



ATHARVA

Oct'25
Edition 83

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Editor's Note

We are delighted to bring you this edition of the SCIT magazine, a reflection of the vibrant culture, academic spirit, and dynamic events that define our institute.



Graph Intelligence

Graph Intelligence uncovers hidden relationships in data, turning isolated insights into connected, predictive intelligence.



Synthetic Data

Synthetic data enables safe, privacy-friendly innovation by replicating real data for learning, testing, and AI development without risking personal information.



Contextual AI in Cybersecurity

Contextual AI transforms cybersecurity from reactive defence to proactive intelligence by continuously learning and predicting threats before they occur.



Lessons Beyond Classrooms

SCIT's MBA journey goes beyond academics, fostering teamwork, balance, and personal growth that shape students into confident, well-rounded professionals.



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EDITOR'S NOTE

October at SCIT unfolded as a month of reflection, learning, and new perspectives. The month began with the warmth of festivity, as students headed home for the much-awaited Diwali vacation, a time to reconnect with family, recharge, and celebrate the triumph of light over darkness. Upon returning to campus, the focus shifted toward academics as students geared up for their end-of-semester examinations, filling the atmosphere with determination and anticipation.



This edition of the magazine delves deep into some of the most thought-provoking and futuristic themes shaping the world of technology and analytics. Articles such as “Graph Intelligence: Moving Beyond Traditional Analytics”, “Synthetic Data: The Fuel for Safer, Faster Innovation”, and “Contextual AI in Cybersecurity: Moving from Reactive to Predictive Defense” offer readers a glimpse into the evolving frontiers of AI-driven insights and digital resilience. Each piece brings forth new dimensions of how data, intelligence, and security converge in shaping smarter, more adaptive systems.

Adding a personal touch to this issue is the feature “Lessons Beyond Classrooms: Finding Balance, Teamwork, and Growth at SCIT”, which beautifully captures the spirit of campus life, where learning extends far beyond academic boundaries. It reflects how every project, collaboration, and challenge contributes to shaping holistic, well-rounded professionals.

As October comes to a close, it stands as a reminder of balance, between academic rigor and festive joy, between innovation and introspection. With hearts full of gratitude and minds ready for new beginnings, the SCIT family steps into the next chapter with renewed energy and purpose.

Graph Intelligence: Moving Beyond Traditional Analytics

In an age where data is the new currency, insight is the true wealth. Yet, even the most advanced analytics often fall short when the answers lie not in individual data points, but in the connections between them. That's where Graph Intelligence is quietly rewriting the rules of analytics.

Powered by Graph Machine Learning (Graph ML), this next-generation approach doesn't just crunch numbers; it deciphers relationships, dependencies, and influence patterns hidden deep within connected data. Instead of linear reports, Graph Intelligence delivers context-driven insights that reflect how real-world systems operate as interlinked, dynamic, and unpredictable.

Take fraud detection, for instance. Traditional models might flag isolated anomalies, but Graph ML identifies entire fraud rings by detecting subtle ties across accounts, IP addresses, or devices. In supply chain analytics, it reveals multi-tier dependencies and predicts where a disruption might ripple next. Meanwhile, in healthcare, Graph Intelligence maps patient journeys across diagnoses, prescriptions, and outcomes, enabling providers to transition from reactive care to predictive, precision-based medicine.

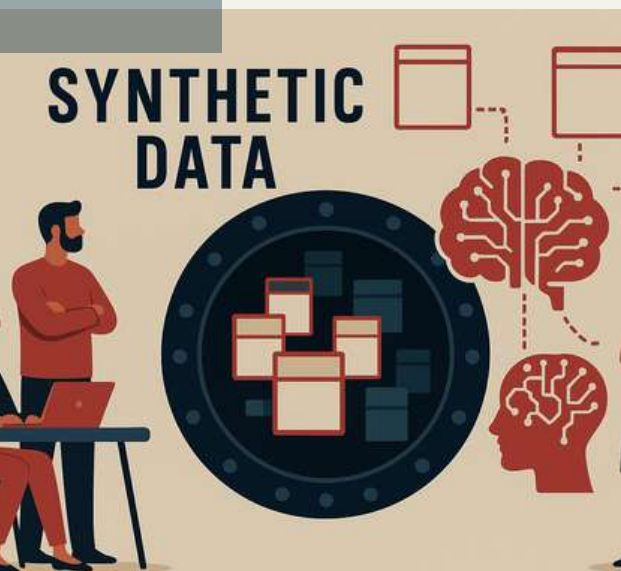
The magic lies in relationship-centric learning. Graph ML algorithms understand influence, like which entity triggers another, which node strengthens or weakens a network, leading to more accurate predictions and faster decision-making.

