

THE



MEMORIR

-Be a part, not apart!

From Our Patron

Dear All,

It is often said that an educational institute is judged by the performance of its alumni. Therefore, it's a matter of pride to learn that NITK Alumni Association has taken a giant stride forward by providing a gateway to a community that is one of the most diverse, talented and invigorating in the world.

Ever since its inception, NITK has been committed to imparting quality education to its students in a technologically advanced environment. The institution has, over the last few years, grown in leaps and bounds. It has expanded in terms of both its size and activities.

I hope this platform keeps the old bonds strong and fosters new relationships between not just the Alumni and the institute but within the vast family of the Alumni that we have. It is important to acknowledge the role that alumni play in the development and growth of any institution of higher learning. It is a rather special relationship that is built on mutual respect and sharing of wealth of immense knowledge and experiences. Though this association has readily served both the college and the students, we should always be looking for innovative measures to make it all the more useful. The Alumni being an integral part of the college, are invited to serve on boards, senate and advisory councils of the institute as they are the ones who have been battling, rather successfully, their ways in a world that is cruel. They can play a pivotal role in software procurements, aiding returns in terms of projects, consultancies etc. This reputed link could help in initiating collaborative projects with the students and the faculty, both to promote research and development and to provide a window of opportunity by understanding and facilitating by means of case studies. It is the engineer community which actually rules the world in its truest sense. So, they need to be taught the value of being practical and pragmatic. Establishment and upgradation of labs could be yet another significant step to realise the vision of making NITK a centre of excellence.



Prof. Anand Mohan
Director

I have always believed that our younger generation is better than its previous. The kind of ideas that they come up with look weird at the first instance, but they are the ones which change the world. They are the ones with the rebellious streak. Therefore, I request the distinguished alumni of this college to help the various entrepreneurial projects in every way possible. The alumni can also institute awards in various fields ranging from academics and sports to dance and debating. This will considerably boost the students' morale. Finally, I would ask them to relive, re enjoy and share with students every moment that they spent here. It is this special bond of the past, present and future that we share. We are here to encourage, facilitate and build this link between the alumni and the institute.

I am honored and excited to guide this prestigious institution, as it continues its journey of professional excellence, through its Golden Jubilee next year. I look forward to the involvement and engagement of its eminent alumni in what is in many ways a historic year.

President's Message

My dear students,

This is an occasion beyond words. What this is , is not the ending, but the beginning of some of the largest trials, successes, stories and relationships yet to come. We are simply the builders of your foundation, and can only hope that our efforts may help you withstand the test of time.

As a passout of this college, you must not only be aware, but also be self aware, for society can only teach you what history has provided, and you must lead the way. Introspection and honesty are qualities which will help you evolve beyond your farthest dreams and become pillars of a new integrated India.

Secondly, always remember to balance your life. Family and health are the pre-requisites to any successful endeavour. Lucky is the person who is able to turn their hobby into their profession - never be ashamed of what you are passionate about. And above all, I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavours and conquests, may the lessons learnt here guide you to fruition, and when you feel you have earned your place in society, never hesitate to come back and embrace your roots.



Dr. Pankaj Chandna



Professors-In-Charge

Prof. PJ Philip
Prof. Pankaj Chandna
Prof. Saraswati Setia

Student Team:

Anurag Kundu
Saran Narang
Soumodip Halder
Parag Parashar
Soumyaroop Dutta
Punit Jajodia
Shantanu Yadav
Biren Goyal
Suchi Malhotra
Saransh Pahwa

Special thanks to Ashish Singh.

NITK IN MEDIA

A horizontal banner for 'The Tribune' online edition. At the top left is the text 'NITR IN MEDIA'. To the right is the 'The Tribune' logo with 'ONLINE EDITION' below it. Further right are two circular icons: one with a person's face and another with a document, labeled 'Weather' and 'Archive' respectively. Below the main title, there is a large, bold headline: 'NIT to establish four centres of excellence' followed by 'D.R. Vij'. On the far left, there are smaller links: '130 Years of insti', 'Calendar', and a magnifying glass icon.

