

Winning your way through Tech Conferences and Grants!

NIHARIKA KRISHNAN





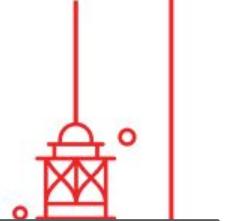
NIHARIKA KRISHNAN

- Machine Learning Engineer at TCS
 - Building NLP based solutions
- Organizer at PyLadies Chennai
 - Community of women Pythonistas
- Speaker
 - PyCon India'20, PyCon India'19
 - PyCon Canada'19
 - PyOhio'20 (v)
- AI and NLP enthusiast



Is this your first
conference?

How tech conferences actually look like...

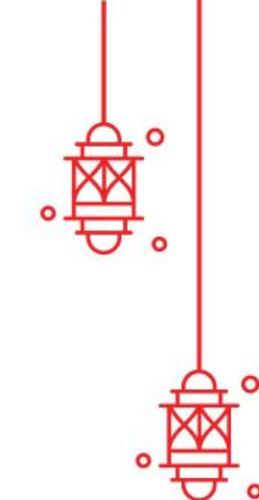


Source: <https://in.pycon.org/2019/>

Why do you attend a
conference?

What do you want out of the conferences?

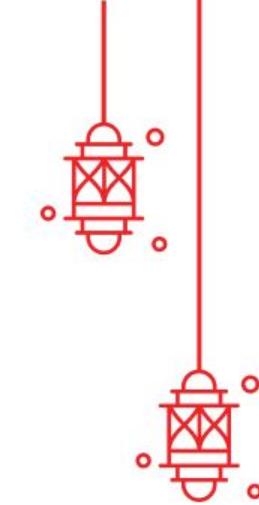
- To expand one's knowledge
 - Learn about what's new
 - Find solutions to problems
 - To learn outside your field
- To network, make new connections
- To find a job/internship
- Take a break off your regular 9-6 job!
- Come out with new ideas, new friends
- Conference Swag (Noooo....)



My PyCon Journey

2018 - Present

PyCon India 2018 - First Time Attendee!



Source: <https://in.pycon.org/2018/>



PyCon India 2018 - First Time Attendee

Technical Talks

Lightning Talks

Keynote Speeches

Job Board

Chapter Booths

Company Booths

Quizzes

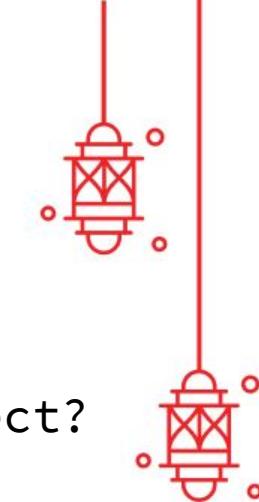
Sponsor Booths

Open Spaces

Workshops

PyCon India 2018 - Manage your time

- Plan your schedule – parallel talk sessions
- **Must see vs Can see**
 - Which topics in line with my current job/project?
 - Most interesting to me personally?
- Which company booths to visit? When?
 - **Tip:** When talks are going on
 - **Result:** Saves time & have more meaningful discussions
- Meet people / join group discussions during breaks



How tech conferences actually look like...



Source: <https://in.pycon.org/2019/>



2020, Online

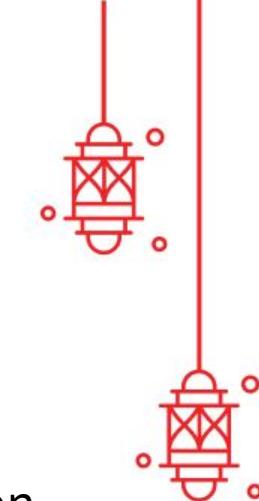
PyCon India 2018 - How to network?

