









Editor's Note

February at SCIT was a spirited blend of farewells, competition, and intellectual exchange, featuring emotional goodbyes, thrilling sports battles, insightful debates, and expertled guest lectures.



Global Debate 2025: Al and FinTech at SIU

The Global Debate on AI and FinTech 2025 at SIU Lavale brought together experts to discuss ethical AI, FinTech regulations, and innovation.

Data Storytelling by Rajneet Kaur

The guest lecture on Data Storytelling by Rajneet Kaur showcased techniques to turn complex data into compelling narratives using visualization and interactive storytelling.

Strategic Program Management in the Digital Age

The guest lecture on Strategic Program Management highlighted aligning business objectives with technology-driven solutions using Agile, Waterfall, and Hybrid methodologies.

ADIOS 2.0

The Cultural Committee threw an epic farewell bash for seniors, packed with killer dance moves, banging music, and games that kept the vibe lit!











ALPHABATTLE '25

The Sports Committee unleashed the ultimate showdown with Alpha Battle, where divisions of senior and junior batch clashed in an action-packed face-off!



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 Alumni

Deepak Arora, a cybersecurity leader with 18+ years of experience, renowned for his contributions to IT risk management and regulatory compliance.



EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Readers,

A warm welcome to the February edition of Atharva! As the year begins, SCIT is abuzz with the festive spirit and a calendar full of exhilarating activities that embody the dynamic ethos of our institution.



February at SCIT was a month of heartfelt farewells, spirited competition, and thoughtprovoking discussions. Adios 2025 brought an emotional farewell for our seniors, celebrating their journey and achievements as they prepared for new beginnings. Alpha Battle ignited excitement on the field as juniors and seniors went head-to-head in intense sports matches, showcasing teamwork and determination.

The spirit of intellectual discourse was evident at the Global Debate 2025: AI and FinTech at SIU, where participants explored the evolving intersections of technology and finance. The pursuit of knowledge continued with a Guest Lecture on Data Storytelling, offering insights into transforming data into impactful narratives. Adding to the academic enrichment, Yogesh Sabnis shared his expertise in Strategic Program Management, equipping students with valuable perspectives on handling complex projects.

This edition also proudly features Deepak Arora as the Star Alumni of the Month. An SCIT MBA alumnus (Batch 2006-2008), Deepak has built a stellar career in cybersecurity and IT risk management, holding key positions at global financial institutions, and his journey exemplifies leadership, expertise, and continuous learning in the ever-evolving tech landscape.

As February ends, SCIT remains dedicated to fostering excellence, leadership, and innovation. Stay tuned for more exciting updates!

Global Debate 2025: Al and FinTech at SIU



The Global Debate on AI and FinTech 2025, held on 31st January 2025 at SIU Lavale, Pune, brought together experts, academicians, and industry leaders to explore the evolving landscape of AI and financial technology. Jointly organized by SSBF, SCIT, SIT, and SCIE in collaboration with Symbiosis International (Deemed University) and Durham University, the event fostered discussions on AI ethics, FinTech regulations, and digital transformation.

The event began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by an insightful keynote speech from Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, Chancellor of SIU, who highlighted the role of research universities in driving AI and FinTech innovation. Prof. Jorge Lengler from Durham University initiated discussions with real-world examples, while Anita Patankar provided valuable insights on global engagement in these domains.

Prof. Dennis Philip moderated a session focusing on bias in AI models, fairness in decision-making, and transparency. Mr. Sundaraparipurnan Narayanan, an AI ethicist, discussed bias mitigation, while Mr. Yogendra Joshi from Google India introduced the KIA (Knowledge, Intent, and Action) Framework for ethical AI applications.

Dr. Neha Parashar led discussions on balancing innovation and consumer data privacy, with insights from Ms. Sirilatha Ramnath, Mr. Bijaei Jayaraj, and Mr. Shailendra Abhyankar. Their discussion underscored the need for ethical data management to sustain trust in digital finance.

The event concluded with a session led by Prof. Ramakrishnan Raman on AI governance and transparency. Speakers, including Mr. Prakash Sharma, Mr. Pankaj Madhukar, and Mr. Biren Bhatt, emphasized the importance of ethical AI frameworks.

The Global Debate on AI and FinTech 2025 reinforced the necessity for a balanced and forward-thinking approach to AI-driven innovation, ensuring fairness, accountability, and transparency in the digital age.

