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## Chapter 1

# Aashish Barnwal | Make a habit of writing clean, readable, flexible and robust code

Geek on the top - Aashish Barnwal | Make a habit of writing clean, readable, flexible and robust code - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks.

Aashish is the name associated with GeeksforGeeks from a long time now. He has successfully written and moderated various articles on the site. He is one of the topmost contributor and hails from KIIT University, Bhubaneshwar. He is currently working as a Software Engineer at Microsoft.



**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of programming?**

Math and puzzles were something I couldn't resist. It was third semester when I had Data Structures course in the syllabus. It was just fun reading about various DS and how they solve real life problems. In fourth semester, I came across ProjectEuler. It basically has a collection of problems which requires both mathematical and programming skills. It boosted my confidence and I started solving more and more problems on online portals.

**How did you come to know about GeeksforGeeks?**

One of my seniors had cracked Microsoft off-campus. When asked about sources to prepare from, he advised me to practice from GeeksforGeeks. I found GFG articles well explained and its discussion forum quite engaging. My full [blog](#) on how I got in Microsoft.

**Explain your journey as GeeksforGeeks moderator and how being a moderator helped you achieve your goals.**

Today when I look back over my life, I just can't believe that a person can be that insane to chat 10 hours a day and that too only technical stuffs. Yes, this can happen when two crazy people with similar mindset meet. While solving problems on GeeksforGeeks, there were few articles that were so well compiled and informed that I just couldn't help myself but to contact that guy.

I shot Venki (GFG moderator) a message on Facebook and this is where we connected. I was very active on GeeksforGeeks. And he was kinda impressed with my thoughts and approaches of solving problems. Our discussion trails were everywhere – Facebook, Gmail,

Quora, CareerCup, GeeksforGeeks, StackOverflow. I had never met anyone with so much knowledge, zeal and thirst for coding & problem solving despite the fact that he was an Electronics graduate. For him, problem solving was a time pass. My passion grew with time. Every discussion with him reminded me how little I knew and I needed to manage time smartly and keep my learning curve steep. I started practicing insanely on GeeksforGeeks, CareerCup, LeetCode, SPOJ and other online portals. Few problems took me weeks to solve. I solved problems that were pending since more than 6 months in the discussion forum. That's when it all started. My solutions started publishing as GFG articles, one after the other.

GeeksforGeeks was growing fast. They were looking for someone who could participate actively in the discussion forum, point out improvements in guest articles and write unique content to enrich the site.

One evening, I got a mail from Sandeep, GFG founder asking if I would like to join the team. I couldn't think of a single reason why I shouldn't. GFG was already impacting many lives and it could help me to connect with other geeks. Although it was a non-profit initiative, I was willing to join. I was just 22 and it was the best time to learn and grow.

Being GFG moderator, I made many online friends who shared similar mindset as mine. I was flooded with messages and mails discussing various ideas and approaches to solve problems. This helped me to learn a lot.

**Do you think being from a small town, you have to face hindrances to achieve what you want? If yes, how did you overcome them?**

Being from a small town, I didn't have anyone to guide me. It becomes worse if you are from a college with not so good programming culture. I didn't know what sources to follow to achieve my goal. Quora was not popular those days. I think I was fortunate to follow my passion which steered my career in right direction.

Today coding contests have undoubtedly opened doors for students from non-IIT/ NIT colleges to go for bigger jobs.

**How should a student begin to prepare in order to grab a job in such tech giants?**

As per my past experiences, these tech giants look for people with strong coding and problem solving skills. It is good to be proficient in any one programming language and know ins and outs of it.

1. Read DS thoroughly. Know how and when they should be used.
2. Know the real life examples where DS and Algos are being used. Google chrome uses Bloom Filter to detect malicious URLs and Text editors use Gap Buffer. It was fun discussing Gap Buffer in my Microsoft interview
3. Practice problems related to Stack, Queue, Linked List, Tree, Graph, Heap
4. Practice Advanced Data Structures like Trie, TST, Segment Tree, Suffix Tree/Array, Skip List. Advanced DS section on GFG is pretty good
5. If you're targeting Google, practice DP and Graph problems. You should expect at least one DP problem in Google interview
6. Practice test and design questions
7. Participate in Competitive Programming. It will improve problem solving skills and ability to perform well under pressure

GFG is a bible of problems. I would suggest to learn the fundamentals first before jumping to GFG to avoid getting lost. Once your basics are clear, you can start practicing by choosing various topics.

Gayle's book "Cracking the Coding interview" is a good read.

**What did you do in your summer internship, how did it help you later?**

During my time, no company visited college campus for internship. I was devastated. I had applied twice for Microsoft intern but didn't get interview call. I, finally decided to continue contributing to GFG and solving problems on online portals. It gave me more exposure to problems without losing focus. I developed few android apps to showcase my ideas and time-to-market skills. This helped because this is what companies do – Fixing bugs, implementing user feature requests and optimizing performance.

**What should one keep in mind when beginning to pursue the Competitive Programming and job preparation?**

Practice, dedication and hard work are the keys. There is no secret ingredient. Just have faith and never give up. There will be times when it will take a lot of time to solve a problem. But you will get better with time and practice. CGPA plays very little role in landing jobs in top MNCs.

Don't rush for solutions. Try to solve problems on your own. Prepare well for behavioral questions as well. Interviewers ask questions like "What is the most challenging problem you faced while developing projects?". Your answer tells them two things.

1. Did you really work in the project?
2. What, according to you is the definition of a challenge?

Try to understand patterns. If you know a solution of an existing problem, you can extend it to solve newer problems. Know speed and maintainability tradeoff. Sometimes, we sacrifice time for the sake of reusability and flexibility. Make a habit of writing clean, readable, flexible and robust code. Practice on pen and paper to see how you perform without a compiler.

**Apart from coding and problem solving, there are other things which are also necessary-** Are you a good team player? Are you a quick learner?

**Students are becoming serious day by day and lacking sports, sense of humor and physical activities. What's your take on that? What are your hobbies?**

Never compromise your health for the sake of anything. If you're not healthy, you won't be able to work towards your goal with much efficiency. Physical activities and sense of humor help you ease stress and become more productive. We are humans not robots.

I write songs & poems, play piano, do landscape & fashion photography and sometimes dance. Apart from this, I love adventures. I have experienced sky diving, bungee jumping, sea walking, para sailing and scuba diving.

**What would you say was the turning point of your life because of which you are here?**

I think it was knowing that programming is mostly about mathematics and logic, which grew my passion.

**What's your advice to students who aim to become excellent programmer like yours?**

Practice, practice and practice. Get addicted to coding. This is necessary because you'll be spending next many years of life doing it. Don't be afraid of failures. Embrace it. Harder you fail, harder you work and sweeter the success will be. Participate in discussion forums as much as you can. Stay hungry. Stay foolish.

Do's and Don'ts in interviews:

1. Stay calm. Think before answering any question in interviews. Your answer can generate many questions
2. Clarify the question first
3. Write clean, reusable, readable and robust code
4. Don't forget to handle corner test cases
5. Think out loud
6. Don't sound aggressive

Aashish can be reached at [Facebook](#) , [Linkedin](#) , [Quora blog](#) , [Personal blog](#) , [About me](#)

#### **Aashish's Achievements:**

1. Secured 2nd position among 200 teams in Noesis 2011, a coding competition in tech fest of Silicon Institute, Bhubaneswar
2. Among top 1% in TCS Code-Vita 2012 at national level
3. Problem Setter in coding competition Advaita 2013 in IIIT – Bhubaneswar

#### **Few articles at GeeksforGeeks written by Aashish:**

- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/generate-integer-from-1-to-7-with-equal-probability/>
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/dynamic-programming-set-34-assembly-line-scheduling/>
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/k-dimensional-tree/>
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/iterative-quick-sort/>
- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/linked-complete-binary-tree-its-creation/>

All articles written by [Aashish Bernwal](#)

**Let the top geeks inspire other students!!**

#### **Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-aashish-barnwal/>

## Chapter 2

# Aditya Gupta| Participating alone increases your level, no matter you win or not

Geek on the Top - Aditya Gupta| Participating alone increases your level, no matter you win or not - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks.

Aditya's story is motivating as he has risen from nowhere to scoring some decent rankings in various programming contests with his will and hard work. This Manipal University's undergraduate is continuously working to follow his dreams and not planning to look back any more.



**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of programming?**

It all started in the first semester of my college itself,a day before my Engineering Graphics(E.G.) Exam, it was also the Annual Day of MIT Manipal and I went to attend the event. I was dissatisfied with myself, my academics wasn't going well, my extra curricular were almost zero and I wasn't doing anything productive with my time. I was lost in my thoughts when I observed a senior sit next to me holding a trophy , I told him about the difference in my imagined and my current college life and how I wasn't doing anything productive with my time. It was the first time I was introduced to online learning and competitive coding by him. I went to hostel and right away googled "competitive coding". I found the concept of competitive coding really interesting, it provided a platform to compete people from all around the globe,coding in different languages at the comfort of your very own room. Since then I spent most of my time doing competitive coding only.

**What subjects you think are most important in the curriculum?**

My branch is Computer and Communication which is a very rare branch in Indian colleges and provides the opportunity to study both computer as well as communication subjects, I find both the fields pretty interesting and the subjects which I find most important for the curriculum are :

PSUC (Problem solving using computers), Data Structures, Digital Communication, Open Elective: Yes you heard it right open elective,it provides you with a choice of taking a break form your regular branch subjects and explore something new.

