

Unravel the truth about the world of Open Source Software. It's a developer's playground. Also read about strategies to get selected for GSoC.



A failed mission or a larger conspiracy, read more about the uninvited guests in Tanu Didi's wedding.



Getting an application signed in the Admin is almost like finding your way out of a labyrinth. Find the Marauder's map in the edition.



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THE ALLIANCE

Special Anniversary Edition
Estd. 2010
Bringing NSIT Together

Ghost Of NSIT's Past

THE PRESENT AS WE SEE IT!

The erstwhile coveted Delhi Institute of Technology (DIT) was renamed to Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology (after the campus shifted to Dwarka) and has been attracting some of the sharpest minds across the nation since 1997. A relatively 'young' institute, as compared to the other stalwarts it is put with, NSIT has proved its mettle and eared its position as one of the premier engineering colleges in India. But we all know this, the newspapers validate it and the placement stats cement the reputation.

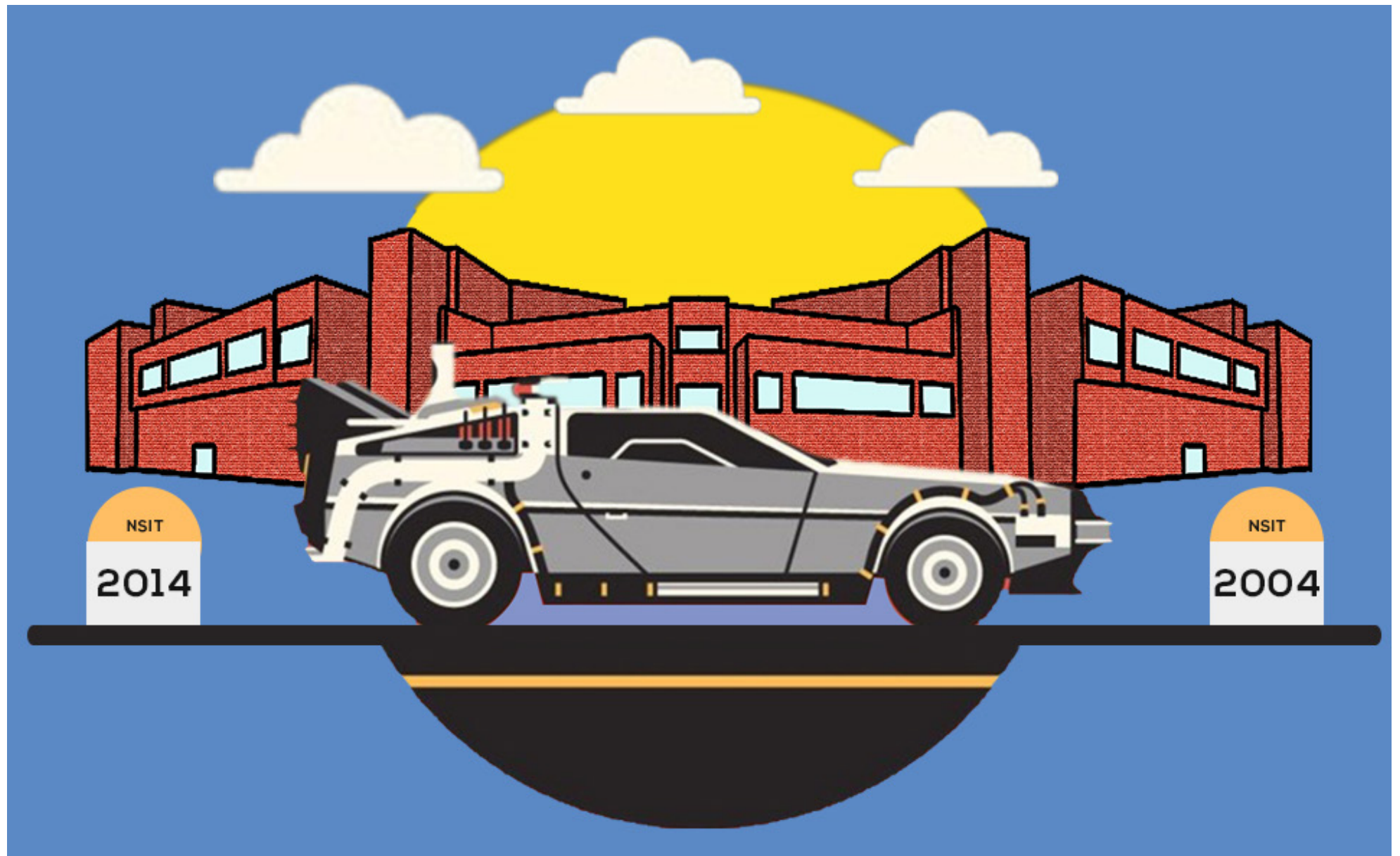
Sifted, handpicked and as 'the chosen

ones', we enter NSIT amongst many a pats-on-our-backs. Though uncertain of our survival in its competitive environment, we silently bask in the glory of making it to NSIT. In the initial semesters, we embark on the journey of making new friends, seeking advice, learning the lingo, finding our foothold, accomplishing all-nighters before exams, photostating volumes of notes, in a nutshell, discovering ourselves. Come second year, we are suddenly made aware of being the youngest 'seniors'. Zayca and Jeetos become our favourite haunts. Facebook statuses, Whatsapp chats, Snapchat selfies and Instagram posts become dear friends. Friend turn into partners in crime

and accomplices in sufferings. We debate on petty matters, *tch-tch* on the falling standards, discuss about the scopes and ponder on what-the-future-holds. From dreamers to the do-ers, third year brings in the much needed zeal to 'do something'. From projects to postgraduate entrance coaching classes to CV building – no stone is left unturned as life alternates between anxiety and procrastination. Fourth year comes and disappears in a haze of placements, preparations, planning and the surmounting sadness of drawing towards the end of college. We come in as self-contented dreamers; we leave as fighters and achievers. From 'Rezonance' to 'Innovision'

to 'Moksha', NSIT makes it a journey of a lifetime.

Absorbed in the present, and forever 'planning' our future, it is time we look back. In the endless discussions on what-NSIT-should-be, it is seldom that we rake up what-NSIT-was. Though young, NSIT has a history from which there are lessons to be learned and examples to be followed. The Alliance digs into the sands of time to show you a brief history of NSIT. Put a pause on the present, as we rewind a decade back to replay the action. So hop onto the time machine because to understand the future we have to go back in time!



THE UNIMAGINABLE PAST!

1. Commuting

The metro connectivity has been a boon for Delhi-NCR. The large chunk of day-scholars consider it to be the lifeline of Delhi and reaching the college has never been easier. A life without Rajiv Chowk is unimaginable.

Dwelling in an era of no metros, commuting to the college-a typically isolated temple of education, was made possible by the dilapidated non-CNG blue line buses. 764 was the holy number which could make one

reach here, from almost all possible busy locations in South Delhi. The Dwarka Mor of today was Uttam Nagar, back then-the bus terminal from where one had to hitch a rickshaw or sometimes even walk to the college! In a time sans personal conveyance and metro, making it to NSIT was this one major issue.

2. Admission

Back then, there used to be a common entrance exam viz. Common Entrance Exams (CEE), admitting students to NSIT and erstwhile DCE, through a common coun-

selling procedure considering applicants with ranks till around 760. 'Common' here implies that, if you are studying mathematical computation at DCE in the first semester, there was also the possibility that you could be upgraded to MPAAE at NSIT in the subsequent semester. An exhaustive survey reveals that the college used to hold a reputation, such that out of the first 100 students, who had actually applied for counselling, 80-85 were more enthusiastic about NSIT over DCE.

3. Infrastructure

Having acquired over 150 acres of barren wasteland in the sub-city, building a campus here at Dwarka was surely a major challenge for the administration. A rough and a ready structure had been constructed in the year 1998, when we shifted to the present campus from Kashmere Gate. The admin and Block VI stand as the oldest blocks, aging to almost 16 years now. All classes and labs used to be conducted in the present MPAAE block itself, the others blocks being were under construction alongside. The library block and the sports

complex, though, have been very recent developments.



Inauguration of Netaji's Statue

Infrastructure-wise, NSIT was better-off than the DCE of those times; a newly built college, with huge funds for horticulture, possessing a beauty in its own way. It is believed, that the college was thronged by a beaming outside college crowd, visiting the campus to admire its unique splendour. The Nesci lawns and Moksha ground were frequented by families and love-birds, for picnics and weddings. That explains the story of the secluded bridge and altar in Nesci.

The library-the then most visited zone, was on the first floor of the admin, a small but more frequented place. So high was the number of books issued by students in those times that the issue-return process was done at a supersonic speed, by the librarian! There was a separate fund called the "Bookbank Fund" for the SC/ST, which has now been stopped and has led to a reduction in the number of books.

The Main Auditorium which has hardly 300 seats for a batch of around 800 students, was once big enough to accommodate the entire college. The convocation was a big rage then with the 4th years in their ceremonial attire. According to certain conjecture, the college still receives the convocation fund, but the tradition was abruptly stopped some years back.

The nomenclature of various places has changed, for instance the present Dwarka Mor was called the Kakrola Mor before, and the North Gate was the erstwhile Khokha Gate. Another college trivia- Khokha's real name is "Saroj Confectioners".

In a whole, despite having constructive advancements in the campus, critically, the college looked better ten years ago, as compared to the present.

