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Uptake

“I am quite losing my mind,” said my friend the other day. “Well, that could be a dangerous statement,” I replied. I was not sure if Elon Musk had come this far yet. “It is just that there are so many things on my to-do list that I am losing my mind and my sleep,” retorted my friend. Oh, I heaved a sigh of relief. Thank God, we are still not so controlled by machines and aliens that we can actually feel the loss of our minds.

The news early this year of tech giant Elon Musk claiming that his company Neuralink has successfully implanted one of its wireless brain chips in a human being has opened up new frontiers in technology along with many other concerns in the world today. Neuralink hopes to connect human brains to computers eventually, ostensibly to tackle complex neurological conditions. A robot places 64 flexible threads that are thinner than a human hair on that part of the

brain that controls “movement intention,” according to Neuralink. The product called Telepathy can enable “control of the phone or computer, and through them almost any device, just by thinking.”.

Not to be outdone, a number of rival firms have also begun implanting similar devices. If this is used only under medical supervision to alleviate the problems of the movement impaired, then it would certainly be seen as a boon. The idea of treating neurological disorders by implanting chips in the brain may sound appealing, but scientists are treading with caution. Just like all things have different facets, here too, there are many questions raised with no answers at this point. It is too early to say what the future will be like. These can be ethical, like, for example, what about errors and privacy risks? What happens if



parts cannot be replaced later on? But the most frightening of them all would be straight from a sci-fi horror movie. What if someone hacks into the chip, thus providing unauthorized individuals access to one's thoughts and behavior patterns? Can individuals be manipulated?

Losing one's mind will have a whole new connotation, will it not? Think about it.

Until we meet again, have a wonderful time ahead!



Dr. Akila S Indurti
Editor

True love is built on free will and free choice, not control and manipulation.
Ken Poirot



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BEYOND CLASSROOM

A celebration of your talent



ಕೂಗತೆಯುಲ್ಲ ಬಾಳು

ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆಗೈಯಲು ಹೋಗಿ
ಮರಣ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಲು
ಬಾಳನೊಳಗೆ ಪುನಃ
ಉದಿಯಲ್ಲಟ್ಟವನೆ

ಹೇಳು ನೀ
ದೇವದ ಅತಿಥಿ ಮಂಟಪಗಲಿ
ನಿನ್ನ ಮನ ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸಿದುದು ಹೇಗೆ?
ಮೆದುಳಿನಲ್ಲ ಎಂದ
ಮುಟ್ಟುಹುಟ್ಟಿತು ನಿನಗೆ?

ಮರಣದ ಗರ್ಭಾಶಯದಲ್ಲ
ಗರ್ಭಪಾತವಾದವನೇ

ನೀ
ಸತ್ತಿದ್ದಲ್ಲ
ಊರು ಅಳುತ್ತಿತ್ತು

ನಾಯಲ್ಲ
ನೀನೇ ಅಳುತ್ತಿರುವೆ

ಕರವಸ್ತ್ರ ಇಗೋ
ಕಣ್ಣು ಒರಸು

ಪ್ರಾಣದ ಔನ್ನತ್ಯ
ಗೊತ್ತೇ ನಿನಗೆ?
ಮನುಕುಲದ
ಮಹತ್ವ ಗೊತ್ತೇನು?

ಪ್ರಾಣವೆಂಬುದು
ಒಂದು ವೀರ್ಯಾಣುವಿನ
ಪ್ರಯಾಣವಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ
ಅದು
ಪ್ರಪಂಚದ ಸಂಕುಚನ

ನಿನ್ನ ನಾಶಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ
ಪ್ರಪಂಚದ
ನಕಲ ನಾಶಪಡಿಸಿದಂತೆ

ಪ್ರಪಂಚವ ಹಾಳುಗಡವಲು
ನಿನಗೆಲ್ಲಯ ಹಕ್ಕು?
ಬಾಳ್ವೆ ನಿನ್ನ
ಇಳಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿದಾಗ
ಕರತುಂಬ ಸುಮಗಳು

ಈಗ _
ಚೀಲದ ತುಂಬ
ಶವಪೆಟ್ಟಿಗೆಯ ಮೊಳೆಗಳು _ ?

ಓ
ಬದುಕಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ
ಒಪ್ಪಂದ

ಮನುಷ್ಯರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ
ವೈರುಧ್ಯವೇ?
ಮನುಷ್ಯರ ಕಳೆದರೂ
ಭೂಮಿ ಉಳಿಕೆಯಾಗುವುದೇ (ಮಿಗುವುದೇ)?

ಪೃಥ್ವಿಯ
ಕೈ ಇಡಲೆಣಿಸುವವನೇ
ಪೃಥ್ವಿ ನಿನ್ನ
ಕೈಇಡಲಲ್ಲ ಕಾಣಯ್ಯ

ಗಾಳಿ ನಿನ್ನ
ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಬೀಸಿತೇ?
ತನ್ನ ಕಿರಣವ
ಚಂದಿರ ನಿನ್ನ ಮೇಲೆ
ಚೆಲ್ಲದೆ ನಿಲ್ಲಿತೇ?

ಹೂಗಳು ನಿನ್ನ ಕಂಡು
ಎಲೆಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ
ಅವಿತುಕೊಂಡಿತೇ?

ತನ್ನ ಶೃಂಗದಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸಲು
ಜೀವನ ನಿನ್ನ
ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ

ನೀ ಏಕೆ
ಮರಣದ ಕಣಿವೆಯ
ಉಗುಲಿಂದ ತೋಡುವೆ?

ಜೀವದ ಮೌಲ್ಯವ
ತಿಳಿಸಬೇಕು ನಿನಗೆ
ಎದ್ದೇಳು
ಹಿಂಬಾಲಿಸು ನನ್ನ
ಅಗೋ ನೋಡು
ಪ್ರಾಣದಲ್ಲರ್ಧ



Verse Time

ಸೋಲಿಹೋದರೂ
ಉಳಿದ ಜೀವನ
ಗೋಣಿಚೀಲದ ಕಣ್ಣು
ಬಾಗಿದ್ದಾನಲ್ಲ ಮುದುಕ - ಏಕೆ?

ಅಪಾಯವರಿತಾಗ
ಅಂಗುಲದ ಹುಳು
ಮಿಲಿಮೀಟರಾಗಿ ಮುದುಡುತ್ತದಲ್ಲ - ಏಕೆ?
ಹಕ್ಕಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದೂ
ಹಾರದ ಕೋಳಿ
ಹದ್ದನ್ನು ಕಂಡೊಡನೆ
ಹಾರಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತದಲ್ಲ ಏಕೆ?

ಮೃತ್ಯುವೆಂಬ
ಸತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ವಿರುದ್ಧವಾಗಿ
ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳು
ಹುಸಿಯಾಗಿ ಇನ್ನು
ಹೋರಾಡುವುದೇಕೆ?

ಬಲೆ ಹಲಿದು ಕಂಗಾಲಾಗಿ
ಆ
ಒಂದೆಳೆಗಂಟದ ಜೇಡ
ಪರಿತಪಿಸುವುದೇಕೆ?

ಜೀವನದ
ನಿಮಿಷ ನೀಳಕ್ಕಾಗಿ

ತಮ್ಮ
ಸಾವು ಸಾವು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸುತ್ತೆ
ಬಾಳ
ನೀ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸು

ತಿಳಿದುಕೋ
ಸುಡುವವರೆಗೂ
ಬೆಂಕಿ
ಸುತ್ತುವವರೆಗೂ
ಭೂಮಿ
ಹೋರಾಡುವವರೆಗೂ
ಮನುಷ್ಯ

ನೀ ಮನುಷ್ಯ.



Tamil Original: Padma Bhushan Dr. Vairamuthu
Translation: Dr. Malarvili. K
Professor of Kannada, Department of Languages
Presidency University



कविता

कोशिश करने वालों की हार नहीं होती
लहरों से डर कर नौका पार नहीं होती
कोशिश करने वालों की हार नहीं होती.

नहीं चींटी जब दाना लेकर चलती है
चढ़ती दीवारों पर, सौ बार फिसलती है
मन का विश्वास रगों में साहस भरता है
चढ़कर गिरना, गिरकर चढ़ना न अखरता है
आखिर उसकी मेहनत बेकार नहीं होती
कोशिश करने वालों की हार नहीं होती

डुबकियां सिंधु में गोताखोर लगाता है
जा जा कर खाली हाथ लौटकर आता है
मिलते नहीं सहज ही मोती गहरे पानी में
बढ़ता दुगना उत्साह इसी हैरानी में
मुट्टी उसकी खाली हर बार नहीं होती
कोशिश करने वालों की हार नहीं होती

असफलता एक चुनौती है, स्वीकार करो
क्या कमी रह गई, देखो और सुधार करो
जब तक न सफल हो, नींद चैन को त्यागो तुम
संघर्ष का मैदान छोड़ मत भागो तुम
कुछ किये बिना ही जय जय कार नहीं होती
कोशिश करने वालों की हार नहीं होती

Those who try never lose
Boats don't cross due to fear of waves
Those who try never lose

When a little ant walks with a grain
Climbing walls, slipping a hundred times
Faith in the heart fills the veins with courage
It is not difficult to climb and fall, nor is it difficult to
climb after falling.
After all his hard work is not in vain
Those who try never lose

Diver takes dips in Indus
goes and returns empty-handed
Pearls are not easily found in deep water
The excitement doubles in this surprise.
His fist is not empty every time
Those who try never lose

Failure is a challenge, accept it
Look at what's missing and improve.
Unless you succeed, give up sleep and peace.
Don't run away from the battlefield
There is no Jai Jai car without doing something.
Those who try never lose.