As organizations shift from static dashboards to real-time graph analytics, the competitive edge now lies in recognizing patterns of connection, not just metrics of performance.

Graph Intelligence represents the evolution from data analysis to data understanding. It's not about what data you have, it's about how it's connected. In a world driven by interdependence, that might be the smartest connection of all.

- Sudhashri Rajendra Naik





Synthetic Data: The Fuel for Safer, Faster Innovation

In today's world, data is at the heart of every decision. Organizations rely on it to improve systems, solve problems, and understand people better. But working with real user data can be difficult, it may contain sensitive details, fall under strict privacy laws like GDPR, or simply be unavailable in the quantity or quality required. This often limits research, testing, and innovation.

To overcome these challenges, many organizations now use synthetic data, information created by computer models that resembles real data without linking back to any real person. It captures important patterns and trends while keeping identities completely safe.

The biggest advantage of synthetic data is that it offers the best of both worlds: meaningful insights without privacy risks. Companies can create as much of it as needed and even design specific scenarios to test. For example, a bank can build synthetic transaction records to safely train and evaluate fraud-detection systems. It also helps in situations where real data is rare, like records of patients with uncommon illnesses, allowing AI models to learn better.

This approach is already supporting innovation across industries. In healthcare, synthetic patient data helps train AI models for early diagnosis and treatment planning, without exposing real medical records. In retail, it allows teams to study customer behavior, improve recommendations, and forecast demand. With fewer restrictions and faster access, teams can experiment confidently and make better decisions.

As AI continues to grow, synthetic data stands out as a smart way to balance innovation with responsibility. It allows organizations to learn, build, and improve without compromising anyone's privacy. For students and young professionals, understanding synthetic data opens doors to ethical, practical, and future-ready innovation.

- Divyansh Vyas



Contextual AI in Cybersecurity: Moving from Reactive to Predictive Defense

The evolution of cyber threats has outpaced traditional security measures that rely solely on rule-based detection and manual response. As digital ecosystems expand, security strategies must transition from reactive defense to predictive intelligence. This is where Contextual Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the cybersecurity landscape.

Contextual AI goes beyond identifying known attack patterns. It continuously learns from user behavior, network activity, and system interactions to understand what constitutes “normal” within an organization. By establishing this behavioral baseline, the system can detect subtle deviations such as unusual login attempts, irregular data transfers, or unusual communication patterns that may indicate a potential threat long before it escalates. Unlike conventional AI models that focus on static data, contextual AI adapts dynamically. It analyses environmental variables, device context, user intent, and historical data in real time, enabling a proactive defense posture. This intelligence empowers systems to predict and prevent cyber incidents, reducing the reliance on post-attack mitigation.

Integrating contextual AI into security frameworks enhances both detection accuracy and operational efficiency. It minimizes false positives, accelerates incident response, and enables security teams to focus on high-priority risks. More importantly, it transforms cybersecurity from a reactive shield into a predictive ecosystem capable of anticipating and neutralizing emerging threats.

As organizations navigate the complexities of cloud computing, IoT, and remote work environments, contextual AI stands as a strategic imperative. Its ability to continuously learn, reason, and adapt marks a decisive shift toward intelligent, pre-emptive defense where threats are not merely responded to but foreseen and prevented.

- Soumen Sahoo



Lessons Beyond Classrooms: Finding Balance, Teamwork, and Growth at SCIT

An MBA at SCIT offers an experience that extends far beyond just textbooks and theories. The most essential lessons in leadership and management come alive within the institute's vibrant and dynamic environment, transforming students into well-rounded professionals.

