

Decoding Data Science

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE



The recently held 4th Annual International Data Science summit proved to be the ideal forum for understanding the domain's development curve and the nature and impact of the latest disruptive solutions adopted by corporates and start-ups

Towards New Horizon

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Data Science Foundation (DSF), a non-profit entity engaged with the advancement of Data Science (analytics and big data) organised the 4th Annual International Data Science Summit in association with Economic Times on August 11 at The Park, Kolkata. Sponsored by the department of Information Technology & Electronics, Govt of West Bengal and supported by NASSCOM, the summit was inaugurated by chief guest Bratya Basu, minister-in-charge, department of IT & Electronics, Govt of West Bengal.

Debashis Sen, additional chief secretary, Govt of West Bengal, Mikhail Gusev, deputy consul general, Russian Federation, Gautam Banerjee, president, Data Science Foundation and Nirupam Chaudhuri, head, NASSCOM-East also graced the event among others. At the event, Ambarish Dasgupta, former national consulting head of KPMG was felicitated by Aninda Chatterjee, executive director, WEBEL on behalf of DSF for being the mentor and guide to the institution and strategically building the ecosystem



of Data Science since last four years.

The summit provided an unique platform for both the industry and academia to deliberate and discuss the effect of data in the new economy, its challenges, research and career opportunities along with the latest trend in AI, cognitive learning, IOT, deep learning etc. Importantly, the panel discussed how to adopt to the data driven culture in organisations. The session started with the brief summary of applications of data science in various domains of businesses as delivered by Nirupam Chaudhuri.

Highlighting the importance of Data

Science, Basu said that the state will soon launch National Institute of Data Science. Sen, on the other hand pointed that "more emphasis should be given on the applications of data science for public infrastructure, government schemes and social good, apart from corporate functions."

Speaking about the usage of Data Science by the corporate houses, Banerjee mentioned, "It is important for CEOs of companies to understand how to differentiate between IT application implementation and analytics applications. It will help them to avoid failures and successfully gain disproportionate business



benefits through data science techniques." Angshuman Paul, VP & executive director, First American, said, "The company is trying to apply data science techniques to develop early warning system to flag possible frauds."

Mainak Sen, Director of Business Brio, explained the niche techniques of machine learning like clustering to the absolute delight of the distinguished technical audience while Kaushik Dey, practice head of Analytics at Ericsson emphasised the key areas where data scientists should focus to successfully drive business improvements.

This was followed by a prize distribution ceremony where Manjit Nayak, head, STPI Kolkata, conferred Data Science Excellence Awards on corporates – Deep Identity & CESC Ltd, and Young Data Science Leadership Award on Tanmoy Mukhopadhyay, master black belt, ANZ.

Speaking on the occasion Mukhopadhyay complimented DSF by saying, "Its vision is similar to a unique 'learning cohort' in the region for the data scientists' community and accordingly it's conducting its role towards the evolving IT/ITES industry."

Several other innovation and hurdles that the young organisations are facing in regards to Data Science and the way they are dealing with it were discussed by eminent panellists that included Soma Banerjee, director & CEO of Business Brio, Shantanu Som, CEO, Somnetics, Sanjoy Chatterjee, CTO, Ideal Analytics and Sarit Bose, director of Protiviti. After the panel discussion, Prodip Mukhopadhyay, GM, WEBEL launched Data Astronaut – the world's first print magazine on data science.

Other coveted speakers included Atul Agarwal, founder of Apt Software, Bhushan Sonkusare, VP of Publicis Sapient India, Joy Mustafi, principal applied scientist from Microsoft, Sandeep Thakur, principal consultant, Deep Identity and Prof Arnab Kumar Laha, IIM, Ahmedabad, who is considered as a distinguished mentor in this domain and is also the author of best-selling Data Science books worldwide. In the last session of the day, Venu Madhav, the global P2P leader of Honeywell, mesmerised the audience while discussing the importance and need for amalgamation of multiple disciplines to make a good data scientist. The conference, well organised and well represented, was a mind broaden-er. It became clear that the potential impact of big data on society in the near future is going to be game changing. It's amazing to see the extent of innovation and creativity present in our country.