was placed 1st at Pendown organised by *Dyal Singh College*. Krish Saini won the 3rd prize at Monochrome Art, an event organised by *SPMC*. Vatsal Agarwal won the 1st prize at the painting competition organised by *SBSC*. Sarthak Banerjee was placed 2nd at the watercolour painting organised by *IIT Delhi*. Ashley Tirkey won the 3rd position at the Archipelago, the annual fest organised by *St. Stephens College*. Krish Saini & Ananaya Singh won the 2nd prize at Art-e-Mix organised by *DTU*.

Madhurima *charms* the crowd

Jayant Saksham secured the 1st **position** in the **Instrumental Solo Category** at **Symphony**, *NSUT*. He also secured 2nd **position** at both **Vivance**, *Ramjas College*, and **Allergo_Sac**, *Sri Aurobindo College*. **Ruchir Kain** got a **Special Mention** at **Anhad**, *Daulat Ram College*. **Anasuya Mithra** bagged the 1st **position** in the **Western Solo category** at **Fantasia, Reverb** and **Arpeggio** held at *PGDAV, USME DTU* and *SGTB Khalsa College* respectively.

She also secured 2nd **position** at **Forte**, *RLAC*. **Utkarsh Singh** won 2nd **position** in the **Instrumental Solo Competition** at **Glissando**, *RLAC*.

NSS USME *works* for a cause

Team NSS initiated project '**Anudaan**' to help old age homes during lockdown. NSS USME collaborated with *E-Vidyaloka NGO* and concluded the project '**Paathshala**' in April 2021, which aimed to teach the underprivileged kids online via airing videos on the television. They conducted a webinar in collaboration with **Team Yah-India** on '**Stereotype Shutdown**' in *April 2021*.

Panache *sweeps* awards

Hardik Panchal of **Panache** won the title of **Mr. Taarangana** at the **Mr. and Ms. Taarangana 2021** contest organised by *IGDTUW*. **Moin Ahmad** was declared **Mr. Proficient** at **Mr. and Ms. Proficient 2021** which was organised by *IGDTUW*. **Bhavey Arya** became the **Winner** at **INAAYAT** organised by *SRCC*, **Dhruv Tomar** bagged the 1st **runner-up** position in **Aquaregia 2021**, the street photography competition organised by *UMC, Jaipur*. **Mehul Agarwal** bagged the 2nd **runner-up** position in **RECREER, Moksha 2021**.

Pratibimb *marches* into triumph

Pratibimb won **Best Direction** at **Munadi** organised by *JDMC*, 1st **position** at **MYJA'21**, *Lady Irwin College*. Their performance 'Jan Gan' was **screened** at the prestigious **Numaish** organised by *SRCC*.

They won 1st **position** for Akshi at the **Spring Fest** organised by *IIT Kharagpur*. The team also won the 1st **position** for Kaand at **Rangmanch**, the cultural fest of *IIT Kharagpur*. They were applauded for their film 'SH_T', which was among the **Top 3 Screened** at **Numaish**, *SRCC* and was also screened at **Chalchitra Mela** organised by *RLAC* . The film won 1st **position** at **There Will Be Film**, *KIIT*, 3rd **position** at *Maharaja Agrasen College* and the 3rd **position** at **Cine Maestro**, *IIM Nagpur*. Another film by the team, '**Dastak**' won 1st

position at **Interval** and **Darpan** the **short film-making competition** organised by *St. Stephens College* and *Rajguru College* respectively, 2nd **position** at the **short film-making competition**, *NIT Rourkela* as well as at *FMS*. It also won **Best Story** at *IIM Bangalore*. **Pratibimb** won 2nd **position** for 'Guardian Angel' and a **special mention** for 'Rolling stone' at **The Scriptman Show** organised by *KIIT*. The team also won the **People's Choice Award** at **Afsana** organised by *ARSD College*, 2nd **position** at **Antarnaand** organised by *IIM Lucknow* and the 1st **position** at **Snippets** organised by *IIM Kashipur*.

Ankur bagged the 2nd **position** at **The Scriptman Show**, *KIIT Bhubaneshwar*. **Akshansh Gupta** won the 2nd prize at **Comedic Paribus** organised by *Daulat Ram College*. **Vansh Chopra** won the **People's Choice Award** at **Spotlight** organised by *SSE*. **Abhishek Vashisht** bagged the 1st **position** at **Halla Bol**, *IIM Lucknow*. He also won the 3rd **position** at **Act Attack**, *SSP School of Pharmacy and Technology Management*. **Vedant Chouksey** bagged the 1st **position** at **Cinestory** organised by *IIT Bombay* and the 3rd **position** for script writing at *IIT Madras*.

Rotaract DTU *drives* change

Rotaract Club of DTU Regency held a **Digital Literacy Campaign** for *Gyankunj NGO* from January to February 2021. The club also conducted **Tape-a-Tale** from January to February, 2021, an event where participants recorded stories for visually-impaired children between 5-13 years of age.

The team, in collaboration with *T.I.M.E.*, conducted a workshop titled '**Building the Perfect Professional CV**' in April 2021. **Mr. Sunil Dua** was the speaker for the event. As a part of **Rotathon**, they organised '**Social Entrepreneurship: Presenting the Perfect Pitch**' in March 2021. **Ronak Sakhuja** and **Gitanjali Jaggi** were the speakers for this event. Another workshop titled '**Social Entrepreneurship: Business Models and Impacts**' was conducted by **Rtr. Sarthak Katyal** and **Catherine Hallinan**.

Rotaract Club of USME *works* towards COVID Relief

Rotaract Club of USME, DTU and **NSS, USME, DTU** collaborated to work on the **Covid Relief Project**. They also organised a **Food Donation Drive** with *RaC OBS* and *Gautam Gambhir's Foundation* as part of a project called **Ek Asha Community Kitchen**. The society collaborated wit*h* **Rotaract Club of Verve** to be a part of an **Animal Shelter Visit** to *Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre*. They collaborated with **Aesthetic - The**

Art Society of USME, DTU, and painted the walls of schools with pictures and quotes to make them look more attractive and encouraging.

Round Table DTU *brings* great minds together

Round Table DTU organised **Aurora**, a case study competition in March 2021. It was judged by **Mr. Pratik Ranjan**. They also conducted '**Confex 21**', an online interactive conference, wherein **Anuj Kumar Garg, Dr. Mani Madhukar,** and **Abhinav Garg,** were the speakers. Another webinar was conducted on '**Lessons Learned in the Depths of the Ocean to Ensure Success in Corporate Life**', wherein **Mr. Nanda Kumar Das** was the speaker.

They also conducted a webinar on '**Freelancing For College Students**' wherein, **Shivay Madan, Divij Rakhra,** and **Prakhar Mehta** presided as speakers.

Sahitya *creates* legacy

Ansh Anurag won **1st position** at **Undekha - a spoken poetry** contest at **Zeitgeist,** *IIT Ropar,* **Honorary Mention** at **Lafz-e-Mehfil,** *DSC,* and was published twice in the Bihar weekly newspaper, **Sachcha Dost.** **Nilesh Nishant** won the **1st position** at the poetry contest at **Waves,** *BITS Goa,* **1st position** at the **NSS DTU Open Mic, 2nd position** at **Verba Maximus,** *BITS Hyderabad,* **2nd position** at **Rendezvous,** *IIT Delhi,* and a **Special Mention** at **Abhivyanjana,** *LSR.* He also won the **1st position** while **Ansh Anurag** won the **2nd position** at **Kavyanjali,** *Wordfest, IIT BHU.*

Saarthak Gupta received the **1st position** and **Nilesh Nishant** received the **2nd position** at the **Lexicon Slam Poetry,** *Lady Irwin College.* **Anirudh Kumar Aheer** received **3rd position** at **Kaze - a slam poetry contest.** **Utkarsh Garg** received the **4th position** in a Hindi slam poetry contest at **Springfest,** *IIT Kharagpur* while **Nilay** was a **Semi-finalist** at **Prativaad,** *SIU.* At *IIM Indore* **British Pariliamentary Debate, Ananya** was the **2nd Best Speaker** while **Dhairya** was the **7th Best Speaker.**

