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



Curating a responsible digital world

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Women's Day Celebrations at Digital University Kerala

The Women's Cell of Digital University Kerala marked International Women's Day with a meaningful and engaging celebration held on 11th March 2026, bringing together employees in a spirit of reflection, empowerment, and community.

The program commenced with a symbolic inaugural activity aimed at challenging societal perceptions. Women employees participated in breaking balloons inscribed with common stereotypes about women, followed by releasing balloons carrying messages of aspirations and dreams. This activity served as a powerful representation of breaking barriers and envisioning a more equitable future.

In alignment with the theme "Give to Gain", employees contributed homemade food items, fostering a culture of sharing and inclusivity. The gathering featured a diverse array of snacks, creating a warm, interactive tea-time environment that strengthened collegial bonds across the institution.

The celebrations concluded in the afternoon with a felicitation ceremony, during which women employees who had completed 20 years of service at the University were honored. This recognition highlighted their longstanding commitment, contributions, and role in shaping the institutional community.

The event successfully combined reflection, celebration, and recognition, reinforcing the university's commitment to gender equity and collective well-being.



Women's Day Glimpses

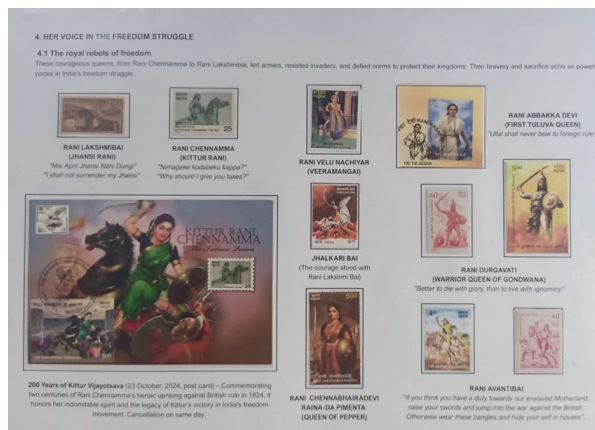
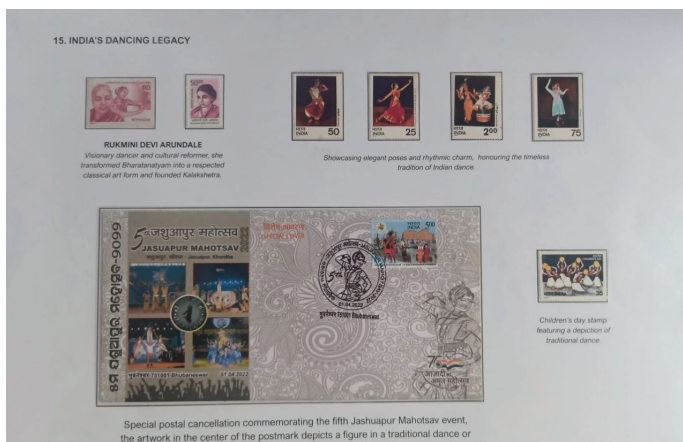


Honouring Two Decades of Dedication



Philatelic Exhibition on Women Empowerment

Mr. Surag M (Scientific Associate, DUK) showcased his state and national level award winning philatelic exhibition titled 'HER INDIA' on 11th March 2026 in connection with Women's Day celebration at Digital University Kerala. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Registrar, Dr. A. Mujeeb. Mr. Surag gave a small introduction to philately for the people gathered.



Digital University Kerala, State Archives Department Collaborate on Intelligent Transliteration of Palm Leaf Manuscripts

Centre for Digital Transformation in Culture (CDTC) under Digital University Kerala, has submitted the “Feasibility Report for Intelligent Transliteration of Palm Leaf Manuscripts” to the Archives Department. The report was formally presented by the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of Digital University Kerala, Prof. Saji Gopinath, to Dr. Rajan N. Khobragade, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Archaeology, Archives, Museum, Zoo, Cultural Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, and AYUSH, Government of Kerala, marking an important step in advancing the State’s cultural heritage towards a knowledge-driven economy.