Mr. Neeraj Praksh Mahto

Research Scholar & Lab Inst.
School of Management(SOM)



My Dearest Spring!

Verse Time



Soaring high above trifles, of the heart and mind.
Is the sense of equanimity, that brings joy from every moment.
In its truest sense, it can be likened to the onset of spring.
That occurs with the playful tussle, between the warm and the cold.
Just like life that exists, in the interval of breaths.
Like the tenacious mind, forever caught amidst tension of opposites.
The signs of spring, indicate bliss within the struggle.
Thoreau said the first days of Spring, come out like a squirrel and go in again.
Until the Roman War God - Mars, who comes in as March.
To battle winter's refusal to leave, and spring's insistence on coming.
Unfailingly there is warmth, just like light at the end of the tunnel.
With it comes a burst of green around, and lingering smell of flower bloom.
Hailing every spring as the only spring, of a perpetual astonishment called life.
Maybe the day the Lord created hope, the same day He created spring.



Learning to Dance

Verse Time



Indeed there are those still corners,
Within this beautiful being;

Which reveals only when the veil of conditioning,
Lifts up to unravel the cloudy senses of the murky mind;

Easier said than done unless one is keen,
To observe & also be observed;

And yet maintain a distance,
From all the drama of thoughts & emotions;

Playing on the treadmill of time,
Using up the body & all its energies;

With careful knowing & some elbow grease,
Wisdom dawns coyly & smiles;

Saying here I am, embrace me while I wait,
Live, love & learn to dance life lest it leaves !

Mr. Pramod S Prabhudev
Head Incubation
Presidency LaunchPad (TBI)
Presidency University



DSA: Featuring Young Achievers

Harmony in Motion

Chaithanya K B - 2020ICIT0115

Vignettes



Chaithanya's journey in the world of dance commenced at the tender age of five, where her innate passion and commitment were recognized by her mother, propelling her towards a path of artistic excellence. With over 1757+ stage performances, Chaithanya has emerged as a stalwart in the realm of performing arts.

Chaithanya's dedication to Bharatanatyam is evident through her commendable achievements. Having completed the Bharatanatyam senior grade with distinction, she now embarks on the prestigious journey of pursuing Vidwath examinations conducted by the KSEEB Board under the tutelage of Guru Vid Smt. Rekha Jagdesh. She also completed her madhyama prathama level from Akhila Barathiya Gandarva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Mumbai. Additionally, her exploration of diverse dance forms is highlighted by her completion of a Diploma in Kuchipudi under the guidance of Guru Dr. Veena Murthy Vijay at Samanvaya-AIIMS College. She is also pursuing her Carnatic vocals (senior grade) under the guidance of Guru Dr. Pusthakam Ramaa.

A multifaceted individual, Chaithanya's prowess extends beyond the realm of dance into the domain of academia. Currently pursuing her final year degree in Computer Science, Engineering, and Technology with an IOT specialization at Presidency University, she effortlessly balances the rigors of academic pursuit with her artistic endeavors. She has many



awards to her credit; some of them are the Karnataka Bushana Award, the Karnataka Kempegowda Award, the Siriganada Award, the Balaratna Award, the Rastriya Natya Mayuri Award, the Bharata Ratna S. M. Vishveshwariya Award, the Rajiv Gandhi Award, the Bangalore Top Ten Award, the Pratibha Prapura Award, the Kala Spoorthi Award, the Jawaharlal Nehru Award, the Dr. Rajkumar Prathibha Puraskara Award, and the Nehru Sadbhavana Award, to mention a few. Chaithanya's mesmerizing performances have graced prestigious platforms across the nation, leaving an indelible mark on audiences far and wide. From the majestic Mysuru Dasara Inauguration to the illustrious Sangeeth Natak Academy, her presence illuminates every stage she graces. Notable appearances include the Guinness Book of World Records event in Rameshwaram and the Bangalore International Film Festival. In addition, Chaithanya remains deeply committed to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. Her participation in events such as CHIGURU, the Drishti National Dance Festival, and Nrutya Rangoli underscores her dedication to the enrichment of cultural discourse.

Memorable Melodies

Kamal SK - 2021ICSD0205

Kamal S. K. started his music career at the age of five. Identifying his talent, his mother enrolled him at the Rhythms College of Fine Arts, where he is currently taking his Trinity Grade 1 course. He has since performed in many intercollege competitions and has held 150+ stage shows. He has also participated in state-level music programs and competitions.

Kamal, a third-year Computer Science Engineering (Data Science) student at Presidency University, has completed keyboard (western music) senior grade with distinction. Representing Presidency University in solo instrumental, he has won awards at St. Joseph's University, Sindhi College, Bishop Cotton College, T. John's College, New Horizon College's cultural Sargam Got Talent, Mac Doons College, Jain College, and MS Ramaiah, to name a few. He has found a place in the Karnataka Achievers Book of Records 2024 for playing the keyboard blindfolded.





Vignettes

Biking up the Hills

Taking and retreating on resolutions is the commonest of the jokes around the start of every year, and it apparently should be, considering people have so much else to do in the 24 hours they get! The mathematics of 8/8/8 work/sleep/watching reels—the way many people follow—makes it difficult to find a space for a resolution to work on!

I am not a resolution kind of guy, but I do things as they come and don't essentially wait for the new year. Well, I wonder if that makes me different, but YES, if it does, then WOW.

Well, so here it is. Come 2024, and it dawned upon me to do something different and set aside my energies for BIKE rides. Bike rides do not ask for much; pack your bags and go! Just get that fuel. And when you have a bullet, you must flaunt it too. I have a Royal Enfield BLUE signal.



It all started with my first solo ride to Nandi Hills in the first week of January. Nandi Hills is the most preferred and easily accessible destination that I know of after Sinhgad Fort in Pune. It is situated in the north of Bengaluru and is reachable via Doddballapura or Devanahalli, as per your convenience. If you are traveling from any part of Bengaluru city, then you have to take

the elevated highway to Hyderabad from Hebbal. It's a 60-kilometer ride from the center of Bangalore and takes about an hour and a half. For me, it was about a 50-minute smooth ride from Yelahanka.

Trust me, interestingly, Bengaluru has the clearest of the skies I have ever seen in my life. Nandi Hill offers the most picturesque locations that you can ask for, and it has historical importance attached to it as well. It's known to be the origin of many rivers. As history has it, Tipu Sultan used to drop his prisoners from this hill. One of the interesting facts about this place is that the first ever SAARC summit hosted by India was held here in 1986.

Google Notes

Nandi Hills, or Nandidurg, is a hill fortress in the south Indian state of Karnataka. Tipu Sultan Fort, a summer retreat of the namesake 18th-century ruler, features stone carvings and wall paintings. Prisoners are said to have been thrown to their deaths from Tipu's Drop, now known for its panoramic views. Local Hindu temples include the hilltop Yoga Nandeeshwara Temple, guarded by a huge statue of a bull (Nandi).



For all bike lovers, it's an interesting zigzag way uphill; a few prefer to trek, though. The roads are done very neatly, with safety grills on both sides. Once you reach the parking level, you can park your bike at any free slot, take a break, and gobble up Bisi bele bhaath with a coffee to top up. To enter the gate, you need to buy a ticket, which is easily available. They will charge you for the parking with the same ticket, which is way too convenient and innovative!

You will have an interesting walk along the well-made footpath covering the corners of the Nandi Hills, giving you interesting views of sunrise and sunset depending on what time of day you are there. There is a dense forest with great flora and fauna atop it. There are chargeable washrooms inside as well, because the cold temperatures do the trick 😊, so don't worry.



Well, it was a foggy morning for me, and I reached atop by 7ish, and although it was crowded and visibility was down to 20–25 feet, it was worth it! Once I went on top, I could see the clouds moving through us at that height. Well, at 1500 m, it was an awesome experience taking that long walk, halting at many spots to take the photos. It took me at least 1.5 hours to complete the entire *Pradakshina* of the hill, and the clouds had moved on.

The pictures say it all about the beauty of the place. I picked up my coffee and munched on the protein bar I carried with me on my return. I returned via the Devanahalli route, joined the Express Highway, and picked up a kilo of green and black grapes on the way back.

Well, I sign off here, leaving you all with the memories of my first solo trip in 2024 and waiting to go on another one very soon.

Mr. Sameet Joshi
Head, CSR, Alumni





Remember to forget

The biggest revolution after the industrial revolution is the information technology revolution. The whole gamut of computers working and their networking wholly rests on the two monoliths of this age, 1's and 0's, resulting in what is called "virtual reality". If we apply the same analogy to our lives, it is remarkably similar. We have only two certainties in life: one is of birth, i.e., 1, and another is of death, i.e., 0. Between these poles, we have the reality of living, or real virtuality.

The zeros and ones keep repeating as per computer algorithms and programming (Binary) to create text, image, and sound to generate a make-believe world of experiences. The life interlude between 0's and 1's of death and life similarly gives varied experiences.

