



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - JUNE
2020



Dear Friends,

It gives me immense joy to present to you the first issue of the DA-IICT Newsletter.

With a wide range of activities and dynamism on campus, it can be challenging to keep track of all the extraordinary things that are being attempted and accomplished at DA-IICT. Therefore, we have launched the Newsletter with the intention of recording and acknowledging the contributions and achievements of students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

I thank the Editorial Committee for bringing out this issue. The Newsletter attests to the fact that despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic, the Institute has forged ahead towards its goals. I hope that the Newsletter provides an insight into the Institute's continual efforts in achieving its core mission of outstanding teaching, research and collaboration.

Finally, in these difficult times, I send thoughts of health and peace to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Prof K. S. Dasgupta

Director, DA-IICT



COVID RESPONSE

The DA-IICT community worked round the clock to respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic. In March 2020, when the nationwide lockdown was imposed, we were a few weeks away from our semester examination. However, we rose to the occasion and conducted our online semester examination and concluded the semester successfully.

According to **Prof Suman Mitra**, the Dean of Academic Programs, the Institute is facilitating the smooth transition to virtual learning and has planned for the online semester and the new opportunities that could integrate virtual classrooms with traditional ones. Secure VPN access to research server & HPC cluster access for research work has been given to the faculty and PG students. Software like Matlab/Netsim is made accessible through the public network as well. Secure access to the LMS system outside the campus has also been allowed.



Orientation session for M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)

New Academic Programs

MSc in Data Science

MSc in Data Science is a new degree program intended for students who want to learn to solve real-world problems in the big data world. MSc in Data Science is a uniquely designed program to empower students with the knowledge to perform multimedia and big data analysis. The courses will focus on acquiring fundamental knowledge of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science. The program in Data Science will include not only traditional data analysis skills but also incorporate other crucial skills to perform analysis on big data, including data from multimedia sources.

B.Tech in Mathematics & Computing (MnC)

B.Tech in Mathematics and Computing (MnC) is a new degree program with a fusion of Mathematics and Computer Science that has obtained wide acceptance as a distinct discipline over the past few years.

It arises out of dealing with Mathematics as a fundamental tool in computing and with computing as a primary component of mathematical problem-solving. The program aims at expanding the mathematical, algorithmic and computational thinking of students and at providing sufficient and solid foundation for skill development in MnC. The program aspires to provide exposure to the students who wish to build a professional career in MnC, working at the cutting edge of technology, research and development.

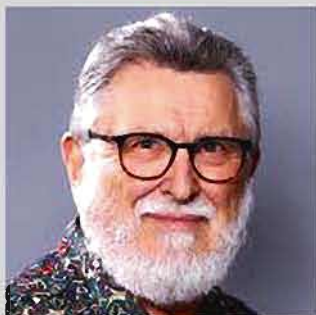
The batch of students pursuing **M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)** with specialization tracks in Data Science and Information Security, joined DA-IICT campus for their second semester in January 2020. The program is offered jointly by IIT Jammu and DA-IICT. The orientation session was organized for the students, and the guest lecture was given by Prof. Tathagata Bandyopadhyay, Dean (faculty) from IIM-Ahmedabad, and Saumil Shah, Founder of Net Square.

Placement at DA-IICT

In an all-time high record for the number of students being placed during 2019-20 placements at DA-IICT, the Institute secured **384 offers**, including **50 Pre-Placement Offers** from **134 companies**. The highest package offered this year is **Rs 43 lakh per annum** and the average salary being Rs 12.82 lakh per annum.

The placement season saw hiring from several renowned companies like Microsoft, Amazon, Sprinkler, Zomato, GE, Philips Oracle, Deloitte, Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank, LinkedIn, Flipkart, Endurance, Qualcomm, VISA, Goldman Sach, ARM, TruBil, Postdot, PropTiger, Futures First, Zapr, HSBC, DB, Juniper, Treebo, Byju, Samsung, Dailyhunt etc. The list of varying profiles offered to the placed students includes Software Development Engineer, App Developer, Full Stack Developer, ASIC Verification, Banking, Finance Data Analytics Engineer, Visual/Graphics Designer and Artificial Intelligence Engineer.

