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Sampada

Your window to UVCE



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February, 2024

EDITORIAL

We are 2 months into 2024, the year is not-so-new anymore.

This month, we acknowledge the wonderful women around us, give them the due respect. No, not just because they're women, but because they are brilliant individuals who worked extremely hard to get where they are. I quote Srikanth Munipalli directly, "It is not women leaders, but leaders who happen to be women." He mentioned this in his podcast from 3 years ago, which was [It is worth revisiting an old episode of UVCE Chronicles](#) dedicated to women's day.

Our beloved alma mater is more than 100 years old. UVCE, since 1917. The first women of UVCE graduated in 1966. The century-old institution had no female students for the first half of its time. Compared to those days, we have come a very long way. Today, we don't face the challenges that women faced a few decades ago.

I speak for all the women out there when I say we don't want to be put on a pedestal for just being women. However, it is important to acknowledge the difficult battles that women fight to get things done. The conditioning from living in a patriarchal society takes a lot of work to break. This is why we need women empowerment - to break the barriers set generations ago.

In choosing to do something not conventionally meant for women, a woman is also breaking down questions of whether or not she can do it. Overcoming self doubt set by societal standards in addition to the lingering questions of "what if I can't do it", takes a lot of effort. When it comes to gender inequality and women empowerment, we have won several battles, but we are yet to win the war.

Before writing this editorial, I quickly went back to the previous Women's day Special editions of Sampada. Reading the Campus Says articles from 10 years ago gives a clear idea of how things have changed in the last few years, and how far we have come. Unlike back then, there is no lack of women to look up to. We don't have to pave our own paths in every aspect, thanks to the women before us who did it. Financial literacy is more widespread. Instead of trying to establish WHY women empowerment is needed, we are figuring out the HOWs. While the situation is definitely a lot better, it is still not ideal.

A quick look at statistics and numbers will tell you that women today are in a much better position than we were about a decade ago. Every big organisation boasts being a great place to work and some hire specifically to improve the gender ratio in the workplace. The pros and cons of that is a whole other debate on its own. But take a minute to zoom out. Put aside the facts and figures. How many women do you see around you doing things without restrictions? How many women around you feel safe while just following a daily routine?

We are definitely privileged to share our alma mater with women who have paved the way, been trailblazers and been such great role models. We at Team Sampada have had the opportunity to be in conversations with Anuradha TK, Uma Reddy, Sheenam Ohrie, Roopa Pai, Sandhya Thyagarajan, Rupa Rao, Veena Prasad, Lalitha Anil - the list goes on.

This is the fourth Women's Special edition and we have spoke to various women around us - students, alumni, professors, everyone. Read what they have to say about their journeys, and if it makes you think, then the purpose of this edition is served. Do write to us and let us know what you think! Happy International Women's Day!

- Varsha Bhat, 2022 Batch

UVCEGA SCHOLARSHIPS 2024



UVCE GRADUATES ASSOCIATION

100/4, Bull Temple Road, Bangalore-19 | www.uvcega.org
Regn No: DRB2/SOR/18/2019-20

Are you a proud UVCEian? Would you like to know more about how to utilize the UVCE Graduates Association as a platform to help the current students?



2024



UVCEGA Scholarships interviews are over and we had around 120 students shortlisted out of 350 applications. Around 25 alumni interacted with them and shortlisted the students (for Scholarships & Certification Support). We are open for Endowment too

12 Lakhs



The MARVEL R&D Lab has identified the needs for the year 2024 and we have the wishlist from the students for around 5 Lakhs worth of equipment.



MARVEL R&D Lab

5 Lakhs



UVCEGA BANK DETAILS

A/C: UVCE Graduates Association
A/C No.: 38482818980 (CA)
IFSC Code: SBIN0001626
Bank: SBI, Kumara Park, Bangalore



We have 80G Certificate from the IT Dept. You can claim the tax benefits by contributing funds for these initiatives

Contact: Satish (+91-9740111552) | Lomesh (+91-9986782690)

www.uvcega.org

UVCE IN MEDIA

Karnataka Budget 2024 | 500 Crores for UVCE

UVCE will be developed in lines of IIT by providing a fund of 500 crores. State Govt will provide 100 crores and via CSR Funds & support of the alumni, additional resources will be generated.

On behalf of the entire UVCE community, we thank the Govt of Karnataka, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri Siddaramaiah & Higher Education Minister Sri M Sudhakar for this huge announcement and interest towards UVCE overall development. We will be looking forward to see some action on this plans in the near future and promise to join hands in all possible ways to help UVCE regain its legacy.



You can listen to the speech and read the specific page of the above mentioned details in the blog - <https://uvcega.news.blog/2024/02/16/karnataka-budget-2024-500-crores-for-uvce/>

After year-long wait, UVCE director not to take charge

After a wait of over a year, the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) is back to square one about the appointment of its new director. Reason: IIT-Bombay professor D Manjunath, who was supposed to take charge as the director, sought more time once again and the Board of Governors has chosen not to wait any longer for him.



UVCE, Karnataka's first engineering college, and a legacy institution situated in the heart of the city, was carved out of Bangalore University to scale it up to the IIT level. Separate legislation was passed to make it autonomous and a separate board of governors was set up, with Tata group veteran B Muthuraman as chairperson. Manjunath was appointed as director of the college in March last year.

However, Manjunath, a professor in electrical engineering, had sought more time to take charge full-time. The time was extended several times even while discontent was brewing inside the campus on the delay in the director taking charge. The last extension given was until last Monday. "He was supposed to take charge as the director on Feb 19. However, he again sought an extension till March. The BoG is unwilling to give another extension. The offer thus becomes automatically withdrawn," Muthuraman told TOI.

"All these while, BoG felt that Manjunath deserved to be given time to report as he had too many commitments," he said, adding that the university has not lost out on anything. "There are other leaders taking care of the issues here," he said. The BoG will immediately commence the process of appointing the next director.

Recently, yet another controversy erupted after a mail, in which Manjunath negotiated his salary and other terms of appointment, leaked. A section of the media reported that he had sought membership in Century Club and business class travel among other things.

In the recent budget, the state govt allocated Rs 100 crore for the development of the engineering college. "The institute lacks dynamic leadership. The state government has been generous enough to give it sufficient funds. There are also alumni who are willing to donate once things settle down. However, there has been no stability," said a faculty member. Manjunath did not respond to calls or messages

Source: Times of India ([Link to Article](#))

INTERVIEW WITH LATHA

Team Sampada: Can you please give an overview about your career and journey so far for the benefit of our readers?

Latha: I completed my Bachelor of Engineering (BE) degree at UVCE (University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering). Following that, I embarked on a professional journey as a Project Engineer at Wipro Technologies, where I gained practical experience in the industry.

Driven by a passion for education, I decided to transit to a teaching career. I pursued a Master of Technology (MTech) degree from VTU (Visvesvaraya Technological University), Mysuru. Since 2017, I have progressed to the role of Assistant Professor. I have been actively involved in shaping the minds of future engineers as a dedicated educator and currently work for the esteemed Institute in Mysuru, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering.

I focus on not only teaching theoretical information but also on developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills in my pupils. As an Assistant Professor, I can enhance the academic progress of future engineers by imparting my industry knowledge and experiences. Transitioning from a Project Engineer at Wipro to an Assistant Professor has allowed me to develop a blend of practical skills and academic prowess in the realm of engineering and technology.



TS: As an Assistant Professor, would you like to share some of the major challenges in today's education environment especially for women lecturers?

For Assistant Professors, especially women, navigating the academic environment can present numerous obstacles. Juggling teaching, research, administrative duties, and personal/family life can be tough. Women frequently encounter societal pressures related to caregiving responsibilities, which might hinder their capacity to focus on academic endeavors.

Women may encounter limited prospects for leadership roles in academic institutions. The absence of diversity in leadership positions might impede the execution of initiatives aimed at tackling gender-specific issues.

Networking is essential for career progression, but women may encounter obstacles in accessing informal networks, which play a key role in career growth. It is crucial to address this inequality in networking opportunities to promote professional development. It is crucial to recognize that these issues are not applicable to everyone, and individual experiences may differ. Institutions and policymakers are essential in creating inclusive and supportive settings that tackle gender-specific concerns and advocate for equitable opportunities for all faculty members.

TS: When you compare your college days in UVCE, what are some of the major changes you see (comparing your student life and now as a teacher)

During my student life, I learnt not only academics but everything that unfolds around me in the world. Being there at the campus, all I realized was I had lot of time when in college but never realized that each moment would be golden memories and this time would never come again in life. The corridors would be filled with loud chatter, wild abandon laughter and the talks that never ended. Yeah!!! Nostalgia, its more about looking back on those days fondly.

Modern schooling is greatly impacted by technological progress. The incorporation of digital technologies, online learning platforms, and interactive resources has revolutionized students' learning methods and interactions with course materials. There is a trend towards student-centered learning approaches that promote active engagement, critical thinking, and practical application of knowledge. This differs from conventional lecture-based teaching methods. Teaching methods have advanced to include interactive and experiential learning techniques. This is a reaction to the necessity for improved comprehension of varied learning styles and the requirement for captivating classroom interactions. Although the changes in

education have numerous benefits, they also present certain disadvantages and difficulties. The growing use of technology reduces the focus on traditional teaching techniques and impedes students' acquisition of crucial skills like critical thinking and in-person communication. Increased utilization of online platforms and asynchronous learning may reduce interpersonal engagement between students and educators. This could affect the growth of interpersonal and communication skills.