4. Studies and academic inclinations

A decade from now, ECE used to be the most favoured branch in NSIT (Professor RajSenani's reputation preceded placements). IT however, was not preferred during admissions because of being a relatively new branch. "The students back then were very

diligent, and engineers in the truest sense", a lot of professors say. The library used to be chock full of engineers reading up on extra study material apart from the prescribed books. Despite all this, alumni tell us that projects under the professors were scarce, although they agree that competition was cut-throat. With the increase in intake of students every year the teacher to student ratio has deteriorated.

The concept of start-ups was almost nil back then. Lack of internet connections and passive online marketing were the leading causes for their dearth. So for intern-ing, students largely depended upon the companies that came on campus.

The students who wished to continue further studies were very interest specific. Not everyone gave GRE and GMAT. CAT however was common among students even then.

5. Hangouts/ Entertainment and Canteens

This was the time when Sector Chaar and Pacific Mall did not exist. For eating out, students had the choice between Dwarka Sector 6, Tilak Nagar and Janakpuri District Centre.

The canteens that you see now were not the same a few years ago. Instead of Mini Zayca there used to be a Nescafe outlet (hence the name Nesci lawns), and the Mic Mac that's been closed down now, was a humble canteen with barely a tin shed for a roof(read shack); Main Zayca was more or less what it is now. Also, there used to be a stationery and a Mother Dairy outlet where the Shopping Complex is. The Khokha hasn't changed over the years. With transport and no malls, the college canteens flourished.



Convocation Ceremony at NSIT.

Ever wondered why there are big boards of Pepsi advertisements hung behind the library? The reason is: the IIIT canteen. There used to be a canteen there with highly subsidised food. The gravelled area in front of it was a lawn where students sat down and ate along with some guitar playing. Some college feel that must have been!

6. Hostel, Interaction and Ragging

Contrary to the present four huge hostels for boys, there existed just two boys' hostels-the present BH-1, and the present GH-2 (yes girls it was once inhabited by beastly creatures called boys). Ever wondered about that BH sign next to the Shopping Complex?

Each hostel had students of two consecutive years residing. Later in 2008, IIIT Del-

hi started in our campus and their students shared the hostel.

Initially, courtesy the CEE process, their was a large intake in the first semester before reshuffling, and so to accommodate the surplus 1st year students, apart from the two hostels, students stayed temporarily in the Type-V Quarters (really close to the then GH).

For the girls, there was a single hostel, the present GH-1 near the nursery. The Girls Hostel started off with just 10 girls. The barricaded and closed off road in front of GH-1 was never that way. Once upon a time, lovers would bid there last goodbyes right in front of the hostel gates.

Pre 2005 Anti Ragging Act, the hostels were a different scene altogether. All the hostels had elaborate stories of "senior junior interactions". These led to stricter rule and two GH wardens. In GH-1, the 1st semester juniors were assembled and ragged at a terrace, which now remains locked. Booze and herbs were in abundance in the GH back then! (Shocking or depressing, you decide)

No smartphones, laptops, and Wi-Fi meant more time with your hostel friends and hence crazier hostel stories. There is one from the BH where a supposed 'iguana' was found in one of the rooms.

The hostel timing for the girls hostels was not very different. It usually would be closing time for the girls at around 10, except a few times when it was extended to 12 during Moksha. The boys' hostels timing was relaxed and there was no restriction on entry or exit.

Remember Orkut? Testimonials and scraps were the way to go when Facebook and WhatsApp were absent. Sports activities were as dormant as they are now. Devoid of technology, the hostellers' menaced around the college all night on their bikes.

7. Societies and Sports

10 years ago, the extracurricular scene of NSIT was a little different. The active societies back then were primarily Choreo, The Neighbourhood Project, and Spic Macay. The tech societies were IEEE and another society by the name of SAE. Theatre was sought after, with Ashwamedh being called Jaagruti then. In fact, a separate theatre week was organised for second years, such was the impact.

Collegespace and NSITonline never existed

10 years ago. What did was a website called NSITlounge. This was used not only for senior junior interaction, but also posted important events and exam schedules. It was the unofficial portal for and by the students of NSIT, and was a big stress buster. Link (although the webpage is dead): www.nsitlounge.in

Some quick facts about the Lounge:

- There were a total of 7,942 registered members, who had made a total of 136,988 posts.
- Student initiatives like C2N consulting group, Radio NSIT, NSIT Mentor program etc. were first mentioned on NSITlounge. A discussion followed and quite a few things materialized.
- Apart from NSIT (not anymore), DCE and BITS, no other top college has an internet forum.
- It offered you a personalised email id, which is <mailto:username@nsitlounge.in>

Read the full answer on [Quora](#)

Sports was not very organised in the college because of the lack of proper football and basketball courts. Students however played wherever and whenever they got the chance. A lot of students could be seen practising their football skills on the Nesci lawns, but this hasn't changed much, has it?

8. Fests

Fests were organised with equal zest and enthusiasm. The only difference was a greater participation by the admin and the professors. The professors were involved in the organising of events and also helped in judging them. It was not an all student affair back then.

Apart from the three existing fests there was another fest, as mentioned above- Natyarang. It was a much awaited theatre fest organised for the second years. It lasted one week and was an inter branch activity. Why it stopped is still a mystery. It has now been incorporated in Rezonance, as the two mega-events- Natyamanch and Rangmanch. Apart from this, there were a lot of interesting events during fests like dirt biking, go karting along with interesting celebrities like Hema Malini, KK and Mohit Chauhan visiting the campus.

Another intriguing fact was that a lot of weddings would be organised on the Sports Grounds. In one of the Mokshas, the wedding lasted later than the fest itself!

Snap! With that we end our sojourn in the past. We leave you contemplating whether things shaped up for the better or for the worse. One thing is certain; the brick walls of NSIT have witnessed a lot of stories and legends. In today's rat race we have become so self-centred that we fail to acknowledge the greater impact of our actions. We are a reflection of our college and have an enriching legacy behind us and everything we do leaves behind a trail. Every trail has something to say and a meaning to convey.



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's visit to NSIT



Hema Malini at NSIT's Natyarang



Rezonanz 2001

Does NSIT Provide Enough Time And Opportunities To Everyone To Excel?

By Satinder Pal

Ranked among the top-class engineering colleges of India, NSIT has an exultant record of producing skilled engineers, re-search scientists, entrepreneurs, and fu-ture leaders. The jubilant number of out-standing placements from the campus, the considerable chunk of NSITians making it to the top grad-schools, both in India and abroad, and the undeniable fraction of stu-dents who crack prestigious entrance tests like the civil services exam, etc. every year; all these astounding figures accentuate the euphoric status of NSIT as an awe-inspir-ing college.

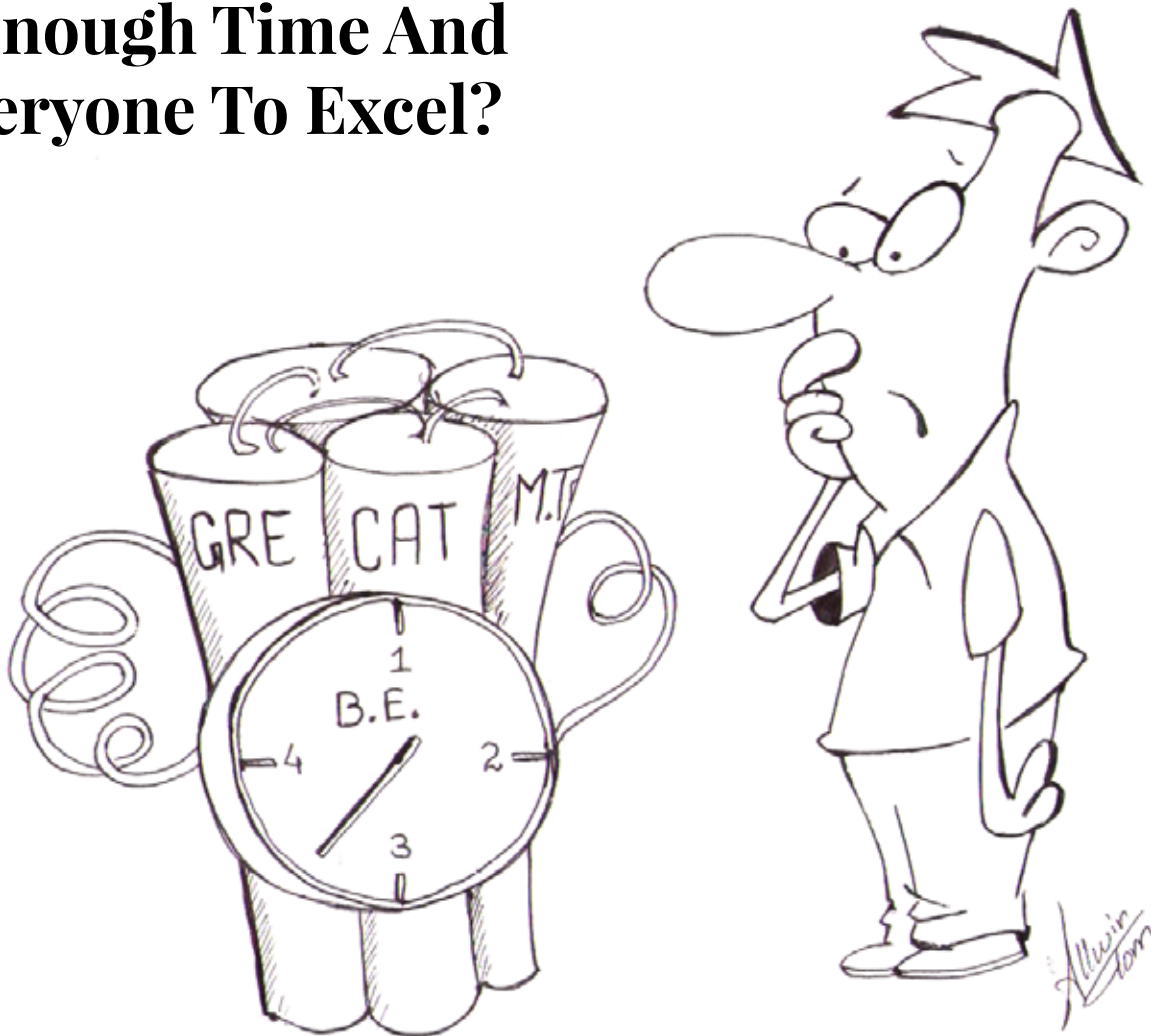
A rendition of the above contemplation raises a pertinent question as to how many students are we actually referring to, who fit into the above mentioned description of an NSITian, or simply, is it that everyone succeed to rise to the status of the above mentioned NSITian? An even more specifi-c paraphrase of this point is, “Does NSIT provide enough time and opportunities to everyone to excel?” Let us retrospect.

