Highlights of the Issue

INTERVIEW WITH
Dr. Anand Deshpande

GUEST LECTURE BY
Prof. Peter Constantine

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...

Dear Readers:

Open AI's ChatGPT has created a life-altering scenario across the world, spanning countries and generations, and has become part of our daily existence. Intense competition has followed from other high-profile companies like Google's Gemini, a multimodal large language model (LLM) which can process and generate text, code, images, audio, and video. Then there is Microsoft Copilot which uses Open AI's models and provides AI assistance within apps like Word, Excel, and Teams. Also worth mentioning is Anthropic's Claude with a focus on AI safety and ethical guidelines. Of course, there is Meta AI which is integrated into Meta's social platforms, including WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram, and finally xAI's Grok, a chatbot associated with the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) that provides real-time analysis and has an amusing flair.

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming the world we live in— and the world you, as students, are about to shape. From chatbots, personal assistants and educational tools to advances in science, technology and healthcare, AI has become the silent yet ubiquitous driving force across nearly every discipline of study.

The word 'Algorithm' was a sparsely used word a decade or two ago, except in circles consisting of Computer Science practitioners; now, its use has skyrocketed with the advent of AI. Algorithms can learn from data which forms the basis of Data Science, but one has to tread carefully when implementing this new-found knowledge. Decisions based on knowledge extracted from such data can affect lives and livelihoods. As future engineers, you have a unique role to ensure that AI evolves not just intelligently, but ethically and humanely.

The real measure of progress will be ascertained not by how advanced our machines become, but how effectively we use them. True knowledge is still in books, and not web content or AI generated passages, which inevitably comes with the disclaimer that 'Generative AI is Experimental'! The tangible skill is still with dexterous individuals, not a language model. The judicious adaptation of AI in the university academic environment involving both knowledge and skill in labs and classrooms today will define the world of tomorrow.

Happy reading and hope you enjoy this issue of SLATE!

Dr. Jaideep Talukdar

EDUCATING US

Gamification of Life: What Video Games Teach Us About Productivity

We all love video games. From the early days of Mario Kart on bulky consoles to the fast-paced world of Overwatch on today's sleek PS5, games have evolved dramatically in design and technology. Yet one thing has remained constant the intrinsic human desire to win, to level up, and to keep moving forward despite repeated failures. This timeless pursuit embedded in gaming offers profound lessons for productivity in real life.

At the heart of every video game lies clarity of purpose. Players are never left without direction; there is always a mission, a quest, or a next step. Similarly, in life, productivity thrives on defined goals. Breaking larger objectives such as preparing for a semester's worth of coursework into smaller, achievable "quests" mirrors the structure of gaming and sustains motivation. Progress bars, levels, and in-game milestones further reinforce persistence by making advancement visible. Translating this into daily routines through tools like habit trackers or checklists provides the same psychological satisfaction of moving closer to a win.

I still remember spending countless hours replaying the same level in Candy-Crush, failing again and again but strangely never losing interest. Each setback felt less like a defeat and more like part of the journey, teaching me to value the grind itself. That experience later mirrored my approach to academics revising notes repeatedly, solving problems until they clicked, and realizing that progress is often hidden in the repetition. Games, in their subtle way, train us not just to chase victories but also to embrace the process that leads to them.

Equally important is the system of rewards. Whether unlocking new abilities or collecting digital trophies, games consistently acknowledge effort. Real life, too, benefits from such reinforcement: rewarding oneself after completing assignments or achieving milestones creates momentum. Games also excel at providing instant feedback. Successes and failures are made visible at once, allowing players to adjust strategies quickly. Adopting similar feedback loops in academic or professional work through self-assessment or peer review sharpens growth.

Viewed this way, life itself can be seen as the ultimate game, with main quests, side quests, and infinite opportunities to gain experience. By applying the principles of gamification, productivity shifts from obligation to engagement, and every effort becomes a part of a rewarding journey towards growth and achievement.

Pratishya Priyadarshni
7th Sem., EEE

HEALTH WATCH

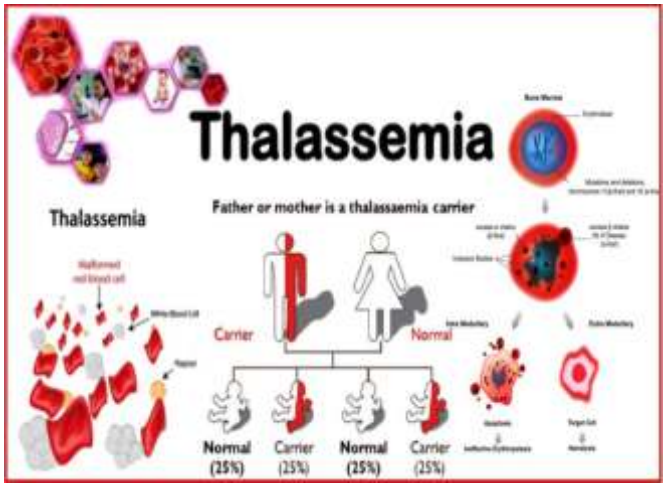
Thalassemia: The Silent Struggle

Imagine a child who tires faster than their friends, whose skin seems pale no matter how many fruits and vegetables they eat. Behind that tired smile could be 'thalassemia', a genetic blood disorder that doesn't knock loudly, it whispers. Thalassemia is not contagious, nor is it caused by lifestyle choices. It occurs when the body cannot produce enough haemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen in red blood cells. Without it, the body struggles to get the energy it needs.

