

AI Micro Degree *Voices*

# STORIES OF CHANGE

Transformative journeys of  
learners across India



## THE DIGITAL DREAM

**From modest roots to mastering code, turning her passion into a tech career.**

Aarti comes from a humble family in Indore. She lives with her parents and four sisters—her father works as a driver, and her mother is a homemaker. With her father being the sole earner, Aarti completed her HSC in commerce but couldn't pursue further studies due to financial constraints.

Aarti planned to join the Fashion Design and Technology course at NSTI Indore. But during admissions, she met Shivani ma'am—a warm and encouraging instructor—who introduced her to the AIMD program. Shivani explained how AIMD could open doors to a strong career in technology, with accessible training and continuous support. Inspired by the possibilities, Aarti switched her choice and enrolled in AIMD instead.

Initially, Aarti thought AIMD was about building robots. But on her first day, she discovered she would learn about devices like phones and laptops—and most importantly, coding languages to “talk” to computers.

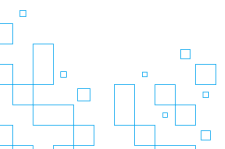
She first thought AIMD involved building robots, but quickly discovered it focused on coding and devices. Aarti thrived by connecting tech to her interest in beauty services. She mastered MS Excel, Python, and Machine Learning, visualizing their use in salons. Driven by this, she built a Salon Appointment Booking app in Python with Tkinter, enabling booking, cancellations, and slot checks. Previously shy, Soft Skills classes taught her to communicate clearly and confidently.

During a placement drive Aarti interviewed with her first-ever company—Flipkart, for a role in data entry and data management—and was selected! The position, with a CTC of ₹2,46,000, marks her entry into the STEM field, though she wishes to eventually transition further into the technical side. When she heard the news, she rushed to tell her father first.



**Aarti Narwariya**

NSTI Indore



## THE FASHION ALGORITHM

### Coding the future fashion

Dilara Shaikh, a 19-year-old B.Com graduate from NSTI Mumbai (CSA), was looking for a way to build her skills and step confidently into the world of work. She had always been curious about Artificial Intelligence, and when she came across the AIMD program, it felt like the right fit. On September 9, 2024, she enrolled—excited to learn how technology and data could help shape her future.

The learning curve was steep, but Dilara stayed committed. She picked up Python, Database Management, Data Science, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Generative AI, MS Office, and advanced analytics, with a particular strength in Power BI for business analytics. She often spent evenings debugging code and weekends mastering the intricacies of data visualization, enjoying working on real-world problems and found herself drawn to data and how it could be used to build smart solutions.

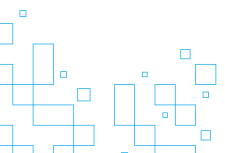
Dilara cleared the final round of interviews with Flipkart for a placement in data entry and analysis with an annual CTC of INR 2,46,000. Dilara has a clear goal: to explore how AI and data analysis can be used in the Apparel Industry, an industry she is passionate about. She believes data is everywhere and is keen to conduct R&D in fashion for profitability. She envisions using predictive analytics to forecast trends and customer preferences, moving beyond intuition to data-driven design and marketing strategies. She wants to use her skills to bring new ideas to life and create tools that make a difference, specifically by applying her passion in apparel marketing by getting to know user needs through data analysis.

She sees the Flipkart role as the perfect platform to hone her analytical abilities on a massive scale before specializing in her true passion. The Flipkart placement was a milestone—but her journey is far from over. Her ambition is to one day lead an AI-driven innovation team for a major fashion house, seamlessly blending her analytical mind with her creative spirit.



