

Are we no longer one of the top choices for engineering aspirants? What went wrong? Read about the falling cut-offs in the opinion article.



Ode to the hostellers. Know all about the clandestine mischief that go on inside the four walls hostel, that open new doors to freedom.



He did not have the epochal 70%, yet secured himself an enviable position. Read more about Nilayan Das Gupta's journey to Barclays.



THE ALLIANCE

BRINGING NSIT TOGETHER

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KHAN BHAIYA

The man who cannot be moved. Sporting the typical 'aam-aadmi' look, this man has stayed put ever since the college campus was shifted to Dwarka. A gem of a person, this NSITian caters to the thirst of hundreds everyday with his delicious fruit juices and chaats which have just become more delicious over time. If you are looking for some respite from the scorching sun and

torrid heat, Khan Bhaiya's Fruit stall is the place to be. He loves to talk and share his thoughts and opinions to anyone who listens, and it was no different when we had 'sun-lit' date with him in the Nesci lawns with an orange juice in hand.

Here are a few excerpts:

- Your NSIT tenure - 14 years. "Serving since 1999 (with pride)."

- College over the years - Things have changed, and though there has been academic growth with better placements, better infrastructure, hostels, and increase in seats, the students have also changed. They are in total oblivion with their surroundings, as they have no connect with people like me.
- The NSIT Identity - The fests are the face of the college and make up for the identity of the college along with its placements, though there has been a gradual degradation in these events. Earlier they were the heart of this college with astonishing biking stunts, glamorous lights, and a festive vibe, which is difficult to find now. It is sad to see that although students have become more organized by making committees and groups for the fests; they still cannot match the enthusiasm and extravaganza of the fests of their predecessors.
- A change you would like to see - I would like to be an official part of this college. I wish to invest in the small cart of mine and have a permanent shack to serve the students. So many people wish to have coconut water, banana shake, mango shake, and I would like to be their provider. I need your cooperation and support so that my voice can reach the concerned authorities.
- Interesting Fact- People say, that Khan Bhaiya generally has the know-how about all the workings in the college and he accounts all the credit for the same to - 'having good relations with everyone'. He is friendly with everyone, be it students or the people from the admin or professors. He keeps his eyes and ears open and that has made him more aware of his surroundings.

'It is a beautiful sight when these students come just cluster around my cart asking for that one glass of juice. I really love them and they have reciprocated as well with tremendous respect and love for me. This is true happiness'



PANDEY JI

People in NSIT migrate from all parts of the country, and they find themselves pitted against one another in the 1st year hostel. Not being your run-of-the-mill Security Guard, Pandey ji is the fatherly statue with whom

they shared stories and grew comfortable away from home.

- Over the years - Over the past 7 years, the behavior of the staff and professors has improved. The quantity and quality of students in the college has grown.
- Your stint in Ramanujan Hostel - It was one of the best moments in this college. I had become a part of the family. Even now, it is heartening to meet any of the old hostel residents and the best part is they have not forgotten me. Their smallest gesture while passing by just makes my day.
- A message to the college youngsters - Your hard work has led you to NSIT and the journey that starts from here generally lands people in big places.

TRULY NSITIANS

With determination on their faces and resolute steps, a horde of NSITians march down from their class to the left of the admin, salvation within their sights. An opulence of cajoling and a promise of safekeeping had led to their classmate relinquishing his decorously taken precious notes. Half an hour later, the mission has been accomplished. With a spring in their steps, glimmer in their eyes, and a copy of the notes reverently clutched, the group segregates. Some amble on towards the hostel gates, only to make a pit stop, as the aroma of food wafts towards them or they get enticed by the assorted juices. The remaining ones head towards their secret dungeons, intent to make a dent in their placement season. This is an average day at NSIT.

While the term 'NSITian' is predominantly redolent of the students, there are individuals in the above account, who perhaps merit this title more. They are the pivot of NSIT and an integral part of our day. With the numerous batches of students arriving at and bidding adieu to the college, they have remained the only constants. They are, truly NSITians.

PUNDIT JI

Termed as the 'fastest' man on campus, he needs no other introduction. Photocopies, Lab files and what-not, he is our ray of hope in 'nick-of-time' moments. People have come and gone, but his calmness remains intact. Panditji from 'Radha Photocopy' shares his story with the Alliance team-

- The NSIT stint- 12 years
- Over the years - The campus has maintained its serene atmosphere.
- Disappointment with NSIT - There is a serious paucity of rules amongst the students. (He hinted at several instances having occurred over the years.)
- Introduction to NSIT- I have been a pundit (in the true meaning of the word), working as a priest in the temple across NSIT's north gate. I was introduced to this campus through the 'pujas' organized in the campus staff quarters, and since then, have been a part of this campus.
- Asides - I do part-time work in number of companies. My talent at 'omnipresence' is for you to wonder and me to know. I have had a long association with RSS.



RAWAT SIR

He is for everyone in the campus. Be it the placement issues or a quick FAQ on a company or any doubt on whatsoever issue under the NSIT sun, he is always there to shake off your stress! He is the ever approachable, Rawat Sir. Here is what Rawat Sir had to say when we interviewed him -

- Time in NSIT - over 12 years now
- Over the years - I feel the grey-cell pool has diluted due to a larger uptake each year and non-standardization of the entrance exam unlike the previously held CEE that was specifically conducted by NSIT and erstwhile DCE.

- Placement trends - Mass recruiters have scaled down placement uptakes due to market slump. (Pessimists, hold your horses! Optimism is the way to go.) Consultancy firms have picked up the graph! Great placements opened up hence.
- Disappointment - redundant syllabus
- Expert advice to great placements -Brush up your communication skills. More than your books, companies admire good, truthful, English-speaking communicators. Ask away! During placement presentations of companies, ask as many questions. A dumb audience just puts off good firms. G.K., thinking on your feet, surely works in your favour.
- Tip to the coming 'Rawat Sir' - Work hard and try to innovate, improvise. Always.
- NSIT in a line - "Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe azaadi doonga." Fits 'literally', going by the fact that it was quoted by the person our college is named after. The only mantra is to work hard for great placements.
- (Better, not only rely on your 'gift of the gab', for this 'gift' has to come with being intelligent and hard working too for a hefty package!)
- Asides - He totally favours formation of the university to maintain the standard of NSIT. His disappointments include alumni emphasizing on 'bright student' recruitments only.

"Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe azaadi doonga."

Falling cut-offs

IRA SAXENA

Fall semester’ 13 commenced with the usual charades. The nervous, bright eyed first years basking in the joy of arriving at NSIT, the unapologetic sophomores hunting down freshers, the meticulous third years plotting the road map for their careers, the sick-with-anticipation fourth years gearing up for their future. All in all, everything was in place and was functioning the way it should be. But something was gnawing at us all. What was it that was so different this time around that couldn’t stop us all from speculating in hush-hush tones?

When an engineering college of repute like ours sees the cutoffs plummeting the way it has this year, it is bound to raise some questions over its credibility.

Is our reputation declining? Don’t we publicize enough? Aren’t we one of the top choices for engineering aspirants? What went wrong this time?

So putting all your questions to rest, we give you a factual analysis of the drastic fall in the cutoffs for this year. Take a look.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

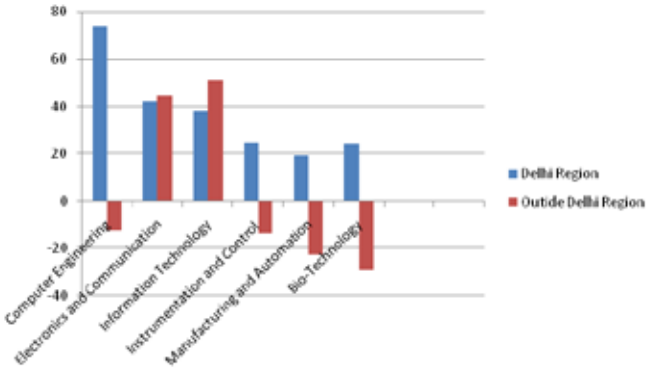
Prima facie, it may seem that our institution is largely at fault because we never publicize our placements and the noteworthy achievements of the many luminaries from our college, but that is not really the case. On comparing the final round cutoffs with an institution like DTU, which is well known all over our country and is on top of the list for engineering aspirants as it gives a very transparent picture of its placements, we noticed that they too have seen an equal slump in cutoffs this year.