- Talk to me about?
- Attendee/Volunteer/Mentor/Organizer Badges
- Reach out to a speaker after a talk
 - Ask sensible queries
- Prepare some conversation starters
- Exit at the right time.. :P



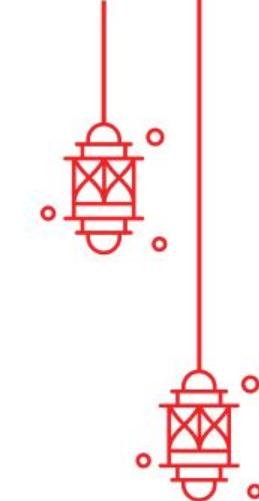
PyCon India 2018 - What to talk?

- I'm just a fresher? Why will they hire me...
- Elevator pitch ready - 30 sec
 - Who you are
 - Area of interest/Projects currently working on
 - Something unique about you
 - Practice, practice, practice
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Are there openings in your company?
- Always connect on LinkedIn



PyCon India 2018 - After Conference

- After conference – Events
- Follow up
- Reach out on LinkedIn / Twitter / Mail
- Collaborate on projects
- Write a blog
- Active on social media
- Join relevant groups
- Give back to the community



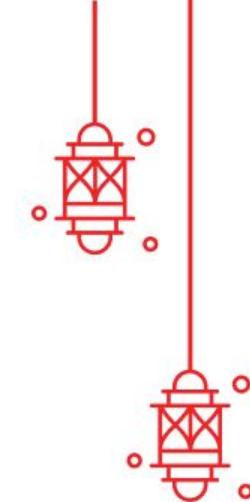
PyCon India 2018 - After Conference

- Reach out on LinkedIn / Twitter / Mail
- Follow up
- Collaborate



PyCon India 2018 - Personal Outcome

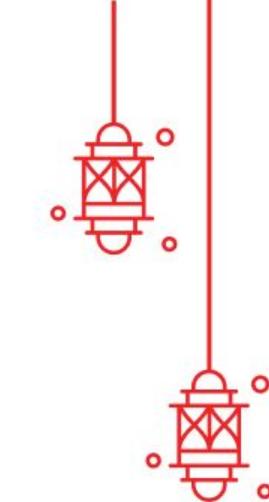
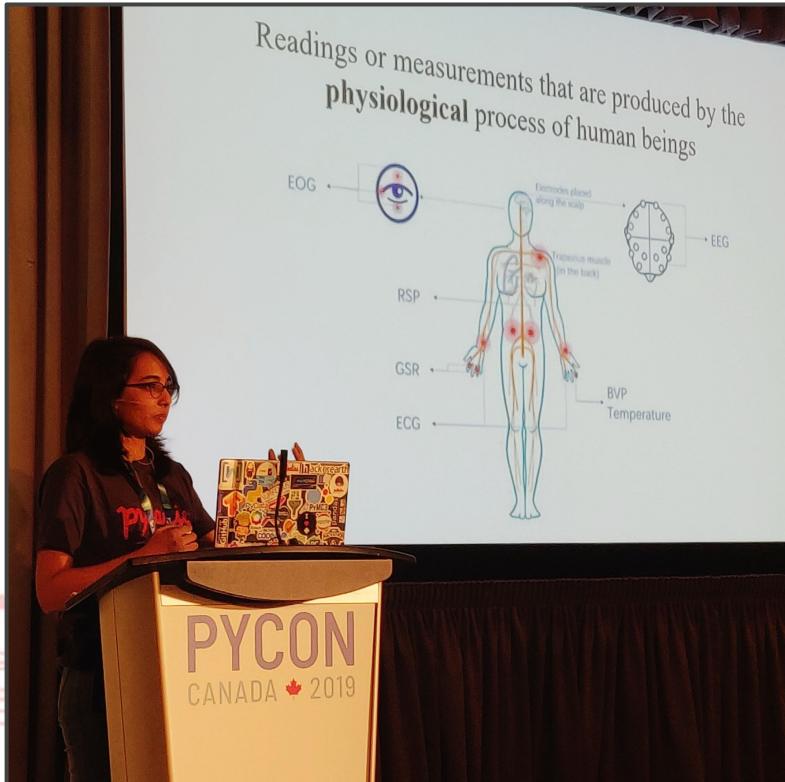
- Found a new approach to my Major Project Idea
 - Thanks to Saptak (Mentor)
 - Received a 10 GPA for major project!
- Learnt about the PyLadies Community
 - Went on to initiate PyLadies Chennai
 - Chennai.pyladies.com
 - Introduction to Python Community
- Landed a Data Science Internship
 - Foray into the world of NLP



