



MEHTA FAMILY SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

YEAR BOOK
2024-25



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



PROF. A SESHADRI SEKHAR

Director, IIT Palakkad

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are transforming every aspect of modern life – from healthcare and agriculture to communication, finance, and education. As these technologies continue to shape societies and economies worldwide, it is vital for institutions of higher learning to prepare skilled professionals and foster research that addresses both opportunities and challenges in this domain.

Recognizing this need, IIT Palakkad took an early initiative in establishing the Mehta Family School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (MFSDSAI). On behalf of IIT Palakkad I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Rahul Mehta, The Bhupat and Jyoti Mehta Family Foundation for his vision and generous support which has enabled the Institute to create a dedicated School focused on this fast-growing field.

Since its inception, the School has steadily strengthened its academic Programs, research activities, and infrastructure. The enthusiasm and commitment of its faculty, staff, and students have contributed to its growth as a vibrant center of learning and discovery. I extend my very best wishes to the academic and research teams of the School as they strive towards the successful realization of this vision - nurturing future-ready graduates, producing impactful research, and building strong collaborations that will firmly establish MFSDSAI as a leader in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.

Jai Hind...!
A Seshadri Sekhar

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



RAHUL MEHTA

Founder, Mehta Family Foundation

It is with great pride and anticipation that we celebrate the first year of the Mehta Family Foundation's partnership with the School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at IIT Palakkad. This collaboration is rooted in a shared vision: to empower a new generation of scholars and innovators who will shape the future of technology and society through data and AI.

This year has been a foundational one, marked by energy, ambition, and meaningful progress. Under the leadership of Dr. Narayanan C. Krishnan, the School has begun to establish itself as a hub of academic excellence and interdisciplinary exploration. We are especially encouraged by the addition of several outstanding new faculty members, whose expertise and passion are already enriching the learning environment and research culture.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the construction of a dedicated building that will house the School - a space designed to foster collaboration, creativity, and cutting-edge research. This new facility will be more than just a physical structure; it will be a symbol of our long-term commitment to building capacity and nurturing talent in India and beyond.

To the students, faculty, and the broader IIT Palakkad community: thank you for embracing this journey with such enthusiasm and purpose. The Mehta Family Foundation is honored to walk alongside you as we build a future where data science and AI serve the greater good.

