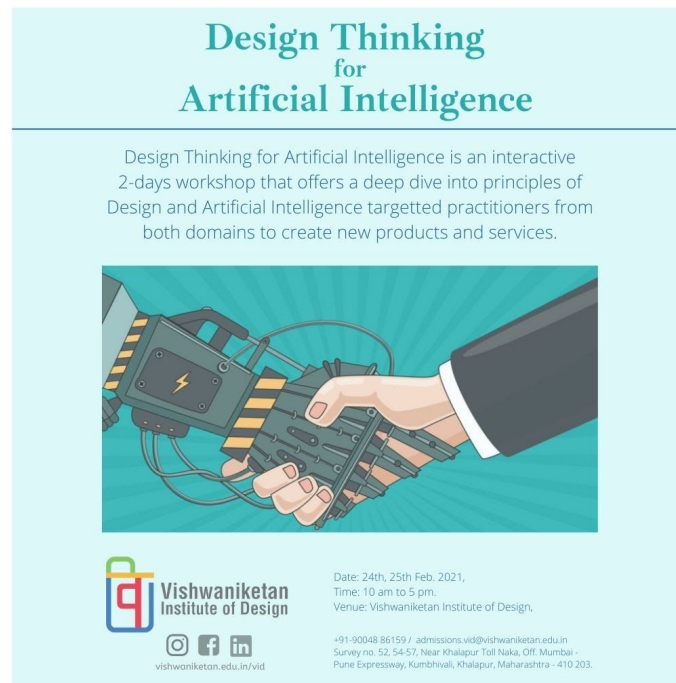# Design Thinking for A.I.

February 24th and 25th, 2021

A 2-day interdisciplinary workshop

On 24th and 25th February '21, Anand Khandekar and his team in collaboration with Vishwaniketan Institute of Design conducted the 2 day workshop "Design Thinking for Artificial Intelligence" which focussed on combining the two domains into one for creating cutting edge technology solutions. This workshop was attended by 25 participants from the Design and Machine Learning fields. During the workshop, attendees shared opinions, thoughts and suggestions for undertaking interdisciplinary pilot projects and further modes of continued engagement.

Executive Summary

Rattan Gangadhar, Director, Vishwaniketan Institute of Design and Anand Khandekar were on hand to open the Workshop proceedings. Dr. Prachi Natu (NMIMS) , Deepak Bhatia, Sushmita Hatte and Diksha Sangle were among the chief facilitators.

The purpose of this 2-day event was to expose the working of the two streams so as to create a canvas for further interdisciplinary interaction.The two days involved interactive sessions and talks. Three varied problem statements were finalised to be worked upon in the coming 8 week period as a result.

Participating TEAMS and their Facilitators

by **Anand Khandekar**

Diversity, the main ingredient!

A Product designer with 20+ years of experience, a mechanical engineering professor for 20 years now running a Computer vision based A.I. company flanked with a mix of web designers, PhD holders in CS were a few of the areas of expertise who came together along with an enthusiastic mix of design and Engineering students .

The common thread binding such diversity was that they were all eager to intermingle and brainstorm over complimenting each other's domain areas to create solutions.

Anand Khandekar, Rattan Gangadhar, Dr. Prachi Natu, Deepak Bhatia, Sushmita Hatte, Diksha Gangele, Naman Vasishth, Mahesh.

[Read more on our website](#)

Workshop Summary

Inaugural Talk :Anand Khandekar

Anand conceived this idea of combining Design and ML/AI practitioners in one cohort and exposed them to each other's domain. Product Designers and PhD holders in CS were a few of the areas of expertise who came together along with an enthusiastic mix of design and Engineering students.

In his inaugural speech, Anand emphasized on the fact that many parallels could be drawn between DT and AI workflow. He further introduced the participants to **Mr. Zulfi Ali Bhutto, Business Head, India and SAARC, STEELCASE** who addressed the crowd over video conferencing and further attested the need of such activities in order to create trained professionals in the near future.