Dr. Malu G., Head of the CDTC and Assistant Professor at the School of Computer Science and Engineering; Smt. Parvathy S., Director, State Archives Department Kerala; Shri E. Dineshan, Director, Kerala State Archaeology Department; Amrutha Raj V., Research Scientist, CDTC; and Dr. Lekshmi K.R., Project Scientist, CDTC, were present on the occasion.





The project focuses on developing an intelligent transliteration framework for palm leaf manuscripts, leveraging advanced techniques in image analysis, pattern recognition, and artificial intelligence to interpret and convert ancient scripts into accessible formats. Palm leaf manuscripts, which constitute a vital part of Kerala's archival heritage, often pose challenges due to script variations, aging, and physical degradation.

The proposed system aims to enable efficient, scalable, and accurate transliteration, thereby enhancing accessibility for researchers, historians, and scholars. The initiative represents a significant interdisciplinary effort, integrating computational methods with cultural heritage studies to support preservation, research, and knowledge dissemination.

Grand felicitation of Cisco thingQbator National level winners - Neovation 2026

At the grand felicitation ceremony of Cisco thingQbator National Level winners, Neovation 2026, held on 17th March 2026 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, Team Project Dense from Cisco thingQbator DUK has secured the Top 10 position in the National Level cohort program for this year.

The team consists of Justin Eapen George (S4 M.Tech CSE -AI), Hariraj S (S4 MSc CS- MI) and Jeeva B S from (S2 MSc DA GIS) mentored by Mr. Sarath S.M., Innovation Officer, DUK.

There were more than thousand five hundred applicants from different institutions across our country. From this, 1200 teams were selected for the ideation stage, and the top 125 teams were shortlisted for prototyping support, and the best 20 among them were shortlisted to be supported for registering their venture as a startup as part of the year long Cohort Program. The top ten among them are finally supported with 5 lakhs in funding support for refining their product.



Visiting Researcher at Digital University Kerala Contributes to Internationally Collaborative Study on AI-Guided Plastic Waste Decomposition

Plastic pollution has been life-threatening: microplastics have been detected in all organs of the human body, including newborns. The academic community has invested significantly to eradicate this challenge and contributed tens of thousands of publications detailing varied solutions – yet none of them could provide a practical solution. In a recent study by Dawn Sivan, a visiting researcher at Digital University Kerala (DUK), this challenge is addressed through an innovative application of artificial intelligence to identify experimentally actionable pathways using knowledge dispersed across the enormous number of research theses.

The study developed a domain-adapted language model trained on the full text of over 10,000 peer-reviewed articles on plastic waste management. Unlike general-purpose AI tools, the model was specifically fine-tuned to propose chemically feasible routes for the decomposition of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), a widely used plastic found in bottles, packaging, and textiles that constitutes a significant portion of global plastic waste. The decomposition routes suggested by the model, employing simple and environmentally friendly reagents, were subsequently validated through laboratory experimentation, confirming effective breakdown of the PET polymer. This work is reported to be the first instance of generative AI being employed to both propose and experimentally validate PET depolymerization pathways.



Dawn Sivan
Visiting Researcher
DUK



Prof. Rajan Jose
Senior Professor
Centre for Advanced Intelligent
Materials



Prof. K. Satheesh Kumar
DUK



Prof. T. K. Manoj Kumar
DUK

The research was led by Prof. Rajan Jose, Senior Professor at the Centre for Advanced Intelligent Materials, Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Malaysia, and Chair Professor at the Battery Research Center of Green Energy, Ming Chi University of Technology, Taiwan. Prof. K. Satheesh Kumar and Prof. T. K. Manoj Kumar of Digital University Kerala contributed to the methodology and provided mentorship throughout the work. The research team consists of a few members from Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah and Ming Chi University of Technology.

The findings have been published in Chemical Communications; a journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry recognized for disseminating research of outstanding significance across the chemical sciences. Dawn's work was also recognized among the Top 5 innovations at the Design for Plastics Circularity Challenge (DPCC) 2025, a national-level programme in Malaysia supported by Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association and industry stakeholders to promote sustainable solutions in plastics circularity.

This work reflects DUK's active engagement in high-impact, interdisciplinary research at the intersection of artificial intelligence and materials science. It further highlights the value of international academic collaboration in advancing research with direct relevance to global sustainability challenges.