NEW FACULTY



Nicholas J. Belkin

Nicholas J. Belkin, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Library and Information Science, School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University, USA is appointed as Adjunct Chair Professor. He is best known for his work on human-centred information retrieval and development of the cognitive viewpoint in information science. His research involves information-seeking behaviours and the interaction between humans and information retrieval systems. Among the main themes of his research are digital libraries; information-seeking behaviours; and interaction between humans and information retrieval systems. He is a recipient of the ACM SIGIR Salton Award and the ASIS&T Award of Merit.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The **Faculty of Science, University of Auckland, New Zealand** and DA-IICT has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster academic exchange and cooperation. The objectives of the MoU are to promote collaborative research projects, cooperative learning, faculty and staff exchange and Visiting Scholar programs.

DA-IICT has been awarded **DST-FIST Grant** (Level 1) of INR 57 lakh. The number of proposals shortlisted under the FIST 2019 call (Engineering Sciences) is 16 out of the total 218 proposals submitted nationwide (www.fist-dst.org/).

DA-IICT has collaborated with **SAS** (American multinational developer of analytics software with 40+ years of analytics experience) to launch a two-year full-time Master of Science in Data Science (M.Sc. Data Science) from 2020. The programme is designed to address the new paradigm of fact-based decision making associated with the advent of Big Data. More details can be found at www.sas.com/en_in/news/press-releases/2020/march/sas-india-dhirubhai-ambani-institute-msc-data-science.html



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS



Prof Hemant Patil

Prof Hemant A. Patil has been elected as ISCA (International Speech Communication Association) Distinguished Lecturer for the year 2020-21. Prof Patil was also APSIPA Distinguished Lecturer during 2018-2019. This recognition is towards his joint research work in the field of Speech and Speaker Recognition, Anti-Spoofing Methods for Automatic Speaker Recognition, etc. primarily with the members of the Speech Research Lab at DA-IICT. He is the first Indian scientist working in an Indian university getting this international recognition of ISCA DL.



Prof Bhaskar Chaudhury

Prof Bhaskar Chaudhury (DA-IICT, India) along with Prof. Matthias Ehrhardt (University of Wuppertal, Germany) and Prof Vrushali Bokil (Oregon State University, USA) edited a special issue titled "Finite Difference Methods: Recent Developments and Applications in Computational Science" in Elsevier Journal of Computational Science (2020).