At **The Alfaaz Open** at *Amity University,* **Sambhav** won **Best Adjudicator** and **Sayiram** was declared the **3rd Best Adjudicator** while **Mallika, Esha,** and **Pranjal** were **Quarter-finalists. Sambhav** was declared as the **5th Best Adjudicator** for **British Pariliamentary Debate** while **Angad, Sayi,** and **Aayush** broke **3rd** on tabs in the **Asian Parliamentary Debate** at *CNLU.* **Aditya, Angad,** and **Aayush** broke **2nd** on tabs and were **Semi-finalists** at *MAIMS,* while **Mihir** won **3rd Best Speaker** at **Premchand,** *Hindu College.*

At the *IIT BHU* **Parliamentary Debate, Angad, Esha,** and **Aayush** were **Semi-finalists** while **Saksham** won **4th Best Adjudicator. Gunraj** was declared the **3rd Best Adjudicator** at **Dialectics. Ashutosh, Riya,** and **Shikhar** were **4th** on tabs at **Loquitor,** *NMIMS.* **Rashi** and **Sumedha** were **Novice Finalists** at *MITPD.* **Vansh** won **3rd Best Adjudicator** for **British Pariliamentary Debate,** *GLC.* **Anoushka Raj** received a **Special Mention** at the poetry writing event in the literary fest of *IIT Goa* while **Ishan Bhateja** won **2nd prize** in **Twist the Story** at *IIT Madras.*

Shiddat *introduces* Exuberance

Shiddat, The Music Society of USME DTU organised **Exuberance,** an online music fest in April 2021. The fest consisted of four events: **Battle of Bars**- a rap battle, **Raagam**- an Indian solo singing competition, **Reverb**- a Western solo singing competition, and **Aaroh 2.0**- an open mic event.

Mukul Gupta won the **1st position** in the **Instrumental Solo Competition** organised by *Shivaji College.*

Saumye Gupta achieved **2nd position** in the **Rap Battle Competition** organised by *NSUT*.

Society for Civil and Environmental Engineers *celebrates* Earth Day

SCEE DTU organised a webinar on **'Success Mantras for the Civil Services Exam'** in February 2021. They also conducted a webinar on **'Career in Highway Engineering'** in March 2021, with **Mr. Sandeep Sachdeva**.

SCEE hosted **Prof. Chetan Solanki** at DTU during his **'Energy Swaraj Yatra'** in March 2021, to increase awareness about solar energy. On the occasion of Earth Day, a round table discussion was organized on **'Moving Towards Carbon Neutral Delhi'**.

Nrityangana *sways* Ahead

Riddhima Jain won **2nd** position at **Taraangana**, *IGDTUW*.

Vibe *sweeps* Awards

Vibe won the **1st position** in the **CREW vs CREW** category at **Reliving Streets Vol. 1 Jam** held in March 2021, and the **2nd position** in **Centrifuge, Spring Fest**, *IIT Kharagpur*, which was held in February 2021.

IN OTHER NEWS

- In February 2021, **Elixir** organised a webinar on **'Gym Essentials and Fitness'**.

- **DefenceX DTU** organised the first society orientation for students which involved discussions on various career prospects in the Indian Armed Forces in March 2021.

- **DTU ALTAIR** won **2ⁿᵈ** rank worldwide and **1ˢᵗ rank** in India, in the *PDR (Preliminary Design Report)* round of the *CANSAT 2021* competition, organized by *NASA* and the *American Astronomical Society*.

- **IEEE DTU** organised **Vihaan,** a national-level hackathon in the month of April, 2021. **Sumeet Malik**, *Founder, Pepcoding*, **Saurabh Jain**, *Founder, Fun2Do Labs*, **Arnav Gupta**, *Founding member, Coding Blocks,* and **Alon Grinshpoon**, *Founder and CEO, echoAR* were the guests. They also bagged the award for the **Best Freshers' Team** at the hackathon.

- In March 2021, **ASSETS DTU** organized a **Finance Quiz** in the **D2C Quizzing Festival**. In April 2021, they organised a session on **'Financial Literacy'**. **Ms. Shikha Mittal** was the speaker.

- **Centre for Advanced Studies and Research in Automotive Engineering (CASRAE)** organised an online workshop on **'Sustainable Development - India's Preparedness vis-à-vis Global Initiatives'** in association with **IMechE DTU Chapter.**

- In March 2021, **Vimarsh** organised **Samiksha'21** - an inter-class group discussion competition on the theme *'Breaking Stereotypical Norms in Corporate'*.

- **Deltech BAJA** won the **3ʳᵈ position** in the **Computer Aided Engineering Event** of **BAJA SAE**, conducted by *SAE India* in April, 2021.

- **IIChE DTU** organised *Unravel* with **Mr. Naveen Chandra**, *IAS Officer* in April 2021, where he shared his journey and discussed methods of preparation for the UPSC examinations.

- **IMechE DTU Chapter** in association with the *Centre for Advanced Studies and Research in Automotive Engineering (CASRAE)* organized an online workshop on **'Sustainable Development - India's preparedness vis-à-vis Global Initiatives'** in March 2021, with **Dr. Pravesh Kumar,***Prof., VCE, Warangal*, **Dr. Vikash Kumar**, *Prof., MANIT, Bhopal*, and **Dr. Yahaya Alhassan**, *Prof., Federal University Gusau, Nigeria*.

- **Cubix DTU** organized an online event for cube enthusiasts of DTU under the guidance of **Aryan Chabbra**, *3x3 National record Holder* and **Akash Rupela**, *Senior WCA delegate*.

- **DTU Supermileage** won the **Podium finish in technical innovation** and was the **winner** of the *Communication Award* in **Shell Eco-Marathon**. They won $2250 and $1500 respectively as prize money.

It all started with a notice...
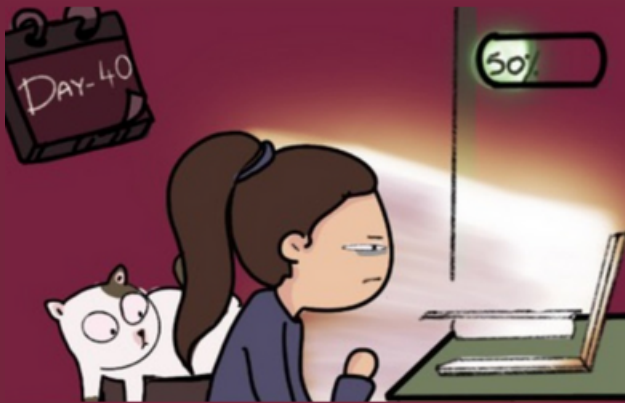
Day 1: It was like a dream come true.

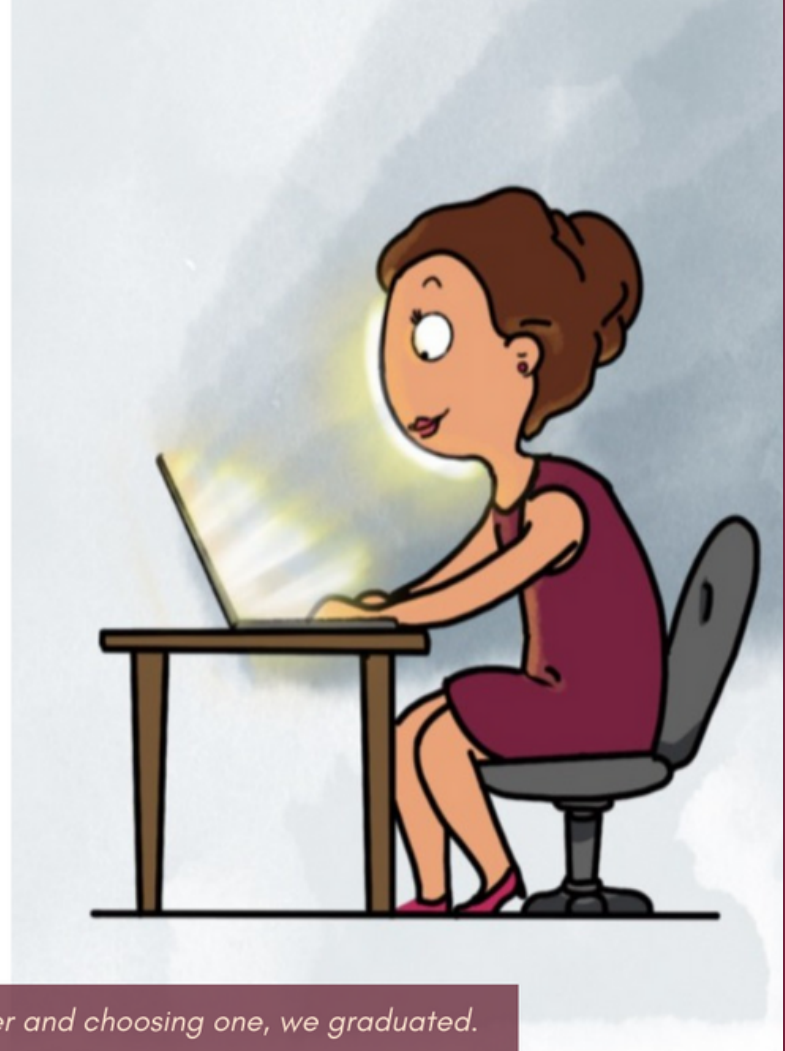Day 20: It virtualised my weekday blues.

