

# SPECANCIENS

## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



Vol3.Issue1 - Apr 2023

### Best Alumni Award 2023

Tharun Teja, a 2013 graduate, has received the Best Alumni Award 2023 for his remarkable contributions to the SPEC alumni network. Known for his leadership, dedication, and positive impact. (cont. on pg 3)

### SPECANCIENS is Powering Up Your Future!

SPECANCIENS is transforming into more than an alumni network – it's your launching pad for success. With hands-on AI model projects and enhanced mentorship from seasoned alumni, alongside exciting internship and networking opportunities, leadership development, innovation, and ongoing learning are central to this new phase. Prepare to grow, lead, and excel with SPECANCIENS – your future deserves the finest start! This marks the beginning of an adventurous new journey. Stay tuned for more dynamic programs and events prioritized for your growth! (cont. on pg 4)

### Finding Purpose Beyond the Classroom: Sahithi's Journey of Passion

Sahithi, an ECE graduate from SPEC, discovered her true passion not just in academics but in mentoring students post-graduation. Initially drawn to electronics, her college experience was shaped by inspiring teachers and hands-on projects. After joining SPECANCIENS, Sahithi found fulfillment in guiding students and bridging the gap between college life and professional reality. Her advice: balance academics with personal growth, develop relevant skills, and make the most of college life for a future without regrets. (cont. on pg 6)



### Vaishnavi's SPECANCIENS Journey

Once a shy student, Vaishnavi discovered confidence, friendship, and growth through SPECANCIENS. Her story serves as a reminder that stepping out of your comfort zone can lead to unforgettable experiences and a lasting impact. (cont. on pg 5)

### Where Imagination Finds a Voice

Beyond events and achievements, SPECANCIENS celebrates the creative spirit of its members. Creative Corner brings poems, paintings, and sketches that reflect the thoughts, emotions, and stories of our vibrant student community. Reminding us that art, too, connects us all (cont. on pg 9)

### Networking Etiquette

#### Building connections that last

In today's fast-paced world, knowing how to connect is just as important as who you connect with. This edition shines a spotlight on the importance of networking etiquette—guiding students on how to engage meaningfully with alumni, professionals, and peers. It explores the subtle art of introducing yourself with confidence, asking thoughtful questions, actively listening, and following up with sincerity. Whether it's at a seminar, or even a LinkedIn message—good etiquette can turn a single moment into a lasting opportunity. (cont. on pg 8)

### EVENT SPOTLIGHT: MISA'23

The MISA'23 Mock Interviews by SPECANCIENS at St. Peter's Engineering College, held on September 14 and 21, prepared 401 students for job interviews through mock sessions, psychometric tests, and resume reviews. Industry experts provided feedback on communication, technical skills, and professionalism (cont. on pg 3)



# What It Takes to Belong in a Team: More Than Just Being Present

-Rimsha Sr. Associate, SA

Belonging to a team requires far more than simply attending meetings or completing assignments. True belonging means engaging emotionally, intellectually, and purposefully. In today's dynamic, interconnected workplaces, genuine participation — not just physical presence — drives success, innovation, and lasting professional relationships.

## **Deep Engagement in teamwork**

Teams are weakened when members contribute mechanically without passion or investment. True collaboration happens when individuals feel connected to the team's purpose, believe in its goals, and actively work to support both group success and individual growth. Successful teams thrive on thoughtful contributions, respectful communication, and mutual encouragement. Each member brings a distinctive voice and energy, making collaboration an enriching, vibrant experience.



## **The Vital Role of Trust**

Trust is the invisible glue that holds teams together. It grows from consistent, respectful behavior and a willingness to be vulnerable — admitting mistakes, asking for help, and giving honest feedback without fear. High-trust environments encourage creativity, risk-taking, and authentic collaboration.

Psychological safety, where every member feels safe expressing themselves without fear of ridicule, is crucial for any team aiming for extraordinary results.

## **A Two-Way Street**

True belonging isn't automatic; it must be cultivated from both sides. While individuals must engage sincerely and contribute meaningfully, teams must also create inclusive, welcoming spaces. Valuing different perspectives, embracing diversity, and encouraging every voice to be heard are essential to build strong, resilient teams.

