

# PING!

Vol 3 Issue 3



## Editor's Word

Hello again IIITians!

“And we are back” with a new edition of Ping! Since this is the first edition of 2012, we would like to wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year. May this year bring good luck and success to all, and may your wishes and resolutions come true.

The journey of time is split into a cycle of innumerable years, and each year brings with it new aims, resolutions and hope of a better future. 2012 is no exception, as can be seen in our own campus. To begin with, this year started off with the end of first phase of placement season in the institute. Following the trend of bygone years, the students of IIIT-H have once again made their mark and shown excellent performance in campus recruitments - most of them bagging lucrative offers in their dream companies. This has not only brought laurels to the institute but has also proved once again that hard work and talent is always rewarded. The students who had entered the campus with high dreams in their eyes are now ready for seeing those dreams come true! Not only has 2012 proved to be the harbinger of joy for them, but has also opened the doors of an entirely different world where they would be chasing their destinies and striving to make a reputable place for themselves in this world.

Just as the new-year has brought fruitful results for the placed students, it has also brought new opportunities and challenges for many others. The UG2k9 batch has been with the institute since last two celebrations of ‘Felicity’, and has contributed significantly to make these fests a success. As is the tradition, this batch shall be the organizing batch of Felicity 2k12. This has inculcated a sense of excitement and responsibility in these guys, who are eager to make full use of this opportunity and prove their mettle in organizing events on such a large scale. Transitioning from occasional meetings with a few attendants to daily exhaustive meetings with huge participation, the preparations have picked up speed which assures us that Felicity 2k12 is going to be bigger and better than ever before!

Talking of opportunities and hopes, 2012 has also brought with it the hope of a strong *Lokpal* bill. For quite a long time, Anna Hazare and his supporters have been on a nation-wide mission to create a wave of public awareness against corruption and have been making peaceful efforts to get a strong Lokpal bill passed. Dribbling the ball through cunning political players, false promises and other legal obstructions, team Anna has forced the Government to bring the Lokpal bill in Parliament for discussion. Though the reluctance of Government and criticism of the Government’s version of bill make its path ahead difficult, there is still hope that this year would witness the liberation of the common Indian man from the trap of corruption. As quoted by Anna himself- “This is the second struggle by Indians for Independence.”

The advent of year 2012 means much more to the whole world, as the echoes of this number remind us of the theories and beliefs that have been haunting mankind since time immemorial, and have further been spiced up by media - Is 2012 the last year that we would see? Will there be no 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2012? Conceived by the Mayan Calendar which ends on 12/21/12, and backed by the soothsayer Nostradamus- all of whose predictions about future have come out to be true, this popular belief makes people think whether December 21, 2012 will really prove to be THE DOOMSDAY?

We do not know the answer. We do not know whether the 2012 apocalypse would come true, or whether we would “live happily ever after”. The only thing which we know is that life must go on- without the worry of tomorrow. This is also the theme of Felicity 2k12- Live as if there is no tomorrow! So, practicing this philosophy of moving on, we bring to you the latest edition of Ping!- the Winter edition, which includes a flashback of campus activities, an interview of Prof. Shubhajit Roy Chowdhary and other regular columns. So flip the pages and get started!

Happy Pinging!

Anshul Bhargava

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# Campus Buzz

*Here is a flashback of some happenings in the campus during the last few months of 2k11.*

Come October and a festive mood engulfs the entire country, and so was the mood at IIIT-H. As **Navratri** came to an end on the 6th of October, it was followed by the "**Dandiya Night**" at IIIT-H. Dandiya Raas, a traditional form of dance performed during the nine days of festival, was celebrated as a part of the merriment. The night was a blast complete with good food and the traditional *Garba* and *Dandiya* dances. First a *puja* was performed in Goddess Durga's honor, following which the traditional Dandiya songs were played to which the crowd danced through the evening. The mood was upbeat with a large turnout from the students; especially the freshers; who took part in large numbers. Even the people who weren't acquainted with the dance forms participated with great enthusiasm to make the event a huge success. The aim of this event was to keep up the traditional practice and also to give the students a few moments of fun and frolic, which was successfully met.

