Highlight of the Issue

SPECIAL INTERVIEWS

Silicon University

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SLATE

Silicon Language for Arts Technology & Education

Our Vision: To become a center of excellence in the fields of technical education & research and create responsible citizens

From the Editor's Desk...

It is somewhat disheartening to see students heavily taking recourse to AI technology to solve problems which they could have solved better with their own potential. No matter how small and non-challenging the task is, the first thought to take help of technology to do it has become a common practice with the young learners.

Worth pondering is the matter that AI is nothing but machines working in intelligent ways. And this marvel is made possible through the efforts of supremely intelligent people. The bottom line here is, human brains are far more intelligent than mere machines.

All remarkable inventions in history have been possible only through the power of the human brain by exercising it efficiently in the directions of creative and critical thinking. However, these two vital functions of the brain get heavily limited when we depend upon technology to get quick, ready-made answers. The overdependence constricts the freewheeling of creative ideas, and better solutions.

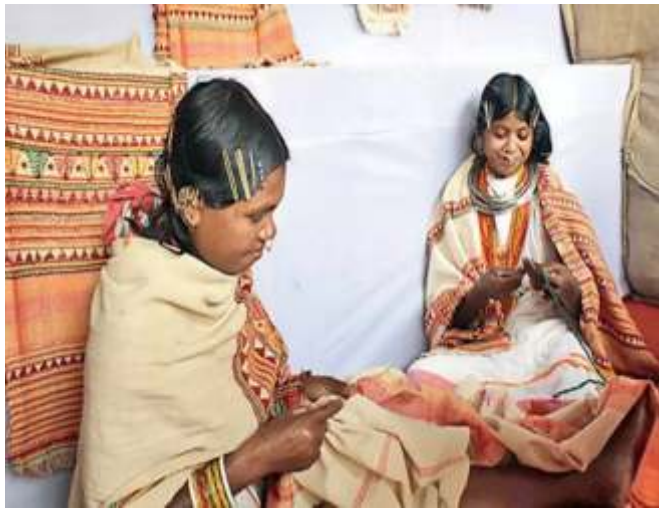
This fact is very well known to all the tech giants of contemporary times, irrespective of their invention type. This is perhaps why Bill Gates did not allow his children to have phones till they grew up, and Steve Jobs did not make his children use the technology he invented. They were but too clear about the repercussions of overpowering machine-fed information on human creativity. Apparently they knew that the potential of the human brain is far superior to what machines have to offer. Elon Musk, the tech titan who has shown the power of AI in his inventions, warns us about the terrible consequences of AI when used thoughtlessly in his statement, "AI is a fundamental risk to the existence of human civilization."

It is true that AI inventions have made life easy. Sectors such as healthcare, marketing, agriculture, military, banking, and automobile have seen insurmountable progress through AI. But the downside of overusing it must be checked. Human creativity must be encouraged to help our posterity evolve into capable and competent individuals and not as an effete race.

Dr. Priyambada Pal
Dept. of BSH

EDUCATING US

Echoes of the Loom: A Tapestry of Tradition



In the shadow of Odisha's majestic Niyamgiri mountains, the Dongaria Kondh tribe has been weaving more than just fabric. They craft intricate, handwoven Dongaria shawls, that are vibrant symbol of their culture, resilience, and economic vitality. These shawls are a living testament to the artistry and struggle of a community deeply rooted in the rich traditions of India.

The young women of the tribe knit the Dongaria shawl, which is an outstanding example of traditional artistry. The first step is making natural dyes from plants, minerals, and roots. The shawls are infused with rich, earthy colors that capture the natural beauty of the area. The geometric patterns that adorn each shawl are not mere decorations but are imbued with cultural significance, representing a visual language that narrates the tribe's heritage and worldview.

