DIGITAL UNIVERSITY KERALA

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

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3rd Convocation Ceremony of Digital University Kerala

The Third Convocation Ceremony of Digital University Kerala (DUK) was held on Monday, 6th October 2025, at the Travancore Convention Centre, Karyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram. The event marked an important milestone in recognizing the academic accomplishments of the graduating students and celebrating excellence in digital education and innovation.

The ceremony was graced by Shri. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala and Chancellor, Digital University Kerala, who served as the Chief Guest. Shri. T. P. Sreenivasan, Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, attended as the Guest of Honour. The event was also held in the esteemed presence of Prof. Vijay Chandru, Chairman, Board of Governors, Digital University Kerala.

The proceedings began at 11:00 a.m. with the National Anthem, followed by the Welcome Address and University Report delivered by Prof. Ciza Thomas, Vice Chancellor, Digital University Kerala. The convocation was then formally declared open with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

Subsequent addresses were delivered by Prof. Vijay Chandru and Shri. T. P. Sreenivasan, highlighting the university's vision for digital empowerment and the global relevance of digital education. The award of degrees and medals was conducted by the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, who also administered the convocation pledge to the graduating students.

The Hon'ble Governor then delivered the Convocation Address, emphasizing the role of emerging technologies, ethics, and innovation in shaping a responsible digital future. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem at 12:00 noon.

The Third Convocation of Digital University Kerala was a proud moment for the institution, reaffirming its mission of "Curating a Responsible Digital World."

PMI Students Explore the MILMA Plant: A Hands-On Learning Experience

The PMI Students Club, along with a group of enthusiastic students, recently had the opportunity to visit the Milma plant to gain practical insights into the operations of one of Kerala's leading dairy cooperatives. This industrial visit provided students with a firsthand look at the various stages involved in milk processing, packaging, and quality control, allowing them to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world practices.

During the visit, students observed the entire workflow—from raw milk collection to pasteurization, homogenization, and packaging. They also learned about the strict quality standards maintained at Milma, as well as the technological innovations that ensure efficiency and product safety. The experience offered a unique perspective on how large-scale dairy operations function and highlighted the importance of process management and teamwork in industrial settings.

The visit was not only educational but also inspiring, sparking curiosity among students about the dairy industry and production management. Such initiatives by the PMI Students Club continue to provide valuable experiential learning opportunities, helping students broaden their understanding and prepare for future careers in industry and operations management.

Visit to PhenObs Network, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena

Dr. Athira K and Dr. R. Jaishanker from the Digital University Kerala visited Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany, from 15th–19th September 2025, upon invitation from the PhenObs Network, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena. The visit aimed to explore collaborative integration of the Floral Radiometry technique developed at IIITMK/DUK with the ongoing international project PhenObs (Phenological Observation).

The team delivered lectures and demonstrations on floral spectral measurements, engaged in field and herbarium-based radiometric studies, and discussed methodological alignments for phenological research. The visit culminated in strengthened collaborations with the PhenObs consortium and the Senckenberg Natural History Museum, Frankfurt, paving the way for developing PhenObs protocols for flowering plant species and advancing floral radiometric applications in phenology.

With host Prof. Christine Rommermann and her team at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena

With host Prof. Christine Rommermann and Dr. Sebastian. Herbarium of Friedrich Schiller University, Jena

With Dr. Claus Weiland at the Senckenberg Natural History Museum, Frankfurt, Germany

Digital University Kerala Students Participate in Shaping Young Minds Programme (SYMP) 2025

Students from the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital University Kerala) had the opportunity to participate in the Shaping Young Minds Programme (SYMP) 2025, jointly organized by the All India Management Association (AIMA) and the Trivandrum Management Association (TMA) at the Uday Palace Convention Centre, Trivandrum, on 26th September 2025. The event brought together students, young professionals, and entrepreneurs from across the state to engage with distinguished leaders and industry experts.

The programme featured insightful sessions by eminent speakers including Mr. Richard Rekhy (Vice Chair, Grant Thornton India), Mr. Sudhanshu Mani (Former General Manager, ICF, Indian Railways), Mr. Jayant Krishna (Former CEO, UKIBC), and Ambassador (Dr) Deepak Vohra (Special Advisor to the Prime Minister). The sessions offered participants valuable perspectives on leadership, professional growth, and the evolving role of management in shaping the nation's future. The interaction enabled DUK students to gain exposure to national-level discussions and develop a deeper understanding of leadership and innovation in contemporary India.

