

OPINION

Voicing opinions, signing petitions, initiating change - a students' union is capable of all that and much more. Why does NSIT lack one? For the analysis, opinions and facts, read the complete 'Opinion' article on

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WISDOM TREE

The architects, the iron pillars, and the change-makers of this country. Do you have what it takes to serve this country selflessly? Read and find out if Civil Services is your calling.

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INDULGE

Metro journeys are nothing short of being dramatically-comic daily delhi soap-operas. One comes across a myriad 'species' of travellers, each with its own antics and tantrums. For a comprehensive list, read the satire article on

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THE ALLIANCE

Bringing NSIT Together

All Good Things Must Come To An End

For sems may come and sems may go, but 'I' go on forever.. ..

It is that time of the year and it is the same story every year. Or, is it?

With the seniors bidding adieu, we look back and stare into the hourglass, onto the journey they embarked on four years ago, a day which, when compared with the flux of emotions they experience now seems so mundane and lacklustre. Who knew that it would vivify the air they breathe today and the waves they will make tomorrow.

Let us consider a random college student. For the sake of simplicity, we would refer to the student as- 'Subject'. Our theory of college states-

'Every subject, irrespective of gender, regardless of his social circle, has to be in one of the

eight phases of the Phase-o-Meter at every point of time, until he passes out of college'.

Though as different as chalk and cheese, these phases have been enjoyed and endured by each and every 'subject' at some point or the other during his four long years.

Our seniors have done it all, from living on the edge to jumping off it. As they close in on the finishing line, they will find out which phase did they want to land in and where they have ended. Here we let them relive the moments, reminisce the joys, the sorrows, the despair, the exultations, as this story walks them down the over-forrested, peacock ridden, seldom strolled memory lane.

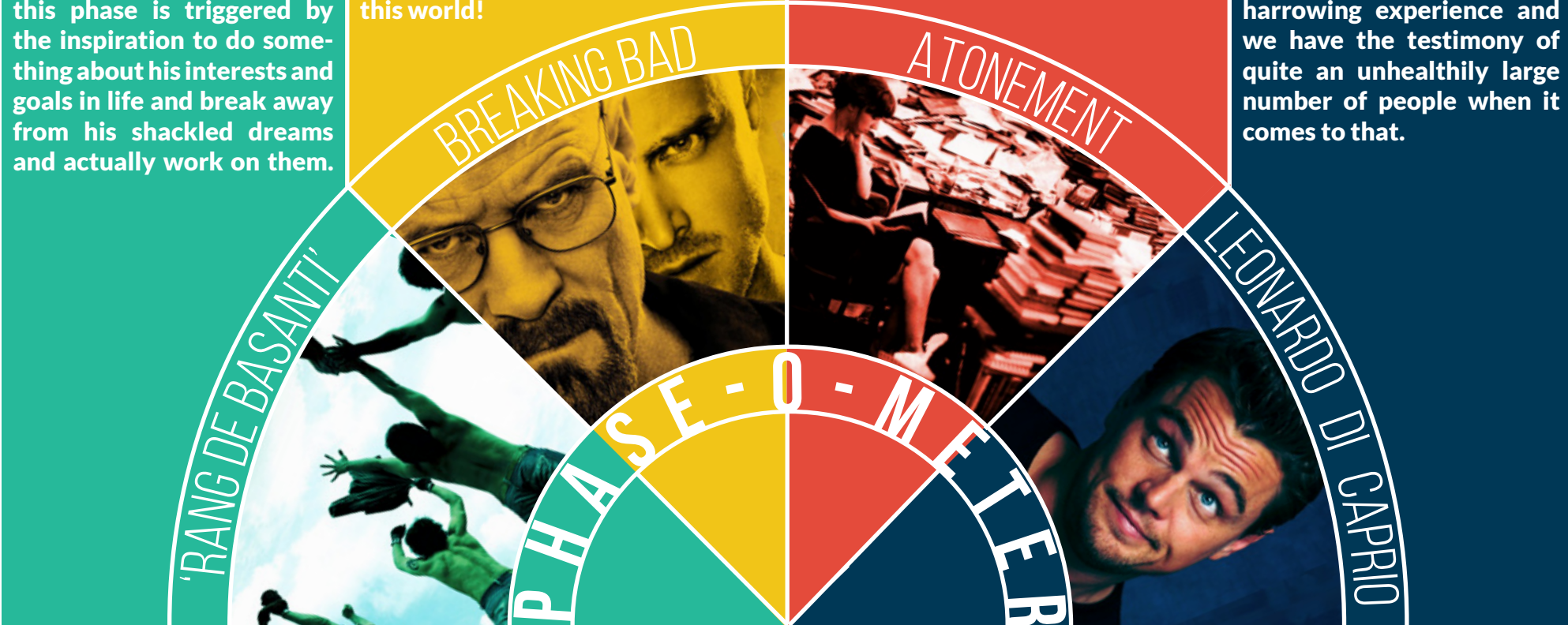
This phase is characterized by an intense enthusiasm for education and an equally strong vehemence for the flawed education system of the country. The subject, on one hand, is an idealist who has an informed opinion on most things and on the other, has a frustratingly seasoned casual attitude to life, the universe, and everything. The perfect analogy to our subject would be the well-meaning hippie. While wanting to be the change they want to see, hippies revolutionize the college with the 'pot' culture. The subject can be regularly heard saying things like, "Yaar, kal mass bunk karna hai" or "Yaar, waise relatively interesting hai". The subject's transition from this phase is triggered by the inspiration to do something about his interests and goals in life and break away from his shackled dreams and actually work on them.

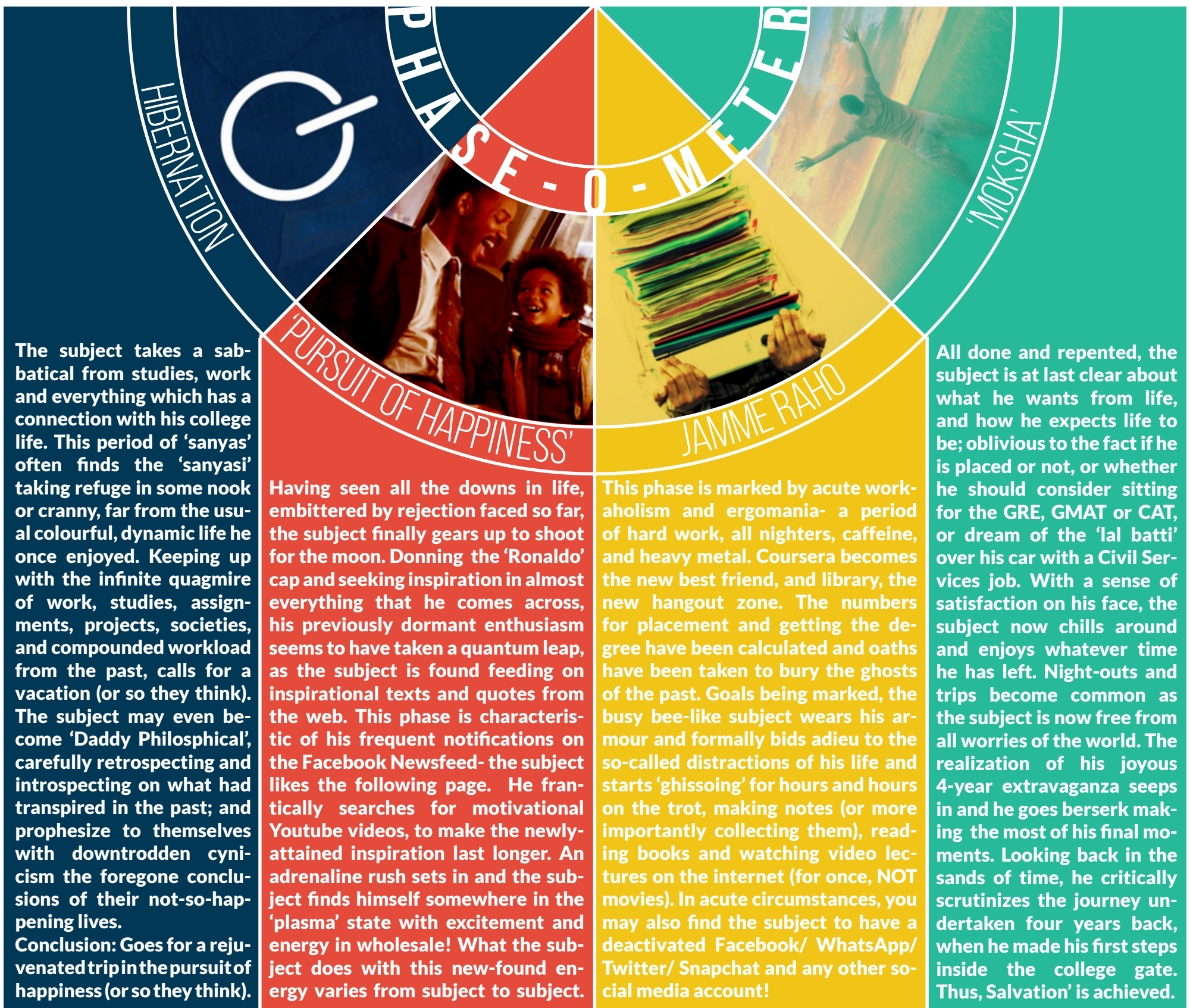
The main agenda of this phase is to not attend classes while worrying overtime about one's low attendance. The subject crosses over to the dark side, lured into infinite illusions with sitcoms, movies and anything which doesn't have to do with academics. Referred to as the 'culturally enlightening' phase, fests, movies, girlfriends/boyfriends, backaches and almost any existent and non-existent (yet) excuse becomes a pretense to skip class. Teachings from outside the class takes a precedence to what is being taught inside the four walls under 'guest' supervision. The skills of the outside world overshadow the mind boggling theories of quantum physics and their like. This aversion to attending classes usually stems from a rigid belief that the education offered is sub-par. But, on a serious note, it's plausible that this belief stems from an escapism theory from the sour realities of this world!

The chickens come home to roost as the determined inactivity of the previous phase pays off. The ghosts of the past semester come back to haunt the subject even more than his 'ex girl friends' in the form of 'backs'. The subject goes into 'Superman' mode as he juggles classes and the previous semester's subjects as well. The 'skills of the world', so artfully acquired, take a sideline, as the subject makes his journey back to Planet Earth and sits down to battle his demons. Common symptoms displayed by such subjects are:

- a) exponentially decreased activity on Whatsapp;
- b) sudden likeness to confine oneself to claustrophobia-inducing-rooms with a lot of textbooks; and/or
- c) living a life away from his favourite movie, sitcom, novel and his amazing non-NSITian girlfriend (conditions apply).