For the Dongaria Kondh, these shawls are much more than just a winter wear; they are a crucial economic resource. Their intricate methods of weaving and dying provide them a steady source of income that is necessary to maintain their every-day needs and support their community. In an area where over 40% of the population is indigenous, these traditional crafts have a significant economic impact. Each shawl represents a piece of the tribe's heritage woven into every thread and provides financial stability that sustains their ancient customs.

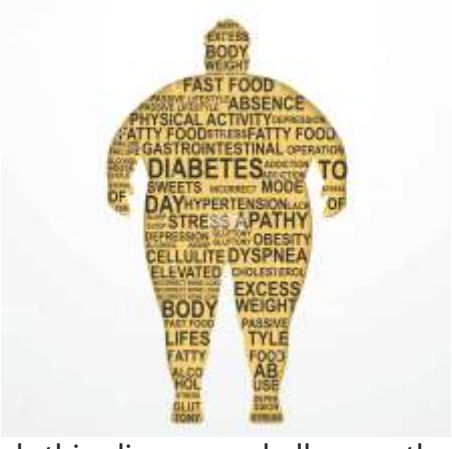
The Niyamgiri hills, where these textiles are crafted, have become a battleground in the tribe's struggle against industrial invasion. The Dongaria Kondh have stood resolutely against Vedanta, fighting to protect their sacred land from exploitation. This resistance is not just a battle for the environment, but also a defense of their cultural and spiritual sanctuaries.

When one examines a Dongaria shawl, one sees it immersed in a narrative of strong will and tradition. Supporting this traditional craft entails more than just appreciating the beautiful designs; it also involves understanding the close relationship that exists between the shawls' artistic quality and the tribe's larger struggle for survival and independence. Each shawl exhibits the profound creativity and unwavering passion of the Dongaria Kondh, serving as an outstanding thread work in the vast tapestry of India's cultural past.

By celebrating these shawls, we honor not only a unique art form but also the courageous stand of a community fighting to maintain their cultural identity and protect their ancestral lands. The Dongaria shawl is a powerful reminder of the intricate balance between tradition and modernity and the enduring strength of those who weave their history into every strand.

Pratishya Priyadarshni
5th Sem, EEE

HEALTH WATCH
Is Obesity a Choice?



At first glance, obesity might seem to be simply the result of personal decisions—choosing fried chicken over grilled, regular soda over diet, or large fries over small. While these choices do contribute to weight gain, the reality is far more complex. Obesity is not just about willpower; it's also influenced by genetics, environment, and societal factors.

Research shows that individual biological differences play a significant role in how people gain weight. A study from 1990 demonstrated that when 24 subjects were overfed by 1,000 calories per day for 100 days, their weight gain varied significantly, highlighting that some people are more predisposed to weight gain than others. This suggests that biology, not just behavior, is a crucial factor in obesity.

In countries like India, the rise in obesity is closely tied to the consumption of ultra-processed foods (UPFs), which are often marketed as healthy but are high in carbohydrates and fats while lacking essential nutrients. Deepti Khatuja, Head Clinical Nutritionist at Fortis Memorial Research Institute, notes that these foods can lead to obesity even during pregnancy, affecting a child's weight from birth. Children who consume these foods are at higher risk, especially when their parents, particularly mothers, consume them as well. This has contributed to India ranking second globally in childhood obesity rates.

Genetics further complicate the issue. Recent research identified a gene mutation, SMIM1, that influences energy expenditure and fat storage, meaning some people are biologically predisposed to weight gain. As Dr. Philipp Scherer observed, this discovery challenges the notion that obesity is purely a matter of choice.

Despite these complexities, there are steps that can be taken to prevent obesity. Adopting a healthy lifestyle is the key, which includes eating more fruits and vegetables, avoiding processed foods, limiting sugar and saturated fats, and cooking at home more often. Regular physical activity, aiming for at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week, is essential. Reducing stress, getting enough sleep, and minimizing screen time also play vital roles in maintaining a healthy weight.

"It's important to approach obesity with empathy and support rather than judgment. Instead of condemning individuals for their weight, we should focus on providing the resources and encouragement they need to lead healthier lives," says Dr. Aparna Govil Bhasker, a leading nutrition expert.