Computers are being made more human by 'fuzzy' logic—logic supplied with a greater number of probabilities, resulting in numerous options and solutions. This logic is applied to handle billions of discrete and non-discrete problems that have to be solved by computers (with computer programs). In our lives too, between our 0's and 1's (life and death), we have a big list of probables, do's, and don'ts. We, too, have innumerable probabilities that are more complex and overlapping than the above-mentioned non-discrete functions for every course of action. If we offer a program with a set of good options, the result will be invariably good. The set of probabilities we offer for our lives determines the solution that emerges from the program. This is to say we have a fuzzy life. Fuzzy logic enables the representation of imprecise, ambiguous, and vague information. This is remarkably true in our lives.

Good computer programs for the binary world lead to better results. Good programs for fuzzy life are the 'Code of Conduct' and Scriptures, which are given by our saints, prophets, and men and women who preached moral values and attained spiritual enlightenment.

The present age is unfolding very interestingly. Science and technology are trying to make machines smart and human-like and, in the bargain, machinating man. There is an interesting and challenging interface being developed by scientists. The failure of 'BIO-SPHERE-2' (an experiment to sustain life in a closed, man-made artificial ecosystem) long before it ended in the desert oracle in Arizona in 1993 concludes that "no one yet knows how to engineer systems that provide humans with the life-supporting services that natural ecosystems provide for free." In the year 2000, Miguel Nicolsa, a neuroscientist at Duke University, wired a monkey's brain to a computer that was in turn connected to a 'Bionic arm.' (an artificial arm with mechanical gadgets and required electronic circuitry). The computer recorded the monkey's brainwaves while it moved its own arm and then used that information to move the bionic arm. It was painfully slow compared to the actual action.

Raphael Bousso at the University of California, Berkeley, is using the most intricate physics to prove the controversial idea called the 'Holographic Principle'. Taken to its extremes, the theory implies that the three-dimensional universe we live in might be just an illusion, a shadow of a higher-dimensional universe. Our saints and scriptures describe the 'Pancha Mahaboothas', which constitutes the universe, which is transitory, and the whole show is 'Maya' an illusion. Our



body is nothing but an optical illusion. If we could magnify the body to the size of the earth or invent a microscope that would give us a real look at our bodies, we would find that more than 99.9% of the body is empty space. Every definition of our body is illusory; bodies are open and dynamic patterns of energy and information. Although our bodies look the same over the years, we only retain 2% of all the atoms in our body each year, i.e., 98% of our body in 2003 is different from the body it was in 2002. As Dr. Deepak Chopra would tell us, we acquire a new liver every 6 months, a new skeleton every 3 months, new skin once a month, and a new stomach every 5 days.

Can spirituality, religion, and existence be explained in terms of neural networks, neurotransmitters, and brain chemistry? Analogies apart, Albert Einstein says that 'Science without religion is blind, and Religion without science is lame' Yes, science can go places almost everywhere, but if blind (read vision), it cannot go to places where it wants to. And religion can almost visualize everything and lead one to the truth. If it is lame, it cannot actually reach the destination (read: reaching truth amidst materialistic pursuits).

If mankind has to traverse, reach, and comprehend the 'Truth,' it has to have eyes and legs (religion and science) engaged together in harmony. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. When the pudding is eaten, the pudding and me are one, and I have realized (savored) the pudding in its entirety. Supreme realization is for savoring and not for resolving. How are pudding and me separate? Leave aside resolution when pudding and me are inseparably mixed. *'Aham Brahmasmi'*



Prof. (Dr) Ashok. A. Itagi
HOD-School of Design



Advancing Water Management Practices for Sustainable Solutions in the Cauvery Basin

In his presentation at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavana, Mandya, Karnataka, on December 6, 2023, Professor Jagdish H. Godihal, Department of Civil Engineering, Presidency University highlighted the following:

The Cauvery Basin, a critical water resource supporting multiple states, faces challenges in efficient management and interstate disputes. Let us explore advanced methodologies and technologies for sustainable water management, addressing water scarcity and interstate conflicts. The Cauvery Basin, spanning 81,155 square kilometers across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry, sustains vital agricultural activities and millions of residents. Despite their significance, erratic rainfall patterns intensified by climate change pose water scarcity challenges.



1. Sustainable Water Management Practices:

Rainwater harvesting initiatives blend traditional and modern techniques to capture and store rainwater effectively. Holistic watershed management programs, including afforestation and soil conservation, safeguard water resources and prevent soil erosion.



2. Technology-Enabled Solutions:

Remote sensing and GIS technologies monitor land-use changes and assess afforestation impacts on water retention. Drone-based aerial surveys and IoT devices optimize precision-oriented interventions for effective watershed management.

3. Policy and Governance:

Despite tribunal and court interventions, water-sharing solutions remain elusive. State policies advocate water conservation and equitable distribution. Technology assists in assessing water availability and monitoring water flow across state borders for conflict resolution.

4. Future Prospects and Recommendations:

Population growth and urbanization drive water demand, necessitating modernized irrigation practices and heightened community engagement. Technology integration, such as IoT devices and AI-driven predictive modelling, can optimize water usage and policy formulation.

Advanced technologies and robust policy frameworks are crucial for implementing sustainable water management practices in the Cauvery Basin. Collaboration among stakeholders, technological innovation, and community participation are essential for ensuring efficient and equitable water resource management in the region.



From a Soldier's Diary

The diary of a veteran infantry officer, a Siachen warrior (the world's highest battle field),

Where do Army officers live during their service? Luxurious Palatial House, Or????

I spent 70% of my service in field locations in the northern and north-eastern parts of the country. The luxuries available to me as an officer were:

A palatial bunker to live in, not more than 10 feet by 10 feet, with my washroom (often shared) located 50 meters away. My roommates were mostly mice, yeah, mice, who used to steal my meager supplies of maggi and biscuits, which was all I used to have because there wasn't a single commercial establishment for 40 km in any direction. A mouse once ate the earmuffs of my headphones; we used to hate those buggers. The room had two beds (for when somebody was visiting, which was very rare), a table, and a cloth pinned to the roof to prevent mud from falling onto the floor. Let me share another interesting incident. My wife had sent me 5 kg of walnuts (akhrots). After a few days, I noticed their numbers dwindling fast. First, I suspected one of my friends, helping himself, till the day my head bumped against a sagging cloth pinned to the roof. Lo and behold, walnuts had been taken painstakingly, one by one, by mice and stored there. Their winter stocking??

Bunkers get really cold in the winters, and we had a kerosene heater to stave off the cold, which spewed out more fumes than warmth and has made sure that I will die of lung cancer ten years before my time. Most of my skin is burned due to exposure to direct ultraviolet rays bouncing off of the snow around me.

There was no electricity; we had a generator that used to work for two to three hours a day to charge our batteries. The rest of the time, I was dependent on a solar lantern of the poorest quality, which would have given me more illumination if I had used it as firewood. I remember reading books at night under the light of a kerosene lantern because we had to stay awake the entire night to ensure we could react if something happened (and "something" generally happened at night; the daytime was always safer).

I slept with my shoes on for three years because I never knew when I would need to rush out into the night. Oh, and I forgot to tell you, most of the nights we used to be out in the jungles, be it rain or snow.

There are no messes in field locations; we are all separated from the headquarters (corporate office). Officers and men ate the same food, basically dal, rice, and roti, every day for three years. Except when I was on leave.

Mobile phone networks and the Internet, which most people take for granted, were nonexistent. We had two STD lines for approximately 700 people, which were connected to all the posts. I never saw an officer misuse his rank to get extra privileges on the phone. I used to speak to my mother once a month. I didn't have a girlfriend at the time. You see, it is very difficult to have a relationship with somebody who speaks to you once a month and who you



see twice a year. I've also seen people not be able to attend even the last rites of their parents because they were in some cut-off post and couldn't be brought down in time. There are posts in both J&K and the North East where people remain cut off for five months at a time. You survive on tinned food, and a helicopter drops off letters and rations maybe once a month, if the weather gods deem so. The only connection you have with your HQ will be a radio that you switch on once a day to tell them you're alive.

In the first year after my marriage, I saw my wife twice, one month each time. We rarely celebrate our anniversaries because I rarely get to plan my leave.

I have stayed in places where we used to take a bath once every three months. You gotta believe me, because taking a bath at those altitudes and temperatures can kill you (I'm not kidding). And most baths used to be with just one bucket of water. Even today, I can shave, brush, and have a reasonable bath in half a bucket of water (no exaggeration). Hygiene, you see, is highly overrated.

I am not going to dwell on the risk to life and limb; it's what we signed up for. But the Indian Army has always been an officer-led army (fortunately or unfortunately), unlike the western armies, where NCOs lead a lot of operations. This can be amply seen in the Kargil War, in which 29 officers died, which is a very high fatality rate for officers.

Hey, it made me who I am; seriously, no regrets.

See you next month.....

Maj. Gen. Gurdeep Singh Narang reminisces about a letter written by a fellow veteran.

Shaurya Chakra: The Unknown Acts of Gallantry
by **Wg. Cdr. Abhijit Gokhale (Veteran)**

It had started a day earlier, on January 23. I was in a large group of people who had gathered for an event, and I was at the end of my wits trying to guide civilians on Fauji customs, uniforms, marching, and behavior.

During a short break, I observed this lady, Ms. Nimrat Kaur, sitting quietly amongst the crowd.



The lady needs no introduction. She is a star in her own right. She first impressed me when I saw the movie LUNCH BOX. I had heard after the movie that she was an “army brat,” to use the term that describes Fauji kids. I had then read and found out that her late father was an Army officer who had laid down his life in the defense of the nation, for which he was awarded a SHAURYA CHAKRA.

