SYMBIOSIS
CENTRE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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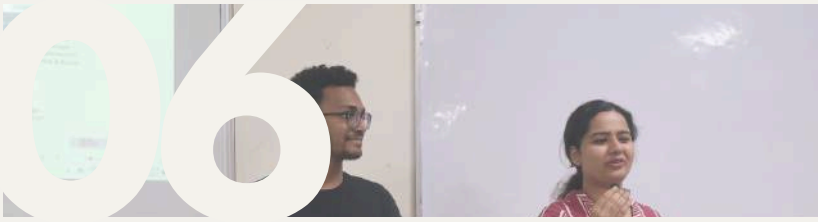

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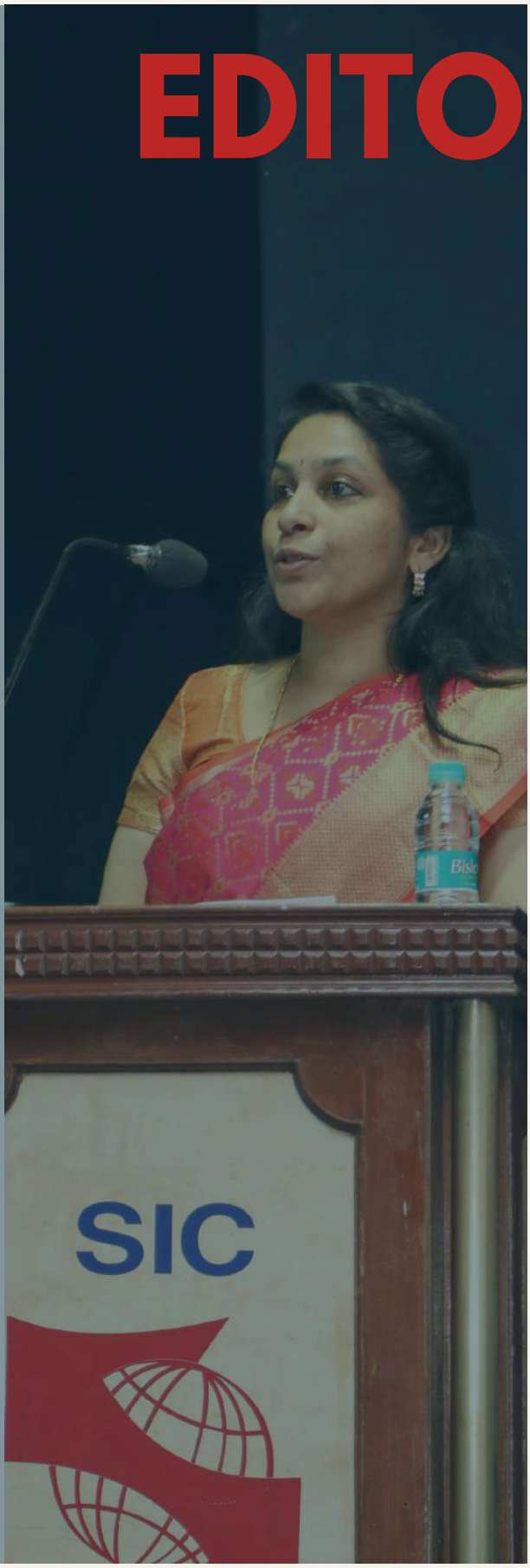


Dear Readers,
A warm welcome to the January edition of Atharva!
As the year begins, SCIT is abuzz with the festive spirit and a calendar full of exhilarating activities that embody the dynamic ethos of our institution.

January at SCIT was a vibrant blend of learning, celebration, and inspiration. The month began with an insightful TEDx event, where experts shared transformative ideas, accompanied by captivating performances that set the stage for an exciting year. The energy continued with SCIT's flagship cultural fest, bringing together talent, creativity, and friendly competition, culminating in a spectacular Pro Night filled with music and electrifying performances.

Festivities added to the spirit of togetherness as the campus enthusiastically celebrated traditions, embracing cultural heritage through rituals, decorations, and grand feasts. Academic excellence remained at the forefront with thought-provoking guest lectures, where industry leaders delved into topics like business transformation, AI, and ethical data usage, offering students valuable insights into the evolving corporate landscape. Interactive sessions bridged the gap between academia and industry, preparing students for future challenges while honoring distinguished alumni who continue to make a mark in their fields.

The focus on technology and innovation was reinforced through hands-on workshops that introduced students to AI, machine learning, and the latest advancements in data privacy. The month concluded with a patriotic celebration that paid tribute to unity, perseverance, and the unsung heroes of the campus.

As January comes to a close, SCIT remains committed to fostering knowledge, leadership, and a culture of excellence. Stay connected for more insights, inspiration, and updates as SCIT continues to lead with innovation and passion!