**How did you college support for all these achievements?**

The club culture here at Manipal Institute of Technology,Manipal is really nice.I spent most of my time of my first year taking part in various workshops and was part of various clubs like IE-CSE(computer club), ISTE(multi domain technical club), Lnd(Literary and debate club), ACM Manipal(ACM Student chapter at Manipal) and even Blitzkieg(Dance club) to explore my interests and hobbies to realize that my true interest lies in coding and especially in competitive coding. Also few liberation that we get like re-attendance of lab if its missed due to taking part in a hackathon or some other competition is really nice.

**Do you think not being from IITs and NITs, you have to face hindrances to achieve what you want?**

No I don't think that not being from IIT or NIT has ever caused me any hindrance to achieve me what I want instead it has just motivated me to do just better and better so that when I pass out from my college I am one of the best coder of India and I am slowly and gradually moving towards my goal and in few competitions I have achieved rank better than some of the IITians/NITians.

**Commendable Ranking in so many coding contests . How did you do this?Please guide other students how they should prepare for the same?**

The very simple answer to this is participating. The most common mistake that most people do is that they don't even participate in the contests assuming that its way beyond their preparation level and first they will prepare to a descent level and then participate,which is totally wrong , participating alone increases your preparation level,with each contest we learn something new irrespective of win or lose.

Second thing is mastering **one coding language** rather than being bachelors of multiple,if its C++ we should be well aware of special features of C++ like pointers,STL,etc. and same applies for other languages as well.

Third and most important thing is **persistence and consistency**, if you keep practicing

regularly in the end you will learn stuff,no matter how bad you are it at first,even I had no computer background before coming to Manipal and also sticking to one or two competitive coding sites is important,most people sign up to multiple competitive coding sites and end up doing all the easy problems of all the sites rather than advancing their level. In my case I have stuck to GeeksforGeeks and Hackerrank.

**What was your inspiration behind chasing your goal of evolving as a coding champ ?**

I have been bachelors of lot of things like dancing,creative writing, swimming, academics etc. since my childhood so when I came to my college I had a dream of mastering at least one thing to a level where in which I am one of the best at least in my country , I explored lot of things to realize that I enjoy coding most and especially competitive coding, so here I am walking towards my dream of being the best coder of India and also my parents supported me to best of their extent,they made sure I have a really good internet connection when I am at home during vacations.

**What should one keep in mind when beginning to pursue the Competitive Programming and job preparation?**

For competitive coding one should keep in mind that it requires a bit of patience and mastering it isn't a day's or month's job,moreover it doesn't has a predefined theory and syllabus and it can only be learnt through consistent practice and implementation,the more you practice the more you learn,start with the brute force approach if you aren't getting any idea for a problem,implement it and then think over it,try to optimize it,maybe try and observe a pattern,make lot of test cases to check it and never forget the boundary conditions also one you get your problem accepted read the editorial for it to improve your logic. Having good knowledge of STL always helps and saves times and also if your good at Maths then that will be cherry to your pie.

For job preparation make sure you have well achieved your time and efficiency for solving a problem in a given time constraint, set timer while your practicing for job interviews because problem asked there are generally easier compared to competitive coding contests, all they require is that you solve the problem correctly in the given time constraint ,I find GeeksforGeeks best for that ,I was able to solve more than 150 problems in just a month from GeeksforGeeks as I used to practice in a time constraint at my home during vacations.

**Students are becoming serious day by day and lacking sports, sense of humor and physical activities. What's your take on that? What are your hobbies?**

Yeah being a coder doesn't mean you need to eliminate the fun from your life or become lazy, in fact its more about liveliness,its something which makes me feel good about yourself and more motivated in life. I like to set short targets for myself , I work hard during the week and go out to dinner,movie or may be to a place with natural beauty nearby during the weekends.I also love dancing,writing ,listening to music and chatting long hours with my friends whenever I feel bored or monotonic.

**What would you say was the turning point of your life because of which you are here?**

In my second semester I attempted an online coding competition of Citrix which was intended for job allocations to 4th year and I somehow cleared that and qualified for onsite round,obviously I wasn't eligible to attend that but that event gave me a great boost to my confidence and I got more motivated towards my goal.

**What's your advice to students who aim to become excellent programmer like**

yours?

My advice is just that keep practicing more and more, master one coding language, never give up and if you find yourself stuck at a topic, don't hesitate to ask for help, at once I was struggling with data structures when one of my friends helped me with it. Lot of people misunderstand competitive coding to be more of a code play whereas it's more of logic play, in fact most problems can be solved by using simple tools such as for-loop and if-else statements itself, what matters more is deciphering the logic. Moreover competitive coding shouldn't be confined just to students with computer oriented branches only, it's more of a sport in its true sense and improves our logic and thinking abilities. Improve your STL libraries and data structures and have fun with this beautiful sport.

**Aditya's achievements :**

- Qualified first round of Google Code Jam
- Rank at Codechef Snackdown'16 : 204
- Rank at GeeksforGeeks: 101
- Won 3 national level college contests at [hackerrank](#).

Aditya can be reached at [Facebook](#) , [Linkedin](#)

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**Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-aditya-gupta-participating-alone-increases-your-level-no-matter-you-win-or-not/>

## Chapter 3

# Ayush Jaggi | Get frustrated by TLEs and WAs, Higher the frustration – better the code

Geek on the top - Ayush Jaggi | Get frustrated by TLEs and WAs, Higher the frustration - better the code - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks. In this post, our Geek is coding champ – **Ayush Jaggi** whose status of coding changed from “Don’t know anything” to “National Level Coder” in just two years.

**Ayush Jaggi** is pursuing his Bachelor’s degree at Jaypee Institute of Information and Technology, Noida. He is the a big inspiration for students who keep thinking how and when to begin programming. GeeksforGeeks team feels proud to interact with him and inspire other students to follow their goals of programming, job preparations and



beyond.

**How did it all start? How did you land up in the world of programming?**

I started Competitive Programming in my second year, third semester to be precise. I have been really interested in mathematics and logically challenging problems since school and knew C since I had it in 6th/7th/8th (School Curriculum) and thus grasped things quickly when I joined college. However, I did not know of competitive programming until college. I did not do much (P.S- Almost nothing) in my first year as I was too confused with ECE and how to bear with it. It was in second year, I guess August, that I finally realised that I can't understand ECE as good as I do in computer science subjects and started looking at some questions on Codechef. Most of the things still seemed tough but I decided to give it a try and started reading solutions of questions (without attempting them), just to see how people code. It gave me like a start and then I started attempting problems, initially by Googling or asking some seniors.

It gave me some confidence and I made a team with two of my friends and decided to give ICPC a try. We did not do any team practice, since we thought that we wouldn't qualify for it. However we did, at both of the sites we gave the online round and that gave a huge push to never look back again.

**What are the skill-sets required to be just too good in programming?**

Rather than saying skill-set, I would say that having a never-give-up attitude towards problem solving is most essential. I always believed that rather than brainstorming on a problem alone, it's really great to discuss the problems with someone who has same interests as you, for example your ICPC teammates (Obviously not in a Live Contest.)

There are tons of resources available online these days, GeeksforGeeks being one of the biggest of it.

**What should one keep in mind when beginning to pursue the Competitive Programming and job preparation? How did you land up in your dream job?**

Always remember that Job preparation and CP are **not** inter-dependent. Though you might have an upper hand in DS and Algorithms in the interviews, but there's much more to interviews than DS Algorithms. That's what I realized when I couldn't even clear the

HackerRank test for Amazon onsite due to my obsession with going for the most optimal solutions every time.

For those who are preparing for interviews right now, focus on **MCQs** too as much as you do on DS and algorithms. Also have a good grasp over basic concepts of Networks, OS, and DBMS really helps you.

**What do you like to do in free time ?**

I like playing FIFA when I'm free and recently started with Table Tennis too. I am also a huge Coldplay fan, so listening to their music is a part of my day, among some other good music.

**Your advice to students who are aiming for similar targets as yours.**

If you are stuck in a problem, read the editorial. Try coding it then. After you get AC, always see the solutions of best coders- International GMs and GMs. (GM- Grandmaster). I learned almost 80% of the STL referring to codes. Ask questions. From a silly one to a complex one, don't be afraid to ask one.

Be regular in participating in contests. Also, try challenging yourself psychologically. One way to do that is doing a contest a day before your exams, even when you haven't studied ANYTHING. It would really help you tackle pressure situations. Get frustrated by TLEs and WAs. "Higher the frustration, better the code."

**Ayush's Achievements**

- National rank among top 10 in Google Code Jam 2016.
- National rank among top 25 in Facebook Hacker Cup 2016, 2015
- Codeforces rating: Maximum: 1998, best rank being Global Rank 2 in a Div-2 contest.
- HackerRank username: jaggi\_ayush9. Got decent ranks in a few of the contests.

**Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-ayush-jaggi-get-frustrated-by-tles-and-was-higher-the-frustration-better-the-code/>

## Chapter 4

**Harshil Shah | Solving lots of  
easy problems are not as  
beneficial as practicing some  
hard problems**

Geek on the Top - Harshil Shah | Solving lots of easy problems are not as beneficial as practicing some hard problems - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks.

**Harshil Shah** might not need introduction to many geeks reading this article. He is a super talented programming nerd with so many contest positions in his profile , Adobe Hackathon, SnackDown, Cook offs being the highlights.



