Why do college start-ups fail?
What is your opinion regarding this? Know more about the reasons for their debacle.

Moksha special
Catch up with the major events of Moksha-2012, the annual cultural fest of NSIT.

Wisdom Tree- Machine Learning
Get to know about one of the fastest emerging fields in the world of computer science.

THE Alliance

BRINGING NSIT TOGETHER

WOMEN ON TOP

Mansi Aggarwal

Shrey Bansiwal

Another year has passed, and NSIT has climbed up a few more notches on the mount of success as three NSITians - Mansi Aggarwal, Sakshi Tomar and Manjot Pahwa- have achieved great laurels by getting into London Business School, London School of Economics and Google,USA respectively. Here is an insight into how they prepared for their exams, their plans for the future and their years spent at NSIT.

Q. You preferred to go for a post graduation without any work experience. What were the reasons behind this? What is your take on the necessity of having some prior work experience?

Ans: Work experience is definitely necessary for students aspiring to pursue MBA. The course I have taken up is Masters in Management. It is a one year program and is not equivalent to an MBA degree. The reason for which I am not going for a work experience is that this program teaches the very basics of business. After doing this program, I will have even better opportunities of jobs, where I would be able to muster better work experience. After that I can contemplate on the fact whether to go for an MBA or not.

Q. What are the pre-requisites for gaining admission to this college?

Ans: The most important requirement is the willingness to apply. One will have to forgo and subside the thought of placements and be committed to his/her decision to go for a post graduation. Other than that, one must explore new boulevards and opportunities. As far as the GMAT score is concerned, it should be around 700/800. Polishing one's writing skills is also very important as it is required

that one writes a lot of essays. It is always an advantage to get your essays checked and rechecked by your guardians, peers, parents and mentors. In addition to that, it definitely helps if you have a prior international exposure through a competition, or an internship.

Q. According to you, what is it about the international institutes that give an edge to students over Indian colleges?

Ans: If you compare the international and domestic institutes, the former are definitely difficult to reach from the financial perspective. However, the exposure that they offer is incomparable. They offer you amazing, highly paid and front end jobs. Also the congregation is explicitly diverse. There are people from

different backgrounds and different cultures that help you learn a lot of other things apart from just academics.

Q. What all internships did you go for during the course of 4 years in college?

Ans: In management, the brand name of internships matters a lot. I went for ADNIG which was a software development internship. I then went for marketing internships in DULCET, with Software For Education, Entertainment and Training Activities (SEETA) as a consultant, and mergers and acquisition internship in Pricewaterhouse Coopers(PWC).

Q. You have been active in different societies, co-curriculars in the college. You have even won the Harvard National

Model United Nations. How did you manage to balance the different activities, your academic performance as well as getting into the prestigious institute?

Ans: I would like to give all the credit for that to my peers and my classmates. They were the ones who kept me updated about my assignments and their deadlines. They taught me my lessons in case I missed my lectures and were always there by my side through all ups and downs.

Q. What advice would you like to give to the future aspirants of the course for the preparation of these exams?

Ans: One should do all the Manhattan GMAT tests, Power Score CR Bible, at least 80-100 questions for English everyday for two months and the 1000 series. Also one has to practice the questions a lot.

Q. Please share with us some of the most memorable experiences of yours at this college?

Ans: As you reach the last year of your college, you begin to cherish each and every moment spent here with your friends. Everything from a trip to Goa to starting your own clubs and organising various events, your failures, last minute studies, group studies, makes you feel nostalgic.

Sakshi Tomar

Shrey Bansiwal

Q. What particular course have you taken up at London School of Economics and what are your future plans?

Ans: The course is Masters in Economics (M.E.). It is a two year program especially for students having no prior economic profile and comes across as a stepping stone to PhD. I am hoping to go for PhD in the future.

Q. How necessary is it to have prior work/ research experience?

Ans: It depends a lot on the career goals of the person. If one wants to gain field knowledge and experience and have his own start-up in the future, then work experience is necessary, but if one has an inclination towards research, then there is no reason for him to not go for a post graduation degree straightaway. So, it is a

subjective concept.

Q. As per you, what does it take to get into a reputed college as LSE?

Ans: All it takes is being very clear about your ambitions. A person must cultivate his own interests instead of going after the bandwagon. He should stick to his interest and explore it as much as he can. This requires talking to a lot of people about it, taking their advices and finally planning your goals for the next five to ten years.

Q. What was it about LSE that made you choose it?

Ans: At London School of Economics,

economics is the most coveted department. It offers good research opportunities. Not only this, it has avenues for political science and finance. Also, it has a very good alumni base, excellent research facilities and many Nobel laureates as its faculty. So, these reasons made me choose the institute.

Q. You chose to graduate as an engineer and are now planning to go for an ME course which is an entirely different domain. Do you think having a technical background helps in one's competitive endeavours?

Ans: Not only technical, but having a mathematical background in particular helps you exceptionally in such competitive exams.

Q. What all internships did you go for during the course of 4 years in college?

Ans: I took up internships at the Institute of Economic Growth, Reserve Bank of India, and the Planning Commission of India.

Q. What advice would you like to give to the future aspirants of the course for the preparation of these exams?

Ans: The students should know what they are going for. If someone is research oriented, then commitment is a very important virtue that one should have. Also, one should submit applications as soon as possible, go for a lot of online tests and practice a lot.
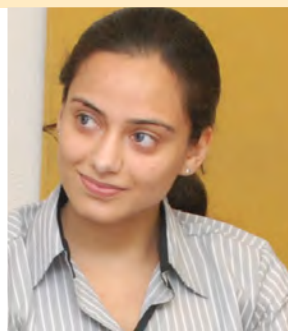
Manjot Pahwa

Shivangi Saxena

The COE gal who accomplished the task of getting a job in Google, USA. Read about her journey to the software giant!

Q. How did Google happen? What was this entire journey like?

A: Google for me was a dream company like it is for so many others. I never imagined in my wildest dreams that I will ever get a chance to work there.
I started as a clueless first year who had the qualities of Tai in Kung Fu Panda ! Like most of my peers, I too squandered time. However I don't regret it as they were the moments in which I enjoyed the most.
In my second year, I learnt the basics of coding and algorithms as I was determined to explore myself and do substantial work. I also worked on a project with Anand Gupta sir and did internships at various

start-ups. I learnt a lot from these experiences which greatly improved my technical skills.
During the third year I coded a lot and had a work stint in RBS thereafter . This did not hamper my placement preparations as its very much possible to manage both work and preparation.

Q. You won the Google woman

engineering award. Tell us something about it.

A: Getting the Google award is one of those memories which I cherish the most. It was my first big achievement and I am proud of it. I applied at the end of third year. I made it to the final rounds after which the winner's name was announced only at the award ceremony. The application was exhaustive

and demanded online essays, leadership skills, and projects. People who are applying for it must write their essays very carefully.

Q. Your advice to juniors who look up to you?

A: My advice would be to try out things rather than just sitting idle. It is always better to try out things and explore yourselves. The more you indulge in activities, the more you will learn about yourselves. It is also beneficial if you try out various internships in start-ups as you get to learn a lot. However do differentiate between serious and non-serious start-ups!

Best of luck!

Toshit Agarwal

WHY DO COLLEGE START-UPS FAIL?

STUDENT VOICE

Why do college start-ups fail?

Alumni speak

Siddharth Goyal
COE , Batch of 2009
Co-Founder - NSITonline

There can be many reasons why start ups fail but the primary ones among them are as follows:
1. The fact that you are your own boss: This can be a curse since you have no one to answer to. You can take a day off, a week off or simply get casual. No one will care since you have no one to answer to.

2. Premature Hiring: If you start hiring too early in the hope of marketing later, you may simply run out of cash.

3. Fiddling with too many ideas at the same time: If you are working on even 2 ideas at the same time and they have no relationship with each other, then there is something wrong. It is likely that both ideas will fail.

Aashish Nuhani
ICE , Batch of 2012
Founder-Junoon,
Photography club

According to me the main reasons due to which a lot of societies fail are - lack of proper mentor-ship, lack of funds, *sarkari* culture provides too many bottlenecks which in turn refrain the founders from reaching their aim and a lot of their energy is spent on going from one table to another. Another thing which is responsible for the cause of the fail is the CV point of view, once we get that bulletin point in the CV we don't care any further. Differences among the founding team members and new opportunities are also some of the reasons.