PyCon India 2019 - Organizer & Poster Presenter



PyCon Canada 2019 - Speaker



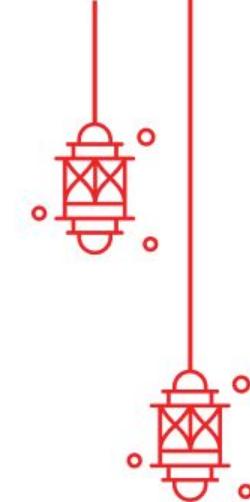
PyCon Canada 2019 - Volunteer



Tips to write a successful talk proposal

Call for Proposals

- Know your timeframe and stick to deadlines
- Even better, submit early
- Finalize with a talk topic
 - Know your topic in and out
 - Do you research
 - Is it relevant? Would you attend it?
- Decide on beginner vs intermediate vs advanced?
- Do not repeat talks if your audience will be the same
- Application oriented!



The art of writing a successful talk proposal

- Topic + Description + Outcomes
 - Have an inquisitive topic
 - Description - Make it elaborate, time split
 - Focus of key objectives, audience takeaway
- Practice, Practice, Practice
 - Understanding autistic children using Biosensors & Python
 - Major Project + Poster Presentation + Family/Friends

Example: How i hand-coded core Machine learning Algorithms from scratch in python, what i learned, and why you should too.

- The big picture ideas behind machine learning, setting up the audience nicely for the upcoming topics.
4. Perceptron and ADALINE (ADaptive Linear NEuron) algorithms [7 minutes]
- Understanding Perceptron, where it all started, and its extension the Adaline Algorithm, how they work, how to train them with relevant code and math.
5. Logistic Regression Algorithm [7 minutes]
- Explaining the LR algorithm, how it works, how to train it, what the parameters do, with accompanying python code and some necessary math.
6. Summing up and outro [2 minutes]
- 1 minute margin ----
7. Q&A [5 minutes]

The 2 minute casual video for the talk, as asked by the administration can be found [here](#)

Peace.

Slides

The slide deck can be found at the repo [here](#). It is Work under progress.

Prerequisites:

Basic Understanding of python, school level math.

Basic Understanding of some linear algebra is encouraged but not necessary.

Curiosity.

Content URLs:

[Slides as pdf](#)

[Video pitch](#)

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I have already written detailed and illustrated posts about these algorithms on my personal blog, which anyone wishing to read can find at:-

[arjunkathuria.com](#)

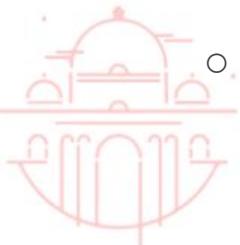
Respective Posts:-

# Write a convincing grant proposal

# Grants



- Monetary Aid vs Travel grants vs Conference ticket grants
- Find organizations which sponsor
  - Conference Organizers
  - GHC - Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Adobe
  - Own organization
- Know the timeframe - Generally along with CFP
- Review guidelines
  - Cover letter
  - Cover letter + Recommendations



# Grants



- Monetary Aid vs Travel grants vs Conference ticket grants
- Statement of Purpose
- What to write?
  - How do you use Python?
  - What do you want to get out of the conference?
  - How will you give back to the community?
  - How can the financial aid help you?
  - Do your background study & research
- Customize it for every conference



PyCon Canada in 2015 supported Autism Speaks with an annual 5K run as part of its conference. Hence, it's only appropriate to introduce to the Canadian community, the concept of using python and machine learning to help autistic children lead better lives. Having submitted a talk proposal titled "Understanding autistic children using Bio Signal Processing in Python", I'd like to shed light on the concept of using physiological signals for emotion recognition. This proposal has been selected to be presented at PyCon India 2019. However, with the global participation that PyCon Canada has, I hope that I'm able to gain valuable insights from the researchers / industry professionals.

Make the most of your next  
tech conference!



# Let's connect!



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