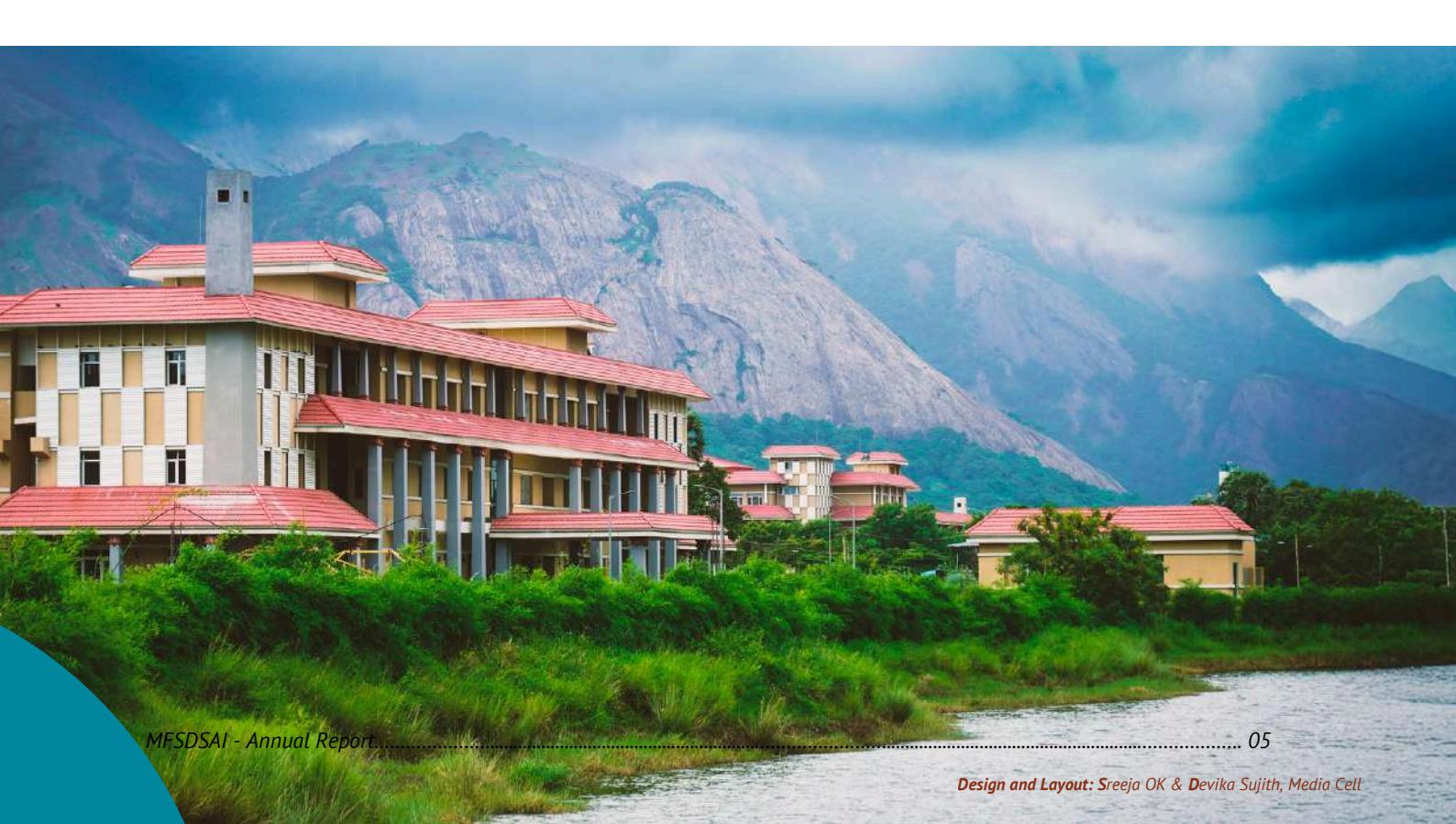
Rahul Mehta
Founder, Mehta Family Foundation

ABOUT US

Founded in 2024, the School brings together faculty with expertise in core Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, and other allied fields to collaboratively address impactful societal challenges. The School maintains an active research program focused on exciting core areas of DS and AI such as machine learning, deep learning, computer vision, coding theory, natural language processing, data mining, and information retrieval, as well as interdisciplinary fields such as Industry 4.0, Agriculture, Healthcare, and Climate. The school currently offers a four year Bachelor of Technology (BTech) in Data Science and Engineering, a two year Master of Technology (MTech) in Data Science, and research Programs (Master of Science by Research and PhD) in DS & AI and related areas.



mfdsai.iitpkd.ac.in





SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Overall Faculty and Staff

**CORE FACULTY
MEMBERS**

9

**GUEST FACULTY
MEMBERS**

4

STAFF

1



OUR CORE FACULTY



Dr. Mrinal Kanti Das

Associate Professor
Ph.D. from IISc Bangalore



Dr. Narayanan (CK) C Krishnan

Head & Associate Professor
Ph.D. from Arizona State University



Dr. Sahely Bhadra

Associate Professor
Ph.D. from IISc Bangalore



Dr. Abhinandan S P

Assistant Professor
Ph.D. from University of Goettingen, Germany



Dr. Garima Shakya

Assistant Professor
Ph.D. from IIT Kanpur, India



Dr. Koninika Pal

Assistant Professor
Ph.D. from Technical University Kaiserslautern



Dr. Nikhil Krishnan M

Assistant Professor
Ph.D. from IISc Bangalore



Dr. Sahasranand K R

Assistant Professor
Ph.D. from IISc Bangalore



Dr. Swapnil Hingmire

Assistant Professor
Ph.D. from IIT Madras

OUR GUEST FACULTY



Prof. Anand Gurumurthy

Indian Institute of Management,
Kozhikode



Prof. S. Lakshmivarahan

University of Oklahoma



Dr. Saravanan Thirumuruganathan

CEO, Firgun Tech.