There are some grave shortcomings of this formula which inherently have had a domino effect on the JEE outcome this year:

- Firstly, the new formula has created a lot of confusion and ambiguity in the minds of engineering aspirants. There is no certainty now as to which method will secure them a seat in the college of their choice. The dichotomy of juggling between CBSE and JEE can render anyone exhausted and mentally drained out.
- Giving so much weightage to board results, may be a breather to some, but only the experienced know how credible board results really are. The gospel truth is that board results never really give an accurate image of a person’s knowledge and aptitude in a particular subject. Luck has a large role to play in it too. Whereas, entrance examinations, though not without loopholes, are more objective and analytical.
- Yet the biggest drawback of this formula is actually the lack of uniformity in the 12th standard result which it hasn’t taken into account. There are 34 boards in our country and each have varying difficulty levels and the relative scoring differs too. So owing to a really faulty normalization formula, it has become very difficult to fairly evaluate the results.

NOW HOW HAS THIS AFFECTED OUR CUTOFFS?

When we compare our final cutoffs with that of last year’s, the (average) jump in Outside Delhi region is nearly 18.6%, with a lot of branches showing a rise in the cutoffs too, whereas that of Delhi Region touches 37%. This difference can directly be linked with the disparity in CBSE Board and other state boards. A bar-graph underneath would depict the irregularities in the cut-offs of both the regions.



X-Axis: Branches; Y-Axis: Percentage fall in cutoffs
For reference : The percentage drop in the cutoffs for the year 2013 has been calculated by the following formula :
(Closing Rank(2013) - Closing Rank(2012))/Closing Rank(2012)]*100

WILL THIS REALLY UNDERMINE OUR REPUTATION AS A PREMIER ENGINEERING COLLEGE?

By the careful scrutiny and analysis of the JEE’13 formula we may have justified the startling fall in the cutoffs but we cannot ascertain the course of this newly implemented method of admission and its outcome on our reputation.

We must understand that no examination, whether a board examination or a JEE exam, can ever determine the true potential of a student. Sure, they act as a filtering system and give us a measure of their aptitude. But it isn’t right to judge a person’s intelligence and knowledge from a mere 3 hour examination. This is what college teaches us. It is a churning process where the brightest may stumble and the hardworking, diligent underdogs may surprise us.

So let us take a breather from the eternal debate of

We must understand that no examination, whether a board examination or a JEE exam, can ever determine the true potential of a student. Sure, they act as a filtering system and give us a measure of their aptitude. But it isn’t right to judge a person’s intelligence and knowledge from a mere 3 hour examination.

STUDENT OPINION

Will this really undermine our reputation as a premier engineering college?



Ketan Sharma, Batch of 2016:

“The word ‘cut-off’ seems to have lost its significance in NSIT. What went wrong? Whose mistake is it? Is it all because of normalization? I don’t see normalization being responsible for the top rankers of IIT-Mains (fancy word for AIEEE) choosing some other college over NSIT.

Choosing a college is a big decision for a student, one that involves weighing all that you want in a college v/s all that you don’t. Now like any other college, NSIT is a reflection of those who constitute it. Instead of fussing so much over the dwindling cutoffs, we should focus on our contribution in making NSIT a better institution and achieving our dreams whilst our four years in this college. In essence, my point is that if you don’t bath for the entire year and put on make-up on new year’s eve, it isn’t going to change people’s opinion on how bad you smell. Be the change that you wish to see.”



Prerna Tomar, Batch of 2015:

“Scoring well in the boards requires bookish knowledge, limited concepts and application, subjective writing, and good paper presentation, whereas, the judging parameters for JEE are (were) speed, accuracy, conceptual knowledge of a lot of topics (which by the way may not be included

in the board syllabus), varied application and out of the box thinking. Inclusion of the board marks among these parameters only increases the number of such students to qualify who are better meant for rote learning and may not have the right aptitude for engineering as a branch. These students, after graduation, may find it difficult to work in their selected fields, which directly hits the college’s reputation, leading to dissatisfaction of the recruiters and they may eventually cease to hire altogether. “



Rajat Taneja, Batch of 2014:

“With the normalization formula devised for allotting JEE ranks to students going haywire, the merit decisions have been exceedingly dependent on marks scored in Board Exams. A major chunk of bright aspirants here has been deprived of the colleges they deserved. This fiasco

may hamper the reputation of colleges like NSIT, which is more renowned for the quality of students it admits each year, than its brand name. To get things back on track, it may take a few years, some very serious reforms, or even a new government.”

NIT, WARANGAL, a premier engineering college, has also witnessed something similar, though not of the same magnitude. Almost every regional engineering college has seen this dip, so the situation isn’t just NSIT specific anymore. So, while it is true that the fact that we don’t advertise enough, costs us some really good potential every year, yet it is not the primary reason behind this fall. There is obviously more to the picture.

All NITs have to comply with the ground rules of CBSE and thus have had to admit their students on the basis of the JEE’13 formula, the brain child of former HRD minister, Mr. Kapil Sibal.

This is a breakdown of the JEE’13 Mains formula : 60% weightage is given to marks scored in JEE’13 Mains examination and 40% weightage is given to marks obtained in Board examinations of class 12th. The percentiles obtained are thus calculated in both the exams. The percentiles are then multiplied by a factor of 0.6, and 0.4 respectively. The All India Rank is evaluated on the net score. It is safe to say that this new formula has completely turned the entire foundation for admitting students all over india in undergraduate engineering colleges upside down.

boards V/S JEE and give the freshers a chance to prove themselves and testify the fact that an All India Rank means nothing once you step inside the premises of this college. There is so much to be learned here and one must not waste time gloating on one’s past laurels or self-doubting one’s abilities.

Therefore, we should not hastily associate this dip with a decline in the reputation of our institute. Let time take its course and see how this system works out for us.

We would love to have your opinion on this issue. If you feel you have something else to say, drop us a mail at nsit.newspaper@nsitonline.in



Augmenting Curious Minds: Instrumentation and Control Engineering

AYUSH MAITI, SIDHANT KHANNA, DHRUV MATHUR, DEEPSHIKHA ACHARYA

INTRODUCTION

Somewhere in the lone corners of NSIT, you will always find an ICE student busy coding, sweating hard for a motor sport competition, or sometimes, working late night in the CEDT lab.

The field of Instrumentation and control engineering (ICE) is ubiquitous in so many respects. Often underrated, ICE is a hybrid branch – it is an amalgamation of Electronics, Computers, Mechanical, and Automation engineering.

However, does studying ICE really make you a jack-of-all-trades or only a master in one of the myriad fields available? Let us find it out.

What is ICE?

Unfortunately, the skewed and flummoxing system of ranks, preferences, and parents (pun intended!) force us to make some uninformed choices in our teenage. In fact, at NSIT, it is not we who choose the branch but it is the branch that chooses us.

Sometimes, a few students in their first year do not have a clear-cut idea of what their branch [Instrumentation and Control Engineering here] is all about.

Instrumentation is the science of measurement of physical quantities. In layman’s terms, anything around us that uses any measuring device does involve some degree of instrumentation in it. Hence, from home appliances like Air Conditioners and refrigerators to transducers, sensors, actuators, meters (flow, level, and pressure), pressure gauges, and control valves used in Industry, the varied applications of Instrumentation are palpable.