**Dilara Shaikh**

NSTI W Mumbai



## RESILIENT DREAMER

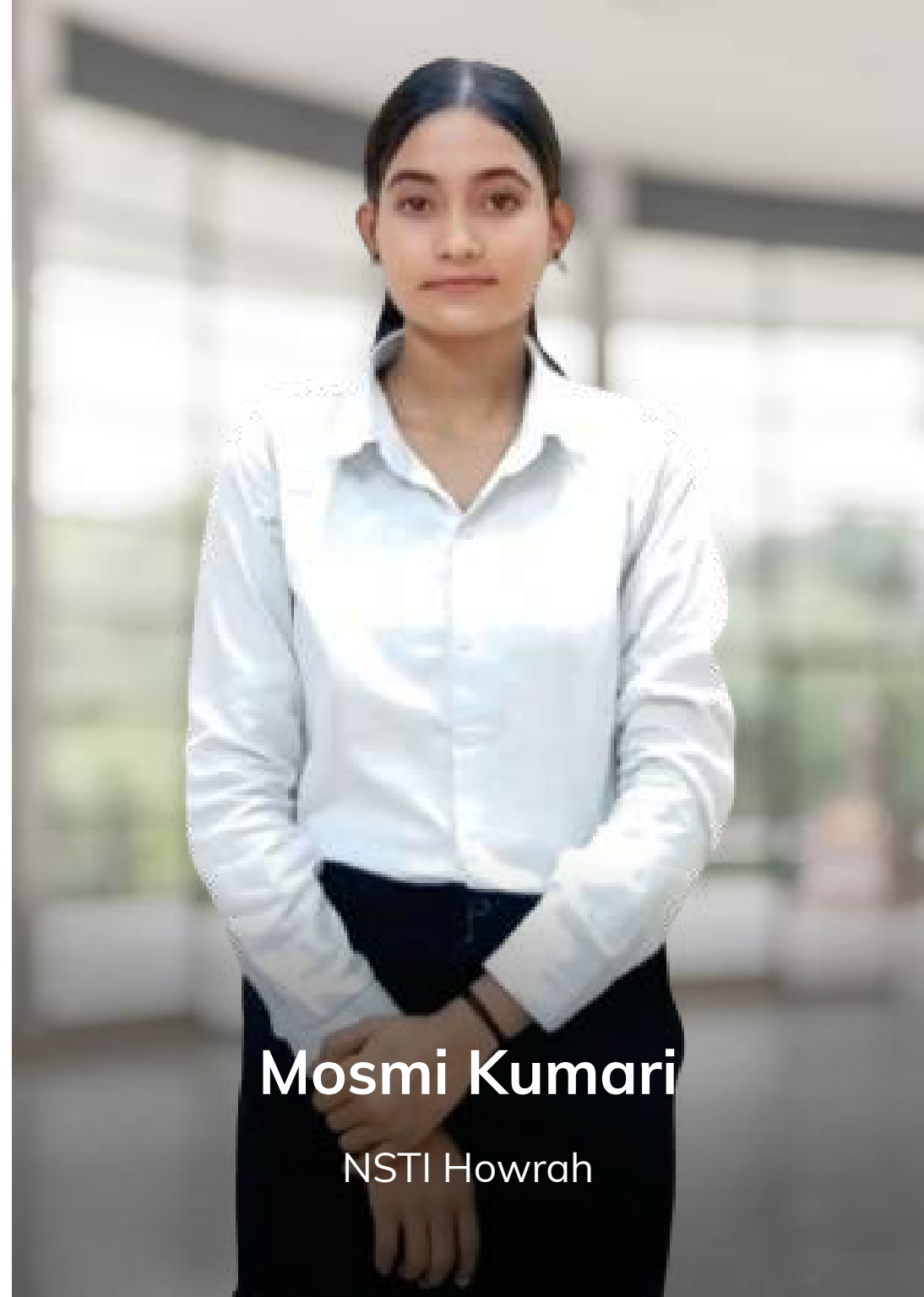
**Even when life hit pause, I pressed play on my dreams.**

When life takes an unexpected turn, most people pause. But Mosmi, a young girl from Bihar, chose to rewrite her story. After 10th grade, a serious accident forced her to pause her studies. During six months of recovery in Kolkata, she felt disconnected from her dreams.

In Kolkata, she first learned about the AI Micro Degree (AIMD) program, a new opportunity in a time full of uncertainty. Her friends mentioned it, and after some Googling and watching YouTube videos, she became intrigued. Even though she was still recovering and unsure if she could handle it, she decided to take the risk.

