

ECHO

Roots & Routes



(For Private Circulation Only)

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Dr K.L.Narayana
Director
ICFAI Tech, Hyderabad

Message from the Director

Dear Readers,

The warmth and affection received by our Alumni Magazine, ECHO, are truly humbling and can be largely attributed to our generous alumni who continue to contribute their invaluable articles and experiences to the magazine. The progress ECHO has made in reaching a wider section of our alumni and connecting them with our students has had a far-reaching impact. The incredible journeys of our alumni, their career achievements, motivation, and insightful advice have inspired our students and faculty alike, while also instilling a deep sense of pride in the institution.

Our alumni are undoubtedly a great source of motivation for our students. By sharing their success stories and the paths they have taken to establish themselves in their chosen professions, they provide our young students with valuable guidance, encouragement, and mentorship. This is a meaningful contribution to the growth and development of our students.

An institution truly thrives through a close and enduring association with its alumni. By coming together with a shared goal of nurturing talent, guiding young minds, and helping students find their place in the professions of their choice, we can create a stronger and more vibrant academic community.

I am hopeful that this new edition of ECHO will once again bring forth inspiring stories and enriching experiences from our alumni, helping our students shape their goals and aspirations. I am confident that ECHO will continue to strengthen the bond between students, alumni, and the institution, and grow further as a valued and cherished part of campus life.

I wish the entire ECHO team every success in its endeavour and hope that the magazine continues to flourish and remain a regular and vibrant feature of campus life.

My best wishes to the entire ECHO team.

EDITORIAL



Dr Digvijay Vishwanathan Nair
Faculty, Incharge Alumni Relations Cell
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Alumni are the backbone and strength of every successful institution on which is build a legacy and name. The bonding between institution and the alumni is inseparable and strong. It can be any field ranging from academics, curriculum, industry support and talent-nurturing Alumni is always willing and ready to play constructive role contributing to growth of the institution in several different ways. One such initiative of connecting institution, students and alumni is the periodical magazine 'ECHO,(Roots & Routes)'. The success of alumni magazine, 'ECHO', has largely spurred the campus and the student minds. Inspiring them to aim big, work hard for realizing their goals, and become successful in profession. In this edition we again bring out stories reflecting the hard fought success, indomitable-spirit, at crossroads of career selection, choices and decisions to be made, balancing both career aspirations and work satisfaction. We begin with the story of Mr. Lokeshwar Peddigari, who nurtured a dream of becoming a chip-design engineer—to work in the fascinating world of millions of tiny silicon devices interconnected within compact chips, delivering exceptional performance and speed. His passion and determination took him to the University of Southern California, where he pursued his Master's degree in Electrical Engineering (VLSI). His hard work eventually led him to his dream destination—Google, Sunnyvale, where he joined as a Physical Design Engineer. In his inspiring account, Lokeshwar passionately recalls his initial days at Google as a Custom Circuit Intern, the challenges he encountered, and the countless hours he spent learning the intricacies of advanced chip design and layout. His perseverance, dedication, and willingness to continuously learn ultimately paved the way for him to progress to the role of a Design Engineer at Google. His journey is a testament to the power of dreaming big, working hard, and pursuing one's ambitions with passion and determination

We follow this with the insightful article by Mr. Goutham Toondla, who articulates the dilemma that many of us encounter at some stage of our lives while choosing a profession and shaping our careers. His thought-provoking article, "Career Conflict: Skills, Interest & Society," explores the crossroads at which we often find ourselves, torn between our interests, our skills, and the expectations of society. With remarkable clarity, he examines the potential pitfalls of giving undue preference to any one of these factors and guides the reader towards finding a meaningful balance among all three. He advocates a thoughtful approach to career selection—one that takes into account personal interests and abilities while remaining mindful of societal expectations.

This masterfully crafted article offers valuable perspectives on making prudent career choices and building a fulfilling professional life. It is particularly relevant to young readers and budding professionals, who stand to benefit immensely from

its insights as they navigate the important decisions that shape their careers and, ultimately, their lives.

Another distinguished alumna, Ms. Indu Vaddarapu, sets an inspiring example of hard work and perseverance. Her journey, from toiling in the sun to becoming a successful tech professional and pursuing an MBA, is a testament to her determination and commitment to continuous growth. She highlights the significant role that one's first job can play in shaping a career and influencing its trajectory in the long run. She also articulates the importance of being confident and presenting one's views and ideas clearly during team discussions and meetings.

Interestingly, she redefines what it truly means to be "confident." Being confident, she says, does not mean knowing everything; rather, it means being open and ready to learn new things. She encourages us not to shy away from mistakes, but to embrace them as stepping stones on the path to success. Her inspiring perspective is sure to act as a catalyst for our students, encouraging them to set higher aspirations, embrace challenges, keep learning, and strive for excellence in life.

Finally, we present the charismatic Mr. Jayant Rajwani, who seems to have retained the same charm and spirit of campus life. His thought-provoking article, "The Human in the Loop: Getting Hired in the Age

of the Machines We're Building," beautifully pieces together the significance of the human element in today's fast-paced world of automation and Artificial Intelligence.

