

OPUS

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

SHOOT 'EM UP!



WORKSHOP

COVERSTORY

➔ P4&5

TIME TO ZOOM INTO REALITY AS DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION IS ORGANISING WEEK-LONG WORKSHOP ON DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION... A CURTAIN-RAISER

INSIDE



SALUTE, TO OUR ARMY OF GUARDS!

➔ P3



MEET OUR VERY OWN YOGA GURU

➔ P7

TEAM OPUS

Editors

Prof. A. P. Dash (Vice-Chancellor)
Prof. T. Sengadir (Dean, Academics)
Prof. S. Nagarajan (Dean, Students Welfare)

News Editors

Dr. Francis P. Barclay
Dr. Nikhil K. Gouda
Dr. Shamala R.
Dr. Deivasree Anbu

Student Editors

Amritha Balakrishnan
Sreelakshmi Prakash
Abhirami Vinod
Amrutha P.
Thadevues Aravindath
Amal Devasia

Student Reporters

Swetha S.
Darshana J.
Deepthi P. J.
Amal K. Thankappan
Maya N. S.
Shalini R.
Shefeek P. M.
Anju M. U.
Anish Kumar Sahoo
Paul Johnson
Raveena M.
Banothu Srikanth

DO YOU THINK YOU DESERVE TO BE IN THIS PAPER?

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.

Essay contest on Tuesday

Central University of Tamil Nadu is organising an essay competition to commemorate the birth centenary celebration of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on the topic 'The relevance of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's Political Philosophy in 21st century India'. The contest will start at 5.30pm on August 29, 2017, at the Pro-VC's Chamber. Participants can write their essays in Tamil, Hindi or English. Cash prizes and certificates of recognition will be awarded to the winners. ● Amrutha P.

CUTN opens door to fitness



CUTN Vice-Chancellor Prof. A. P. Dash, on Wednesday (August 23, 2017), inaugurated the Gymnasium at the New Boys Hostel. It is well-equipped with exercise bikes, arc trainers, incliners, dumbbells, weightlifting bars, among other essentials. Registrar Dr. S. Bhuvanewari and CoE Dr. A. Ragupathy were also present at the event. After the inauguration ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor addressed the gathering, emphasising the importance of physical fitness and announcing the selection of the university football team for the state-level semi-finals. He said the varsity will open a student community centre, bakery, departmental store and xerox centre on the campus during this semester. Working time of these outlets will be from 8 am till 8 pm. A Gymnasium for the New Girls Hostel will also be soon set-up with mild-weight equipment, Prof. Dash informed. ● Malini Vasan



56 OF OUR SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE EX-SERVICEMEN

Salute, to our Army of guards!

By Anju M. U. & Abhirami Vinod

We know this blue brigade is sacrificing sleep to safeguard us. For, these 'Men in Black' are quite ubiquitous on our campus and it's hard to, after all, miss them out. But did you'll know where they have come from, or for that matter, cared to ask what they were doing before this?

Central University of Tamil Nadu has 56 ex-servicemen serving as security guards on this campus. Of them, seven had been serving us since 2009. These guards are sourced from across the state.

For instance, quiz one of them named P. Rajendran, and he would say, "I'm from Valangaiman, about 20 km from here, and am happy to serve this institution that's brimming with young minds. I had served as a soldier in West Bengal, Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jammu, Sikkim and Bhutan. But when I serve here, I feel like guarding my own family."

"Students are our tomorrow, who will

serve the future of our nation. I am happy to serve our future after serving the nation. And, I see no difference. Above these thoughts, I'm delighted to see their smiling faces every day," he adds.

Most ex-servicemen, after their stint in the Army, end up serving higher educational institutions or work as security guards. "After my military life, CUTN has offered a new atmosphere and I am satisfied. It's easy to do the job here since

we had worked in the military. Military life taught us manners and discipline and we implement these here," said Elangovan, Assistant Security Officer of CUTN, who had for 22 years served the Indian Army as a technical staffer.

For them who had spent half of their lives in the Army, the other half is in serving this university, guarding its safety round-the-clock. A salute to them, on behalf of the university students. ■

We are really feeling safe in this university, because those who are supposed to protect us were protectors of our nation."
- Keerthana P.K.