Abhijeet Koltharkar

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Guest Lecture on Data Storytelling by Rajneet Kaur



The Guest Lecture Committee-DSDA at SCIT successfully organized an insightful guest lecture on Data Storytelling on February 18th, delivered by Rajneet Kaur, AVP at eClerx. With her extensive experience in analytics, AI, and machine learning, Rajneet Kaur captivated the audience by simplifying complex data concepts and demonstrating the power of storytelling in data-driven decision-making.

The session commenced with a warm welcome by the Guest Lecture Committee DSDA, followed by an introduction to the significance of data storytelling. Rajneet Kaur emphasized that storytelling is both an art and a science, integrating connection, conflict, drama, and resolution to transform raw data into compelling narratives. Rajneet explained that an effective data story requires a clear understanding of stakeholders, their challenges, and the role of data in addressing their needs. She introduced various storytelling structures, such as mapping models, mega block models, and sales marketing frameworks, to help professionals organize insights effectively.

She highlighted five essential components of impactful data storytelling: Executive Summary – A concise overview of key findings; Real-life Examples – Case studies that illustrate insights practically; Engaging Questions – Encouraging critical thinking and interaction; Structured Roadmap – Ensuring a logical progression of insights; and Visual Storytelling – Leveraging dashboards, infographics, and well-structured visualizations.

Rajneet emphasized using interactive storytelling techniques like thoughtprovoking questions, relatable characters, and an intriguing narrative flow to maintain audience engagement. She also stressed the importance of clear and compelling data visualization, ensuring that charts and dashboards have appropriate aspect ratios, well-configured axes, and relevant formats for maximum impact.

The session featured a dynamic Q&A, where students sought insights on whether simplifying complex data leads to data loss and how dashboards and simulations can enhance engagement. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Sridaran, a member of the Guest Lecture Committee, expressing gratitude to Rajneet Kaur for her enlightening presentation. The session reinforced that data storytelling is not just about presenting numbers but about crafting a compelling narrative that informs, persuades, and drives action.

Yuktha Mohan

Strategic Program Management in the Digital Age by Yogesh Sabnis

The Guest Lecture Committee of DSDA successfully hosted an insightful session on February 25, 2025, featuring industry expert Yogesh Sabnis, PMP, CSM. The session, focused on Strategic Program Management in the Digital Age, providing students with valuable insights into aligning business objectives with technology-driven solutions.

The event began with a warm welcome by Rohan Patil, a member of Guest Lecture Committee – DSDA, followed by an introduction to the speaker. Yogesh Sabnis, a seasoned Program Manager with over 12 years of experience across technology, retail, and finance, shared his expertise in Agile methodologies (Scrum, Kanban), Waterfall, and hybrid frameworks. Holding certifications such as PMP, CSM, CSPO, ITIL, and FRM, he emphasized leveraging digital transformation, risk mitigation, and strategic planning for business growth. He highlighted the significance of strategic program management in today's digital landscape, emphasizing agility, foresight, and a strong technological foundation for successful execution.

The lecture covered several critical aspects, including defining key performance indicators and evaluating outcomes, assessing performance post-project completion, selecting the best approach for business needs among Agile, Waterfall, and Hybrid methodologies, managing key stakeholders effectively, tracking risks and ensuring smooth business transitions, and structuring requirements, design, and architecture within Agile frameworks. The discussion also included components such as an executive overview of objectives and impact, real-world digital transformation success stories, and technology integration through AI, automation, and cloud-based solutions for efficiency.

An engaging discussion followed, covering topics such as balancing agility with structured governance, managing stakeholder expectations in large-scale projects, and best practices in change management for digital transformation. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Swet Parek, member of Guest Lecture Committee – DSDA, expressing gratitude for Yogesh Sabnis' valuable insights. The lecture reinforced that strategic program management in the digital age is about aligning technology, business objectives, and innovation to drive sustainable success.

