



ATHARVA

Sept'24
Edition 74

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Editor's Note

The September edition of Atharva highlights SCIT events, AI, and cybersecurity.



NATIONAL SEMINAR

Focused on the transformative impact of Generative AI, featuring expert discussions on automation, business strategies, and ethical considerations.



CYBERON

CYBERON showcased expert insights, cybersecurity competitions, and engaging student challenges.



GANESH CHATURTHI

SCIT celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with eco-friendly workshops and performances.



Mastering CVs & Interviews

SCIT's guest lecture by Mr. Nitin Makhija focused on CV building, interviews, and career planning.



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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,

A warm welcome to the September edition of Atharva magazine! As the academic year progresses, our SCIT campus continues to buzz with excitement and energy.



This edition reflects the dynamic spirit of SCIT through various events and articles. On 21st September, SCIT hosted the 25th edition of its National Seminar (NATSEM), focusing on Generative AI. The event brought together future technology leaders and seasoned experts, including Mr. Rahul Mantri and Mr. Jawahar Govindaraj, to discuss AI's transformative potential across industries. The panel discussions moderated by Prof. Apoorva Kulkarni, shed light on talent acquisition, cybersecurity, and critical ethical concerns in the generative AI landscape.

Adding to the rich academic discourse, we also saw an insightful guest lecture, Career Blueprint: Mastering CVs, Interviews & Planning Careers, delivered by Mr. Nitin Makhija, Director at MNC Bank. This lecture gave students essential career development tips, emphasizing the importance of structured CVs and continuous learning.

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations at SCIT were marked with a focus on sustainability. At the same time, CYBERON: ETHOS AND ECHOES hosted by Team Matrix, brought cybersecurity to the forefront with industry experts sharing their insights on the evolving digital landscape. Students also showcased their technical prowess in thrilling competitions like Capture-the-Flag and Hackscape.

Lastly, we proudly feature Divya Kocherlakota as this month's Star Alum, highlighting her impressive journey from TCS to Rakuten.

We hope this edition inspires you to embrace new challenges and continue your transformative journey at SCIT.

25TH NATIONAL SEMINAR

Generative AI From Reactive Responses to Predictive Strategies in Information Technology



SCIT hosted the 25th Edition of its National Seminar (NATSEM), on 21st September 2024, with a focus on “Generative AI.” The event brought together future technology leaders and seasoned business experts to discuss how Generative AI is set to transform industries. Distinguished speakers, including Mr. Rahul Mantri, Mr. Jawahar Govindaraj, and SCIT alumnus Mr. Rohit Bhojwani, Mr. Rohit Shrivastava, and Ms. Jyothsna Chalasani shared insights on AI’s potential to reshape digital futures, improve customer experiences, and revolutionize business strategies. Dr. Dhanya Pramod, Director of SCIT, inaugurated the event, highlighting the immense business opportunities generative AI offers across various sectors like banking, retail, and healthcare.





Chief Guest Mr. Rahul Mantri emphasized on understanding life trends and the human element before adopting generative AI. He discussed customer satisfaction, brand loyalty, and how businesses must balance technological efficiency with creativity to avoid mediocrity. He also stressed the need for life-centric business models and adapting to rapid societal changes to maintain relevance in the digital age.

Mr. Jawahar Govindaraj, Guest of Honor, discussed the role of automation, intelligent process automation, and hyper-automation in enhancing business operations. He highlighted the importance of integrating AI with existing systems to boost productivity and efficiency. Businesses can optimize customer experiences and drive meaningful outcomes through strategic automation solutions by choosing the right partners and focusing on tangible benefits.

The panel discussion, moderated by Prof. Apoorva Kulkarni, explored key topics such as talent acquisition, partnerships, and collaborations in the generative AI landscape. Panelists Mr. Jawahar Govindaraj, Mr. Rohit Shrivastava, Mr. Rohit Bhojwani, and Ms. Jyothsna Chalasani also examined KPIs for measuring generative AI's performance and discussed ethical concerns, as well as the growing cyber risks associated with its implementation in various industries.