Prof. Shovan Choudhary

Indian Institute of Management,
Kozhikode

OUR STAFF



V. Sunitha Prasad

Junior Assistant

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

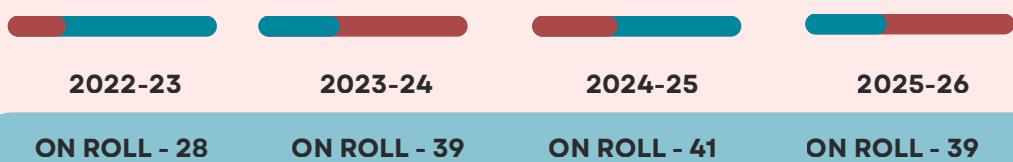
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS



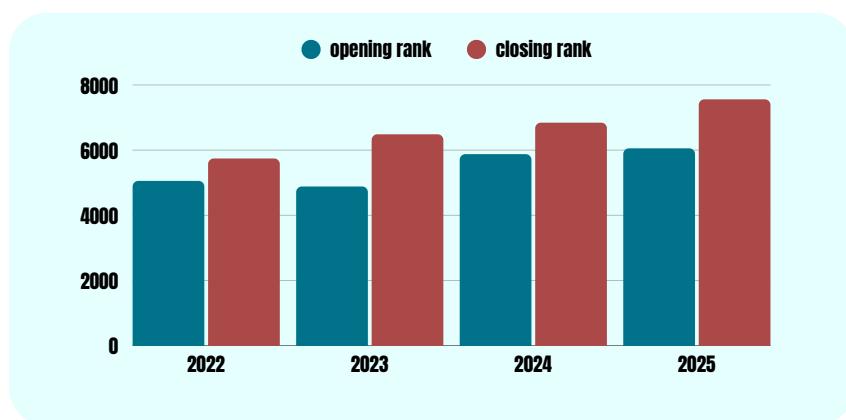
B.Tech in Data Science
Minor in Data Science
Dual-Degree in Data Science