Kurukshetra, January 16, 2012
To promote interdisciplinary research activities in emerging
supplement the national manpower demands for qualified and skilled
National Institute of Technology (NIT), Kurukshetra, has initiated the process of
establishing four new centres of excellence as schools of PG and PhD studies. Stating
this at a press conference held at the NIT guest house here recently, director of the
institute Prof Anand Mohan said the four new centres of excellence, director of the
and PhD studies were Renewable Energy and Efficiency, Material Science of PG
Nanotechnology, VLSI Design and Embedded Systems and Biomedical
Engineering. He said in addition, the ongoing self-financing programmes of MBA and
MCA were being brought into the mainstream of the institute by making the
regular courses along with continuance of self-financed intake.

The Pioneer
911 | 2018

100% placement record,
claims NIT Kurukshetra

SOURABH CHAUDHARY ■
KURUKSHETRA

National Institute of Technology (NIT), Kurukshetra boasts of a 100 per cent placement record, Anand Mehta, director NIT, Kurukshetra claimed at the annual Press conference here.

He said NIT is committed to nurture innovative and creative talents by facilitating and providing free and peaceful academic atmosphere for sound knowledge acquisition and learning utilising the available expertise and resources.

Mohan said in order to inculcate ethical practices and values standards, a seminar on "Ethics and Values Education in Science and Technology" was recently organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at NIT Kurukshetra where eminent personalities

Minimum 75 per cent attendance has been strictly enforced for effective teaching learning and shortage of attendance is also communicated to the parents of defaulter students.

He said the institute has 100 per cent placement track.

NIT is committed to nurture innovative and creative talents by facilitating and providing free and peaceful academic atmosphere for sound knowledge acquisition and learning utilising the available expertise and resources

companies have already visited for placement till now, around 350 students of B.Tech final year have been placed so far out of which 25 students have got two jobs in the package range of ₹ 8,400 to ₹ 12,000 per annum. Mohan also disclosed 10 faculty members have been promoted to the post of Professor in the institute.

The problems due to shortage of faculty is being addressed by re-employment of uperannuturing deserving professors beyond 65 years till the end of academic session or even, as well as appointing

LITERATUUR

The Times of India (16-3-2012)

Brahmos model displayed at NIT fest

DURING THE 4-DAY TECHNICAL FEST, A TOTAL OF 67 EVENTS INCLUDING ARCHITECT, BUILD-EM-ALL, CONTRAPTION, JUNKYARD WARS, ROLL-A-COASTER, TOWN PLANNING, BRAINSTORM, INTERFACE AND FAMILY FORTUNE WERE ORGANISED TO BRING OUT THE INNOVATIVE TALENT AMONGST STUDENTS



Living with Differences

By: Anuranjan Roy



I can't help feeling a little cynical as I pen this down. After all, the only people who would want to read an essay on "Living with differences" would be the ones who are already aware that there is no viable alternative to it. For those who are convinced that standardization-be it on the lines of religion, caste or class is the way out of the entire world's ills wouldn't bother making the effort. But in times when a moderate opinion on any issue is panned and reviled by both warring camps, this is an important exercise in self-motivation.

It's been over 5 years since I passed out of Regional Engineering College (REC), Kurukshetra (Now that's a real place in Haryana, in case you thought it is something on the lines of Rama's Bridge). It's been grandly re-christened National Institute of Technology (NIT), Kurukshetra, but we alumni persist with the

REC short form rather than the new fangled NIT. RECs represent a unique kind of Institutions where people so markedly different are put together in some kind of weird social experiment. Students from every state have just got to be there, unlike the IITs where only the 'cream' shows up (more often than not resulting in states with great competitive environments dominating the numbers). But in RECs, it was a case of state boards, Delhi boards, vernacular medium, English medium, competitive exam based selections and board marks based selections, all tossed together in a mixed salad of sorts. And to the great surprise of everyone involved, manage to function quite well in their own hopelessly complicated sort of way.

As one would expect, stereotyping was everyone's favourite pastime. Guys from the North are bruising and crude, the people from the East are pseudo-intellectual snobs, the fellows from

Western India- oh, ready to sell their souls if there was any money involved, students from the South never looking beyond syllabus books and their 'own' kind and finally the North-east- drunk druggies! And this was just stereotype level 1, the data and preconditioning for which our upbringing in our respective domi-

cile states had already groomed us to believe. The next level would crop up when passionate as the youth must be, battle lines would be drawn over a minor argument or scuffle. Regions would blend into temporary coalitions and you would discover that:

UP-ites were all scheming politicians

Biharis were vicious fighters ready to plunge into battle at the drop of a hat

Telugus were basically spineless and wouldn't ever take a stand

Tamils were out on a mission to subjugate all other South Indian cultures

Bengalis were so full of themselves that it was impossible to stand them for more than a minute and a million more such previously unstated accusations that were always hiding in a dark corner of the mind waiting for an opportune moment to spring out.