There is no doubt that NSIT is home to some of the brightest students nation-wide-NSIT’s greatest asset of NSIT, indeed; but there are certain compromises between the institution and the students.

Almost every student curses the ‘age-old’ syllabus that is taught till date in NSIT, and the dearth of technical research opportuni-ties is palpable. A similar realization about the faculty takes a few semesters to dawn on the students; apart from a handful of teachers, faculty members mostly adopt traditional methodologies which should have been modified with evolving tech-nology and consequently, learning for stu-dents has mostly become restricted to just obtaining good grades.

Talking about the status quo at NSIT, the aspect of ‘mentorship’ needs to be high-lighted too. There is no doubt that the skills , lessons and a structured direction, which can be wielded through counsel by the teachers have to be instead learnt primarily through experience and observation by the students. It isn’t fair to expect such traits and readiness in an undergraduate level student right at the beginning of his/her four years here, as the transition is usually a rough one. And with the current culture prevailing at NSIT, there is a need for a lot of effort to be put in by the students to hone themselves to achieve the level that stu-dents in some of the other institutions are mentored and technically equipped with as per the default teaching strategies or cur-riculum requirements. But nevertheless, if determined, the students can overcome all these shortcomings. Of course, it won’t be an easy task, but there have been many in the past who have successfully found the right path and mentorship just with a little ‘extra’ will.

“NSIT has some of the best minds of this country, but even the best minds might need some mentor-ship/guidance, which is not lack-ing in NSIT, but is a little hard to find. So a certain amount of ef-fort is required on the part of the students to ensure that their four years here are fruitful.” - Srishti Gupta, 3rd year Undergraduate.



Student Speak



Rishabh Jaini, batch of 2014

My life at NSIT has taught me one thing – if you end up not liking ‘en-gineering’ (which a high percent-age of people do) and still end up achieving nothing in your area of interest, then it’s definitely your own fault. Because culture at NSIT makes sure you have enough time and opportunity to pursue what you want and still have a reputed engineering degree in the end.

A vast majority of NSITians would concur that time is probably the biggest asset that NSIT grants to its students, which can be used wisely to explore and experiment a va-riety of topics and interests, get themselves involved different hobbies they admire and target a wide-range of extra-curricular ac-tivities. And NSIT, as we know provides us with minimum academic pressure, as com-pared to other engineering colleges, since we only have two exams per semester. This may have an upside and a downside. The upside is the extra time the students get to explore and work dedicatedly, without get-ting bogged down by exams, in an area of their interest. On the other hand, this may often lead to students getting complacent and taking academics a bit too lightly. As rightly quoted, “It is only time that weighs upon your hands.” So, it completely de-pends on the students as to how well they utilize this time and bring it to fruition. While a genuine opinion for this ample time takes the lead in favor of its merits, but despite it being a forte worth its utility, this asset is equally potent to be proved an aimless ramble for the students. One class of students often set on an embarking jour-ney of exploration of interests, work in va-rious student clubs and societies, simultane-ously building their skill sets and nurturing



Videt Jaiswal, 4th year undergrad-uate

NSIT provides you with abundant time and resources. One can find ample ways to explore, experiment and excel if one has the personal will to do so. If we set our priori-ties right and keep a healthy work-play-life balance, there is no rea-son why classes and curriculum at NSIT can ever become a hurdle for us to flourish in whatever field we want to. However, people need to avoid making two mistakes- doing nothing and doing everything.

their personalities aptly according to dif-ferent profiles, giving their best efforts to make the best out of the available time, and often preparing for exams like GRE, GMAT, and Civil Services etc. However, there is an-other class of students who are not able to utilize the given time constructively. Infact this so-called ‘ample time’ often obscures their vision of goals and they end up spend-ing their time being ‘busy doing nothing’. Owing to a lack of direction and purpose, students often spend their time and energy in activities that consume their potential in an undirected manner. This is where the disparity arises between students who initially started out with the same plate of opportunities and resources.

So, it is totally up to the students as to how well they make the best of their four years in college, with the most optimal ap-proach towards sharpening their technical/ non-technical skill-sets and the rationality of their personality. If one is destined to outstand, he/she will surely be successful, irrespective of the resources and available assets and no sort of time frame; neither abundance nor shortage of time and re-



Vinayak Mishra, 3rd year under-graduate

In my opinion, NSIT provides us with a plethora of opportunities. Being from a well established and respected institution provides one with a solid platform for a good career in technical fields. At the same time, the numerous active extra-curricular clubs and soci-eties give NSITians the chance to look beyond academics and pur-sue their hobbies, and who knows, possibly discover their true calling. NSIT thus gives us the best of both worlds. An individual here has all the tools he/she needs for success. Sadly, what is often lacking is an attempt to make use of them.

sources can ever hinder their objective to finally excel and outstand in their field. The only thing that is required is a source of positive inspiration that motivates them to constantly propel themselves to work diligently and an ideal figure, who reminds them constantly of the aim that they want to achieve.

So, a fathomable acceptance to the state of affairs in the college about its institution-al resources and provisions is that almost everyone stands an equal chance for all the opportunities that can be strived upon, but it is entirely up to the mindset of the stu-dents and the way they make use of all that is available to them. NSIT basically has no biased hand in the success of any student. It treats everyone equally; giving the same level ground to compete and innovate and finally providing a stage to emerge victo-rious in aspects of all-round development and excellence.

The World of Open Source

By Manpriya Kaur

Introduction:

A widely quoted definition of Open Source goes as follows: Open source refers to a computer program in which the source code is available to the general public for use and/or modification from its original design. Open-source code is typically a collaborative effort where programmers improve upon the source code and share the changes within the community so that other members can help improve it further.

In practice, a typical open-source project uses a web or other Internet site as repository for the source code, documentation, discussion, design documents, bug and issue lists, and other artifacts associated with the project. A particular person or group is the copyright owner for the source, at least initially, and this owner grants permission for individual or other groups to modify the source, mediated through a version control system. Examples of popular open-source software products are [Mozilla Firefox](#), [Google Chromium](#), [Android](#) and the [Apache OpenOffice Suite](#).

The popular media tends to paint a superficial and simplistic picture of Open-source software. Let's take a closer look and shed some light on what open source is all about.

Myth 1: Open-source Development is relatively new

Open source is as old as computer engineering. Sharing software code was assumed in places, such as MIT or Stanford, way back in the 1960s. Early development of ARPAnet was helped by freely available source code, a practice that continued as it grew into today's Internet.

Myth 2: Open-source software is low quality

Well, there may be initially as many bugs in an open source code as in a propriety code, but because it's open, more developers will actually look at the code, catching many bugs in the process, hence, improving the quality of the code.

Myth 3: Open source is unregulated and anyone can contribute code

Not anyone can access and change open-source code. The access to open source code is controlled, and any changes to the source must either address the problem, or enhance the product.

Myth 4: Open source organizations do not own their intellectual property

Open source software is subject to the same copyright laws as closed-source software. The license grants others the right to examine and use the source code, without hampering the company's ownership of the code.

Myth 5: Open source development is done by hobbyists and students

The proposition that open source lacks professionalism is an out of date myth. According to a recent study by Boston Consulting Group, over 45% of those participating in open source projects were experienced, professional programmers, and another 20% being IT managers.

Why develop open source programs?

Ever wondered, why Mozilla creates a top-notch browser and gives it away as open

Google Summer of Code

Google Summer of Code or GSoC is a global program which offers students stipend to write code for open source projects during the summer. The program is open for students aged 18 or over. Since its inception in 2005, the program has brought together over 7500 successful student participants from 97 countries and over 7000 mentors from over 100 countries worldwide.

Through Google Summer of Code, accepted student applicants are paired with mentor(s) from the participating projects, thus gaining exposure to real-world software development scenarios and the opportunity for employment in areas related to their academic pursuits.