Day 40: It became a snoozefest with no time to rest

Day 60: It increased my backlog and made me slog.

Day 80: And then, in the blink of an eye, it ended.

Somewhere between creating a filter and choosing one, we graduated.

2019

2021

NOSTALGIA IN *Technicolour*

Priyansh Verma, Photographer, 2020-21

When I first stepped on to the DTU campus, I was in awe of its size and magnificence. Absolutely loved everything about the campus. I especially loved the sunrise from the campus.

In my 2nd year I joined DTU Times as a photographer. Which gave me a unique opportunity to capture different events around the DTU Campus. This was one such fire act that I captured.

One of the huge perks of studying in DTU is the amount of exposure one gets here. There is a society for almost anything one would like to do thanks to which, I got to try my hand at MUNs, both as a delegate and a photographer.

Now comes the hardest part of any college going student's life, saying goodbye. Graduating college opens a whole new chapter in your life. There is a fear of never seeing your old friends again but also the excitement of the future.

Kushagra Krishna Agrawal, Student Advisor, 2020-21

PRIYANSH GUPTA

The importance of DOCUMENTING YOUR LIFE

Ankit Dutta, Head of Photography, 2020-21

With our growing dependence on technology, we have stopped using dedicated cameras for clicking pictures and instead make use of phones. This may be convenient but it has resulted in poor documentation of our memories.

What do I mean by *'poor documentation of memories'*?

Our photo galleries are filled with all sorts of photos, be it photos of class notes or 100's of photos of cute labradors. There is no organisation and it is often a big clutter. Thus most of our memories either get lost or are forgotten in that mess. Also the selfies we take are often of sub-par quality.

In all that mess all our cherished memories are lost, thus it is important to get organised and make some changes to the way we capture and store these memories.

One good practice is to use a dedicated camera for clicking pictures. This helps in multiple ways, the foremost is ensuring better quality pictures. Even though our mobile cameras have 100's of megapixels, DSLR's, mirrorless or even point-and-shoot cameras produce pictures of better quality. Also, clicking the pictures through any

above-mentioned cameras makes us more aware while clicking the picture, and thus we end up clicking better pictures.

Another important way of improving documentation of our lives is to make use of albums. I know this is how the oldies did it, but it always ensured that all the photos were in one place and were organised chronologically. In this digital age people usually don't print their photos, so it is a good idea to use digital albums. Either one can make use of cloud storage to ensure this or make local backups of photos neatly organised in folders. This is a very simple practice but is actually really helpful.

The importance of documenting was made even more apparent during the lockdown where we often turned to these memories to remind us of the good times. It really helps when these memories are available just a click away.

Having completed my bachelors degree, I have a lot of memories that I would like to take with me and relive in the years to come. Documenting these memories might just make that possible. It might have felt futile and cumbersome then but I'm sure it will all be worth it in the years to come.

Interview
Technical Council

DTU Times interviewed the newly-appointed Technical Council of DTU - Manmohan Mathur (President), Devansh Dua (Vice President), Ritika Luthra (Secretary), Rahul Sharma (Treasurer), Vibhor Gautam (Joint Secretary) and Megha Goyal (Joint Treasurer).

What are your opinions about Invictus, the tech-fest of DTU? How did the idea of this fest start, and how is it going, despite the pandemic?

Invictus started in 2018 at an elementary level. It became a great success in 2019. However, we could not organise Invictus in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, we're focusing on online events only, and we have some good plans which we will be sharing with everyone as a surprise in the coming days.

Will there be any significant changes in this year's events' structures, given that the format is supposed to be online?

When we used to have our physical events, we had a whole exhibit for the technical fest, but this year, we are organising the events in online mode. It will consist of a Hackathon and an Ideathon as a separate entry altogether.

For example, we are trying to coalesce one of the physical events, the robotics event, into the Hackathon, which will be held through video conferencing. The participant will demonstrate his/her hardware project in front of a panel of judges.

Since working offline has not been possible since last year, how are technical teams looking forward to this technical fest?

We have added a new stream in the Hackathon, which deals with hardware. So people can actually build a bot and show it to us in the virtual workspace. That's how tech teams can participate.

Now that physical exhibitions aren't possible, we were thinking of a virtual exhibit. Maybe the tech teams that are already visiting the

campus can show us around their labs and brief us about their work; we're still in the planning stage. This, we believe, will introduce the freshers to this sphere of DTU.

How will the recruitments be conducted this time, considering that the freshers do not have much knowledge about the societies and tech teams? What are you looking for in prospective volunteers?

We will be releasing the recruitment forms soon and are looking forward to a great response to the same. We'll be dividing the recruits into different teams, and they'll be interacting with the seniors from the second and third year.

We're just looking for enthusiasm in the volunteers. We don't need any prior experience from the first and second years.

Considering Invictus will be the first big fest at DTU in 2021, how do you plan to manage students' expectations?

First of all, we plan to host the comedy nights in the virtual mode, along with some other events or games. We're still trying to figure out how to do things virtually. We've already decided on some events to host on a public platform, but that will be a surprise for the students.

What kind of learning experience are you offering the freshers through this fest?

Hackathons serve as a great team bonding exercise and provide a head start for the projects they may actually want to build. It also promotes interaction with the seniors and lets the freshers know what DTU has to offer. We also plan to help the students in building their managerial and leadership skills, which will come in handy when they organise Invictus next year.

What are your views on the technical societies of DTU as a whole, and are you planning to change or encourage change in any area of these societies?

I think the technical societies have been active for the past semester because all the events have been virtual. There has been a positive response to the programming events, Hackathons, etc. So, there's no such improvement I would like to suggest from my side that societies can inculcate.

There is a huge coding culture in DTU. Still, many other branches are not given enough emphasis, so we're trying to involve departments like Biotechnology, Chemical, Environmental with the rest of the events.

Straight Out of my Notes App

Artika Sharma, Student Coordinator, 2020-21

When I was a child, I would run off to a park near my house whenever I had a fight with my friends. I would then sit and sulk under the shade of trees there, and the green canopies would support me. Like a mother's caress, their shadow would carefully fall on my face, and the heat of the Sun wouldn't be able to touch me. I would feel safe and protected.

Cut to years later, I'm sitting under the shade of trees at one of the benches by the open-air gym at Amul. I am a first-year who has just realised, to her utter dismay, that she doesn't fit in. I lazily scratch my head, messing up my loose braid. A soft breeze whispers a lullaby in my ear. A group of acquaintances takes my name from far away. But all my attention at that moment lies in the vast array of green above me. The wind's lullaby seems to reach the leaves above me as they dance a little to its rhythm. My head nods along to it. I'm enchanted and far away from this world.

And right there, in this image of a girl seeking respite in the arms of nature, you can find a part of the reason why I fell in love with the DTU Campus. I don't know what it is about the colour green that appeals to me, but time seems to slow down, my life seems to slow down when I'm taking a walk in DTU.

For the longest time, the Campus was this one big green canvas for me, and I would paint it with the colours of my existence, leaving memories like footprints all over it. So I don't know how or when, but the empty canvas turned into a work of art. I also don't know when the hopeless romantic in me started putting more meaning into every moment I spent here alone. But over my years here at DTU, what started as a small crush on the galaxy of green canopies at Amul turned into something a lot more profound.

Much like the park that was my childhood buddy, the Campus itself became my most trusted confidante. There is this captivating magic in the air of DTU. I cannot count the number of times I stumbled upon a random spot surrounded by trees and green foliage and sat there for a good hour or two, exhausting my limited playlists and then adventurously choosing random songs that I would then associate with the spots.

Now, a few more years in, these spots work like time machines for me, because the moment I'm there I travel back in time. Some residue of my being exists there, and its scintillating presence has a calming effect on my hyperactive presence. For a second, it's hard not to think that the Campus knows me and that maybe the love I have for it isn't unrequited after all.

