

Ping!

Bleed Blue !!



A Ping!
To All
IIITians !!

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Editor



Actions

Editor: Hello again, IIIT!

Editor: Each time a year rolls by, ...

Editor is typing...

Pop-in

EDITORIAL

Each time a year rolls by, we experience a sudden burst of motivation that comes in early January, as our BAGs (Big Audacious Goals) are yet again set out to get hold of the new year resolutions that force us to abide by the newly formulated guidelines;

... and worthy resolutions they are, notoriously short-lived, if not forgotten by February!

However, with most of these resolutions, failure comes assured; as the intent behind making these is not strong enough to break our own tendency – being too busy to do anything but to be lazy.

Spared, if any, are the resolutions that bring about a **change... the desired one**;

Keeping this in mind, after being offline for a really long time, here we bring to you a new issue of Ping!: the offline edition- with a change... the desired one, that marks the onset of a new phase.

New, that the updated Ping! assures you of not going offline anytime. :P

This issue gets Dr. Abhijit Mitra to put before you his take on this institute and a lot more.; not to forget a special section on Felicity, the annual techno-cultural festival of IIIT Hyderabad, that this time rose towards a new era. It puts forth the Parliament blues, that have retained a place in our Institute for a long while, and needs an immediate change... the desired one.

This change... the desired one, once when comes true, inspires the random to bring about one more. It is this 'one' that later manifests itself into the 'whole', adding to our lives a new dimension. Any day we wish, we can change one, or we can change all. The day may be today or tomorrow, a month or a year later. We can also remain the same, the way we are; the choice remains with us.

After all, there are reasons to do things and to do nothing. But then why do we tend to curse the effect, when we nourish the cause?

As Shakespeare quoted, “The fault is not in the stars, but in ourselves”. So dear friends, it is time we indulge in serious introspection of oneself, and be the change we want to see

Himanshu Zade

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Qsn: Tell us something about your days at IIT-Kanpur.

Ans: When I was a student at IIT-K, I was very involved in dramatics and painting. I was a scriptwriter at one point of time, later turned into a painter. I had great relations even with the mess workers over there. Faculty were my role models. They were really help-

ful and always had time to interact with students who wanted to do more.

Qsn: What, according to you, might be the difference between the students of IIT Kanpur & IIT Kharagpur vs IIT-H ?

Ans: Every element which was in those colleges at that time is also here right now. There are some students with very deep thoughts and their enthusiasm is great. The thing which the students should understand is that they need to be a part of the society which consists of relationships with others. Students should do things that automatically make them feel rewarded.

Students should have the courage to ask people to convince them. They should ask why they should be doing anything.

Qsn: Where do you see IIT-H going in the next ten years?

Ans: Students are coming out. They are the reflection of our society. I'm no astrologer and I don't believe in wishful thinking. We are going in the right direction. We're going to do well. Students have the ability and contain the potential to write the future.

Qsn: Is there anything in IIT-H that you would like to change?

Ans: I think there should be greater teacher-student interaction, not academically, but outside the class. Also, the importance of grades in the minds of the students should decrease. These are the things which I want to change and measures to implement these have already started. Activities should increase and there should be greater emphasis on regularity of events than the scale or level of the event. These activities give us the view of the real world.

Qsn: What would you like to say about the attitude of students in college?

Ans: Talking in terms of 'attitude', inherently there has not been much change in students in particular. The society is conditioning students to compete from the beginning. This

has brought about small changes like-

- Greater stress on thinking.
- Larger number of students are suffering from the coaching mania.

The worry about prospect of getting a good job.

I won't say a change in attitude has come about but there has been a change in habits, and by habits I mean wrong habits which leads to wrong results.

Habits like social networking is a complete waste of time. We forget the real world while living in that virtual world. Things can improve only if the conditioning changes, not only for students but for everyone. "Childhood has been taken away from students".

Qsn: How would you describe your relations with students ?

Ans: I'm completely approachable. PG students (whom I generally teach) approach me without hesitation. Even a few UG1 students are in contact with me through Gtalk and mail me their concerns at certain instances. I love my students and am always available for their help.

Qsn: What's the best thing you feel as a teacher?

