

## **DSE Day 2.0: A Catalyst for Innovation in Data Science and Engineering**

On August 21, 2024, IISER Bhopal's Department of Data Science and Engineering hosted the 2nd annual DSE Day, a flagship event that brought together over 200 students, faculty from various backgrounds, and industry professionals to celebrate and explore the dynamic field of data science and engineering. The theme, "Innovate in AI," set the tone for a day of intellectual exploration and knowledge sharing.

The day began with a warm welcome and registration, followed by an inaugural session featuring traditional Saraswati Vandana and the lighting of the lamp by distinguished guests such as Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya from IIT Bombay (former Director of IIT Patna) and Prof. B. S. Daya Sagar, Head of ISI Bangalore. Prof. Bhattacharyya captivated the audience with his plenary talk on "Foundations and Frontiers of Natural Language Processing," which provided in-depth insights into the changing landscape of AI and its applications, particularly in the language domain. Prof. Sagar then delivered a keynote address on "Mathematical Morphology in Geospatial Data Sciences," which shed light on the integration of mathematical principles with geospatial data.

The event also included a vibrant poster session where MS and PhD students presented their research projects, sparking exciting conversations and feedback. The experts evaluated the projects based on their relevance to the real world, technical depth, practical understanding, and the communication of the presenter. Mr. Manish Srivastava, Co-Founder of Pravartan Technologies, delivered talks that bridged the gap between academia and industry, emphasizing the practical applications of AI and data science. Later, a panel comprising Dr. Rajesh Pasricha of AIIMS Bhopal, Mr. Manish Srivastava, Dr. Feroz Khan Suri CEO of IICE, and Dr. P. B. Sujit helped the students better understand the ingredients needed to perform high-quality research and become successful entrepreneurs. A panel discussion brought together these experts to discuss the future of AI, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. The session was moderated by Dr. Tanmay Basu: the head of the department.

Following this, a hands-on workshop was organized, where participants were introduced to the latest AI tools and encouraged to apply their newly acquired knowledge immediately through interactive sessions. This practical approach empowered attendees to advance their understanding and application of AI technologies.

At the end of the event, three winners of the poster session were selected based on the evaluation score provided by the experts: Mohit Wadhwa (first prize winner) an MS student showcased his work on the "Navigation of an Autonomous Surface Vehicle in Fluvial Environment", Anurag Nihal (second prize winner) an MS student presented his work "MuSMix: Multi-Source Mixing for Unsupervised Domain Adaptation", and Atul Kumar (third prize winner) a Ph.D. student demonstrated his work on "Prevention of Digital Privacy through the generation of unlearnable examples for AI models".

DSE Day 2.0 was a resounding success, fostering a sense of community within the Department of Data Science and Engineering and inspiring future innovations in the field. The program convener, Dr. Akshay Agarwal, concluded the day with thanks to all the eminent personalities who shared his knowledge with the department, students, academic, and office staff who helped in making this event a successful one and promising to come back next year with more enthusiasm.