Then came up the festival of lights—**Deepawali**. Until a day before Diwali, it seemed that the festival of lights was going to take on a whole new meaning in IIIT H. With the majority of students visiting their home towns for the sacred festival, the days leading to Diwali were the days the Earth had stood still for students staying in campus. Fortunately, the ambience brightened up on the day of the festival. Students got into the festive mood and tried to fill the void made by having to celebrate the festival away from home by being together. Students, guards and staff lit candles all the way from OBH to the guest house. A healthy crowd of people then assembled in the guest house to pray to the Al-

mighty and seek his blessings. After the *puja*, everyone went to the Felicity ground to light crackers. After filling up the sky with a gamut of colours and sparkles, the night finally drew onto a close, bathing in beautiful sparkling multi-coloured light.

Each year, the chills of October bring along a viral rock fever in IIIT campus- the symptoms being uncontrollable head-banging, wild moshing and irrepressible feet tapping. This year too, the 8th of October brought all the rock-heads out on the Felicity ground to soak in the raging ambience with **October Flakes**. The evening kicked off with a great performance by the new UG1 band- "The PEEPS" performing *Bring me to life* and *Zombie*. Next came 'BASH' -the band from UG2 with a versatile performance ranging from *Garaj Baras* by *Junoon* to *Happy* by *Mudwayne*, following which a wave of energy ran through the crowd and the heads started banging. Just when the crowd starting heating up, there came in "INVICTUS" followed by "APOTHEOSYS", raising the temperature up to the kindling. What came next set the whole crowd on fire, and they were... KARMIC BLEND! Throughout the band's performance, no single head was still and the whole Felicity ground was converted into a mosh pit.

The event was a huge success and the credit goes to the Music Club for their hard work. The experience was intoxicating, especially for the UG1 who had their first such experience. Everyone left with a wish in their minds - may every month be October.

## List of bands who performed on October Flakes

### **Hey Peeps!**

Vidit Gupta : Lead Guitar  
Somay Jain : Rhythm Guitar  
Vivek Hamirvasia: Drums  
Anirudh Tiwari : Bass Guitar, Headbanging  
Sakshi Gupta : Vocalist (Bring me to life)  
Sahiti Chedalavada : Vocalist (Zombie)

### **Karmic Blend**

Siddhartha Chandra - Vocals  
Soumen Pal - Guitar  
Pulkit Singhal - Guitar  
Sankalp Khare - Bass  
Pravin Gadodia - Drums  
Chaitanya Bandi - Guest Guitars  
Mihir - Guest Drums

### **Invictus**

Shariq Khan - Vocals  
Soumen Pal - Guitar  
Kshitij Agarwal - Guitar  
Archit - Bass  
Abhay Vinayak- Drums

### **Bash**

Ruchit - Vocals, Guitar  
Rohit Talwar - Vocals  
Prateek Goel - Vocals  
Shariq Khan - Vocals  
Aditya Singh - Guitar  
Aayush Tewari - Guitar  
Rahul Kumar - Guitar

### **Apotheosys**

Ishan Misra - Vocals  
Ishaan Singh - Guitars  
Soumen Pal - Guitars  
Ayush Tewari - Bass  
Venkatesh Potluri - Drums

Apoorv Kumar - Keys  
Pulkit Goel - Keys  
Vivek Hamirwasia - Drums  
Archit - Bass  
Sindhu - Violin  
Vivek Hamirwasia - Drums  
Venkatesh - Drums



# Faculty Interview

## Prof. Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury

*Prof. Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury, popularly known as SRC among his students, is one of the best professors the institute has as the faculty of Electronics and Communication. 'Ping!' recently had a face-to-face off with him, where he talked about his academic life, research plans and gave us some details of his personal life. Here are some excerpts of the interview.*



### **Q. Tell us something about yourself.**

Telling something about me encompasses a broad span of things. I can describe myself as a human being, as a teacher and as a researcher.