2nd year MSc Computer Science

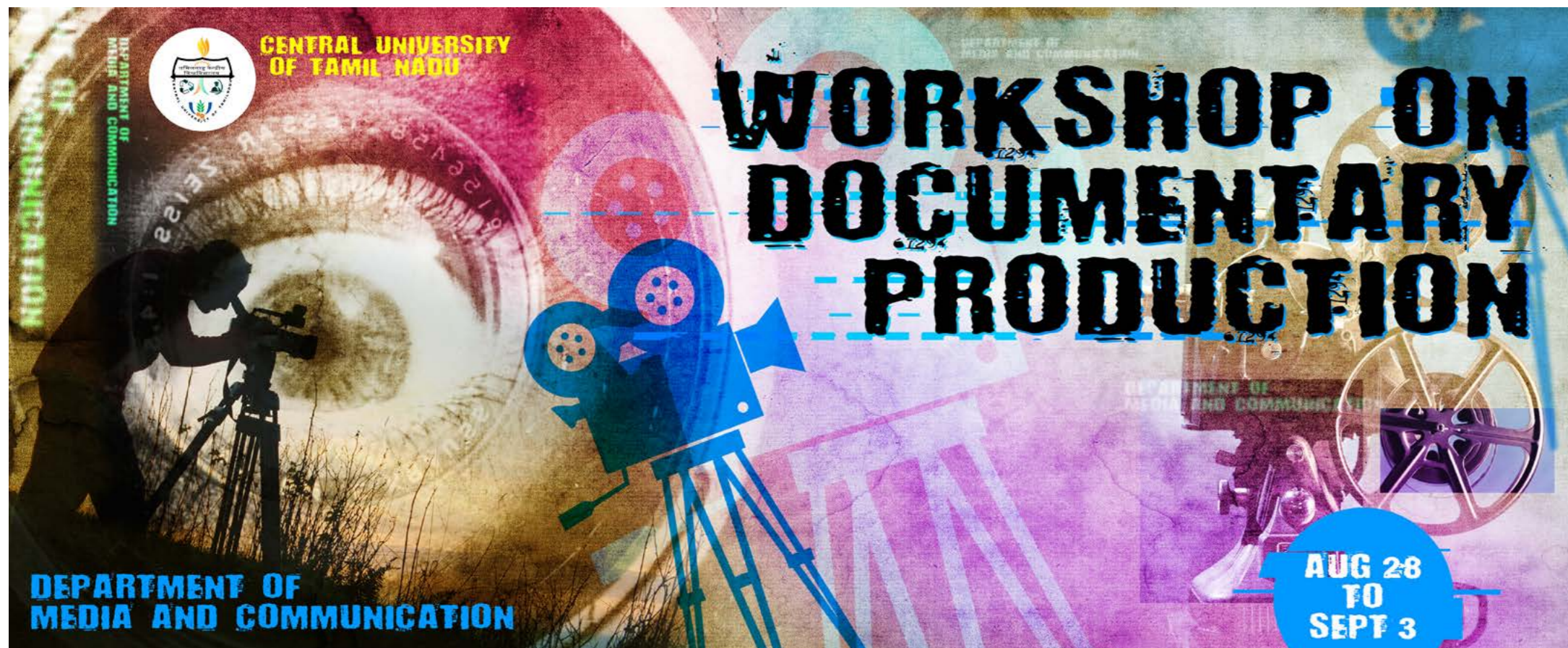
Those dedicated guardians, their welcoming smile and greeting is enough for a good day. I figured out their admiration

and spirit to nation on the Independence Day celebration in CUTN this year. From the early morning, these blue guards did all preparations and they made the proud moment to the fullest. And I respect them, because their love for nation and respect to Indian flag has not yet faded, as the tri-colour flag waves in the heart of the CUTN every day, because of them."

- Anju M. U.

First year, MA Mass communication

From real to reel!



By Raveena M. & Amrutha P.

Do you have a thing or two for film-making? If capturing reality is your cup of tea and social reform at the back of your mind, then this workshop is an event for you!

Department of Media and Communication of CUTN is organising a week-long 'Workshop on Documentary Production' from this Monday till Sunday to shape up the talents of students and to prepare them for some non-fictional filming.