Student's speak

Archit Chandra
ECE , 4th year
Founder - Attic

I think the main reason that NSIT start-ups fail to make their mark is that they are started off by students with the primary aim of coming up with a new CV point and thus, they fail to give it the kind of commitment that is required to make it big in the outside world.
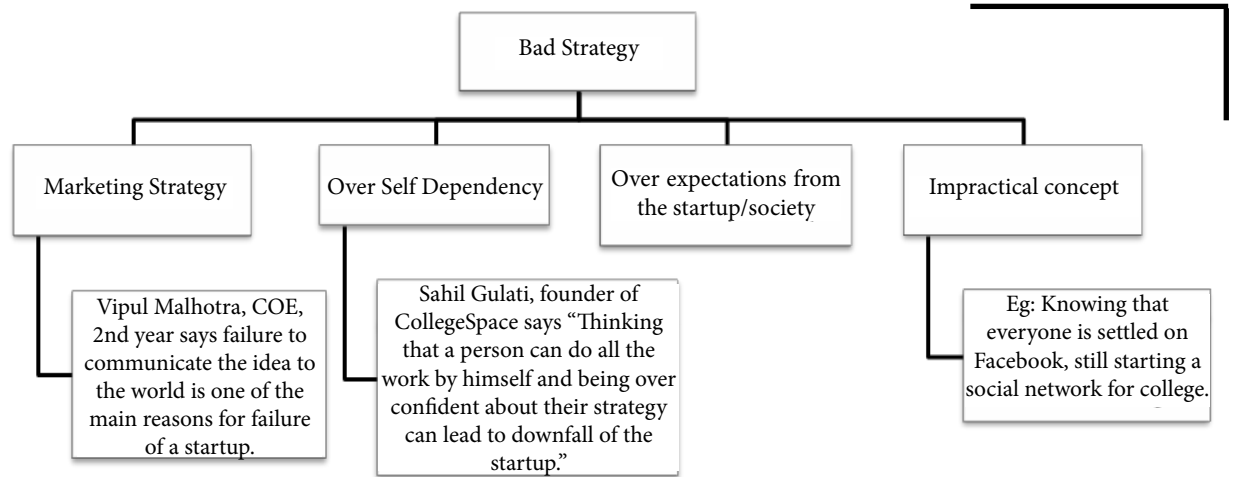
Abhay Pruthi
ECE , 3rd year
Founder - Lost Beat

I think Start-ups fail because of the following reasons:
1. Lack of faith and confidence in your project.
2. Poor team Management.
3. Temporary benefits and solutions.
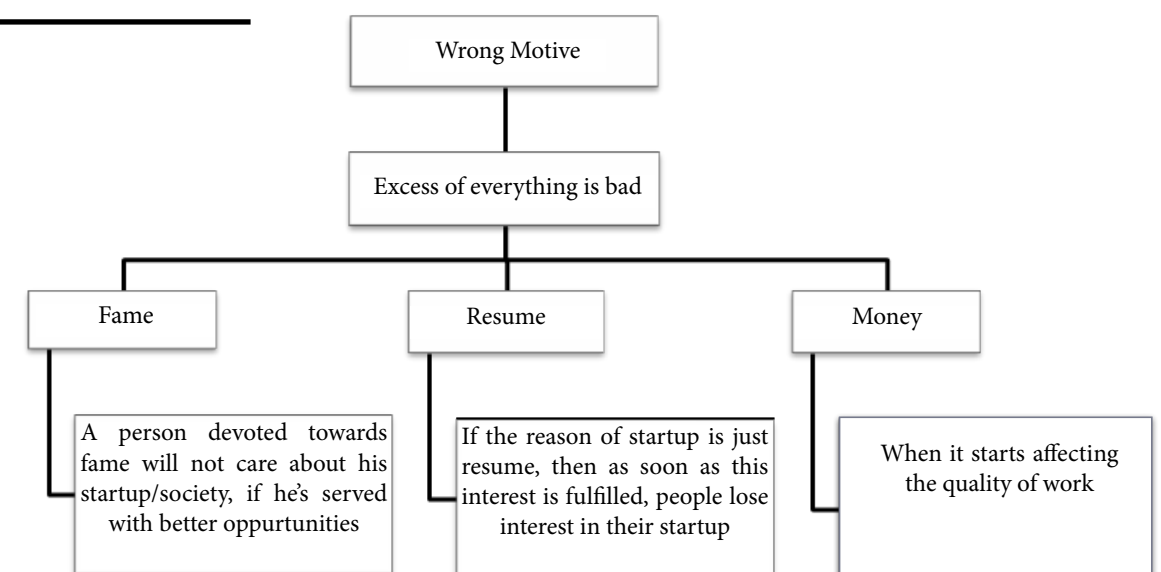4. Financial instability.

Remember the orientation session when you were introduced to nearly 30 odd societies, each and everyone of them trying to portray the best of themselves just to grab your attention. Eventually as you settle down you tend to forget the most of them: they become invisible. Only a few out of that long list of societies appear to be working in "REAL". Do you know the reason why?
Failure of a start-up/society can be due many reasons such as lack of team co-ordination, impractical concept, bad marketing strategy and failing to build upon an effective plan of succession.
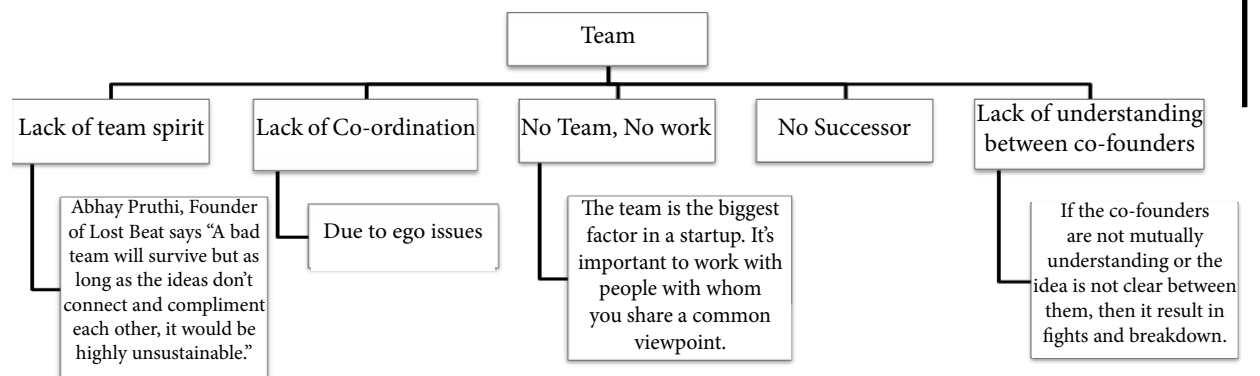
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                          Bad Strategy

  Marketing Strategy   Over Self Dependency   Over expectations from   Impractical concept
                                               the startup/society
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Vipul Malhotra, COE, 2nd year says failure to communicate the idea to the world is one of the main reasons for failure of a startup.

Sahil Gulati, founder of CollegeSpace says "Thinking that a person can do all the work by himself and being over confident about their strategy can lead to downfall of the startup."

Eg: Knowing that everyone is settled on Facebook, still starting a social network for college.

"However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results"

The ability to convey your idea to the target audience plays a very crucial role in the success of a start-up/society. A start-up/society can be based on a very good concept/idea but bad implementation and bad marketing strategy can lead to its failure. Also, if the founders of a society/start-up are self dependent i.e. if they don't form a team and do much of the work by themselves, it usually results in frustration and irritation; eventually leading to boredom and lassitude.

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                Wrong Motive

          Excess of everything is bad

     Fame            Resume            Money
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A person devoted towards fame will not care about his startup/society, if he's served with better oppurtunities

If the reason of startup is just resume, then as soon as this interest is fulfilled, people lose interest in their startup

When it starts affecting the quality of work

"Actions are visible, though motives are secret."

Aiming for fame, money, or another point in the resume is not wrong as long as it does not hinder the progress of a start-up/society. But once any of these points becomes the main motive of the start-up/society, the work starts getting affected bringing about its downfall.
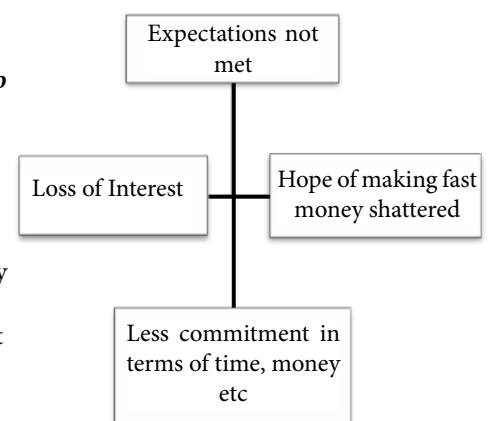
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                        Team

Lack of team spirit   Lack of Co-ordination   No Team, No work   No Successor   Lack of understanding
                                                                                between co-founders
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Abhay Pruthi, Founder of Lost Beat says "A bad team will survive but as long as the ideas don't connect and compliment each other, it would be highly unsustainable."

Due to ego issues

The team is the biggest factor in a startup. It's important to work with people with whom you share a common viewpoint.