TS: What are your current focus research areas? Please share some details so that current students at UVCE also get some ideas to work on.

Currently I am pursuing my research in the areas on artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and deep learning. The scope of interdisciplinary research areas could be of great interest to current students at UVCE. UVCE students have access to a wide variety of research opportunities in various advanced subjects. Key areas of research include Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, with a specific emphasis on its applications in healthcare, finance, robotics, and natural language processing. Cybersecurity research focuses on strategies to protect computer systems and data against new threats. The field of renewable energy and sustainability investigates creative alternatives such as solar and wind power. IoT research entails incorporating gadgets into smart cities, healthcare, agriculture, and industry. Advancements in biotechnology and bioinformatics have a significant role in healthcare, agriculture, and environmental science. Data Science and Big Data Analytics focus on exploring techniques for managing extensive datasets. Blockchain Technology has applications beyond cryptocurrencies, including supply chain management and ensuring data integrity.

Research in Human-Computer Interaction focuses on user experience design, usability, and accessibility. Smart Materials and Structures research focuses on potential uses in aerospace, civil engineering, and healthcare. Research on Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) emphasizes immersive experiences in fields such as education, healthcare, gaming, and simulation. Exploration of Communication Technologies, such as 5G, aims to improve connection, while breakthroughs in Robotics and Automation are being pursued in manufacturing, healthcare, and autonomous systems. I recommend that students link their research interests with teacher knowledge and current technological advancements to enhance their academic journey.

PENNING INSPIRATION WITH RUPA NIRMALKUMAR

Sarvojano sukino bavanthu - Let this world be peaceful and Safe.

I would like to convey my gratitude for the UVCE Sampada team for giving me an opportunity to share my views on “women entrepreneur”. Wayback 30-35 yrs ago, I was just a seeker of knowledge from UVCE – Engineering in Electrical and had no plans of becoming an entrepreneur. By grace of God, family and well-wishers, it was an accidental entry to the world of Business - IT Industry where it was running strong and stable in dominated hands of men than women.

I started my business firm ‘INSTABUY COMPUTERS’ in year 2000 as a partner for an IT Product. Working along with time, I learnt to face and execute the oncoming commitments. It was full of Challenges, Excitement, ups and downs to work in and out with confidence and zeal. Each Day was a practical session to learn and update myself. I Have been associated with IT the Industry till date, operating as a Networking Product Distributor, System Integrator, Rental Service provider, Dealer and a Corporate Supplier.

During this journey I was able to build a team and am proud to showcase my company being the first to start with the concept 'Rentals of Networking Products' in India. We were able to bag many projects in the network industry via Channels and Corporates. The only way to grow was our commitment towards our customers with strong Relationship.



The 21st Century is growing in many folds on the Global Technological front, say umbrella of Avenues & Opportunity fields spread so and so forth... Digitization, Quantum Technology, AI, Cloud Technology, Cyber Security, Automation, Robotics and many ... where in INSTABUY COMPUTERS is presently working & dealing with. We are geared up in all these verticals as this is the future and a vast area to connect & suffice.

UNITY, VISION, CONNECT & COMMITMENT, EXCELLENCE (UVCE):

With Right Vision and Unity of Thoughts and commitment gets connected to right Network and see yourself Excel in your journey. In this endeavor UVCE -played a major role with adequate Advices by mentors / Lectures on technical, Practical front to build my career to say framed and acted as a Temple of Knowledge Institution of my Life.

Challenges are part of business and need to be faced with full confidence. One will not know when the issues will pop up and subside to make you learn. One of the challenges that we faced way back in 2005, was how to lay the cable on the rooftop of the KSCA stadium nearly 2-3kms circumference and same had to be connected first time in India to a massive Electronic Score Board within a weeks' time. It was only by Team effort, Dedication and commitment that made us to complete the project successfully and happily watch the Cricket World Cup.

A gentle advice to my budding women entrepreneurs is, never get disheartened if you fail in your attempt. Always be Positive and strive to get going. If you want to be an entrepreneur, be clear in what you want to do. Commit to your words and never look back. Managerial skills are inbuilt within you. Pressure makes you perfect when your goals are set. Think and Act with a composed mind to solve and arrive at conclusion. Always keep in Mind that a MEN is there in WoMEN and you can achieve it because you are born with all qualities to have a WOW Factor.

At Present scenario, there are a lot of programme in line, supporting to Empower Women in every sector, be it Pharma /Financial Sector/ IT Industry /Automation/ Aeronautical/ Defense /Small scale Sector and so on, Rural or Urban. Artificial Intelligence / Automation/ Digitization/Robotics are the major platforms where the chance for Women to shape their career is high and appreciative. Current Government is coming out with many initiatives to empower women. Utilize this golden opportunity and support coming your way. Progressive Women normally are intelligent, Multitasker, Creative & with Simple thought process provided, it only matters how you plan, decide, handle and execute the work with ease. Last but not least... "WHAT YOU SOW IS WHAT YOU REAP" Contribute back to society from what has been taken from the experience gained or accomplished during the journey. Rest assure you will be the best creature on this planet.

Wish more and more UVCEeans reach height of Excellence.

UVCE ALUMNI SOIREE ' 24 - FUN EVNEING

It was definitely a first for all of us attending an alumni soiree organised by UVCEGA. There was a lot of buzz around the event as to what to expect and we also had a lot of alumni register for it online itself. And when the day finally arrived, we were just as curious and also brimming with excitement. We arrived just in time to see the student volunteers gearing up to set up all the activities they had planned for the day and the organisers from UVCEGA running around to make sure everything was in place. The evening finally commenced, and we were just in time to set up the registration desks and then people started to come in gradually. They were all very enthusiastic which was very contagious, and this definitely elevated the ambiance further. Anupama, Bhoomika and I manned the registration desks for the soiree, greeting every alumnus who arrived at the venue. Most of the registrations were online, done prior to the event but we had on-spot registrations as well. We had alumni come in from across batches from 1960's to 2020's, everyone gathered at the registration counter collecting their name tags for the evening and meeting their fellow classmates and friends, all in a jolly mood laughing and settling in. Amid all this, I remember Neelakantappa sir coming in near the registration desk to coordinate with us on his batchmates who turned up whilst waiting for some of his friends as well and checking in with us to see how the evening was shaping up. Sir eventually settled down at his table with his friends, and this bench with all his batchmates brought out the old school charm befitting the theme set for the night.

In all this, suddenly Anupama exclaimed, "Oh we forgot to give them a tombola card." You see, there were a variety of events organised for the night exclusively for the alumni to take part in and amongst all the games present, tombola was the most awaited one as we distributed the complementary buy-in card at the registration counter to everyone. Owing to this predicament, Bhoomika then set on to find that alumnus and hand over the card in person. But to be honest, we felt very privileged being present there, greeting everyone who came in to attend the event. And soon after the registrations, the main affair of the evening began with our host, Gagana addressing everyone on the activities planned for the soiree. We had various games arranged like Jenga and Puzzles which were laid out near the alumni tables for them to engage in and a few games making them think on their toes catering to a wonderful sportsmen spirit showcased by everyone who participated. And when Tombola finally began, everyone was so eager with the numbers being read out to see if they were having the winning card so much so that we shared in the success when one alumnus whose card we personally delivered because we missed it, won.

Although we didn't participate in the games, we had more fun witnessing the lively atmosphere and fully appreciated the opportunity to socialise with fellow alumni while cheering on the participants. We had alumni across various batches all interacting with each other, having fun, playing games, and taking memories from the evening to cherish. A special mention to the 2009 batch who not only showed up in good numbers but took home most of the trophies and had the loudest cheer of the day. Towards the end, we had Aarte sir address the crowd and share a few beautiful anecdotes from his earlier days and subtly reminded us of our responsibilities as alumni and how best we can combine forces to give back to our institution. The alumni soon set out as groups interacting with each other, networking with other batches all while serving themselves some scrumptious dinner. We also set out to talk to alumni and interact with them and to even persuade them to help students and the college in whatever capacity we can. It was a wonderful stage to meet so many accomplished alumni at a dinner party, listening to their stories, chiming in a few of our own and making new connections.

And that was a wrap on the event held on 10th February 2024 at Century club. Like I mentioned, it was a for sure first of its kind and we were glad we made it and got to take home a handful of fun conversations and chocolates.



Contd. on Page 30

IN CONVERSATION WITH AKHILA PAI

Team Sampada: Can you please give an overview about your career and journey so far for the benefit of our readers?

I graduated in Oct 2000 (Electrical & Electronics) and was placed in a ERP software company at the time. Unfortunately within 6 months of joining the company, it went bankrupt and all of us freshers were left jobless, bang in the middle of the 2001 crisis when jobs were few. So I decided to do my MBA. I appeared for the CAT exam and got admitted into SP Jain Institute of Management & Research in 2002. I graduated from my MBA program in 2004 and was placed in i2 Technologies at the time. From 2004 until 2020, I was in the same company, growing my career through many different roles while the company also grew through mergers & acquisitions. Most of my career was in Solution Consulting. I started off by implementing our supply chain product software to make clients successful. Over a period of time, I grew through the ranks to become a Consulting Practice Leader who developed other people from Consultants to Architects to Project Managers. I also drove many strategies to make our Services departments to work together as we changed the company to become a Product SaaS company.



I am currently employed at Epsilon where I am the Chief of Staff to the Global Services Leader. I drive programs that investigate and fix issues around cost and revenue leakage, I lead cross-functional programs that make Epsilon effective as a company and also work on programs for employee career growth.

TS: How about sharing some memories of UVCE from your college days?

