

THE



MEMORIR

-Be a part, not apart!

Spring Edition, 2013

From Our Patron

Dear Distinguished Alumni,

It is my proud privilege to warmly welcome you all at the vibrant campus of NIT Kurukshetra. Over the past five decades of its existence the institution has made notable contributions in the field of technical education, research, and sponsored R & D programs funded by National agencies. Spread over a year long series of vibrant academic events, the institution is celebrating its Golden Jubilee during 15th Sept., 2012 to 14th Sept. 2013. This is to commemorate its landmark academic and research achievements; and also evolving roadmap to address the National demands of technology development for the benefit of the country and society at large.



With immense pleasure and pride, I am happy to mention that our alumni are second to none in the national and international arena. They have brought many laurels to the Nation and the Institute during the last 50 years through their outstanding professional achievements. I am happy to learn that the NITKurukshetra Alumni Association has always been striving to provide a gateway to its most talented and diverse alumni spread all over the world and are continuing its unstinted efforts to connect them.

Our Alumni Association has been periodically organizing Alumni Talks, Alumni Meets, and Interaction Meetings with students and also facilitated alumni for their visits to the Institute. This has resulted in linking the wide base of alumni to the Institute to a greater extent. One of the praise worthy activities of the Alumni Association of our Institute has been in providing an excellent platform for strengthening professional and entrepreneurial skills among the students through the expert lectures, interactions, and sharing their knowledge and expertise.

The present scenario of technical education, especially the requirement of producing 'on-job ready' competent skilled manpower necessitates more frequent interactions; and possibly initiating additional dimensions of joint / collaborative projects, R & D programs, research activities.

Recently the Institute organized its 10th Convocation on 9th April, 2013 in the Golden Jubilee Year which was blessed by 'The Hon'ble President of India' as the 'Chief Guest'. The gracious presence of 'The Hon'ble President of India' has made it a memorable and historical day for entire NIT Kurukshetra fraternity. On this occasion, the institute has honored its three distinguished Alumni by conferring them 'honorary degrees'.



With greatest happiness I can ascertain that this reputed Institution of technical education has tremendous capabilities and potential to meet the newer challenges of technology. I eagerly look forward for your continued support, advices, and closer association to take your 'Alma Mater' to a newer height of excellence.


With best wishes
(Anand Mohan)

President's Message

My Dear Students,

We are in the third edition of Alumni Talks; what started as a dream of bringing the Alumni closer to the Institute and its students has metamorphosed itself into a giant fruit-bearing tree now. The actions and initiatives that we undertook are bearing much anticipated results for everyone, and this is very good news for the Institution, and why not. The Alumni have finally realized the crucial role they can play in their Alma Mater's development, and they have become responsible stake-holders in the same.

The Alumni have a lifetime of experience in their respective fields and leading the way for the budding engineers is a responsibility that we all need to realize, now and also in times to come. The Institute has been in existence for the last 50 years and thus the Alumni base of Institute is very wide and diverse which makes it a mammoth task to tap the Alumni base and we have been trying our very best to serve the same purpose.

The Association is nothing but an interface, a medium to facilitate constructive interaction between the Alumni and the students, and we have diligently worked to play that role to the best of our abilities. With a solemn hope that we have lived up to what we have stood for, we sincerely wish that our efforts help you withstand the test of times and emerge triumphant in the long run.



Dr. Pankaj Chandra

THE MEMOIR

Professors-in-charge:

Prof. Saraswati Setia

Prof. P.J. Philip



Students Team:

Shantanu Yadav

Ankush Banga

Preet Sagar

Vimal Nagar

Vidur Khanna

Nishant Dhanendra

Abhinav Singh



Special thanks to Anurag Kundu

CAMPUS BEATS

President of India Visits the Institute

The President of India stressed on Quality, Affordability and Accessibility to be the main stay of higher education in India as he addressed the 10th convocation Ceremony of the Institute. As part of the ceremony 1001 degrees were conferred by the Institute, which include 3 Honoris Causa (2 D.Sc. and 1 Ph.D), 16 PhD, 240 M.Tech., 76 M.B.A., 80 M.C.A. and 586 B.Tech Degrees.



Four Schools of PG Studies and Research Being Set up

From the session 2012-13 the Institute has started two new schools of P G Studies and Research namely: a) VLSI Design and Embedded Systems and b) Renewable Energy and Efficiency which are offering M.Tech. programs. Two additional schools on a) Material Science and Nanotechnology and b) BioMedical Engineering have been proposed for the session 2013-14. The Institute has initiated steps for strengthening R&D collaborations with DRDO, CSIR, DST and other reputed Organisations and Industries.

