NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology
(Digital University Kerala)
Thiruvananthapuram

DIGITAL UNIVERSITY KERALA
Curating a responsible digital world

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DUK Completes First Batch of Skill Development Programme for SC Students

Digital University Kerala (DUK), in association with the Scheduled Caste Development Department, has successfully completed the first batch of its innovative skill development programme tailored exclusively for Scheduled Caste (SC) students. The initiative, implemented by the Centre for Executive Education and Continuous Studies (CEECS), focused on high-demand, cutting-edge domains including Blockchain Technology, Cybersecurity, and PCB Design.

The programme saw 30 students successfully complete their internships, securing placements with reputed IT companies such as TCS, NeST Digital, Simplify, SoftTech, and Innovation Incubator. These students were part of a larger cohort of 102 participants, with the remaining students currently undergoing training or internship and expected to be placed shortly.

The programme is a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, conceptualised in partnership with a premier digital academic institution and implemented as a government-led effort to digitally empower marginalised communities. The training was carried out in collaboration with KBA (Kerala Blockchain Academy), KSAAC (Kerala Security Audit and Assurance Center), and the IOT team.

A certificate distribution ceremony was held on June 25th, 2025 at 3:00 PM at the DUK campus. The event was presided over by Shri O. R. Kelu, Hon'ble Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes. In his address, the Minister highlighted the transformative potential of such skill-building initiatives in shaping a knowledge-based economy in the State. He described the programme as one of the most progressive and impactful initiatives undertaken by the SC Development Department.

Other dignitaries present included Smt. D. Dharmalashri (Director, SC Development Department), Dr. Ciza Thomas (Vice-Chancellor in-charge, DUK), Dr. A. Mujeeb (Registrar, DUK), Mr. Santhosh Kurup (Director, CEECS), Mr. M. Hussain (Chief Planning Officer, SC Development Department), Mr. Anish Vijay S. (Relationship Manager), Ms. Vidhu Vincent (PRD Manager), and Ms. Panchami (Training Manager).

This pioneering programme exemplifies the role of targeted digital education and industry collaboration in creating inclusive pathways to employment and social economic upliftment.

Convocation Highlights 100% Placement for KBA's PG Diploma in Blockchain Graduates

Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA), the Centre of Excellence under Kerala Digital University, celebrated the convocation ceremony of its Post Graduate Diploma in Blockchain program on June 25th, 2025, at the Digital University campus. Hon. Minister O. R. Kelu graced the occasion and awarded the convocation certificates to the graduates.

Marking a major milestone, the program achieved 100% placement, with students securing roles such as Blockchain Developer, Front-End Developer, and Software Engineer at reputed technology firms.

Conducted in collaboration with the Kerala Scheduled Caste Development Department under the PM AJAY scheme, the one-year-long program included hands-on training in full-stack web development, public and private blockchain platforms, and a six-month internship. With expert faculty support, lab-based learning, and soft skill development, KBA continues to set benchmarks in blockchain education and secured 100% placement.

PLACED AND PROUD
KBA ACHIEVERS

Heartfelt congratulations to all students of the
PG Diploma in Blockchain
for securing placements in reputed firms.

Sarath K Balan
Software Developer
TrackGenesis

Anju B Prakash
Software Developer
TrackGenesis

Neethu M
Innovation Engineer –Blockchain
SimplyFI

Maneesha Raj
Software Engineer
LambdaZen

Akhil Chand P S
Software Developer Intern
Innovation Incubator

Amarnath K V
Software Developer Intern
Innovation Incubator

Salini Sundaran
Software Developer Intern
Innovation Incubator

Vinudev T V
Software Engineer - Internship
NeST Digital

Dinsha S
Software Developer Intern
Innovation Incubator

Anandhu Narayanan
Backend Development Intern
Soulverse

Aneesh M N
Blockchain Developer
The Coding Cult

Sneha P
MERN Stack Developer
Malabar College of Engineering and Technology

Krishna Pushpan
MERN Stack Developer
Malabar College of Engineering and Technology

