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Your window to UVCE

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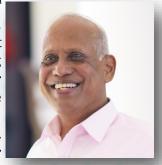
HAPPY

ENGINEERS

EDITORIAL - ENGINEER'S DAY SPECIAL

It gives me great pleasure to be writing the Editorial of this 164th Edition of the Sampada monthly magazine from the staples of the UVCEGA, which is scheduled to be released coinciding with the Engineer's day. Just Yesterday, all of us observed Teacher's Day with reverence, remembering not only our School & College Teachers but Gurus who guided us in our career and life. Let me begin this Editorial with my Pranams to all the Teachers and Gurus, who shaped me to what I am today.

The Nation is going to observe The Engineers Day on 15th September. Each year, this day is celebrated to commemorate the achievements of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (Sir MV in short) on his birth anniversary.



Often regarded as 'the maker of modern Mysore', he played a key role to modernize the society like establishing Industries, constructing dams for irrigation and in the field of Education. Established in 1917 by him, University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) was the fifth engineering college in the country and first in the then Mysore state. How proud I am to be an Alumni of this famed legacy Institute which has well crossed a Century of its establishment.

Coming to a little bit about myself, I graduated from UVCE in the year 1972, from the third batch of Electronics, still under the Department of Electrical Engineering. Just last year we celebrated our Golden Jubilee year of Graduation. It was already a trend in those days to pursue higher studies in India or abroad and I pursued my Master's Degree at IIT Madras and specialized in the field of Communication Systems. While many of those who stayed in India were absorbed by the booming PSUs, I consider myself very fortunate to have entered ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation). Being a Nascent organization, I was even more fortunate to be associated with the country's first ever projects related to Satellites and their Applications. I hope to write about them in detail at a later time. Having served continuously for 37 years in ISRO, I grew up with the organization to handle several responsible positions, finally retiring in the year 2011, as Director of Satellite Communication & Navigation Program Office.

Because of my association with ISRO, it won't be out of place to say a few words about its growth. Over the past 50 plus years, it had developed the Rocket and Satellite Systems and brought these Technologies to an operational status on par with International standards. The Government Desires that these technologies be monetized in the Indian market as well as the Global market and more specifically with the participation of the Private enterprise. Thus several startup Companies have emerged in India.

Technology is also fast changing. As an example, in the field of Satellite Communication, the world is moving towards Low Earth Orbiting Constellation like Star Link, One Web, Kupier etc. ISRO will be involved in R&D efforts related to New Technology Developments or in Newer Missions like deep space missions to Moon, Mars, Jupiter, Sun etc, Human in Space (Gaganyan) Mission, or even the futuristic possibility of colonization of Moon & Mars. Thus the potentials in ISRO and Space related Private Industries are seen to be quite enormous.

Almost the entire Nation felt very proud of ISRO with the recent Chandrayan#3 Mission. In fact, two deep space missions have taken place in quick succession, namely Chandrayan#3 and Aditya-L1 Missions. These are part of its R&D efforts in the domain of interplanetary mission pursuits. India's Moon exploration began with the launch of Chandrayan#1 in the year 2008. The craft was put in an orbit around the Moon at an altitude of roughly 200 Kms. Out of several goals of the Mission, one major goal was searching for Lunar water/ice especially at the Polar regions. The other one was to test the impact for a craft during landing with the help of a Moon Impact Probe – MIP, as a fore-runner for future soft-landing. The soft landing (which could not be achieved in 2019) was successfully achieved by the Chandrayan#3 Mission. Chandrayan#3 Mission is a composite of the PM (Propulsion Module) and the Vikram Lander. The Lander has the Pragyan Rover anchored in its belly. The Mission was launched by ISRO's most powerful rocket GSLV-MK3 on July 14th. After entering the Moon's orbit, the Lander got separated from the PM & its orbital height was gradually reduced. On August 23rd, the final descent of the Lander took place & at 18:04 IST, the Vikram Lander touched down on the Moon soil.

The landing site being in the South Polar region, India is the first country in the world to have successfully landed in Moon's South Pole region. Later after a few hours the roll out of the Pragyan Rover happened. The Pragyan Rover has travelled around the Lander a total distance of 100 CHANDRAYAAN meters before the Lunar night set in, necessitating to put the Lander & Rover in power safe mode. This is because of the absence of the Sun during the Lunar night (about 14 Earth days). Both the Lander & Rover have carried out immense study of the Lunar surface. The South pole holds great potential for Minerals, water and Helium. The experimental payloads have detected the presence of several minerals. Another important technological achievement was to restart the Lander engines, raise it by a short height of



40 Cms, shift it laterally by a short distance and land it again on the Moon's surface. This is called as a "Hop" and will go a long way for the future Lunar Manned Mission.

Aditya-L1 is another scientific exploratory mission related to the study of Sun. Launched on September 2nd 2023 on board the ISRO's workhorse PSLV rocket. It is India's first space based Solar Observatory from the Lagrange L1 point, some 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. The Spacecraft will take approximately 125 days to reach the L1 point, on 12th January 2024 to be precise. This is also ISRO's second astronomy observatory-class mission after AstroSat, launched in 2015. Among the various scientific studies to be carried out are the study of Sun's corona & coronal mass ejections, Imaging the solar photosphere and chromosphere in the near UV range, study of the Solar winds and Ions distribution, study the X-ray flares from the sun over a wide X-ray energy range, study of the Interplanetary magnetic fields at L1 point etc.