Research Achievement: AICTE Postdoctoral Fellowship (APDF)

Dr. Vishnu M, School of Informatics, received the AICTE Postdoctoral Fellowship (APDF) from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Government of India. He will work on "Modelling bio-inspired networks" under the mentorship of Dr. Jaishanker R., School of Informatics, Digital University Kerala. He was among nearly 200 candidates selected nationwide.



Industry Connect Programme

As part of the IndustryConnect programme, Mr Ganesh P. Kumar (Product Owner, Business Analyst, Delivery Management, Project & Program Management) from Cognizant Technology Solutions visited the School of Digital Humanities and Liberal Arts (SoDiHLA), Digital University Kerala, for an interaction with MBA students on 11th March 2026.

The session offered students a useful perspective on current industry expectations, internship opportunities, and the transition from academic learning to professional work environments. Drawing from his industry experience, Mr Ganesh P. Kumar spoke about the importance of analytical thinking, digital skills, adaptability, and professional attitude in building successful careers in the technology and consulting sectors.

The interaction helped students better understand how classroom learning connects with workplace practice and how they can prepare themselves more effectively for internships and future career paths. Such industry engagements play an important role in strengthening the link between academic programmes and professional realities.



School of Digital Humanities and Liberal Arts, Digital University Kerala sincerely thanks Mr Ganesh P. Kumar for visiting the university and sharing his time, experience, and guidance with the students. The interaction was highly valuable and warmly appreciated by both students and faculty.

Meet the Visionaries: Your 2026 IEEE SB DUK Executive Committee!

The dynamic team behind the IEEE SB DUK EXECOM for 2026.


Under the guidance of Dr. Sumit Datta, this group of dedicated student visionaries are ready to shape the technical landscape of DUK. Whether it's through cutting-edge projects, global networking, or skill-building sessions, this team is committed to bringing the best of IEEE to Digital University Kerala.

The 2026 Leadership Team:

The Core: Dakshin J (Chair), Sujan P (Vice Chair), Emerson Elgin (Secretary), and Ambuja Krishnan U B (Treasurer)

The Specialists: A Hari Krishna (Web Master), Amal M (Link Representative), and Anjali Raveendran (Technical Coordinator)

Together, they are committed to fostering a vibrant and forward-thinking IEEE community at Digital University Kerala.



DR. SUMIT DATTA
BRANCH COUNSELOR

DAKSHIN J
CHAIR

SUJAN P
VICE CHAIR

EMERSON ELGIN
SECRETARY

AMBUJA KRISHNAN U B
TREASURER

A HARI KRISHNA
WEB MASTER

AMAL M
LINK REPRESENTATIVE

ANJALI RAVEENDRAN
TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

IEEE SB DUK
EXECOM MEMBERS
2026

IEEE

Digital University Kerala
IEEE Student Branch

"Leading with purpose, innovating for the future: Meet the visionaries shaping the IEEE SB DUK landscape."

Dr. Asharaf S. Calls for AI Sovereignty and Youth-Led Innovation in the Second Part of His Mathrubhumi Interview

Prof. Asharaf S, Dean (Development & Research), shared his views on AI sovereignty, national security, innovation, and the role of youth in shaping India’s technological future in the second part of his interview with Mathrubhumi, conducted by P Muraleedharan. In the interview, he emphasised that the next three to five years will be a defining period for the world, with artificial intelligence fundamentally reshaping economies, industries, and governance systems. He noted that this transformation demands a greater role for young innovators and technologists, who must step forward to lead the future rather than remain passive consumers of technology.



Dr. Asharaf cautioned that dependence on foreign AI platforms and the continuous flow of Indian data to external systems could create long-term strategic vulnerabilities. According to him, India must build and sustain its own full-stack AI ecosystem from foundational models to deployment infrastructure so that critical systems. He pointed out that if India continues to rely only on imported technological frameworks, the country risks remaining merely a consumer rather than a producer in the AI era. He stressed that India must move beyond assembling existing components and instead begin creating the “engine” of technology itself. In this context, he referred to India’s ongoing efforts in sovereign AI development, including initiatives such as Sarvam AI and Bhashini.