All prejudices and pet hates now out in the open, a tangible bitterness in the air and one would be forgiven for thinking that national integration was a lost cause even after 60 years of Independence. Tense and difficult, moments like these were indeed but in retrospect they bring a smile to my face.

I smile because there is a fact that drifters like me knew. Being a Bengali, schooled in Gujarat, and thereby gaining admission through the Gujarat quota, my domicile state was just one identity. We call them State GTs (Get Togethers) and Gujarat GT was something like a degree which was affixed to my name as and when the situation required. I had the good fortune/misfortune of being termed too Bengali or not Bengali enough by different groups at different times. I knew that despite all the cribbing and finger pointing some things would remain unchanged.

When mess food in its vile form was served on our plates, all hands would stretch to that extra large jar of spicy South Indian pickle carried by a benevolent soul. When the Telugu guy next room would be really sick, it would be his Haryanvi classmates who would rush him to the hospital. That the common room would be packed to the rafters with every eye on the TV screen whenever "The Matrix" was on or when Australia was on the verge of losing a cricket match, whether the opponent be India or not. That the precious matchbox doing the rounds to light cigarettes had no regional loyalties and neither did a freshly filled bottle of cold water from the cooler, the furious look on its owner's face notwithstanding. Xeroxed notes on the night before the exam would have a geographical distribution worthy of

a thesis and that the look of shock after a particularly tough exam hardly varied from face to face. The dissimilarities between us were far too many to note down, but it was the most unlikely similarities that invited bemused contemplation.

But of course, not everything was hunky-dory in life at an REC. Some of my fellow students by way of being in the wrong place at the wrong time walked away from 4 years of engineering with regional stereotypes further reinforced. Some of them gave up the fight to defy the labels of their region, finding it much more convenient to behave the way certain people expected them to, helped in no small measure by constant heckling and jeering. The 50% local strength of the Haryanvi students in our REC frequently saw 'Us and them' situations crop up with Haryana-non Haryana tensions simmering. This feeling of insecurity against the majority populace seemed to be a common feature in most RECs if reports from friends in other RECs are anything to go by. Any kind of majority always exerts an unseen and mostly unintentional pressure on the others, and in an atmosphere of distrust, it only requires the proverbial spark to burst into flames.

This is where I realized the sincere need for just inane conversation. By virtue of my network of friends, I always knew that the rumours and whispers about the

'rival' group had minimum basis in truth. Some of the people I talked with hardly had anything in common with me, but just by interacting with them I knew they couldn't be half as bad as the alarm raisers claimed them to be. Sadly for others who were completely out of touch with them, anything anyone ever said about them was as good as true.

Having grown up in Gujarat, I wondered even more how much a little mindless banter could have made a difference. During the 2002 riots in Gujarat, a Muslim classmate and I laughed over the fact that identical stories about a Muslim girl/Hindu girl being abducted were doing the rounds simultaneously in the respective communities. But when put in context of the horrifying violence that rumours like these generated, it hardly seems funny any longer. The fact that virtual LOCs between the two communities in most cities still persist, its sadly evident that peace achieved in such conditions is just a makeshift arrangement.

At the end of the day we are all flawed, emotional beings who have a set of prejudices and dislikes which have evolved out of our immediate environment. Some of these prejudices cannot be shaken off in a lifetime but we can surely do better at preventing them from hardening. Every time one makes a sweeping statement about a community or a caste or a class, its important to

rein that in. Situations may yet force them out but keeping those words in for a few seconds more robs them of their sting and in many cases makes one realize the purposelessness of it all.

It is only human nature that we turn to a group that is closest to our way of living whenever we feel the need for security and identity. But reaching out is so much more important even though mutual agreement may be a distant dream. Just by knowing a person with a set of values which we find odd, comes a revelation that we are similar in

some ways however few they may be. This similarity is a surprise and lessens to a great extent all our apprehensions about something completely unknown. And of course the all important fact that for any correction of supposed 'flaws' in the other, the kind word of a friend is so much more effective than the hate filled invective of a stranger.