After the successful Chandrayan#3 mission accomplishments, with Aditya on its course towards Lagrange L1 point, the most talked about "Human in Space" program of ISRO is eagerly awaited by the Indian public as well as the international Space commune. Already doing rounds is the mention of Jupiter Exploration and a revisit to Mars. Thus the future younger generation has exciting times awaiting them.

On the business aspect of space technology, estimates indicate that satellites in the range of 2.3 Lakhs will need to be flown to form a part of the Low Earth Orbiting Communication Satellite constellations. These satellites have to be launched too. In this the potential of Earth Observations / Remote sensing satellites has not been addressed. Hence, a big market exists for Satellites and Launchers. This will be based on standardized system engineering which the Industry can handle. While this is the status about the space hardware, on the other hand, the market value of the Services is even much bigger. The International Space Industry Association predicts that by 2025, the Global market value for the Engineering and Services put together will be US\$ 600 Billion. India can stake a claim of a modest share of 10% of it.

This makes one think of educating and skilling the future youngsters to take up confidently and meet the Industry needs as well as the newer challenges related to Deep space travel, Navigation & Guidance, deep space communication, Artificial Intelligence, study of the environment effects associated with deep space and the much wider arena of Technology. Brainstorming sessions with all stakeholders is the need of the time to tailor the Academic curricula to suit the needs of Space Science & Engineering. Alumni having served in these technology domains, spread across India and abroad can be chartered to share their knowledge and experience with the younger generation. Frequent awareness / technology update lectures should be planned.

Before signing off, I would like to thank the Editorial Board of Sampada for having given me an opportunity to write and share my own views. The Monthly Magazine is very impressive with its wide range of coverage on Events, celebrations, interactions with Illustrious Alumni, arranging and covering the lectures etc. I wish Sampada and its Editorial Board all the Best to take it to newer heights. We are already amidst the Festival season. I wish everyone a very happy festive season. Let us be passionate in the pursuit of our new learning, keep excellence as our motto in our endeavours. Good Luck & Best Wishes.

SAMMILANA

Continuing the tradition, UVCE Sammilana 2023 - Engineers Day - will be organized on 23rd September at Century Club by UVCE Graduates Association. We are glad to welcome all the alumni to participate in this event. It is a small-fee registration based event. Here is the link to pay and RSVP - https://payments.cashfree.com/forms/uvcegasammilana

Guest Speakers:

- Dr M S Suresh 1971 batch; ISRO, ex-Dean of BNMIT
- Kamal Kumar 1979 batch; BARC, Apple, Dassault Systems

We request you to participate in the event - an opportunity to interact with the fellow alumni and help in building the community. Also, please spread the word among your friends and invite them to join as well.



THE MAN WHO ENGINEERED A REVOLUTION

To engineers across India, September heralds the one day of the year – National Engineer's Day – when their tribe is acknowledged. For this, they have Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1861-1962), who was born on September 15 in a village called Muddenahalli 60km northeast of Bengaluru & celebrated during his lifetime as 'one of the very ablest of India's engineers,' to thank.

Knighted in 1915 by King George V, Sir MV was so admired in his own state that he acquired folk hero status, becoming a metaphor for extraordinary intelligence, rectitude, and discipline. To this day, in Kannadiga homes, it is



common to describe a bright youngster as 'Vishveshvarayya-n taley' (Visvesvaraya's brain). Legends abound about his uprightness, like the one in which Sir MV fetched a different pen and inkwell to help a friend fill a form, instead of using the ones he had been using for his work, because he would not use the government's resources for personal business. And his near-unreasonable insistence on punctuality had even ministers showing up at his door five minutes early, knowing that they would be turned away if they knocked even a minute after the appointed time.

If this aspect of his personality made him an unusual Indian, there was another, that put him in ideological conflict with his towering compatriot, Mahatma Gandhi. Even though Sir MV was the older by eight years (and a couple of weeks), it was he who was the more 'modern' in his approach to development; he embraced the western industrial-capitalist model, exhorting the country to 'industrialise or perish', while Gandhiji advocated for self-sufficient agrarian village republics. So much of Sir MV's work as a civil engineer, however, was about building dams, irrigation systems, and reservoirs, all of which benefited farmers, that Gandhiji had nothing but praise for him.

In a remarkable career spanning seven decades – he retired from the board of Tata Steel at the age of 95 – Sir MV spent only 23 years 'in harness', working for the British Indian government in Bombay Presidency. In that time, he designed an intricate irrigation system in the Deccan Plateau, gave recommendations for water supply and drainage systems in Aden (today's Yemen), and patented his design of automated weir floodgates for dams. In 1908, having opted for voluntary retirement, he travelled to Europe for a closer study of industrialized nations.

In 1909, after a successfully executed commission from the Nizam of Hyderabad to design a flood-protection system for the city had turned him into a celebrity, the Mysore Diwan, V P Madhava Rao, invited Sir MV to take over as Chief Engineer of Mysore, which he graciously accepted. Thus, at long last, did the best-known alumnus of Bengaluru's Central College wend his way homewards.

