NEWSLETTER
JANUARY - JUNE
2021

Dear Friends,

This is the third issue of the DA-IICT Newsletter. I am pleased to announce that DA-IICT is chosen for the coveted 'Centre of Excellence' award by the Government of Gujarat. Despite the pandemic, the Institute continued its activities with usual vigour. The admission process of 2021 PG students has progressed well and the final admission is planned to be completed by the end of July, 2021. The Institute began its placement drive for placement of 2022 graduates. By the end of June, over 30 companies have evinced their interest in recruiting our graduates and they included Google, Microsoft, D.E. Shaw India and Sprinklr offering yearly packages in the range of Rs.30 to Rs.52 lakh.

It is with great sadness that I report the demise of Professor Suman Mitra on April 18, 2021. A considerate and generous colleague and mentor, he held varied positions at the Institute notably as Dean (Academic Programs) over six years. His students and colleagues always sought his wise advice and support. We will miss him deeply.

Despite the pandemic, faculty and staff worked tiresomely to ensure that the Institute activities are not interrupted. Thanks to them, they endured all odds courageously.

Sincerely,
Prof K. S. Dasgupta
Director, DA-IICT

Obituary- Professor Suman Mitra

DA-IICT community condole the sad demise of Professor Suman Mitra, who passed away on April 18, 2021, after a brief illness. Professor Mitra has been with the Institute almost since its inception. Professor Suman Mitra was the Dean of the Academic Program from 2013 to 2020. He was a brilliant teacher, an outstanding researcher and an epitome of kindness. He was always compassionate and gentle. Professor Mitra will forever be a part of the countless futures he helped create at DA-IICT. His students and his colleagues at the Institute will forever miss his guidance and reassuring presence.

NEW FACULTY RECRUITMENTS

Dr Anuj Tawari joined the Institute as Assistant Professor in March, 2021. He holds a Doctorate in Theoretical Computer Science from the Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai. He carried out his Doctoral studies at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. Prior to joining the Institute, he worked as Research Associate at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for a year followed by another year as Visiting Fellow, Chennai Mathematical Institute, Chennai.

Dr Pritam Anand joined the Institute as Assistant Professor in March, 2021. He holds a Doctorate in Computer Science from the South Asian University, New Delhi. A recipient of Visvesvaraya Doctoral Fellowship of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, his PhD thesis is on 'Generalized Support Vector Regression Models.'
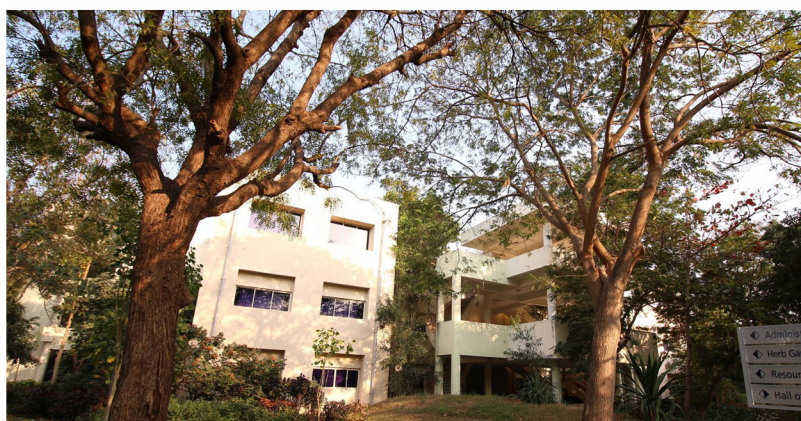
NEW STAFF RECRUITMENTS

Dr Shailendra Kumar Singh joined the Institute as Assistant Professor in May, 2021. He did his doctoral studies on Premchand's Literacy Corpus at the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He worked as Assistant Professor with the School of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Auro University, Surat for a year. He is the youngest winner of the Meenakshi Mukherjee Prize for the best published academic paper in India during 2016-17 instituted by the Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies.

Ms Swati Mitra joined the Institute as Assistant Officer (Resource Centre) in June 2021. She holds an M.Phil Degree in Philosophy from the Jadavpur University, Calcutta. She has over thirteen years of experience in working with educational institutions in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Government of Gujarat has chosen DA-IICT for Centre of Excellence (CoE) award. The selection was made after a series of verification and assessment of overall achievements of the Institute by the government appointed expert committees. The process of awarding the status is expected to be completed within the next few months.