There are different types of Thalassemia, each varying in severity. The two main categories are Alpha Thalassemia and Beta Thalassemia, depending on which part of the haemoglobin gene is affected. Within these categories, the condition can range from mild (Thalassemia Trait or Minor) to severe (Thalassemia Major).

Implications & Risks

- Chronic Anaemia: The lack of healthy haemoglobin leads to persistent tiredness, weakness, and reduced stamina, making everyday activities a challenge.
- Growth and Development Delays: Children with severe Thalassemia often grow slower, reach puberty late, and may face challenges with bone development.
- Organ Damage from Iron Overload: Frequent blood transfusions cause excess iron buildup, which can damage vital organs such as the heart, liver, and endocrine glands.
- Bone Deformities: The body tries to make more red blood cells in the bone marrow, causing bones—especially in the face and skull—to expand or deform.



- Enlarged Spleen (Splenomegaly): The spleen overworks to filter defective red blood cells, often becoming enlarged and painful, sometimes requiring surgical removal.
- Emotional and Psychological Stress: Living with a chronic illness can lead to anxiety, depression, and feelings of isolation, especially in young patients.

Patient Care

While regular blood transfusions, iron chelation therapy, and routine check-ups prevent complications, a healthy lifestyle is also vital for the patient. Emotional support to patients along with genetic counselling, and community education may prevent new severe cases.

Dealing with Thalassemia requires teamwork between doctors, patients, families, and communities. With the right care and awareness, this genetic challenge can be managed, and lives can be full of hope and possibilities.

Rashika Das
5th Sem, EEE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Music: A Universal Language

On the swaying branches of a tall, slender tree, a black bird with ruby-red eyes perches in the morning's cold breeze. Its feathers ruffle gently in the wind as it lets out a call to the world. Is it a mellifluous song to the human ear, an allure for its potential mates, or simply a habitual utterance woven into the fabric of its daily existence? It is a testament to nature's enduring love for the music it gives birth to the rhythmic movement of the ocean's waves, crashing and retreating in a timeless dance, or the rustling of leaves to the distant rumble of thunder, the natural world is a symphony, playing endlessly for those who choose to listen.

There are moments in our lives when a song playing on the radio seems to echo the very emotions we carry within. We find ourselves associating with the joy, anger, or melancholia that diffuses into the air around us, as if the music was a mirror to our soul. When we cry to the lead vocalist of a band singing about the ordeals of his life, we feel our hearts beat to the same rhythm, as if we are momentarily tethered to his pain and his triumph. It is no different from a conversation with someone we have never met, someone whose voice reaches us not through words but through melody and emotion. From national anthems that stir collective pride, to prayers that seek divine connection, to ballads that preserve folklore and ancestral memory, music has always been a thread woven into the tapestry of every culture and every individual.

Music is the only language that rises from one heart and maps its way into another, without the incessant need to understand the complexity of

words. It transcends dialects, borders, and generations. It is a gift of the senses: a communion of sound and feeling that binds us to nature and to one another. Whether it is the lullaby that soothes a child to sleep, the chant that unites a crowd in protest, or a tune that accompanies a solitary walk, music is always alive: always speaking, listening and making its existence felt through its various natural manifestations.

In its purest form, music is not just entertainment — it is expression, connection, and healing. It is the language of birds and oceans, of humans and animals of speech and silence. It is the pulse of life itself, breathing energy and vitality into every soul and creature.

Sarbani Devaprita
3rd Sem, CSE

MY CYBERSPACE

Whimsical Makeover

Of late, the internet and social media platforms have been flooded with images inspired by Japanese animation studio named Studio Ghibli and Google Gemini's Nano Banana AI Saree trend. Everyone seems eager to get a share of the captivating charm before the fad fades away. But is this trend really worth it, considering the risks it carries?

Several cybersecurity experts have raised alarms about the potential dangers users may be exposed to. Although platforms claim to delete uploaded images, there is no clear interpretation of how the data is managed, and precise policies remain absent.

Vishal Salvi, CEO of Quick Heal Technologies, pointed out that it's not just facial data at risk—the images may also contain information such as location coordinates, timestamps, and device details, all of which can reveal sensitive user information. Such data can be exploited for illegal surveillance, unsolicited targeted advertising, deepfakes, identity fraud, and even lead to legal consequences under copyright infringement if the content is used commercially.

Another popular phenomenon—the Nano Banana AI Saree trend—allows users to upload a photo that Google Gemini's AI then transforms into a stylized, retro-themed image with dramatic visual effects. However, even a single photo can enable the platform to gather related images and metadata, leaving users vulnerable to scams or fake websites mimicking the same features.

While these AI-generated images carry invisible digital watermarks (SynthID), the tool itself is not publicly accessible. Hence, users should exercise utmost caution when engaging with such applications. This includes verifying watermarks, reading mandatory disclosures, using only trusted tools, carefully reviewing privacy policies, avoiding the upload of highly personal images, stripping sensitive metadata such as location tags, and strengthening privacy settings on social media.

Dr. Sushree Samita Rout
Associate Professor, CSE Dept.