In 1912, Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV appointed Sir MV Diwan of Mysore. In a too-brief seven -year stint, he founded several enduring institutions, including the State Bank of Mysore, the Government Engineering College (now the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering), the Bangalore Press (whose calendars continue to grace so many homes), the Century Club, and a whole slew of industries and factories that catapulted Mysore unequivocally into the 20th century. In 1918, the staunch secularist and meritocrat, who believed that religion was a plague and caste inequalities were best addressed by means of education and community leadership, courted huge controversy when he resigned in a huff, in opposition to the Maharaja's proposal to bring in affirmative action.

Today, in Sir MV's erstwhile home on Museum Road, his descendant Satish Mokshagundam lovingly preserves, among other souvenirs, the peepal leaf-shaped medallion that was bestowed on 'Thatha' in 1955, making him the very first recipient from Karnataka of the country's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna.

(Roopa Pai is a writer who has carried on a longtime love affair with her hometown Bengaluru and our own alumnus from 1992 batch)

- Source: Hindustan Times (<u>Click here</u>)

ಎನ್. ಶೇಷಗಿರಿ - ಸ್ಮರಣೀಯರು

ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸಂಚಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಮುಂದುವರೆದಿದೆ...

National Informatics Center (NIC)

ಡಾ.ಶೇಷಗಿರಿ Data ಮತ್ತು Information ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಗತಿಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಮಹತ್ವದ್ದು ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ, ಅವುಗಳ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಉಪಯೋಗದಿಂದ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ನಿರ್ಧಾರಗಳು ತಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದರು. ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕೃತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದರೆ, ದೇಶದಾದ್ಯಂತ ನಡೆಯುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲು, ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು,

ಅದರಿಂದ ಕಾರ್ಯನೀತಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರು ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯನೀತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಗತಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ Available of the Right Information, At the Right Place, At the Right Time ಆಗುವುದರಿಂದ ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಉನ್ನತ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೇರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ನಂಬಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮುಂದೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ಥಾವಿಸಿದರು. ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಗಳಿಂದ, ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಪ್ರಸ್ಥಾವನೆಗೆ ತೀವ್ರ ವಿರೋದ ಬಂದರೂ, ಪ್ರೊ. M G K ಮೆನನ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಡಾ. ಶೇಷಗಿರಿ, ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಇಂದಿರಾ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಮನ್ನಣೆ ದೊರಕಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಈ ದೂರದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರಮದಿಂದ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇ



National Informatics Center (NIC). NIC 1976ರಲ್ಲಿ ದೆಹಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿತವಾಯಿತು.

ಡಾ.ಶೇಷಗಿರಿ NICಯ ಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕಗೊಂಡರು. ಆಗ ಅವರಿಗೆ 36 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸು. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಿ, ಉತ್ತಮ ನಿರ್ಧಾರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಿಂದಲೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕಲೆಹಾಕಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗುವ ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಹಂತದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಡಾ. ಶೇಷಗಿರಿ ಅವರ ಸಾಧನೆ ಅರ್ಥವಾಗಬೇಕಾದರೆ 1976ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಹೇಗಿತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಒಂದು ಉದಾಹರಣೆಯಿಂದ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳೋಣ. 1976ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಹಾಕಿಸಿವುದಕ್ಕೆ ವರ್ಷಗಳು ಕಾಯಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಒಂದು ಊರಿನಿಂದ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಊರಿಗೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಟ್ರಂಕ್ ಕಾಲನ್ನು ಕಾದಿರಿಸಿ ಘಂಚೆಗಟ್ಟಲೆ ಕಾಯಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕಾಲ. ಆಗ ಇದ್ದ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಜಾಲದ ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ computerised dataವನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಸ್ಥಳದಿಂದ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು. ದೇಶದ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಅದಾಗಲೇ ಹಳೆಯದಾಗಿದ್ದ, ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಬಾರ್ ಎಕ್ಸ್ಟೇಂಜ್ ಗಳಿದ್ದವು. ಇಂಥ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಸರ್ಕಾರೀ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಹಂತ ಹಂತದ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಲೆಹಾಕಿ, ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಿ, ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಉತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವ ಮಹತ್ತರ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಡಾ.ಶೇಷಗಿರಿ ಯೋಜಸಿದ್ದರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯರೂಪಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

ಎಲ್ಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ರಾಜಧಾನಿಗಳಿಗೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ರಾಜಧಾನಿಗಳಿಂದ ನವದೆಹಲಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸವಾಲೇ ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ದೇಶದ ಮೂಲೆ ಮೂಲೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ದೆಹಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಸರ್ವರ್-ಗೆ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯೇ ಆಯಿತು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಹುಡುಕುವುದು ಡೊಡ್ಡ ಸವಾಲೇ ಆಯಿತು. ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಡಾ.ಶೇಷಗಿರಿ ಕಂಡು ಹಿಡಿದ ಪರಿಹಾರ ವಿಶ್ವ ದಾಖಲೆಯನ್ನೇ ಉಂಟು ಮಾಡಿತು.