He clearly articulates how one can remain relevant and irreplaceable by adapting to a world increasingly shaped by automation, rather than attempting to race against AI. With a delightful blend of humour and serious messaging, he reminds us that the key is not to compete with machines, but to recognise and strengthen the uniquely human qualities that machines cannot easily replace.

His engaging perspective offers an important message, particularly to young professionals entering a rapidly changing world of work: adapt, keep learning, and let technology work with you rather than against you.

We sincerely thank all our contributing alumni authors for sharing their valuable experiences, perspectives, and insights, and for enriching this edition of ECHO. Their stories remind us of the diverse journeys our alumni have undertaken and the many lessons they have gathered along the way. We look forward to their continued support and further strengthening of the bond between our alumni and the institution in the years to come.





ICFAI Tech provides quality education and training in the fields of science and technology

Programs offered @ ICFAI Tech

- ▶ B.Tech
- ▶ M.Tech
- ▶ B.Sc.
- ▶ BCA
- ▶ Ph.D (Full-time & Part-time) in Sciences

Body of Knowledge

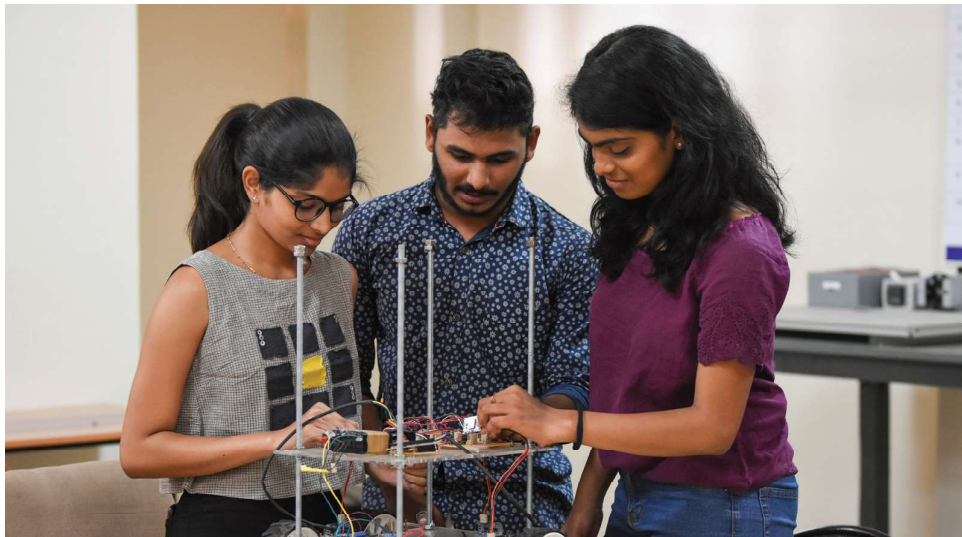
ICFAI Tech integrates into its learning system an innovative and emerging body of knowledge. The following are its highlights:

- ▶ Cutting-edge course curriculum capturing the contemporary and effective pedagogy, with emphasis on both fundamentals and applications.
- ▶ Encouraging students to not only articulate science and technology needs but also provide appropriate solutions.

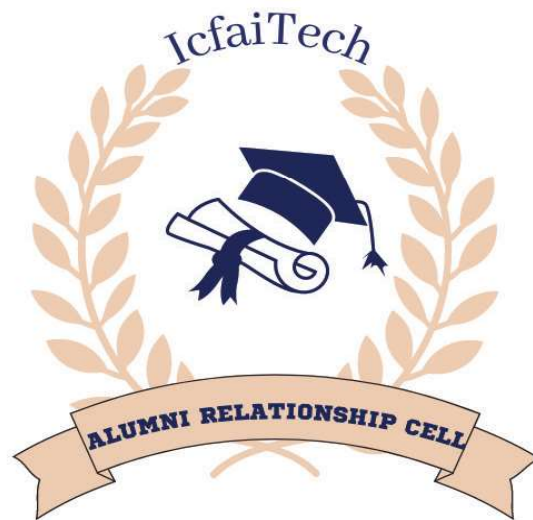
- ▶ Developing appreciation for synthesized multidisciplinary learning by way of internships, measurement techniques, workshop practices and other group learning assignments.

Objectives

- ▶ To acquire a reputation as a highly purposive, innovative institution setting the pace for workable reforms in professional education, suitable and most relevant for the Indian cultural milieu.
- ▶ To provide high-quality, cutting-edge and career-oriented education programs in science and technology, to student population across the country.
- ▶ To provide highly motivated and successful science and technology graduates to meet the current and projected needs of the knowledge-workforce.



IcfaiTech
Faculty of Science & Technology (FST)



Alumni Reflections

From Soldering Wires to Google Silicon: Engineering the AI Era



Lokeshwar Peddigari

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What It Truly Means to be an Engineer

What does it mean to be an engineer? It is far more than just passing exams or securing a degree. Being an engineer means being a relentless problem solver, a curious thinker, and a creator who bridges the gap between imagination and reality. It is about looking at the world, understanding how things work beneath the surface, and constantly asking, "How can I make this faster, smarter, and more efficient?"

