



CETAAT

College of Engineering Trivandrum Alumni Association

Trivandrum Chapter

News Letter

JANUARY 2025

VOLUME-4

ISSUE-4

From the Chairman



Dear CETAAT Family,

Wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed 2025!

As we turn the page on another year in the book of life, it gives me immense satisfaction as I look back on the year that has just passed. We at CETAAT were able to fulfill many commitments that had been bestowed upon us. Among many other activities, we kicked off 2024 with a Family Get-Together and a two-day Technical Workshop for engineers, both of which were a great success. In fact, this success fueled our determination to organize the 6th Edition of the same event, now under a permanent banner styled CETAAT TECHKNOW 2025, which is scheduled for 18th and 19th February 2025.

Our cultural wing, CETAAT Ragatharangam, had one of its best performances with “Devaragasandhya Season 5”—dedicated to Devarajan Master and ONV Kurup Sir—on 29th September last year at Kerala University Senate Hall, which witnessed a record-breaking number of attendees. I take this opportunity to congratulate the various committees that worked diligently behind the success of each event.

The CETAAT Badminton Tournament has become one of the most awaited events among our members. Thanks once again to the organizers, whose meticulous planning is key to its success. Many young CETians join CETAAT during the badminton tournament, contributing to the steady growth of our membership year after year.

I would like to thank our past Chairmen and senior members for their invaluable guidance, which provides the Management Committee with the strength to surge ahead with more enthusiasm.

Sincerely yours,

Jayachandran V S

CETAAT News Letter

We solicit literary contributions from CET alumni and their family members for the quarterly News Letter being published by CETAAT.

The articles in the form of short stories, poems, cartoons, travelogue etc. will be published in the forthcoming issues of CETAAT NEWS LETTER. The articles can be mailed to the e-mail : mgknair@gmail.com

Editorial Board: MGK Nair, KG Chandrasekharan, Chitra R

CETAAT - College of Engineering Trivandrum Alumni Association Trivandrum Chapter

Secretary's Report



Dear CETAAT Members,

I am extremely happy to present before you the report of activities of CETAAT for the period September 2024 to December 2024. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for the support provided during this period.

Managing Committee Meetings

During the reporting period, four MC meetings were held on 3rd September, 5th October, 5th November, and 3rd December. The October MC meeting was an external meeting held at Kuttalam. MC members actively participated in all these meetings.

Sub-Committees

The sub-committees for various activities of CETAAT met regularly and made proposals to the Managing Committee. This has greatly helped in streamlining the activities of the MC.

Activities during the Reporting Period:

1. The 7th Webinar was held on 15th October 2024. The speaker was an alumnus (1988 Civil), Er. M. Balakrishnan, Freelance Consultant. The topic was "Preparation of Feasibility and Detailed Project Reports for Roads and Other Infrastructure—Key Aspects for Consideration". The webinar was informative and well-attended.
2. The 8th Webinar took place on 17th December 2024. The speaker was an alumnus (1986 EE), Dr. Brinda V. The topic was "From Vision to Victory—The Chandrayaan-3 Success Story." The webinar was both interesting and informative for all who attended.
3. Devaragasandhya Season 5 – ONVyude Ormakkayi was conducted on 29th September 2024 at the University Senate Hall. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. George Onakkoor, and Shri Rajeesh O N V delivered the Keynote address. The musical evening was well-attended, and all the songs were highly appreciated by the audience. The Devaragasandhya subcommittee team, under the leadership of Chief Programme Coordinator Shamnad M S, carried out an exemplary job in the highly successful conduct of Devaragasandhya Season 5 and deserves special mention.

The team members of Devaragasandhya Season 5 were appreciated for their excellent work, and mementos were presented to all members on 5th November 2024.

4. The Endowment Awards 2024 were distributed online on 29th November 2024. The meeting was well-attended, and felicitations were offered by Dr. Suresh, Principal of CET, and the Heads of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Departments. The Endowment Award winners are:

▶▶ P.K. Nair and P. Sreekumari Nair Memorial Endowment Award: Certificate and Cash Award of Rs. 5000.

Instituted by K. Venugopalan Nair (1979 Mechanical) in memory of his parents for the Best Project by Final Semester Mechanical Engineering students. The award winners are Gourisaran B S and Mahesh G Krishnan.

