

nist CHRONICLE

Volume XXX, Issue No.2, December 2025

Brains, Balance & Brilliance:

Why Soft Skills Matter More for GenZ?



www.nist.edu

NIST University
Institute Park, Berhampur, Odisha- 761008, India

NIST UNIVERSITY

Welcomes You to the



2nd

CONVOCATION

9th December 2025



nist
NIST UNIVERSITY

2nd
CONVOCATION

Indoor Stadium, NIST University | 19th December 2025



A historic moment as His Excellency Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, graced the Second Convocation Ceremony of NIST University on 19th December (Friday) at the Indoor Stadium.

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- Mr. Shounak Biswas
- Dr. Debashish Ghose
- Mr. Debadatta Behera
- Mr. Kishan Kumar Maharana
- Mr. Rupak Kumar Swain
- Mr. Subaneswar Charan Behera
- Mr. Kotha Domburudhara Rao
- C.A. Sainik Bibhutiray
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Delivery Lead - SAP, Volkswagen Group
BTech- Information Technology
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The NIST Chronicle team's diligence and dedication for publishing this journal with the latest happening at NIST with focus on key articles relevant to education, technology, time, and society is laudable. It is indeed a great pleasure to know that this particular issue of NIST Chronicle is focused on the featured article: "Brains, Balance & Brilliance: Why Soft Skills Matter More for GenZ" is very timely given the current landscape and essential need.

Generation Z has been entering the workforce with impressive technical skills. However, Gen Z's digital upbringing and pandemic disruption have shaped a soft skills gap such as emotional intelligence, professional communication, adaptability, leadership and conflict resolution. As per Harris Poll, 82% of managers feel that their new hires from Gen Z need additional support, time, and training to develop their soft skills. Soft skills are vital to the professional success in any organization. Emotional intelligence (EQ) underpins many soft skills, from empathy to active listening or understanding others' perspectives. Higher EQ expected to improve one's team spirit and conflict resolution abilities. Professional Communication involves areas such as: public speaking, writing project updates, compiling meeting minutes, and delivering presentation with border team. Gen Z often freezes in real-time conversations. Collaboration and team work is an area where Gen Z struggles. In the workforce, effective team work and collaborative work means navigating with different people, their varying ideology, communication mode and sometimes conflicting ideas. Leadership is a necessary skill, showing ownership, motivating teammates, and making informed decisions in a team that can set Gen Z apart early in their careers.

Gen Z is great at finding answers but that doesn't always translate to solving complex work problems. The good news is that soft skill can be



learned just like technical ones. Some actionable steps could be seek out real-world practice, embrace feedback and join collaborative projects. The soft skills dilemma facing Gen Z is a reflection of missed opportunities during critical developmental years. As the world evolves, so our approach to developing technical expertise along with human connection is essential.

I congratulate the entire editorial team for their hard work, diligence and dedication for bringing out this wonderful edition of NIST Chronicle.

Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra

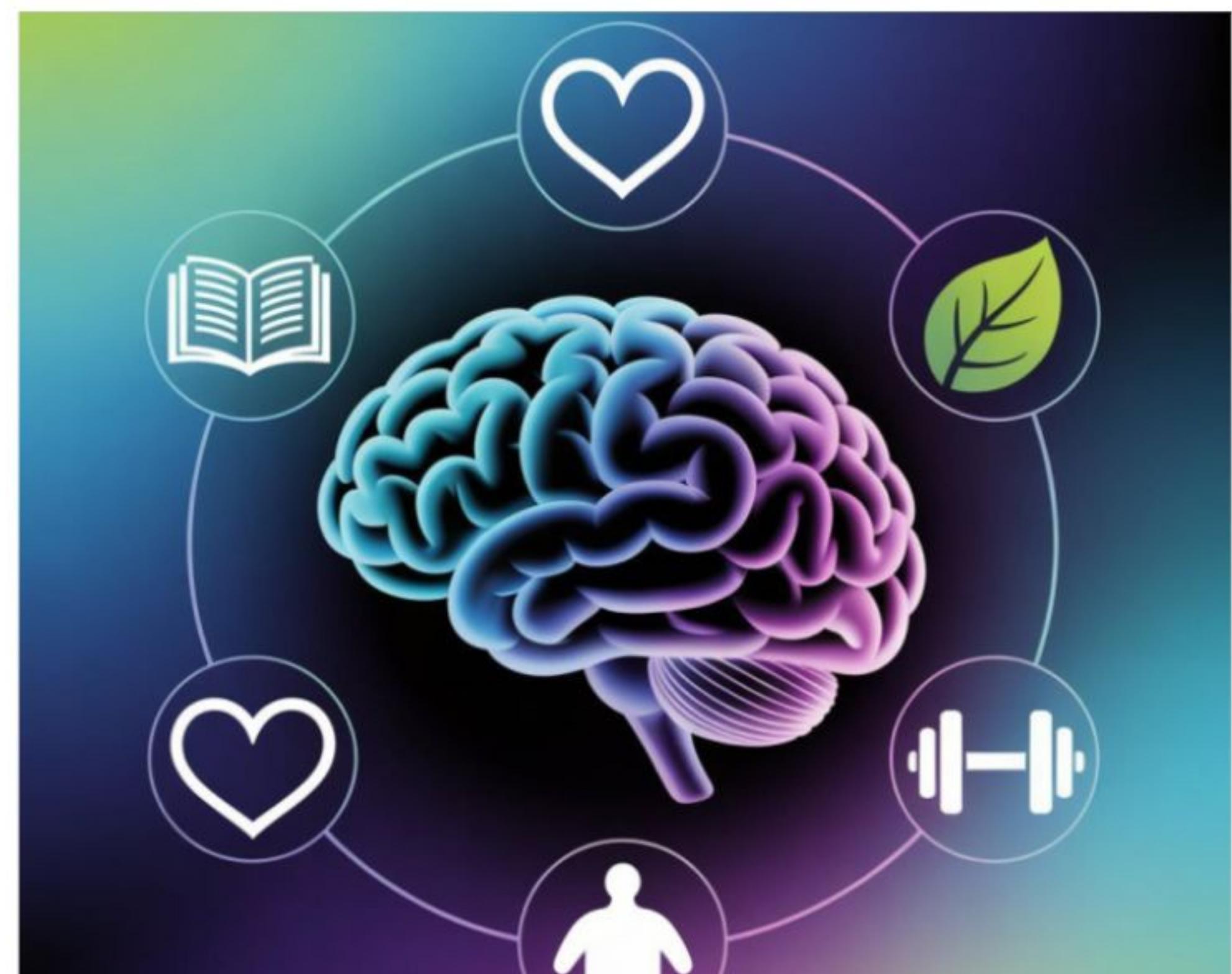


MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

It's a pleasure to extend my greetings to the NIST Chronicle team as you prepare the next issue of our campus magazine. The Chronicle has consistently served as a vibrant platform to showcase the ideas, aspirations, and achievements of our community, while also connecting us to the larger currents shaping education, technology, and society.

I am delighted that the cover feature of this issue "Brains, Balance & Brilliance: Why Soft Skills Matter More for Gen Z" highlights a theme of great relevance. In today's world, technical expertise alone is not enough; the ability to communicate, collaborate, adapt, and lead with empathy defines true success. Employers now seek individuals who not only solve complex problems but also navigate diverse teams, manage change, demonstrate emotional maturity, and uphold integrity in moments of uncertainty. These human capabilities once seen as complementary are now strategic competencies that distinguish outstanding leaders from the merely competent. For Gen Z, mastering soft skills alongside hard skills will be the key differentiator enabling them to thrive in dynamic workplaces and contribute meaningfully to

I also welcome the Chronicle's continued emphasis on Insights from Industry Captains, offering valuable perspectives on emerging technologies, career trends, and the evolving global landscape. These engagements bridge academia and industry, preparing our learners

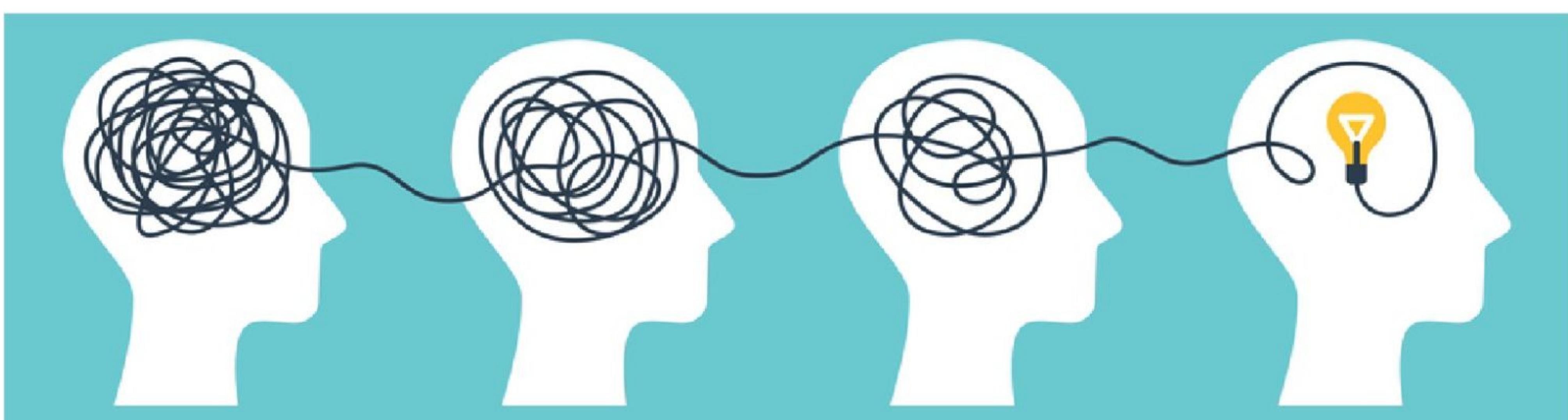


citizens. My congratulations to the editorial team for their dedication and creativity. I encourage all readers to engage with the ideas presented in this issue. May it inspire our students to cultivate both brilliance of mind and balance of character—embodying the holistic excellence that NIST stands for.

Congratulations to the editorial team for curating yet another bold and forward-looking edition.