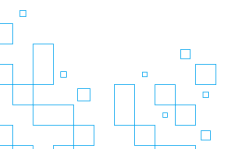
On the first day of the program, Mosmi felt a mix of emotions excitement, nerves, and a bit of fear. Week after week, She dove into Python, MySQL, machine learning, and tools like VS Code and GitHub. She collaborated on a capstone project: AI for Farmers' Futures, which used image uploads to detect plant diseases and aid farmers. This work gave her purpose during recovery. Mosmi's growth went beyond technical skills. Through the AIMD program, she improved her communication, critical thinking, and professional behavior. She built her LinkedIn profile, learned how to write professional emails, and gained confidence she never knew she had. "Now I understand time management, not just as a skill, but as a mindset," she says with a smile. Once a UPSC aspirant, she now dreams of becoming a data analyst. She is inspired by how data influences decisions around the world.

She credits the AIMD program for helping her refocus her goals and discover her true passion. With a clear vision and renewed strength, she's ready to launch her career and inspire others along the way.



**Mosmi Kumari**

NSTI Howrah



## ROOTS IN CODE

**Cultivating change—transforming farms with data and deep learning.**

Gulshan Yadav hails from Manपुरi, Uttar Pradesh, and is part of a humble farming family. His father works in the fields. As the eldest, he helped at home while his siblings pursued government exams and nursing. After a B.Sc. in Zoology, Botany, and Chemistry, he initially prepared for government exams but shifted toward building a practical, sustainable career in technology. Recognizing the need for tangible skills to advance both financially and personally, he turned his focus toward technology.

A cousin first introduced him to the AI Micro Degree (AIMD). Intrigued, Gulshan began exploring further—he watched YouTube videos, researched digital marketing, and discovered how tools like ChatGPT were reshaping the digital landscape. His curiosity soon turned into motivation, driven by the belief that learning AI could create meaningful jobs and foster a new way of thinking.

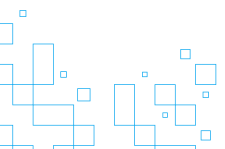
The transition to NSTI Bangalore presented its challenges. Coming from a small town, the new environment, culture, and technical curriculum felt intimidating at first. Yet, with consistent support from trainers and staff, he engaged with technical tools such as Python, MySQL, and Power BI. He developed a Rice Classification model using CNN and Deep Learning, built simple Python-based games, and created a Covid-19 dashboard with Power BI. The soft skills lessons emphasized practice, not just theory. Gulshan, who once hesitated to speak in groups, found his voice. He even applied design thinking and critical thinking to enhance aspects of his father's farming work. This experience reshaped his professional goals.

For Gulshan, the AIMD program provided more than education; it offered direction. Originally focused on government employment, he now envisions a career in data analytics with a clear purpose: to develop solutions that support farmers using his newfound skills, proudly standing as one of the first from his village to enter the tech field.



**Gulshan Yadav**

NSTI Bangalore



## FROM MODEST TO MASTERY

### **Code with compassion—modest beginnings leading to AI innovation**

Umashankar Naidu, a dedicated engineering graduate from Mumbai, Maharashtra, comes from a modest nuclear family where he learned early on the realities of middle-class life. Despite limited resources, his family's unwavering belief in education fueled his determination to build a better future.

Driven by a natural inclination toward technology—particularly Data Science—he actively sought opportunities to expand his skill set. After methodical research, he enrolled in the AIMD program, drawn by its comprehensive curriculum covering MS Office, AI, Cybersecurity, Power BI, Communication, Design Thinking, and Interview Preparation.

Though initially skeptical, he quickly recognized the program's structured and industry-aligned approach. The training deepened his expertise in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, while also igniting an unexpected interest in Power BI, which became a cornerstone of his technical development. As a single-parent child, he was motivated by a strong desire to create tangible impact. His most significant achievement was leading the development of a Smart Nutrition App, an AI and Data Science project powered by Power BI. This project demonstrated his ability to translate technical knowledge into practical solutions, highlighting his refined leadership and analytical capabilities.