For the uninitiated, the Shaurya Chakra is the sixth highest gallantry award for an Indian military officer and is awarded for valour, courageous action, or self-sacrifice. It is NOT awarded during war but for all actions when the nation is not at war, such as terrorism, covert operations, operations, or special operations like the surgical strikes or the Balakot air strikes.

On that day, January 8, 2023, during a short break, I walked up to speak to her. This is how the very brief conversation went:

Me: Hello, ma’am, Jai Hind. My name is Wg. Cdr. Abhijit Gokhale. Privileged to meet you, especially as your father was a gallantry award winner from the Indian Army.

The lady was startled. She got up and said,

Ms Kaur: Nice to meet you. How do you know about my father?

Me: Ma’am, I had seen Lunch Box and learned that you are a Fauji kid. It was natural for me to read up more, and I found out. What I read about your father was extremely motivating and inspiring. I want to thank you for his service. I have also served in the Indian Air Force and can understand what it means to be the daughter of a gallantry award winner.”

The lady appeared to be completely surprised that someone knew and said, “I can't believe someone remembers my father.”

That’s it. A few brief sentences were all I got as the work recommenced.

The next day, as I met the lady again, I did my customary greeting of “Jai Hind Ma'am,” to which she immediately said the words that went through my heart like a hot knife going through a frozen block of butter.



“Hello Sir! You know what? After going home yesterday, I called up my mother and sister and told them that there is one person here who knows my father. They were both surprised.”

I did not know how to react. I was at a loss for words. I just nodded my head. All I could do was stare at the lady and then just look around. There were more than 300 people on the set, and not one knew that we had the daughter of a gallantry award winner among us. Not one person was aware of the gallantry in the face of the enemy that Major Bhupender Singh (the father of Ms. Kaur) had displayed. Such irony! This lack of knowledge occurred at an event that was organized to recreate the award of a gallantry medal.

The Act of Gallantry

Major Bhupender Singh was serving with the Border Roads in J&K and was the officer commanding 99 Road Construction Company. His army unit was deployed at Verinag, near the Jawahar Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir.

In January 1994, Maj. Bhupender Singh himself led a team for reconnaissance of the bridge sites in the densely terrorist-infested areas. Knowing the severe threat from terrorists, he decided to lead the team himself, following the exalted traditions of the Indian Army, where officers lead from the front.

On January 4, 1994, his team, comprising a total of 15 men, including two officers (one himself) and 13 other soldiers, went to recce the bridge sites. During the recce, at Akkar village, the recce party ran into an ambush by the militants who were lying in wait at a roadblock created by them.

Maj. Bhupender Singh and his troops came under heavy terrorist fire from all sides and at very close range by a large number of militants with sophisticated automatic weapons. Maj. Bhupender Singh, showing commendable courage and leadership, quickly reorganized and deployed his troops and returned the fire. During the ambush, the driver of the Maruti Gypsy had frozen and was unable to drive. Major Bhupender Singh, displaying immense courage, pulled the driver from the driving seat, ran around, and got into the driver's seat himself to drive the ambushed vehicle.

The deployment and counterattack were so fierce that after a prolonged exchange of fire, Maj. Bhupender Singh and his soldiers managed to successfully break through the ambush and continued on their main task of recceing the bridge sites.



On January 17, 1994, however, the terrorists of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen kidnapped Maj. Bhupender Singh and the driver of his vehicle, Ashfaq, from the OP location. The terrorists demanded the release of terrorists arrested by the armed forces. The recent release of terrorists in exchange for the kidnapped daughter of a politician had emboldened the terrorists to repeat their modus operandi.

The terrorists, however, had forgotten to consider that Maj. Bhupender was an army officer. He refused to agree to their demands and did not give in to them. After nearly a week, the terrorists assassinated Maj. Bhupender Singh. This assassination was in retaliation for the denial of their demands on January 23, 1994, and frustration at the army officer refusing to give in. The driver, Ashfaq, was released unharmed by the terrorists on the same day.

Major Bhupender Singh had refused to be cowed down, even in the face of threats and imminent death. He had completely disregarded his own well-being and safety to ensure that the demands of the terrorists were not met. In his actions, he upheld the highest traditions of the nation and its armed forces. He demonstrated unwavering commitment, unmatched bravery, and the highest tradition of service to the nation.

For his act of gallantry, in the face of the most severe threat to his life, Maj. Bhupender Singh was given the gallantry ward "Shaurya Chakra."

Ironically, the award was presented posthumously on March 13, the birthdate of Ms. Nimrat Kaur, and was received by her mother from the President of India.

Major Bhupender Singh was a brave, intelligent, and committed soldier who upheld the traditions of the Indian army at the cost of his life. Born on October 25, 1952, in Mohanpura, located in the Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan, he was only 42 years old.

He fulfilled his dream of wearing the uniform and joined the army. During his training at the prestigious Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun, he excelled in all aspects of training. He was a topper at IMA, and for his exemplary performance, he was awarded the coveted "Sword of Honor," an award won by the cadet who stands first in the overall order of merit.

As a result of winning the "Sword of Honor," he got the right to select his choice of arm in the Indian Army and was commissioned into 64 Engr. Regt. of the Corps of Engineers, one of the oldest arms of the Indian Army. Major Bhupender Singh developed into a committed soldier



and gritty officer who commanded the respect of his seniors and juniors as well. Besides being a soldier at heart, he was a people's person with a cheerful disposition, which endeared him to everyone around him.

In recognition of his contributions to the nation, a bronze statue of him was unveiled in Patiala on October 22. The statue was put up in the Heritage Hall of his parent regiment, the 64 Assault Engineer Regiment.

As I write this piece, the only thought that comes to mind is, "Freedom isn't free; it costs soldiers." There is a very good reason that citizens don't have to pay for freedom. Many such soldiers have paid for it with their lives."

As I came back to reality in that hall full of more than 300 people, with noise and chaos, as they went about their work, oblivious to the immense sacrifice, I was desperate to get hold of a microphone and yell to everyone about it all. But I could not. I was confused about whether people would appreciate or, worse, even understand. Maybe they would say I did it because I myself wore the uniform once. These self-doubts did not allow me to do it.

But I did what I could. Over the course of the day, I told each and every one I could about Major Bhupender Singh, Project Beacon, Operation Verinag, Shaurya Chakra, and the presence of the daughter of the gallant officer, because of whom I can live and enjoy the pleasures of life.

It may not matter to anyone, but to the family of Major Bhupender Singh, it is three decades to the day today, January 23. No one can understand; words won't make them do so. They need to feel it to understand it. Till that happens, all I can request of the citizens of this great nation is "TO BE A CITIZEN A SOLDIER CAN BE PROUD OF"!

Jai Hind.

Wg. Cdr. Abhijit Gokhale

शहीदों की चिताओं पर लगेंगे हर बरस मेले,
वतन पर मरने वालों का यही बाकी निशां होगा...

Maj Gen Gurdeep Singh Narang (Veteran)

Dean and Chief Proctor
Department of Student Affairs
Presidency University





Request That You Change Your Perception of Ex-Servicemen Veterans

A soldier in general is a 10th or 12th class pass.

He gets selected for the Armed Forces after competing with lakhs of competitors.

Then he is trained for military duties.

Expertise in firing various types of weapons, guns, commando training, drills, signal communication, driving, and demonstrations is provided through all sorts of courses that are required for military operations.

At the end, when I look at an ex-fouji or veteran, I find a fully loaded graduate in him who is capable of taking any task to its final end, which a formal graduate may not be able to comprehend.

I look at an ex-serviceman having acquired a degree in reality in the following subjects:

S- Service beyond self with dedication.

E- Efficiency par excellence

R- Reliability beyond doubt

V- Valour in difficult times / Emergency

I – Improve efficiency

C- Crisis management without fear

E- Experience in Man Management

M- Mind and reflex response

A- Ability to handle any situation

N- Nationalist by birth and passion

All these qualities are found in any serviceman. When he achieves his ex-serviceman status, he becomes

Excellent in all the above traits.

This is how everyone should look at an ex-serviceman.

He has given his youth and his life for our safety and security.

Now it is our turn to give due respect to them.



Sub Major Anil Kumar Ghorpade (Retd)

**Deputy Proctor
DSA**



Cancer and Food

Cancer is a disease in which cells develop uncontrollably and spread throughout the body. Cancer is one of the most common causes of death worldwide. However, studies show that modest lifestyle modifications, such as eating a nutritious diet, can prevent 30–50% of all malignancies. Growing evidence reveals that certain food habits raise or decrease cancer risk. Furthermore, nutrition is seen as important in the treatment and management of cancer.

World Cancer Day is observed on February 4th, with the goal of promoting cancer awareness and increasing efforts to prevent, detect, and treat this dreadful disease. It seeks to save millions of lives each year by raising cancer awareness and pushing governments and individuals all around the world to take action against the disease. The theme for World Cancer Day 2022-2024 is Closing the Care Gap. We understand that each of us has the power to make a difference, no matter how small, and that working together, we can make significant progress in lowering the global burden of cancer. Raising knowledge about cancer and its prevention through dietary modifications is crucial for public health initiatives. Several dietary factors have been linked to either an increased or decreased risk of certain types of cancer.

