



ATHARVA

Oct'24
Edition 75

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The October edition of Atharva highlights cultural celebrations and offers insights into the latest technological innovations.



ONAM

SCIT celebrated Onam with traditional Pookalam designs, a grand Onasadhya feast, and vibrant cultural activities.



NAVRATRI

SCIT's Navratri featured a traditional aarti, fun musical chairs, and a lively garba night, uniting students in a joyful celebration.



Agile Leadership

An insightful guest lecture on Agile leadership emphasized strategy, adaptability, and the importance of Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) in today's dynamic business environment.



Rise of AI in Management

The blog on AI in Business highlighted how AI-driven tools transform decision-making and optimize operations across industries.



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Blockchain technology has evolved beyond cryptocurrencies, enhancing supply chain transparency, securing transactions, and improving data privacy across industries.



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Gamification in business management uses game-like elements to boost engagement, productivity, and learning, turning work into a more enjoyable and motivating experience.



Faculty Spotlight

Highlighting the expertise, achievements, and contributions of SCIT's distinguished faculty members.



Senior Scoop: Tales & Tips

Insights from Senior Committee Members: valuable advice and experiences shared by seniors to guide and inspire students.



Star Alumnus

Celebrate the achievements and success stories of our outstanding alumni in their respective fields.



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the October edition of Atharva magazine! As we embrace the festive spirit, our SCIT campus is alive with vibrant celebrations and fresh insights into emerging technologies.



Welcome to this October 2024 edition of Atharva! As we transition from the festive season to a more reflective period, this month's edition features a diverse selection of topics. From cultural celebrations to technological innovations, these articles aim to offer insights, inspiration, and a bit of festive cheer.

We start with a glimpse into the Onam celebration, where the campus came alive with the vibrant hues and rich traditions of Kerala's beloved festival. The article recounts how students and faculty came together to mark this occasion with Pookalams, cultural performances, and of course, a sumptuous Onam Sadhya. It reminds us of the joy that cultural diversity brings to our SCIT community.

As the festive mood continues, we also share our experience celebrating Navratri. The event takes you through the energy and devotion that filled the air during the ecstatic night of dance, devotion, and celebration in the sports arena. The article reflects on how the campus embraced this traditional festival with Garba, Dandiya, and a spirit of unity that extended beyond cultural boundaries.

On a professional note, we delve into some of the transformative trends shaping the business world today. Our blog on agile leadership discusses how leaders can drive their teams from strategy to execution. It emphasizes the significance of understanding roles within agile frameworks and offers practical insights to navigate the complexities of this dynamic approach to project management.

The article on the rise of AI in business management explores how artificial intelligence is not just a technological advancement but a tool for revolutionizing decision-making processes. From predictive analytics to automated processes, AI is becoming an integral part of business strategies.

For those curious about technological innovations, our blog on the evolution of blockchain goes beyond the buzz of cryptocurrency. It highlights blockchain's potential to transform industries such as supply chain management, healthcare, and beyond.

Lastly, the article on gamification in business management showcases how integrating game design elements into workplace practices can make tasks more engaging, thus turning work into play. This trend is reshaping the way companies motivate employees and foster a culture of collaboration.

Onam Celebration



The festival of Onam is celebrated throughout the state of Kerala. During Onam, Kerala is marked by happiness, excitement, and enjoyment among everyone. Onam is celebrated as a harvest festival marking the homecoming of the legendary King Mahabali, symbolizing prosperity and unity. The cultural committees of SCIT, SIIB, and SCHMRD organized the Onam celebrations, where the festive spirit was embraced through traditional customs and vibrant cultural activities.

The festivities began with the creation of Pookalam, an intricate and colorful floral arrangement made from various flowers and leaves. Students showcased their creativity by crafting stunning Pookalam designs, adding a visual charm to the event.



The celebrations continued with Onasadhya, a grand feast served during the festival of Onam, that brought students from diverse backgrounds to experience the authentic flavors of Kerala. The Onasadhya served not only as a culinary delight but also as a symbol of unity, as everyone shared the joy of this cultural experience.