**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of competitive programming?**

It all started with programming club session in my college. Our senior Archit Karandikar (ICPC WF'13 and '14) motivated us to get started in this sport. His words “If you can solve hard problems on Codechef, you can easily get 1 crore job in Google” was something that got me started. Being naive, I did start programming with the intention of good placements, but later this thing became much more of a sport for me, since questions asked in programming competitions are lot more tougher and different than those asked in interviews. Soon I came to know about ACM ICPC and it became golden motivation for me to keep going in the world of competitive programming. I got a good company of peers Utkarsh Saxena and Aditya Shah who were all time together with me in this journey and without whom it wouldn't have been awesome.

**You have won Adobe Hackathon with a prize 1.5 Lakh too. How winning these hackathons can play a part in getting anyone a good internship and job?**

Yes, winning such hackathons can play a good part in getting a good internship and job. Such achievements can cast a good impression on interviewer. However, they won't be of much help if you can't clear the interviews. Projects are much more crucial along with such achievements for getting a good internship or job offer. Many major firms select candidates solely on the base of interview performance and projects because skills expected in interviews are different than that of programming competitions. In interviews, many things like code quality, code readability, analytical skills, ability to express ideas etc. matters which aren't required in programming competitions. But obviously, you need to solve the interview problems in first place which would be not be difficult if you are capable to win such hackathons.

**How did you handle the stress while competing to code? What are your suggestions for other students for the same?**

When it comes to programming competitions, stress management can be very important thing. Everyone faces this issue in some way or the other. Only way to come over this issue

is to practice a lot. Keep participating in all the competitions on all the platforms. Since most of the programming competitions only provide you with limited amount of time, so while practicing also, one should practice in the same way focusing on increasing speed and improving accuracy simultaneously. Eventually, you will learn how to manage stress and maintain focus during competitions.

**Do you think being an IITian played a crucial role in your win?**

Yeah, being an IITian played a good role in the win, but what more crucial is the good company of peers, who are passionate just like you. The people you are with and environment you get plays a very crucial role in win. There are lot of teams who went to ACM ICPC World Finals from India previously but doesn't belong to any IIT and secured a fabulous rank for India at World Finals.

**What should one keep in mind when beginning to pursue the Competitive Programming and job preparation?**

Competitive programming is much of a sport. It helps in increasing your aptitude to a level where job preparation doesn't seem difficult. However, one needs atleast 2 years of time to become good in this sport. So if you have placements coming in your current semester, competitive programming might not be fruitful. But if you have good amount time, it could be a hen hatching golden eggs. You can improve your problem solving aptitude using this sport and it will be helpful in all challenges of life including job preparation.

**People call you nerd – How do you handle that ??**

People don't just call me a nerd, they call me a programming nerd. Once you become good in solving problems, you will get lots of cool T-shirts with mind blowing programming quotes on them. I wear all such T-shirts daily and encourage all those people calling me a nerd to become a nerd like me. However, keep in mind that programming all time doesn't make you a nerd because it is something you enjoy and have fun. Just like some people love playing cricket, some people love to code and that doesn't make you a nerd.

**What's your advice to students who aim to become excellent programmer like yours?**

Solve as many problems as you can. Keep participating in all the contests on the platforms like Codeforces, Topcoder, Codechef, Hackerrank, Hackerearth, GeeksforGeeks etc. Keep in mind that most important thing for improvement is to upsolve the contest afterwards. Give atleast twice the duration of contest to upsolve it later.

Always try to solve problems one level higher than your ability while practicing. Solving lots of easy problems are not as beneficial as practicing some hard problems. Focus on seeking ability rather than speed.

Brainstorming is the most important thing for becoming excellent in this sport. Take some time to figure out solution on your own before looking at editorials. Even if you have to read the editorials, try to implement them on your own.

After solving the problem, look at the solutions of experienced great programmers. There will be tons of things you will get to know from those solutions. Codeforces "friends standing" feature is very helpful for this purpose.

The best strategy to become good in this sport is to find someone just like you and to practice together regularly. Having peers will encourage healthy competitions and learning opportunities.

**Harshil's Coding Profile:**

- Codeforces: \_shil
- Topcoder: shil\_4
- Codechef: harshil7924
- Hackerrank: harshil7924

**Harshil's Achievements:**

- Secured 1st rank in Adobe Hackathon 2015 among 8000 participants
- Secured 7th position in India in Morgan Stanley Codeathon,2016.
- Qualified for onsite finals of Codechef Snackdown 2016 and ranked 20th position in India
- Secured **3rd** position in nationwide programming contest held by Hewlett-Packard Enterprise.
- Three TOP5 finishes in Codechef Cook-Off in India

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## Chapter 5

# Nafis Sadique | Seniors should take the responsibility to introduce the junior students to the world of programming

Geek on the Top - Nafis Sadique | Seniors should take the responsibility to introduce the junior students to the world of programming - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks.

This article introduces another extremely talented Geek from our neighborhood country – **Nafis Sadique**.

**Nafis** is a [codeforces grandmaster](#) and ACM-ICPC world finalist from Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh and a true geek to get inspired from.



**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of competitive programming?**

Technology always interested me from childhood. I started programming few months before enrolling into university. I learned about competitive programming from a few of my friends and teachers. After that I found various websites where I can learn and practice programming.

**Which do you think are most important subjects in engineering curriculum that helped you?**

Programming courses, Algorithms, Data-structures, Software engg. , Discrete Math, Digital logic.

**How did your college support you to achieve your wonderful recognitions?**

Our teachers encouraged us a lot. We had regular training classes in the university labs. We could participate in various online contests or practice contests from there. The university also provided the registration fee for various national contests.

**How did your life change as you progressed to be a hard core programmer?**

It changed significantly. Now programming has become a part of my day to day life. Each day is not perfect unless i code something.

**What kind of the skill set you think is needed to excel in the art of programming and perform well in programming contests?**

One needs patience, determination and lots of hard work to be successful in programming contests.

**How well is programming culture developing in your country and what you think students must do to promote it?**

Programming culture is growing rapidly in Bangladesh. So many people are now days participating in programming contests. They need to promote the culture of programming among their friends and juniors. The seniors should take the responsibility to introduce the junior students to the world of programming. Also we need to promote this even to the high schoolers, as the early you get used to programming the better.

**What are your hobbies?**

Though i participate in sports like table tennis or badminton occasionally, my hobbies include reading books, watching movies or tv-series

**How can freshers/pass-outs prepare for tech giants especially off campus?**

There are many websites where one can learn in details about the preparations. I suggest them to take a look at those sites.

**What's your advice to students who aim for becoming a super cool programmer as you?**

Always keep practicing, no matter how hard the goal seems, if you practice hard enough, success will be yours.

Nafis is currently working at Grab, Singapore. He can be reached at [Linkedin](#)

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**Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-nafis-sadique/>

## Chapter 6

# Pratul Kumar | Learning is not a race, so it should not be treated like same

Geek on the top – Pratul Kumar | Learning is not a race, so it should not be treated like same - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are the inspiration for other geeks.

**Pratul Kumar** is a prefinal year student from LNMIIT and is working as a Google Summer of Code(GSoC) developer at SugarLabs. Pratul has started a **PyJaipur community** with thought to organize local meetup where learners can come together and share their knowledge. He believes that 25% learning of our life comes from our peers.



**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of competitive programming?**

I started programming in 11th Standard. Solving real-world problems and developing cool stuff was always one of my inspirations.

There was a lot of pressure during the JEE preparation. During that period, I wasn't able to code much. As I always had a deep interest in programming, I chose Computer Science as my preference at LNMIIT rather than any other branch in one of the IITs.

After coming to college, I had quite a bit of free time in my 1st year. It was the crucial year to start preparing so that I can follow my passions and achieve my dreams. I used to practice a lot on Coding websites. Later on, for some time, I tried my hand on Android development for a month or so, but that didn't seem too interesting. Finally, I switched on to Web Development and started working with frameworks and libraries like Angular, React, Node and the related NPM module.

**How does it feel to be working as the Google Summer of Code(GSoC) developer at Sugarlabs?**

Google Summer of Code(GSoC) is a student development program where a student is required to make a suitable open Source contribution for a period of around 3 months. Google provides a really good stipend and support for the selected projects.

I started my first active contribution in the month of October and then further became a Google Code-In mentor for Sugarlabs in the following month. This was the main factor which helped me gain a stand for my GSoC project. I was in touch with the community every day while exchanging all kinds of knowledge with my precious community members. Google Summer of Code provided me with an opportunity to work for a real-time existing project which is being deployed and used by people. I learned a lot and it made me explore a whole new realm. I learned how to contribute to an organization remotely with patience, consistency, dedication and commitment.

Sugarlabs has a great community with kind people like Walter Bender who is always there to support you in any situation at any time of the day. I firmly believe that if I weren't a part of Sugarlabs, I wouldn't have grown this much.

**How should a student prepare for GSoC from the scratch?**

Google Summer of Code (GSoC) is all about what you contribute to the Open Source world. If you're a student who is aiming for GSoC then the first thing you should do is to make yourself comfortable with version control system, Github and how remote contributions are being made.

Pick a language you want to work with, be it C++, Python or anything else, it doesn't matter. The important thing is that you're interested in that language and the organization you're hoping to work with is also working with it. You should make a list of organizations who are currently working on projects using the language you're interested in. This will help you a lot in filtering out. Now, from those organizations, you should hunt for projects you're interested in and stick to it till the end.