In conclusion, while personal choices do influence obesity, they are only part of a larger picture. Genetics, environmental factors, and societal influences also play significant roles, making obesity a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach.

Sayeda Mahenoor
7th Sem, CSE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

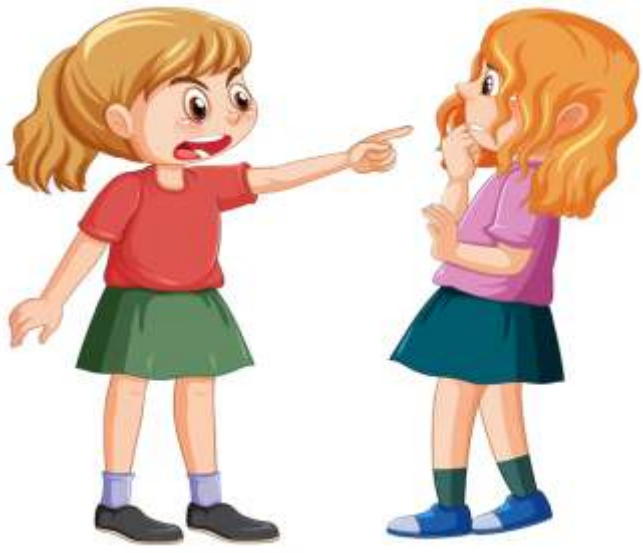
Am I Honest or Am I Rude?

Have you ever wondered if your honesty is perceived as rudeness? It's a fine line that many of us struggle to navigate. The question of whether one is being honest or rude is a never-ending saga that keeps us confused.

For instance, if someone gives you candid feedback, do you perceive it as helpful or offensive? We often see status updates or memes with quotes about "saying things as they are" or "being blunt for the betterment of others." In reality, these can be borderline rude. This brings us to the core issue: the reason rudeness and honesty cannot be interlinked is that it allows individuals to speak rudely under the guise of honesty, making polite individuals seem deceptive.

Imagine you requested someone to participate in a survey to assess the effectiveness of a business concept you came up with. If someone pointed out legitimate shortcomings in a negative way, you'd likely associate their terrible choice of words with the truth. This scenario highlights the importance of delivering feedback. Demotivated, you might entirely reject your business concept, believing the individual did you a favor by being "blunt." However, it would have been far preferable if the individual had offered constructive feedback. That way, you would have received honest feedback without jeopardizing your self-esteem.

Honesty and rudeness are two distinct facets of the same truth. There is a distinction between (A) being honest with someone even when it is tough and (B) being unappealing with someone even when the truth is known. In both cases, honesty is



involved, but one is primarily associated with rudeness.

While it's important to convey the truth politely, it doesn't mean sugarcoating it under the name of politeness. If you were to mistakenly endorse a doomed business plan, the would-be entrepreneur would lose more money starting the firm than they would if they had received constructive criticism. We must be honest, but not rude; polite, but not fake. How can we differentiate between rudeness, sugarcoating, and honesty amid all this confusion?

Perhaps the most effective approach would be to look at multiple opinions on a broader scale. In the case of the company proposal, if you asked more than one individual for their ideas, statistics might help identify anomalies in viewpoints. This method can help filter out false feedback and those who sugarcoat the truth to avoid sounding rude.

Sneha Sruti Sahu
7th Sem, CSE

MENTAL HEALTH:
Emotional Self – Regulation

Emotions are a normal part of our everyday life; it is a reaction that humans give in response to an event. They play a strong role in mental wellbeing of an individual. Difficulties in emotional well-being may disturb a person's mental and physical health.

Signs your emotional health needs care:

- Being in isolation
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Racing thoughts
- More interpersonal conflicts than usual
- Feeling of irritability, guilt, hopelessness, or worthlessness

Feeling emotional is healthy but, learning how to process emotions and respond with appropriate behavior is essential.