TEDxSIUHinjewadi 2025: Samudra-Manthan

On January 4th, 2025, TEDxSIUHinjewadi returned with its 11th edition, embracing the transformative theme of Samudra-Manthan – Waves of Transformation. The event, curated by Mohini and Bandhana, celebrated its legacy as a TEDxSCIT initiative led by mentor Apoorva Ma'am. Hosts Karthik and Keira energized the audience, highlighting this as the pilot edition of the next decade. The event began with a captivating video showcasing highlights from previous TEDx editions, followed by a stunning theme reveal video.

The day was filled with powerful stories of transformation from a diverse lineup of speakers. Pratim Das, a leading ISRO scientist, shared insights from his two decades of exploring outer space and planetary science, beautifully connecting quantum mechanics with individual consciousness. A pre-recorded talk by Bhavesh Bhatia, a visually impaired entrepreneur, inspired the audience with his story of overcoming challenges, building a successful business, and empowering others with disabilities. Tanushree took the audience on her journey from the corporate world to becoming a travel writer, showcasing the courage to embrace change. Jaydutta, a key member of the Aarogya Setu app team, reflected on his contributions to pandemic-era innovation. Biplab Goswami shared his inspiring journey from Agartala to the film industry, while Yajurvendra Mahajan highlighted the life-changing work of his Deepstambh Foundation in educating rural and tribal students. Young actor Varun Buddhadev shared his story of resilience and dedication in the face of challenges in the entertainment industry.

The event also featured mesmerizing performances that energized and moved the audience. Symbeats' rhythmic beats aligned perfectly with the theme, while Akshaya Magico wowed with her magical artistry. Poet Shaf performed freestyle poetry and unreleased tracks, and Amol Sawant serenaded the audience with timeless melodies by Arijit Singh and KK, blending his soulful voice with the harmony of his guitar. An emotive act by Eklavya added depth and creativity to the event.

With its rich tapestry of talks, performances, and moments of inspiration, TEDxSIUHinjewadi 2025 was a transformative experience. It reminded us all that the waves of change can lead to endless possibilities.

Abhijeet Mahesh Koltharkar

Digital Product Cycle Approach to a Circular Economy

SCIT had the privilege of hosting a thought-provoking guest lecture by Dr. Ramesh Subramaniom, Professor of Practice in Operations Management and Director of Undergraduate Research at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, University of Texas at Dallas, USA. The session was introduced by Dr. Vijay Kumar Bharati, who provided an insightful background on Dr. Subramaniom's expertise and contributions to the field.

The lecture focused on circular economies and their crucial role in fostering sustainable economic growth. Dr. Subramaniom delved into key concepts like re-manufacturing and the significance of standardization in products, citing ANSI as an essential regulatory framework. He emphasized the necessity of having standardized processes to maintain quality and efficiency in production and operations.

A highlight of the session was the discussion on Amazon's operational excellence. Dr. Subramaniom illustrated how the e-commerce giant effectively manages customer experiences, streamlines its operational workflows, and continuously innovates using data analytics. However, he also cautioned against the potential misuse of data, bringing to light ethical considerations in modern business practices.

Another intriguing aspect of the lecture was exploring the product life cycle in design and engineering. Dr. Subramaniom explained the different stages of a product's life cycle, emphasizing that some products maintain relevance for over a decade. He underscored the importance of understanding these stages to enhance product longevity and sustainability.

The session was highly engaging, offering students a comprehensive understanding of contemporary business challenges and the role of operations management in addressing them. SCIT thanks Dr. Ramesh Subramaniom for sharing his invaluable insights and enriching the academic discourse on sustainable business practices.

Priyajeet Ghosh

Dattansh 2025: Paving the Path to Progress

The 7th edition of Dattansh, organized by the Guest Lecture Committee at SCIT (DSDA), was an unforgettable journey of growth and innovation. Held on 18th January 2025, themed "Vikaspath: Paving the Path to Progress," the event encapsulated the spirit of learning, excellence, and the relentless pursuit of progress.

The day commenced with an inspiring address by our Deputy Director, Dr. Kanchan Patil, whose visionary words beautifully encapsulated the essence of "Vikaspath." Her motivational speech set the stage for an intellectually stimulating day, marking the beginning of an enriching experience.

We were privileged to host an array of distinguished speakers. Mr. Sudin Baraokar, a celebrated thought leader, enlightened us on the transformative role of AI and ML in banking. His insights challenged conventional boundaries and inspired attendees to embrace innovation in the financial sector.

Adding to the intellectual fervor, Mr. RamGopal Prajapat, a Gen AI visionary from Allcargo Group, shared groundbreaking ideas on revolutionizing customer engagement and logistics using Gen AI. With over 21 years of expertise, his vision emphasized leveraging AI to drive productivity and innovation.