I feel a lot of pride being part of UVCE. I always tell people that I studied in 2 colleges that are among the Top 10 in Karnataka & Top 10 in India.

UVCE was known for its top ranked students & good job placements at the time. I have fond memories of being around smart people, the relaxed atmosphere under the trees in front of the library (only from the 2nd year onwards after ragging was over) and learning so much in a span of 4 years! Of course there was the anxiety of figuring out how to learn all the new subjects every semester and the feeling of awe for a subject only during exam prep when I would actually study & start understanding! I loved Engineering Drawing a lot and the Microprocessor subjects!

TS: What are the current challenges in the industry for women engineers? We often hear about very small numbers of women leaders across domains in the industry. Your thoughts and views about it.

The challenges in the industry for women are nothing new and will not go away anytime soon. As per the latest World Economic Forum report, it will take the world at least 131 years to close the global gender gap entirely!

Each one of us becoming aware of the insidious ways in which inequality thrives and standing up against it, is the only way we can reduce this timeline of 131 years. Examples of how inequality happens in the work place:

1. The boss decides that the woman employee cannot take up a 'challenging' project because she has kids and hence awards the project to someone else (essentially the woman does not even know she lost an opportunity)

2. The boss decides that the woman employee need not be given the pay hike she deserves because ... (fill in the blank with any of these - she may quit when she gets married, her husband earns well, let her ask for the raise while we use the budget to retain employees etc.)
3. Employees have never questioned all-male meetings at work places for centuries, but an all-woman meeting must be a kitty party!
4. Employees & bosses alike thought that women who worked from home (WFH) were not productive until the whole world had to work from home and it was proven that WFH can be productive! (just to be sure, WFH is productive, but it is very difficult to be collaborative, creative & innovative)

In all these situations, let us realize that gender bias knows no gender. These employees/bosses could have been women too.

These situations show the deep bias that people have about women in general, in social life. Hence it shows up in the work place too. If people believe in their family life that women are secondary/inferior to men, the same people in the work place will question why the woman is getting opportunities, why she deserves the same pay hike etc. If people believe in their family life, that women can only take up certain jobs like teaching, the same people will question when a woman advances in her career & wonder what she did to get to the top.

So it is imperative to change society, to change the work place. The work place also can change society to a small extent, by creating awareness & training about diversity & inclusion because aware employees will function in society with awareness.

TS: What are your suggestions/advice to the current generation of students from UVCE? If you can shed some light about current trends, it would benefit students & recent alumni.

Well, taking the prior discussion a little further, I will tell the women students that the most important CAREER decision of their lives is choosing their partner! So choose wisely, a person that will help & support your career decisions, a person that is not insecure but proud of your achievements!

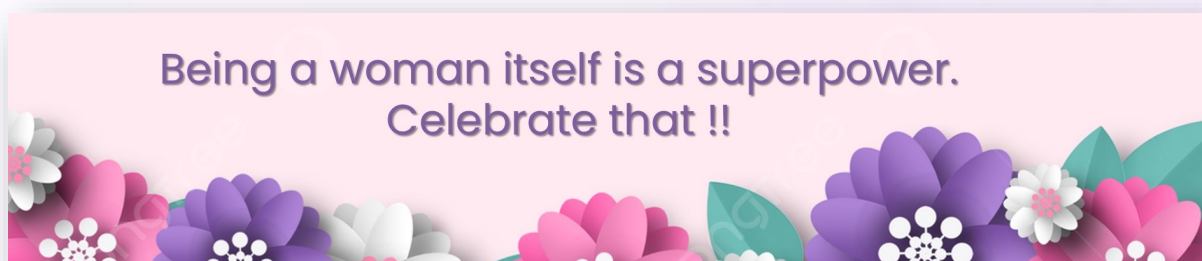
For both men & women students:

Work is not all there is to life! Even though some leaders make you believe that 70 hour week is the road to success. Figure out your interests & hobbies and spend time on those, because only when you are relaxed and rejuvenated in your mind can you be the most effective at work! (You can also see how gender biased such a statement is because you can only work like that if all your life needs are taken care of by someone else, who most likely is a woman!)

Tech trends will come & go! When I was graduating, everyone thought the world will come to a standstill because of Y2K. The world never stood still then and will never in the future too. Tech trends may change the world too, as we are witnessing with Social Media over the past decade and AI in the past few years. We need to keep adapting by learning. So keep learning about new technologies and their implications. Develop your own point of view. Even if it turns out to be wrong, you learnt something!

Always take care of yourself - physically, mentally and emotionally! Life will throw challenges at you, they are meant for you to grow into the next version of yourself. You will be able to ride through these challenges if you have taken care of yourself through your hobbies/interests, connections with friends & family, good health etc.

Wishing you all great success at life!



CHRONICLES WALL OF WOMEN UVCEIANS



S1 E3 : How to be a Transformative Engineer?

Sandhya Thyagarajan – 1992 Batch

Listen Now

S1 E11 : IISc to Rashtrapathi Bhavan

Spoorthy Raman – 2009 Batch

Listen Now



S2 E1 : Escape Velocity

Anuradha T K – 1982 Batch

Listen Now

S2 E3 : An Engineer's Rhythm

Sigma Shatabdhi – 2011 Batch

Listen Now



S3 E6 : Tryst

Roopa Pai K – 1992 Batch

Listen Now

S3 E11 : Breaking Barriers!

Vidya Babu – 1976 Batch

Listen Now



UNCONFERENCE SPECIAL



S3 E14 : UnConference Special

Vidhya Pai K – 2015 Batch

Listen Now

S4 E3 : Tech Luminary

Sheenam Ohrie – 1992 Batch

Listen Now



ARATHI & SHASHANK



S4 E5 : Binary Buddies

Arathi Narayan – 1992 Batch

Listen Now

S1 E5.2 : Women's Day Special

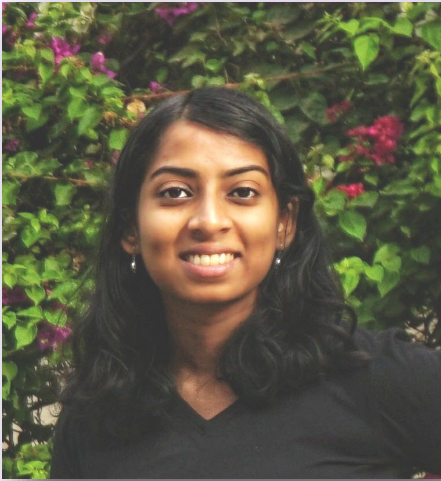
Srikanth Munipalli – 1993 Batch

Listen Now



LANE OF THOUGHTS WITH APARAJITHA

Women's Day is a time to honor the resilience of women engineers. I am grateful to share my journey as part of this occasion. Coming from a sheltered upbringing, college played a huge role in helping me break out of my shell. The student-driven UVCE culture and watching peers accomplish wonderful things motivated me to believe I could do the same.



As for societal challenges, women get pigeonholed into specific roles. But life offers several beautiful and scary choices, and it is up to us to pursue them. We don't need to follow a predefined path for safety and security. Sometimes, our pursuit of security creates a cage that shields us from the outside world, preventing bad and good experiences from enriching our lives. It's about living responsibly and flexibly yet unapologetically and inspiring others to do the same.

Career-wise, I've donned a lot of hats. I started by teaching at UVCE, then moved into operations management, digital marketing, writing, and swim coaching and now I work as a tech consultant. It's been quite a journey, but I'm enjoying where I am. And as far as my career is concerned, I am in the early stages of launching my own consultancy. Stay tuned!

Swimming has been a significant part of my life for the past eight years. I am a national-level masters gold medallist. Competitive swimming has transformed me from an unhealthy student to a fit and happy person. It has helped me find community and inspiration outside of my usual circles. Swimming has also kept my ego in check, taught me that humans are capable of so much and changed my family's perspective on what women can achieve. When people tell me they enrolled their daughters in swimming classes after seeing my posts on social media, it feels like a significant accomplishment, far more meaningful than any medals.

Having people who see and acknowledge your efforts, cheering for your success, is vital. This support network becomes even more critical for women, given societal dynamics. Belonging to various communities, such as engineering, swimming, fitness, travel, tech enthusiasts, and video gaming, has been enriching. Every woman should be open to receiving and giving support within her community.

This is why Women's Day matters. We need to recognize and celebrate each other's achievements and accomplishments by using whichever platforms possible to promote visibility and dialogue for equality, even if that work extends beyond our lifetime. The world needs our anger and gentleness for it to be transformed.

So, let me leave you with a question. When was the most recent instance you engaged in an activity that stretched your boundaries or left you feeling triumphant, regardless of whether society thinks it conventional or not? Remember, all paths to fulfillment are valid if they resonate with you.

- Aparajitha Murali , Batch of 2011, ECE



INDUSTRY LEADERS SPEAK

We are starting a new Section in Sampada - introducing some of the Industry Leaders from namma UVCE share their thoughts about the domain or the industry or what the expectations are as we navigate our careers. Would you like to be featured in this section? Or do you know someone who is ideal to be approached for this? Do let us know.

On this Women's Day special issue, we start with Sandhya Thyagarajan, Alumnus Batch of 1992

"With the Opening up of the SPACE ECONOMY to private players in India, there is significant increase in the need for satellite-based technologies to meet the massive demand, leading to enhanced share if Indian economy in the global space sector.