Ashish S
MERN Developer Intern
Igoraza

Anamika Raj
Software Engineer Trainee
TrackGenesis

Manu Narayanan
Innovation Engineer –Blockchain
SimplyFI

Nandhu Raju
Junior Software Engineer
Innovation Incubator

Akshaj Babu
Junior AI Engineer
Innovation Incubator

Nandana V
Junior AI Engineer
Innovation Incubator

Ajay Thampi K
Junior Blockchain Developer
Spericorn Technology

Anandhu Raveendran
Trainee – Frontend Developer
SaakSan Technologies

Akhil Kailas
Junior Software Engineer
Xpeditions

Rahul C T
Junior Software Engineer
Xpeditions

Vishnu A G
Software Engineer Intern
4Labs Technologies

Sujin Babu P S
Software Engineer (Node JS)
aTeam Infosoft Solutions

Rahul Sajeevan
Software Engineer (React JS)
aTeam Infosoft Solutions

Haritha A Rajan
Software Engineer Trainee
Kran

Gadha Pushpan
Backend Development Intern
Soulverse

Sreelekha Sreenivasan
Backend Development Intern
Soulverse

Jishnu Suresh
Engineer Trainee
Cognizant

Anusree K S
Blockchain Developer Intern
Blockseblock

KERALA BLOCKCHAIN ACADEMY
K B A

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Celebrating the Journey of Innovation: KBA Coffee Table Book

Kerala Blockchain Academy proudly presents a Coffee Table Book that chronicles KBA's journey since its inception in 2018. Dr. Asharaf S., Director, Kerala Blockchain Academy and Dean Academics, handed it over to Honourable Minister O. R. Kelu, who unveiled it and graciously presented it to Dr. Ciza Thomas, Vice Chancellor of Digital University Kerala, on June 25th, 2025.

Since its inception, Kerala Blockchain Academy has trained over 40,000 candidates from over 96 countries, marking a strong global footprint in blockchain education. The Coffee Table Book showcases KBA's cutting-edge blockchain solutions, including CertiChain, SkillChain, Track & Trace, Sign-a-Doc, Immunochain, AgroChain, and Changaathi, the Gen AI chatbot. KBA's contribution to open-source tools such as AetherGuild, Fabrix, AetherLens, AetherPay, Aethereal, and AetherSight and four books on blockchain technologies are also spotlighted. KBA was a recipient of prestigious grants from the Ethereum Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. KBA plays a pivotal role in national blockchain training, collaborating with esteemed organisations like DRDO and NPCI. The Coffee Table Book further streamlined KBA's strategic partnerships with global leaders like the Hyperledger Foundation and R3 Consortium. KBA has also been recognized by LF Decentralized Trust as a Certified Service Provider (CSP) for Besu and Hyperledger Fabric and holds esteemed positions as an LF Decentralized Trust Training Partner and LF Decentralized Trust Associate Member.

As a chronicle of KBA's remarkable journey, this beautifully curated Coffee Table Book celebrates the successful journey of Kerala Blockchain Academy.

02

LEVERAGING BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY FOR PUBLIC GOOD

Book Release: "Advanced Blockchain Technologies" Published by Wiley

Kerala Blockchain Academy launched the second volume, "Advanced Blockchain Technologies: Ethereum Smart Contracts to Decentralised Applications" published by Wiley, as a continuation of our first successful instalment, "Blockchain Technology: Algorithms and Applications." On June 25th, 2025, Dr. Asharaf S., Director, Kerala Blockchain Academy and Dean (Academics), handed over the first copy to Hon. Minister O. R. Kelu, who officially presented it to Dr. A. Mujeeb, Registrar of Digital University Kerala.

Authored by Dr. Asharaf S, Neelima Sivadas, Sumi Maria Abraham, and Dr. Adarsh S, this book offers a comprehensive exploration of Ethereum, the groundbreaking platform proposed by computer scientist Vitalik Buterin in 2014. It shifted blockchain beyond financial transactions to enable the development of decentralized applications (DApps) through smart contracts.

Designed as a reliable reference, this textbook equips readers with the foundational and advanced concepts needed to build DApps from the ground up. With Ethereum's growing prominence, this work is an essential resource for blockchain researchers, developers, and educators alike.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - Awareness Session and Signature Challenge

In celebration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on June 26th, 2025, NSS unit and SEC Digital University Kerala organized two impactful awareness sessions tailored for both Kendra Vidyalaya school students and university staff and faculty. These sessions were designed to spotlight the mental health ramifications of drug abuse while promoting the vital importance of embracing an addiction-free lifestyle.

The first session featured Dr. Nirmal M., a Consultant Psychiatrist from KIMSAT Hospital, who engaged the audience with his insightful presentation titled "An Addiction-Free Life – Just a Castle in the Air?" His discussion delved into the challenges and misconceptions surrounding addiction, providing valuable perspectives on achieving a life free from dependency.