His journey illustrates how focused education, combined with personal perseverance, can empower individuals to overcome barriers and realize their ambitions. Today, equipped with both technical and soft skills, Umashankar stands ready to bridge the gap between challenge and opportunity, serving as an inspiring example of what is possible with dedication and the right training. He now looks forward to supporting his family and contributing meaningfully to the technology sector.



**Umashankar Naidu**

NSTI Mumbai

## FROM AGRICULTURE TO AI INNOVATOR

### A combination of farming and tech to grow solutions

Sountharya lives in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, with her parents and sister. Her father works as an assistant to a lawyer in a courthouse, her mother is a homemaker, and her sister serves as a forensic scientist in the Tamil Nadu government. Sountharya herself enrolled in the AIMD program at NSTI Chennai.

Initially, Sountharya studied agriculture and attempted government exams. When COVID disrupted her family's income, she began freelancing—writing content and doing copywriting—to provide financial support. While studying agriculture, Sountharya found herself drawn to the intersection of technology and farming—unlike many peers who specialized in areas like entomology or biotechnology. Learning about precision farming powered by AI and ML captured her interest. When her sister noticed an advertisement for the AIMD course at NSTI Chennai, she encouraged Sountharya to enroll.

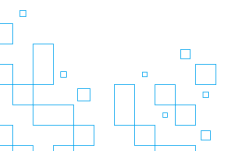
Moving to Chennai, adapting to city life, and learning coding from scratch felt overwhelming at first. She went on to master Python, Power BI, SQL, and Machine Learning, which she now uses with growing fluency. Her most significant accomplishment is the "Helper for Farmers" app. Developed with Python, SQL, and Power BI, the app uses a ResNet-based computer vision model to detect crop diseases, recommends crops using soil and weather data, tracks market prices, and projects crop yields through interactive dashboards. This project represents the perfect blend of her agricultural roots and her new technical skills—delivering tangible value to farmers.

She gained confidence through employability training in design thinking and public speaking. Her communication skills impressed interviewers, leading to a Customer Support Executive role at Omega Healthcare (CTC ₹2.5L+). Sountharya aims to become an AI engineer in agriculture, driven by her values and family's support.



**Sountharya R**

NSTI Chennai



## LOGIC SEEKER

### From Patna to Python—Using AI to bring foresight to floods

Born into a hardworking family, Komal's father drives for a living while her mother manages their home. They have a limited income and several children to educate. Komal and her siblings attended government schools, and every step forward was possible only because of her father's sacrifice. "He never kept anything for himself," she says. "He gave everything to us."

Her elder sister, a student at NSTI Mumbai, introduced her to the AI Micro Degree (AIMD) program. The first day was filled with excitement, nerves, and confusion over the following weeks, Komal learned Python, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, NLP, Generative AI, Pandas, TensorFlow, MATLAB, and more. The program also helped Komal strengthen her communication skills, professional presence, and interview readiness. She learned how to prepare a resume, present herself in interviews, and, most importantly, speak with confidence. "Earlier, I couldn't talk properly with anyone. Now, I can explain my skills and ideas clearly," she says.

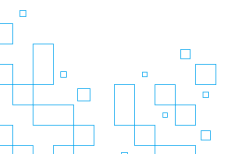
Her most significant achievement came with her final project: the Flood Aware System, a real-time flood risk predictor and bilingual alert tool. Using a trained machine learning model and real-time weather data from the Open Weather Map API, Komal and her team built an app that predicts flood chances in a city and sends warning emails in both English and Hindi.

Today, Komal aspires to become a Data Scientist. She describes herself as a "data lover," fascinated by how data informs decisions across industries. Thanks to the AIMD program, she now sees a future rich with opportunities she once thought were beyond her reach. She recently received a placement offer from Tata Motors with an annual package of ₹2,10,000, demonstrating her technical capabilities and the real-world applicability of her training.