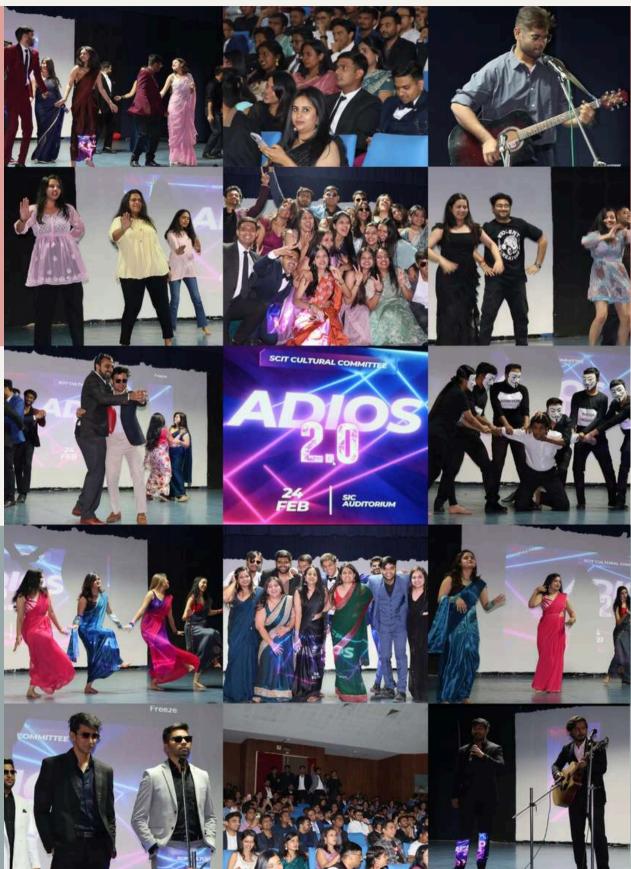
The Guest Lecture Committee of DSDA remains committed to bringing industry leaders to campus, bridging academia and industry, and fostering a culture of continuous learning.

Yuktha Mohan



INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

ADIOS 2.0



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CELEBRATIONS AT SCIT

ALPHABATTLE '25



Alpha Battle 2025, the highly anticipated annual sports event of SCIT, kicked off on January 14th and concluded with great enthusiasm on February 20th. The event brought together students from various batches, competing fiercely across multiple sports to claim the championship title.

The competition witnessed intense battles in chess, carrom, swimming, powerlifting, throwball, dodgeball, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, tug of war, cricket, futsal, and pickleball. Each sport had its own thrilling moments, with players displaying determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

After weeks of high-energy matches, Senior DSDA emerged as the champion, securing 48 points. Senior D Division put up a commendable fight and finished as runner-up, showcasing incredible resilience and competitive spirit.

Alpha Battle 2025 was not just about competition—it was a celebration of fitness, endurance, and camaraderie. The participants' energy, cheers, and spirit created an electrifying atmosphere, making the event a grand success.

With yet another exhilarating edition ending, SCIT's sports culture continues to thrive, inspiring students to push their limits and embrace a healthy competitive spirit. Congratulations to all the winners, participants, and organizers for making Alpha Battle 2025 a spectacular event!

Varad Kundan Raut

UNVEILING INSIGHTS FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Vidyavati Ramteke

Assistant Professor

Q: Are there any myths or misconceptions about cybersecurity that really annoy you?

A: I cannot be the target of cyber criminals; only rich people and big organizations are. NO, it's crucial for individuals too to be safe in cyber world. Cyber threats are everywhere, whether browsing the internet, shopping online or using social media. You have to guard your personal and financial information. we have to be vigilant and ensure we do not fall for any phishing attacks.

Q: What's the most surprisingly low-tech hobby you're obsessed with?

A: I won't say I am obsessed with it, but I always wanted to learn Mandala art and Warli painting. Recently, I tried my first Mandala drawing and was very happy with my first try. I will continue doing it in my free time. I love reading books and watching serials. I read a lot of Marathi and English literature. I have watched Korean, Turkish, Pakistani, and English dramas. I use most of my travel time for it.

Q: What's a nostalgic piece of technology you secretly miss using?

A: Phones that were not smart and were used only for communication. Smartphones have changed a lot of things in life.

Q: Have you ever had a travel experience that completely changed your perspective?

A: Not any specific experience as such. But traveling showed me that people everywhere are helpful and loving, and in front of nature, you are nothing. Nature gives us so much. Can we inculcate that in our lives?

Q: What meal instantly takes you back to a special moment in your life?