Student-participants will be encour-

aged to transform their ideas into fresh and ground-breaking documentaries at the workshop. This novel initiative calls on the students to exhibit their thoughts and ideas and will teach them to take those ideas to the big screens.

A media production expert and film-maker Prof. Vasuki Belavadi from the University of Hyderabad will be the resource person for the documentary workshop. The overarching aim of the workshop is to share in-depth knowledge on documentary production and explore its technicalities.

Its inaugural function will be held at the Pro-VC Chamber at 10am on Monday (August 28) and the rest of the event will be conducted in the Media Theatre of the Department of Media and Communication from 10 am to 4 pm.

Prof. Belavadi specialises in video and radio production. He also holds the credit for penning India's first textbook on video production. Students will be provided hands-on training in film-making and guided to produce their own documentary films. This workshop also aims to train students in capturing the 'real' and

its theatrical establishment, notably by the analysis of various documentary films.

This apart, the event will feature special screening of contemporary and notable documentaries, including some of the instructor's own works, to demystify the art of assembling a story in a documentary.

Dean (Academics) Prof. T. Sengadir, Dean (Students Welfare) Prof. S. Nagarajan, Dr. Francis P. Barclay, Head (in-charge), Department of Media and Communication, faculty members Dr. Nikhil K. Gouda and Dr. Shamala R. will speak at the inaugural session on the processes of documentary film-making.

Valedictory function will be held on Sept. 3 at 4pm. Students and faculty members are welcome. ■

Walking the talk on gender equality

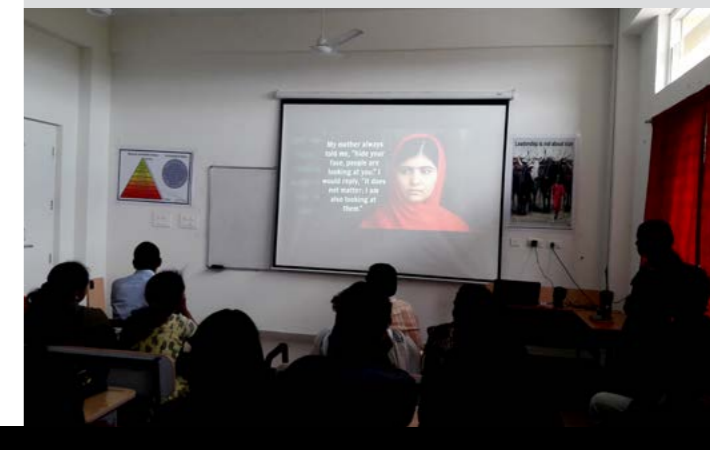
By Thadevues Aravindath & Sreelakshmi Prakash

As part of our weekly reportage for the Opus magazine, we were assigned to cover a special event conducted by the Department of Social Work of CUTN on the Women's Equality Day, August 28. As expected, the speakers at the event reiterated the need to empower women in all respects. Indeed, a section of Indian women still faces discrimination in several forms. But, since Independence, Indian women have come a long way and are reaching new highs and it becomes necessary to highlight their achievements on the brighter side.

It also becomes worthwhile to note that girls are a majority on this university campus, outnumbering the male students. Speaking at the event, Dr. P. Sigamani, Head of the Department, said, "Gender stereotyping is still a commonplace phenomenon in the households and discriminating thoughts are imbibed in the very young minds of children. Change should begin from our respective homes."

Another department faculty member Dr. K. P. Chithra raised a different form of gender bias that the transgenders face.

Echoing similar views, Dr. J. Rajameenakshi highlighted the importance of family upbringing in thwarting gender discrimination. As we were walking out of the venue, thinking about the emotions evoked by the speakers and about gender equality in general and about our own selves, as one of us was a woman, she said this day is short-lived as women are already on their path to equality and he nodded in agreement. ■



CREATIVE CORNER



Photography by: **Paul Johnson**
First year, M. A. in Mass Communication

Some food for thought!

Batter, splatter, clatter...
The rain was fighting the glass.
Windshield waiting to shatter
the images blurred as they pass.

On the edge of my seat
I was fending the cramp.
Onto the road there came
a boy seemingly a tramp.

Hotel, hotel, hotel...
here's the best place to dine!