I'm attached to these small spaces and how they make me feel about myself; how these spots store all the little memories that usually go unaccounted. Because however basic these joys seem, when looked at from a larger lens, they have shaped the entire experience I have had here. Like the time I winked at myself in a reflecting mirror, broke into a song and randomly started attempting failed pirouettes when no one was watching. Or the time I stopped on my way to the college gate for a moment to feel grateful for the people that were walking with me. Or the time I saw a peacock fly by OAT and felt like Ash Ketchum when he first sighted a legendary pokemon in slow motion. And the times I would shed a few tears to myself before I wiped them off to put a brave face on. And any and every time I would roam around taking random pictures, pretty much looking like Kanye West in that meme as he captures a sunset. I haven't even begun.

The moments I have shared with the Campus are the kind you share with a lover, the most intimate, the most candid and the most vulnerable. So how can I leave this place with a smile when it hurts like one of the worst breakups? My optimism fails me this time in seeing the bright side of the picture because I know I will never truly be whole unless I'm under one of these green shades that know me so well.

The only solace is that as I leave a part of me behind at DTU, I can think of it as my very own Horcrux.

They say one can never truly die if they are remembered in the hearts of the people they love. And I know for a fact, the Campus is not going to forget me anytime soon.

I am protected by an unbreakable bond of trust that only comes when you grow together.

~~VIRTUAL~~ INCOMPLETE GOODBYES

Parangat Mittal, Editor-in-Chief, 2020-21

The Class of 2020 had to bid goodbye to their friends and batchmates virtually. The screenshot of a Zoom meeting room does not equate that one last group photo on the OAT, quintessential to every group of friends in DTU. Posting old campus photographs as the last memories on campus is just not the same. Seeing the pandemic exacerbate every day over the course of the past year, I dreaded that our batch would also meet the same fate.

"How many cases were reported yesterday?"
"Has any decision been taken on reopening colleges?"
"Will we ever be able to meet again?"
"Can't we stay in hostels following all the guidelines?"

My final year started with all these questions. The once exciting IPL and Premier League statistics were abandoned and replaced by a morbid count of the lives claimed by this heartless disease. With each spike in the daily cases reported, our hopes of spending the final year in college, which soon turned into final semester, came crashing down.

After countless prayers to all the Gods, we finally got a chance to stay on campus and spend the last couple months in a hostel. 'file0214.pdf' was indeed a blessing for us! I remember the happiness surging through me after the 2011 World Cup. The reopening of hostels, and the final chance to reconcile with the ones who had stuck by me for the past 4 years, made me feel a similar euphoria. For the first time in months, everyone was joyous about packing their bags and leaving for Delhi.

We had a lot to cover. We had to make up 3 semesters worth of time in merely 3 months! Somewhere deep down, we knew that this would be the last time we'd ever see each other as a group. Once the 8th semester wrapped up, we'd never meet 90% of these people. Each day, hence, had to be more remarkable than the previous one, for no one knew what would happen tomorrow. The looming shadow of COVID 19 hung over us at all times, and it was upon us to carve a little sunshine that was immune to the darkness that had engulfed the outside world.

In our little bubble, the virus had taken a temporary backseat. With the undeniable fear of a sudden surge again, we were desperately trying to make our last days count. We did the best we could, made the best out of each day. We had to do all the DTU-specific things one last time, so that we could cherish it forever. No one knew when we would get another chance to have that *Masala Maggi* at Micmac, or greet Maggi Baba, or have a *Zaika roll*, or send the admit card to *jmsentp* just before an exam, or take an evening stroll at OAT again.

But life had different plans for us. Once again, the number of cases started rising. In a span of a few days, the numbers skyrocketed like never before. News broke out that this is the second wave of the pandemic, even deadlier than the previous one. The hospitals were running out of beds in simply a few hours; ambulances had to wait outside the hospitals for hours before the patient could be admitted. Social media was flooded with requests for ICU beds, oxygen cylinders, basic medicines and injections. It was clear that soon there would be chaos everywhere in the country. We had to come to terms with situations worsening around us, and our college life officially had to end.

"Will today be our last day?"
"Will there be another lockdown?"
"When will I have to leave?"

All these questions were being raised in the hostel corridors of DTU by every final year student. The air was constantly rippling with uncertainty. Just like every good thing in life ends, this too had to end someday. The end was coming closer with each passing day. With no certainty about what was next, we spent each day like it was our last, only to repeat everything all over again.
Packing four years worth of memories seemed tougher than anything in the world. For too many of us, the last memory is all our stuff packed and loaded into an Uber. The sight of the cab leaving feels like the person is going away from your life, and tears just roll down uncontrollably. In the last week, DTU hostel grounds, which have seen GPLs and birthdays and placement parties, were now flooding with 22-year-old boys crying inconsolably on the road. We just wished for one more week, a few more days, at least one more day.

The HJB hostel, which has seen us enter as little boys with our parents escorting our bags, saw us leaving as men in tears, with backpacks full of possessions which had a lot more than just material worth. And while it is heartbreaking that we could not have a proper farewell like the Class of 2019, at least it wasn't completely virtual like the Class of 2020.

PASSENGER
O F T I M E

Pratik Anand, Student Head, 2020-21

In the past four years-at least during the time that was not spent locked up - I have somehow accumulated more memories of travelling than I ever intended to. For this reason, I cannot help but put my feet in the shoes of a traveller yet again and draw an allegory between travel and my time here.

Through the eyes of a passenger in transit, the whole experience stretches on *ad infinitum* - even more so if the passenger in question is still a juvenile. Countless universes of ideas blossom and fade away in their minds, cushioned by the drawl of the familiar chugging engine. During this time, conversations may flow between passengers, words may float off the pages of a book, or buildings and trees may just simply race past, far into the distance. While the destination grows closer still, the passenger becomes unwittingly comfortable with the process. Contradictorily, once the passenger finally reaches their destination, they often feel that the whole transition took less time than what it felt like *during* the transition.

As the seasons come and go and the reality sets in, this feeling is taken for granted. These repeated journeys make it seem like the destinations are more important, contradicting the popular wisdom that suggests otherwise.

However, nothing could be further from the truth. Even the infinitesimally small journeys foster growth. Each escapade of the mind during them should be wrought with reckless imagination. If not to introspect on any problems, then to merely daydream and introspect, to explore the uncharted territories of the self, looking for the answers to the questions always put on the backburner during the daily course of our lives.

While the allegory so far serves to bring up just the similarities, there exist stark contrasts that balance them out.

When it actually comes to life, a stop missed is a stop missed and

opportunities to turn back are a rarity. The butterfly effect dictates that even trivial decisions, eventually, have non-trivial consequences down the line. It creates a paradox of choice-what entails is a never-ending barrage of *what if*s and an unhealthy curiosity for the roads left untraveled. One thing is for certain: there will be losses, defeats, and even episodes of underachievement. It is not possible to go back and redo, however high the consequences of a decision may have been. What needs to be asked is whether or not a redo is even *required* in the first place.

People are a complex product of all their choices through time. Had they chosen another path, they would have been an ever so slightly different iteration of their self, for better or for worse. Yet, chances are they would still be asking the same questions of choice, rendering any previous *what if*s moot. Even then, something that brings solace to the mind is the fact that things which go without a hitch are rarely as memorable. It is often the imperfections that serve to bring it all together. The only thing that then remains is a question that looks forward into the future and the things that are to follow.

While I do not claim to know a lot, I do know that everything that can be said, has been said before. When it comes to achieving your goals and reaching your own destination - more often than not - there are no secrets. The only thing to it is the rediscovery of the hackneyed truth and uncovering the different paths cleared by countless others before. People can attempt and travel the same routes, yet invariably arrive at their own personal destinations. After all, we were all led here by a combination of our own different choices and shall diverge to follow them yet again, sooner or later.