Finally, Anand cited various use case examples where DT and Ml had been merged to create meaningful Human centric technological solutions.
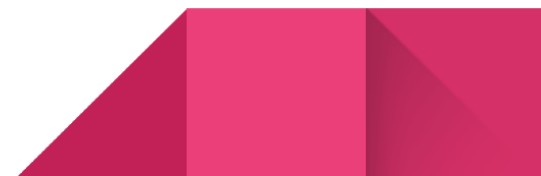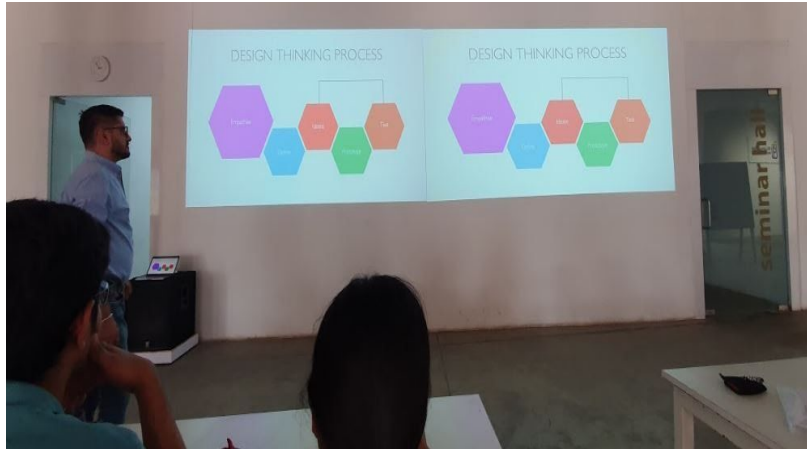
Introduction to ML and AI : Dr. Prachi Natu***

Dr.Prachi, a Ph.D holder in Image Processing, with an area of expertise in Deep learning conducted a technical insights session about explaining the capabilities of Artificial Intelligence. With use of AI applications in day to day life, she cited more in depth technical explanation of how things work around data, models and the overall flow. She imparted the knowledge about how the power of AI can be blended with different fields to create solutions which will be a mixture of human creativity with rational and precise behavior of AI systems.

What is DESIGN THINKING : Deepak Bhatia

Deepak, an experienced Designer himself, having a rich Industry experience with him was next in line to showcase the DESIGN THINKING paradigm and its principles. In order to make the concept understandable to a mixed batch of design students and ML/AI interns, he took a simpler approach to Design Thinking by first making them understand the difference and similarities between the Design Process and the Design thinking process. Coupling that idea with a few live exercises and examples he made it clear that it is possible for all to practice design thinking in day-to-day lives by being empathetic and asking the right questions. Keeping things simple and being rational while deconstructing a problem is the key.

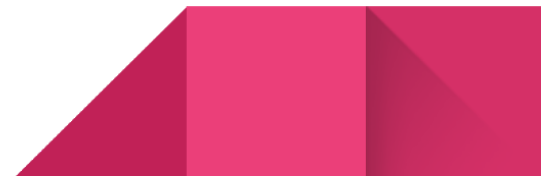## ICE BREAKING session : Ms. Sushmita Hatte

A national level rope MALLAKHAMB champion herself, SUSHMITA is inherently multi talented and was instrumental in getting the teams to know each other and interact more freely. She steered the Ice breaking session that brought the participants to open up and prepared them to collaborate.

Front End Technologies: Mr. Naman Vasishth***

Purpose and SCOPE

The purpose of this 3-day event is to expose the woking of the two streams so as to create a canvas for further interdisciplinary interaction.
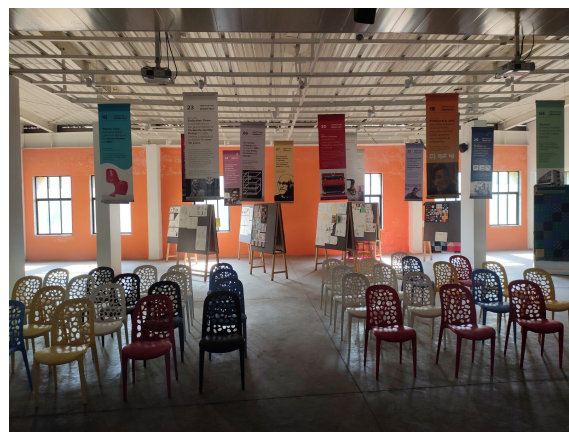
Long term GOALS to be achieved :