MENTAL HEALTH:

Impact of Digital Screen Addiction on Mental Health

Digital screen technology has become an essential part of everyday life, offering benefits such as better communication, quick access to information and entertainment. However, its pervasive presence has led to notable potential risks including digital overuse or digital screen addiction. Digital screen addiction is a comprehensive term that encompasses the long standing and emerging categories of internet addiction, video gaming addiction, social media addiction etc. In general digital screen addiction refers to any addictive behaviour related to the use of digital devices including cell phones, computers or tablets.

Digital screen addiction is one of the serious concerns in India, with studies indicating high rates of such addiction across different age groups. Approximately 56% of India's population had internet access in 2022 with the number of users reaching around 886 million by 2024, driving it to about 60% by 2025. Average screen time among Indians is approximately 6 hours and 45 minutes per day

Digital screen addiction stems from a combination of factors including the brain's reward conditioning system being activated by feel-good chemicals like dopamine hormones released from 'social media likes' which leads to instant gratification. Psychological factors such as fear of missing out (FOMO), low self-esteem, loneliness, stress, anxiety and depression increase desires for repeated uncontrolled use of digital screens. Technological mechanisms like easy access to the internet, low cost internet services and affordable digital devices enhance the addictive use of digital

screens. Social factors like escapism from real-world problems and a need for social approval can drive compulsive digital use.

Additionally, constant exposure to unrealistic standards and imagery on social media platforms can lead to feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem. It can trigger feelings of dissatisfaction and isolation. Excessive screen time can increase anxiety, stress and depression. It can also lead to cognitive issues such as poor concentration, reduced problem-solving ability, less creative thinking, low communication skills due to decreased face-to-face interaction.

Digital screen addiction can impair emotional comprehension, promote aggressive behaviour and hinder social and emotional competence. In this digital age, technology reflects our shared ambitions and fears. If we use it wisely and thoughtfully, it has the potential to uplift humanity. So it is rightly said that "Technology is a good servant but a bad master". The core idea is that digital screen technology is a powerful tool to be used for our benefit, but it becomes harmful when we lose control and become excessively dependant on it.

Ms. Rupanwita Mohapatra
Counselling Psychologist, Silicon University

IN CONVERSATION WITH ...

Dr. Manoranjan Behera

Professor Monoranjan Behera, Additional Professor in the Department of Basic Sciences & Humanities currently holds the venerable position of Dean Research & Consultancy of Silicon University. This interview taken by Ms. Krishnamayee Pathy of 5th semester ECE details the core research activities and future goals of the Research Cell of the University as pointed out by Prof. Behera.

Krishnamayee: Welcome to the interview, Sir. You have been associated with Silicon since 2002. How have your responsibilities changed since you have taken over as the Dean (Research& Consultancy) of this university?

Prof. Behera: Thank you for the welcome. I have been part of Silicon since 17th June 2002 as a Lecturer in Chemistry and have been fortunate enough to watch the growth of the Institution over the years. Prior to becoming the Dean (Research & Consultancy), I was the Head of the Department of Basic Sciences and Humanities, where my emphasis was on building the academic foundations and interdisciplinary learning. My role as Dean has now significantly increased — from coordinating at the departmental level to looking after the University's overall research environment. My role now includes fostering a culture of research and innovation among students and faculty, fostering collaborations, fostering funded projects and patents, and moving towards establishing Silicon University as an established center for quality research and consultancy.

Krishnamayee: Could you please throw light on the research activities taking place in different domains of the university at present?

Prof. Behera: Currently, Silicon University has a dynamic research environment with 101 Ph.D.-scholars, one of whom has just submitted the thesis, and others are in the process of writing. Our faculty members are presently engaged in active research for research purposes in various topics, including Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, VLSI design, Electric Vehicles, Nanomaterials, and Molecular Medicine, to name a few. The faculty from the Electronics Engineering and Computer Science departments have consistently published their research work in journals with a good standing in the profession. Nonetheless, we are encouraging our colleagues from Basic Sciences & Humanities, and Electrical & Electronics Engineering, to step-up their research scholarship in the form of publishing manuscripts, patent filings, and obtaining external funding. Currently, we have three funded projects by external partners and a few industrial consultancy projects. As we progress forward, and although we are happy with the current research level, our attention will be to increase the funded and consultancy projects that will require active cooperation and collaboration among all of our researchers.

Krishnamayee: What grant-funded research projects are in the offing? Could you tell us about their importance for this University?

Prof. Behera: Certainly, we are in the process of seeking more external research funding from agencies such as ANRF, DBT, ICSSR, and other national funding bodies. Some of our researchers have submitted project proposals and they are under review and we are hopeful of successful outcomes. Grant-funded research projects are very important for Silicon University because they provide crucial funding to strengthen research infrastructure and increase the University's academic reputation and visibility in national and local settings. Grant funded research projects promote interdisciplinary initiatives, lead to innovative and patentable products, and create opportunities for faculty and students to engage in high-impact research. These efforts ultimately play a crucial role in establishing Silicon University as a recognized center of excellence in research and consultancy.

Krishnamayee: Can you tell us about some of the consultancy involvements that Silicon has embarked on, and its effect on the research ecosystem?