Mr. Aishwarya Upadhyay, a Machine Learning Engineer at Seagate Technology, captivated the audience with her session on accelerating progress through MLOps. Her compelling vision of a seamlessly connected and intelligent future resonated deeply with the audience.

Mr. Swanand Kulkarni, Chief Procurement Officer of Rubiscape, showcased how this low-code data science platform is transforming business challenges into innovative solutions, empowering industries across the spectrum.

Dr. Ajey Kumar, Associate Professor, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging the invaluable contributions of the speakers and the efforts behind this successful event. He also extended heartfelt gratitude to the Guest Lecture Committee (DSDA) for their unwavering commitment and efforts in organizing such an amazing event. Special thanks to our charismatic hosts, Pranjal Gupta and Swet Parekh, whose poise added elegance to the event.

Heartiest congratulations to the winners of “Data Storycraft” and “Ethics Unscripted” at UNSTOP, announced during Dattansh 2025. Your remarkable achievements epitomize the theme of progress and excellence.

Here’s to the inspiration and knowledge gained at Dattansh 2025—a true celebration of growth and innovation!

Yuktha Mohan Pulukkul

Bridging the Gap: From Campus to Corporate

Navigating the transition from campus to the corporate world can be daunting. In his "Campus to Corporate" session, global leader Sanjeev Somani emphasized personal development and bridging the gap between academic learning and industry expectations. He highlighted core leadership values: authenticity, empathy, and vision, stressing the importance of motivating people for success.

The session revolved around three key questions: Why are we here? Where are we headed? And how do we get there? Somani urged students to embrace their "why"—their purpose and institutional choice—and appreciate the sacrifices made to reach this point. He cautioned against merely "going through the motions," emphasizing active engagement and the need to stand out in a competitive job market.

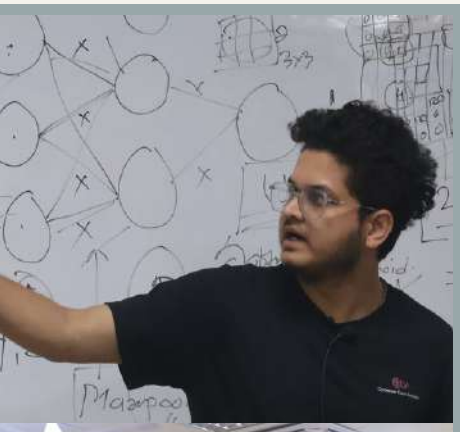
Discussing the "where," Somani explored the IT landscape, differentiating between corporate IT and consulting firms (e.g., DXC, Capgemini, Walmart, Apple). He outlined the CIO's role and their organization's key pillars: Infrastructure, Business Applications (including ERP, CRM, and BI), Information Security (CISO), and Data/BI. He used supply chain management within ERP systems to demonstrate data flow and the importance of understanding the bigger picture. He also introduced GCCs (Global Capability Centers) as another career avenue.

Addressing the "how," Somani focused on EQ (Emotional Quotient) alongside IQ. While IQ is expected at top institutions, EQ is the key differentiator. He defined high EQ characteristics: empathy, communication, positivity, networking, self-awareness, and confidence. He explained high-performing organizations, requiring high-performing individuals and leaders, fostering a positive culture. He advised against expecting immediate managerial roles, suggesting focusing on gaining experience.

Somani also addressed the impact of AI and automation, advising students to understand industry challenges before specializing in specific technologies. He concluded with the "Chief Energy Officer" concept, encouraging students to be CEOs of their own lives, owning their energy, passion, and purpose, and embracing a positive mindset, echoing Tony Robbins: "Stop being afraid of what will go wrong and start being excited about what will go right."

Keerthana Gangadharan Sheeja

Empowering Minds: ML & Generative AI Workshop



The Guest Lecture Committee of DSDA (GL-DSDA) at SCIT, in collaboration with Optimum Data Analytics, organized an insightful workshop on 24th January. Optimum Data Analytics, a women-led startup founded in 2017, has made significant strides in the data analytics industry. The workshop was conducted by Abhishek Jog, Abhijeet Jagtap, Divya Dalal, and Sruthi, who shared their expertise with students.

The session introduced machine learning frameworks and emphasized hands-on activities, guiding participants through data preprocessing to model evaluation. Supervised and unsupervised learning techniques were discussed, with key evaluation metrics such as MSE, RMSE, R^2, precision, recall, and F1-score. Participants worked with regression and classification datasets to apply theoretical knowledge in practical scenarios.

Deep learning fundamentals, including kernels, activation functions, and backpropagation, were explored alongside neural network architectures like feedforward networks, CNNs for image classification, and RNNs for sequential data. Interactive tools such as TensorFlow Playground allowed participants to visualize neural networks, while hands-on exercises focused on image classification using Python and preprocessing techniques like resizing and normalization.