The event concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where students interacted with the panelists. Dr. Kanchan Patil delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, the Director's initiative, and the guidance of Ms Savitha Nair. She also acknowledged the active participation of faculty members and students, marking a successful and insightful seminar on generative AI.

- By Abhijeet Koltharkar

CYBERON: ETHOS AND ECHOES



CYBERON: ETHOS AND ECHOES, the flagship event at Symbiosis Centre for Information Technology (SCIT), organized by Team Matrix, brought together some of the brightest minds in the cybersecurity world. The event began with inspiring words from Dr. Dhanya Pramod, Director of SCIT, who shared her journey and vision in the rapidly evolving cybersecurity domain.

The event saw the participation of renowned cybersecurity leader Ms. Rohitha Chowdary, Cybersecurity Manager, CISSP, who imparted her vast experience in transforming security strategies for Fortune 500 companies. Ms. Sanyogeeta Rananaware, Head of Privacy Awareness at Itellisecure, moderated the engaging discussions, ensuring a lively and informative session. Mr. Aalok Karnik, co-founder of KAS Cyber Ventures, and Mr. Rushikesh Nandedkar, Principal Threat Intelligence Analyst at GoDaddy, shared groundbreaking insights into reducing information insecurity. Adv. Rajas Pingle, Partner, Netlawgic Legal Services L.L.P., and Mr. Pankaj Chanekar, Cyber Security, added their legal and incident response frameworks expertise.

The panel discussions offered a glimpse into the future of cybersecurity. As the inaugural event concluded, Dr. Vidyavati Ramteke shared heartfelt gratitude, emphasizing the critical importance of safeguarding our digital world. She also thanked the Matrix team and others for their continuous support.

The afternoon at Cyberon was exciting as students from various colleges took on the cybersecurity-themed competitions. After a captivating morning in the auditorium, the atmosphere shifted to high-energy contests like Capture-the-Flag, Hackscape, Emocrypt, and Guardians of Cyber Galaxy. Each event tested participants' problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork, while fun activities like F1 racing and FIFA added an extra layer of entertainment.

The competitions, designed to challenge and engage, saw students racing against time to crack codes, escape rooms, and defend servers. With minds sharp and spirits high, the campus thrummed with enthusiasm. The event concluded on a celebratory note, with Team Matrix and Dr. Vidyavati Ramteke honoring the winners of every competition, wrapping up a day filled with learning, fun, and unforgettable memories.

- By Abhijeet Koltharkar, Yuktha M.



Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration



Ganesh Chaturthi is a festival that brings people together in devotion and celebration. This year at Symbiosis Centre for Information Technology (SCIT), the festival was marked with sustainability and creativity. The celebration began on 2nd September 2024, with the ISR Committee and Cultural Committee of SCIT, in collaboration with Try Twenties, organizing a 'Green Ganesh' event. The focus was on eco-friendliness, with workshops such as the Eco-Friendly Artistic Expression Workshop and Ganesh Idol Making fostering awareness of sustainable practices.

On 14th September 2024, the much-awaited Ganesh Chaturthi celebration commenced at the SIC campus, with events organized by the Cultural Committees of SCIT, SCMHRD, and SIIB. The day began with the pooja of the handcrafted Ganesh idol, followed by an energetic Aarti and a thrilling Dhol Tasha performance by SCIT students, setting a lively tone for the day.



The celebration continued with captivating performances from Konnect Band, which filled the air with musical melodies; Symbeats, which energized the audience with their dance performance; and Team Eklavya, which presented a thought-provoking drama. Students from SCMHRD and SIIB also graced the stage with vibrant dance and music performances, showcasing the unity and talent of the Symbiosis community. The day concluded with a fun-filled DJ night, where students danced with joy and enthusiasm.



Ganesh Chaturthi reminds us of the power of Lord Ganesh, the remover of obstacles and the symbol of wisdom and prosperity. This event celebrated devotion and emphasized the importance of eco-friendly practices, fostering a deeper connection between spirituality and responsibility.