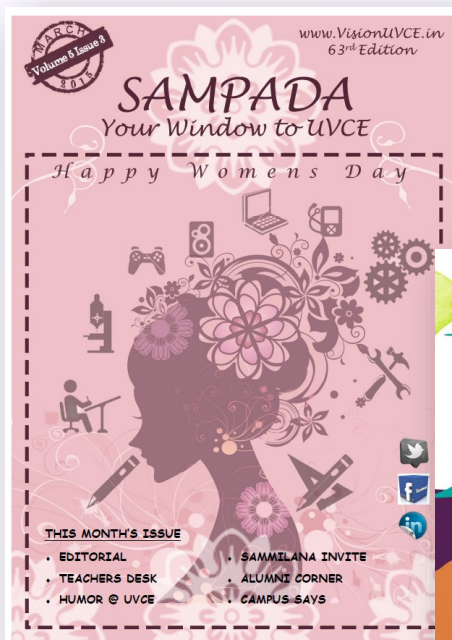
Disruptive technologies in Electro-Optics, Radar, Communications and Electronic Warfare and Earth Observation are paving way for innovative young minds to develop products and services which opens significant opportunities for engineers in RF / microwave, Power and Digital domains of high-speed designs , RF SoCs ,high end FPGAs for digitization of multi sensor data. This certainly demands multidisciplinary engineering which creates a superb platform for engineer from most of the technical verticals."

Sandhya Thyagarajan is the Vice President, Strategic Electronics Business Unit (SEBU) at Centum Electronics Limited, Bangalore. She is part of the Centum Leadership team. She has around 31 years of experience in electronics manufacturing and operations. She is with Centum for the over 18 years and leads more than 550 people. Prior Prior to joining Centum, she worked at leading Global Electronics Companies like Siemens, Ford Motor, GE-Medical and Kodak.

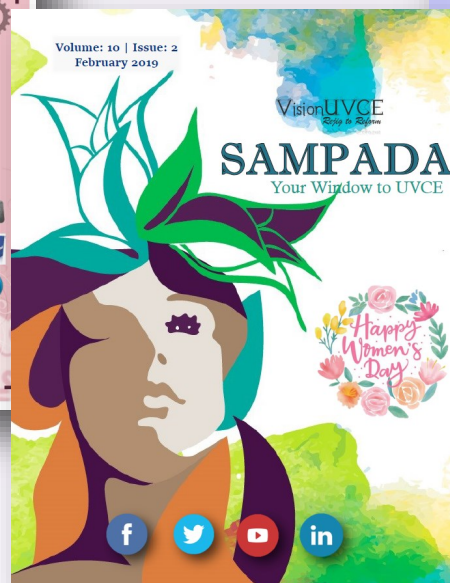


LinkedIn Profile : <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sandhya-thyagarajan-41842b20>

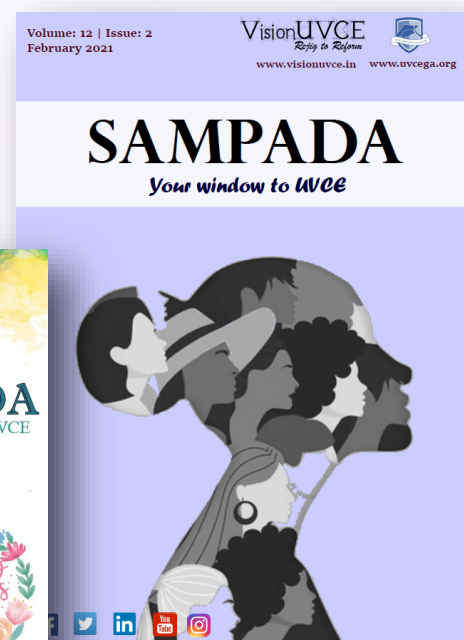
SAMPADA EDITIONS - WOMENS DAY SPECIALS



Sampada-63 | Mar 2015



Sampada-110 | Feb 2019



Sampada-134 | Feb 2021

INTERVIEW WITH SHYAMALA

Team Sampada: Can you please give an overview about your career and journey so far for the benefit of our readers?

Shyamala: Started my career in hardware in a UPS manufacturing company and moved to Software in 1997. Predominantly stayed with the analytics domain working on various tools and technologies which are related to data warehousing design, development and rollout of custom solutions to different business verticals within the corporate.



TS: We would like you to travel back in time and share some memories of the college days (in general Bangalore as well) in the 90s?

Shyamala: I would be regular to the classes, and was a bookish student. Can't say I enjoyed my journey outside the classrooms. Most vivid memories are of the times spent in the library. We did not have a dedicated study place at home, so most of my studies were done at the college library. There were always 1-2 people who would dedicate their time to gathering the best notes and generously share it with everyone who needed it. In our batch it was Manjunath, fondly Manja. We rarely find such people. Teachers who I remember for their style and content are ASM and Nayak, AV.

Having been born and growing up in Bangalore, I feel very blessed, it is definitely the best place in terms of climate one could wish for. Public transport though scarce was not a hassle since they kept the time and everyone knew everyone else including the conductor and driver.

TS: When you compare your college days in UVCE, what are some of the major changes you see today especially for lady students ?

Shyamala: Society and families in general were patriarchal. But this was never an issue, because we were not in the path of finding faults. We were taught to live by the means and we literally applied it to every aspect in life. We found the best way to navigate or get what we want from parents, teachers and college. I can't say lady students, but for all students the seamless access to the internet for knowledge seekers is something I wish we had back then. This would have made a huge difference to understand the reach we had but were unaware of it. The world was not as connected and if the families had marginal means or lacked guidance then our dreams were limited to what we already knew or someone around us had achieved. This makes me wish to go back to my student days and restart

TS: In your LinkedIn profile, you have been mentioned as "Tech professional transitioning to the Social Sector". Can you please elaborate a bit more on this?

Shyamala: After 23 years of Corporate and all that life has taught, money no longer being one of the main criteria for making the choice of where to spend my time, I think I can give back much more if I am in other sectors by combining my interests in varied subjects. Hence I am trying to build my contacts in alternate sectors like climate change, agri tech etc.

TS: What are your suggestions/advice to the current generation of students from UVCE?

Shyamala: 1. Thanks to all the content creators, there is enough material to read and determine your passion earlier in life. Making the choice early and focusing the preparations towards narrowed domains will get you to be more productive and employable earlier. It will show up well on your resume too rather than coming across as a confused candidate.

2. Never stop learning, whether you are trying to find your niche or have already found it. The depth is like a bottomless pit and the end is defined by your mind.

ALUMNI SOIREE ' 24 - FEEDBACK

Informal networking events like these are a great idea to get alumni come together!! Please conduct more of these kind of events in a regular manner

- Akhila, 2000

Extremely happy for attending this function. My best wishes to all the participants & organizers. I pray, to God to bestow his blessings for a happy and peaceful life.

- B L Subramanya, 1956

Sampada is coming out very well. This event was also well organized and conducted well. We also have to take efforts from our end towards participation. Though the count was good to start with, we need more people to join such events. All the Best!!

- Ramesh Maganti, 2000

Thank you, for such a wonderful get together for UVCE graduates. Please keep organizing more such events to enable us to recall our beautiful college day memories.

- Sapna K, 2009

Very nice program, neatly organized. Appreciate the volunteers efforts. Would love a repeat

- Sunil 1993

Arrangement was good. Food was as usual in a club. Some more activities could have been organized to make the alumni interact with each other. Suggest to have this programme every year.

- M Lokesh 1971

Please organize more and more such programmes. It will help to create a platform for alumni to come together. One suggestion is to give proper notice/announcement well in advance. So that we can bring more of our friends and other UVCEians to participate.

- Paramesha K, 1989

Dear all,

A well organized event with excellent arrangements. This will bring all our good old friends together. We are all with you to fight for a noble cause. On behalf of all alumni, I sincerely thank all your efforts towards building this community.

- A K Setty, 1969

This amazing, fun program is an initiative to regroup & bring together alumni from various batches from different locations. I appreciate the efforts of co-ordinators to make this event memorable & wonderful. Thank you and we will continue to support the efforts to strengthen the alumni and give back to our alma-mater.

Guruva P, 2009

CAMPUS SAYS

“Technique and ability alone do not get you to the top; it is the willpower that is most important.” I wholeheartedly agree with this quote, as my experiences have consistently validated its truth.

From the moment I stepped into college, destiny led me to the role of Class Representative. Initially, it was about exploring the campus, familiarizing myself with classrooms, and establishing connections with the Head of Department, professors, and, most importantly, my fellow classmates. Being a Class Representative is akin to delicately pulling a soft thread. It involves balancing the expectations of higher authorities and the needs of our student community. Sometimes, I've faced stern words from authorities, while other times, I've listened to my classmates' frustrations when things didn't go as planned.

Yet, amidst these responsibilities, I've also focused on my personal growth as a student. UVCE, known for its ample free time, has been my canvas for learning and exploration. I've tapped into the wisdom of seniors, maximized available resources, and nurtured my talents. Participating in non-cultural events like Vaibhava debates, Chethana's Vaaksamara, Tatva's Mr. and Ms. UVCE, and even playing a small role in Fiesta Skit has enriched my college experience.

Simultaneously, I've engaged in technical pursuits. IEEE's Bhag UVCE Bhag, Kagada, Ncode meet, AESS inauguration, Smart India Hackathon, Google Solution Challenge, Bit N Build Hackathon; being a Technical Team member at MassCoders are a few milestones on my journey.

My aspirations remain high—I know there's much more to accomplish. I firmly believe that wholehearted dedication and unwavering confidence are the keys to motivation and consistency. Life may throw challenges, but I encourage juniors aspiring for leadership roles: never be disheartened; embrace every experience positively and give your best.