Warm regards,

Prof. Priyadarsan Patra





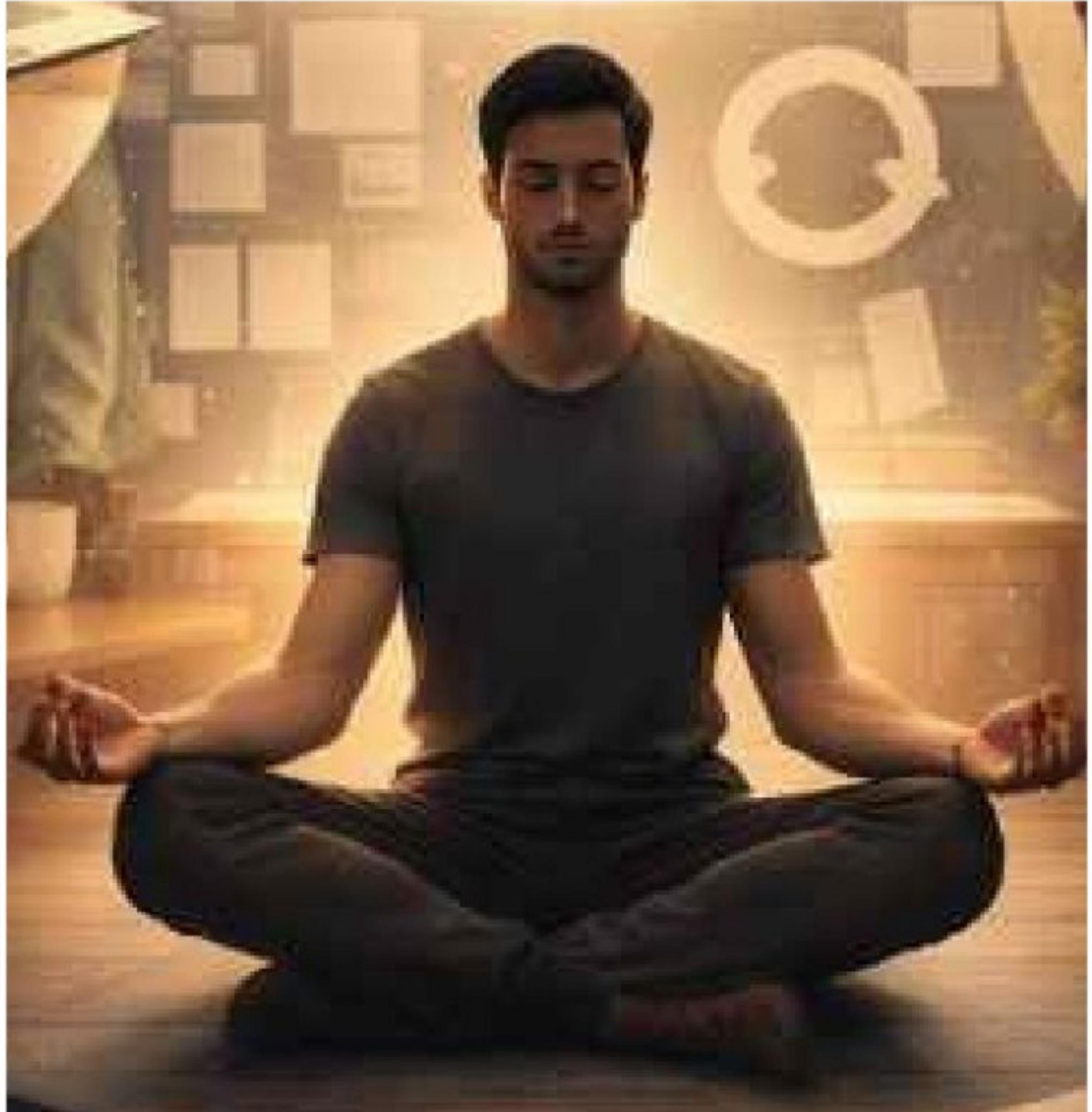
MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISOR

Dear Esteemed Readers!

India's Gen Z is often celebrated as ambitious, digitally fluent, and endlessly adaptable. They learn faster, switch careers sooner, and upskill more aggressively than any generation before them. According to LinkedIn India, Gen Z professionals spend 73% more time learning new skills compared to older generations. Yet, alongside this brilliance, a quieter crisis is unfolding.

A Deloitte 2024 survey found that over 50% of Indian Gen Z employees experience frequent stress or anxiety, citing workload pressure, job insecurity, and poor work-life boundaries. For decades, India's education system has focused heavily on technical knowledge, marks, and credentials. While these remain important, employers are increasingly highlighting a different gap.

Soft skills such as communication, emotional intelligence, resilience, time management, and empathy are not "soft" at all. They determine how young professionals handle pressure, respond to failure, manage relationships, and maintain mental health. For Gen Z, work-life balance is not about working less; it is about working with clarity and control. Yet hustle culture, social comparison, and family expectations often make young professionals feel guilty for setting boundaries. Emotional intelligence and assertive communication help them say no without fear, seek help without stigma, and manage ambition without burnout. Mental health experts increasingly argue that soft skills function as preventive mental health tools. Self-awareness helps individuals recognise early signs of stress. Emotional regulation reduces anxiety. Strong interpersonal skills create support systems both at work and beyond. These everyday skills reduce the risk of emotional exhaustion long before clinical intervention is required. India, where over 50% of the population is under 30, stands at a critical crossroads. If we want a future workforce that is productive, innovative, and mentally resilient,



soft-skill education must be embedded into classrooms, campuses, and corporate training programmes. Career success in the 21st century is no longer defined by qualifications alone, but by mindset.

The current issue of NIST Chronicle is a testament to this concern- True success lies not just in brilliance but in balance. Our experience with the students are echoed with concern even by the stakeholders in the education ecosystem, which we have shared here.

Let this issue ignite the thinktank of education industry for a careful analysis and initiate holistic education that is based on the adage- "Soft skills are no longer optional they are mental health tools for a high-pressure world." My wholehearted complements to the editorial team for presenting the subject with depth and direction.

Jai Hind!



Dr. Sabyasachi Rath

LETTER FROM BOARD OF EDITORS

Brain, Brilliance & Balance: Why Soft Skills Are Gen Z's Real Superpower

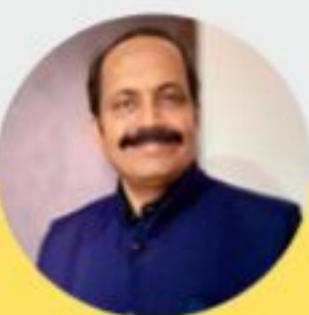
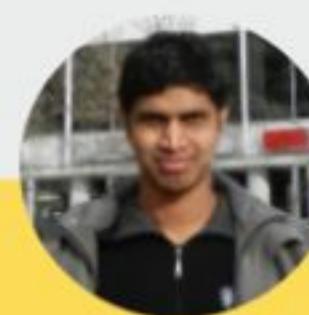
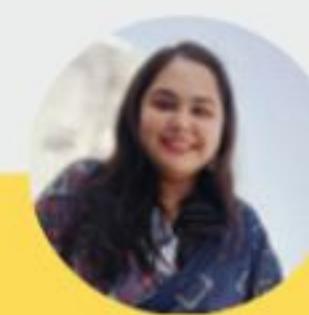
By the time a 22-year-old Indian graduate updates their LinkedIn profile, they may already have completed an online certification, managed a side hustle, and planned a career switch. Yet, behind this impressive achievement lies a quieter struggle: stress, uncertainty, burnout, and the constant pressure to navigate their lives. This captures the paradox of Gen Z: a generation that is smart, skilled, and ambitious, yet increasingly overwhelmed. In today's India, success is not just about having a sharp mind or a strong resume. It is about balance. The missing link that connects intelligence to well-being is something we still underestimate, which is known as soft skills.

Indian Gen Z has grown up in a hyper-competitive world filled with board exams, entrance tests, coding boot camps, internships, social media, and AI tools, all running simultaneously. Psychologists point out that chronic multitasking and a culture of comparison, fueled by social media, keep young minds in a state of continuous alertness. According to mental health professionals in India, anxiety and stress are now among the top reasons students seek help on campuses. This is where soft skills become important. Skills like emotional regulation, focus, self-awareness, and stress management help the brain switch from survival mode to growth mode. A sharp mind performs best not when overloaded, but when it has emotional support. For decades in India, brilliance meant ranks, degrees, and job security. But the world of work has changed. Employers now recognize that while technical skills can be taught, attitude, communication, adaptability, and emotional intelligence cannot be developed overnight. A senior HR leader in the Indian IT sector recently said, "We no longer hire just for skills; we hire for mindset. The ability to learn, collaborate, and handle pressure matters more than perfect scores." Whether it's a startup in Bengaluru, a social enterprise in Odisha, or a corporate office in Gurugram, young professionals who communicate clearly, handle feedback well, and work collaboratively advance more quickly. This redefines brilliance not louder, but wiser.

India's Gen Z has the intelligence to lead the future. What they need now is the emotional strength to sustain it. When the brain gets support from emotional intelligence, brilliance takes on meaning. When soft skills guide ambition, balance becomes attainable. And when success includes well-being, not just wealth, we create a generation that thrives not just survives.

In a fast-changing India, soft skills are not soft at all they are Gen Z's true superpower.

BOARD OF EDITORS

 <div style="background-color: #005a99; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px; margin-top: 5px;"> Dr. Sabyasachi Rath Advisor & Managing Editor </div>	 <div style="background-color: #005a99; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px; margin-top: 5px;"> Dr. Ratikanta Nayak Associate Managing Editor </div>	 <div style="background-color: #005a99; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px; margin-top: 5px;"> Dr. Basant Kumar Sahu Editor </div>	 <div style="background-color: #005a99; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px; margin-top: 5px;"> Ms. Pragnya P Samanta Sub Editor </div>
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 <div style="background-color: #005a99; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px; margin-top: 5px;"> Sandeep Biswal Assistant Editor </div>			

STUDENT SURVEY

MORE THAN MARKS: THE POWER OF SOFT SKILLS

In today's rapidly evolving world, career success is no longer defined only by academic knowledge or technical expertise. While these elements remain essential foundations, it is soft skills that increasingly determine how far an individual can truly progress. Communication, confidence, adaptability, teamwork, leadership, and emotional intelligence have become the core competencies that shape personal growth, professional performance, and long-term success.

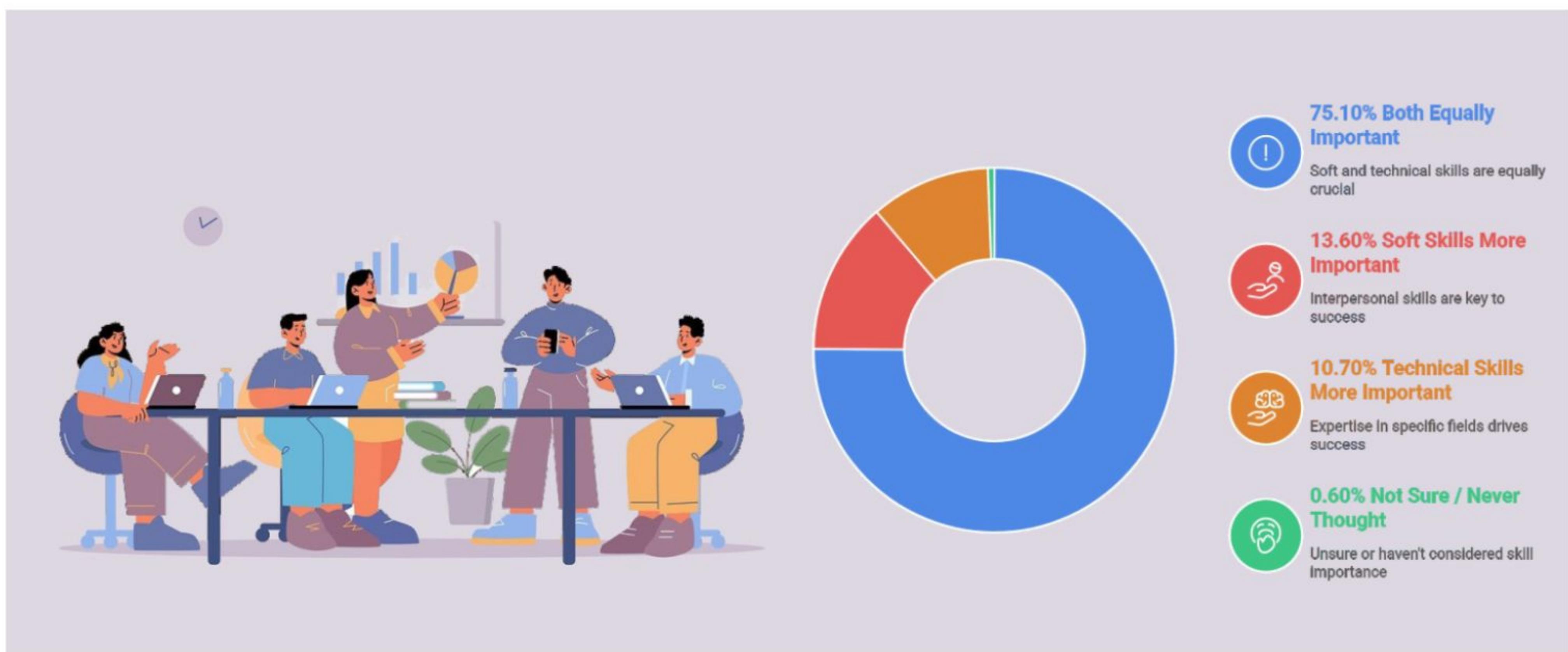
Modern classrooms, workplaces, and industries demand more than subject mastery. Individuals are expected to express ideas clearly, collaborate with diverse teams, handle pressure with maturity, and adapt quickly to change. The ability to listen, empathize, resolve conflicts, and think critically has become just as valuable as technical proficiency. In leadership roles especially, soft skills play a decisive role in building trust, motivating teams, and creating a positive working culture. As organizations become more global and interconnected, employers seek professionals who can navigate cultural differences, manage uncertainty, and contribute meaningfully beyond their job descriptions. Technical skills may help secure opportunities, but soft skills help sustain them. They enable

professionals to grow into responsible leaders, innovative thinkers, and reliable collaborators.