As I near the end of this journey, it is easy to fall prey to the illusion that the ride just stops here. A contradiction in itself, I feel that it captures the intended duality with coherence. There is just one thing that remains to be asked: *what next?*

एक आखरी खत तुम्हारे नाम

Lokesh Narayan Shankar, Associate Editor, 2020-21

डिअर रीडर,

जब तक तुम्हारे पास यह खत पहुँचेगा तब तक हमारे जैसे कितने ही लोग दुनिया की सबसे विचित्र परिस्थितियों से लड़ने के बाद शायद इंजी-नियरिंग की पढ़ाई पूरी करके कैंपस से वापस लौट चुके होंगे। कौन कहाँ लौटा इसकी खबर तो मुझे नहीं पर मैं तो गाँव जा रहा हूँ अपने विशेषर चाचा के साथ। ये विशेषर चाचा कौन हैं? नहीं पता तो झट-पट बता देता हूँ- हमारे रामचनर काका के इकलौते पुत्र हैं। लो फिर सोच में पड़ गए न कि ये काका कहाँ से आ गये... अरे भईया ये वही काका हैं जिनके डर से आधुनिकता मेरे गाँव की चौहद्दी तक न पहुँच पाई थी। ये अलग बात है कि अब खुद काका ही रेडियो छोड़ मोबाइल में दिन-रात घुसे रहते हैं। हाँ तो मैं कह रहा था कि विशेषर चाचा मुझे हॉस्टल से लेने आये हैं, इतना सारा सामान जो कुछ भी चार सालों में इकट्ठा हुआ है अकेले तो जाएगा नहीं तो फिर चाचा आ गए बोझ हल्का करने। चाचा दनादन टेबल से सामान उठाकर बैग में रखे जा रहे थे तभी उनकी नज़र मेरी डायरी पर पड़ी...

"तुम लिखते भी हो?"

कभी-कबार, जब कुछ स्पेशल हो; अब ये 'स्पेशल' ज़िन्दगी की कोई घटना हो या फिर आसमान में दिख रहा चाँद!

"अरे वाह, इजाज़त हो तो पन्ने पलट लूँ ?"

न चाहते हुए भी इशारों में हाँ कहा

27/04/2021, सुबह 04:23

नमस्कार! आप इस दुविधा में तो नहीं कि इतना जल्दी उठ कैसे गया? अरे भईया इंजीनियरिंग में चार साल गुज़ारने के बाद बेवजह चार बजे तक जागने की आदत तो लग ही जाती है। ऐसा नहीं है कि जो पाँच बजे तक जागते हैं वो पंचवर्षीय योजना (ईयर बैक) वाले हैं।

दरअसल पाँच बजे वाले सुबह का नाश्ता करने के पश्चात सोनेवाले लोग होते हैं जो बदकिस्मती से नाश्ता शुरू होने के ठीक पहले ही सो जाते हैं और फिर तब उठते हैं जब लंच भी ख़तम हो चुका होता है,

फिर वही दुःखभरी दास्ताँ... "यार शंकर उठा देता समय से इतनी भी क्या दुश्मनी हमसे"

लाला हम तो खुद अभी उठ रहे तुम्हें क्या सही वक्त पर उठाते, लाला बेचारा झुँझलाते हुए कहता है कि

"चलो मिक-मैक का राजमा चावल ज़िंदाबाद, चल निकल जल्दी भूख लगी है भयंकर"

"वैसे आज बैडमिंटन खेलने की इच्छा हो रही है काफी दिन से स्मैश नहीं मारा, थोड़ा फ्रस्ट्रेशन बाहर निकले"

"हाँ, स्मैश और तू... नेट से बाहर मारता भी है कभी?"

"क्या भाई अब राजमा चावल से क्या ही एक्सपेक्ट करता है"

बातों-बातों में शंकर और लाला चंदन भईया के हाथों से राजमा चावल लेते हैं और वहीं पेड़ों के निचे लगे टेबल पर आसन जमाते हैं, आस-पास बैठे ऐसे ही लंच छोड़कर राजमा-चावल, मैगी और पराठे खा रहे अन्य बच्चों के शोर में गुम हो जाती है इनकी बतकही।

"इक बात बताओ, मिक मैक के बाद सीधा होस्टल कोई जाता है क्या?" नहीं जाता भाई बिना कैंपस के एक चक्कर मारे खाना पचता ही नहीं। "ठीक है चलो लेकिन विंड पॉइंट से नहीं जाएंगे।" क्यों, तुम्हारी सुलगती क्यों है वहाँ डांस कर रहे बच्चों को देखकर? इसलिए तो नहीं कि तुम कभी डांस नहीं कर पाए और ये लोग यहाँ प्रो बने धमाचौकड़ी मचा रहे हैं... "नहीं रे शंकर बस स्टेज से डर लगता है।" कोई दिक्कत नहीं वहाँ से बस गुजरना है न कि वहाँ बज रहे गानों पर थिरकना है। "ये क्या बात हुई? जब OAT ही जाना है तो TNP से होकर निकल लेते हैं न, बिना मतलब घुमाये जा रहा।" फिर तो लाइब्रेरी से भी जा सकते थे न इधर क्यों आये बिना मतलब... ऐसे कितने ही बहस के बाद लाल और शंकर पहुंचे नेस्कैफे "यार ये नेस्कैफे पर इतनी भीड़ क्यों है?" लो करदी बात नेस्कैफे की भीड़ का कोई कारण नहीं होता मेरे भाई जैसे मेक-सी के समोसे के साथ चटनी मिलती है वैसे ही नेस्कैफे के साथ भीड़ का होना लाज़िमी है।

कैंपस-भ्रमण के बाद वापस हॉस्टल के बैडमिंटन कोर्ट में मंडली जमी जहाँ सूरज के ढलने के साथ खेलने वालो के अलावा बीच आँगन में लगे आम और अमरुद के पेड़ों पर चिड़ियों का आना भी शुरू हो गया, खेल कूद के हो-हल्ले के बीच चिड़ियों की चहचाहट भी गूँजने लगी। कोई वहाँ लगी सीढ़ियों पर बैठे अपने गिटार से 'नादाँ परिंदे घर आजा' की धुन निकाले जा रहा तो कोईबालकनी में टहल, "हाँ मम्मी मैं ठीक हूँ तुम अपना बताओ, पापा कैसे हैं?" के साथ अपने ठीक होने का नाटक कर रहा था ताकि घर बैठे लोगों को लगे मेरा बेटा सच में ठीक है। ऐसी रही आज की दिनचर्या:

अब वक़्त हो चला था रात के खाने का
फिर वही बिन मतलब की टोली
बिन मतलब की बात
कुछ निकले कैंपस सैर को तो
कुछ निकले अपने कमरे को
कोई फर्क नहीं दोनों ही टोलियों में
दोनों ही रात भर जागने वाले हैं
सोने से पहले एक बार और मिक-मैक का चक्कर लगाने वाले है।

चाचा थोड़ा भावुक थे पर ठीक है उनको अपने कॉलेज के दिन याद आ गए होंगे शायद। डायरी तो बंद करदी पर ऐसा लग रहा था कि उनका दिल अभी भी डायरी के किसी पन्ने में रह गया हो...

बची हुई डायरी रास्ते में पढ़ लेना चाचा अभी फटाफट ट्रेन पकड़ते हैं वरना ट्रेन के छूटने के गम में डायरी में एक और पन्ना लिखना पड़ जायेगा।

चाचा: ये दीवार पर क्या लिख रहे हो?

कुछ खास नहीं चाचा बस कहीं पढ़ा था अब लिख देता हूँ:

The last farewell must be said in advance.

I remember having multiple conversations with my friends throughout my university life about how I can't wait to get out of DTU. Now that the time is finally near, the certainty I felt before is wavering. I don't mean to suggest that I've had a change of heart for the feelings that fuelled such conclusions because the lows were indeed very low, and I'll never forget them. However, I feel conflicted when I try to look back and sum up my journey. At some point, I had lamented the loss of my four years to university and was sure that I would not learn or grow in any manner. But now, as I try to recount my time here, I find that I have accrued a lot more lessons than I realised.

Leaving DTU has been such an everlasting thought in my mind that I find it hard to consider any other perspective than the one I've held so close to me these past four years. Sometimes, on some terrible nights, the only way I could get myself to fall asleep had been through promises of a brighter future on a tropical beach. I dreamed of the time when I could be finally independent; when I could bag groceries at 3 AM without having to worry about my safety or a curfew. When I could cook food without having to hide my induction stove/kettle/utensils immediately after, when I would be free to do whatever I wanted whenever I wanted.

Having romanticised the idea of leaving so much, I didn't consider any negative implications that may occur when I do. Before the first lockdown last year, I was in a completely drained state of mind and wanted to be with my family more than ever before, so I welcomed it as a much-needed respite. As months of online studies continued, I found myself becoming happier and returning to my usual self. However, now the reality of not saying goodbyes is settling in, and it's frightening knowing that this is it; this is where everyone I know and hold dear to me will diverge from and who knows when our paths will cross again. It's strange that when I lived in DTU, I couldn't wait to get out of it, and now, I just want to wake up in my small crummy room in Type-2.