Vadamvali is a traditional tug-of-war game played during the festival, showcasing strength and teamwork in a spirited competition. This lively activity brought a wave of excitement, further fueling the sense of togetherness and celebration.

By hosting such cultural events, the SIC campus fosters cultural awareness, unity, and inclusivity, offering students a platform to engage, learn, and showcase their culture and diversity.



-By Abhijeet Koltharkar

Navratri Celebration



At SCIT, the Navratri celebrations were a perfect blend of tradition, fun, and community spirit. The evening commenced with a traditional aarti to seek blessings and invoke the divine energy of goddess Durga. Students gathered in vibrant attire, as the SIC ground echoed with devotional chants and the warmth of diyas filled the atmosphere with positivity and reverence.

Post the aarti, the energy on the ground shifted towards light-hearted fun with a lively game of musical chairs. The game brought out everyone's competitive spirit as participants dodged, ran, and scrambled for seats, filling the air with laughter and joy. The crowd's enthusiasm for cheering on their friends made the activity even more enjoyable, reminding everyone of the simple pleasures of these festivities.

The highlight of the evening was the much-anticipated garba night. The venue transformed into a vibrant celebration as colorful lights and traditional music set the tone. Everyone, from beginners to seasoned dancers, took to the floor, forming circles and moving in sync with the rhythmic beats of folk songs. Dressed in traditional attire, the dancers lit up the night with their infectious energy and graceful moves.

Navratri at SCIT wasn't just a celebration; it was a moment of unity where everybody came together to rejoice in the spirit of the festival. The evening ended on a high note, leaving everyone with memories of an unforgettable night filled with devotion, laughter, and dance.

- By Priyajeet Ghosh



From Strategy to Execution: Understanding Your Role in Agile Leadership

Mr. Ranjeet Ghadge, a seasoned professional with 17 years of experience in strategy, transformation, coaching, and consulting, delivered an insightful lecture on Agile leadership. Anshul Balpande, from the Guest Lecture Committee, highlighted Mr Ghadge's extensive experience in leading multidisciplinary teams across frameworks like Agile Scrum, Kanban, SAP 5.0, CMMI, ITIL, and ISO 9001.

Mr. Ghadge, an alumnus of SCIT (batch 2005-07), shared his professional journey, which began as a computer science engineer and evolved through various roles, including process consultant and Enterprise Agile Coach. His experience underscored the importance of understanding the entire organizational ecosystem, a key theme in his consulting and coaching work. He also highlighted the critical distinction between vision, mission, values, and objectives, explaining how these elements align to form a coherent strategy. He urged the audience to approach strategy systematically, with empathy toward client needs, to deliver tailored solutions.

One of the key takeaways was the importance of Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) in translating organizational goals into actionable steps. According to Mr. Ghadge, Agile methodology plays a vital role in responding to change and ensuring continuous improvement. He explained the various roles within Agile, including Scrum Masters, System Architects, and Product Owners. Scrum Masters ensure smooth project execution by managing ceremonies and addressing challenges, while System Architects focus on providing the technical guidance necessary for adaptability. Product Owners are responsible for writing user stories, prioritizing features, and closely collaborating with development teams to meet business requirements.

Mr. Ghadge encouraged the audience to pursue strategic roles such as product owner or systems analyst early in their careers to gain a holistic view of the industry. He emphasized the importance of continuous learning, adaptability, and a deep understanding of the organizational ecosystem to succeed in today's dynamic business environment. The session ended on a high note as Assistant Professor Dr. Tamal Mondal honoured Mr. Ghadge with a warm felicitation, acknowledging his profound insights and remarkable contribution to the lecture series.

- By Keerthana Sheeja



The Rise of AI in Business Management: Revolutionizing Decision-Making




AI is revolutionizing business management by introducing AI-powered tools that enable faster, more data-driven decision-making across industries. With the rise of machine learning, predictive analytics, and automation, AI is transforming traditional business practices, optimizing operations, and improving customer experiences.