For today's generation, success is no longer measured only by grades, degrees, or certifications. It is measured by the ability to communicate with confidence, adapt to challenges, learn continuously, and build strong human connections. Gen Z, in particular, recognizes that personal values, emotional awareness, creativity, and teamwork are essential for achieving balance between professional excellence and personal fulfillment. This NIST Chronicle Student Survey explores how Gen Z perceives the importance of soft skills in comparison to academic and technical abilities.

The survey offers valuable insights into student priorities, career expectations, and evolving learning needs. It highlights how young minds view education not only as a path to employment, but as a journey toward holistic development. The findings of this survey offer a powerful reflection of how future professionals are shaping themselves for a dynamic world, where success belongs to those who can connect, lead, innovate, and grow with confidence. It highlights a generation that values holistic development alongside academic and technical excellence.

Survey Question: Which matters more for real success: soft skills or academic/technical skills?



FEATURE STORY

Dr. Sathish Chandra Velpula

**Co-Founder | Start-up & Incubation Mentor
Head - Career Services, Mahindra University**

Dr. Sathish Chandra Velpula is a respected thought leader in education management, entrepreneurship, and career development, with over 16 years of experience spanning academia, start-up ecosystems, and industry partnerships. Currently serving as the Head of Career Services at Mahindra University, he plays a pivotal role in shaping employability frameworks, strengthening industry-academia collaboration, and guiding students toward sustainable career pathways. A seasoned entrepreneur and incubation mentor, Dr. Velpula



has co-founded more than 10 start-ups and mentored 150+ ventures across India's innovation ecosystem. His work extends to premier platforms such as T-Hub, IIT Bombay E-Cell, IIM Sambalpur Incubation Centre, Startup Odisha, AIC RAISE, and several national innovation networks. With academic grounding in management, psychology, and strategy, his perspective uniquely integrates professional excellence with emotional intelligence and mental well-being. In this feature, Dr. Velpula shares his reflections on soft skills, mental health, and the evolving career landscape for Gen Z, highlighting why human capabilities are becoming the defining factor for long-term success in a rapidly changing world.

NC: Dr. Velpula, you work closely with students, recruiters, and start-up founders. What truly determines long-term career success for Gen Z today?

DC: This is one of the most critical questions facing young professionals today. Long-term career success is no longer defined by degrees, grades, or even technical expertise alone. Instead, it is shaped by soft skills and mental well-being : the human capabilities that empower individuals to adapt, collaborate, lead, and sustain performance in an increasingly unpredictable world.

Gen Z is entering the workforce at a time of unprecedented transformation. Digital disruption, AI-driven automation, remote work cultures, and global uncertainty have fundamentally reshaped how organizations operate. In such an environment, technical skills, though essential, evolve rapidly and often lose relevance.

What truly endures are communication, emotional intelligence, adaptability, resilience, critical thinking, and self-awareness. These qualities determine not only how effectively individuals work, but also how well they grow, connect, and lead.

In my experience, I have seen exceptionally bright students struggle, not because they lack knowledge, but because they find it difficult to handle feedback, manage stress, collaborate across differences, or express their ideas with confidence. Soft skills bridge the gap between potential and performance. They enable individuals to navigate ambiguity, build meaningful relationships, and maintain emotional balance under pressure, turning competence into long-term success.

BRAINS, BALANCE & BRILLIANCE: WHY SOFT SKILLS MATTER MORE FOR GENZ

NC: Why have soft skills become non-negotiable in today's professional landscape?

DC: A common misconception is that soft skills compete with technical skills. In reality, they amplify them. Technical competence may help someone get hired, but soft skills determine growth, leadership, and longevity.

In an AI-driven world, machines can process data faster than humans, but they cannot replace judgment, empathy, creativity, or ethical decision-making. Organizations increasingly reward those who can collaborate across teams, lead conversations, manage conflict, and inspire trust. These are not "extra" skills; they are career accelerators.

NC: How closely are mental health and professional performance connected?

DC: Mental health is often discussed separately from employability, but the two are deeply interconnected. With my academic grounding in psychology and years of mentoring students and founders, I've consistently observed that emotional well-being directly impacts performance.

When individuals are mentally balanced, they think clearly, make better decisions, and engage more meaningfully with their work. Chronic stress and emotional overload, on the other hand, impair focus, creativity, and judgment. True brilliance does not come from burnout. It emerges from clarity of mind, emotional regulation, and psychological safety.

NC: Are educational institutions and workplaces doing enough to develop these capabilities?

DC: While some schools and workplaces are making progress, most systems still prioritize grades, KPIs, and technical outcomes. Soft skills and mental well-being are often expected, but rarely taught in a structured way.

From my experience building career services and incubation ecosystems, meaningful change happens when institutions intentionally integrate communication, self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and leadership development into curriculum, mentoring, and real-world exposure. Holistic development is no longer optional. It is

essential because institutions that adopt a holistic development approach produce graduates who are not only employable but also resilient and future-ready.

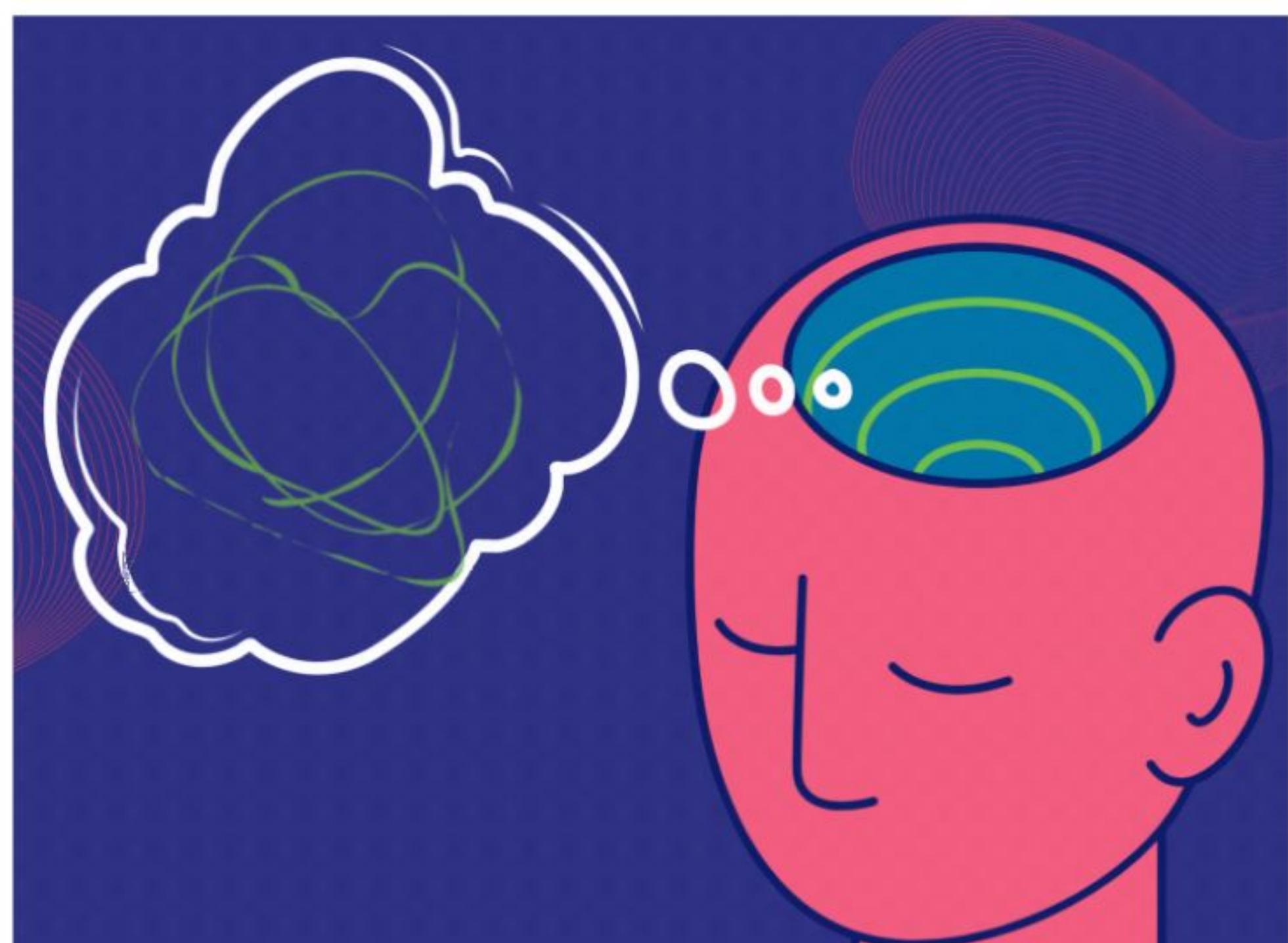
NC: What advice would you give Gen Z to build strong soft skills early in their careers?

DC: Invest early in self-awareness. Learn to listen deeply, manage your emotional responses, and seek feedback, even when it feels uncomfortable. Step outside your comfort zone through leadership roles, teamwork, and real-world problem-solving. Soft skills are built through reflection and practice, not theory. Equally important is exposure. Take up leadership roles, participate in group projects, work with diverse teams, and reflect deeply on your experiences.

In a fast-changing world, your greatest asset is not just what you know, but how you think, feel, connect, and grow. Those who consciously invest in these habits early develop confidence, adaptability, and credibility: qualities that remain valuable across roles, industries, and phases of life.

NC: How do you see the future of careers evolving in India?

DC: The future belongs to individuals and institutions that balance technology with humanity. As automation increases, the demand for emotionally intelligent, ethically grounded, and adaptable professionals will rise. India's strength lies in its young population, if we nurture not just skills, but mindsets and mental well-being, we can build a globally competitive yet



NIST UNIVERSITY'S SECOND CONVOCATION

NIST University hosted its' 2nd Convocation on 19th December 2025 with great solemnity and grandeur at the Grand Indoor Stadium on campus. The ceremony was presided over by His Excellency the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha and Visitor of NIST University, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, who emphasized the importance of professional preparedness, life skills, and the role of the youth in navigating future challenges. On this occasion, he also laid the foundation stone of the University's Administrative Building, Magnolia. The Hon'ble Governor conferred Honorary Doctorate Degrees upon Ms. Sradhanjali Samantaray, Dr. Gordhanbhai Nathalal Patel, and Shri Subrat Tripathy. The Convocation Address was delivered by Dr. Abhay Jere, Vice Chairman, AICTE, who highlighted the significance of life skills in a competitive global environment. Class of 2025, reaffirming the University's commitment to Student



Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra, Founder and President, congratulated the graduating Class of 2025 and reaffirmed the University's unwavering commitment to Student First, Research & Innovation, and Contribution to Society. Prof. Priyadarsan Patra, Vice Chancellor, presented the Annual Report, followed by the announcement of successful

candidates by Dr. P. Rajesh Kumar, Dean of Academics. Academic excellence was celebrated with the award of 5 Gold Medals and 3 Silver Medals, along with the conferment of degrees upon 335 students. The proceedings were formally conducted by Dr. Bishnunkar Nayak, Registrar (I/C), in the gracious presence of University leadership and distinguished guests.

Convocation

2nd Convocation Honorary Doctorate Awardees

NIST University Honors Ms. Sradhanjali Samantaray with Doctor of Literature Degree



NIST University proudly conferred the Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) upon Ms. Sradhanjali Samantaray, an Indian football coach and former footballer, during its' 2nd Convocation held on 19th December 2025. She currently serves as the assistant coach of the India women's national under-20 football team. She was the first footballer from Odisha to represent and captain the India women's national football team. This prestigious honor was awarded in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the field of sports, her exemplary leadership, and her role in bringing pride and distinction to the nation.

