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VisionUVCE
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SAMPADA

Your window to UVCE

Alumni Trailblazers: Industry Voices

EDITORIAL

Have you read Jataka Tales or Panchantantra stories recently? If yes, great. It will be easy to follow what I am trying to convey. If not, I insist you to read them once. You learn something from each story - there is a unique style of narration; a distinct moral of the story; a special protagonist and we all immerse ourselves in that imaginary world. Why am I speaking of this today? Well, we intend to make Sampada in the same lines. This edition has many stories, different perspectives, multiple experiences from people in the industry for more than 15 years or more. We made this Special edition and called it "**Alumni Trailblazers: Industry Voices**" in order to capture the essence of what are the current trends through the lens of our own alumni who have been making impact in the industry.

There are a lot of queries among the students, recent graduates and even experienced people about the changing dynamics, the opportunities and the trends in the job market with the AI getting too expansive and impacting the world in a huge manner. So, we wanted to get perspectives from our own alumni who are in the middle of the change. You can read their experiences and thoughts along with suggestions on how to get ready to embrace this shift—be it in academics or in the work. The idea of this special themed edition of Industry Voices is to give the necessary outlook to those who are interested to understand the direction in which the industry is going to move ahead. We thank all the alumni who agreed for the interview and shared the responses with us. As mentioned to them, our intention is to capture stories and point of views from as many alumni as possible and let our readers to pick and choose what they feel is apt for them. We hope they will find it insightful and take a cue from the inputs provided by our guests. We will love to hear what are your thoughts about this edition and you can write to sampada@uvcega.org.

We also cover the proceedings from the 5th AGM of UVCE Graduates Association. We are glad to inform that more than 65 members attend the event and participated in it actively. The Annual Report for the year 2024-25 was presented by the Executive Committee members and you can find the details in the article inside this edition. We also have the newspaper article about the Silver Jubilee Reunion of the 2000 batch included in the edition. We are glad that they have decided to donate 13 Lakhs funds to UVCEGA and work with the Association to make sure they are involved in the initiatives accordingly. We will be publishing the details about the same shortly. We appreciate their gesture and are glad that they are taking the lead setting an example for more batches in the future. There are many more interesting articles and content inside this edition. Go through the pages to read through them..

I wanted to take time to mention about "Avalakona" which we published 8 years back on August 5th, 2017. The Centenary Souvenir was reminded to me by my Social media account and there was a rush of memories because of it. The first volume of Avalokana was a dream of more than a decade. During the college days, we could not publish a magazine and that had inspired us to work on Sampada. But it was always restricted to an online version. When we thought of collating the articles from Sampada through the eight years and design Avalokana, we had not imagined the amount of work. It was not planned nor professional approach, but driven by pure passion. We have spoke about the event and the Souvenir multiple times (if you have not read it, you can check the online version here), but the impact of it even today is not measurable. Whenever we show it to alumni for the first time, they are amazed by it. I am eternally grateful for being part of such a team and always proud of the memories created for UVCEians.

- Satish A G, 2009 Batch

UVCEGA 5TH AGM PROCEEDINGS

Communication and Attendance

The AGM was held on July 27, 2025, at BHive Premium, Church Street, Bengaluru. The meeting notice was shared via email, WhatsApp, and published in Deccan Herald and Prajavani on June 30, 2025. A total of 56 UVCEGA members from various batches attended.

Opening Session

The day began with informal networking. Due to low initial quorum, the meeting was adjourned and resumed at 11:20 AM with quorum met. The Secretary welcomed members, followed by a moment of silence for departed alumni.

Meeting Proceedings

The Secretary, Mr. Satish, read the AGM notice and led the obituary observance. President Mr. Srikanth opened the meeting, ratified minutes from the 4th AGM, and introduced the agenda. The ratification was unanimously approved.

Membership Updates

Vice President, Lt. Sukumar Rao announced the milestone of 2,000+ registered members. He highlighted top contributing batches and urged alumni to improve outreach.

Mr. Vaidhyanathan (1980) suggested using social media for better engagement.

Governance & Institutional Strengthening

Mr. Sukumar discussed improvements in financial oversight with system-driven accounting and a dedicated accountant. He stressed structured EC processes, long-term sustainability, and transparent documentation.

MARVEL Lab Updates

Execom Committee member, Mr. Adrian explained MARVEL's role in driving student innovation. Over 180 students completed Level-1 courses; Aviation was added as a specialization in Batch 6. Work has begun on MARVEL 2.0.

Mr. Dwarakanath (1966) thanked the initial seed donors ie. 1963-64 batch alumni.

UVCE Sammilana

Mr. Satish presented the Engineers Day event held on Sept 22, 2024, with 80+ attendees at the Century club, Bengaluru.

Utthirna Graduation & Alumni Induction

Mr. Adrian detailed the Aug 17, 2024 event for 2022 - 2024 batches, initiated by Prof. Paul and UVCEGA President Mr. Srikanth. The event turned into a symbolic reunion reflecting UVCE pride.

New Initiatives

Mr. Satish introduced the Young Alumni Achiever Awards presented during Utthirna.

He also recapped the Proud UVCEian 5K Run held on Mar 16, 2025, which witnessed 750 participants. A special mention was given to the sponsorships as well.

Scholarship Update

Joint-Secretary, Miss Meghashree shared that ₹16.6 Lakhs was disbursed to 86 students. The process was explained and donor acknowledgments made. 10 Endowment Funds currently support the initiative, with efforts to expand.

Reunions

Mr. Satish emphasized how UVCE Batch reunions help increase memberships and contributions. In the last year, UVCEGA supported reunions for 1974 Batch, 2014 Batch, and 1975 Mech.

Infrastructure Projects

Mr. Sukumar outlined past projects and future collaboration plans. Refurbishment of the UVCE Board Room cost ₹ 17.5K. Waterproofing at Boys' Hostel was completed. Website management continues under VisionUVCE and current team leadership. Governance and maintenance tracking were positively noted.

Alumni Engagement & Student Support

Mr. Satish spoke on:

- Mentorship Program (June 2025–Jan 2026) pairing students with alumni.
- Quarterly meetings for updates and announcements.
- Benevity partnership since 2023–24, aiding donation inflow.

Finance Report

The Treasurer, Mr. Muralidhara shared the audit report, including income, expenditure, and current balance.

The report was proposed by Mr. Vaidhyanathan (1980 Mech), seconded by Mr. B. R. Somashekar (1980 Mech) and Mr. Kamesh (1971).

Plan for 2025–26

Mr. Srikanth presented the UVCEGA roadmap for the upcoming year. Key priorities were outlined as follows:

UVCEGA 2025–26 Plan – Quick Highlights

- **Alumni Engagement & Growth**: Drive memberships via reunions, Meet N Greets, and UVCE Sammilana (Engineers Day event).
- **Student Support & Development**: Continue scholarships and mentorships, increase endowment funds, assist with placements and higher studies, and strengthen Student Alumni Co-ordinators.
- **Innovation & Infrastructure**: Upgrade MARVEL Lab, promote project development, and initiate Innovator Forge—a contest connecting students and alumni.
- **Community Building & Networking**: Organize milestone reunions, monthly alumni meetings, and social events like Alumni Soiree.
- **Entrepreneurship & Career Advancement**: Develop a startup support network and enable opportunities for internships and skill-building.
- **Communication & Digital Presence**: Continue Sampada and UVCE Chronicles, and enhance the UVCEGA website.
- **Organizational Strength & Vision**: Appoint batch coordinators, launch fundraising drives, and define the long-term growth plan for UVCEGA and UVCE.

Budget Presentation

Mr. Muralidhara shared the budget for 2025 - 26.

The previous year's budget Plan and Expenditure were taken into consideration and the Budget Plan for 2025-26 was created and further approved. This Plan was presented by the Treasurer along with the expected income and outflow.

Closure

Mr. Srikanth concluded the AGM officially at 13:04 and opened the session for Q&A.

Proceedings of the Special General Body Meeting of UVCE Graduates Association (2025)

The President, Mr. Srikanth opened the quorum for SGM meeting 2025.

The Secretary, Mr. Satish mentioned the changes on the by-law which were discussed in detail and approved unanimously. Here are the details:

Advisory Committee Role Clarification: A wording update was proposed changing "deciding the roadmap" to "advising on the roadmap," affirming that the Executive Committee (EC) retains control and accountability under the by-law. The clarification was read aloud by Mr. Satish; unanimously approved after Mr. Srikanth called for a show of hands.

Committee Term Finalization: Mr. Srikanth proposed a 5 year term for Advisory Committee appointments. Mr. Vaidhyanathan suggested a 3 year term instead, which was supported by Mr. Sridhar and Ashok M. L. It was finalized as a single 3 year term and it was unanimously approved.

Executive Roles Structure: The EC will comprise:
- 1 Secretary
- 1 Joint Secretary
- 1 Treasurer
- 1 Joint Treasurer (New addition)

This updated structure was read by Mr. Srikanth and unanimously accepted.

Advisory Committee Appointments: Committee members were announced and their appointments were unanimously seconded by attendees. Below are the names of the announced and confirmed.
- **Dr. V K Aatre**
- **Rt. Major General Neelakantappa**

Mr. Srikanth called for closure of the SGM. This wound up proceedings for AGM and SGM of 2025. A vote of thanks was given by the Execom Committee member, Mr. Sridhar and the event was followed by lunch.

SUCCESS MANTRA WITH NANDA NANJUNDAPPA

Team Sampada: Could you share a brief overview of your professional background and your current role for our readers?