One of the critical areas AI impacts is decision-making. By analyzing vast amounts of data in real-time, AI-driven systems identify patterns and trends that are not immediately apparent to humans. This capability allows businesses to make more informed and accurate decisions, reducing the risk of human error and bias. For instance, in financial services, AI models predict market trends, assess credit risks, and detect fraud more efficiently than manual methods.

In operations, AI optimizes supply chain management by forecasting demand, managing inventory, and automating routine tasks such as order processing. This improves efficiency while reducing costs. In human resources, AI streamlines recruitment by quickly screening candidates, analyzing resumes, and predicting job performance based on specific criteria. This enables companies to find better talent matches, saving time and resources.

AI also enhances customer engagement by enabling hyper-personalization. AI-driven algorithms analyze consumer behavior, preferences, and purchase history to deliver tailored recommendations, offers, and services. Additionally, AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants transform customer service by providing 24/7 support, addressing queries, and resolving issues instantly. As AI continues to evolve, its role in business management will expand, driving innovation and efficiency. Companies that adopt AI-driven solutions are better equipped to stay competitive, making it a critical tool in modern business strategies.

- By Sheeja Keerthana



The Evolution of Blockchain: Beyond Cryptocurrency

Blockchain technology, originally associated with cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, has grown far beyond its initial scope. As an MBA student studying emerging trends, it's exciting to see how blockchain is transforming business ecosystems across various industries, offering solutions to key challenges.

One of the most impactful uses of blockchain is in supply chain management. Traditional supply chains often suffer from inefficiencies and a lack of transparency due to multiple intermediaries. Blockchain's decentralized ledger creates a transparent, tamper-proof record of every transaction, allowing businesses to track products in real-time from production to delivery. This helps reduce fraud, verify product authenticity, and streamline operations. Companies like Walmart and IBM are already using blockchain to improve food traceability, enabling quicker responses to contamination.

Blockchain is also reshaping secure transactions. Its decentralized structure eliminates the need for intermediaries like banks, making transactions faster and more secure. Smart contracts—self-executing agreements with predefined conditions—are becoming popular in real estate and insurance industries. These contracts enable automatic and trustworthy transactions without third-party involvement.

Another important application of blockchain is in data privacy. In a world where data breaches are common, blockchain offers a solution by giving users control over their personal information. The encryption methods used in blockchain ensure that data remains secure and accessible only to authorized parties. This makes blockchain an invaluable tool in sectors such as healthcare and finance, where protecting sensitive information is critical.

In summary, blockchain is evolving far beyond its roots in cryptocurrency, playing a transformative role in supply chains, secure transactions, and data privacy and driving innovation in the business world.

- By Yuktha M. Pulukkul

Gamification in Business Management: Turning Work into Play

Gamification is transforming business management by integrating game-like elements into workplace activities to boost employee engagement, productivity, and learning. It involves applying features such as points, badges, leaderboards, and challenges to motivate employees and make work more enjoyable.

Employees are motivated and dedicated to their work when they are given engaging and rewarding assignments through gamification. For example, in the case of Salesforce, the gamified learning platform is applied through "Trailhead." It makes the employees achieve badges after completing modules in training, thus creating a feeling of accomplishment. This approach not only enhances skills but also improves job satisfaction.

Productivity is another area where gamification shines. Companies like Microsoft have lately embraced "MyAnalytics," a gamified dashboard application meant to challenge employees on coming up with productivity goals and following them through. The system rewards users with achievement badges for meeting their targets, thus driving higher performance.

Corporate learning is also being revolutionised by gamification. For instance, Deloitte's Leadership Academy employs gamified learning modules where employees earn rewards and advance through levels as they complete courses. This led to much higher rates of course completion and retention of knowledge.

Real-world successes demonstrate that gamification can effectively transform mundane tasks into engaging experiences. SAP's "Roadwarrior," a sales training program, uses game mechanics to train sales teams in a simulated environment. The program increased engagement levels by 50% and improved sales performance.

By incorporating game elements into business management, companies can create an environment that fosters motivation, encourages continuous learning, and drives productivity, ultimately turning work into a more enjoyable experience.