Diet and Cancer

Diet can have an impact on your risk of developing many types of cancer. The overall risk can be reduced by following a healthy diet that includes plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

- High-energy and high-fat diets can lead to obesity and are generally thought to increase the risk of some cancers.
- Reducing alcohol intake and maintaining a healthy body weight may reduce the risk of many cancers.
- High-fat, low-fiber diets may increase the risk of many cancers, including bowel, lung, prostate, and uterine cancers.
- You can reduce your risk of developing cancer by eating a wide variety of nutritious foods.

Anti-Cancer Foods: (foods that prevent cancer)

Combat cancer with these nutritious foods. A few are listed below.



- **Turmeric:**

Turmeric is also known as Indian saffron. Turmeric contains curcumin, which has the ability to kill cancer cells and prevent more from growing. Turmeric is promoted as an alternative cancer treatment. According to Cancer Research UK, some data suggests that curcumin may have an anti-inflammatory effect on the body.

- **Broccoli:**

Eating more broccoli and other cruciferous vegetables can radically lower your chances of getting cancer. With broccoli, specifically, there is a high amount of a phytochemical called sulforaphane, which is a cancer-fighting plant compound that has been linked to reducing the risks of prostate cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, and oral cancer. Sulforaphane is also found in other vegetables, such as kale, cabbage, and cauliflower.

- **Flax seeds:**

Flax seeds contain omega-3 fatty acids (anti-cancer properties) and lignans, which have antioxidant, anti-tumor, anti-inflammatory, and antiviral properties. According to research, flax seeds can help fight cancer. Some studies have shown that consuming 25 grams of flaxseed a day may reduce tumor growth in breast and prostate cancer.

- **Whole grains and fiber-rich foods:**

Whole grains provide dietary fiber and nutrients beyond refined grains.

For more fiber and whole grains, try:

- Switching everyday foods such as bread, pasta, or rice to their wholegrain or brown alternatives.
- Starting with a high-fiber breakfast. Swap processed cereals for wholegrain versions like shredded whole wheat and bran cereals, or porridge oats.
- Having fruit and vegetables with every meal (they can be fresh, frozen, or tinned).
- Eating the skin of vegetables such as potatoes and carrots. This helps you get the most fiber from your food.
- Adding in wholegrain or high-fiber snacks such as plain popcorn, fruit, nuts and seeds, or whole wheat crackers.



Top tip: Don't get caught out when buying your weekly loaf. Most multi-seed and brown breads aren't wholegrain. Look out for 'whole wheat' or 'whole meal' on the label.

• **Beans:**

Incorporating beans into the diet of colorectal cancer (CRC) survivors has the potential to positively impact both gut and host health by modulating markers linked to obesity and disease, according to new research from "The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center." Beans also contain fiber, which may also help reduce your risk of cancer, according to the American Cancer Society.

In addition to the foods listed above, consider the following anti-cancer diet guidelines:

- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.
- Sip green tea throughout your day.
- Eat more tomatoes.
- Use olive oil.
- Snack on grapes.
- Use garlic and onions abundantly.
- Eat fish.
- Add green, leafy vegetables to your anti-cancer diet.
- Some superfoods can prevent cancer.

Foods to Be Avoided

Nutrition does play an important role in our overall health, and a poor diet can influence our chances of developing cancer. The American Cancer Society recommends healthy eating habits, which include lots of vegetables, fruits, and whole grains, as well as limiting red meats, sugary beverages, highly processed foods, and refined grains.

- Sugar fuels tumor growth.
- Eating overcooked or burned food causes cancer.
- Eating processed foods causes cancer.
- Alcohol increases cancer. Risk
- Meats cooked at high temperatures



Dietary Guidance for the Prevention of Cancer

- Maintain an appropriate body weight for your height.
- Whole-grain cereals and pulses should be used as sources of energy and protein.
- Fresh vegetables and fruits (preferably green and yellow) should be used in plenty.
- Intake of processed and preserved foods should be in moderation.
- Fried, burnt, smoked, salted, and pickled foods are to be limited.
- Food contaminated with fungus should be avoided.
- Alcoholic beverages are to be used in moderation.

Conclusion

There's no one diet that can guarantee that you won't get cancer. But eating a healthy, balanced diet can reduce the risk. A healthy balanced diet means eating mostly fruit and vegetables, plenty of wholegrains (these include things like brown pasta and wholegrain bread), and healthier sources of protein like fresh chicken, fish, or pulses (including lentils and beans). Your overall diet has a bigger impact on cancer risk than any individual food or ingredient.

“There is no one nutrient that is going to reduce your cancer risk, but the combination of many nutrients and antioxidants.”



Tabasum Fathima

Nutritionist
(Senior Associate – DSA)
Presidency University



The Stone on the Road

“Aww, ouch!” cried the newspaper vendor as his foot hit the large rock in the middle of the road as he was busily crossing the road to drop the newspaper in the house across the road. Muttering under his breath at the unlikely start to his day, the boy went on with his chores, grumpy and irritated.

Look at the conservancy workers; they hardly do their work these days! exclaimed the young man as his foot hit upon a rather large rock on the way. He was going to fetch milk from the dairy nearby.

Soon a visually impaired man came feeling his way with his cane, and when it hit the rock, he said aloud, “Oh my, it looks like there is a rather big stone on the way. I wonder how people will manage to go at this busy hour. Let me see if I can do something to help. So, saying that, he started trying to push the stone slowly to the side, feeling his way all the time.

I’ll help you, uncle, cried a tiny voice near him. A young girl going to her morning classes stopped by, and together they heaved and hawed and were able to push the stone to the side. The little girl guided the path so that the stone could be pushed to a side and would not be in anyone’s way.

“Thank you, little girl,” said the man, “for stopping by to help.”

“I was watching others curse and leave in a huff, but I could not do anything to help. Together, we could remove the stone, and I am happy now,” replied the girl.

“You have done your bit instead of blaming others and doing nothing; if only everyone would pitch in, what a wonderful place we can make this planet,” concluded the man before going on his way.



Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.
Alexander Pope



Events Galore

**Roundup of activities in
December 2023, January 2024,
February 2024**



Founder's Day Celebrations

Founder's Day 2024 was celebrated in honor of Dr. Nissar Ahmed, the Honorable Chancellor of Presidency University, Bengaluru, and Chairman of the Presidency Group of Institutions, on February 9, 2024. Dr. Sameena Noor Ahmed Panali, Registrar, welcomed the leadership team, faculty, and administrative members with a note on the significance of Founder's Day. Dr. Anubha Singh, Vice Chancellor, exhorted the audience to translate the Chancellor's vision into reality and touch the lives of students and the community at large.

The Honorable Chancellor, Dr. Nissar Ahmed, in an emotional speech, walked down memory lane, sharing anecdotes from his professional journey and personal life, expressing gratitude to the Lord Almighty, his family, friends, well-wishers, and the Presidency family for extending unstinted support throughout this journey.

Here are a few glimpses of the event.





Events Galore





Republic Day Celebrations

January 26, 2024

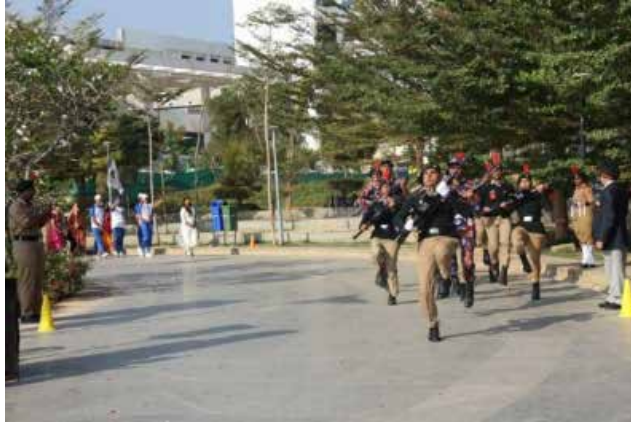
The 75th Republic Day Celebrations were held with pomp and splendor at Presidency University on January 26, 2024. The event commenced with the Chief Guest, Ms. Deepa James, Group Director, DRDO, hoisting the Indian National Flag along with Dr. Nissar Ahmed, Honourable Chancellor, and Dr. Anubha Singh, Vice Chancellor in Charge. The flag-hoisting ceremony was followed by an NCC parade and various contingents representing diverse art forms in India.

The central theme of this year's Republic Day celebration was "Naari Shakti," or women's empowerment. Ms. Deepa, in her speech, shed light on the resilience of women's participation in the Indian parliament and various fields, including the aviation sector. She also highlighted numerous central government schemes aimed at promoting women's welfare. Women play a pivotal role both at home and in society, contributing to economic growth and national development.





Events Galore





Inauguration of the Seminar Hall

A new seminar hall to cater to smaller audiences was inaugurated on January 26, 2024, in the F block of the University.





Presidency Townhall

This program, held on January 27, 2024 set the stage for the new semester with fresh insights into faculty development and the latest pedagogies to improve the overall teaching-learning process.





Sports Round up

The grand finale

The Department of Student Affairs organized sporting events for faculty and staff members over the course of six weeks as part of the UGC's Fit India Campaign 2023. Participants competed in various activities like the plank challenge, skipping, throwball, cricket, volleyball, tug of war, bombing in the city, and musical chairs with enthusiasm and team spirit. The six-week campaign concluded on January 13, 2024, with a prize distribution ceremony for the winners.