As we mark the second anniversary of our alumni magazine, ECHO: Roots & Routes, it is a privilege to share my journey. ECHO generously provides a platform for alumni to share not only their professional achievements but also the challenges and raw realities that shaped their paths. Here is mine.

The Roots: My Journey at ICFAI Tech and the IP2 Reality Check

My path to the cutting edge of the tech industry began right where you are today. I completed my B.Tech at ICFAI Tech, and the foundation I built there was crucial. I owe a great deal of thanks to mentors like our then-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Bidyut Bhattacharya, alongside my professors, Prof. Dr. Rajesh Kumar Jha and Asst. Prof. Akhendra Kumar, who encouraged me to look beyond textbooks.

However, I want to be honest with you: my early internships were not secured through campus placements. I found them through persistent applications to companies and by actively networking on LinkedIn.

Here is a candid anecdote that shifted my entire perspective. For my final IP2 (Internship Program 2), I was placed by the college at a company whose

website boasted exciting requirements like C++, embedded systems, and CAD software. The reality? For six months, I was stuck cleaning PCBs and soldering wires.

Realizing I wasn't learning anything that would advance my career, I requested to move out of the IP2 program to write a Research Thesis instead—something that would genuinely help me learn and grow. My request was denied. The IP2 process followed a structured curriculum requirement, which did not always align with the kind of technical learning and research exposure I was seeking at that stage. Instead of letting it defeat me, that sheer frustration fuelled me. It became the ultimate catalyst. Knowing I needed world-class guidance to achieve my dreams, I applied to the University of Southern California (USC) Viterbi School of Engineering—consistently ranked among the top 10 VLSI universities in the world.

The Leap: From USC Viterbi to Google

USC was a crucible that refined my skills, validated my grit, and deepened my focus on Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI). The abrasive experiences from my undergrad days taught me a vital lesson: you need to polish your own life to shine.

My professional career officially launched when I secured a role as a Custom Circuit Intern at Google. Through relentless hard work and a drive to master complex architectures, that internship converted into a full-time role as a Physical Design Engineer.

Today, I work at the absolute forefront of the most important technological invention of our time: Artificial Intelligence. People often think of AI purely as software algorithms, but without custom silicon, AI is just math on paper. As a silicon engineer, my work forms the physical hardware backbone that actually trains and runs these massive neural networks. My most recognizable recent contribution was being part of the engineering team that built the Google 8T TPU (Tensor Processing Unit) chip. This high-performance silicon engine is specifically designed to accelerate massive matrix multiplications, powering the next generation of Gemini models and supporting the AI workloads of Google's global partners.

Looking back at my IP2 days of soldering wires, the contrast is staggering. The moral of the story is simple: do not wait for the college to hand you opportunities. Keep applying outside, find mentors who actually push you, and pave your own way.

Demystifying VLSI: The Hardware Magic Keeping AI Alive

For those intrigued by how your smartphone processes 4K video seamlessly, or how Google's TPUs

handle trillions of AI parameters in milliseconds—welcome to the world of VLSI.

In the AI era, traditional general-purpose CPUs are no longer enough. Generative AI requires executing millions of parallel mathematical operations. To do this efficiently without drawing massive amounts of power, we build highly specialized custom silicon (ASICs).

Mastering VLSI is a beautiful paradox. It requires immense discipline to navigate billions of microscopic transistors at the nanometer scale without making a single error. It can feel like walking through fire, but if you have the curiosity, it becomes an exhilarating, high-stakes puzzle. Creating a modern chip is divided into highly specialized domains:

- **Design Architecture & RTL:** This is where the chip's logical "brain" is defined. RTL (Register-Transfer Level) engineers write behavioral logic code using Verilog or SystemVerilog, designing the massive Multiply-Accumulate (MAC) units that make AI math so fast.
- **Verification:** Functional Verification engineers use frameworks like UVM to mathematically ensure the RTL code behaves perfectly under every conceivable scenario. Catching a software bug costs a few hours; a hardware bug making it to manufacturing is a multi-million-dollar failure.
- **DFT (Design for Test):** You cannot physically probe a microscopic transistor once a chip is manufactured. DFT engineers insert specialized testing logic (like scan chains) into the design so the silicon can self-diagnose physical manufacturing defects quickly and reliably.
- **PD (Physical Design):** This is my domain. We take the logical gates and convert them into a physical geometric layout. On modern AI chips (built on 5nm, 3nm, or even 2nm nodes), this involves floorplanning, placing billions of transistors, and routing microscopic wires. We constantly battle the laws of physics to optimize PPA (Power, Performance, and Area)—preventing the chip from melting down from extreme heat while ensuring data travels near the speed of light.
- **STA (Static Timing Analysis):** Think of this as traffic control for data. STA engineers mathematically prove that electrical signals arrive at their destinations at the exact right picosecond. If a signal arrives too late (Setup violation) or too early (Hold violation), the chip crashes. STA ensures safe operation at target frequencies of multiple Gigahertz.
- **PV (Physical Verification) & Tapeout:** Before manufacturing, the layout undergoes strict Design

Rule Checking (DRC) and Layout Versus Schematic (LVS) checks to ensure the foundry (like TSMC or Samsung) can actually print it. The final, glorious moment when the digital database (GDSII format) is sent to the fab is known as Tapeout.