It's a strange world that we live in. The rich/privileged seem to hate the poor for not being able to fend for themselves and the poor/disadvantaged hate the rich for purposefully keeping all opportu-

nities to themselves. The religious hate the 'modern' for being too flippant about their God, while the 'modern' hate the religious for being book-bound bigots. And so on and forth, rage a variety of differences. I am not idealistic enough to see the world join together in a celebration of our differences in the near future, indeed coming together has its fair share of acrimony. But just knowing our differences and accepting them, before pushing for any kind of compromise is the first and inevitable step in the long, arduous path towards a



Alumni in News

Roger Kumar (1986-1990) is the founder of CASE (Composite Aqua Systems and Equipments Pvt Ltd) group. His latest venture is a social networking site called extraminds.com.



Gaurav Makkar

Gaurav Makkar(2002-06), founded National Social Entrepreneurship Forum(NSEF) in 2009. It is aimed at training and supporting young social entrepreneurs.

Chandan Singh (1985-89) has come out with short movies (acting, director) and is a flute master. For videos, log on to youtube.



Dr. Vinish Kathuria

Dr. Vinish Kathuria (1985-89), currently Associate Professor, SJM SOM, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, was re-

cently awarded Mahalanobis Memorial Medal (National) Award for the year 2010. ‘

Vivek Atray, a passout of 1986, has recently published a book "Move on Bunny". He is also the member of newly formed Chandigarh Literary Society .

Vijay Sethi (82-87 batch) ,currently,the Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Hero MotoCorp Ltd. won the Champion CIO award (in the above Rs.. 1000 crore turnover category for the year 2010. He won Global CIO - 2011, CIO Hall of Fame - 2011, Champion CIO - 2011, prior to these, he had also bagged award for India's Best IT Manager in 2009. He also figured on the panel of the jury member for some of the leading IT and telecom awards in India.

REMEMBRANCES.....

SP Mahi, enrolled himself at 1980 in Civil Engineering Department of Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra. He joined the faculty in 1985, soon after he passed out. After serving for three years, he joined Indian Railways in 1988 and has been serving it ever since. He made a brief comeback in the affairs of the college as Senator in 2007-08. Today, he is Regional Divisional Railways Manager. The Memoir interviewed him and here we produce the excerpts from the interview:

The Memoir: What do you miss the most about college?

SP Mahi: There are many great memories associated with the college. The time spent with the friends is the best part of life and is something one just cannot forget. I miss those incredible people who made my five years at RECK.

The Memoir: What are your hobbies?

SP Mahi: I enjoy travelling the most. It gives me a chance to experience different cultures, interact with new people and see new places. I have travelled southern India extensively.

The Memoir: Considering there was no facebook, no mobiles, no TVs and no girls at campus, what was your favourite past time as a student?

SP Mahi: We spent most of our time hanging out with friends at KU, Khokhas, Indian Coffee House and occasionally for movies. There used to be a

theatre called, if I can recall the name correctly, Rudra. I am not very sure if it is still there. It is this time that we spent with friends that made our bond so special.

The Memoir: What was the girl-boy ratio then?

SP Mahi: There were 4 girls in my entire batch and they were in every branch except mine :(.

The Memoir: Could you please narrate any anecdote from your college life?

SP Mahi: Oh yes(laughing). Those days there used to be lot of melas at Brahmasarvoar. So, 20 odd villagers with *Gathdis* on their head came to us asking about the way to Brahmasarovar. I, along with few of my friends, made them walk the corridor that led to Principal's room. Those days Prof. P.V. Gupta used to be our Principal. But our plan was shortlived as one of the senior professors of Electrical Department gave us a shock. He not only helped those people but ran to catch us. One of my friends Jitender was caught but eventually he too got rid of the professor(chuckling).

Another was the *shupri*. It meant that we say something funny out of context and the next reaction would have been to decide the mass bunk on that 'out of context' thing.

The Memoir: Did you rag anyone?

SP Mahi(Clearing his throat as if he had a dozen stories to choose from) Oh yes. This was

when I was in 2nd year. I wore the shirt inside out, raised my one hand up, straight ran into the 1st year hostel(this melodrama was to escape guard's eyes that I was not a first year. This was a common sight by juniors then). I knocked one of the fresher's door. As he opened, I, in my own style of using 'nice' words asked him to give his intro. Now sitting inside was his father at an angle that I could not see. He suddenly shouted at me. I locked the door from outside and then went to other floors to rag other freshers.