Prof. Anand Mohan nominated to the Research Council at TBRL

Prof. Anand Mohan, Honorable Director of the Institute has been nominated as a member of the Research Council of Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh, by the Scientific Advisor to the Union Ministry of Defence. The nomination is an indicator of the fact that the Institute is under the leadership of a great person and surely the direction we take under his leadership would prove critical in writing the success story of the Institute.

National Conferences at NITK

As a part of Golden Jubilee Celebrations (15 Sept'2012 – 14 Sept'2013), the Electrical Engineering Department, National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra organized a National Conference on “Recent Trends in Energy, Systems and Control” on 15th & 16th March, 2013. The motive of the conference was to provide a platform for researchers and engineers from industry and academia facilitating exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience on the latest developments in the field of Electrical Engineering, the Physics Department also organised National Conference on Nanoscience and Instrumentation Technology on 28th & 29th March, 2013.

Fine German Engineering

Yudhveer, Sneha, Arpit and Anurag were selected under DAAD program for their internships at Braunschweig, Limenau, Darmstadt and Dresden Technical Universities in Germany respectively. All of them got their internship projects approved at the respective universities, which is a pre-cursor to the paradigm shift towards research based education in the Institute.

Placed 9th at BAJA'13

At their 3rd attempt at BAJA team Nitrox'13 representing NIT Kurukshetra secured an overall rank of 9 in a competition which saw about 85 teams from all over the country participating. The team comprised of student members of the SAE collegiate club who designed an All Terrain Vehicle for the event. This performance has now put us many steps ahead in the field of practical applications of Studies.

TETE-A-TETE

Dr. Rohit Sharma is a distinguished alumnus of this Institute with extraordinary accomplishments. He graduated in Electronics & Communication Engineering in 1989 from this Institute. After leaving the portals of this Institute, he blazed a trail that's difficult to emulate. His highly significant and innovative research work resulted in four patents entitled, "Method and apparatus for operation, protection, and restoration of heterogeneous optical communication networks". The transmission and switching equipment designed by him based on these patents are still being manufactured and in use at various telecom carriers around the world. He was conferred the Honorary Degree of D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) at the 10th Convocation.



Shantanu Yadav and Ankush Banga, two correspondents of the Memoir got a chance to talk to him on the day of the Convocation; here are the excerpts from what he said:

- Q: How do you feel like being given an Honorary Doctorate, you graduated from the same college and now life has come a full circle.
- A: It always feels nice to be here, any excuse I get to be here, I never miss it. Moreover it is not something that everyone gets so that part I am really grateful for.
- Q: What did you gain from NIT Kurukshetra, what is its relevance in your life, how it all panned out?
- A: I think people do not realize while they are here that these are the most formative years in their life. The time you spend in under-grad when you have just come from school and you have not become a professional yet, is actually the time when you grow up. The most formative experiences of my life, come from this place and learning here does not include only the Institute because learning happens as much outside the classes just as it happens inside. Inside the classes you have books, teachers, your class-mates and a whole network who wants you to succeed; the things that I learnt outside the classes have stayed with me even longer and I can say honestly that most of the things I learned back then are from outside the classes.
- Q: One thing that we have often heard from a lot of Alumni is 'discovering oneself', how do you take this term?
- A: I think it is not about discovering oneself, I would like to put it as discovering what is your relation with everything else, whether it be studies, your friends, your relationships, how do you talk to your colleagues, your seniors, your batch-mate, your teachers; you develop a kind of structural relationship and that defines who you are basically; you are not somebody, B.Sc. or B.Tech. You are someone else and that is what matters.
- Q: One memory that you never forget about NIT Kurukshetra.
- A: Just like you guys are publishing a newsletter, we also did something similar at our college's annual cultural fest, some guys were in reporting, some others were in editorial team. We would stay up all night, get it printed and provide near live coverage of what was happening around for five consecutive days, memories like these stay with you like forever
- Q: You did your research in Canada and your graduation in India. What differences did you see in education system in India and Canada?
- A: There is a big difference in the two, in India we still have a hierachal system of learning and as it happens, some guy who studied say 30 years ago decides what lab do you get, what academic facilities you should be provided- in such a scenario you have already lost. Abroad they have a focus on students-based and students-led research; the shackles of hierarchy can be broken only from the ground level. I remember there were some computers when I was here and we were told that there were many problems like that of the operating

system and we told them we would find out a way and finally we used the computers. People in power are not going to change things around; it is you who have to do it.