Market Analysis: A Golden Era for Silicon Engineers

There has never been a better time to be a VLSI engineer. The semiconductor industry is experiencing unprecedented growth:

- ▶ **The Global Boom:** Fueled by the massive computing demands of generative AI and data centers, the worldwide semiconductor market is scaling rapidly and is projected to cross the USD 1 trillion milestone within the next few years.
- ▶ **The Indian Opportunity:** India is aggressively positioning itself as a global semiconductor hub. Driven by the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and heavy global investments, the Indian semiconductor market is projected to reach USD 120 billion by 2030 and an astounding USD 300 billion by 2035. This translates directly to sky-high demand for skilled VLSI engineers locally.

Actionable Advice: A Blueprint to Start Your VLSI Journey

If you want to break into the VLSI industry, reading textbook theory is not enough. You need to prove you can build hardware. Here is my direct, step-by-step advice for students to start building a career today:

1. Master the Core Fundamentals (The Interview Gatekeepers)

Before touching complex software, master the basics. Over 90% of entry-level VLSI interviews test you heavily on Digital Electronics. You must deeply understand CMOS logic, Finite State Machines (FSMs), RC delay, setup/hold time concepts, and basic computer architecture.

2. Learn to Speak the Language (Linux & Scripting)

A great VLSI engineer rarely clicks buttons in a GUI; they automate complex billion-transistor workflows.

The entire semiconductor industry runs on Linux. Learn basic Linux terminal commands and master Tcl (Tool Command Language)—the universal scripting language used by industry EDA tools. Supplement this with Python or Perl for data parsing.

3. Build a Public “Hardware Portfolio”

Software engineers have GitHub to show off their code. Hardware engineers need a portfolio too. Don't just build a basic calculator. Write RTL code for a simple RISC-V processor, an SRAM memory block, or an AI MAC unit. Push your code, testbenches, and timing reports to a public GitHub repository to show recruiters exactly what you are capable of.

4. Embrace the Open-Source Silicon Revolution

If you don't have access to expensive commercial tools at home, you have no excuse. The open-source VLSI community is booming. Use tools like OpenLane, Yosys, and the Google SkyWater 130nm open-source PDK. You can now execute a complete RTL-to-GDSII physical flow on your personal laptop entirely for free.

5. Maximize the Campus VLSI Lab

ICFAI Tech has a VLSI lab equipped with incredibly powerful resources. Do not let it sit idle. Spend your evenings and weekends there. Build out-of-curriculum projects using industry-standard tools: Cadence Innovus or Synopsys Fusion Compiler (FC) for Physical Design, and Siemens Tessent for DFT. Having real tool experience will put you miles ahead of the competition.

6. Network with Intent

Stop waiting for campus placement drives. Apply directly on company career portals for internships and entry-level roles. Set up a professional LinkedIn profile today. Start sending cold messages to Physical Design and Verification engineers at companies you admire, share a link to your project portfolio, and ask for informational interviews or guidance.

Your college provides the roots, but you must build the routes. Stay curious, embrace the abrasive experiences, and do not be afraid to walk through the fire to build the future of silicon.



Goutham Toondla

ICFAITECH-Hyd, B.Tech Mechanical (2013-17 batch)
Co-founder @ Inwesol | Ex HDFC LTD | Digital
Marketer | Graphic Designer
Portrait sketch artist | Love to dance

When I was in college, I thought choosing a career was a straightforward decision. We study a degree, develop the required skills, get a job, gain experience and grow. At that stage, career seemed like a destination we had to choose.

With some years of experience behind me, I have started looking at it differently. A career is not always a straight line, and choosing one is not always about finding the "right" answer. Sometimes, the real challenge is understanding ourselves while navigating the expectations of the world around us.

I do not want to write about a particular technology, tool or industry. Knowledge is everywhere today, and almost any skill can be learnt with enough curiosity and effort. Instead, I want to share something I have experienced personally: the conflict between what we are good at, what we enjoy, and what society expects us to become.

What Am I Good At?

College teaches us to build skills. We study subjects, complete projects, attend internships and prepare ourselves to become employable. Naturally, we begin to identify ourselves with what we are good at.

If you are good at mathematics, perhaps you should become an engineer. If you communicate well, perhaps management is the right path. If you are good with technology, perhaps you should become

a software professional.

There is nothing wrong with this approach. Skills matter. They create opportunities and give us the capability to contribute.

But there is an important distinction I have learned through experience:

Being good at something does not necessarily mean you want to spend your life doing it.

You can be capable of doing something without being deeply interested in it. Moreover, sometimes, we mistake capability for calling.

Over the years, I have worked in marketing agency, financial services, ventured restaurant business, researched on career decision making, co-founded a startup on career coaching with our brilliant psychology and tech team. Each experience gave me new skills and perspectives.

However, along the way, I also discovered something that does not necessarily appear on a resume: I enjoy creating.

I enjoy graphic design. I enjoy sketching. I teach portrait sketching. There are moments when I can sit with a blank sheet of paper and become completely absorbed in creating something.