NIST University Honours Dr. Gordhanbhai Nathalal Patel with Doctor of Science Degree



Prof. Rankhanidhi Sahu received the award in the absence of Dr. Patel.

NIST University conferred the Doctor of Science (DSc) degree upon Dr. Gordhanbhai Nathalal Patel, President, JP Laboratories, USA, during its 2nd

Convocation Ceremony held on 19th December 2025. The honour recognized his outstanding achievements, visionary leadership, and lasting contributions to the advancement of science and technology. Prof. Rankhanidhi Sahu received the award on his behalf. Dr. Patel's exemplary journey reflects a rare blend of innovation, integrity, and global impact. His contributions continue to inspire the academic community, researchers, and aspiring professionals worldwide. The conferment stands as a tribute to his enduring commitment to scientific excellence and societal advancement. His legacy will continue to guide future generations toward purposeful innovation and responsible leadership.

NIST University Honours Mr. Subrat Tripathy with Doctor of Science Degree



NIST University conferred the Doctor of Science (DSc) degree upon Mr. Subrat Tripathy, President - Business Development, Adani Group, during its 2nd Convocation Ceremony on 19th December 2025. The honour, presented by His Excellency Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, recognized Mr. Tripathy's outstanding contributions to the maritime industry, corporate leadership, and nation-building. The conferment reflects NIST University's commitment to celebrating visionary leaders whose achievements create lasting societal impact and inspire future generations.



Presents



SANKALP 2K25-26 A CELEBRATION OF INNOVATION, TALENT, AND CULTURE

NIST University, in association with the NIST ISTE Student Chapter, proudly hosted its 2-Day Annual Flagship Event, SANKALP 2K25-26, on the vibrant university campus. With the theme "Celebrating Life," the gala remains one of the most eagerly awaited occasions for every NISTian. The grand inauguration took place on 6th November 2025 at the Stephen Hawking Cineplex, Atrium Building, NIST University. The ceremony commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Priyadarsan Patra, Esteemed Vice-Chancellor, who greeted the distinguished guests, faculty members, and students, setting an inspiring tone for the celebration of talent and creativity. Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra, Hon'ble President of NIST University, delivered the Inaugural Address, congratulating everyone for their enthusiastic participation and highlighting that the next two days would blend innovation, festivity, and cultural vibrance. Dr. Sachidanand Mohanty, Director of AIIMS Jammu & Kashmir, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. In his thought-provoking speech, he emphasized the relevance of every discipline, remarking, "Just as our body needs Vitamin C, the future needs Vitamin AI." He encouraged students to focus on innovation and the Make in India initiative, applauding NIST's Global Innovation Centre for its research excellence and its role in shaping India's knowledge future. Mr. Satish Pradhan, Vice President, Cognizant, joined as the Chief Guest and shared valuable professional insights. He urged students to solve real-world challenges with innovation and strong fundamentals, stressing the importance of emotional intelligence and continuous learning, stating, "The IT industry is a marathon, not a sprint." Prof. Swadhin Mishra, ISTE Faculty Advisor, congratulated the SANKALP core team for their dedication. Student leaders Mr. Suvam Mishra, Mr. Faizan Ahmed, and Ms. Soumyashree Rath expressed heartfelt gratitude to students and faculty, describing SANKALP as a true celebration of teamwork, spirit, and creativity. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Mitu Baral.

The cultural evening of Day 1 featured graceful classical dances, soulful musical performances by the NIST Musical Society, energetic acts by the Dance Club, and elegant presentations by the Fashion and Cultural Club. The crowning of Mr. & Ms. SANKALP marked a memorable highlight, while international doctoral students added global rhythm and charm. Day 2 unfolded as a musical spectacle with Bollywood sensation Amit Mishra captivating the audience with his melodious chartbusters, followed by DJ Rix, who transformed the campus into a vibrant dance arena. SANKALP 2K25-26 concluded as a perfect blend of learning, celebration, and unforgettable memories for the entire NIST family.

OFFICE BEARERS OF NIST ISTE SANKALP 2K25-26



Prof. Swadhin Mishra

ISTE Faculty Advisor, SANKALP 2025-26



Mr. Suvam Mishra

President, ISTE Sankalp 2025-26



Mr. Faizan Ahmad

Secretary, ISTE Sankalp 2025-26



Ms. Soumyashree Rath

Treasurer, ISTE Sankalp 2025-26

REVIVE THE SANKALP 2025-26 MOMENTS



WELCOMING THE NEW FACES OF THE NIST FAMILY

Shounak Biswas



Dean, Career Development

Mr. Shounak Biswas brings nearly three and a half decades of rich industry and academic experience to NIST. An alumnus of FMS Delhi, he completed his MBA in 1992, with a master's project exploring the diffusion of fashion among male postgraduate students. With 27.5 years of industry experience and 6.5 years in academics, his expertise spans General Management, Marketing, Human Resources, Communication, Consulting, and Career Development. His multifaceted professional journey enables him to provide strategic guidance and mentorship to students as they prepare for dynamic career paths.

Dr. Debashish Ghose



Associate Professor, School of Health Sciences (Pharmacy)

Dr. Debashish Ghose is a seasoned academician and researcher in the field of Pharmaceutics, with a strong focus on advanced drug delivery systems. He earned his Ph.D. in 2025 from Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Rourkela, where his doctoral research centered on the preparation and characterization of

nanoparticulate formulations of selected drugs. With over 13 years of teaching and professional experience, Dr. Ghose specializes in Quality by Design (QbD)-based drug development, particularly targeting the enhancement of bioavailability and solubility of poorly soluble BCS Class II and IV drugs. He completed his Master's degree in Pharmaceutics from the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mohuda, Berhampur, where his project focused on the formulation and evaluation of ophthalmic suspensions.

Debadatta Behera



Assistant Professor (Computer Science and Engineering)

Mr. Debadatta Behera represents the new generation of technology-driven academicians who bring contemporary knowledge and industry exposure into the classroom. He completed his Master's degree in Agile Software Engineering from Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology in 2025, with a project focused on brain tumour classification using advanced computational techniques.

He gained valuable industry experience through a one-year internship at Dell Technologies, which strengthened his practical understanding of real-world software systems and agile development practices. His academic and research interests include Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Computer Networks, and Electronics.

Kishan Kumar Maharana



Civil Engineer (Construction Department)

Mr. Kishan Kumar Maharana is an experienced civil engineering professional with over eight years of extensive industry experience. He holds a B.Tech in Civil Engineering from Sanjay Memorial Institute of Technology, completed in 2016. His professional expertise encompasses the management and execution of diverse infrastructure projects, including commercial, residential, educational, and service buildings, along with significant experience in railway projects. His core interests include construction management, advanced construction technologies, and the application of modern software tools in civil engineering.

Rupak Kumar Swain



Assistant Professor, School of Health Sciences (Pharmacy)

Mr. Rupak Kumar Swain is a dedicated academician with a strong background in pharmaceutical sciences and management education. He completed his M.Pharm from Roland Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2019 and also holds a PGDM from NIST B-School. With nine years of teaching

WELCOMING THE NEW FACES OF THE NIST FAMILY

experience, his areas of specialization include Herbal Drug Technology and Pharmacovigilance. His Master's research focused on the study and isolation of bioactive compounds from natural sources. Mr. Swain has published multiple review papers in UGC, SCI, and Scopus-indexed journals and successfully qualified the GPAT examination in 2023.

Subaneswar Charan Behera



**Laboratory Instructor
(Electronics & Comm. Engg.)**

Mr. Subaneswar Charan Behera has joined the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering as a Laboratory Instructor, bringing strong technical training and industry exposure. He is currently pursuing his M.Tech in VLSI & Embedded Systems from NIST, strengthening his academic foundation in advanced electronics.

He has previously worked as a Technical Trainer at NTTF and served as CEO of a Government of Odisha-promoted FPO (ORMAS), gaining experience in technical education, leadership, and organizational management. His areas of interest include IoT and Robotics.

Mr. Behera holds an NCC 'A' Certificate and has completed workshops on IoT and Robotics from IIT Bhubaneswar, reflecting his commitment to continuous learning and professional excellence. With his hands-on expertise and dedication to student development, he is a welcome addition to the NIST family.

Mr. Kotha Domburudhara Rao



**P.A. to the President
(Administration)**

Mr. Kotha Domburudhara Rao joins the Administration department as Personal Assistant to the President, bringing with him over three decades of rich industry experience in the steel sector. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (1992). With strong expertise in secretarial practices, Mr. Rao is highly skilled in stenography, supporting efficient communication and administrative coordination. His extensive professional experience, combined with dedication and precision, makes him a valuable addition to the institutional leadership support team. We warmly welcome him to the NIST

C.A. Sainik Bibhutiray



**Finance Officer
(Finance & Accounts)**

C.A. Sainik Bibhutiray joins the Finance & Accounts Department as Finance Officer, bringing with him 28 years of extensive professional experience. He is a Chartered Accountant (ICAI, New Delhi) and completed his professional qualification in 1996. With strong expertise in financial management

and institutional accounting, Mr. Bibhutiray contributes valuable insight and stability to the organization's financial operations.

Mr. Subhan Behera



**Programmer
(IT Department)**

Mr. Subhan Behera has joined NIST University as a Programmer in the IT Department. He completed his Master of Computer Applications (MCA) from NIST University, Berhampur, in 2024, where his master's project, "E-Library Management System Application," reflected his practical approach to software development. With one year of development experience, he has gained exposure to real-world applications, system design, and database management.

He has a keen interest in Machine Learning and Deep Learning and aspires to contribute to AI-driven research and innovative applications. He believes in continuous learning and regularly updates his skills to stay aligned with emerging technologies.

Mr. Behera has also published a research paper titled "A Comparative Study of Online Voting Systems Using Blockchain and Traditional Web Technologies," in Volume 14, Issue 5 (May 2025), highlighting his research orientation and analytical ability. His dedication and technical competence make him a valuable addition to the NIST University IT team.