The workshop also covered Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) for dimensionality reduction and its applications in recommendation systems and noise filtering. A session on chatbot development using LangFlow provided practical insights into conversational AI.

Three Jupyter notebooks were shared, covering image classification with CIFAR-10, image preprocessing techniques using OpenCV, and supervised learning with SVD in predictive modeling. Additionally, the speakers provided real-time demonstrations of Generative AI and Large Language Models (LLMs), showcasing their transformative impact.

Dr. Kanchan Patil, Deputy Director at SCIT, graced the event by felicitating the speakers, acknowledging their commitment to sharing knowledge and fostering learning. She expressed gratitude for the team's efforts in making the session an enriching experience for the participants.

The workshop's focus on hands-on learning, coupled with expert guidance from the Optimum Data Analytics team, left a lasting impact on the students. It not only deepened their understanding of machine learning and AI but also inspired them to explore these fields further. The event was a resounding success, marking yet another milestone in GL-DSDA's journey of academic excellence.

Yuktha Mohan Pulukkul

Data Privacy Week : A Journey Towards Privacy Awareness

The much-anticipated DPW 2025 event unfolded with the theme "Privacy Shift: Road to Heaven," bringing together experts, professionals, and students to explore the transformative journey toward a secure and privacy-focused digital world.

The event began with the host emphasizing the significance of data privacy in today's digital age. He highlighted the need for awareness and vigilance to protect personal and organizational data. The theme encouraged understanding basic privacy concepts, recognizing scams, and balancing innovation with privacy while adhering to laws like GDPR and the DPDP Act.

Two distinguished speakers graced the event. Mrs. Vaishali Bhagwat, a seasoned civil and cyber lawyer, shared insights on the evolution of privacy in India and provided practical tips for safeguarding personal data. Mr. Ali Asgar Pancha, an expert in governance and risk management, emphasized the importance of building privacy into systems and shifting focus from compliance to trust-building.

The discussions inspired the audience to actively participate in creating a privacy-centric digital ecosystem. The event concluded with gratitude expressed by the host, leaving attendees empowered to champion privacy and security in their professional and personal lives. Deputy Director Dr. Kanchan Patil felicitated the esteemed guests by presenting them with tokens of love as a gesture of appreciation. DPW 2025 successfully highlighted that privacy is not just a legal requirement but a shared responsibility that fosters trust and sustainability in a data-driven world.

Varad Kundan Raut

Insights into SAP and Business Transformation

SCIT had the privilege of hosting Mr. Ram Bilas Yadav, Senior Director of Pre-Sales at Westernacher, for an insightful guest lecture on SAP implementation and business transformation. With an impressive 20 years of experience, Mr. Yadav shared his expertise on how enterprise systems drive ROI and enable organizations to streamline operations.

He began with an introduction to Westernacher Consulting, a Germany-based firm specializing in SAP solutions and supply chain capabilities. The company plays a crucial role in digital transformation, offering end-to-end tracking, process integration, and advanced analytics for businesses across industries. Westernacher is a pioneer in SAP S/4 HANA implementation, helping organizations achieve seamless enterprise resource planning (ERP), finance integration, asset management, and business technology enhancements.

A key takeaway from the session was the importance of integrating SAP in supply chain management while aligning with global sustainability initiatives. Mr. Yadav highlighted how SAP-driven solutions contribute to efficient supply chain planning and management, ensuring businesses remain competitive in an evolving digital landscape.

During the interactive Q&A session, students actively engaged with Mr. Yadav, seeking deeper insights into SAP's business model. One interesting query revolved around why SAP offers its products through partners rather than directly. He explained that this expands SAP's global reach, providing a wider distribution network, efficient implementation, and continuous support. He also emphasized that industry-specific solutions require specialized configurations, making partner-driven implementations more effective.

The session concluded with Dr. Vijay Kumar Bharati felicitating Mr. Ram Bilas Yadav discussing the future of SAP and enterprise systems in digital transformation. Mr. Yadav's valuable insights left students with a comprehensive understanding of SAP's impact on business growth and technological advancements. SCIT extends its gratitude to Mr. Ram Bilas Yadav for an enlightening session that enriches students' knowledge of SAP, business transformation, and supply chain innovation.

Priyajeet Ghosh

Republic Day Celebration at SIC Campus: A Tribute to Patriotism and Hard Work

The Republic Day celebrations at the SIC Campus were a grand tribute to the spirit of patriotism, unity, and hard work. The event commenced with the esteemed SIIB Director, Dr. Alka Maurya, unfurling the national flag and the soulful rendition of the National Anthem. In her speech, Dr. Alka Maurya inspired students to strive for excellence, emphasizing the importance of hard work and determination in achieving success.