There is no designation, target or performance review attached to it. There is simply the satisfaction of turning an idea into something visible.

That made me realize that a skill can tell us what we can do, but it doesn't always tell us what makes us feel alive.

What Do I Actually Enjoy?

Interest is a complicated thing because it changes.

Our interests are influenced by our age, experiences, people around us, trends and even our circumstances. Something that excites us at 18 may not excite us at 25. Something we discover later may have been quietly present in us for years.

This is why I believe exploration is important, especially during college.

Exploration does not necessarily mean changing your career direction every few months. It can be much simpler. Build something. Write something. Design something. Teach something. Attend an event outside your field. Talk to someone working in an industry you know nothing about. Try a project simply because you are curious.

Sometimes you discover something you love.

Sometimes you discover that something you thought you would love isn't actually for you.

Both are useful.

We often think that we should first know what we are interested in and then pursue it. My experience has made me think the opposite can also be true.

Sometimes interest is not something you find by thinking about it. You discover it by doing.

Then Comes Society

This is where career decisions become much more complicated.

We don't choose careers in isolation. Our decisions are influenced by family, friends, teachers, social media, economic realities and the people around us.

We constantly hear advice:

"Take this course."

"Learn this skill."

"This industry has a future."

"Get a job in a good company."

"Start a business."

"Go abroad."

"Choose something stable."

Much of this advice comes from good intentions. Parents want security for their children. Teachers want students to have good careers. Friends share what they know.

The problem is not that this information is necessarily wrong.

The problem is that no single career path can guarantee a fulfilling life for everyone.

A subject may be something you are good at, but it may not fit the life you want. A profession may be highly respected, but it may not suit your personality. A career may offer an excellent salary, but the environment may not allow you to thrive.

Sometimes, the most difficult expectations are not the ones others place on us.

They are the ones we eventually place on ourselves.

The Pressure to Become "Something"

I think one of the biggest traps for young people is the pressure to become something.

An engineer.

A doctor.

An MBA.

An entrepreneur.

A consultant.

A software developer.

A manager.

We start believing that our job title is our identity.

But a human being is much larger than a designation.

You can be an engineer and an artist. You can work in a company and still build something of your own. You can be a manager and a dancer. You can be an entrepreneur and still want stability at a certain stage of your life.

You can also change.

A decision that made complete sense at 21 may not make the same sense at 28. That does not automatically mean the earlier decision was wrong. It may simply mean you have changed because you have experienced more of life.

A career is an important part of our life, but it does not have to become our entire identity.

Finding the Intersection

So, what should we choose?

I don't have a perfect formula. In fact, perhaps the most honest thing I can say as an alumnus is that I am still learning this myself.

But I have started thinking about careers as an intersection of three things:

Skill — What can I become good at?

Interest — What do I genuinely enjoy exploring?

Society — What does the world need and value?

The answer may not be perfectly balanced.

Sometimes, we may choose stability over interest. Sometimes, we may pursue an interest and accept uncertainty. Sometimes, a job may provide financial stability while another part of our life gives us creative expression.

The important thing is to become conscious of the choices we are making.

Instead of asking only, "What career should I choose?," perhaps we should also ask, "What kind of life am I trying to build?"

To the Student Reading This

You don't need to have your entire life figured out when you graduate.

Build skills. Become good at something. Understand the industry you want to enter. Learn the tools that can make you valuable. Understand what the world needs.

But alongside all of that, spend some time understanding yourself.

Ask:

What kind of work gives me energy?

What kind of environment allows me to do my best work?

What am I curious about even when nobody asks me to learn it?

What kind of life do I want outside my job?

And perhaps the most important question:

Am I choosing this because I genuinely want it, or because I have been told that I should want it?

Don't be afraid of exploration.

You don't need to change direction every time you discover something new. But you also don't need to remain on a path simply because you chose it years ago.

Your first career decision does not have to become a life sentence.

You are allowed to learn. You are allowed to change. You are allowed to discover new parts of yourself.

Perhaps a career is not really about finding the one thing you are "meant" to do.

Perhaps it is about discovering who you are, understanding what the world needs, and gradually building a life where the two can meet.

And maybe that is not a conflict to be solved once and for all, but a journey to be understood as we grow.

From ICFAI Classrooms to the Corporate World: Learning, Leading and Evolving



Indu Vaddarapu

*Murex SQL Developer, DBS Bank, Hyderabad
(2022-Present)*

*IcfaiTech-Hyd B.Tech. Computer Science and
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(IBS, Hyderabad 2022-2024)*

A journey from being an ICFAI student to becoming a Murex SQL Developer at DBS Bank, pursuing an MBA alongside my career, and continuously building myself for the future.

Where It All Began: ICFAI

When I look back at my days at ICFAI Tech Hyderabad, I remember them as one of the most memorable phases of my life. The friendships, conversations, events, projects, campus experiences and countless moments of learning made my college journey truly special. My B.Tech years were not only about academics, they were also about discovering my strengths, building foundation and developing the confidence to take on new opportunities.

My B.Tech journey at ICFAI gave me a strong foundation and more importantly, an environment where I could learn, explore and develop as an individual. The classroom taught me concepts, but college life taught me much more, how to collaborate, communicate, take responsibility, work with different people and to step forward when opportunities come my way.