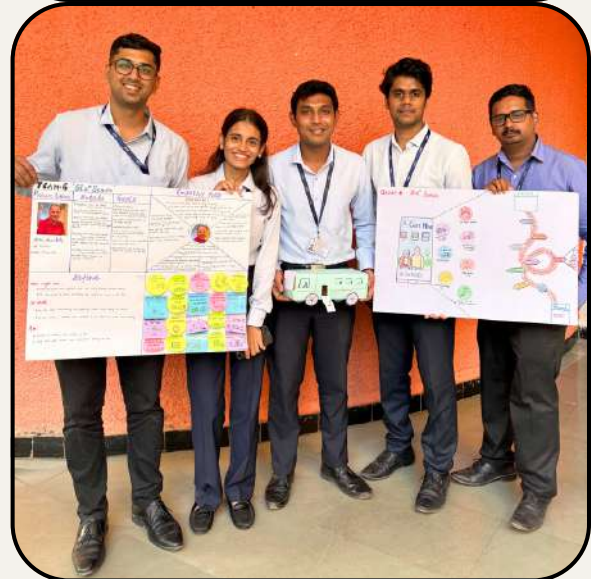
The journey starts with a significant lesson in teamwork. A student's study group quickly evolves into their first professional launchpad. In this collaborative setting, they learn to connect diverse thinking styles, blending a marketer's creativity with a technologist's precision. They become adept at navigating differing perspectives and realize that collective success, founded on effective collaboration, creates bonds that lay the groundwork for a robust professional network.

At SCIT, students excel in balancing energy and purpose. They learn to flourish while managing a rewarding triple commitment: engaging academics, meaningful committee roles, and an active social life. Balancing a complex assignment with organizing a major college event, all while making crazy and heartfelt memories with friends, imparts invaluable skills in prioritization. This dynamic balance is not merely a challenge but a masterclass in thriving under pressure, equipping them for a successful and multifaceted career.

This journey leads to remarkable personal growth. Every experience, from a fun outing with friends to a late-night canteen session, presents an opportunity for personal growth and self-discovery that helps students become a better version of themselves.

Through these experiences, students actively engage with SCIT's transformative hidden curriculum. The institution not only imparts knowledge but also cultivates adaptable, collaborative, and resilient individuals. A graduate leaves with more than just a degree; they carry the confidence to forge an exceptional career and the lifelong friendships that make the journey so fulfilling.

- Shiv Pratap Singh



UNVEILING INSIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Ajey Kumar
(Associate Professor)



Q: You've explored fields from Artificial Intelligence to Computer Vision – what first sparked your curiosity for technology, and what keeps you passionate about it even today?

A: Evolution is natural and in the world of Academics it is obvious. The field of Computer Science & Engineering/IT/AI is very dynamic. As a techie guy it inspires me a lot. In order to learn and teach- curiosity, interest and a researcher mind-set are must. It keeps me driving, even today.

Q: With AI and Data Analytics evolving so quickly, how do you see these technologies shaping the future of management and business decision-making?

A: The impact is huge. Right from enabler to automation to services, you will find AI/Data Analytics. In future too, these are going to be prevalent and the human race will evolve too. The way of working will change.

Q: Explainable AI is becoming a key conversation in tech. How do you think students and future professionals can balance innovation with responsibility in this space?

A: Security and Privacy is very important wrt individuals. As, each individual's data is digitized, so they are on some database. Which data is sharable and which is not- should be very clear? Who can use what amount of data – Should also be clearly mentioned? Individuals should also be aware of what to share and what not to. Explainable AI, helps to understand that the application/machine is utilizing only those data which are required and then properly disposing off after its use. To be Responsible is the only mantra.

Q: Many students find AI and Data Analytics a bit intimidating at first. What's one piece of advice you'd give to someone just starting their journey in this field?

A: Students should always be open to learn new things especially in the domain of AI/Data Analytics. As a rule of thumb, start with the basic and focus on the use cases of the techniques learnt. Rote learning is not going to help in present and future dynamic world, where the disruptions are changing/making the applications more user centric, thereby creating new job profiles. Students should also be inclined towards research. Research will help them to sustain in this evolving Industry scenarios.

SENIOR SCOOP : TALES & TIPS

From Reflections Committee



**Sandhya
Kona**



**Pranav
Mutaliknadagoud**

Q: How has being in a committee shaped your teamwork and leadership style?

A: Being in the committee was a game-changer. I've always been soft-spoken but the role taught me to speak up, trust my teammates, make decisions under pressure and align everyone toward a common goal.