Events Galore





27th National Youth Festival Saksham Yuva – Saksham Bharath

The birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on January 12 is observed as the national youth day. Various competitive and noncompetitive cultural events, sports, exhibitions, intellectual discussions, camps, seminars and adventure programs are organized for youth across the country. NSS students from Presidency University, Vaibhav Mane, Chitrangi Bhatnagar, Aryan Mishra, and Beverly Tambe were selected to participate in the 27th National Youth Festival held at Nashik along with other NSS units from the Bangalore region. The NSS coordinator at Presidency University, Prof. Renuka Bhagwat, along with Prof. Muninanjappa from Bangalore City University, were the contingent leaders for the Bangalore region. Three teams—Bangalore, Raichur, and Hubli—consisting of 66 students and staff from Karnataka participated in this event. The honorable Prime Minister of India Sri Narendra Modi, Minister of Youth Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur, Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde, and Deputy Chief Ministers of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar were the guests for the inauguration of the national youth festival.





The Presidency University NSS cell hosted a **Youth Vote Enrollment Event**, a civic initiative aimed at fostering democratic participation. The event was graced by Mrs. Apurva A. Kulkarnii KGS, an executive officer in Taluk Panchayat, Yelahanka, and dedicated aero, Yelahanka assembly constituency, Bengaluru, and the special invitees for the event were Mr. Damodar PDO of Singanayakanahalli and Mr. Nagraju PDO of Rajankunte. This event on February 2, 2024, at Presidency University invited students and the community to register as voters.



School of Computer Science and Engineering and Information Science

AICTE sponsored ATAL-FDP on Natural Language Processing on the topic Design and Development of Multilingual Chatbot was held from January 9 to January 13 2024.





A five-day faculty development program on Generative AI was conducted from January 22 to 27, 2024



School of Engineering Department of Civil Engineering

Win-3 Teaching - A talk by expert

The Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering, in collaboration with the Office of Sponsored Research, Presidency University, Bangalore, organized an expert talk on "Win-3 Teaching" on January 25, 2024, to explore the concept of 'Win-Win-Win (Win-3) Teaching' emphasizing the interconnectedness of faculty, students, and the institution within the educational ecosystem. The program in hybrid mode featured Maj. Gen. (Prof.) Dr. S.S. Dasaka, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal Awardee, Former Vice-Chancellor of Indus University, Ahmedabad, and Former Director of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology. 130 participants benefited from the talk, which emphasized the symbiotic relationship among these components, promoting collective success and growth.





Presidency Masterclass Series

An international technical talk on "Soil Engineering: Coupled Processes and Applications" organized by the Department of Civil Engineering and the Office of International Affairs was held on January 24, 2024, in hybrid mode, with 125 students benefiting from the program. The distinguished resource person for the technical talk was Prof. Hossam Abuel-Naga, Professor and Head of the Engineering Department at the School of Computing, Engineering, and Mathematical Sciences, La Trobe University, Australia. Prof. Abuel-Naga explored the concept of coupled processes in soil engineering and shed light on how phenomena such as soil-structure interaction, soil-water interaction, and soil-thermal interaction influence engineering practices and project outcomes.



Extensive Survey Project

The 6th semester B. Tech Civil Engineering students of Presidency University, Bengaluru, embarked on an extensive survey project from January 20 to 28, 2024, near Ghati Subramanya Temple, Doddaballapur. This hands-on project aimed to provide students with practical exposure to various surveying techniques and methodologies essential for their academic and professional development. Projects included the construction of a new tank, surveying land for highway construction or improvement, surveying an area to assess its suitability for water supply infrastructure and sanitation facilities, and a drone survey project that introduced students to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones for aerial surveying and mapping purposes.





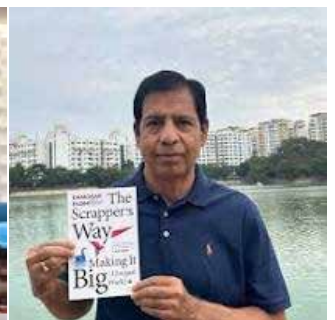
Career bound

Presidency University, Bangalore, organized an online interview preparation session for final year students of B. Tech in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Electrical and Electronics Engineering. The session, conducted on January 21, 2024, aimed to equip students with insights and strategies to excel in interviews, with particular focus on the recruitment process of RDC Concrete. Around fifty students attended the program. Mr. Kondeti Satya Surya Hemanth and Mr. Prashanth Chouhan, Alumni of BTech Civil Engineering Program (2019-2023 Batch) at Presidency University, Bangalore, addressed the session. Both of them had secured employment at RDC Concrete during their final year in campus placement drive held at NMIT Bangalore. In the process, they managed to beat 800 other applicants after four rounds of interview to secure their position. The RDC Concrete Interview Preparation Session served as a valuable platform for final year students to gain insights into the recruitment process and expectations of prospective employers. By leveraging the experiences and expertise of alumni and industry professionals, students were equipped with the knowledge and strategies to navigate the interview process effectively. Such initiatives underscore Presidency University's commitment to empowering students and preparing them for successful careers in their respective fields.

Department of Learning and Development

Presidency University hosted the book launch of Mr. Damodhar Padhi's masterpiece, "The Scrapper's Way: Making it big in the unequal world" on February 8, 2024. The event was coordinated by the School of Media Studies and the Learning and Development Department and had industry experts Mr. Gopichand Katragadda, Director and former CEO of Tata Sons, Mr. Sachin Sharma, Publisher, and Harper Collins as the chief guests.

Addressing the audience, Mr. Damodhar emphasized taking life as it comes, understanding the efficacy of empathy from a young age, along with the values of perseverance, curiosity, and purpose.





Office of the International Affairs Collaborations

President of Oklahoma City University USA, Prof. Kenneth Evans, and Dean and Professor of Management, Prof. Sri Beldona, visited Presidency University on January 31, 2024, to discuss and strengthen avenues for collaboration between the two institutions.



Office of the International Affairs Patents and Protection

The Office of Sponsored Research and Presidency Launchpad Association organized a guest lecture on Patent and Design Protection: Quality of Invention on January 11, 2024, by Mr. Rajasekharan A.B., Intellectual Property Attorney from Rajasekharan Associates, Chennai.





Innovation and Translational Research Hub (iTRH)

The Research Faculty Scheme, initiated in July 2022 at Presidency University, has been renamed Innovation and Translational Research Hub (iTRH) as of January 24, 2024. Translational research is a crucial aspect of the scientific community, bridging the gap between laboratory discoveries and their practical applications in real-world scenarios. iTRH is a dynamic hub where scientific knowledge and discoveries are transformed into practical applications for the benefit of society. It will act as a bridge between basic research conducted in laboratories and real-world implementation. iTRH will serve as a collaborative hub and bring together multidisciplinary teams of scientists, engineers, and industry experts. By fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, iTRH will facilitate the development of innovative solutions to pressing societal challenges. Moreover, iTRH will be vital in accelerating the process from discovery to implementation. It will provide researchers with access to state-of-the-art facilities and resources for conducting experiments. This streamlined approach expedites the translation of scientific findings into practical applications that can ultimately improve people's lives. Furthermore, iTRH will also catalyze innovation by nurturing an environment conducive to creativity and problem-solving. Encouraging collaboration across different disciplines and sectors will foster new ideas and approaches that may not have been possible within traditional research. In addition to driving innovation, iTRH will address the requirement for evidence-based decision-making. The Hub fosters cross-disciplinary collaboration, significantly advancing research within PU and beyond.

Under iTRH, the major ongoing activities are as follows:



Dr. Ashish Srivastava
Assistant Professor

Title of the Project: Classification of Heat Affected Zone upon grinding of AISI52100 bearing steel through deep learning-based semantic segmentation technique.

Agency: VGST, Govt. of Karnataka

Scheme: Early Career Research Award (ECRA)

Project duration: 2 Years

Amount sanctioned: INR 10,00,000

Abstract: Grinding is a pivotal machining process in the bearing manufacturing industry, especially for materials like AISI 52100 used in rolling bearings. However, this process generates significant heat, leading to the formation of undesirable white and dark layers beneath the surface of the workpiece. These layers adversely affect the fatigue strength and residual stresses of the bearings, necessitating their identification and removal for improved product performance. Presently, the industry relies on costly and time-consuming optical microscopy techniques and microhardness techniques for layer detection, which involve multiple sample preparation steps. In response to this challenge, this project proposes leveraging advancements in computer vision, specifically deep learning-based semantic segmentation, to swiftly and accurately detect the white and dark layers in ground AISI 52100 steel samples.



Dr. Hidayath Ulla
Assistant Professor

Title of the Project: Design and Development of Fully Printed Flexible Organic Light Emitting Diodes for Lab-on-a-Chip Biomedical Applications.