Ans: The real reward is when I say something and I see eyes lifting up...

Qsn: Is 'Professor Mitra' the same with his own children?

Ans: My kids have gone into higher education. I've raised them with passion and detachment and punished them when I felt necessary. Today, I see most of it getting reciprocated.

Qsn: Any advice on how students should manage their time?

Ans: I think every individual has to think what or which time of his is going down the drain. Any work can be evaluated into important/non-important, urgent/non-urgent work and how much time you spend on each.

Analyze the schedule in one week. If you wish you can revise Steve Covey's seven habits of successful teenagers.

Qsn: What do you have to say about the mixed response of the students towards human values and Jeevan Vidya?

Ans: The purpose behind these is to correct what is wrong and enable you to be in touch with real life and with yourself. Mixed responses can be due to either of the two reasons- The mentor might not be taking up topics which are of interest to the students. In this first case the student can go to the mentor with their topic of interest and also point out their mistakes.

There are always students who think that it is not 'in' to talk about something like 'human values'.

I personally feel that it is 'one of the most important courses here'. If done properly and with proper interest, it will make a

big difference in the lives of IITians. We will be able to produce students who are leaders in their respective field. Infact this is the real purpose of education.

Qsn: Any good books, movies or songs you' d like to mention?

Ans: I liked Avatar 3D, 3 Idiots etc.I am reading a few Bengali novels at present and really like Bengali monthlies.

I am a fan of Tagore classics, Lata Chandra's, Sharath, Conan Doyle.

IBBT

No one would have thought, before its start, that it could be such a hit. After lots of delays it started with a bang! Right from the day one and onwards every jump-ball, every free-shot and every bisecting pass had our breaths taken away. Right from the kick off, it had everything a good encounter demands. Day one itself had a near turnaround and after that there was not a single sigh of relief from team members and their supporters.

In any other tournament, you'll get an idea of what's going to happen next, but it was not so in this case. Predictions started becoming tougher as the games went on closer and closer in terms of finishes; and no team seemed willing to give up at any stage.

It was overwhelming to see the determination and concentration that teams carried in this tournament. Such was the passion among the players that even injuries couldn't let them down. The tournament carried on for 7 days between 4th and 10th of March and every day witnessed moments of nerves and bulk of finger crossings from the supporters.

It was UG1 who played the opener against PG, which was followed by an exhilarating one between UG2 and UG4. The coming week saw more intense encounters courtesy spirited play by UG1 and UG3 (defying expectations).

Ultimately, the contest boiled down to the super finale between UG4 and UG3. This game was against all presumptions and foresights prior to the tournament and UG4 were obvious favorites. However, UG3 with their supreme momentum and endless will crushed the heavyweights. Everyone could feel the energy in the air, as the moments of conclusion of this action-packed tournament finally arrived.

The final standings read:

UG3 – Winners

UG4 – Runner Ups

UG1 – Third Place

UG2 – Fourth Place

PG – Fifth Place

Apart from the thrilling moments, this tournament showcased many new players especially from the UG1 batch. While we preserve these magical moments, we also hope to see even more entertaining Basket Ball action in the time that follows.

R&D Showcase

R&D showcase , the two-day annual showcase of prominent research projects done by the students throughout the year, was recently held in the campus on 26th and 27th Feb .There was a wide plethora of projects showcased from across 19 research departments; ranging from Earthquake Engineering to Visual IT to Exact Humanities, which truly showcased the huge potential that the institute carries in research field. Since IIT-H is known for its innovative research and transformational technologies, a lot of effort was required for setting up such a big event. Organizers and volunteers teamed up with hard work and dedication to make this event successful.

A major task that the organizing team faced was to provide precise information of the schedule for the convenience of visitors. This was done by erected signs, directions, information etc. at proper places in the campus, starting from the main gate itself. For the assistance of outsiders, a help desk was setup and information leaflets were provided to the visitors as soon as they entered the main building. Besides equipping them with the list of all projects being displayed, proper help posts were affixed at each floor and stairways.