-By Abhijeet Koltharkar



Mastering CVs, Interviews & Planning Careers by Nitin Makhija

SCIT recently organized an insightful guest lecture titled “Career Blueprint: Mastering CVs, Interviews & Planning Careers” by Mr. Nitin Makhija, Director at MNC Bank. As part of the 2024-25 Guest Lecture Series, the event drew attention from students eager to learn essential career development skills. With his rich experience in risk management and strategic technology, Mr. Makhija delivered key advice on crafting successful CVs and prevailing interviews.

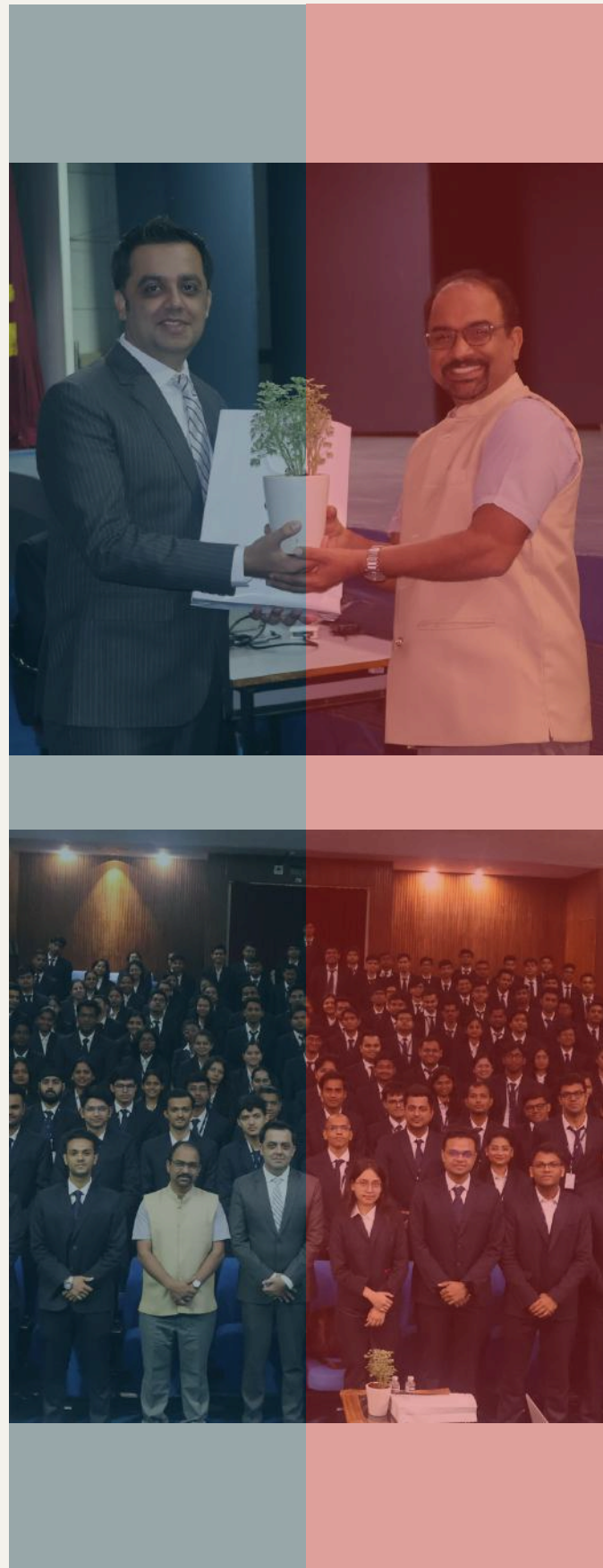
The session began with a warm introduction, emphasizing Mr. Makhija’s expertise and his valuable role in guiding professionals through career growth. The lecture’s primary focus was on helping students navigate the job market with effective resumes, interviews, and continuous learning.

Mr. Makhija stressed the importance of structuring CVs well, ensuring sections like career overview, work experience, and achievements are highlighted. He encouraged using strong action words like “collaborating” and “engagement” to describe work experience. He also emphasized the need to quantify accomplishments with specific numbers.

A key takeaway from the session was the importance of aligning one’s skills and interests with market demands. The audience was guided through techniques for passing applicant tracking systems (ATS), adding relevant keywords smartly to stand out. Additionally, Mr. Makhija shared tips on maintaining consistency in resume formatting and keeping it concise and professional.