Emotional self-regulation refers to a person's ability to control their emotions and impulses.

Strategies to manage emotions in a healthy and helpful way includes:

- Identifying and reducing triggers
- Regular exercise or meditation
- Engaging in positive self- talk
- Practicing mindfulness
- Looking for positive response
- Seek ing for professional help

"Don't let your emotions distract you from doing what needs to be done.
Control your emotions so your emotion does not control you."

Ms. Ritu Chowhan
Counselling Psychologist

MY CYBERSPACE
Trump ON/OFF X

A distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack is a malicious attack intended to disrupt the normal traffic of a targeted server, or network associated infrastructure with a flood of requests and pings.

DDoS attack is launched by multiple compromised computer systems while making them act like zombies. The Zombie machines could be computers, network components and IoT devices as well, that are remotely controlled by an attacker machine. When a victim is flooded with ping requests, it is unable to cater to the legit demands resulting in denial of service, and when this happens over a distributed network it is referred to as DDoS. These attacks can last up to a few days, significantly disrupting the services provided by the target. Moreover, it requires enormous amount of effort to recover from such attacks.

DDoS attack is characterised by sudden slowing down or unavailability of a site or service, surge of requests at a single point, spikes at odd hours, unnatural traffic from or to a single IP etc. Of late, DDoS attacks have been used to jeopardise/ disrupt critical events. Recently the world witnessed a massive DDoS attack on X, erstwhile Twitter. The attack was powerful enough to disrupt the much awaited interview with former US President Donald Trump. This attack was enough to stress how vulnerable we are to such attacks when tech giants/platforms like X were not able to defend. The best one can do is to mitigate the damage.

Dr. Sushree Samita Rout
Associate Professor, CSE Dept.

IN CONVERSATION WITH ...

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Singh

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Singh from the J.B.S. Haldane Centre for Molecular Medicine is currently researching on Neurobiology, Alzheimer's disease, blood-brain barrier damage and dementia. Dr. Pradeep is on a journey for developing blood-based diagnostic tools for early detection of Alzheimer's disease and other related neurological disorders and make it accessible to everyone, especially in rural India. His curiosity in this field had increased when he was pursuing his postdoctoral research at Rockefeller University in New York. With a motive of serving mankind, he devoted himself completely to this biomedical research and innovation.

According to Dr. Pradeep, an early detection of Alzheimer's disease is urgently needed for timely treatment and implementing preventive strategies to slow down the progression of dementia. He is developing a non-invasive and affordable blood-based diagnostic tool that would be more fit for screening the patients in small hospital settings with limited medical facilities in rural India. He is also involved in developing combination therapies for dementia and biomaterials for affordable healthcare applications in India.

Dr. Pradeep also points out the changing lifestyle and stress of today to be one of the key factors affecting our mental health as well as increasing the risk of developing neurological diseases. His research has shown that early vascular abnormalities trigger the blood-brain barrier damage and contribute to dementia. His extensive research at Rockefeller University and at IIT Bombay showed that targeting vascular factors in circulation could minimize the blood-brain barrier damage and slow down the dementia as well as risk of stroke and haemorrhage.

Dr. Pradeep had also commented that research shows that the people who got diagnosed with Long COVID-19 symptoms have a higher risk of developing dementia. Also, conditions like Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease not just affect a single person but it also affects their family, and friends and creates huge social and economic burden.

Dr. Pradeep stressed more precisely on creating awareness among people to take care of their mental health and to lead a healthy lifestyle which will drastically reduce the chances of getting these diseases. Yoga and exercises play a vital role in producing a shield against the dementia .

Dr. Singh mentioned, "Medical Research is not just limited to biology and medical people. It needs the teamwork of engineers from various departments too". He motivated the students to think research as a noble duty towards society and to contribute and collaborate to tackle these complex multifactorial disorders. Dr. Pradeep Singh is deeply committed to the idea of "science for the benefit of humanity," and he aligns his current research with the mission of Silicon University: "Building technology for human progress."