If the co-founders are not mutually understanding or the idea is not clear between them, then it result in fights and breakdown.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Team - You need one for success of anything and everything. A loosely bound team can block all roads to success. A well-knit team not only gives you a helping hand but it also helps you in finding the rightful successor, who'll carry the legacy forward. Many societies such as Car Fanatics, The Adrageous etc. have faced the problem of not being able to come up with a proper succession plan.
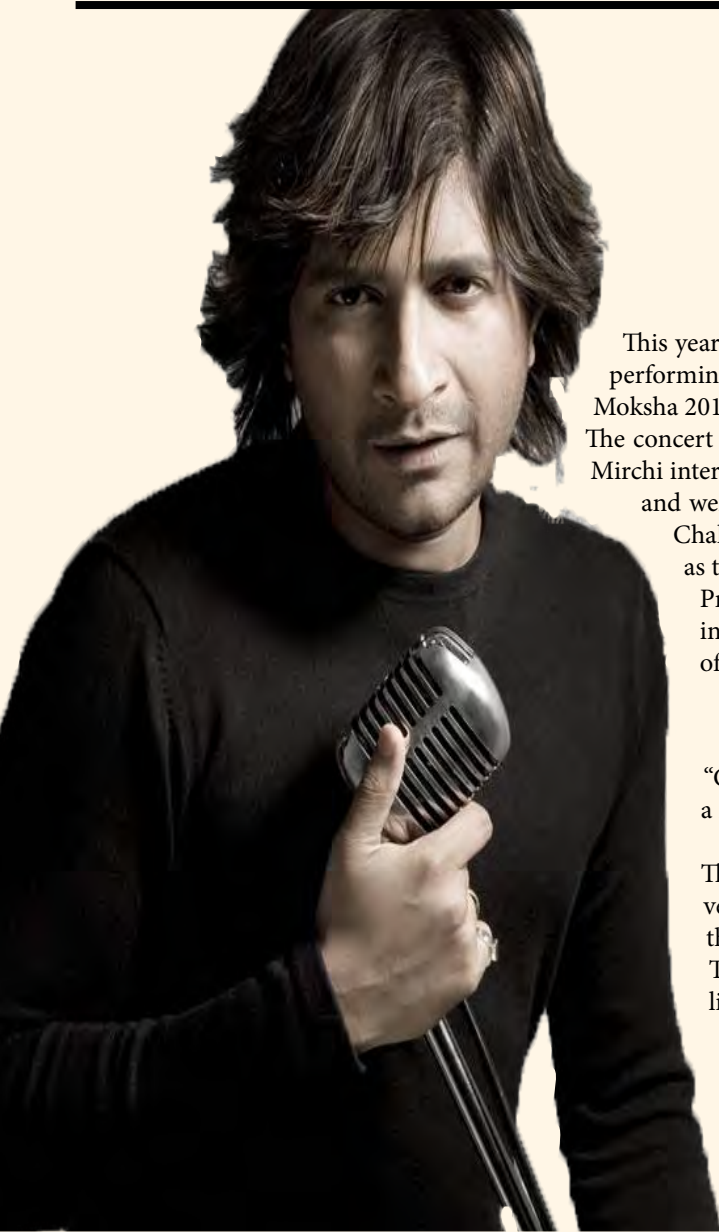
"The best things in life are unexpected - because there were no expectations."

Expectations -The one thing that can make your world go upside down. Encountering them too early, or too late, both can be highly dangerous. Former will make you overconfident and will also bring a bit of arrogance in you that can eventually lead to failure of your start-up and the latter will bring hopelessness, frustration and will lower your confidence about the success of your idea.

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                      Expectations not
                           met

  Loss of Interest               Hope of making fast
                                   money shattered

              Less commitment in
              terms of time, money
                     etc
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MOKSHA
spirit of delhi

STAR NIGHT - KK

This year, the Moksha organising team promised to take it to a whole new level: And they did! KK, the artist who started out by performing at DU (Delhi University) college fests and has now become a superstar in his own right, performed at Fahrenhite in Moksha 2012.

The concert had an attendance of over 5000 Delhiites. Before KK started belting out hit Bollywood numbers, RJ Jassi from Radio Mirchi interacted with the crowd and set the momentum for KK to arrive on the stage. KK made his entry with the song Bas Ek Pal, and went on to sing some of his most popular hits such as Hum Rahe Ya Na Rahe Kal, Hai Junoon(New York), Koi Kahe(Dil Chahta Hai) and the title track of Desi Boys. The event started off a little late but the audience was not in a mood to complain as they stood mesmerized, listening to one of their favorite artists perform live.

Prior to the performance, the event garnered unprecedented publicity and was so popular that a pass system had to be introduced for the first time in a fest being organized in NSIT. The event stretched the organizers to their limits, in terms of resource handling as well as executing all their plans to make it possible for a star of KK's stature to come to our college.

MUDRA

"Come Fairies, take me out of this dull world, for I would ride with you upon the wind and dance upon the mountains like a flame!"
- William Butler Yeats

This very thought was brought to life this Moksha that kicked off with the mega event- MUDRA. The event was held on the very first day of the fest that saw a decent footfall. The hosts for the event were Meera Munjal and Vikrant Sood who kept the audience engrossed in the event with their communiqué.

There were 4 teams that participated, inclusive of the home team, the theme of the dance being 'different montages of life'. The first performance was given by Hansraj college which used great creativity in the choreography and was well applauded. It was followed by performances given by Kirorimal college, our very own NSIT, and Maritime Institute. The dance performance by our college was preceded by a rendition of Shakespeare's lines "all the world's a stage and all men and women merely players". It went on to describe different human emotions like love, lust, power etc. On the flip side Maritime Institute decided to take a different route altogether by going completely off the theme and giving a grooving performance on a medley of Bollywood songs!

Though Hansraj College was announced as the proud winner of the competition and NSIT bagged the runners up trophy, there is no need to mention that all dance performances were worth an ovation and were a treat to the eyes.

ROUGE

Worst Fash-P ever! :-x. And considering the disasters I have seen @ NSIT, it speaks a lot for itself!
- Sarvagya Mukhi, 4th year COE

After some breathtaking events on the first day of Moksha, the fervent crowd waited for one of the most spectacular event of this cultural fest, Rouge – The Fashion Parade. Despite the presence of exuberant audience, ramp walks and compatible sound systems, the event failed to gather any accolades mainly because of minimal participation and moreover due to the team preparation fiascos.

The event saw participation by only three teams, inclusive of the host college team. The team from Guru Teg Bahadur Institute of Technology and Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology turned out to be front runners whereas the team from International Management Institute acted more as a filler for the event. In spite of the organizers putting in there maximum

efforts, the last minute back out by about 6 teams including the likes of Lady Hardinge Medical College, Amity University, and Kirorimal College, resulted in an utter debacle, thus making the image of this event go lackluster.

This event more or less baffled the NSITians especially the first years, regarding the future of other mega events at Moksha, which was finally put to a halt through a scintillating performance by KK on the very next day.

THEATRE FIESTA

I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.
-Oscar Wilde

The above written words aptly signify the importance of theatre. NSIT proved these words true through its successful event 'Theatre Fiesta', an extravaganza that saw fine

performances from reputed colleges.

The event was organized on 16th March in the main auditorium. This event saw jam-packed auditorium with the audience regaling in the theater festival. NSIT's dramatics society- Ashwamedh performed the inaugural play. There were 6 teams from Amity International, Hansraj College, Miranda House, Kirorimal College and Sri Ram Collece oof Commerce (SRCC)[2 teams]. Each team had 1 hour to showcase its play. The judge for the event was Mr Amarnath Ghosh who has performed in over 500 plays. Though all colleges captivated the audience, it was Hansraj College which won the first prize. Kirorimal College's adaption of an Israeli play fetched it the second prize. The teams also sought some profound advices from the judges which they should include in their performances.

Let's hope that next Moksha witnesses more such intellectually stimulating plays.

BHANGRA BEATS

When the stage reverberates with Punjabi numbers having a folk twist, when the dancers are drowned in gaiety, and the audience is in a propelled state of incessant applause coupled with impromptu dance steps- you know that the event showcasing Bhangra has begun.

This widely anticipated event had always enthralled the crowd. The tradition was continued this time around too. The event was organized on 16th March near the library. This event saw teams coming from Punjab, and also all the way from Madhya Pradesh.

The judges for the event were Damanjeey Singh and Sandeep Sharma from Khalsa College, Delhi University.

There were 6 teams who performed with a lot of gusto. Another factor which kept the enthusiasm high was the fact that the anchors Hanish and Harmandeep were conversing in pure Punjabi language. The team from Punjab Technical University was adjudged the best team. They did an admirable

job by opting to sing and dance on their tunes instead of background music. The teams from Jaypee, Madhya Pradesh and Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology were tied for the second spot. Our very own team-NSIT got the third prize. Kudos for a successful event!

OORJA

OORJA- the Western Dance competition was one of the most successful entertaining, and crowd pulling event at Moksha 2012. The event took place on Saturday, 17 March 2012, the day when NSIT got mesmerized to the voice of K.K. and enjoyed interaction with it's alumni at the Alumni Meet. Due to this, the event saw varied faces in the crowd, from 1st year students to 1995 batch alumni, everyone having a good time. In total, 6 group dances and 8 solo dances were performed out of which Amity University bagged the first prize and LHMC were runners up. The performances were judged by trainers from Shiamak Davar Institute of Performing Arts.

* Due to unforseeable circumstances, afternoon schedule of Day3 of Moksha was suspended

Wisdom Tree : Machine Learning

Ishan Nigam

A widely quoted definition of Machine Learning goes as follows: *A computer program is said to learn from an experience E with respect to some class of tasks T and performance measure P, if its performance at tasks in T, as measured by P, improves with experience E.* For the uninitiated though, it would suffice to know that Machine Learning and its associated branches aim to answer this simple question: How can we build computer systems that automatically improve with experience, and what are the fundamental laws that govern all learning processes as the system gains in experience?