Nanda Nanjundappa: My education background includes a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Mysore University, followed by a master's degree in environmental engineering from UVCE (Bangalore University, Class of 1986-88). After about 3.5 years of working with Bosch (Formerly MICO) as the first Environmental Engineer at the plant in Bangalore, I moved to the USA in 1992 to pursue another master's degree and completed MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas in El Paso. I continued my career in environmental consulting supporting various industrial clients, private sector, and federal entities. Obtained an MBA at St Mary's University in 1999, while working full time as senior engineer supporting a Military Base. Continued in the consulting industry soon after my MBA in various capacities as mid to senior level engineer followed by various other roles such as Project Manager, Client Service Manager, Portfolio Manager, and Program Manager roles.

Over the past two decades, I have predominantly supported the US Air Force and Army portfolio on various Civil, Infrastructure, Utilities, Environmental, and Sustainability projects. Currently, in the role of Senior Project/ Program Manager supporting major Air Force and military Programs.

TS: What key strategies or pivotal moments have contributed to your steady and sustainable growth? Any specific UVCE experiences you would like to recall?

Nanda: Some of the key success factors for my career growth include some of the basic things I learned from those UVCE days working with my classmates as a team player on the project work and seminar presentations as well as the real time experiences shared by our professors and mentors during those days. Following that and growing the career, it was very clear that to succeed in the industry and consulting world, the main focus needs to be on the customer needs and satisfaction for both individual and team success.

Furthermore, keeping a focus on the new and innovative technologies while quickly adapting to the changes is an efficient way for bringing success to the business. Being a team player, adaptable, approachable, and being a mentor to others while in a position to share knowledge and experience is another key success factor for, both as an individual professional and for the company growth. The key pivotal moments of my career involved recognizing and adapting to strategic inflection points, such as evolving customer needs, shifting market trends, competitive niche and regulatory changes along with new technologies.

TS: What key trends and strategic initiatives are currently shaping your team or organization's direction?

Nanda: The current trend and roadmap centered mainly around,

a) critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railways, airport, ports, harbors, tunnels, etc.;

b) sustainability such as sustainable infrastructure solutions, water treatment and reuse, renewable energy, and decarbonization projects; and

c) digital solutions, and

d) advanced manufacturing projects.

All this is focused particularly on areas like advanced manufacturing, data centers, and national security. We are also prioritizing growth in climate response, consulting & advisory, and data solutions as our key portfolio of future growth. This strategy involves both organic growth and strategic acquisitions, with a strong emphasis on returning capital to shareholders. The aging infrastructure; Climate Change; Digital Transformation; Artificial Intelligence; and Rapid Urbanization and Population Growth have all been a key focus and factor in our core business strategies to strategically adopt and plan for growth.

TS: What do you believe are the most important things young people should know or do as they enter the world of technology?

Nanda: Mainly focus on basic skills and work approaches (Strong Work Ethics; Effective Communication: Continuous Learning and Adopting to Changes; Positive attitude and Teamwork; and Strategic thinking and being Initiative) that are most critical for a success besides being technically savvy. Keep your interests broadened to learn more than one discipline so that you can understand and appreciate various critical aspects that go into overall success of a project or a program. Always be a team player and appreciate others good work and learn from each other. Adopt a mentor during your early career and be a mentor when you are able to be one. With a fast-changing technological world, be quick to adapt and keep openness to learn new skills. Adopt to the company culture, safety, sustainability, and inclusion in the working environment and develop networking.

MARVEL UPDATES

July at MARVEL marked a month of exciting beginnings and steady progress across batches. The month began with the creation of a wishlist for equipment and resources, laying the foundation for enhanced support in upcoming workshops, mini-projects, and product development activities.

The 2000 batch celebrated their 25th-year reunion at UVCE, during which they toured MARVEL and learned about the ongoing initiatives and projects. As part of the reunion, fundraising from their batch was directed towards supporting MARVEL, strengthening the bridge between alumni and current students. Their interaction provided valuable encouragement and inspired students to pursue market-ready innovations.

Following the shortlisting process in June, probationary coordinators for Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Aviation and Design & Prototyping officially began their probation tasks, actively participating in technical and managerial activities to demonstrate their capabilities.

Batch 7 students were successfully selected and are set to begin their onboarding, with kit preparations and Level 0 activities underway. Meanwhile, Batch 5 students have entered the project phase of Level 3, beginning work on their end-to-end projects after submitting their proposals last month. These projects represent a critical step toward achieving MARVEL's vision of creating interdisciplinary, market-ready products.

Additionally, equipment support for mini-projects was initiated for 6th-semester students, giving them the resources to convert classroom learning into practical, hands-on implementations.

With alumni support, resource expansion, and students actively moving into project execution, July was a month where MARVEL turned plans into action and ideas into prototypes.

UVCEIANS IN LIMELIGHT

UVCE takes immense pride in alumni Ravikiran Annaswamy (Batch of 1995) and Vaidyanathan A (Batch of 1980) for their impactful presence and their stellar contributions to the panel on "The Four Quarters" of India's tech-driven future.

From smart manufacturing with AI to innovation in aerospace and EV ecosystems, their insights are shaping tomorrow's industries. As thought leaders, they are shaping real-world impact through collaboration, sustainability, and cutting-edge technology. We are honored to see UVCE alumni leading conversations that define tomorrow's industries.

Here's to bold ideas, visionary leadership, and a future powered by innovation!

UVCEIANS IN MEDIA - SILVER JUBILEE

25 years on, University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering batch rekindles campus camaraderie

Bengaluru: Two and a half decades after they last sat in classrooms, dodged lectures, and huddled under trees, 95 alumni from the 2000 batch of University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) reunited on campus for an emotional silver jubilee celebration Saturday. Walking through old classrooms and the lively quadrangle space on campus brought back memories of mischief, ambition, and friendships. The alumni turned students again — playing games, sharing laughs, and reliving moments through a photo slideshow that filled the auditorium with laughter and nostalgia.

The reunion brought together alumni from all four branches — mechanical, electrical & electronics engineering (EEE), electronics & communication engineering (ECE), and computer science (CS) — after reconnecting through a WhatsApp group started five months ago. It began with a lively meet-and-greet, a nostalgic campus walk with planting of saplings, and group photos. A staff felicitation followed, honouring professors with shawls and souvenirs. The batch also pledged Rs 13 lakh to the UVCE Graduates' Association to support student initiatives.

Venu Gopal K, a mechanical engineering student from the batch and one of the organisers of the event, said, "It was very hard to put everything together, but we were determined to make the reunion happen."

Paul Vizhian S, one of the batch professors for mechanical engineering, said, "Seeing all my students come together after 25 years — many of whom are in elevated positions across various fields and abroad — is truly heartwarming. It feels like the labour we invested in has grown into something meaningful and useful for society."

Source : Times of India (Article Link)

25 yrs on, UVCE batch rekindles camaraderie

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I flew all the way from Sweden and arrived Monday for the reunion. I'm flying back tomorrow (Sunday) evening for work. One of my fondest memories is sitting under the two giant trees in front of the library. It has been a 25-year nostalgia ride, and I was so happy to see that the trees are still the same
Rajesh Srinivas | FROM SWEDEN (EE BRANCH)

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: The reunion brought together alumni, from all four branches of the 2000 batch, to the Bengaluru campus of University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering on Saturday

We electronics students practically knew everyone in college as we always hung around outside. When professors entered the classroom and called us in, a few would go while the rest of us would sneak off to play basketball or cricket. Coming back here is always special — it reminds me of one of the best, toughest, and most life-changing phases of our lives
Prashanth Prabhakara | FROM BANASHANKARI (ECE BRANCH)

Among my fondest memories is the time spent with our close-knit group of 10 — we used to bunk classes sometimes and head to Corner House on MG Road for ice cream, catch movies at Galaxy Theatre, take long walks in Cubbon Park. Those little rituals were such a big part of our lives back then
Sucharita P | FROM HAROHALLI (CS BRANCH)

Back then, computer science was a hot field and we were lucky to have very resourceful professors. One of my fondest memories is reviving the college magazine after almost a decade — it was intense work, taking nearly two months of running around for approvals as we were determined to make it happen. At that time, it was stressful. Looking back now, it is one of the fondest memories
Madhu M Kurup | FROM SEATTLE (CS BRANCH)

IEEE UPDATES

Women in Space Conference

At the Women in Space & Space Technology Conference, IEEE UVCE members had the incredible opportunity to see how those ideas are brought to life by some of India's most inspiring minds. This prestigious IEEE event was not only a gathering but a celebration of resilience, innovation, and the remarkable contributions of women in space science.

The conference served as a platform to engage with pioneers who have played critical roles in India's most iconic space missions, including Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission) and Chandrayaan (Moon Missions). Hearing directly from the women who helped steer these landmark projects offered us not only a technical understanding but also an emotional insight into their journeys.

The conference delved deep into the future of space exploration. Sessions explored advancements in next generation satellite systems, aerospace innovations, and the role of artificial intelligence in mission planning and execution.

As students and aspiring engineers, we were reminded of why we chose this path: to solve real-world problems and to create spaces where everyone has the chance to thrive.

For IEEE UVCE, this was more than an event, it was a powerful reminder of why we chose engineering: to innovate, to include, and to impact. We return not only enriched but empowered, ready to contribute to a future where no dream is too distant.