NEP SAARTHI Organizes Essay Competition on National Education Policy 2020

In alignment with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to promote critical thinking and academic expression among students, NEP SAARTHIs: Priyanshri Bhargab, Nahida B L and Amelia Lizbeth Alex., the students-led initiative of Digital University Kerala, organized the NEP Essay Competition 2025 on 30th October 2025.

The competition sought to inspire students to engage with the ideas and vision of NEP 2020, encouraging them to share their perspectives on the evolving educational framework of India. Participants from various academic programs contributed well-researched and reflective essays on theme: "Role of technology and digital learning in implementing NEP 2020". There were total 7 participants from various departments namely:

- Nayana Shaji
- Adithya PR
- Mhadev GS
- S.R.Bhavna
- P D Nivedh
- Amal Madhu
- Poushali Banerjee

After careful evaluation by the judging panel, the following students were declared winners:

1st Place: P.D Nivedh, MSc Data Science in Bio AI
2nd Place: Amal Madhu, SOESA
3rd Place: Poushali Banerjee, SOI

All participants received Certificates of Appreciation, shared digitally to facilitate easy access and recognition. The event concluded with an expression of gratitude to all participants and faculty members who supported the initiative. It reaffirmed NEP SAARTHI's commitment to nurturing informed, policy-aware, and responsible learners through continued academic and outreach activities at Digital University Kerala.

Project Management in Action: Empowering Social Change Through Project Thinking

The PMI-Kerala Students' Club at Digital University Kerala, in collaboration with the Social Engagement Centre (SEC), hosted "Project Management in Action" - an interactive workshop designed to bridge social work and project management thinking for BSW and MSW students of National College, Manacaud.

The session aimed to showcase how project management principles can empower social workers to transform innovative ideas into real, sustainable impact. The event commenced with an inspiring address by Pradeep Kumar Kalampukatt, faculty advisor of the club, setting the tone for an engaging and hands-on experience. Student facilitators Abhin A, Neha Krishna, Ajsal Jaman PT, Vaisakh S, and Harikrishnan R - led participants through dynamic discussions, storytelling, and collaborative challenges that brought project thinking to life. The Social Engagement Centre co-ordinators, Arya R Chandra and Fousiya CK were also delivered their experience in social work and importance of project thinking in social engagement activities.

The highlight of the workshop was an experiential team activity where participants built the tallest and most stable paper tower capable of holding a small water bottle using only paper, scissors, and tape. The challenge reflected real-world project dynamics of planning, teamwork, and execution under constraints, inspiring creativity and leadership among students.
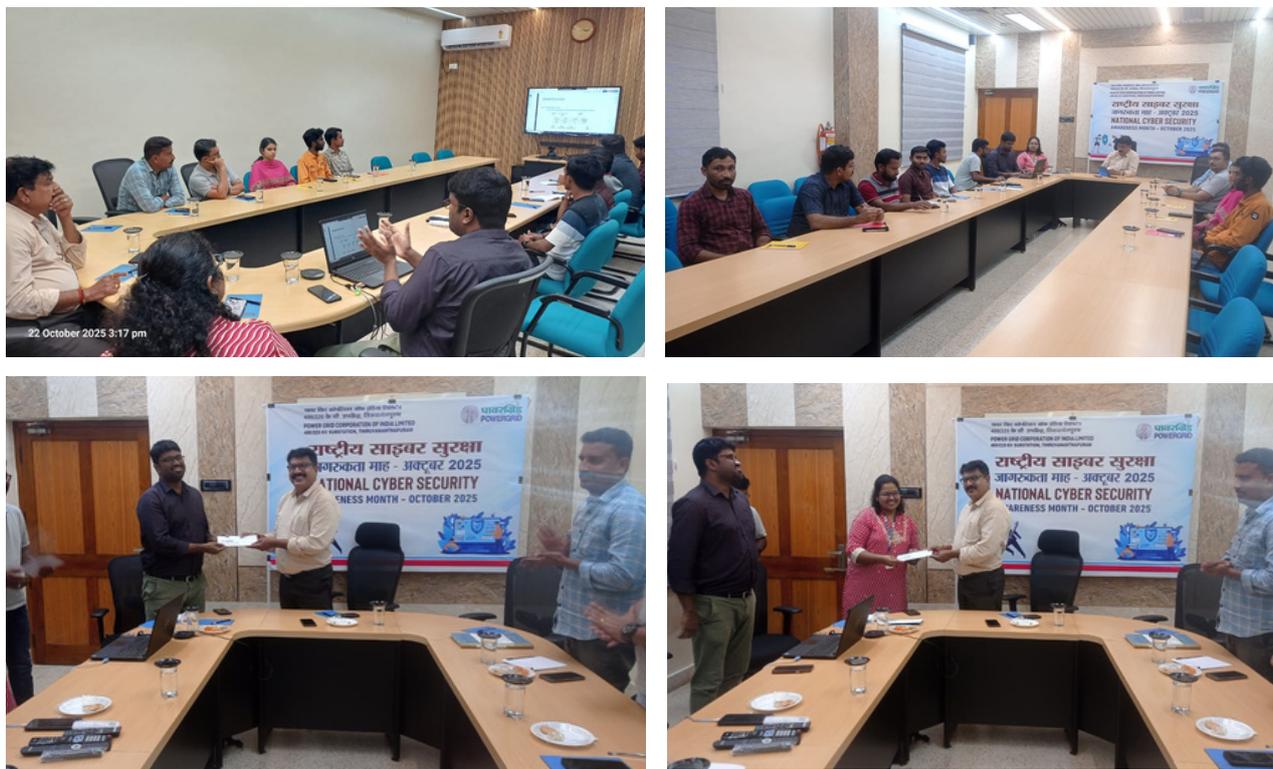
The workshop stood as a testament to PMI Kerala's ongoing mission to cultivate project thinking among students, encourage cross-disciplinary learning, and drive community impact through the power of project management.