Strategies To Get Selected In GSoC

- » Pick an organization that interests you.
- » Connect with the community via mailing list and IRC channels and ask them how you could start contributing.
- » Keep contributing, exploring and learning. Don't hesitate to ask for help when stuck.
- » When the application period for GSoC starts, find a project that interests you.
- » Draft a proposal and ask a community member to review it.
- » Submit the proposal.
- » Wait for your proposal to get accepted.

source? Why Sun bought StarDivision and made StarOffice an open source program (called OpenOffice.org)? This is because these organizations make money this way, or at least plan to. Companies like Twitter, Netflix, and Ericsson are actually willing to pay developers to participate in the Open Source Software community, and they develop and use open source in their own frameworks.

Developing an open source program benefits a large number of people. The programmer gets to work with an extremely helpful community. This can hone his/her programming skills to a large extent. The organizations benefit as their code is getting refined, without much expenditure. Best of all, the user experience of the program gets better as a number of people are involved in finding and fixing the bugs.

With more and more companies understanding the importance of open source, the key role it plays in developing innovative software, and the rapid progressive development it enables, Open Source community has a bright future.

Tools used for open-source development:

Before starting with an open source project, a budding developer must be aware of a few commonly used tools.

» Communication Channels

Most open source organizations use mailing lists/Internet Relay Chat to communicate with each other, as not all working on the project are in proximity. [IRC](#) or Internet Relay Chat is a giant chat room for a community that can have one or hundreds of users. It is a great way for someone to pose a general question and for anyone to answer the question versus sending email to one person directly.

» Version Control Systems

A version control system (also known as a Revision Control System) is a repository of files, often the files for the source code of computer programs, with monitored access. Every change made to the source is tracked, along with who made the change, why they made it, and references to problems fixed, or enhancements introduced, by the change. [Git](#) and [Mercurial](#) are the leading distributed Version Control Systems.

» Bug Tracking Systems

A bug tracking system or defect tracking system is a software application, which keeps track of reported software bugs in software development projects. The time a bug was reported, its severity, details on how to reproduce the bug and the erroneous program behaviour gets recorded in a database, which is the major component of a bug tracking system. [Bugzilla](#) and [Mantis Bug Tracker](#) are the commonly used bug tracking systems.

Open source organizations:

In order to get started with open source development, a person should firstly choose a programming language and then, search for the projects based on it. Few open source projects, suitable for beginners are:

OpenHatch

[OpenHatch](#) is a non-profit organization with the goals of lowering the barriers to entry into the open source community and increasing diversity. It achieves these goals through a number of initiatives, like running educational events and maintaining free, web-based learning tools, to help people get involved in collaborative software development.

It has an active IRC chat room, #openhatch, on Freenode, where they mentor new contributors. Its search page also filters out bugs based on languages and projects, hence making it easier for beginners.

The Mozilla Foundation

The Mozilla Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes openness, innovation and participation on the Internet. Established in July, 2003, with start-up funds from the Netscape division of AOL, the Mozilla Foundation exists to provide organizational, legal, and financial support for the Mozilla open-source software project. Getting started with Mozilla is simple as it has multiple gateways for its new contributors:

- [What can I do for mozilla?](#)

This site suggests projects based on the programming skill selected by the user.

- [Bugs Ahoy!](#)

Bugs Ahoy is a site particularly for the new contributors. The website categorizes the 'Easy bugs' and 'Mentored Bugs' based on the various project like JS Engine, Devtools, Firefox OS etc. `

OpenStack

OpenStack is a set of software tools for building and managing cloud computing platforms for private and public clouds. Users deploy this platform as an 'infrastructure as a service' solution. Hundreds of the world's largest brands, like Paypal, Bloomberg, Go Daddy and other rely on OpenStack to run their business.

Visit [openstack.org](#) to view its different components, namely Swift, Glance, Nova, Horizon, Keystone etc. Each of these components have their own page, which contains the link to repository, bug tracker, documentation etc. They could be reached on their active IRC chat room, #openstack, on Freenode.

The NSIT Story



Kunal Arora, Batch of 2016, is a student of IT. He was selected in GSoC in 2014. Here's an excerpt from his interview with **The Alliance**:

"It was in January 2014, when I felt the urge to be a part of a real-world project. Prior to this, I'd worked on a few personal projects. So, I started searching online for an organization I could contribute to and came across Mozilla. Hence, began my open-source journey. I looked for projects under Mozilla and contributed to the ones which seemed interesting to me and suited my skill-set, by sending bug patches with some help from the Mozilla community. It was exciting for me to know that I was contributing to software, which would possibly be used by thousands of people and this motivated me to apply for GSoC'14.

For GSoC, I chose SugarLabs which aims at developing and promoting Sugar, a learning software for children. The main aim of my GSoC project was to port the Sugar software, which was originally built in Python2, to Python3. My experience with SugarLabs was wonderful. It was a great learning experience, working with skilled developers and a helpful SugarLabs community."



At 31 years of age, filled with vigour and vitality Dr. Pinaki Chakraborty is the youngest faculty member in the Division of Computer Engineering of our college. A professed programmer, he began coding at the tender age of eight. An ardent reader of Mahabharata, he shares his experience in NSIT, and thoughts on research as a career in an exclusive interview.

Q1. Sir, let’s begin with your background. What inspired you to venture into the noble field of teaching and research?

I completed my schooling from DPS Mathura Road. Early in my childhood, I realized that programming is the only rational thing

Everyone has a story to tell but, some stories are inspirational. Asmit Kumar is one of them. Hailing from Gorakhpur, he has followed his dreams. Being in one of the country’s premier colleges hasn’t deterred him from pursuing his passions. He is an untold story, a true wanderer in the jungles of NSIT. A three time National bronze medallist and having been invited to the international stage, he is well known in the weightlifting circle. The Alliance brings you this amazing story, the first of many. Here are excerpts from his interview.

Q1. So, Asmit Sir, Cricket, Tennis, Football etc. are some of the “popular” sports in India. How did your journey with weightlifting start?

Well, it all started with my brother. He was a year senior and in fact, passed out from this very college. He was a weightlifter and then got a job at SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited).

It all started with the Winter Sports in my first year. Just a month before the championship, I joined a local gym and after some basic training, I bagged the silver medal at the Winter Sports.

I followed this up with training at a well-known gym nearby, which was headed by Shri Mukesh Gehlot. He saw me perform and said -‘You are medal material.’ I quote him “*Agar tera medal nahi aata hai , toh main gym band karwa dunga*”. That one sentence instilled even more confidence in me. I started taking part in University level competitions against competitive and fierce sportsmen.

Finally I got a break and went on to represent the State at the Nationals in my second year, and followed it up with another win.

Q2. (Seeing his bulky biceps) Did you always have muscles like these or is it because of weightlifting training?

See, it’s never about the body. You see so many beefed up muscular people but they aren’t all weightlifters. It’s about the technique, followed by power lifting. If you have the right technique, you can lift anything. Obviously, self-belief is very important.

Professor’s Profile: Dr. Pinaki Chakraborty

By Jatin Mahajan

in this grossly irrational world. I wrote my first program when I was eight years old. In those days, I used to write programs in GW-BASIC and run them on a BBC Micro-computer System. I did my B.Tech. in Computer Science from Indraprastha University. A couple of IT companies shortlisted me at the end of my bachelors. The job offers were luring, but my heart always strived for knowledge and led me to the field of research in computer science.

The first breakthrough came in the 2nd year of my college when I received best paper award in a seminar organized by my college. I was elated to see that my hard work eventually lead to fruition. I did my M.Tech and Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology is my first assignment. It’s only been three months here, and it’s a phenomenal feeling to be surrounded by some of the best minds of the country.

Q2. You were a student a year back. How does it feel to be a teacher now?

It’s a nice feeling. My age places me equi-

distant between the professors and the students. NSIT has a reputation of drawing the cream students from in and around Delhi. It is an honour for me to teach such bright students. Moreover, being a teacher I will remain surrounded by young students for the rest of life and will never grow old, at least mentally.

Q3. What courses do you teach? Please also enlighten us about your area of expertise.

I am currently teaching a course on Computer System Organization to the fifth semester students and another course on Compiler and Translator Design to seventh semester students. I had been working on compilers for the last nine years, that’s my primary area of research.

Q4. Sir, any projects you are currently involved in? If yes, can students be a part of these projects?

I am currently researching on compiler support for energy efficient computing. I am also supervising a few compiler technology related projects.

Hard-working, persevering and passionate students are always welcome from all branches. I can guide them and work with them as well.

Q5. Sir, do you have any hobby?

In my childhood I used to pursue quite a few hobbies. Nowadays, I try to take out a few hours to catch up with my reading. Earlier, I used to be fond of poetry and fiction. However, now I prefer reading biographies of scientists and history. The scientist whose biography I enjoyed reading most is Alan Turing. Isn’t that choice obvious for a computer scientist? The historic figure whom I admire most is George Washington. I strongly support his notion of non-partisan democracy.

Q6. What advice would you like to give to NSITians?

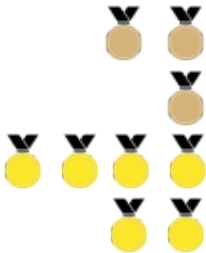
My advice to all the students would be to study hard and apply whatever they are learning. They should take up projects in their area of interest. I honestly feel students must stand out. They should also change their attitude towards classroom teaching. Attending classes regularly is very important. Going back and pondering upon what’s taught is even more important. Hard work and determination never fail anyone. So if all the NSITians stay focussed, they’ll definitely succeed.