▶▶ K. Thirvikraman Nair Memorial Endowment Award: Certificate and Cash Award of Rs. 10000.

Instituted in memory of K. Thirvikraman Nair (CET 1947 Electrical), Former Chairman of KSEB, by his son Ravindran T. Nair (1971 Electrical) and his family for the Best Project by Final Semester Electrical & Electronics Engineering students. The award winners are Hrishikesh H Pillai and Malavika R Saji.

▶▶ Dr. P. J. George Memorial Endowment Award: Certificate and Cash Award of Rs. 5000.

Instituted by Abraham P. J (1971 Mechanical) in memory of his brother Dr. P. J. George, Former Principal CET and DTE, for the Topper in M.Tech (Machine Design). The award winner is Ananya M.

The efforts of the Charity Subcommittee, headed by Thomas Job, in identifying the winners in coordination with CET authorities were highly appreciated by the Managing Committee and deserve special mention.

5. The 3rd edition of the CETAAT Badminton Tournament for CETAAT members was held on 1st December 2024 at the Sree Moolam Club courts. The tournament was held across various categories, including a special category for ladies, and was a highly successful event. The subcommittee for Sports deserves special mention for the successful conduct of the tournament.

6. IgnitES 2024, an entrepreneurship development program organized by the Chennai chapter of CETAA, was held at CETAA Hall on 13th November 2024, and CETAAT was represented by the Secretary. Based on a request from CETAAC, MC member Suresh Kumar V was nominated for local support to CETAAC for the programme.

7. 11 new alumni were enrolled during the reporting period.

Thank you,

Ranjit Kumar V.

Hon. Secretary, CETAAT

●● FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES ●●

- ▶▶ 1. *Family Meet and New Year Get together on 18th January 2025*
- ▶▶ 2. *Two Day CETAAT Technical Workshop CETAAT TECHKNOW 2025- ADVANCEMENTS IN CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY on 18th and 19th February 2025 at Hotel Residency Tower, Press Road, Trivandrum*
- ▶▶ 3. *WEBINAR on 18th March 2025*

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LEADERS WHO INFLUENCED THE NATION--FROM CET

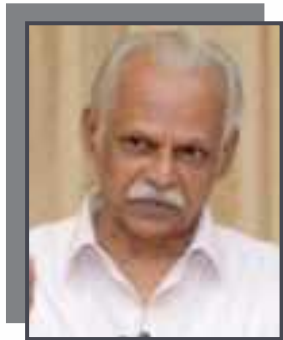
The College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET) started functioning in 1939, under the University of Travancore, which itself was established in 1937, by the then Maharaja of Travancore, Sree Chitra Thirunal Balarama Varma. The college started functioning on 3rd July 1939 at the premises of the present PMG office and the Kerala State Science and Technology Museum. The college was shifted to the present location at Kulathur in 1961. Students then doing their final years in 1961 -1962, had the privilege to be the first batch to graduate from the new premises.

In its nascent phase, CET offered degree courses only in three branches viz. Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. Diploma courses were also offered in the same engineering streams. In 1939, 21 students were admitted for the degree course and same numbers of students were enrolled for the diploma courses. Besides this, there was also a certificate course with 40 students. Though seven seats were allotted for each branch of Civil, Mechanical and Electrical engineering, some of the seats in the electrical branches were not filled in some of the academic years. Adjustments were made among the branches in order to maintain the total number of seats. Thus, the first batch to pass out in 1943 had 11 civil, 5 mechanical and 3 electrical graduates.

The name and fame of an educational institution is amplified by its illustrious Alumni and the College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET) is no exception. CET boasts of many multifaceted engineers, academicians and administrators among its alumni, who adorned or are adorning the top positions in institutions all over the globe. Among them are leaders who have guided and inspired the younger generation.

CETAAT News Letter will carry a series 'THE LEADERS' which will portray personal details and the professional achievements of senior CETians, with the aim of introducing them to the younger Alumni.

Dr. K. P. Parameswaran Pillai



Dr. K. P. Parameswaran Pillai, popularly known as Dr. KPP or simply KPP, is one of the brightest stars among the alumni of CET. He has demonstrated his expertise in various fields—during his student life, as a teacher and guide for PhD students, as a research scientist, consultant, and later in life as an institution builder.