Sadhana H R to Represent UVCE as IEEE Day Ambassador 2025

The IEEE UVCE community takes immense pride in celebrating a remarkable achievement, the selection of Ms. Sadhana H R as an IEEE Day Ambassador 2025. A passionate and dedicated student from University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, Ms. Sadhana will be representing Region 10 under the IEEE Bangalore Section, stepping into a role that carries both prestige and responsibility.

IEEE Day is not just a celebration of innovation and technology, but a global movement that unites professionals, students, and visionaries under the banner of progress. As an ambassador, Sadhana's mission will be to amplify this vision, inspiring curiosity, and mobilizing the IEEE community to come together for impactful initiatives. This recognition reflects Sadhana's consistent dedication, leadership, and unwavering enthusiasm and community building. Her selection as ambassador shines a spotlight not just on her capabilities but also on the vibrant culture of UVCE that cultivates such excellence.

As IEEE Day 2025 approaches, we eagerly anticipate the innovative ideas, inclusive events, and powerful connections Ms. Sadhana will help create. Her journey serves as a reminder that champions are built with passion and purpose.

SHANKAR SHASTRI : SHAPING THE FUTURE

Team Sampada : Could you share a brief overview of your professional background and your current role for our readers?

Shankar Shastri: I am an alumnus of UVCE (batch of 1992, Computer Science). After I finished my undergrad at UVCE, I briefly worked at a company called VeriFone which built payment platforms. After that, I completed M.S. at Purdue University, USA, before joining Microsoft in the US in 1995. I moved to India, when Microsoft started its India Development Center in 1998 and has continued with it ever since. Over the years, I have worked in different groups and technology areas in Microsoft – Embedded Operating Systems, Windows NT, File Systems and Servers, Mobile platforms, databases to name a few. I now work as an engineering manager in the Azure Storage organization.
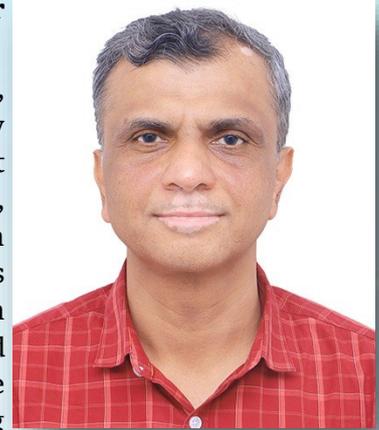
TS: In light of today's global movements and tech disruptions, how do you anticipate your organization and its domain will evolve?

SS: Microsoft is one of the companies that started at the time of the birth of personal computers (Intel, Apple are two other prominent companies) – and it helped realize the PC revolution over the next few decades, transforming itself to a platform company and responding to other technological shifts such as Client Server Computing, Internet, mobile and cloud along the way. When the original vision of the company to put a PC on every desk and in every home was largely fulfilled, the company evolved its vision to "empowering every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more". This is a broad canvass of a vision which positions it to evolving trends such as ubiquitous computing, Big Data, Cloud and AI. Microsoft, at the heart of it, is a platform company and is focused on building infrastructure and developer tools to harness and democratize the power of latest technology to realize its full potential as well as enabling other companies to do so.

TS: What key strategies or pivotal moments have contributed to the steady and sustainable growth in your professional life?

SS: I have been fortunate to witness the PC, Client-Server and Cloud revolutions first hand. From the release of Windows 95, which was the first Windows OS with intuitive user experience for the general user to Windows 2000 which focused on stability and scalability for server use cases to Microsoft Azure which literally takes computing to the cloud. Being part of these teams, understanding how quality software gets designed and written, and what aspects go into making these successful (or not) have been very rewarding experiences. I have been part of different projects, including a few incubations which didn't succeed, and were shelved, but gave key learning insights, nevertheless. During my tenure, I have also experimented with different roles - I have been an individual contributor, manager, program manager, and they all have given me valuable learnings.

TS: What steps should colleges and universities, particularly UVCE, take to keep pace with the accelerating advancements in AI and emerging technologies?

SS: I believe human ingenuity can never be replaced and all things, including AI, are tools that we must use to be effective and efficient in what we do. So, instead of fearing any new technology, embracing that, understanding how it can help you to be more effective and efficient is the key. Remember AI can write code, or documents, but the world runs on trust, and that requires a real person to stand by it, provide oversight and assurance. To that end, I would say a few things for students.

• The process of learning from first principles, experimenting oneself, failing, fixing, and going through that process to build things (be it machines or software), is essential – these teach you how to learn, and they will be useful later when you are faced with the next technological shift.

• Focus on fundamentals - for example, in Computer Science, I would like students to not just focus on competitive coding or data structures, but also on Computer Organization, Operating Systems, and Digital Design. These are foundations on which you can build new skills.

• Keep your curiosity and learning muscle active – your learning doesn't end but only starts after graduation.

RAGHUNANDAN : UVCE AND BEYOND

Team Sampada: We would like you to briefly introduce yourself to our readers; especially your professional profile and current role

Raghunandan: My name is Raghunandan Sulebele Ranganath and I graduated from UVCE majoring in Computer Science in 2007. I moved to the USA in 2008 to pursue my Master's at University of Texas at Dallas. I've worked with Accenture, Cigital (now acquired by Synopsys), PayPal and currently working with Walmart.

TS: What key strategies or pivotal moments have contributed to your steady and sustainable growth? Any specific UVCE experiences you would like to recall?

Raghu: It may sound cliché, but my biggest advice is to stay curious. The tech landscape is constantly evolving, and keeping up with everything is nearly impossible. What truly sets you apart is your drive to learn and your commitment to delivering impact.

My time at UVCE played a pivotal role in shaping my work ethic. Being part of IEEE UVCE taught me invaluable lessons in teamwork, coordination, and strategic thinking—skills that have served me well throughout my career. It also helped me grow into an independent thinker and offered countless life lessons along the way. Truly unforgettable memories!

TS: In your company/org/team, what are the current trends and future roadmap that you are seeing being planned and executed?

Raghu: Like every other company in the world now, there is a huge push for AI/ML adoption. Walmart is no different and is heavily invested in that space. We are heavily adopting Agentic AI as we continue to build for our customers and associates.

TS: What should the recent graduates who step into the current technology industry or your relevant domain expect ?

Raghu: I believe the role of engineers will evolve significantly with the rise of AI. It's essential for engineers to broaden their perspective beyond just writing code. While AI is designed to simplify tasks, the importance of strong fundamentals remains unchanged. Emphasis should be placed on sound design principles that enable the creation of resilient and scalable solutions across domains. Skills such as debugging, implementing observability, and integrating meaningful metrics into software will become key differentiators in a competitive landscape.

UVCEIAN IN LIMELIGHT

UVCE proudly celebrates **Sheenam Ohrie**, a UVCE alumna (Batch of 1992) featured in SSF Global's Coffee Table Book as one of the "Inspiring Women Leaders in the GCC & Enterprise Services."

Her visionary leadership and passion for transformation have shaped people-centric cultures and driven digital excellence and her recognition at SSF Global's 13th Annual Conclave is a testament to her impact across industries.

We at UVCE are honored to see her set new benchmarks in innovation and leadership. Her journey continues to inspire future changemakers from the UVCE community and beyond.

WALK THE TALK WITH SANTOSH KATKOL

Team Sampada: We would like you to briefly introduce yourself to our readers; especially your professional profile and current role.

Santosh Katkol: I work as the Global Vice President of Services at PROS, a leading AI-powered SaaS platform specializing in Pricing, CPQ, and Revenue Management. In this role, I lead the global professional services organization, driving customer success, revenue growth, and operational excellence through scalable consulting and delivery functions.

With over three decades of experience across the US and India, I have held leadership roles at organizations such as PROS, Icertis, GEP, CP Ships, and began my career as a researcher at IISc.I hold a proven track record of building and scaling enterprise SaaS and AI service organizations that deliver measurable business impact. Guided by a strong customer-first mindset and a results-oriented approach rooted in people and purpose, I played a pivotal role in developing leadership talent and shaping the careers of over 10,000 professionals.

A proud UVCE alumnus from the 1990 Electrical and Electronics batch, I went on to earn a Master's in Computer Science from the University of South Florida in 1993 and an MBA in International Business in 2000. After spending the early part of my career in the US, I returned to India to set up global delivery centers, and now live in Pittsburgh, USA, where my daughter is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh.

Beyond my professional life, I am a technologist with a passion for innovation, holding several AI patents in the supply chain domain. I am also creative at heart - a hobby photographer with interests in landscape, astrophotography, and fashion. My recent photography adventures have taken me to the Himalayas and Brazil, capturing the beauty of nature and people across diverse cultures through my lens.

TS: How do you see your company and its industry adapting to global trends and emerging technologies in the coming years?

SK: Thank you for raising such a timely and relevant question - it strikes at the heart of how we at PROS continue to evolve and deliver value to our customers, especially amidst the ongoing turbulence in global trade, tariffs, and supply chains.

On one hand, the continuation of geo-political shifts, trade wars, and economic uncertainty is expected to remain a challenge for businesses worldwide. On the other hand, we're also witnessing the rapid maturity of AI and agentic technologies, which present significant opportunities to meet these challenges head-on. Businesses are increasingly seeking solutions that enable them to respond proactively to rising costs and market volatility - with pricing agility becoming a critical lever for protecting margins and accelerating growth.