Introduction

Recent advancements in the growth of artificial intelligence have been accompanied by a resurgence of interest in Machine Learning. Machine Learning is a sub-field of artificial intelligence which is concerned with developing computational theories and algorithms of learning processes and building learning machines. The ability to learn is central to intelligent behavior. Thus, the developments and advancements in this field are central to the progress of artificial intelligence.

Machine Learning is basically an intersection of the fields of Computer Science and Statistics. Computer Science experts try to build machines that solve problems; statisticians make inferences from data using modeling assumptions. Machine Learning builds on both. Machine Learning focuses on how to get computers to program themselves. It incorporates questions about which computational architectures and algorithms can be used to most effectively capture, index and retrieve data, and how multiple learning subtasks can be brought together as part of a larger system.

Importance and relevance in the IT industry

Machine learning methods play a key role within a small, yet important domain in the world of computer science. Beyond its obvious role as a method for software development, it is also likely to help reshape our view of Computer Science in the future. Machine learning emphasizes the design of self-monitoring systems that diagnose and repair themselves on their own; and on approaches that model their users and their thinking processes.

Machine learning methods are efficient methods available for developing particular types of software. A few examples are:

(1) The application is too complex for humans to manually design the algorithm. For example, software for sensor-based perception tasks, such as speech recognition and computer vision, fall into this category.

(2) The application requires that the software customize to its operational environment after it is released by the programmer. For example, hand gesture recognition systems that customize to the user who purchases the software. Machine learning here provides the mechanism for adaptation.

Implanting learning ability in computers is practically necessary. Present day computer applications require the representation of a large amount of complex knowledge and data in programs and thus perform tremendous computation tasks. Our ability to explicitly code the computers falls short of the demand for these applications. If the computers are endowed with the ability to learn, then the task of coding the machine is significantly reduced.

Important applications

• Google search has a high accuracy rate in terms of what the user "expects" from search because its search engine has learned to rank web-pages depending on many features. The "many-features" are a trade secret Google Inc. has guarded for more than a decade now!

• SMS or email spam classifiers are classification problems addressed by Machine Learning algorithms.

• Database mining: Analyzing data trends or patterns which yield inferences about it. This technique has allowed great advancements in DNA sequencing and web-data mining.

• Recommender systems on the Internet Movie Database (IMDB), Amazon, Flipkart, and Netflix are based on Machine Learning algorithms as well.

Future

Present day computer programs in general with the exception of a few advanced Machine Learning programs cannot correct their own errors, improve from past mistakes, or learn to perform a new task by analogy to a previously seen task. In contrast, human beings are capable of all the above. Machine Learning aims to produce smarter computers capable of simulating intelligent behavior. The understanding of human learning and its computational aspect is a worthy scientific goal.

Humans have long been fascinated by their capabilities to behave rationally and based on experience. Great efforts have been made to try to understand the basis of this nature of intelligence. It is clear that central to our intelligence is our ability to learn. A thorough understanding of human learning process is crucial to understand human intelligence. Machine Learning aims to provide insight into the underlying principles of human learning, and this may lead to the discovery of more effective education techniques. It is worth exploring other methods of learning which may be more efficient and effective than human learning.

Machine Learning has become feasible in many important applications primarily because of the recent progress in learning algorithms and theory, the rapid increase of computational power, the availability of huge amount of data, and interests in commercial application development involving Machine Learning techniques.

Industry

Machine Learning skills are sought out by almost all the leading IT software giants such as Google, Microsoft, IBM and Yahoo. From the global industrial perspective, Machine Learning is seen as a great asset to the skill set of IT professionals.

IBM Research India, Yahoo! Labs in Bangalore and Microsoft Research (MSR) work on it as well.

As companies work to build software such as collaborative filtering, spam filtering and fraud-detection applications that seek patterns in jumbo-size data sets, we are seeing a rapid increase in the need for people with machine-learning knowledge, or the ability to design and develop algorithms and techniques to improve computers' performance. Demand for these is pulling up the need for data mining, and statistical modeling skills, among others." - Kevin Scott (formerly, senior engineering manager at Google Inc.)

PreCog is a group of researchers at IIIT Delhi http://precog.iiitd.edu.in/ coordinated by Dr. Ponnurangam Kumaraguru (popularly known as "PK").

The research group aims to build technologies to characterise and predict acts of cybercrime, and to develop an early warning system that could help policy analysis and law enforcement agencies. The group also focuses on building security and privacy systems in the Indian context. Their work

Dr. Kumaraguru

utilizes Machine Learning techniques involved in Data Mining, Text Mining, Statistics and Human Computer Interaction. The focus is on building real-time usable software based on research conducted by the group thus creating a real, measurable impact instead of limiting work to just publications. Below are the two projects that PreCog is currently working on where Machine Learning is applied

SMSAssassin: Detecting SMS Spam using Crowd Sourcing Approach

Due to the exponential increase in the use of Short Message Service (SMS) over mobile phones in developing countries there has been a burst of spam SMSes. The main goal of this research project is to build algorithms and solutions to reduce the SMS spam in developing countries like India. The team uses crowd-sourcing approach, applying Machine Learning techniques while keeping the user's preferences in mind while designing the algorithms.

The team has encountered numerous challenges. For example, a considerable issue is that of regional languages. Texts typed in Roman script but meant to be in Hindi language might be classified as spam even though they are legitimate ones.

The project has an open dataset. Anyone may contribute to it http://precog.iiitd.edu.in/usable-security.html#smsassassin. Dr. Kumaraguru is considering putting it online for the benefit of other research that might be going on in this area. SMSAssassin is currently being evaluated on its effectiveness in the real-world among some volunteers.

SMSAssassin will be presented as a demo at the 13th International Conference on Mobile Data Management (July 23-26, 2012) in Bengaluru, India.

PhishAri: Detecting Phishing in Twitter

PhishAri is a Chrome browser extension for Twitter which detects phishing tweets in real-time. Phishing is a way of attempting to acquire information such as usernames and passwords by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. PhishAri makes real-time decisions to save the user from risky clicks on phish URLs.
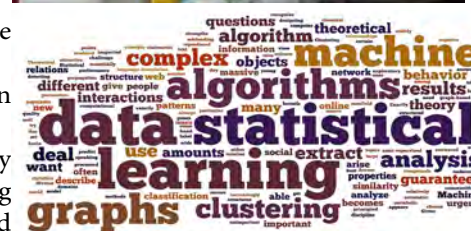
Phishing URLs have a red indicator, warning users not to click on the same. The legitimate links have a green indicator. PhishAri, presently available in its beta version, is downloadable from the Chrome Web Store http://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/pheokmlohglcpigbnbenbimcombeoolm. The research team is working on developing sophisticated algorithms to make the extension faster and more accurate.

Dr. Kumaraguru himself worked on a similar idea, PhishGuru, during his PhD at Carnegie Mellon University. The research group he was part of built a tool to train the mailing system to classify mail as either phish or legitimate mail. That research group went on to start a company called Wombat Security Technologies (www.wombatsecurity.com); an example of how research work translates into applications in the real world.

Resources and Research Opportunities

Online courses have stirred the interest of the masses in this relatively unheard of field in Information Technology. Andrew Ng (Associate Professor at Stanford University) was the instructor of the free online Stanford Engineering Everywhere Machine Learning class that was hosted on https://www.coursera.org/course/ml. The course was started in October 2011, and over a 100,000 students worldwide registered. Other such online courses have now sprung up, including a more elaborate course on Machine Learning by Andrew Ng being hosted on academicearth.orgcourses/machine-learning.

NSIT professors are involved in applied work on Machine Learning such as Pattern Recognition and Classification which is used in image processing, though not much theoretical work is being done currently.

IIIT Delhi Research Showcase is an annual two-day event to showcase the research and development efforts of students at IIIT Delhi. Projects on display this year included "Iris Recognition under Alcohol Influence" (Pattern Recognition and Classification), "PhishAri" (Spam Classifier), "What's Next Up" and "Bon Appetite" (Recommender Systems). **Students may write to IIIT professors depending on their interests on any topic that may match the research interests of the professor.** Sarthak Kukreti, a 3rd year student from NSIT, is working on a classification system currently under Dr. Somitra Sanidhya.

"Machine Learning and data mining are areas rife with potential for developing intelligent and adaptive applications on distributed and heterogeneous platforms. Nature-inspired heuristics give wonderful opportunities to glean knowledge from nature's adaptation and optimization mechanisms and apply them to tackle some of the issues in these fields. I undertake projects in this area. Currently, we are investigating quality aspects of e-governance and e-learning, information retrieval/ text classification and database protection."
- Dr. Shampa Chakravarty, HOD, Department of Computer Engineering, NSIT.

Research @ NSIT

Monitoring real world market by mining Twitter feeds

Tushar Rao, a 4th year student from NSIT, has worked on mining of social media feeds through Twitter to monitor movements in the real world markets at IIIT Delhi under Dr. Saket Srivastava.