In the end, DTU has given me so many things that I didn't know I needed, and perhaps it did so unknowingly. Treating your time spent here as a black box, you have to ask yourself if you're a better person now than you were when you came, and my answer to that is a resounding yes. My time here challenged my previous worldview and exposed me to many real-world struggles that didn't exist in my bubbled reality before university. I learned how much difference having a support system in your life can make, how and when to set boundaries, what it means to take ownership and how to create a methodical work ethic. Most importantly, the past four years have taught me how to survive. DTU was an arduous growing-up journey that I didn't know I needed, and while I'm thankful for it, I can't deny the comfort that it's almost over.

TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF

Srishti Mittal, Managing Editor, 2020-21

In most placement interviews, this is the very first question the interviewer will ask you. It is also somehow the toughest to answer. Over a series of interviews, I cooked up a response - a hodgepodge of select points from my resume. I'm an engineering student. I write for DTU Times. I know some Python. However, I still feel like I haven't found the perfect answer - and after a year's worth of pandemic-fuelled introspection, I know why.

All our lives, we're taught to fit things into absolute categories. Short or tall. Living or nonliving. IITian or non-IITian. As we get older, the categories get more complicated, but their essence remains the same - they simplify concepts by fitting them into boxes. That's exactly what the interviewer is trying to do. As I answer, his mind constantly runs through the checkboxes: what's her deal? Which category does her CV fit into - core, technical, or non-technical?

The truth is this: my answer can't help him classify me, because the work I have done over the past four years can't fit into an absolute compartment. But I try, anyway, to paint myself as the best candidate for the job. I assemble each misshaped puzzle piece into a whole that screams, depending on the audience, "DATA ANALYST" or "GRAD STUDENT". And after 5, 10, 15 interviews, that rehearsed answer starts defining me. I start believing that I am the story I have so elegantly concocted.

Our final year of college messes with our heads in strange ways. The constant barrage of placement interviews, application deadlines, and competitive exams leave us with little headspace for anything else. We internalize the idea that all we are is a sum of our academic achievements - because, in those few crucial months, that's all the world sees when it looks at us.

It is only when the memory of the last interview fades that we start remembering: there's more to life than this. There's more to me than this. So, as my time in Bawana draws to an end, I struggle to decouple my resume from my personality. I wrestle with three major questions:

Who was I when I joined DTU?
Who am I now?
Who will I be after I leave?

I spent two days trying to write this part of the article, only to realise that these are questions I still can't answer. I can't sum up who I was, am, or will be in just a few sentences - and that's all right, because life isn't an interview. Human beings don't fit into boxes, CVs, or the pages of a college magazine. I'll try, anyway.

At the risk of sounding cliché, it feels like my first day at DTU was only yesterday. I want to say that the person I was then is completely different from who I am now, but that's not true. Was I once a terrified fresher? Yes. But that's not all I was. I was brave, and outspoken, and persistent, just on a smaller magnitude than I am now.

College is said to be a transformative experience, and it is. However, it is less about what changes in you, and more about what stays. Bravery, outspokenness, persistence - these are qualities that I always had, but were overshadowed by fear and self-doubt. Over these four years, I have learnt - am learning - to trade in fear and self-doubt for hope and faith. I have learnt to look to the future with excitement rather than trepidation.

Maybe all we are is what stays. As I stand at the threshold of the unknown, I don't know what parts of me are going to stay - but I've been told that I'm a fighter, and this is what I hold on to.

Adieu To Absolute Rationality

Karan Singh Bora, Associate Editor, 2020-21

"There are no selfless good deeds."

The above statement from a popular show only seems to be a well-written dialogue at first glance. But if you ponder over it long enough, it is a gateway to (hopefully) a fruitful discussion. Are there any truly selfless good deeds?

For us to answer that question, we need to break it down. The concept of a good deed might sound shaky at best. As a shrewd mind would conclude, what constitutes a good deed may be harmful to someone inadvertently. Countless examples support the previous statement. But, I believe people do undertake good deeds, be it donating meals or adopting a pet. Since we derive happiness out of these charitable acts, they cannot be defined as entirely selfless. After feeding a stray dog, we return home with a positive state of mind which benefits us in the long run. One can say that it leads to personal gain or growth. Philanthropic acts as such might be rendered as selfish by a bounded rational mind. The argument further complicates as we traverse down this road of equating personal satisfaction from a generous act as selfishness. Does this mean that there are no selfless good deeds, and we let absolute rationality prevail?

These arguments beg us to dig deeper and question the perspective of our approach. Philosophers rightly pointed out that the arrogance of rationality often comes with willful blindness. Absolute rationality closes the mind to newer insights. It makes a person think that his knowledge is enough and that the world must conform to his rational axioms. It shuts off the will to learn more and evolve our thought process. When we look beyond the bounded rationale that our brain concocted, we are bombarded with infinite possibilities. This is the realm where we can let our imaginations run wild and be open to interpreting the world around us in a novel manner. The change in perception is what helps us grow and mature. It allows us to form meaningful bonds. Keeping an arrogantly rational mind might be helpful in the short run, but you miss the beauty and thrill of the unknown. To lead a life of continuous personal and professional growth, we need to explore and strive to be 'rational enough' to comprehend and possibly accept different ideologies.

When you graduate, you are overrun with a wave of emotions and responsibilities. The tide might seem fatal to those unwilling to accept the unknown. Since they require their minds to make their professional lives conform to their rationalities.

So, how can you turn this uncertainty into a meaningful experience? The answer lies in your journey of eight semesters. As you make your way through the uncharted campus, in the beginning, slowly getting accustomed to its ways, you might find an answer if you listen closely and observe with an open mind. Try to abolish those pillars grounded with willful ignorance and let your mind take in the fascinating philosophies of those around you.

After revisiting our original argument, I conclude that doing good deeds is what counts. The act of alleviating the weak in dire times is the highest rung on the ladder of moral values. The fact that one gains personal satisfaction does not make compassion worthless. On the contrary, it provides an incentive. There may be infinite conclusions to this intriguing question, and my deduction is debatable. But it suffices for now, as my journey completes and I bid farewell to the incognisance of absolute rationality.

Loss Of Our Generation

X   TW: Talk of self-harm and depression   X

Anushka Sharma, Managing Editor, 2020-21

A farewell article is probably supposed to be either a happy one or one reminiscent of the happier times of my life here. Surprise, surprise! This one isn't.

It's about us; all of us. About us collectively contributing to this dystopian world as a generation.

I want to talk about depression and self-harm.

While the growth we have made in acknowledging depression, and its consequences as real illnesses that need attention, makes me happy, it worries me too. While I would love to call this shift a bliss, this bliss is quite skewed, in my opinion.

If you open your Instagram right now, it is highly likely that you'll come across at least one account talking about someone struggling with their mental health. Most of us will scroll through it.

The reason behind this is the offhand way we have started dealing and talking about such profound matters. It has become a trend to self-diagnose, take anxiety quizzes to find out if we're one of the sad ones and often hand out well-meaning but ill-fitting advice to someone who might need professional help. Here is where we fail as a generation; as a part of the human race. While we try to be too relevant, too woke and too damaged, we forget how to care the right way.

We scroll too much but don't read enough. We see too much but don't notice enough, and we for sure hear too much but don't listen enough. The prime reality is that no one is bound to be happy forever, but you're not bound to be sad forever either. I once read a novel called The King of Torts by John Grisham, and it had this quoted conversation where a father asks his son about his girlfriend, and the son says she is history. The father asks if that's good or bad, and he replies, "right now, it's just painful". Every emotion, including pain, is a part of our journey as humans; the timing and amount of this pain, of course, varies from person to person. Often, when we romanticise this pain, we miss the part where we talk about how to heal.

Self-harm and depression are caused by sporadic shifts in mood that ride one through the arcane corners of their being. The journey is either to poignant moments, evocative of very special memories, or to places they've tried their hardest to incinerate, with the desire of moving on. It thus makes them an interloper in their own mind, as if treading through moments that don't belong to them anymore.

It is after being a keen and introspective observer that I reach out to my fellow batchmates, juniors, and seniors to take a step towards being there for one and another. To stop treating every scar as a tattoo and every inconvenience another tragedy. To stop brushing away real issues under the rug, and to acknowledge and show support for someone who lets you in on their sorrow. I urge each one of you to stop being machines scanning your phones and laptops, and urge you to wake up, look around and be someone's pillar of strength.