Cybersecurity Awareness Session at Power Grid Corporation, Trivandrum

Dr. Preetam Mukherjee and research scholar Smitha Rani from Digital University Kerala visited Power Grid Corporation's Trivandrum office for a cybersecurity awareness discussion during Cyber Security Month. The team presented research on smart grid security and attack graph analysis, including a case study on the 2015 Ukraine power grid cyberattack. The interactive discussions covered current security protocols in India's power sector, emerging threats from advanced persistent threats (APTs), and the critical importance of IT/OT network segmentation to prevent lateral movement of attackers.

The session concluded with an emphasis on the urgent need to develop indigenous cybersecurity capabilities to safeguard national critical infrastructure against sophisticated cyber operations.

Chief Guest for the Program Inauguration of B.Sc (IT) LLB at KLA

Dr. Sini V. Pillai was invited as the Chief Guest for the Program Inauguration of 5-year integrated B.Sc (IT) LLB at KLA, an exciting beginning for a unique interdisciplinary program that connects IT with legal intelligence held on 22nd October 2025, at Kerala Law Academy Law College. She had a wonderful experience in interacting with the students and faculty, and in sharing insights on how technology and law work together to shape the foundation of a responsible digital society.

Kerala Blockchain Academy Invites Applications for Post Graduate Diploma Programs

Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA) has invited applications for Post Graduate Diploma programs in emerging technologies, designed to offer skill development opportunities to students from diverse social and economic backgrounds. In collaboration with various departments of the Government of Kerala, Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA) offers Post Graduate Diploma programs.

Under the Scheduled Caste Development Department's PM AJAY Scheme, the Scheduled Tribes Development Department's Pragathy Project, and the Kerala State Welfare Corporation for Forward Communities' Advanced Digital Technology Scheme, KBA offers a P.G. Diploma in Blockchain. Additionally, in partnership with the Kerala State Minority Welfare Department, KBA provides the P.G. Diploma in Web and Blockchain Technologies and the P.G. Diploma in Artificial Intelligence and Data Intelligence. These programs are offered under the Skilling Component of the ITI Fee Reimbursement Scholarship Scheme.

The programs are crafted to offer practical, hands-on training in full-stack development, blockchain technology, AI applications, and other cutting-edge technologies, empowering students with the expertise required to excel in today's rapidly evolving digital world.

Visit to Sri Chitra Home, Thiruvananthapuram — A Day of Digital Learning and Human Connection

Organized by the Social Engagement Centre, Digital University Kerala
Date: 25th October 2025

As part of its outreach and community engagement initiatives, the Social Engagement Centre (SEC) of Digital University Kerala organized a visit to Sri Chitra Home, Thiruvananthapuram, one of Kerala's oldest and most respected children's care homes. Established in memory of His Highness Sri Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma, the last Maharaja of Travancore, the home provides shelter, care, and education to children from diverse and often challenging backgrounds.

The visit aimed to create meaningful interactions with the children while introducing them to the creative and educational potential of digital technology. The SEC team designed a fun and interactive session to help the children understand that technology is not just about screens, but a tool for learning, expression, and empowerment.