Emerging interest of trading companies and hedge funds in mining social web has created new avenues for intelligent systems that make use of public opinion in driving investment decisions. In high frequency trading, investors track memes and other feed on micro-blogging forums to judge the public behavior as an important feature while making short term investment decisions. Project involved identification and modeling complex relationship between tweet board literature (like bullishness, volume and agreement) with the financial market instruments (like volatility, trading volume and stock prices).

Twitter sentiments for more than 4 million tweets were analyzed between June 2010 and July 2011 for Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA), National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations (NASDAQ)-100, Gold, Oil, USD Forex rates and 11 other big cap technological stocks. The results show high causative correlation (up to 0.88 for returns) between stock prices and twitter sentiment features. Monitoring social feeds provides valuable public behavior elements that can be exploited to retain a portfolio within limited risk state (highly improved hedging bets) during typical market conditions; as described in the hedging model provided in his paper.

Social Network Analysis : The Tie Strength Problem

Recent trends in the behaviour of people on the internet, and the spurt for personalization of the web has driven a lot of attention among researchers to work on the problem of Tie Strength, using data available on social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Understanding Tie Strength can improve social media design elements, including privacy controls, message routing and information prioritization in databases. Potential usage of this work can also be made in making complex recommender systems, lead generation marketing and in organizational or telecom networks.

Computer Science Researchers all over the world have been using Machine Learning Techniques, Graph Theory along with some other statistical techniques to analyse this problem, which they believe can revolutionalise the way we see the internet and the way companies see the market.

Arnab Kumar, a 3rd year student had been working on Social Network Analysis (SNA) under the guidance of Mrs. Sushma Nagpal, Assisstant Professor, NSIT. Their primary field of research was the Tie Strength Problem, with one of their research papers being accepted at the IC3 2012(5th International Conference on Contemporary Computing 2012), with further publication by Springer in the Communications in Computer and Information Science Series (CCIS Series) and indexing in Digital Bibliography & Library Project (DPLB), Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), and Scopus.

Acknowledgements

PROFESSOR'S PROFILE:Dr. SHAMPA CHAKRAVERTY

Krishan Kumar Singh

Dr. Shampa Chakraverty is one of the eminent professors at NSIT and her name needs no further introduction. Being the HOD of the Department of Computer Engineering, she is credited with the excellent management of the department as well as for ensuring quality education for students. Excerpts from the interview –

Q. How long have you been associated at NSIT and how will you describe your experience here?
A. I have been with NSIT for the last 23 years. It has been an enriching experience with creative thinking and initiative as the main driving factors.

Q. What are your areas of interest from research perspective?
A. My areas of research interest include Information Retrieval, reconfigurable computing and hardware and software co-design for multiprocessor distributed architectures. Being a researcher in computing, enormous day to day challenges keep us exploring new and inter-disciplinary areas.

Q. What are the various projects that you currently mentor or have you mentored in the past?
A. Most projects are team-work including B. Tech and PhD students. Some of them are:-
- Cuckoo search and fuzzy-rules based design of high-availability and reconfigurable multiprocessor architectures.
- Agents-driven adaptive e-learning path optimization.
- Lexical cohesion, overlapped semantics and lexical chaining for context-based text classification.
- Population-based approaches for tuning statistical and contextual features for Text classification with Support Vector Machines.
- Developing collaborative and adaptive e-governance interfaces.
- Design exploration for fault tolerant system design on FPGAs

Dr. Shampa Chakraverty

Q. To what extent do you feel that the present curriculum at NSIT is capable of imbibing quality computer knowledge to the students?
A. The primary objective of a UG curriculum in Computer Science is to produce engineers with good analytical abilities, a firm grasp on the fundamentals of computer science and a holistic understanding of engineering as a discipline and the underlying science. I do feel that our curriculum has the necessary ingredients to achieve that. That said, we need to revise and enhance our curriculum, especially make it more flexible and elective centric. I am glad to say that the process has already begun.

Q. Being the HOD of COE, how has your association been with all its various facets over the years?
A.Our Department has a dedicated faculty and TRFs who are engaged in different areas of research. We have a wonderful student body; our best assets. I have enjoyed motivating and steering the academic and technological activities of the Department with active cooperation from my colleagues. Over the years, we have undertaken a number of student paper presentation contests, workshops, conferences, talks by experts, laboratory development exercises and interaction with the industry.

Q. What are your suggestions to students looking forward to pursue their career in computer engineering sphere?
A. With computing spreading out to almost all branches of knowledge times are really exciting for students of computer engineering. Be it core technology, management, law, travel, music or lifestyle - pick any field and you can utilize your knowledge of computing to improve it with innovative tools. My advice to all students would be to learn each subject taught with due sincerity; that helps build your repertoire of ideas. Then explore the applicability of new ideas by taking up projects, participate in design contests and venture to publish your works. Do spend some time to appreciate fine arts and socio-legal-ethical issues.

Q. What modifications would you suggest towards the betterment of department?
A. Improvement is a continuous process contributed by each faculty, staff and student. In order to create an environment that fosters ideation, I would like to see interactive talks by professionals as an essential component of every subject right from the first semester. I look forward to regularize summer/winter internships in the campus and develop facilities to interact with industry for setting up laboratories and take up joint projects. I welcome more proactive engagement from our bright students in undertaking various departmental activities.

Q. Is there any provision for students to avail internet facility within the COE block?
A. Internet access is available in our LAN-configured laboratories and also through wireless access for project works.

The Quest for the LOST BEAT

Shrey Bansiwal

All men dream but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity; but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes to make it possible.
-T.E. Lawrence

With this adage in mind, a student from NSIT went on to make an effort to set up a launch pad for all such dreamers who have the zeal but lack the incentive, the enticement and the rightful audience that applauds their talent. An ardent musician himself, Abhay Pruthi is acquainted with the fact that it takes a lot of struggle to make an identity in the field of music. With a lot of musicians around, and each one equally endowed and gifted, there is abundant competition out there. And to make a mark in this scenario, especially in the era of rock bands and pop culture, can prove to be a Herculean task unless you have a family history in the field that can fetch you some nepotistic favor. And thus, 'Lost beat' came into existence - a community of all those people who seek to make an identity in the world through music. "The lost beat team plans to prosper itself through a 2 way model", says founder-Abhay Pruthi. The first way is by introducing the concept of 'musical networking'. "It is a new concept and is on the same lines as social networking. This way the aspiring artists can get a platform, to showcase what they have", adds Pruthi. It incorporates various websites like Youtube, Facebook, Myspace, ReverbNation and SoundCloud. The idea is to not only give an online platform to budding musicians for promoting themselves through YouTube and the like but also allow them to 'network' their videos through various social networking sites and thus increase their viewership and fan following. The lost beat team launched its Facebook page on January 13th 2012 which has been helping music artists to post videos and audios in order to make their voices heard. However, the community was actually founded in June 2011.

The team also has an offline way to reach out to all music lovers who are brimming with talent. It plans to conduct events that allow artists to participate. The online world has provided an arena to many amateurs like Shraddha Sharma, who has gained great acknowledgement through her videos online. Lost Beat helps such amateurs to gain even more recognition by organising their concerts and helping them establish themselves in the auditoriums and studios as well, and not just on your computer screens. Recently, it organized the musical event 'Dhwani' at the Annual Cultural Fest of NSIT-Moksha. It saw a large number of registrations in the three fold event that consisted of Hindi vocals competition, English vocals competition and instrumentals competition. The event turned out to be a grand success. Kudos to LOST BEAT'S efforts, NSIT got to see some really amazing talent from all over the state, right on our auditorium stage. This was the very first victory for Lost Beat as it had managed to fulfill its aim of bringing latent talent in the limelight!

However, Lost Beat is not just about promoting young talent. It goes beyond the confines of a college, age or region. It welcomes talent from all over the country of all genres, whether it be a four year old singing jingle bells or a senior citizen humming a scintillating old bollywood number, a rajastani folk or a punjabi rap.

Today, barely a year old, Lost Beat has got more in store to show the world. It plans to organize a plethora of events. Its confidence has surged tremendously after 'Dhwani' and so have our expectations from it. It plans to organise an All-India musical fest in the month of October which may have a headliner act with budding musicians. So if you have a 'lost beat' in you, bring it on!! Show it to the world!!

NSIT MUN '12

A year ago, a group of NSITians brought laurels to the college having bagged two awards at the prestigious Harvard National Model United Nations. The experience was so amazing that it led a couple of students to conceive the idea of holding a similar competition at NSIT as well. And slowly the idea was passed on to more people and shared with ignited minds who hoped to turn it into a reality.

A plethora of disappointments, refusals, meetings, selections, and discussions later, the ignited minds behind the idea- Aastha Chhabra and Bhaswat Aggarwal

The General Assembly

NSIT MUN Logo

Arab league

(the Director General and the Deputy Secretary General respectively) and some vivacious orators of NSIT formed a team of 28 members that gave us NSIT MUN 2012. It was an event that saw 120 participants marching in with confidence and panache in their formal ensemble with great personalities like Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia. It was an event which spoke of professionalism and witnessed vehement debating in the two day session which was held from 31st March to 1st April 2012.