The saga of Mr. Titanic prevails even in our college. What makes for an epic story is the striking resemblance the subject shares with the great Leonardo Di Caprio, which is sadly, his bad luck. The subject's preceding reputation plays havoc with his internals. Albeit putting in 'back-breaking' (literally) efforts, the subject's results barely see the light of the day, much like the story of Leonardo Di Caprio's life (read: OSCAR, so close and yet so far!). On a parallel train of thought, just as Leonardo Di Caprio barely survives by the end of his movies, our subject's condition is not very different either. Surviving the excruciatingly tough semesters can be a harrowing experience and we have the testimony of quite an unhealthily large number of people when it comes to that.





It is funny how we land up or will land up in one of these phases or maybe all of them, during our four years in college, but the deep-seated consciousness in our hearts won't change.

There is always unspoken pledge in every fourth year's heart which can be voiced in these words:

"The once bleak black sky of our lives has now been adorned with bright lights over these past four years, the faults in them amended and painted. The kid grows to be a man and the man commits childlike mistakes and the cycle continues. We all came together from a hundred corners, having a million differences, met one another under a single roof. But it

was who we were. I never had the choice of where I came from but I did have the power to decide my highway. I could do whatever I want. I could be whatever I want. I could "DO" what I have always dreamt of doing and I could live with it. I could endure the consequences. I could be what I really wanted to be. I could afford to make mistakes, I could cherish the small moments of successes, I could party every night and give an exam the very next morning, I could have done anything. I did do everything."

The nostalgia hits. Four years of innumerable journeys, uncountable ups and downs, immeasurable connections, and boundless love and friendship.

The spasmodic but lifelong realization which hits you that maybe for the first and only time in life- I was alive, I was infinite...



“Change is the only Constant”

The freedom of speech and expression is probably that one fundamental right that has never been better exercised than in the present times. The modern citizen of the world knows the power of peaceful protest and the institutions of the world (from offices to national governments) know and respect the power of the same. Voicing opinions, raising concerns, signing petitions – they have become commonplace. Analogous to a machine, such regular voicing of opinions works towards keeping the system ‘well-oiled’ and the members, aware of their power to bring about change.

What is a Students’ Union?

An organized, autonomous group of students (and alumni) which strives towards raising concerns over redundant systems, initiating imperative changes, voicing their opinions on issues concerning or affecting them. Exercising the freedom of speech and expression is what the union stands for. The union takes onto itself the onus of representing one and all and ensuring that the voice of the students is heard, where it needs to be. It could be voluntarily formed or democratically elected. Above all, the role of a students’ union is to aid and keep in check the college/university mechanism and in no way hinder the same.

A Comparative Study

The Delhi University probably has the most active and democratic students’ union (DUSU). This body has often made it to the headlines by protesting against or espousing changes. They have helped keep the system intact and helped the system have an all-inclusive take on pivotal issues. Democratically elected, with about 90% colleges under DU participating in the same, DUSU paves the way for other students’ unions.

Technical, or in general, professional colleges are often considered to have demanding courses and career motivated students who are not keen to indulge in general politics and voluntary services that come under the purview of students’ unions. This is true to a large extent as many such colleges and universities lack a proper organization; however, there are numerous Indian and international colleges that break the norm.

IIGSA: IIT Guwahati Students Association serves as a platform where students can share their individual problems. Problems are discussed with students’ welfare committee and taken to the concerned authorities.

NIT Warangal Students’ Council:

This democratic organization has an organized, representative system of elections and a 13 point agenda of duties and responsibilities. Some of their areas of work include – aiding the administration improve student amenities, help improve fellow students’ career prospects through personality building, etc, and helping the administra-

tion in smooth conduct of student activities on campus.

NSIT chapter

NSIT too has seen numerous instances of students voicing their opinion. Across years, students have brought to the notice of authorities the need for change and, to the students, their (students’) power to initiate it.

In 2010, NSIT’s first students’ union, NSU was founded. It aimed at initiating a series of changes in the library, the canteen, and the curriculum along with a number of other issues. The reason for NSU’s inception was the lack of Internet browsing facilities, new books, research papers, and a reading room in the library. They also voiced concerns over lack of canteens, need for syllabus upgradation, lack of sports facilities and competitions on campus. Four years from then, most of us would agree, that this small initiative did lead to some changes and as for the rest (of the issues), it left some ‘food for thought’ for the coming batches to pursue.

In 2012, a group of students led the ‘Reform NSIT’ movement. Around 1000 students signed the petition demanding answers to the lack of certain basic facilities in our college. An RTI was also filed on the same.

Several other campaigns (on campus or online) were led across the years on syllabus upgradation, early result declaration, the introduction of percentile or GPA system, Wi-Fi access, etc. The most recent amongst the issues raised have been the demand for a bigger auditorium and the demand for a change of the Girls’ Hostel 1 warden.

The Down Side

Though this involvement in institutional functioning has been heralded as the era of ‘self and community aware’ citizens, its disadvantages must also be duly recognized. It surely disrupts general functioning of the institution by taking the system at ransom. It also pushes towards immediate redressal of the issues concerned, leading to hasty decisions. Also, for the functioning of an institution, it requires a certain level of autonomy, which can be hampered if it lives in constant fear of being challenged. Hence, the students’ body needs to keep in check its activities and remember that the sole purpose of its formation is to aid the work of the administration and not hinder it. Hence, students must remember, ‘with great power, comes great responsibility’.

DISCLAIMER: The Alliance doesn’t sponsor/inculcate the formation of unions or other such student run organizations, and this article should be interpreted as mere reporting of the facts and opinions of teachers and students on this issue.

Faculty Opinion

Prof Duru Arun Kumar



Q1. Why does NSIT not have a students’ union or an organized body to address all the student issues? Would such an organization benefit the institution (if it existed)?

cxcxzv
a) Technically and ideally, professional courses are very demanding, where students are very busy doing courses, practicals, projects, and internships. The students have very little time to spend with their peers and discuss issues leisurely (essential to form an organization).
b) Since engineering education is in great demand, the students who get admission here would not like to get into any trouble with the college administration and faculties. Even if the students face problems in college and talk about them, many would not like to take them up collectively with the authorities because they don’t want their grades and degrees to be affected. This may be an important reason for lack of organization among students.
c) Some of the students have taken admission here because they did not qualify for the institutions of their first choice or lack of other options. Therefore, many do not develop much affinity towards college.
d) There is a perception among the social scientists that young people in urban India are becoming more and more individualistic and self – centered, and importance of sharing and collective responsibility is on the decline.
e) If we have such a system of collective representation, certainly, it will be beneficial, and there will be a greater sense of accountability on both sides.

Q2. In the wake of a number of protests, where students are taking to demonstrations, how beneficial is the trend? Should such peaceful voicing of opinion within the campus on student issues be promoted?

Every system has to have checks and balances to ensure that it functions smoothly as well as adapts and grows with changing times. Unfortunately, our system is so bureaucratic that even if the intentions of the management are good, they are not able to deliver because of too many protocols, rules, and regulations.

But if the matters reach such a level of apathy and hopelessness, then such reactions are inevitable. It is also human nature to protest about our rights but ignore our failing responsibilities.

Q3. What alternate mechanism do you suggest to address student’s issues/grievances effectively?

There should be more dialogue at the department level and initiative has to come from both the sides, students as well as authorities. When we voice a problem, we should also suggest possible solutions to it. Otherwise, there will always be a deadlock. We have extremely bright students who can help find solutions to technical

problems. Students can spend some time in finding out how administrative procedures are followed at the institute, and be more empathetic towards the system.

Alumnus Opinion

Dipankar Arhat (Batch of 2013 - ICE)



Q1. Why does NSIT not have a students’ union or an organized body to address all the student issues? Would such an organization benefit the institution (if it existed)?

NSIT does not have an organized body to raise issues of the students, but it does have the provision for two student representatives to be included in the meeting of Board of Student Affairs (BSA, held bi-annually or quarterly) which deals with student grievances and affairs of budget allocation for various issues of hostels, academics, and co-curricular activities.

A student council can definitely survive and will surely benefit students. There are numerous instances which go unattended by administration. Only a student can address the real issues and possibly make them understand the situation with more severity.

Q2. In the wake of a number of protests, where students are taking to demonstrations, how beneficial is the trend? Should such peaceful voicing of opinion within the campus on student issues be promoted?

Protests are wake up calls to the administrative staff; and they should not be made a trend.

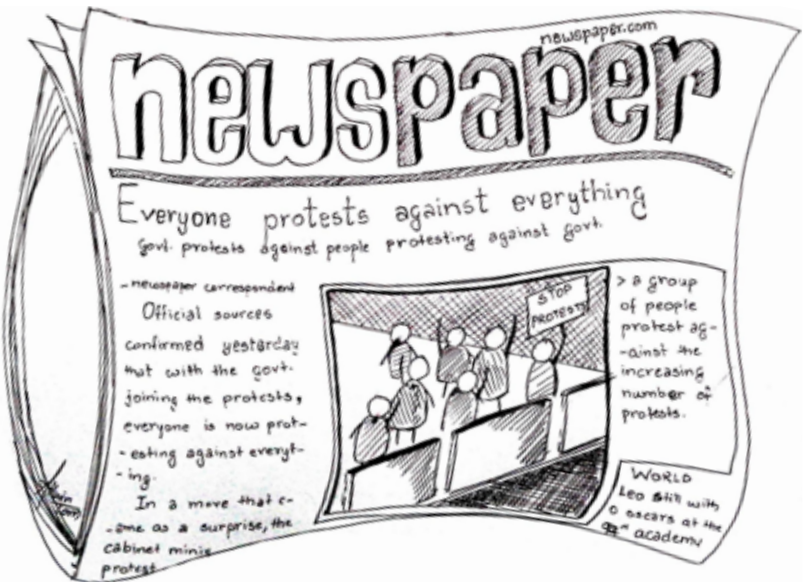
It is not in the disposition of a student to come out of their routines to protest. Administration should acknowledge this primarily. Students at NSIT have compromised on many things while being a part of one of the premier institutions in India. And therefore, I believe, protests have been the last resort at NSIT to be heard. Students should rationally think if such demonstrations are really important or the matter can be resolved without mass involvement.

Q3. What alternate mechanism do you suggest to address student’s issues/grievances effectively?

