

EDITION FIVE STUDENTS MAGAZINE AUGUST 4 • 2017

OPUS

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

BEHOLD THE COLOURS OF



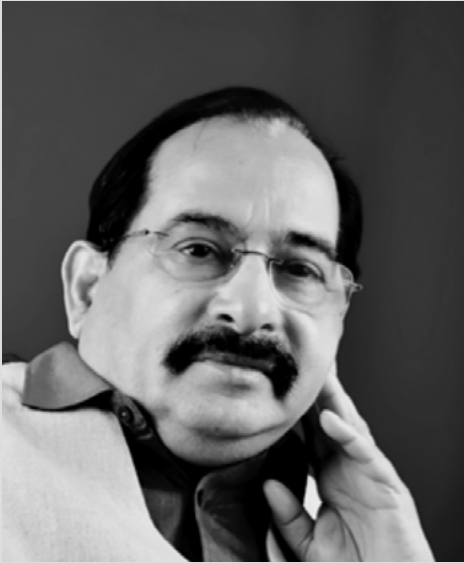
CHANGE

COVERSTORY

➔ P4&5

TEAM OPUS

Editor-in-Chief
Prof. A. P. Dash



News Editor
Dr. Francis P. Barclay

Assistant Editors
Dr. Nikhil K. Gouda
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Student Editors
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Abhirami Vinod
Amal Devasia
Sreelakshmi Prakash

Student Reporters
Amritha Balakrishnan
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We're back!

It's the start of a brand-new academic year, and lo and behold, we are back with a bang! Opus, your favourite students magazine that's a pathfinder to the literal treasure this university has to offer is here in your hand again.

Ideas explode here!

Conversations sprout on these eight pages!

Minds meet and cultures diffuse here!

Dear fellow students, along with you, we foresee days of avid exploration, enchanting experiences and all-round enlightenment. Perhaps, every nook and corner of this elaborate and verdant campus has a story or two to tell. We present to you, a delectable spread of the best news that will appeal to your young minds and senses, just to keep you updated on the latest happenings and upcoming trends of our campus.

We invite you to be a part of this noble initiative.

TEAM OPUS ■

EDITION ONE STUDENTS MAGAZINE JULY 2016

OPUS

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

Hello, CUTN!

Finally, here's a way to voice our views and get them heard! As clichéd as it may sound, this is a journal by the students for the students.

Let's use this stroke of luck to exhibit our extraordinary achievements and raise issues that matter to us but are all-too-easily overlooked. With a modest start, we introduce to you this magazine brought out by the Department of Media and Communication to give a voice to the students of this university. Written in the true spirit of journalism, this journal aims to serve the students the best of university news.

With a delectable spread of inspiring and interesting stories, we aim to help keep you abreast of the latest trends in this institution and provide updates on the forthcoming events. Being students ourselves, we understand our peculiar tastes. We choose and present articles that will suit our reading habits and hook us to this paper. Accepting this clarion call and embarking on this journey has been an enlightening experience for us.

OPUS SURVEY
THANK GOD WE ARE STRESSED
FIRST EDITION OF OPUS LAUNCHED IN JULY 2016

LOOK WHAT IS TRENDING ONLINE! PAGE 2

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THIRUVARUR: ENLIGHTENMENT BESTOWED! PAGE 4

A grand beginning!

By Amal Devasia & Amrutha P.

Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN) organised a two-day orientation programme 'Genesis 2017' for the freshers from July 26, 2017. Students from all the sections were briefed about the rules and regulations of the institution and given a glimpse about the facilities offered by the university.

CUTN Vice-Chancellor Prof. A. P. Dash inaugurated the session and delivered the presidential address. "Though our university is relatively a new one, it has reached great heights in a short span. CUTN enjoys an enviable reputation for academic excellence, both at the national and international levels. CUTN has institutionalised a tradition of nurturing exceptional student talent," the Vice-Chancellor said.

"We strive to maintain our reputation as an outstanding university that exhibits a multi-cultural identity drawing the best of young minds from the far corners of the country," he added. The Heads of diverse departments addressed the students on the basic functioning of their respective deanery. They also shed some light on the functioning of the departments and briefed about the various clubs and initiatives offered.

More than 40,000 students from various streams appeared for the Central University Common Entrance Test (CU-CET) 2017, of which 1,000-odd students made it to the varsity this academic year for the various under-graduate,



post-graduate and five-year integrated programmes. This year, the university launched seven new departments and introduced 13 new programmes to take the total number of programmes offered by the university to 45.