## **Key Traits of Real Team Players**

Certain characteristics consistently distinguish individuals who truly belong:

- Proactive Communication: Sharing ideas openly, providing constructive feedback, and listening attentively build strong, transparent connections.
- Adaptability and Flexibility: Embracing change, stepping into different roles, and adjusting to shifting priorities strengthen the entire team's resilience.
- Empathy and Emotional Awareness: Recognizing when teammates need support, encouragement, or space creates a culture of understanding and trust.
- Accountability and Initiative: Owning responsibilities, meeting deadlines, and going extra mile reflect dedication and reliability.

Celebrating collective victories instead of only personal achievements fosters a positive, unified atmosphere where everyone feels valued.

## **Conclusion: Belonging with Purpose**

Belonging is about more than being present — it's about being present with intention. It's about showing up wholeheartedly, caring deeply about the team's mission, and contributing authentically. Teams that nurture true belonging unlock their greatest potential, building not just stronger projects but stronger professionals as well.

**Coming up next..... "Event Spotlight"**

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT: MISA'23 Mock Interviews

On 1st April 2023, SPECANCIENS successfully organized a Mock Interview exclusively for 3rd-year students from the CSE, AIML, and IT departments. The event was designed to simulate real corporate interview scenarios and better equip students for their placement journeys. The primary objective of the Mock Interview was to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world recruitment processes. The session aimed to provide third-year students with a firsthand experience of technical and HR interview rounds, helping them understand industry expectations and improve their personal presentation, technical articulation, and confidence levels.

Through structured mock interviews conducted by experienced professionals and alumni, the event sought to: Familiarize students with common interview formats and questioning styles, Highlight strengths and areas for



improvement through personalized feedback, Build students' confidence and communication skills under a formal setting, Prepare students early for upcoming internship and placement opportunities. The session brought together a panel of seasoned professionals and alumni, including Apoorva, Dinesh Raja, Shreya Valluri, Saurabh Madan, Sashidhar Kadambari, Syed Imran, Charan Tej, Vishnudev, Akhilesh Kumar, and Kaushik Shanker. Each panelist brought valuable insights from their respective fields, ensuring students received diverse perspectives during their interviews. The event was a significant step towards making students placement-ready and strengthening the bridge between academic learning and industry demands.

## Best Alumni Award 2023:

### Tharun Teja

We are proud to celebrate Tharun Teja for winning the Best Alumni Award. Since becoming a part of SPECANCIENS in 2013, Tharun has made a remarkable impact, strengthening the presence and reputation of the alumni association within the college. His cheerful and friendly demeanor makes him easily approachable, while his professionalism and work ethic set a high benchmark. Tharun's unwavering dedication and leadership continue to motivate both the alumni community and current students. Congratulations, Tharun, on this outstanding and well-deserved recognition!



## "Together We Can Make a Change"

-Dhruv Sr.Associate,SA

The world is vast and wide,  
But we're all connected inside.  
From the mountains to the sea,  
We're all part of one family.

We may have different faces,  
And come from different places.  
But deep down we're all the same,  
In this game called life we play.

So let's spread love and kindness,  
And leave hate and prejudice behind us.  
For together we can make a change,  
And create a world that's not so strange

## Get Ready: SPECANCIENS is Powering Up Your Future!



Hey St. Peter's students and alumni! SPECANCIENS, your connection hub, is gearing up for an exciting future, packed with opportunities designed for you. We've always been the bridge between classes past and present, but now we're building super highways to success!

What's coming? Get hands-on with the future through our "Futuristic AI Model Projects." This isn't just theory – you'll dive into cutting-edge AI, work on cool projects that make a real difference, and seriously boost your tech skills. Enhance your problem solving, sharper thinking, and a resume that stands out!

But that's not all. We're expanding the programs you love! Expect more mentorship opportunities connecting you directly with experienced alumni for tailored career advice and guidance. We're working to bring you even more internship leads and bigger, better flagship events for networking and learning. Behind the scenes, we're streamlining everything with better tech for smoother event experiences and communication. Plus, our leadership teams are working smarter together. Why? To make SPECANCIENS more than just meetups. We're becoming your launchpad – helping you develop leadership skills, spark innovative ideas, and keep learning long after graduation. Get involved and shape your future with SPECANCIENS!

### STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS



"We are proud to share that our former Board Member, **Kalle Akanksha** (Final Year, CSE), has secured the 1st rank in the Computer Science & Engineering department with an impressive CGPA of 9.23."