The program began with light-hearted ice-breaker games that helped the children relax and engage confidently. The laughter and enthusiasm in the room set the tone for the day's main sessions — "Click or Trick", a digital awareness game about identifying fake websites and links, and "The Internet 2.0 – Your Personal Toolkit", which introduced simple online tools for learning languages, designing posters, and creating digital content.

The children participated enthusiastically, asking curious questions about hacking, robots, and the internet. The volunteers were deeply moved by their energy and curiosity.

The visit left a lasting impact on everyone involved. It reminded the volunteers that meaningful teaching doesn't always need advanced tools, sometimes, it's about genuine connection and shared joy. The SEC team plans to continue this engagement by organizing digital literacy workshops and creative learning sessions in the future.

In the end, the visit to Sri Chitra Home wasn't just about spreading digital awareness , it was about discovering the human side of technology and realizing that kindness, curiosity, and empathy are what truly connect us.

Cyber Awareness Session: Empowering Future Educators for a Safer Digital Tomorrow

The Social Engagement Centre (SEC) of Digital University Kerala (DUK) successfully organized a Cyber Awareness and Cyber Hygiene session at SNGK B.Ed College, Pothencode, on 28th October 2025. The initiative aimed to educate and empower future educators with essential knowledge on digital safety, responsible online behavior, and cyber hygiene practices.

The engaging session was hosted by Hizan Rahman, with co-hosts Vimal Mudalagi and Nancy Biju, and was coordinated by Arya R. Chandra (Project officer, SEC) and Fousiya C.K (Project Associate, SEC). Through interactive discussions and real-life examples, participants learned about identifying cyber threats, securing personal data, and promoting safe digital habits in their communities.

The program received enthusiastic participation from the trainee teachers, who shared their experiences and pledged to spread awareness on responsible technology use among their students.

This initiative reflects DUK's ongoing commitment to fostering digital literacy and creating a safer, more responsible online environment for all.

SEC LEADERSHIP TEAM
Executive Team

Amal Madhu
MTech Electronics
Engineering

Adithyan B
MSc Computer
Science-Cyber
Security

**Sreekutty
Santhosh**
MSc Data Science
and BioAI

Vimal Mudalagi
MSc Computer
Science-Cyber
Security

Hizan Rahman
MSc Computer
Science-Cyber
Security

Poushali Banerjee
MSc Environmental
Science

Nihal N
Master of Business
Administration

RAHMATH B N
MSc Computer
Science-Cyber
Security

Ashna Jabin NK
MSc Data Analytics
& Computational
Science

Umaparvathy C S
MSc Data Analytics
& Computational
Science

Nayana Shaji
MSc
Environmental
Science

Gouri Anil
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Core Team Members

Ardra Sasidharan
MSc Computer Science-
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Anusree C
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Ayana Jimnesh P K
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M.R. Lekshmi Priya
MSc Computer
Science- Data
Analytics

Muhammed Niyas
MSc Applied Physics

Anirudh P
MSc Computer
Science-Artificial
Intelligence

Deepak B S
MBA

Meera G
MSc Computer
Science- Data
Analytics

International Conference on Applied Geoinformatics for Society and Environment (AGSE 2025)

Dr. Sooraj N. P., Assistant Professor at the School of Informatics, participated in the International Conference on Applied Geoinformatics for Society and Environment (AGSE 2025), held at the Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Bogotá, Colombia, from 8 to 12 September 2025. He delivered a presentation titled 'Geospatial Approaches to Plant Invasion Risk under Climate Change: A Synthesis of Recent Advances (2020–2025)'

AURORA'25

Aurora'25 was an annual technical festival and Techfest organized by the IEEE Student Branch at the Government College of Engineering, Kannur (GCEK) on 18th & 19th October 2025. The six of students from DUK had the golden opportunity to attend this phenomenal program: Fatima Shias from MBA, M Radhika from MSc Cyber Security, Mariyam Shamshira, Pretty Santhi Jose and Diya Sabu from MSc AI, and Swathylekshmi from MSc Geo Informatics. The event, whose theme was "Unleash the Glow, featured workshops, competitions, exhibitions, cultural events, and the support of various collaborators like the College of Engineering Alumni Association Kannur (CEAAK) and the IEEE Sensors Council Kerala Chapter.

Day 1
Ice Breaking Session
The event was kicked off the event with an engaging icebreaking session that helped participants to connect, feel comfortable, and set a lively tone for the days ahead.