At PROS, we've been an AI-native company for over a decade, and our latest innovations in AI/ML, agentic platforms, and AI Agents are purpose-built to meet this need for agility and precision. This is especially crucial for industries like manufacturing, distribution, airlines, and services, where dynamic pricing and rapid sales execution directly impact profitability. With the introduction of AI Agents into our platform, we're entering a new era of intelligent automation - creating a multiplier effect on speed, accuracy, and strategic decision-making. These agents can autonomously analyze data, simulate pricing scenarios, and recommend optimal actions - enabling our customers to operate with confidence and agility, even in volatile markets.

Our AI-powered solutions help businesses deliver the right price for the right product, to the right customer - instantly. The result? Higher margins, faster deal cycles, and stronger customer loyalty, all while navigating today's complex global environment.

To make it real, here are a few specific examples of how our next-gen solutions are helping customers across industries to manage global trends and turbulence:

- Typically for distributors, especially those operating across borders, tariff changes and trade regulations can drastically affect landed costs, supplier agreements, and customer pricing. A global electronics distributor customer of ours recently faced rising component costs due to U.S.-China tariffs. By using our pricing software to dynamically adjust regional pricing and CPQ tools to generate accurate, duty-inclusive quotes, they protected margins while maintaining customer trust.
- Manufacturers are hit hard by volatile raw material costs, cross-border production, and differentiated product configurations. These challenges intensify when tariffs make sourcing more expensive or shift demand between regions. A machinery manufacturing customer dealing with rising steel prices in Europe used CPQ to quote quickly with real-time material cost inputs. Pricing analytics enabled them to shift sourcing, adjust product bundles, & preserve margin, while maintaining competitive pricing in Asia-Pacific markets.
- For airlines, tariffs can affect fuel prices, aircraft parts, and route profitability, while global events quickly shift demand patterns. In such a low-margin, high-volume business, precision matters. When aircraft maintenance tariffs rose unexpectedly in certain regions, a major airline used revenue management tools to optimize pricing for affected routes and shift fleet utilization. CPQ tools helped sales teams quickly adjust corporate travel deals to reflect the cost impact.

In short, as global trends continue with volatility and dynamism, PROS is at the forefront in evolving through latest technological innovations in enabling companies to sell smarter, faster, and more profitably.

TS: What key strategies or pivotal moments have contributed to your steady and sustainable growth in your professional life?

SK : That's a thoughtful question - and in all honesty, there was no single strategy that ensured steady growth throughout my career. Instead, my journey has unfolded in distinct phases, each shaped by a different mindset and approach, with certain pivotal moments and core values consistently guiding my path.

From the start, the values instilled by my parents - curiosity, optimism, and empathy - laid the foundation. These qualities helped me focus on fundamentals, stay resilient, and build genuine relationships. I've always been people-oriented and collaborative, which naturally led to opportunities to solve problems, grow my technical skills, learn from both success & failure.

In my early career, I focused on building strong technical and communication skills, staying curious about emerging technologies, and taking on challenges beyond my role. Engaging informally with managers and leaders helped me gain trust, feedback, and early leadership opportunities.

As I stepped into mid-level leadership, I became more intentional about driving team outcomes, making data-driven decisions, and expanding my network both inside and outside the organization. I learned the importance of aligning not just with personal goals, but also with broader organizational success - and stepping up when it mattered most.

At the executive level, the focus shifted to executive presence, the ability to influence at scale, and understanding the bigger picture behind every decision. I actively sought out mentors and sponsors, especially leaders two to three levels above me, who could provide guidance, advocacy, and honest feedback. I also focused on transforming teams and building organizational capability - from improving efficiency to launching new offerings.

One principle has remained constant throughout: true leadership is about developing others. I've found the most fulfillment in empowering teams mid-level leaders, investing in their growth, and helping them rise - because ultimately, your success as a leader is measured by how many others you help succeed.

TS: In your view, how should colleges and universities, esp. like UVCE, adapt to remain relevant in the age of AI and other technological advancements?

SK: Colleges like UVCE are at a pivotal moment. With the rapid rise of AI and emerging technologies, traditional curricula and limited industry-academia collaboration pose a real challenge to staying relevant. However, UVCE's transition to a deemed university is a timely

opportunity to drive meaningful transformation. In my view, here are the key areas that can make a significant difference:

- **Modernizing Curriculum and Teaching Methods**: AI should not remain the domain of computer science alone — AI literacy must be embedded across all disciplines. Interdisciplinary programs can help students understand how AI applies to real-world challenges in various fields.
- **Deepening Industry and Research Collaboration**: Stronger ties with industry are essential. By collaborating with companies to understand real-world skill needs, UVCE can align academic programs with future-ready capabilities.
- **Investing in Infrastructure and Faculty Development**: Upgrading to cloud-based systems and AI-ready platforms is vital for modern education delivery. Just as important is faculty upskilling — ensuring educators are trained in both the use of AI tools and the ethical dimensions of AI. Institutions must also develop and enforce clear ethical guidelines to address issues like bias, privacy, and responsible AI use.

In essence, for institutions like UVCE to thrive in the AI era, they must adopt a dynamic, future-forward mindset — moving from traditional knowledge transfer to fostering critical thinking, AI based hands-on problem-solving, and ethical AI fluency. This transformation demands not just curricular change, but also visionary leadership, strategic investment, and strong partnerships with industry and the broader community.

BLUEPRINTS OF SUCCESS WITH VIJI RANGANNA

Team Sampada: We would like you to briefly introduce yourself to our readers; especially your professional profile and current role

Viji Ranganna: I work as a Director at Google Silicon, where I manage Physical Design and CAD for Google Tensor SOCs that power Pixel Products, currently in charge of the physical design for the next-generation Tensor Processing Unit, the SoC Mobile for Pixel. My work enables Google to deliver best-in-class Pixel phones with enhanced GHz, power, performance, and time to market. The Tensor G2 chip, which powers the Pixel Fold, Pixel Tablet, and Pixel 8, makes the Pixel Fold, Google's first foldable phone, faster and more secure.

Prior to joining Google, I was a Senior Director at Qualcomm, where I led over 50 tapeouts and having spent approximately 14 years there, I worked on Foundation IP, CAD/Methodology, Physical Design, and RFICs. Before Qualcomm, I held positions at Synopsys (Avant!), Intel, and Broadcom (LSI Logic) in both the US and India. With 30 years of experience in the semiconductor industry, I am passionate about Technology, AI/ML, and achieving best-in-class PPAT and have also participated in numerous industry panels, tech talks, symposia, and conferences.

I hold a B.E. in Electronics and Communication from UVCE Bangalore and an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from SDSU, USA.

Outside of my professional life, I enjoy yoga, travel, running/walking, Zumba, and cooking. I have completed several 10Ks and participated in Oxfam 100km and 50km walks. I am an avid traveler and have visited over 35 countries.

TS: Looking back, what strategies or milestones have guided your professional evolution? Do any experiences from UVCE hold special significance in that journey?

Viji: My time at UVCE was a foundational experience that deeply influenced my career path. My inspiration to pursue hardware engineering came directly from the hands-on learning in the Electronics labs and Microprocessors classes. These experiences were where I first discovered a passion for how physical components come together to create something functional.

In fact, it was my work on microprocessors that ignited my ambition to join Intel, a dream I worked toward and ultimately achieved. The UVCE ecosystem and my friends are my greatest inspiration.

TS: What are the major trends you're witnessing within your company or team, and how are they influencing your future initiatives?

Viji: Being in a role as Director for Chip Design @Google it's a strategic evolution focused on deepening the integration of AI/ML directly into the hardware.

- AI/ML as a First-Class Citizen: The core trend is the continued co-design of hardware and software to accelerate on-device machine learning. The future roadmap involves pushing more complex models to run efficiently on the device, enabling features that are faster, more private, and less reliant on the cloud. This requires advancing the Tensor Processing Unit (TPU) architecture, memory bandwidth, and on-chip interconnects to handle larger models and real-time processing.

- Power and Performance Efficiency: As you well know, the key challenge on mobile SOC is delivering more performance without compromising battery life. The roadmap likely includes continued advancements in microarchitecture, power management, and process node migration to squeeze every bit of efficiency out of the silicon. This isn't just about brute force; it's about smart design that uses minimal energy for maximum output.

- Architectural Specialization and Heterogeneous Computing: The trend is to move beyond general-purpose computing. The future roadmap involves designing specialized compute blocks not just for AI, but for imaging, security, and connectivity. It is important on a heterogeneous computing platform where different types of cores and accelerators work together seamlessly to handle the diverse workloads of a modern smartphone.

- Enhanced Security and Privacy: With Tensor at the heart of Pixel, security is paramount. The roadmap is heavily focused on hardware-level security, including dedicated security co-processors & hardware-rooted trust. This ensures that user data & on-device computations remain private and protected from the ground up, a key differentiator for the Pixel brand.

TS: What should the recent graduates who step into the current technology industry or your relevant domain expect ?

Viji: For a recent graduate stepping into your domain, the expectations are high, but the opportunities are immense. Success hinges on a combination of deep technical expertise and crucial soft skills.

- **Passion and Hard Work**: Your job isn't a 9-to-5 role; it's a marathon that requires relentless passion for solving incredibly difficult problems. Graduates should expect to work in a demanding, fast-paced environment where hard work and a strong work ethic are not just valued but essential for meeting aggressive project deadlines and delivering groundbreaking technology. This passion is the engine that drives a person through the inevitable challenges of chip design.

- **Continuous Learning**: The pace of change in the semiconductor industry is breathtaking. Graduates must embrace a continuous learning mindset. They should expect to constantly be learning new tools, languages (like SystemVerilog or Python), and verification methodologies. A college degree is just the starting point; the ability to quickly adapt and acquire new skills is what will sustain their career.