- Anagha S Shastri, 1st year AIML



If there is one event that unites us all in UVCE it definitely is the time-honored tradition of fests that proudly displays diverse cultures. While to some it may seem like a trivial thing, from the late-night brain storming sessions to rallying support for causes we all hold close to our hearts, I have found my niche in being a member of Adhama and I have come to admire everything it stands for. Witnessing it all come together is nothing short of magical.

My motivation is deeply rooted in the moments of connection forged through the shared everlasting experiences. I aspire to be the positive force my seniors were to me for my juniors and to be a part of something that could leave a lasting impact in a place that already holds so much history.

To my juniors- seize these moments, dive into every opportunity even if they seem daunting. Trust in your abilities, they are greater than you know. Leadership is not just about titles, so step forward and contribute to making a difference and touching lives.

- S Bharati, 3rd Year EEE

I am currently a student coordinator at MARVEL, UVCE, and I am passionate about fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. In my role, I contribute to the UVCE community by constantly learning, diversifying, creating an ecosystem, organizing workshops, coordinating events, or mentoring and providing a comfortable space to new students. As UVCEians, we stand on the shoulders of giants. It's only right to look farther ahead, innovate, initiate, and ideate. The more we reach out, the greater our chance is to create change, and make a difference.

And to be afraid, and self-sabotage is our only hindrance, and motivate ourselves to strive towards our different aspirations.



To juniors, take up all those opportunities that you're shying away from! The best thing you can do for yourself is to provide the vast field of vision you get from any leadership role. Most of your learnings will always be indirectly derived from others, and you never know which meeting will change your life!

- Greeshma Sharma, 3rd year CSE

As a Placement Coordinator, I took up this opportunity to give back something to my college which had helped me build a beautiful career without expecting anything in return. It was a tough journey but still I chose to walk this path because I knew why I started in the first place. Reflecting on each day, the satisfaction that we, Placement Coordinators got while witnessing our batchmates getting placed is beyond words. And that adequately answered my journey as a Placement Coordinator.

Thinking about my days as a student, the one question I asked myself was 'Am I being Loyal, Brave and True for every single second?'. The quote from the book 'The Alchemist' had been echoing in my mind and it states as follows: 'Every search begins with beginner's luck. And every search ends with the victor's being severely tested'. The fight was tough but I was able to stand back on my feet as I had put in all my efforts to shape the future of mine and my batchmates.

To my juniors, remember, your voice matters, and your actions with pure intentions have the power to shape the future. Embrace the journey while being who you are and do not forget to smile for yourselves from time to time.

- Hema A, 4th year CSE



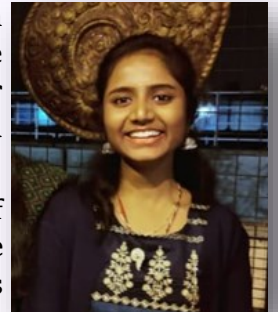
I joined this college in the October of 2023. Starting from the induction in the first week and being appointed as the Co-CR to now becoming a part of the Chronicles team, the only thing that has been constant is learning. I've always been fascinated by tech and innovation, and being a part of Marvel Batch 4 happens to be one such way of helping me gain more knowledge and upskill myself. UVCE Chronicles is something that I've loved listening to on my way to and from college and I am lucky enough to be a part of the amazing team of Chronicles and be able to learn new skills like Audio and Video editing. UVCEGA is to be thanked for these amazing opportunities.

I've loved writing since a very young age, and becoming a part of TEDxUVCE and E-Cell as a writer has helped me explore more of this side of mine. So, far the journey at UVCE has been nothing but a bliss. Gaining and sharing knowledge in lectures, making friends who help me improve my kannada, upskilling myself at different college clubs, learning new topics at workshops etc have been some of the most significant parts of this journey. All this together might've made me busy now more than ever, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Excited to see how the next four chapters unfold.

- Varsha Rao, 1st year AIML

Currently I am serving as the Chairperson of IEEE UVCE WIE. My journey as a part of WIE has been a testament to the power of Women in Technology.

Leading a dynamic SIG of IEEE UVCE, I have witnessed and conducted many workshops, webinars, Humanitarian activities, and Technical and Fun events. As a part of International Women's Day, the SIG celebrates every Women via WIE week. The week celebrates every Woman in Tech, by conducting events such as UDAAN- a techno-managerial flagship event, which explores the marketing capability of participants. A Self Defense Workshop was also conducted to impart a few techniques and methods on self Defence for the Women of UVCE.



The best to waste contest, AAKRUTHI was organized as part of WIE week, where participants designed an art model and dedicated it to the inspiring Woman of their lives. This event signifies the role and importance of every Woman in our lives.

I am very grateful to be a part of IEEE UVCE WIE which shares a common vision of Equality and Empowerment. I wish everyone a Happy International Women's Day. Let us use this occasion to recommit ourselves to the ongoing journey towards a more inclusive & equitable future for all.

- Kavya V, 4th year ECE

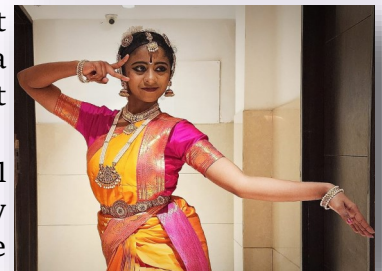


Adhamya members embody the cultural fabric of UVCE through their unwavering dedication & passion. Each member brings a unique perspective, skill set, enriching the institution's holistic development, by the students & for the students. Their contributions range from organizing events that foster excellence to advocating for student welfare, leaving an indelible mark on UVCE. "As a member of Adhamya, my commitment extends beyond mere responsibilities. I am entrusted with a myriad of tasks, ranging from design and stage management to financial stewardship and emotional support. With every fest we organize, my aim is to enhance the overall experience for everyone involved. What drives me is witnessing the joy and camaraderie among students as they immerse themselves in our cultural celebrations. My ultimate aspiration is for UVCE to be recognized not only as a technological powerhouse but also as a cultural hub, setting a benchmark nationwide. To my juniors considering similar roles, I urge you to embrace boldness, envision the bigger picture, and make tough decisions, for the reward is unparalleled. Let's continue to empower and uplift one another, forging a stronger UVCE community together."

- Gopika S Kumar, 3rd year ECE

The Republic Day Parade in New Delhi is an iconic event that symbolizes the unity, diversity and cultural richness of India. It was a moment of pride for me to take part in this celebration held at Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

I was a part of VANDE BHARATHAM, a dance festival celebrating diversity of culture! Being selected for the Republic Day Parade meant relocating to Delhi for over a month of intense practice sessions. Enduring the cold outdoor climate of New Delhi, the team from Bangalore joined over 1500 dancers representing various classical & folk genres. The theme for the 75th Republic Day Parade was 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat: Loktantra ki Matraka' symbolizing India's aspirations. This performance was witnessed live by dignitaries and delegates from around the world, including President, Prime Minister, and various cabinet ministers of India, as well as international guests such as the French President.



One of the most enriching aspects of my experience was the opportunity to interact with dancers from various states, each of them with their unique style and traditions. Through our shared passion for dance, we formed bonds uniting us in a common purpose. Our practice sessions were fun, we supported and encouraged each other, pushing ourselves to new heights of excellence with every rehearsal. As the parade drew closer, the intensity of our rehearsals heightened, and there grew an excitement in the air. On the final day of the parade, as we stepped onto the majestic Rajpath, I felt a surge of pride and anticipation. Surrounded by fellow dancers adorned in vibrant costumes, I was reminded of the countless hours of hard work and dedication that had brought us to this moment. As the music swelled and we began our performance, the energy of the crowd fueled our movements and I was filled with goosebumps until the end.

Overall, the opportunity to participate in one of India's most prestigious events was one of its kind and filled with a lot of learnings. I got to learn the values of patience, team work and most importantly discipline. The memories and experiences gained from participating in the Republic Day Parade are cherished for a lifetime, serving as a source of inspiration and pride.

- Sanjana C K, 2nd year ISE

REMINISCING UVCE

I can't believe it's been four years since I started working in the software industry. It has been a great experience overall. Amazon has been an excellent company to work for during this time, allowing me to grow both professionally and personally.

Working at Amazon has provided numerous opportunities for growth and development. I've not only furthered my technical skills through projects involving software development and testing, but I've also strengthened many important leadership skills by applying Amazon's leadership principles in my work. These principles have helped me improve skills like taking ownership, learning fast, thinking big, bias for action and customer obsession.



Beyond enhancing my abilities, Amazon has cultivated an environment where continual self-improvement is encouraged. Over the past four years, I've worked hard to refine my strengths while also addressing any weaknesses. This focus on lifelong learning and development has served me extremely well in my career so far.

I feel truly fortunate to have found such a supportive place to advance my skills and capabilities. Amazon has been incredibly valuable for my professional progression at every stage. I look forward to building on everything I've learned over the next phase of my career.

UVCE has undoubtedly been a tremendously formative experience for me. I had always dreamed about joining UVCE ever since I heard about it from my lecturers at junior college. I've gained invaluable knowledge across disciplines that has strengthened both my technical skills and holistic understanding. Beyond the classroom, UVCE also afforded ample flexibility to explore personal interests.

Guidance from senior students was also invaluable as they graciously shared their insights. Their mentorship warmly welcomed newcomers and fostered a cohesive community. I am immensely proud to call myself an alumnus. My experience has been very positive, so I hope sharing this with others can help them choose such a wise option for college.