Early Academic Life KPP had his schooling at Attingal Government School, St. Joseph's School, Trivandrum, and English High School at Venkulam, Edava. He passed the ESLC examination in 1951, securing 3rd rank in the state. He then joined the Intermediate College (present-day Government Arts College) in Trivandrum and passed the Intermediate examination in 1953 with 1st rank.

In 1953, KPP enrolled in the B.Sc. (Engg.) course at the College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET) on its original campus, where the present PMG Office and Science and Technology Museum are located. Along with his keen interest in academics, he actively participated in the college's cultural life, primarily by acting in and directing dramas. He later directed and acted in numerous amateur dramas, including those presented during annual CETAA Day celebrations. He graduated with a B.Sc. (Engg.) degree, securing 1st rank from Kerala University in 1957.

Professional Career and Higher Education: KPP began his career as a Junior Engineer in KSEB but

soon moved on to work as a Technical Assistant at the Bhilai Steel Plant in Chhattisgarh. These were short stints before he returned to Trivandrum and renewed his association with CET when Kerala University started its M.Sc. (Engg.) program there. In 1960, he completed his M.Sc. (Engg.) with 1st rank, working on the topic "Dannatt's Core Loss Tester" for his thesis, where he developed an innovative technique for measuring eddy current loss.

KPP was provisionally appointed as a lecturer at CET, and later, through a formal appointment by the PSC, he fulfilled his dream of a teaching career in engineering.

The year 1962 was significant for KPP. He joined IIT Kharagpur for research leading to a PhD, then one of India's most prestigious technological institutions. That same year, he married G. Varadakumari, also a CET alumnus, who joined IIT Kharagpur for her M.Tech. (She later served as a faculty member at CET for a major part of her career.) Under the eminent guidance of Prof. Ray Chaudhuri, KPP's research resulted in three peer-reviewed journal papers in the prestigious IEEE Transactions, USA. His PhD thesis was titled "Static and Sliding Resistance of Electric Contacts." He was awarded his PhD in 1965 at the age of 28, having completed his research in a comparatively short time.

Academic Contributions: The period from 1965 to 1971 was the most productive phase of KPP's academic career. As an Assistant Professor, he published prominent research papers annually. In one notable work, he revisited the basic formula for capacitance, which did not account for

electromagnetic field fringing. At that time, the only correction available was a heuristic one by Kirchhoff, using a correction factor of $2/\lambda$. Using hand-calculated hyperbolic integrals—since accessing the only available computer, MINSK at VSSC, was difficult—KPP proposed a more rational correction. This work was published in the IEE Proceedings, London, in 1970.

During a time when research publications were not a criterion for career advancement or promotion, KPP pursued in-depth research out of pure passion. His efforts resulted in over 19 publications in highly reputed international journals. He has shared insights about the challenging process of getting research papers published in prestigious journals in those days when communication was limited to postal mail.

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In 1971, KPP was promoted to Professor of Electrical Engineering. He was later recognized as a research guide in Electrical Engineering under Kerala University. Soon after, the first PhD in Electrical Engineering at Kerala University was awarded to Dr. K. Sankaran, a CET faculty member guided by KPP. Over his career, KPP guided seven PhD students until 2007, including Dr. K. Sankaran, Dr. P. Krishmoorthy, Dr. S. Ramakrishnan, Dr. Achuthsanakar S. Nair, Dr. G. Bindu, Dr. Mini Idiculla, and Dr. Hema Ramachandran.

KPP also served as the Principal of the newly established Government Engineering College in Kannur from 1989 to 1990, during which he completed the long-delayed building construction in less than a year, earning a special prize from the Government of Kerala. He briefly served as Principal of CET, his alma mater, before retiring in 1991-92.

Consultancy Activities In addition to academic research, KPP was actively involved in industrial consultancy for firms such as KEL, Mamala, IRE Chavara, Travancore Titanium Products, and TESIL Chingavanam. All consultancy work was carried out using the limited facilities available in CET laboratories. Notably, when KSEB took over electricity distribution in Kottayam, Ernakulam, and Thrissur from private licensees, there was a legal dispute regarding compensation. The private party claimed that copper wires had no depreciation and demanded Rs. 1.2 crores. KPP appeared as an expert witness in the arbitration held in Madras and successfully resolved the case.

