

Weekly
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DISTED COURSE

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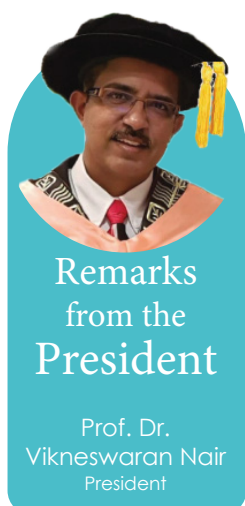


Thaipusam in Penang: A Festival of Devotion and Tradition

DISTED College set up a “Thaneer Panthel” (Water Booth) serving free food and drinks to devotees of the Thaipusam festival in Penang, a vibrant Hindu festival of devotion, penance, and gratitude, marked by elaborate rituals, kavadi offerings, and a grand chariot procession to the Waterfall Hill Temple.

Week's Best Titles

- Thaipusam in Penang: A Festival of Devotion and Tradition
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- Unlocking the Future: Exploring Drone Technology with DISTED College's Creative Multimedia Programme
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- Welcoming New Team Members: Embracing Growth and Opportunities
- DISTED College Conducts Emotional Well-being Session at SMJK Perempuan China Pulau Pinang



Remarks
from the
President

Prof. Dr.
Vikneswaran Nair
President

Thaipusam is a time of devotion, self-reflection, and service to the community. It is heartening to see DISTED College playing a meaningful role in this sacred occasion. This year, we proudly witnessed our students from the Indian Cultural Society reinstating the tradition of setting up the Thaneer Panthel (Water Booth) along the chariot procession route. After a long pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they took the initiative to serve food and drinks to thousands of devotees as the Gold and Silver chariots made their way back to the city centre, passing by DISTED College on the second day of the festival.

This initiative reflects the values of unity, generosity, and cultural appreciation that we uphold at DISTED. It is not just an act of service but a way of strengthening bonds between our students and the wider community. Seeing our students and staff come together in such a meaningful way is truly inspiring. Their efforts exemplify leadership, teamwork, and a deep sense of responsibility, qualities that will guide them beyond their academic journey.

With such a strong spirit of dedication and goodwill, I am confident that 2025 will be a remarkable year for DISTED College.

Congratulations to the students and staff who made this a success—may this tradition continue to grow!

Cover
Story

Thaipusam in Penang: A Festival of Devotion and Tradition

Thaipusam is one of the most significant Hindu festivals in Malaysia, celebrated with grandeur in Penang, particularly at the Arulmigu Balathandayuthapani Temple (Waterfall Hill Temple) and the Nattukottai Chettiar Temple. The festival, dedicated to Lord Murugan, marks the occasion when Goddess Parvati gave him a divine spear (vel) to defeat the demon Soorapadman.

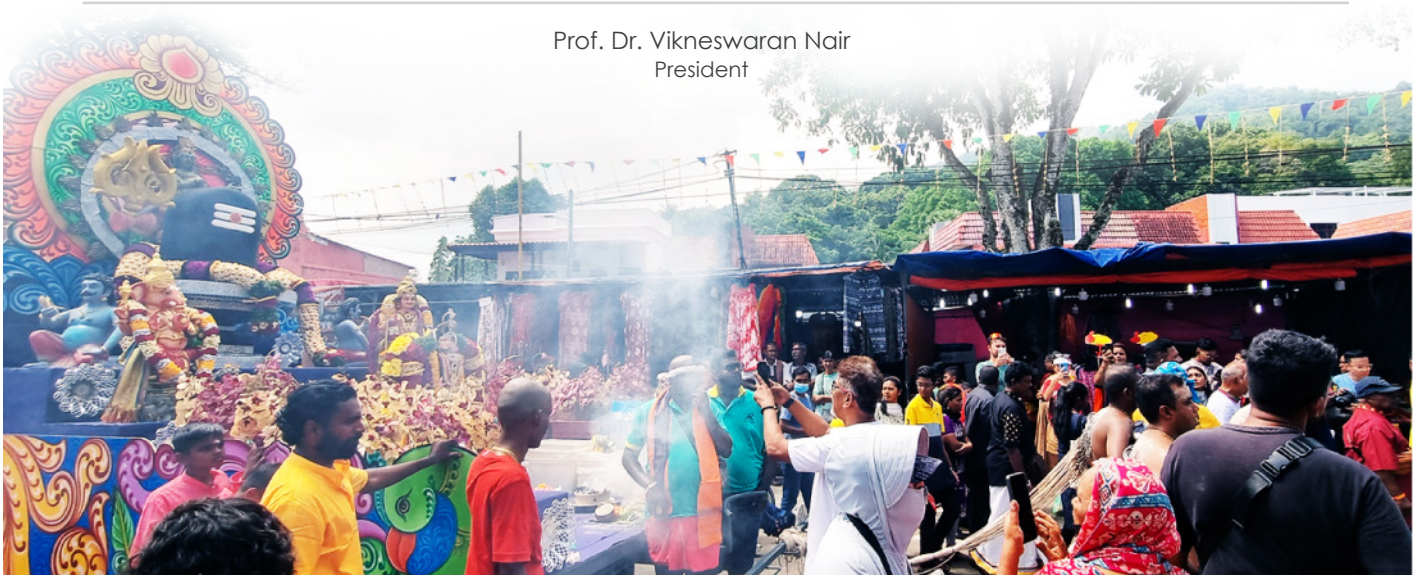
In Penang, the celebrations span three days, beginning with the chariot procession of Lord Murugan from the Sri Mahamariamman Temple in George Town to the Waterfall Hill Temple. The gold and silver chariot, pulled by devotees, is accompanied by thousands of worshippers offering prayers, breaking coconuts, and chanting devotional hymns. Many undertake kavadi, a form of penance involving carrying elaborate structures adorned with peacock feathers and flowers, often pierced through the body with metal hooks and skewers as a symbol of devotion.