The event started on 26th morning, with a distinguished lecture from the Dean (R&D),Dr. P J Narayanan. Soon people started to show up, and their number grew as the day progressed. By afternoon, almost all the rooms were filled with people visiting, admiring and enquiring the works of students who seemed very enthusiastic about it. The guests were also provided with free refreshments.

Adding to glee and spirit of first day, second day proceedings witnessed more and more visitors eager to utilize the opportunity to learn firsthand about IIT's cutting edge research and technology developments. Furthermore, when distinguished personalities from reputed universities; along with professionals from different companies applauded the creativity and hard work of participants, it was like an icing on the cake. The remarkable success of R&D showcase can easily be determined by the prominent place provide to it in many renowned dailies like "THE HINDU" and coverage provided to it by famous news channels.

To sum up, the two-day research showcase was eventually fruitful in its purpose, as it engraved an irremovable mark of the institute's prestige in the minds of visitors. Seeing the enthusiasm of the organizers, participants and visitors, a much greater response can be expected in the forthcoming years



A pic from R & D showcase

Campus Voice

Dear Diary

It has been long since we talked has it not? “Yes, my friend, I have missed you!” I know is going to be your reply. But then I must say I have been busy, very busy to be precise. New semester, new courses, new profs and a new year too! Alright, alright, I know, I am just making it up for not staying in touch. Well, but today I come to you for solace because of a reason. I am disappointed, disillusioned and let down (couldn't think of another word beginning with dis-). Being a Delhite, the Commonwealth Games (CWG, as I am going to refer to it) was an affair that stared me in the face every morning during breakfast as the newspapers were full of it... and finally when the much awaited event took place I was in Hyderabad with no other option but to watch the opening and the closing ceremonies on DD channel. The cherry on top of the cake was, our mid-semester examinations were also during the same fortnight. What timing! Phew! Fine let's stop complaining.

CWG happened, and as it is stated public memory is short lived, the CWG was soon forgotten. Inflating prices and Barack Obama became the hot topics of discussion. But, somewhere editorials continued ruing regarding the CWG and raised questions which unfortunately yielded no answers from the authorities.

Was the huge amount of money spent on the ‘ceremony’ justified as it was just a 12 daylong event? Is the current infrastructure suitable for those people who were displaced from their homes to set up the Games Village? Was quality compromised when stadiums and buildings that would take a substantial period of time to build were completed in a few weeks? If not, then why did a pedestrian bridge next to the showpiece Jawaharlal Neh-

ru Stadium collapse just a few days before athletes were due to arrive? Did the extravagant amount of money allocated as funds for the event vanish into thin air or into the pockets of officials responsible for development work?

So we (The Ping Team) thought about asking people around campus their opinions on some of the questions stated above. Also we asked them if they believed that the Games were a success and if they were pivotal towards raising India's position in the field of sports in the world arena.

It is with great regret and even disbelief I must state that some of my colleagues here were not in sync with what has occurred. Oblivious to the fact that in their country's capital city a glorious event was taking place, life continued at IIIT-H.

Though I would like to quote here one of the interesting responses we came across while we were on the task. Suresh Kalmadi, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of CWG is the prime suspect in matters regarding corruption. We had asked what reason he would state for his act of treason and treachery. A very innovative resident of our college has come up with an idea of escape for the honourable Mr. Kalmadi by saying ‘I am being targeted because I am a dalit’.

So, my dear Diary, it is time I take your leave hoping that next time when I decide to ask people their opinions I am bombarded with many more creative and aware replies . But then, I can only hope... and wait...

The stars are not wanted now; put out every one,

Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,

Pour away the ocean and sweep up the woods;

For nothing now can ever come to any good.

- W.H. Auden (in his poem Funeral Blues)

Write to you again soon.

Shriyaa

P.S.: Suresh Kalmadi was sacked on January 24, 2011 as the Chairman of the CWG Organising Committee to enable an unhindered probe into alleged corruption, bringing an unceremonious end to his tenure which was plagued by scandals and controversies.

FELICITY '11

AND IT STARTED ON THE 18TH...

The theme chosen for Felicity this year was Evolution with the flowery tag line 'Rising towards a New Era'. This felicity was indeed huge in terms of the spirits of the participants and the efforts put in making it a huge success.