ಸ್ಯಾಟಲ್ಲೈಟ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಿ ಅವುಗಳ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದೇಶದ 520 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ರಾಜಧಾನಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ದೆಹಲಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು VSAT ಟರ್ಮಿನಲ್ಗಳ ಜಾಲವನ್ನು ಅಧಿಷ್ಟಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಜಾಲವೇ Nationwide Computer Network - NICNET ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧವಾಯಿತು. ಇಡೀ ಪ್ರಪಂಚದಲ್ಲೇ ಯಾರೂ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲೂ ಆಗದ ದೇಶದ ಮೂಲೆ ಮೂಲೆಯಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಚಟುವಟುಕೆಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲು Integrated Computerised System ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದ ಕೀರ್ತಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ್ದು ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರ ರೂವಾರಿ ಡಾ.ಶೇಷಗಿರಿ. ಇಂತಹ ನೆಟ್ವರ್ಕ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಗಣಕೀಕರಣ ಆ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಪಂಚದಲ್ಲೇ ಮೊದಲನೆಯದು. ಅಮೆರಿಕ, ಇಂಗ್ಲೆಂಡ್, ಸೊವಿಯತ್ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದಂತ ದೇಶಗಳು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮುಂದಿದ್ದವು. NICNET ಎಂಬ ಅದ್ಭುತ ಮಾಯಾ ಜಾಲ ಆ ದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯ ಉಂಟು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಲ್ಲದೆ, ಆ ದೇಶಗಳಿಂದ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞರು, ಆಡಳಿತಗಾರರು ಈ ಅದ್ಭುತ ಸಾಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ತಂಡ ತಂಡವಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರು. ಇನ್ಫರ್ಮೇಶನ್ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 10-15 ವರ್ಷಗಳು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದಿದ್ದ ದೇಶ ಒಂದೇ ಏಟಿಗೆ ದಾಪುಗಾಲು ಹಾಕಿಬಿಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು.

ಮುಂದುವರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ...... - <u>ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಪದ ಫೇಸ್ಬುಕ್ ಪುಟ</u>

UVCEIAN IN LIMELIGHT

Aruna Venugopal is a proud alumna of UVCE. She graduated in the year 2000 from Computer Science branch. She became the first Indian Woman to accomplish the Triple Crown, and the oldest Indian Woman to conquer the English Channel. She shared her gritty story on Facebook:

Guess what, folks? On 20th July 2023, I officially became a Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming! Let's dive into my journey of conquering the iconic English Channel not once, not twice, but thrice in a single season!

First, we have the English Channel, the epic UK to France swim that took place on the 20th of July, 2023. It was a whopping distance of 34 kilometres, and I braved the waters for a grand total of 16 hours and 4 minutes!

Next on the list is the Manhattan 20 Bridges challenge in the good ol' USA, which happened on the 28th of August, 2019. This time, I swam a whopping 45.6 kilometres in just 8 hours! It's like a sightseeing tour of Manhattan from water, but way more intense.

And last but not least, we have the Catalina Channel challenge, also in the USA, which took place on the 21st of August, 2019. I covered 32 kilometres in a cool 11 hours and 49 minutes! That's some serious endurance right there.

Let's get to the start, my original slot for the EC was between 23-30th of July during the neap tide. However, a slot opened up on Thursday 20th when it was spring tide instead. Now, spring tides aren't exactly the best choice for solo swimmers. Why? Because the water gets all choppier, rough, and a real challenge to navigate the swim. Trusting my God, my training and my crew, I took this only slot available - no second thoughts - just full-on determination.

My swim started in the midnight when it was pitch dark, with zero visibility. On the boat accompanying with me were the crew (of course!) and my sister Vani. As anticipated the sea was extremely rough & powerful. The marine animals like jellyfish are a constant threat.

It rained heavily during first hour, making it even more challenging. Choppy sea water often made me feel nauseous, disrupting my pace. Chanting the Gayatri mantra and the Iskcon tagline kept me focused both physically and spiritually.

Nutrition is crucial, Vani would ensure this. Every hour I needed feeds and warm water to rinse my mouth that probably had cuts. But the carbohydrate drink and electrolyte were churning in my stomach. And because of the soreness in my mouth, I couldn't drink even a quarter cup of water. Finally, my body began to acclimatize. But there's a twist again - I began to enter a whirlpool towards the end. It took me nearly an hour to come out of this.

We soldiered on, and even when the co-pilot kept asking Vani if we should give up, she shut him down like a boss! We were in it to win it, no turning back. It did pay off when we finally saw land after 16 hours of battling the salty waves. The journey wasn't just physically demanding; it was a true test of mental strength.

Water was quite warm at 17deg when I swam all through that was what I was hoping for and my body was adequately acclimatized. Vani braved the boat ride with me, and trust me the facilities on that boat weren't even 1 -star. They handed us a bucket to relieve ourselves! Imagine swimming in the dark, with zero visibility, and rough waters trying to push you off course – it's like a wild dance with the ocean!

Did you know, we swim with only a single V-cut costume, cap and goggles. No buoyancy AID, No wet suit nothing. I follow no stringent training, feed plan, I let my body dictate my workouts. In the end, the Triple Crown was worth all the effort and sacrifices. This was one of the most successful trips with 3 crossings in a swim season, 2 relays and one solo. I am very ecstatic and the reality is yet to sink in.