INNOVATION & RESEARCH FRONTIER

JOURNAL PUBLICATION

- **Dr. Sarita Sahu**, along with Ranjan kumar Padhy published “Catalytic Role of Cu(II) on the Oxidation of Biologically Active 3-Mercapto-L-Alanine in Borate Buffer” in the Journal of Biotechnology and Applied Biochemistry (Wiley), Nov. 30, 2025, pp. 1-10, DOI: 10.1002/bab.70101.
- **Dr. Susanta Kumar Indrajitsingha**, along with Dr. L K Raju and others published “A Sustainable Circular Economy Inventory Model of Deteriorating Items with Logistic Demand Using Preservation Technology” in the Process Integration and Optimization for Sustainability, Sept. 25, 2025, pp. 1-13, DOI: 10.1007/s41660-025-00581-0.
- **Dr. Jagannath Panda**, along with co-authors published a research article entitled “Defect-engineered activated bimetallic MOFs on laser-induced graphene for enhanced NO₂ sensing” in the Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering. The article was published online on 27 November 2025, Volume 14, Page 12484, with an Impact Factor of 7.2. DOI: 10.1016/j.jece.2025.120484. ISSN: 2213-3437.
- **Dr. Jagannath Panda**, along with co-authors published a research article entitled “Constructing Z-Scheme ZIF-67/Bi₂O₃ Heterojunction: A Superior Photocatalyst for Doxycycline Degradation” in the journal Ionics. The article was published online on 03 December 2025, Volume 202, Pages 1-24, with an Impact Factor of 2.6. DOI: 10.1007/s11581-025-06842-9. ISSN: 1862-0760.
- **Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu**, along with Sasmita Padhy and co-authors published a research article entitled “MSOA-Optimized FOPIID Controller for Frequency Stability of Distributed Power System under the Influence of Cyber-Attacks” in the journal Electric Power Systems Research. The article was published online on 01 October 2025, Volume 247, Page 111736, with an Impact Factor of 4.2. DOI: 10.1016/j.epsr.2025.111736. ISSN: 1873-2046.
- **Dr. Ashwini Kumar Behera**, published a research article entitled “Studies of Low Energy Proton-Deuteron Elastic Scattering Using Deng-Fan Like Interaction” in the International Journal of Theoretical Physics, Vol. 64, p. 330, published online on 20 November 2025. The journal has an Impact Factor of 1.7. DOI: 10.1007/s10773-025-06203-2. ISSN: 1572 9575.
- **Dr. Ashwini Kumar Behera**, along with co-authors published a research article entitled “All Partial Wave Solutions for Combined q Deformed Hulthén Potentials and Off Shell Scattering” in the International Journal of Geometric Methods in Modern Physics, published online on 18 October 2025. The journal has an Impact Factor of 2.2. DOI: 10.1142/S0219887826500167. ISSN: 1793 6977.
- **Dr. Duryodhan Sahu**, along with co-authors published a research article entitled “Evaluation of Shape Recovery Stress and Motion Derivatives in 4D Printed Shape Memory Polymers for Actuator Application” in the International Journal of Polymer Analysis and Characterization, published online on 08 September 2025. The journal has an Impact Factor of 1.71. DOI: 10.1080/023666X.2025.2454903. ISSN: 1023-666X.
- **Dr. Ratikanta Nayak**, published a research article entitled “Recent advances in optimized polybenzimidazole-based membranes for vanadium redox flow battery applications” in the “Journal of Energy Storage” Volume 129, Page 117372. Authors:Subhrakali Swain, Kamakshi Brahma, Ratikanta Nayak
- **Dr. Ratikanta Nayak**, published a research article entitled “ Evaluating Cost-Effective and Scalable Storage Solutions for Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in Fruits and Vegetables: A Review” in the “The Journal of Food Process Engineering” Volume 48, Issue 12, Page 70294. Authors:Parimita Tripathy, Kamakshi Brahma, Ratikanta Nayak
- **Ms Minakhi Dash**, published a research article entitled “Literature as Cultural Dialogue: Revisiting Verses, Legends and Folklore on Shree Jagannath of Puri” in the journal “Rock Pebbles” December 2025, Vol: XXIX, Issue No:IV. Authors:Dr. Minakhi Dash & Dr. Kalikinkar Pattanayak.

CONFERENCE

- **Dr. Sarita Sahu**, and Ranjan kumar Padhy presented a research paper entitled “Impact of SDS and CTAB Micelle in the Bi Phasic Oxidation of DL 2 Amino 3 Hydroxybutanoic Acid” at the ICCI-2025 conference on 15th September 2025.

INNOVATION & RESEARCH FRONTIER

CONFERENCE

- **Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu**, along with Padarbindo Panda and Sasmita Padhy, presented a research paper entitled “An Approach for Dual Stage-Frequency Control Using Running City Game Optimizer” at the International Conference on Renewable Energy, Green Computing, and Sustainable Development (REGS-2025).
- **Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu**, along with Padarbindo Panda and Sasmita Padhy, presented a research paper entitled “A Novel Two-Stage Frequency Control Strategy for Microgrid Integrated Power System Using Election Optimizer Algorithm” at the International Conference on Smart & Sustainable Technology (INCSST-2025).
- **Dr. Anwesweta Panigrahi**, presented a research paper entitled “Workforce 2.0 in Bio-Medical Labs: Innovating HRM for Precision, Productivity and Progress”, at a Two-Day International Conference held at MAHE, Dubai, in collaboration with Confab 360 Degree on the theme Innovation for Impact: Digital and Mobile Technologies for Sustainable Business Management, Teaching & Learning, Environmental Protection, Healthcare, Tourism and Engineering Applications on 10th and 11th December 2025.
- **Dr. Sarita Sahu**, along with Ranjan Kumar Padhy presented a research paper entitled “Synergetic Impact of Metal Surfactant Catalyst Pair in the Oxidation of HBA: Interfacial-Surface Adsorption Kinetic View” at the ICGTEDD-2025 conference on 4th September 2025.
- **Dr. Ayesha Tasnim**, presented a research paper entitled “Re-imagining Indian Identity: A Post-colonial Reading of Kanthapura” at the National Seminar on Multi-theoretical Approaches to Ten Select Colonial and Post-Colonial Novels across the World. held on 13 April 2025.

BOOK CHAPTER

- **Dr. Jagannath Panda**, along with co-authors published a technical book chapter entitled “Environmental Footprint and Green Design of Nanocomposites for Wastewater Remediation” in the book Nanocomposites for Sustainable Wastewater Treatment: Performance Evaluation and Future Perspective, published by Springer Nature. The chapter was published online on 14 November 2025. DOI: 10.1007/978-981-95-1369-7_8. ISBN: 978-981-95-1369-7.
- **Dr. Duryodhan Sahu**, along with Amit Patnaik, Titrisha Kayal, Soumya Basu and Ponoop L. Kumar Patro, contributed a technical book chapter entitled “Microbial Dynamics” in the book Harnessing Microbes for Sustainable Food Systems, published by Taylor & Francis, published online on 16 December 2025. DOI: 10.1201/9781003540113. ISBN: 9781003540113.

FDP ATTENDED

- **Dr. Ayesha Tasnim**, Assistant Professor, Department of English, attended FDP at the National Seminar on Multi-theoretical Approaches to Ten Select Colonial and Post-Colonial Novels across the World.

PHD AWARDED

- **Dr. Swadhin Mishra** awarded PhD (Dec 2025), from VSSUT Burla for his research on “Bio-inspired Computing-based Spectral Efficiency Enhancement and Complexity Reduction in Next Generation Wireless Systems.”
- **Dr. Padmaja Mishra** awarded PhD (Dec 2025), from C.V. Raman Global University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha for her research on “Delay Analysis of an IoT-Enabled Network Employing Different Network Control Methodologies.”
- **Dr. Aashhis Mohanty** awarded PhD (Sept 2025), from University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya for his research on Student Perception Towards Higher Education: A Study of Select Private North Eastern Universities of India.

WORKSHOP, SEMINAR & TALK

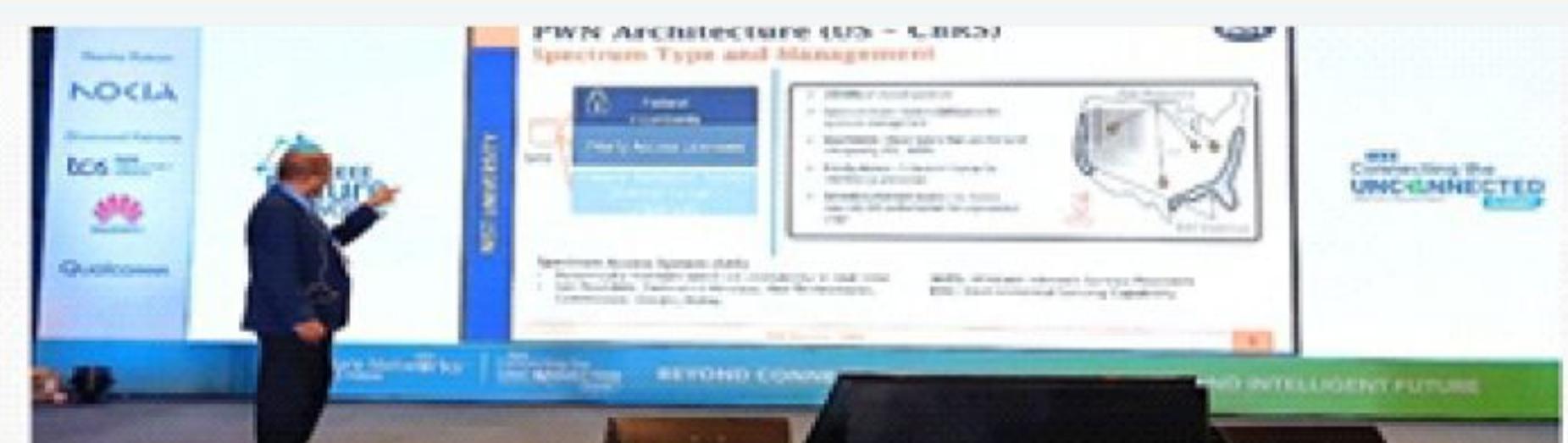
Agentic AI Unleashed: Redefining Decision-Making in Modern Business



Dr. Sabyasachi Rath, Professor, School of Management Studies delivered a Keynote Presentation on "Agentic AI Unleashed: Redefining Decision-Making in Modern Business" at the International Webinar hosted by Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU), Azerbaijan

Dr. Sabyasachi Rath, Professor, School of Management Studies, delivered a Keynote Presentation at the International Webinar organized by Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU), Baku, Azerbaijan, on 4th December 2025. Speaking on the topic "Agentic AI Unleashed: Redefining Decision-Making in Modern Business," Dr. Rath highlighted how Agentic AI is revolutionizing traditional decision-making frameworks and ushering in an era of intelligent, autonomous, and strategic business transformation. His session covered how Agentic AI enhances decision quality through autonomy and adaptability, the paradigm shifts it brings to organizational strategies, and real-world applications that are reshaping modern business ecosystems.

IEEE Future Networks World Forum 2025



Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra, Our Hon'ble Founder and President, was invited as a Keynote Speaker at the IEEE Future Networks World Forum 2025, where he spoke on "Beyond Connectivity: 6G for a Sustainable and Intelligent Future," highlighting the role of next-generation networks in driving intelligent and

Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra, Hon'ble Founder and President of NIST University, delivered a keynote address at the IEEE Future Networks World Forum 2025, themed "Beyond Connectivity: 6G for a

Sustainable and Intelligent Future." In his address, he spoke on the transformative potential of next-generation networks in powering intelligent systems, advancing sustainable innovation, and promoting inclusive digital development.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration between technology, policy, and academia in building a future-ready global communication framework. The conference centered on the advancement of 6G technologies, integrating artificial intelligence and machine learning to enable seamless connectivity and highly responsive, intelligent ecosystems. The forum served as a dynamic platform for researchers, academicians, and industry leaders to exchange insights and explore pathways toward a sustainable digital future.

NIST University Invites Ravenshavians (Isc 1974-76 Batch)



Ravenshavians (Isc 1974-76 Batch) visited the NIST University campus and were warmly received by Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra, Hon'ble President, and Ms. Sanjeeta Mohapatra, Vice President. The visit was marked by a cordial and engaging interaction over lunch, fostering meaningful conversations and a spirit of nostalgia and camaraderie.

The guests were taken on a guided campus tour, where they explored the university's state-of-the-art infrastructure, academic facilities, and vibrant learning environment. During the visit, they were apprised of NIST University's long-term vision, commitment to academic excellence, and its strong emphasis on research, innovation, and industry collaboration.

WORKSHOP, SEMINAR & TALK

Inauguration of Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences



NIST University inaugurated its Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, marking a new milestone in healthcare education. Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra and Smt. Sanjeeta Mohapatra welcomed the first BPharma students and emphasized quality education, professional commitment, and academic excellence. Dr. P. Rajesh Kumar and Dr. Debashish Ghose highlighted research-driven learning and the evolving role of pharmacists, while interactions with students and parents reflected strong confidence in NIST's academic and mentoring culture.