Q: If you had to describe MBA life at SCIT in one metaphor, what would it be and why?

A: A giant jigsaw puzzle! Each subject, project, and interaction adds a vital piece to the whole. It may be tricky at first but with patience and teamwork, everything starts to connect. The rewarding moment comes when you see the complete picture come to life, a journey worth taking!

Q: If you had to pick one place on campus that feels like "your spot," where would it be and why?

A: I love the walking trail around campus! No matter how busy my day is, taking a lap with friends always boosts my mood. It's a great spot for venting or having a friendly chat. A refreshing walk truly lifts my spirits!

Q: Looking back, what's one key learning or value your committee experience has added to your MBA journey?

A: Throughout my MBA journey, I have often succumbed to influenced decisions—a practice some might call diplomacy. In sensitive and intricate situations, tough diplomatic choices are frequently necessary. I have learned that true diplomacy is not about being biased or succumbing to pressure. Instead, it is a tool for conflict resolution that provides a plethora of options, leading to a considered outcome rather than a coerced one.

Q: If you could describe your MBA life in one phrase, what would it be?

A: Understood the difference between "Grabbing and Curbing the opportunities". True meaning of Darwin's "Survival of the fittest"

Q: What's that one small daily ritual or habit that keeps you grounded amid all the chaos?

A: Thinking about the multiple consequences of my tiniest decisions keeps me guarded and grounded. Patience and calmness are my strengths and the best tools I use to tackle the MBA chaos.

From PRAGHYA - The AI Analytics Club



**Swet
Parekh**

Q: What's one experience in your committee that really challenged how you think or work?

A: Getting everyone on the same page, from members to mentors was a big challenge, coordinating permissions, confirming events scheduling etc.. It taught me patience, clear communication and the importance of team work to execute tasks smoothly.

Q: MBA life is known for its unpredictability—how do you personally stay calm and organized through it all?

A: MBA life is hectic juggling between assignments, placements, exams, committees and personal life. I tackle the chaos by powering through late nights with plenty of caffeine and some times relying on my team for support. Its not perfect but we make it work somehow and keep moving forward despite the pressure.

Q: If your personality were a data point on a graph, what would it represent?

A: If I were a data point I'd be the one always learning - sometimes making mistakes and taking wrong paths but willing again to start from zero or root nodes until I get things done. Its about persistence and growth no matter the setbacks.



**Divya
Nipane**

Q: You've worked closely with topics like innovation and strategy — how do you see AI influencing these areas?

A: AI is redefining innovation and strategy by enabling data-driven creativity, faster experimentation, and smarter decision-making. It's no longer just a support tool but a thought partner that challenges how we ideate, plan, and execute.

Q: If you could invite three people (living or historical) for a coffee chat on innovation, who would they be?

A: I'd invite Leonardo da Vinci for his timeless curiosity, Charlie Chaplin to remind us that emotion must guide intelligence, and Taylor Swift to discuss how storytelling and data can coexist in art. That conversation would be chaotic, creative, and iconic!

Q: If you could describe your perfect weekend in three words, what would they be?

A: Cafes, Candids, Chill. That's my perfect weekend in three words — spending time at cozy cafés, clicking aesthetic photos for my story, just unwinding with friends, and ending the day with a dose of classic CID mystery.

From Eklavya Committee



**Arpit
Kashyap**

Q: What's one moment in your committee journey that made all the late-night rehearsals feel worth it?

A: It has to be Nautanki Shaala. We were working on fixing the script, doing PR for the participants, and practicing to host the event — all barely two days before the act! The chaos, the adrenaline rush, and the way everyone came together, including our seniors, despite the time crunch, made it unforgettable. We definitely pulled off a successful event.

Q: How would you describe the real difference between "college life" and "MBA life" in just three words?

A: Dreams meet Discipline.

Q: What's your go-to stress-buster after a long, exhausting day on campus?

A: Sitting in my hostel room with my hostel mates, having funny conversations, pulling each other's legs, and just laughing endlessly. It's those little moments of chaos and comfort that make even the most tiring days feel lighter.



**Harsh
Nautiyal**

Q: What inspired you to explore the world of theatre and performing arts?