As I look back today, I realise that those experiences were not separate from my professional journey. They became the foundation on which I built my career.

2022: A New Chapter Begins

The year 2022 marked a significant turning point in my journey. I joined DBS Bank as a Murex SQL Developer, beginning my professional career in the corporate world. At the same time, I made another important decision — I joined ICFAI once again to pursue my MBA, while continuing my full time career.

So, 2022 became a year where I stepped into two worlds simultaneously: the corporate world as a professional and the academic world as an MBA student.

Balancing both was challenging, but it was also

one of the most rewarding experiences of my journey. I was learning technology and solving real world problems at work while simultaneously learning about business, management, strategy and leadership through my MBA.

The experience gave me an opportunity to connect classroom concepts with real professional situations. Discussions around business, management and strategy became much more meaningful because I could relate them to situations I was experiencing in my career.

I completed my MBA in 2024 while continuing my professional journey at DBS Bank. Looking back, I am proud that I chose to challenge myself in both areas at the same time.

It taught me an important lesson:

Don't limit yourself to one goal at a time. With consistency, discipline and good time management, you can work towards multiple goals together.

How to Ace Your First Job

Getting your first job is a major achievement, but getting the job is only the beginning. Your first few months can shape the professional habits that stay with you for years.

When you enter your first organisation, don't focus only on proving how much you know. Focus on learning how the organisation works. Understand your role, observe how experienced professionals handle situations, learn how your team communicates and understand the larger purpose behind the work you are doing.

Be curious. Ask questions. Take notes. Be dependable. If you commit to something, make every effort to deliver it. If you encounter a challenge or expect a delay, communicate it early.

Take ownership even when something falls slightly outside your comfort zone. Volunteer for opportunities that help you learn. A presentation, a challenging project, a new technology or a responsibility that initially feels uncomfortable can become one of your biggest learning experiences.

Your first job is also where you begin building your professional reputation. People remember colleagues who are reliable, respectful, positive, willing to learn and comfortable working with others.

Your first job is not just where you earn your first salary. It is where you begin building the professional version of yourself.

Interview Preparation: Go Beyond Technical Knowledge

For students preparing for placements and interviews, technical preparation is essential, but it shouldn't be the only preparation.

Start by understanding the role you are applying for.

Research the organisation and understand what skills the position requires. Know your resume in depth. Anything you mention on your resume should be something you can confidently explain.

If you have completed a project, don't simply memorise the project description. Understand the problem you solved, your specific contribution, the challenges you encountered and what you learned from the experience.

Prepare for behavioural questions as seriously as technical questions. Be ready to talk about your strengths, challenges, teamwork experiences, leadership moments, failures and lessons learned.

The goal isn't to memorise perfect answers. The goal is to become comfortable expressing your thoughts.

An interviewer is not only evaluating what you know. They are also observing how you think, communicate, handle pressure and respond when you don't know something.

Confidence Is a Career Skill:

One of the biggest lessons my professional journey has taught me is the importance of confidence.

Confidence doesn't mean being the loudest person in the room. It doesn't mean believing you know more than everyone else.

Professional confidence means being able to express your thoughts clearly, ask questions, share ideas, accept feedback and respectfully communicate when you have a different perspective.

There will be meetings where you have an idea but hesitate to speak. There will be conversations with senior professionals where you may feel nervous. There will be situations where you need to explain a mistake or defend your approach.

These moments build you.

The more you participate, present, communicate and step outside your comfort zone, the stronger your confidence becomes.

Confidence is not about knowing everything. It is about trusting yourself enough to learn what you don't know.

Soft Skills Are Career Skills:

Technical skills may help you get an opportunity, but soft skills often determine how effectively you grow within that opportunity.

Communication, teamwork, listening, emotional intelligence, adaptability, time management, problem solving and professional etiquette are skills that every student should consciously develop.

The corporate world brings together people with different personalities, experiences and ways of thinking. Not everyone will agree with you. Not everyone will approach a problem the same way.

Learning to work effectively with different people is a major part of professional growth.

Listen before responding. Learn to disagree respectfully. Give credit to others. Accept constructive feedback. Ask for help when necessary. Communicate clearly and treat people with respect.

Your technical skills may get you into an organisation, but your attitude, communication and people skills can influence how far you go.

Artificial Intelligence: The Technology shaping the world around us

AI Is Changing the Way We Work

Artificial Intelligence is no longer just a concept of the future. AI is reshaping the way businesses operate, how people work, and how new technologies are developed. From banking and healthcare to education, marketing and entertainment, organisations across the world are using AI to improve efficiency, make better decisions and create new possibilities.

Why It Matters in IT

For students planning to enter the IT industry, understanding AI is becoming increasingly important. AI is transforming areas such as software development, testing, data analysis, automation and customer solutions. The ability to understand AI and use it alongside your existing technical and business skills can give you an important advantage in a rapidly changing industry.

Go Beyond Just Using AI

My advice to students is to not limit AI to simply asking questions or completing tasks. Explore how it works, experiment with different tools and understand how it can solve real world problems. Try building small projects, automating repetitive tasks or finding ways to apply AI to the field you are studying.