Adding to the inspirational aura of the event, Campus Administrator Col. SK Mishra addressed the students, highlighting the significance of road safety and self-care. His motivating words, "Keep Going; one day you will definitely achieve success," resonated with the young minds, instilling a sense of perseverance and dedication.

A special segment of the event was dedicated to honoring the unsung heroes of the SIC campus. These helpers work tirelessly to maintain the cleanliness and security of the campus and hostels. Their relentless efforts were recognized and appreciated by the Directors of all three colleges and Campus Admin Col. SK Mishra, making it a moment of gratitude and acknowledgment.

The cultural performances added vibrancy to the celebration. Meena Wanjle, a security guard at the campus, mesmerized the audience with a soulful musical performance. This was followed by a thought-provoking monologue by a student from the SIIB Drama Club. The musical ensemble from SIIB further enhanced the festive spirit, creating a melodious atmosphere. To elevate the energy levels, SIIB's Dance Club delivered a dynamic and enthralling performance.

The event concluded on a joyous note with the directors distributing snacks to children and the symbolic release of tri-color balloons, signifying peace, prosperity, and patriotism. The Republic Day celebration at the SIC Campus was truly a memorable occasion, reinforcing the values of hard work, unity, and national pride.

Abhijeet Mahesh Koltharkar

Pongal Celebration at SCIT: A Vibrant Festivity of Culture and Tradition

Pongal, the harvest festival celebrated with immense joy in South India, was marked with great enthusiasm at the Symbiosis Centre for Information Technology (SCIT) this year. The celebrations kicked off with a traditional morning pooja, graced by the Directors of SCIT, SCHMRD, and SIIB. The pooja was a serene and spiritual start to the day, as everyone came together to offer prayers for prosperity, peace, and success for all. Their presence added a sense of unity and reverence to the festivities.

The atrium of SCIT was beautifully decorated, immersing everyone in the festive spirit. A stunning kolam (intricate floor art) welcomed students and staff, showcasing the vibrant colors and delicate patterns that symbolize new beginnings and good fortune. The decorations transformed the entire space into a celebration of culture, creativity, and community.

Following the pooja, the celebrations continued with a grand Pongal feast, offering a delightful array of South Indian delicacies. Students and staff relished traditional dishes like Pongal, vadai, sambar, and a variety of sweets that left everyone's taste buds satisfied. The aroma of these flavorful treats filled the air, creating an atmosphere of warmth and togetherness.

As evening approached, the festivities transitioned into a vibrant cultural program. Students from various departments came together to showcase their talents through traditional dances and performances. The energy was palpable as the campus was alive with music and dance. The evening culminated on a high note, with everyone dancing, laughing, and celebrating the spirit of Pongal. It was a day filled with joy, cultural pride, and a sense of community that will be cherished for a long time at SCIT.

Yuktha Mohan Pulukkul

UNVEILING INSIGHTS
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Mugdha Kulkarni

Assistant Professor

Q: What's the most bizarre thing you've heard someone consider as an investment?

A: The most bizarre thing I've heard someone call an investment? Rare sneakers. Apparently, owning limited-edition Jordans is the new way to get rich. Sure, they might go up in value, but try telling your parents that your "future savings" are in shoeboxes under your bed. "Don't worry, Mom, I'm not broke—my Jordans are worth more than gold right now!"

Q: Do you think people make financial decisions more with their hearts or their heads?

A: Most people like to believe they make financial decisions with their heads, but let's be honest—it's usually the heart calling the shots. That's why they end up buying the flashy car or buying expensive iPhones, convincing themselves it's an "investment." Logic says, "Save for the future," but the heart whispers, "Treat yourself—you deserve it!" And guess who wins?

Q: What's the one financial decision you've made that you're proudest of?

A: Investing in knowledge—because knowledge investment is done without worrying about depreciation. With ROI/ROCE - the wisdom!

Q: What's a career lesson you learned the hard way that you wish someone had warned you about?

A: If there's one thing I've learned the hard way, it's that work-life balance. However, it isn't just a trendy hashtag—it's essential for survival! When you spend all your time working, you'll be left singing:
"Give me some sunshine, give me some raise,
Give me another weekend where I don't lose my brain!"
So, take a break, work smart, prioritize your health, and let the Excel sheets wait. We're humans, not ChatGPT, and health is wealth—don't wait until your system crashes!

Graffiti 2025

Graffiti 2025 at Symbiosis Centre for Information Technology (SCIT) was a kaleidoscope of talent, creativity, and unbridled energy. Held over two thrilling days, this flagship event brought students together to celebrate art, culture, and innovation. The campus was alive with enthusiasm, as participants and spectators immersed themselves in a whirlwind of activities, which they enjoyed along with lots of delicacies offered by the food sponsors.