Cyber Security Workshop
The workshop, held on October 18th, provided an essential introduction to digital security. The session established the critical importance of cybersecurity in the modern era, emphasizing how protecting data is vital for this generation. We were given a basic but clear overview of the fundamental framework of information security: the CIA Triad (Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability). The most engaging part was a hands-on challenge where we used a hash generator to crack a password from a given clue and its corresponding hash. This exercise was both curious and interesting, providing a practical insight into how passwords are secured and verified cryptographically. Overall, the workshop successfully delivered a basic idea of cybersecurity principles and their relevance through an exciting, practical application.

Engaging Activites
In the evening, the treasure hunt added an exciting and refreshing element to the event, especially as the rain enhanced the fun and enthusiasm among participants. Later, the night came alive with an engaging musical performance by the band Banjo, featuring talented musicians including vocalists, a drummer, and guitarists. Their soulful songs and vibrant rhythms created a memorable experience that everyone thoroughly enjoyed

DAY 2

UI/UX Workshop

The UI/UX Workshop, held as part of IEEE AURORA'25 and powered by ADC, offered a vital introduction to digital product design. The session clarified the fundamental concepts of UI (User Interface) and UX (User Experience), highlighting their immense importance in creating successful digital products in the current generation. We were also introduced to the basics of Figma, the industry-standard design tool. The core of the workshop was a practical challenge to create our own UI interface—a task to "Design tomorrow's digital experiences!" This hands-on exercise was both curious and interesting, allowing us to apply learned principles to bring a digital concept to life. The event successfully provided foundational UI/UX knowledge and valuable, practical design experience.

Game Development Workshop

The Game Development Workshop at IEEE AURORA'25 successfully challenged participants with the idea: "Why just play games when you can create them?" The session provided a brief idea of what Game Development is and highlighted its immense importance in this generation for technology and innovation. We were introduced to the basics of Unity, the powerful game engine used worldwide. The highlight was a hands-on challenge to create a game. This practical task allowed us to Transform ideas into interactive gaming experiences, offering a truly curious and interesting look into the world of game creation.

Yuva Sahitya Camp (മഞ്ഞ്)

Mr. Mahadev G. S., a student of the First Semester MSc Environmental Science, has been selected and received the opportunity to be a delegate for the Yuva Sahitya Camp (മഞ്ഞ്), organized by the Kerala State Youth Welfare Board from 13th September 2025 to 15th September 2025, at Vagamon, Idukki. He was honored for his active participation, commitment, and enthusiasm throughout the event.

ACHIEVEMENTS

ANRF National Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Dr. Sajeev C. Rajan, Research Associate at the School of Informatics, has been awarded the ANRF National Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Prior to this, he was selected as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at IISER Tirupati. His research focuses on Acoustic Ecology. He joined IISER Tirupati in the first week of October.

Filing of Patent by CAN Lab, SoDS

Viswanathan, A. M., Tharion, J., Padmakumar, M., Joseph, J., & Steephen J. E. (2025). A device for preventing urethral balloon inflation complications in transurethral catheterization (Indian Patent Application No. 202441090389). The Patent Office, Govt. of India.

Madukrishnan, M. M., Vishnupriya, M., Jayarajan, R. O., Sherin, D. R., Arya, J. S., Prasad, M. M., Jayasree, E. G., Lekha, N. K., Panicker, S. P., & Maiti, K. K. (2025). Repurposing nano-dimensions of a small phytomolecule, Rhein, into nano-Rhein to unveil its efficacy on hypercalciuria-induced nephropathies on a SERS-based calcification profiling platform. Advanced Healthcare Materials, e04133. https://doi.org/10.1002/adhm.202504133

Diwan, M., Zhang, S., Li, Z., James, A., & Choubey, B. (2025). Non-volatile ReRAM-based compact event-triggered counters. IEEE Journal on Exploratory Solid-State Computational Devices and Circuits, 11(4). https://doi.org/10.1109/JXCDC.2025.3619415

Nair, A. S., Thampi, S. M., & Vijay, J. V. P. (2025). SoCoMNNet: A SocioCognitive and memristive neural network-based context-aware GPS spoofing detection and mitigation in the Internet of drones. Vehicular Communications, 56, 100980. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vehcom.2025.100980

General Publications

Dhanush, B. R. (2025, October). Artificial Intelligence in Crop Disease Detection – Early Warning Systems for Pest and Disease Management. Kerala Karshakan E-Journal.Govt. of Kerala. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lg9K3bUk3TYPnYqgAYLEaUBhBH2X9YXV/view

Dhanush, B. R. (2025). Kalathinothakrishik Geoinformatics. Kerala Karshakan, Government of Kerala. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lg9K3bUk3TYPnYqgAYLEaUBhBH2X9YXV/view

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