"We are proud to share that our former Associate Member, **Komatireddy Lahari** (2<sup>nd</sup> Year, AI & DS), has secured the 1st rank in the AI & ML department with an impressive CGPA of 8.95."

## A Heartfelt Farewell: In Conversation with Vaishnavi

### Q: HEY VAISHNAVI! LET'S DIVE RIGHT IN — HOW DID SPECANCIENS FIRST ENTER YOUR LIFE?

**Vaishnavi:** (grinning widely) It's funny when I think about it now. I honestly never imagined myself joining something like SPECANCIENS. Back then, I was the classic "stay in my own bubble" kind of person — attend classes, go home, maybe hang out with a few friends. I was comfortable, but after a while, I started feeling this strange emptiness. College was supposed to be more than just completing assignments, right? One day, a close friend practically dragged me to an event organized by SPECANCIENS. (laughs) I still remember walking in, expecting formal speeches and boring protocols.

Instead, what I found was pure energy — laughter, hustle, passion in every corner. It didn't feel intimidating; it felt alive. And something in me clicked. I thought, "Maybe it's time I step out of my comfort zone and try something different." That spontaneous decision honestly changed a big part of my college life.

### Q: What was your first memory of working with the team? How did you feel stepping into that space?

**Vaishnavi:** (smiling nostalgically) Oh, that first experience is still so vivid. I volunteered for an alumni guest interaction — it was a relatively small event, but for me, it felt like the Oscars. (laughs) The night before, I was overthinking every single thing — "What if an alumnus asks me a question and I blank out?" "What if I forget something important?" But the moment I walked in, all that fear started fading away. The seniors were incredible — they didn't just boss us around; they guided us patiently. They corrected our mistakes with kindness, not judgment. I realized that day that teamwork wasn't about competing with each other. It was about knowing that if you stumbled, there were ten other people ready to catch you and pull you forward. That spirit — that feeling of belonging — it stayed with me throughout my journey.

### Q: Were there moments when things didn't go as planned? How did you handle them?

**Vaishnavi:** (nodding) Oh, so many!

One event stands out clearly. I was part of the operations team for a major alumni meet. Everything was set — or so we thought. Just two hours before the event, we found out that half of our decor props hadn't arrived due to a supplier mess-up. I could literally feel the panic rising — not just in me, but across the team. But here's where SPECANCIENS magic kicked in: Nobody wasted time blaming. Nobody panicked visibly. Instead, we got to work — improvising decor from whatever was available, pulling out DIY hacks, reaching out to other college clubs for quick supplies. We were running, shouting instructions, coordinating frantically — but somehow, we were smiling too. When the guests arrived, they never guessed the chaos that had just happened behind the scenes. That's what SPECANCIENS teaches you silently — adaptability under pressure, and grace even when everything's on fire inside.



**Vaishnavi Singh** — Board Member

### Q: If you could sum up your SPECANCIENS journey in one feeling, what would it be?

**Vaishnavi:** (smiling warmly, eyes shining a little) Gratitude. Gratitude for the mentors who believed in me before I believed in myself.

Gratitude for the friends who became my biggest cheerleaders. Gratitude for every single challenge, because those moments built me far more than any easy success ever could. Whenever I look back at my college life, SPECANCIENS will always be one of the brightest parts.

### Q: Any words for those thinking about joining but feeling unsure?

**Vaishnavi:** (leaning forward, speaking sincerely) If you're waiting to feel "ready" — you'll wait forever. You don't need to be perfect. You don't even need to know exactly what you want.

You just need a little courage to show up — to step in, to try. Because once you do, I promise, SPECANCIENS will become the place where you don't just work — you grow, you stumble, you learn, and you become a version of yourself you'll be so proud of.

## **Finding Purpose Beyond the Classroom: Sahithi's Journey of Passion and Mentorship**

The journey through St. Peter's Engineering College (SPEC) often begins with a mix of planning and serendipity. For Sahithi, an Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) graduate, landing at SPEC through counselling wasn't her initial plan, but her path was guided by a clear passion. "My first preference was any reputed college offering the ECE branch because I was genuinely fascinated by electronics, circuits, and boards," she recalls, her enthusiasm for the subject still palpable. This innate curiosity became the bedrock of her experience.