Wanderers of NSIT: Asmit Kumar

By Chandan Kar



National Medals - 2 Bronze
Federation Cup - 1 Bronze
Delhi State - 4 Gold
Delhi University - 2 Gold



Q3. Even after all your weightlifting endeavours, you have fared decently in academics. Shed some light, please?

As we all know, there is a lot of spare time. Time should be managed well. Also, one needs to be serious. I knew what I was getting into. I knew there would be a lot of pressure and I thought I could handle it. A lot of these competitions and tournaments happen around our college end semester exams. There have been difficult times when I have had to compete in a tourna-

ment, just a week before the semester exams. I had to struggle hard in those last 2-3 days before the exams even when my body was completely drained out, demanding respite.

But the seriousness to handle everything gets the better of me and I push myself physically to the limits.

Q4. Has the college not been able to give any kind of support that could have helped you better?

It’s tricky to say the least. I am grateful that I have a platform like NSIT to make my dreams come true. But, a little bit of additional support would have helped. I couldn’t take part in professional training camps before international competitions as they usually last for two months, and in a college like NSIT, attendance is a nuisance. I do wish that something is done about this.

It is unfortunate to see the college sponsoring students’ initiatives like fests, workshops or HNMUN, but not provide financial aid to a budding sportsman. This is not just an issue with the college, but even our government, which hardly celebrates the winning of laurels by our country’s sportsmen.

Q5. How has your family coped with everything? Is it very difficult these days to garner support for one’s passions?

Luckily, my brother had already paved some way for me by the time I started competitive weightlifting. My parents have been really proud of my achievements. Every parent wants their child to be successful and mine are no different. As I mentioned, my decent performance in academics, time-management, hard work has brought faith in them.

Q6. What is your advice for the people in NSIT who want to follow their passion?

I think one needs to be smart. Some passions will just remain passions if the person is bad at time management. This is NSIT- a place with an abundance of spare time. Utilize it well and one will succeed.

Q7. How does an athlete get selected for international competitions like Olymics and Commonwealth ?

After the nationals, the top three are spotted by the National coaches. The shortlisted athletes from all over the country undergo two months of training for International trials. I was also selected for this training and, received an offer letter from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Delhi State, after bagging the bronze at Nationals. But as I mentioned the college wouldn’t grant me a leave for two months. As there is no age limit on participation, I will pursue this after my graduation.

Hostel Diaries 104 : Crash Landing A Wedding

By Deepanshu Kaul Philip

MISSION OBJECTIVE:

Get a photo clicked with the lucky couple, so that they give each other puzzled looks while flipping through their wedding album.

TACTICAL BRIEFING:

Dark days they were- 1st Semester Exams! The very thought of the dreaded subject “Manufacturing Processes” sends a chill down my spine. It is a subject which requires relentless amount of cramming, thus making the choice to not waste time studying for this exam, the only sensible option. Amidst our growling stomachs, someone came up with the brilliant plan (as hostellers usually do) of gate crashing the wedding, across the college.

The eight expendables were perfect for the covert operation – Utsav, Sumeet, Shivek, Shan, Vipul, Sid, Addy and I. We, the BH4 squadron mercenaries, with no fear of our parents disowning us, were airborne, with one intent - NO BLACK HAWK DOWN-BEHIND ENEMY LINES. Stealth was the key to this mission.

EXECUTION PHASE:

With Yo Yo Honey Singh songs jarring our ears, it was easy for us to navigate our way to “Rohit Party Palace”. We decided to enter in pairs through the front gate, with brazen confidence. On our way in, we noticed a board at the entry-”Tanu Weds XYZ”. This was a valuable piece of information just in case our identity was compromised. After clearing the border posts, we were now in enemy territory. Seeing the array of dishes, we broke our formation. We hastily picked up our plates, and quickly started piling up. I reckon that was our first give away, as the only ones in the dinner queue were the aged family veterans. While serving myself Butter Paneer, I could see from the corner of my eye, two bold and bald middle aged

guys signaling to one another. I realized that trouble was lurking around the corner, but I was too scared to communicate with my team, fearing enemy interception. We had obviously popped up on their radar.

I suppressed my fears and sat in the row of chairs near the stage with some kids. While gobbling down the food, I would nod in consent, pretending to be engaged in a serious discussion with them (the all too familiar art of deception).

Suddenly out of the blue, the baraat arrived. It all became clear now, why the rest of the people had restrained their pangs of hunger all this while. I made my way to the desserts, but stopped, amazed to see the rest of my troop occupying the round centre table and clicking selfies! I implored them to be cautious, but they seemed obliv-

ious to any suggestion amid the fun. Clearly, the pilots had gone rogue. In the face of consternation, I decided to help myself to some kesar kulfi. I sauntered around looking for a dark corner, when my eyes fell on Utsav. A gentleman in his late sixties had his arm around Utsav’s shoulder. Normally, the sight would have seemed avuncular, but for the uncle’s sardonic laughs. Time dilated as I tossed aside my kesar kulfi, and looked towards the round table to check on the other pilots. They had vanished! Even before it dawned upon me, we were now engaged in a dogfight. Sumeet and Shivek were surrounded by hefty men. Amidst the distress mayday calls, I paved my way dodging enemy flak, to the entrance gate just in time to see Sid and Shan, kamikazeing a chain of security men (It almost seemed like a live pro-Kabbadi match). We had raised a hullabaloo. I spotted a way out,

through the gap between the tents. I was about to leap across the flower pot blocking it when a hand clutched my collar from behind. Instinctively, I used my close range weapon, raising my pinki finger. He let go off me. With gymnastic dexterity I bolted across the parking lot, and the road, adroitly dodging the speeding traffic. Panting I reached the hostel. Addy and Vipul had also made it back to base.

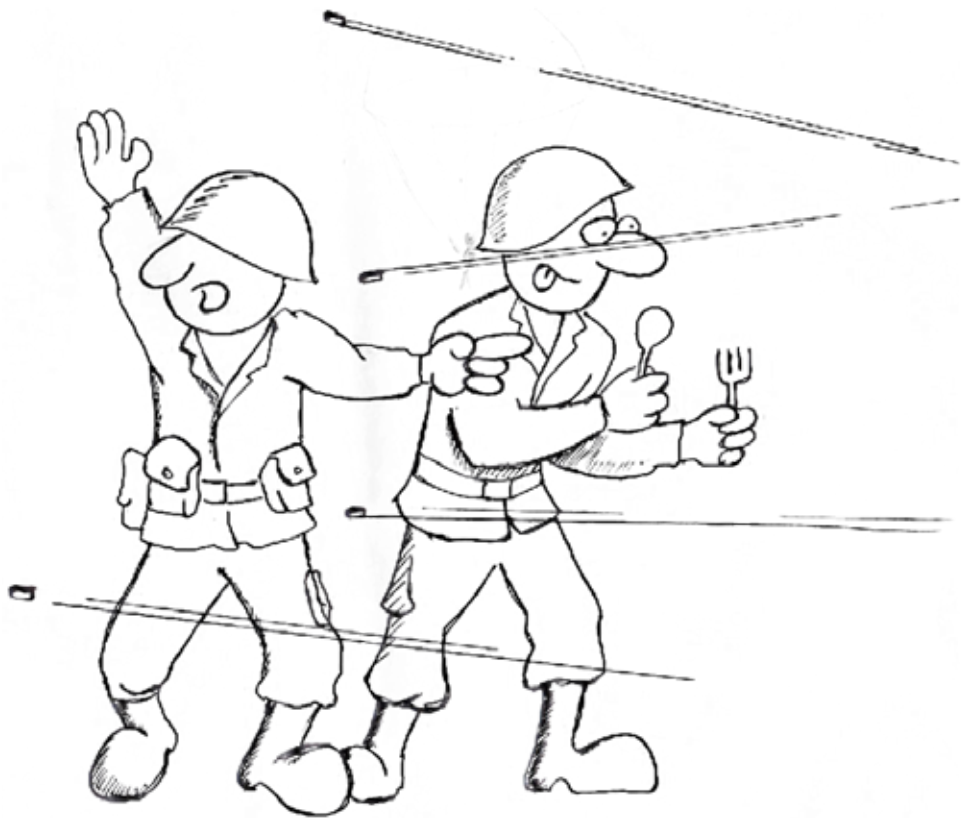
DEBRIEF REPORT:

The atmosphere was pensive. On one hand, weddings are auspicious so we expected the enemy to release our comrades, without any filmy melodrama. On the other hand, being a low budget wedding, the POWs (prisoners of war) could face brutality and torture, somewhere off the battlefield.

Time elapsed and the POWs –Sumeet, Shan, Sid and Shivek returned with bruises of moral counseling.The wait continued..... Then emerged Utsav flinging his dogtag (read Hostel Id card) at Pandeyji. Seeing our inquisitive faces, Utsav gave out a detailed account of his conversation with the “Uncle”:

Uncle (Switching to missile fire): *Beta*, from which side are you?
Utsav (Deploying flares): Tanu Didi.
Uncle (Locking target): You work in her office?
Utsav (Roll out): No, I am her neighbor.
Uncle (In the crosshair, missile fired): Oh,Where do you live?
Utsav (I’m Hit. Eject): Ummm, Delhi....
It turned out that the uncle was “General *Tanu ke Papa*”, an ace fighter pilot.