CONFERENCE

IEEE Gujarat Section, IEEE Signal Processing Society (IEEE SPS), Gujarat Chapter along with DA-IICT organised the Fourth Edition of the three day National Seminar on 'New Trends in Signal Processing (NeTSiP 2021) online during March 19-21, 2021. The seminar featured talks by eminent researchers in Signal Processing and Artificial Intelligence covering the sub-fields of speech, image, audio and video processing, biometrics, media security, bioinformatics, language processing and communications. The seminar provided a forum for participants to learn new developments in Signal Processing and Artificial Intelligence.

AILP LECTURES

The faculty research group on Artificial Intelligence and Language Processing (AILP) is involved in collaborative research in the areas of artificial intelligence, machine learning, image processing, pattern recognition, computer vision, information retrieval and natural language processing. The objective is to create a vibrant research environment in DA-IICT and the AILP community at large and to undertake various research and dissemination activities and provide research opportunities to young Scholars. The AILP Lectures are part of this initiative.

Topic	Speaker	Date
Recent Issues in Cyber Forensics	Dr Priyanka Singh Assistant Professor, DA-IICT	12/02/2021
An Introduction to Generative Adversarial Networks	Dr Ahlad Kumar Assistant Professor, DA-IICT	16/04/2021

DA-IICT CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION (DCEI)

Shortlisted the following start-ups for funding support under 'Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP):

Smart Microscope
Mentors: Professors Bakul Gohel and Avik Hati

Development and implementation of IoT Test bed
Mentor: Professor Kalyan Sasidhar

Development of Smart - Robotic Toys
Mentor - Professor Tapas Kumar Maiti

Real-time, sensor based Smart Monitoring System for Detection of Concrete Maturity in Construction Site
Mentors: Professors Vinay Palaparthy and Yash Agarwal

A three-day workshop called 'Stonks' was conducted during March 14-16, 2021 to expose the prospective entrepreneurs the stock market culture and effective marketing strategies. Two hundred and fifty students from DA-IICT, Universities and Colleges attended the program. Mr. Shreyans Nahar, Investor, Financial and Product Management Expert conducted the workshop.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Manish Khare received the Best Special Session Award in the 13th Asian Conference on Intelligent Information and Database Systems (ACIIDS 2021), 07-09 April 2021, Phuket, Thailand. The title of the session was 'Special Session on Computational Imaging and Vision (CIV 2021).'

Professor Hemant Patil has been appointed as Associate Editor of IEEE Signal Processing Magazine – Columns and Forum. He is part of a small group of Associate Editors who are from reputed Universities and Research Institutions around the world.

The National Supercomputing Mission has sanctioned a two year research project titled as 'Computational Investigations of Instability-driven Transport in low Temperature Magnetized Plasma Discharges using massively parallel 2D-3v PIC-MCC Simulations.' **Professor Bhaskar Chaudhury** is the Project Investigator.
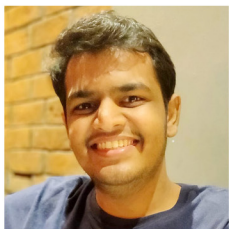
Gujarat Council on Science & Technology (GUJCOST) has sanctioned two research projects of two-year duration titled as 'Design and Implementation of a visibility improvement model for haze removal in images acquired from real time CCTV cameras' and 'A Forensic tool for Land Revenue Documents Forgery Detection.' The investigators are **Professors Ahlad Kumar** and **Priyanka Singh** respectively.

Azure Knowledge Corporation, Ahmedabad, a private sector company with whom Institute has a Memorandum of Understanding awarded a consultancy project titled as 'Duplicate Object Identification from Video Data' to **Professor Avik Hati**.
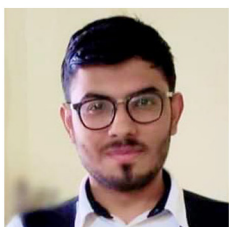
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Anshuman Agarwal, B.Tech (ICT) 2021 graduate. has secured admission to the PGDM Program at MDI, Gurgaon. He is currently working as a Senior Software Engineer at HSBC Technology.

Soumya Agrawal, B.Tech (ICT) 2019 graduate, has secured admission to the Masters in Management Programme at INSEAD Business School, France. She was working as a Business Technology Analyst at Deloitte.

Vaibhav Jain and **Mayank Agarwal**, B.Tech Alumni, got featured in *Forbes 30 under 30 Asia-2021* for their event management company-Hubilo and event management software company.