- By Priyajeet Ghosh



UNVEILING INSIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Kanchan Patil

Deputy Director at SCIT



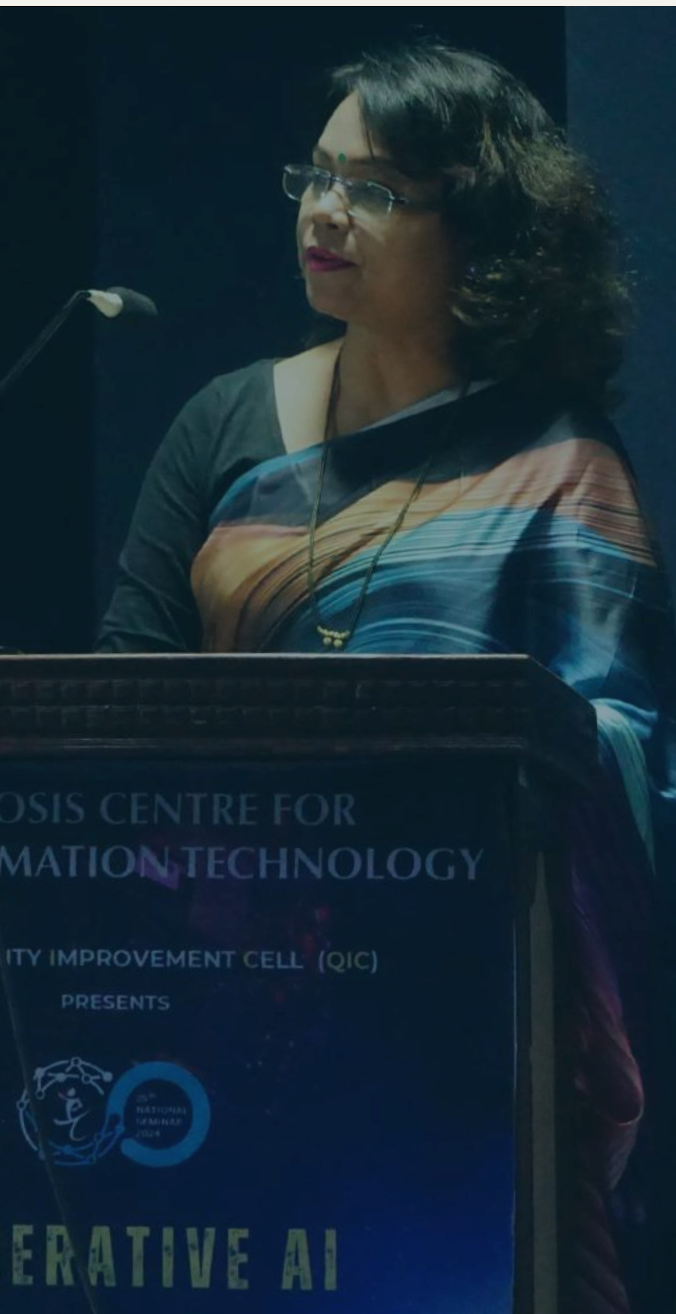
Q: Are there any recent achievements or milestones, either personal or professional, that you're particularly proud of?

A: Certainly. On a personal level, I'm very proud of my son, who's currently studying AI and ML in engineering. Recently, he and his team of 13 students from Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering designed unmanned drone vehicles and were invited to participate in an international competition held in California on the Apollo 11 grounds. Their design placed 10th worldwide, which is significant as only two teams from India participated. It was gratifying to see his hard work recognized on such a big platform. Seeing him succeed in such a way was very fulfilling, especially given the challenges of today's mobile-centric generation versus the more traditional academic path I value.

Professionally, I've recently marked a decade at SCIT and currently serve as Deputy Director. This role has given me the chance to develop extensive people management skills, overseeing accreditation and audit committees and managing group dynamics effectively. I've received recognition from senior leadership, which has been rewarding. This position has also deepened my understanding of student needs beyond academics, allowing me to address issues ranging from personal challenges to mental health concerns. The role has really shaped my ability to connect with both students and faculty on a more meaningful level.