One thing I learned from demonstrations and meetings is that all of it should be well documented. All your grievances should be first addressed in a formal letter to the concerned department. As a proof for having raised this issue before, this gives students an added advantage.

If nothing remedial is done, FILE AN RTI. It is the most effective tool.

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



The Civil Code Of Honor

Ira Saxena

In the heart of Central Delhi, scores of students flock everyday to the murky by-lanes of Rajendra Nagar, a residential area, to sit in auditoriums swamped with two hundred other students. They conscientiously note down every word that the teacher breathes, absorb everything that they hear while making mental notes simultaneously, and then, without even exchanging a glance or two with the person sitting on the next seat, they leave with their dozen notebooks and course books and stay put at their study tables, where their minds move like clockwork. Their lives are confined within the four walls of facts, figures, names, and numbers. The tension piles up as D-day approaches. Not a second to waste, not a minute to breathe.

This above is the life of an aspiring civil servant. Tough, isn't it? Yes, the future bureaucrats of our country spend years rigorously grilling and preparing to climb the ladder of governance and administration. So what lies ahead at the end of the tunnel for them? Is this drill really worth it? Let us find out.

CIVIL SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Civil Services are considered to be one of the most elite, prestigious and empowering jobs in our country. The officers employed in these services carry with them the onus of running the administration of this country. They facilitate the execution of policies and reforms, supervise law and order, and act as emissaries to sustain diplomatic relations with other countries. And this is only the tip of the iceberg. The magnitude of responsibility that rests upon their shoulders is humongous and mentally challenging. Which is why, the brightest minds of this country vie for a position in the Civil Services every year.

WHAT IS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF A CIVIL SERVANT?

Depending on the department, the job of a Civil Servant could vary from formulating policies and implementing them to working as a diplomat. Yes, the duties of a Civil Servant are very diverse and extensive. For example, an IAS officer, besides running the administration of a state or a district can also be posted to head Public Sector enterprises like a Metropolitan Development Authority, Trade Promotion Council, etc.

Likewise, an officer in the Indian Foreign Services has to manage offices like Indian Embassies and Indian Counsulates. While doing this, he/she will also have to work on promoting trade and cultural relations with a country.

IPS officers will be controlling not only the state police force but also heading important organizations like the Intelligence Bureau, CBI, SPG (Special Protection Group) and security forces such as CISF, BSF, and CRPF, when on central deputation.

ENTRY INTO THE CIVIL SERVICES

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts the Civil Services Examination annually for which, on an average, 2 lakh people appear. The prelims examination consists of an objective-type paper which is further divided into two parts (ie. General Studies and an aptitude paper). This examination eliminates the non-serious aspirants and creates a level playing field for the crème-la-crème in the next round. Around 10,000 people who are chosen for the mains examination are judged on not only their academic mettle but also their ethics, integrity and aptitude in public life. From this stage, around 2500 students are shortlisted for the personality test at Dholpur House, UPSC. The final selected 1000-1200 names are then recommended by the UPSC to be absorbed into the Civil Services of India. So, seeing the ratio of the people selected to the candidates appearing

How to begin?

In the market of myths, truth has a few buyers. While everyone has his/her own opinions on how to go ahead with this examination, we suggest you to first do a thorough appraisal of your goals and ascertain the role of Civil Services in fulfilling them. If you are not convinced with the choice, you should rethink. Don't fall in line, just because your parents or your girlfriend have asked you to.

Once you experience the newly found exuberance to crack the examination, hold on. Go to the UPSC website and download the syllabus and the previous year papers. Please note that no other resource would be able to match the importance of these two in your entire preparation.

Keeping the current syllabus in mind, start with the General Studies. Don't start the witch hunt to chose your optional. Remember, if you don't have your graduation course in the list of optional subjects given by UPSC (like for all the branches at NSIT), it's always a good step to find your most suited subject by studying for the General Studies. Don't get allured by the easy/difficult or rewarding/penalizing optional debates. Leave that task to the UPSC examiners and the naysayers. Talk to people who have qualified for the examination, and learn about their strategy and mistakes.

Remember that there are no iron-clad rules to adhere to, for preparation. The quest must be to always work towards expanding your knowledge.

for the exam, the Civil Services Exam is naturally one of the most competitive entrance examinations to crack.

PREPARATION

The road to success isn't an easy one. Only those with determination, perseverance and focus can see this to the end. It can take aspirants as long as a year to five years. Sometimes, it is inadequate marks in the prelims, and if they do clear the prelims, then the personal interviews don't go the way they expected. So the question here is – Is there any sure-short way to crack the Civil Services?

Tavishi Behal (Batch of 2010), an IFS officer, in her interview with NSIT Online, mentions that determination, prioritization and systematically strategizing your study plan can make the task seem less onerous. For an engineering student, the main struggle is to strike a balance between semester examinations, placement preparations and Civil Services preparations. According to her, studying 3-4 hours a day effectively for a year can serve the purpose. You may not relinquish your extra-co-curricular activities completely and you can still maintain a decent percentage if you organize your time efficiently.

There will be times, when you may feel discouraged or tempted to choose some other activity over the tedious preparations, but you must never lose sight of your destination and the reason you started out in the first place.

STATUS-QUO OF THE CIVIL SERVICES

Once regarded as the 'Steel Frame of India', many consider the Civil Services to be losing its sheen and prestige with time. The bourgeoisie looks down upon the Civil Servants as nothing more than power-hungry, incompetent bureaucrats making a mockery of the democratic system, while the lower economic strata of our society only fear

these *babus* and consider them to be nothing more than an impediment in their progress, rather than aides. The youth is cynical about joining the Civil Services as it doesn't want to be a part of the *mediocrity* associated with the Civil Services today. There is always the fear of being made just another scapegoat in the *power games* played by our politicians and the pressure of acceding to the higher authority, which dissuades the youth from choosing Civil Services as a career choice.

Parents too hesitate twice before conceding with their children's choice of career, that is if they ever consider Civil Services, as they don't believe their children will be able to bear the brunt of corruption within the system. And with the cesspool of fraudulent politicians and bureaucrats that this country has witnessed over the past few years, the skepticism amongst people is peaking like never before.

Here, the questions arise. Have the faults of a few overshadowed the greatness of many? Is the public opinion shrouded with misconceptions? And is power the only motivation to join the Civil Services? Let us retrospect.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE MOTIVE BEHIND JOINING CIVIL SERVICES?

Yes, it is true that many make the folly of misunderstanding their desire for the perks which comes along with the job as the sole reason for joining the Civil Services. They run after the 'Lal Batti Ambassador' and the sprawling bungalow, without really introspecting why they want to join the services in the first place. You should realize early on that personal ambition alone will not take you anywhere. The will and determination to serve this country selflessly without any vested interests are the makings of a good Civil Servant.

CIVIL SERVANTS: PUPPETS OR CHANGE MAKERS?

THE BREAKDOWN OF THE CIVIL SERVICES

All India Service: The officers of these services work to strengthen the federal structure of India. While selected by a central body, UPSC, these officers have to serve in their respective state cadres (though, they can apply for central government deputation). The All India Services are explicitly mentioned in the Constitution of India (Article 312). It comprises IAS, IPS, and IFoS.

Central Civil Services: These officers are attached to their specific ministries which control their postings and service rules. Unlike the IAS, which is more or less a generalist service, these services are highly specialized. The Central Civil Services (Group A) includes Indian Economic Services, Indian Engineering Services, Indian Foreign Services, Indian Revenue Services (IT and C&CE), Indian Postal Services, amongst many others.

State Civil Services: Although, subservient to the above mentioned services, State Civil Services play an important role in implementing policy decisions on the grassroots level. The State Civil Services (Group B) includes Provincial Civil Services (Executive), State Police Services, State Forest Services, DANICS, DANIPS, etc.

For somebody who doesn't want to just sit on the sidelines and criticize our flawed system and actually apply their skills and abilities to bring a change in our country, there couldn't be a more appropriate career choice than Civil Services. But today, civil servants are merely considered pawns in the hands of politicians. So Civil Services aspirants fear that they'd be just controlled and manipulated by the higher authority and they won't be able to exercise their own decisions. This is what usually brings their morale down.

Now coming to the misconstrued public opinion of the Civil Servants, it's important to note that like all the fingers are not the same, not all civil servants could be said as corrupt, cheat, or sycophant. In fact, there are some who have left their footprints on the sands of time by setting examples that displayed their valor, honesty, and uprightness in the most difficult circumstances.

When an officer from Haryana files an FIR against the son-in-law of the most powerful family in the country, it displays his uprightness as a Civil Servant. When an officer from Chattisgarh embarks on a journey to change the state of professional education in a Naxalite infested district, without the fear of constant threats from Left Wing extremists, it displays his courage as a Civil Servant. When an officer persuades the CEO of Microsoft to setup its first offshore unit in Hyderabad, it displays his soft-skills as a Civil Servant. When an officer doesn't sleep for more than 100 hours to rescue the people in his cyclone-affected district, it displays his compassion as a Civil Servant. When an officer aims to connect his district to the rest of state and plunges himself in the People's project, it displays his devotion as a Civil Servant. When an officer in the hinterlands of India, doesn't hesitate to face the bullet or suspension letter while fighting the sand mafias, it displays his selflessness as a Civil Servant. When an officer of the foreign services, takes the oath as the first Dalit President of India, it displays the emergence of a new India for the 21st Century.

These are the silent heroes of our country who work every day in the interests of the citizens, at times risking their own safety and relinquishing their personal happiness. Yes, this job comes with its share of challenges and it isn't all about glory and power as many may conceive it to be.

THE NSIT STORY

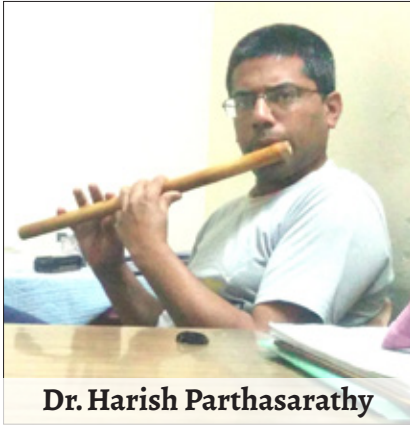
Satyendra Jha, Batch of 2009, cleared the UPSC exam right after his final year. He first worked as an IRS officer up till 2012 and then succeeded in getting into the IAS on his third attempt. Here is an excerpt from his interview with The Alliance.