Control and Automation engineering deals with all the processes and machines that are programmed to function fully or semi-automatically. It provides desired behavior and control to the machines, and thus, it finds wide applications in multiple disciplines (i.e. from automation to defense industry).

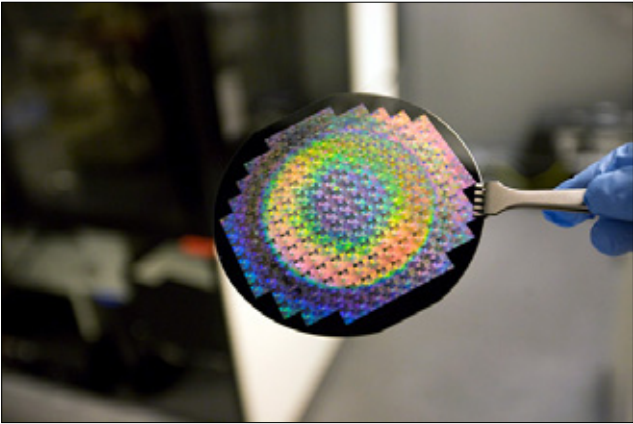
Using them together - the beverage Industry



Let us take an example of a beverage bottling plant. The Control and Automation technology is involved in various processes like moving bottles on a conveyer belt, filling them one by one, putting up the labels, sealing them etc. The machines are programmed to complete all such processes.

On the other hand, Instrumentation and measurement devices are used to maintain a certain pressure, temperature, and volume while filling the bottles.

Further prospects - Academia



Since the ICE curriculum consists of an amalgamation of courses from Electrical, Mechanical, Instrumentation, Control, Electronics, Communication, and Computer engineering, it allows a student to have a wide variety of options for post-graduate specializations. For students looking to go into academia but unsure about their subsequent specialization, ICE is a good branch to be in, since it allows them to search for their true field of interest by working on projects on a diverse variety of subjects. Many of our alumni, when asked about the scope for ICE in further studies, responded by saying that during their undergraduate studies, they worked on various research projects under professors, and this was when they came to realize what their true passion was. The ideal path for a potential post-graduate student would be to work on as many research projects as possible, to get a good understanding of the field he/she hopes to do research in, and, once sure of the field, look up the relevant courses at top universities, both in India as well as abroad.

Although ICE as a branch (and therefore its associated core fields) is not very popular in India, many top class institutes still provide graduate-level courses & research opportunities. IISc Bangalore and a number of old IITs have research and post-graduation programs available. The situation abroad is slightly better, as most foreign universities do not focus on the undergraduate major while considering research applications from engineers. This provides a much wider scope for students to select their specialization. In some rare cases, you [undergraduate students] can also choose an unrelated branch to pursue in their masters provided you can show your interest in that specific field through projects, internships, achievements etc. There are alumni who chose economics, environmental sciences, marketing, finance etc. as their field of interest during masters.



If someone wishes to pursue his/her masters in core Instrumentation and control Engineering, then one may choose Electrical or Mechanical Engineering in which they can specialize/major in Control systems, Sensors, Automation & Control, Robotics, Mechatronics, Control Drives, Artificial Intelligence, Process Control, Machine Learning, Intelligent Control etc. after which one can work in industry or pursue PhD. In PhD, one can again further specialize in their field of interest in which they wish to pursue their research. If someone is focused and pre-decided in pursuing PhD further in life, then one can also apply for MS + PhD courses abroad if he/she has a strong profile.

After post-graduation, a student can choose whether to go into the industry for jobs, or choose to stick with academic research. Major companies look to hire PhDs for positions as research scientists, Senior Software Engineers, Designers and in other decision-making roles. Lifestyle in the industry is usually relaxed and work hours in research labs usually tend to be up to the employee to adjust. Compensation in academia is comparatively less, and work hours usually involve more dedication. However, this is balanced by the freedom on problems to work on, opportunity to work with great colleagues and students, and (if relevant) interest in teaching.

Apart from the research areas mentioned earlier, there are alumni who chose little different field like Power Systems, Power Electronics, Communication Systems, Material sciences, Industrial Engineering, Operations Research, Automobile Engineering, Systems Engineering, Nanotechnology, Photonics(Optics), Aerospace, Bio-instrumentation and surgical robotics, applied mathematics, data analytics, and precision motion control. Thus, it is easy to see that a wide variety of fields await an Instrumentation and Control engineer. ICE provides one with ample opportunities to pursue his/her masters in any field of Computers, Electronics, Electrical, Mechanical, Control, and Automation. This helps open up a multitude of prospects for a student to choose his/her field of interest after exploring these areas properly during undergraduate studies.

Further Prospects – Industry

Owing to the large scope and span of the subject, core [ICE] companies visiting the campus are limited. However, there are a plethora of companies searching for a mix of Automation, Computers, Electronics, Control, and Instrumentation engineers. In Instrumentation and Control domain, engineers are required in Oil & Gas sector, Power & Energy sector, Automobile and Manufacturing sector and any other



process based industries like pharmaceutical, cement, fertilizer, chemical industry etc.

Public sector : Jobs at PSUs like GAIL, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL, ONGC, NTPC, BHEL, DMRC, SAIL, IGL, DRDO etc. are known to offer enviable perks like generous allowances, soft loans, incredible job security, and a handsome salary. PSUs have a tendency to overlook your CV by recruiting top Departmental Rankers and GATE rankers. There are also some slightly different areas where Instrumentation and Control Engineers are required, like in the ISRO, nuclear research organizations etc. Many National laboratories that provide calibration and standardization facilities also require engineers with Instrumentation profile.

In upstream oil companies like ONGC, IOCL, or BPCL, an Instrumentation engineer is a key personal in onshore and offshore drilling, exploration and processing platform and in offshore plants and refineries. One can expect a generous ‘hardship allowance’ for working 24X7 for two weeks, and then get paid to spend two weeks at home, after the grueling duty on offshore Oil & Gas rigs and platforms.

Private Sector: Many Indian as well as some multinational companies like Bechtel, Triune, Reliance Power, Halliburton, Schlumberger, Shell, Honeywell, Technip, Lanco, Metso, Doosan Power, and Rosemount etc. offer some promising roles to Instrumentation and Control engineers. There are many on field and office based opportunities in Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) companies (like L&T), which specialize in infrastructure projects in Power, Oil, Gas, and Energy sector, requiring Instrumentation and Control Engineers on project basis for their construction projects in India and abroad. There is a lot of scope in various technical project management and consultancy firms like EIL, Technip etc. that work on various engineering projects based on project/client requirements.

There are also many appropriate positions available in automobile, ship and aircraft building, heavy machinery industries. With the real sector booming high again, some new opportunities have been created in the construction sector. Also, companies involved in PLC/DCS/SCADA System designing like Siemens, ABB etc. have various opportunities available for these engineers. Lastly, one may also look for opportunities in the Food Processing, Instrument development, and FMCG industries like ITC, Pepsico, HUL, P&G.

Scope Abroad

At EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) firms, depending upon one’s intelligence and performance, companies send people for assignments outside India. Various companies have their R&D, designing and fabrication centers worldwide where there is huge scope to learn and nurture for an Instrumentation and Control Engineer.

Scope for Instrumentation Engineers is abundant in Gulf countries (especially Saudi Arabia and Iraq) where there is an exuberant Oil and Gas industry. There is an abundance of oil & gas refineries in Gulf countries and even average engineers can mint handsome money there. There is a huge demand for Instrumentation and Control engineers in European nations. One can shift to such roles either by pursuing their masters abroad or by gaining quality work experience for 4-5 years, and then shifting to related opportunities.