As a teacher, I find it my duty and responsibility to look after the well-being of my students' academic and extracurricular activities. Teachers are considered to be the second parents of the students. I feel very fortunate to find such kind of teachers in my life. The notion of conducting classes should not be limited to the four walls of a classroom, but span infinitely beyond the classrooms—be it at the coffee shop, at the juice stall, under a tree, or at the canteen. It's difficult to captivate interest in a classroom.

Coming to research, I feel research is something that comes out of intelligence, imaginative power and passion; and I think that good research is the outcome of a good symbiosis between a good professor and a good student. If you really want to do good research, there are so many good things about the academic atmosphere here that one can take advantage of.

### **Q. What interests you in research? And why biomedical research? You could have chosen any specialization, but why this one?**

This is a question that I face on every road and street of IIIT-H. Let me share some of the experiences of my life. I was a student of South Point High School, Calcutta, which has a renowned biology department and our biology faculty was so good that most of us had developed an intrinsic interest for biology. I gave the medical exam and secured a very good rank but I did not go for it because of my apathy for human body dissections and the rest.

I still cherished my desire to serve human masses through medical practices and that found an expression when I started working for my bachelors. I worked under the same professor for my bachelors, masters, and doctorate; and so I consider him a parent. He suggested that I pursue research in biomedical communications. I browsed the web and found a lot of work done in the area popularly known as telemedicine, but not adequate research in teleradiology and embedded communication. So I thought of working on embedded teleradiology coupled with communication for my masters and when I went for my doctorate, I focused entirely on the diagnostic part.

Knowledge takes the form of a pyramid. So I realized that as I went from my masters to doctorate, I was going towards the apex of the pyramid; the depth would be more and breadth would be narrow.

After my Ph.D., I found lots of scope in the biomedical field, especially in a developing country like India, where medical facilities are denied to the masses. I felt that we should really strive hard to develop something that proves to be beneficial to society.

So as far as research is concerned, it was my ambition since childhood to do research as a part of my career. Initially I thought I'd go for nuclear physics (as I had a great interest in physics—which I still have). However, you probably went through the same phases in your life; after my 12th I was offered admission at the Presidency College in Calcutta. But I entered engineering and opted for electronics, which is close to physics.

### **Q. You have published a lot of journals and papers. Going through your CV was quite fascinat-**

**ing and inspiring for us (looking at the number of papers you have published). What keeps you motivated to keep on going?**

That goes back to the days of my B.Tech project, where I worked in the field of linearization of circuits for sensors. When I presented my work to the professor, he suggested that it was a novel kind of work and that I should publish it. That was the first paper of my life. It was actually an IEEE conference paper, and that was a motivating factor. From there, I started my research career. By the time I finished my Masters, I had 10 publications.

**Q. Is it true that you are planning to publish a hundred papers in these 2 years??**

That's not possible! If you take the average, that is 50 papers a year, which means 1 paper per week! When will I work, write and publish it? Unless the quality of work is good, I don't think it's worth publishing. I always ask my students and give them pointers to do good work. When the work is good enough, I ask them to publish it.

**Q. What goals have you set in the field of research at IIIT-H?**

I always wanted to teach in a different place than the place I studied, because I felt that if I stayed in the same place, I would continue to look at it through the students' point of view. So far as living my research in IIIT-H, we need to transform Aarogya into an integrated healthcare centre having automated diagnostic support. Each and every person on the campus should have access to it. But I don't want to limit my research to the four walls of IIIT-H—I want to reach out to new places. I'm especially interested in working for the villages and rural areas.

**Q. We read the mail about you winning the FSAB fellowship recently! This was a very pleasant and inspiring news to all of us. How does it feel?**

My role is to motivate and inspire all of you. Once you are motivated to work, my work is done. As a teacher, my objective is to draw attention to subjects; as a researcher, my role is to give you certain pointers to do research, and as a human being, my role is to guide you in every walk of life.