Day 1: Artistic Brilliance and Musical Magic

The first day set the tone for Graffiti 2025 with a series of engaging events, such as Among Us, Treasure Hunt, and a realistic Cricket Bazaar that resembled the IPL Auction. The Eklavya committee took centre stage with their powerful Nukkad Sangram, a street play competition that showcased social issues through raw, impactful performances. Meanwhile, Kala Ki Udaan, a platform for solo acts, witnessed an array of stunning displays, from soulful singing to captivating monologues.

As the evening unfolded, the much-awaited Battle of Bands electrified the audience. Bands from various colleges competed fiercely, filling the night with resonating beats and fiery performances. The energy was infectious, and the crowd's cheers grew louder with every riff and drumbeat. The event ended on a high note, leaving everyone eagerly anticipating Day 2.

Day 2: Thrills, Dance, and a Pro Night to Remember

The second day was packed with diverse activities that catered to different interests. Gaming enthusiasts battled it out in intense competitions while budding strategists tested their mettle in gripping case competitions. The Model United Nations (MUN) drew in participants who debated global issues with eloquence and conviction. The winners of all events then battled it out at the flagship Advitya event. As the sun dipped, the spotlight shifted to Nritya Dhara, organized by the Symbeats committee. This group dance competition was a mesmerizing display of coordination and rhythm, as teams performed dynamic routines that left the audience spellbound.

The grand finale of Graffiti 2025 was the Pro Night, an electrifying celebration that pulled out all the stops. The stage came alive with performances by three sensational DJs. The night kicked off with the dynamic beats of Aarcturuss, followed by the arrival of Himani Singh, a Sunburn artist who brought the house down with her high-energy tracks. The crescendo was reached with the enthralling tunes of Daaku Duo. The crowd danced into the night, lost in the rhythm and magic of the moment.

Graffiti 2025 was more than just an event; it was an experience that united the SCIT community. From artistic showcases to exhilarating competitions and unforgettable performances, every moment was a testament to the students' creativity and spirit. As the curtains fell, the memories of these two incredible days lingered, promising an even grander celebration next year.

Priyajeet Ghosh

SENIOR SCOOP : TALES & TIPS

Graffiti Edition

Shailendra Rajawat

Q: How did you balance academics and organizing Graffiti? Any tips for juniors on managing both?

A: Balancing academics and Graffiti is all about time management and teamwork. I stayed disciplined with deadlines and avoided procrastination. For group projects, having reliable friends to delegate tasks helped. Graffiti is a team effort, so my advice to juniors is to stay organized, communicate well, and prioritize smartly. The experience teaches leadership and problem-solving skills that are just as valuable as academics.

Q: If you could go back, is there anything you'd do differently in your Graffiti journey?

A: Time is the biggest challenge in Graffiti. The team forms in October, right before juniors exams, leaving just two months for execution. If the process started in August, it would allow for better planning, teamwork, and contingency execution.

Q: If you had to describe Graffiti in three words, what would they be?

A: Creative. Memorable. Challenging

Bhushan Kakirde

Q: How did you balance maintaining the traditions of Graffiti with introducing new ideas or change?

A: One of the biggest highlights was Nrityadhara, which was introduced for the first time! It showcased breathtaking performances by various dance teams and turned out to be a massive hit. It wasn't just about adding something new—it was about top-notch stage event bringing fresh energy to the festival.

Q: What are some unique traditions or highlights of Graffiti that you think juniors should always preserve?

A: Zero Day is a tradition that should always be preserved. After all the last-minute chaos and prep, Zero Day is a time to celebrate every single person who made Graffiti possible, it is an unofficial launch of Graffiti. From cutting the cake to setting the stage for an adrenaline-packed two-day fest at SCIT, this tradition is pure gold and should never be lost!

Q: What was the most surprising or unexpected thing you learned about yourself during Graffiti?

A: From being the main coordinator last year to a mentor this year, I've had the ultimate growth journey. I've leveled up my confidence, people skills, and stress management like never before. It's been a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. Graffiti is one of the best things that happened to me in SCIT.

Shivam Singh

Q: How did Graffiti help you develop skills or qualities that you now apply outside the fest?

A: Ah, Graffiti! It's basically a high-speed MBA course packed into three months—just with more adrenaline and less sleep. I walked in thinking, "Okay, I'll plan some events, manage a few teams, post some cool stuff online."

Reality? Crisis management bootcamp. One minute, you're coordinating schedules; the next, you're fixing last-minute tech glitches, convincing a performer that yes, they do need to stick to the timeline and *drum rolls* handling 2k plus odd teenagers (Teen Drama Included). It taught me leadership under pressure, strategic thinking, and the fine art of looking calm while internally panicking —all skills I now use in personal and professional settings.

And of course, mentoring juniors (the BEST peeps). That's where I learned how to give instructions without sounding like a villain from a corporate drama.

Q: What advice would you give to juniors to make the most of their experience at Graffiti?