UNVEILING INSIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Q: What's a unique teaching hack or trick you've discovered that makes your classes more engaging or efficient?

A: Well, I wouldn't say I'm into gamification as much as some of my colleagues, who often use games to engage students. I follow a more traditional teaching approach—relying on PPTs, writing, and dictations. However, I do aspire to incorporate elements like gamification and simulations, especially for subjects like Industry 4.0 and Marketing. I've seen interactive materials, such as McGraw Hill's books with simulations, which could create a more dynamic learning environment.

Beyond techniques, I find it essential to read the room and adapt. Sometimes students aren't in the mood, and I'll crack a joke or two to lighten things up, while other times I might need to be a bit stricter. It's all about striking a balance: being empathetic but firm. A mix of care and discipline helps keep the classroom both engaging and focused.

Q: What is the most surprising thing you've learned from students over the years? Or is there a particular incident you'd like to share?

A: Definitely, I've had many learnings from students over the years, especially in a B-school environment where students come with diverse backgrounds and industry experience. For instance, during a discussion on Industry 4.0, I was explaining the integration of IT and OT. One student shared his experience working with a company where he'd seen an alternative approach to distributed control systems. Moments like these are incredibly heartening, as they remind me that students are not only listening but actively contributing.

At the start of my academic career, I wasn't as experienced, and at times I'd make mistakes or miss certain points, which students would correct on the spot. That real-time feedback has always been a great learning experience for me. It's wonderful to see how the classroom can be a two-way learning environment.

SENIOR SCOOP : TALES & TIPS

From Praghya Committee



**Pujali
Bhaumik**

Q: What three items would you include in an “MBA Survival Kit” for future students?

A: In my “MBA Survival Kit,” I’d toss in the 3P’s essentials: People Skills—because making small talk and networking is practically a degree requirement. Patience—for when you’re juggling three deadlines and two group projects. Problem-Solving—since, let’s face it, there’s no case study on simply surviving MBA chaos!

Q: Where’s the most unusual place you’ve worked on an assignment or prepped for an exam?

A: At a bustling airport gate, surrounded by chatty travellers and a movie enthusiast blasting sound, I balanced a coffee on my laptop and wrestled with a tangled charger. Yet, with the chaos buzzing around me, I focused like I was in a library—because nothing sharpens concentration like a looming deadline!

Q: If you could have dinner with any business leader or entrepreneur (living or dead), who would it be and what would you ask them?

A: If given the chance, I would have dinner with the late Ratan Tata. Having worked at TCS, one of the Tata Conglomerates, I deeply admire his visionary leadership. I’d ask him how he balanced social responsibility with business growth, and how he envisioned legacy beyond financial success.

From Konnect Committee



**Kunal
Tewari**

Q: What’s the one thing you wish you had done more of during your first year?

A: I wish I had invested my time in exploring the nearby places, as I did in my graduation, to find all the hidden gems nearby. If I could get back in time, I’ll ditch with some friends and buy a vehicle, to explore more.

Q: What’s the most random thing you’ve done on campus out of boredom?

A: This is going to be interesting. One of my roommates was a sound sleeper. So, one fine day, a bunch of us decided to lift his bed and move it from the room to the balcony. We were partly successful, however, it’s that hilarious moment that we silently celebrate.

Q: What’s one thing you’ve learned from your roommate?

A: Room-mates, I would say. To understand, cherish and show patience towards each other. This helped us in creating a lasting synergy.

From Drishtikon Committee



**Akshita
Trivedi**

Q: If you could design your own course, what would it be called and what would it teach?

A: If I could design my own course, I'd call it "Beyond the Algorithm". As a Data Science and Analytics student, I've learned to build models and code, but there's still a need to showcase data storytelling and creative insight design for impactful decision-making. This course would provide that platform through case studies, real-world data simulation, and live industry-driven projects to build these essential skills.

Q: What's the one thing you wish you had done more of during your first year?

A: One thing I wish I had done more in my first year is to go on more short trips and treks or even just explore Pune city since it's my first time living away from home. But with some free time now in my second year, I'm hoping to finally experience my bits of "Dil Chahta Hai" moments!