'Kalakshetra- the Temple of Arts'- was set up under a tent in the Football field and as suggested by the name, was a place to showcase ones talent in arts. Any passerby could witness some future Manish Malhotras working with paper. Well, that's paper dressing for you. Events like Façade, Pot Painting, Mag Design, Bag design attracted a lot of participation. The Wall behind the felicity ground is decorated with beautiful 'Graffiti' created by the participating students. The road along the old faculty quarters can still be seen smudged with the colours of beautiful rangolis.

On the same spot 'INFORMALS' comprised of events like Hair-Styling and Blind Dating. The events were innovative and creative and thus attracted a large amount of participation.

On the night of the 18th, the theme of 'evolution' was portrayed by a big bunch of IIITians. The theme was very aptly and innovatively displayed as the story began from early man and ended up in the robot era. There was bhangra, salsa, hip-hop to tap your feet on peppy numbers, and some Bollywood numbers like, *ek main aur ek tu*, (:P), *aaj kal tere mere pyar ke charche*, to bring a blushing smile on your face.

The talented actors and dancers of the college gave their best shot to convey the message of evolution. Although the skit was mainly humorous and entertaining, it still concluded on a serious note examining where our generation is moving towards.

Inaugural did not end here; it also had a *hasya-kavi sammelan*, chords of Invictus and West 97 and 'Freaks and Style' showing their BBoying skills.

This time the 'Zombie Zone' was endorsed by 'Alienware' (first time in IIIT) to give a gaming experience never felt before. A huge wave of participants turned up to show their 'magging' skills and football techniques in Counter Strike and FIFA.

'Futsal' - the mini-football event was a huge success last year and again this year it witnessed the participation of more than 50 teams. With ace-footballers from the region, it was worth a watch for all.

Like every year this year also many students from abroad also participated in our online events- 'Threads' which had started much before the 18th.

On one of the nights we had 'War of the DJs' organized by the Panache School of DJ. There were six DJs who arrived on the scene to entertain us the IIITians. And entertain they did, as the raucous crowd cheered and jeered on the performing DJs. The crowd had a good sense for music, as good performances were lifted by the singing and dancing, and bad performances were put down collectively. In the midst of all the revelry, a whole section of the crowd sat down in demand for some Telugu songs to be played. Overall, everyone had a good time under the disco lights in the Felicity ground, dancing into the night.

Riders on the Storm, its name being derived from The Doors' classic composition, was a night to head bang, go crazy in mosh-pits, a night of revelry, when everyone was in high spirits and high in spirits. Prestorika, the lead band, made everyone's night with some heavy metal. The crowd went crazy, following the lead of the vocalist, Vasav Vashisht, the guy in the long locks. They rocked the night away with their own compositions, followed up by some classic covers. The battle of the bands saw some of the best bands in the region clash against each other. The bands competed to move the crowd to head bang to their beats and the everyone ended up having a great time.

Anyone who made the effort of climbing upto the second floor of the Nilgiri building would have realized that there were so many events of Literary Café and Cultural Colloseum taking place from morning till evening, all the three days. One could witness tapping feet in 'Stomp the Yard' and sound of singing *aalap* in 'Sargam'. Another first time event, CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) saw the entire campus in hustle-bustle as the wannabe detectives exercised their grey cells. The 'Talent Showcase' received more than 150 entries. After a series of rounds of interviews and group discussions, the judges selected 12 young finalists. The crowd had a mixed response towards the performers and finally the 2 best were rewarded with cash prizes.

...AND IT ENDED ON THE 20th

It was our Felicity ... and we lived it ... \m/



A chat with Aditya Navada



Academics, Music, Parties, and now IIM! How did you manage it all?!

Haha! In MBA lingo- Effective Time management strategies :P. Jokes apart, to some extent it is actually true. IIT provides you with an environment with ample opportunities to explore different dimensions of your latent abilities- be it flexible electives, the extra currics/Felicity or sports. Managing to juggle all that you take up on your plate is the key. A lot also depends on what you like doing. Music gives me a kick, while parties are a must and academics on the other hand is a by product of the people who you spend most of your four years with. IIM - how that happened - is something i am still trying to figure out.