- Embrace Inter disciplinary and inter functional TEAMS
- Realign who owns Technological innovation. (not the onus of DL/AI engineers alone)
- Partner Smart Employees with Smart Technology.
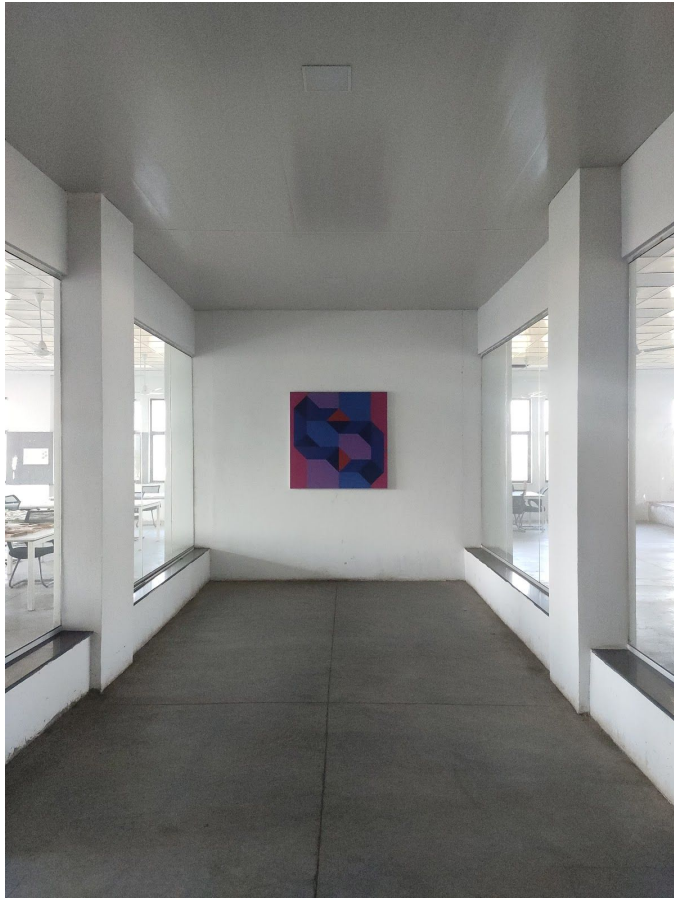- Focus on USER needs(DT) and Customer outcomes (AI ROI)

Location and venue

Vishwaniketan's campus at Kumbhivali was chosen as the perfect location for this 2- day event. The idea was to get the participants in an atmosphere conducive to collaborate. The Vishwaniketan Institute of Design is well equipped for such activities with its open space auditorium and huge white vertical spaces.

Venue : Design Hall # 1, third Floor, VID.

******** Rattan Gangadhar *******

**** One para about SPACEs in VID

(Rattan Gangadhar)

PHOTO Gallery link to be added here.

Program Schedule

Day # 1 : Wednesday, 24th Feb '21.

1. 11:00 - 11:10 :- Inauguration. (put the PLAN here - 5 minutes ceremony)
    a. 11:10 - 11:25 : - Welcome and Introduction -Anand Khandekar. ✔
    b. 11:25 - 11:40 : - Introduction - Rattan Gangadhar
2. 11:45 - 1:00 : Session # 0 -
3. 11:45 - 1:00 Session #1 : Theory - Ml/AI-- Scope,possibilities and reach- Dr. PRACHI
4. 1:00 - 2: 30 : Lunchbreak (travel to and fro)
5. 2:30 - 4:00 :   Session #2 - Theory -Deepak Bhatia
6. 4:00 - 6:00 :   Session #3 - Hands on based on session #1 (ML/AI)
    a. Internet connected Laptop.✔
    b. Google account ✔
    c. COLAB assignments ✔
7. 6:00 - 6:15 - Coffee break
8. 6:15 - 7:00 - Session #4 - EMPATHY - Deepak Bhatia
9. 7:00 - 8:00 - Wrap up presentations by the participants.

Day # 2 : Thursday, 25th Feb '21.

1. 10:30 - 10:45 : Session #5 : Participants to recap Day#1
2. 10:45- 11:00- Session #6 ICEBREAKER - Ms. Sushmita
3. 11:00- 12:00 - Session #7 FRONT END technologies _Naman
4. 11:00- 1:00 - Session #7 DESIGN THINKING Hands- On -Deepak Bhatia ✔
5. 12:00 - 1:00 : Session #8 Hands on NAMAN ✔
6. 1:00 - 2:30 : Lunch (travel to and fro)
7. 2:30 to 3:30 : Preparation and Inter mingling / discussion time.
8. 3:30 - 5:00 : Student presentations.

Behind the Scenes (major support)

No event is ever possible without the relentless work put in prior to the event. This workshop is no exception. A big round of applause to MAHESH who designed the event brochure and to Ms. Diksha for handling all the wonderful stay and travel arrangements.

Feedback

Interactions over the two days were sufficient to achieve 90% of the goals that we set to at the beginning. A lot of takeaways were apparent and have been noted to be incorporated in future events.significant song those are as follows :

- Increase in the number of hands on sessions for both the teams
- Theory sessions to be conducted by design and ML students themselves.
- Involve more number of participants across various branches, both, form design as well as from engineering.
- Define the project titles in the last session.
- Provide more interaction time in between sessions.

The Running Professor

Company Profile

TRP is a company of entrepreneurs dedicated to delivering new age solutions. We are a technology company, one of the largest to create a skilled workforce in A.I space. Our expertise makes us an ideal partner for upskilling individuals and enterprises to build A.I based solutions.

VISION (the Dream) :
To define and create A.I. Solutions for the present and future.

MISSION :
To promote a culture of using responsible A.I based technology solutions among individuals and enterprises. Curate a skilled human workforce that utilizes technology as an assisting tool.

Anand Khandekar

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