- Q:** You have often used the word failing, what kind of failures were you referring to?
- A:** Failing is thought of as a bad word, no one wants to hear it. In academics you have a lot of people and resources to support you, but that's not who you are; once you become engineers you have problems to solve which may even cross your domain and these are not solved through the curriculum domain of calculus and physics but by discovering who you are and that can be learnt only by failing and trying again with a new idea.
- Q:** Any particular failures that you faced.
- A:** Most of the hard faced failures that I saw were people related rather than technology related. I faced many failures in life but that does not mean that I should give up, no one is going to tell you to try again, it is not in any books, you cannot Google it, in the end it is all your choice. I cannot lock myself in a room and come out with the most amazing personality in the world, I have to go talk to people; maybe they will laugh for some time but then they would listen.
- Q:** What propelled you in joining the research field?
- A:** I think the curriculum was very helpful in that regard to me, I could not have built my career without the fundamentals of physics. What I have been doing in the last 10 years is mostly out of my domain, I had to learn it by myself and the same is going to happen to you as well. You cannot really teach anybody anything but everybody can learn anything they like. Also I had very supportive parents, they never pressurized me to study, they said its fine if I wanted to do engineering if I succeeded it was good and if I did not it was fine too, because ultimately, as they very well understood, it's my life, I have to decide.
- Q:** You said anyone can learn anything, how do you generate an idea in something that you are not familiar with?
- A:** I think the best advantage now is the Internet; you can look up anything about everything. I always tell people that whatever comes to your mind, donot trust anyone and find out for yourself. Success is not about a flood of ideas but just one good idea in four years. It boils down to implementing the ideas, and not keeping them in the idea phase for too long. Learning will come from that execution, when you teach yourself things to make the idea work. Don't bother about failing, because even if you do, that'll only make you better for the future.
- Q:** Talking about the great ideas you have had, the ones which turned out to be the patents, was it failures or something else that you saw which turned out to be so important?
- A:** It is an interesting anecdote. You know, this is the first convocation that I have attended in my whole life. I went to Canada because I was offered a full scholarship and I had no money to pay for my fees elsewhere. So, I had no money to fly to India at the time of convocation next year; same thing happened after M.Sc. and PhD. I was just a month out of college, and I had no money. I could not travel to India and I had just a mattress and a T.V. in my apartment and it was at this time, when I had nowhere to go, that I started working on the ideas that developed as patents that I found the company with and I could have been fired for that because no one had asked me to do it but I tried and I succeeded. It was not a failure but you can call it partial economic failures that led to all that work.
- Q:** Any final words.
- A:** Conventional ideas are not going to lead to unconventional success and the most important thing is you have to do it yourself. Failures do not matter; what matters is what comes after it.

DANCING TO DIFFERENT TUNES

NIT Kurukshetra has a history of attracting students from all over the country and recent times have seen students from neighboring countries also coming to our Institute. Such a wide and diverse student base has ensured that there are a few among the students who are different than others in aspects that are sometimes rare, the gift they possess sets them apart. These students are a part of the Institute but still, in a way, stand out. The team “MEMOIR” wishes to acknowledge some of these Different species at NITK.

Madhusara Liyanage is a talented first year student who has been swaying the crowd at NIT Kurukshetra with his music ever since his first performance here. A flute prodigy, he is adept at playing fifteen instruments and is known to be the life of any gathering, requiring just his humble wooden cylinder. When asked about the time he started taking interest in the art, he reminisces about a time when he was three, sitting in a room where music classes were being taken by his father, himself a music teacher, he started playing the keyboard. Coming from a family of artists, his father a musician and mother a dance instructor, he won his first major competition in 2009, a national music competition in Sri Lanka, where he stood first in the instrumentals segment. Keeping his passion alive for music along with his pursuit for a degree in engineering, he works as a free-lance music composer. His talents have also helped him win the Mr. Fresher’s crown this year. As he adds colors to one of the many aspects here at NIT Kurukshetra, we can see him going on to achieve big things in life.