- **Teamwork and Collaboration**: Chip design is a highly collaborative effort. Graduates will work with a diverse set of teams—software engineers, verification specialists, product managers, and systems architects. They need to be excellent team players and communicators, understanding that success is not an individual achievement but a collective one. The ability to listen, share ideas constructively, and resolve conflicts is as critical as any technical skill.

- **Deep Foundational Knowledge**: While new tools are everywhere, a solid grasp of fundamentals in areas like digital logic design, computer architecture, and VLSI is non-negotiable. Graduates must understand how a transistor works, how to optimize a clock tree, and how to write efficient RTL—not just use a tool to generate it.

- **Proactive Problem-Solving**: The work is incredibly complex, and issues are inevitable. Graduates need to be proactive problem-solvers, not reactive fire-fighters. They should expect to work in a culture where robust verification and validation are key to preventing last-minute crises. The ability to identify potential issues early in the design cycle is highly valued and can make or break a project.

THROUGH THE LENS OF DIVAKAR MYSORE

Team Sampada: Could you share a brief overview of your professional background and your current role for our readers?

Divakar Mysore: Hi everyone! I'm a proud UVCE alumnus from the 1993 - 97 Computer Science batch. After UVCE, I was campus-placed into Infosys and started my career working on a greenfield mainframe project for a global retail client. Since then, I've worked in a startup and spent most of my career at IBM. Today, I serve as the CTO for IBM AIOps Services. I focus on helping clients use AI and automation to transform IT operations, improve resilience, and drive business outcomes. One of the most impactful projects I've worked on involved enhancing the reliability of India's largest banking mobile app, ensuring seamless availability for millions of users.

TS: What key strategies or pivotal moments have contributed to your steady and sustainable growth? Any specific UVCE experiences you would like to recall?

DM: I started my UVCE journey in Civil Engineering, but discovered my passion for Computer Science and made the switch in my second year. That change came with its challenges - I had to catch up on months of coursework - which taught me valuable lessons in time management and adaptability. It shaped the way I take on challenges even today. Later in my career, I had to choose between a management track and a technical path. I chose the technical route because I genuinely enjoy solving complex problems - especially when things are abstract and need clarity.

Over time, I've realized that being outcome-driven, taking calculated risks, and stepping out of your comfort zone are essential for real growth. Beyond technical skills, it's how you work with people, uphold your values, and stay curious that truly shapes your career. Mentoring has been a rewarding part of my journey. I've learned a lot from guiding younger professionals and in many ways, they've taught me just as much. I've also been fortunate to have great managers, mentors, peers, and a supportive family who stood by me through long hours and tough phases.

During my UVCE days, the combination of classroom learning and strong peer collaboration helped build a solid foundation. The energy of college life - late-night exam prep, coffee breaks at the canteen, competitions - shaped both friendships and life skills that I carry with me even today. My Executive General Management program at IIM Bangalore added a new layer to my journey - it helped me connect technology with business strategy and understand how to drive impact.

TS: What innovations or developments are you seeing take shape within your team or organization, both now and in the near future?

DM: At IBM, we're focused on Hybrid Cloud, Artificial Intelligence, and Quantum Computing as the pillars of enterprise transformation. In our team, we're building solutions around AIOps and Zero Touch Operations - enabling systems to detect, resolve, and even prevent IT issues autonomously.

We're also exploring Agentic AI - the next leap, where AI moves from making recommendations to taking intelligent, autonomous actions. The goal is to help IT become a business accelerator, not just a support function. Everything we do is aligned with delivering measurable business outcomes.

TS: What should the recent graduates who step into the current technology industry or your relevant domain expect?

DM : The pace of change in tech today is faster than ever. A skill that was in demand five years ago might stay relevant for just a year or two now. So, the key is to stay curious, keep learning, and be ready to adapt.

Don't wait for perfection - take your idea to users early, gather feedback, and improve fast. Delivering quick business value often beats chasing the perfect product. Also, invest in your personal brand. Share your insights, learnings, or side projects on platforms like LinkedIn or at tech meetups. Beyond your technical abilities, it's your ethics, collaboration skills, and how you collaborate with people and handle pressure that shape long-term success.

Networking plays a huge role. I've always tried to surround myself with people who are smarter or more passionate than me - it's both humbling and inspiring. Choose your circle wisely, and stay open to learning from everyone around you.

TS: From a broader perspective, how should colleges/universities like UVCE adapt to the current challenges in fast-paced technology upgradation?

DM: This is an exciting time for UVCE, especially with the modernization efforts underway. To stay ahead, colleges like UVCE can further strengthen their industry collaboration by scaling internships, fostering joint projects, hosting more hackathons, and regularly bringing in practitioners to share real-world insights with students.

Curriculums need continuous updates to keep pace with industry evolution - after all, even content from three years ago can feel outdated today. Students should be encouraged to contribute to open-source projects, explore patents, and pick electives in emerging areas like IOT, AI, cybersecurity and quantum computing.

Real-world exposure is key. More interactions with industry leaders, alumni, and problem-solving experiences beyond the classroom will help students become more confident and future-ready.

As alumni, we can also play a role by mentoring, collaborating, or simply staying connected. UVCE has already produced many successful tech leaders and as it continues to evolve, it is steadily progressing toward becoming a strong hub for future-ready talent.

KOUSHIK CHANDRASHEKAR: UNPLUGGED

Team Sampada: Can you tell us a bit about yourself - your career journey and what you're currently working on?

Koushik Chandrashekar: I'm a proud alumni of UVCE, graduated in 2009 as an Information Science Engineer. Being a student of UVCE, you are already on the wishlist of elite companies. I started working as a Windows Phone developer and switched to DevOps around 2011-12.

Currently I work as a Senior Manager - DevSecOps Engineering in PricewaterhouseCoopers Acceleration Center (PwC AC). My team manages the infrastructure for an upskilling application called Growth Centre, catering to more than 3 lakh employees.

TS: What key trends and strategic initiatives are currently shaping your team or organization's direction?

KC: AI being the buzz word across all domains in companies worldwide. PwC is no different. Everyone wants to jump on the AI bandwagon.

Irrespective of the roles and responsibilities, everyone in the company is being trained on AI and are already using Copilot, ChatGPT in some or the other way.

Most of the mundane tasks are now converted to Copilot agents, teams bots. These bots are handling the first level of support w.r.t HR, Finance, Admin, Transport etc. This is streamlining and optimising the processes and thereby helping with quicker response times.

My team is working on agents which help in orchestrating clusters, evaluating security, configuring networks, auto-scaling etc. We are handling millions of records in the DB and making use of AI at every step to improve the reflexes of the DB.

TS: With the current exponential growth of AI across all domains, what are your expectations and predictions for the industry(domain you are currently working in)?

KC: As mentioned earlier, No code, low code platforms are slowly replacing traditional development and deployment methods

There is a common notion that these platforms are replacing developers and IT professionals, on the contrary, I believe, they are helping developers build solid code, incorporate better exception handling and write fool proof CI-CD pipelines.

Higher management is usually more focussed on the cost, data security, scaling and performance of the application rather than the intricacies like the underlying software, technologies used, and the onus of this falls mostly onto the DevOps team. We have to ensure the application is up and running at all times.

TS: What do you believe are the most important things young people should know or do as they enter the world of technology?

KC: AI, No-Code, Low - Code platforms are helping build better software but they are still relying on some human interaction. But, before getting started on these platforms, strengthen the basics.

The feeling of accomplishment you get, when you write a working code, create a kubernetes/ DB environment, CI-CD pipelines, from scratch is many folds better than writing a prompt to create the same using AI agents. You feel more connected to the product when you write the code than when you write a prompt to generate a code. Instead of asking the AI to write a code, use AI to evaluate the code you have written. This would help you immensely in understanding concepts.

Last but not the least, this is the age of uncertainties. Technology is changing and evolving at breakneck speed. What might seem relevant might become obsolete in a couple of years. Keep upskilling yourself, learn, unlearn and relearn.

WISDOM IN ACTION BY VIKRAM KRISHNAMURTHY

Team Sampada: Could you give our readers a brief overview of your professional background and your current role?

Vikram Krishnamurthy: I'm an IT professional with about 27 years of experience. UVCE Alumnus, class of CSE 1998. I'm an Enterprise R&D Architect, an Innovator with 6 patents and a patent reviewer. I am in the CSE Dept. Board Of Studies in MSRIT and DSCE. I'm also a continuous learner, who loves to teach and interact with the student community.

TS: Could you share the vision or personal experiences that inspired you to explore this career path.?

VK: The first decision was joining Engineering vs Medical. I was always a curious guy by nature and thought I could do well in Engineering. My parents taught me my work ethics - to be passionate, committed and dedicated in any chosen field. Once I joined the IT industry, my passion towards problem solving and fortunate association with right mentors encouraged me to pursue innovation and technical excellence. Both my parents are physics professors, and that has inspired me to take up teaching assignments with various colleges, right from the start of my career.

TS: What are the major trends you're witnessing within your company or team, and how are they influencing your future initiatives?

VK: I'm from the Opentext Operations and Service Management Cloud business which is a composable platform that unifies service management, AIOps, Observability, Automation, CMDB, and Asset Management cuts the cost and complexity to transform the way you work. We follow the 3R pillars – Reveal assets accurately, Resolve problems faster and Reduce operational waste.