**Q. Apart from research, what are your other interests/hobbies?**

I have a huge spectrum of hobbies—I have a good interest in reading storybooks from fiction to classics to Indian philosophy. I feel there are some barriers to Indian philosophy, so I borrow some concepts from Western philosophy. I still respect the Indian culture and tradition.

I also play table tennis, and have an interest in arts and crafts as well as painting. I have a hobby of listening to music—*Rabindrasangeet*, and Western classical. I am most passionate about music. I want to study the transformation and assimilation of music over the years.

**Q. You seem to have a lot of interest in music. What would you like to share about that interest/passion with us? Do you sing, or play any instrument?**

I used to sing, but these days teaching has broken my voice, so I am no more musical. Mr. Vasudevan (Violin Vasu) knows that I sing, so he asks me to be the judge for most competitions! I was awarded *Sangeet Bhushan* when I was in class 8. I was a vocalist. These days I play Indian classical on the keyboard.

**Q. We came to know that you know 7 languages. Is that true? Where do you get that zeal of learning from?**

I have an ambition to know as many languages as I can. So yes, I do the spoken languages. But of course it is very different from actually knowing the languages—every language has its own way of expressing emotion. The way I express my emotions in Bengali is very different from the way I do in other languages. Mastering a language is very difficult. But as far as basic vocal language is concerned, I do know more than 7 languages—even Oriya and Assamese with a little effort, as they are not very different from Bengali.

**Q. We realized that you are quite fond of collecting antique things. Is there any story behind it? How do you manage to pay some time to your hobbies and interests?**

I think you all have gone through my Facebook page! When I was in school, I hated history—the way it was taught that time—where

you had to mug up large collections of facts and then vomit all of it in the exam. It was the same with all other humanities courses other than history. But later I realized that the objective of history being taught was different—so that by knowing the past, we are able to anticipate the future. Of course it is unfortunate that history isn't taught with that kind of perspective in Indian schools. This creates a sort of apathy and negligence towards Humanities. In other countries, even brilliant students don't take up humanities. So right after my 10th examinations, when I was free from all the academic pressures, I felt that I should explore more of humanities, so I started reading a lot of history books, philosophical classics, sociology etc. and I learnt a lot from them. And hence I developed an interest in collecting ancient coins, antiques, old historical artifacts etc. I am also interested in decrypting the scriptures at times. After I came to Hyderabad, I visited a lot of ancient historical places around here and learnt many new things from the carvings and scriptures and about the contemporary lifestyle of the ancient people. In the future, I would like to visit Hampi in Karnataka.

**Q. You always seem to be quite enthusiastic about participating in extracurricular activities, be it the Vanmahotsav or candle lighting for earthquake victims in Japan. How did you find students' and other faculty's response to this? Were they equally enthusiastic and excited?**

Wherever I go I find a section of students interested in what I am interested but of course, there are some who aren't and I am okay with it. At least for the Vanmahotsav we got a very good response, but I had expected a better response for the *Prabhat Feri* organized during Holi. I understand that students wanted to have their own Holi, and that the plans to start early discouraged most of the students who consider mornings their night time! I got a very good response from my colleagues though. We really had a great Prabhat Feri together.

**Q. You are also taking Human Values this year. How demanding is this course? What is your opinion upon its significance in an IT institute?**

One of the tasks of a teacher is to understand the psychology of the students and know how they think about different things in and

around them. Human Values course is a good attempt at that. I respect the objective of the institute which is not only about shaping your technical knowledge but also giving you the insight into making the right decisions in life. It is something very significant for each one of us. It's a sort of methodology through which students are given a platform where they can express themselves. I feel that it helps students understand what to do or what not to do on their own. In my HV group, I throw a topic, and invite debate on it; of which I am also a part. So, it's an open affair, instead of a classroom lecture.

**Q. As you may be aware, there has been a lot of discussion going on about PT/Yoga credits between faculty and students. What are your views on this?**

There are two ways to talk about it. One is that it is essential for every individual because it is good for health. Exercise is important. Secondly, it's more important for the students in the first year, most of whom hail from coaching centers where they have not been concerned about maintaining their health. If you don't give attention to your health, you get dull and hence lose your creative instincts and imaginative power. In fact, if I move across the batches we have had, I sometimes feel that the imaginative power and common sense is rapidly declining over the years. This is because students are exposed to a system of academics which forces them to mug up facts and the pressures of the entrance examinations curb their creativity and the aptitude to think freely. There is no scope for looking after their health, which is unfortunate.