So, to everyone who supported and encouraged me, thank you from the bottom of my salty, marinated mouth! Without your blessings, this crazy achievement wouldn't have been possible.

...Until the next aquatic adventure! (Link for full FB Post)

UVCE IN MEDIA

Woes of ageing colleges

Affirmative action policies based on race in American universities are well known. Another less recognised but widely practised policy in elite American institutions involves favouring the children of alumni, known as legacy admissions. Legacy applicants have 3–10 times higher admission chances compared to regular applicants. The deleterious effects of this policy are being widely debated, and many universities are abandoning it. Fortunately, in India, it is unlikely we'll discuss such policies soon. One reason is that we don't implement such policies, but sadly, another reason is that most of our legacy institutions, once renowned for quality teaching, teachers, and institutional gravitas, have lost their appeal to today's students and parents. These institutions have been overshadowed and outranked by newer establishments. I daresay that this is true for almost all institutions at every level of education and in every part of the country.

This train of thought was triggered by a recent conversation with a highly accomplished 60-year-old Bengaluru-based industrialist from a family of distinguished engineers. He proudly told me that he was a third-generation student at UVCE and shared many wonderful experiences with his family at that institution. Then there was a moment of awkward silence. I held back the natural question of why his children did not continue the tradition and create fourth-generation alumni; he tried steering the conversation away from this trajectory. His story is not unique; for most alumni from that time, UVCE was their first choice, while for their children, it was not even close.

This led me to research UVCE's past. Its graduates from its glory days have brought glory to India. For instance, out of the fifteen or so engineers that have been awarded the Padma Vibhushan, three are from UVCE. A proud achievement for an institution conceived and executed by, and named after, a Bharat Ratna. So, to adapt Maria from The Sound of Music, "somewhere in its youth it must have done something good." However, we have not been good to this hallowed institution and given it the life that Maria got. Instead, it has been given Ajit's liquid oxygen treatment: isey liquid oxygen mein daal do; liquid isey jeene nahi dega; oxygen isey marne nahin dega" (Put him in liquid oxygen; the liquid won't let him live and the oxygen will not let him die). Perhaps Ajit's lament, "Dekh teri sansar ki haalat kya ho gaya bhagwan," is apt.

UVCE's story is not unique. Across the road is Central College, an institution with an even longer legacy and stellar alumni; it is the alma mater of the only scientist Bharat Ratna, C N R Rao (other than C V Raman), and has a long list of distinguished scientists and writers. Not far away is Maharani's College, a pioneer in women's education in India. Much like the proximal institutions around the world, these institutions had strong synergy, with teachers crossing over to teach at the neighbouring institute being de rigueur. One can only imagine the level of scholarship and intellectual ferment that this would have engendered. It would not be a stretch to say that these institutions have seen far better days than their current state indicates. A profound sadness creeps in when one tries to ask, "Why did we let this happen?" The usual clutch of reasons get trotted out: government policies, interference, and declining work culture.

There is some truth to this. Take, for example, the regulatory changes at a typical engineering college from, say, 1980. Being affiliated with one of the big three universities until then, it was shifted to a new university in 1980, then to VTU (1997), then made autonomous (circa 2005), and then perhaps became a private university (circa 2015). In the meantime, it had to follow UGC and AICTE regulations, NAAC accreditation requirements, file NIRF documentation, and follow NEP guidelines. I am sure I have missed some. All this while dealing with uncertainties in academic calendars stemming from flexi-dates of government-mediated admission processes and flexi-funding & norms for resource (human + capital) development arising from oft-shifting priorities & policies.

It could also just be that that is how we are—quick to jettison the current favourite and gravitate to a new shiny object; lacking the patience to nurture old faithfuls and instead home in on younger hopefuls. Arguably, this is inefficient. Losing revered institutions erases valuable lessons embedded in traditions and institutional memory. This is not to say that we should not establish new institutions, but we should not lose the legacy ones. While we celebrate our glorious ancient past, we must also retain and nurture our glorious institutions of the recent past.

So, what's the solution? Assuming that the government and the public are its oxygen, the answer is simple: provide significant capital, appoint capable leadership, and allow them autonomy by leaving them alone. Check back periodically—once every ten years—to make minor course corrections. All the major institutions in the world have grown this way. `Helicopter parenting' by the government is detrimental. Instead, peer pressure and the marketplace will give them the right trajectory. Yes, there will be a few bad apples, but that is par for the course; the majority will do much better than what they are doing right now. Try it; it cannot get any worse.

Before concluding, it is worth noting that there is at least one notable exception to this slide—the Indian Institute of Science. The slope there is all very positive. Let's hope that some of its shine rubs off on our other legacy institutions and that they soon regain their old glory with alumni and interested citizens leading the charge.

Source: Deccan Herald (Writer: D Manjunath, IIT Bombay)

POETIC GOLDEN MEMORIES OF 73 BATCH

We are glad to publish a special poem by S Muralidhar from 1973 batch reccalling the memories of completing 50 years of graduation - Golden Jubilee celebrations. It encompasses faculty members, trips, subjects studied and more.. Hope you will enjoy reading it...