Q: Which campus food item would you miss the most after graduating?

A: The food I'll miss the most has to be chole puri/bhatura. It's the perfect start to a lazy Sunday afternoon and holds a special place because it's the one time each week when my friends and I sit together, sharing laughter and creating memories just like a small, sweet family which I'll always cherish. :)

From Eklavya Committee



**Vikas
Kaga**

Q: What's a silly nickname or inside joke you have with your friends?

A: My friends are way too entertained by my last name, Kaga. So, whenever we're hanging out, someone eventually busts out singing, 'Kaga Re Kaga Mori Itni Araz Tose Chun Chun Khaiyo Maans,' like they're some Bollywood poet channelling pure dramatic flair. Now I just wait to see who cracks first – them, with their terrible singing, or me, trying not to laugh!

Q: If your MBA journey were a movie, what would the title be, and who would play you in it?

A: Movie Title: "Jokes, Jugaad, and Jagran: An MBA Survival Guide"

Casting: Rajkummar Rao – The perfect guy to play a witty, Shayari-loving MBA student who turns every classroom crisis into comic relief!

This comedy film follows a student who turns every study session into a comedy club. Armed with chai, a sense of humor sharper than his Excel skills, and a talent for pulling everyone out of pre-exam stress, he's got one goal: spread happiness, survive group projects, and prove that laughter really is the best strategy.

Q: What's the most creative way you've pulled an all-nighter or crammed for exams?

A: I think I've cracked the system: I sleep all day, then transform into a study ninja around 2 a.m. when everyone else is asleep. It's just me, my notes, and the occasional midnight snack marathon. By sunrise, I'm either a genius or ready to sleep through the test, depending on the question paper.

From Symbeats Committee



Pratima Ratwani

Q: Which subject did you think would be a nightmare but turned out to be interesting?

A: One subject that still sends chills down my spine is "Finance". I know it's stereotypical for engineers to fear finance, but it is what it is. Finance was never my comfort zone. I used to think it would take weeks or even months for me to understand the basics. But, to my surprise, I realized that it is fun and interesting.

Firstly, Mugdha Ma'am structured the course well. She ensured we didn't just sit in class and stare blankly; we engaged with the material right away. Secondly, by chance (definitely not intentional), I made friends in finance who helped me understand the concepts better.

Q: Most embarrassing college moment you're willing to admit?

Last year, while hosting Christmas, I was eager to engage everyone. Anyone who's played the role of an anchor knows it's not an easy task. In an attempt to encourage interaction, I randomly asked one person how they thought the event was going. To my surprise, she replied, "You should ask yourself, not me. I'm not the host! Don't point at us."

It was unexpected and a bit embarrassing, but I managed to respond with humor. Later, we talked about it and agreed that it was fine to let it go.

Q: If you could relive one day from your college experience, which day would it be?

A: One day? No, no, no.... I wish I could live my first year again. I want to relive every moment that made SCIT my home. I'm not kidding; everything from extended classes to annoying teammates to suffocating schedules to cancelled plans.... I have enjoyed a fair share of fun from it all.

From Reflections Committee



Sandhili Modak

Q: What's the weirdest myth about college life that turned out to be true?

A: People told me MBA was all about late nights and surviving on minimal sleep, but I thought, 'Not me! I'll keep things balanced.' Yeah, right! Turns out, last-minute study sessions, late-night talks, and random 3 a.m. snack runs are the real college experience. Now I get why they say college is one big, happy, sleep-deprived blur – those 3 a.m. memories are priceless!

Q: Which campus event or festival was always the highlight of your year?

A: Graffiti'24 was everything. Raunaq Rajani had everyone rolling with laughter, the games and events were unforgettable, and don't get me started on the food stalls! And when Aztec and Trapperx took the stage, it felt like we were at the Sunburn Arena right there on campus. Graffiti was more than an event – it was the heart of our college year, capturing all the energy and fun in one place!

Q: What's the one food from the canteen you'll never forget?