A: Varan Bhat takes to my childhood. My favorite food then and now.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

From ITELF Committee



Bandana Singha

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

A: If I could relive one day, it'd be the day I organized TEDxSIUHinjewadi as the Curator—months of chaos, stress, and last-minute fixes, all leading to the Bestest day. Worth every sleepless night!

Q: Who's the most unforgettable person you met during college and why?

A: Nidhi, my bestie and human podcast, is the most unforgettable person I met. Whether hyping me up or distracting me with endless stories, she made college 10x more fun!

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

A: Post-exam rituals would be Shopping, food, and laughter at Phoenix Millennium Mall with my friends—because nothing heals exam trauma like retail therapy and a full stomach!



Mohini Sharma

Q: If you could form a dream team of three classmates for a startup, who would you pick and why?

A: If I could form a dream team of three classmates for a startup, I would pick Mrinal and Jaydeep. Mrinal is incredibly analytical and has a structured approach to problem-solving. Jaydeep, with his strong background in coordination, strategic planning .. Together, we would have a balance of technical expertise, strategic vision, and execution capabilities, making us a strong startup team.

Q: What's the best "networking hack" you've learned while pursuing your MBA?

A: The best networking hack I've learned during my MBA is the power of value-driven networking. Instead of just making connections for the sake of networking, I focus on adding value—whether by sharing insights, helping with a project, or connecting people to relevant opportunities. This has helped me build genuine, long-term relationships rather than just transactional ones.

Q: How has your perspective on leadership changed since you started your MBA?

A: My perspective on leadership has shifted significantly since starting my MBA. I used to see leadership as being about authority and decision-making, but now I understand that it's more about influence, adaptability, and empowerment. A good leader doesn't just give directions but enables their team to perform at their best, fostering collaboration and resilience.

From Admission Committee



Raktim Lahkar

Q: What was the best study hack that worked for you?

A: My best study hack was making mnemonics with my roommates and it actually worked most of the time, but during exams, my brain would happily give me the first words and then completely bail on the rest, leaving me staring at the paper wondering what I was even trying to say.

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

A: Once, a professor asked someone to pull down the projector screen, and I confidently went ahead to help. The screen was pretty high, so I tried jumping to reach it and still missed. The whole class burst out laughing when the professor said, "Maybe you need a little more height!" Safe to say, I became both the volunteer and the entertainment for the day.

Q: Who's the most unforgettable person you met during college and why?

A: Probably my roommates. I've been incredibly lucky to find not just roommates, but two people who truly became my family here. They've seen me at my best and worst, and somehow, they always knew how to pull me back up. And honestly, it's not just them this place gave me so many unforgettable people, each of them leaving a mark in their own way. These people didn't just make college better, they made ME better, and for that, I'll always be grateful.



Himankshi Sharma

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

A: There are a lot of things I have learned from my roommate, Chandrima, but the most important one is how even the hardest moments are not as overwhelming as they seem they will pass, and one day, you'll look back and laugh about them together. She has taught me the power of resilience and optimism, reminding me that no challenge is permanent and that a positive mindset can turn even the most stressful situations into valuable life lessons. Her ability to find humor and hope in tough times has truly changed the way I approach difficulties.

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

A: The day I would love to relive is when my team won the women's football match last year—it was nothing short of magical! At first, no one was willing to participate, and it seemed like we wouldn't even have a team. But at the last moment, five incredible girls stepped up out of nowhere, and together, we took on one of the strongest teams. Against all odds, we played our hearts out and won! As the captain, leading that team of fearless fighters was one of the proudest and most emotional moments of my life. The cheers, the laughter, the pure joy of proving ourselves—it was unforgettable. And when Monu's name echoed in the crowd, it felt like we weren't just a team; we were a family.

From Admission Committee



Namit Saxena

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

A: Course name would be "Survival 101: MBA Edition – Thriving, Not Just Surviving". It will be a crash course on decoding professors' expectations, mastering last-minute assignments, giving presentations with confidence (even when unprepared), strategic chai breaks, and an introduction to the fine art of networking (aka making friends who will actually share their notes).

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

A: I wish I had explored more of Pune beyond the campus! The city has so much to offer hidden cafés, and those legendary street food joints everyone keeps raving about. And don't even get me started on the treks! I regret not catching more sunrises from Sinhagad. If I could redo my first year, I'd definitely trade some of those lazy weekends for more adventures.