The most iconic part of the festival is the climb up the 513 steps to the Waterfall Hill Temple, where devotees offer prayers and fulfil vows. Stalls along the procession route sell traditional Indian sweets, vegetarian food, and prayer items, creating a vibrant atmosphere. Non-Hindus also join the celebration, reflecting Malaysia's multicultural spirit.

Thaipusam is celebrated as an act of devotion, gratitude, and penance. Many devotees undertake the kavadi to seek blessings, fulfil vows, or express thanks for overcoming challenges.



Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President



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My Transformative Journey at DISTED College

I completed the Foundation in Science course at DISTED College in 2024. Established in 1987, DISTED is Penang's first private tertiary institution and has built a strong reputation for offering relevant, affordable courses in a conducive learning environment. During my year at DISTED, I initially felt nervous and uncertain, but the supportive staff and students made my experience enjoyable and memorable. I quickly adapted to the new environment, growing both academically and personally. The college fosters a strong culture of sharing and teamwork, where teachers and classmates are always willing to help. With small class sizes, every student receives individual attention, ensuring no one is left behind. The lecturers are highly qualified and approachable. I particularly enjoyed studying biology, chemistry, and psychology, as lessons combined classwork with lab sessions, fieldwork, and soft skills development, making learning engaging. Balancing academics with my squash training as part of the Penang Junior Squash team was challenging, but learning the Pomodoro Technique at DISTED helped me improve my focus and time management. My time at DISTED shaped me into a more responsible, resilient, and motivated person. While squash kept me fit and focused, the college experience instilled confidence and broadened my academic horizons, opening doors to various potential career paths.

Alexa Chan Xi Yan
Alumni of the Foundation in Science



Alexa with her parents, YBhg. Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. Chan Ngai Weng and YBhg. Datin Sheila.

Unlocking the Future: Exploring Drone Technology with DISTED College's Creative Multimedia Programme

In a recent event with the SPM School leavers at DISTED College, the Diploma in Creative Multimedia Production (DCMP) programme hosted a talk introducing high school students to drone technology. The session showcased the potential of drones like the Tello and DJI FPV, highlighting their applications in industries such as agriculture, entertainment, and search-and-rescue. The speaker explained how drones have evolved from simple gadgets to essential tools for photography, delivery, and surveying. Students were introduced to the growing demand for drone-related skills and how the DCMP programme at DISTED College equips them with expertise in digital media, multimedia tools, and drone technology. With a curriculum combining technical knowledge and hands-on experience, the programme prepares students for careers as drone operators, content creators, and more. By the end of the session, students gained insights into the transformative role of drones and how



they can be part of this evolving field through the DCMP programme.

Seethai Subramaniam
Head, School of Computing & Engineering

The Growing Role of FinTech in Malaysia: Implications for Accounting Students

Malaysia is rapidly becoming a FinTech hub in Southeast Asia, with mobile payments, e-wallets, and digital banking expanding financial access. Apps like GrabPay, Boost, and Touch 'n Go are widely used, especially in rural areas. Government initiatives such as the Digital Banking Framework and MyDIGITAL support this growth by promoting collaboration between FinTech startups and financial institutions. DISTED's accounting programmes equip students with essential FinTech skills through courses like FinTech for Accountants, Accounting Information Systems (AIS), Computerised Accounting, E-commerce, and Data Analytics. Students gain hands-on experience with digital tools for financial data analysis, cloud computing, and digital payment systems, while developing expertise in areas like blockchain auditing, fraud detection, and regulatory compliance. Despite challenges like cybersecurity risks and digital literacy gaps, FinTech continues to transform the financial sector. DISTED graduates, equipped with digital financial expertise, will be well-prepared to succeed in an increasingly tech-driven accounting profession.

Sharizan Abdul Rashid
Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality



Welcoming New Team Members: Embracing Growth and Opportunities

Ugartini Magesvaran and Chow Wey Shern have recently joined DISTED College, bringing fresh perspectives to their respective roles. Ugartini, a lecturer with a Master's in Education and a background in Malay Literature, is committed to fostering critical thinking and student success as she joins the School of Communications and General Studies. Wey Shern, a graduate of DISTED's Diploma in Business Information Technology, has stepped into the Marketing and Communications Department, managing social media, content creation, and student engagement. Both embrace new challenges beyond their academic backgrounds, seeing their roles as opportunities for growth, learning, and contribution to the college. Their journeys reflect a commitment to innovation, adaptability, and professional development.

Raziah binti Ehia Mohd
Human Resources Department



Ugartini Magesvaran

Chow Wey Shern

DISTED College Conducts Emotional Well-being Session at SMJK Perempuan China Pulau Pinang

On 18 December 2024, DISTED College lecturers and student volunteers conducted an emotional well-being session for 200 Form 3 students at SMJK Perempuan China Pulau Pinang. The session aimed to enhance self-awareness, empathy, and resilience through interactive activities. Students began with a Guided Breathing and Mindfulness Exercise, learning techniques to manage stress and stay present using the 4-4-4 breathing method. This was followed by Motivation Scrabble, where small groups connected positive words around a central motivational theme, fostering teamwork and self-reflection. The session concluded with Wishes on Paper Stars, where students wrote encouraging messages on handmade paper stars and exchanged them with peers to promote kindness and support. Through these activities, students developed practical strategies for managing emotions, supporting one another, and practicing mindfulness. The session reinforced emotional resilience and the importance of small acts of kindness in everyday life.

Thiresyinie A/P Tamil Chelvam
Lecturer, School of Psychology



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