A: Alright, listen up, future legends. If you really want to own Graffiti, here's what you gotta do:

1. Take Initiative. Don't wait for someone to assign tasks.
2.Expect Chaos—And Love It. Solving problems before anyone even notices.
3. Keep Your Team Close.
4. Enjoy Every Second.

So go out there, bring your A-game, and make Graffiti unforgettable. Trust me, it's worth every sleepless night.

Suruchi Sarwate

Q: If you could add one completely new event or concept to Graffiti, what would it be?

A: Since Graffiti is a techno-managerial festival, I would like to include an event focusing on mock board room discussions that simulate real-world board rooms. The participants would engage in role-playing event where participants act as CEOs, investors, or stakeholders negotiating deals, mergers, or crisis management scenarios. This would not only sharpen participants' negotiation, persuasion, and decision-making skills but also give them a taste of how to deal with high pressure situations.

Q: What's the most significant challenge you faced during Graffiti, and how did you navigate it?

A: The most significant challenge during Graffiti was ensuring that the 15 events spread across two days happened smoothly. Planning the events to the t and ensuring that each and every volunteer knows the timelines helped us in overcoming this challenge. The preparation for every event a night prior really helped. Major shout out to Kunal and Swapnil who spearheaded the event preparation endavour which helped in making Graffiti fun and memorable for the team and for the participants.

Kunal Tickoo

Q: What's the most fun or humorous incident you remember from your time working on Graffiti?

A: Some of the most enjoyable moments were during the late-night work sessions for the event. The entire core team was present, working tirelessly, but the fun everyone had by just being together made it truly memorable!

Q: Which event or element of Graffiti was your favorite, and why?

A: I was working on Graffiti with people I already knew, which meant we had a strong understanding of each other. This made the work enjoyable and helped us avoid any conflicts. Well, almost any conflicts Haha!

Q: Were there any behind-the-scenes efforts or moments that the audience didn't see but were pivotal to the fest's success?

A: The volunteers of SCIT have always been the backbone of Graffiti. Their constant support made the core team's work much easier. I personally want to extend my thanks to every volunteer who contributed last year and this year for the fest. And finally, thanks to the Graffiti core team for all the memories!

Swapnil Joshi

Q: What role did networking and communication play in making Graffiti a success?

A: I would say that Firstly internal networking and communication played a major role.. getting support from the management, Accounts and Savita ma'am.There were several things looking out of reach for us but eventually with support could deliver good results. External networking lead us to a good pool of sponsorship this year plus the negotiations with artist management company and production played a key role.A lot of things were done and exchanged by "Trusting" and relying on one another.

Q: What's the one thing you miss the most about being part of Graffiti?

A: The liveliness, the adrenaline rush of the final days is what I miss the most. Building something from the scratch, watching the team's effort come to life and seeing the crowd enjoy is something fulfilling.

Q: What's a lesson you learned from Graffiti that you carry with you to this day?

A: To be adaptive to any situation and to stay calm in unexpected challenges is what I've learnt. It has helped me both personally and personally.

STAR ALUMNI

In this special alumni interview, we catch up with Shivaram CV, Senior Associate at PWC and an adventurous rider, who recently embarked on a dream bike trip across western India. From the bustling streets of Bangalore to the vast white salt desert of Dholavira, this journey was more than just a road trip—it was about fulfilling a long-awaited dream, embracing the unknown, and experiencing the freedom of the open road.

Can you take us through your bike ride—where did you start, and what were some of the key stops along the way? What made your final destination so special?

I started my journey from Bangalore, making stops at Pune and Surat before heading towards my final destination—Dholavira. It's a biker's paradise, known for its breathtaking white salt desert. The route takes you through the heart of the Rann of Kutch, just about 60 kilometers from the Pakistan border. This region is home to the world's second-largest salt bed after Estonia and holds deep historical significance as part of the Harappan civilization. For any biking enthusiast, this is a dream ride.