Silver Jubilee Alumni Meet of Its' First-ever Batch (1996-2000)

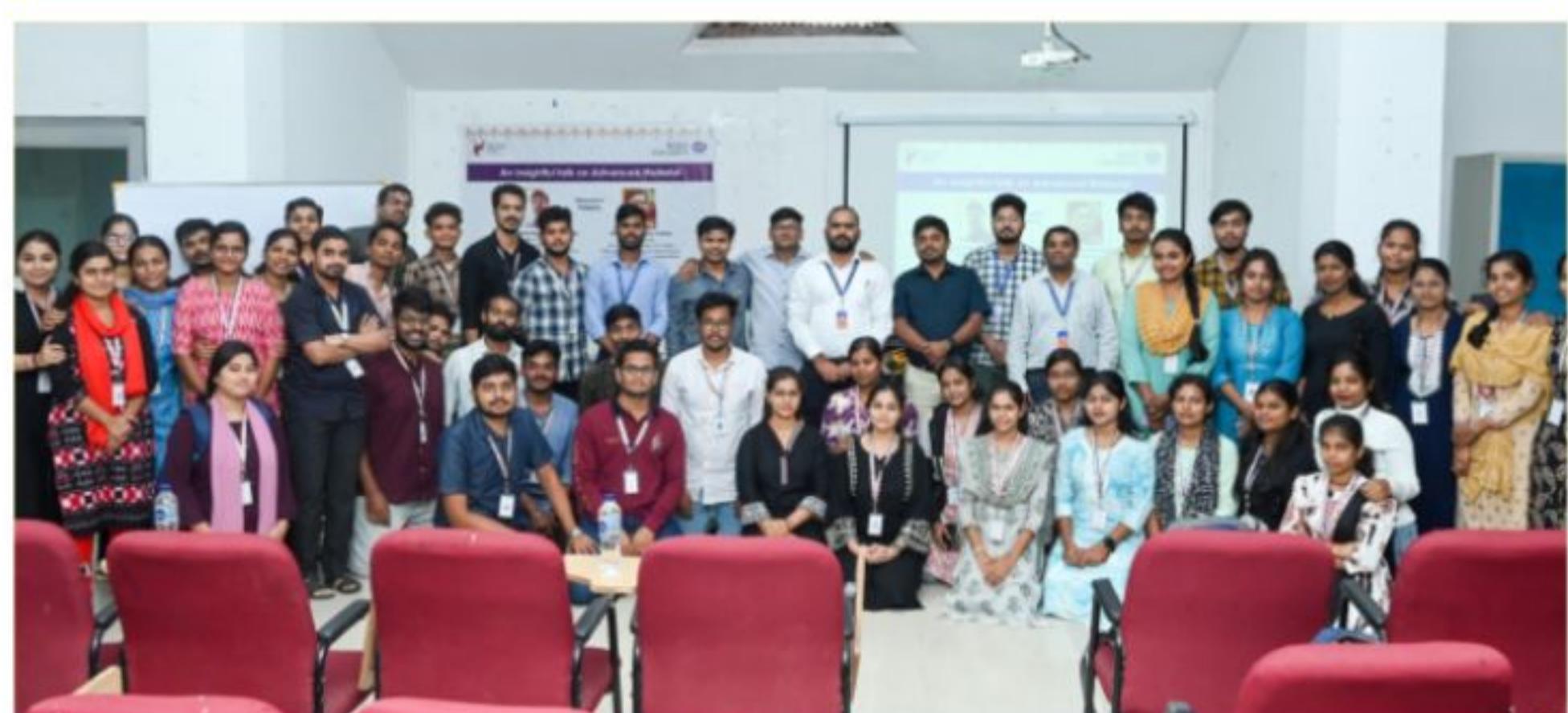


NIST University marked the Silver Jubilee Alumni Meet of its first-ever batch (1996-2000), marking 25 years since graduation and the institution's remarkable journey from its humble beginnings to becoming a university. The celebrations began with a warm alumni reunion over lunch at the Yoga Centre, filled with

memories, laughter, and meaningful conversations. Prof. Priyadarsan Patra welcomed the alumni back to their alma mater, highlighting the enduring bond between NIST and its alumni community. Mr. Arun Rath, Member of the Board of Advisors, emphasized the importance of alumni-institution collaboration and encouraged continued engagement in shaping the university's future. Prof. Purnendu Mishra, Secretary of the NIST Alumni Association, and Prof. Mitu Baral, Alumni Coordinator, shared insights into ongoing alumni initiatives while fondly recalling past experiences.

As a gesture of gratitude, alumni felicitated esteemed faculty members Dr. Pradeep Jena, Prof. Rabindra Kumar Shial, and Dr. P. C. Biswal, along with other dedicated staff members. Dr. Bishnukar Nayak, Registrar I/C, invited alumni to contribute academically as Professors of Practice as per AICTE guidelines. The event concluded with memento presentations and a vote of thanks by Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu, Associate Dean of Student Welfare.

Invited Talk on Advanced Materials through the School of Science, Department of Physics



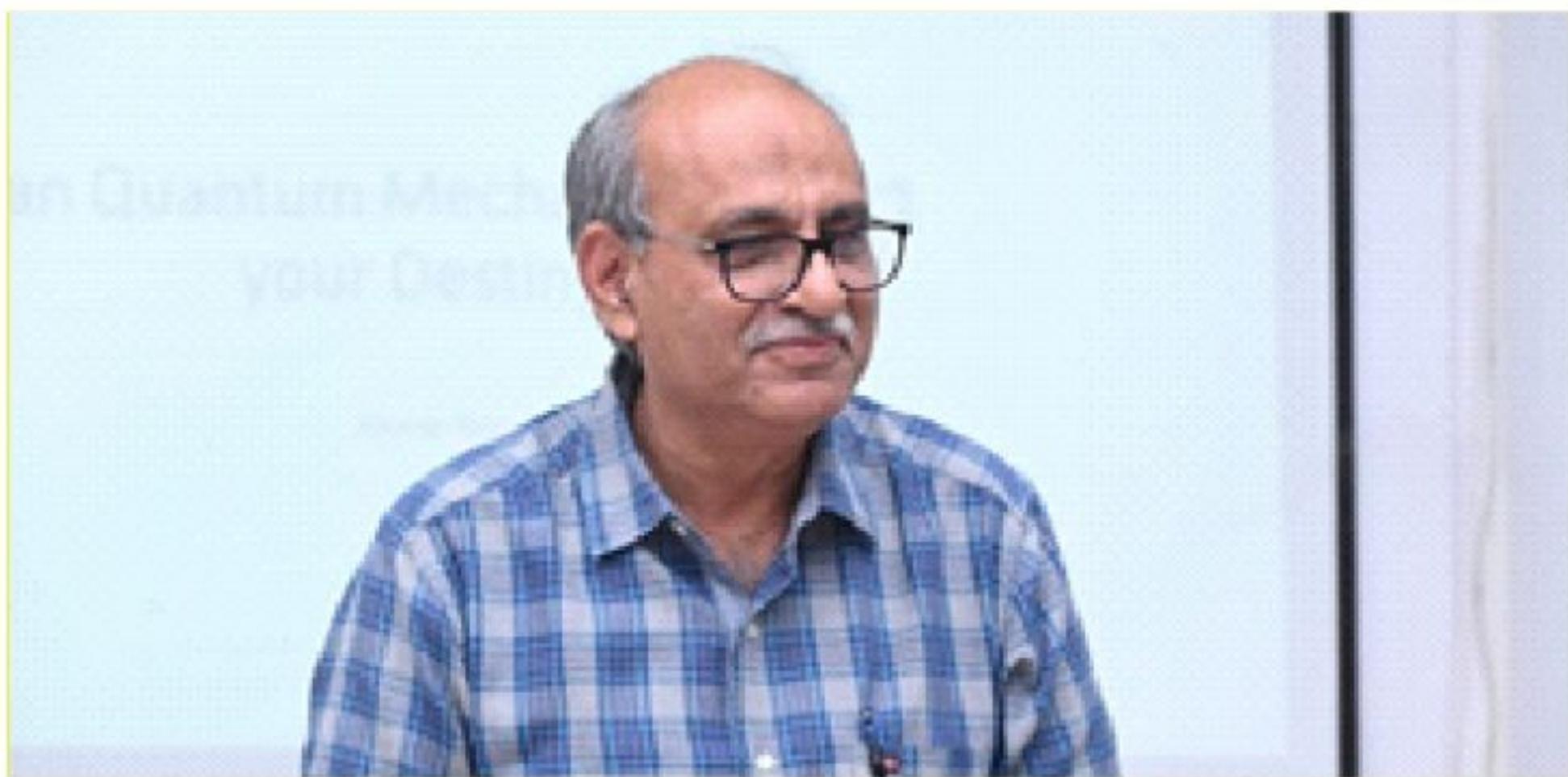
NIST University organized an Invited Talk on Advanced Materials through the School of Science, Department of Physics, featuring two eminent speakers who shared recent developments in materials science. The session drew enthusiastic participation from M.Sc students of Physics, Chemistry, and Biotechnology. Dr. P. Rajesh Kumar, Dean Academics, emphasized the growing relevance of advanced materials in modern technology.

Dr. Ananta Prasad Chakraverty spoke on the radiation

WORKSHOP, SEMINAR & TALK

effects on FRP composites, while Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sahoo presented insights on nanomaterials for energy storage and environmental applications. The event was coordinated by Dr. Asish Kumar Mohapatra, HOD (I/C), Department of Physics.

Shri Anurag Agarwal's engaging talk on How Quantum Mechanics Predicts Your Destiny



Shri Anurag Agarwal, Founder of NewLeaf Dynamic Tech Pvt. Ltd., visited the NIST campus and delivered an engaging talk titled “How Quantum Mechanics Predicts Your Destiny.” He highlighted Quantum Computing as the next major technological revolution beyond Artificial Intelligence, emphasizing its growing relevance in science, technology, and future thinking. Linking quantum concepts with Hindu philosophy, particularly karma, he offered a thought-provoking perspective that sparked keen interest among students from Physics, Computer Science, and Engineering. The session concluded with a lively discussion that encouraged critical thinking while clearly distinguishing philosophical ideas from experimentally validated science.

Pre-Placement Training Session conducted by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)



Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) conducted a Pre-Placement Training Session at NIST University, aimed at preparing students for the TCS recruitment process. The session provided valuable insights into eligibility criteria, assessment patterns, interview expectations, and key preparation strategies that will help students perform confidently. A high-level delegation from TCS including Mr. Bibhu Panda, Delivery Center Head, TCS Bhubaneswar: Mr. Parichay Pattnaik, Region head, Academic Alliances Group: Ms. Anuradha Bose, Region head, Talent Acquisition and Ms. Subhashree Dash-Executive visited our campus to interact with students and explore avenues for deeper collaboration between TCS and NIST University. We are delighted to share that TCS is returning to our campus for hiring, and the excitement among our students is at an all-time high. This renewed partnership strengthens our commitment to creating industry-ready graduates and fostering strong corporate linkages.

National Unity Day Celebrated



NIST University observed National Unity Day—commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—with an inspiring Extempore Presentation Session titled “Spontaneity Meets Patriotism: When Words Inspire Unity.” Conceptualized and guided by Dr. Sabyasachi Rath under the Communicative English for Business course, the event highlighted the confidence, spontaneity, and eloquence of our MBA students. Dressed in vibrant ethnic wear reflecting the theme “Bharat – My Country, My Pride,” the participants spoke from the heart—echoing unity, leadership, and national pride. This creative initiative beautifully blended learning with expression, proving how innovative teaching can transform classrooms into platforms of inspiration.

WORKSHOP, SEMINAR & TALK

Spiritual talk on “Success Secrets from Sacred Wisdom”



NIST University organized an insightful spiritual talk on “Success Secrets from Sacred Wisdom,” delivered by HG Manikishore Das, General Manager of ISKCON Berhampur, at the Einstein Hall of Residence on campus. He shared profound lessons on balancing academic excellence with inner growth. Through his enlightening words, he inspired students to discover the deeper dimensions of success - rooted in discipline, purpose, and spiritual harmony. HG Manikishore Das encouraged students to integrate timeless wisdom with modern ambition, guiding the students toward a life of fulfillment.