The mission wasn’t a complete failure. An upset tummy and a 42/100 in Manufacturing Processes were decent takeaways. P.S: Rather embarrassing, but the same wedding was heavily bombed by our seniors’ BH-2 squadron later (Experience counts).



Perfection is his habit. Non-conformism is his norm. Creativity is his second-self. This novice director has garnered much praise for his work, ideas and the directorial skills from critics, audience, peers and the fraternity alike. Dibakar Banerjee has redefined cinema, re-created the aura of Delhi and brought out the best in many actors.

‘A poster boy for the so-called Indie Movement’ (as quoted by the Caravan Magazine), Dibakar has given some very unconventional hits. While the national award-winning film Khosla ka Ghosla started off his directorial venture, all the movies that followed (from this self-made director) have lived up to the debut film’s excellence. He has experimented with direction styles with LSD, tying up the film in purposely amateurish video recordings to leave the desired impact. He has constantly re-invented yet stayed true to not directing a song-dance mainstream rom-com.

A self-proclaimed movie-buff, Dibakar’s life has forever revolved around the movies he saw. He dropped out of the prestigious NID, Ahmedabad to pursue his passions in film-making. He joined advertising while working on his big break. A prodigious genius, convinced of his ideas, Dibakar launched his debut film, Khosla ka Ghosla in an industry teeming with competition and talent. The movie drew major parallels with his upbringing in Delhi - the typical culture, problems, lingua of the quintessential middle class Delhi-ite. His subsequent movie OLLO (Oye Lucky Lucky Oye)

Dibakar Banerjee The Experimental Creator By Deepshikha Acharya



“I SEE THE COUNTRY AS A PRESSURE COOKER OF UNREALIZED DREAMS AND AMBITIONS. ON ONE HAND THERE IS A CLASS THAT HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS AND EARNED A LOT OF MONEY. IT FLAUNTS ITS NEW FOUND WEALTH ALL THE TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS STARK POVERTY. DESPITE THESE CONCERNS, I DID NOT WANT TO MAKE THE FILM DIDACTIC. I HAVE TOLD IT AS AN ENTERTAINING SATIRE.”
- DIBAKAR BANERJEE

too went on to win the national award, labeling him as “one of the best directors” (as quoted by Anurag Kashyap) the industry had to offer. LSD, Shanghai only cemented his fan-following amongst the ‘intelligent’ modern movie-goers, looking out for parallel cinema with ‘substance’.

In a joint-venture direction-production of four of the most influential directors of today, Dibakar paid his tribute on 100 years on Indian Cinema through his short-film ‘Star’ in Bombay Talkies. He was paired with stalwarts like Anurag Kashyap, Zoya Akhtar and Karan Johar for this venture. His recent production ‘Titli’ was selected to take part in the Un Certain Regard section of the 2014 Cannes Film Festival. The story revolves around a car-jacking family business, the youngest member of which, Titli, wants out. His latest directorial-production is Detective Byomkesh Bakshi , re-creating the aura of old Bengal and one of its greatest detectives (fictitious character) - another movie-with-a-difference for the connoisseurs of Indian cinema to look forward to.

Dibakar Banerjee Productions (DBP) is now a banner to reckon with, having produced such un-conventional hits over the last decade. A director who promises perfection and a cinematic experience with a difference, Dibakar has made his mark. As he endeavors to exceed his previous standards with every new film he creates, his name is sure to be etched amongst the stalwarts of modern-experimental cinema.

Note: the authoress does not take responsibility for any characters/place/events that have been written thusly. This is fiction and such instances are purely coincidental.

The NSIT admin is a picturesque place. A beautiful building, the very first piece of infrastructure you see, on entering the college. Surrounded by the scenic flowers and the lovely breeze, some might mistake it for a heavenly abode. But enter and ye shall find. Here’s a quick guide for the lost souls.

EXPERIMENT/RECIPE NO.1
Steps to get a duplicate Id-card made.

1. Lose your present Id-card.
2. Get an FIR made.The police chowki might send you on round trips to the admin.
3. Go to the admin. Get stopped by the guard. Get in after a long unneeded explanation.
4. Get shown to another room.
5. Get shown to another, ‘another room’.
6. Fill a form.
7. Get shown to another room.
8. Paste your photograph. Glue available at undisclosed location (figure-it-out exercise) . Get shown to another room.
9. Submission ‘process’ starts. . Wait till employee finishes tea.
10. Listen to how Misra ji’s daughter got married.
11. Listen to the employee’s grocery list.
12. Listen to how busy the employee is. Lose a few brain cells.
13. Submit form.Hallelujah !
14. Come to collect Id-card next day. Get shown to another room.
15. Come to collect Id-card the next day. Listen to how busy employee is.
16. Add a dash of weekends and pinch of Half-days.
17. Come to collect Id-card the next day. Get shown to another employee.
- ...
- 100.Come to collect Id-card after a few eras.
101. Voila! Now lose it again for a whole-some experience.

How To Get Work Done At The Admin

By Yashna Paliya



EXPERIMENT/RECIPE NO.2
Steps to get an admit card.

1. Come to ask for admit card. Get told off.
2. Come again 2 weeks before exam again. Get told off.
3. Camp with basic necessities in front of the admin for admit card with other colleagues.
4. Voila!
5. Come back next semester for the new semester’s admit card. Repeat process about 8 times.

EXPERIMENT/RECIPE NO.3
Steps to get exam schedules/results on time.

1. You don’t.

These above mentioned steps may seem

exaggerated to you. But the reality is much more brazen. But fear not, reader, I have a solution to help you avoid a visit to the psychiatrist after your admin trauma.

What to really do when at the Admin. (And fail miserably)

- 1. Be calm.**
When you stand there in line or run from one room to another, try to not pull your hair out or let out screams of agony. Take a deep breath and think of donuts. Keep calm and ride the admin wave.
- 2. Get some perspective from others.**
Understand their situation. While you are free to run off to Sector Chaar or dear old parking lot (we don’t judge), they’re stuck with files and folders. Cut them some slack there.

3. Build a rapport.
Stuck there listening to them rant away? Might as well join the delightful discourse. Ignite the hidden conversationalist in you and make some new/only friends. Will help you get your next Id-card a little quicker.

4. Treat the person with respect.
Refrain from using &@&&# *&! , \$# *&@^@/ and #&#&\$&. Use the power of the beautiful mind and limit these to your head. Meanwhile keep a smile plastered on your face. Remember your practical vivas? Perfect.

5. Phrases/ actions not to be used.

“Bhaiya, jaldi kardo.”
“I have a class also.”
“This is the fiftieth time I’ve come today!”
rolls eyes

6. Ignore.
If the above don’t work for you, bring out the biggest weapon from your arsenal. Zone out like Barney Stinson and return to earth only when called.

7. Avenge yourself.
Kill yourself and reincarnate as them. Sip tea while you make your grocery list. Give out an evil laugh.

You are now fully prepared to face the admin Loch Ness. This is your Riddikulus for the boggart, your ‘pitradeva sangrakshanam’ for the demontor, your Expelliarmus for the Avada Kedavra. Basically, you’re READY.

The authoress repeats, any coincidences that may have inadvertently become a part of this self presumed satire are genuinely unintentional. Any aggrieved/offended have her sincerest apologies. Also, she needs to collect her degree after (hopefully) a couple of years.

You make us stand in long, long lines,
And make us perpetually whine.
You make us wait, you make us wince,
Yet we’ll never stop loving the admin!

‘She plays with great sensitivity and emotion, bending and twisting notes so that they pirouette like the dancers that spin around in interminable circles. Sometimes they leap from the great globe of the sitar and bolt like excited impalas as they ascend into the infinite blue.’
-The World Music Report

Anoushka Shankar is a thrice-nominated Grammy artist, an acclaimed writer, as well as an actor.

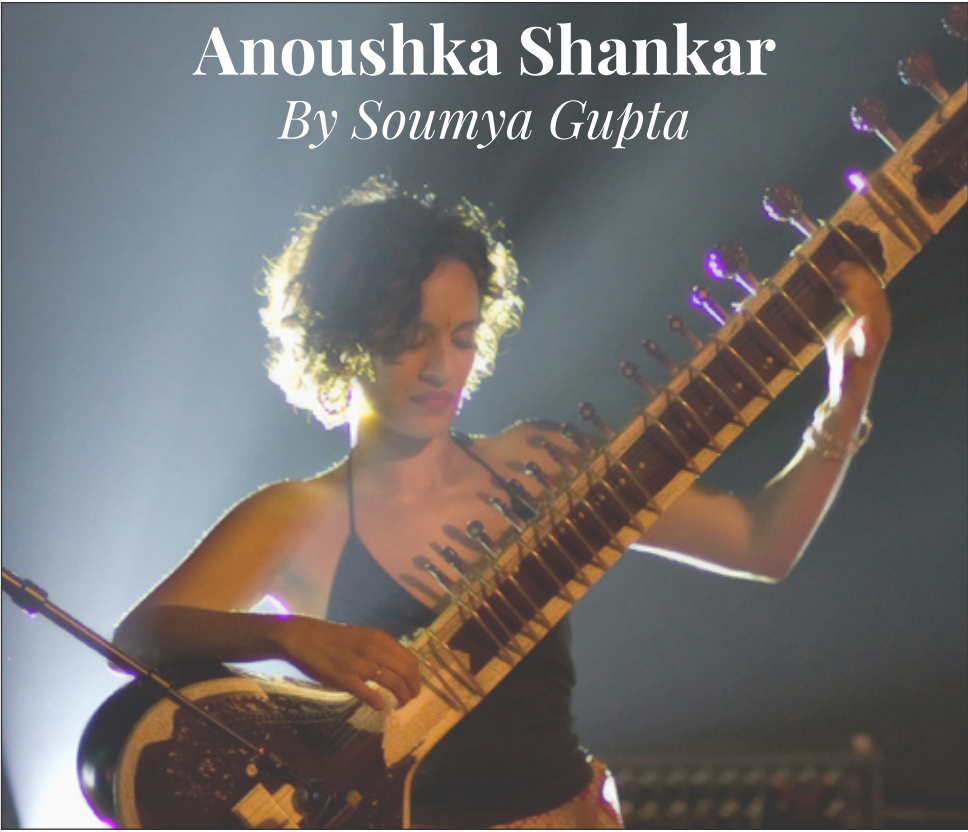
She is one of the major exponents of the World Music Scene. All this, at 33 years of age. She is also the daughter of the famous sitar maestro, late Ravi Shankar.