Primarily, current trends in the observability domain include AI driven observability and AIOps Maturity, Agentic AI for Observability, Accelerating OpenTelemetry adoption and Unified Telemetry lakes for Infrastructure (System and Network) and Application Observability.

These are key drivers for our roadmaps as well, which we expect to continuously evolve with future trends – primarily in Agentic AI based observability, Troubleshooting and building composable observability platforms.

TS: Given the rapid expansion of AI across sectors, what are your expectations and forecasts for the future of your current industry? (domain you are currently working in)

VK: AI is here to stay!

In the monitoring and observability domain, AI influences all use cases including Pattern recognition and Anomaly detection, Automated root cause analysis, GenAI for smart reporting and enhancing user experience, Event fatigue reduction and Contextual incident intelligence using collective knowledge for etc.

Agentic AI applications including Auto-triage and incident response, smart runbook execution etc.

Not to mention the huge improvement in engineering efficiency brought in by AI assisted development processes – code generation IDE plugins and copilots, AI assisted code reviews, unit test and automation test case generation etc.

TS: In your view, how should colleges and universities, esp. like our alma-mater, UVCE, adapt to remain relevant in the age of AI and other technology advancements?

VK: While AI will be a permanent fixture in our lives, its overuse has hindered our ability to pop the hood and look underneath! In the engineering world, this is what primarily differentiates programmers from Engineers – the ability to question "How things work", rather than think "How do I use something for my purpose".

For students, it means developing the engineering acumen and not reaching out to AI tools for completing assignments and projects. Stay on course, learn concepts and how to apply them, rather than have an AI engine do that for us!

The teaching community is also evolving to adapt to this new normal. It is a big challenge to keep students motivated to turn in original work. This is how I think the teaching community can stay relevant:

- Teaching students ethics to promote responsible AI use.
- Designing assignments that require creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration, skills that are hard for AI to replicate.
- Utilizing AI as a teaching assistant for tasks like designing assignments, providing personalized learning analytics, and reviewing student code submissions.

UVCEIAN IN LIMELIGHT

We're proud to announce that **Uma Reddy**, a UVCE alumna (Batch of 1984), has been named President-elect of FKCCI - Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

With nearly two decades of service at FKCCI and as MD of HITECH Magnetics & Electronics, she exemplifies leadership and first-generation entrepreneurship. Her elevation marks a milestone for women leaders, entrepreneurs, and the UVCE community.

We celebrate this achievement and wish her a visionary and impactful tenure ahead!

CAMPUS SAYS - 2025 BATCH SPECIAL

It is that time of the year - to bid adieu to one more batch of UVCEians !! We are glad to publish thoughts of few students about their 4 years journey at UVCE, which will not only be a documentation for them, but a source of inspiration for new batch of UVCEians. Read on...

As a Mechanical Engineering graduate from UVCE, I'm thrilled to share my incredible journey. Being an active member of IEEE and Adhamya clubs was an amazing experience that shaped me. Organizing multiple technical and cultural events across four years made my college life super fun and memorable. I made hundreds of lifelong friends, creating treasured memories filled with laughter, emotions, and personal growth. While studies are crucial for a solid foundation, I firmly believe having fun and being happy is equally important. Remember, ups and downs are common, so if you're feeling like you're failing, don't lose hope – make it a stepping stone and stay strong.

I urge juniors to enjoy every moment of their four years, because once you're out, you'll deeply miss this unique phase. UVCE life is truly unforgettable, and I'm proud of my journey with no regrets. Cherish every moment, make the most of your time, and prioritize happiness alongside academics.

- Vishal G Awati, Mechanical, 4th Year

I joined UVCE in 2021 and completed my engineering this year. In my four years of engineering I really liked the crowd of UVCE. The people I met really opened my eyes to various opportunities. The time I spent on campus was invaluable, running around Minchu and hanging in Marvel whenever we had a break will be on my mind for a very long time. The changing management of Nandini was a thing to get used to. The faculty driving us crazy any chance they get will not be missed, but a few friendly faces on campus will be missed for sure.

- Aryan Aithal, AIML, 4th Year

Over the past four years at UVCE, I've grown not just as an engineer but as an individual. From struggling through tough exams to celebrating tiny victories with friends, every experience added something unique to my journey. UVCE taught me resilience, teamwork, and how to find joy even on the most chaotic days. It felt like a rollercoaster filled with assignments we started the night before, labs that never went as planned, and tremendous friendships that made it all worthwhile. Between bunks, fests, and those legendary canteen breaks at Rock garden, UVCE gave us a story to tell, and a lot to miss.

Every harrowing challenge in front of us was something to be laughed about a few weeks later. The number of surprises (or shocks) we received, the countless entertaining tales we heard, the very real education we received from here, even the calm air at UVCE is now an indelible part of me. Thank you, dear UVCE for the experience of a lifetime!

- Greeshma Sharma, CSE, 4th Year

UVCE has been one of the best things that happened to me. When I joined the college, I still remember walking in the hallway that led to our classroom, nervous and anxious. And four full years passed by just like that.

UVCE taught me not just the curriculum but shaped me as a complete individual. From handling academic pressure to managing people, conducting events, managing finances for the event, UVCE taught me all. The biggest advantage of the college has to be the location. If we want we can go explore the streets of Old Bangalore or we can totally go towards MG Road, Indiranagar - only a couple of metro stops away! The network I got from it's rich alumni base is something I'll cherish. I will definitely miss the whole environment of the college, my friends and the team at E-Cell. But I know for sure, UVCE is now home.

- Srivatsa Sheshadri, ECE, 4th Year

Officially done... but where is my degree and my sanity? Must've lost them between classes! Four years of college gave me a degree and a PhD in procrastination. I learned to submit assignments at 11:59 PM, survive on canteen samosas, and hunt for Wi-Fi in the weirdest spots. From last-minute tea-fueled group studies to sneaky chai breaks, every day was a comedy. I found friends who became family, met professors who taught life beyond books, and faced deadlines that made me question everything. I'll miss the chaos, the rain walks, and even the bad coffee. It's been a wild ride, I've laughed till my stomach hurt, panicked before vivas, and mastered the art of looking attentive in class. Whatever it threw at me, it made me "ME". UVCE is definitely not for the faint-hearted!

- Amrutha G P K, Civil, 4th Year

These past few years in UVCE have been the most fruitful experience of my life, each semester brought in new challenges for me to face which helped me mould myself into a better person. Each year, there were obstacles to overcome, lessons to learn and memories to make.

During my first two years in UVCE, I explored anything that I found interesting: website development, application development, analog, and digital circuit design, IOT and my love for music. I had the opportunity to join MARVEL as a coordinator during my first year which helped me improve my general skillsets. I also joined PARADOX UVCE as a guitarist which made me fall more in love with the instrument I had been practicing. I had some early achievements like winning the group singing event at CMRIT and winning 2nd place at RV's 12-hour hardware hackathon.

During this time, I was passionately working on a project that combined both my hardware skills and my love for music, an automated guitar tuner. I tried pushing the project to acquire some KAGADA wins but sadly never could get it there, but my persistence shined during my 3rd year when the tuner won the 3rd place at an all-India project expo at SHRISTI 2024. This project along with the skills I developed helped me land a job in Texas Instruments, where I hope to be the same curious kid that UVCE taught me to be. My journey here had many ups and downs. The necessity of ups and downs was taught to me by a batman game, where he had to cover a long distance by gliding. Every time I glided straight, I was never able to reach the next platform, but when the character was diving down and then rising up, he covered greater distances. So, ups and downs are integral to farsighted goals in life.

- Meghashyam N Aithal, ECE, 4th Year

EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE WITH BHASKAR BABU

Team Sampada: We would like you to briefly introduce yourself to our readers; especially your professional profile and current role.

Bhaskar Babu: I'd like to thank the UVCEGA Alumni forum for giving me this opportunity to present myself and share my thoughts in this Sampada publication.

I am a 1994 UVCE ECE branch pass out. I have been in the IT industry for over 3 decades. Very fortunate to have played leadership roles in 2 great companies – Infosys for about 20 years and with Accenture now for over 10 years.

I lead the Accenture's Microsoft Business Group in India for the Americas market enabling transformation at clients on Microsoft technologies.

TS: Can you walk us through the key experiences that sparked your passion and led you to where you are today?

BB: Well, to be honest, I did not deliberately set out on this career path. I was educated to be an Electronics Engineer.

Having joined Infosys in 1994 with less than 700 employees, I started liking software engineering to address client's business needs. As Infosys grew rapidly, I got opportunities to work with clients globally and this set me on a path of becoming an IT professional.

In some sense the rise of Infosys was also reflective of the rise of the IT industry in India and brought pride and opportunity to not just me but thousands of young engineers that put Indian IT Industry on the global map

TS: How do you perceive the global shift toward AI, and what transformations do you anticipate it will bring to your organization?

BB: We are now witnessing the movement into the AI era, powered by

o   Slew of Generative AI technologies

o   Powerful Large Language Models (LLMs) and domain specific Small Language Models (SLMs)

o   Advancement in processing power with hardware providers like NVIDIA

o   Democratizing of these capabilities, available to anyone on consumption basis enabled by the Cloud/SaaS providers.

I believe this will not just unlock the next stage of productivity and efficiency, but will also open up new revenue streams and markets for businesses that embrace these technologies. With the emergence of Agentic AI and Co-pilots, we will increasingly see AI infused Agents augmenting Humans in all activities. Human + Machine working in tandem is becoming a reality

TS: What insights or guidance would you offer to younger generations stepping into the technology industry today?

