Shiv:

To start us off we will be simply Parul Rath

4th year

Shiv: Moving on, let’s get a little bit of background on you. So, where is the place that you called home before joining college?

Parul: Interesting question, wasn’t expecting this at all. Originally am from Odisha only, so in some messed up way or the other; joining college was my homecoming built. Coming back to the crux of the question, I’ve spent all of my life in Riffa which is a town in Bahrain.

Shiv: You’ve been in college for a minute now; what’s like the premiere memory of the institute that you can remember?

Parul: To be very honest at first I wasn’t very excited about this whole idea of moving to NITR because like who doesn’t love their home and my expectations for this whole college thing were like not the generic Karan Johar movie types. The bar was already set very low. My plan was simple; go with the flow. Dead fish go with the flow but that was the plan.

The first memory of college that I can recollect was that it was green like green green, might sound dumb but everyone needs to understand that where I’m from, this isn’t normal. What made everything more beautiful were the people; the interactions as a whole were something. Yes, something is the word I’d like to go with because it’s just indescribable.

Shiv: Now, the next question I have for you is something I can’t really relate to because of my whole internet driven college experience is that; how did you feel about the strict attendance system.

Parul: Hearing this I feel I am from a different generation altogether; no attendance what a boon for you lot. I feel I took college as an extension of school only, followed the normal school life schedule. I didn’t miss any classes in my first year except for the leaves I took for the debate tournaments I attended. Now that I’ve said it the whole not missing of classes sounds like such a classical sob story but trust me it was nothing like that I simply found my reasons to go attend lectures. Spotted a good counterpart for myself in my section and then he acted as the motivation for me to get up every morning, sounds so extreme. Sadly, my life wasn’t as spicy as am making it sound, my room mates were a big factor for my whole attending of lectures thing so there’s that too.

Shiv: I wish am also able to find a so called ‘counterpart’ for myself. You’re from Bahrain and the generic image of a middle eastern country is one of being very very rich so what’s it like in college in contrast to your home, what changes did you come across here?

Parul: I am not sure about the very very rich narrative but like life there and life here that is in the college are very different. There exists a very strong contrast. Life there is lazy to say the least, the lifestyle itself is very different. Everything is so very efficient there like I remember in my first year I had to open my bank account and the amount of effort it took from my end was phenomenal. I guess at the end of the day, I am a whole package. Another problem I faced was the confusion about how the economy works here, my method was simple if something costed like 200 bucks here, I would convert it and check if it sounds just back home. This didn’t end well for me so, don’t go with this method at all. All in all, I think the change that I got to saw was me becoming a more independent person from a more dependent previous me.

Shiv: Personally, I feel Rule No. 1 while shopping in India is never ask for the price, just give whatever you think seems just. Hostels are such a quintessential part of college, how does that page of your college life sound like? This is again something I can’t relate to but I guess you win some you lose some.

Parul: First year was something; had great roommates. We were four girls stuffed in one room, the key was us getting along and thankfully we did.

Room mates

4 people in one room

Got along really well

Mess food

The restrictions are there but that’s what makes it fun

Lots of late entries; wrong numbers

7) Since NITR beholds students from different cultures and areas, did you feel zonism on campus?

Hindi

4-5 languages

Odia

No culture shock

Got to take part in different circles

Learnt a lot

Makes sense

speak my particular language, then I would be more comfortable around them. that should not stop me from getting into conversation with others. Hence pointing out any group of friends as zonism is not justified.

8) Do professors show partiality towards students of their area?

cant be classified as partial

partial towards good students

supposed to be that way

9) What is the best thing about nitr?

Difficult to put it alll down on a page

the people

the campus

the exposure; awareness

natural phase but gives you the extra push

live in this city

the air

getting a chance to xp this

the rules itself makes something exciting

lenient on the late entries n stuff

clubs

follows the general idea of college as a whole makes you prepared at the end of the day

10) What would be the worst thing about NITR?

not getting enough time in the campus was the worst thing

at the end of the day cant exactly cherry pick the downsides of the place youre supposed to spend four years in

transportation

11) How has the sudden shift affected you as you have experienced offline and online college life?

We all went home but the independence we had stayed in college.

Gave you a chance to maybe explore cz you could like put your course on the backseat for a while

Lots of free time but like you look back at it; it doesn’t seem like a lot of time

12) What will be your advice to the freshers of batch 2021?

Not feel qualified enough to answer tbh but like

Makes me feel old though

the four years

Try everything that you can but don’t like put your career for butchering out there

make friends that like satisfy the age old definition of the word friends

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY just like my interview here