Start Learning Today

You don't need to become an AI expert overnight. Start small, stay curious and keep experimenting. Technology will continue to evolve, and the ability to learn, adapt and make the most of new technologies will be one of the most valuable skills you can develop.

The students who start exploring AI today will be better prepared to shape the opportunities of tomorrow.

What I Wish Every Student Would Remember

To Every Student Reading This

If you are currently sitting in an ICFAI classroom, enjoy this phase of your life. Make memories. Build friendships. Participate. Explore. Learn. Take part in activities that push you outside your comfort zone.

But while you are enjoying college, also prepare yourself for the world beyond it.

Build a strong technical foundation. Prepare seriously for interviews. Work on your communication and soft skills. Develop confidence. Learn how to interact with people and express your ideas clearly. Build genuine professional relationships and start networking early.

Take internships and projects seriously. Participate in presentations. Speak up in discussions. Ask questions. Volunteer for opportunities that challenge you.

And in today's rapidly changing world, pay special attention to AI and emerging technologies.

Don't just consume technology — experiment with it. Learn how AI is transforming industries. Explore new tools. Build small projects. Understand how technology can solve real world problems.

You don't have to become an expert overnight. What matters is starting early, staying curious and continuing to build.

Today, I still consider myself a learner.

There are new technologies to understand, new skills to develop, new challenges to take on and new goals to pursue.

And that is what makes the journey exciting.

Looking back, I realise that success was never one particular achievement. It was the person I became through every experience along the way.

My journey is still continuing, and I believe that is the most exciting part. To every student reading this, I would leave you with one thought:

Your degree may be the beginning of your career, but your curiosity, confidence, ability to work with people, willingness to learn and courage to build something new will shape everything that comes after it.

Keep learning.

Keep building.

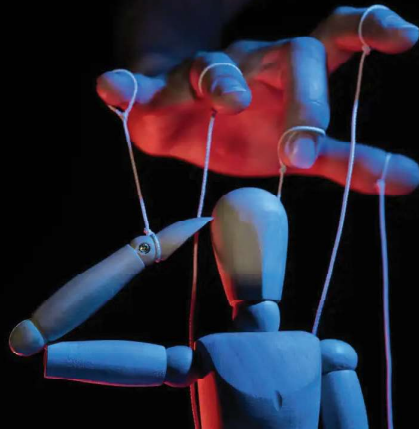
Keep connecting.

Keep evolving.

Your best chapter may still be ahead.

The Human in the Loop

Getting hired in the age of the machines we're building



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Let me begin with a small confession.

For most of the last decade, I have been building the very thing many of us are quietly nervous about. Automation. Bots. RPA. And more recently, agentic AI — software that doesn't just answer a question but actually goes off and does the work: raises the ticket, updates the record, routes the approval, waits overnight, and picks the task back up the next morning. I've shipped these platforms at ServiceNow, SnapLogic and LatentBridge, and today I'm building an AI workflow studio at Simplr that lets HR, IT and business teams hand entire processes over to software.

So when a student asks me — half-joking, half-worried — “Will AI take our jobs?”, I feel I owe an honest answer, because I've seen these systems from the engine room.

Here is that answer, and it happens to be the most hopeful thing I know: in almost every serious system I have ever built, the cleverest part was never the automation. It was the moment we designed for the machine to stop, raise its hand, and call a human.

We even have a name for it. We call it the human in the loop.

Think about what actually gets automated. The repetitive, well-defined, do-it-the-same-way-every-time tasks — those go to the bots, and honestly, they should. But the moment a document looks unusual, a number seems wrong, a customer is upset, a decision carries real risk, or the rules simply don't cover the situation, a good system is built to pause and hand that case to a person. When I was on the founding team at Intellibot (later acquired by ServiceNow), we spent most of our energy not on the automation itself, but on designing the review queues, the approval flows, and the exception handling — the careful choreography of how software safely hands off to people. The unglamorous truth of this industry is that we pour enormous effort into deciding when to get out of the human's way.

Now flip that around and read it as career advice.

The work that survives — in fact, the work that becomes more valuable as automation spreads — is exactly the work the machine hands off. Judgment. Handling the exception. Earning trust. Talking to a real, frustrated human being. Deciding what should be done, not just what can be done. If you spend your career trying to beat the computer at what the computer is good at — speed, memory, tireless repetition — you will lose, and you'll be miserable losing. But if you aim to be the person the system escalates to, you become valuable in a way no model can copy.

So my first piece of advice is almost philosophical: don't train to compete with AI. Train to be the human in the loop. Get your fundamentals genuinely strong — data structures, systems, how things actually work under the hood — because you cannot exercise judgment over a black box you don't understand. Then layer on the things machines are still bad at: communication, ownership, curiosity, and the nerve to sit with an ambiguous problem without panicking.

But I'll be practical too, because before you can be anyone's valuable human, you have to get into the room. And here the story takes an ironic turn.