I would like to stress upon the importance of a field internship. EPCs do their work from offices, so practical exposure to people is less. So, whenever you get an opportunity, please go to a site and observe. Apart from the core subjects, put extra efforts in studying about DCS, PLC, SCADA systems, Control valves, working of different types of power plants, role of instrumentation in power plants and refineries, technologies such as HART, Wireless HART, Foundation fieldbus etc. Also watch, videos on working of instruments (pressure, level, flow) on Youtube. It will bring some clarity in your concepts.

-Anisha Mehta, Bechtel

Microcontrollers, Micro fabrication, Intelligent Control, Micro Sensing, and VLSI are few other fields, which should be explored. Robotics, Control Systems, Intelligent Control/systems, PC based measurement, Artificial Intelligence, Embedded Systems, Bio-medical Instrumentation, Digital Signal Processing etc. can also be explored. Additionally, an Instrumentation and Control Engineer should have proficiency in software like MATLAB, LabVIEW etc. National Instruments organizes NI LabVIEW Student Design contest every year, which an Instrumentation and Control engineer can surely target.



Wisdom Tree contd...

RESEARCH IN NSIT

In NSIT, a host of faculties provides the much-needed guidance to students willing to undertake innovative research under them. Here are some of the most recommended professors:

- Dr. Smriti Shrivastva**
With an experience of over 19 years, she is the current dean of UG, NSIT. She guides students for projects in Control Engineering, especially neural networks (identification and control of non-linear/dynamic systems) and intelligent systems (standardized methodological approach to solve

important and complex problems and obtain consistent and reliable results over time).

- Dr. KPS Rana**
Dr. KPS Rana is one of the most venerable professors at NSIT. Besides his unparalleled experience, his tongue-in-cheek style, wit, and curiosity enamor students. His expertise lies in PC based measurement, Real time measurement, Robotics, Digital signal processing, and intelligent systems. He has provided guidance to umpteen alumni and still continues to inspire many students.

In addition, you may also approach some other well-acclaimed professors like, Dr. Prerna Gaur (refer to the Professor’s Profile – The Alliance 5.0) and Dr. J.R.P. Gupta (refer to the Professor’s Profile in this edition), if you are more interested in this field [ICE].

Apart from the above-mentioned professors, students work with professors in other departments as well. Some of them are, Sh. Dhananjay Gadre (CEDT lab), Dr. Anand Gupta (COE div.), Dr. Shampa Chakraverty (COE div.), and Dr. Vijyant Aggarwal (Robotics, MPAE div.).

Apart from the projects given by NSIT pro-

fessors, one can also do his/her summer research internship in any Indian/foreign research centers. There are many research internship opportunities available at USC, DAAD, Viterbi School, TTI Chicago, and other European schools, along with some at IISc, JNC SAR, IISc, TIFR, IITs, and IITs.

To get help regarding MS/PhD application, please refer to the Wisdom Tree article in The Alliance 7.0. For Alumni interviews regarding Industry scopes and MS/PhD opportunities in the ICE, please visit: <http://alliancensit.com/wisdom-tree/augmenting-curious-minds-instrumentation-and-control-engineering>

GPA V/S PERCENTAGE: THE UNTOLD STORY...

CHANDAN KAR

69%. Yes, 69% is what I achieved, while the Department Rank -1 was proud of his whopping 85%. Though the common phrase ‘Beta, tumse na ho payega’ echoes in my ears, I wonder if the scenario would have been better if we would have been following the GPA i.e. Grade Point Average – system, which is followed by almost all the other premier technical colleges, including the various IITs and NITs.

As we are very well versed with the percentage system, we notice that the system in NSIT is no different from what we have seen during our school years. The GPA system on the other hand grades students in a relative manner, i.e., their standing among the peers as compared to the student who stood first in their department. Taking last year’s 3rd semester results as a use-case for comparison, in ICE a 69% would almost be the GPA equivalent of 6.9-7.2 with the Department rank-1 scoring a sensational 85.33, whereas in the case of IT or MPAE results for the same semester a student’s GPA varies from 8.5-9.1 with the guy who stood first scoring a 87.15 and 77.85 respectively. Based on this analysis, one can clearly see how student-friendly the GPA system is. We have so often reasoned that the marks of a student never justify the level of his intelligence, and while the GPA system would not affect those who do well in academics, it would surely make a mediocre or an above average student look good. This

would definitely mellow down a couple of factors that could have proved a hindrance in the future as shall be extrapolated in the next couple of paragraphs.

Firstly, having a percentage system in an Indian college like NSIT - where, to get a outstanding score in the range of 86-90%, either you need to be born with a super human intellect that enables you to grasp the entire subject matter in the last week or you apply the common humane way, i.e., slog through the entire semester. Though by following the latter, one narrows down a lot of options for the people who plan to go abroad to elite universities for postgraduate studies. It certainly is not the only factor which is taken into account as one’s co-curricular activities play an important role as well, but it does influence the decision of getting admission to a top university abroad. The college does not carve its niche, as there is no proper time for diving into projects and internships, or for that fact exploring any extra-curricular interests that one might have. Yes, there are amazing personalities who have scored high, explored every field of their college life, did projects, interned at good places and went on to get an admit in Columbia University, UPenn, or CMU. The burning question is- How many? How many such people has NSIT produced? Conclusion: Poor conversion ratio of the number of foreign admits in MS or MBA programs in prestigious universities and

while one might argue that academics is not the only deciding factor to get an admit, it is a critical one. Under the GPA system things might become favourable as some universities might consider 80% in our system to be a CGPA of 8, in the absence of any conversion factor, whereas in pure GPA terms, this would definitely be 9+ grade point. Maybe, the GPA system would ease up the academic pressure, and we would actually learn something in college by trying out other things apart from the traditional rote learning.

Secondly, after an exam, someone or the other always ends up shouting- ‘The professor screwed us with an out-of-the world paper and we messed it up real bad’. Currently in such a scenario, everyone passes with a meagre 55-60 % with the topper getting 70% or so. But had it been the GPA system, because the 70 % would translate as a 10 GPA, the people in 50-60% bracket wouldn’t fare too badly and would get an above average grade point. So this takes the luck factor out of the way and everyone has a reasonable chance to do well.

All said and done, the GPA system presents a rosy picture but it hollowed as well. Although it is debatable, relative grading brings down the seriousness of a student and the competitive spirit slackens while appearing for the examination. One could score an 80% and have a GPA of 8 in that

subject, whereas having an 80 in a subject will remain with you no matter how easy it was to score marks and who all scored more than you. This point is very well proved when we analyse the ECE and COE departments for the same examination. Even when a student has scored a well-deserved 80% it is equivalent to a GPA of 8.4 and 8.1 respectively which definitely demerits and limits the student’s result. The percentage system looks fair as everyone can score 70% in a class (highly unlikely though), whereas on the other hand everybody cannot get an absolute GPA of 7 or more. Though all we can do is speculate; NSIT has been doing well over the years and has maintained an impeccable placement record, so there must be something right in the current system.

It is a bitter truth that we are currently this system’s guinea pigs and it will surely take some time for the curriculum and marking system to be unified in a country like India. This article is not indicative that we should accept the GPA grading just because it makes the student look good, but being marked under this system would make the college stand for what it is - giving more chances for the country to produce good human resources. The point raised here is the lack of a fundamentally sound system, which would work efficiently in producing qualified people who have done something more than just getting numbers, only then will college truly earn its real meaning.

It is true what they say about life-“The value of something is truly felt only when, you are about to lose it or have lost it’.

Living in a world which changes with the blink of an eye, I find it amusing as to how we manage ‘not’ to regret and fret over the quick passage of time. As I sit in silence and write these lines, I stare at the hard truth that I am leaving my 1st year hostel a.k.a. Ramanujan Hostel, a tenure which simply was gone with the wind.

They say that life in a hostel will make you the man that you will be in your life from the boy that you are now.