Following this, Ms. Deepa S. Nair, a Counselling Psychologist and Visiting Student Counsellor at Digital University Kerala, led an engaging session on "Drug Addiction and Mental Health – Drugs, Brain and Behaviour." She explained the complex interactions between substance use and mental health, emphasizing the importance of understanding brain chemistry and behavioral changes that accompany addiction.

In addition to this, a signature challenge was held, encouraging participants to pledge their dedication to this important cause. The event was honored by the presence of DUK's esteemed Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ciza Thomas, along with Registrar Prof. A. Mujeeb, who both expressed their unwavering support for these crucial initiatives aimed at fostering healthier, addiction-free communities.

World Environment Day

In June, on World Environment Day, the DUK staff and faculty members participated in a tree-planting event on campus. The Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ciza Thomas, inaugurated the function. Each participant chose a plant based on their birth star, which encouraged everyone to get involved in tree planting.

World Blood Donor Day

On World Blood Donor Day, Digital University Kerala received an award from Sree Chithira Institute of Medical Science and Technology for successfully conducting blood donation camps on campus. The Social Engagement Centre has been organizing two blood donation camps every year with high participation rates. The SEC encourages all members of DUK to participate in the upcoming blood donation drive, highlighting the importance of contributing to a good cause.

International Yoga Day

The 11th International Day of Yoga was celebrated at Digital University Kerala (DUK) on June 23rd, 2025, with great enthusiasm and active participation from university professors and office staff. Though the official observance falls on June 21, the university marked the occasion with a well-organized event aligned with this year's theme, "Yoga for Self and Society." The theme emphasized the importance of self-awareness and the role of yoga in fostering personal and social well-being.

The event commenced with a brief introduction to the significance of yoga by Md Meraj Uddin and Mr. Murali R., Deputy Registrar (Administration). The yoga session was led by Ms. Vidya B.S., Physical Education Consultant, DUK, who guided the participants through a series of structured yoga practices.

The session began with warm-up exercises, followed by a sequence of sitting, standing, and lying asanas, along with pranayama and Bhramari pranayama techniques. The instructor highlighted the physical, mental, and emotional benefits of regular yoga practice and stressed the importance of maintaining harmony between the body and mind.

The hour-long session witnessed active engagement from all attendees. Detailed explanations of each pose, including modifications and precautions, were provided to ensure that all participants could follow along safely and effectively.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Md Meraj Uddin, who appreciated the enthusiastic participation and encouraged everyone to make yoga a regular part of their daily lives for better health and overall well-being.

The celebration of International Yoga Day at DUK was a resounding success, reflecting the university's commitment to promoting holistic wellness and a balanced lifestyle among its community members.

Seminar on Identity and Access Management

A seminar on Identity and Access Management was successfully conducted on June 9th, 2025, at IIITMK for PG Diploma in cybersecurity students, hosted by KSAAC. The session was led by Mr. Sandy Josh, an experienced EY professional, who delivered an insightful and interactive session on the topic "Identity and Access Management (IAM)."

The training focused on several critical areas within IAM, including common misconfigurations and attack vectors, best practices for implementing role-based access control (RBAC), and an overview of IAM tools and policies used to ensure secure access management in modern enterprises. The session was highly interactive, with active participation from students, and provided valuable insights into how access control mechanisms are managed in real-world environments.

By bridging academic learning with professional expectations, students left with a clear understanding of what the industry expects in terms of secure identity and access governance, equipping them with practical knowledge aligned with current cybersecurity trends and corporate standards.

One-Month Cybersecurity Internship on Cyber Security

KSAAC is delighted to share the successful completion of the Cybersecurity Internship Program conducted from June 2nd to 27th, 2025, at IIITMK, for the students of Jyothi Engineering College. A total of 15 students from a B.Tech Cyber Security background actively participated in this one-month internship, which aimed to provide both foundational knowledge and practical exposure to various cybersecurity concepts.

The program was inaugurated by Prof. Md. Meraj Uddin, Head of KSAAC, and Dr. Geethu M. G., Head of the Computer Science Department at Jyothi Engineering College. The internship was thoughtfully designed in a dual-session format—with morning sessions dedicated to theoretical learning and conceptual understanding and afternoon sessions focused on hands-on labs and real-world exercises. All sessions were interactive and were handled by experienced KSAAC team members.