Interviewed by
Sandeep Pradhan
5th Sem., EEE

IN CONVERSATION WITH ...

Ananya Dash

Ananya Dash (ECE, 7th Sem) has been placed at CoreEL. In this interview with Pratishya Priyadarshni, 5th semester, she talks elaborately about her journey, achievements, and how time management is the key to everything.

Pratishya: Congratulations, ma'am, on receiving the offer from CoreEL. How did you balance academics with placement preparation?

Ananya : I utilized my time efficiently by paying attention to lectures, which made exam preparation smoother. For placements, I had taken summer internships in the VLSI domain; it was really helpful to me. I was a strong candidate because of my practical experience in my subject of interest, which also reinforced my comprehension.

Pratishya: Can you throw light on VLSI and integrated circuits (ICs), and how do they aid in the design process?

Ananya : VLSI, or Very Large-Scale Integration, is all about designing and manufacturing semiconductor chips. It's divided into analog and digital domains. Analog VLSI deals with designing and laying out the physical aspects of chips, including fabrication. Digital VLSI, in contrast, focuses on verifying the functionality of these designs. Both areas have unique challenges and require distinct skill sets. Designing ICs involves using specialized software tools that facilitate various aspects of design and fabrication. These platforms help in modeling, simulating, and verifying our designs before they are fabricated. Each tool plays a critical role in ensuring that designs meet the required specifications and perform efficiently.

Pratishya: What was the most challenging aspect of your academic journey, and how did you overcome it?

Ananya : Time management was my biggest challenge. Juggling academics, entrance exam preparations, and internships required meticulous planning. To overcome this, I made effective use of class time and organized my study schedule to balance these responsibilities. Staying disciplined and managing my time wisely were crucial to my success.

Pratishya: What strategies did you employ to prepare for the entrance exams?

Ananya : My preparation for the GATE exam involved a structured approach: starting early, practicing regularly, and taking mock test series. Early preparation helped me build a strong foundation, while regular practice and mock tests allowed me to gauge my progress and adjust my study strategies accordingly.

Pratishya: Do you have any advice for our students ?

Ananya : I would advise them to stay focused on their goals and find what they are passionate about.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Interviews: Workshop on Aspects of Communication

The English discipline of Silicon University organized a communication workshop from 6th – 8th August 2024. The participants benefited profoundly from the insightful messages of the invited guest sp eakers. Here are highlights of interviews.

Prof. Jatindra Kumar Nayak

Prof. Jatindra Kumar Nayak, a renowned translator and literary critic from Odisha, envisions a resilient future for literature, despite the current dominance of STEM subjects. He believes translation serves as a vital form of communication, bridging cultural gaps, although translating humor poses significant challenges.

Prof. Nayak highlights the ongoing crisis in literature's recognition but asserts its enduring relevance. "Literature will always be here," he states, emphasizing the importance of understanding our own imperfections, rather than focusing solely on others.

His impressive portfolio includes translations of notable works like *Astride the Wheel* and *Six Acres and a Third*, earning him prestigious awards such as the Hutch Crossword Book Award. As the editor-in-chief of *MargAsia* and a Professor Emeritus at KISS University, he remains dedicated to exploring and celebrating Asian literature and cultures.

Dr. Kalyani Samantray

Dr. Kalyani Samantray, a distinguished educator and linguist, has authored 46 books, including textbooks and teacher education manuals. Drawing from her extensive experience in teaching and linguistics, Dr. Samantray states, "I believe in approching writing from a child's perspective". With an MPhil in Linguistics and a PhD in Phonology, Dr. Samantray emphasizes the importance of creating multimodal texts that resonate with students.

She has conducted workshops internationally and received accolades, including the Ray Tongue Award at the IATEFL Conference. Dr. Samantray's holistic approach to writing and teaching continues to inspire both educators and students alike.