Parth Patel, B.Tech (ICT) 2020 graduate, has secured admission to the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) as well as Post Graduate Programme in Business Analytics (PGPBA) at IIM Bangalore. Parth is currently working as a Software Engineer at OYO.

Tanay Agrawal, B.Tech (ICT) 2021 graduate, has secured admission to the MBA Programme at ESADE Business School, Spain.

Harsh Patel, B.Tech (ICT) 2019 graduate, has secured his admission to the PGDM Program at IIM- Calcutta. He was working as a Product Engineer at Sprinklr.

Sharvi Talati, B.Tech (ICT) 2021 graduate, has secured admission to the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) at IIM Bangalore.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Urvi Oza, PhD Scholar and **Sarangi Patel**, BTech student won the Best Student Paper Award at the 13th Asian Conference (ACIIDS 2021) held during 07-09 April 2021 at Phuket, Thailand for their research paper titled 'Intelligent Information and Database Systems.' Prof Pankaj Kumar guided them.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Yash Kataria, student of B.Tech (Hons.) in ICT with minor in CS, got selected for CERN OpenLab Summer Student Programme 2021. He worked on latest hardware and software technologies for 9 weeks and learned how advanced ICT solutions are used in high energy physics.

Ronak Nahata and **Ankit Kumar**, BTech (ICT) students published a research paper titled 'Hpcfolder: a simple tool used to Parallelize Algorithms using the Message Passing Interface' in the Journal of Supercomputing, a Springer Publication, **Kunal Jani**, **DA-IICT Alumni**, who is currently a graduate student at Santa Clara University, USA guided them.

ALUMNI LECTURE SERIES

Dr Sai Teja Peddinti, , Senior Research Scientist, Privacy Research Group at Google, delivered the fifth Alumni lecture on 'Privacy and Security' on April 11, 2021. A BTech (ICT) 2009 Graduate, he obtained his Doctorate in Computer Science from the School of Engineering, New York University, USA in 2014.

Mr Sandeep Mertia delivered the fourth Alumni lecture on March 13, 2021. A BTech (ICT) 2014 Graduate, he is pursuing his PhD at the Department of Media, Culture and Communication, New York University, USA as Urban Doctoral Fellow. Prior to moving to USA, he worked as Research Associate with the Sarai Programme, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi. His edited volume, *'Lives of Data: Essays of Computational Cultures from India'* has been published by the Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam in 2020.

Dr Sidharth Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science at the University of Alabama at Birmingham delivered the third Alumni lecture on January 16, 2021. After his BTech studies in 2009, he obtained his PhD from the University of Utah, USA in 2015. His area of research is in High-Performance Computing and Large-Scale Data Management. His work has received the Best Paper Award at HiPC 2019 and won the Hans Meuer Best Research Paper Award at International Supercomputing Conference-2020. In his lecture, Dr Kumar talked about Parallel I/O and Data-parallel Deductive Databases in the age of HPC.

WORKSHOPS / WEBINARS

A weekend workshop on '**Data Science in Industry - Let's Data Talk**' was held for MSc Data Science students. The speakers were Mr Rahul Pagare, Forecasting Analytics Practice Lead for AMEA region, Mondelez and Mr Mallab Maji, Senior Solutions Architect - Deep Learning, NVIDIA who works in the area of AI and ML. Besides them, experts and faculty of the Institute spoke about application of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Data Science.

Two panel discussion sessions on 'Paths After Engineering' and 'Paths After MBA' were organised on April 11, 2021 and during May 29-30, 2021. The speakers were Akshay Miterani, Harshita Sahijwani, Jainam Mehta, Khyati Mahajan, Lavanya Gupta, Abhin Kakkad, Ankit Agarwal, Baruni Goel, Divy Thakkar, Ketan Mittal, Namrata Navada, Akshay Ratan, Ishan Bishnoi and Shivani Takkar, Alumni of the Institute.