How would you describe your four years here in IITH?

Call it cliched, but those definitely were the best years of my life... especially the summer of 2009, where most of us would just sit at the coffee shop, late into the night, not really sure where life was going to take us. We deliberated about everything under the sun, and about the various opportunities that lay ahead. One thing we were all sure of was that no one really knew where they would be 6 months into the future. But luckily we've all landed at really good places and every one's happy with how everything finally chalked out.

What do you miss most about IITH?

For me what defines an institute is the people. I miss the people the most. My friends, seniors, juniors, profs. And to add to that 'Pintu bhaiya's juice', the infinite coffee shop sessions over samosas and the 'unknown brand'-flavoured milk, running to the canteen when it was about to close and pleading with the guy to give you something-anything, the 6 am painful PT credits, the late night Lan gaming, communicating over gtalk with the person in the room next to you, Prof's Govindarajulu's "Which jail are you from", the humility lessons garnered by washing your plates and dining on the floor, Prof Jawahar's half-smile which was titled "the silence before the storm" ...I don't think the list ends for me! I can also never forget my countless debates with Pranav Vasishta, who i still believe is the true mascot of IIT-H. And ofcourse I miss a lot of the music practice sessions in the makeshift music rooms. Here in IIMB, we do have a really nice music room but it is a luxury to get time to jam.

Who was your favorite prof here and why?

This is a dicey question. I had a lot of favorites and it'd be unfair to pick one. Some of my hall-of-famers are The Marathes. I'm not sure if the junior batches know them, but they taught us English literature, and are the most inspiring couple that I've ever been taught by. Another of my favourites is Kavita Vemuri. She was more of a friend and guide than a stereotypical teacher. I remember how i bugged her day in and day out for almost 2 months and she would patiently dedicate time to help me out. Ofcourse, no list be complete without Prof Govindrajulu. I'm pretty sure that he has

mesmerized even the current batch with his charm. I'd also like to mention the awe inspiring Prof Jawahar - One of the few professors who without doing much, created an aura that compelled you to give your best and excel in his subject. Finally, I'd like to mention Vinish Gupta who without a doubt is a real life (maybe even better!) version of Aamir Khan from 3 idiots. I'm not kidding.

How does it feel to be one of the select few from IITH to make it to the IIM's, any tips for the newer aspirants?

My story is not something that really serious aspirants should go by. Like I already said, IIM happened by chance. I can name many from my batch who i am sure worked way harder than i ever can. So my tip would be.. Don't be like me. Don't leave a lot to luck :P Its also really important to like what you are doing. Do not do it just because X, Y or Z is doing it. Only when you like what you are doing, can you excel at it.

How different is the faculty-student interaction at the IIM as compared to back here?

It's not really drastically different. The major difference though is that you have a lot of in-class participation. We don't have stereotypical lectures where the professor enters, gives a speech for 2 hours and leaves. Here they are more like facilitators and most of the discussion is from the students. Besides that, we also need to do a lot of before class reading and regularly have surprise quizzes. I don't want to freak aspirants out, but to be honest I haven't studied so much in my life. :) ... At the same time I also haven't partied so much in my life. So the work hard, party harder cliché is apt here.

The rules of an institution define its culture, how would you describe the contrast between the two colleges?

Culture wise its very very different. Besides what i just mentioned above, for me major differentiators were the people. In IIMB especially, freshers are a rare breed. So i am one of the youngest in the batch. Interacting with really smart people who have been in top positions in all of your dream companies, has been a really enriching experience. Also i see a stark contrast in terms of student-alumni interaction which is very strong here. I agree that IIT is much younger, but I'd love to see more focused initiatives from the student front.

Club/House selections are also very very different here. While in IIT I felt it was rather ad-hoc, here we have a formalized procedure in place which includes resume submissions, SOPs, 3 rounds of interviews and 2 sets of tasks, which I feel is very fair and should be seriously considered for adoption in IIT. At the academia front, the focus is on practical learning coupled with the traditional format. But surprise quizzes and class participation grades tend to stretch you to the limit. It is a general belief that if you survive here, you've brushed the abyss because it can't possibly get any worse. On a lighter note, we also have a tennis court here, so for tennis enthusiasts like me who kept cribbing about the absence of one in IIT, there's some respite.

