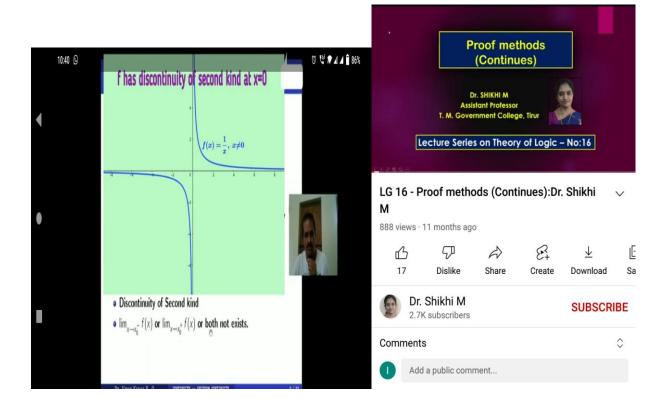
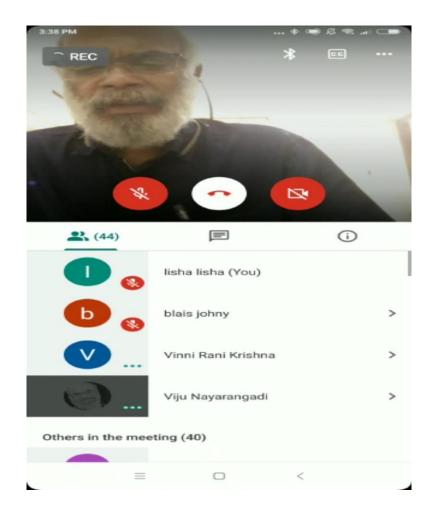
## **Best Practices 2020-2021**

# 1. Online Padanathinoru Kaithangu (A Helping Hand towards Online Learning)

The practice was initiated to ensure that the digital divide did not hamper the academic requirements of our students during the Covid 19 pandemic. The pandemic necessitated the transition from traditional to online classrooms so rapidly. Surveys were conducted through WhatsApp groups by each department, and the number of students who lacked accessibility to online learning was identified. The faculty and College Union raised funds and provided mobile phones to these learners. The participation of students in online classes increased with this supportive intervention.







## 2. Maths Aspirants

Maths Aspirants is an initiative started by Dr. Vinod Kumar P., Associate Professor of Mathematics, T.M.Govt. College, Tirur, Kerala. Maths Aspirants WhatsApp Groups were created in 2017, with limited participants from his student circles, to provide an online platform to share views and discuss doubts on Maths concepts and problems and to facilitate preparations for exams like JAM/NET/JRF/GATE/TIFR, etc. This student's oriented group soon garnered a huge acceptance leading to the creation of five more annexure WhatsApp groups with maximum membership. These groups have now become an effective platform for those who are curious and passionate about Mathematics. Many of the group members succeeded in various competitive exams and are now pursuing PG/Ph.D. programmes in many premier institutions.

Dr. Vinod Kumar. P started conducting Online Exam Series and Online Problem-Solving Sessions for Maths students to keep them in touch with the subject and to hone their problem solving skills for the competitive examinations in a time-bound format, when the COVID-19 pandemic brought regular education to a halt.

Participation in the tests and problem-solving sessions are purely voluntary and they have reportedly helped students to revise important concepts. More than 50 online examinations and 80 live problem-solving sessions have been successfully conducted since April 2020. The uniqueness of the Problem-Solving Sessions is that they were handled by research scholars and young faculty members from premier institutions in India and from abroad.

### FODDER FOR THE BRAIN

# Tirur professor's online maths test turns students' heads

#### ASWIN NANDAKUMAR @Kozhikode

DURING the lockdown when the Netflix generation is falling head over heels over the 'Professor' of smash-hit series 'Money Heist', a real-life professor from Parappanangadi in Malappuram has grabbed national attention for academic reasons.

While educators are feeling stuck at home due to the lock-down, Dr Vinod Kumar P, assistant professor at Thunchan Memorial College, Tirur, diligently launched a weekly online maths test using 'Google Docs' app. By the end of his fourth test, his initiative gained ground among maths geeks across the nation, aspiring to crack competitive exams like

NET, GATE and IIT-JAM. The number of students taking up his weekly test skyrocketed as the link was shared in various study circles on social media.

His fourth test, held last Saturday, had 933 takers from across 24 states. Three students from Pakistan also enrolled themselves for the test. Students from premier institutes like IITs and NITs also signed up in large numbers.

"The response is surprising," says Vinod who delved into the online medium only to conduct an internal exam for his students. His test — comprising 25 questions — designed in multiple select formats, covers one topic every week. Each test is online only for 75 minutes on Saturday,



from 8pm to 9.15pm. The topic for the next exam is announced a week before.

The earlier exams focused on topics like real analyses, topology, differential calculus, and convergence and continuity.

Soon, Vinod's tests became a talking point in academic cir-

3

The response is surprising. Three students from Pakistan also enrolled for the test. Students from premier institutes like ITs and NITs also signed up in large numbers

Dr Vinod Kumar P

cles in the country.

"It is seamless and impressive," says Avishek Adhikari, mathematics professor of the prestigious Presidency University, Kolkata. "By the fourth edition of the test, my students have shown remarkable improvement in performance," he

Vinod says setting the questions takes two-three days.

"It's time consuming. I need to give the answer key, answer explanation, provide graphics as well as the link for further reading," says the 39-year old who is also the academic chief of the Kerala government's education initiative 'Dhanush'.

Soon after the test, Vinod announces the results as well as the names of top 10 performers. "Each participant also gets a copy of his answer sheet, too, along with other statistics."

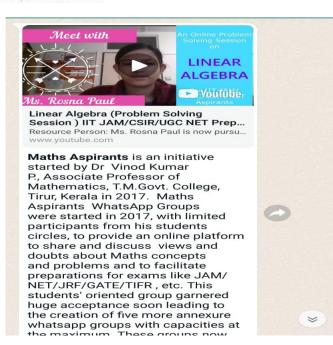
Meanwhile, Vinod gets complete statistics on which questions were the most difficult as well as the pattern of errors.

"It is a great feeling. I wish to make it a fortnight activity after the lockdown ends," says the PhD-holder from Calicut University. "With technology adoption, possibilities are infinite."

Mon, 18 May 2020

EXPRESS https://epaper.newindianexpress.com/c/51996505





# **YouTube Links of Maths Aspirants:**

1. Role of Mathematics in Cybersecurity, by

Prof. Avishek Adhikari, Presidency University, Kolkata (15/8/2020)

https://youtu.be/dsVhwKK4vDM

(Promo Video: https://youtu.be/ofWW8IRDrnA)

2. Artificial intelligence: Myths and Realities by Dr. Chandrasekhar Lakshmi Narayan, IIT Palakkad

(29/11/2020)

https://youtu.be/kVuD9oy9uLU

(Promo Video:

https://youtu.be/qUyfTNBAKBs)

## **News reports about Maths Aspirants:**

Mathrubhumi:

 $\underline{https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/good-news/malappuram-professor-s-online-math-exams-is-a-hit-worldwide-1.4974704}$ 

Asianet: <a href="https://www.asianetnews.com/amp/careers/college-lecturer-gives-online-practice-to-solve-maths-qf91wp">https://www.asianetnews.com/amp/careers/college-lecturer-gives-online-practice-to-solve-maths-qf91wp</a>

Twenty Four:

https://youtu.be/0lkUrqWGeaA