BB: My advice to youngsters is to embrace this change and learn the tools/technologies that will power this AI driven transformation that is coming.

The opportunities are across the technology stack - Hardware - Engineering & Design, Data Science, Large and Small Language models, Agentic AI and Copilots, coding skills like Python. What will be critical for software engineering in the future is not just coding skills, but ability to leverage co-pilots/tools that will augment your work. Newer career roles like Prompt Engineers, Data Scientists, Agentic AI Architects will become more prominent.

There is indeed a lot of fear today of job losses with Machines becoming more intelligent. Yes, many of the mundane jobs will disappear, but this technology evolution like many in the past like PCs, ERP, Digital – will open up new opportunities. I truly believe, we as Indians with our human capital and ingenuity, can and should lead this change.

BEYOND THE GATES WITH SATISH KULAL

Team Sampada: Briefly introduce yourself to our readers, especially your professional profile and current role

Satish Kulal: I am currently working as an Engineer at Microsoft. I am from the UVCE 2005 batch. With a strong background in distributed systems and cloud-scale software engineering, I focus on building reliable and scalable solutions in a rapidly evolving tech landscape.
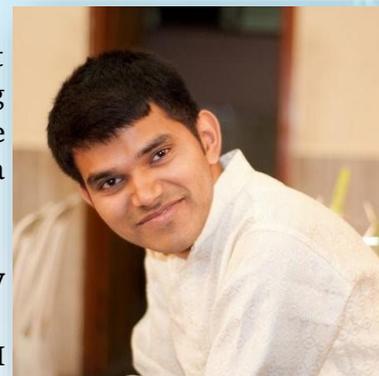
TS: What emerging trends and future plans are currently shaping your company, organization, or team's direction?

SK: We're witnessing a massive shift in how software is built - AI is now responsible for over 75% of the coding effort, accelerating development cycles and reducing iteration time. From idea to production, the pace has never been faster. The focus now is on building tooling, agents, and workflows that empower developers to be 10x more productive with AI.

TS: With the current exponential growth of AI across all domains, what are your expectations and predictions for the industry (especially in your domain)?

SK: AI will continue to redefine the technology landscape. Most traditional coding and testing tasks are rapidly being automated. Tech roles are evolving from creators to curators and orchestrators of AI systems. In the next few years, I expect AI-native engineering to become the norm, where developers focus on guiding AI, assembling workflows, and building intelligent agents, rather than writing boilerplate code.

TS: What advice or perspectives would you share with young professionals entering the technology industry today?

SK: Building a software product is no longer a daunting task - AI-powered development (or "vibe coding") has lowered the barrier to entry. Anyone can now create tools and apps for their own needs. If others find value in it, you can look at monetizing it.

Make it a habit to solve your daily problems through software, and over time you'll build a strong portfolio of useful tools.

As a next step, start exploring agent-based architectures for your products - small AI-powered entities that can act, decide, and automate workflows for users.

Most importantly, stay curious and experiment a lot. The industry rewards builders who can adapt fast, learn faster, and create with empathy.

SHAPING THE FUTURE : LAKSHMIKANTHA HOLLA

Team Sampada: We would like you to briefly introduce yourself around your professional profile and current role, to our readers

Lakshmikantha Holla Vakwadi: I work in Qualcomm India Private Limited ("QIPL"), part of the Qualcomm Incorporated group, USA ("Qualcomm") and I lead the India Technology team contributing to Std Cell, Memories, Interface & methodology design/development. I have a Masters degree in Microelectronics from UT Dallas and a Bachelors degree from UVCE, Bangalore University. Prior to QIPL, I worked with Texas Instruments India ("TI") for more than a decade. I am passionate about circuits, CAD & all aspects of VLSI.

TS: What key strategies or pivotal moments have contributed to your steady and sustainable growth? Any specific UVCE experiences you would like to recall?

LH: I don't think I set out with a strategy for career growth, I only looked forward to interesting and challenging assignments and did the best in what was given to me in the initial part of my career. After a few years in TI working on VLSI CAD, I realized I have a calling for circuits and hence decided to pursue my MS from UT Dallas in Microelectronics. The exposure in UVCE to electronics (especially the final year project & courses) and my MS Thesis on SOI Circuits in UT Dallas convinced me to stay on course in Electronics and not shift to Software or other career options.

While at TI, I got an opportunity to work and contribute to all aspects of SRAM Design for Deep Submicron SoCs and this opened my eyes to the world of chip design. The joy of designing circuits and seeing the end result (phones) in our hands was a thrilling ride all along. Once I moved to QIPL, I was exposed to many other technologies that are required to develop SoCs in advanced tech nodes like FinFETs & high speed interfaces like DDR & Serdes. As I look back, it has been the collective push from the teachers in the University, my organization and openness to keep seeking new problems to solve that has kept me active and motivated.

TS: What key trends and strategic initiatives are currently shaping your team or organization's direction?

LH: Qualcomm has been a pioneer in Wireless Technology and has ventured into Compute, Auto, XR apart from being the leader in Mobile communications. Qualcomm as a leader in AI at the edge, along with broad ecosystem partners, is bringing AI-first experiences to consumers and enterprises across a multitude of devices. Device AI will become the next UI, transforming experiences in PCs, automotive, smart homes.

TS: With the current exponential growth of AI across all domains, what are your expectations and predictions for the industry (domain you are currently working in)?

LH: My team and I work on developing Qualcomm's Technologies and Products. Together, we are pushing the boundaries of technology scaling from bulk CMOS to FinFET to Gate All Around, chiplets. The industry requires innovative solutions and engineers will need to harness the power of AI to create new solutions faster and to shape new futures. All aspects of VLSI Design including RTL Design, Circuits, Physical Design, Design Verification & Silicon Bring-up are fertile domains for AI adoption and will redefine VLSI domains in the years to come.

TS: What should the recent graduates who step into the current technology industry or your relevant domain expect?

LH: The one thing that will continue to be relevant even as AI pushes along to replace manual effort is that engineering thought and innovation will continue to be needed to create desirable outcomes. Hence students should focus on mastering the basics in any aspect of engineering that they see their future in. Like someone said, the jobs in future will not be taken over by AI, but by someone who knows how to use AI! It is important to understand the mathematical foundations of AI, the basis of learning and inferencing etc., however it is equally important to know the fundamentals of circuits, systems and software that fuel the growth of AI. My motto has been to be curious, avoid shortcuts, learn from experiences and try to make the world a better place and I suggest similar to all the students reading this interview. I wish you the best ahead!

UVCE CHRONICLES | S6: E5
G KUMAR NAIK *with Adrian & Varsha*

UVCE CHRONICLES | S6: E6
Shashidhar N C *with Sohan*

Listen the experiences of IAS Officer turned into a politician (MP from Raichur) - Mr. G Kumar Naik, a 1985 Civil and Shashidhar N C , CEO of AMS India, proud UVCE Mechanical graduate from the Class of 1988

LISTEN NOW

INDUSTRY VOICE : KAUSHIK SETHURAMAN

Team Samapda: To start off, could you share a snapshot of your professional profile and what you do today?

Kaushik Sethuraman: Namaskara, I lead Product Management at Google, specifically AI quality initiatives focused on large language models (LLMs) and search relevance within the Google Search and Google DeepMind teams. My intention and focus sits at the intersection of human judgment and machine intelligence.

My career has been a journey through the epicenters of technology. I've helped shape foundational products at Microsoft (across OS, cloud, mobile, ads and office), driven global change at Meta (in social impact and developer platform), and am now at the forefront of Google's transformation in Search and AI. This path was built on a foundation of strategic consulting at PricewaterhouseCoopers and CapGemini, giving me a versatile toolkit that spans technical strategy, product management, and responsible and ethical governance.

I've spent most of this career driving complex, global-scale initiatives with one constant thread: making sure we build technology that genuinely improves the human experience.

TS: What personal experiences or guiding vision led you to pursue this particular career path?

KS: I've always been drawn to complex challenges. My journey began at UVCE, where I was captivated by the logic of "problems" and the "power of programming" to solve them. During my graduate studies, I refined this interest by defining my technological "priorities" in response to contemporary demands, focusing on areas where software could make the most impact. This led me to stints at Fortune 100 companies, where I learned to tackle challenges at scale &, most importantly, with the "people" who make real transformations happen.

However, my "perspective" shifted fundamentally at Meta. Working in Social Impact gave me a front-row seat to how imperative technology is for creating tangible, real-world change. In "partnership" with global organizations like the UN, WHO, and WMO, I addressed challenges such as crisis response in disaster situations, countering negative actors in large civic engagements, and advancing work in climate change, healthcare reform, and racial justice. That experience crystallized my motivation, moving me beyond a love for solving problems to a drive for finding solutions with "purpose." Today, that purpose-driven mindset is what guides me. My path taught me a simple truth: the journey from problems with people always leads to purpose.

TS: What innovations or developments are you seeing take shape within your team or organization, both now and in the near future?

KS: The age of AI exuberance is giving way to an era of recalibration. At Google, we're leading that shift from focusing on raw power to demonstrating profound prudence. My team's mandate is to ensure our next generation Search products based on AI are not just intelligent, but also wise, safe, and aligned with human values.

Our team specifically brings value by helping people Answer questions, Explore topics, and Accomplish tasks powered by Google's AI - whether that's finding a quick fact, diving deep into a subject, or getting something done. We do this by embedding quality checks directly into our systems, designing robust evaluation frameworks, and closing fairness gaps across languages and cultures. We're building for a world where technology must earn its trust. The measure of our success isn't what our models can do, but how they should serve humanity.