Get in touch with the organization's community as soon as possible as they are the best guide you can ever get for GSoC. Another thing to note is that before asking any question, you should make an effort to solve the problem yourself. You should raid websites like GeeksforGeeks, StackOverflow, etc. and shouldn't be completely dependent on your organization.

You should always keep a few factors in mind like perseverance and proper communication with the organization. Don't wait for the end moment to work but start preparing early to be a step ahead of all. Choose your project, work with the community, make your proposals, work hard and always keep in mind "Make every contribution count"!

**How did you come to know about GeeksforGeeks? How did it help you?**

I came to know about GeeksforGeeks in my first semester. I must say that in my journey, GeeksforGeeks has been my best companion. Visual representation of anything makes it easier to grasp a concept and GeeksforGeeks has the best content for this. It really helped me a lot.

Even when I used to ask my seniors regarding any coding problem or any algorithm, they would always advise me to check GeeksforGeeks. They used to say that GeeksforGeeks has a solution to every possible problem. It's been two years since then and I can only see the website growing in every direction endlessly. Be it CN, OS, Algorithm or Data Structure, you can find new content being added every day. A few days back, GeeksforGeeks also started its Sudo Placements and the best part is that it's completely free to all. All the premium resources that are so hard to get are shared with everyone at no cost.

I was also the Campus Ambassador for GeeksforGeeks last year. I got my first glimpse of working with an organization was at GeeksforGeeks only.

**What do you like to do in free time apart from programming?**

There is a popular belief of peer learning and growing together. For that purpose, I have started a PyJaipur community with thought to organize local meetup where learners can come together and share their knowledge. Till date, there are 4 successful meetups under my guidance.

There is lot of fun in mentoring new students who are just getting started with technology. As a Coursera Mentor for HKUST University, my responsibilities were to guide students in Web development technologies and started Google CS First Program. I also organized a Mozilla Workshop on Open Source and was a mentor for '1 Million Women to Tech', GirlScript, and Wootech. I love to interact with people, I have a belief that 25% learning of our life comes from our peers.



**How did you handle the stress while competing to code? What are your suggestions for other students for the same?**

Always remember, if you want to convert a stone into a diamond, you require a lot of time. Now consider a case, where the stone was not dropped several times or pressurized strongly, would that stone be as good as a real diamond? So, the gist is that the stress on the human body acts in a similar manner, but that pressure should not break or crack the diamond in you.

While doing competitive coding, don't take it as a race. Consider it as a sport you play or a

serious hobby you picked up. Your first responsibility is to be consistent. You should have the passion to improve your skills first and then later care about the competition. All the hard work that you're putting in will always be useful. It's for your benefit only. Rather than showing off, you should share your knowledge and cherish your success. Believe me that sharing knowledge makes you understand the same thing in a much better way.

**What should one keep in mind when beginning to pursue the Competitive Programming & job preparation?**

As an old saying goes “Learning is not a race”, so it should not be treated like same. People shouldn't rush for things that they can't handle. Enough knowledge of the domain must be your first preference instead of rushing to compete with others.

So the first advice to my peers is to have some basic knowledge of Data Structures and Algorithm before you try to do anything. You should always go through the practice questions first and invest time in this venture.

I believe that as of now, GeeksforGeeks has the best set of practice questions that anyone can start doing. Also, you should always follow a T approach. T approach means that you should have sufficient knowledge in all the domain and in-depth knowledge in one of the topics. The topics which should be given more attention are OS, CN, System Design, Introduction to Database Course, etc. Also, create a list of the companies you would like to target according to your current skill set and domain. Keep gathering knowledge about that company and keep checking websites for previously asked questions like GeeksforGeeks, LeetCode, InterviewBit, etc. and be very confident on the day of the interview as confidence is the thing that resembles you everywhere.

One thing in last I would like to sum up is that there is no shortcut to success, people will try to deviate you, make nasty comments in your journey but it's your responsibility to stick with your plan and work accordingly.

Pratul can be reached at [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Github](#)

User Handle: Pratul1997

**Pratul's Achievements:**

- Selected as Google Summer of Code(GSoC) developer at SugarLabs
- Became Google Code-In mentor for Sugarlabs
- Coursera Mentor for HKUST University
- Mentor for ‘1 Million Women to Tech’, GirlScript, and Wootech
- Started a PyJaipur community for local meetup of people to learn through peers

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**Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-pratul-kumar-learning-is-not-a-race-so-it-should-not-be-treated-like-same/>

## Chapter 7

**Rachit Belwariar | The best part at writing GeeksforGeeks were the questions asked by other users on my articles**

Geek on the top - Rachit Belwariar | The best part at writing GeeksforGeeks were the questions asked by other users on my articles - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks.

**Rachit Belwariar** is studying a 5-Year Integrated B.Tech-M.Tech Dual Degree Course in Information Technology from Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur and currently a **Google intern** at Google Headquarters, Mountain View, California (more popularly known as “Googleplex”). He is special just not because of his achievements but because he is one of the cherished author at **GeeksforGeeks and has published number of articles loved by audiences.**



**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of programming?**

It all started when I switched my department from Mining Engineering to Information Technology in my second year (on the basis of performance in my first year). Had I not followed my brother's words and not changed from Mining to Information Technology, I would never have been interviewing with GeeksforGeeks today. Hence, luck and a couple of good decisions inspired by some good advices played a crucial role for achieving all this.

I then started learning Data Structures in my 3rd semester as it was there in my course. I chose C as my language because we were taught that in our first year. I wrapped up the Data Structures course by January, 2016. By that time I had already given few coding contests on Codechef which introduced me to the “World of Algorithms”.

**How did you come to know about GeeksforGeeks?**

I came to knew about GeeksforGeeks when I started facing problems in Algorithms and Data Structures. Whenever I googled something that confused me I only found two dedicated resources on the web. And one of them was GeeksforGeeks , the other being Stackoverflow!

This year in February, when I was practising Graph Theory problems then I thought of contributing to GeeksforGeeks. I found few topics which were not yet published on Geek-forGeeks despite deserving dedicated tutorials on them. As far as I remember, the first article written by me for GeeksforGeeks was on [finding Mother Vertex of a Graph](#). It gave me a lot of fun in writing those articles. I was writing code that would be visible globally to anyone having a decent internet connection. So that was a job of great responsibility.

Then after my first article I thought of giving some more time to this. Luckily I found an **internship at GeeksforGeeks**. My internship demanded exactly what I wanted- writing good and clean codes on new and challenging algorithms and data structures and yes I was being paid for doing all this! I started enjoying writing articles and contributing for GeeksforGeeks. The best part at writing GeeksforGeeks were the questions asked by other users on my articles.

There were few times when even after rigorous checks by me and GeeksforGeeks team, few big bugs still managed to crawl in some of my codes which ultimately got corrected by other

active geeks on the website. Thanks to them!

Hence summarizing all of the above, this internship was my first internship and was a very challenging one which made me more interested towards it.

**Explain your journey as GeeksforGeeks author and how being an author and critic helped you achieve your goals?**

My internship with GeeksforGeeks will always be a memorable one as it was my first internship. I really dedicated myself in this internship this summer. I have written about 40-50 articles on GeeksforGeeks and many of them stayed “Featured Articles” for about 10 days.

I really learnt a lot from this internship and as an author at GeeksforGeeks. First of all the coding style and the conventions followed at GeeksforGeeks helped me to write clear and neat codes. I had to follow strict rules like- giving proper variable names etc which are very similar to industry standards. Writing the codes while following these rules really gave a positive impression to my Google interviewers. You can see all such rules [here](#).

In the middle of my GeeksforGeeks internship, I was informed that I have been selected for “**Geek of the Month**” for June 2016. This was a really a big confidence-booster for me and it only motivated me to write more for GeeksforGeeks.

*P.S:- I also received GeeksforGeeks T-Shirts for my performance and I wear them proudly*

**Do you think being from a small town, you have to face hindrances to achieve you want? If yes, how did you overcome them?**

I hail from Patna, Bihar but currently studying in Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, West Bengal.

I didn't experience any kind of hindrance. For cracking the coding interviews of big companies you just need few things- A laptop, a descent Wi-Fi connection and a room where you can concentrate.

There are few privileges you get when you are studying near big cities like-Kolkata. One gets many opportunities to participate in various hackathons and programming competitions happening in the city. I did participate in team in a couple of local programming contests. Although we didn't win in them but those were experiences worth remembering and I would continue to participate in them in future too.

I personally feel that apart from hard work, the factors which turned everything in my favour was being surrounded by my parents and my brother who supported me at every step and took right decisions for me whenever I was going to take wrong ones.

**Google internship is actually a dream for so many. How did you do this? Please guide other students how they should prepare for the same?**

Google interviews are heavily based on Algorithms and Data Structures. The questions asked in them are standard and are completely new. My experience in competitive programming helped me a lot. But competitive programming is not the only parameter for getting internships (I was never and still I am not a top notch competitive programmer).

Had it been so, the companies would never have conducted interviews and would just pick the top competitive programmers according to the ratings/rankings. In my opinion, getting the basics done thoroughly is a very important factor. You can interview in any mainstream language you are comfortable in, but you should be prepared to answer even the deepest questions related to the programming language you chose. For example, while answering a

tree based question in my Google interviews I was asked in-depth questions about pointers, since I chose C/C++ as my preferred language. I would describe Google interview in one line as follows-

“Coding one single never-seen-before question of standard level in your favourite language within 1 hour while describing your thought process clearly”.