Management & Institution Building KPP's contributions extended beyond academics. Between 1976 and 1982, as Professor (Placement & Training), he ably led placement and training activities under the

Directorate of Technical Education. He was instrumental in establishing the Supervisory Development Centre (SDC) at Kalamassery. Innovative courses in areas such as costume design, toy making, and cosmetology were started during his tenure. He successfully increased the department's budget from Rs. 1 lakh in 1976 to about Rs. 12 lakhs by 1982.

In 1982, KPP was appointed Joint Director of the LBS Centre for Science and Technology, which was then struggling with limited resources. Under his leadership, LBS shifted to a more spacious building at Sasthamangalam Junction. Recognizing the potential of emerging microcomputers and mini-computers, KPP facilitated the installation of a UNIX mini-computer at LBS. Courses on UNIX systems, COBOL, Pascal, FORTRAN, Basic, and C were introduced. By the time he left, LBS had a budget of nearly Rs. 90 lakhs, with only Rs. 10 lakhs coming from government grants and the rest generated through courses and consultancy. KPP also played a pivotal role in constructing LBS's headquarters on its own land at Palayam, Trivandrum.

Post-Retirement Contributions Post-retirement, KPP was invited to be the founder Director of the School of Technology and Applied Sciences at MG University, Kottayam. He also served as Secretary of the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) from 1997 to 1998 in New Delhi, contributing to the engineering academic community at the national level. In 1999, he returned to Kerala and served as Special Secretary to Sri P. J. Joseph, the Minister for Higher Education. Since then, he has been a consultant to numerous engineering colleges across the state, advising on planning, recruitment, and staff development.

Multifaceted Personality KPP is a multifaceted personality with a wide range of interests. He was deeply involved in acting, producing, and directing

dramas. He also had a passion for and in-depth knowledge of the Hindi language. He successfully completed Madhyama, Rashtrabhasha, Praveshika, Visharadh, and Vidwan Pareeksha exams, all in first class, during his early years. He translated E. V. Krishna Pillai's drama Nalanum Kaliyum into Hindi, which was staged at VJT Hall in 1952. He also translated the poem Keralam Valarunnu by Pala Narayanan Nair into Hindi, which was published in Rashtra Vaani. Additionally, he wrote a historical novel on Velu Thampi Dalawa, serialized in Yugaprabhath, a Hindi fortnightly published by Mathrubhoomi under the editorship of N. V. Krishna Warriar. In December 1956, while in his final year at CET, he represented Kerala University in the Inter-University Youth Festival in Hindi Elocution, competing with native Hindi speakers.

Family Details

Wife:

(Late) Dr. G. Varadakumari, Retired Joint Director, Industry-Interaction Cell under DTE, Kalamassery.

Children:

1. Dr. Vinod P., Retired Professor in Civil Engineering, CET.
2. Dr. Vivek P., Pulmo-nologist, PRS Hospital, Trivandrum.
3. Vidya P., Retired Assistant Executive Engineer, KSEB.



*Compiled by : K.G. Chandrasekharan, 1962 Civil.
Former Chairman, CETAAT*



DEVARAGASANDHYA SEASON 5

Season 5 of our yearly landmark event, “CETAAT DEVARAGASANDHYA,” was a true visual treat, uniting the talented singers and musicians of CETAAT with the passionate music lovers of Trivandrum. This year’s event theme was a tribute to the legendary poet ONV Kurup, featuring songs composed by the great Devarajan Master with ONV.

Backed by the “CETAAT Ragatharangam” team, the event marked yet another milestone in CETAAT’s legacy, adding a golden feather to its cap. Held at the Kerala University Senate Hall on Sunday, 29th September 2024, the event was inaugurated by the renowned poet and writer Shri. George Onakkur. Following this, Shri. Rajeev ONV, the son of the great poet, delivered the keynote address. CETAAT Chairman Shri. Jayachandran VS presided over the gathering, while the event coordinator, Shri. Shamnad MS, and CETAAT Secretary Shri. Renjithkumar gave the welcome address and vote of thanks, respectively.

The short opening ceremony led into the highlight of the day—a mesmerizing musical performance by the CETAAT Ragatharangam team. The orchestra, featuring Shri. Zeril, Shri. Thomas Job, and Shri. Dilip, along with other CETAAT members, provided a wonderful musical performance under the leadership of Shri. Harikrishnan and Shri. Vinayachandran. The audience was delighted by their exceptional rendition, which was appreciated by all. We were also fortunate

to be gifted with a song by ONV’s granddaughter, Aparna Rajeev.