Prof. Behera: Presently, our faculty members are working on industrial consultancy projects with FACOR and Hindalco, which highlights Silicon University's increasing engagement with the industry. These partnerships not only support our faculty and researchers with hands-on experience, but also assist in applying science in the resolution of industrial problems. A team is dedicatedly working in the background to identify and obtain more consultancy projects from various industries, to strengthen our industry–academia interface. These arrangements significantly enhance the research ecosystem of the University, as they are grounded in innovation and problem-oriented research and capacity building, while generating resources that can be reinvested into research and development activities.

Krishnamayee: As a faculty member at the University, how do you keep the basic sciences curriculum relevant and aligned with advanced engineering disciplines to prepare students for industry?

Prof. Behera: The basic sciences curriculum should be periodically reviewed and updated to align with advances in engineering practices and industry needs. The revised syllabus may include application-oriented topics, case studies, and lab modules linking scientific principles to real engineering problems. Incorporating metrics-based experiments, computational tools, and interdisciplinary projects will help students appreciate the role of science in engineering while enhancing their problem-solving, analytical, and research skills for future industry challenges.

Krishnamayee: What message would you like to share with the readers of our magazine?

Prof. Behera: I just want to emphasize that Silicon University is making steady progress toward a living laboratory for research, innovation, and academic excellence. Our strength is the collective commitment of our faculty, the inquisitiveness of our learners, and our research community's collaborative ethos. I hope all readers - students, scientists, and industry partners - will embrace inquisitiveness, think outside the box, and collaborate to create solutions that matter for society. With that vision and effort, I know Silicon University will continue to contribute to science, technology, and sustainable development for years to come.

IN CONVERSATION WITH ...

Apurba Nayak

College life is more than just lectures and exams — it's a vibrant journey of growth, discovery, and unforgettable experiences. In this interview with Apurba Nayak from M.Sc. Molecular Medicine at JBS Halden Centre, conducted by Priyambada Dash of 3rd Semester CSE, we meet a student who has not only excelled academically but also embraced the spirit of campus life. Apurba's dedication and all-around involvement recently earned him the prestigious JBS Haldane Best Student Award 2025, a testament to his inspiring presence both inside and outside the classroom.

Priyambada - Congratulations ! How did you balance academics with extracurriculars, internships, and personal development? Any tip or strategy to achieve excellence you would pass on to your juniors?

Apurba - I never followed a strict routine to balance academics and personal life. My time at Silicon University was filled with simple yet memorable moments — waking up to my mom's call, rushing to the canteen, and making it to class just in time. Those everyday rhythms became cherished memories.

Evenings were for football, campus walks, and laughter with hostel friends. UNO games, music, and late-night chats gave me the energy to face challenges and made university life truly special.

I wasn't someone who studied constantly — mostly just before exams — but I was always attentive in class. Asking questions and understanding concepts during lectures helped me more than any last-minute revision.

Therefore my advice to juniors would be simple: attend your classes, stay curious, enjoy small hostel moments, and never forget to laugh along the way. That's the true way to balance and grow.

Priyambada - How did your definition of success evolve from the time you started your University studies to the day you received this award?

Apurba - When I joined Silicon University, I thought success meant passing exams and scoring well. I believed that managing grades and completing assignments was enough. But over time, I realized a university life was much more than academics.

Living in the hostel, playing football, and sharing everyday moments with friends taught me that success is about growth, joy, and persistence — not just achievements on paper. Whether it was grasping a tough concept or making someone laugh, those experiences shaped my journey.

Receiving the JBS Haldane Best Student Award 2025 from the University made me reflect deeply. Success, to me now is about consistent effort, staying curious, and cherishing the memories we create. Because in the end, it's not the marks you remember — it's the friendships, the laughter, and the moments that truly matter.

STUDENTS' CORNER

SHE

Walking through life on silent toes,
Hearing the laughter but longing through the quiet roads...

A heart carrying the weight of skies
could never express her feelings, however hard she tried...

Her hands did feel, her voice did inspire,
But her wounds burned like fire,
She showed the light for those who fell,
Yet she stayed calm and unseen inside the shell...

She was called brave
She was called kind
But no one knew the real pain in her mind...

She stayed calm in the emptiness of silence,
Away from the world of revenge and violence…

Ananya Das
3rd Sem, CSE

Presence to BE

Amongst the chaotic world surviving is fine,
But there is a hard hustle to shine,
Having a lot of inspirations awaiting,
I still ground for a solace wing.

Netizens register manifold role models,
But still the question of life dwells,
Why to get into a resolute mold,

By necessitating your heart to be cold?

Maybe the question is the key,
We aspire for the glory we see.
But the essence stays behind,
When originality unwinds.

Idolizing isn't a folly
Neither is it requisite,
Learning and exploration,
Ushers you to the ascent in life.

Let the flaws forge the future,
With each succeeding venture,
By being the Pheonix on pyre,
To be the person you admire.

Rashika Das
5th Sem, EEE

Special Feature

Bridging Civilizations Through Words: A Glimpse into the Art and Science of Translation

Translation today is the bridge that turns global information into shared understanding, connecting cultures, ideas, and people in an increasingly interconnected world. On 1 August 2025, the Department of Basic Sciences and Humanities (BSH) at Silicon University hosted an illuminating Guest Lecture titled "Bridging Civilizations: The Translation of Greek and Indian Scientific Texts." What unfolded was far more than an academic lecture—it was a journey across centuries, cultures, and the living pulse of language.