**What would you say was the turning point of your life because of which you are here?**

As said earlier, the support from my family is a huge reason for all the things I have achieved till date. I still have a long distance to go but since I have been asked about one “turning point of my life” then I would choose the moment when I switched to Information Technology from Mining Engineering based on my academic performance in the first year. I give credit a huge part of this good decision to my brother as he convinced me to take this decision.

**What's your advice to students who aim to become excellent programmer and content writer like yours?**

There's a difference between “being passionate” and “begin motivated”. Try to fall in one of the category (I belong to the second category as I was never passionate about coding. It's true that if you are passionate then you are automatically motivated but vice versa is not true).

Rachit can be reached at [Github](#), [Projects](#) , [Linkedin](#) , [Codechef](#)

**Rachit's Achievements:**

- Selected for Google Software Engineering Intern in Google, Mountain View, California.
- Wrote almost [50 articles](#) at GeeksforGeeks.
- Qualified the prelims of prestigious Google Code Jam 2016 and solved 2 out of 3 questions in the next round.
- Qualified the prelims of prestigious Facebook Hacker Cup-2016 by solving 3 out of 4 questions.
- Adjudged as a National Finalist at LinkedIn, MTV Get A Job, Flipkart for the position of Mobility Software Engineer Intern 2016 among more than 2 lakh candidates.
- Ranked 124 out of about 5000 participants in March Challenge 2016 – a 10 day Global programming competition- held by Codechef. Codechef is a global programming competition site for students and professionals
- Ranked 35 in ACM ICPC Replay Round held in Codechef.
- Ranked 112 in Microsoft Build The Shield 2016 contest (a 24-hr Hackathon) by scoring 650 points

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**Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-rachit-belwariar-the-best-part-at-writing-geeksforgeeks-were-the-q>

## Chapter 8

**Rachit Jain | “Stop starting,  
start finishing: Don’t just give  
up on things and then start  
doing something else”**

Geek on the top – Rachit Jain | ”Stop starting, start finishing: Don’t just give up on things and then start doing something else” - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are the inspiration for other geeks.

**Rachit Jain** is an IIT Roorkee Alumnus and a Software Engineer at Microsoft. Rachit has his programming Youtube channel named “Algorithms With Rachit Jain”. He believes that his YouTube channel empowers other students to transform their lives, become a “problem-solver” and achieve their dream jobs.



**How does it feel to be working at tech giant Microsoft?**

- 1.) You realise how important the brand is and the power it brings to your personality.
- 2.) You realise how things are different at tech giants as compared to start ups.
- 3.) You realise the perks associated with tech giants – food, transport, medical, business trips etc
- 4.) You realise the opportunities within the same company and you can shift teams within the organization to ensure you are always on the career path you want, learning the technologies you want.
- 5.) If I didn't say it already, it feels great.

**Please explain your journey from being an Electrical Engineer at IIT Roorkee to be a Microsoft star?**

- 1.) 4 years is a huge time –
  - a.) Worked on Competitive Programming a lot.
  - b.) Developed Android Apps, Machine Learning projects and Backend Dev.

- 2.) Internships in Grofers & Flipkart gave me a professional touch about what to expect in a career in Software Engineering – the Goods, the Bads.
- 3.) Minors in Computer Science helped me build more credibility towards Software Career
- 4.) Was a part of the Development Society of IIT Roorkee, IMG – Information Management Group – learnt a lot about how Internet works and web development aspects.
- 5.) These were the things that opened my gates to cracking the Microsoft interview.
- 6.) Since I had a mixture of development skills plus strong data structure concepts, I quickly learned the new technologies at Microsoft and deliver quality products.

**How should one prepare for giants like Microsoft, Google? When should students commence their preparation for the same?**

- 1.) Google process is much different than Microsoft. For cracking Google, focus a lot on Competitive Programming. You should be able to easily crack Codeforces A, B, C, D Div2 problems and implement them quickly. You should also know about Segment Trees, Graph Theory, etc.
- 2.) Microsoft focuses more on LinkedLists, Stacks, Queues, Binary Search Trees, Binary Trees, etc. Ofcourse, these are subjected to change, but the general trend suggests its easier to crack Microsoft as compared to Google.
- 3.) Students should start as early as possible. They should do Competitive Programming religiously for 1-2 years to be able to easily crack the coding interviews.
- 4.) To be really productive in cracking interviews, jump away right to GeeksForGeeks and start exploring the ‘Bhagvat Gita’ as it has all the topics, explanation and code.

**Do you think being an IITian played a crucial role in your win?**

- 1.) The journey of becoming an IITian transformed me drastically – I learnt how to approach new problems in life, and the importance of right attitude towards success, failures, misery, etc.
- 2.) The IITian stamp does strengthen my resume and helps me build credibility and trust easily.
- 3.) It also enabled me to have a strong networks with high skilled IITians working in big 4 and other great firms.
- 4.) My YouTube channel for programming is another thing that exhibits my skills and knowledge.

**How did you come to know about GeeksforGeeks? How did it help you?**

- 1.) I regret a bit that I didn’t try GeeksforGeeks before 3rd year. I only did Competitive Programming before. I realized that most of the interview questions are pretty much easier than Competitive Programming questions, but still, there are many classic interview questions that have some particular solution which might be hard to crack in 45 mins in an interview.
- 2.) GeeksforGeeks provides the right experience and the vision in which students should prepare and what they can expect in coding interviews.

**You are a deep follower of Data Structures and Algorithms. Do you think it is the most important subject? If not, which are?**

- 1.) It’s super interesting and makes you a “problem-solver”. You learn how to approach new problems, break them down into smaller problems and then put the pieces together to build a complete solution to solve a particular problem.
- 2.) It’s indeed the most important subject needed to be a great programmer and also crack the coding interviews.

3.) Operating System, Networks are other important subjects which might be asked in interviews.

**You like imparting knowledge for which you have a youtube channel as well. What keeps you attached to teaching?**

- 1.) There are many skilled people in the world, but who is ready to give time to make an impact in the life of juniors or less-skilled people?
- 2.) My YouTube channel empowers other students transform their lives, become a “problem-solver” and achieve their dream jobs.
- 3.) Emotions are very important in my life, and someday seeing that I am a part of the reason behind “their success in life” and “achieving their dream job” is a heavenly feeling. If my audience connects with me, it motivates me.
- 4.) Very less people are blessed to explain their thoughts and knowledge clearly, and I try to spread education and right mindset through my YouTube channel.

**How Electrical Engineering taught you time management and to perform well in fields other than your interest?**

- 1.) I have maintained a good CGPA, very strong Data Structures, and Algorithms profile and also acquired development skills like Android App Development, Backend Django Development, Machine Learning, lost 20 Kgs in my college life.
- 2.) I was able to split my 4 years into months dedicated to one of the above spheres that I mentioned. I used to study for 12-14 days before my ETE & MTE, and that was enough to score a 9 pointer. Again, I am always able to share and express my thoughts clearly and that helped me score good marks in examinations as well.
- 3.) I started realising that to perform good in any field, just focus on the story! Understand what it’s about, what it is trying to do, and how it is trying to do. If you develop this story, you can simply perform good in that field. I don’t pick up topics one by one in detail, I rather first have an overview about what it is, and build a rough story about it.

**College life has always been considered an amazing life by students. What is your catch on that? How should one utilize the time while in college?**

- 1.) Realise that 4 years is a huge time.
- 2.) Have fun, don’t always be a robot and disciplined.
- 3.) Do introspection – this will help you come back to track and make up for the days when you were not disciplined
- 4.) Start building the story – don’t just read and learn! Understand why it is the way it is, what other alternatives it could have, and why this one shaped out the way it is.
- 5.) Utilize the breaks and lectures – think of Coding Interview problems when you are alone walking or taking a bath or getting bored in a lecture.
- 6.) Stop starting, start finishing: Don’t just give up on things and then start doing something else. Start off with Android dev, finish it and maybe then after sometime pick up building RESTful APIs in Django and finish it, and so on...
- 7.) Enhance your communication skills – Preparing for 3 years and then failing because you weren’t able to explain your thoughts is a bummer!

**What is your one in a million advice to students?**

It’s not about how much gifted you are, it’s all about how you react to the failures and convert them into success.

Rachit can be reached on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Youtube](#), [Twitter](#), [Blogspot](#)

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### **Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-rachit-jain-stop-starting-start-finishing-dont-just-give-up-on-thing>

## Chapter 9

# Rodrigo San Martin Monroy | Extract common topics from previously asked interviews of the company you want to join

Geek on the Top - Rodrigo San Martin Monroy | Extract common topics from previously asked interviews of the company you want to join - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks. **Rodrigo San Martin Monroy** is a humble guy with tremendous skills who has already worked in Amazon and now with the biggest of all



tech giant Google, California.

**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of competitive programming?**

Everything started in the University, I learnt Math (Algebra, Calculus, etc.), Programming, and also I decided to register in my first year to the ACM ICPC local contest and I lost, I just solve 1 of the 5 problems , I didn't give up and all year I studied algorithms and data

structures on my own, and next year I could won the local contest I could go to the regional contest

**How does it feel to be working in the top most company in the world- Google?**  
It's awesome be around smart people, you learn a lot, every body trust you, and help you to grow.