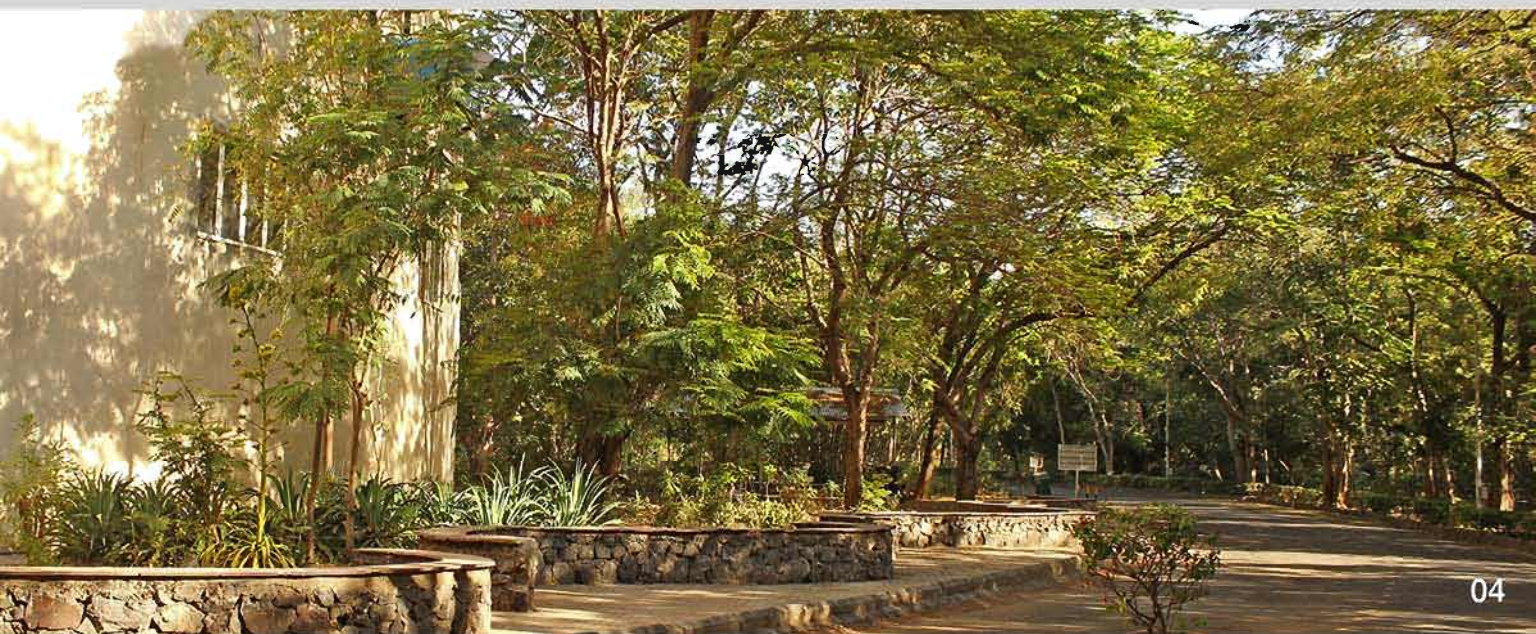
Prof Sanjeev Gupta

A new research project was sanctioned under **Prof Sanjeev Gupta** and **Prof Yash Vasavada** by SAC-ISRO, titled "Adaptive Beam Forming for Mitigation of Interference and Jamming at the Ground Terminal of Global Navigational Satellite Systems (GNSS)".



Prof Yash Vasavada

Prof Yash Vasavada launched a new research lab called CSPMI (Communication, Signal Processing, and Machine Intelligence) Lab with ISRO funding support of INR 1.25 Crore. This Lab has five on-going research projects with five faculty members as the PIs/Co-PIs and eight JRFs, including five M.Tech students and one PhD Scholar.



VISITS BY ADJUNCT CHAIR FACULTY



Prof David Levin

Prof David Levin, an Adjunct Chair Professor, visited DA-IICT in January 2020. He is an Associate Professor at the Department of Mathematics, University of Oregon. Prof Levin taught a module on the Pattern Recognition, and Machine Learning course offered to MTech and PhD students. He also interacted with faculty members working in Machine Learning and allied areas for future collaborations.



Dr David M. Smith

Dr David M. Smith, Adjunct Chair Professor, accompanied by Mr Martin Glaser, PhD Scholar, University of Leipzig, Germany, spent three weeks in February 2020 at DA-IICT. Dr Smith is the Head of DNA Nano-devices Group, Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology (IZI), Germany. Dr Smith and Mr Glaser had consultations with Prof Manish Gupta on the collaborative research project 'VecDNASTor' jointly funded by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and German Academic Exchange (DAAD). The research team planned to write and submit scientific manuscripts, particularly, a new manuscript about software tools for DNA Nanotechnology. They also planned to submit proposals for funding for further collaborative work between Fraunhofer and DA-IICT. Prof Smith taught a module of 'Molecular Programming,' within the course 'Modeling and Simulation' offered by Prof Mukesh Tiwari.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Sanjoli Singh Chauhan

B.Tech student, **Sanjoli Singh Chauhan** received offer letters from IIM Kozhikode and IIM Indore for their Postgraduate Management Program and from IIM Bangalore for their Business Analytics Program.



Madhu R. Kamble

Ms Madhu Rayappa Kamble, a PhD scholar at DA-IICT associated with Speech Research Lab, got a Post-Doctoral position from EURECOM, France. Ms Kamble has an impressive list of publications, a 6-month internship experience at Samsung Research Institute, Bangalore. She also offered a tutorial as a co-instructor with Professor Hemant Patil during APSIPA ASC 2017, Malaysia, and IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE), Pune, 2016. She has also received several grants from IEEE SPS, ISCA, and NUS Singapore in the past for her research.