At the heart of this intellectual exploration was Professor Peter Constantine of the University of Connecticut, USA, a globally acclaimed translator and scholar who was on a visit to India under the prestigious South Asian Literature in Translation (SALT) grant from the University of Chicago. Professor Constantine brought with him not just expertise but a deep passion for the transformative power of translation.

Drawing from the vast troves of classical Greek and Indian scientific texts, he spoke about translation as a subtle art—one that demands not only linguistic competence but also an intimate understanding of history, philosophy, and cultural sensibilities. He explained how ancient knowledge traveled not by ships or caravans alone, but through words patiently carried across languages. Every translation, he emphasized, is an act of cultural bridging: a conversation between civilizations separated by geography and time.

Professor Constantine also reflected on the modern era, where Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a powerful partner in translation. With its unmatched speed and accessibility, AI holds the promise of democratizing knowledge like never before. Yet, he reminded the audience that technology, for all its efficiency, must be treaded carefully. The delicate nuances of culture, context, and human emotion—the very elements that give language its soul—are at risk of being flattened when translation becomes mechanical.

His talk was a compelling reminder that translation is not merely a technical process; it is a human endeavor that shapes how we understand the world and one another. Whether in antiquity or the age of algorithms, translation continues to weave connections across civilizations, making distant worlds speak to each other in a shared voice.

Student Team
Publication Cell

ALUMNI SPEAK

Alumni form an integral part of Silicon University's legacy – shaped by their shared experiences and characterized by their impactful contributions towards the University's growth and development.

Our Alumni were invited during the Induction Program, conducted from the 11th to 14th August 2025, for the new admission batch of students, where they offered valuable guidance and encouragement to them.

In this column, Ms. Esha Agrawal of branch CST, 5th semester, has captured few highlights of their conversations sharing reflections of their personal journeys.

Biswajita Parida (a 2008 graduate in Applied Electronics and Instrumentation (EI), who is currently working as an Associate Professor at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Delhi)

"Critical thinking is your life-long edge."

In today's fast-paced world, predicting technology trends even a month ahead is tough—let alone forecasting how things will look like in four years. That is why one timeless piece of advice is to keep upgrading your skills and staying curious. Ask the right questions. Develop critical thinking—not just to understand a product or design, but to grasp the full picture of any event or phenomenon. These skills won't just serve you in four years—they'll stay relevant for the next forty years.

Soumya Kanta Panda (a 2022 graduate in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), who is currently working as an Application Development Analyst at Accenture.)

“Engineers are problem solvers—no matter the field they working in."

Make friends and build connections, regardless of batch, age, or role—whether you're a junior, senior, or even a teacher. It's perfectly okay to ask

for help. College life becomes far less daunting when you surround yourself with the right people. At the end of the day, engineers have to find solutions to problems. Whether you're coding, working in advertising, or debating as a diplomat—if you're solving real-world problems, you're still an engineer.

Akash Pandit (a 2023 graduate in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), who is currently working as a Software Engineer at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS, Bhubaneswar)

"Own your journey—balance academics and growth."

Be confident in your decisions—your life is yours to lead. Taking full charge helps avoid regrets down the line. Choices may feel right or wrong in the moment, but over time, you'll see that you're the one steering your path.

Academics are important, but don't let them consume you entirely. Pursue your hobbies, join clubs, and explore extracurricular activities —they are essential for personal growth. You can aim for top scores, even 95%, while still enjoying the things that shape your personality. Studying helps you pass semesters; extracurricular activities help you discover who you are.

Sushree Priyadarshini (a 2021 graduate in Applied Electronics and Instrumentation (EI), currently a second-year student at Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar.

"Adaptability and patience go hand in hand."

I live by the mindset of accepting all challenges. Change is constant, so it's important to stay prepared and adaptable. In the technical field many are drawn to coding and technical skills—but I've learnt that adaptability matters just as much. There have been times when, after days of effort, the client simply says, "I don't need this." That's why I write flexible code—so it can evolve, not be discarded.

The second principle I follow is patience. Things happen when they're meant to. Keep showing up, stay grounded, and trust the process.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Interview with Dr. Anand Deshpande: Inspiring Students to Pursue Technology Careers

Learning in college isn't limited to classroom attendance and lectures; college provides the foundation for a lifetime of learning, forming relationships, and self-improvement. This month, we are fortunate enough to share a portion of an interview with Dr. Anand Deshpande as he offers us some encouraging advice and insights for students beginning their academic journey at Silicon University.

Interviewer:

As our students embark on their educational journeys and face future challenges, sir, do you have any words of wisdom or messages you'd like to convey to them?

Dr. Anand Deshpande:

First, I want to extend my warmest welcome to all students who have enrolled at Silicon University. I was able to visit today, and I feel it's a really great campus; this university has created an ideal setting for you to develop academically and personally.

While you're here, take advantage of every opportunity available to you. Take advantage of everything you can learn whether it's from the classroom, projects, assignments, or collaborations with industry. Your experience at Silicon University will provide you with a very well-rounded education which combines theory and practice. Take your time wisely and use it effectively to get the maximum benefit out of your experience while here.

I particularly want to highlight the value of friendship. Often the friends you form while attending school will continue to support and interact with you for the rest of your life, both personally and professionally. Try to connect with as many different people as you can and be open to new ideas and perspectives, and actively engage in discussions with others, as well as participate in multiple projects and events. Through these types of experiences, you'll create stronger bonds and networks that will be extremely beneficial in your professional endeavours. As you continue your academic pursuits, I believe there are two key areas you should focus on developing: your ability to learn and your professional network.