The topics covered during the internship included an introduction to cybersecurity and an overview of KSAAC, types of cyberattacks and malware, real-world cyber incident case studies, and the concept of social engineering. Lab sessions were conducted using tools like VirusTotal, DocGuard, Kali Linux tools, and steganography to give students practical insight. Participants were also introduced to ethical hacking, Linux, access control, IP addressing and subnetting, and web, email, and DNS security. In addition, a phishing demonstration and task were conducted, followed by sessions on IoT security, digital forensics, and data recovery tools.

To assess the learning outcomes, a final assessment was conducted, and all successful participants were awarded certificates. The internship served as a comprehensive introduction to cybersecurity and encouraged students to explore the field further through guided practical exposure.

CAN Lab's IAT device wins 1st prize

The Intraoperative Autotransfusion (IAT) device under development at CAN Lab, SoDS won 1st prize in the Innovation category at the 4th International Congress on Innovations in Global Surgery held in Blantyre, Malawi from 4th to 6th May, 2025.

Why India Must Regulate Greenwashing Before It's Too Late

Greenwashing is becoming India's quiet climate crisis.

While working on Kerala's coast, Mr. Sai saw bold sustainability claims posted beside eroded homes , the contrast was jarring. Mr. Sai Shankar, MSc Ecology Student (2023-25 Batch) explored why India must regulate greenwashing now , before storytelling replaces real climate action. He suggest to drop your thoughts, how should India tackle this?

For more details visit:
https://medium.com/@sai.si23/why-india-must-regulate-greenwashing-before-its-too-late-d877253a2973

PUBLICATIONS

RESEARCH ARTICLES

- Devu, R., Reshma, A. S., Philip, T., & Sherin, D. R. (2025). Deciphering Genetic Associations: Insights into Common Molecular Pathways in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and Cerebral Palsy. Journal of Computational Biophysics and Chemistry, 1-10. https://doi.org/10.1142/S273741652550036X.

- Kannan, A., Saikia, M. J., Kumar, S., & Datta, S. (2025). Detection of Valvular Heart Diseases from PCG Signals using Machine and Deep Learning Models—A Review. IEEE Access. 10.1109/ACCESS.2025.3583263

- Thomas, Tony , Prakash, Ravi and Pal, Soumya. "Intrusion Detection in Internet of Medical Things Using Digital Twins—A Review." Computers, Materials & Continua/Computers, Materials & Continua. 2025, pp. 1–10. DOI: 10.32604/cmc.2025.064903
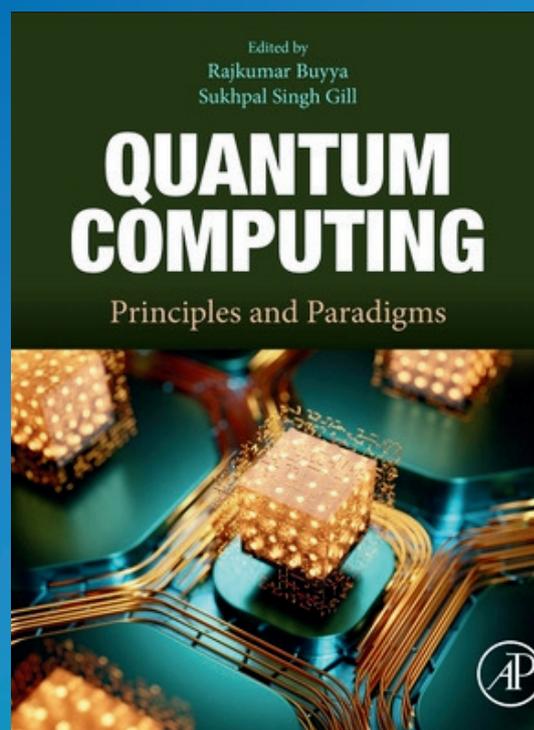
BOOK CHAPTER

- Sumitha Valsalam and Tony Thomas, Quantum machine learning: current trends and applications, Quantum Computing: Principles and Paradigms (Eds: Rajkumar Buyya, Sukhpal Singh Gill), Morgan Kaufmann, Elsevier, Pages 201-220, June 2025.

https://shop.elsevier.com/books/quantum-computing/buyya/978-0-443-29096-1

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QUANTUM COMPUTING
Principles and Paradigms

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—Garrison Keillor

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