A: The veg biryani from our canteen! It was perfectly spiced, with a mix of veggies that made it stand out. Whether it was for celebrations or just because, that biryani will always have a special place in my heart (and stomach).

STAR ALUMNI

Sushmaa (Nagilla) Madiraju

We are delighted to present this edition's star alumnus, Sushmaa Nagilla. She completed her Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science Engineering from Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering, Sriperumbudur. Following her undergraduate studies, she pursued an MBA in Data Science and Data Analytics at SCIT, graduating with the 2018-20 batch.

During her time at SCIT, Sushmaa interned at Bosch as a Summer Intern and was subsequently placed at PwC SDC as a Risk Assurance Associate. She further broadened her career by taking on the role of Product Manager at SpeakIn and later served as a Project Manager at Amazon. She is part of the prestigious Global Graduate Programme at GRUNDFOS, where she continues to make significant strides.

SCIT is proud to recognize Sushmaa Nagilla as an outstanding alumna. Her determination and accomplishments exemplify the spirit of SCIT, and her journey inspires our entire community.

Batch 2018 - 2020

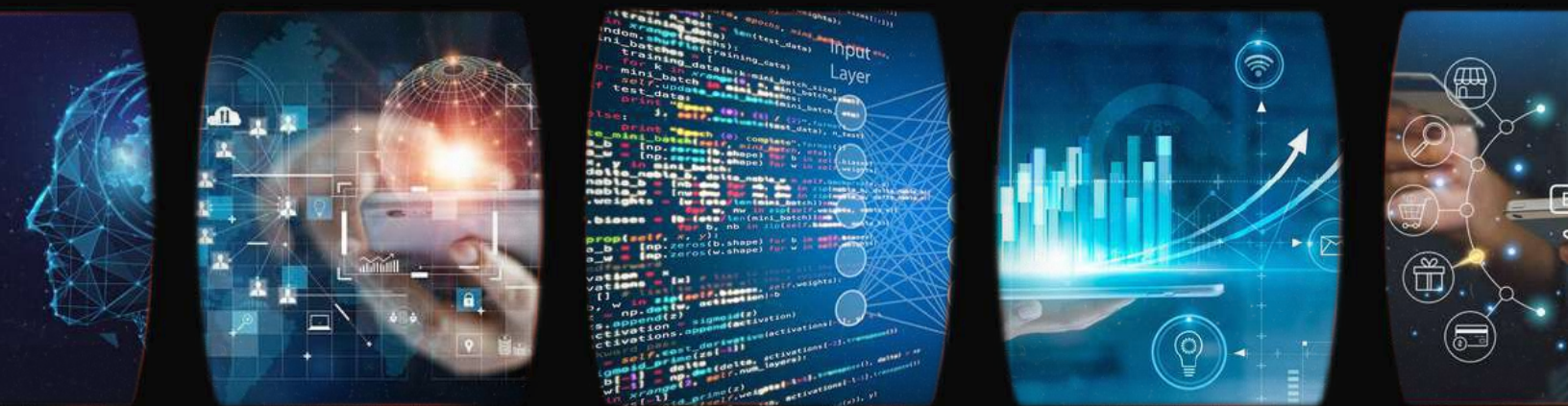
Global Graduate at GRUNDFOS

This month, we are honored to celebrate the distinguished alum Sushmaa Nagilla who has distinguished herself through excellence in both the tech and business spaces. After earning her B.Tech. in Computer Science Engineering from Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering, she pursued her passion for data and further advanced the same with an MBA in Data Science and Data Analytics at SCIT.

After interning at Bosch, she joined PwC SDC as a Risk Assurance Associate. Her career advanced as a Product Manager at SpeakIn and later as a Project Manager at Amazon. Currently part of the prestigious Global Graduate Programme at GRUNDFOS, she continues to make remarkable progress. Her hard work and success inspire us all.



COMING UP NEXT



MENTOR



Dr. Sirshendu
Arosh

OUR COMMITTEE

MENTOR



Prof. Vidyavati
Ramteke

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Senior



Junior

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Senior



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