IEEE Day Celebrated



NIST University celebrated IEEE Day 2025 with enthusiasm in collaboration with the IEEE Bhubaneswar Section, bringing together academicians, IEEE officials, faculty, and students to honor global technological innovation and collaboration. The event was graced by Prof. Priyadarsan Patra, Vice

Chancellor, along with senior university leaders, who extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and participants. The session featured insightful addresses by Prof. A. K. Tripathy, Prof. S. R. Samantaray, and other IEEE office bearers, highlighting IEEE's mission, student benefits, and leadership opportunities. Dr. Sujata Chakravarty encouraged students to actively engage with IEEE initiatives. The celebration also included the release of the IEEE Bhubaneswar Section Newsletter and a ceremonial cake cutting. Coordinated by Dr. Brojo Kishore Mishra, with a vote of thank by Dr. Sandipan Mallik, inspiring students to embrace IEEE's values of innovation, collaboration, and leadership.

Observation of National Constitution Day



NIST University proudly observed National Constitution Day on 26 November 2025 at the Stephen Hawking Cineplex bringing together students, faculty, and distinguished guests. The highlight of the program was a thought-provoking lecture by Prof. Bishnu Charan Choudhury renowned Political Science expert, who traced the genesis of the Indian Constitution and the contributions of its visionary framers. He emphasized its role as the foundation of India's democracy, discussed major amendments over the past 75 years, and underlined the importance of youth participation in building an inclusive and progressive nation. The event was graced by Dr. Bishnukar Nayak (Registrar I/C), Dr. P. Rajesh Kumar (Dean of Academics) and Dr. Manas Ranjan Patra along with 200+ enthusiastic students. The Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu proposed vote of thanks.

ARTICLE : SCIENCE/ ENGINEERING/ MANAGEMENT

WHY SOFT SKILLS MATTER FOR GEN Z

We see a lot of memes around stereotyped Gen Z behaviour and exasperated older generations, who usually find it difficult to understand and adjust with them. It is important to understand how different generations and their values evolved over time.

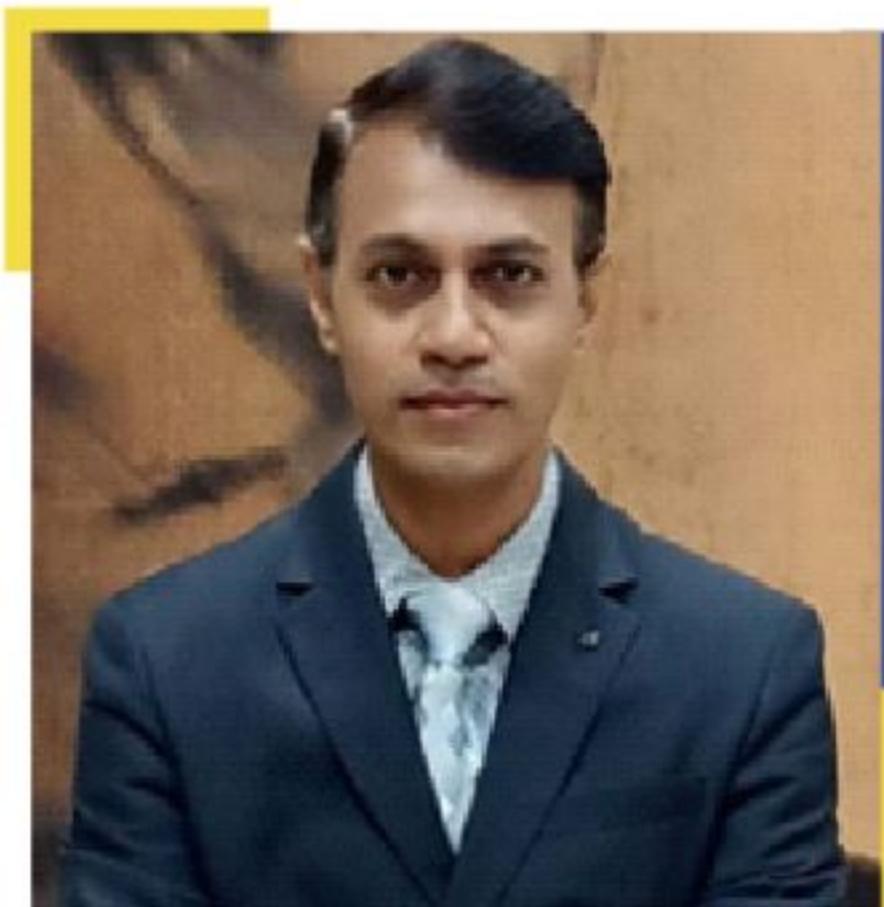
Baby Boomers (born between 1946-64) typically value hard work, career success and traditional institutions. Gen X (born 1965-80) value independence, adaptability and work-life balance. Millennials or Gen Y (born 1981-96) value purpose, experience and collaboration. Compared to them, Gen Z (born 1997-2012), the first true digital-native generation, values authenticity, mental health, inclusivity and flexibility over everything else. Gen Alpha (born 2013-25) is growing up with AI, automation and smart devices and will pose even stronger challenges in being understood, appreciated and integrated into mainstream decision-making.

Today, Gen Z accounts for roughly 21% of the world population and 26% of India's. People of this generation, who have decision making powers (adults) comprise 11% of the world population and 16% of India's. Gen Z, Gen Alpha (and the upcoming Gen Beta) are the ones who will define the future of work and life. Given this background, it is very important to decode what and how they think, decide and behave. Equally important is to identify where they need help because that is going to shape the future of the world.

Gen Z is overloaded with information and brilliance starts with how they think. The Brain has to be utilized to think smart in a noisy world. And the practical way to build the habit of using information gainfully is by thinking critically (question sources, not just read and accept them), solving problems (method being more important than perfection), learning with agility (practicing to learn, unlearn and relearn) and adopting digital intelligence (using AI as a tool and not a crutch). Burnout is real for Gen Z and balancing fuels long-term brilliance. Balance can be built with being aware about mental health, setting clear boundaries (saying "no" without feeling guilty), managing one's time & energy and keeping periodic offline moments (not constantly looking out for notifications on your mobile). Brilliance is expression or manifestation of talent. Turning potential into impact, starts with being aware of one's strengths & values, communicating clearly (speaking as well as listening), being creative in one's thoughts & ideas and gaining confidence through progress (rather than perfection). Connecting brains, balance and brilliance for Gen Z is about aligning thinking skills,

well-being and unique strengths - so they don't just succeed, but thrive. When brains guide decisions, balance sustains energy and brilliance expresses purpose, Gen Z becomes unstoppable. True impact is the result of smart mind, balanced life and bold expression. And this is where Soft Skills come into play. Soft skills matter especially for Gen Z because the world they're entering values how you work more than what or how much you know or do. AI and automation are taking over technical and repetitive tasks. What can't be easily automated are communication, critical thinking, creativity and emotional intelligence. Besides, employers give more weightage to attitudinal traits like reliability, adaptability, professionalism and a problem-solving mindset - things which soft skills can help master. Soft skills can thus future-proof Gen Z careers. In today's collaborative and global world, Gen Z often works with remote teams, different cultures & time zones and cross-functional roles. Soft skills help with teamwork, clarity, conflict resolution, and trust. Technology alone cannot solve them. Soft Skills can help in leading with empathy, influencing change, advocating ideas and building strong networks skills that can convert passion into real-world, purposeful, impactful results. They can also instil leadership qualities at an early stage by inculcating decision-making skills, confidence, responsibility and accountability.

Gen Z values financial independence, likes transparency in workplaces and prioritizes purpose, balance and self-care in a hyper-connected world. Soft skills help them to manage stress, handle feedback, navigate failure and communicate boundaries. Gen Z lives online. Soft skills shape digital communication, professional etiquette, personal branding and reputation management. What you say and how you say it matters more than ever. Ultimately, it is a combination of Brains, Balance and Brilliance, which lead to success and career growth and soft skills are the best answer to Gen Z's mantra, "Delulu is the Solulu".



Shounak Biswas
Dean, Career Development

EVENTS & CLUB ACTIVITIES

Indian Navy Day Celebration



The NCC Naval Wing of NIST University proudly celebrated Indian Navy Day on 4th December 2025 with the theme “Combat Ready, Cohesive, Credible, and Aatmanirbhar Force.” The event was graced by distinguished guests including Retired Captain Harish Chandra Patro, Commanding Officer Commander N. V. P. Swami, Chief Instructor Mr. Gajendra Behera, and P.O. Mr. Bhajaman Sahu, whose presence added great value to the celebration. Retired Captain Harish Chandra Patro delivered an inspiring address, offering practical guidance on clearing the SSB examination and building a rewarding career in the Indian Navy. His motivational insights encouraged cadets to pursue excellence with discipline, confidence, and patriotism.

The program featured activities such as a debate competition, digital poster-making contest, and a cultural dance performance, allowing cadets to showcase their talents and creativity. A total of 110 cadets from NIST University, Khallikote University, and other institutions actively participated, making the event lively and impactful. The celebration fostered a strong sense of national pride and respect for the Indian Armed Forces. Prof. Alok Patra, CTO, NCC, and Mr. Pabitra Gouda, NCC Instructor at NIST University, were also present and encouraged the cadets throughout the program, contributing to its success.

NMS Live Performance at Berhampur



The NIST Musical Society (NMS) delivered a series of musical performances enriching the festivity of various events. A spectacular sponsored live performance at V2 Mall, Berhampur (July 22), featuring Bollywood, retro, fusion, and indie music was a huge attraction for the GenZ of the Silk city. At the UG and PG New Batch Orientation programs, NMS Team presented a welcoming musical extravaganza promoting harmony and youth spirit. On the Independence Day on August 15, NMS played live, the patriotic “Maa Tujhe Salaam” song enthraling the audience. The musical fervour continued with the electric jamming sessions for the Sankalp Theme Banner Release (October 18) and Celebrity Reveal (October 30).

The highlight performance of NMS was the NIST Idol (November 3), a high-energy opening performance at Sankalp 2025-26 (November 6), leaving a lasting impact on the NISTians.

NDC Dazzles with Dance



The NIST Dance Club (NDC) actively showcased cultural excellence through performances, competitions, and prestigious

representations from July to November 2025. The season began with energetic performances during B.Tech & BCA Orientation (July 24) and MBA Orientation (August 13), welcoming new students and highlighting the institute's vibrant co-curricular culture. NDC also delivered a high-impact performance at the JD Institute Fashion Event (September 14), strengthening inter-institutional collaboration.

In October, NDC represented the university at the National Tourism Festival 2025 (October 18-19), promoting Odia culture on a national platform. The club further energized campus spirit through performances at the Sankalp Poster Reveal (October 18) and Artist Reveal (October 30). November featured the Intercollege Dance Competition (November 3) hosted by NDC, followed by grand performances inaugurating Sankalp 2K25-26 (November 6-7). The season concluded with a celebrated appearance at Ganjam Utsav 2025 (November 26), earning recognition for Best Performance.

Orphanage Visit by Team NSS



The NSS unit organized a meaningful outreach visit to a local orphanage on 21st September 2025, where volunteers spent an entire day with 130 children. The event was filled with joyful interactions, including games, dance, and group singing, fostering a lively and inclusive atmosphere. Volunteers also took part in preparing meals alongside the children, culminating

EVENTS & CLUB ACTIVITIES

in a shared lunch that strengthened bonds and promoted togetherness. As a token of gratitude and goodwill, a memento was presented on behalf of the NSS unit to the orphanage secretary, Mr. Sushant Kumar Maharana, and the in-charge of the institution. The visit proved to be a heart-warming and memorable experience, reinforcing the values of empathy, service, and social responsibility among the volunteers.

Ideathon by Renewable Energy Club



Ignite & Inno, the flagship ideathon organized by the Renewable Energy Club, under the guidance of Faculty Advisor Dr. Aswini Nayak, served as a dynamic platform for young minds to explore creativity, innovation, and problem-solving. Designed to inspire aspiring innovators, the event encouraged participants to brainstorm, develop, and present ideas that addressed pressing real-world energy challenges as well as visionary futuristic concepts. From sustainable energy solutions to technology-driven societal advancements, the ideathon witnessed a diverse range of thought-provoking proposals.