He also pointed out that people must be trained not just to use technology, but to think and innovate using it. He argued that deep-tech experts should have a stronger role in policymaking, and AI will enable people and organisations to “do more with less,” reducing the time required for many traditional workflows. Concluding on an optimistic note, he stressed that India must evolve from copying and assembling technologies to reimagining, reinventing, and building new engines of innovation. With the right collective effort, policy support, and youth participation, he believes India can emerge not merely as a user of AI, but as a creator of the technologies that will define the future.

Dr. Asharaf S Highlights AI as a Co-Pilot and the Value of Human Creativity

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M 'മനുഷ്യന്റെ ആ കഴിവിന് തുല്യമായി എഐക്ക് പ്രവർത്തിക്കാനാകില്ല, അതങ്ങനെ വളർത്താം? കേരളം മെച്ചപ്പെടാത്തതിനു കാരണം ആ 'തള്ളലുകാർ'



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2 MINUTE READ



At the same time, Dr. Asharaf emphasised that AI cannot fully replace the human element in work and society. According to him, areas that demand deep emotional intelligence, creativity, physical engagement, empathy, and human judgment will continue to remain uniquely human. While AI can assist and accelerate workflows, it still lacks the emotional depth, originality, and lived human experience that shape meaningful innovation and interaction.

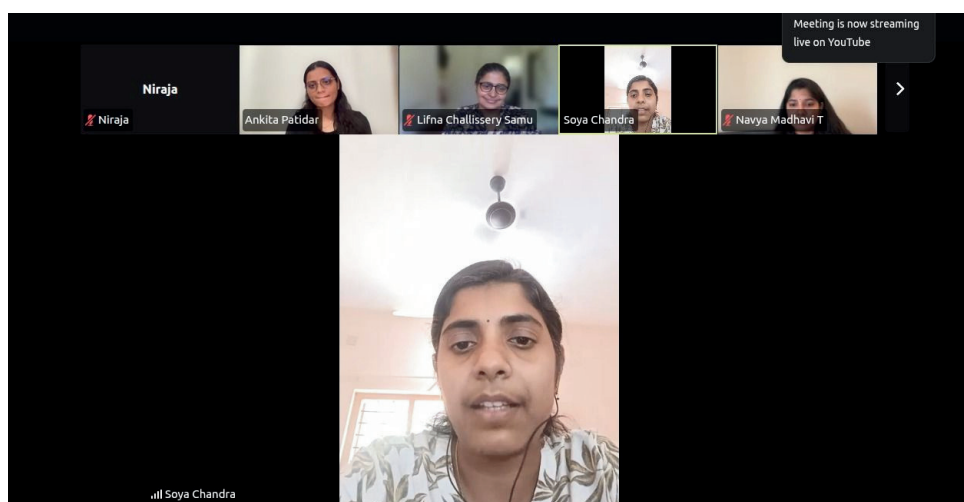
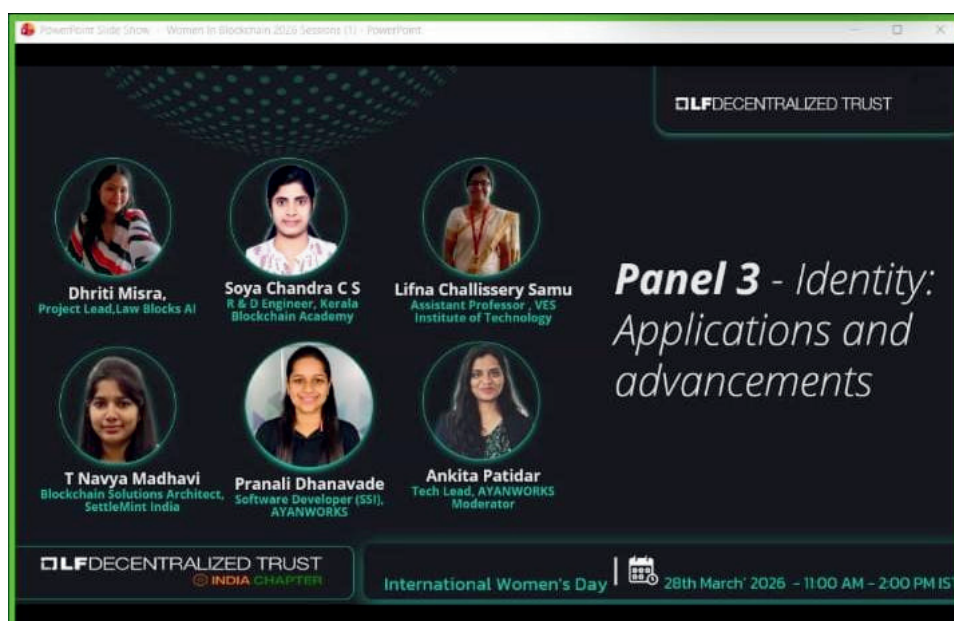
He also pointed out that the future of work will not be defined solely by replacement, but by collaboration between humans and AI systems. Rather than functioning independently of people, AI is likely to serve as a co-pilot or co-worker, supporting professionals in decision-making, productivity, and execution.