Registrar Dr. S. Bhuvaneshwari, Con-

troller of Examinations Dr. A. Ragupathy, Dean (Academics) Prof. T. Sengadir, Dean (Students Welfare) Prof. S. Nagarajan and the heads of the various departments of the university shared the dais and delivered speeches to motivate the students during the orientation programme. ■



I am a Media student and the exposure offered here will help me pursue my goals of becoming a responsible journalist and a better human being."

- Amal Devasia

First year, MA Mass communication



This experience was vital for the success of my journey as a CUTN student, since it opened to the Do's and Don'ts and what is to be expected throughout my journey."

- Amrutha P.

First year, MA Mass communication

Colours of

By Anish Kumar Sahoo & Anju M. U.

For Kalki Subramaniam, art is not just a dignified-livelihood opportunity for the transgenders but also a medium for them to vent out their untold emotions. And, that's exactly why she encourages the members of her ilk to indulge in art and they do.

Kalki and her group of transexual-artists exhibited over 40 of their artworks at 'The Trans Art Show' organised by the Department of Media and Communication in association with the Committee Against Sexual Harassment - Gender Sensitisation and Counselling Unit (CASH-GSCU) of CUTN from July 28, 2017. Perhaps, it was the first time an educational institution is organising an exhibition of art works created by transgender-artists, challenging the stereotypes of viewing them as just sex-workers and frumpy deadbeats clapping on the streets seeking alms.

Kalki, with her Sahodari Foundation, is inventing measures to make her community people lead dignified lives. CUTN Vice-Chancellor Prof. A. P. Dash launched the two-day event. Speaking at the event, transgender activist-artist-actor-writer-founder of Sahodari Foundation Kalki outlined the hardships and discrimination faced by transgenders in the society. "We are witnessing a change. And, this art show is another proof that displays the colours of change," she said.

"I don't look at art as a profession. It is our medium to express our fears, anguish, desire and struggles. Our art works will live on forever to tell our stories," Kalki added. Kalki, on the stage, put forth a three-point demand of free education for transgender students, job opportunities in the university and a permanent art gallery for artists, all of which the Vice-Chancellor readily accepted.

The two-day programme attracted many intellectuals and enthusiasts from various fields and was appreciated by everyone.



change!

Kalki reiterated the power of the universal language that every piece of art work speaks. "An artist may die, but his or her art doesn't. The emotions and thoughts of the transgender-artists will live reverberate through their art works that are put on display here," she averred.

Prof. A. P. Dash stressed on the importance of reforming the perception of the society towards transgender community, while delivering the inaugural address. "The reason for the plight of the transgender community is certainly not them, but the authoritarian societal norms." He further added that a nation grows only when all sections of the society grows, which makes equality and

equity the basic factor of growth.

Prof T. Sengadir also appreciated the courage, efforts and the paintings of the transgender-artists. "What make the paintings in this exhibition different are the emotions associated with them," said Prof S. Nagarajan, Dean (Students Welfare). "I hope this exhibition will be yet another chapter in the struggle of transgenders for dignity and equality," said Dr. Francis P. Barclay, Head (In-charge) of the Department of Media and Communication, CUTN.

"This is the first time an educational institution is taking such a bold initiative," Dr. Barclay said, adding that, "Do you know that the transgender and in-

tersex people are the most-neglected and stigmatised in our society? They are completely marginalised. Most of them end up begging on the streets or become sex workers. Just a small section of them lives a dignified life, thanks to education, awareness and family acceptance. Kalki is one among those privileged ones who works for the upliftment of the not-so-privileged."

"As a community of students and academicians, our roles and responsibilities extend much beyond the four walls of the classroom. Education is also about learning social responsibility. I assure you, we as part of CUTN, are with you in your mission," Dr. Barclay added. ■



Maths workshop

CUTN is organising a six-day Summer workshop from August 7, 2017, for the second-year B. Sc. and I.M.Sc. students from institutions across India. The workshop will be conducted at the Nandha Arts and Science College in Erode. This year, the workshop will be conducted in memory of renowned Mathematician Dr. Harish Chandra and is funded by the National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM) and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Through this programme, the resource persons and faculties would assist the students to break the conventional system of education by discarding pen and paper and help them think rationally. From the feedback of the previous workshops, it is clear that the workshop helps them to explore various perspectives in their respective fields. The programme will be a venue for young minds to think beyond the constraints of existing theories and conceive innovative ideas in the field of Mathematics.

- Deepthi P. J. & Paul Johnson

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Call +91 81234 70992 or +91 94394 49402 or email hodmedia@cutn.ac.in.

For feedback, contact the Department of Media and Communication, CUTN.

Want to be part of OPUS? We also welcome interesting news articles from students and faculty members from this university. Feel free to contact us, to contribute to this journal. Thank you.