What Her Music Feels Like

Imagine a comfortable room, with dimmed lights floating in from outside, a light breeze flows in, the doors slightly ajar, and light banter between your loved ones. Take a deep breath, forget about all the worldly sentiments. One doesn’t have to make a conscious attempt to clear out one’s mind though, the music does it for you. Now try to imagine melodies which make you connect with your soul. They induce emotions in you, as every song is played. An old memory, a lost friend, a new joy, a lucky happenstance, an unhealed wound. Her music feels as raw as it is elegant; it feels soothing, but it has its own strength to it; it brings you home to Varanasi as much as it takes you around the world.

Her Journey

Born in an environment of music, Shankar always had a musical bent of mind. She



went professional by the age of 13. At 16, she signed her first contract. Ever since, she’s been creating a niche for herself in the world music industry. Her third album, ‘Live at Carnegie Hall’ was nominated for the Grammys, making her the youngest and the only woman to be nominated for this category. Since then, she has been nominated twice for her albums, ‘Rise’and ‘Traveller’. It is said that she lost out on her award for ‘Traveller’, only to her father for an album he released the same year. She has released another album recently, ‘Traces of You’, which she dedicated to her recently passed-away father, Ravi Shankar.

Her Style

Shankar usually delves into merging Indian sounds with other styles. In previous projects, she has merged Indian Classical with Spanish Flamenco, Jazz and even Electronica. As daring as that sounds, this innovation is exactly what sets her apart. And the impressive part is that none of her projects have fallen flat on the ground, all of them are highly acclaimed not just by critics but by souls around the world.

Her album ‘Breathing Under Water’ was an affair with Electronic music, and the result

was a beautiful love child. Her track ‘Slither’ has a sharp sound as it genre-hops from the strings of the sitar to Kale’s percussion while ‘Easy’, featuring her half-sister-jazz-artist Norah Jones, oscillates gracefully between the vocals and the instrument. Her next album ‘Traveller’ explores the links between Indian music and Spanish flamenco, the result of ancient Gypsy migration. The best tracks are those where she is uninhibited with her sitar melodies against Flamenco percussions, this set epitomizes the impulsiveness of both Spanish and Indian music.

Her latest album, ‘Traces of You’ is in another paradigm from her former projects. Here, she’s at her vulnerable best making music about things or people which affect her. But the outspoken thing about the album is that she connects with the listener. Her grief, her joy, her fascination is not spoken but can be listened to, through her tracks. Another thing which sets this album apart is that one cannot categorize it as Indian Classical Music, Anoushka Shankar creates a whole genre for herself. So, it is not just Classical music, its Anoushka Shankar kind of music.

Why You Should Listen

Try out something new, why don’t you? It’s Indian, but it’s not Bollywood. It’s International, but it’s not One Republic. It’s a different kind of music. It’s the kind of music which puts you in a meditative state, so, introspect. Find out the meaning of life and other mysteries. It’s a different trip altogether.

Diary Entry Of A Warrior

By Gautam Kumar Sharma

1 July 2015

Heat, sand and blood! It really is too much. It is my third day at this camp here. Everything here is ominously quiet. In the day, when the sweltering sun scorches over you, you can even hear the sweat moving from your forehead, dropping to your chin and then falling off in the sand in complete oblivion. Just like me, some poor soldier must be at some deserted godforsaken piece of land, unseen by the probing eyes of the world, those war mongering eyes sitting at high places making ‘tough’ decisions and showing their support by enjoying fine bottles of Cognac at their late-night parties! But more than that, I remember my mother. I can picture my mother, a woman of 82, white hair with a few strands of grey, clad in a white sari with a yellow border, ironically reading ‘Long Walk to Freedom’ on the porch and humming my childhood lullaby. How broken she was when I left her to serve the mother of us all. My officer tells me and my comrades to be ready for the

war from across the border to our west. But I see no border, no fences; just sculptures of sand driven by the cold western winds, the peace and tranquillity of the land, only broken by abrupt bouts of gunfire which then reveal the ocean of mangled bodies dividing us.

4 July 2015

Rifles and pistols fire beside me. Mortar bombs tear the limbs of my comrades. Ricochet firing has us surrounded from all sides. The no man’s land in front of me is hard to see for it is covered with the dead bodies of men. There is no way to identify them now since they are dead. They all have died fighting for their mother, for this small piece of land that has claimed countless lives before and will gorge on numerous more now! This fight is about the honour and esteem of my mother, not only my country but my own mother who is sitting on the porch waiting for me, waiting for her Godot to return. But even in this

war of honour, my heart falters. I can’t wait for this war to end, to see those promises which the authority has made to us, to be in the shadow of my mother again! To live those days of glory and fame and ...Blood! My best friend just got hit by rouge cannon fire, his guts spilling over the floor of dead bodies on which he was standing! As the dry winds shepherd my friend’s soul away, I could feel a sharp jab on my shoulder just below the collar bone. I place my hand on it to support myself but it is wet. I am hit!

August 2033

I wake up to the sound of hard banging on the thick steel door of my room, only lit by the light of fluorescent lamps trickling in through the bars on the top of the door. Describing this place as a room is not incongruous. It is more like a dingy gutter hole even deserted by rats who probably found it too difficult to stay there! On the left side, there is a narrow steel bunk affixed to the wall with heavy chains. There is a small

sliding door at the bottom of the door from which the food comes in. I have stayed so long here (Sahib says 18 years) that I have forgotten the warmth of the sun tingling on the skin, the smell of the soil when rain-drops wash over it and the sweet merry chirping of the birds in the morning sky. But I can hear the silent shrieks echoing off the corridors. I can feel the scratches made on the door by the prisoners before me. I can smell the bodies of the countless people whose bodies have decayed behind these walls. The darkness in my cell has percolated to my mind as well. Sometimes, I wake up at night (probably) dreaming about an old woman sitting on a porch humming a lullaby. I guess this memory is the only remnant of my past life. At present, I am waiting for my redemption. The noose on my neck would be the last piece of the jigsaw and death will provide me with the answers that life couldn’t. This is my last hope, my last wish!

According to this Bhagwad Gita Shloka, “The soul is never born and never dies at any time nor does it come into being again when the body is created. The soul is birthless, eternal, imperishable and timeless.”

As per the Hindu mythology, every specie traverses 84 lakh birth cycles again and again unless it gets ‘mukti’. The ‘aatma’ does not perish away, but keeps on changing bodies. Many humans believe that the ‘aatma’ which has left its body and more importantly had its body killed by some unforeseen circumstances, is free and is in a wanton of some other physical body.

There are believers in every country, who believe that there exists a world other than physical. Different countries of the world have different beliefs and stories about spirits and ghosts. But it all boils down to a fact that ghosts are considered as evil entities in most of the societies of the world.

Prurient Paranormal Ponderings

By Vinshu Jain and Akanksha Thareja

“नजायतेम्रयितेवाकदाचन्निनायंभूत्वाभवतिवानभूयः अजोनत्तियःशाश्वतोयंपुराणोनहन्यतेहन्यमानेशरीरे”

OUIJA BOARD:

The Spiritualist movement was pretty big in the 1840s and 1850s. It provided a way for people to talk to their dead loved ones. One method of communication was the Ouija board. Still popular today, the board was covered in letters, numbers, and simple words (like “yes” or “no”). People would then place their hands on a wooden piece called a planchette and ask the spirits a question. A ghost would respond by moving the planchette from letter to letter, spelling out a response (or unleashing Captain Howdy).

Humans can hear sounds up to 20,000 Hertz, but we’re unable to detect anything lower than 20 Hz. These “silent” noises are called infrasound, and while we can’t hear them, we can feel them in the form of vibrations. Dr. Richard Wiseman says we can feel these waves, especially in our stomachs, and this can create either a positive feeling (such as awe) or a negative feeling (such as unease). In the right surroundings (see “creepy house”), this might create a sense of panic. Infrasound can be produced by storms, wind, weather patterns, and even

vide secret knowledge about the universe. When the psychic clears his mind, random ideas and images start popping up in his head, and the medium assumes these thoughts are coming from another entity. However, these ideas are just coming from his mind. Our brains are capable of coming up with all kinds of crazy stuff without any conscious effort on our part.