**Q. There had been a lot of discussions about grading policies of last years BEC course. What would you like to comment upon it?**

BEC is the first course in electronics which most of the students take. It provides a platform upon which the basics of other courses are built. So a strong foundation of electronics is required; hence a strong credit framework is enforced. Most students think that electronics is something which can simply be done with overnight preparation. But that is not true. In fact, none of the technical subjects should be done that way.

**Q. What is your idea behind exam papers? It has been noticed that your exam paper patterns and open book exams etc. are a little different.**

Putting it in a humorous way, I have come to the perception that an examination is a forum where students either copy from a RAM or a ROM. I can allow you to copy from the ROM, that is if you are able to get it. I assume that you know the basics before you write an examination, but if you aren't well versed with the basics while dealing with a conceptual and logical problem, I can help you with the basics by giving you access to the books. But you need to realize that the answer isn't in the books. It's in you and in the way you think about the problem.

**Q. Where do you see the students going from here? Do you see some major breakthroughs coming in from the students' side?**

IQ-wise, yes, we have good students. But again, a good research is a result of a good symbiosis between a good student and a good teacher. If a student has a good IQ power, I can conclude that he can be a good student, but he needs to have good imaginative power and good common sense and of course the patience to pursue research.

**Q. What is your take on the state of ECE in IIIT-H?**

Well, it's developing and we have a long extensive plan of having a good ECE department, especially the communications and signals processing department among many others. We need to expand our domain from the simulation based electronics to the hardcore practical based electronics. I want my electronics student to transform from a soft electronics engineer to a hard electronics engineer. Maybe the students would feel it as a burden from short term point of view but in the long run, it would definitely pay off.

**Q. What would you like to comment upon the students' night outs and their addiction to social networking sites?**

I think for a student, the first priority should be his academics—coursework and research—and then, after doing all other things if you get time, you can use that time for social networking. In fact, I feel social networking is very good in the sense that you can have lots of

exchange of ideas on these sites. I debate with my friends and my students a lot on various issues on them... I used to be on Orkut, but now I have so many friends that I'm now on Facebook. I have 942 friends, I think. There is nothing wrong with it, so as long as it doesn't interfere with academics.

As far as students' late night activities are concerned, that should be strongly discouraged, because it really affects your mental development. That is why you lose your imaginative power and common sense, and begin sleeping in classes. I have seen that for the first time in IIIT-H!

**Q. What are the qualities you look for in a student?**

The most important quality which I look for in a student is the inquisitiveness of the student—that urge to know something. That inquisitiveness, and that thirst for acquiring more and more knowledge that develops in a student is important. Students can fare bad in an examination for various reasons—normally I don't decline any student who approaches me and wants to do work with me, but after working with me for some time, the student himself understands whether I am suitable for him or not; not the other way around. Some students, of course; who definitely feel that there is a genuine mismatch between what I expect from students and what they really are; drop out.

**Q. All of your students can easily observe you affection and attachment to Bengal. What is your loveliest memory attached with Calcutta?**

There are so many memories to share! When I came over here, I missed my friends and relatives very much. I still have some of my school friends there—some of them are even married, but even their spouses are quite close to me. Now I really have a good association with everyone in the quarters, so these days I don't feel like I'm away from home. Another thing is that the whole of IIIT-H is like a family, and there are many close interactions between professors and students. It really creates the ideal atmosphere for learning. I feel that students can really reap a good harvest out of it, if they take it in the right way. I also feel that once a student passes out, they will still be in touch with me. A few even call me regularly.

In Kolkata, some of the memories I have are frequent visits to restaurants with my friends and students, and typically when I enter restaurants with them, I don't enter any academic discussion but only some sociopolitical or personal level discussions.