Dr. Shradha Padhi

Dr. Shradha Padhi, a multifaceted professional with over 28 years of experience in behavioral education and talent management, emphasized the

importance of flexibility in learning. She highlighted that in a rapidly changing environment, adapting is crucial for success.

Dr. Padhi introduced the concept of reverse mentoring, where established leaders learn from the younger generation, fostering a culture of understanding and innovation. She urged students to recognize the emotional complexities of individuals, and stressed that, "effective leadership goes beyond managing tasks; it involves understanding people's unique stories and struggles".

Monk Sangramjit Das

Sangramjit Das, a monk at ISKCON, Patia, combines spirituality and contemporary living with ease. After imbibing the lessons of the *Bhagavad Gita*, this B. Tech., graduate with ten years of IT expertise at Wells Fargo and Cognizant, went on to become a devoted youth and congregation counsellor. His message to the youth is recognising their true passions and working hard to forge a fruitful future and following the five essential success principles of *Bhagavad Gita*.

Dr. Tanutrushna Panigrahi

Dr. Tanutrushna Panigrahi, a distinguished scholar with over 40 journal publications and multiple published books, emphasizes the importance of collaboration between faculty and students in creating a vibrant academic environment. She believes that when teachers act as facilitators,

learning becomes a joint effort rather than a one-sided lecture. "A classroom is not truly effective unless it fosters collaboration," she states, advocating for increased voluntary activities that encourage student engagement.

Renowned for her scholarly contributions to English and American literature, Dr. Panigrahi's leadership is underscored by accolades such as the "Outstanding Academician Award" and the "Distinguished Woman Award."

Dr. Pranati Das

Dr. Pranati Das, a veteran educator, reflected on the changing landscape of student dynamics over the years. She emphasizes the importance of creating a flexible and open classroom environment. "I never forced my students to do anything," she shares, highlighting her approach to fostering independence and creativity.

Dr. Das believes that a teacher's influence significantly shapes a student's personality. "If the classroom feels like a frightening place, that's counterproductive," she explains.

Dr. Pranati Das exemplifies the transformative power of compassionate teaching in shaping the next generation.

Swami Shankarananda Giri

Swami Shankarananda Giri, a direct disciple of Paramahansa Hariharananda, embodies the essence of spiritual leadership through his commitment to education and healthcare. His vision extends to establishing a charitable school for the underprivileged tribal children, providing essential resources like food, clothing, and shelter.

Swamiji emphasizes that spiritual leadership is crucial in addressing societal needs and fostering a sense of responsibility and community service. His initiatives also include a multi-specialty hospital in Rishikesh, catering to local healthcare needs. With a strong presence in Kriya Yoga and cosmic astrology, Swamiji has traveled worldwide, sharing authentic spiritual practices and establishing ashrams in Odisha and Europe.

Dr. Amrita Satapathy

Dr. Amrita Satapathy, an Associate Professor at IIT, Bhubaneswar in the School of Humanities, emphasizes the importance of integrating humanities into the technical curriculum. By offering courses in English, sociology, and philosophy, students gain a broader understanding of the human elements behind technology exposure.

Dr. Satapathy advocates for balancing digital interactions with meaningful personal connections to combat loneliness and promote cultural sensitivity. Dr. Satapathy believes in a holistic approach to education and she states, "We are not here to make machines, but to create humans who can innovate and understand the complexities of the world."

Interviewed by: **Aradhana Dash**, 5th Sem., CEN

PROFILE OF AN ORGANISATION

Indian Metal & Ferro Alloys Ltd. (IMFA)

Empowering since 1961, one of the largest integrated producers of ferro alloys, particularly ferro chrome, used in manufacturing stainless steel, Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Ltd is situated in Chowdwar, Cuttack. It has emerged as a pioneer in the Indian ferro alloys sector, with a legacy span of over six decades.