Shubham Sarin, also a first year student is an ELO ranked chess player. The ELO system is a ranking system by FIDE to compare the relative skills of the players. Higher the ranking; better the player is. The initial rating for a player is 1000 which he needs to earn by playing in some rated tournaments. Sarin first got his ranking at the age of 13 which was 1721 at that time for some constant performances at state, national and CBSE regional and national chess championships. His current rating stands at 1691 which he says is a downgrade since his focus on academics over the last few years. Never the less he has got back to chess recently and won the inter year chess tournament for his first year team. Playing recently in an India rated chess tournament, he hopes to get back on track and take his ratings to at least 1900.

You look at him, he looks ordinary, you talk to him, he is a good guy but when you see him running you shall stop. Jagbir, a student of prefinal year in Mechanical engineering graduate program has won a total of 21 medals at the Institute’s annual sports meets, which include 14 golds and five silvers, all of them in athletics. He has also won 2 medals at a sports meet he attended at IIT Kanpur representing the Institute. He has also represented the Institute in its cricket team. He represents a small group of students at NIT Kurukshetra who are both intellectually and physically fit.

Everyone has a number of virtues which need to be developed and sometimes developing these virtues needs a direction or an initiative. The Alumni can help a lot in fostering such talents and a little help in form of guidance or an instituted award may help students at NIT Kurukshetra discover themselves to a greater extent.

DO-GOODERS @ NITK

People often believe that one should either realize or sacrifice their dreams to actively participate in social work, and so they say that self actualization comes after success. Colleges across the country have come up with organizations of students that disbelieve in this myth, working towards success and for the society at the same time.

Students at our own campus have also acknowledged that with privilege and capability, comes a responsibility to work for those who are not so privileged. Claiming these responsibilities, students of NIT Kurukshetra have come up with a number of social initiatives from time to time, here we mention two of such initiatives that have gained laurels all around for their work.

The first one is an organization that has stood firm for almost five years now, and been commended by all. It started under the aegis of NSS-NITKKR with the esteemed guidance of Dr. P.C. Tiwari – Program Officer- NSS Unit.

To elaborate about the work this initiative has been doing, we go back to the campus. Its 4:30 p.m. by the watch and its the end of lectures for the day but it is also the start of class for a different group of students and also with a different class of teachers. They are all volunteers, mostly students of our own college, who after a full day of exhausting lectures have enough time and energy to contribute towards educating a few underprivileged, but over-enthusiastic kids.

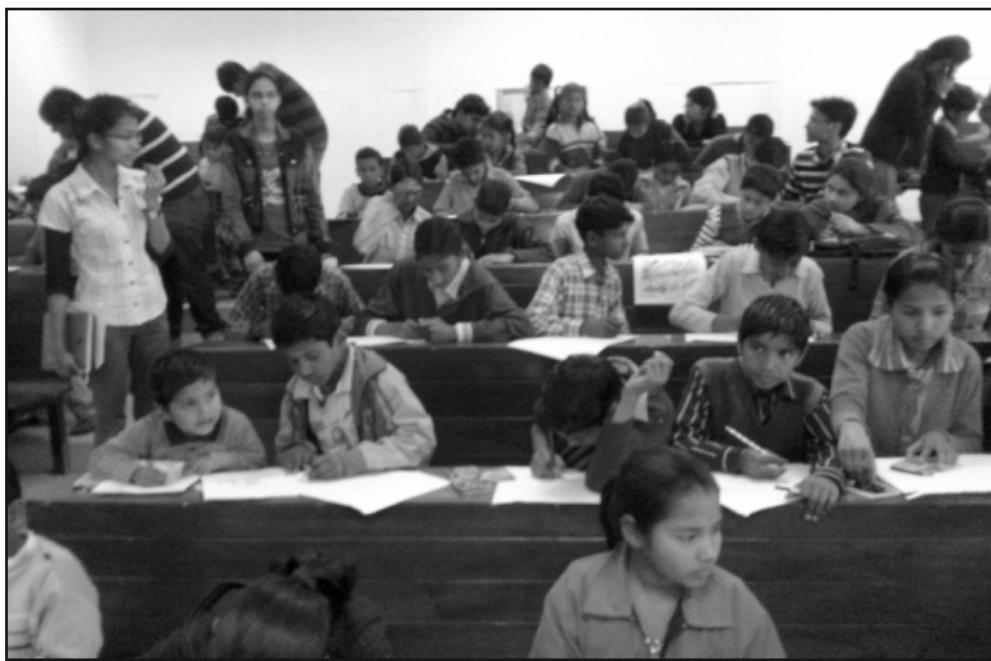
Unfortunate as it may sound, the area in and around NITK has a large number of children without basic education and no means to achieve it. Education is the basic tool towards improving the standards of living and people at Shiksha help the underdeveloped yet willing children to achieve the basics of living, helping them secure a better future.