Project to save women from cervical cancer

By Sreelakshmi Prakash & Thadevues Aravindath

In a ground-breaking study that can save the lives of multitude of woman across the country, Dr Indranil Chattopadhyay has mastered the method to diagnose the presence of *Human papillomavirus* (HPV) which leads to cervical cancer among woman.

An Assistant Professor in the Department of Life Sciences of CUTN, Dr. Chattopadhyay was awarded the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Visiting Scientist Fellowship 2017-2018 at the DBT Centre for Molecular Biology and Cancer Research, Dr. Bhubaneswar Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati. During his research period, he mastered Hybrid Capture Technology and CareHPV system for HPV detection.

Among women, cervical cancer is caused by Human papillomavirus (HPV), a double-stranded DNA virus. Sexual contacts aid transfer of the HPV virus. Most HPV infections show no symptoms and can be cured if diagnosed at the initial stages. An HPV infection can result in warts or precancerous lesions. The precancerous lesions increase the risk of cancer of cervix, vulva, throat and private parts.

Though mostly associated with woman, HPV Virus can also infect men causing oral cancer. Once infected, it can spread to the other parts of the body. Other cancers are also linked to HPV.

HPV infection is prevalent



among those who have sex with multiple partners, sex at younger ages, frequent use of contraceptive pills and smoking. A weak immune system can also increase the chances of HPV infection. The treatment consists of medication during the initial stages, and at the latter stages, includes chemotherapy, radiotherapy and even surgery.

"In a country like India, where most people are not so open about their sexual activities and sex education is poor, awareness acts as the best preventive measure," Dr. Chattopadhyay said. "Use of condoms should be promoted and HPV preventive vaccines should be made mandatory," he added. ■

15 days to clean-up CUTN

By Amritha Balakrishnan & Swetha S.

Kicking off a major clean-up campaign, over 150 National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers of the Central University of Tamil Nadu are on a 15-day mission to not only implement the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) imperatives in the university but are also set to target the adopted villages nearby with a range of awareness drives and sanitation measures.

Along with the students, service-minded faculty members and staffers of the university, participated in the inaugural ceremony at the Pro-VC Chamber and vowed to take part in the cleanliness campaign. CUTN Vice-Chancellor Prof. AP Dash inaugurated the event with a seminar on 'Implementation of Swachh Bharat-CART City' on August 1, 2017.

Speaking at the inaugural function, the Vice-Chancellor emphasised on the importance of cleanliness and its impact on public health. While increasing awareness on cleanliness, the seminar called for action to bring about visible changes in the environment for the good and ideas to efficiently deal with the menace of garbage and dirt. A major part of the campaign will uproot the weeds in and around the CUTN campus.

Thiruvarur Manuneechi Lions Club is sponsoring the event. Students from various departments pledged to join the campaign. Clean-up drives will be held for three days starting from August 2, following which a rally will be taken out from the Thiruvarur Railway Station and it will culminate at the Corporation Office, on Day Five. On the day, the volunteers will create a green belt around the



campus by planting saplings.

A painting competition will be conducted at the Multipurpose Auditorium of the varsity on August 8.

This apart, door-to-door campaigns, awareness meetings, cleaning up of schools, temples and ponds will also be taken up in the adopted villages. ■

A PEN TODAY, PLANT TOMORROW!

By **Abhirami Vinod, Banothu Srikanth & Shalini R**

Indeed The Trans Art Show organised by the Department of Media and Communication of the Central University of Tamil Nadu was a grand success, gathering mass and garnering headlines. For it was the first exhibition of art works created by transgenders hosted by an Indian institution. But, on the sides of the event, there was yet another interesting happening.

Accepting the idea of Ms. Shwetha Pramod, Second-year MA Mass Communication student, the other student-organisers of the event introduced eco-friendly pens just to make the thousands of participants rethink their need to use plastic pens. Perhaps, it was a tiny seed of idea sown to make the university a plastic-free place. Along with it, the group of students spread a few more green ideas by offering the guests baskets of fruits instead of bouquets and mementos which could cost environmental-wellbeing. Once these pens are used up, they can just be buried in the soil and plants will sprout from there. These pens are available in Kochi at a cost of Rs12 each.

"I was just a mediator here. In my journey, I met Lakshmi Menon, an obsessed eco-evangelist. She is a designer. By combining her designing skills with the love for the environment, she makes those pens from waste paper. Such innovative approaches that nurture nature, in my opinion, should be encouraged and implemented by us, young minds. Being a media student, this will be the first step towards creating a plastic-free campus," said Shwetha Pramod. Called 'Entrée', each of those pens carry an Agastya seed. ■