"I was interested in Civil Services from my early days of schooling. It was always very close to my heart, though the major impetus came during my school days at Delhi, when I realized the vast gulf of opportunities for urban and rural areas and really resolved to do something about this gross indifference towards a large section of the country. And there are few better options than to get into civil services to achieve this goal in life. And as soon as I got into college, I started talking to people around in order to strategize and by my third year, I had decided on most of the things like optional subjects, etc, and I started working in earnest."

NSIT has given us many noteworthy luminaries in the past, some of them being successful Civil Servants.

We applaud and commend our seniors for their hard work and good-will. They serve as the ideal role-models for the Civil Services aspirants from our college.





Dr. Harish Parthasarathy

Professor’s Profile: Dr. Harish Parthasarathy

Where Knowledge Meets Passion

Chandan Kar

Currently working on the Grand Unified Theory, he had two PhDs by the time he was 28. Dr. Parthasarathy has been teaching Electromagnetic Theory at NSIT for almost 8 years now and he is popular among the students as the man with a brilliant mind. He is a constant inspiration for the students in the class and has propelled key research in some of the most burning fields in physics. Yet, he remains humble, approachable and always willing to help students.

He had started his career in science as an Electrical engineering student at IIT-K. After graduation, he moved on directly to IIT-Delhi for a PhD. Then, he went to the Indian Institute of Astrophysics to quench his insatiable thirst for knowledge on Galactic Astronomy. He became an Assistant Professor and taught at IIT-Bombay for three years and as a visiting faculty at his alma mater, IIT-Kanpur. After this, he shifted to Delhi and assumed the post of a professor at NSIT.

This is what Dr Parthasarathy had to say when The Alliance found him immersed in his books-

Q1. Sir, you have taught at both IIT’s and NSIT. What makes them more interested in science and research than us?How would you rate the experiences?
No, that is not the case at all. There is more research acumen and potential in NSIT as compared to IIT’s. There are more people who want to research in NSIT unlike the IIT’s where people just want to get into companies and earn big bucks.

Q2. Do you think the educational structure has to be changed, as clearly a student has to cover a lot of subject matter outside the stipulated syllabus?
It is a problem with the system. You have

to get along in the 4 years. That does not mean you will just score marks, maximum marks; it means apart from studying your academics, you will have to keep a subject which is your favourite. Also, the syllabus is outdated as compared to the other colleges. An electrical engineer from IIT-D will, per se, have a better understanding of the electrical field because of their advanced syllabus as compared to our college. Moreover, the undergraduate level is simpler than what the level in India is in foreign universities. The undergraduate level is primarily structured to hone the creativity and that is what helps them at the post graduate level, which is more demanding. In India, we have so many subjects that by the end of the four years, students are left totally confused as to which subject they would like to pursue more and the spark of innovation gets destroyed in the pursuit of more and more marks.

Q3. A lot of people feel that to be a good researcher, one needs to be exceptional in Mathematics and Physics! Is this true, sir?
It doesn’t matter. There are so many years ahead of you. I have worked on a couple of problems for a few years and have been stuck as well. What matters is the focus and dedication. If somebody feels that he is not very strong with his concepts, then he should possess a strong will and believe in himself. All that needs to be done is to get his basics strong and I can’t see why he can’t be a good researcher.

Q4.What are the things you look for in a student when you are selecting someone for research under you?
When you teach, there are about a 100 people in a class. By the end of the year, it reduces to 10. Those 10 people are the ones who are interested in research. They might

not be exceptionally good, but it is their interest which matters. Even a mediocre student who scores average marks, but can tackle problems, can surely attain success.

Q5.What is the process of the selection of research projects? Do the students come up with the idea or is it stimulated by you?
I have interest in Quantum theory and General theory of Relativity. Something that I have noticed is that people make amazing presentations. So sometimes, they will come up with some idea and with a little help, can make amazing presentations. What matters is, if they will continue doing the project and the research or are they just doing it for the sake of marks. Only time will tell.

Q6. How do you feel to see some of your students pursuing research abroad as well as within the country?
Absolutely delightful. It makes me proud. It gives me a deep sense of satisfaction when my students do well and especially if they continue working in India and just stop the brain drain from the country. Someone may not have been bright but their pursuit for excellence in Physics has yielded them results.

Q7. Sir, we have many a times seen you teaching even if there are a couple of students in class. How do you continue to have that never ending passion?
I feel that communicating an idea correctly is very important. While working on a blackboard, some idea just starts formulating and someone might just point out something which will change the entire theory. Teaching is a passion and not a job and hence I love it. Moreover, there could be a saturation forming if I keep working on a piece of paper but that is sort of taken care

He has researched more than we can imagine, published more papers than we could ever dream of. His work speaks of excellence beyond the realms of an ordinary man and that is what he is - extraordinary. He travels by the name of Dr. Harish Parthasarathy.

of on the bigger blackboard.

Q8. Being in a particular branch, we are limited to a few subjects. There are other colleges where you can Major in one subject (Branch) and a Minor in another. Do we have a similar system here?
Yes, yes. It’s called Electives and you study that course along with the course you are Majoring in. I am not aware if they are taking any steps to implement that in the present system but it should be done. Otherwise, one has to follow what has always been happening- ‘Silently get through these four years, treat them as a penance and then be interested in one subject, one field.’ For me it was Probability Theory. It gave me peace as it gave me the satisfaction of learning something new and the frustration which comes with academics was diminished.

Q9. If not teaching or research, what else would you be doing or do you have any interests as such?
This (points to his flute). I had played the Veena since the age of 13 and then self learnt the flute in the latter stages. Music actually helps me think and I really like it.

Q10. Sir, what would be your message to the NSITians and all the other future aspiring engineers who will be a part of this college?
The only message I have is a request to all students that one shouldn’t blindly run to IIMs and IAS. Use the engineering expertise and experience that you have accrued over the past 4 years. Do some technical or developing work in a company and bring your engineering skills to the fore. Do an M.Tech or some research. Just don’t get into management for the sake of power or money, don’t do it if there is no joy and satisfaction in it. That’s my only request.



Rahul Chawla

“If you do not apply, you are never going to get through, but if you apply, you just might.” Having scored a sublime 334 in GRE and cracked the three most reputed universities abroad- MIT, Michigan, and Berkley, and placed in ZS Associates, Rahul Chawla, MPAE, Batch of 2014, has surely made every NSITian proud. The Alliance brings to you a candid tete-a-tete with the achiever-who not only outshone brightly in academics, but is also an excellent football player and a marathon runner. Read more to find out how he made his dream come true.

Q1.With an AIR of around 9500 in AIEEE, you had taken up MPAE as your stream for specialization by choice. Holding department rank 2 along with many other academic laurels, what makes you so passionate about this stream?
The whole concept of having nothing in hand and then making something that works and sells really fascinates me. The kind of satisfaction I get to see something work, after having brainstormed for hours and days on it is truly amazing. With a mechanically inclined mind, I had always been passionate about engineering and the stream (MPAE) gave me just the right opportunities for the same.

Q2.What exactly is the course that you will be pursuing at the MIT?

Interview: Rahul Chawla

Archita Goyal

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE’S MOUTH: CANDID CORNER

On Bullet Hawk Racing:
I was mainly in-charge of the engine department of the team. Working at BHR taught me many things. It was a ple-nary amalgam that inculcated skills like resource allocation, working well with teams, technical aptitude, and fabrication; and excel in them.

On MARUTI RESEARCH RnD LAB:
Two years of internship at Maruti gave me an enriching industry exposure, made me demarcate what interests me and what doesn’t, and helped me gain clarity in what I wanted to take up in future.

The course I have taken up is Masters of Engineering at the MIT, basically a one-year course which prepares you to manage people, design a manufacturing system, manage the manufacturing line and enables you to find an industry oriented job afterwards.

Q3.The number of projects you have done in college is a staggering figure of 4, and that too under Pradeep Khanna (our very own PRK Sir). How did you manage to do 4 projects under him, despite the fact that getting to do a project under him is so difficult? Tell us something about the projects that you had done.

On XLRI:
With an XLRI XAT percentile of 98.7, I had managed to get into the best management program in the whole of Asia, the XLRI-HR.

On ZS Associates:
Since I wasn’t very sure in taking up manufacturing in India and there’s never a surety that you could get into MIT or a reputed foreign university, I considered sitting for the placement session. It was an opportunity that came along and I acknowledge the company for imbibing in me some of the skills that I currently possess.

Taking up the first project under PRK Sir is somewhat difficult. However, if you work really hard and persevere, you are likely to bag more projects under him. The first project that I took up was a research on sub-merged arc welding. Then I worked in the BTP project of my seniors which was a study on Vibratory Stress Relief Equipment. I also worked on a welding manipulator development project.

Q4.What do you think was your USP in getting into MIT?
I think my USP for MIT was the logical fit. The whole package of industrial intern-

ships, the objective criteria, and the interest and fascination for manufacturing made me get into MIT. The universities abroad look for the subjective criterion in the applicant, whether he/she actually wants to study the course and more importantly why he/she wants to take up that particular course. Since manufacturing was something I really wanted, it was way easier to score, find projects and work for it. And so, somewhere deep in my heart, I was always sure that I would get into.

Q5.What suggestions would you like to give to all our readers who aim to go abroad for further studies? How should they get going with the preparation for GRE and GMAT?
Getting into a good college doesn’t really mean that you have a bed of roses laid before you. Great colleges open up great opportunities for you. First of all, I would suggest you to figure out your area of work—the field where your interest and passion lies, and then start working for it. Don’t just blindly follow what people around you say or do, rather find your own way, and establish clarity in what you want to do. Planning matters. Throughout my college, I’d efficiently plan out things, even the amount of time to be spent on entertainment and football was appropriately scheduled in my time-table! One must learn to make a “realistic” time table and follow it by rule. I am not saying that become a bore or a sob, but yes, sitting idle and doing nothing isn’t the key to success. You need to work like a horse to make way for yourself!

From Dwarka To USA

Sonali Garg

While the placements and the non-technical field still exert their preponderance at NSIT, there are a few who are willing to break the mould and embark on the road less taken. This perseverant lot strived to get admits into some of the best Grad Schools and emerged triumphant. Some of them expatiate about their experiences:



Dibakar Barua, ECE

I got offers from four universities-North Carolina State, University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), and Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Electrical and Computer Engineering. I worked on two projects at the Center for Electronic Design and Technology (CEDT) at NSIT. One of them was a national level Texas Instruments' competition called Texas Instruments Analog Design Contest. We stood third all over India. I did two internships under professors at IIIT-D, one related to Embedded Systems and the other to communication, specifically software radios. These projects and internships provided me hands-on experience, something which I felt was needed. Also, they enhanced my understanding of the subject, generated further interest and contributed significantly to my profile. Since, unlike placements, there are no interviews to get into grad schools, I feel that the Statement of Purpose is an immensely important part of the application. You tell all you possibly can about yourself in a single letter. Moreover, websites like Coursera and Udacity offer online courses on topics that are not included in the curriculum and provide basic knowledge about different technical fields and can help in deciding one's field of interest.