While acknowledging that AI may reduce the number of opportunities in certain traditional job categories, he stressed the importance of using the technology responsibly and purposefully. He also highlighted the need for greater awareness and meaningful adoption of AI among Malayalis, noting that youth, in particular, have the potential to drive this transformation. Reinforcing the importance of human creativity, Dr. Asharaf remarked that AI can never truly replace the originality, imagination, and innovative spirit of people. In his view, the coming years will demand not only AI readiness but also a renewed focus on empowering young minds to shape the future with creativity and purpose.

Soya Chandra C S Represents Kerala Blockchain Academy at the Panel on Digital Identity

Soya Chandra C S, representing Kerala Blockchain Academy, participated in the panel discussion on “Identity: Applications and Advancements,” organised by the LF Decentralized Trust India Chapter- Women in Blockchain. The session explored the evolving role of digital identity in the age of AI and blockchain, highlighting its growing significance as the foundation of trust in emerging digital ecosystems.

The discussion focused on the transition from traditional, centralised identity systems to more user-centric, privacy-preserving, and decentralised models, with particular emphasis on trust, interoperability, and secure data management.



Panellists examined identity-related use cases across sectors such as e-governance, banking, healthcare, education, and Web3, while also discussing the legal, regulatory, and technological considerations that shape digital identity systems. Key challenges such as privacy, compliance, scalability, adoption, and governance frameworks were also addressed. Speaking from a healthcare perspective, Soya Chandra highlighted the importance of secure and privacy-preserving patient identity systems, particularly in enabling safe, efficient, and trustworthy data sharing.

She emphasised that identity is evolving into a secure, user-controlled framework powered by AI and blockchain, playing a critical role in ensuring trust, accuracy, and privacy in sensitive sectors such as healthcare. The session underscored that identity is no longer a static concept, but a dynamic and technology-driven framework that will be central to the future of digital ecosystems.

United by Unique: Art, Conversation, and Collective Voices for a Powerful Cause

The Social Engagement Centre of Digital University Kerala was honoured to participate in the World Cancer Day awareness programme organised by KIMSHEALTH. The event brought together individuals and organisations committed to raising awareness and expressing solidarity with cancer fighters, survivors, and their families.

The programme created a meaningful space for dialogue, artistic expression, and collective reflection. Through art and conversation, participants shared messages of hope, resilience, and community support, highlighting the importance of awareness and early action in addressing cancer.

The Social Engagement Centre's participation reflected its commitment to community engagement and social responsibility. The event underscored how small actions, whether through awareness, advocacy, or compassionate support, can collectively contribute to a larger impact in strengthening community solidarity.



Cyber Awareness Session @ UIT Regional Centre, Veli

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote digital literacy and responsible technology use, the Social Engagement Centre, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Trivandrum South, conducted a cyber awareness session at the UIT Regional Centre, Veli.

Antony T, President of the Rotary Club of Trivandrum South, welcomed the team and the students to the session. Ms. Fousiya CK (Project Associate, SEC) and Mrs. Arya R Chandra (Project Officer, SEC), facilitated the session.