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN BTECH IN DATA SCIENCE

147



Opening and Closing Ranks for the Open Category

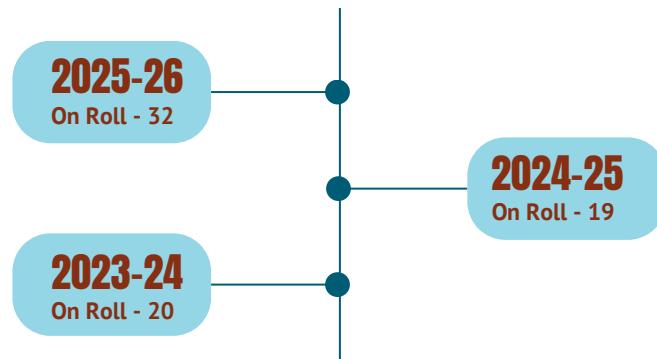


TOTAL NUMBER OF
STUDENTS ON ROLL

51

MASTER OF TECHNOLOGY IN DATA SCIENCE

STUDENT ENROLMENTS



RESEARCH PROGRAM

TOTAL RESEARCH
SCHOLARS ON ROLL

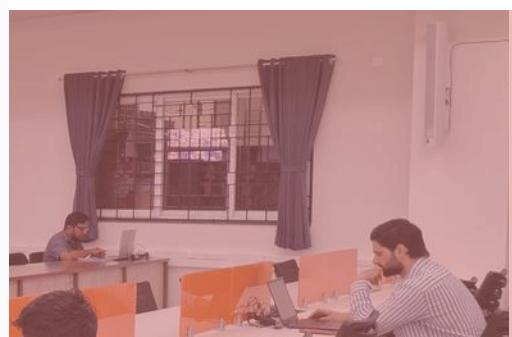
22



PHD SCHOLARS - 18



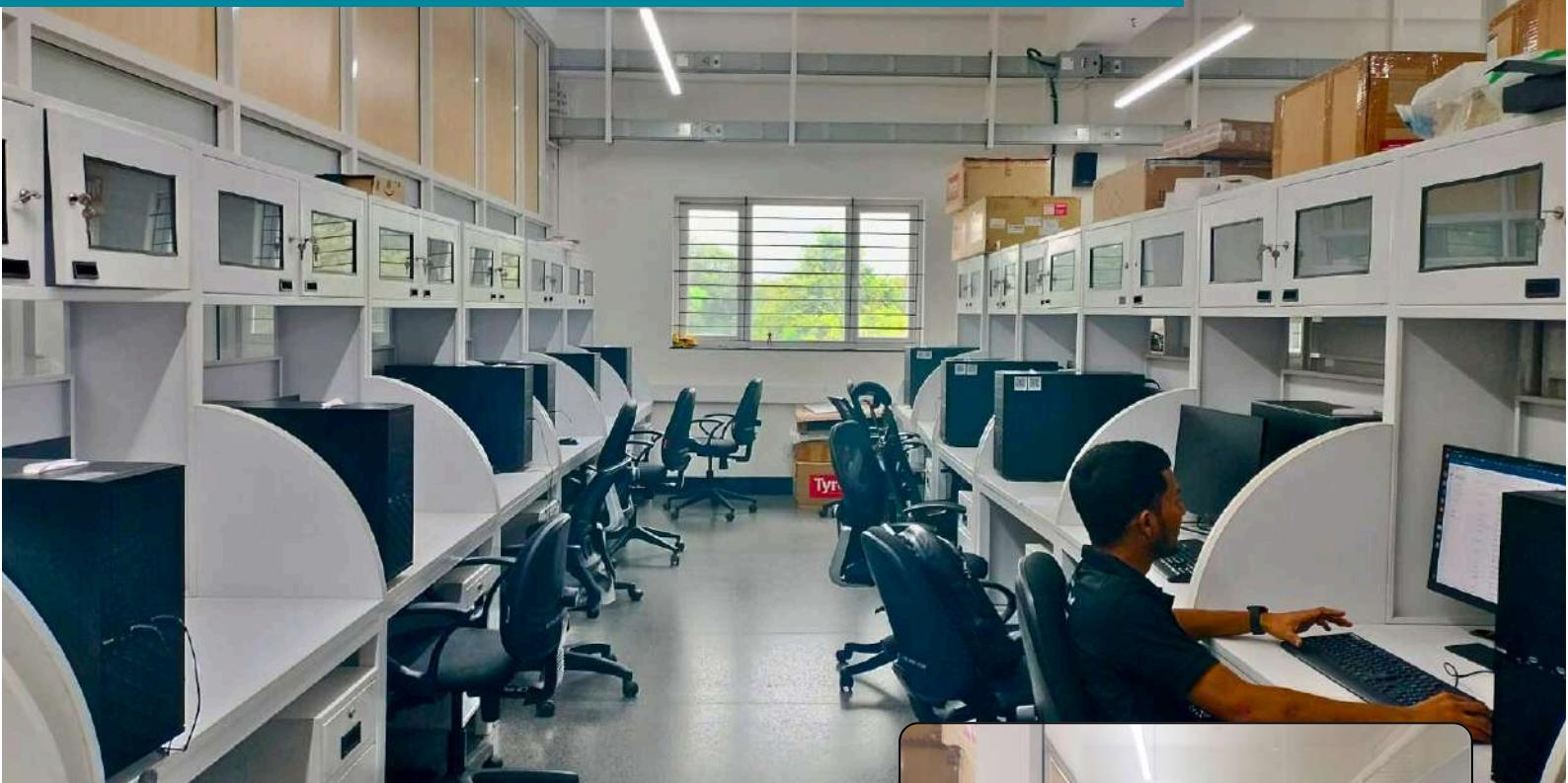
MS SCHOLARS - 04



STUDENT ENROLMENTS

RESEARCH SCHOLAR CATEGORY	PHD	MS
PRIME MINISTERS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (PMRF)	1	-
IIT PALAKKAD TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP (IPTIF)	2	-
INSTITUTE HALF-TIME RESEARCH ASSISTANT (INSTITUTE HTRA)	10	4
SPONSORED PROJECT	2	-
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT	1	-
VISVESVARAYA PHD FELLOWSHIP	1	-
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (QIP)	1	-





INFRASTRUCTURE

DATA SCIENCE PROJECT LABS



Student project lab equipped with 20 GPU-enabled workstations was operationalized in 2024.



Another lab equipped with 30 GPU-enabled workstations is in the pipeline of getting commissioned.



A Database server has also been commissioned.



BHAVANI GPU CLUSTER

A medium scale GPU cluster housing 8 Nivida A4000 cards was installed and operationalized under the central-instrumentation facility in 2023. This facility is being extensively used for teaching purposes.



MADHAVA SUPERCOMPUTING FACILITY

A large-scale GPU cluster housing 8 Nvidia H100 cards was installed and operationalized under the central-instrumentation facility in 2025.

This facility is being extensively used for research purposes (training of large deep neural network models in computer vision and natural language processing)



RESEARCH

RESEARCH AREAS

- Machine Learning
- Coding Theory
- Deep Learning
- Game Theory and Mechanism Design



- Computer Vision
- Information Retrieval
- Time Series Analysis
- AI Systems



- Statistical Learning and Estimation
- Fairness and Responsible AI
- Distributed Learning
- Natural Language Processing

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNALS: 7

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS: 17