<u>ಸುವರ್ಣ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ</u>



ಬನ್ನಿ ಬನ್ನಿ ಮಿತ್ರವೃಂದರೇ ಇಂದು ಈವತ್ತು |
ತುಂಬಿತು ಬೇವು ಬೆಲ್ಲ ಬೆರೆತ ದೀರ್ಘ
ಸಂವತ್ಸರಗಳು ಐವತ್ತು ||
ಅಂದು ನಾವು ಪಡೆದ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಐದು
ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಯು ವಿ ಸಿ ಇ ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅನರ್ಘ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ |
ಸ್ಮೃತಿ ಪಟಲಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೋಮಾಂಚಿತ
ಘಟನಾವಳಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೇ ತೇಲಿ
ಬರುತಿದೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ಷಣ ||

ಅಂದು ನಾವು ಕಲಿತ, ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ರೇಖಾ ಚಿತ್ರ, ಹೈಪರ್ ಬೊಲ, ಪ್ಯಾರೋ ಬೊಲ | ನೆನಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ಅವುಗಳು ಅದೆಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಭಲ|| ಮಷೀನ್ ಡಿಸೈನ್, ಥೇರ್ಮೋ ಡೈನಾಮಿಕ್ಸ್, ಹೈಡ್ರಾಲಿಕ್ಸ್, ಪಿ ಪಿ ಸಿ | ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಓದಿ ಮಾಸ್ತರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಾಚುತಪ್ಪದೆ ಅದ ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿ ||

ಕ್ಲಾಸ್ ಮಾರ್ಕ್ಸ್ ತೆಗಯದಿದ್ದರೆ ಆ 25 ಅಂಕ |

ತಕ ತಕಲಾಡುತಿತ್ತು ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ
ಅದೇನೋ ಆತಂಕ ||
ಆದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಮಾಸ್ತ ರುಗಳು
ಬಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ, ದಿವ್ಯಾನಂದ್, ಭಾಸ್ಕರ ನಾಯ್ಡು,
ಶಿವ ಶಂಕರ್, ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ, ಶ್ರೀನಾಥ್
ಮಾಕಮ್, ಯೆಲ್ಲಾ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ, ಬಿ ಎಲ್ ಎಸ್
ಮುಂತಾದ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯರು ಇರುವ ತನಕ |
ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು ಸುಲಲಿತವಾಗಿ ದಾಟಿದೆವು
ಆ ಗುರುಗಳೇ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಕ ||

ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಐಕ್ಯತೆ ಭಾವ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಬೆಸೆಯಲು ಕಾರಣ | ನಾವು ಮಾಡಿದ ಧೀರ್ಘಕಾಲ ಉತ್ತರ, ದಕ್ಕಿಣ ಭಾರತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಯಾನ || ದೆಹಲಿ , ಆಗ್ರ , ಮುಂಬೈ , ಮದ್ರಾಸು , ಕೇರಳ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳ ಪ್ರವಾಸ | ಅದೆಂದಿಗೂ ಮರೆಯಲಾಗದ ಸಂತಸ ||

ನಮ್ಮ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮಿತ್ರರು ಇಂದಿನ ವರೆಗೂ ಬಾಳ ಹಾದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ ಈ ಸ್ವರ್ಣ ಪರ್ವ | ತಮ್ಮ, ತಮ್ಮ ಕ್ಟೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ ಸಾಧನೆ, ಸೇವೆ ಹೇಳಲು ಮೂಡುತಿದೆ ಗರ್ವ || ಧನ್ಯ, ಧನ್ಯರಾದೆವು 1968-73, ಯುವಿಸಿಇ ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಈ ಸ್ವರ್ಣ ಸಮೂಹ | ನಮಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಆಚರಿಸಲು ಈ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಹಬ್ಬ ಮನ ತುಂಬಿದೆ ರೋಮಾಂಚನ, ಉತ್ತಾಹ ||

~~ S. Muralidhar Class of 1973 BE Mech



WWW - WONDER WOMAN WEDNESDAY

Wonder Woman Wednesday is a dynamic digital organization dedicated to celebrating the extraordinary achievements of women from all corners of the nation and across all age groups. Wonder Woman Wednesday is all about amplifying the voices, inspiring the world and bringing a positive change. I am thrilled and honored to have been appointed as the campus ambassador for

this nonprofit organization. The mission is to empower women to realize their full potential, and as the campus ambassador, it is my utmost priority to help this organization gain greater recognition and reach as many people as possible.

Every Wednesday, Wonder Woman Wednesday shares a new story highlighting the accomplishments of remarkable women. I am particularly proud to mention that the founder of this organization is one of our esteemed alumni Sneha Pai. She has consistently engaged us in various activities hosted by WWW. One recent activity involved creating a short video where we passionately spoke about women's



empowerment. I look forward to furthering the impact of Wonder Woman Wednesday on our campus and in our community, and I am excited to be part of this inspiring movement that uplifts and celebrates the incredible achievements of women. Together, we can continue to promote gender equality and encourage women to unlock their full potential and create a world where every woman's voice is heard, her dreams are nurtured and her rights are protected.