Four pale walls screaming monotony, that is the first sight as I recall. Yes, the same four walls which would be my temporary home. One always feels the ‘Captivity of Negativity’ while being jailed inside those four walls of the Hostel. I could have gone on cribbing about the hypocrites staying next door or moaning through the strict deadlines OR I could try to find people who make it worth my while for the years to come (Yes, these people exist). It is all about adapting and adapting quickly. Getting over your uneasiness and making those few friends is all that matters. The first couple of months reminded me something that I had learnt travelling places owing to a father in the Defence forces - It is not the place that makes your stay memorable, it is the PEOPLE. This fact is true in every context of life be it College, home, or your workplace, it is the people around you who matter.

The unique experience of being together for the ‘First’ time with such a diverse

The Hostel Diaries: Chapter 1

CHANDAN KAR



Intense gaming going on in the hostel

hostel population can be unnerving, but it is a learning stint which just marks the beginning of many such “First’s”. Friendships earn a whole new meaning and become a special bond to cherish, as during all my Hostel moments, I never found myself alone or sulking in a corner. The euphoria felt during those first nights when I slept in a random newbie’s room, when we shared secrets or had heated discussions about who is the hottest chic on campus, or those fierce battles for that last slice

of pizza that lasted way longer than I had anticipated. That impulse to do something crazy can be understood only by bona-fide hostellers, and I am sure you will relate to me if you went on a road-trip to Murthal at 2 A.M. or had those kick-ass birthdays (literally :P) where everyone goes berserk. The first hostel birthday is special. It is the epitome of epicness as you have no idea as to what to expect. Something crazy is bound to happen almost every day, but yes, hands held during those days are promised

to be held forever, and held they will be.

One gets so much of leisure time that he can actually do anything in the world he wishes to - from being a ghissu coder to playing DOTA, AOE,CS; to strident, shameless singing in corridors; or simply staying indolent. One moment, over dinner at 8, you decide to play T.T. and the next moment you find yourself on the T.T. table way past 5, playing for past 8 hrs. This is the hostel magic!

This was not the story of Ramanujan Hostel (BH-4), nor was it a summary of what to expect in a hostel and neither was it a decorative description of my fellow hostellers’ achievements. I simply wanted to highlight the sheer essence and values attached with hostel life. I was my own master and the slave of my very own command. With great responsibility, came great maturity but I believe my greatest achievement was trying to achieve everything without having any regrets.

So, as I move on to my new home for the next 3 years, I would like to live my life to the fullest. Leave no stones unturned and grow like never before..

“A year has gone by and time has simply passed by, If I could do it all over again , I would. Lessons learnt here, are NEVER forgotten, Memories made here will never be rotten. While Heaven and Hell might tear you apart, ‘We’ welcome you all to an amazing start. It is the beginning of something new, my friend, Simply open the doors and just make it large..” Cheers.



PROFESSOR PROFILE: DR. J. R. P. GUPTA

SONALI GARG

Q. Firstly, we would like to know how you entered the teaching arena.

A. Earlier I was with the Ministry of Communication from the year 1974 to February 1976. However, due to some bureaucratic hurdles I felt suffocated, so I resigned and started teaching. My first assignment was at Muzzafarpur Institute of Technology that comes under Bihar Engineering College. Then, I went for PhD at IIT D. Ultimately, I got the post of professor at NSIT (then DIT, Kashmiri Gate).

Q. You have been here a long time and have tried to incorporate a lot of changes. What were the changes you were able to incorporate and what more can be improved at NSIT according to you?

A. I was involved in opening the MPAE branch. I was one of the professors who played a crucial role in opening M.Tech. courses in ICE. Earlier ICE was not recognized by industries, few companies were open to ICE, but, I emphasized

He has had a long, fruitful journey and donned many caps. He was the first HOD of ICE and has served as the Dean of Student Welfare, Dean Administration, Dean academic, HOD of COE –IT, HOD of Applied Sciences over time. Popularly known as ‘JRPG sir’, he is always ready to share his vast experience.

that they should be allowed to compete alongside COE and ECE students. Till I was HOD, there was no dearth of jobs for ICE students.

I wanted to revise ICE syllabus but I was posted as HOD of COE-IT for 4 years. I never came back to ICE as the institute head, so the syllabus revision could not take place.

Q. Now that NSIT has been granted the status of a University, the intake of students and the number of branches is likely to increase,



Dr. J. R. P. Gupta

how do you think it is going to affect the students as well as the teachers?

A. The standard declines. However, if talented people are brought in, the quality can persist. The faculty-student ratio should be brought up to the mark so that the teaching standards do not deteriorate. In India, good students prefer careers other than teaching and most of them prefer to go abroad.

Q. Please enlighten us about the various projects for which you have provided your guidance to the

students.

A. I generally prefer inter-disciplinary projects like bio-medical. I have guided several Ph.Ds in topics like natural language processing etc.

Q.And the ones you are currently mentoring?

A. This year, I have handed over projects to students regarding inter-planetary communication. It requires networking, which is computer and electronics related and sensors, which is ICE-related.

Q. A few words of advice for NSITians...

A. The very first and foremost duty of the students should be to attend classes regularly, they should not bunk classes. Then, labor hard. Here, students only do surface reading and do not go into the depth. Take project work and practical training very seriously as that is ultimately your lifeline. Complete the projects you take up. Students should expand their knowledge base; it should not be confined to any department.

SHINING SANS SEVENTY

SONALI GARG

Q: There is a general perception that placements are a long and ardent struggle for people having an aggregate of less than 70%. How was your experience of the on-campus placements?

A: I am going to give you the real facts first and then my opinion.

All students try to sit for the companies that come first, the perception being that all the best companies visit within the first 1-2 months of the placement season. So, to regulate the number of students, there is a screening process for which 70% is the cut-off barrier. In due course of time as people get placed, slots are opened up for people with percentages below seventy. Consequently, if percentage is below seventy, placements may be a rough and prolonged ride but you will probably get placed if your percentage is above sixty.

I never studied for the placements and was more focused towards going for a Masters degree but simultaneously, wanted a job as a safety backup. The former did not work well, so I shifted focus to placements. The first company I broke through was an A+ company, Sapient Global markets, which had a software profile with financial background, and then I got placed in Accenture which was an A++ company. I had joined Accenture but in early July, I got a call from Barclays. So, yeah the placements were a learning experience for me but a harsh one.

Q: How did this experience affect you? It's got to be mentally challenging....

A: Yes, it was because I was one of the last to be placed in my friend circle and the job I got in Accenture wasn't to my liking, but it all worked out well in the end.

Q: How did Barclays happen?

A: Barclays was, I guess a lucky shot for me. There was a mail on the Training and Placement portal, and the remaining process was completely offline.

Q: Why do you call it a lucky shot?

A: Around 8500 people applied and only six people were selected for the profile last year and this year it might even be a bit more.

Q: What was the selection procedure

Nilayan Das Gupta - ECE - Batch of 2013, did not have the epochal 70% at NSIT, yet eventually got placed at Barclays. He expatiates about his peregrination:



Nilayan Das Gupta

LinkedIn profile: www.linkedin.com/pub/nilayan-das-gupta/30/231/5a

you had to go through?

A: I had to clear a bunch of quantitative analysis and verbal aptitude tests. Then I had a telephonic interview with an HR from London. After that I was called to Pune for a final assessment, where I was marked on various skills such as writing, speaking, presentation and analytical skills, my business knowledge, and everything really. It was an eight hour long assessment.

Q: What kind of work does your profile at Barclays entail?

A: The profile designated to me is that of an analyst. Within Barclays, we have technology, marketing, finance and risk domains. Barclays recruit people

in specific domains who are given the brand name 'Future Leaders' inside the company. Ours is a Future Leadership Development Programme (FLDP). We are in the technology domain because we are engineers. FLDP is an exclusive profile given by Barclays in which we will be working with different teams within Barclays in the technology domain over the period of two years. Every six months you have to change the team. Say, the first 6 months we have to work with the team Information security, next six with business analysts, and so on. It is up to us which team we want to select. Finally, after 2 years, we have to permanently settle down in one of the teams we have worked with. Ergo, we get to explore a

lot within and outside the company, it is a lot of global exposure. It is currently based out of Pune and after a year we get an option of being shifted to It's London office, depending on the company's requirements and criteria set.