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Vijayan VP, Chanda S, Doermann D, Krishnan NC, Scene text recognition: an Indic perspective, International Journal on Document Analysis and Recognition (IJDAR). 2024

Kadan A, Deepak P, Bhadra S, Gangan MP, Lajish VL, Understanding latent affective bias in large pre-trained neural language models, Natural Language Processing Journal. 2024

Etana Fikadu, Mrinal Das, Teklu Urgesa, Automatic categorization of medical documents in Afaan Oromo using ensemble machine learning techniques, Springer Nature Discover Applied Sciences, 2024.

M. Vajha, V. Ramkumar, and M. Nikhil Krishnan, Streaming Codes for Three-Node Relay Networks With Burst Erasures, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, 2024.

S. Abilasha, Sahely Bhadra, Warping resilient robust anomaly detection for multivariate time series, Machine Learning, 2025.

Koninika Pal, Hiba Arnaout, Simon Razniewski, Gerhard Weikum: FASETS: Discovering Faceted Sets of Entities. WWW (Companion Volume) 2024: 1521-1529

S Gupta, S Jain, G Ghalme, N C Krishnan, and N Hemachandra, Capacitated Online Clustering Algorithm, European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI), 2024.

Sambyal AS, Niyaz U, Shrivastava S, Krishnan NC, Bathula DR., LS+: Informed Label Smoothing for Improving Calibration in Medical Image Classification. In International Conference on Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention (MICCAI), 2024

A Aimen, A. Verma, M Tapasvi, and N C Krishnan, Generalized Cross-domain Multi-label Few-shot Learning for Chest X-rays, accepted to International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI), 2025

T John, Mrinal Das, Focus On What Matters: Guiding Vision Transformers Towards Justification. Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD), 2025

R. Gayathri, Konnika Pal, Understanding Numerical Context by Asking Quantitative Questions. European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR), 2025

M. N. Krishnan, M. Vajha, V. Ramkumar, G. Y. Sai, and X. Kong, On Linear Field Size Access-Optimal MDS Convertible Codes, IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT), 2025

V. Ramkumar, M. N. Krishnan, and M. Vajha, Streaming Codes for Multi-Hop Relay Networks With Burst Erasures, IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT), 2025