Recognising and celebrating the achievements of women makes their contributions and struggles more visible. This can inspire more women to dream big. From a young age, knowing about Bachendri Pal, Kalpana Chawla, Shakuntala Devi and Sudhamurthy sowed the wish of achieving something better for myself and making a positive difference in the world.

Being said all this, I am really thankful for the opportunity given to me by UVCE Sampada to express my journey. It gives me great satisfaction to be part of Sampada Women's Edition.

- Keerthana C, 2021 Batch



The most important thing one woman can do for another is expand her sense of actual possibilities.

SEA OF TALK WITH ARUNA

Team Sampada: Can you please introduce yourself :

Myself Aruna Venugopal Embar, was a swimmer since childhood winning medals across all age groups. I still actively participate in Masters Swimming Competition and swim open water waters crossing the ocean, seas and lakes across the world. I am an engineer by education, tutor by choice and an open water marathon swimmer by passion. I have represented Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

TS: Share some memories of your college days :

I graduated from UVCE in 1999. College days were fun with friends hanging out in college library, chit chatting, stressful exams and eating out.

During World Cup, we group of 20 friends went to Pizza Hut as they had come out with some offer if you share the paper clipping. We all bought newspapers, gave the coupon cutting to one boy and attended class. Plan was to go for lunch and we all promptly did. Ate to our heart's content and when it was time to pay we looked at the boy . That guy had forgotten all the coupons at home. Being students back then we all had limited pocket money to spare. The boy rushed back home with another classmate to get the coupons, and he took over 3 hours to return with it, till then we were all embarrassed to sit in the restaurant. Those memories we still recall. I am still in touch with a few friends from back then. We were young and crazy. Night outs, celebrating birthdays as freshers in hostel helped us bond with peers and senior students across courses.

TS: How and when did u start swimming / share your achievements with us:

I started swimming at a very young age of 3. It was stressful being a topper all along but still managed to do it till college. Everyday was about balancing the life of a student athlete and an aspiring engineer. After which my swimming nearly stopped for almost 15+ years juggling family and work. The feeling of emptiness always remained. I tried jogging, gym, yoga but nothing gave me the happiness I was longing for. I did jump in the pool to teach my kids, it wasn't relaxing. Then my sister suggested we start swimming in pool during ladies batch and from then on is there was no looking back.

I am currently an Austswim certified swimming instructor. I am the First Indian woman to complete triple crown of open water swimming. I completed my Catalina channel solo crossing across the Pacific ocean on August 21, 2019 in 11hrs 49mins. The channel is a 31.6km swim between Santa Catalina Island and Mainland California, USA. It is a historical marathon swim and part of both the Triple Crown of open water swimming and oceans seven. The challenges included distance, hypothermia, currents, seasickness and night swimming.

I then did the 20 bridges Manhattan Island swim on August 29, 2019 in 8hrs 10secs, USA. It is a circumnavigation swim in New York by NYOW a distance of 48.5 kms in counter-clockwise direction. The swim is across three rivers - East river with ripping fast tides, Harlem river with calm waters as well as slower currents crossing 15 bridges and Hudson river which has a strong currents and choppy waters.

The most iconic of channel swims The English Channel on 20th July 2023 in 16hrs 06minutes was my third one. The swim is between Dover and France. It is a 32km swim. It is a feat considered equivalent to climbing the Mount Everest and a test of endurance. Unpredictable weather, changing currents, international shipping lane, jelly fishes ,hypothermia, washing machine area. These 3 swims constitute the triple crown.



Completed 3 crossings in a single season. Participated in a 5 member English Channel relay team on 12th June 2023 and successfully completed the 20 mile swim from England to France in 15hrs 23mins with CS&PF (Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation) in poor visibility, strong currents, cold winds, foggy weather and on/off sun.

I then participated in 2 member English Channel relay team on 29th June 2023, a swim tougher than solo crossing because every alternate hour we are in and out of water. The crossing was completed 13hours 40minutes while navigating through cold winds, jellyfish swarms, huge swells of water and snuggling to stay warm in-between the swims.

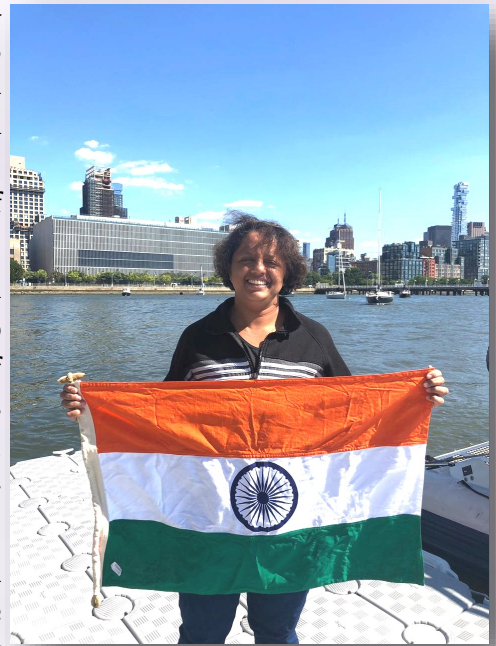
Following this, I completed English Channel Solo Swim across Atlantic Ocean on July 20th 2023 from Samphire Hoe, England to Wissant beach in France and successfully completed the swimming challenge in 16hours 04 minutes.

I did the 81km Murshidabad River water swimming race, the longest river water swim in the world along the ferocious Bhagirati River on 3rd September 2023 along the current in 13hours 10mins. The challenge included very warm waters, no winds and poor currents.

Palk Strait Crossing, crossed the Indian Ocean from Srilanka (Thalaimannar) to India (Dhanushkodi) so called Ram Sethu Crossing on 4th April 2023 in 12hours 35 mins a distance of 32 kms in very warm waters, choppy waters, unfavourable winds, poor navigation, dolphins swimming along , krill and jelly fishes stings all along.

TS: Suggestions/advise for current generation students to pursue passion and career

Sports inculcates discipline, fosters friendship, fitness and gives valuable lessons to understand people. It is very different to say I know a sports person to staying with one, it demands passion, perseverance, persistence and prayer which leads to success in any field. And this dedicated demand is not only from the player but also the family 24*7, 365 days of the year. In one simple line - **Live well and do well all you do!**



IN CONVERSATION WITH GEETHANJALI



Team Sampada: Can you please give an overview about your career and journey so far for the benefit of our readers?

Geethanjali: I graduated from UVCE in 2003 and landed a job with Honeywell through campus recruitment. I started my career as a firmware developer, applications developer and later worked as a project manager and engineering manager across different companies like Cypress Semiconductors (part of Infineon now), Bosch and Cisco. After working in R&D for 16 years, I changed functions and I am now working as a product manager in Leica Microsystems.

TS: Not to make you feel old, but it has been more than 20 years since you graduated from UVCE. Can you recall some memories of those days?

Geethanjali: I have so many fond memories from my engineering days. Cramming for exams at the last minute, relishing masala dosa in the nearby darshini, having fun in the annual fest - too many sweet memories to recount.

During my first year, I took part in an inter-college group dance competition. Our top dancer/choreographer ditched us in the middle and someone else stepped in to choreograph the dance, and of course, changed the entire sequence. During practice, we realized we weren't nearly ready for a stage performance, but went ahead with it anyway. We failed miserably on stage - we were completely out of sync, some of us forgot the steps and froze on stage (including me) - we looked like flailing, headless chickens. But, we had so much fun on that day!

TS: When you compare your college days in UVCE, what are some of the major changes you see today especially for lady students ?

Geethanjali: There is a lot of focus on girls/women in STEM these days, which is a blessing for girls who want to pursue science or mathematics. I recall there were only 3 girls in Mechanical Engineering branch in our batch. The general trend was Mechanical Engineering is not for girls. With the ongoing discussions about breaking stereotypes and enabling women into so called non-women oriented streams, the situation is changing for the better. Many women have broken the glass ceiling and are excellent role models for young girls.

TS: You did your Masters (MBA) after a pretty big break. Many of us are not sure if you can get back to studies after some amount of time. So, please share your experience and also some advice for people who are doubtful on their abilities.

Geethanjali: After I completed my B.E from UVCE, I always had plans of pursuing Masters. I attempted GATE soon after graduating, but didn't get a seat in the IIT that I wanted. After working for a couple of years, I attempted GRE and got into a MS program, but financial reasons held me back. As time went by, with marriage and a child, my Master's plan took a backseat. After working for 16 years in R&D, I wanted to shift gears and move into a commercial role. This seemed like the best time and opportunity to fulfill my Masters goal.

I completed my Global Executive MBA from SDA Bocconi and Rotman School of Management in 2023. It was a rigorous 18-month program, in which I had to juggle assignments, paper submissions, travel and a full-time job. This wouldn't have been possible if I didn't have the strong support from my family, especially my husband.

I strongly believe that you grow only when you step out of your comfort zone. Pursuing MBA was me stepping way out of my comfort zone. Stepping into a classroom after a gap of 20 years was indeed scary. Looking back, this was the best decision for my personal and career growth. It is never too late to learn something new. Trust yourself and give it your best.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am both proud and pleased to inform that one of our classmate is the Senior Architect at Site of Shri Rama Mandir at Ayodhya. Her name is Indumati C.R. Senior Architect - General Manager, TCE. Bengaluru. She was assigned this opportunity to render important services as site planner, PMC, Quality of workmanship.

We all are glad and should applaud her efforts towards the cause.

- Niranjan, 1992 Arch



INTERVIEW WITH DR P DEEPA SHENOY

IEEE Team: How did your journey at UVCE begin?