A portrait of Komal Kapoor, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a light green t-shirt and blue jeans, standing in front of a blurred background.

Komal Kapoor

NSTI Patna



## CODING HER COMEBACK

### Trading Manual Calculations for Machine Learning

Kavya hails from the quiet town of Shimoga, where she was raised in a modest family. Her father works in the areca nut business, and her mother manages their home. She has a younger brother studying Marine Engineering in Chennai. As the older sibling, she frequently assisted her father with basic business accounts. After completing her 12th grade, Kavya enrolled in an engineering college but soon realized it wasn't the right fit. She chose to withdraw, but because she felt disconnected from the path. During this period of uncertainty, she remained drawn to the creativity behind games and animated cartoons, particularly how AI technologies powered these digital experiences.

Her father eventually recommended the AI Micro Degree (AIMD) program and encouraged her to explore it. Initially hesitant, Kavya was uncertain about tackling coding, yet her curiosity ultimately outweighed her doubts. She joined the program at NSTI Bangalore, with measured expectations, embracing the new challenge with a blend of excitement and nervousness.

She acquired skills in OpenCV, NumPy, Pandas, SQL, and began using Copilot, which accelerated her progress. She developed tangible projects including a Contact Management System with MySQL and a Song Popularity Predictor using machine learning techniques like logistic and linear regression. Beyond technical expertise, the Employability Skills sessions instilled in her a newfound confidence. She learned practical professional habits—crafting emails, presenting herself in interviews, refining her appearance, and communicating with clarity.

Today, Kavya is preparing for job interviews with a clear objective: to build a career as a Data Analyst at a respected company. The AIMD program has not only equipped her with skills but also helped her recognize and believe in her own capabilities.



Kavya

NSTI Bangalore

## FROM ENTRY TO STRATEGY

### Stitching a future with code

Jaishree is from Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Her family runs a handicraft business, and her mother is a homemaker. As the eldest sibling, she has two younger brothers and takes an active role in caring for her family. With a postgraduate degree in Business Administration (M.Com), Jaishree had always been connected to the world of business.

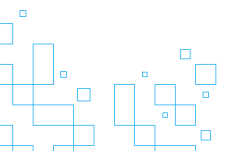
The structured curriculum, practical approach, and emphasis on hands-on learning steadily strengthened her confidence. She became adept with tools like GitHub, Canva, GrammarlyGo, and BlackBox, and began integrating GPT and Copilot into her workflow. One of her key projects involved building an AI Agriculture Model. Creating a functional AI solution to see how artificial intelligence could serve as a bridge between her business acumen and her new technical capabilities, revealing a practical way to apply technology to real-world challenges, including those faced in her native Rajasthan. Along with technical skills, she cultivated a more polished and assured professional presence. Skills such as communication, leadership, and body language prepared her thoroughly for interviews and collaborative environments. These sessions, she notes, helped her refine her professional identity and articulate her unique value with clarity.

Jaishree's goal is to work at a multinational company and use what she has learned to create real impact. Getting placed at Flipkart on 19-Aug with a CTC of INR 2,46,000 has been an important step in that direction. Though her role began in data entry, she has since been exploring how to apply her skills beyond her core responsibilities to business strategy and now sees this as the beginning of something much bigger.