Abhinav Sangal, COE

I'll be joining the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) for Masters of Science in Computer Science (CS) and am planning to specialize in the fields of Machine Learning and Social Computing. I feel I was pretty lucky to get a few good opportunities during my time at NSIT. After my 2nd year, I went to Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to work as a Research Intern in the field of Dynamic Network Analysis. This internship was absolutely fun and the experience of working on such a large scale research project motivated me to pursue Masters in Computer Science and explore the various other fields that this subject has to offer. My research at CMU eventually helped me get an internship at Max Planck Institute for Informatics (MPII), Germany during the summers after 3rd year. There, I worked in the field of Randomized algorithms. I think these internships helped me in building a good

research profile, showing diverse interests in both theoretical and applied fields of CS. Moreover, I got some good letters of recommendation from professors at both these places. I think a balanced profile that showcases the student's diligence and focus (through grades and test scores) and involvement in good research work at the undergraduate level impresses the admission committee. Additionally, I feel it is important to get over with your GRE in the 6th semester itself so that you have ample time to prepare a good application. Lastly, I feel that though this path is less explored at NSIT and requires a focused approach right from second/third year, the end result is totally worth the effort!



Pranshu Jain, ECE

I have essentially gotten admits for Masters of Science (MS) from three universities- University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). My field of study is basically Electrical and Computer Engineering and my program at UPenn is called MS in Embedded Systems. By the end of third semester, I had not done much apart from a summer training program. After that, I started working at the Center for Electronics Design and Technology (CEDT) under the guidance of Prof. D.V. Gadre who taught us a lot apart from the curriculum. CEDT provided all the facilities and opportunities that no other place at NSIT could. I did a couple of projects there that helped me get acquainted with the field. We also participated in Texas Instruments' India Analog Design Contest through CEDT, and were awarded at the national level. After the third year, I did an academic internship at IIT-Delhi, based on the application of cryptography and computer architecture, which counted as a project as well. My projects basically revolved around the applications based on microcontroller and interfacing of peripherals with it and can be broadly classified under Embedded Systems. They helped me learn how to apply academic knowledge to solve real-time problems. All the work that I did was pretty much inclined towards one domain-Embedded Systems, so that probably worked in favor of my profile as it conveyed that I was serious about the field. Also, I think that I had a decent Statement of Purpose which is essential for any grad school application, be it MS or MBA. The one mistake I feel I made was that I did not give my GRE in advance. However firm you may be on going for Masters, when placements begin, they start distracting you. So, I feel that it's better to give the GRE before or during the summer vacations. Also, don't try to sail in two boats at a time, that is, be very sure what your priority is, Masters or placements.

Interview: Tanya Khera

Satinder Pal



"Even before I knew I wanted to do Engineering, I was adamant to take the trajectory towards Management"- 99.32, Tanya Khera

Q1. Please tell about the procedural involvement from appearing in CAT till getting selected for IIM-C.

After the CAT results are announced, each institute takes out its list of shortlisted candidates who need to appear for the GD (Group Discussion)/WAT (Writing Ability test)/PI (Personal Interview) round. You get about a month's time after the result to prepare yourself (really well) for round 2. I was also allotted a mentor from the present batch of IIM-C, who was available for any kind of help needed during the WAT/PI preparatory months. Luckily, all went well and I was finally selected.

Q2. When was it actually that you decided to appear for CAT? Any specific consideration for this make-up of mind?

Even before I knew I wanted to do engineering, I was adamant to take the trajectory towards Management. MBA imparts holistic education and aids to shape one's personality. Also, with the managerial skills that I propose to acquire, I hope to start up a social entrepreneurial venture that will work in close collaboration with the public sector to enhance the state of basic facilities in our country.

Q3. What was your preparation strategy?

There was no particular preparation strategy as such. To crack an exam like CAT, I believe it is all about being regular, be it in practicing quantitative, logical reasoning, data interpretation questions or reading comprehensions, or keeping abreast with the happenings around. Also, one needs to remain focused throughout the span of 8-10 months of preparation. Trying to maintain a balance between college and coaching may seem to take a toll towards the end but keeping your calm is the key to success.

Q4. What is your exact CAT percentile? Which colleges were available to you at this score? And why you chose IIM-C over the others?

My CAT percentile is 99.32. I had calls from IIM-C, L, K, I, new IIMs, S.P. Jain, MDI, DMS-IITD and FMS. I converted all calls from the new IIMs; though I didn't give the interviews for FMS and IIM-Indore as I had already converted my IIM-C call. My inclination towards IIM-C has been because of its high B-school ranking and moreover, IIM-C has joined CEMS, an elite club of 28 premier business schools from across the world, as an academic partner. IIM-C is the only Indian member of this renowned alliance of leading global business schools and multinational corporations. As a part of this collaboration, IIM-C students can opt to pass out with a dual degree in PGDM as well as MIM (Masters in International Man-

agement). Also, IIM-C ranks number one in finance in the country, which has been a major deciding factor for me.

Q5. Many students at NSIT are apprehensive about their percentage. Can you please put some light on the percentage requirements?

All B-schools have different criteria of scoring candidates for selection. 10th, 12th, graduation score, work-experience, academic background, gender are some of the parameters the candidates are evaluated upon. A good percentage is important to fetch one of the coveted calls. I would like to mention that our college students lag behind other students because of the not so liberal marking done at our college vis-à-vis IITs, IP University, and private engineering colleges which give CGPA. Still to mention, a decent percentage of above 75 is almost mandatory, 80 being brilliant!

There are quite a few institutes that may consider your candidature even if you don't have a great college percentage but a decent one will surely fetch you brownie points.

Q6. What all college activities or societies were you involved in?

In the initial two years of college, I participated in a few events of the dramatics/dance society but could not continue, being a day scholar. This definitely did not stop me from following my passion; I co-started an NGO named 'Aaghaaz' which works towards creating awareness amongst youth on issues related to HIV/AIDS (www.aaghaaz.in). I have been a part of community events/shows organized by the Delhi state government regarding polio eradication. I am trained in jazz as a dance form and I also compere cultural shows and public awareness events.

Q7. Any important piece of advice to all those planning to appear for CAT?

To all those planning to appear for CAT, my advice would be to know very clearly as to why you want to pursue an MBA. Clarity of thought is the key to becoming a good manager. Be regular with your quant practice and newspaper reading. If your graduation marks are not that great, try to have extra-curricular activities that can cover up for that. Last two-three months before CAT appears to be crucial, and therefore, one should remain focused and work hard during those months. While writing your exam, remember to stay calm and not to panic, and hope for the best.

Q8. How would you like to sum up your experience at NSIT so far?

My experience at NSIT has been extremely enriching. Apart from the classroom teaching, it was the peer interaction that has been my major takeaway from this institute. This college has some great minds and it is overwhelming to see how passionate everyone is out here about what they want to achieve, be it obtaining a higher education or a top-notch job. NSIT pools some great talent and provides a conducive environment for everyone to fulfill their aspirations.

Donning The Coveted Caps

FMS



Deepak Chandok
Aradhya Kulshreshtha

GEORGIA TECH



Abhinav Sangal
Dibakar Barua
Pranshu Jain
Chandan Sharma

IIM-C



Shashank Shekhar Suri
Tanya Khera
Ashish Jain
Agrim Verma
Jayant Yadav

IIM-I



Prerit Kohli

IIM-K



Arshdeep Singh

IIM-L



Priyank Aggarwal

IIM-SHILLONG



Anuj Goel

ISB



Saurabh Kirtani

MIT



Rahul Chawla

NY UNIV



Sahil Goel

U-PENN



Rakshita Tondon
Jitesh Gupta

XAVIERS UNIV



Rajat Singh

XLRI



Rudrath Kaul
Archit Sharma

Hostel Diaries: Chapter 3

Friends, exams, nightouts, fun..

-A bunch of true Hostellers

While the girls’ hostel walls are well guarded, the same cannot be accounted for the boys’ hostel. It has been proven again and again that no matter what the curfew time is, no matter what the rules are, we justify that ‘boys will remain BOYS’.

Hostellers and money cannot see eye to eye. The monthly allowances exhaust in barely a couple of weeks. But that does not take away all the fun we could have. As stressed earlier, hostellers are pretty much known for standing by their hardcore ‘no regrets’ policy. So here is a badass story being narrated in a totally non-How-I-met-your-mother style.

The Taj Redemption in “65”

The Day. Last exam. No after-exams plans made (the usual).

Friends. While some packed their bags and headed towards their beloved homes after being separated for 10 long eternal days, others gathered at their usual addas, making plans. Amidst all the cheers and jeers, the plans circled primarily around watching movies, going for bowling, eating outside or simply getting drunk!

And then there was always that one moment when someone says- ‘Kuch feel nahi aarahi’. Let’s go for a nightout. It had been shaping up as a mundane semester anyway without a single nightout.

Now the taxing question which needed to be

stressed upon– Where? The choice or more so the lack of it, was just too bemusing.

India Gate.*Check.* Murthal.*Check.* Bangla Sahib.*Check.* Rajouri.*Check.* Movie at Regal.*Check.* Marriage at South Ext.*Check.* Frigging Delhi roads.*Check.* *Check* and *CHECK.*

#Fun fact 1: *Never sign away the devious mind of a hosteller. Always, trust him to make the most unsound, stupid argument or in this case, suggest something totally ‘Crazy’!*

‘Chalo Agra chalte hai?’

Heads turned. Everyone at the table gazed with piercing black eyes. I had started believing that ‘eyes could kill’ and if not for that genius someone who had started laughing, I was a dead man.

But then that’s the thing. Hostellers need that little push. That little inspiration. That small spark.

The pseudo-hostellers packed their bags to move to their cushy warm homes and enjoy a quiet dinner. The adventurous ones, got ready with their empty pockets and cozy and comfy jackets.

The itinerary was decided. Plain and simple.