M. Managoli, K. R. Sahasranand, V. M. Prabhakaran, Error Exponents for Robust Hypothesis Testing with Abstention, IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT), 2025

Ankit, Sahely Bhadra, Juho Rousu, Efficient 3D kernels for molecular property prediction, Bioinformatics, 2025

A Gaurav, S Chanda, and N C Krishnan, Word-Diffusion: Beyond Memorization: Training-Free Style Mixing for Variability in Handwritten Text Generation Using Writer Embedding Injection in Pretrained Diffusion Models, International Conference on Document Analysis and Research (ICDAR), 2025

M Taufeeq and K Pal, Validating Numerical Assertions for Knowledge Graph, ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM), 2025

L R Nair, A Sankar, and K Pal, Extracting Temporal Commonsense from Text, ACM SIGIR – Workshop IR-RAG, 2025

PATENTS

Mrinal Das, An AI-based system to automate MPI for crack detection on metal objects, Filed 2024

N C Krishnan, Vishnu Shreeram MP, Nandhana Sunil, Parvees Ahmed, Seelan Prabhu, R Ramachandran, Vijendran Venkoparao, Method, apparatus, and system for increasing throughput in a surface mount technology assembly line, Filed 2025

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Dr. Nikhil Krishnan M attended the IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT) held in Athens, Greece- July 7-12, 2024

Dr. Sahely Bhadra and Dr. Mrinal Das attended the Asian Conference on Machine Learning held in Hanoi, Vietnam, 2024

Dr. Koninika Pal attended The World Wide Web (WWW) conference online, May 13-17, 2024

Dr. K. R. Sahasranand attended IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT), Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 2025

Dr. Abhinandan Prasad attended IndoSys Conference as an Invited Speaker, Bengaluru, 2025

Gayathri R. presented the paper “Understanding Numerical Context by Asking Quantitative Questions” at the 47th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR) 2025, Italy, from 6 to 10 April 2025

Anagha Sabu participated in the GAME-ARTS: Game Theory, Mechanism Design, and Artificial Intelligence Symposium, held at IISc Bangalore from July 17 to 19, 2024

Bijin Elsa Baby presented a poster titled “Energy Efficient DNN Compaction for Edge Deployment” at the 21st International Summer School on Advanced Computer Architecture and Compilation for High-performance Embedded Systems, held in Fiuggi, Italy, 13–19 July 2025

Thomas John presented the paper titled “Focus On What Matters: Guiding Vision Transformers Towards Justification” at the 29th Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD 2025), held in New South Wales, Australia, 10 to 13 June 2025

Ankit attended ISMB/ECCB conference 20-24 July Liverpool UK, 2025

SPONSORED PROJECTS AND INDUSTRY CONSULTANCY

PROJECTS AND CONSULTANCY SANCTIONED AND ACTIVE

Few-shot Learning for Crop Classification using Remote Sensing, Cropin, PI: Narayanan C Krishnan

Automatic Crack Detection, Sansera, PI: Mrinal Das

ANRF ITS Grant to attend IEEE IGARSS 2025, PI: Narayanan C Krishnan

Communication-Efficient Gradient Aggregation for Hierarchical Networks, ANRF, CoPI: Nikhil Krishnan

Towards Building Quality-Rich Knowledge Base, DST – SERB, ECRA, PI: Koninika Pal

Coding for Low-Latency Communication, DST INSPIRE, PI: Nikhil Krishnan

Optimizing SMT Assembly Line, IPTIF, PI: Narayanan C Krishnan

Erasure Coding for Distributed Computing”, Seed Grant(Add-On) IIT Palakkad, PI: Nikhil Krishnan

Deep Learning Based Automatic Mapping of Glacial Lakes in Himalayas, DST NGP, CoPI: Narayanan C Krishnan



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

2023 High-Impact Paper Award for the Science China Information Sciences (SCIS) article titled 'Erasure coding for distributed storage: an overview' (2018, Vol.61, Iss.10, 100301), co-authored by Dr. Nikhil Krishnan M.