The event opened up with the inauguration ceremony held in the college auditorium wherein the Secretary General, Kunal Ahuja, declared the session open. The next two days witnessed the three committees- The Security Council, The Futuristic General Assembly and The League of Arab States delve into vigorous discussions on their respective agendas. However, the sessions would have gone mundane and lackluster without the presence of the International Press which peppered the serious sessions with the 'paparazzi effect' tickling everyone's funny bone.

In the secretary general's opinion, the organizing committee was determined and worked hard by slogging for hours, pleading, begging and praying to various authorities for different requirements. They finally pulled off an event that not only ran very smoothly but also received accolades and kudos from various attendees of the event. The teacher in charge, Dr. Tanushree Chaudhary had helped them in this endeavor and our very own MIC MAC canteen catered to the food requirements.

The final day saw the contented winners taking away their cash prizes worth Rs. 3000 and other cheerful delegates taking away unforgettable memories and learning experiences. Not only this, each and every delegate was made to feel special as the organising committee decided to take an individual photograph of every person that came to attend the session, whether it be the international press, the delegates or the conference staff. The OC was of the opinion that the photographs were a token of gratitude to all those who contributed to make NSIT MUN a grand success.

Towards the end, the organising committee stood with heads held high and was proud that the event went off exceptionally well. In Kunal's words, "it was one thing that connected us all. It had a personal touch to it. And looking back, we think that after the hurdles we had to face, pulling it off without any obstacle was an achievement in itself".

The NSIT MUN Organizing Committee

Events @ NSIT
NSIT MUN '12   NSIT SPORTS MEET
KRITI '12:Joy of Serving

Kriti, the annual fest of 'The Neighbourhood Project' was held on April 21st this year. The event broke all records entertaining a whopping number of 500 underprivileged kids of scores of NGOs. Sticking with their agenda, 'Neighbours first', many NGOs from Dwarka were invited. NGOs like Prayatn, Ehsaas, Protsahan, Jagriti and Prayas were among them.

'Importance of Dreams' was the theme of the fest this year. The NGO meet on the same was enlightening, where the representatives from all NGOs discussed the issue and its relevance in the context of underprivileged children. Kriti provided them the right platform for information sharing.

Like last year, a well-organized medical camp was arranged for the kids, and a complete health checkup was done for every single child.

There were a plethora of competitions orchestrated to encourage the children in varied fields. Some of them were Talent Hunt, Painting, Quizzes and races. The participation in every field was so large that events took double the time, but seeing the children smiling took away all the weariness of the volunteers.

One event that stood out was the painting competition for not only its huge participation, but also the unbounded enthusiasm. At least 100 students filled the green room for the event, and they enjoyed making paintings relevant to the theme. The creations replete with colours and optimism highlighted the various dreams the kids had held closely in their hearts, whether it was their aim to become a teacher, an artist or a police officer. The children were bestowed with loads of prizes, chocolates and goodies. Koshish became the 'NGO of the year', winning prizes in most of the events.

The kriti team has grown as a family over the years and it was evident as some alumni had also come down to support the fest. Truly, the kriti family, exhibited complete commitment to the great cause and was successful in putting up a great show.

The Kriti Family

SPORTS MEET

Taking cue from last year, Sports meet this time was also held along with Moksha under the guidance of Mr. Praveen Saroha, Director of Physical education in NSIT. With sufficient number of sponsors like Numero Uno, Time, Usha, DD Sports and others and the budget being raised from 3 to 5 lakhs, a lot of cash prizes were given in the events. The chief guest for our Sports meet was former cricketer, Mr. Vivek Razdan, who has played One Day Internationals(ODIs) for India in International Cricket from 1989 to 1991 and is now a coach

College Cricket Team with Mr. Praveen Saroha

College Football Team with Mr. Vivek Razdan

and cricket commentator. He was quite satisfied with the sports and gym facilities in our campus and advised the students to make the best use of these facilities.

The main events, basketball, Football and Cricket were a huge hit. The ECE fourth years won the football tournament against COE first years who were runner ups. The ICE fourth years won boys basketball tournament against ECE second years while the volleyball match was won by ICE second years. The second years won the girls basketball match against the first years. Badminton, Chess, Table tennis and arm wrestling conducted in hostels also saw a huge turn-out.

The winning team in cricket match got a cash prize of Rs 5000. This year, the chess and football team also participated in Intercollege events and made us proud. The chess team stood at fourth place in the Intercollege competition and the college team was awarded Rs 3000 and gifts sponsored by Numero Uno. The football team was also awarded the same amount and gifts from Filla for competing quarter finals. DD Sports also covered our sports meet.

The Sports meet Director, Mr. Praveen Saroha was very satisfied with the success and was proud of his team for pulling it so well. While students were at their sporting best in the month of March, the professors were also not far behind. Batsmen like Khushil Saini Sir and Neeraj Kumar Sir were seen giving a hard time to bowlers Tarun Kumar Rawat Sir and others.

Events like Long Jump, Shotput, Javelin and Discus throw were also very popular amongst boys but low participation amongst girls was a turnoff. But nonetheless, this year's performance was better than last year. Ajay Dabbas(men) and Monalisa(women) were awarded the titles for best athletes at the meet .The total participation in all events was around 5000. Even if one considers the same people participating in multiple events, it still was something to watch out. The major attraction in the Sports meet was the cycle stunts done by kids. They put an enthralling show bringing out the spirit in the crowd. The last day also saw a standing ovation coming from sports enthusiasts of NSIT for Sachin Tendulkar on making his 100th century giving a perfect end to this year's Sports meet.

Winners with their prizes

TECHELON : CSI's OWN FEST

Akanksha Dewaker

CSI organized its first tech-fest in NSIT from 7th to 15th April this year. Though mainly online, its events were very popular, especially amongst the first years. It was carried out on a small scale, but executed really well. If the society manages to scale up the event next year, it would definitely be a hit among the crowd.

There were a very limited number of events, and except for the IT Quiz, all were online. The IT Quiz became a big attraction, with even school teams joining

Prizes at Display

in. And guess what, they turned out to be smarter as the New Era Public School walked away with the first prize while DPS-Dwarka stood third. The second prize was bagged by NSITians.

The online events also did notably well. Mathwrath-competition lived upto the expectations of the budding mathematicians in NSIT, however, the minute bugs in its interface would definitely have irritated the software

geeks. Nevertheless, around 200 people participated in the competition.

Blogizmo- the blog writing competition testified the presence of eager writers waiting for their chance in NSIT. A very interesting event was Soundscape- the online sound mixing competition. It provided a unique platform for audio editing and mixing, promising incredibly amazing tracks. On similar lines was the image processing/editing competition of Techelon, Picmorph. The participants were required to create

The IT Quiz

brilliant masterpiece from an ordinary photograph. Also, for the first time in NSIT, we had Online Counter Strike competition and that too free of cost.

Inquisitor, the online treasure hunt saw a participation of around 250 and was a huge hit online.

The fest organizers promised to reward their winners with speakers, pen drives and other gizmos and had even uploaded the photographs of prizes as testimony. Overall, it was a really great attempt by the CSI society.

Krishan Kumar Singh

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people - Eleanor Roosevelt

Technology Entertainment and Design often abbreviated as TED, a non profit organization, was founded to create an expedient platform for effective dissemination of ideas and innovations by organizing sessions popularly known as TED talks. The concept of TEDx has been formulated for spreading experiences

and thoughts through independently organized events following certain TED community guidelines.

Following similar lines, TEDxNSIT was held on 8th April 2012 continuing the tradition for last 3 years, made possible due to the joint efforts of various student societies in NSIT. The event accumulated leading thinkers and doers from diversified fields such as music, design, social development and technology, under a common roof.

The event management team was able to put up a good show despite a lack of resources and some technical glitches in between.

The event began with an inspirational talk by renowned social thinker Andrew Humphries, who talked about the change that has manifested in the world over the past 250 years. Ritesh Gupta, a Computer Science graduate from IIT Kanpur, talked about "Leveraging in Social Network Industry." His talk focused on the prospects of targeted marketing with limited budget directed talk plan and the applications of telecom social network. The event also comprised of several mind boggling TED videos as fillers which filled the attendees with inspiration.

The talk by Prateek Jha, a 4th year undergraduate at NSIT, displayed his profundity in the field of embedded systems and mechatronics.

Standing poles apart from the dull and vapid happenings at NSIT, TEDxNSIT was surely a breather for those who wish to gain pragmatic knowledge. Summarizing the good and the bad, the event propelled the audiences to innovate in the spirit of TED – Ideas worth sharing.

#TEDx - Talks that make us weep, talks that make our jaws drop, talks to move us to action, talks that make us feel empowered, talks that make us human.

Ruchira Gupta, founder of a social organization, "Apne Aap Women", has been working for women and girls since the past 25 years, fighting against sex trafficking. She is presently working to petition the Indian Government for a change in the Indian anti-trafficking law, Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA) that would institute more severe punishment for buyers of prostituted sex and traffickers who profit from it along with removal of clauses that punish women and girls.

Andrew Humphries is an Academy Program Associate at Centre for Civil Society, a public policy think tank in New Delhi. He is an undergraduate in Liberal Arts from St. John's College, Santa Fe and has done his masters from Endicott College. He has been a Socratic Practice facilitator at various Institutes. He has a special interest in philosophy, economics, and the "Austrian" tradition of social science.