**Sahithi V.** Joint Secretary

Within the walls of SPEC, Sahithi found her fascination nurtured, particularly in subjects like Microprocessors and Microcontrollers. She attributes this positive impact not just to the subject matter, but to the educators. "The faculty teaching these subjects explained everything very clearly and passionately," she shares. "I believe that when a teacher is truly passionate, a student's learning journey becomes much smoother and more enjoyable." This highlights a core memory – the power of inspired teaching. Sahithi navigated her academic life with remarkable proactiveness, often completing work ahead of schedule. Challenges arose, however, during practical applications like the mini-project, where initial guidance fell short of expectations.

Yet, resourcefulness prevailed. "Later, we found the right help, which helped us successfully complete the project," she notes, showcasing early resilience. Her time management was a blend of focus and balance: diligent attention in lectures ("about 60% of the subject could be grasped just by active listening"), timely completion of tasks, socializing during breaks, and starting exam preparations well in advance, ensuring a relaxed approach.

Interestingly, Sahithi's deep connection with the SPEC community truly blossomed after graduation. She wasn't part of SPECANIENS during her college years, unaware of the process.



Fate intervened in 2022 at an alumni event where a chance meeting with Tharun, the then-president, led to conversations about a vacancy. "Initially, I wasn't inspired to join SPECANIENS," she admits candidly, "but after becoming a part of it, I found inspiration from the incredible work they were doing." This post-graduation involvement filled an unexpected void. "After graduation, despite working and spending time with friends, I felt a vacuum – like something was missing," Sahithi reflects emotionally. "Joining SPECANIENS filled that gap." The act of giving back became transformative. "Helping students, guiding them about real-world corporate expectations, and mentoring them brought me immense satisfaction... Within six months, I realized that this work was not just a hobby – it became my passion. It gave me a sense of fulfillment and purpose."

This newfound passion underscores her strong belief in alumni relations. "Alumni relations are extremely important," she asserts. "Colleges mold your personality, but real-world experience and guidance often come from alumni... They act as a bridge between college life and professional reality." Drawing from her journey and observations, Sahithi offers pragmatic advice. She emphasizes the importance of cultivating personal interests outside academics – "at least one extra talent, hobby, or passion" – for lifelong balance. She also notes the "dramatic evolution" in industry expectations, pointing to the shift towards multi-stage hiring processes involving aptitude, coding, hackathons, and the critical role of ATS-compliant resumes. Her advice to students is clear: gain clarity by the third year, focus on relevant skills, practice consistently, network effectively, and meticulously align resumes with industry demands.

Sahithi's story is a powerful narrative about finding unexpected purpose and the enduring connection to one's alma mater. Her final message to the students and upcoming SPECANIENS members is a heartfelt call to embrace the entirety of the college experience:

**"There needs to be a balance. Students should focus on academics while also experimenting, gaining diverse experiences, and making the most of their college life. Whatever they do, they should give their 100%, because once B.Tech is over, there should be no regrets. College life is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for exploration, enjoyment, and growth."**

Sahithi's journey reminds us that learning, contribution, and finding passion are continuous processes, often leading us down fulfilling paths we never initially envisioned.

## Event Highlights



### **1. Interaction & Awareness Program for Third years On 21st Jan 2023**

St. Peter's Engineering College conducted an engaging Interaction & Awareness Program aimed at guiding third-year students from CSE, AIML, and IT departments.

Alumni speakers Sahithi V, Shashindar K, and Thakur Akshay Singh shared their college experiences, career journeys, and practical tips for academic and personal success. The session encouraged open dialogue, motivated students, and helped strengthen the connection between alumni and current students.

### **2. Hands-on workshop on RPA for 2nd year AI & DS students on 17th Feb 2023**

A practical workshop on Robotic Process Automation (RPA) was organized for second-year AI & DS students to introduce them to automation tools and industry applications.

Led by alumni Sankar Madhavan and Shashidhar K, the session provided hands-on training in RPA concepts, tool usage, and real-time process automation tasks. Students gained valuable exposure to automation workflows, boosting both their technical skills and industry readiness.



### **3. Mock Interviews - MISA23 FOR 3rd Years on 1st April 2023**

To equip third-year students from CSE, AIML, and IT with the skills needed for upcoming placement drives, SPECANIENS organized MISA'23 – a Mock Interview Workshop. The event featured alumni and industry professionals who conducted realistic one-on-one interviews, simulating actual hiring processes.