The session focused on enhancing participants' understanding of online safety, cybersecurity risks, and best practices for secure digital engagement. Key areas covered included protection against phishing, safe use of social media, data privacy, and preventive measures against cyber fraud.



First episode of *Afterhours* video podcast on YouTube

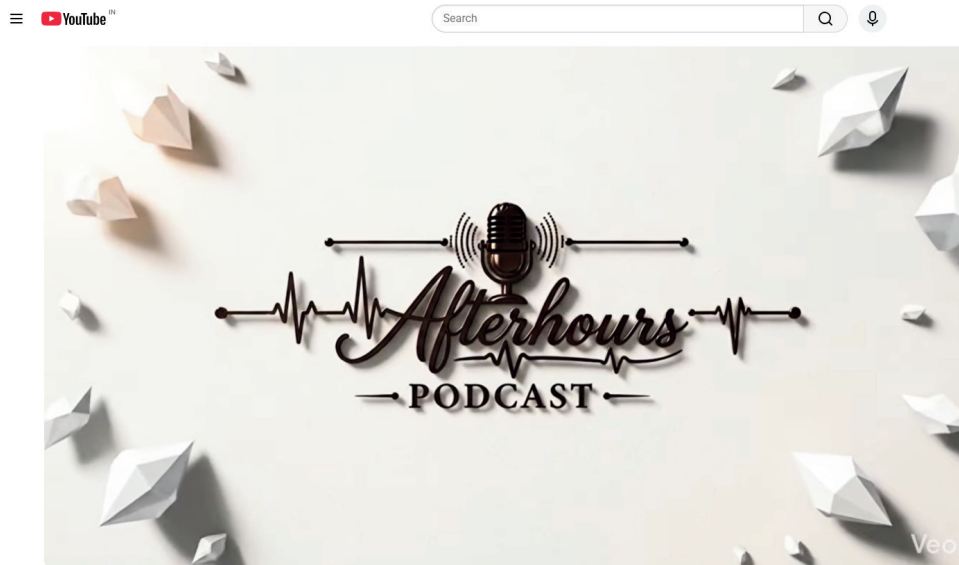
A special screening session of the video podcast “After Hours”, focusing on mental health, was organized by the volunteers of the Social Engagement Centre at Digital University Kerala on 31st March 2026 at 5:30 pm in Gallery 045. The session aimed to promote awareness and encourage meaningful discussions on mental well-being among students and faculty.

The event witnessed active participation and engagement from attendees, fostering a thoughtful and interactive environment.

Click to watch

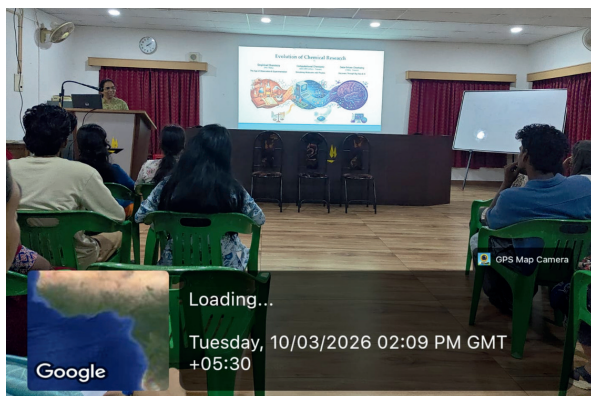
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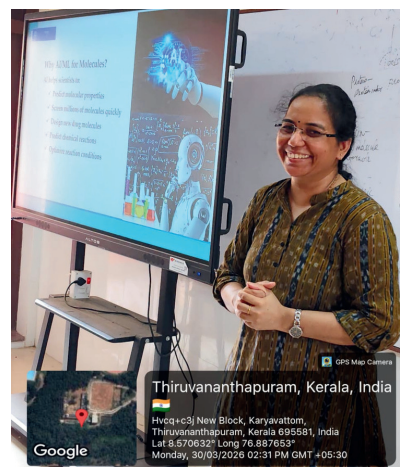
Invited Talk at St. Xavier's College, Thumba

Dr. Sherin D. R., Assistant Professor at the School of Digital Sciences, Digital University Kerala, delivered a talk on “AI in Chemical Sciences: Opportunities in Drug Discovery and Future Careers” at St. Xavier's College for BSc Chemistry students on 10th March 2026. The session highlighted how AI is transforming drug discovery and the growing career opportunities at the intersection of chemistry and data science.