Lastly, I would like to extend my best wishes to all our students. I am confident you will each contribute to the transformation of our country with your dedication, curiosity, and innovative spirit.

INDUCTION 2025:
Spotlight on Speakers

During the Student Induction Program organised by Silicon University for newly admitted B.Tech. students, held from 11th to 14th August, a series of insightful interactions took place with distinguished professionals. Each was invited to share a message they wished to convey to the incoming students. They were thoughtful, inspiring, and deeply personal, offering valuable guidance and encouragement as the students embarked on their academic journey.

Dr. Abhijit Sen, CEO & Founder of Syllogistek

Dr. Abhijit Sen, CEO and Founder of Syllogistek, delivered an inspiring talk titled "VERSION 2.0: Building My Future." Drawing on 34 years of experience in the IT industry, he shared three essential lessons for personal and professional growth, stressing the need for a strong foundation and a well-rounded personality. He offered insights into the rapidly evolving IT landscape, emphasising qualities like multitasking, versatility, and leadership. Dr. Sen also introduced a structured internship planner to help students align their skills with emerging job roles. He concluded by outlining four guiding principles—Be Sincere, Be Focused, Be Competitive, and Build Excellence—ending with Zig Ziglar's empowering words: "You were born to win… plan to win, prepare to win, and expect to win."

Abhishek Nigam: "a guiding figure at ISKCON, Bhubaneswar"

Our guest speaker, Mr. Abhishek Nigam, urged us to "Mind our Mind." Drawing from the *Bhagavad Gita*, he explained the restless nature of the mind—its constant thoughts, distractions, and tendency to exaggerate problems. His message emphasized that while life's challenges are inevitable, our power lies in how we respond to them. Using simple flowcharts, he reminded us: If you have a problem and can act—act. If you cannot—don't worry. He encouraged us to adopt meditation and reflection as lifelong practices to build resilience. Sharing his own journey through depression, he highlighted how the teachings of Lord Krishna helped him regain clarity and strength. He believes that if students engage with the timeless wisdom of the *Gita*, they can better understand their consciousness and overcome emotional struggles.

Dr. R K S Mangesh Dash, Advisor & Co-Founder, TWARAN

The session led by Dr. R K S Mangesh Dash, focused on Moral Ethics and Human Values. He explained the principles of ethical laws and clarified the difference between self-centred choices and those that serve the community. Through his discussion on deontological and teleological ethics, he highlighted that our actions are judged both by our intentions and their outcomes. His message reminded us that, as engineers and as human beings, our decisions must reflect higher moral values. Dr. Dash also encouraged students to recognize the power of their own thinking, stressing that creative, correct, and positive thoughts can turn possibilities into realities. He affirmed that Silicon University provides the right environment for such growth and urged us to feel resourceful and capable from within.

Dr. Shradha Padhi, Regional College of Management, Bhubaneswar

"Resilience isn't built in a day—it's nurtured daily through mindful habits and the courage to seek help."

Dr. Shradha Padhi delivered a profoundly relevant and impactful session on Coping Strategies and Mental Health during the induction program. With empathy and clarity, she addressed the growing psychological challenges faced by young adults, particularly in the context of academic pressure, social expectations, and the transitional phases of life. Her talk emphasised that mental health is not a peripheral concern but a foundational pillar of personal and professional success. She introduced a range of practical strategies to help students maintain emotional equilibrium amidst the demands of college life. These included adopting a balanced diet, engaging in regular physical exercise, practising stress management techniques, and—most importantly—cultivating the courage to seek help when needed. She reinforced the idea that resilience is not an innate trait but a skill developed gradually through consistent, mindful habits and self-care routines.

Dr. Satyajit Tripathy, SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar

The orientation program concluded with a thought-provoking session by Dr. Satyajit Tripathy on Metabolic Dysfunction in Young Adults, a topic that, though clinical at first glance, proved deeply relevant to student life. He explained how everyday habits—poor diet, lack of sleep, stress, and inactivity—quietly harm long-term health, while also offering practical measures for prevention. Dr. Tripathy emphasized the need for students to maintain both physical and mental fitness, with special attention to emotional balance during the challenges of early adulthood. He highlighted the crucial role of teachers, guardians, and parents in guiding students through this formative phase. Encouraging the habit of reading, he suggested good books and enriching literature as tools for emotional maturity and intellectual depth. Ultimately, he urged students to become the "frame of a good book," embodying wisdom and values that support a purposeful and balanced life.

Student Team
Publication Cell

TRAVEL DIARY

Postcard from the Desert: A Journey through Rajasthan

Rajasthan felt different the moment I arrived. The air was dry and warm, yet it carried a thousand whispered stories. I had seen countless photos online, but being there was something else entirely—louder, brighter, and paradoxically, more serene.

We began in Jaipur, the famed Pink City. It truly lives up to its name. Every street corner looked like a film set—ornate facades, vibrant textiles, and shopkeepers calling out with cheerful smiles. I sampled the street food, and it was every bit as flavorful and unforgettable as promised.

The forts were next—monumental, silent, and steeped in echoes. I remember walking through a long corridor in Amer Fort, imagining the lives once lived within those walls. For a moment, I was lost in that reverie, the present slipping away.