As he growled to invite
I thought it wasn't just fine.

He pulled out a placard
and asked the car to park.
We drove past it was hard
lest we bothered to hark.

Batter, splatter, clatter...

The rain was again fighting the glass.

It turned out to be bitter
as the irony was about the class.

Poem by: **Abhirami Vinod**

First year, M. A. in Mass Communication



Art by: **Jeeva**; First year, M. Sc. in Epidemiology and Public Health

Bend it like KVR!



MEET THE MASTER OF THE MAT AND LEARN ABOUT HIS LATEST FEAT!

By **Maya N. S. & Shalini R.**

When the clock strikes five and the first blush of the golden-morning Sun is peeping from the corners, pairs of twinkle toes head toward the Guest House building on the CUTN residential campus. A spirited 60-year-old awaits this crowd there for yet another bout of bending.

Our very own yoga guru from the Department of English, Dr. K. V. Raghupathi offers fine-free lessons on a daily-basis at the venue and students, faculty members and their wistful wards are welcomed. His calm and beaming smile trot out their inner peace.

An expert in the original form of yoga, he trains them for physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Dr. Raghupathi is a man of multifaceted talents.

He keeps himself fit and frisky, thanks to his three decades of continuous practice of advanced yoga in 'Patanjali' tra-

dition. His guiding philosophy, "Life is yoga and yoga is my life... and of course, teaching, writing and service."

Quiz him on this ancient Indian art form, he would say, "Yoga is a way of life to maintain our body in a sense of peace and well-being. Yoga is not a religious practice, it is an art based on a harmonising system of development for the prosperity of body, mind and spirit."

Dr. Raghupathi conducts yoga camps and talks for people from different walks of life. He is a luminary in yoga and holds a Diploma in Yoga, Naturopathy and Ayurveda, secured from Sri Venkateswara Yoga Research Institute, Tirupati.

What more? This yogacharya of CUTN has published about 40 articles in various cultural journals such as Prabhudha Bharath (Kolkata), Vedantha Kesari (Chennai), Sri Aurobindo Action (Pondicherry) and Saphthagiri (Tirupati). He has also published two books, 'Yoga for peace' and 'Yoga and Zen: a Monograph'.

"Different forms of yoga are practised in different countries. As a result, its original form as expounded by the great sage of Patanjali 2,000 years ago has been diluted. Yoga, in its pristine form, leads one out of darkness into the light," avers the master of the original form.

Math to publish a book

In his latest feat, the yoga guru is getting his works published under the banner of Ramakrishna Math (Vedanta Kesari) Publications. President Maharaj of Ramakrishna Math, Chennai, read two of his articles on 'Theory and Practice of Eco Yoga' and 'Theory and Practice of Hastha Yoga' published in Vedanta Kesari and was so impressed that he has volunteered to publish them in a book form.

Gladly giving his consent for the publication, Dr. Raghupathi has sought the Swamiji that the royalties incurred from the sales of the book should be used for humanitarian services by the Math. ■

A BLOGGER DAGGER... SINGER!

By Darsana J. & Deepthi P. J.

Words are her weapon! She is both smooth and sharp with them! On one side, she uses them as a blogger to sensitise the masses against disorders that divide the people such as caste, outdated principles like 'triple talaq' and their ilk. On the smoother side, she uses them to soothe souls as a singer.

If Nimisha S. Pradeep from the Department of Economics, Central University of Tamil Nadu, is a smart singer, avid blogger and an activist today, she would perhaps credit her grandmother, an author herself, for shaping up Nimisha's destiny even at a tender age.