Dr Monideepa Roy, currently a Group Leader of Preclinical Biology at Invictus Oncology Pvt. Ltd. leads a team of scientists to unravel novel cancer therapeutics. Her passion is to develop collaborations among cross-functional teams in this industry and academia to meet the scientific, clinical, and marketing needs of biotechnology start-ups.

THE FAREWELL SEASON @GH

Heads held High

Akanksha Dewaker

pajamas ever, received special titles along with a collage of their photographs. Being the first such occasion for the first years, they were fully charged up for their event and showed some dazzling performances. The second and third years were also not far behind the first years entertaining their seniors. The event was made more enjoyable with a constant supply of McDonalds burgers, coke, and snacks. The party had to wrap up by 9:30pm due to the timing restrictions at the hostel, but that did not hamper the spirits of the fourth years. The party resumed at the badminton courts inside the hostel and went on till midnight.

In the same spirit, but maintaining an urbane tone, the official farewell held on 2nd May in the Girls Hostel. It was the first time that boys were invited to be a part of this function. Every fourth year was allowed to bring a guest with her, and no one missed this opportunity. The event was attended by Mr. Bhatia, Mr. S.P. Singh,

Boys and Girls in Girls Hostel

Mrs. Sujata Sengar among other faculty members. The fourth years were presented with convocation caps and degrees (for completion of 4 years in the hostel) by the professors. After the official function was over, the real fun started. The fourth years rocked the night with their gaiety.

With an unofficial and official farewell conducted back to back, the girls hostel was immersed in farewell spirit during May.

The pajama party, organized as unofficial farewell on 26th April, was an extravaganza full of fun and gusto. The college auditorium was decorated, and pom-poms were brought in to embellish the event. The fourth years, dressed in the best

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Scribble Day

Adios Amigos!

The college bid farewell to the batch of 2012 with vivacity and exuberance. The legend, wait for it, legendary batch of 2012 essayed the role of perfect seniors. They were the ones to whom clueless juniors turned for advice or simply to share gossip. They were the ones with whom memories were cherished and love proclaimed.

To the batch of 2012- You will be missed !

Farewell Night

S A T I R E , M Y A T T I R E

Shivangi Saxena

When Archimedes expressed his boundless excitement on stumbling upon a path-breaking invention, little did he realize that the words he articulated would be quoted on several occasions. One of the instances include when entrepreneurial-streak-inflicted engineering undergrads voice the very same word on 'stumbling' upon a start-up or a new college society idea. They shout 'eureka' and run to implement their ideas with their bubbly peers who have a tendency to jump into anything – a beer pong or pioneering a society – though, they are being highly incompetent for a different task.

The modus operandi is simple. Have a Eureka moment, get hold of your bum-chums and start towards the path of a glorious money-laden future that can even put a Saudi king to shame. At least, that's what the perception of a startup conveys; or that a society would inculcate you with abundant entrepreneurial knowledge which will leave the recruitment guy from a dapper company flummoxed and VOILA you will be the next emerging star of the company!

Woe to the world! – as 21st century Antony would say,

reading the above sarcasm-loaded condemnations. The statement aptly reflects the mushrooming of college initiatives (startups and societies) every 15 days. The ritzy Facebook page comes under the banner of social media; the team allot themselves fancy sounding posts giving an illusion of a UN-like organization; beady eyed juniors are lured in the false hopes of 'quality work', 'learning experience' completing the picture. Some go a step further and get uninformed and misfortune – stricken juniors from other colleges as well, or take the whopping step of contacting a big organization, which boasts of a popular term called 'personal contacts'.

Sadly, the parameters mentioned above hardly qualify for a sustaining body. The wretched reality is always different. The mere thought of initiating a startup can't make you a Mark Zuckerberg or Narayan Murthy of the startup-arena. Also the sheer audacity to rip off Ivy League clubs and to have bi-annual meetings won't comfort you. You need much more grit,

determination, dedication and patience to produce a scintillating performance. The need to go beyond the superfluous pomp and show and give more weightage to the substance is non-existent. The startups today, focus on decorating the resumes and other materialistic documents.

Thus, the result too has a condescending tone. A majority of startups never go beyond their twitter campaign. Societies follow a disheartened path; they wither, croak in anonymity with 'founders' in fancy posts as spectators, and finally die a silent death. The beady eyed juniors too realize that they have been hoodwinked and contemplate on more such 'college initiatives'.
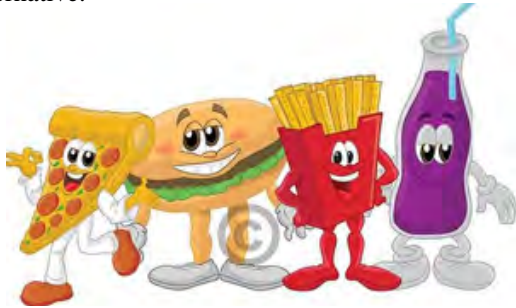
Ah! the vicious cycle.

Issued in interest of students of NSIT plagued by a multitude of society and startups

A sincere advice: 1) Stop pestering with fake updates of sham societies, we know you aint working kiddo! 2) Don't bash up the author whose mother-tongue is sarcasm. Also she has been the beady eyed junior throughout her 1st year.

M O U T H F U L L O F J O Y

1 chocolate brownie + 2 slices of cheese pizza + a bottle of cola + a packet of Lays to munch along = our idea of a delightful meal = nightmare for our body

This has been the age-old philosophical clash of being a college student and eating healthy. You expound a lot of excuses for your unhealthy choices. While many students are "too busy" to spare a thought towards their health, it doesn't mean that fast food "grab n go" is the only alternative.

Going out to eat?

The next time you check out the menu at Zayca or Mic-Mac, instead of ordering foods submerged in oil, try some healthier options like a sandwich, rice or an Indian thali to abate your hunger. Relieve yourself of the sweltering heat and quench your thirst with yoghurt or chilled flavoured milk rather than your regular Pepsi. An evening walk to enjoy a fruit chat or a glass of mixed fruit juice is a healthy way to refresh yourself.

The classy restaurants or the zesty fast food joints tempt us away from the sober mess food or the college eateries. However, let's try to limit our outings to a moderate number. If you really are on the lookout, you'll always find tummy-pleasing and nutritious food items around us.

Habits worth keeping

Breakfast is the most crucial meal of the day, a fact

Esha Puri , Gazal Gupta, Arjun Singh

probably stated for the umpteenth time. However late you may be for your morning class, try not to forgo the paranthas, omelette or that glass of milk. Any unhealthy substitute will only make for a grouchy start for the day.

Not to forget the area where you all falter- gorging on food at the wrong timings. The late night maggi noodles or the frequent snacking in between meals does satiate our hunger but it has deleterious effects on our health.

So, you should avoid skipping meals to prevent untimely hogging on food.

Among all these diet regimes, the most convenient one is to drink plenty of water. By plenty, you mean a heck lot of it. Physicians recommend at least 8 glasses of water daily. This is a manageable feat if you mindfully keep it in practice.

Jog out the extra calories!

We have a sprawling 143 acre lush-green campus, let us make the most of it! Turning your body clocks more towards sanity, you can enjoy the bliss of nature during early morning walks or a jog around the campus. Whenever possible, walk down to the college instead of taking a rickshaw. And don't crib about your class being on the third floor. It's a blessing in disguise that shall contribute in keeping you fit.

College students like to think that they are the busiest people in the world. However occupied they might be in building

their success stories, they should be reminded of the old adage "A successful person is one who is healthy, wealthy and wise".

Why one shouldn't diet!

Here is a huge misconception regarding skipping meals and dieting. Young people believe (especially girls) that skipping meals helps in reducing weight instantly, they won't eat before an important occasion such as a farewell or an engagement where they have to wear sarees or the likes, but this is extremely unhealthy. It has been scientifically proven that if a person skips meals, it makes the human body think that there is a dearth of food in the environment and hence whenever one eats the next time, he/she tends to binge (eating excessively in short time duration). If dieting persists for a long time period, whatever little you eat, the body instantly converts that into fat which is visibly stored in your body. This is because the body is fooled by your dieting and it takes long term measures by storing whatever little it gets in the form of fat. Again if one manages to diet for a long period of time it is very easy to gain the weight back since the fat tissues in the body haven't been eradicated, only fat is removed (think of them as fat lockers where fat has been removed but the space still exists). Thus dieting can never be helpful.

What is helpful, is exercising, which converts your fatty tissues into muscle (made up of protein); it makes your body lean and tight rather than rotund and sagging. You should have smaller portions of meals but more in number, like having 5 small meals instead of 2 huge meals, which most people in these busy times do. It provides body with necessary nutrients and increases metabolism which is helpful for reducing weight. Dieting on the other hand reduces metabolism which induces lethargy and lack of energy. Hence small but more number of meals in a day, following a healthy and complete diet coupled with regular exercise can easily make you lose weight.

SATTAL: EXPLORING NATURE

If you are looking for some time off from your hectic day-to-day life and for a taste of adventure, Sattal is the place to be. With exquisite natural beauty, and a primordial connection to nature, the place is a treat in store as something very different and special with its mountains, the early morning sunrise, the chill in the air, the clouds, the lakes, the waterfall and the adventure sports, of course.