Aditya Navada gets the Aditya Birla scholarship.. How did that come about?

Haha. Well that did come as a major shocker to me too, considering the fact that they pick the top 20 from the top IIMs and out of this pool the top 10 MBA grads of the year are picked by the best of the best in the industry. Inherently as a fresher, we have a major disadvantage in terms of overall

points, so i guess it was only luck that pulled me through to the top 20 of B and more luck to finally bag the scholarship. I still remember my interview panel, which had personalities like the Director of McKinsey, the Editor of the Business Standard and a representative from the Planning Commission of India. All the three grilled me left, right and centre about every minute detail of every argument I presented. It was a fun experience nevertheless.

A different Perspective of Sanyam Sharma

Q1) We have been through your photographs on Flickr, and I gotta say, they are awesome!

What made you take up photography? Since when have you been at it?

A: My dad introduced me to photography at an early age, when I was probably 8 years old or so. It was a basic point and shoot film camera and I guess that's where the seed was planted. I got more serious and started learning more on the technical aspects after I bought my first digital camera in 2005 and then upgraded it to a DSLR in 2008. The abundant technical knowledge available on the internet helped me a lot in learning the intricacies of creating a good picture.

Q2) Did your family support this passion you have for photography?

A: I guess everybody loves a great picture and whats better than having someone in the family to click one for you! :) I don't think anyone in the family ever discouraged it rather they motivated me a lot to go the extra mile and try different concepts.

Q3) A few photographs of yours were published in an international magazine. Tell us more about it. How did it feel to know your photographs had been selected?

A: Internet is a boon when it comes to crossing boundaries and having my pictures on flickr and my website helped me taking them to the world. A few magazine editors working on different concepts browsed through some of my pictures and they liked so much to include them in their issues. Getting pictures published is another form of appreciation and it's like rocket fuel for an artist.

Q4) Your photographs capture various subjects and themes, be it nature, city skylines or of people. Which subject do you find most interesting? Also, which subject, according to you, is most challenging to capture?

A: I like clicking Landscapes and Cityscapes a lot. Both the subjects sometimes allow getting a scene on the frame which is not usually seen by the public. Its a challenge always to get something different for the viewers, it might not be a difficult subject to capture but capturing it in a very different style is always challenging.

Q5) What would be your advice to budding photographers?

A: Click as many pictures as you can. And always remember creating photographs is not just pointing the camera and clicking, but it's more about visualizing.

Q6) We at IIIT do photography as part of our course. Would you like to conduct a workshop for us sometime?

Any words to sign off with?

No preaching and gyaan sessions here. Just one thing - Make most of the 4 years. Do not regret later. And most importantly don't let anything bog you down cause all in all its just another brick in the wall.. :)



A: I am now based in Seattle and I can surely plan something when I am visiting India.

Q7) Who's your inspiration?

A: Flickr :)

Q8) What led you to take up software engineering?

A: I would attribute it to my computer teacher at my school who first introduced me to it, and that interest grew over time.

Q9) You work with Microsoft - a dream job for any software engineer! What's it like to be working for one of the largest software developers in the world?

A: I still don't believe how I got in :) Working with so many smart people around you make you feel confident as well as keeps on your toes and learn something or the other with each passing day.

Q10) What do you enjoying doing more - your software job, or photography?

A: I think what works for me is balancing both; although I enjoy clicking pictures more, I am equally hooked to code and writing softwares.

Q11) What do you like to do in your free time apart from photography? Do you get any free time at all?

A: Watch movies with my wife, and recently I've been playing a lot with my Kinect.

Q12) From your photographs it's apparent that you have been to many places around the globe. Which is your favourite locale and why?

A: [Triund](#) has to be my favorite place till date. Its a small trek from McLeod Gunj in upper Dharamshala and I have never been to a more surreal place than that. The picture is the most viewed picture on my flickr stream till date :)

Q13) We have seen some beautiful photographs of IIIT in your albums. How according to you did IIIT help nurture your talents - be it photography, software engineering or anything else?