And as I bid you adieu, let me ask you a question. Do we care enough to be the change we need?

DEAR SENIORS

N. KRITHIKA, 2ND YEAR, ENE

When I first entered the strange lands of Bawana, staring apprehensively at the 163 acre wonderland, brimming with emotions, I wasn't sure if my college life would be a pleasant one. All at once, the air was water and I was drowning in a sea of anxiety, desperate to swim beyond.

But things aren't the same now. I have learnt to surf the high tides of DTU. I have learnt to face the unfamiliar **BTs** of college life for you once told me:
"Yahan kiya hua har ek adventure, once in a lifetime opportunity hai."

Thank you for all the unfiltered gyaan that you gave at Nescafe as we sipped from our hot cups of coffee while discussing the pros and cons of doing an MBA after B.Tech. As I would sit around the OAT, with my fellow batchmates struggling to complete the assignment on time, laughing and cracking jokes, I would remember that:
"GPA important hai but college life enjoy karna usse bhi zyada important hai".

A year from now, when I would be hustling my way through the TnP Cell, glancing at the happy-sad faces coming out of the interview room and waiting for my turn to enter the battlefield, I would smile, thinking of the time you said:
"Job nahi lagi to startup kr lenge"

From dancing on **Jatta ka Chhora**, to the endless shenanigans at **SP**,
From unfinished goodbyes, to precious memories captured in hearts,
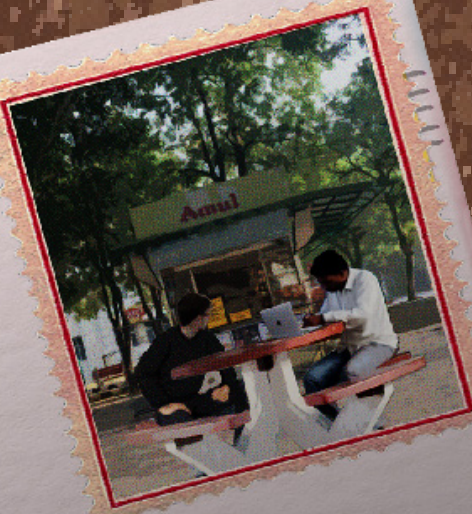Dear Seniors
Thank you for always being there,
for guiding us,
for inspiring us,
And for making DTU feel like home.

With love,
A grateful junior

Hands

Anoushka Raj, 3rd Year, ENE

How do I put a lifetime of loving
Into a string of words
With rhymes at the end
How do I describe
Time, touch and tenderness
In symphonic syllables
I probably can not weave
The tapestry of togetherness
In shallow sentences
But I will try.

The first time you fall in love
It's always with the hands
Words, faces, hearts come next
(Not necessarily in the order)
And so I fell for your hands
And I remember the first brush of your palm against
mine
On that quiet, dusty day outside the station
Your friend waiting beside you
Our first in the thousand stolen moments that would
follow

Hands, with their calloused fingers
With your texts telling me what to do
Write. Edit. Upload.
Little commands that would send my heart fluttering
And my mind soaring into a daydream
And my fingers,
Stripping off petals from a rose
Asking the same question, over and over again

I remember my hands,
Clumsy, dirt under the nail beds on a usual Tuesday
But painted bright pink to match your shirt today
*Hands, breaking off little pieces of the **samosa***
*Dipping it in **chutney** daintily*
And reaching up to your mouth
Stuffing food as my cheeks turned the colour of the
setting Sun

An outstretched palm, and your weight against my waist
Hands and bodies and sweat, in a desperate tangle
Finding my way to where your heartbeat rang
Loud, clear, triumphant
Taking over the empty room
And how my hands felt against the beat of this drum
Alive, as if with purpose and fervour.

Your hands, slipping into mine soundlessly as we
crossed the road
My hands, and the metallic circle around my fourth
finger
Your hands, reaching out for my bag after a bustling
train ride home
My hands, tugging your hair behind your ear
*Your hands, pouring out the first cup of morning **chai***
My hands, exploiting the camera button as you fell
asleep beside me

What is love, but two sweaty palms fitting into each other
Each too smitten to wipe away the beads of perspiration
There's something about holding hands
And the touching of fingertips
That connects humans in a way that nothing does
Just leaning onto one another
Out of neither need nor necessity
Out of nothing but the desire to lean,
To hold, to feel, to connect
To eradicate the small space that separates us

But you move, and my hand stirs
It grips a little harder,
The firmness is askance, and you know it
Michaelangelo got it right
When he connected God and Adam by a little finger
A tiny morsel of an immortal being
Giving away the gift of life
And I feel like Adam tonight
And our hands are outstretched
Reaching out, barely touching

For when one leaves, the hands leave first
Then the thoughts, feelings, emotions
(Not necessarily in that order)
But first, the palms dissociate
And the fingers aren't interlaced
And my nails no more need to match your shirt

How do you express longingness
Without holding out your palm
Asking him to clasp it for you
See there's this thing about hands
You can't see them from 300 miles away
And you can use your fingers to type a pattern
And say "I miss you"
But when I say that I mean
I miss the warmth between our hands
And I wish I could swim through the oceans
Uproot a few rocks
Walk my way through the desert you call home
Just to feel the millisecond of euphoria
Before my hand finds its way into yours
And then, with a couple of decades of existence under my belt
I would finally know
What they mean when they say
"Your happiness is in your own hands."

ABOUT UNRECONCILED FAREWELLS

Ishaan Gupta, 3rd Year, ME

There's something to be said about the DTU's campus for its labyrinthine structure. As a wide-eyed fresher, I used to walk the roads of this campus, holding my phone with a steady hand to look at directions for wherever I needed to go. It took me a month to get used to the ways of the campus. However, the same could not have been said for my affinity to the practices of the college.

Classes were challenging, the societies were too many, and the lack of a strict structure made my first year confusing. There was so much to be done with no clear know-hows of managing time between academics and social life, rushing to classes and catching some shut-eye before your professor's role call, make do with a backbench after a lifetime of having been at the front. The questions were too many and not enough mistakes I could've made to find out the answers myself.

The answer to all my questions little did I know, lied with the people I so frighteningly addressed as sir/ma'am. Somewhere in my first semester, one of these sirs asked me to sit down with him on a bench in the evening and asked me questions that did not qualify as small talk. As I talked, hesitantly at firstly and too fluidly during the middle, he started talking, too.

As I listened, I realised he was just as anxious about certain things, so were his friends, so were his seniors. Not only did it feel relieving, but a lesson about college was passed on there and then.

There were some roadblocks in college that everyone had to climb, claw, and labour their way through.

My seniors had been in my place. They used to demonstrate their makeshift forms of wisdom in how they handled themselves, how they managed their life, and most importantly, the way they expressed their affection. My seniors were quite direct, though. Sometimes, they would express it in rigorous critique, sometimes in laughter upon hearing the ridiculousness of my issue, and sometimes, like a sibling who was worried about you.

As the pandemic spills over to this year, I don't know if and when I'll get the opportunity to bid them a proper farewell. Even though it's been a year, I hadn't planned it in my head this way. In my head, it was supposed to be about receiving a call during the day and rushing to TnP when they'd get placed. It was supposed to be celebrating their every achievement only for the sake of taking dozens of treats from them. It was supposed to be about listening to their pre-interview jitters over Rajma Chawal at MicMac and going back to their residence only to crash unannounced and yet, feel welcome at the same time.

It was supposed to be about all the things that didn't happen and because of it, the sight of offline classes - if they happen - would be one where I step back in the same labyrinthine structure to navigate college in its last lap without them. While the college will be populated, all the same, there will be a strange emptiness that every 4th year will feel who was once a wide-eyed fresher.

Types of People While Saying 'Bye'

Riya Singh, 1st year, MCE

• Kabhi alvida na kehna
We all know someone who never ends a conversation with a proper goodbye. They just disappear in the middle because goodbyes are a social construct, right? .
.
.
Oh, you're still here?

• Chalo jaane do, ab chhodhho bhi
We've all found ourselves talking to a person way after we say goodbye; usually our favorite person, someone we can endlessly converse with, because we said "Goodnight!" a couple of times, but it didn't work.

• Zara short mein batlao na
Then come the people who end the conversation in the most basic way possible.
"Goodbye."
"Bye."
These are usually the ones who double-tap messages on Instagram to end a conversation. Their clarity in life is evident in their straightforward ways.