Carry no bags. Have some cash. Leave the hostel positively by 9pm. Make a dash for the Agra local. Reach Agra by 1-1.30. Rule the streets like a boss. Be mesmerized by the beautiful sunrise. Attain salvation. Click a few colossal pictures. Have breakfast and try to make it in one piece to the hostel.

Total expenditure=20 (Entry to the Taj) + 20 (Auto rides) + 25 (Breakfast)

South West Delhi comes to your rescue. One of the major attractions of this market is that it provides designer and branded clothes at throwaway prices. This is so because these have been rejected from export, either because of small manufacturing defects or export surplus. Beautiful neckpieces are also available at Rs. 200 each. Brush up your haggling skills to get 60% off the marked price.

Tips:

- Tired and hungry? Gorge on Indian snacks at the Haldiram’s outlet at Lane G.
- Check the clothes carefully for small holes or other manufacturing defects, before buying.
- Reach the market as soon as it opens to avoid heavy rush.

2. Janpath

How to get there? A ride in mango rickshaw from Rajiv Chowk Metro station will take you to one of Delhi’s oldest market.

Opening hours: The market opens around 10am on all days, except Sunday

Despite dating back to 1950, Janpath has not lost its sheen among the college going students and foreigners. Some of the latest designer wear, bags, palazzos and attractive leather footwear (jutis, mojris, and kolhapuris) can be found here. It is also famous for second hand novels and junk jewelry. If you’re always on a lookout for the latest fashion trends and are able to drive a hard bargain, this market won’t disappoint you.

Tips:

- Janpath Market is popular for the exquisite Pashmina Shawl from Kash-

If you are wondering about the cost of travelling via the local, and if it was actually Rs. 0, then the answer to your doubts is– YES. We travelled without a ticket, banking on the fact that tickets are generally not checked in a local. ‘Badass-ery’ is a habit of the hostellers.

#Fun fact 2: *Plans made, never work, especially if they are made by engineering hostellers. They will be amended a 100 times during the event execution itself. Engineers would take almost everything into account. But that’s just it. It is always ‘ALMOST’.*

Well, things went better than planned, except that we did not take the local train journey into account. The reeking compartment, the dirty floors and those lost faces had just spiced up the redemption extravaganza even more. The colors of Delhi. All inside a small compartment. Within the confines of a battered old train.

#Fun fact 3: *Hostellers can survive in any condition. They are true survivors of any calamity. And hence the train journey did not deter their spirits much.*

Sunrise. Sitting on the cold marble steps and looking at those first rays of the sun redeemed us from the tiresome journey. The bone-breaking journey was long forgotten as we stared across the horizon. That one moment of pure bliss is just inexplicable through words.

Capturing the scenic beauty in our hearts, for the days to come, we soon found ourselves at a dingy restaurant for breakfast. By the time the waiter arrived with our food, he was surprised to find 10 sunk heads on the table. ‘Being tired’ had just earned a new definition. After a quick meal, we found ourselves back on the gluttoned ‘choking’ train.

The journey could have been cheap-ass, but it was totally worth it and priceless.

Those four pale walls of the hostel had never looked better before. The stuffy air seemed

- mir.
- Tired of shopping? South of Rajpath is the National museum.
- Next to Janpath Market is Tibetan Market, popular for Tibetan artifacts like Buddhist gongs, bamboo-shoot, and little metal Budhhas.



3. Lajpat Nagar (Central Market)

How to get there? De-board at Lajpat Nagar metro station on the violet line and walk your way to the market.

Opening hours: The market is open on all days, except Monday

Famous for ethnic wear, this market houses reasonably priced kurtis (available for as low as Rs. 150), Indian footwear and accessories. Garam Gali, a lane especially for brides, has the latest ‘inspired’ designs in bridal wear. The Mehndiwalas (Henna appliers), sitting on the pavement, will surely astonish you with their swiftness. After all that shopping, relish some delicious Lebanese Shawarma Rolls, Tibetan Momos, and Chinese Garlic Prawns with Banta.

Tips:

- Maximum Outfits and a few other retail stores sell branded clothes at a cheap rate. Do not forget to visit these.



“Now that we don’t have any money left, lets go the another state to visit one of the seven wonders of the world” - Anonymous

homely. The mattress-less bed and hard pillow seemed better than all the comfy cushions and eiderdowns in the world.

The Taj Redemption was complete. College started the very next day.

But when I look back at the chain of events, I realize that as planned out, ‘feel toh aa hi gayi’.

Please note:

- The author is an ardent fan of Ted Mo-seby.
- The author does not encourage the travelling in a local train without a ticket. Though you do save 150/- per person.
- The author believes that there is no dearth of options while making a plan, just make sure that you have your friends by your side. Even the most boring place would come alive.

- The market is crowded on weekends. So, the best time to visit is on weekdays, from 11am-8pm.

4. Karol Bagh

How to get there? Get down at Karol Bagh metro station and lo, begins the huge Karol Bagh market.

Opening hours: The market is open from 10am to 7pm on all days, except Monday

Karol Bagh Market gives you a glimpse of integrated India. Here, you’ll find almost everything, from ornaments to footwear to beautiful costumes for wedding trousseau. Paul Garments, Madan Store, and Tip Top offer quality clothes at a reasonable price. If you happen to visit this market on a Monday, do splurge on export surplus garments, which are available at Rs. 100-150. Karol Bagh market is also known for the traditional jewelry street, The Bank Street.



Tips:

- Beware of the pick-pockets active in this market!
- Gaffar market, located near Karol Bagh, is one of the best spots to buy electronics, gadgets and gizmos at a lower price, but they do not provide you with a proper bill.
- Bargain hard!

Street Shopping

Manpriya Kaur

Delhi, indeed, is a shopper’s paradise. Irrespective of your taste and budget, you will always find something which will be of your interest in the numerous pocket-friendly flea markets of Delhi. These are a flourishing treasure trove among shopaholics, undeterred by the mammoth shopping malls across the mega city, due to their real cost benefits. Here’s The Alliance giving you a sneak peek into few of Delhi’s famous markets:



1. Sarojini Nagar

How to get there? Get down at INA station on the yellow line and take an e-rickshaw from there.

Opening hours: The market opens at 11am on all days, except Monday

Does your pocket cry and your mouth drool seeing the branded, high-end clothes? Don’t worry! Sarojini Nagar Market in

Travel Diaries: Amritsar

Soumya Gupta

Amritsar is a city famous for four things- The Golden Temple, the Wagah Border, the Jallianwala bagh and the butter chicken. The affable people and the slow-paced life add to its raw charm. The name ‘Amritsar’ is derived from the words ‘amrit’ and ‘sarovar’ meaning ‘a river of nectar’, where the phrase symbolises the Gurbani at Harmandir Sahib (i.e. the Golden Temple).

How to get there:

Take a bus, car or a train. The easiest way is the train route plying from the New Delhi Railway station. The journey via the road is somewhat exhaustive and takes about two hours more than the train route, though it's easier on one's pockets! There are Volvo buses as well as local buses available, though the latter choice is recommended if one is willing to take up a hitchhiking adventure.



Places to visit:

1. Wagah Border

The Wagah Border is located on the famous Grand Trunk road, also commonly known as G.T road, which was made by Sher Shah Suri. It is the busiest border connecting India and Pakistan. Every evening, a ‘lowering of flags’ ceremony is performed involving participation from both the nations. This ritual has been in existence since 1959 and has gained a lot of popularity lately. The essence of the ceremony is a show of power between soldiers of both sides. The Punjabi machismo, the pretend contempt and the melodrama (with kicks flying high enough to put ballerinas to shame) form a part of a healthy bonhomie between the two sides. The ceremony is preceded and followed by a number of patriotic Bollywood songs played at a decibel high enough to make one follow the soldiers in their forward march.

2. Golden Temple

The Golden Temple is an oasis of peace in the middle of the vibrant city. The lilting tunes of the Gurbani erase all worries. The general atmosphere of camaraderie is con-

tagious, and the desire to live more simply is heightened. It's recommended to put one's phone (and other technologies) aside and delve into some deep introspection. Besides the inherent peace that the place exudes, the place is a wonder to watch. From the exuberance of the gold to the fishes in the lake, everything is brilliantly maintained. Another highlight of the place is the *langar*; it's a very simple meal with a dose of equality. People from all straits of life sit down for a free, communal meal; only, the experience it imparts is priceless.

3. Jallianwala Bagh

Our history books have more than engraved the incident into our minds. But the actual imagery is much too vivid than anything that's been written. The Museum, the bullet-ridden walls and the well, all bring a rather gruesome image to mind. But this seriousness is complemented by the upkeep of the place as a picnic spot as hundreds of tourists visit this memorial every day. The Museum also commemorates the memory of the little known Udham Singh, who went all the way to London to avenge the death of his countrymen by murdering General Dyer.

What to Eat?

Amritsar's real charm lies in its dhabas, not in its restaurants. The palette is wide enough to satiate both vegetarian as well as non-vegetarian appetites. The butter chicken and the Amritsari Fish are the must have(s) here for every non-vegetarian. The best of this dish can be sampled at Beera's chicken house and Makhan's Fish shop respectively. As for the vegetarians, the Amritsari Kulche, the Lassi and a visit to the Bharawan da Dhaba (in the town hall area) are the ultimate dishes to savour and reminisce. (Word of caution though, the Amritsari Lassi is touted to be equal to be seven times heavier than its Delhi counterpart). Also, the papads which are a product of the local industries here are a great, tasty buy.

Amritsar is a city with a happy-go-lucky attitude, fervent patriotism, a love for the good life and a beautiful culture. The Golden Temple, the Wagah Border and the sumptuous food (especially Butter Chicken) give Amritsar its unique identity, making it one of the best of the weekend getaways from Delhi.

Chronicles of a Vindictive Warrior

Jatin Mahajan

“So be it. I'd like your right thumb as the fee for my training!” exclaimed Dronacharya. “This is outrageous. I unconditionally worshipped you O great Guru despite you shunning me away! My dexterity with the bow is my instrument of rising above this inferiority of your segregated society. I am not going to give it away. Everything is crystal clear to me. This is all a total forgery. Now I shall have my revenge. In this life or the next. Mark my words O great Guru. Mark my words” said Eklavya.

And this event marked the beginning of the vengeance that assumed no limits. Eklavya enhanced his archery and went places to seek guidance and to gain support. He raised an army; an army of outcastes and the so-called ‘downtrodden’, those who possessed the skill and the talent but were rejected, humiliated by the royals like him. Gradually, Eklavya became invincible.