Ferro chrome is the flagship product of IMFA, renowned for its exceptional quality and commitment to excellence, which have established it as a leader in the ferro alloy sector. Founded in 1961 by Dr. Bansidhar and Ila Panda, the company is headquartered in Bhubaneswar, with production facilities in Chowdwar and Therubali.

IMFA features a furnace capacity of 190 MVA and a captive power generation capacity of 204.55 MW, enabling the production of approximately 284,400 tonnes of ferro chrome annually. It also stands out as the first Indian company to produce ferro silicon using indigenous technology. In addition to its production capabilities, IMFA has implemented eco-friendly initiatives, such as converting fly ash into bricks and low-density aggregates, which serve as substitutes for stone chips. The company's submerged arc furnaces represent significant industrial innovation, allowing for more environmentally responsible smelting processes. With chromite mining rights in Odisha's rich mineral belts, IMFA generates an annual revenue of around Rs. 2,000 crore and employs over 5,000 people. This combination of innovation, quality commitment, and sustainable practices positions IMFA as a key player in the industry.

IMFA is well-established in both the Indian and global markets. Additionally, it is devoted to and extremely concerned about environmental stewardship, sustainability, and community welfare. For example, it has made investments in energy-efficient technologies, cutting down on industrial waste and carbon emissions. Additionally, it took part in a number of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects related to rural development, healthcare, and education. The business also manages a number of initiatives designed to raise the standard of living in the areas where it operates.

These figures give a general idea of IMFA's size, manufacturing capability, and market penetration. Its cutting-edge technical techniques have also elevated it to the top of the world market for ferro alloys. In addition, it is well-positioned to last for many more years due to its emphasis on innovation, sustainable growth, and integrated operation.

Sandeep Pradhan
5th Sem., EEE

ALUMNI SPEAK...

The Induction programme for the 1st Year B. Tech. students of the University, organised from 9th September to 14th September 2024, witnessed a mesmerizing panel of alumni. This article features the proud alumni of the university, who bring in a reflection of growth, development and inspirations.

Eijaaz Rahman, an alumnus of the 2014 graduating batch in CSE has been an entrepreneur for the last decade, and now runs his own franchise of Bharat Petroleum in Bhubaneswar. With a background in electronics and telecommunications he moved on to entrepreneurship only after getting inspiration among the successful real estate figures he met while in Australia. Their innovative approaches motivated him to design strategies for Indian versions. He wanted to serve larger audiences and contribute positively to society.

Sanath Kumar Swain, an alumnus of the 2021 graduating batch in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, is now a Supply Chain Consultant at Capgemini.
An MBA form XIMB, he advises, "As you navigate this stressful time, remember that the pressure you feel now is just a fraction of what lies ahead. Focus on building your skills and staying updated on market demands. Networking is crucial, connect with alumni and seniors for guidance and support".

Aditi Dash, a 2022 Computer Science Engineering graduate, has successfully blended her academic background with her passion for acting. Inspired to be in front of the camera since the sixth grade, she completed her schooling in Mumbai, where her ambition flourished. She pursued her dreams by starting a YouTube channel in 2020 and later winning a reality show, which propelled her into the acting world. Aditi has since worked with prominent channels like Zee Sarthak, Tarang, Star Utsav, and Disney+ Hotstar, and has starred in three series.
She advised, "To boost your confidence, engage with people and observe their perspectives".

Maitrayee Mahapatra from the 2016 batch, ECE, is currently a cybersecurity specialist and senior consultant at Larson and Toubro's Infotech.
She asserts, "Get hands-on experience; build a strong foundation and acquire a solid understanding of key concepts and technologies, take on leadership roles, participate in internships, and network with professionals in your field".

Abhishek Bharadwaj, a consultant at TCS and a CSE alumnus from the 2008 batch, has valuable insights into the recruitment landscape. He mentions, "From the interviewee's perspective, confidence in your field is essential. On the interviewer's side, two main factors are considered: knowledge and attitude. While technical skills can be taught, a candidate's attitude, openness, curiosity, and preparedness play a crucial role in the hiring decision."