Nidhi Gupta



Abhignya Chalamcharla

Two of our B.Tech. students, **Nidhi Gupta** and **Abhignya Chalamcharla** received admission letters from IIM Ahmedabad for its Postgraduate Management Program 2020-2022.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Vidhi Katkoria

UG student **Vidhi Katkoria** and doctoral student **Pratik Ghosh** developed a GPU accelerated open source SAR simulator under the supervision of Prof Bhaskar Chaudhury. The work was presented at IEEE MTT-S International Microwave and RF Conference (IMARC) at IIT, Bombay. Pratik Ghosh also secured the second position in the student activity program in IMARC, IIT Bombay.



B.Tech students, **Janvi Bhagiya**, **Simran Nagrani** and **Jahnvi Gupta** secured an internship at Microsoft in their second year and went for their second internship this summer at Microsoft. They got selected through the Microsoft CODESS event.



Ankit Kumar

Ankit Kumar, 4th-year student's paper titled 'Evaluation of Deep Learning-Based Human Expression Recognition on Noisy Images' has been accepted by the 7th International Conference on Soft Computing and Machine Intelligence to be held in Stockholm, Sweden.



Meet Patel

Meet Patel, a 3rd-year B.Tech student, was selected in Google Summer of Code (GSoC), 2020. He worked for 12 weeks under the organization Percona, developing various open-source tools utilizing a wide range of technology stack.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT



Hardik Kotadia

Hardik Kotadia, our M.Sc IT alumnus of 2009-2011 batch, is the Co-Founder and Director of Marketing at Solance Industries since 2016. As of today, Solance has 16 offices of over 5000 dealers/distributors across India and exports in more than 15 countries. Recently, Hardik's company joined the hundred crore club in terms of revenue generation. He is also the co-founder and CEO of **twoiq llp** since 2017, an IT company that solves business problems for MSMEs. He is working on writing yet another success story.



A Special Acknowledgment to Staff Members

It was a tumultuous period that we faced during the national lockdown starting from April this year due to Covid pandemic. The open campus became a closed one all of a sudden. One hundred and twenty students had to stay back on campus as they could not move to their homes since the transport services came to a halt. Thus the responsibility of managing food for campus residents, water supply, sanitation, medical support, monthly payment to contractors and salary fell on the shoulders of a few staff members. They came forward, travelled from their homes to the campus despite health risk. **Keshubhai Zala**, General Assistant and **Shashikumara AA**, Assistant Librarian, both of them moved to campus to lend their support. The team of **Geeta Mehta**, Accounts Officer, **Santosh Pandit**, Assistant Accounts Officer and

Gyanesh Pandya Senior HR Assistant, managed to travel from their residences to campus to settle salary and wage bills in time. **Jigar Yagnik**, Deputy Registrar, **Jalpesh Pandya**, Assistant Registrar and **Abhilash Bhaskaran**, Sr. Secretary to the Registrar remained present most of the days to handle 2021 admissions and documentation for students/graduates. **Priyank Santola**, Hardware & Network Engineer and **Dinesh Prajapati**, Senior Programmer extended technical and systems support throughout the lockdown period. **Dr Anjana Vaid**, Medical Officer, ensured that the Medical Center on campus remained opened on all days and her service is available to DAICT Community. We are grateful to them for risking their safety and wellbeing for providing support to the Institute.



Keshubhai Zala
General Assistant



Shashikumara AA
Assistant Librarian



Geeta Mehta
Accounts Officer



Santosh Pandit
Assistant Accounts Officer



Gyanesh Pandya
Senior HR Assistant



Jigar Yagnik
Deputy Registrar



Jalpesh Pandya
Assistant Registrar



Abhilash Bhaskaran
Sr. Secretary (Registrar)



Priyank Santola
Hardware & Network Engineer



Dinesh Prajapati
Senior Programmer



Dr Anjana Vaid
Medical Officer

CONFERENCES AND ACADEMIC EVENTS



An exhibition was organized at DA-IICT in February 2020, showcasing the work of **M.Des.** (CD) first-year students on Photography and Ethnography courses taught at DA-IICT under the guidance of **Prof Anirban Dutta Gupta** and **Prof Vishvajit Pandya**. The exhibition was put up in two parts. First was "Interpretations" which was an attempt to depict a single word through a series of photographs. The second was "Making a living" which showcased the everyday life of people working on the roadside.