“You are a Nishada-putra. I can't marry a low-born. This is beneath me,” said Draupadi. Time and again, Eklavya was oppressed. Only this time by a spiteful royal woman of Panchal. He had had enough. An alliance

with the Kaurava was inevitable. A fierce battle ensued between the Kaurava, the Pandava and Eklavya's army. But with the Pandava being the common enemy for both the Kaurava and Eklavya, the odds were stacked against the Pandava.

In the midst of the great battle, surrounded by the clash of arms, the pounding of hooves, the rattle of trappings, the shouts of warriors, and the screams of wounded men and beasts, where the dust churned up by the horses dimmed the sun, Krishna arrived to the scene and demonstrated why exactly the Pandavas were blessed by the Divine One. Raising the wheel of a chariot over his head, the Lord raced forward to even out the numbers game. He was magnificent— in protecting Arjuna. He adroitly manoeuvred Arjuna's chariot in battle, a whip in his right hand and a bridle rope in his left and went on to decimating the enemies one by one.

The war of Kurukshetra saw the mightiest fall one by one. Kaurava lost Bheeshma, Dronacharya, Karna and even Duryodhana, while Pandava sacrificed Drishtadyumna, Drupad and Shikhandi. On the eighteenth day, the only ones remaining were—the Pan-



Anurag Kashyap: The Maverick Director

Deepanshu Kaul Philip

“School had been nothing less than hell for Ajay. Being new and weak in school, he became prey to the class bully. His other classmates were oblivious to his sufferings. Dejected, he would sit beside the mango tree and aim for the mangoes, every day. One day a stone hit the bully, who happened to pass by. Poor Ajay and the crying bully were summoned to the principal's office. They eventually let Ajay go, as his other classmates testified and called this his daily habit.”

A simple story? Here comes the Anurag Kashyap twist-*“The boy was actually practicing everyday to miss the mangoes and hit the bully”.*

He is considered as a pioneer, of the alternative and surrealistic cinema that is now emerging in Bollywood. His bold narrative cinema has frequently run into trouble with the censorship board. His cult cinema too, explicit for a certain audience, is nevertheless impactful.

Anurag Singh Kashyap is an Indian film director, producer and screenwriter, who has influenced the Bollywood with noir cinema. *Paanch*, his unreleased directorial debut received a straight NO from the The Central Board of Film Certification. While *Satya* got him the Best Screenplay award at the Star Screen Awards, it was *Dev D*, *Gulaal*, and the epic duology *Gangs Of Wasseypur*, that got him commercial success and critics' acclaim.

Anurag Kashyap has come a long way from struggling and sleeping on street corners to being included in the league of directors who have contributed hugely to the evolution of Indian cinema. His twin banners, Anurag Kashyap Film Production Limited (AKFPL) and Phantom Films, have a dozen films in the pipeline right now. His focus is on strong scripts that succeed to entertain in an unusual way. His own genre being dark and intense, has been typified by the films he has directed, produced and scripted in the past. While his films seem to be grotesquely real, this offbeat artist has marked a territory of his own in filmmaking.

Sexually abused, bullied as a child and often at the receiving end of severe ragging, he brooded over his anguish for years. During his college days, he was into drugs, alcohol, college-fights and even went through

a heartbreak. His movies revolve around themes pertaining to societal negatives such as alienation, drug and alcohol abuse, excessive smoking, teenage angst, clinical depression, emotional and mental abuse, arrogance and above all, self-destruction. These are traumatic reflections of his personal life in conjunction with realistic scenarios and excerpts from scandals in day to day life (e.g. the Joshi-Abhayankar Pune murder case reference in *Paanch* (2003), the 1993 Mumbai blasts in *Black Friday* (2004), the Black BMW accident and MMS scandal in *Dev D* (2009), teenage aggression in *Udaan* (2010)).

A keen observer with an innate ability to analyse human behaviour, Anurag's sustained exposure to global cinema helped him push the envelope in a conservative Indian film industry. He believes that Indian society, in itself has a lot to offer in terms of captivating stories, *Gangs of Wasseypur* and *Gulaal* being examples.

He employs innovative directing and shooting methods that give him an edge as a director. The SnorriCam, handheld camera, L cut in transformations and the dubstep background during *Gangs of Wasseypur*'s scenes are some of them.



Kashyap feels that the first-film directors make the most unadulterated and honest films, before they are corrupted by the demands of the audience or commerce. He has an uncanny sense of justice and fair play, when it comes to choosing his film's directors, actors, music composers etc.

A democratic, a visionary and a mentor, he empowers everyone around him. He is the most unalloyed form of a movie lover. His only agenda is movies - to watch them, make them and let others create them too. The latest from his production house- *Queen* has already received applause and with *Bombay Velvet* in line, Anurag has certainly got a lot in store for us to look forward to.

forgiveness for your Guru for this because never does the human soul appear as strong as when it foregoes revenge and dares to forgive an injury. He who has let go off hatred, who treats all beings with kindness and compassion, who is always serene, unmoved by pain or pleasure, self-controlled, firm and patient, is in the true sense, a great leader. Redeem yourself. Come out of the dark and see the light O mighty warrior, for, by seeking revenge, you start by digging the grave of your own soul,” said Lord Krishna.

“You are indeed the great one O Lord. You have opened my eyes! You have endowed me with wisdom and melted my heart. Throughout my life, I wished to be granted an equal stature, an equal name in the society. You have lit in me the source of light. O mighty Pandava, forgive me for my sins. Please accept me into your fold,” said Eklavya with tears in his eyes.

As he moved towards Lord Krishna to seek his blessings, Ashwathama from a distance sensed that he had sided with the enemy and shot three straight arrows to pierce the chest of the Nishada Prince. He fell into the ground with a heavy thud. As the Pandavas looked on, Lord Krishna severed Ashwathama's head from his body. There in the dust lied the body of the prince, once an outcast, a champion archer, a fierce commander and finally, a transformed mortal!

15 Types of People in the Metro

Yashna Paliya

If you have ever travelled by the Metro, chances are that you'd have encountered more enigmatic personalities here than you'd have had anywhere else in the world. It's really a bizarre melange of people who continue to provide me with unending entertainment. Shall we begin?

1. The verbose auntie. She is the 'jaan of the women's coach' and shutting up has never been in her genes. She has to talk about everything and take in her daily dose of gossip in THIS VERY METRO. Never mind the people who are trying to study for their Physics practical or are immersed in their own important work, *array bhai*, her maid ran off with the *padosi* ka driver. God forbid, people miss out on this very important nugget of information and Pammi auntie's *dukh* and *dard!* Et tu, *Kanta baai?*

2. The I-am-so-busy-and-everybody-else-is-worthless female. While everybody is quietly sitting in the Metro (except of course, Pammi aunty), this woman struts in her impossibly high heels and stands in a corner because obviously the seats are too lowly for Her Highness. She is perpetually buried in her BlackBerry (duh!) and looks up only to throw condescending looks and then goes back to her 'very' important work that obviously runs the very company. And then she struts out. Whattay legend.

3. The large bunch of college goers. They are loud, they are crass and they discuss the most random blabber you can come up with. You'll stand there wondering what hit you. I have been tortured by "Blue Diwali lights look best, ya". "I think my boyfriend is cheating on me *sob*sob*" "And then, I was like, excuse me, do you even like, know who I am?" and the list goes on. So pop in those earphones. Or eavesdrop, it's much

more fun.

4. The Metro couples. These infamous personalities can usually be found standing at the junction of the women's coach and the general coach. They're all smiles and giggles and "Yes, Jaanu," and the very source of discomfort for everyone in their vicinity. So please, all those of you who can't keep your hands off each other, stop PDA-ing your way into the Metro. Get a room. Or a park.

5. The pretenders. These are the people who sit on either women's seats or the ones designated for the old and physically handicapped. And when women or the old and physically handicapped come to claim what's rightfully theirs, they *pretend* to be asleep. To add to their little act, they also have their earphones plugged in, to make it completely foolproof. These little tales usually have unhappy endings with the aforementioned group vigorously shaking the culprits to sad reality.

6. The book worm or phone addict. This is the best cohort of people on the Metro. They mind their own business, buried in a smartphone or a book. They only look up occasionally to check the current station and resume their work. God bless their souls.

7. The preacher. They take the Gandhian quote "Be the change you want to see in the world" a little too seriously. From asking people to get up for pregnant ladies to the propaganda of the virtues of the bible and helping Bittoo shape his career, this person has taken the onus of maintaining law and order in the coach on him/herself. *Kya yeh rishtey mein humare baap lagte hain?*

8. The regular delinquent. Sitting on the floor? Check. Eating *maa ke haath ka bain-gan ka bhartha*? Check. Listening to 'Yo Yo Honey Singh' at full volume? Check. These people blatantly break all the rules that the poor announcer keeps reiterating. "Please do not befriend any unknown person." Sorry ma'am, the heart's gotta do what the heart's gotta do.

9. The licentious lecher. They (almost always men) ogle, even if they are in a different coach altogether. Staring you down is their birth right and they shall have it. They seem to have absolutely no work other than invading in their fellow passengers' personal space. Get a life.

10. The impatient pusher. They push when their station is next, they push when they get in and all hell breaks loose when they get out. Patience isn't something they learnt in school, evidently. These are the people who absolutely have to ask every soul present in the coach, "*Aapko utarna hai?*". Everyone gets off at Rajiv Chowk. Just chill.

11. The seat stealer. As soon as the Metro arrives, they have their target locked; the empty seat. *Ek baar jo commitment kar di, phir toh yeh* Metro officials *ki bhi nahi sunte*. They push and pull and jostle and abuse their *dedh kilo ke haath ka* privilege. After all, all is fair in love and war. And God forbid, you take their seat, you will be asked to shift until they fit themselves in that 5mm of space that is left. Bon voyage.

12. The sleeping beauty. These poor souls seem to be bereft of a 14th century invention at home: the bed. Throughout the journey they will be sleeping away to glory on

your shoulder or their neighbour's. They only wake up a couple of times, disoriented, only to ask, "What station is it?" and doze off. Let sleeping dogs lie.

13. The I-am-not-well. These shameless specimens walk around the Metro with a (fake?) limp, searching for victims. They either have a splitting headache, an incorrigible back pain or a perennial fever. "Excuse me, I am not well. Please, shift." These are the usual excuses you hear. And God alone can save you if you don't 'shift'.