What was started as a teaching initiative with three wings namely Prayas, Udaan and Goonj has seen many developments in its course of action which include bearing expenses for the studies of children. Students also volunteered to visit the construction sites around the campus to go and teach the students in their makeshift houses,

where there were, ironically, provisions for Dish TV networks but not any kind of Education.

This initiative by the students, with their own earnest efforts and a great leadership of the mentor, has grown at a very fast rate; what started as a batch of 19 students and 7 volunteers now stands at about 100 students and as many as 50 volunteers, all of them students of NIT Kurukshetra.,

Another initiative that caught many eyes at the campus was ‘India Parivartan’, which started in October 2012 with a vision to be able to touch lives of the poor and a mission to channelize the power of youth in the right direction encouraging them to



participate in social works. This initiative also started with educating children of the unprivileged society but soon expanded to cloth distribution drives, cultural fests and sports meets for the same. It also supported an orphanage in Karnal through a fund raising campaign collecting about Rs 35,000 for the same. After functioning for about 8 months on the NIT Kurukshetra campus, it has now reached Torangullu in Karnataka with the founder, and thus sown an opportunity of taking the initiative to the national level. The good work has continued ever since and a month long



online campaign saw people sending books through Flipkart , helping towards setting up of a library. Mohit Yadav, an alumnus of our college, who is successfully running the initiative in Torangullu aims at touching the lives of hundreds of poor and aims at setting up of a business initiative with a vision to combine business principles with the ethics of social responsibility, and set an example for others to follow.

The world, as we know it, is unfair by its very nature. The society is divided in privileged and under-privileged sections. We all see this division in our day to day life, some of us ignore it, and some make profound and impressive remarks, rare are those who have the courage and heart to contribute towards helping the unprivileged sections.

We can all take such initiatives and also try our best to help people taking such steps succeed in their objectives through every way that is feasible.

Techspardha

Technicality is the spirit of engineering, abiding to the same principle; the long awaited Techspardha 2013 was organized from 31st January to 3rd February. Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai, Chairman, Board of Governors lit the auspicious lamp along with the honorable Director Dr. Anand Mohan to convene the fest. Techspardha 2013, witnessed participation in hundreds. There were events meant for all technical strata of different engineering fields. Managerial events were organized as well. Excalibur, Junkyard Wars, Robo Wars were a notable few. On time cash prizes, an independent official news letter ‘News and Scissors (NNS)’, an online blog, a star night starring the band OCB were some wonderful things that have never happened before.



Sports Meet

The Annual Athletics Meet held from 7th to 9th March witnessed a vista of excitement and enthusiasm. The athletics meet was declared open by our esteemed chief guest and Director Prof. Anand Mohan. The chief guest for the closing ceremony was Mrs Sunita Godara, an Arjuna Awardee who holds the record of running the maximum marathons that is 71, by an Indian. She was the 1992 Asian marathon champion and also carried the Olympics torch at the 96 Olympic Games held at Atlanta. Jagbir , a student of mechanical engineering department clinched 7 gold medals and the title of Best Athlete. The meet also had certain events for the teachers

Confluence

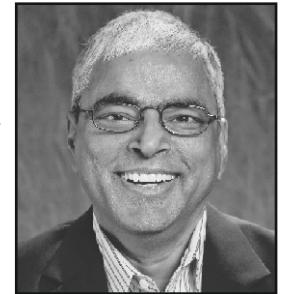
“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” In accordance with the same spirits, began on 21st of February, the Confluence 2013, the Golden Jubilee cultural fest. The four day cultural extravaganza that was inaugurated by the guest of honor Guru Saroja Vaidyanathan, a Padma Bhushan for her contributions in Bharatnatyam, saw students from in and outside the campus showcase immense talents. Street dance, Informalz, Star night performance from Gajendra Verma and the ever charming fashion parade were among the various attractions. For the first time in the Institute an event called the Model Parliament was organized to create awareness about the legislation process in India.