The Memoir: Did it feel different that you were now teaching in the institute that you graduated from?

SP Mahi: Teaching is an extremely tough and challenging job. It can be even embarrassing when you become the victim of the mischievous acts of the backbenchers while you yourself used to do it once. Our class in my student life used to welcome anybody who came late with "*aaooo*"(emphasis added). As a student, we all enjoyed it. When I heard same for me as a teacher, it felt different to be at receiving end.

One more(getting nostalgic) Once I, with attendance register and duster in my hand, was heading for my lecture. While in the corridor, one of the students mistook me as fresher and therefore tried to rag me. If I were a student, I would have taught him a lesson with the most 'nice' words that we used at college times but the situation now was very different. I

was a teacher now and therefore had to show restrain. I could only scold him.

The Memoir: Soon after you passed out, you chose to become teacher. Why then three years later in 1988, you suddenly left the college?

SP Mahi: I did not leave the college suddenly. My father was in railways and getting into railways had always been my dream. I left as soon as I got selected.

The Memoir: You served as the Senator in 2007-08. How did you find the academic standards of the institute?

SP Mahi: Going by the agendas of the meeting for Senate, I get a strong sense that the standards of the M.Tech have been going low. There is enormous scope of improvement but the overall standards are pretty good.

The Memoir: How do you find the idea of the students getting the representation of students in Senate? Since the... (He cuts the interviewer short)

SP Mahi: Oh yes, It is a great idea. The pattern of using money and other resources change with every generation. It is critically important to listen what this generation wants. As the people grow old, they lose connectivity with the younger generation. Forums like the Senate, then, become significantly important to bridge up this gap. Imposing something on students will do no good, rather it will prove to be counter-productive. This is a great idea to resolve such an obvious conflict.

The Memoir: How bright is the career in railways for engineers?

SP Mahi: (with a sense of pride) Any student who likes challenges should join railways. Reaching a train from one station to another is no child's play. It requires expertise and management of highest order. The railways gives you the chance to try and do something which at one stage looks a child's wild imagination. When I was Chief Engineer at Jammu and Kashmir, we had to build a 250

km long road through the rough-est terrains to cover displacement of 70 km. This is just a trailer. All this was done to be able to build a tunnel for train which many skeptics said was technologically unviable. But we did it. The rail-ways gives you the versatility. Its vast network virtually makes you go round India. Those who like to explore new places should be inclined to take up this assign-ment. It teaches you the intricacies of economics. The railways has shown huge surplus although there had been no increase of fares in the last 9 years. Your abil-ity to innovate and run the rail-ways cost effectively is put to the most rigorous test.

The Memoir: Are you a proud RECKER?

SP Mahi: (Replied with lightning pace) Without a doubt. I am very proud of my college for what it has given me. I am very grateful to it for what it has done for me.

The Memoir: Thank you Sir. We wish you great health!

"You give but little when you give something of your possession. It is when you give something of yourself that you truly give."

What if 20,000 alumni took a few hours to contribute to their alma matter ? Think!!!

"God will never give me anything I cannot handle.

I just wish He didn't trust me so much. "

-Blessed Mother Teresa



No dream is too big, no destination too far when you have a heart which beats for it, when the only dreams you dream are when you are wide awake. There will be obstacles waiting for you, problems spiralling out of control alright, but then, it would not be what gives you sleepless nights when you can get to it any moment you want, with no stopping.

Your dream assumes all the more significance; all the more relevance when it's not just your, it is what a number of innocent eyes see together. Anurag Jain, a 1997

batch alumnus and the founder of NEEV-a non-profit organisation, has been nurturing and enriching lives through his organisation, supporting and nourishing many small, fledgling dreams and hopes along the way. NEEV, short for New Education and Environment Visions, is a hybrid social enterprise which takes the best of both worlds: non-profit and business, and creates a positive lasting impact on the society, all the while ensuring sustainability, both social and organisational. NEEV was founded towards the end of 2007, and has been transforming lives ever since. One of NEEV's main concerns, the NEEV Trust, is presently engaged in the rural and slum areas around Jamshedpur, affecting positive change by supporting Women's Self-help Groups, and helping farmers by providing them with innovative methods to increase productivity and by forming Farmers' groups. "Educating a woman is like educating a family", the saying goes and the NEEV trust has been laying a 'foundation' in this regard by organising various Skill Development Initiatives for these rural women in partnership with NABARD.