So, going by the research, next time you hear a spooky sound or see a shadow ghost near your bed, rather than calling the Ghostbusters, call a Scientist.

Having seen both sides of the coin, we come to the conclusion that it will be quite a revelation but is quite possible that a parallel world exists which is inhabited by ghosts, spirits, zombies and other supernatural beings which are, to put it quite simply, natural but not yet understood. The existence of such a parallel universe depends entirely through what perspective we view the pos-



Shadow People

SHADOW PEOPLE

Frightened witnesses all over the world have seen the shadow people. These dark beings are glimpsed out of the corner of the eye only to vanish when confronted. Many believe them to be demons, some think they’re astral bodies, and some say they’re time travelers, here for a second and gone. However, the research tells that such shadows are created merely due to stimulation of brain. By interfering with the temporo-parietal junction, the part of the brain that defines the idea of self that helps us tell the difference between ourselves and others, we can affect the brain’s ability to understand its own body, thus leading to the creation of a shadow person.

Con men were definitely involved in some of these incidents, but were all these encounters frauds? Renowned physicist Michael Faraday wanted to find out. Through clever experimentation, Faraday discovered that the tables were often moving thanks to the ideomotor effect. This is when the power of suggestion causes our muscles to move unconsciously. It’s our own muscles that are doing the spelling, not the spirits.

SPOOKY SOUNDS:

Have you ever experienced swishy, creepy, haunting noises in your bedroom at night? If not, you must have had it experienced in a 3D horror movie. These ghostly sounds are actually vibrations that haunt you.



Ouija Board

everyday appliances. So beware, your PC next to you might be the next to haunt you.

POSSESSION OF BODY BY A SPIRIT

Channeling has been one of mankind’s oldest attempts to reach out to the spirit world. The idea is to clear the mind, connect with some sort of cosmic consciousness and let a centuries-old spirit possess your body (automatism).

Automatism is an “altered state of consciousness” where people say things and think things they’re not aware of. So when a psychic clears his mind, he starts searching for a friendly spirit guide. The spirit guide is supposed to enter his body and then pro-

sibility and to what extent we are willing to extend our imagination.

Needless to say, everything is not what it seems and the veil separating reality from fiction is very thin.

Everything depends totally on your ‘Belief’. If you believe that ghosts exist, you’ll be haunted by every other strange thing happening around you. But if you do not, then you are the future researcher!

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



Nakshatra

Nakshatra is the newly formed society, for the keen astronomers, fascinated by the heavens or the exploration of outer space. Apart from sky-gazing, it also focuses on using celestial observation for scientific research. The club would soon be getting all the equipment like telescopes (both reflecting and refracting), sky maps, and adaptors for astrophotography. The main activities that the society would conduct on regular basis are:-

- SKY WATCHING
- GUEST LECTURES
- ONLINE QUIZZES
- RESESARCH & DEVELOPMENT
- ASTRO PHOTOGRAPHY

The club will act as a base for all amateur astronomy related activities and will aim at popularising it in the institute. The exchange of information and spreading of general awareness about various astronomical events will find a common platform in the club. The objective is to provide its students an exposure to the amazing field of astronomy as well as enable them to pursue their hobby/ research interest in this field.

The society is registered in our college. Moreover, being such a fresh idea it has garnered a lot of attention from rest of the colleges of University of Delhi, with appli-



cations for campus ambassadors. Like the universe the ambitions of the society are limitless. The registration is still under process in the university but, once done it will expand to a university level.

The professor in-charge of the society is Dr. Harish Parthasarathy (Division of Electronics and Communication), who has shown interest in this new initiative. He completed his post doc at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics in 1996, to quench his insatiable thirst for knowledge on Galactic Astronomy.

The club has gained a launch pad after collaborating with NEHRU PLANETARIUM, and would now be organizing trips to the same. The director of Nehru Planetarium has also appreciated the society's work and has promised full cooperation from their side.

CONTACT US ON:
<https://www.facebook.com/Nakshatra.DU>
nakshatra.du@gmail.com

SCIC 2014

The Sustainable Campus International Competition gathered applicants from 25+ universities in 20 countries worldwide with one communal goal in 2014- to make a sustainable environmental impact. The aim of this unique competition was to recognize and support the high value of business- case sustainability innovations in the higher education sector.

The team from NSIT, Sparsh, debated its sustainable vision by presenting a unique initiative to set the base of smart e-waste recycling, starting right from the NSIT campus and aimed to gain momentum at a bigger scale, and hence, was declared the ultimate winners, while teams from Mac Ewan University (Re-love Market), Canada and Walk Your Kingston (Kingston University), from United Kingdom were judged the runners-up by the jury panel, presided by Ian Patton, Chief Executive Officer at Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges.

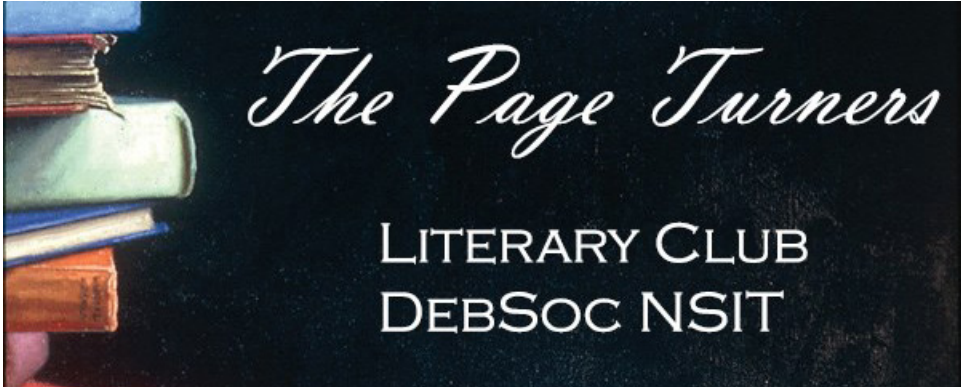


Team Sparsh

Sparsh (a Hindi word meaning 'touch') is an initiative by five second year students of NSIT, Satinderpal Singh, Rajat Tulasyan, Shubhangi Rana, Utkarsh Agarwal, and Vivek Goel, to deal with e-waste smartly by helping the students and society, to understand the concern regarding it. The prime objectives of Sparsh are to create a self-sufficient and sustainable e-waste management system, in which the team members act as intermediates in efficient collection strategy, followed by outsourcing of E-waste for proper recycling practices. Also, the team has worked upon an effective awareness strategy that is ready to be brought into action soon.

Mr. Patton summarized the win, "E-waste is a problem for us all but at Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology; we see pioneering and innovative leadership to tackle the problem head-on. Not only are the social and environmental benefits of this concept huge, Sparsh presented a solid and appealing business case which could well be the start of a whole new enterprise in India."

The Page Turners The Literary Club, Debating Society, NSIT



The Page Turners was started with the objective of bringing literature enthusiasts together to share their love for the art, and exchange ideas. With Laplace transformations and Manufacturing Processes drilled into your head, you need a break from the monotonous curriculum. And NSIT is indeed full of bibliophiles welcoming the much needed change of pace.

So we thought, wouldn't it be wonderful for these people to meet once a month and discuss the characters and books and poems that made them laugh out loud or cry themselves to sleep (if they're the weepy kind)? The real meaning of 'a brother from another mother' dawns on you only, perhaps, when you meet someone who's in love with the same character, same book, same author as you are! And it is only through these discussions that we learn about our next favourite book, don't we?

An initiative that began as a fleeting idea pitched to the Debating Society seniors has now emerged as a significant part of the same, with The Page Turners holding the meeting for DebSoc every last week of the month. We've already had a couple of meetings and the response has been phenomenal.

The way forward is a lot of roads we could take, a lot of ideas we could implement. But we want to do this the right way - letting you decide what you want! Before every meet, we will hold online polls on the genre, the form of literature, the author you'd like to discuss about. In addition, we encourage constant online engagement through arti-

cles, reviews and fun trivia regularly posted on the group. We plan on holding open-mic nights for all the poetic souls out there. Mildly Offensive Content, too, may pay us a visit soon! Our online initiation, the 3 character challenge, saw a lot of participation from freshers and seniors alike, with each person posting about the 3 characters that bewitched them and intrigued them, made them halt and think.

Comic strips, English classics, guilty pleasures, touching short stories and haunting limericks - literature is a multi-faceted, complex art that's often confined to one medium, or one populist form. But the truth remains that from papyrus to your computer screen, a 5 worded quote to 'The Suitable Boy', literature in its every face has the ability to affect, change and shape the way you see the world. We wish to celebrate its every aspect with you. An ode to all the sleepless nights spent reading that one book you just need to know the ending of, reminiscent of the childhood spent staring at the brightly colored panel of your favourite comic book for a little too long with your little pretend cape fluttering subtly under the fan, as a gesture of gratitude to the characters- the ones you related to, the ones you resented and the ones you aspired to become. NSIT having its very own 'Dead Poets' Society', has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

The Page Turners is still an idea in its nascent. It's not yet a complete book but still an unfinished draft. We've added a few chapters but we welcome your ideas and hope it evolves as you add your own, build your own story and take it forward.

The Team

MENTORS Akanksha Dewaker | Ishan Nigam | Shivangi Saxena | Toshit Agarwal

EDITORS

JOURNALISTS