Agency: VGST, Govt. of Karnataka

Scheme: Karnataka Fund for Infrastructure Strengthening in Science & Technology (K-FIST L1)

Project duration: 2 Years

Amount sanctioned: INR 20,00,000

Abstract: The growing interest in maintaining a healthy and sustainable lifestyle has led to the creation and widespread availability of high-precision biosensors and healthcare monitoring equipment. A pulse oximeter (PO) is widely used, non-invasive, painless, and highly accurate medical equipment for monitoring pulse rate and arterial blood oxygenation levels. A PO usually employs a broadband photodiode (PD) coupled with two light-emitting diodes (LEDs) with different peak emission wavelengths, typically one in red and the other infrared (IR). A thicker body part won't support light transmission, so they can only measure fingers, toes, or earlobes. Usually, POs are used in hospitals as bulky fingertip attachments with cable connections to external screens and power sources. However, for practical usage at home or incorporation with our favorite wearable devices, there is an obvious need to make POs more compact and mobile. In this regard, organic LEDs (OLEDs) may prove helpful as a visually enticing addition to the next generation of POs. OLEDs are becoming increasingly mature as a technology, and as a result, they are becoming thinner, lighter, more flexible, and more efficient in energy use. That makes them a great alternative to inorganic LEDs, especially for making portable and wearable POs. The detecting device can also comprise organic PD (OPD) semiconductors. This allows for integrating OLEDs and OPDs with the optimal process benefits and the most desirable form factors. In addition, OLEDs can also be printed entirely, which assists in easily transferring the technology to large-scale productions. With this in view, a project was proposed with the aim of integrating printed technology on flexible substrates to develop a fully printed PO that can bend and fold without breaking, is easy to transport, and has low-cost production. By employing printing methods, the technology can be quickly and readily adapted to the mass production method using roll-to-roll printing.



Dr. Shagufi Naz Ansari
Assistant Professor

Title of the Project: Design and Development of MOFs/Carbon dots Nanocomposite as catalyst for Efficient Photoconversion of CO₂ into Value Added Products.

Institutional Grant: Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

Project duration: 3 Years

Abstract: Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission is a major issue on a global scale. Extreme fossil fuel use drives the energy crisis and emits greenhouse gases like CO₂, which trap heat and promote global warming and climate change. Many studies have focused on carbon capture and sequestration, which involves pumping the gas into an underground chamber or turning it into a solid that isn't reactive, like limestone. Another promising approach has been to use light energy to transform the CO₂ into other carbon molecules like ethanol, methane, or methanol. Photocatalytic CO₂ reduction resembles photosynthesis for green plants. By reducing CO₂ using visible or ultraviolet light, photocatalyst transforms CO₂ into fuel. CO₂ molecules show excellent thermodynamic stability due to their C=O double bond with a binding energy of 750 kJmol⁻¹ and a huge energy gap (13.7 eV). Therefore, effective photocatalysts are required to speed up the reduction of CO₂. The efficacy of CO₂ photoreduction is hampered by the low optical absorption of photocatalysts and the quick recombination of photo-excited electron-hole pairs. MOFs with high surface area and tunable pore size will work for the high adsorption of CO₂ molecules. N-functionalized linkers of MOFs will provide better affinity with the CO₂ molecules. Carbon dots are an efficient light harvester and excellent electron transfer/reservoir. The synergic effects of CDs in the composite may tune the band gap, effectively enhance charge transfer, and inhibit electron-hole recombination, which may exhibit the maximum methanol yield. Methanol has several applications, from fuel to water treatment. It is often utilized as fuel in several industries, including the car industry, wastewater treatment facilities, electricity production facilities, and automobiles. Keeping this in mind, we proposed novel N-functionalized metal organic frameworks (MOFs)/carbon dots nanocomposites as photocatalysts for the conversion of CO₂ to methanol. This proposal was submitted to the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, as a joint project, and PRL approved this project.



Office of Sponsored Research

Q1 Research Publications by Faculty, Presidency University

Events Galore



Dr. Sumantra Chaudhuri, Assistant Professor, ECE, published a research article in "IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation" (Elsevier, Q1, IF 5.7) with the title "Mutual Coupling Reduction Between Two Tightly Packed Half-Split Cylindrical Dielectric Resonator Antennas" Volume 71, Issue 12, Pages 9974 – 9979.



Dr. G Srinivas Reddy, Assistant Professor, Physics, published a research article in "Materials Chemistry and Physics" (Elsevier, Q1, IF 4.6) with the title "Investigation of Nearest Neighbor Interactions in Nickel Substituted Cobalt Using ^{59}Co IFNMR" Volume 314 Article number 128928



Dr. Abhinav Kumar, Assistant Professor, Pet, published a research article in "Environmental Research" (Elsevier, Q1, IF 8.3) with the title "Unveiling the potential of membrane in climate change mitigation and environmental resilience in ecosystem" Volume 245 Article number



Dr. Hidayath Ulla, Assistant Professor, Research Faculty published a research article in "Materials in Semiconductor Processing" (Elsevier, Q1, IF 4.1) with the title "Development of Molybdenum Trioxide Based Modified Graphite Sheet Electrodes for Enhancing the Electrochemical Sensing of Dopamine" Volume 173 Article number 108107



Dr Ranganatha S, Associate Professor, & **Dr. Dileep R**, Professor, Chemistry published a research article in "Chemical Engineering Journal Advances" (Elsevier, Q1, IF 6.1) with the title "Selective N-alkylation of amines with alcohols via hydrogen transfer catalyzed by Copper complex in an Ionic Liquid media". Volume 17 Article number 100585



Events Galore



Dr Karthik D, Assistant Professor, Research Faculty published a research article in “Optics & Laser Technology” (Elsevier, Q1, IF 5) with the title “Laser peening induced mitigation of severe pitting corrosion in titanium stabilized 321 steel”. Volume 172 Article number 110537



Dr K Julietraja, Professor, Mathematics published a research article in “ACS Omega” (Elsevier, Q1, IF 4.1) with the title “Computation of Neighborhood M-Polynomial of Cycloparaphenylene and Its Variants” Volume 8, Issue 51, Pages 49165 - 49174

Calling all Staff/Faculty

Have you published papers, written books, bagged awards or won accolades recently? Send us a short report with an accompanying photograph. Have it featured in Kaleidoscope by mailing it to editor@presidencyuniversity.in



Presidency LaunchPad Association

Events Galore

Presidency Launchpad Association Monthly Incubation Showcase

As a premier technology business incubator (TBI), the Presidency Launchpad Association (PLA) at Presidency University serves as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship. Our mission is to nurture, support, and empower startups on their journey towards sustainable growth and success.

Overview of Startup and Incubation Activity:

At PLA, we pride ourselves on hosting a diverse and dynamic portfolio of startups, each poised to make a significant impact in their respective industries. From cutting-edge technology solutions to innovative approaches in agriculture and healthcare, our startups represent the forefront of innovation. With a keen focus on scalability, sustainability, and societal impact, these ventures are shaping the future landscape of business and technology.

Highlighted Startups:

- Scanpick: Revolutionizing the food industry with a new-age food vending machine.
- Farmroot Agritech: Leading the way in organic pest control solutions for sustainable agriculture.
- Enthuziastic: Empowering learners through a collaborative platform for essential skill development.
- BramhAnsh Technologies: Offering clinically confirmed stress-relief solutions for working professionals.
- Bewingz: Redefining transportation with a high-performance electric motorcycle.

Recent Additions:

We are thrilled to welcome the latest additions to our incubation program:

- Prajnaanam: Pioneering enhanced learning through ancient scriptures in modern education.
- Farmland Industries: Developing affordable mobility solutions tailored for farmers.
- Synoleum: Advancing sustainability through the development of synthetic fuel using plastic waste.
- Panacea QX: Leading the agricultural revolution with innovative plant-based solutions.

Pipeline and Future Prospects:

With over 25 startup applications awaiting pre-incubation, the momentum at PLA continues to grow. Our commitment to fostering innovation, supporting entrepreneurship, and driving societal impact remains unwavering as we look towards an exciting future filled with endless possibilities. Join us in celebrating the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship at the Presidency Launchpad Association, where ideas are transformed into reality and startups thrive.



In Focus

In the bustling halls of the Presidency LaunchPad Association (PLA), where ideas spark into reality, SCANPICK shines as a testament to entrepreneurial ingenuity and determination. Born from the keen mind of Shivam, a CSE student with a knack for problem-solving, SCANPICK emerged to tackle the persistent issue of long queues at the campus canteen.

Fueled by the frustration of waiting in line day after day, Shivam envisioned a solution that would streamline the food ordering process. Thus, SCANPICK was born—a food vending machine equipped with advanced technology like robotics, easy payment solutions, and instant heating features to ensure freshness and quality.

The Journey with PLA

Shivam's journey truly took flight when he planted the seeds of his idea within PLA's nurturing ecosystem. With access to mentorship, workshops, and the state-of-the-art PLA Makers Foundry, Shivam received invaluable support to develop his concept into a scalable business model.

The Turning Point

The icing on the cake came when SCANPICK caught the eye of investors during a PLA-coordinated event. Shortlisted by IKP Knowledge Park, one of India's largest incubators, SCANPICK secured a government grant of Rs. 5 lakhs through the NIDHI PRAYAS scheme. This landmark achievement not only validated Shivam's vision but also propelled SCANPICK towards its goal of revolutionizing campus dining.

Navigating Challenges, Embracing Lessons

Despite the triumphs, SCANPICK's journey was not without its share of hurdles. From assembling the right team to fueling the innovation engine, Shivam and his team faced challenges head-on. However, with PLA's unwavering support and resources like 24/7 access, the Makers Foundry, and connections with the SBI Start Up Hub, SCANPICK overcame every obstacle.

To All Aspiring Entrepreneurs

As SCANPICK's journey demonstrates, entrepreneurship is more than just a career path; it's a mindset. With the support of PLA and initiatives like NIDHI PRAYAS, aspiring entrepreneurs have the tools and guidance they need to turn their dreams into reality. PLA isn't just an incubator; it's a launchpad for innovation and success.