"BALANCE IS THE KEY"

Professor Suresh Rai, a distinguished alumnus of NIT Kurukshetra, obtained his UG, PG and PhD degrees from IIT-BHU Varanasi (1972), IIT Roorkee (1974) and NIT Kurukshetra (1980) respectively. He served as faculty in the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE), NIT Kurukshetra during 1974-1979. He was conferred the degree of D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) by the Institute on the 10th Convocation.

Vimal Nagar, a correspondent of The Memoir got a chance to interact with him on this occasion. We bring you the excerpts from the same.



- Q: How does it feel receiving the degree from the President of India?
- A: The President of India is a good and knowledgeable man. I am extremely honored for receiving it from the President of India.
- Q: It would have been a long journey for you, please share your teaching experiences at NIT Kurukshetra.
- A: Yeah, it was a good experience. I taught here for 5 years from 1974 -1979. And at that time it had just separated out from Electrical Engineering department and it was a small department with 5-6 faculty members. I remember when I left my students gifted me a book "culture of south" and I still cherish reading that book.
- Q: What changes have you seen in and around the Institute?
- A: The numbers of faculty members have increased considerably regarding ECE as I'm related to ECE and infrastructure has improved.
- Q: You talked about faculty, there is a shortage of faculty not just in here but in every technical Institute in India whether its IIT or NIT. What's your say on It.?
- A: I think it can be improved in two ways:
 Firstly, students should go for masters courses, as well as, they should be paid for teaching at the same time. And they should be provided with appropriate labs. Secondly, if they move to Ph.D. program then they should be given some teaching lectures by some senior faculty members under good supervision. But still there will be challenges regarding some departments.
- Q: But People are reluctant to pursue Ph.D. or any other higher learning programmes , so how can they be motivated or what should be the approach to inculcate interest?
- A: Challenges will always remain with some departments like CSE,IT,ECE; but what an Institute can do is ,they can send their final years' good students in first year classes and ask them to deliver lectures. And this can be the initiation towards inculcating interest in students.
- Q: Today, teachers are not able to generate interest among students in their respective subjects which is in turn hampering quality education, where do you think the problem lies?
- A: This problem is two sided. One is from students, that he must be prepared for any question as he has qualified a good level entrance exam but I doubt that the students really crack the exam with full preparations. Second is from teacher's side. Sometime teachers don't take a lot of interest in their particular subject. And sometimes this happens due to lack of knowledge.

- Q: Today, students are running for big bucks and are not interested in research so what's your opinion?
- A: It's true for the US too. They don't go for a Masters' degree. Students don't want to go for research unless they are pressed for it. In US, students have to pay from their pocket to complete their B.tech, parents stop supporting them economically after 10th or 12th so they know the value of money but in India this can never happen. So here I want to say that students must be independent so that they can take the decisions on their own.
- Q: Sir you talked about learning but we see that the emphasis is on rote- learning, so how can a rote learner become a good professional?
- A: Again I think that Balance is the Key. I am not fully supporting rote learning but I am also not for 100% understanding. I may know the concepts but I won't be able to apply them because I don't know how to apply. So, there should be a fine balance between understanding and rote learning.
- Q: How can a student balance all these things?
- A: I think it's a good question because some of the students are much focused. I am not saying all of them are really focused because of the age. At this stage, they are more idealistic than pragmatic so they think they can do anything and yes, they can do anything if their energy is channelized properly.
- Q: Last question, what motivated you to move to US?
- A: It happened eventually, wasn't really planned. Even I didn't know that whatever I was doing here will give me a ticket to US. At that time I got a call, asking if I wanted to go to US. And I said yes and this is how I moved there (said with a smiling face).



NIT KKR IN MEDIA

KU, Gurgaon institutes sign MoU on summer varsity

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KURUKSHETRA, FEBRUARY 18
 National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra (NIT-K), and Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently. The MoU would make it possible for MBA students of NIT, Kurukshetra, to participate in International Summer University (ISU) that MDI is going to start this summer.

The MoU was signed by Prof Anand Mohan, Director, NIT, Kurukshetra and Prof PJ Philip, Head, Department of Business Administration, NIT, Kurukshetra, and Prof Mukul Gupta, Director, MDI, and Dr Gita Bajaj, Chairperson International Relations for MDI.

The summer university concept, which is prevalent



Prof Anand Mohan (second from right), Director, National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, and Prof Mukul Gupta (second from left) Director, Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon, exchange documents at MDI, Gurgaon. Photo: DR Vij

in some of the western countries is being introduced in India for the first time. In the summer university, students

from various institutions and universities of the country and from other countries come together to form an

international class and acquire knowledge and skills in specialised areas of management.