Dr P Deepa Shenoy: My incredible journey at UVCE began in 1978. I chose to pursue BE in Electrical Engineering in 1983, even though I initially received a seat at BMSCE. With exceptional merit, UVCE became my destination and this decision shaped the next 45 years of my life. In 1986, I graduated with a ME in Power Systems and secured a temporary position in the EEE department, later becoming permanent in 1988. My thirst for knowledge continued, leading me to pursue and complete MS and PhD degrees in Computer Science Engineering.



Throughout my career at UVCE, I held progressively important roles across the EEE and CSE departments having over 37 years of teaching experience. I had the privilege of guiding 18 research scholars to their well-deserved PhDs. My academic journey culminated in a fulfilling retirement on May 31st, 2023. UVCE wasn't just an educational institution: it was my second home. It provided me with the foundation to build a successful career, a sense of purpose and the freedom to explore, experiment and innovate.

IEEE Team: What were the positions held at UVCE?

PDS: Beyond academics, I embraced various responsibilities during my tenure, including serving as Chief Warden of the Ladies Hostel (1997-2000), Placement Officer (2008-13), Chairperson of the CSE department (2014-16), Dean of the Faculty of Engineering (2019-21), & holding positions within the Academic Council & Syndicate Member of Bangalore University.

IEEE Team: Your achievements in the field of research?

PDS: My passion for research resulted in the publication of over 200 papers in international conferences and journals. With an H-index of 25, an I10-index of 70, and over 2600 citations, my research focused on applying cutting-edge technologies like deep learning, large language models and quantum computing to address real-world issues like healthcare, traffic management, fake news detection, agricultural data analysis and sentiment analysis. Even after retirement, I still stay involved with UVCE. I visit the college regularly to mentor the 6 PhD students under my guidance & connect and interact with the IEEE UVCE Community.

IEEE Team: Your contribution to IEEE Community?

PDS: My dedication extended beyond UVCE as I actively contributed to the IEEE UVCE community. I served as a Branch Mentor, Branch Counsellor, and currently hold the position of Branch Advisor for IEEE UVCE. Additionally, I held the role of Chairperson for the IEEE Bangalore Section in 2022, being the first woman to do so in its 45-year history. During my tenure, I initiated several impactful programs, including a student scholarship program, adopting a government school, and establishing the ongoing IISc student program.

IEEE Team: Who is your inspiration and what are your other interests?

PDS: My mom is a huge inspiration to me. Even at the age of 85, she is full of life. Her continuous pursuit of learning, her commitment to health and her enthusiasm for current affairs, including cricket, serve as a constant source of strength to me. I've always loved travelling and seeing new places. It's like a thirst for adventure, and it keeps me wanting to learn more about the world. I've been to many different countries, and each trip has been a chance to experience different cultures and ways of life. It's like learning something new every time I travel, and it makes me feel wiser and more open-minded.

IEEE Team: A message you would want to convey to the younger generation of women?

PDS: My message to young girls is simple: get an education, chase your dreams and don't be afraid to be different. Be bold and pursue your passions. Break free from stereotypes, yet navigate societal norms with grace. Aim for independence and strive for meaningful careers and not just a job.

RENDEZVOUS WITH GANGA PURLUPADY

Team Sampada: Can you share some details about the college days at UVCE and how did UVCE play a role in shaping your profile and career?

Ganga: The highlight of my college days at UVCE was my hostel life, where I made a home away from home and found my belonging with other girls many of whom had come from rural areas and had similar challenges like mine. Coming from a rural area for the first time to a city like Bangalore, I literally had a cultural shock. I had a very strong desire, drive and commitment towards my studies and to be successful. I was studying on scholarship and student loan. These two factors combined together helped me to push hard and successfully navigate through all the challenges with courage. The 4 years of hostel life gave me so much growth and life skills that helped me throughout my life. And it gave me lifelong friendships.



As per the college, I developed so much love for the Red building! Every time I go by the KR circle area, the red building speaks to my heart!! We were a class of 30 students, I developed good friendships with my classmates 2nd year onwards, which has remained till today. Hanging out with friends, sitting around on the quadrangle, dressing up for ethnic day, sharing by-2 coffee with classmates at the UVCE canteen are some of the memories I cherish.

It was only in the 3rd and 4th year that I started getting a taste of what computer science really is, when I started studying algorithms, data structures and operating systems. But the Fortran and Pascal programming I learnt wasn't that much fun. The final year project I did at Wipro Infotech was really the turning point for me that shaped my career. I fell in love with computer networking and C language programming. The whole process of designing a new product from scratch, programming and seeing the finished product working was so rewarding and exhilarating, I decided that this is what I wanted to do for my career. I found my first job at a startup called CoSystems, where I worked for 3 years, primarily designing computer networking software.

TS: We understand that you completed your Masters Project Management course at Stanford. Can you share some of those experiences?

Ganga: I did my Masters in Engineering Management and Leadership at Santa Clara University. I joined Cisco in 1999 as a Software Engineer. I wanted to move to Engineering Management and Leadership position, so decided to pursue my Masters degree in this area. As part of this program, I studied courses related to Technical Management & People Leadership from industry experts and also took classes in the business school. In 2001, I was promoted to Software Development Manager position, where I could directly apply these skills. I was doing this program part time, while I was working a full time job at Cisco. And in between this time, I got married and 2 years later I had my first child. I decided to take a 2 year break from my studies to focus on my pregnancy and the new born child and once my son was 1 year old, I went back to the University to complete my degree.

Later on, I switched my role to Engineering Program Management. At that time, I decided to do Stanford Advanced Program Management certification course offered by Stanford, to augment my skills in Strategic Planning, Execution and Project management.

TS: As a little girl from a village from Mangalore, you completed your Engineering from UVCE and then moved to USA, completed Masters in Santa Clara University and have been working with Cisco for more than 20 years now. We would like you to share your thoughts/

advice with students, the majority of whom are also from rural background so that they can start being more confident and determined for the future.

Ganga: My advice to the students who are from rural background like me, is - if you have the drive and capacity to come to UVCE for studying, you have the capacity to succeed in your studies and in your career.

I feel students who come from rural background have already seen a variety of life, they are determined and resilient, they are well equipped with overall life skills. Being in the city center of Bangalore, learning to navigate city life will only add on to these. If you are staying in a hostel, consider yourself lucky, the skills you gain here will make you so strong and will help you throughout your life. Because of the confidence I gained in living my 4 years of college life in Bangalore, when I moved to the U.S. I found that transition so much easier.

As a 17 year old, I could come to Bangalore & learn to live on my own, where I did not know anyone. When I moved to the U.S. I was 24, it was a lot easier because I already knew friends who had gone there before me. My advice would be keep your focus, find your passion (don't worry if you haven't found one - be open & keep going), build your community, garner support, ask for help, offer help wherever you can, just enjoy & cherish your life wherever you go.

MEET N GREET - IISC OPEN DAY

UVCE Graduates Association organized the February edition of our monthly Meet and Greet at the Indian Institute of Science's annual Open Day on February 24, 2024, starting from 11 AM. The Meet and Greet serves as a platform for UVCE students, alumni, and faculty to gather for a relaxed outing exploring Bangalore's hidden gems.

The Indian Institute of Science hosts its annual Open Day to commemorate its founding and celebrate National Science Day. On this day, the institution opens its doors to the public, with students showcasing their research through interactive displays and events. Many UVCE alumni pursue postgraduate studies here, making the visit even more special. It's no surprise that we received the highest number of RSVPs for the Meet and Greet to date.

Our plan was to gather in front of IISc's iconic main building before exploring the sprawling 350-acre campus. While some were eager newcomers aiming to cover the entire campus, others strategized to visit departments missed during previous visits.

After a group photo, we split into smaller groups to cover various parts of the campus. Each department offered displays, games, workshops, and quizzes, requiring ample time to explore fully. The cultural difference at IISc, where science is pursued for its own sake, left a lasting impression on us.

Notably, peer interactions between school students and research scholars highlighted the passion for learning and sharing knowledge. From picnicking school students to college-goers and curious seniors, the diverse group of visitors added to the vibrancy of the Open Day.

Overall, our visit to IISc was enlightening and inspiring, reminding us of the profound impact of scientific exploration and discovery. Looking forward to more enriching experiences in the future!



- Adrian P Isaac, 2023 Batch

UVCE IN MEDIA

UVCE demands separation order from BU at the earliest

With a faction of students opposing the separation of University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) from Bangalore University (BU), the UVCE administration is urging the State Government to issue a bifurcation order at the earliest. The UVCE administration has presented a list of requests to the State Government, stressing the need for measures to divide assets from BU and ensure all necessary facilities for UVCE's autonomy.

An official said, "While the State Government plans to establish UVCE as an autonomous institution akin to IIT, it has yet to issue any bifurcation order, prompting the UVCE authorities to demand swift action. During a recent visit by Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar to UVCE, the administration briefed him on the pertinent issues. The government intends to appoint a retired government official to oversee the transfer process and ensure its smooth execution." However, the Higher Education Minister has assured that the order for UVCE's separation will be issued soon, stressing the need for autonomous management to develop UVCE akin to IITs.

It's worth noting that research students of the university previously opposed the separation of UVCE. BU is still deliberating on how to address issues concerning UVCE staff, such as post-retirement benefits and leave balances, as confusion persists regarding the exact number of UVCE staff. Earlier, BU earmarked 50 acres of land at the Jnanabharati campus for UVCE's expansion, a decision approved by the Syndicate. However, the formal transfer of land is pending, necessitating numerous meetings to resolve logistical concerns. UVCE urges the government to expedite the resolution of all outstanding issues and facilitate the separation process.