Call to Action

To all aspiring entrepreneurs, heed the call: dare to dream, dare to innovate, and let PLA be your partner on the journey to greatness. With dedication, resilience, and the support of PLA, the possibilities are endless. SCANPICK's journey is proof that with determination and support, entrepreneurial dreams can become reality.



Answer to the January edition of the Picture Calling Photo contest.



Hampi, situated in Vijayanagar district, is a famous UNESCO World Heritage Site and is known for its ruins of ancient forts, temple structures, mandapas, and pillars. The Hampi Utsav, also known as Vijaya Utsav, is held here every year in the months of January and February. The festival attracts thousands of visitors who are bedazzled by the light and sound shows, music and dance performances, sports, and competitions. The festival commemorates the grandeur of a bygone era, the erstwhile Vijayanagara Empire.

The following got it right.

1. Ms. Deepa. V - Front Office Executive
2. Mr. Sajith S, Management Information Officer, Incubation Presidency LaunchPad (TBI)
3. Ms. Hema J - Admin Executive, Office of Sponsored Research
4. Ms. Devi. S, Assistant Professor, School of CSE & Information Science
5. Mr. Sayyed Jilani, Internal Auditor, Presidency University.

Congratulations



Picture Calling

Here is another picture to test your general awareness.



What is special about this person?

Send the details of this picture, your name and your role/ class details to editor@presidencyuniversity.in





Presidency Foundation Student Workshop at the School of Design

Twenty-one students from the Self-Employed Tailoring Course at the Presidency Foundation Skill Development Center visited the School of Design for a workshop on February 6, 2024, supported ably by the Director of the School of Design, Mr. Bhaskar Mitra.

The faculty, Ms. Suvidha and Mr. Shahul Hameed, engaged with the students in areas covering the intricacies of handling social media accounts and gave a peek into the work of the design students. They also provided feedback on the designs created by the Foundation students and gave insights into the skills needed for setting up a new business as a creative artist.

The workshop was well received by the students, who benefited immensely from these interactions. More such workshops are in the offing to help the Center students gain better exposure. This will enable them to establish their own ventures in the future.



We would love to hear from you.

Please send your feedback to
editor@presidencyuniversity.in



The Presidency Alumni

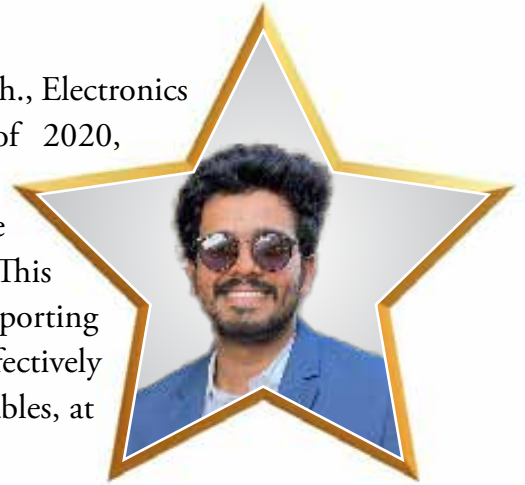


Each month, Kaleidoscope features an exclusive section dedicated to Presidency University alumni.

Star of the Month

Nanda Kishore Reddy Rachamala
Founder and CEO
Regis Exim Pvt. Ltd.

Nanda Kishore Reddy Rachamala, an alumnus of B.Tech., Electronics and Communication Engineering, of the batch of 2020, demonstrated remarkable entrepreneurial drive by founding Regis Exim Pvt. Ltd. in his third year of the B.Tech. program at the Presidency University. This innovative supply chain company is dedicated to supporting approximately 30,000 farmers across India in effectively marketing their fresh produce, such as fruits and vegetables, at fair prices.



By facilitating connections with markets, B2B, and B2C companies nationwide, Regis Exim has rapidly emerged as a leading entity in the agritech industry, achieving commendable revenue of around 2.5 crores in the 2022–2023 financial year. Projections for the 2023–2024 fiscal year indicate an impressive 5X revenue increase. Recognizing the company's potential to make a significant impact in the unorganized agricultural sector, the Presidency University Launchpad® Association has chosen Regis Exim for incubation.

Dear Alumni,

If you would like to be featured in the Star of the Month column, please mail information about milestones, your professional, and extracurricular achievements to editor@presidencyuniversity.in and Kaleidoscope will feature them in the Alumni Connect.





Analogies

Analogies represent word relationships.

An analogy is a comparison made to show how two things are similar for explanation or clarification. Although the things compared are physically different, the analogy identifies how they are figuratively similar.

People use analogies to link unfamiliar ideas with common ones, making complex or abstract ideas easier to understand.

Analogy type

Part to whole

Cause to effect

Source to product

Object to purpose

Characteristic

General to specific

User to tool

Synonyms

Antonyms

Example

Bengaluru: Karnataka:: Karnataka : India

Rain: flood:: fire: smoke

Wood: paper:: water : ice

Keyboard: type:: pencil : writing

Leaf: tree :: petal : flower

Car: Tata :: country : India

Painter: brush:: writer : pen

Mad: angry:: happy : joyful

Up: down :: left : right

Few more examples

Antonyms

1. On: off :: black: white

2. Girl: boy :: up: down

3. Night: day :: happy: sad

4. Brown: tan:: fall: autumn synonyms

5. Couch: sofa:: bush: shrub

Synonyms

6. Husband: spouse:: baby: infant

Cause and Effect

7. Rain: umbrella:: hungry: eat

8. Fire: smoke:: cold: sweater

Part to Whole

9. Monitor: computer:: finger: hand

10. Pitcher: baseball:: lettuce: salad

11. Student: classroom:: leaf: tree

General to Specific

12. University: Presidency:: fruit: orange

13. Color: blue:: river: kaveri

User to Tool

14. Doctor: scalpel:: sculptor: chisel

Source to Product

15. Wheat: bread:: oats: porridge

In the end we retain from our studies only that which we practically apply.
Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe



From gothilla to gotthu (don't know to know)

From the Department of Languages, Kannada, for non-Kannadigas to make yourselves at home in Bengaluru. Happy learning.

Vocabulary

Dhose - dhosa

Idli - rice cake

Maamsa - meat

Motte - egg

Baalehannu - plantain

Biskat - biscuit

Rotti - chapathi

Muddhe - raagi ball

Hasu - cow

Naale - tomorrow

Kappu - black

Kaadu - forest

Ruchi - taste

Thinnu - to eat

Kudi - to drink

Bari - to write

Conversation

Niivu Belagge En Thinthiri?

Ondhu dhose matthu eradu idli thinthini.

Niivu Maamsa thinnallva?

Illa, naanu maamsa thinnalla.

Motte kuuda thinnalvaa?

Illa thinnalla.

Matthe En thinthiri?

Naanu Baalehannu maathraa thinthini.

Niivu kaafi kuditiira?

Illa naanu eenannu kudiyolla.

Nimma Naayi En thinnutthe?

Adhu biskat rotti, mudde thinnutthe matthu haalu kudiyutte.

Adhu thumba bogaluttha?

Haudhu thumba bogalutthe.

What do you eat in the morning?

I eat one dhose and two idlis.

Don't you eat meat?

No, I don't eat meat.

Don't you eat even eggs?

No, I don't eat.

Then what do you eat?

I eat only plantains (bananas).

Do you drink coffee?

No, I don't drink anything.

What does your dog eat?

It eats biscuits, chapathi/rotti and raagi ball and drinks milk.

Does it bark much?

Yes, it barks much.



Shravan nanna jothe Aata Aadutthira?
Illa, Naanu Adalla.
Yaake? Bere kelasa ideya?
Naale pariikshe idhe, adarindha ivatthu
aadalla.
Niivu yaavaaga Delhi indha bandiri?
Naanu ninne Delhi indha bandhe.
Yaake?
Summane.
Maneyalli ellaru chennagiddaara?
Haudhu ellaru chennagiddaare.
Sari naale bhetyaagona.

Shravan will you play with me?
No, I will not play.
Why, do you have some other work?
I have an exam tomorrow; hence I won't play
today.
When did you come from Delhi?
I came yesterday from Delhi.
Why?
Simply.
Is everyone fine at home?
Yes, all are fine.
Ok, tomorrow we will meet.

Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.
Albert Einstein



Towards Wetland Conservation

Trivia



World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on February 2 and aims to create awareness about the role of wetlands in the ecosystem. It was on this day in 1971 that the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in the city of Ramsar, Iran, under the auspices of UNESCO. Wetlands cover a miniscule 6% of the earth's land surface, but they support countless lifeforms besides catering to the water requirements of the burgeoning populations. Yet, they are the most abused and neglected waterbodies, and today, an estimated half of all the wetlands have disappeared from the face of this earth. Wetlands are typically found near waterways, and thousands of species of plants, animals, and living organisms have made the wetlands their home. They are known as marshes, deltas, estuaries, mangroves, and bogs in different parts of the world. Today, many of these wetlands have been named Ramsar sites, indicating their status as sites of international importance.



The Team

Mr. Salman Ahmed – Chief Patron

Dr. Akila S Indurti – Editor

Abdulla T A – Designer

Pingal Chanda – Photographer

Kaleidoscope wishes to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the magazine.

Would you like to contribute articles to the University magazine?
Send your articles to editor@presidencyuniversity.in as a Word document along with your photograph and credentials before the 15th of each month. Please send images and photographs separately as attachments.



PRESIDENCY **KALEIDOSCOPE**