A student can opt maximum two courses and can join a batch of his convenience during a period spread over two months. These courses can be considered as add-on courses and will strengthen the knowledge-base of students.

NIT Director Prof Anand Mohan said ISU was a novel concept in India. He thanked MDI for inviting NIT-K to ISU and expressed the hope that the understanding would lead to a better and lasting relationship between the two institutions. NIT, Kurukshetra, would be willing to offer technical knowledge and expertise, which was the core strength of the institute, he added.

Lecture on high-energy materials

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KURUKSHETRA, FEBRUARY 18

As part of the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Kurukshetra, an expert lecture on 'Current trends in R and D in the field of high-energy materials', organised by the Chemistry Department of the NIT, was delivered by Prof Haridwar Singh, former Director, High Energy Materials Research Lab (HEMRL), DRDO, Pune, at the NIT senate hall.

Dr Singh enlightened the audience about the chemical materials used in explosives and as propellants in civil and defence applications. He interacted with the faculty and students and urged them to come forward with some

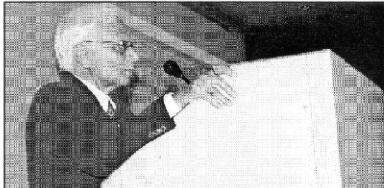
innovative research proposals in this field involving a multi-disciplinary approach.

Prof Anand Mohan, Director, NIT, in his welcome address, highlighted the achievements of Prof Haridwar in the field of science and technology.

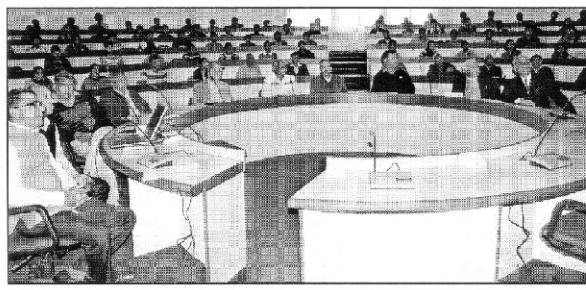
Later Prof Dinesh Kumar,

Head of Department, presented the vote of thanks.

Prof DP Singh, Dr JK Kapoor, Prof HK Sharma, Prof DK Soni, Prof JK Quamar, Dr Paras Ram, other faculty members, research scholars and MTech and BTech students were among those who attended the lecture.



Prof Haridwar Singh, former Director, High Energy Materials Research Lab (HEMRL), DRDO, Pune, delivers a lecture at the NIT in Kurukshetra. Photo: DR Vij



A cross-section of the audience attends a lecture at the NIT in Kurukshetra. Photo: DR Vij

PADMA BHUSHAN FOR DR SIVATHANU PILLAI



Kurukshetra: Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai, Chairman, Board of Governors, NIT Kurukshetra was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the Republic Day Padma Award 2013. Dr. Pillai holds the position of Distinguished Scientist & Chief Controller (R&D) DRDO and CEO & MD, BrahMos Aerospace. Dr. Pillai has been honoured for his invaluable achievements in the field of Science and Technology. SR

Kurukshetra NIT convocation

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KURUKSHETRA FEBRUARY 18

The 10th convocation of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Kurukshetra, is scheduled to be held on its premises on April 9, 2013.

Stating this to mediapersons during a press conference held on the premises of NIT, here, recently, Prof Anand Mohan, Director, NIT, said it was a matter of pride for the institute that President Pranab Mukherjee will be the chief guest for the golden jubilee convocation while Haryana Governor Jaganath Pahadia would grace the occasion.

Prof Mohan said Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda was also expected to attend the event.

The preparations for the convocation had already started. The organising committee with Prof VK Arora, Dean (Planning and Development), as the chief coordinator had been finalised and had started functioning, he added.

"MY LIFE....MY COLLEGE"

Professor Inderjit Singh Lamba enjoys the distinction of being a student of the first batch of this institute. He joined Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra in 1963, the year it was founded, and completed his B.E. degree in Civil Engineering with honors in 1967. Subsequent to his graduation, He joined as faculty member in the Department of Civil Engineering in the year 1969 and served this institute with dedication and commitment for 34 long years, no one knows this Institute the way he does. In view of his extra ordinary contributions, He was conferred the degree of PhD (Honoris Causa) at the 10th convocation of the Institute.