The lecture concluded with a discussion on ethics, integrity, and continuous learning, where Mr. Makhija emphasized that integrity is paramount in any career, particularly in banking. Attendees left with a clear understanding of how to plan their careers thoughtfully and adapt to the dynamic corporate environment. At the end, Dr. Shaji Joseph honored the guest with a token of appreciation.

- By Varad Kundan Raut



UNVEILING INSIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Dhanya
Pramod**

Director at SCIT



Q: If not for teaching, what would have been your career path?

A: If I weren't in academia, I would definitely have pursued a career as a dancer. Dance is such a powerful form of expression for me—it allows you to relive and connect with different characters and emotions. Each piece of music and movement holds deep meaning, and through dance, I've learned to empathize and express in ways that words sometimes can't capture. I'm trained in classical and semi-classical styles, along with contemporary dance, which has always been a passion of mine.

Q: Can you share some personal or professional milestones that have shaped your journey?

A: As I reflect on my journey, I realize that both personal and professional milestones have deeply influenced my growth. On a personal level, finding stability through my family has been pivotal. Family is the foundation that keeps me grounded, and creating a home filled with love, support, and understanding has been as significant as any professional success.

On the professional front, health and peace have become essential pursuits in recent years. Prioritizing my well-being has taught me that true success is incomplete without physical and mental wellness. I make it a point to stay mindful and find moments of stillness to maintain balance. Professionally, as the director of SCIT, I take pride in shaping future technology leaders, especially those who not only excel in their technical expertise but also embody strong ethical values. Watching SCIT grow over the last decade, as it now celebrates 25 years of academic excellence, fills me with immense pride.

UNVEILING INSIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Q: What changes do you see in the future of education, particularly at SCIT?

A: One of the key trends I've observed is the growing need for interdisciplinary thinking. The problems of the future can't be solved with knowledge from just one domain. Whether it's blending technology with business, ethics with data science, or psychology with cybersecurity, leaders need a broad, interdisciplinary perspective to solve complex challenges. At SCIT, we are already fostering some of this interdisciplinary approach, but I see immense potential in further expanding these programs to ensure our students are equipped with both technical expertise and the ability to solve problems holistically.

Q: What would be your ideal intro song if you walked into a class?

A: "Masti Ki Paathshala" would be my go-to song! It's upbeat, fun, and it captures the energy and excitement that I love to bring into a classroom setting. Plus, it reflects the joy and spontaneity of learning in a light-hearted way.



Celebrating 14 Years of Inspiring Leadership! ✨ On 20th September 2010, our esteemed Director joined the SCIT family. Here's to many more years of innovation, growth, and success under her exceptional leadership!

SENIOR SCOOP : TALES & TIPS

From ALUMNI Committee



**Sayan
Pal**

Q: What's the most embarrassing college moment you're willing to admit?

A: One of the most embarrassing moments was when I dozed off during class, and the professor caught me. I was told to wash my face and freshen up! It was pretty awkward, but I learned my lesson!

Q: What's a subject you thought you'd hate but ended up liking?

A: For me, it was finance. Initially, I thought it would be a nightmare, but by the end of the first year, I actually started to like it. It became quite manageable.

Q: If you could relate to a fictional character, who would it be?

A: I think I'd relate most to Iron Man. As a ex mechanical engineering student, I really enjoy the tech and tools side of things. Iron Man's passion for technology inspires me and makes me enthusiastic about diving deeper into it.



**Asmita
Mahambrey**

Q: What's the best study hack that works for you?

A: What works best for me is studying consistently throughout the year. But also, one day of group study with friends before the exams really helps. Sitting together, solving past question papers, and discussing topics make a huge difference!

Q: What's one habit from your college study routine that you'll take with you for life?

A: Staying humble and always being willing to help others when they ask for it. Also, constantly trying to learn new things, if you can – that's a habit I plan to carry with me throughout life.

Q: What's one college experience you'd love to relive?