Q: What societies were you involved in at NSIT and how did they aid you?

A: I was involved with The Alliance, which was the first society I had joined. It helped me develop a viewpoint and insight into a lot of things. I was also a part of the Consulting Club, partially involved with the Debating Society and the Finance and Economics Society.

Q: You have an extensive and diverse list of internship. You have worked as a trainee at Siemens Healthcare, Media analyst at Boond, research intern at IIITD and Centre for Civil Society. Why did you pursue these specific internships? How did they help you?

A: Every year my interests kept on changing. I interned as a Media analyst at Boond, it was a small firm, and you get a lot of roles to play within a small firm. I met a lot of people and investors from different countries, interacted with them, and I was just a second year undergraduate at that time. Then my interests changed to economics, Game theory and financial modeling, therefore I picked up a project under a teacher at IIIT-D, which was on game theory. The Centre for Civil Society intern was out of my interest in public policy and government decision making process, which also involves a lot of decision-making which deals with game theoretical model. I did a lot of internships and they all contributed to my resume and helped me grow in some way or the other.

Q: A few words of advice for the NSITians...

A: NSIT gives you a lot of freedom to study, be it in the technical or non-technical arena, or something that is totally arcane, unrelated to your life or placements, but if you still want to, go ahead and study it. Just follow your passions, pursue your interests, and something good will find you. As I have experienced, it all works out.



LIFE BELOW 70

SHIVANGI SAXENA

There are two types of people in this world.

ABS: Above 70
And BS: Below 70 (Not an abbreviation for the other hallowed word)
This article is about the latter.

The BS lead a colorful life, with diverse emotions. They have carried the weight of the world and yet laughed on ‘Bade ache lagte hai’ jokes. They possess the answers to most philosophical questions- What is the meaning of life? Why me with a below 70%? Who let the dogs out?

A recap of their college life in the subsequent paragraphs
(Please bear with them; they have exhausted all other sources to rant)

First semester: The BS people are ones who follow the US TV series and have utopian views about college life. They spend their entire semester planning, attending and crashing birthday parties, society treats, get-togethers. They are blissfully unaware of the demarcation of the college’s social fabric.

Second semester: The results still haven’t served them the eye-opener to the real bad world. The partying continues till the end semester*.

*Applies to you if you are not in IT. IT+2nd semester can make the marines shit in their pants.

Subsequent Years: The results have been proclaimed. The gladiators aka ABS people have taken their victory bow. The BS are still reeling under the consequences and are probed by the philosophical questions. The discrimination starts. Your professor wants ABS people for projects. Your hostel wing -mates want to bunk with them. Your girlfriend pines for the boy who is... ahem... ‘intellectual’. Even the Mic-Mac wale *bhaiya* has an eligibility criterion. You are segregated further when the internship season is limited to reading the mails as they clog your mailbox. It is as if the universe conspired against you. And the answer to everything in life is not 42, but ABS.

Placement Preparation:
The above melancholy approach is not really your style. You know you have to impress the slick corporate who, like the harbinger of magnanimity, gave you an opportunity to sit for the company despite your BS status. Bless that soul!

Your sales pitch composed of these qualities and their honest justifications:

Problem solving skills: The BS people have mastered the art of solving problems of peculiar and diverse nature.

Exhibit A:
The BS status column aka academic record which sullied the honor of your resume has been calculatedly shifted at the last to prevent the corporate from finding out your shameful exploits.

Analytical and Mathematical Skills:
From times immemorial, a BS person has calculated and recalculated his percentage mentally, using scientific calculator, WEKA (open source data mining tool) to find a miraculous loophole/miscalculation which can propel him into the elite ABS club. The analytics involved in calculating your next semester percentage and taking into account variables like potential boyfriend, your next holiday destination, your motivation levels at that instant, can be easily classified as real-world analytics.

Guess-estimation skills: A BS always predicts his marks correctly to the ‘T’. The Mayans were wrong about the impending end of the world but the BS would never commit such catastrophe. This makes them so valuable for accurate prediction for companies.

Exhibit A:
(After an exam which resembled a practical joke and taught by a draconian teacher had ended)

ABS: *Yaar, mere toh 40 bhi aa jaye toh main khush ho jaunga. Aaj toh pakka fail.*
BS(strokes beard for two seconds): *I think I’ll get 47. *Takes into account the impression on teacher, handwriting and unforeseen factors in a mind numbing calculation*

Result:
ABS-> 89 and BS->47
That’s what I am talking about!

Exhibit B:
(Practical Exam)
BS: *It was an okay-ish paper. I could solve one question.*
ABS (voice underlined with immense pain and suffering): *Yaar bahut bekar hua. Kewal ek hi hua.*

Result:
Same as above.

Ability to handle stressful situations:
A BS has his stars aligned in an unfavorable ballet. Which means he has dealt with stress with the mind of the soldier with an A5 Grenade Launcher.

Exhibit A:
(Microwave Viva- it is a violation of human rights. The United Nations Geneva Convention recognizes it as an action of torture and lists it under crimes against humanity)

Teacher (merciless Nazi firing questions): *What is the use of attenuator?*
BS: *It is used to absorb microwave.*
Teacher: *Aur batao?*
BS (unperturbed): *Baki sab badiya, aap sunao. Owned.*

Ability to handle failure: A BS greets failure like an old friend who visits every now and then. No whining, no haggling with God and no acceptance issues.

Exhibit A:
11:00 BS gets rejected by the professor, foreign internship, free-food treat and misses the sale on asos.com.
11:05 A JD is crucified for the greater good.
11:05:01 *indulged in Bhojpuri Dance*

Teamwork and equality: The BS community is close-knit. Even a 69 per cent-er like me will be greeted with open arms and meted out a treatment similar to others (unlike ABS). The BS people work in teams, be it bundling up people to watch ‘Hang Over’ or to make cat-calls while one of their brethren is giving a

presentation in class.

Leadership and Communication skills: A BS can engineer a mass-bunk on an inconspicuous day. The convincing and persuasive powers to sway the opinion of 75 people in class and the teacher is the herculean task accomplished by, yours truly, BS.

Time Management: A BS is like the nine-handed goddess. BS indulges in conference call while *facebooking* and thinking market strategies for his society with the analytics for getting into the elite ABS club going on at the back of his mind.