Invited Talk at Government College, Kariavattom

Dr. Sherin D. R. delivered a talk on “AI for Molecular Sciences: Career Opportunities & Future Pathways” at Government College Kariavattom for BSc Biotechnology and Chemistry students on 30th March 2026. The session focused on the role of AI in molecular sciences and highlighted emerging career and research opportunities in this field.



Workshop On Ethical Hacking Techniques At Government College, Kariavattom

KSAAC conducted a workshop on Ethical Hacking Techniques on 11th March 2026, at Government College Kariavattom. The workshop was organized by the FOSS Cell, Department of Computer Science, in collaboration with KSAAC, Digital University Kerala (DUK).

The session was led by Prof. Md. Meraj Uddin, Assistant Professor at DUK and Head of KSAAC. During the session, practical demonstrations of ethical hacking techniques were presented to help students understand common cyber threats and the importance of cybersecurity practices in today's digital environment.

The demonstrations were supported by Leeba Merin Sam, Cyber Security Engineer at KSAAC, DUK, who assisted in showcasing the practical use of cybersecurity tools and attack techniques for educational and awareness purposes.



The session provided valuable insights into ethical hacking, cyber threats, and defensive security practices, and was well received by both students and faculty members. The students and faculty members actively participated in the session.

One Day Workshop on Artificial Intelligence at Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur

The PG & Research Department of Physics at Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur, in association with Digital University Kerala, successfully conducted a one-day workshop for undergraduate students on 25th March 2026. Titled "Will AI Replace You or Work for You?", the event aimed to demystify the world of Artificial Intelligence and explore its role in transforming modern careers and industries.



Hands-on Training on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at MES Asmabi College, Kodungallur

On 26th March 2026, the Department of Physics at MES Asmabi College, Kodungallur, in collaboration with Digital University Kerala, organized a hands-on training session titled "Explore the Importance of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence with Practical Insights." The event was held at the college computer lab to provide students with direct technical exposure.



The session was led by Dr. Aswin V.S., Assistant Professor from the School of Digital Sciences, Digital University Kerala. He provided the participants with practical insights into the real-world applications of AI and Data Science, emphasizing the growing importance of these fields in modern research and industry. Under the leadership of Principal Dr. Sameena K, HoD Ms. Soumya S, and Coordinator Dr. Ebitha Eqbal, the training successfully equipped students with the foundational skills needed to navigate the digital landscape.

Workshop on AI tools for Research at Government College, Attingal

Prof. K. Satheesh Kumar, together with Mr. Dawn Sivan, conducted a workshop on AI tools for research at Government College Attingal on 26th March 2026.



The session introduced participants to the effective use of contemporary AI tools in academic research, with emphasis on their applications in literature review, academic writing, data analysis, and research productivity.

Event Spotlight: The Digital Horizon National Webinar Bridging Innovation and Opportunity

On 21st March 2026, The College of Applied Science Chelakkara, in collaboration with Digital University Kerala, hosted a high-impact National Webinar titled "The Digital Horizon: AI, Innovation and Global Career Pathways." The virtual event, held via Webex, brought together academic experts and industry leaders to map out the future of technology for an eager audience of students and professionals.



The webinar featured two distinguished sessions:

- Dr. Rinu Abraham Maniyara (Ideaded SL, Spain) shared an inspiring roadmap for transitioning from student life to becoming a global scientist.
- Dr. Aswin V. S. (Digital University Kerala) delivered a forward-looking talk on emerging AI technologies that are currently redefining our digital landscape.

Presentation on SciFlow - A Useful Tool for Scientific Writing and Formatting

The Knowledge Centre organised a presentation on SciFlow, a collaborative writing and publishing platform, which was successfully conducted on 10th March 2026 at 2:30 PM in Room 216.

The session was led by representatives from the iGlobal India agency, Mr. Sunilkumar and Mr. Christy. They delivered an informative presentation on the features and applications of SciFlow, emphasizing its usefulness in collaborative academic writing and publishing.