**Q. What is your favorite Bengali sweet?**

Previously I used to like *Rasgullas* very much. Here I do get them, but I've started missing *Sandesh*. Most of my students know I get a box of sweets when I come back from home, venture into my rooms at the right time somehow! They might not attack my bags for it, but once I take it out, it is gone!

**Q. Name one favorite movie and one favorite book of yours.**

Of the movies I have seen, *Roja* remains my favorite. I really liked the theme of the movie. My favorite book is *Gitanjali*. Many of my ideologies are in fact borrowed from Tagorean philosophy.

**Q. Tell us something about your relationships with teachers and friends during school days.**

There were various teachers who really created the interest in electronics for me. Many of them not only shaped my academics, but my personal life as well. Some of my closest relationships include my school friends and one of my professors. My school friend was my best friend-- he inspired me a lot and really shared every moment with me -- every happiness and sorrow. We studied together till class 12. There was also one of my seniors, who really inspired me. I had a long cherished dream of studying nuclear physics and when I encountered hardcore electronics in second year, I grew depressed. But he was the person who cheered me up and probably the path I took was mostly because of him.

**Q. What is your message to students?**

I think my life, my philosophy and my ideology is all about leading a very simple kind of life. Learn, and be a good engineer, a good student and help others to be good and live better. You may be academically sound, but if you drive past a person who has encountered an accident, I fail to consider you a human being.

I also wanted to share with students that learning does not require any age. Even if a student studying in class 5 comes up to me and tells me something, I can become his or her student. I don't have any ego about it.

**Q. If you win a jackpot, what would you like to do with it?**

I will give a treat! I would be quite indifferent to a jackpot. Winning it gives no credit to me. I would definitely spend some on my students and friends.

**Q. What is the one thing you had always dreamt of doing for yourself or your loved ones?**

For myself, I work for the society. I am a person who is not really concerned with material pleasures in life. I would like to spend more time with my parents. So sometimes I feel like having a Sunday exclusively for them, but that is almost never possible.

**Q. Rank in order of priority: family, friends, health, and research. Is this the way you would like things to be, or how you actually prioritize them now?**

I would put health last... I rarely bother looking after myself! Research, I would put first, and friends and family together after it. This is the way I have prioritized things for a long time.

**Q. How do you rate IIIT-H among other colleges?**

One thing for which I would rate IIIT-H above any other academic institution in India is that IIIT-H is really concerned about the all-round development of the students, unlike any other college. There is all-round development in academic, research, extra-curricular and social activities. I feel that these young boys and girls can really be inspired by several older students who are active in such activities. I was a part of Asha Kiran and used to teach the children myself. If I don't spend some time with those hapless people, what virtue do I really have as a teacher? It is really my social and moral responsibility to help them learn and bloom into human beings. Teaching, of course, is far better than most of the academic institutions of India, but in research, I feel that we still must go a long way before we can compete with institutions like

IIT or TIFR or IISc. However, I still feel IIIT-H is going in a positive direction. Ten years from now, IIIT-H should grow from an institute of repute to one that can be compared to top notch institutes abroad. The process, inputs and environment must continue to be good. The environment here is one of the most conducive academic environments in India for learning. We really face a lot of challenges and impediments in the growth process of the institute; but we also find ways to overcome these challenges.

**Q. Do you see Anna Hazare as the second Mahatma Gandhi?**

I don't think of Anna Hazare as a second Mahatma Gandhi, but as Anna Hazare himself. I don't feel like one person should be scaled using another. But yes, he is the only person in recent times to feel that it is high time we strike hard, rise and revolt against corrupt practices. He was the only person who could organize and gather such a response—in that way, he is comparable to Mahatma Gandhi, but I have a problem in judging a person relative to another—because each and every person grows up in their own frame of reference, with their own philosophy. Even while comparing a well-matched pair, you are bound to find some mismatch somewhere.

**Q. Any remarks or suggestions to Ping?**

I want to see more write-ups from students, and Ping to be a forum where students talk of extracurricular things and exercise their creative faculties.