**Jaishree Jangid**

NSTI Jodhpur



## DATA WITH DIRECTION

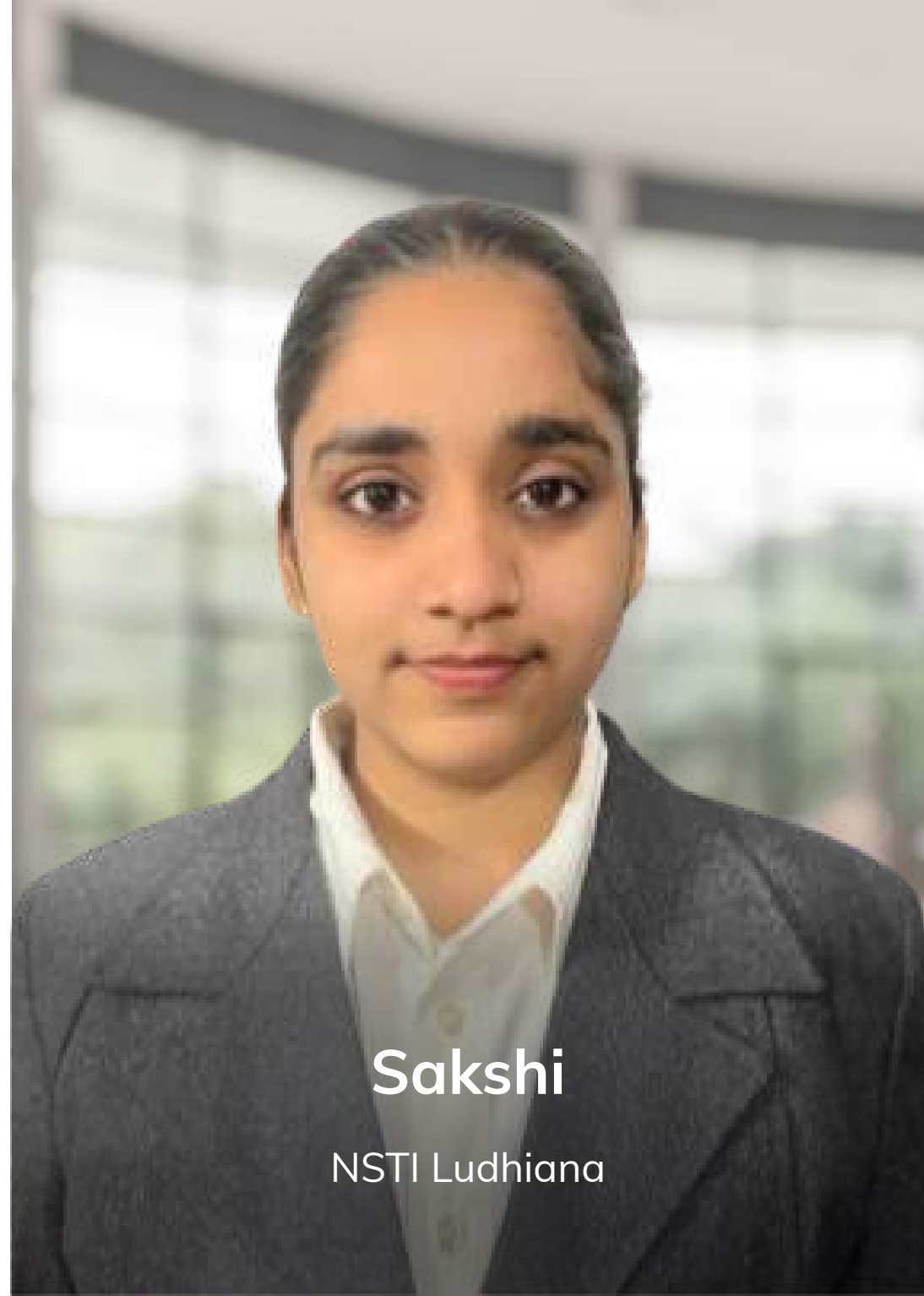
### Eye on data and a heart for impact

Sakshi comes from Ludhiana, where her parents run a business. As the eldest of four siblings, she has always helped support her family, especially with their business operations. While she already had a foundation in tech through her MS ITI and BCA degrees, she wanted to dive deeper into emerging technologies. Her uncle, knowing her interest in tech, told her about the AI Micro Degree program through the ITI COPA course.

What stood out to Sakshi most in the program was the focus on learning by doing. She gained practical experience using Python, SQL, MySQL, and Power BI, and worked with AI libraries like OpenCV, TensorFlow, and Keras. One project that stayed with her was designing an “AI for Farmers” concept using real datasets from Kaggle—an exercise that showed her how technology can make a difference in people’s lives.