**Which do you think are most important subjects in engineering curriculum that helped you?**

Algorithms and data structures, Distributed systems and Object Oriented Programming.

**How did you come to know about GeeksforGeeks?**

I had 2 interviews for google and amazon, I searched for some specific problems that could ask in the interviews, and I found GfG and I really liked the way of the problem and the solution are explained, and decided to study all my technical questions from there.

**How and when should a student systematically begin preparation for placements?**

I think that the first thing to do is:

1. Study the material by the recruiter (and also the problems given as example)
2. Read interview questions previously asked by the company you want to join, study in deep and try to extract common questions of those interviews and then Sort the common topics.
3. For me I think these are the most important topics to ask are:
  - Search and Sorting (Binary Search, Quick Sort & Merge Sort)
  - Tree problems (DFS, BFS, BinaryTree, Binary Search Tree)
  - Array and Matrix problems
  - List (Stack and Queues)
  - Misc (Cache LRU)
  - Recursive problems
  - Design Patterns
  - Heaps
  - Graphs
4. If you have time you should try to solve more and more problems (**without IDE**)
5. I also tried to pick a random problem and start my stopwatch and tried to solve it in less than 10 mins. If I couldn't I try to memorize the problem and try again.

**You have lived in different parts of US, Which city is your personal favorite and why?**

I've majorly lived in Michigan and California and all the places are different. What I recommend you is if you have the option to select a place, you should check the cost of living, weather, security, time to arrive from your work to your home etc. For example, Michigan's cost of live is half of California, but could be a problem if you don't like cold (around 6 months of snow)

**Programming culture is not immensely developed in your country and what you think students must do to promote the culture in their countries?**

I'm from Mexico, and is not immensely developed so I always try to teach, explain, and promote all related to programming, to ease and enthuse people.

**What are your hobbies?**

I think that is always good work with people open to do something different even if they didn't do it before, is good take breaks like that. I love play soccer, but also I like to play any sports with my teammates.

**How can freshers /pass-outs prepare for tech giants especially off campus?**

I think that it is always good be honest with yourself and to know what you need to learn. You can visit to places where you can see what is the process of the company where you want to join. Also creating connections with people who can help you (recruiters, developers) with that.

**What's your advice to students who aim at a job like yours?**

I think that all the people who really enjoy programming can get it. Just Organize yourself (what you should learn, how you should practice). Be constant try to study as often as you can (if you study just once a week, you probably forget what you learn last week), take it serious (study for real), learn from your errors and never give up.

Let the top geeks inspire other students!!

**Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-rodrigo-san-martin-monroy-extract-common-topics-from-previous>

## Chapter 10

# Sahil Garg | “First Solve the Problem, then Write the code”

Geek on the top – Sahil Garg | ”First Solve the Problem, then Write the code” - Geeks-forGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are the inspiration for other geeks.

**Sahil Garg** is a programming enthusiast since his high school and took competitive programming in his sophomore year in college. Sahil is an MIT, Manipal graduate and seeks to be CEO of his own company. He believes that there is nothing like a bad programmer or a good programmer, it is all relative and different people have their own programming styles and techniques.



**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of competitive programming?**

I have been a computer science enthusiast since my high school, and my interest in programming grew in the school itself. I had taken up computer science in 11th and 12th grade, where we were taught basic C++ programming. I really enjoyed these classes, and in my sophomore year in college, I found out about competitive programming. I joined two of the largest computer science clubs at MIT, Manipal, ‘IECSE Manipal, and ACM Student chapter’. Seniors in these clubs told me about competitive programming and even ACM-ICPC. This is when I started exploring all of the competitive programming and began practicing on the various sites online. Since then, there has been no looking back.

**You have been selected as a Summer Intern at Goldman Sachs. How did you prepare for it?**

In the summer after my second year, I started to concentrate solely on my competitive programming skills. I did a remote internship during the summer but mostly worked on improving my data structures and algorithms. I put in 3-4 hours daily to learn and improve my knowledge of C++ Template libraries, Data Structures, and different algorithm techniques. I started solving the data structures and algorithms tracks on Coding websites (like GeeksforGeeks, Hackerrank) as well as participated in sudo-placement 1 of GeeksforGeeks. I would read up at least 2-3 articles daily on GeeksforGeeks on a specific topic that I chose

to do on that day. It is very important to stay motivated and continue practicing. For the top companies, speed is also important. Solving more and more questions online helps to improve the speed.

**What is your career goal? How are you preparing for it?**

I wish to become the CEO of my own company someday. I believe that with the power of computing that we have today, we can solve so many problems and make this world a better place. Having an entrepreneurial mindset, I want to take up these problems and use computer science and programming skills to create effective solutions that make a change in our society. For this, I have been interacting with various mentors, taking their guidance and am planning for a small startup in my own college business incubator. I am doing Android and iOS development so that I can get an insight on how projects are developed. I also have a few apps deployed on the Play Store and I wish to continue to build new ones.

**What do you like to do in free time apart from programming?**

I enjoy tech quizzing and so I try to stay up to date with the latest trends in gadgets and technology. I play sports and have been a part of my college Basketball and Table tennis teams. I also like to spend my time playing the guitar and playing XBOX. These activities help to relax and calm one down, and help because you will then be rejuvenated and can then think fresh.

**How did you handle the stress while competing to code? What are your suggestions for other students for the same?**

I think that it is important to neglect the stress that one feels while competing to code. One must concentrate only on themselves and should compete with only himself/herself. There is nothing like a bad programmer or a good programmer, it is all relative and different people have their own programming styles and techniques. So, it is important that one finds their passion, and works to only improve themselves. Programming requires thinking clearly and calmly, and the stress only hampers this, so it is essential that you do not worry about anything but the problem that you're solving at that time!

**You are also active in sports. Do you think students ignore these activities? What do you suggest to students on that?**

Yes, it is very important to have some kind of physical activity as it helps to free both the body and mind. I feel that it could be anything, you could go running, or gym or sports, but physical activity helps you to be active and work faster and better. Many students ignore these activities thinking that they would take up their time and waste time in which they can work, but the real fact is that these activities help one to become fresh and fast, and they will then be able to do more work and better work in lesser time. I would really suggest to take up some kind of physical activity, especially if you're into programming or computer science related work and try to follow a routine for the same.

Sahil can be reached on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)

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## Source

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-sahil-garg-first-solve-the-problem-then-write-the-code/>

## Chapter 11

# Shashank Pathak | Don't let your mind get diverted to the consequences of not solving a problem

Geek on the top – Shashank Pathak | Don't let your mind get diverted to the consequences of not solving a problem - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are the inspiration for other geeks.

**Shashank Pathak** had an inclination towards reasoning and puzzles since his childhood and hence started Competitive Programming. He is currently doing his Research Internship at IIT Indore. Shashank is one of the cherished authors at **GeeksforGeeks** who took a step towards what he likes and recommends to follow what suits you the best but not the herd, risking your interests.



**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of competitive programming?**

Since my family background (father and brother) is related to computer science, so henceforth as per their advice, I chose the school of CSE in KIIT University. I have grown up seeing books related to computers and programming around me. To be honest I was least interested in programming till my 1st semester. I had an inclination towards reasoning and puzzles since my childhood as my parents kept me involved in competitive exams. It was the end of the second semester when my brother told me to start competitive programming and I started off with 30 days of Code. Then gradually I started practicing from Codeforces and in a real sense, since then I became serious about CP. Then I gradually moved to Geeks-forGeeks, SPOJ, Codechef, Hacker Earth, Project Euler (in terms of practicing). I started to enjoy every bit of it and gradually it became my habit. I also solved the book Narasimha Karumanchi, a good book with lots of variations and optimization techniques over a given problem.

**You were selected for Research Internship at IIT Indore. How did you prepare for it?**

It was one of the most memorable days of my life when I got selected for Research Intern at IIT Indore. Getting research intern at IIT's, solely depends on your personal choice. I decided right at the beginning of my second year to try for a research intern at IIT's. I was and I am still involved in competitive programming and problem solving to a deep extent. I decided to pursue my research intern in algorithmic analysis and optimization, which is the sole motive or objective of competitive programming. I just simply kept on solving as many problems as I could and learned various algorithms and data structures. It was fun, frustrating at times and a brainstorming work at the same time. In all these

courses of time, GeeksforGeeks became my friend as it has very well synchronized articles on various data structures and algorithms with their coding implementation. Then from November onwards, I started to apply for a research intern at different IIT's and started mailing professors of my research interest. One simple bit of advice, always choose your Prof. carefully while applying. I was lucky and fortunate enough to get an awesome Prof. to work under. Back then in February 2018, after my 4th-semester mid sem exam, I started to solve problems insanely on GeeksforGeeks and was the monthly leader of February. It boosted my confidence a lot, moreover, this achievement boosted my CV further and then I applied to IIT Indore, KGP, BHU etc. I got the acceptance mail in the month of March from IIT Indore.

I had also written some articles on GeeksforGeeks which I think has also played an important role in my selection. Writing articles on GeeksforGeeks helped me significantly in the documentation of my research work, and reading articles for a longer period of time inculcated patience in me which in turn helped me in dealing with tough research papers during my internship(reading articles and reading research papers has many similarities like understanding the mathematical aspect and algorithms). I will be always thankful to Sandeep Jain Sir and the whole GfG team for building such a beautiful platform for programming freaks. It played a major role in landing me a research intern at IIT Indore.