Students received personalized feedback on their technical abilities, communication, and interview presence, helping them gain confidence and improve their performance in real-world scenarios.



# Networking Etiquette: Communicating with Alumni and Industry Experts

Stepping into the professional world can feel like entering a buzzing, high-stakes networking event—except it never really ends. Whether you're eyeing internships, hunting for your first job, or just looking to build meaningful connections, knowing how to engage with alumni and industry experts is a game-changer. These conversations can unlock hidden opportunities, insider advice, and even mentorship—but only if you approach them the right way.

Here's how to make a lasting impression without coming off as pushy, awkward, or (worst of all) forgettable.



## 1. Start with a Strong First Impression

Your initial outreach sets the tone. Whether it's a LinkedIn message, email, or a quick chat at an event, keep it crisp, respectful, and purposeful.

- **Personalize your message** – No generic "Hi, I'd love to connect!" Instead, mention something specific: their career path, a recent article they wrote, or a shared alma mater.
- **Be clear but concise** – Busy professionals appreciate brevity. State who you are, why you're reaching out, and what you're asking for (advice, insights, etc.).
- **Show enthusiasm, not desperation** – Confidence is magnetic. Instead of "I'm just starting out and need help", try, "I'm really inspired by your work in industry/ field and would love to learn from your experience."

## 2. Master the Art of the Follow-Up

Many networking attempts fizzle out after the first exchange. Don't let that happen!

- **Send a thank-you note** – If someone offers advice or a meeting, a quick "I really appreciate your time" email goes a long way.
- **Stay on their radar (without being annoying)** – Share an interesting article they might like or update them on how their advice helped you.
- **Know when to step back** – If they don't respond after two polite follow-ups, move on gracefully. Persistence is good; pestering is not.

## 3. Build Relationships, Not Just Contacts

Networking isn't about collecting business cards—it's about cultivating real connections.

- **Offer value** – Can you share industry news, volunteer for an event they're hosting, or introduce them to someone in your network?
- **Be genuinely curious** – People love talking about their expertise. Ask thoughtful questions like, "What's one skill you wish you'd developed earlier in your career?"
- **Think long-term** – Even if they can't help you now, staying in touch (without overdoing it) keeps doors open for the future.

## 4. Avoid These Common Networking Blunders

Even well-intentioned efforts can backfire. Steer clear of these pitfalls:

- **Being too transactional** – Don't lead with a job request. Build rapport first.
- **Overpromising** – Saying, "I'd love to help with your project!" when you're swamped with exams? Not a good look.
- **Ghosting after getting what you want** – If someone refers you to a job or gives advice, keep them updated. Gratitude builds trust.



## Final Thought: Networking is a Superpower

The best career opportunities often come from people who remember you—not just your resume. By approaching alumni and experts with respect, authenticity, and a bit of strategic finesse, you'll stand out in a sea of generic connection requests.