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

A: Maggie at our favourite hangout spot "Urban Katta". It's not just food; it's an emotion! From pre-exam stress relief to postclass gossip sessions, nothing bonds people like instant noodles.



Priyanka Nagesh

Q: If you could have one superpower for a day to help you with your MBA, what would that be?

A: I'd choose the ability to pause time. With so many deadlines, group projects, back to back case studies and having to deal with different friend circles amidst all the chaos- a moment to step back, process everything, and get ahead on work would be a game-changer.

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

A: A shared Google Calendar – Because if one person forgets a deadline, we all suffer. Prerna Nahata- My roomate, the one who keeps me sane through it all. She's the one who pushes me when all I've wanted was to quit, listened when I needed to vent, and made this whole crazy MBA journey worth it.

We're placed together now- and I'm just awaiting what's to come! MBA was tough, but having someone like that made it survivable—and even fun. A good friend group-The unspoken bond of surviving all-nighters together, laughing over a failed presentation, or collectively panicking before an exam. It's not just about support—it's about knowing that no matter how tough it gets, you're all in this together.

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

A: At a friend's birthday bash in Lonavala. I had a submission due at midnight, so while everyone else was having a great time, I was in the corner with my laptop, typing away. Every few minutes, someone would check in, offer me cake or try to convince me to "jo bhi hai, submit karde bhai". I made the deadline—then finally joined the party.

From Web and Media Committee



S K Rajiv

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

A: My I haven't pulled an all-nighter or crammed for exams, but one instance I remember was during my second semester while studying for my APM subject. Mentally, I had prepared to stay up all night, so I bought a Red Bull and some snacks to keep myself awake. Usually, Red Bull gives you energy, but instead, I studied with full concentration for the next 30 minutes and then dozed off. That experience proved to me that even Red Bull can't give you wings if your body truly wants to sleep!

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

A: If my MBA journey were a movie, it would be titled "The Hustle: Lessons Beyond the Classroom"

A film that truly embodies resilience is The Pursuit of Happyness (2006), starring Will Smith. It highlights the struggles of overcoming hardships, embracing setbacks, and staying determined despite relentless challenges. Much like an MBA journey—filled with intense pressure, uncertainty, and moments of self-doubt—the film showcases the power of perseverance and the unwavering drive to succeed against all odds.

I'd love to be portrayed by Ranbir Kapoor for his depth and realism. His roles in Tamasha and Wake Up Sid beautifully capture personal growth and self-discovery—qualities that define the MBA experience.



Prajakta Wavle

Q: What's your favorite thing about your major or field of study?

A: I love that I can predict my own future — statistically, at least! Data science is like modern wizardry with a business twist—just like life! We analyze past data (experience), run predictive models (gut feeling), and optimize decisions (wing it!). Whether it's acing deadlines or managing group chaos, life is just one big algorithm!

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

A: Inside jokes? Nah, we've mastered the art of telepathic gossip — one glance, one nod, and the message is delivered. No words needed, just premium-level eye-contact encryption!

Q: Any hidden talent or hobby you picked up during college? A: I always loved drawing and painting, but SCIT took it to the next level—quite literally! For the first time, I painted a wall at SCIT and decked out the campus during Graffiti. Never thought I'd go from sketchbooks to large-scale masterpieces! Oh, and public speaking? I wasn't sure I had it in me, but turns out, I can talk my way through anything now creatively, of course!

From Academic Committee



Dhritismita Pathak

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

A: I would just state one here and that is what matters in the long run too- An awesome friend circle!

MBA is an experience, enjoy it with the right set of people.

Q: If you could travel back in time to your first day of the MBA, what advice would you give your younger self?

A: a. 'Do not come here with expectations!' You are here to learn and grow but you need to let go of your inhibitions and not expect from anyone or anything.

b. It is okay not to know everything!

c. 'Shield up mate.' You can't let things get under your skin. Just enjoy the ride!

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

A: Informing random examination dates and timings to the most absent minded people on campus and let it keep rolling till it makes half of the batch go crazy!



Hiba Rasheed

Q: What is a core value you have picked from SCIT?

A: Networking isn't just a skill—it's survival. Also, knowing when to lead and when to step back is crucial. SCIT taught me that success is all about channeling the right energy into the right task, with the right people, at the right time.

Q: Which is your favorite Food Spot in Pune?

A: Aromas' biryani—anytime, no second thoughts. If there's a plate of it, I'm there.