DCEI (DA-IICT Centre for Entrepreneurship and Incubation) organized the first edition of Entrepreneurship "Swadheenta", a fruitful combination of two flagship events of DCEI: Hack Infinity 2.0 and "Indradhanush"- Entrepreneurship workshop for Women, to give rise to new entrepreneurial ventures from 7-10 February 2020. Dr Nilesh Desai, Associate Director, SAC-ISRO was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session of the event organized under the Chairmanship of Executive Council, DCEI, Prof Sanjeev Gupta.



Invited Talks



IEEE SB DA-IICT organized an interactive session with DA-IICT alumnus and IIM Kolkata graduate, Mr Bhavesh Manglani, Co-founder of Delhivery on May 9, 2020. He spoke on "Navigating Career through difficult times like Covid-19." The session was moderated by DA-IICT alumnus Swapnil Khandelwal, Founder, and CEO of AlmaConnect.

A team from Samsung Research and Development Institute, Bengaluru visited DA-IICT on January 22, 2020 to launch **Samsung PRISM** Preparing and Inspiring Student Minds. PRISM is designed to engage Professors and Students on industry-relevant projects in cutting edge technologies along with R&D mentors at Samsung.

Akshar Varma, an alumnus of the B.Tech CS program (2013 batch) of DA-IICT, delivered a talk on "Machine Learning Theory and Practice" on January 22, 2020. He is currently a PhD candidate at North Eastern University, USA. In his talk, he emphasized the relevance of Computational Science and how it can be used to solve problems.



Bhavesh Manglani



Swapnil Khandelwal

16th CONVOCATION

DA-IICT held its 16th convocation ceremony on January 18, 2020, conferring degrees to all the Graduate and Postgraduate students. The occasion was graced by the Chief Guest **Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat**, Member Niti Aayog, **Dr Anil Bhardwaj**, Director, Physical Research Laboratory, and **Professor David Levin**, University of Oregon, USA. Students were awarded medals for their exemplary performance. The recipients of the President's Gold Medal were **Shubham D Annadate** from B.Tech (ICT), **Agam Shah** from B.Tech (Honours) in ICT with minor in CS.

Dimple Shah from M.Tech (ICT), and **Archan Ranade** from MSc IT. The graduating students this year include 475 students, including 8 PhD scholars. The Convocation ceremony marked the conclusion of the academic stay of graduating students at DA-IICT and hence was an event filled with nostalgia and excitement at the same time. Prof K. S. Dasgupta, Director, DA-IICT, highlighted vital initiatives and programs by DA-IICT during the academic year 2019-20. He congratulated all the graduating students and wished them a successful life ahead.



Archan Ranade
MSc IT

Dimple Shah
M.Tech (ICT)

Shubham Annadate
B.Tech (ICT)