Our trip started on the 5th of April. Early in the morning, and still a little drowsy, we stacked the luggage in the back of the bus and acquired comfortable seats. After a good 12-13 hours of travelling by bus, we finally reached our destination. With enervated bodies and an exhausting journey we looked forward to some rest. However, in store for us was a long and arduous journey to our camp site on a path full of loose stones, a steep slope and a heavy bag which felt like Santa's sack on Christmas!

After walking for almost 30-40 minutes, we finally reached the camp site. Yes, that wasn't any less than what Tenzing Norway might have felt! To give you an idea of how the place was, we had to live in tents, with torches and lanterns. And no electricity! The living-with-nature thing just got serious. After a good, 'tummy-full' dinner we slept like maniacs, wanting nothing more than a good night's sleep.

Day 1- Despite the tiring day earlier, almost everyone got

Shashank Singh, MPAE, 4th year (Guest Article)

up early for local bird-watching. After that, we all were divided into 4 groups of 20 each. My group had to do River crossing and Kayaking for the day. We went down the humungous mountain again, and mind you, we had to do it all 3 days! After walking a little, we reached Laxman Taal. Not quite what I had imagined river crossing to be, but still worth the effort. After everyone completed the river crossing, we went for Kayaking.

View from Campsite

Camp Site: Close to the nature

Kayaking was more exciting than I had thought it would be. Paddling boats and literally racing with others while trying to keep the boat steady was fun. At the end of the day we climbed back to our tents, freshened up a little, to be told that there was already a bonfire set up. Everyone sat around the bonfire, sang songs and had a gala time, just like one big family.

Day 2- Worn out from all the effort we had put in for 'fun', we got exactly what we were hoping for, a lax and rest-filled morning. On the day's menu, were rappelling and rock climbing. Rappelling was somehow the high point of the trip for me. Standing there on top of a mountain, just to come down hill looking down at the ditch, can be really scary. Eventually, checking my harness one last time and with words of self-assurance (read: "Darr ke age jeet hai"), I did it, and somehow won't forget the experience for the rest of my life.Next up was rock climbing. The rock kind of looked difficult to climb, but the trainer gave me the confidence stating that it would be a walk in the park. The confidence was soon shattered into uncollectable pieces after the first 5 steps. Still, I did a fairly good job.

Day 3- Somehow the feeling that we were leaving that day was sinking in. After the breakfast we all went for the remaining two activities, Flying Fox and Swimming. Flying fox can actually make you realize how strong, yet at the same time, fun, gravity is. After doing Flying Fox, we went to Garur Tal for a good swim in the cold water. The swim was relaxing after all the walking, trekking and climbing we'd been doing. We came back from the lake, changed clothes, had lunch, and were told that it was time to leave . With a heavy heart we all bid adieu to this wonderful place and shall cherish it for all the unforgettable memories.

START-UP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

To provide internship opportunities to students, and to pave the way for their all round development and excellence, The Entrepreneurship & Development Cell, NSIT came out with Start-Up Internship Program this April. The program offered platform to students to get a holistic insight into the working of a start-up and contribute to its growth. In the first phase of the program, three start-ups visited the campus namely- Roundone, Tag'n'pin and Tuesdays Research. A number of students went through the screening process and finally landed themselves a meaningful summer internship. In the second phase of the Start-Up internship program, start-ups like GharPay, Inox Apps, Flick2know and BluePage visited the campus to offer internships to 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students. The companies also promised the students a handsome stipend along with a good summer experience.

In the rapidly changing global scenario, and the growing need to inculcate professionalism among students, the Start-up Internship program turned out to be a boon for students who dared to think beyond books.

ZAYCA SNACK ZONE

For NSITians, this year proved to be 'appetite-ful'. While the shutdown of Nescafe was a big bafflement, the opening up of the much-yearned-for canteen - 'Zayca'- was a foodie's luxury. Spurred the amazing response, Nescafe got replaced by the 'Zayca snack zone' which offered all kinds of luscious delicacies.

However, it did not gain as much appreciation as its bigger counterpart. The dishes were too good, only for the ones with a very strong sweet tooth, and the taste had to be compromised on for the variety. This evidently made all students to gravitate towards MicMac - our perpetual saviour in times of food famines and taste crisis.

But soon our saviour shifted to the area under the library while MicMac got its managing authorities changed. So during exams, the whole student population was found, both under and inside, the college library.

Not only this, the Sid Snacks Bar (a.k.a. "Kachori ki Dukaan" or as some called it K.D.) closed down breaking a lot of hostellers' hearts. After all, it had become their night abode.

Finally, even after witnessing shut downs for an year, the campus has been left with a fair share of amazing eating zones where the students can always drop by for a refreshing treat.

ANNUAL FEE HIKE: Burning a hole in your pocket

The ever-escalating annual fees has taken a rather huge jump this year. NSIT has scaled up the annual fee to a whopping Rs. 65,000. Now consider in comparison Rs. 30,050 that the current 4th year students paid when they joined the institution. Estimating from the trend, it won't be surprising that NSIT will soon be competing with the private colleges in terms of fee albeit the facilities and infrastructure shall remain far inferior.

For the official Notification go to http://www.nsit.nic.in/Candidate/ViewMessageFile.aspx?msgid=35

RISING STARS : **NSIT** TO **IIM**

IIM - L
Nehal Jain
Monika Ahlawat

IIM - I
Vartika Aggarwal
Anisha Arora
Nitin Verma
Ajitesh Mehta
Sonakshi Behl

IIM - A
Krittika Adhikary
Kanika Sikriwal

IIM - B
Anshul Pratap Singh
Agrim Kumar

IIM - C
Nehal Jain
Amandeep Bhukal
Ankit Chaudhary
Agrim Kumar
Ekansh Preet Singh

IIM - R
Pankaj Bakshi

IIM - K
Shikhar Kohli
Suraj Prakash Das
Abhinav Ghosh

We congratulate all those who made it to the coveted IIMs!

ALUMNI MEET

The alumni sharing a light moment

With the mission to bring NSITians together, The DIT NSIT Alumni Association organized the Alumni Meet on 17th March 2012. The alumni meet was attended by more than 50 alumni who have proved their mettle in nearly all the fields of life. The event also marked the silver jubilee celebrations for the Batch of 1987 and saw numerous alumni from the batch reminiscing about their college days.

The event began with a discussion session and keynote speeches in the auditorium over a variety of issues ranging from technology, entrepreneurship and current global scenario. As the event was scheduled parallel to the Fahrenheit – The star night at Moksha, which featured singer KK, the end of the event was amalgamated in its cultural essence with KK performing and setting the stage on fire.

Summing it all up, it was happy interacting and happy cherishing for everyone.

OFF TO HARVARD

The HMUN'12 Delegation

When two NSITians made the college proud by winning at the prestigious Harvard National Model United Nations Conference in 2011, they were an inspiration to a lot many. This year, students at NSIT thought of carrying the legacy forward and participated in HNMUN-2012.

They were chiseled to perfection by Debating Society mentors who lead the training sessions and meetings.

This time the delegation comprised of 20 delegates out of which 8 were from first year itself. The team reached Harvard on the 13th of February, 2012 for the four day grueling session that promised an exposure of a different echelon altogether. Students met delegates and intelligentsias from various countries carrying different cultures and backgrounds.

Apart from slogging for days and nights doing their respective research, the delegates also had lots of fun exploring MIT, Harvard Business School, Boston harbor, Imax and finally ice skating on New York roads!

Quiz Club Collaboration

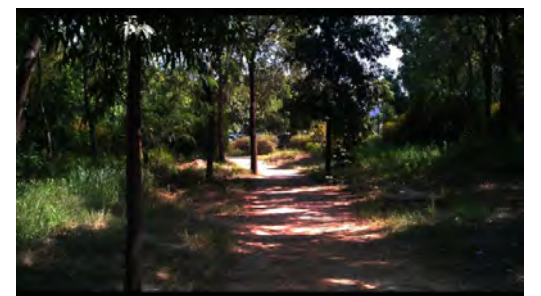Q. Connect them

Brian Lara

Daryl Harper

Graham Thorpe

Junoon-The photography Club Collaboration

Identify which place in NSIT is this?

THE NEWSPAPER TEAM

Mentors

Mansi Aggarwal
Batch of 2012

Rajat Goel
Batch of 2012

Editors

Arjun Singh
ECE 4th year
(Design)

Esha Puri
MPAE 4th year
(Feature)

Gazal Gupta
COE 4th year
(Content)

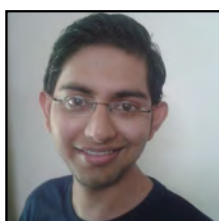Nilayan Das Gupta
ECE 4th year
(Content)

Nitin Garg
IT 4th year
(Manager)

Journalists

Akanksha Dewaker
ECE 3rd year

Ishan Nigam
IT 3rd year

Shivangi Saxena
IT 3rd year

Toshit Agarwal
COE 3rd year

Ayush Maiti
ICE 2nd year

Krishan Kumar Singh
COE 2nd year

Shrey Bansiwal
ECE 2nd year