Q: Any Hidden Talent or Hobby you started since joining SCIT?

A: From being the unexpected Santa to picking up yoga, college kept things interesting. While I wouldn't call myself a yogi, I've realized it's a game-changer for staying energetic and sane amidst the chaos.

From Academic Committee



Sanskriti Pareek

Q: What's the funniest or most unexpected thing you've heard a professor say?

A: One of the funniest things I heard from a professor was in KK Sir's IT Infrastructure class when he said, "Cloud yeh jo aap asmaan mein dekhte hain, baadal woh nahi hai!"

Q: If you could have one superpower for a day to help you with your MBA, what would that be?

A: If I could have one superpower for a day, it would be instant knowledge absorption—just touching a book or article and immediately understanding and remembering everything. Imagine how much time that would save for exams and assignments.

Q: Do you have a favorite professor or class that made a big impact on you?

A: Yes! One of my favorite professors is Mugdha Ma'am, who taught Finance. Her classes weren't just about numbers and theories; she made us realize the real-world impact of financial decisions. One thing that really stuck with me was how she emphasized the importance of investing early. I always thought I had a few more years before I needed to worry about it, but she made me realize that I'm already late to the game! Her insights have completely changed how I look at financial planning, and I now see investment as a necessity rather than an option.

From Sports Committee



Atharva Pandit

Q: What's the best surprise someone planned for you, or that you planned for someone, in college?

A: My friend Ashwin Raj told me he had never celebrated his birthday in the hostel and always went home to avoid it. In our first year, he planned to leave a day early without telling anyone, but I was one step ahead. I arranged a surprise two days in advance, calling him to a room for what he thought was someone else's cake-cutting. In the end, he was the one covered in cake, getting birthday bumps—finally experiencing a true hostel birthday!

Q: Do you have a favorite story from an all-nighter spent studying or working on a project?

A: Almost every exam and project turned into an all-nighter, but the night before our finance exam was the most chaotic. Nearly 80% of us had no clue what to study or how to solve the numericals, while the rest had their own versions of the solutions. For four hours straight, we ran from one room to another, desperately trying to crack a single 20-mark question. I still have no idea what I wrote in the exam, but somehow, I passed, so I guess it worked out in the end.

Q: What's the most adventurous or daring thing you did in college?"

A: Just after I got into the sports committee, during the Table Tennis selections, a senior randomly called me over and demanded that I say "sir" to him. I had no idea who he was, and I saw no reason to do it. I refused, standing my ground despite the group of seniors around me. Respect is meant to be earned, not demanded. Things got a bit tense, but luckily, the senior members of the sports committee backed me up. It was a small moment, but it reinforced an important lessonalways stand up for yourself, no matter the situation.

STAR ALUMNI

Deepak Arora

In this edition of Atharva Magazine we proudly feature Deepak Arora, an accomplished cybersecurity and technology risk leader. Deepak, an alumnus of SCIT's MBA in Information Systems and Security (Batch 2006-2008), has carved a remarkable career in the domain of IT risk management and regulatory compliance.

With over 18 years of experience, Deepak's journey has been marked by significant contributions to top financial institutions and global corporations. Starting his career as an Assistant Security Manager at ICICI Bank, he transitioned into consulting roles at Tech Mahindra and IBM, where he specialized in information security and risk management. His expertise led him to work with renowned organizations such as Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, and Barclays, where he played key roles in Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) domains.

Currently serving as Vice President at Northern Trust Corporation, Deepak continues to drive cyber risk management and regulatory engagements. His credentials, including ISO27001, CISM, PMP, and ITILV3, reflect his commitment to excellence in the field.

Deepak Arora's journey is an inspiration to budding cybersecurity professionals, showcasing the power of continuous learning and strategic leadership in the ever-evolving world of technology risk.

Batch 2006-2008 Vice President at Northern Trust Corporation

Deepak, an alumnus of SCIT's MBA in Information Systems and Security (Batch 2006-2008), has carved a remarkable career in the domain of IT risk management and regulatory compliance.



STAR ALUMNI



MENTOR

MENTOR



Dr. Vidyavati Ramteke



Dr. Sirshendu Arosh

Graphic Designing



Senior



Junior





Senior

Photography





Junior

Video Editing



Senior



Junior

Social Media



Senior



Junior

Web Development



Senior



Junior