A: It played a big role in grooming me as a software engineer. I also feel that I learnt so much from the other students around me and the life in IIIT in general.

Q14) Do you miss your college days?

A: Would anyone doubt that :) Those were the best days of my life :)

Q15) What would be the one most unforgettable memory of your college life?

A: Tons of them, cant pick one out of so many.

Q16) Can you mention a few that stand out?

A. Dancing on the song "Woh Ladki Hai Kahan" from Dil Chahta Hai in front of all my seniors, and probably coffee shop sessions with my wing mates, playing age all night long, counter strike with juniors, quake sessions on lab machines, trips to Needs Dhaba in a chauffeur driven 7-seater from Gachibowli to Begumpet, just to get some tasty Punjabi food and lassi. I guess the first and last one would be the two most strong memories for me.

IIIT Parliament Blues

- Shantanu Shrivastava

IIIT Student body, also known as the IIIT Student Parliament came into existence in the year "Who knows" for the purpose "No clue". Its existence has helped to solve many issues - "Cant remember" and "nobody cares". Its vision "Don't know" is carried by all members with high devotion.

- "Seriously, except a few I have never seen anyone attend it".

The above lines are not meant to hurt any feelings but yes they are meant to create an urge and desire to understand what they mean. They correspond to the present state of the IIIT Student Parliament and the views of (IIIT — IIIT Student Parliament) = The Majority of IIITians, about it.

Below is a very common dialogue between a Parliamentarian (P) and a Non-Parliamentarian (NP).

NP to P :- Where are you hurrying off to?

P:- Arey, Today is the Parliament Meeting !

NP :- Hah! Who goes for a Parliament meeting ! .. Come on lets play CS or rather complete that xyz Assignment. Parliament is a complete time waste. Wont fetch you anything except some certificates !.

[P responds]

1.A dedicated P :- It's not like that! parliament is for you guys. We attempt to solve daily problems.

2.A non-dedicated P:- Whatever! Gotta attend it else they wont give me the certificates.

3.A dedicated house leader :- I have no desire of attending the parliament yaar!.. I like to do my house work. Organize events etc.. Stuck with it. Isn't the work I do important? I organize events well! That's my job nothing more!

[NP responds]

A non-concerned NP:- Arey! I am least interested. Go and get it done fast.

A concerned NP:- For any of the cases:- Watever!.. Your Parliament is for the select few, of the select few and by the select few. It's a good time to catch up with those, whom you don't meet often!.

[P responds]

A non-dedicated P and dedicated house leader leave. The on-

ly person left to fight for the Parliament - A dedicated P. Lets call this guy P.

P :- You're wrong! We spend hours figuring out solutions to your daily problems. Try to do talks on your behalf with the faculty.

NP:- That's the only thing you guys have been doing. Talk, talk and talk. Rarely have I received news of any problem being solved by the Parliament. Also, you don't even have full strength in your meetings. More to add, this time not even a single meeting has been conducted and nor has the Parliament been established. When you guys yourself aren't interested how can we hope for something from this body?

P:- If you're so interested then why don't you be a part of the Parliament. All the Parliament meetings are open for anyone to attend. Why don't you come and share?

[NP looks surprised.]

NP:- Do you send your meeting notifications on the students mailing list? .Will I have a dream about your meetings? But most importantly, I don't think you guys would give weight to what I would have to say!

P:- Recently, an Open Meeting was held. Did you attend it?..... and it goes on until both feel tired or one has to hurry.

We can draw several inferences from this simple dialogue. The introduction points to lack of awareness and formalism and lack of correct publicity. The problem of awareness implies- people are not knowledgeable about the working of the parliament. Formalism implies- absence of documents regarding the Parliament. And Correct publicity demands the increase in efforts of publicizing its goals, rules, policies and work done. Even politicians publicize their charters etc before the elections.

Another observation is in the case of non-dedicated P and dedicated house leader. The basic question to ask is, should we be having someone not interested in the Parliament? Another question would be - Is it needed that someone who is a good sportsperson/cultural enthusiast but not interested in the Parliament, be forced to be a member? What is the need to include house representatives in the Parliament? In real life there are hardly any house issues, a Parliament is meant for the general grievances. If you agree with the above points, then, you must also agree that a complete structural overhaul of the present parliament is required.