TS: With the current exponential growth of AI across all domains, what are your expectations and predictions for the industry?

KS: AI has already become the backbone of many sectors - and the next few years (or even

quarters, maybe) will accelerate that deeply. Financial markets run on predictive models and reinforcement learning. Supply chain warehouses have quietly become showcases of real-time robotics and intelligent routing. Defense systems are beginning to rely on autonomous threat detection. Radiology and diagnostics are being reshaped by imaging-based AI faster than we imagined. And education - perhaps the most delicate and persistent human field - is steadily being redefined, rebuilt with AI tutors, content engines, and personalized learning paths.

As AI pushes deeper into the heart of our daily lives, the questions grow sharper - and heavier. What should AI do? Who gets to shape its identity? Who decides, and who gains? Could Agentic AI spark a new class divide, where the privileged are backed by powerful digital agents while others are left behind? The real frontier isn't just raw capability - it's governance, nuance, and inclusion. In this race, the winners won't be those who move fastest, but those who build with the most care, foresight, and responsibility.

TS: If you were speaking to someone just starting out in the world of technology industry, what insights or encouragement would you offer?

KS: I would like to provide 2 insights:

1. Don't just chase what's new - chase what's timeless.

2. Focus on problems, appreciate diversity of perspectives, always partner with people or communities, and develop a sense of purpose.

My guidance: In every facet of life where it matters - find an obsession. Something that fuels your thinking, your decisions, your edge. Mine is this: Why, and how, should humans stay better than AI? That's the challenge of our generation. In a world where machines can and will always do more, faster, and maybe better - our edge has to remain knowing why something matters, how to bring disciplines together, how to see across systems.

We might be surprised by where the biggest opportunities come from - vertical farming, civil engineering, or even small-scale agriculture might rise again as we try to green deserts and feed a planet of 10+ billion. Mechanical engineering, electrical systems, and robotics are seeing a rebirth through drones and automation. Computational biology is unlocking new health frontiers. Architecture & engineering physics are joining forces to redesign our cities for resilience. So, stay at the intersection. Learn computer science, but also data ethics. Dive into AI, but also understand human behavior. Combine economics with machine learning, or civil engineering with climate tech. These are human opportunities - and they're yours to build.

SAMSUNG INNOVATION CAMPUS : AN EXPERIENCE

The Samsung Innovation Campus held at our college was more than just a training program - it was the beginning of an exciting journey into the world of tech and innovation. Over 30 days, we dived into the basics of Python programming, learning to think logically and solve problems with code.

What followed was a team-based hackathon - that challenged us to apply what we had learned in creative ways. From our college, 10 students were shortlisted for a national-level online quiz, open to students from across the country. I was glad to clear the quiz and move forward to the telephonic interview round. After this, I received an invitation to Delhi for the final phase - an experience I'll never forget. Alongside seven other selected students from different states, I had the chance to visit Samsung's state-of-the-art labs and innovation centers, some of which are usually off-limits to the public. The thrill of being inside such spaces, surrounded by cutting-edge technology, was unforgettable.

The most inspiring moment? Meeting the President of Samsung Asia, who flew in from Korea for the felicitation. The event wrapped up with thoughtful goodies and prizes, but more than anything, it left us with lasting memories, newfound inspiration, and a deeper understanding of what it means to innovate on a global scale.

— Suhani S Gaonkar, Batch 2027

SUCHARITA ON CAREER, CHALLENGES & CHANGE

Team Sampada: Can you walk us through your professional path and describe your current role for our readers?

Sucharita Prabhakar :   Hi, I'm a proud UVCE alumna and a Computer Science engineer who has stayed true to the field for 25+ years. I've grown through diverse roles in software engineering, and today I lead global technology teams as the Director at Cargill, driving solutions that nourish the world responsibly and sustainably.

Along the way, I've navigated the challenges of being a woman - and a young mother - in tech. I understand what it takes to stay the course, find your voice, and build a fulfilling career in a demanding industry.

I'm passionate about mentoring the next generation of engineers, especially women looking to thrive in tech leadership. Whether it's navigating career transitions, balancing personal and professional goals, or building technical depth with confidence - I'm here to help.

TS: What core strategies or defining moments have fueled your consistent and sustainable growth? Are there any memorable experiences from your time at UVCE that stand out?

SP: A few key strategies and learnings have guided me throughout:

• Consistency in effort: Showing up every day with intent and reliability built long-term trust and credibility.

• Commitment to learning: Staying curious and continuously upskilling - in both tech and leadership - kept me adaptable through change.

• Owning my growth: I created my own momentum by stepping up for challenges and not waiting for the perfect role or title.

• Resilience through challenges: Being a woman and young mother in tech came with hurdles, but those moments built confidence, empathy, and clarity of purpose.

• Investing in people: I've grown through strong peer networks, mentors, and inclusive teams - collaboration has always been key.

It all began at UVCE, where I built not just my technical foundation, but also the confidence to speak up, stay resourceful & embrace every opportunity - no matter how uncertain.

TS: What are the major trends you're witnessing within your company or team, and how are they influencing your future initiatives?

SP: Cargill is expanding its Bengaluru Global Capability Centre (GCC), staffing 500 more data engineering, analytics, and AI roles to reduce dependence on outsourcing and enhance internal capabilities

The India-based AI team supports advanced R&D and customer experience, helping Cargill stay competitive in a fast-moving tech environment. Cargill is deploying precision tools like drones for livestock monitoring, AI-powered gut health diagnostics in poultry (Galleon™), and plant-based feed innovations using fermentation. These applications support decision-making on farms and customer insights downstream.

To comply with global standards such as the EU Deforestation Regulation, Cargill uses satellite data, blockchain-enabled traceability platforms (e.g. TRACT), and AI-based geolocation tools to monitor supply chain compliance.

TS: What should the recent graduates who step into the current technology industry or your relevant domain expect ?

SP: I would like to keep it very simple - Master fundamentals – tools change, core skills stay.

• Stay relevant – learn AI basics, cloud, and emerging tech.

• Keep learning – upskill every few months.

• Communicate well – clarity beats jargon.

• Be adaptable – use every role as a stepping stone.

IN TALKS WITH PRADEEP NAGARAJ

Team Sampada: Tell us a little about yourself - what's your professional journey been like, and what are you working on now?

Pradeep Nagaraj: I graduated from UVCE with a Bachelors degree in ECE in 1998. Currently I am a Group Director, Product Engineering at Cadence Design Systems and reside in Cupertino, CA. During my final year in UVCE, I focused on VLSI Design as core competency and then pursued my Masters in CSE at State University of New York at Buffalo where my research was in Memory Fault Models and testing. Over the last 25 years of my career, I have continued to remain in VLSI with an emphasis on Design For Test (DFT) and have been in various roles in Design, Methodology, Implementation at Qualcomm, Cadence, Intel, AMD & Apple.

In my current role, I manage the Cadence DFT Product, Modus and with focus on Product & Business Development.

TS: What are some of the memorable experiences from your time at UVCE that stand out?

PN: The opportunities that UVCE has provided to me over my four years in terms of education, freedom to explore & learn and especially granting me a fellowship to be part of the VLSI Design community in my final year has shaped my career. My professors Dr. Shivshankar & Dr. Gurumurty, who guided me both in my education but also through my internship have helped lay the foundation for building a strong work ethic and a desire to remain curious and to treat each and every success and failure as an opportunity to learn.

TS: What key innovations or transformations are underway in your organization, and how do you see them evolving in the near future?

PN: Cadence is an EDA (Electronic Design Automation) company that provides software to design complex chips and is used by every major semi-conductor company in the world. Currently at Cadence and in my product, Modus, we are focused on introducing AI to help our users develop and verify their chip designs much faster and achieve better time to market. We are introducing Optimization AI, Conversational LLMs and moving towards Agentic AI.

With Optimization AI, the goal is to speed up core/kernel technologies that drive the product to help achieve better QOR (Quality of Results) and drive much better PPA (Power Performance Area) metrics.

With Conversational LLM or Chatbot Agents, we are providing users to get quick help and to gain better insights into the design they are working on. With Agentic AI, we are going to collaborate across different product groups to work together to help companies achieve a faster Spec to Silicon timeline.

TS: With the current exponential growth of AI across all domains, what are your expectations and predictions for the industry(domain you are currently working in)?

PN: In the semiconductor industry, AI is still in its early stages and there is tremendous opportunity to incorporate it into chip design and manufacturing. Chip design and the softwares that are used in the process are extremely complex with some designs taking 2-3 years to get into manufacturing. So there is always pressure to get things right as any mistakes could become cost prohibitive. Utilizing AI to assist in development and verification would help in reducing the mistakes and more importantly get products out of the market much quicker.

TS: What should the recent graduates who step into the current technology industry or your relevant domain expect ?

PN: There is a need in my industry who knows both software and hardware design. Graduates who focus on this are extremely valuable in R&D heavy organizations like Cadence as we tend to solve really complex and large problems. My advice to new graduates would be to continue to develop strong foundational skills while keeping abreast of latest trends and technologies and always be curious and look for opportunities to learn something new everyday.

TEAM: Varsha Rao (4thsem AIML), Anupama Hegde, Adrian P Isaac, Varsha Bhat, Chitra S Reddy, Meghashree G, Satish A G & SriHarsha D V (VisionUVCE Team)