**What are your Career Plans and How are you progressing towards them?**

I wish to pursue my career in research, in near future, either at R&D sector of a company or at any good university may it be abroad or India. I want to achieve a good rank in all prestigious contests like ACM-ICPC, TCO etc.

I am still doing my research work at IIT Indore. As an intern, I was able to make significant contributions and my work impressed my professor, so he allowed me to continue working under him on more research projects and papers. Since competitive programming has become an integral part of my life, so I just keep solving problems more and more and take online contests. It's increasing my algorithmic dimensions of knowledge and helps me prepare for tougher contests.

**How did you come to know about GeeksforGeeks? How did it help you?**

It was my 1st semester and I had been programming in C back then. I being least interested in programming, one day before my exam, searched topics and programmes that were there in my syllabus. The first link to every topic I searched for was of GeeksforGeeks. So from there I came to know about GeeksforGeeks.

When I started off with competitive programming sincerely at the end of second semester or approximately after my first year, GeeksforGeeks gradually became my best friend. In initial days, I was not able to solve even basic problems, so I got frustrated a lot. Then I opted for a strategy, I used to break down problem statements into independent problems and used to read the algorithms involved in those problems from GeeksforGeeks. It helped me cover huge number of topics from GFG. Many a times when I forgot some algorithms, I find it out directly from the done list of topics(A very helpful feature of GeeksforGeeks website, where you can maintain your list of the topics you have read and the to-do list to keep a track of all the topics you wish to read in future). I would love to see a to-do list of problems, which we are not able to solve or have marked to solve again on GeeksforGeeks soon. I started solving problems on GFG later and I solved around 148 problems in the month of February and became weekly leader thrice and monthly leader once. It's a great initiative that keeps people motivated towards more and more problem solving to achieve these titles. From January onwards I started writing articles on GFG website. You google

a topic related to programming and its already there on GfG, hence while writing articles you have to think of some awesome variations on an existing article or entirely new topic. It eventually increased my knowledge, technical writing skills and thinking ability to tweak problems. If I am able to write the answers to these questions in clean and synchronised manner then it's all because of experience of contributing clean and systematic articles on GfG.

Later this year in 2018, I have been selected as Campus Ambassador for my college at GfG. It has given me great exposure. I hold sessions on competitive programming with my team of HRCC coding club. My college lacks programming culture a lot, so it has given me a chance as a Campus Ambassador to make people aware about it as GfG is a big name and almost every person who is or has ever been related to programming knows about it. It has provided me an opportunity to test my skills in terms of leadership, teaching and programming.

Words are not enough to thank GfG for helping me out and making my knowledge grow exponentially day by day.

**What do you like to do in free time apart from programming?**

I love doing cubing(solving Rubik's cube or any other sort of puzzle cubes). I like listening to music(Indian classical instrumental) and watching documentaries especially related to universe and mathematics, stand up comedy at times or talking to my family. Sometimes I do play cricket, table tennis and pool.



**How did you handle the stress while competing to code? What are your suggestions for other students on the same?**

It is the problem with everyone who starts doing something new. Every human body is comfortable in following the Newton's law of Inertia. While competing in coding competitions, be patient enough and just focus on solving the problems. Don't let your mind get diverted to the consequences of not solving that problem. I remember one question which came in 'long challenge' at Codechef. It took me four days to come to the solution but in that course

of time, I was able to think of different approaches thus it increased my dimension to think and approach to a problem.

I would highly recommend giving short contests as it helps us to develop quick thinking ability to tackle the problem within a time constraint. Don't worry about rating and rank at any point of time. Just compete with a motive to solve as many problems as you can. Even while practicing problems try to solve it within a time constraint. Always remember that competing is good but comparison is not.

#### **What should one keep in mind while beginning to pursue the Competitive Programming & job preparation?**

Competitive Programming is just like test cricket. There is no shortcut to becoming good at it. You should keep patience and just keep learning new things daily. Enjoy facing WA's and TLE's. It will give you more happiness when you are able to rectify your mistakes in code or think of tricky test cases. Keep pushing yourself for green ticks. Make sure that you don't just increase the number of problems in your profile rather solve each problem religiously. If you don't give a thought to the problem and rush to the solution, then you waste that problem. Think over a problem from all dimensions and still if you are not able to solve, read editorial and ask 'Why?', to every step of it. Why we are doing this step and so on. Stick to a few online platforms as it will not make you distracted. Give as many contests as possible. Always remember to do 'Upsolving' after the contest is over. I made a mistake, in this case, I started giving contests a bit late after a huge amount of practice. Remove the fear of rank and rating. Try tweaking the problems and always use a pen and paper to first devise the solution or logic to the problem and then start coding. Solve as many problems as you can from the online judges that suit you the most(I prefer SPOJ and GeeksforGeeks). If you want to grow at higher level of CP then besides DS and Algorithms, focus on mathematical aspects like number theory, game theory, modular arithmetic etc. 'Project Euler' is a very good platform which has a bunch of mathematical problems. All the questions on that are a gem.

For Job preparation, read blogs of Ashish Barnwal Sir and seek guidance from seniors who are placed at good companies. Read interview experiences on GeeksforGeeks of various companies as it is very helpful. Sudo Placement is a great initiative by GeeksforGeeks for preparation of placements.

Have the courage to follow your passion and interest. In my college, competitive programming culture is almost null, everyone is involved in development. I followed what I like and what suits me the best. Never follow the herd risking your interests.

Always be in contact with some good seniors who will guide you. In my case my guides and inspirations were Siddhant Pathak(Because of him I started loving maths), Angad Saberwal (Placed at Google), Hemang Sarkar(Placed at Amazon), Ashish Barnwal(Placed at Microsoft), Anudeep Nekkanti (Read his blogs and Quora answers to an efficient step-wise approach to start competitive programming).

Shashank can be reached at [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)

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#### **Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-shashank-pathak/>

## Chapter 12

# Sumeet Varma | Actual fun begins when you solely concentrate on finding algo to solve a problem

Geek on the Top - Sumeet Varma | Actual fun begins when you solely concentrate on finding algo to solve a problem - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks. Our first Geek is the coding champ – **Sumeet Varma** who is extremely talented and leaving no stones unturned to make India proud on international platforms.

**Sumeet Varma** is pursuing his Bachelor's degree at Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Gandhinagar. He is one of the most talented Competitive programmer in India as of today. GeeksforGeeks team feels proud to interact with him and inspire other students to follow their goals in the sport called competitive programming.



How did it all start? What motivated you for Competitive Programming?

During my third semester, there was an intra-college contest organized by Programming Club, DA-IICT. That was my first contest ever and I could only solve 1 question, but I liked it a lot. In the next 10 days or so of Diwali Vacation, I practiced 5-6 hours daily on HackerRank. Then there were college exams and I had to leave it. I started again (and never looked back) when I did my first contest on CodeForces in the first week of 4'th semester.

The real motivation was always that I was having lots of fun solving the problems. When I started competitive programming, I was not even aware that most of software development interviews are so heavily based on algorithmic skills!

**What are the skill-sets required to be too good in programming?**

The most important thing is to be mentally ready with a sky high attitude that “If anyone else can solve that problem, even I can solve it, it shouldn’t be very tough”.

Also, people who are good at maths tend to perform a lot better at these contests, so if maths is your strong point you really have an advantage over other participants.  
And for all the algorithmic skills, GeeksforGeeks is surely there

**What should one keep in mind when beginning to pursue the Competitive Programming?**

The initial phase when you are not clear with the basics is the most frustrating part of competitive programming. You will face lots of situation when you think everything is right in your algorithm as well as your code, but still you are getting WA / TLE / RTE. That’s really quite frustrating. But the key is not to get demotivated and just practice so that you don’t make the same silly mistakes again. Once you are comfortable with coding, the actual fun begins when you can solely concentrate on finding algorithms to solve the given problem.

**What do you like to do in free time except programming?**

I used to play a lot of counter strike on lan with my friends in college every night initially. Now a days, whenever I am free, I mostly watch movies or random videos on YouTube.

**How did you feel meeting Gennady Korotkevich?**

He is the best in world right now. So meeting him during SnackDown was really a great experience. I couldn’t interact with him but I was lucky enough to get a photo with him. Apart from coding, he plays football really well. I was in the team opposite to his and they beat us 9-0.

**How your college has supported you for your achievement?**

The most important thing that my college (DA-IICT) has given me are few friends who are also interested a lot in competitive programming. I can discuss algorithms and solutions to tough questions with them whenever I want to.

Other than that, I also had a data structures and algorithms course in my third semester. Also the teams going for ICPC regionals get good reimbursement.

My first contest was a one which was organized by Programming Club. Had the club not been active, I wouldn’t even have started programming in the first place.

**Your advice to students who are aiming for similar targets as yours?**

Practice a lot! Don’t get demotivated! Believe in yourself and Have lots of Fun!

**Sumeet’s achievements:**

- CodeForces Maximum Rating: 2406, Handle: Sumeet.Varma
- TopCoder Maximum Rating: 2177, Handle: Sumeet.Varma
- CodeChef: Been in top 3 in India in 2 long challenges, 4 cook-offs and 3 lunch-times, Handle: sumeet\_varma
- HackerRank Maximum Rating: 3780, Handle: Sumeet\_Varma
- Google Code Jam'16: India Rank – 2 / 6400, World Rank – 191 / 27000

Sumeet can be reached at [facebook](#) , [linkedin](#)

## Source

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-sumeet-varma-actual-fun-begins-when-you-solely-concentrate-on-finding-algo-to-solve-a-problem/>

## Chapter 13

# Vaibhav Gosain | It is important to solve problems which are a bit above your current level

Geek on the Top - Vaibhav Gosain | It is important to solve problems which are a bit above your current level - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks.