A: Though I wanted to take part in the events from the start, I was hesitant, but two people pushed me:

- Mithil (Acting SPOC in Sambharambh), who showed confidence in me and motivated me to give it a try at least once.
- Saksham (Symbeats SPOC), who shared that he himself was dancing on stage for the first time and encouraged me to try acting in the same spirit.

So, in short, I didn't really have a plan — it just happened.

Q: What's your go-to ritual right before stepping on stage?

A: I quickly go over my key points in my mind and remind myself that the audience is there to enjoy the act. This helps me stay calm and focused. I also remind myself to enjoy the moment instead of stressing about it.

Q: What are some values or life skills you think acting naturally teaches?

A: I would like to answer this from the perspective of performing an act. When I start with scripting or directing a scene, acting makes me step into different roles and think from multiple angles to solve a problem.

Once I'm on stage, facing the audience, it naturally teaches me confidence, quick thinking, improvisation, adaptability, and the versatility to handle any situation.

From Konnect Band



**Akash
Murukesh**

Q: What's the most memorable performance or jam session you've had as a committee?

A: You might be surprised, but our best memories come from our biggest on-stage blunders! We've forgotten lyrics, played in the wrong key—you name it. The magic happens when we have to improvise on the spot and rely on each other to get through it. Those chaotic moments are what we laugh about later and remember most fondly.

Q: How do you make sure each member's musical style is heard and appreciated?

A: I see our committee as a jigsaw puzzle. Each member is a unique piece with their own style and strengths. My role is to see how these different pieces can complement each other to create a cohesive sound. We foster an environment where all ideas are welcome, allowing different genres to fuse into something new and exciting.

Q: How do you balance late-night rehearsals with academic deadlines and projects?

A: We make our schedule work for us. By keeping rehearsals late, we ensure academics are the priority during the day. Practice then becomes a welcome break to cool off from studies. Plus, if we are behind on a project, we'll use our breaks to complete it. It's all about time management.



**Bhargav
Mantrala**

Q: What's one skill your committee helped you discover or strengthen that surprised even you?

A: The most surprising skill I strengthened was literally balancing everything! I developed a clear divide between my academic life, committee work and personal time. This strict compartmentalization allowed me to manage the heavy workload across multiple committees without overlap, ensuring full presence and focus in every area.

Q: MBA life is full of group projects—how do you keep collaboration fun and productive?

A: I leverage my strengths of public speaking and presentations to take the lead on communication. To keep things productive, we set the final deadline, then assign task deadlines backward from that date. This makes sure every part is finished on time, giving us plenty of room to discuss and make changes.

Q: If your committee had a soundtrack, which song would perfectly describe the vibe this year?

A: Limiting it to one song would be so unfair! My take would be a sweet blend of "Aashayein" (Iqbal), "Moments" (Hollow Coves), and "Team" (Lorde). Make of it what you will!

From Drishtikon Committee



**Sanatan
Tripathi**

Q: What's one behind-the-scenes moment from your committee work that you'll never forget?

A: Pioneering the first 'Drishtikon Digest' newsletter was a defining challenge. Juggling exam revisions and project deadlines, the pressure to deliver a quality publication every month was immense. That relentless cycle truly tested my ability to multitask and lead. The moment I'll never forget is the pride of seeing each improved edition launch, proving our team's commitment to creating a lasting legacy for the committee.

Q: How has your MBA experience shaped the way you see teamwork and leadership?

A: My MBA reframed leadership as service, not command. I learned that the best leaders are enablers who foster psychological safety, allowing diverse teams to debate fiercely yet unite completely. True teamwork isn't about consensus; it's about harnessing unique strengths for a common goal, a lesson repeatedly proven in countless study groups and project deliverables.

Q: If someone were to write a caption for your MBA life, what would it say?

A: Two years of unlearning limits, relearning resilience, and discovering that the most profound lessons were found in the journey alongside my peers.



**Chinmay
Sontakke**

Q: The committee oversees a range of initiatives, including GD-PI sessions, speaker series, and newsletters. Which of these do you think has the biggest impact on students?

A: Among all initiatives, GD-PI sessions made the biggest impact. Seniors guided juniors through realistic interview simulations, offering one-on-one feedback. By recreating real interview pressure, students gained hands-on experience, built confidence, and learned to think on their feet—turning nerves into preparation and uncertainty into actionable skills for future success.