• The busy bees
This category overlaps with the first one, except these people like to make it known that they're not leaving without reason. It's almost as if you can hire them for writing leave applications because of their creativity in getting out of discussions!

• Acha toh ham chalte hain, fir kab miloge?
These are the people who always plan the next meeting, at least tokenistically, before they leave. It's almost as if they feel bad about ending conversations - even if they're already dead.

• Ab main itna bhi kuch khaas nahi
These are the ones who read every blog on "How to be a good conversationalist" and use their knowledge in conversations. They're the ones who are always nice and polite, like a politician before elections. They can be. identified by phrases such as:
"It was lovely meeting you."
"I can't wait to see you next."

They leave you thinking that you are the most interesting person they've ever interacted with, which is probably not true.

Postscript: *This article neglects the intersectionality between different types of people for reasons known only to Times writers (hint: word count).*

Relocating

Aryaman Singh, 1st Year, EP

Locking the door one final time, all the bitter-sweet memories from inside. No waiting for re-allotments this time. No waiting in the line to surrender the room again. No drinking from jugs during dinner again. No leaving the morning mess food to eat outside again. The sleepless study nights won't be coming back again. No one would shout your name to go outside and play hide and seek half-consciously . The rare library visits in the summer for a blast of AC, the *chole bhature* and *paranthas* along with all the vibrant places will be fascinating memories now, of the good old days.

The food you thought you would never like, is now your love. The room you could not stand at first got a prettier visage once you made it yours. You even started calling it home at one point. There are no regrets, and yet you feel the time was inadequate. You didn't realise the time passing by, when exactly did it all end? I read somewhere how Sushant Singh described it all as one long playtime, I agree.
How did the time pass so quickly? You know the answer but just can't understand it.

You'll miss all the time spent in the sports complex when there was nothing to do. You'll miss the courtyard, which served as a field for all sports, be it your midnight cricket or football during the World Cup season. You'll miss sneaking outside after 12. Your car arrives outside the hostel building, and you stand in front of the red walls shoving the bags in, and as you're getting ready to descend into your independent years, you know that you'll miss this.

Of Lasts
Ananya Singh, 2nd year, CHE

If we got one more shot at our last conversation
I would sit next to your bed
and look at you.
Trace all lines on your face
with a flower,
and press it between the pages of your diary for
safekeeping.

Record your voice
every time you called my name,
Make videos of you cooking,
washing dishes,
I would ask you to tell me stories
from when you were my age,
and store all the words you say in an airtight jar.

If I knew breaths were numbered
I would've taught you how to
hold them for longer,
Breathe slower,
Rationed my breaths and lent them to you
So you'd be here a minute more.

If I knew you would be gone today
I would've come to see you yesterday,
Held your hand longer
Kissed your forehead
Slept on your lap
And hope that when I ask you to
You'd stay.

The Dominoes of Goodbyes
Pranjal Srivastava, 2nd Year, COE

We paint our escapades of reflection with cyan and tangerine.

We fill them with hopes for a glistening future or the mosaics of the past breathing within us. I find myself often going for the latter. Perhaps because seeking comfort in adding dashes of romanticism to everything has always been a guilty pleasure for me.*

There is often a piece of advice reiterated in the wisdom of those who claim to know - everything happens for a reason. Being the naive youngling-trying-to-figure-life that I was*, I always took this with a pinch of salt because I could never figure out why goodbyes had to be the way they are.

The first time my mom took me to a school and bid me goodbye from behind the gates, as I ushered into a world I had never seen before, I had no idea why it had to be so. I thought it was time for a change of parents*. I cried a lot. But I adjusted, settled and forgot the feeling.

Then, after six years, a transfer order came out of nowhere like a hailstorm into my perfect world. Again I bid a teary-eyed farewell to my school and city. I took everything with a blue haze*, wondering why it had to be so. And yet again, I moved on.

Life kept happening as I tumbled over this wave of goodbyes. I bid adieu to friends*, places*, cities*, had my first breakup*, left my school and came to college* and the cycle of tearful goodbyes to the subsequent forgetfulness kept repeating. And the reasons for it remained unknown to me.

But maybe now, I see a faint silhouette of a reason in the pattern. I never really forgot those. We keep a part of us from all such times, and it's those parts that we put together to be the collage of experiences that we are. It's those parts I escape to in contemplation, and perhaps that's why I said I find myself often going for the mosaics of incidents from the past.

* Ahh yes, reflecting upon the past
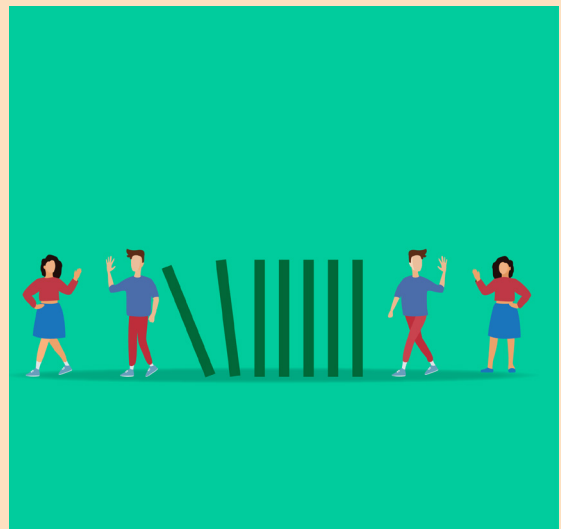
Write the Right Essays

Akanksha Tanwar, IT, 3rd Year

A step-by-step guide on how to write the proper essay answers!

If you are someone seeking to apply for the upcoming scholarships, fellowship programs, or simply just want to hone your essay writing skills- you've landed on the correct page!

01 Ideate and Think

Before you start answering your essay questions, it is essential to have some facts about the organisation and, in particular, the program up your sleeve. Read a few blogs about it, or maybe watch a video or two! Researching would get you pepped up for applying to the opportunity and make you ten folds more excited about it. This way, you'll also get hold of an idea regarding the kind of people the review committee is looking for.

02 Draft Soon

Many people want to perfect their answers and want absolutely no error while writing them for the first time, which ultimately leads to a lot of procrastination, missed deadlines and eventually no will to apply. A more plausible road to perfecting your answers is- **Review and Edit.** Rather than sitting at once to write your application for straight 3 hours or so, this approach is way more structured. This **eliminates the need to perfect your answers on the first try.** You'll see your **essays evolve** and would have a much more open-minded take on changing your answers drastically.

03 Support System

Once you've written your first draft, you can subsequently oscillate between your friends, seniors, classmates or pretty much anyone you can get a hold of, to proof-read your answers, suggest any edits or indentation improvements.
These edits mostly do not require context and can be suggested by anyone with a good hold of the language.

04 Connect Early

The process of getting your application reviewed can be hectic.
You need to find people who have been through the process and reached ashore a.k.a. **past scholars.** This is the step where your **network** steps in; it can be safely vouched that the academic community is uber supportive! You can easily find scholars on LinkedIn, community groups or program websites. However, they would be bombarded with applications as you start moving closer to the deadline which can result in your request turning obscure instantaneously.
To avoid a last-minute rush, follow Step 2!

05 Some General Good Practices

1. Stick to the word limit: Do not try to sneak in an extra paragraph or two!

2. Keep it Clean and Simple: Make sure your application is easy to read and doesn't have any twisted words or hard to comprehend statements.

3. Avoid Filler Phrases: Completely strike off redundant achievements, claims (already on your CV) or anything which isn't necessary. Every line in your essay should complement the lines around it!
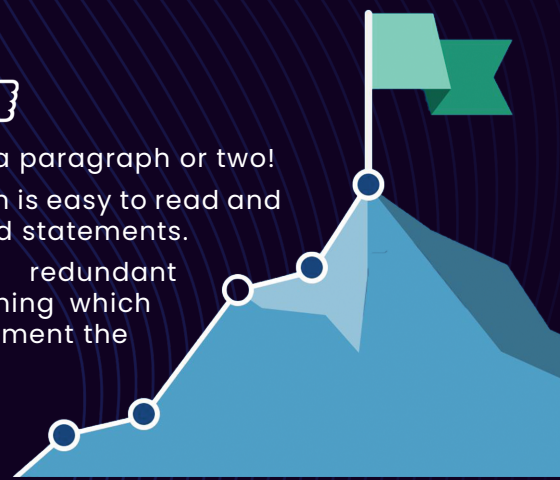
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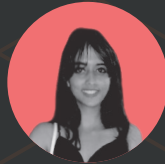Head of Development

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