-Gagana KH, ISE'26

Wonder Woman Wednesday is a dynamic platform founded and curated by a changemaker from our own pool of UVCE, Sneha Pai, a 1997 EEE batch alumni. It was initiated to encourage empowerment of women from all walks of society in all aspects of their lives. WWW focuses on celebrating and recognizing women and their 'wonderful' contributions to the world. This

platform shares content tailor-made to empower and motivate the womenfolk. It includes thoughtful articles, powerful videos, and optimistic quotes. And every Wednesday, it shares distinctive real-life stories of women of all ages and backgrounds.

WWW aims to help women break free from rigid gender stereotypes and toxic patriarchy prevalently associated with culture by inspiring and influencing them to speak up, realize their true potential, and lead fulfilling lives of their own as well become financially independent.

WWW believes in extraordinary strength, courage, resilience, intellect and compassion possessed by all women and dedicates itself

to unlock and amplify that spirit in them. It is determined to contribute towards achieving gender equality and establishing every woman as an insightful and respectful human being with her own intrinsic value, unique personality and beauty inside-out, inferior to none. According to Wonder Woman Wednesday, every day is a women's day, and every woman is a Wonder Woman.

- Fathima, ECE '25

Women Empowerment. What does it mean? Fundamentally, empowerment is about raising someone's status through education, awareness, literacy and training (yes, I googled this, please bear with me). As perfect as this definition sounds, empowerment can rarely fit into any such cookie cutter explanation. Empowerment means different things for different people and to me, it's about awareness. It can simply be about hearing stories of women from all walks of life, no matter how significant or insignificant one may think it is. From struggling mothers to teachers to athletes to CEOs, everyone's story is seen and heard at Wonder Woman Wednesday and that's exactly what I love about it. Being able to connect with different women through their ups and downs is so much more impactful than I thought. These stories always leave me with the feeling of "I can do whatever I set my mind to" and I can't help but wonder - if that isn't empowerment, what is?

Wonder Woman Wednesday has always stressed that no story is too small to share. Every woman deserves a voice and that's exactly what this initiative gives - a space for them to share their story and for multiple other women to read/relate and get inspired.

Above all, knowing that this amazing initiative is the brainchild of our own alumnus, Ms. Sneha Pai, is a different feeling of pride altogether. To even think that she built this non-profit all by herself, to share so many women's stories and experiences. blows my mind. Being able to interact and work with her has been thrilling to say the least. I cannot wait to see where this journey takes us!



- Liyana, EEE '25

Sneha Pai, alumnus from 97 batch and the Founder and the Chief Curator of Wonder Woman Wednesday, has selected these 3 students from UVCE as campus ambassadors. We thank her for leading this effort and initiative. More alumni coming forward to engage the students in this manner will help in building their profile and give them more opportunities in the future.

POEM FROM `73 ECE MAGAZINE

Dreams that were true

Sitting under the shadow of a tree, Mind-thoughts running free, I think of the years that sped and the years that are ahead As a boy of five I entered school At sixteen I came out to join the pool That entered college with joy and pride taking good and bad in the stride. Making many a friends true and fond God, why do you to break our bond That was moulded so firm and strong In these five years-not at all long? The feelings I might've hurt, I hope I will be forgiven first; I don't have strength, to tell you true To bid my friends, so close, adieu. Now a man of twenty and two, Life has something to tell me new, Oh' don't know how I'm going to bear, The happy and sorrow I used to share. Leaves are falling on my face. As if, He has come to bless me with grace, suddenly I wake up fast to find Nothing-with the dreams still lingering in my mind.



UVCE IN MEDIA

First director of Karnataka's first autonomous varsity yet to take charge

The administration of the first autonomous university - the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) - is yet to fall in place as its first director has not taken charge even six months after his appointment.

The state government issued a notification appointing Prof D Manjunath, professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) on March 8, 2023 as the first director of UVCE. It is said that Manjunath visits the campus now and then, holding meetings online and offline.

The faculty members of the University have even brought this to the notice of the state Higher Education minister Dr M C Sudhakar and requested to put an end to the "parallel administration" in the interest of the university.

Staff Interactions

As explained by the senior faculty members, the director-appointed is interacting with the teaching and non-teaching staff once in 15 days.

"So far he has visited the campus four times. During his recent visit he even discussed some architectural changes in the campus which is not acceptable," said a senior faculty of the UVCE.

Interim Director

Meanwhile, the term of interim director has also been extended, despite the appointment of a regular director, which is in violation of Rule 24 of the UVCE Act. The Rule 24 clearly mentions, "If the post of the director is vacant in case of leave, completion of the term or due to temporary absence, the Board of Governors is allowed to appoint a senior professor as interim director." But in this case, even when the director is appointed, the term of interim director is continued.

Manjunath has asked the officials at UVCE to send a team of 15 faculty members to IIT-B.

UVCE Board of Governors chairperson B Muthuraman said: "Yes, (Manjunath) has not taken charge because of his other commitments. He will take charge on January 1, 2024 and Board of Governors has given permission for that. He is not giving orders, but available for advice whenever it is needed."

When contacted, Manjunath refused to comment.

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said: "It has come to our notice and we will be soon convening a meeting with the officials concerned to resolve the issue."