**Vaibhav Gosain** is another geek who might be known to so many geeks already because of his tremendous achievements like Google Code Jam winner and codeforces master.



**How did it all start? What made you land into the world of competitive programming?**

I was first introduced to online judges by college seniors in the first semester. After solving a few problems on SPOJ, I was hooked . The first contest that I took part in was a codeforces

round in November 2014. I was only able to solve 1 problem, that too towards the end of the contest . The joy of solving problems and my interest in mathematics made me continue further.

**How does it feel to be amongst the top Indians at Codeforces?**

Although rating is just a number and is not a direct indicator of ability, it feels good to have hard work being reflected in the form of results

**Which do you think are most important subjects in engineering curriculum that helped you?**

Courses in the engineering curriculum are not specifically designed to help students who want to excel at competitive programming. Those which are related to algorithms only cover the basics and do not delve much into details and applications of algorithms which might help in programming contests. Instead of courses of curriculum, practice and self-study matter more.

**How important a programming club like PAG(Programming and Algorithms Group) is important and how does it help other students?**

Programming and Algorithms Group, IITR is aimed at spreading a culture for Algorithms and related stuff among people both in and outside IIT Roorkee. Every year, we introduce new entrants of the college to competitive programming and motivate them to improve at an early stage. We organize lectures on algorithm concepts, as well as competitions: both Intra college as well as international, including Insomnia and Codemats, our annual competitions.

Last year we started a series of facebook posts called “Questions of the Week”, each post in which contained tutorials, and practice problems along with editorials for a specific topic, ranging from basic to more advanced topics. We are planning on starting a series of blog posts in the near future.

**What kind of the skill set you think is needed to excel in the art of programming and perform well in programming contests?**

A keen interest for solving problems and a will to regularly learn new concepts and techniques is all it takes to excel at competitive programming. Though, being good at high school level mathematics, especially combinatorics gives you an initial advantage.

**Is there any difference while preparing for contest events by codeforces, topcoder, codechef etc?**

There is not much difference in the skill-set required for contests on codeforces, topcoder or codechef . Although problems on topcoder require more intuitive mathematical reductions, hence I find them a bit more challenging. Also, Topcoder rounds are shorter, hence speed is also of higher importance there.

**What's your advice to students who aim to become excellent programmer like yours?**

Practice is the key! Solve as many problems as you can, and regularly take part in live contests on various OJs . After taking part in a contest, be sure to upsolve and read the editorials, and practice any new concepts you come across. While practicing, it is important to solve problems which are a bit above your current level, neither too easy nor hard.

Another thing to keep in mind while writing code: Do not think as you code. Before starting to write even a line of your code, try to have the entire structure of the code well defined in your head, or on paper. This will help reduce bugs significantly and will result in cleaner

code and less coding time.

**Vaibhav's Achievements:**

- Google Code Jam 2016 (semi-finals): Rank 1 in India, 86 overall
- Codeforces rating: 2229, Handle: gvaibhav21
- Topcoder rating: 1888, Handle: gvaibhav21
- Codechef: been in top 5 in India in 4 Cook-offs, 2 long challenges, and 5 Lunch-times, handle: gvaibhav21
- Hackerrank rating: 3568, Handle: gvaibhav21
- Winner, Topcoder Collegiate Contest India 2015

Vaibhav can be reached at [Facebook](#)

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**Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-top-vaibhav-gosain-important-solve-problems-bit-current-level/>

## Chapter 14

# Vicky Tiwari | Don't forget to read editorials and upsolve problems after each contest

Geek on the top - Vicky Tiwari | Don't forget to read editorials and upsolve problems after each contest - GeeksforGeeks

Geek on the top is all about success stories of Geeks who are working hard to chase their goals and are inspiration for other geeks.

Vicky's story is an unusual one and so definitely an inspiring one too. He has proved that if you have willpower nothing can come in your way, no matter what.



**How did it all started? The change in stream and then change in country?**

I'm glad that you asked this question!

Back in 2012, I was preparing for Medical entrance exam and I wanted to be a doctor. I had scored 145/200 in Maharashtra CET exam and couldn't get admission into MBBS or BDS. It was a very tough time for me, my parents didn't want me to go to any other city or state. After sitting at home for almost a month I decided to do BSc in Microbiology and started searching online. As I wasn't aware of the deadlines, online application had already

completed. It was the last day of offline Application process and I went to more than 10 colleges and requested them to give me admission. They all refused me to give admission. I came back, after a lot of discussion with my family they convinced me to give CET exam again but this time for Engineering. I spent one year at home and prepared for engineering entrance exam. I was Biology major so it was hard for me to study math but still I managed to score 154/200 (82/100 in Maths) and got into [SPIT, Mumbai](#).

My brothers introduced me to SPOJ and in my first year, I used to spend most on time on [SPOJ](#). Later I switched to open source and started working on my own projects. After completing my 4th semester, I started my internship at Directi | CodeChef. Being exposed to real world very early was extremely helpful. Apart from technical skills, I learnt how a big company works, how they maintain codebase, tasks, about agile development etc. I was at CodeChef for six months and then I started working on my startup BooksBarter – Online Portal for buying and selling old books. I couldn't do it but again it wasn't a waste of time. Later, again at CodeChef after my 6th semester.

So I think, My previous two internships, startup and Open source work helped me in many ways and Finally I made it to Slack this summer.

**What are the skill-sets required to excel in programming?**

You only need basic/intermediate knowledge of one programming language. Once you start participating in programming competitions you will eventually learn everything while solving problems. Don't forget to read editorials and upsolve problems after each contests. Trust me, I didn't do this and I regret it. I would have been a better competitive programmer but I didn't find it very exciting and later moved to [open source](#) – real world project development.

If you want to excel in programming – Practice -> Practice -> Participate -> Code -> Read Editorial -> learn & Solve problems again -> Practice!

**What are the resources referred by you? What are the toughest problems you have solved till now?**

I used to spend most of time on GeeksforGeeks during my first two years of engineering. For Data structures and Algorithms, GeeksforGeeks and CLRS Book and 'Data Structure and Algorithm Analysis' by Mark Allen Weiss'. During my interview preparation – Geeksforgeeks, Elements of Programming Interviews and Coding Interview Questions by Narasimha Karumanchi. For open source development, Documentations! :p.

**What should one keep in mind when beginning to pursue the Competitive Programming and job preparation?**

In my opinion, Competitive programming and Job preparation are totally different things. Yes, Competitive Programming really helps in Job preparation but job preparation should not include Competitive Programming.

For Competitive Programming this is the only mantra – Practice -> Practice -> Participate -> Code -> Read Editorial -> learn & Solve problems again -> Practice!

But, for job preparation only DS and Algo skills are not enough. There should be few projects on your resume, knowledge of few frameworks and soft skills are also very important. Job preparation takes time. Networking, Database, Operating systems these subjects are also very important.

**What do you like to do in free time except programming?**

I spend most of my free time in chatting, reading on Reddit and watching Pranks and Music

videos on YouTube.

**How your college has supported you for your achievement?**

My seniors in my college really helped me a lot. Everyone is self motivated there and trying their hardest to do something.

**How do you plan to get your dream job? Which company would you like to work for( if any)OR planning to become an Entrepreneur?**

I have already got offer from Slack. I want focus on more Infrastructure and Dev Operations. I don't really care about the Company as long as I'm learning. I can work even work in a small startup and do my best for its growth as long as I'm learning and getting paid enough to save some money for traveling :p.

Planning to become an Entrepreneur, yes! Someday yes, I have many ideas in mind but this is not the right time. I want to work somewhere for at least next 5-6 years then I will think of Entrepreneurship and invest all my money in that.

**Can you give us a brief account of what you felt was the toughest interview.**

I interviewed with 5-6 companies including Mozilla, LinkedIn, Amazon, BrowserStack. I found Browser's interview bit challenging and couldn't solve any problem. Problems were so good and challenging, I just want to apply there and interview with them again. I wasn't prepared enough that time. If I remember correctly, I had to create XML and log parsers in both coding problems. Rest of the companies interview were pretty much like easy/medium level problems on CodeChef.

**Your advice to students who are aiming for similar targets as yours?**

"Don't worry. Follow what your heart says and do it well." ~ Anup Sir | Lead, CodeChef.

So just do what you love but also maintain your GPA in college. Ask yourself just one question – "Did you give your 100%?" in everything you really want to do. If it's 100% not then you need to improve and If you did give your 100% then you will see the results it may take time but it would be awesome I'm sure!

Vicky can be reached at [Facebook](#) , [Linkedin](#) , [Quora blog](#) , [Personal blog](#) , [Github](#)

**Vicky's Achievements:**

- Directi (4th sem) -> Directi (6th sem ) -> Slack Internship and then full time offer.
- Contributed to more than 10+ open source projects including Google and Apple's projects.
- AlgoWiki – All resources at one place, my open source project is used by more than thousands students and it has 50,000 monthly page views.
- AlgoWiki was used in MIT Conference for a workshop
- The L and Charmander Bot for Slack is used by 10+ small and big Organizations.

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**Source**

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/geek-on-the-top-vicky-tiwari/>