Beyond promises and faint hopes, a man needs an outlet to channelize his skills and find means for meaningful, respectful living and this precisely has been the mission for one of the flagship organisations under NEEV, NEEV Herbal Handmade Soaps. An enterprise in its own right, NEEV Herbal Handmade Soaps is a very successful and acclaimed organisation, having won the National Award for being the Best Khadi unit in the eastern zone. It produces mainly soaps, along with shampoos, body washes etc., and draws a large part of its raw material through its partnership with NEEV Trust, wherein the NEEV Trust ensures that most of the raw material required for producing soaps and all other cosmetic products come from these villages, encouraging the farmers to cultivate the herbs required. These products are known

to be of a high standard, containing aromas, essential oils, and vegetable oils, and are sold at 30 retail outlets, a large number of them being in the southern region of India. Recently, 30 students from FMS, the prestigious B-school, worked with NEEV, researching the retail trends for soaps in retail outlets around Delhi and NCR, to help these women learn about successful marketing, mainly to ensure a successful foray by NEEV Herbal Handmade Soaps in this market. Testimony to the high quality of these products, they have been certified as genuine Ayurvedic products by AYUSH (Government of India), and as Grade A soaps by ITL Labs, Delhi. But these are not the only initiatives that NEEV organisations, under the leadership of Anurag and Shikha Jain, concern itself with. The NEEV family also consists of NEEV Public School, and NEEV Envirotech Pvt. Ltd. While the former is a public school being run with the aim of providing quality, affordable education to children in the rural areas around Jamshedpur for whom education was, thus far, merely a distant dream, the latter is presently engaged in consultancy on Social Entrepreneurship and development of handicrafts.

NEEV has been playing a pivotal role in the lives of the people it benefits, since its inception. True to its name and vision, Anurag's brainchild NEEV has proven the cornerstone for so many lives who, prior to this were living dead lives, hoping beyond hope. NEEV has fostered harmonious, value-oriented living in an environment which promotes universal values, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit in an environmentally sustainable manner.



Those who are willing to send the donations / contributions / sponsorships etc. may send the same to Dr. Pankaj Chandna, (pchandna08@gmail.com) at NIT, Kurukshetra in the form of Cheque / Draft payable to Director, NIT Alumni Association payable at Kurukshetra. You may also send in your contributions in the form of Electronic transfer to bank account no. 10116886196, IFSC code SBIN006260, MICR Code 136002003 with State Bank of India, NIT, Kurukshetra.

Tete-a-tete

The Memoir team met one of the students, Vineet Malhotra, to know and understand college and college life from a different and fresh perspective. He has been at the forefront of every activity at the college. Placed at CISCO, former Mr. NITK and hailed as one of the most serious yet cool guy around, had lot to share. Excerpts from our conversation:

The Memoir: How...(He starts talking before we do)

Vineet Malhotra- Before you start, let me make it clear that I'm a little, in fact very, surprised with this selection because you could have chosen other people who are more important as the conveners or the organizers.

The Memoir- Since you are left with no choice but to answer our questions, share something that has had profound impact on you.

Vineet- It was my first day at a place which I never realized would come so close to my heart. It was Dr. KB Singh's class and there is something that has made had an impact on me -
"It is very simple to be a complex man and very complex to be a simple man"

The Memoir- How different roles do you play being a part of organising committee in different years?

Vineet(Candidly speaking)- I didn't ever feel like a member in the first year after all (CHUCKLES)"Usme toh sirf Poster chipkana hota hei". In that sense I was fully and judiciously exploited by my seniors. Right from the beginning, I was somebody who was fascinated by the seniors. Our interactions with them always made us respect them and hence we barely questioned them. Second year was a bit more hardworking and managerial. Third year makes you learn enough politics,so you become shrewd enough to fully and judiciously exploit your juniors, flatter your seniors or even work hard to make things better. That is how it goes. Fourth year is all about JOBS JOBS JOBS.(PROMPTLY)

The Memoir- How was LITERATI-2012?

Vineet- The preparations had already begun two months before, but the sorry incident, death of Jaxy changed things. The fourth year people lost the enthusiasm and as they say "The speed of the bosses is the speed of the team". But then, realizing that we could not overlook the hard work put in by the participants and the sponsor's efforts, we could not leave it. Taking into consideration the constraints and the circumstances under which it was held, I must say LITERATI-2012 was commendable(conclusively).