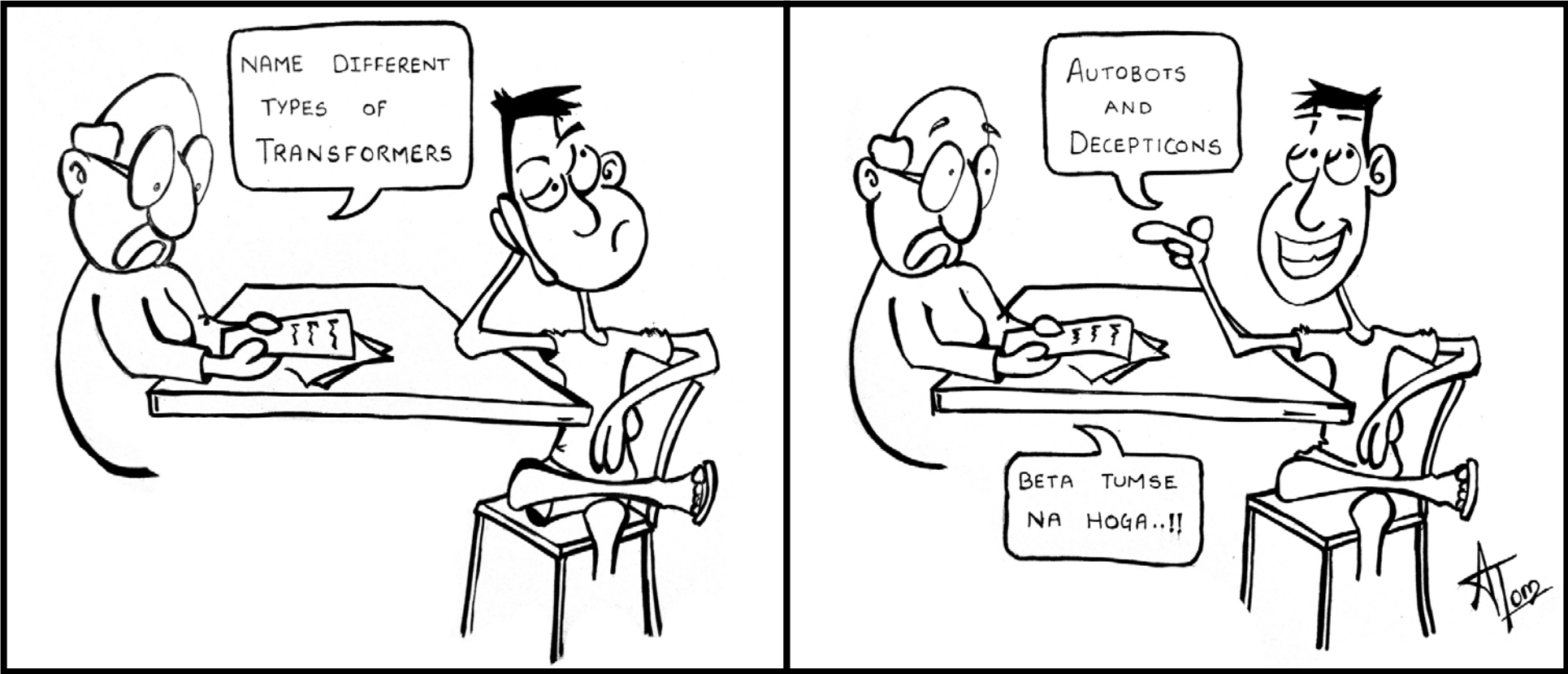
Dealing with situations sans luck:
It is often said that the fortune favors audacious. This phrase has a slight modification in the percentage-driven world where the lady luck beams at ABS and BS are completely bereft of its presence.

Exhibit A:
Before Paper:
ABS: *Yaar maine XYZ part chua bhi nahi hai*
BS: *Maine ABC part nahi chua*
Contents of paper:
2 mark optional question from XYZ
2 questions of 14 marks each from ABC

Flexibility: Knows, and comfortable with, all positions. Ahem, Yoga positions. And most importantly,

JAZBA: The innate quality which like a lullaby tricks them into a false notion that they’ll be all right and that percentage doesn’t matter.

Notes:
1) The author is a BS with a sinister sense of humor.
2) The author is friends with ABS people who possess these qualities and have their names enunciated in folklore. Eg: An ABS in his words: *“Mere peeche 11 mulkon ki ladkiyaan padi hai and main un sab ko khush rakhta hu”*.
3) The author wishes to express sincere gratitude to her clan of BS who helped her to draft this article and provide valuable inputs at the middle of the night.



Do you have something to say? Send in a letter to the editor.
Mail us at ‘nsit.newspaper@nsitonline.in’ or comment at ‘<http://www.alliancensit.com>’



Idealize, don't idolize!

CHANDAN KAR

“A father asked his 14 yr old son - What do you want to become in life? He retorted back - I want to be a fast bowler and a movie star. His father was startled and told him that no one has ever done that before, to which his son replied smiling - Until now! Nobody has done yet what I CAN do'...”

Thought provoking? Yes, but this simple determination that we once possessed has transformed unto unfathomable copycat attitude overpowering all the spirit of becoming someone different. With age, all that we ever dreamt for ourselves has all faded with time. In a more relatable context, it is very disheartening to see people follow the mystical belief that if they have all the points of their idolized college senior's CV on theirs, they would surely land up in his place in the time to come.

Here comes the twist.

Firstly, your life (focussing only on the academic and professional front) will never follow your senior's trajectory. What he/she might have done and had accomplished to achieve his/her goal would surely be different from what you want, but it is our inner most desire to simply look at the result and abide by the trodden path. We idolize a senior, admire him/her, and go head over heels to even talk to him/her, because she has gotten a fabulous job offer from some 'dream' company per se. There are many other people who might have achieved things of similar scale, if not the same dessert, by taking different roads.

Secondly, situations and scenarios change quickly. The demands of a company evolve and requirements from an employee transform. With regards to CV copying, someone has rightly said, “Not one size fits all.” If one is good enough and thorough with the requisite matter from their

field then he/she would surely get the nod from the numerous companies which come for placement or get a letter of acceptance from his/her dream University.

These sought-after seniors might or might not have targeted a particular Company or a University from the very beginning. If one likes coding or consulting or is interested in finance, one must have excelled at his/her field, built a strong skill set required for that discipline and sat for the respective companies. Times have indeed changed so much that we look at it the other way round, from precisely top to bottom. 'Facebook' it is, so one must code. One must do 'this' project, one needs to catch hold of 'this' professor, one ought to get 'this' internship for sure, so on and so forth. Rather the right approach would be this: You want to do coding, consulting, or marketing, get the right inputs from the seniors, and move towards your goal.

Follow your heart and be inspired by their ideals of hard work, never-giving up spirit, networking and so on, cause if Mark Zuckerberg had followed his seniors, I am sure we would still have to log on to Orkut.

This is the real challenge of college - finding who you really are - living your life, doing things that matter to you and not being afraid of your actions. You may end up doing things that nobody has done before you, things which define and shape your personality, and while you discover yourself, you never know that four years later when you sit for 'The' interview, your stint with Crescendo/Quiz Club or a meaningful project from a random professor from Kerala edges you ahead of the guy sitting next to you (true story).

Like the 14 yr old said- “Nobody has yet done what I can do...”

Love alternative rock? ‘The reason’ is them...

SHREY BANSIWAL



The string of the bass guitar was plucked...once, thrice, and multiple times. The drums complemented the plucking, and then came the riff. As I drowned myself into the music, the lyrics took me into a parallel world altogether...

“...I am not a perfect person
There's many things I wish I didn't do...”

I couldn't help but dive deep into the divine meaning of the lyrics as the band, Hoobastank, performed and gave the audience a trip to utopia, with their music, as the audience swayed their hands, moving to and fro in sync with the rhythm. While vocalist Doug Robb, was impeccable, both at performing and entertaining the crowd, the drummer and the guitarist were magnificent. The sounds were distinct, clear and truly captivating. Hoobastank, the creators of the marvel, 'The Reason', was formed in 1994 with singer Doug Robb, guitarist Dan Estrin, drummer Chris Hesse, and original bassist Markku Lappalainen.

The band has come a long way since its inception. It had first self-released record called **‘They Sure Don't Make Basketball Shorts Like They Used To’** in the 1998 with a saxophone player Jeremy Wasser. Then called *Hoobastunk*, the band recorded songs in slightly different genres of *funk rock* and *punk*. Their record made them popular in Southern California, but, this was definitely not what they were settling for.

With their debut album, the band changed its name to Hoobastank and created music of the genre of Alternative Rock and post-grunge, which was more acceptable commercially and which was loved by the international audiences.

Their very first single “Crawling in the dark”, released in November 2001, was a huge hit, both on the music charts, and business wise. It featured in various games, Xbox, and even many Play Station versions. Being an American rock band, it was a big feat releasing the very first debut as a hit among the

audiences. Yet, after their debut single, it seemed that the band went on a record breaking spree as following releases reached even higher on the music charts in the subsequent years.