UVCE, affiliated with Bangalore University, faces the prospect of detachment following the government's proposal to grant it autonomous status. This decision has plunged the college into a series of crises, marked by a lack of financial support and prolonged periods of lecturer salary delays. Meanwhile, financially strained UVCE struggles to manage its resources. The college has had a pending water bill of Rs 10 crore owed to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) since 1997.

Despite soaring water consumption in UVCE and its hostel, the bill remains unpaid, accruing significant interest. UVCE contends that BU, as its parent body until now, should be responsible for settling the outstanding water bill. However, cash-strapped BU also faces challenges in meeting these obligations.

In fact, UVCE has been grappling with a range of issues for quite some time now. Last year, a significant outcry ensued, involving hundreds of lecturers, parents, and students, who protested against the government's purported plans to privatise the engineering college. The students demanded immediate action from the government to secure funding for the college and ensure the timely payment of staff salaries. Additionally, they urged the government to halt the privatisation efforts and maintain UVCE's status as a government institution. Accusations were levelled against the government, alleging negligence in fulfilling its responsibilities towards the college, including the failure to allocate funds, address salary concerns, and implement measures for educational enhancement.

A student said, "UVCE inherits the educational legacy of Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya, UVCE's founder, and his commitment to providing quality education to students from diverse backgrounds. The perceived gradual privatisation of the college has sparked apprehension among students, faculty, and alumni, who fear it may compromise the institution's founding principle of offering affordable and inclusive education."

Source: Bangalore Mirror ([Link for article](#))

IN CONVERSATION WITH PARIJATHA

Team Sampada: Can you please give an overview about your career and journey so far for the benefit of our readers?

Parijatha: I am presently working as Assistant Director of Factories under Labour Ministry, Govt. of Karnataka. As an enforcement authority we have to look after the implementation of Factories Act and Rules in the premise of the factory. It also includes investigation of accidents, dangerous occurrences, complaints by stakeholders. We also impart and educate the workers and employers regarding safety, health, welfare by having periodic trainings, conducting mock drills and thus preventing any untoward incidents and also preparing them to mitigate the losses in case of unforeseen accidents. In about 7 years of my journey in the Dept, everyday we have to face new challenges, I am immensely happy about it because my job is never monotonous as by addressing these challenges I am providing justice to the aggrieved citizen. Thus I can proudly say I am there to protect the rights of workers in the organized sector, & act as a bridge between employers and employees.



TS: Currently being a Govt Servant (Assistant Director of Factories) is definitely a challenge. We would like to know how UVCE prepared you for it?

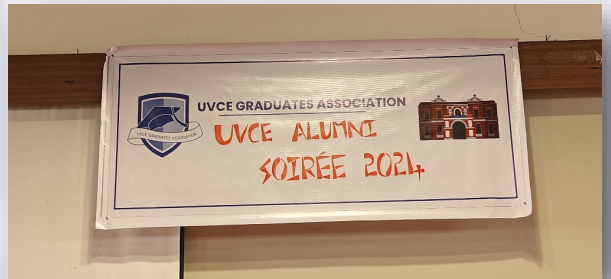
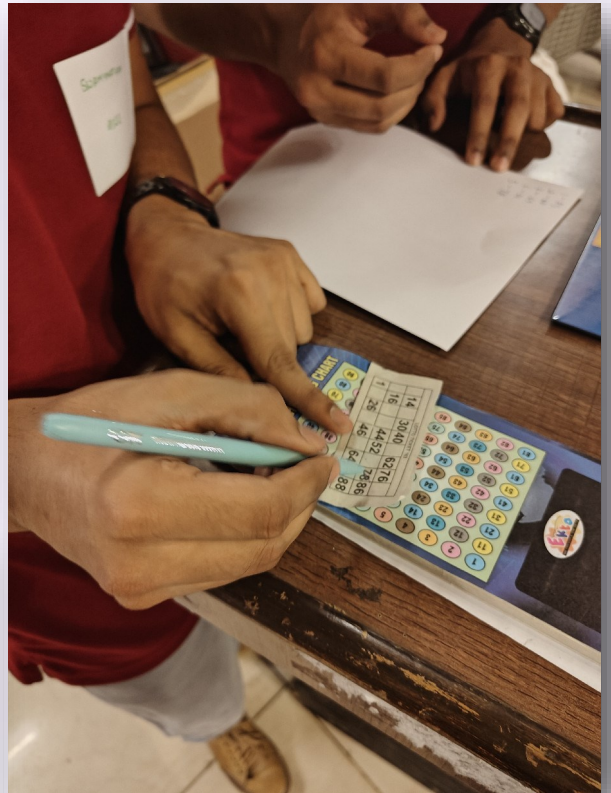
Pari: The college atmosphere was conducive to take up placements and thus like most of my batchmates I too ended up getting placed. I selected to work at iGate global solutions just because they offered me Bangalore as the location. But the environment and exposure received at UVCE always makes us to go a bit far and grab the opportunity ahead of us. I was slightly inclined at civil services because of the push from my mom as well. But the leadership quality and the examples set by our seniors, professors, made me think that I have potential to achieve something in competitive exams. Students of UVCE are the cream of top rankers, so I think coming to UVCE means we are already ahead in this competitive world.

TS: Our readers would like to hear some interesting scenarios you had to face in the public domain and how you tackled those issues.

Pari: Although a woman works on par with the men and most of the time works better than men, there is always gender inequalities and ego issues which comes across, be it private or public sector. So a woman has to stand firmly on her words and be confident in what she does. For example, a man will apply for an opening even if he is not prepared for it. But a woman will not apply for it even though she is 75% prepared. The fear of failing will prevent her from going for it. Perfection is one quality where women feel is a must, which is a hindrance in the job. So by being confident and being practical one can come out of any kind of situation. In the course of work, many times there are pressures from outside factors, handling them will makes you a better officer.

TS: There are many students of UVCE who are planning to join the Govt sector. What advice would you like to give them?

Pari: UVCEians are found in each and every department of the govt. Most of the heads of the depts are from UVCE. Being a UVCEian itself gives you an edge over others in cracking the exams. With the changing pattern in govt exams, Candidates must now concentrate on general studies and current affairs too along with technical subjects. With women reservation 33% of all the jobs are reserved for women is a golden opportunity for women aspirants. The immense satisfaction one gets when you solve problems of the people can be a motivating factor for all the aspirants. Being empathetic is a positive aspect for women. I wish good luck too all the aspirants who aspire to become government servants and bring about the change they want to see in the society.





MARVEL CORNER

In January, a group of MARVEL students participated in a robotics competition organized at New Horizon College of Engineering and successfully reached round 2 of the competition. Siddharth Kharvi (4th year ECE) secured the runner-up position at a competition organized by BNMIT with support from MARVEL. A team of Mechanical engineering students claimed equipment support from MARVEL for the 3D printer and printed components for their project. A group of students from MARVEL, visited IMTEX 2024 at BIEC. You can check out the blog for IMTEX 2024 over [here](#)



This month, the IOT domain Vision has been initiated with the plan to make MARVEL Lab IOT-Automated. The Notice Board restoration was also done by a group of MARVEL student coordinators and students, and it is to be placed outside the Lab. The syllabus-updation fortnight had been set in motion for 2 weeks for the upcoming batch programs. The common tasks kits have been prepared for the upcoming Batch 5 students. The internet issues lingering at the lab for a few weeks have been finally resolved.

Also, MARVEL has launched its very own LinkedIn page. [MARVEL UVCE: Overview | LinkedIn](#). We request you to Follow the page for regular updates and let us know your thoughts and views in order improve our reach.

On 12th February 2024, a group of students from MARVEL (Sudeep Vinayak Hegde- 2nd year Mech, Akanksh A K – 2nd year EEE, Yuvaraj K – 2nd year EEE, Nalin Vyas – 2nd year EEE) participated in a ‘RoboSoccer’ event held at Christ University during their fest called MAGNOVITE. Within a duration of one week, they conceptualized and built a mecanum-wheeled robot. It was designed keeping in mind the design limitations of 5kg weight limit, 12 V internal DC supply and wireless control. They used an ESP 32 to control the bot via WLAN. Although 3D printing the wheels, assembling circuit and coding the bot within a week was a massive challenge, it was a great experience.

On 24th February 2024, I had the privilege of attending IISc Open Day as a part of MARVEL’S group visit along with a few UVCE alumni, and it was truly an interactive and enlightening experience. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore is renowned across the world for its pioneering research and contributions to science and technology. It opens its doors once a year to welcome curious minds and showcase its cutting-edge work during the much-awaited IISc Open Day.

Stepping onto the sprawling campus, I was immediately struck by the atmosphere buzzing with excitement and intellectual fervor. One of the highlights of the Open Day was the series of laboratory visits, especially to the High Voltage Lab. Guided by passionate researchers, we delved into various departments, each offering a glimpse into the forefront of scientific inquiry. From robotics to nanoscience, from biotechnology to aerospace engineering, every department was a treasure trove of innovation.



Overall, MARVEL's journey reflects a dynamic blend of hands-on learning, teamwork, and a thirst for knowledge, positioning it as a thriving hub in UVCE for advanced research and learning in the realm of science and technology.

- Fathima, 2nd year EEE

TEAM: Bhavid (8th sem), Anupama Hegde, Adrian P Isaac , Varsha Bhat, Chitra S Reddy, Meghashree G, Satish A G & SriHarsha D V (VisionUVCE Team)