Faculty members and research scholars attended the program, making it a valuable and engaging learning experience for all participants.



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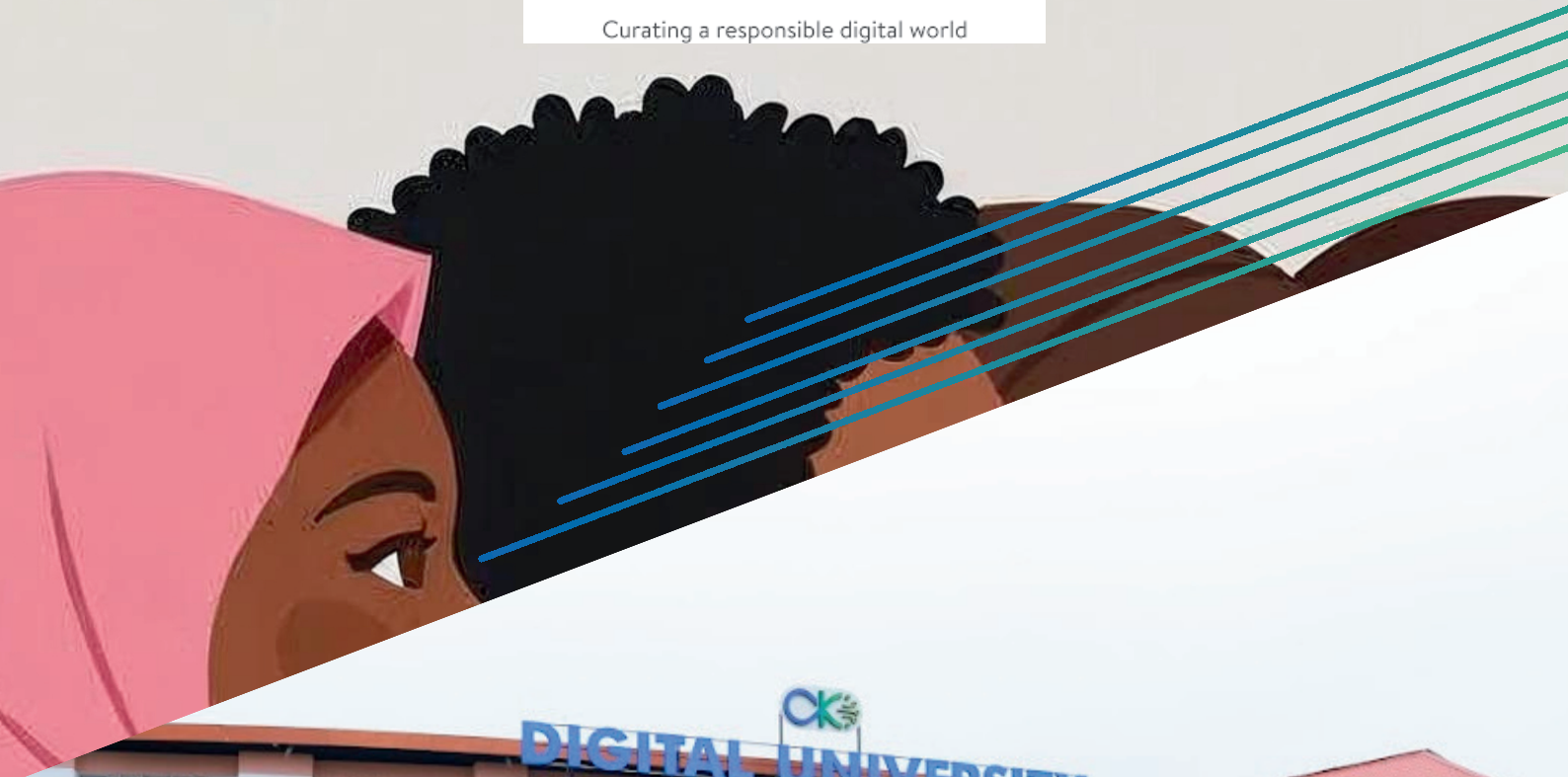


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