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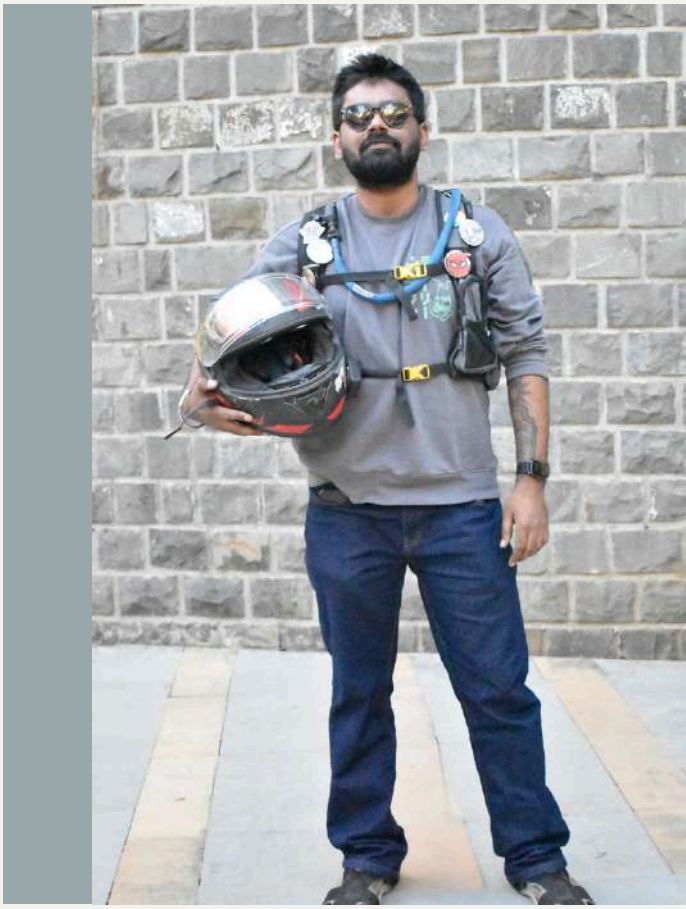
That sounds like a truly special journey. How did it feel to finally reach Dholavira? Can you describe that moment?

Reaching Dholavira was an emotional moment for me. It had been a dream ride for a long time, and when I finally got there around 6:30 AM, just in time for sunrise, I was overwhelmed. The sight of the vast white desert under the rising sun was so surreal that I actually had tears in my eyes. It was a mix of joy, accomplishment, and sheer awe—it's a moment I'll never forget.



How long had you been planning for this? What was your motivation behind taking this journey?

The motivation was that I always wanted to explore western India, as it remains relatively unexplored by many travelers. A few of my friends had done this trip two years ago, but due to work commitments, I couldn't join them at the time. Ever since then, it had been on my mind. This time, I finally got the opportunity and didn't want to miss it.
As for planning, I had been thinking about the trip casually for about a month, but it wasn't until a week before that I finalized everything—booking hotels and sorting out the logistics. And now, here I am, having completed the journey and reflecting on an incredible experience.

What bike are you riding for this journey?

I ride a **Honda H'ness CB 350**, and I call it **Alamari**. Alamari is a Kannada word that means **nomad** or **tribe**, which perfectly represents the spirit of this journey. My bike and I have been on some incredible adventures together, and this ride was no exception. It's more than just a machine—it's a true companion on the road.

STAR ALUMNI

We would love to hear about your fondest memories from your time at SCIT. What moments or experiences stand out the most for you?

I think it's my friends who made my time at SCIT truly special. We were known as the '912 gang,' named after our hostel room. That room was our sanctuary—where we worked on projects, prepared for placements, and shared countless personal moments, whether it was heartbreaks or triumphs. The hostel atmosphere was a big part of my experience, though they've renamed it to 'Cherry Blossom,' Another cherished memory is the sports arena and swimming pool. Almost every evening after classes, I'd grab my spare clothes, head over to the sports area to play football, and then return to the hostel to work on assignments. These moments of camaraderie and relaxation were the highlights of my day.
Ultimately, my friends and these experiences were the lifelines that made my SCIT journey unforgettable. Coming back to college was my chance to savor these moments one last time before diving into the corporate world.

Thank you for sharing those wonderful memories! Speaking of impact, I'm curious to know, which SCIT faculty member had the most significant influence on your career? How did they shape your journey?

There were quite a few faculty members who impacted me in their own ways, but the one who truly resonated with me was Mandar Sir. He came from a corporate background and his teachings in the pre-sales subject were incredibly practical. The concepts and skills he taught us are things I still use on a daily basis in my current work. His approach was strict and particular about certain standards, which felt challenging at the time, but ultimately shaped my professional discipline and competence. Mandar Sir's influence has had a lasting impact on my career.

Switching gears a bit, I'd love to get your thoughts on a broader topic. Do you think AI will become the biggest asset or the biggest threat to information security in the next decade?

When we say that there are things a human mind can't do, which AI can, it highlights the potential of AI. From my perspective, AI is the biggest asset we have, but it heavily depends on how we use it. There are specific use cases, especially in niche fields like cryptocurrency or blockchain, where AI has shown its power. However, there have also been numerous hacks linked to AI applications in these areas.
Even with tools like ChatGPT, we've seen data being used for purposes that weren't intended, leading to concerns about misuse. As we're constantly feeding data into these AI systems, it's crucial to recognize that this technology can be used in many different ways, not all of them positive.
Ultimately, AI needs to be controlled and regulated to maximize its benefits. Going forward, whether we like it or not, AI is the biggest asset for humanity. It's all about how we choose to use it that will determine its impact.

Keerthana Gangadharan Sheeja

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