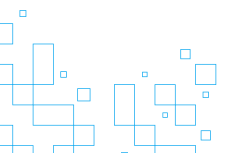
The Employability Skills sessions also made a noticeable impact. Already comfortable in a business setting, Sakshi learned how to present herself more effectively, speak with greater confidence, and approach decisions in a clear, structured way. Lessons on office etiquette and public speaking helped her communicate more smoothly in both professional and casual settings. Being placed at Flipkart for a data entry and management role with a CTC of ₹246,000 was a significant achievement for her, and it’s given her confidence in what comes next.

For Sakshi, the program offered exactly what she was looking for: usable skills, supportive instruction, and the opportunity to build something that matters.



Sakshi

NSTI Ludhiana



## FOR FAMILY AND FUTURE

### **B.Tech struggles to startup dreams**

Varun Reddy, a young graduate from Hyderabad, comes from a modest family. His father is an RTC bus driver, and his mother is a homemaker. His twin sister is pursuing a master's in computer science in Texas, while Varun supported his family at home while seeking his own path.

With a B.Tech in Computer Science, Varun had a solid foundation but found the transition from academics to career challenging. His uncle, a professor, noticed this and became a mentor, introducing him to the AI Micro Degree (AIMD). Though Varun had no prior AI experience, he was curious about the field and began learning Python through YouTube before enrolling at NSTI Hyderabad.

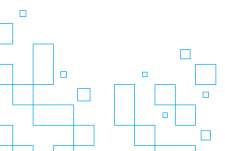
The start was challenging—adjusting to a classroom after online learning made him nervous—but his curiosity soon turned to excitement. Through the program, he gained practical skills in Machine Learning, Data Science, Python, MySQL, and Power BI, along with hands-on experience in hardware assembly. Notable projects included a 3D Business Card using AngularJS, a CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Optimization tool, and an Open Service API for weather prediction. The Employability Skills sessions were particularly transformative, helping him develop confidence in public speaking, critical thinking, and professional communication. In July 2025, Varun accepted a role as a Frontend Developer at Nuhvin Global Solutions. This placement represents a significant milestone in his journey—a testament to both his technical growth and newfound professional confidence.

Varun now aims to gain experience as a software engineer, eventually start his own tech startup, and grow into a developer or tech manager at an MNC. The AIMD program not only equipped him with technical skills but also taught him that with guidance and effort, it's never too late to become who you aspire to be.



**Varun Reddy**

NSTI Hyderabad



## THE CONFIDENT CODER

Adhi Kesh lives in Calicut with his mother, father, and older brother. His mum and brother both work as instructors at NSTI, while his dad is currently unemployed. After completing his diploma in Computer Engineering, Adhi's family encouraged him to join the AIMD program.

Initially, Adhi didn't have big expectations. He had always liked computers, but he mostly saw AIMD as a chance to learn something new and spend time in a positive environment. But as he settled in, something began to shift. He started feeling a sense of ownership over his learning and a growing curiosity to understand technology more deeply—not just use it. With each session, Adhi picked up practical skills that made a real difference. He learned how to create documents, organize data in Excel, and build clear presentations in PowerPoint. These weren't just classroom exercises—they became tools that helped him navigate everyday tasks with more confidence and clarity.

When Adhi began working hands-on with Python and Machine Learning, his confidence took a leap. He built a web application from scratch that shows synonyms and antonyms, using Streamlit and Natural Language Processing. This was a proud moment for him, and he understood that with the right guidance and effort, he could turn ideas into something real and useful. Beyond technical skills, Adhi also grew in ways that aren't always measured. He used to feel nervous speaking in public or taking the lead. But after attending the Employability Skills training, he began to grow. The sessions taught him how to speak clearly, listen actively, and collaborate effectively—skills that shape not just a professional, but a thoughtful team player.

Today, Adhi is working as a Trainee Analyst at DataCorp. His mother and brother were overjoyed and proud of his achievement. Adhi looks ahead to a bright future; determined to keep learning, growing, and succeeding in the data field.



Adhi Kesh R S

NSTI Calicut