Let us now rewind to last year. A constitution was presented in the parliament for adding some rudimentary formalism. This in turn triggered a host of discussions and attempts were made to answer all those questions by the dedicated P's. It was even decided to shift back to macro-democracy, in other words, elections, so that people can have faith in their leaders. A very good decision but not supported by the majority of IIITians as very few turned up for the Open Meeting held earlier this year.

Regarding this we caught up with our present Speaker- Mr . Supreet Acharya(UG2K7). He says "Yes I do agree that very few Parliamentarians are interested in the on goings of the

parliament and even lesser in the parliament from the IIIT community. There is a general notion of parliament being a “no-backbone” body. And we really want to change that. But what can we do if people themselves aren’t interested at all. We conducted an Open Meeting and hardly 20 turned up. It seems as though nobody is interested.”

All of this signifies that there is an on going blame game being played out here. Parliamentarians blame the Majority IIIT for being non-responsive and in the other case, Majority IIIT doesn’t feel the need of a Parliament. This is a definite deadlock and yes very similar to the ones we study in OS. Both need each other and both have what the other needs. And if Majority IIIT does not need a parliament then why even have a parliament or someone to solve our problems. Let us follow the rules blindly without question. But, if we, even if minutely, feel the need of a forum then let us work together towards a solution.

And the best way would be to provide the required support, communicate our problems/thoughts, encourage the dedicated P’s and participate if needed. Even CWG got the support of Indian citizens after its initial money fiasco. And if not for any of the above, then for yourself where you can voice your views without hesitation. It’s being run by our companions and they need our support. It’s a step and platform to learn before entering the real world outside and to understand the Whys and Whats of the society.

So, let’s change the purpose of Parliament from “No Clue” to ‘Betterment of Student Community’.

Let’s change the issues solved by Parliament from “Don’t Remember” and “Nobody Cares” to ‘Voicing of Students Opinions’ and ‘Solving Crucial Problems’.

Lets change the vision of Parliament from “Don’t Know” to ‘An alert and responsible Student Community’.

AGONY AUNT

The uncut grass near the canteen is home to a lot of fauna like snakes, mosquitoes etc. This is poses a risk to those sitting to have food in that area.

This has been a long-standing issue. The Campus Life com-

mittee should take care of this. You can ask the Campus Life representatives of your batch to take up this issue.

The hostel bathrooms are unclean

You must bring this to the notice of the hostel caretakers or hostel representatives of your batch.

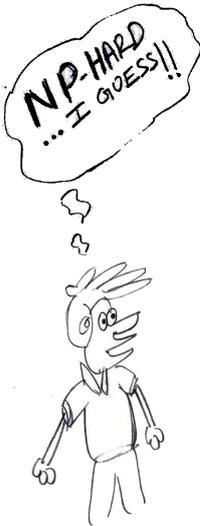
The course description for some courses (like humanities) mentioned that only dual degree students will be allotted these courses. Yet many 4-year students have been allotted these courses while other 4-year students did not even consider these options looking at the description. How does this make sense ?

A similar incident was brought to our notice last semester. The Academic Council should take up this issue with the Dean (Academics).

The load distribution of the courses is very bad. There are long periods in which students have no work to do and just before the exams the workload is too much.

The issue has already been taken up with the Dean (Academics) and he has assured that this will not happen. He has advised the Academic Council to be more pro-active and vigilant about it.

Pun Unintended



Course Allotment

ELECTIVES	TIME		
	TIME SLOT 1	TIME SLOT 2	TIME SLOT 3
MATHS	70% (80%)	83% (80%)	95% (80%)
SCIENCE	75% (80%)	67% (80%)	64% (72%)
HUMANITIES	99-34% (80%)	93% (80%)	11% (80%)
ENGLI	80%	72%	91% (80%)

The circle indicates a course
The arrow indicates dependency (pre-requisite)
% signifies the difficulty
Find 'OPTIMAL' course order such that

1. No clash in times
2. Min. overall Difficulty
3. All the Requirements are met

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