Counselling Sessions by NCS

The NCS Induction Programme for BTech freshers marked an enthusiastic and promising beginning to the new academic session. The programme was thoughtfully conducted by the



dedicated counseling team, under the able mentorship of Faculty Advisor, Prof. Minakhi Das, who personally welcomed the incoming students and familiarized them with the organization's work culture, core values, and the wide range of opportunities available to them. The fresher's active participation, curiosity, and enthusiasm added great energy to the event, making the induction both engaging and meaningful. The efforts of the counselling team played a pivotal role in creating a welcoming and supportive environment, helping students feel connected from the very start. This interaction laid a strong foundation for collaboration, growth, and mutual support in the journey ahead.

NFCC Shines with- Urbane



The NIST Fashion & Cultural Club - Urbane (NFCC-Urbane) had a vibrant and impactful year, showcasing creativity, professionalism, and strong industry engagement. The club gained valuable exposure at the JD Institute Fashion Event on September 14, where selected members participated as ramp models, confidently representing

the institute in a professional setting. NFCC-Urbane further strengthened its presence at the Odisha Cultural Fest on October 17, where the club president's role as both model and judge highlighted the club's growing recognition beyond campus. Industry collaboration continued with the Malabar Gold and Diamonds Event on October 14, offering selected female members hands-on experience in commercial fashion and brand promotion. A major highlight was SANKALP Day 1 on November 6, where NFCC-Urbane presented a themed fashion show based on the Four Yugas, entirely designed and styled by the club.

Cloud Computing Club Presents the Future of Cloud Computing



The NIST Cloud Computing Club (CCC) successfully hosted an engaging webinar titled "Exploring the Future of Cloud Computing," bringing together students and industry experts on a shared platform through a hybrid model. The session was inaugurated by Dr. P. R a j e s h K u m a r , D e a n (Academics), in the presence of Prof. Ashish Kumar Dass, Advisor to CCC, who underscored the critical role of cloud technologies in today's digital landscape. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Karthik Kambhapathi, Principal Engineer at Sunrun, who offered a global outlook on emerging trends, real-world implementations, and industry best practices in cloud computing. The webinar witnessed enthusiastic

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

NISTians Triumph at Smart India Hackathon 2025 – Software Edition



NIST University proudly congratulates Team Augmentors Creators from BTech 3rd Year for winning the Smart India Hackathon 2025 (Software Edition). Their innovative project, "AR-Based Cultural Heritage Preservation Platform," impressed the jury at the Grand Finale held at VSSUT Burla. The team includes Dr. Santosh Kumar Kar (Mentor), Suryakanta Mahanta (Team Lead), Shreya Kumari, Bikash Bisoyi, Sujata Kumari, Biraja Nayak, and Saurav Krishna.

NISTian Selected for ACM-W Scholarship(icdcn), Nara, Japan



NIST University congratulates Ms. Bidya Sahu, BTech CSE 4th year, on her selection for the prestigious ACM-W Scholarship to attend the 27th International Conference on Distributed Computing and Networking (ICDCN 2026) in Nara, Japan, from January 6-9, 2026. This achievement reflects her dedication, innovation, and commitment to advancing research in distributed computing. NIST wishes her an enriching and inspiring experience at this global platform.

Team MargDarshak secured 1st Prize at the OCIT SUMMIT CubeX Ideathon held at KIIT University



NIST University proudly congratulates Team MargDarshak for securing 1st Prize at the OCIT SUMMIT CubeX Ideathon held at KIIT University. This achievement highlights the team's innovative thinking, technical expertise, and collaborative spirit, reflecting the university's emphasis on creativity, problem-solving, and excellence. The winning team—Subham Kumar Sahu (Team Leader), Manab Behera, Suvam Mishra, Sodi Surya Rao, and Akanksha Rani—showcased exceptional dedication, ingenuity, and perseverance, bringing pride to the university.

Deepti Manjari Nayak Selected for NTNU Taiwan Summer Research Internship



NIST University proudly congratulates Ms. Deepti Manjari Nayak, BTech CSE (4th Year), on securing a fully funded Summer Research Internship at the Department of Electro-Optical Engineering, National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan, from July to September 2025. She earned this prestigious opportunity through the Taiwan Experience Education Program (TEEP), supported by the Ministry of Education, Taiwan.

LITERATURE, ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Literature

*Poetry***The Moment I Stood Still**

I was walking-
just like everyone else.
Feet following feet,
crowds blurring into motion,
lives moving forward
without pause.

Then-
a flicker.
Something caught my eye.
Not loud,
not sudden,
but enough
to pull me out of the rhythm.

And just like that,
I couldn't match their pace.
Couldn't keep up with the blur.
The world kept turning,
but I-
I stood still.

And in that stillness,
I felt it-
how fast everything truly is.
How the streets keep shifting,
how everyone seems to know
where they're going.

But I was stuck.
Somewhere between here
and a memory.
A moment
quietly cracking open.

Because in front of me-
there he was.
The past.
The person I thought
I'd outrun.

He wasn't smiling.
Wasn't angry.
Wasn't anything.
Just standing there,
as still as me.

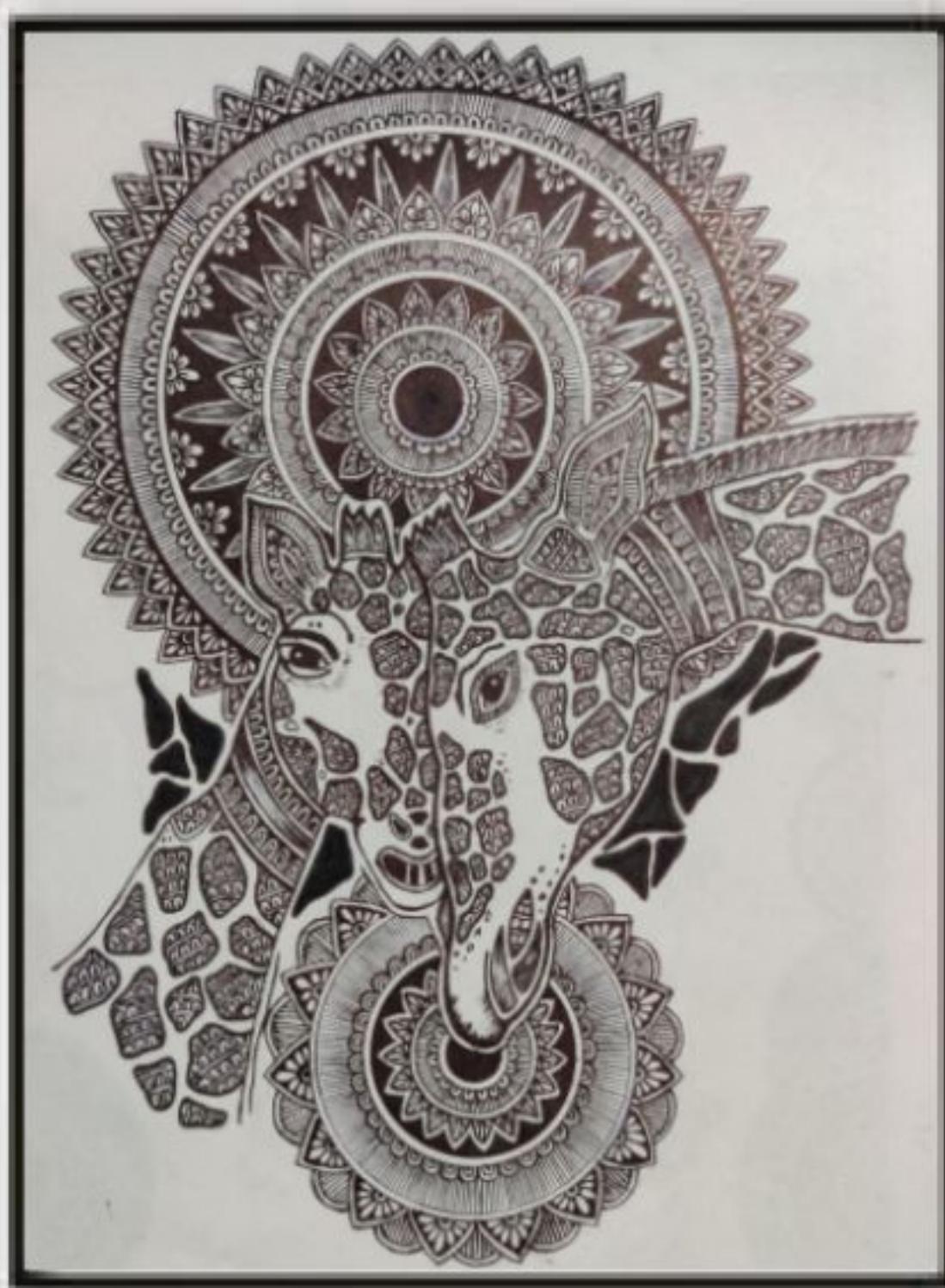
Eyes locked.
Equally confused.
Like time folded in on itself,
and all I'd hidden
came rushing back
in silence.

It wasn't just a glance-
it was an echo.
A quiet avalanche
of everything
I tried to forget.

~Shefali Sabat

LITERATURE, ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Art & Photography



Soumya shree Acharya ,
BTech-CSE, 2022-26 Batch



ALUMNI SPEAK

Ms. Namrata Panda

Delivery Lead - SAP, Volkswagen Group
BTech- Information Technology
2004-2008 Batch

Namrata Panda is currently working as a Delivery Lead - SAP at Volkswagen Group. A proud alumna of the Information Technology department (2004-2008 batch), she has built a successful career in the corporate IT domain. She fondly recalls her journey at NIST as a phase filled with learning, friendships, and unforgettable experiences that shaped her professional and personal outlook.



NC: What is your story related to joining NIST?

NP: NIST was one of the best institutes in our vicinity and among the most reputed institutions of its time. Getting admission there was truly a matter of pride for me. It felt like a big achievement and the beginning of an exciting journey.

NC: What is one remarkable memory with friends that you made while you were at NIST?

NP: Attending the annual fests and appearing together with friends for campus recruitment are memories I cherish the most. Those moments were filled with excitement, nervousness, and a lot of bonding that still brings a smile to my face.

NC: Do you recall any location at NIST that reminds you of getting motivated or changing your course of action?

NP: The cafeteria! With hot coffee and Maggie, new ideas always brewed there. It was the place where we discussed dreams, plans, and sometimes just life. Even today, that place holds a special charm for me.

NC: You must be remembering your teachers. Who were the key influencers and why?

NP: Yes, absolutely. A. K. Padhy Sir, M. Suresh Sir, and P. C. Biswal Sir were my key influencers. Their guidance, teaching approach, and encouragement played a significant role in shaping my academic foundation.

NC: What are your college friends doing nowadays? Are you still in touch with them?

NP: I am still in touch with a few of them. Life does move on, and everyone gets busy with their own journeys, but I strongly believe it's a small world and our paths will cross again someday.

NC: If a +2 or high school student seeks your advice on career building, what would you suggest?

NP: Believe in yourself. Pursue the area that excites you the most. Set your own benchmarks—life is too short to follow others blindly.

NC: If you could travel back in time once, what would you like to change?

NP: I would go back to the time of campus recruitment and try harder to secure the offer from Wipro instead of Satyam. As we all know what happened to Satyam in 2008! (smiles)

NC: What is your take on earning—desk job, field job, research, entrepreneurship?

NP: Do whatever you truly enjoy. Earnings are meant to fulfil needs, but life should be enjoyed rather than spent running behind money.

NC: Any message you would like to give to the new students?

NP: Keep your dreams high. Limits exist only for those who don't want to try. All the very best to the future stars!

NC: Why the mentioned teachers are your favorite?

NP: The teachers I mentioned were ideal, always guiding us with the right ideology in a friendly manner. They interacted and taught us while maintaining their roles as mentors, providing an environment where we could comfortably learn and explore ourselves without hindrance. We learned about life skills, technical scenarios, handling pressure, maintaining composure in corporate settings, and valuable lessons on work-life balance.

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Institute Park, Berhampur, Odisha- 761008, India