Fifteen simple ways to make this world

A Better Place Collectively

1. Come to somebody's aid wherever you can.
Do gracious things for others as often as you can. Small things like a birthday present, dropping somebody home, providing emotional support to a friend etc. goes a long way to bring collective happiness.

2. Mingle with your neighbors.
Being friendly with your neighbors will lessen collective loneliness.

3. Consider being a donor.
One donor can save lives up to eight people. At least, donate blood or plasma that saves lives.

4. Tell your boss that your colleagues did great jobs.
The good you do to others, sometimes comes back as double.

5. Give up your bus or train seat to disabled, elders, kids or ladies.
This is called integrity and will inspire people around you collectively.

6. Mentor one or more underprivileged kid with your knowledge and experience.
You may be able to change the course of lives which is priceless.

7. Spend your free time with kids at natural places.
Helps you and teaches kids to love and nurture nature.

8. Forgive the forgivable. But learn from the experience.
This is one thing you are doing just for yourself.

9. Don't believe in gossips or participate in it.
The real meaning of gossip is "spreading lies and toxicity".

10. Make expressing gratitude a habit.
When you express gratitude, the world becomes a gentler place to live.

11. Give elderly people some of your time – sit close, talk softly and listen patiently.
Elderly people are often ignored and left depressed. Talk to them and gain from their invaluable experience.

12. Stop watching porn.
It's an addiction like alcohol, drugs and cigarettes. No addiction is good.

13. Be kind to others.
Kindness is contagious.

14. Never let go of hope.
Hope is the Sun. Imagine the world without the Sun!

15. Treat animals and birds with compassion.
They depend on us like our own babies. Don't ignore their existence.

Dr. Pulak Sahoo
Associate Professor, CSE Dept.

BEYOND BOOKS:
The Silicon Central Library

If we think of an educational institute as a temple of learning, the sanctum sanctorum of that temple is the library.

Traditionally, a library is defined as a building that houses collections of books, newspapers, films, and recorded music for people to read, study, or borrow. However, when we think of a library, we envision more than just a physical space; we think of the treasures it contains - the wealth of knowledge, the silence for contemplation, the spark of ideas, the quiet exhaustion of diligent study, and the exhilarating 'eureka' moments.

The Silicon Central Library, spanning 17,000 square feet, embodies this vision. It offers a productive learning environment with focused study cubicles, collaborative discussion rooms with whiteboards, Wi-Fi, and printing facilities. Housing 64,835 books, including 9,045 in the Reference Section (exam guides, fiction, and self-help titles), the library subscribes to 37 periodicals and 11 newspapers. Furthermore, it provides remote access to over a thousand e-journals from publishers like Elsevier and IEEE. The library's hours cater to various needs: Monday to Saturday from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm, Sundays from 1:30 pm to 9:00 pm, and holidays from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, ensuring continuous access to information.

The library offers more than knowledge; it inspires creativity and expands intellectual horizons. As Loria Manjari Gartia, a final-year B.Tech. student, says, "Silicon Library is my sanctuary of knowledge and growth. It is where I immerse myself in studies, collaborate on projects, and find inspiration. From quiet corners for focused reading to group study

areas for lively discussions, it caters to all my academic needs. It is not just a place for books – it is where ideas come alive."

However, our Librarian, Dr. Nrusingh Kumar Dash, has observed a shift in student habits due to digital resources. Students now rely more on laptops or tablets and less on physical books, a change accelerated by the pandemic. This evolving use of the library reflects broader shifts in teaching and learning, highlighting how the library continues to adapt and inspire.

The vastness of any library exposes the breadth of our ignorance, yet it also offers the hope that with knowledge, we can overcome it and shape a brighter future. This mirrors Neil Gaiman's insight that fairy tales are true not because they show us dragons exist, but because they show us dragons can be beaten. Let us embrace this transformative journey and allow the library to lead us to new possibilities.

Sweta Mohanty
Assistant Professor, (BSH)

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