EXPERT LECTURES

An interactive session with Professor Dinesh Gauri was held on April 12, 2021, for the students. Professor Gauri is Professor of Marketing, Walmart Chair in Marketing, and Executive Director of Retail Information at Sam M. Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, USA.
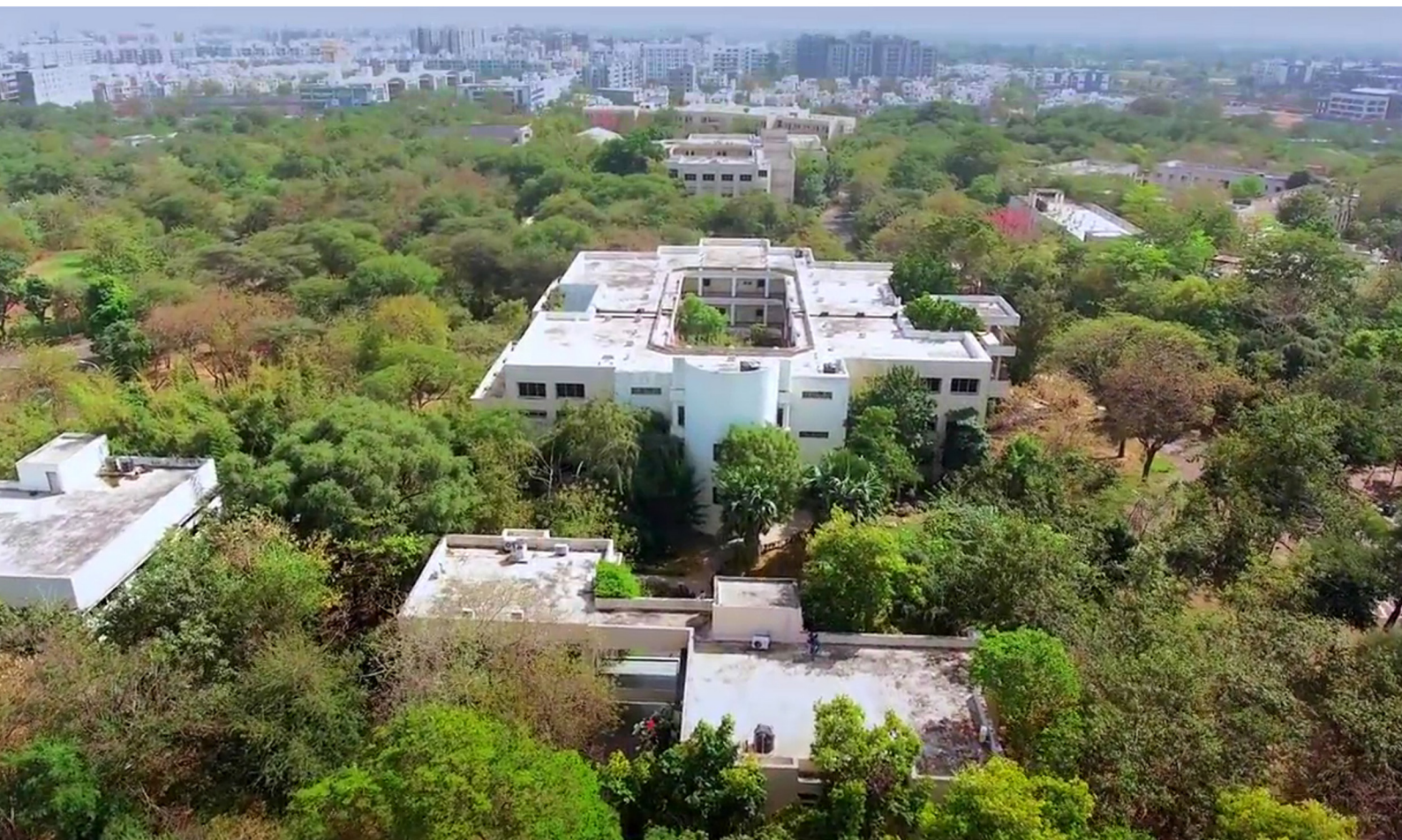
IEEE Student Branch organised the Summer School '21 on Data Science and Machine Learning in two phases - during 4-6 June, 2021 and 12-13 June, 2021. The expert speakers were Mr Akshay Kulkarni in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and Mr Adarsha Shivananda in Natural Language Processing.

CAMPUS EVENTS

The student community organised the much-awaited annual fest Synapse' 21, 'Play Beyond Reality' in a virtual format from 26th to 28th March 2021. It covered a range of programs from technical events like coding to cultural ones such as stand-up comedy, dance, music to intellectually stimulating ones like quizzes, guest talks, writing competitions and extempore. On each of the three days, a virtual pro night was organised. The line-up included Comedian Rahul Subramanian, Rajat Sood, Zakir Khan and Musician Swatej Agrawal.