Clicked by Akshay



Art by Bhuvan



Clicked by Vaishnavi

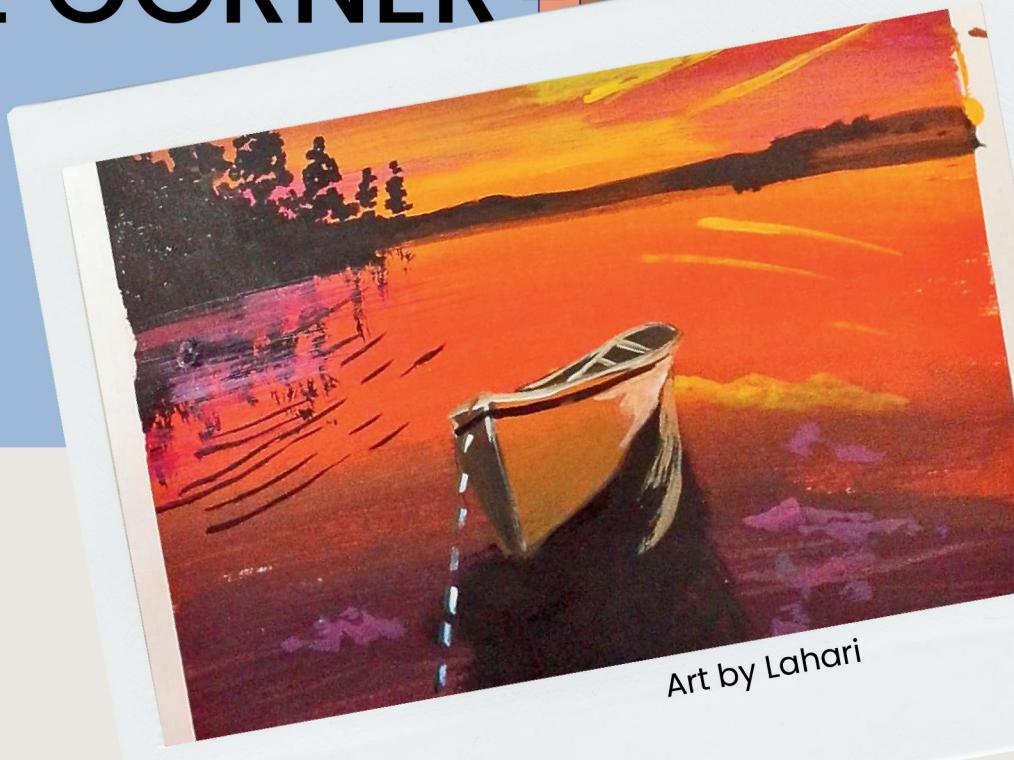


Clicked by lokesh

## CREATIVE CORNER



In SA's gallery of creativity, every frame and canvas becomes a portal to a new perspective. Their photography captures fleeting moments with striking clarity, while their artwork evokes a strong sense of mood and narrative. The combination of skill and vision makes SA's collection a must-see for anyone who values authentic, thought-provoking visual art.



Art by Lahari



# EDITORIAL

Welcome to this vibrant 2023 edition of the SPECANIENS newsletter, your dedicated channel to the St. Peter's Engineering College (SPEC), Hyderabad, alumni network! SPECANIENS proudly represents a growing and influential community of professionals making their mark globally. This newsletter serves as our central hub for connection, celebrating our collective impact, and fostering lifelong ties with our alma mater.

In this issue, we're excited to showcase the momentum within SPECANIENS. Discover the latest initiatives designed to enhance member value, read about the significant industry contributions of our alumni, and get inspired by the diverse creative pursuits flourishing within our network. We'll also highlight recent successful events and upcoming opportunities for engagement.

Our shared experience at St. Peter's Engineering College forms a powerful foundation. SPECANIENS translates this bond into tangible benefits: dynamic professional networking, structured mentorship programs, and avenues for continuous learning.

This newsletter is instrumental in keeping you informed about these opportunities, along with key alumni events, college developments, and the notable achievements of SA members.

Active participation fuels our community's growth. We invite you to share your expertise, guide the next generation of SPEC graduates, and leverage the network to reconnect with peers and forge new professional relationships. Your involvement makes SPECANIENS a truly valuable resource. Whether you seek career advancement, wish to contribute back, or simply want to stay connected, this association is here for you.

Looking forward, our commitment is to deliver even more compelling content. Plans include in-depth profiles of alumni leaders, practical career strategy columns, and features on innovative ventures spearheaded by SA members. Your feedback is crucial in shaping a newsletter that truly resonates. Please share your thoughts and ideas!

Thank you for being a core part of the SPECANIENS family. We hope you find this issue informative and engaging.

Best Regards,  
The Editorial Team,  
SPECANIENS Newsletter (2023)

## UP NEXT...

A new edition is on the horizon! Hear heartfelt reflections from new SPECANIENS members as they step into our ever-growing network. Revisit unforgettable moments from recent events, explore the dynamic world of SA's creativity, and gain wisdom from an engaging alumnus spotlight. It's all about growth, gratitude, and looking ahead!

 **For queries and feedback, please drop a DM to our WhatsApp number: +91 8977059315** 

## EDITORIAL TEAM

### Editor-in-Chief

*Thakur Akshay Singh  
- General Secretary, SA*

### Content Editor

*Akshitha Thirumani  
- Associate, SA*

### Design Editor

*Akanksha Kalle  
- Senior Associate, SA*

### Copy Editor

*Ramaleela  
- Executive Member, SA*

### Copy Editor

*Neeraj K  
- Associate, SA*