A: Celebrating the 25th anniversary of our college! It was one of the biggest days of my life. I got to host the event and meet many alumni from different countries. We shared genuine connections, and it was a truly memorable experience!

From Sports Committee



**Priyanka
Bhosle**

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

A: I wish we had organized more events as part of the Sports Committee. We did organize Alpha Battle last year, which is our flagship event. But I always felt we could have done more, and I really wanted to host more events.

Q: What's your favorite way to celebrate the end of exams?

A: I'd say the first thing I do is relax. I sleep in a lot, and then maybe go for a walk or just have a laid-back weekend to completely unwind and de-stress.

Q: Any hidden talent or hobby you picked up during college?

A: I've always been into dancing and even trained in Bharatanatyam professionally. But in college, I picked up freestyle dancing, and it became a bigger part of my life.



**Swapnil
Joshi**

Q: If your MBA journey had a catchphrase, what would it be?

A: "Just living it." That pretty much sums up how I've approached the experience—going with the flow and taking each challenge as it comes.

Q: What's the most creative excuse you've heard (or used) for missing a class or deadline?

A: "They're not in the right mood to be at the meeting." It's probably one of the most out-of-the-box excuses I've heard, but it was delivered so casually that it almost felt like a valid reason!

Q: If your MBA experience had a theme song, what would it be?

A: "Jatt Don't Care" by Sultaan. It really reflects the carefree attitude I adopted at times, especially when things got overwhelming. It's about not letting the pressure get to you too much.

From ISR Committee



**Manas
Patnaik**

Q: What's your favorite spot on campus?

A: My favorite spot would definitely be Rangoli. It's where most of the celebrations happen, and it's also a place where we hang out with friends. It holds a lot of great memories for me.

Q: If you could rename your batch, what would you call it?

A: I'd call us "The Rocketers," especially the DSDA batch. Almost every student participates in one event or another, and you'll often find DSDA students on stage during events. It's what makes us stand out, so "The Rocketers" seems like the perfect name for us.

Q: What's one habit you developed in college that will stick with you for life?

A: The habit of trying and failing—a lot. Before SCIT, I was always afraid of failure, but here, I've learned that failing is just part of the process. It's not sudden or overwhelming, but gradual, and it helps you grow. SCIT has taught me how to handle failure and learn from it, and that's a habit I'll carry with me forever.



**Raghav
Kapoor**

Q: What are two must-dos at SCIT?

A: First, find the best places around SCIT that serve good food—it's a must for survival! Second, make sure to interact with students from other institutes like SIIB and SCMHRD. Building a good network across these campuses can really be valuable.

Q: If you could create a new campus tradition, what would it be?

A: I would introduce a special initiative where students interact with the non-teaching staff, like the cleaning and security staff. We could have dedicated sessions or activities, similar to what we do during ISR's Gratitude Day, to show appreciation and build a sense of community.

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

A: Honestly, I wish I had studied more. I was so caught up in the excitement of college life—meeting new friends, going out — that I didn't focus enough on academics. Looking back, I could have balanced things better.

From Guest Lecture Committee (ITBM)



**Adrit
Saksena**

Q: What's your go-to excuse to miss a class?

A: My usual excuse for missing class is that, I say I'm on a call with a guest speaker or interacting with someone important. It sounds legit, and no one questions it.

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

A: The campus food I'll miss the most after graduating is definitely Chole Bhature. It's hands down the best thing on the menu compared to anything else. No matter how hectic things got, it always made everything better.

Q: Which place in the city became your squad's hangout spot?

A: Our squad's hangout spot has definitely become Rio. It's the perfect place to relax, grab some good food, and just hang out together. The vibe there always keeps us coming back.



**Atreyee
Guha**

Q: What's the best prank you've seen or participated in on-campus?

A: One of the best pranks I've participated in on campus involved telling my roommates that we had a test the next day when we actually didn't. They completely panicked, scrambling to study all night, while I just sat back and enjoyed the chaos. It was hilarious to see their reactions when they found out the truth.

Q: If you could switch lives with any of your classmates for a day, who would it be and why?

A: If I could switch lives with any of my classmates for a day, it would definitely be Ayush Narayan Mathur. I'd love to experience how he interacts with everyone and how he handles different situations. It would be a great way to learn how to deal with various people and circumstances.