Vidur Khanna, a correspondent of the memoir got a chance to talk to him on the day of convocation; here are some excerpts from what he said:

- Q: How do you feel on receiving the Honorary Doctorate from your college?
- A: I am very happy, why won't I be? I feel privileged to be honored from my alma mater. I have never felt this way before. I am extremely overwhelmed.
- Q: What significance does NIT Kurukshetra hold in your life?
- A: Everything I am is all because of this college. I owe my life to this institute and every Bit of my education after the 10 +2 level. I did both my graduation and then my M.Tech from REC Kurukshetra .Then I joined as a Junior Research Fellow under CSIR scheme, that too at NIT Kurukshetra. Once here, I felt lucky and continued for one and a half years. Later I joined here as a faculty member in the Civil Department. I did all my Life service here. NIT Kurukshetra is and shall remain an integral part of my life as long as I live.
- Q: How was it being at two different positions at the same college firstly as a student of the very first batch and then as a professor?
- A: These changes happen over the years. It's been pretty much of a life cycle. I too have grown over the years. Now I look after the administrative work while earlier I used to be administered (laughs).
- Q: How has the college changed since then? What about the students?
- A: The campus has become a marvelous one. Honestly speaking, it is a lot cleaner than it used to be in my days. The students are alright and are readily adapting to the changing environment. There are certain constructive changes in the environment, with students getting access to better technology. During our days access to TVs, computers and other electronic gadgets was not that easy. Frankly speaking, I do not find the students as hardworking as they used to be in our times. But all in all things have remained pretty much the same.
- Q: Any fond memories about the institute?
- A: The institute has provided me with several memorable moments which I would certainly cherish all my life. One of the more memorable one was during Holi. During those days the male students used to go crazy, all colored up and trying to enter the only girls hostel, pushing away the police .Later they went to Kurukshetra University making it very difficult for the authorities to control them. When I became the Warden I was able

to put an end to this nuisance from the very first year of my service. I was too overwhelmed with the success ; however, I still fondly recall that Holi.

- Q. Any regrets?
- A. None as such. I believed whatever happened, happened for the best.
- Q. Given the opportunity would you like to make any changes in the college?
- A. I am not in touch with the current scenario so I hardly can comment. It's been 11 years since I retired, a pretty long time.
- Q. Any thoughts you would like to share with the students?
- A. Only one thing, 'Be true to yourself'. Whenever your heart and and your brain point out for two different directions, chose the path where your heart wants you to travel on. Remember and practice this always so that you never have any regrets in your life.



Alumni scribbling messages at the Convocation Lunch

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UPTO



Prof. V.K. Arora presenting memento to Mr. Arvind Kumar, Chief Guest, Alumni Talks-2

innovate and host their very first ALUMNI TALKS in April 2012 bringing closer an inexperienced but hungry student audience to the visiting Alumni.

For an encore of its first performance, the Association held the second edition of Alumni talks on 13th October, 2012 with another distinguished set of Alumni.

In the same month, on the 28th, the Association organized an annual get together for the Alumni and the silver jubilee batch of 87 was honored with mementos. Also, the Alumni, with their families were able to interact and participate in a variety of enjoyable activities in the very confines of their alma mater.

In between, the Association had consistently provided tours of the campus to our Alumni on requests. A new initiative of the Association is providing Scholarships to deserving students. Still in the initial stages, it is an innovative idea of the Students Body at the Institute and has helped four students in the session 2012-13. The student body has also been publishing a newsletter by the name of “The Memoir” which has proved very effective in providing the Alumni and the Students a common platform for knowing each other.



An inside view of the Alumni Talks

As always, The Association is open to suggestions and requests and sincerely hopes to increase the interaction of the Alumni with the Institute.

The Alumni Association has been very active at internal and external levels in the recent years. The Association has constantly strived to fulfill the expectations of our Alumni, while at the same time, integrating the student body into the fold as a support function.

In July, 2011, the Association had organized a get together of a few Alumni of the 81-86 batch in our prestigious Jubilee Hall and garnered the appreciation of all present, such events have since increased in frequency and strength

Not resting on their laurels, the Association decided to



First Edition of The Memoir being released

The Delhi NCR Chapter of the Association has been consistently organizing meets and regular Coffee Chats for the Alumni and recent times have seen meets being organized at various places across the country such as Mumbai.

PHOTO GALLERY



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