01

Author Service Award by Springer Nature for the editorial services of Knowledge and Information Systems Journal 2025, Narayanan C Krishnan.

02

Ankit has been selected for an ISMB/ECCB 2025 Conference Fellowship

03

Certificate of Appreciation for the Service in the ACM Chapters & Membership Committee, Abhinandan Prasad, 2025

04



Vishnu Shreeram

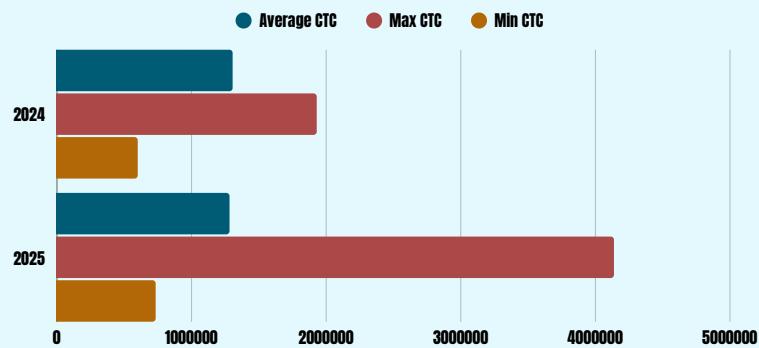
Vishnu Shreeram 3rd Year BTech DSE student for secured AIR 73 in GATE DA 2025

PLACEMENT

COMPANIES THAT HAVE RECRUITED OUR MTECH STUDENTS



CTC STATISTICS



The number of Second year students who have secured year(or semester) long industry internships for 2025-26 - 6



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The School hosted an Ethiopian PhD student co-supervised by Dr. Mrinal Das under the joint PhD degree Program between IIT Palakkad and Ministry of Education Ethiopia.

Faculty of the School have established collaborations with researchers various international universities including,



MAJOR EVENTS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

IIT Palakkad Open House: The School's faculty and students participated in the annual Institute Open House



The School annual research symposium was conducted on January 20th. Selected research scholars and masters' students showcased their research to the audience

Dr. Mrinal Das and Dr. Sahely Bhadra co-organized a workshop on Deep Generative AI for Molecule Exploration in conjunction with ACML 2024



The School's Faculty gave talks and interacted with students at various universities and colleges near Palakkad including: Govt. Engineering College, Palakkad, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham Coimbatore, NIT Calicut, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi, Calicut University, as part of the outreach activities to attract research talent.

VISITORS AND TALKS

THE SCHOOL HOSTED MANY EMINENT RESEARCHERS AND VISITORS



‘Novel Computational Imaging Systems for Signal Detection and Classification’ Talk and Interaction with Prof. Mini Das and Prof. Howard Gifford, University of Houston

‘Revolutionising Physical Security with AI’ - Talk and Interaction with Dr. Renu Rameshan, Vehant Technologies



‘Leading, Entrepreneurship, Impact Investment’ - Talk and Interaction with Naveen Jha, Mehta Family Foundation

‘AI-in-the-loop for healthcare’ - Interaction with Prof. Sriraam Natarajan, University of Texas, Dallas



- **Dr. Vish Rajalingam and Dr. Sudeep Chandrasekaran as part of the Industry Academia Conclave**
- **Florence Nightingale Lecture Series - Dr. Ashish Tendulkar, Google**

CONNECT WITH US

Mehta Family School of Data Science & Artificial Intelligence
Department of Data Science
Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad
Kanjikkode | Palakkad
Kerala | Pin: 678623

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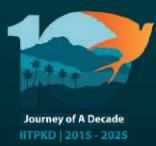
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ഭാരതീയ സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യാ സ്ഥാപനം പാലക്കാട്
ഭാരതീയ പ്രൌഢ്യോഗിക സ്ഥാപനം പാലക്കാട്
Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad
Nurturing Minds For a Better World

REACH US



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