Q: If you could add one new initiative to Drishtikon's portfolio, what would it be and why?

A: I'd add an initiative to Drishtikon nurturing in-house startups. Beyond academics and placements, it would let students break conventional mindsets, turning ideas into ventures—building systems, exploring entrepreneurship, and creating fulfilling, student-led opportunities.

Q: When you need a break from work, where do you usually find your calm?

A: I find calm at one spot chai ka tapri, chatting with close friends—where nonsense flips into life advice. With tea and zero filter, brutally honest talks make stress vanish... for a while.

From Symbeats Committee



**Meenakshi
Daga**



**Saksham
Purohit**

Q: What's one memory from your committee journey that you'll always carry with you?

A: A memory I'll always cherish from my committee journey is how I became the SPOC. I had joined simply to dance and learn, but along the way, I discovered my creative side and my ability to lead. Balancing dance with studies taught me discipline and confidence. I never saw myself as a leader, but others recognized that in me first—and now, I've learned to see it in myself too.

Q: MBA can get intense—what's your secret to staying motivated and managing it all?

A: Yes, an MBA can be intense, but I believe the secret is to truly live the experience. I remind myself to explore, stay curious, and never let go of the things I love. The projects and grades eventually work out, but the memories, friendships, and moments of growth are what truly matter. For me, motivation comes from finding joy in the chaos—because when you enjoy what you're doing, balance follows naturally.

Q: If your daily routine had a "dance move" to describe it, what would it be and why?

A: If my daily routine were a dance move, it would be a freestyle groove. Every day is a mix of tasks, surprises, and learning, and I just go with the flow. Sometimes it's structured, sometimes spontaneous, but I try to stay present and enjoy the rhythm. Just like dancing, it's about finding your own pace, making small adjustments along the way, and keeping the energy alive no matter what the day brings.

Q: How do you think extracurricular involvement enhances the overall learning experience at SCIT?

A: Is the learning in MBA limited to classrooms? Maybe to some, but not for me. Practicing a dance routine till 2 A.M. then being present in the 8:30 A.M. lecture, sitting for a test and immediately performing in a SIU level dance competition on the same day, that's MBA for me! Performing on stage taught me confidence, and forgetting a step here and there reminded me that it's okay to get stuck. So, I do believe extracurriculars add-on to your learning curve throughout your time in SCIT.

Q: If you could learn one new dance form overnight, what would it be and why?

A: Shuffling. I'm not very expressive when it comes to facial movements, so "dancing above the neck" might take me some time to master. However, I'm quite quick with my footwork, which makes Shuffling a style that truly suits me.

Q: What's that one performance or memory that still makes you smile whenever you think about it?

A: My first stage performance at Samarambh is a memory that always makes me smile because when I look back, I see:

*"The giggles of falling, strings of stalling,
A t-shirt full of sweat, the third song of regret,
We were shy, yet we tried,
A few steps we gave our all, some we let slide
That was a dance of appraisal, that was a dance of greets.
Yep, it was my stepping stone for Symbeats."*

STAR ALUMNI



In this edition of Alumni Spotlight we proudly feature Ganesh Vaidya, a seasoned technology and fintech leader. Ganesh, an alumnus of the MBA programme at Symbiosis Centre for Information Technology (Batch 2006- 2008]), has built an impressive career at the intersection of finance, technology and operational excellence.

With over 16 years of experience, Ganesh's journey has been marked by significant roles in major financial institutions and non-bank finance companies. He progressed from roles in companies like HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to his current leadership position at SBFC Finance Limited. His expertise spans across digital transformation, tech strategy, systems architecture, lending and financial services.

Currently serving as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at SBFC Finance Limited, Ganesh continues to spearhead technology initiatives that drive innovation, scalability and customer-centricity in the lending space.

Ganesh's journey stands as an inspiration to budding fintech and technology professionals, showcasing the power of continuous learning, strategic leadership and the integration of tech with business goals.



Batch 2006 - 2008
Chief Technology Officer at
SBFC Finance Limited

Ganesh, an alumnus of SCIT's MBA in Information Systems and Security (Batch 2006-2008), has carved a remarkable career in the banking and financial services domain, leading technology-driven innovation and digital transformation initiatives with excellence.

COMING UP NEXT



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