A machine reads your resume first

Here's something most students don't realise. Before a recruiter's eyes ever land on your CV, it usually passes through an Applicant Tracking System — software that parses your resume into structured fields, checks it against the role's must-haves, and quietly scores how closely you match the job description. In other words: to land the job where you'll finally be the valued human, you first have to get past a bot. I find that genuinely funny, and genuinely important.

What trips people up is one understandable mistake — sending the same resume to every job. I did it too, early on. A polished, generic, one-size-fits-all CV feels efficient. It's actually the least effective thing you can do, because it matches everything weakly and nothing strongly. A resume for a data role and a resume for a product role should not be the same document.

The fix is simple to say and tedious to do by hand: tailor your resume to each job description. Mirror the language the JD actually uses (if they wrote "REST APIs," don't write "web services"). Lead with the skills they asked for. Keep the structure clean and machine-readable — skip the fancy two-column graphics that parsers choke on. And before you hit apply, check honestly how well your resume matches that specific posting.

Doing all of this manually, for every application, is exhausting — which is exactly why I'm glad tools now exist to do the heavy lifting. Platforms like hirex360.com, for instance, let you build and structure a solid resume, then quickly adapt it for each role you apply to. You can paste in a job description, get an ATS-style match score, see exactly where your resume aligns with the JD and where it falls short, and get concrete suggestions on what to improve. It turns a vague, anxious guess — is my resume good enough? — into a clear, fixable checklist. Think of it as a way to read the machine before the machine reads you.

And once you're in the room

Getting shortlisted earns you the interview. What earns you the job — and what keeps you employable for the next thirty years — is being the kind of engineer worth handing hard problems to. A few things I'd tell my 2012 self:

Build things. One real project you can explain confidently opens more doors than a page of marks. And yes, use AI to learn faster — ask it to explain a concept three different ways, generate practice problems, review your code, act as a sparring partner. Just make sure that at the end, you can explain what you built without it. In interviews, I can usually tell within minutes whether someone learned with AI or hid behind it.

Stay curious on purpose. The specific tools will keep changing — they always have. When I graduated, "the cloud" was a curiosity; today it's the ground we stand on. What carries you across every shift isn't any single technology. It's the quiet habit of learning a little every day and refusing to be intimidated by whatever is new.

Keep the human parts sharp. In a world where raw competence is getting cheaper and more automatable by the month, the ability to communicate clearly, work well with people, take ownership, and be trusted with judgment is the rarest and most valuable thing you can offer.

One last thing

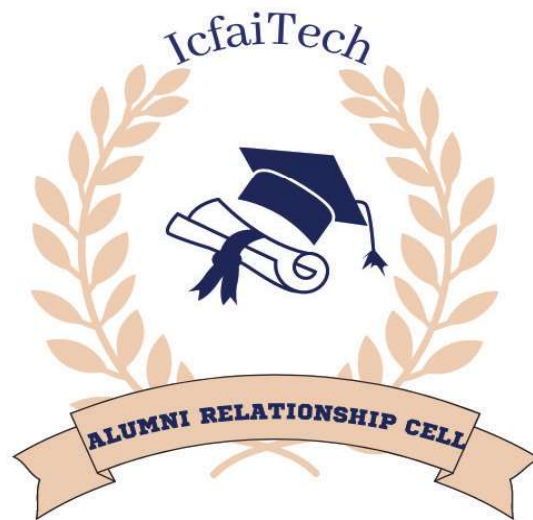
The most reassuring lesson I've taken from building these systems is this: we build them to know their limits. Every good automation is, at heart, a quiet admission of how much still depends on a thinking, caring human being. That human can be you.

So get your fundamentals right. Build something you're proud of. Tailor your resume, clear the bots, and walk into that room. Then do the work only a person can do.

The loop is waiting for you.

Wishing you all the very best on your journey.

IcfaiTech
Faculty of Science & Technology (FST)



ALUMNI MEET

28th March 2026

Reconnect'26

Celebrating Memories, Reconnecting Hearts



The Alumni Meet “Reconnect 2026” on 28th March 2026, was successfully organized by the Alumni Relations Cell (ARC), bringing together alumni, faculty members, and dignitaries for a heartwarming reunion. The event provided a wonderful platform to rekindle cherished memories, celebrate achievements, and strengthen the lifelong bond between ICFAITech Hyderabad and its alumni.

The gathering beautifully captured the essence of togetherness, nostalgia, and inspiration as alumni revisited their campus experiences and shared their journeys beyond campus. Engaging activities, insightful speeches, and vibrant performances added colour and energy to the celebrations, making the occasion truly memorable for everyone present.

Reconnect'26 blossomed into a celebration of memories and meaningful connections. From inspiring words to joyful performances, every moment reflected a shared sense of unity, pride, and belonging. Laughter echoed through the gathering, connections were rekindled, and hearts found their way back home.

As the day drew to a close with smiles, music, dance, and togetherness, it became more than just an event—it became a timeless reminder that the bond with ICFAI lives on, beyond time and distance.



Faculty Team

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Dr K Vivekananda

Dr H Sudheer

Dr Divya

Dr Pallavi Mishra

Student Team 2025-26

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Co-Student Secretary: **Bommidi Srikar Reddy**

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Social Media : **A R Sowndharya Lahari**

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Hosting : **Paramveer Singh**

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