Agam Shah's mother receiving Gold Medal from the Chief Guest

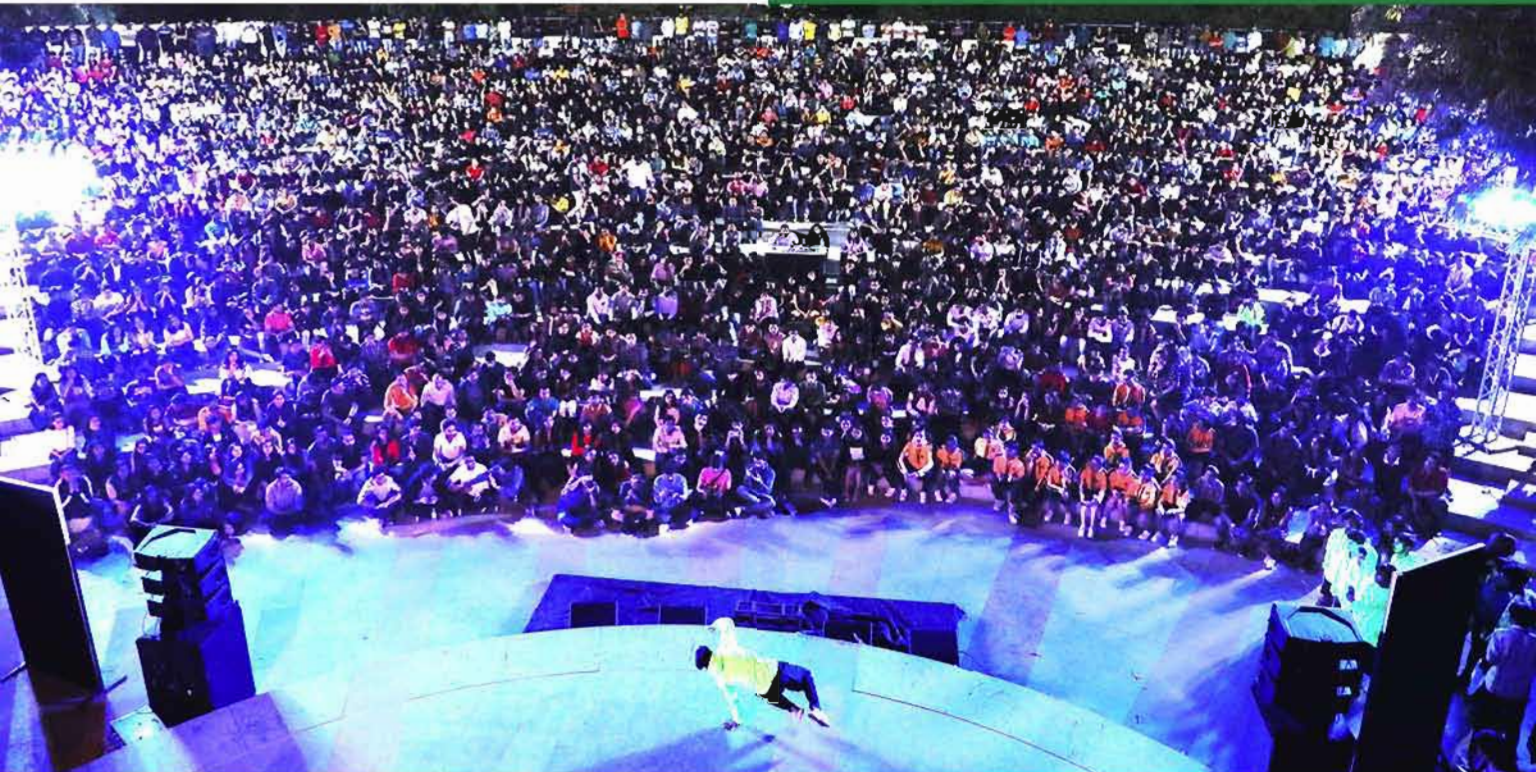


CAMPUS EVENTS

The 71st Republic Day of India was celebrated with patriotic fervour at DA-IICT. Director K. S. Dasgupta hoisted the national flag and greeted people on the occasion. The heartfelt renditions of patriotic songs sung by students aroused patriotic fervour amongst all.

To celebrate the confluence of technology and culture, students of DA-IICT celebrated their annual fest **Synapse '20** from 20th - 23rd February. Synapse' 20 covered a wide range of activities from technical events like coding and robotics, cultural ones like dance, music, drama to thought-provoking ones like debates & quizzes. More than 2000 students from 25+ colleges from all over India participated and attended the events. The technical events culminated with performances of renowned artists like Nucleya, Shalmali Kholgade and Amit Trivedi.

On **International Women's Day**, the Student Body Government (SBG) of DA-IICT organized lunch and distributed certificates and mementoes to thank the women housekeeping staff of the Institute who work towards improving sanitation conditions and inspiring others to do the same.



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If you have any news or updates reach out to us at newsletter@daiict.ac.in

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