Source: Deccan Herald (Click Here)

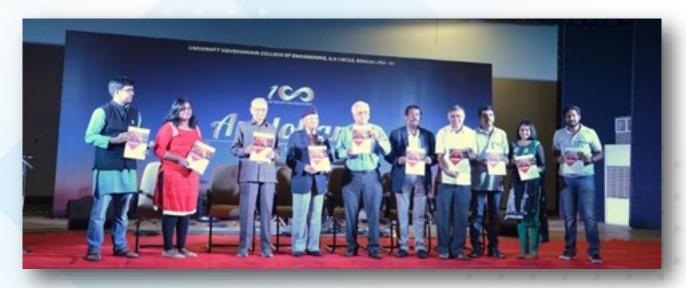


Prakash Belawadi - The Artistic Odyessy

Get ready to be spellbound by the captivating story of Prakash Belavadi, a UVCE College alumnus whose path has intertwined with cinema and journalism in intriguing ways. From the UVCE stage to the silver screen, Prakash Belavadi's journey is a fascinating tale of artistry. Join your host, Rahul SR (2nd year EEE), as he explores the depths of Prakash Belavadi's artistic career, uncovering the secrets behind his acting prowess and his impactful role in journalism.

OPEN IN SPOTIFY

AVALOKANA - A LOOK BACK



It has been 6 years since "Avalokana-1" was released and it still continues to be one of the biggest milestone in the timeline of Sampada. When Sampada was started in 2010, we did not think of how far it would go. During the Centenary year of 2017-18, when the team came up with the idea of releasing a Souvenir which will comprise the journey of UVCE through the lens of Sampada. All the information gathered through the years - about the college, its legacy, alumni achievements, memories, photos and more - were browsed through again, each edition of Sampada was combed through to shortlist what could be featured in the special Souvenir.

The 100 years journey could not be captured in a easy manner. The content had to be presented in a visually enticing manner. The effort that has went through to design the pages, sections, cover pages - is fondly remembered by few but for others, those are haunting memories.. The daily trials of design options, how to fit the content within those and lastly changing them again for some reason. The repeat mode of the tasks was as daunting as it can get. Each person who contributed in making it happen will cherish the memories.

Each alumni who has seen the magazine, appreciated the efforts and amazed at the information included in it. While few others came forward and shared more information and details, which motivated us to release the second volume of Avalokana the following year. The love and appreciation received for these 2 volumes of Avalokana is unparalleled. Even today, when alumni visit the MARVEL Lab, we have kept couple of copies for reference, and the feeling of pride that we see in the eyes of the alumni glancing through the pages is worth all the hard-work of the team. All the creativity and efforts put in to realize these Special Souvenirs have helped to etch a permanent mark in the journey of UVCE.

If you are interested to browse through pages of these magazines over your device, view the photos or read the stories, here are the links -

Avalokana-1

Avalokana-2



STUDENT CONCERN BOX

Last edition, we started this new section - where the students can share their grievances and we will try to publish it anonymously. We will also try to find a solution to best of our capability by working with the college authorities or any one else as per the need. You can write to us at <u>campus @uvcega.org</u>. and we will maintain the anonymity

For the past one year, UVCE has been grappling with a series of delayed exams, causing students to adapt to long study holidays and even higher levels of stress and anxiety. This delay is primarily due to the tedious procedures within the UUCMS.

While it is natural that delayed exams would cause a lot of anxiety due to uncertainty of not knowing when the exams are going to be held, I have been thinking of a few other potential dangers of delayed exams. For instance, my first semester classes ended on the 6^{th} of April, and our exams started on the 17^{th} of June, which made us gape at a gap of almost 3 months enduring a stressful wait for our exams. This delay disrupted the semester combinations for the entire college -- the most evident impact of delayed exams being portrayed by the very absence of 3^{rd} years in our college at this point for the next 6 months. (Only 2^{nd} , 3^{rd} and 7^{th} semester students are right now in college.)

Now this brings me to my main point which revolves around the potential adverse effects on the career prospects of our current first and second year students. It's crucial to note that placement companies typically visit the college only once a year. If the exams continue to be delayed or do not align with the placement schedule, it could create significant disruptions for students during the placement sessions, thereby impacting their future job opportunities.

Upon further examination on the issue with my fellow students, I realized that one of the most dangerous but dormant issues can be the delayed issue of the marks card. This problem remains relatively dormant during the initial years of an engineering student's academic journey. However, it becomes critical during the fourth year when companies arrive for placements or when students look for internships. This issue equally affects the students trying their luck at studying abroad where the marks cards of all semesters carry a huge role, thus underscoring the concerns of delayed exams.

Furthermore, the junior students find themselves at a significant disadvantage as they miss out on the opportunity to share enjoyable moments with their senior peers, mainly due to their conflicting schedules. Seniors are usually either busy with ongoing exams or preparing for exams when juniors have their classes, and vice versa.

The students at UVCE are eagerly looking to the authorities concerned to bring the semesters back on track along with the other colleges in Bangalore and to avoid any further delays in exams. They seek a return to a healthy college life that includes valuable interactions with seniors, a peaceful academic year, and seamless placement drives.

Though we may not be able to do anything related to the college schedule directly from our end, we can assure the students that UVCE Graduates Association will bring this concern to the attention of the authorities. We have also witnessed these concerns, while we want to organize any event or arrange an alumni interaction session, it is very difficult with the current conflicting schedules of different semesters. We will urge the college administration to set it right at the earliest.