The technical aspects of the event, including sound and visuals, were seamlessly coordinated by our dedicated members Shri. Padmakumar and Shri. Anilkumar. The event’s success was further ensured by the support of esteemed agencies: Tennyson for sound, film director Noushad and Binu for show direction, and Michel from Pixel Media for the incredible stage design and videography. The Senate Hall was packed with approximately 1,300 music enthusiasts, creating an electrifying atmosphere. The sponsorship committee, led by Shri. Madhusoodanan, worked tirelessly to secure generous contributions, with support from all MC members, especially Shri. Chandrasekharan, Shri. A.K. Nair, Shri. Nandakumar, and Shri. Murali. The sponsorship efforts were unprecedented this year, as we surpassed our target for the first time, once again thanks to the remarkable efforts of all CETAAT MC members. The Devaragasandhya subcommittee, along with all CETAAT members, worked relentlessly to ensure the event’s success. The event received high praise from all for its flawless execution and the quality of the program. It is clear that our annual event has now firmly established itself in the hearts of Trivandrum’s music lovers and has become an eagerly anticipated cultural highlight of the year.



DEVARAGASANDHYA SEASON 5 Contd...



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DEVARAGASANDHYA SEASON 5 Contd...



LAURELS FOR OUTSTADNING CONTRIBUTIONS

CETians have contributed immensely to the development of various disciplines of engineering. A few of the recent recognitions are as follows:

KG Chandrasekharan, our past Chairman, was honored as a Doyen of Civil Engineering in recognition of his contributions to the civil engineering profession. The Institution of Engineers (India) honored Er. KG Chandrasekharan, BSc (Engg), MBA, FIE, Former Member (Civil), KSE Board, and Former Chairman, IE(I), Kerala State Centre, during the 39th National Convention of Civil Engineers, held by the Kochi Local Centre on 17-18 October 2024.



Sri PJ Abraham, Vice-Chairman, CETAAT, CET 71 Mech, was awarded the Prestigious HEMS-M.R. Kurup Endowment award for the year 2022. by Dr. S. Somnath, Chairman ISRO in a function at SP Granddays, Trivandrum on 29th November, 2024 considering his expertise and contributions in the development and realization of solid propellant rocket engines for all the Launch Vehicles of India. He started his career under Dr APJ Abdul Kalam for the development of solid propellant rocket stages. During the span of 40 years in ISRO he was involved in the development of all the solid propellant rocket stages for India's first Launch Vehicle SLV3 to the powerful S200 solid booster of GSLV MkIII (LVM3) which was the launch vehicle for Chandrayan mission. Finally he led the solid propulsion team as Group Director, Solid Motors Group and Project Director, S200. As an authority in solid propellant rocket engines with both theoretical insight and practical expertise, his legacy is considered by the department as a foundation for future

advancements in India's Space Programme. He is recipient of prestigious Space Gold Medal from Astronautical Society of India and excellence awards from ISRO.



CETAAT Badminton Tournament

The 3rd edition of CETAAT members' badminton tournament was held on 1st December 2024 at Sri Mulam Club, Trivandrum. The tournament was inaugurated by CETAAT past Chairman Er. K.G.Chandrasekharan. More than 35 members participated. Matches were conducted in six categories. The winners and runners-up of each category were as follows:

Ladies Singles

- Winner - Kaladevi
- Runners-up - Sreerekha U.

Mixed Doubles

- Winners - Kaladevi & Renny Koippuram
- Runners-up - Sreerekha U. & Prem Kishore

Men's Upto 40 Doubles

- Winner - Gopikrishnan & Prakash Jacob
- Runners-up - Hari R. & Renjith

Men's 41-50 Doubles

- Winners - Mahesh & Viswaprakash
- Runners-up - Joji Mathew & Praveen S. Kumar

Men's 51-60 Doubles

- Winners - Jaleel & Rajkumar
- Runners-up - Krishnakumar T.V. & Padmadas P.

Men's 61 and Above Doubles

- Winners - Krishnakumar K.K. & Renny Koippuram
- Runners-up - Sudeep Kumar & Sujith Kumar



CETAAT Badminton Tournament



FAMILY NEWS



Cyriac
son of
Thomas Job and Seena Thomas,
weds
Nea
on 28 th Dec 2024,
at
Mount Carmel Convention Centre , Trivandrum