Then came Jaisalmer, my favorite chapter. The desert held a quiet kind of magic. Riding a camel across the dunes was wobbly and hilarious, but as the sun dipped below the horizon, the world turned gold. It was a beauty no camera could ever truly capture.

That night, we sat by a bonfire as locals sang haunting folk melodies. The stars felt impossibly close, like they might fall into our hands. And just like that, it was time to move on.

Udaipur was our final stop—a gentle farewell. The lakes shimmered under moonlight, boats gliding softly across the water. The city glowed like a dream, and I could've stayed for days, simply watching it breathe.

Coming home, I felt a quiet ache—a longing for the beauty I'd just left behind. Rajasthan wasn't just a destination; it was a reminder to wander more often, to seek out serenity, and to let the world surprise you.

Tamanna Jaiswal
3rd Sem, ECE

MOVIE REVIEW

Baggage, Bonds, and Bowels

Piku, an underrated gem, is not just a movie but a tender journey into the lives of three people whose paths intertwine through something as mundane yet comically significant as chronic constipation. At its heart is Bhaskor Banerjee (Amitabh Bachchan), a stubborn, health-obsessed father; his dutiful daughter Piku (Deepika Padukone), juggling independence and responsibility; and Rana (Irrfan Khan), a cab company owner caught in their chaotic road trip from Delhi to Kolkata. What begins as an absurd tale about bowels transforms into a heartfelt exploration of family, love, independence, and the quirks that make their bond unforgettable.

Directed by Shoojit Sircar, the film questions whether independence means distancing from family duties. Piku, a young architect, manages her life while caring for her eccentric father. Their constant bickering—about health, choices, and everything in between—is laced with love. One hilarious moment sees Bhaskor proudly describing his bowel movement as "semiliquid," while Piku listens, exasperated but attentive. That's what daughters do—they listen, even when it's absurd.

Bhaskor's impulsive decision to travel by road to Kolkata brings Rana into their lives. What starts as a tiresome journey becomes one of laughter, arguments, and quiet revelations. Rana's calm presence offers Piku a rare space to breathe, reflect, and rediscover herself—whether through a game of badminton or a silent walk in Kolkata's lanes.

The film's brilliance lies in its everyday conversations. Bhaskor's rants on digestion or his blunt views on marriage ("marriage is for low IQ people") echo the stubborn debates we all know. Rana listens without judgment, sometimes with witty one-liners, sometimes with silence, reminding us that even outsiders can bring balance to relationships, just as Piku begins to understand herself through him.

One of the film's most powerful moments is Piku's breakdown after finding her father cycling alone, capturing years of frustration, love, and exhaustion. Deepika Padukone shines as a woman torn between responsibility and her own life, revealing the emotional toll of caregiving.

In the end, Piku reminds us that love isn't always grand—it's found in squabbles, complaints, and unplanned road trips. Family is messy, tiring, and deeply essential. It's quiet truth: independence matters, but it's richer when someone's waiting for you at home.

Mohammed Zuhayer Labeeb
3rd Sem., ECE

PROFILE OF AN ORGANIZATION

Persistent Systems: A Bliss of Technology

The legacy of Persistent Systems began in 1990, founded by the visionary Dr. Anand Deshpande in Pune, India. With a modest start-up capital of $21,000, the company was built on a belief in the transformative power of software. Over the years, the venture campaign evolved from a small tech venture into a global force in digital engineering.

A major turning point came in 2000, when Intel Capital invested $1 million for a 3.5% stake, recognizing the company's potential in shaping the future of software services. By 2010, Persistent Systems had earned its place on both the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), marking its arrival as a publicly traded technology leader.

Business Model: Software with Purpose

Persistent Systems was founded with a mission: to make the world more aware of the power of technology. Its business model centres on building software-driven platforms that help clients become digitally empowered. The company offers a wide array of services, including Product Engineering, Cloud Modernization, Data Analytics and AI Services.

These solutions are delivered through direct sales, strategic partnerships, and internal expertise, enabling clients to innovate, scale, and stay competitive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Target Markets: Engineering the Future

In a world where technological advancement drives progress, Persistent Systems focuses on industries with high digital demand like BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance),

Healthcare and Life Sciences, Software and High-Tech.

Its emphasis on digital product development and engineering excellence positions it as a trusted partner for organizations seeking transformation through technology.

Recent Achievements: A Legacy of Growth

Persistent Systems has earned several prestigious accolades in recent years:

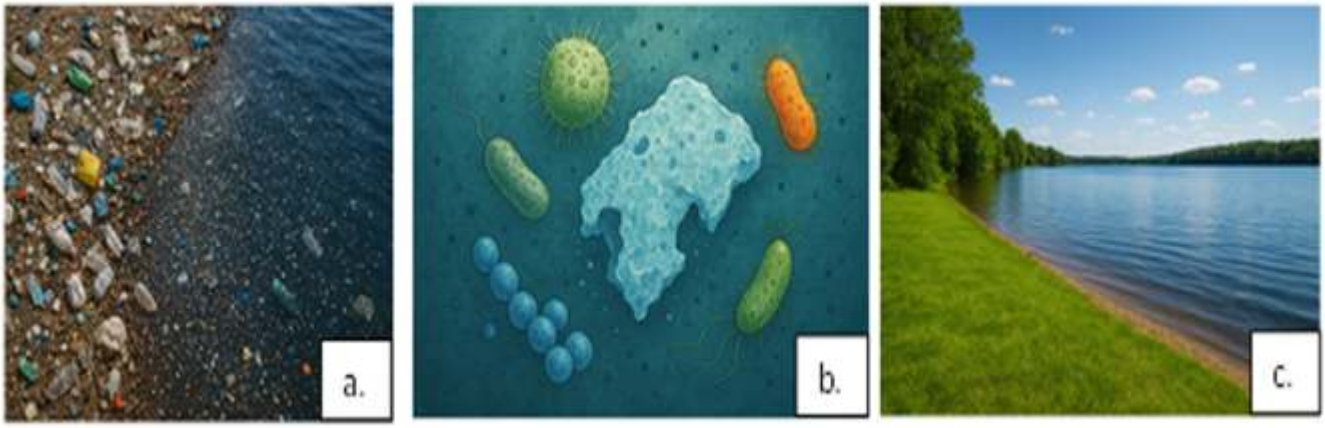
- Growth Honour of the Year – Everest Group, September 2025
- Google Cloud Infrastructure Modernization Partner of the Year – Asia Pacific, 2025
- ISG Star of Excellence Award, 2024 for superior customer experience
- Named Fastest Growing Brand in Brand Finance 2025 report

From humble beginnings to global recognition, Persistent Systems exemplifies how innovation, vision, and resilience can shape a better future. It continues to harness the power of technology to simplify lives, empower industries, and inspire progress.

Esha Agarwal
5th Sem., CST

EARTH MATTERS

Tiny Microbes, Big Impact: Turning Plastic Waste into a Greener Future



Plastic is everywhere—in bottles, packaging, electronics, and clothing. Its durability makes it useful, but also problematic, as discarded plastics can persist in the environment for centuries. Scientists are now looking to nature for a solution, and microbes are emerging as unlikely heroes. Certain bacteria and fungi produce enzymes that can break down plastics into harmless end products. The process begins when microbes colonize the surface of plastic and secrete enzymes that depolymerize the long, tough chains into smaller fragments. These fragments are then assimilated into the microbial cells and finally mineralized into carbon dioxide, water, methane, or biomass.

Researchers have identified several microbes with remarkable plastic-degrading powers. Ideonella sakaiensis produces PETase to degrade polyethylene terephthalate (PET) from plastic bottles. Pseudomonas species can tackle polyurethane, while marine bacteria like Alcanivorax break down polyethylene. Fungi such as Aspergillus, Penicillium, and Fusarium solani are also capable of degrading resistant plastics like chlorinated polyvinyl chloride and polyurethane. Despite its promise, microbe-mediated plastic degradation remains slow compared to the massive global production of plastics. Resistant polymers such as high-density polyethylene and polypropylene pose particular challenges. Scientists are exploring genetic engineering, synthetic biology, and microbial consortia to make the process faster and more efficient.

Unlike incineration or chemical recycling, microbial degradation is eco-friendly, energy-efficient, and produces no harmful by-products. Some microbes can even convert plastic waste into valuable products such as bioplastics and biofuels, offering a sustainable path to a cleaner planet.

Excerpted from *mBio article published in ASM Journal*

Kumari Anamika
Assistant Professor, (BSH)

SILICON AT 25:
People, Ideas, and Possibilities

A silver jubilee marks more than the passage of time—it celebrates dreams realized, lives shaped, and milestones achieved. From its humble beginning in 2001 as an affiliated institute to autonomy in 2018 and university status in 2024, Silicon's journey thrives on learning, innovation, and growth.

The 25-year story of an institution is a reflection of ideas in motion which cannot be contained in words. This article is but a glimpse into the vision that shaped this journey. Rooted in the belief that change is the only constant, Silicon continues to reinvent learning through academic flexibility and innovation—introducing course waivers, honours and minor options, and futuristic programs like Molecular Medicine, VLSI, IoT & Embedded Electronics, and IMCA. Its Summer Internship and Practice School programs bridge classrooms with the real world, nurturing adaptive learners.

Beyond classrooms, Silicon pulses with creativity and collaboration. With 20+ active clubs, the campus is a living lab of ideas—student-driven, faculty-guided, and proudly self-sustained, with even major events like fests and orientations organized entirely in-house.

Innovation at Silicon is rooted in risk-taking and bold ideas. The Business Incubator has supported over 25 start-ups and nurtured 16 successful entrepreneurs. Research thrives through multiple Smart India Hackathon wins, over ₹5 crores in funded projects, 35 consultancy assignments, the institute's first patent on solar photocatalytic wastewater treatment, and pioneering 28nm CMOS chip designs. Alumni such as Swaroop Mishra (B.Tech. EEE, 2014), now at Google DeepMind and Microsoft AI, exemplify this spirit of fearless innovation and global impact.

Silicon's story is one of community and continuity. Alumni across the globe return as mentors, trainers, and collaborators, nurturing the ecosystem that once nurtured them. A Walt Disney quote embellished on a large custom painting at Silicon's front foyer entrance reminds us, *"You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality."* Indeed, the true legacy of Silicon lies in its people—every career nurtured, every dream realized, and every success celebrated forms the heartbeat of this home of aspirations.

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