Q: Any skill you picked up during college?

I've always been an introvert, shy about meeting new people. But during my MBA, with all the social events and committee activities, I began stepping out of my comfort zone. I started interacting more and was surprised at how easily I made friends. It's been great seeing that growth in myself.

From Guest Lecture Committee (DSDA)



Prachi Mishra

Q: Describe your college experience in three words.

A: Entertaining, hectic, and friendship—these words capture the excitement, challenges, and strong bonds that have defined my college journey.

Q: Which place in the city became your go-to hangout spot?

A: There's this South Indian place behind Bird Valley called Sai Snack Center. My friends and I go there often. We love the South Indian food, and right beside it, there's an aunty who makes amazing Aloo Parathas. It's a quiet spot where not many college people go, so it's our little hangout place to eat, relax, and chat.

Q: What helps you de-stress the most?

A: Time spent with Symbeats, our dance group, really helps me unwind. The bond I share with my dance teammates is like having a second family. We perform at every SCIT event, and the late-night practice sessions are the best part. The love and passion we share for dance brings us closer and always helps me recharge.

From Matrix Committee



Apoorav Sharma

Q: What's one thing about MBA life that surprised you the most once you started?

A: One thing that surprised me the most about MBA life was busy schedule. The three-hour classes in one stretch can be intense, along with assignments and project submissions. Balancing committee work in between adds another layer of challenge.

Q: What is the easiest way to become a teacher's favorite?

A: The easiest way to become a teacher's favourite is to be attentive in class and actively engage with them. Going up to them to ask questions or clarify doubts shows that you're interested and invested in the subject. This helps you learn better and builds a positive relationship with your teachers.

Q: What do you wish you had known when you were in your first year?

A: I wish I had known in my first year that my work and effort meant something. Every effort I put in had value, and I should have taken the time to enjoy the journey more. Now I'm more focused on mentoring juniors, and I realise how important it was to savour those early experiences in first year.

STAR ALUMNI

Sri Divya Kocherlakota

We are proud to feature Sri Divya Kocherlakota as this month's Star Alum. With a B.Tech in Information Technology from GITAM Deemed University, Visakhapatnam, Divya began her career as an Assistant Systems Engineer at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), where she worked for over two years, gaining hands-on experience in IT systems. Driven by a passion for growth, she pursued an MBA in IT from SCIT, during which she completed a notable internship at Cummins Inc. focused on process automation. Post graduation, Divya joined Citrix as a Product Manager, where she excelled over three years, eventually becoming a Senior Product Manager I, leading product development in B2B features and endpoint security.

Today, Divya continues her remarkable journey at Rakuten as a Product Manager II. With an overall eight years of experience, she is instrumental in leading the development of a web data-gathering tool that tracks competitors and market trends. Her work involves collaborating with cross-functional teams and steering product development based on customer feedback and market research. Divya's experience in managing Competitive Analysis platforms and data repositories, coupled with her technical expertise and passion for innovation, has made her an outstanding professional in her field. Her dedication, adaptability, and drive to learn new technologies have been key to her success. We're thrilled to recognize her as this month's Star Alumni!

Batch 2017 - 2019

Rakuten India - Product Manager II

Sri Divya Kocherlakota, this month's Star Alum, has built an impressive career in IT and product management. After earning her B.Tech from GITAM University and gaining experience at TCS, she pursued an MBA at SCIT, completing an internship at Cummins Inc. She then joined Citrix, where she advanced to Senior Product Manager, leading B2B product development and security. Now a Product Manager at Rakuten, she oversees a web data-gathering tool for competitor and market tracking. With eight years of experience, Divya is recognized for her expertise in competitive analysis, innovation, and adaptability.





MENTOR



Dr. Sirshendu
Arosh

OUR COMMITTEE

MENTOR



Prof. Vidyavati
Ramteke

Graphic Designing



Senior



Junior

Blogging



Senior



Junior

Photography



Senior



Junior

Video Editing



Senior



Junior

Social Media



Senior



Junior

Web Development



Senior



Junior