The Memoir- Till recently, we had personalities in our college i.e. Gattu, Prudhvi, Dhingra. But people



like them seem to have become extinct now. What is your take on it?

Vineet- This is just a matter of personal opinion and I don't buy the argument that we don't have people groomed to that level now. We do have many amazing people in the college. In my third year, more than the seniors, I was motivated by people from my own class. I think that the reason for this is the lack of interaction with the seniors. Ragging on one hand gives you opportunities to find similar people **the birds of the same feather flock together ** You can handpick alike people. But now in absence of interaction, there is nobody to guide you in that particular direction.

The Memoir- Were you ragged?

Vineet(after a long pause)- I was ragged very badly and I would not like to elaborate how(emphasis added)

The Memoir - Does this ragging make lives better?

Vineet- Definitely(emphasis added).Definitely. (more emphasis)It was due to these unofficial interactions that I'm in touch with my 2K6 and 2K5 batch seniors. We share a special bond, courtesy ragging. I was referred to the companies for internships. For me, it proved to be a golden opportunity and I never look at it the wrong way. Had I been a reserved person, things would not have been this good. There's this incident that I'd like to mention. By the end of first year, I was totally confused if I was meant for engineering as there were a lot of things that I could do(nostalgia grips him). All that started to take a toll on me. More I thought, more I got puzzled. Plus, I was appearing for IIT-JEE that year too. So it was a dicey situation for me. Finally, I called up Saamir, a prefinal student then. He straight away came from H-7 to H-1 and then we had a session of around 40-50 minutes(thankfully). This can happen in a college that we are unable to figure out the area of interest. If you interact with people who have passed that phase, it helps. We can even see that people in the final year are still clueless about their area of interest.

The Memoir-How has the life changed since the last one year i.e. after Dr. Bandhopadhyay left and Prof. Anand Mohan took the charge?

Vineet- It has become school again. At the time of Dr. Bandhopadya sir, we were the authors of our own rules (brimming with pride). We made the rules and if we couldn't implement them, we used to strike. It was a life king size. But then it was in somewhat deteriorating the college standards. This change in climate was hard for us as we had to adapt a lot, but I'm sure you will see the fruits of this strictness in the coming three-four years because if such an atmosphere is provided to the juniors, there will definitely be better engineers(Sigh).

The Memoir- What role does Bhramsaravar play in an NITian's life?

Vineet- It cherishes you when you are in a good mood and also consoles you when things are not that great. It's a place where you can go with anyone- friends, girlfriends, teachers and family.

The Memoir (Interrupts) So, is it like the perfect partner for you?

Vineet-To some extent , if you don't have one.(laughs out loud)

The Memoir- Thanks Vineet, It was a pleasure talking to you.

DHOBI AT BARRACK 3

By: Akhilesh Kashyap, the dhobi

The Memoir received a pleasant surprise when it saw dhobi at Barrack 3 at our college getting ready for an interview, who we thought would be a layman. With the hope of meeting someone who had shared his childhood with the college, The Memoir sat down with him on one fine evening to unfold many mysterious and exciting stories. He shared the excitement of an Indian going to feature in a newspaper and his composure during the interview would have embarrassed even Brack Obama. His personality breaks all prejudices we have against the community of dhobis. He has daughters who have done MBA and he himself is a diploma holder in Electrical Engineering. *So, Aage hai uski kahani usi ki zubaani:*

My father was employed in Indian Railways when he became asthmatic. Doctors advised him to shift to a cleaner environment. Thus, my family came here to Kurukshetra. He first started a laundry shop at KU and later shifted to RECK in 1966. This is where I was born. It has been a lovely life to be in the college with students from so many different backgrounds. I remember the closeness my father shared with the students. They used to sit and chat here for many hours. Professors like Dr. S.M. Gupta and Dr. Chandna used to visit us right from the time they were students. As a child, I was often gifted coupons in the fests organized here. Those were the times, students did not even have their own bicycles. Ramkrishna had a shop near Hostel-1 with hundreds of bicycles. Students used to rent a cycle to go for a movie at Harsh Talkies or Rudra for 25 paisa.