14. The sparkling conversationalist. I may be buried in a book, or have my earphones popped in, but this person sitting next to me conveniently chooses to ignore all such signs. They unleash the conversationalist in them with full force upon me and expect me to reply to how her dog pooped on her bed yesterday. I am evidently disinterested in engaging in a conversation about your car, dog or house, so go speak with Pammi aunty instead.

15. The one with all the bags. These people, who seem to be packed for a 10 day *phoren* trip to Bangladesh, have their innumerable bags strewn all over the coach. People hurrying in and out of the Metro keep tripping themselves on these bags, but does it affect the proud proprietor? Absolutely not. Instead he rummages one of his many bags for a packet of chips and sits back, and enjoys the show.

It is common knowledge that this list is incomplete, and it always will be. There will be newer people getting on the Metro each day with pet peeves different than mine. Also, I forgot people who stand in the doorways and don't get off. And clip their nails. Just, NO.

The '80s are known for the fall of the Hippie movement, the rise of Michael Jackson and U2, but the one ignored facet of this transitional time is metal music. Metal was never a mainstream genre because of its complex music, extreme head-banging and the 'evil' persona it always wore. But the truth is, once you listen to a metal band, you can never stop listening to their music. Pantera taught me this lesson. Pantera is a band which has seen it all - from being 'glam' in their early days to having a guitarist with a pink beard. They have had their ups and downs and they have had some of the best stories to tell along the way. Sadly though, one of these stories is also about how they broke up.

This band, with some amazing songs that even a non-metal head would appreciate, started in the early 1980s by the Abbott brothers. Even though their names sounded like they could be hell's angels, they did in fact try to achieve a certain glamorous and 'pop' sort of image. The band was started as 'Pantera Metal Magic' which sounded more like a children's science show than a soon-to-be hallowed music group, with Terry Glaze as their vocalist and Diamond Darell as guitarist.

I think it is safe to say that this was a phase in their career they couldn't put behind themselves faster. They dropped the 'metal magic' from their name pretty quickly, but childish as the band was then, it helped create the true ideology, Pantera became famous for. They were amongst the first few indie metal bands out there - a rare combination - and they self-produced their first four albums. They thought that they did everything right. They had the satanic outfits, the 'people-friendly and popular' kind of metal music and they went out there with a 'screw it, screw all' philosophy.

Their albums blew.

There were lessons learnt in this entire

Pantera

Asmita Goyanka



course though. So far, the band had been doing exactly the opposite of what their basic philosophy was. While they had assumed an 'I don't care' kind of personality, their music was hard to be socially acceptable as metal music and hence was failing miserably. This was the point where they completely shed their 'glam metal' image. Clearly, the formula to be a metal band wasn't working and required something new to be brought to the table. This was the point when Pantera completely transformed.

They dropped their pop-music style of metal in favor of thrash metal and hard rock, which eventually evolved into a completely new 'Pantera genre' in the coming years.

Pantera dropped all pretentious clothing for jeans and t-shirts because, as Vinnie Abbott remarked, 'It is us who are going to play the music, not the clothes'. By then, they had already recruited their longest lasting vocalist, Phil Alanemo, whose vocals were more hard-edged than the comparatively juvenile one's of Terrence Glaze. And Dia-

mond Darell decided to dye his beard pink.

This transformation was long seen coming though, as the band's tracks had been continuously getting heavier. But the release of their next studio album, 'Cowboys from Hell', truly marked Pantera's arrival.

Most fans consider 'Cowboys from Hell' as Pantera's official debut. This album not only changed Pantera, it changed metal. The tracks from this album were much heavier, but they also incorporated a 'groove' element. Alanemo's deep vocals against Darrell's intricate yet lethargic guitar riffs truly created the 'metal magic'. The track, 'Cemetery Gates', set the tone of the band's music. It was the perfect combination of soft singing to screeching vocals, the guitar goes from brooding melancholy to aggressive playing and after a few times of playing the song, your head automatically bobs to the drum beats. Of course, other tracks of the album, such as the title track, reflected similar perfection.

The band extensively toured after 'Cowboys from Hell' and soon released their subsequent albums, 'Vulgar Display of Power' and 'Far Beyond Driven'. These two albums displayed the same excellence as 'Cowboys from Hell'. Tracks such as 'This Love' and 'Hollow' from 'Vulgar Display of Power' and 'I'm Broken' from 'Far Beyond Driven' were extremely successful. It was at this time that Diamond Darrell became Dimebag Darrell and the drummer Rexx Rockstar adopted his original name Red Brown again.

Unfortunately, the band's success story was short-lived. As the band slowly achieved greater heights of success, its demise started. Alanemo was not in his pink of health and suffered an eventual drug and alcohol abuse to combat ill-health. This, however, had the opposite effect.

Pantera was slowly withering away and while their next and last studio album 'Re-inventing Steel' charted blockbuster lists, there was immense stress among the band members. Alanemo was engaged in numerous side projects. The communication between the Abbott brothers and Alanemo had broken and this was when the former chose to formally part ways. The sales of their albums sky-rocketed in the coming year, but there was no going back. Pantera was gone for good, but it didn't go out without a bang. After the demise of the band, the Abbott brothers started another band called Damageplan. During one of the latter's concerts, Dimebag Darrell was violently murdered on stage by a fan. The other Abbott put the blame on Alanemo. This was the last of the straws and sealed Pantera's fate.

The legendary band went out in a legendary manner, albeit a sad one; Kurt Cobain style. It inspired both underground and mainstream fans. It was born with hope, it survived with panache and died with fire. It was Pantera.

This year, a team of girls from NSIT, made us proud by winning the first prize in the **Texas Instruments Innovation Challenge: India Analog Design Contest 2014**. The team comprised Shikha Goel, Sakshi Goy-nar, and Shalini, all three from the ICE branch.

Their prototype, **Health Walker**, a six min-ute walk testing unit, won laurels amongst all the vying teams. An excerpt of their In-terview with The Alliance:

Q1. What does the device do?
The device calculates various parameters related to your health and judges your aer-obic capacity, that is, your capacity to do day-to-day work. It tells you about the se-verity of your cardiovascular diseases and the need to consult the doctor, if any. The sound detecting sensors and buzzers in the device calculate the heart rate and spo2, be-fore and after walking, to judge the health of the walker’s heart.

Q2. How important was your mentor, D.V Gadre Sir’s role towards this achievement?

Junoon was set up four years ago, and now, it is an indispensable part of the NSIT ex-perience. The ‘Junoonis’, as we are fondly called, have put in a lot of work to deserve the recognition we’ve achieved within the college and amongst other photography clubs.

During a non-descript meeting of Junoon, the idea of REELS v1.0 blossomed – a cata-logue about the Humans of Junoon, on how we got involved with photography, what we’ve done so far, an archive of how we engage the entire college population with our monthly themes, and secretly, a sort of farewell gift to our outgoing seniors. Days passed on, conversations were held and sev-eral drafts were evaluated as more and more ideas started flowing in.

By the time we finalized REELS, it was not just about photography anymore, but also about what it is to be a part of Junoon. Some simple yet handy photography tips were in-cluded to encourage the lazy photographer in you and to bring a marked difference in

Triumph At Tech Contest

Yashna Paliya



Our mentor played a significant role and helped us at every stage of this journey. He was behind this very idea and helped us make Health Walker a reality. Be it work-ing around problems or the implementa-tion, he was the person who motivated us. His ‘ideas, scolds, motivations, and inspi-rations’ were behind this achievement. He

insisted on doing things in an algorithmic and organized manner. He was a pivotal part of this whole journey.

Q3. What motivated you to do this project?
The abundance of cardiovascular patients in India and expense of these tests. The tests are quite expensive and more over the

doctors always charge for prescription and tests. This is also very time consuming. The device conducts test at home indepen-dently in a compact and inexpensive man-ner and can be plugged to the PC to display and save data.

Q4. What about the other NSIT teams that took part in the contest ?
The other two teams that took part won consolation prizes and \$200 each. One of the teams made a project on energy harvesting for portable application. They developed two methods. They used solar en-ergy and the vibrational energy from walk-ing to charge phones.

Q5. What was the prize that you bagged?
We received \$1200 and an iPod each at a fe-licitation ceremony in Bengaluru. The links to the video of their project are provided below.
[Health Walker - Six Minute Walk Testing Unit](#)
[Final Presentation of “Health Walker” TI Analog Design Contest - Travails and Triumphs of a Participant.](#)

Junoon Collaboration

Reels v1.0 – An Idiot Abroad

Junoonis



your day-to-day photography. We decided to focus on only one genre of photography in every issue instead of giving a drab and generic overview of the myriad of genres

without doing justice to any single one. We added a Junoon Lingo section where we shared things we hear a bit too often, from the initial enthusiasm about Photowalks

that dies down pretty fast as soon as peo-ple realize they have to wake up early on a weekend, to the fest days where it is consid-ered a crime to have not provided every sin-gle person in the campus with at least one “DP laayak photo”. Lastly, we also had a travel story that got the best response (yeah, we’ve been narcissistically keeping track of the analytics!). It was a peek into the wander-lust of one of the members of Junoon dur-ing their sojourn – a story that we decided to weave with more pictures than words.

Before releasing the maiden issue of REELS v1.0, we had never imagined the kind of effort that went into a seemingly simple e-magazine. But after umpteen rounds of editing and designing, we know better and are definitely far more prepared to take on the challenges that the upcoming editions will throw our way. In this journey, we also banked heavily upon our amazing seniors, whom we’re going to miss very much. We promise to keep things engaging in the fu-ture issues, because it’s only going to get bigger and better!

Quiz Club Collaboration

X , an iconic football player,was originally named after the American inventor Thomas Edison.

He received his famous nickname “X” in his school days, when it is claimed he was given it because of his pronunciation of the name of his favorite player, local Vasco da Gama goalkeeper, Biilé, which he misspoke.

X won three FIFA World Cups,the only player ever to do so, and is the all-time leading goalscorer for Brazil with 77 goals in 92 games.

CSI-NSIT Collaboration

Don the programmer’s cap, and solve this interesting question:
Mail your answers to: nsit.newspaper@nsitonline.in

Question:
A certain city is famous for its right-triangled apple fields. These fields are to be fenced all around their sides, throughout the perimeter. The wire for fencing is available in packets, each containing 70 unit length of wire. Now, for 120 unit length of wire, there are exactly 3 sizes of fields possible, with sides: 20, 48, 52; 24, 45, 51 and 30, 40, 50.
If the maximum length of wire available is 1000 units, find out the number of packets required for fencing, if the number of fields has to be maximized.

Hint: The answer lies within the edition! ;)

The Team

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EDITORS