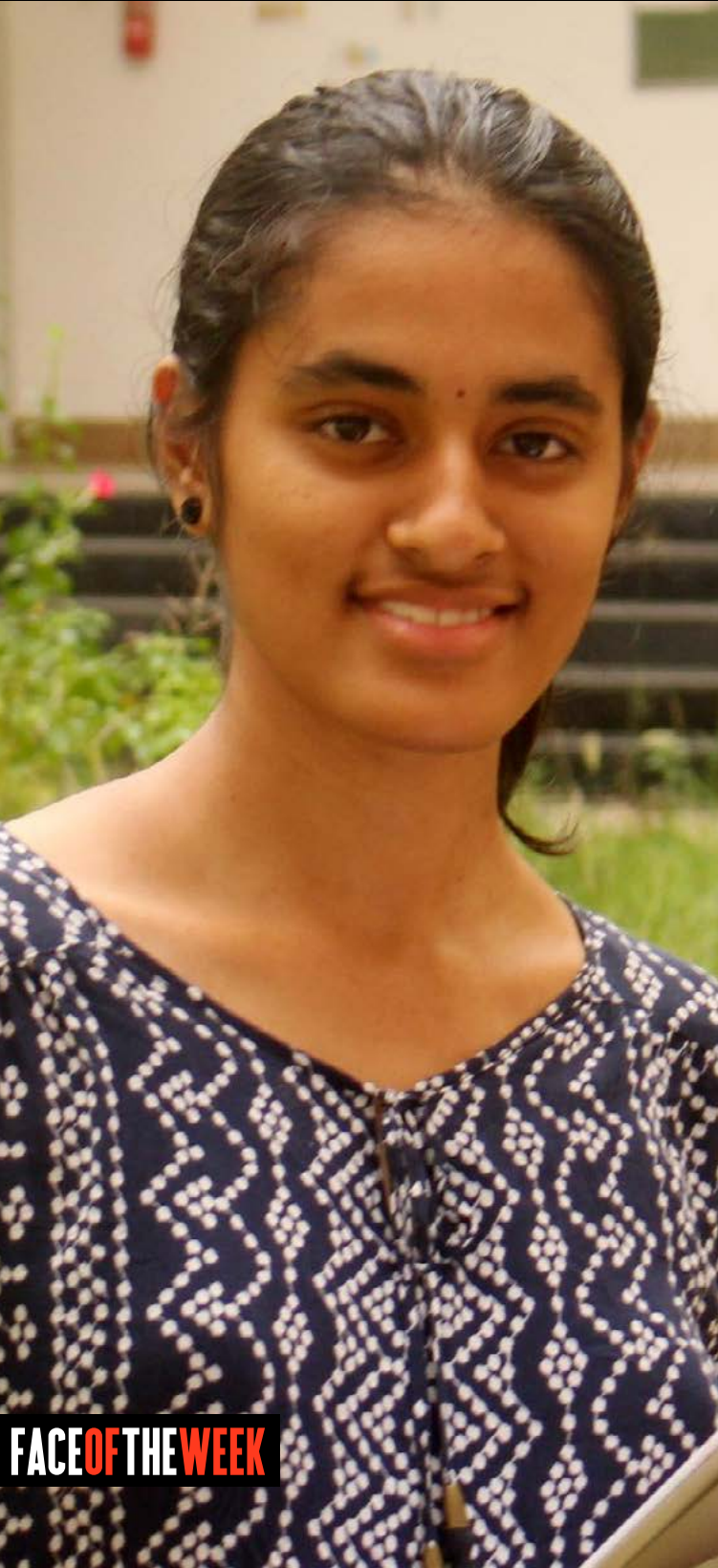
Hailing from Palakkad, Kerala, Nimisha developed interest in singing and a craving for writing. Naturally, being the granddaughter of Lalithambika Antharjanam, a renowned author and social reformer best known for her literary works in Malayalam, it was a given. Her grandmother Lalithambika, for her novel Agnisakshi, won the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 1976 and the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, the following year.

"My grandmother is my inspiration. Her autobiography Aathmakadhakkoru Aamukham influenced me a lot and I took up writing," Nimisha avers. "Blogging fascinates me a lot because it's a platform through which I can reach out to the world," she adds.

Of her blog posts, the notable ones are about discrimination of women, especially those belonging to the 'Namboodiri' caste. She is an advocate of equality. She had also voiced her views about 'triple talaq' that the apex court just deemed unlawful. She also written about GST and other economic issues.

For Nimisha, as she put it, writing isn't just a hobby but the main vocation and weapon that she uses for mass reconstruction.

Though Nimisha underwent formal training in music, melodies are her favourite. As much as writing, she is also passionate about singing. Her dream is to build a band of her own. As Nimisha sees it, words are daggers that can cut and music is a healer. As we see it, Nimisha has the best of both of these worlds. ■



FACE OF THE WEEK