Boys had very few pairs of clothes then and used to keep them clean. Girls were a rare species till late 70s when few started to come in. The concept of RECK being a co-ed college was farce. They were made to stay in staff quarters. Khokhas were popular even my childhood. RECK was notorious for fights. Policeman could easily be sighted inside the campus in those days. Casteism was one of the reasons for such feuds. The last big incident I can remember happened in '86. A student was murdered due to groupism. Even few passouts were involved. The only bright side was that everyone involved was sentenced to jail.

Ragging was common but it was less harsh compared to other institutions of that time. Ragging was GT based. "Thodi bohot to honi chahiye, warna juniors respect nahi dete." GT parties and farewells were really big and full of fun.

The most tragic incident in the institutions history happened in 1988. Terrorists gunned down few students of the college in TIET Patiala. The heart of the college was ripped apart.

(In between Akhilesh's mother, overhearing our conversation, from the adjoining room came to share her experiences. We were more than happy to listen to them.)

I had a very good life here. We have a nice home in sector 5 but I like to stay here with the old memories. Students often visited us for tea. They often asked me to cook for them. Bhabhiji aaj ye banaado, bhabhiji

aaj wo banaado". Students from Bihar and UP were closer to us. Many of them even cried before leaving the college. They even sent letters to us. Likhte the "Aapka khana bohot yaad aata hai". We threw a party for the students when Akhilesh was born. One of my daughters was married to a student from here, Dr. Sunil Khaneja. He was the topper of his batch. "*Mere toh char paanch bacchhe yahi se padhkar gaye hain*".

(*Soon after she left the room and Akhilesh resumed.*)

I've done a diploma in Electrical Engineering from Delhi. I took charge of the shop in 1996 after my father died of blood cancer. The college has changed now. NIT lacks the charm of RECK. The diversity of the students was a really good thing but now the college is full of localites who leave for home every weekend. Students are not respectful like they were before. Now they just come here to get the laundry done. Students often forget their pen-drive or such stuff in their pockets which we return because they are useless to us and student satisfaction is most important to us. But NIT is no more a profitable business as services have to be provided at subsidized rates. With more number of local students, even workload is less. I remember we once had 18 workers. Now, we have just four. Electricity and electric machines have been here right from the beginning. Now the bill exceeds 10,000 rupees. We're surviving because of the laundry shop at Railway Road. The top gentry of Kurukshetra visits us there.

Whatever may be the case, Kurukshetra is a quiet place. With a nice home in sector 5, we have a good, comfortable and relaxed life. Leaving the settled home/barrack is definitely not on my mind.



Campus Beat

Only In India:

A project titled as "Transport4You - An Intelligent Transportation System" by a team consisting of Shashank Srikant, Sohil Arora and Kunal Sangwan, in participation with SCORE (Student Contest on Software Engineering), an annual olympiad held by the International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE), became the only project from India who made it to top 18. The idea was to automate as many aspects as possible in a metropolitan-bus service by making use of bluetooth/wi-fi devices they carry. This made the travelling commuter centric.

The project was under the guidance and supervision of Dr. JK Chhabra.

Theft Assassin:

Dr. L.M. Saini, a professor from Electrical Department, was awarded the patent System and method for detection and prevention of accidents, faults and unauthorized withdrawal or theft of electrical power on power lines or power feeder; automation of electrical power distribution (Indian Patent No. 225783).The co?inventor of this patent is Sh. Palani Rakesh Kumar

We Build Cars:

Last year, a team of SAE of our college consisting of 25 students, headed by Pradeep Bhatt, now an alumnus, built the first ever All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) . Our college students did it again as this year as they built another ATV. This time the project was headed by Bhavjot Singh. They participated in BAJA SAE, an inter-collegiate design competition run by Society of Automotive Engineers. The team was called to Indore. Their ATV touched the speed of 60kmph and secured 37th position in acceleration round. The students did this not because of college but despite college.

Broadening our Horizons:

The College has signed MoUs with foreign universities to promote collaborative research and consultancies. These include MoUs between NIT Kurukshetra and RESEAU "N+i" Engineering Institutes, France, University of Toledo, College of Engineering, USA, Concordia University, Montreal Canada, Binghamton University, New York.

It happens only @ RECK/NITK:

As a tribute to the classic taste of patti at Kalu Khokha, students have created his fan page at faceook. In a world where Khokha rules, and the appetite at the midnight unbearable, the only thing we could say is "Jai khokha, Jai Kalu Khokha. To place your order, log on to <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Kalu-Khokha/100691786683656n>



PHOTO GALLERY