Their second song 'Running Away' broke the records of its preceding song, and it were these two singles that made Hoobastank go platinum, with their debut album itself.

The second album became another massive hit all around the world, with numbers such as, 'Same Direction', which became the main soundtrack of MADDEN NFL 2005. The 'Lost Prophets' vocalist Ian Watkins, also lent his voice along with Jamie Oliver in the song 'Out of Control'.

The album 'Every Man for Himself' included songs of varied types. Especially the number 'First of Me' captivates the listeners with its very start as the sounds of thunder with the bass and electric six-string sound eclectic and distinct, yet merge together in a harmonious symphony. The song is a unique combination of rock and mellow. No wonder, it was liked commercially as well, and was a frequent number on the American Radio.

The second album owes its success primarily to its title song 'The Reason' that released in December 2003, and also featured in various Television Series, including the popular sit-com 'Friends'. Since then, The Reason was heard in every nook and cranny; amongst a group of friends or as a romantic number liked by partners, and why not? The lyrics could even put an old romantic poet to shame.

“...I found a reason for me
To change who I used to be,
A reason to start over new,
And the reason is you...”

As the lyrics seeped in my mind, realization dawned on me. Unconditionally, I was in love with Hoobastank...

The Forgotten Warriors of The Shadows

CHANDAN KAR

*Unsung sonnets are not unheard of,
Neither the Dead been reminisced after their prime;
But deep in the shallows of human heart,
Lay hues of red, which have darkened over time;
They kissed the land, unsheathed their metal,
With shades of valour, and unmatched bravery;
On foot and horses, they marched into the battle,
Without wondering if their deeds would echo over the centuries.*

*Though centuries have passed, I wonder if justice been done?
Many warriors have come and many more have gone;
Since the beginning of time, war has dawned,
Under the blazing sun, fearless eyes have shone;
They fought until sunset, fought till their hearts bled,
While a few had reasons to smile, yet tears have been shed;
They think they have won and come out victorious,
Bitter victory it was, according to the bard's lore;*

*War swallowed them all, engulfed them,
A few were left to flash their scars and medals;
Others delved in bloody waters, free from miseries,
They were once warriors too, sitting on the saddles;
They never got the chance to become a hero,
Probably Death came before its time;
Or they had to die so that someone else could be the hero,
All I see,
they died before someone could 'rhyme';*

*They lay in the shadows, lay in the dirt,
Waiting to rise in this bloody world;
Patriots true in every act,
Betrayed by the world, their breath went cold;
Nobody to mourn their deaths,
Nobody to praise their lives;
They are and will remain the 'forgotten heroes',
Their passion unmatched, but luck was dry;*

*Lying in the shadows, in the mud, they wondered,
If the eternal song of their bravery would ever be sung;
Now their voices have been lost, they have been forgotten,
While we live in complete oblivion,
They have all but become a 'few' huge numbers...*

The Alliance invites guest articles for the Open Page. Mail us at nsit.newspaper@nsitonline.in with the subject line as 'Open Page'.



No holiday season for NSIT

IRA SAXENA



What a chaotic month it has been for NSITians. With NSIT being one of the counting centers for 2013 Delhi Elections, scheduled to be held in the first week of December, the entire arrangement to

host the elections has taken the college by a whirlwind. As the Election Commission had taken hold of almost the entire college barring ECE Block and the admin block, it was impossible to hold the end-semester examinations on schedule. To make things even more uncertain, the college did keep us in the dark for quite some time making us anxious by the minute. All we had were hearsays and some pretty ridiculous speculations doing the rounds in absence of an

official notice. Funnily, their final notice generated more ruckus than any of those implausible rumors did. While the fourth years had to deal with the trauma of giving back to back exams from the 18th to 22nd November, the exams for the rest of the college have been postponed to 23rd December. Yes, 23rd December!

On one hand, many of us heaved a sigh of relief on hearing the news, but for many of us this meant pinning down all our holiday plans, which we were so looking forward to. Internships, projects, holiday-

ing with friends and family, New Year's celebrations and everything that makes winter vacations warm and festive, have been marred by the ominous end-semester examinations.

But we can't have it all, can we? On the bright side, we now have ample time to prepare for the exams, rectify our weaknesses, be thorough with all the concepts and study at a relaxed pace without getting worked up. If we meticulously plan our preparations, we may even get some time for celebrations.

So this may not be such a bad thing. It is all about efficient and smart time-management.

Steering their way to success

SHREY BANSIWAL

The Motorsports Society of NSIT, which was primarily formed for competing in the all-India competition SAE BAJA, has broken its dormancy this year with a recent foray into the final rounds of two competitions - The Effi-cycle Competition and the SAE BAJA.

The team - that comprises of around twenty people in all, has been toiling hard for the competitions since the last semester and a half. The virtual rounds of the competitions occurred in June and July. Recently, the Effi-cycle Competition had its final round in October. The Alliance had an opportunity to get an insight into the preparations for the same when we had a rendezvous with one of Motorsports' members. Here's a report.

EFFICYCLE
Virtual Round:
The Virtual Round of the Efficycle Competition involved presenting the conceptual design of the vehicle according to the specifications provided. This demanded extensive knowledge about the design pa-

rameters involved and their calculations. The report was presented in front of the jury in the departments of Steering and Suspension, Transmission and electrical aspects, and the Chassis.

Final Round:
The preparation for the final round was exasperating as it involved quite a significant number of hours in the garage. So much so, that the team members had to work even till late nights, which got extended to early mornings as well sometimes!

Challenges faced:
The competition was high on budget. The college provided no funds, and this was one of the many obstructions the team had to overcome, as the complete manufacturing cost was around seventy thousand rupees. Another major challenge was the absence of an expert guidance or prior experience which led to delays as well.

Lesson learnt:
The vehicle should never be transported after assembling it. The vehicle's dimensions and strength were affected en route to the competition venue, which became a serious drawback during the final event.

SAE BAJA
The SAE BAJA's final round is due this February, and will take place in Indore. The team members, owing to their prior experiences from Effi-cycle, are working for the same full throttle.

Virtual Round:
The virtual round had a team of four representing the four departments. The team's captain Abhimanyu handled the Chassis while the vice-captain, Askari was supervising engine and transmission, Adhishwar was in charge of brakes and marketing while Subhadh took care of the suspension and steering. The team was tested on their knowledge of the rule book and the con-

ceptual design.
Current Stage:
The BAJA vehicle's chassis has been made twice now, to rectify the imperfections in the first. This has cost the team almost double the manufacturing cost.

The main event:
The event, to be held in Indore, will go on for three consecutive days, testing the vehicle on various parameters. The first day would involve the vehicle subjected to challenges that pertain to its dimensions and design. The vehicle will also have to be manoeuvred on an '8' shaped track following which the brakes would be put to test. The second day would test the vehicle for its durability by making it run on various rocky terrains and finally the third day will see a battle of the vehicles of all the teams through a race.

The prize money for the winners is around Rs. 20,00,000 and the motorsports team is working hard for the same. The Alliance wished them good luck.

Quiz Club Collaboration

- Question:
Who is being talked about here?
- X-Men - A hot dog vendor seen when Robert Kelly emerges from the sea after escaping Magneto.
 - Fantastic Four - Willie Lumpkin, Reed Richards' mailman.
 - X-Men: The Last Stand - Jean Grey's neighbor with the water hose.
 - Iron Man - A man mistaken for Hugh Hefner by Tony Stark.

CSI-NSIT Collaboration

Time to test your brains.
Question:
What number comes next in the sequence: 10, 9, 60, 90, 70, 66, ..?
Hint:
Think in terms of English phrases for the numbers.
Please mail your answers to csi@nsitonline.in

Junoon - Photography Club Collaboration

Identify this place in NSIT.



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