## E Cell Updates

The E-Cell of IIIT Hyderabad had organized a Field Trip on the 7th of November to a couple of villages around Hyderabad, namely Chevella and Vikarabad. The trip, headed by Prof. Kavita Vemuri, had students and members of the cell from first and third year. The primary objective of the trip was to interact with the villagers, get to know more about the problems they face in their everyday life, and present realistic solutions. The broader issues discussed were finance, health care, education, governance and

employment, among various other topics. The basic idea was to shape leaders of tomorrow who will take the society forward as a whole and not only see personal gains. This idea of Social Entrepreneurship is of great importance in tomorrow's world of which we all will be part of.

## An insight on Yoga

"Yoga teaches us to cure what need not be endured and endure what cannot be cured"

IIIT-H has always maintained that despite the advancement in technology, one must always stay in touch with his/her natural roots. Yoga being one of the oldest practices, falls under this bracket with classes held regularly both in the morning and evening. In this article, we bring to you the general opinion of the students who attend these classes. The chances of finding a student in IIIT-H who sleeps early are very slim. So, it is no surprise that most students complain of not being able to attend classes in the morning due to oversleeping. But those who do manage to attend a string of consecutive classes reveal that the Yoga sessions in fact help in significantly removing a sense of lethargy by improving energy levels of the body. They feel that they now have more time on their hands. When talking of the techniques itself, students feel that due to lack of previous physical activities, initially some pain is felt, especially in postures that require flexibility. However, these very techniques and postures prove to be very relaxing. A particularly interesting case is that of UG4 student, Roopak Dubey, who actually recovered from an injury with the help of Yoga. As is evident, Yoga has many advantages and many more can be unveiled as more students take to this age old practice.

# Cultural Updates

No mission is impossible even on a No Man's Land! The **Inter-House Dumb Charades** competition cherished the same flavor, as a total of twenty teams; five from each house; geared up for one of the most exciting evenings. The first round was a filter-cum-qualifier. Given six movies and ninety seconds, this round was enough to quicken one's pulses. Eleven teams qualified for the next round, which apart from movies; introduced a string of T.V. series, books, famous personalities and brand logos.

But the second round was none of a bargain, with a time limit of forty seconds and four guesses. After this, five teams spear-headed into the final round. With the tension building up, the very air seemed to crackle. Thirty seconds, three films and all of a sudden there was an unprecedented rise in the difficulty level. One by one the teams came and put their hearts and brains out. The results were as follows:

- 1st. Shiv Raj, Naman Govil, Arpit Merchant (Prithvi,UG1)
- 2nd.Medha Pathak, Simpi Kumari, Tanvi Gupta (Aakash,UG3)
- 3rd.Vishrut Mehta, Akshat Khandelwal, Anirudh Tiwari (Vayu,UG1)

There were many catchy moments that mainly revolved around the actors, who were at their best rendezvous with the sign language. It all but defines the priceless aroma of the cultural events. Thus, the colourful evening came to a beautiful end with the teams marching out as platoons!

The series of cultural events advanced with **Inter-House Elocution** competition that took place on 15th November. The event witnessed a string of fine speakers from the four houses. Split up into three broad categories based on the preferences for language, the par-

ticipants presented their views on the four different topics:

- 1.Price Rise
- 2.Are Reality shows really real?
- 3.Telangana Issue
- 4.Is Anna Hazare the second Mahatma Gandhi?

Priced by their oratory skills and valued by their subject knowledge, all the participants made their mark well and at the end, a very justified result was appraised by all.

## ENGLISH

1st.Shiv Raj (UG-1,Prithvi) and Shivani Poddar (UG-1,Prithvi)

3rd.Lavanya Arora(UG-1,Vayu)

## HINDI

1st.Garima Agarwal (UG-2,Prithvi)

2nd.Ankita (UG-1,Vayu)

3rd.Yogesh (Prithvi)

## TELUGU

1st.Saketh (Agni), Madhuri (UG-1,Prithvi) and Karthik (Prithvi)

The day observed plentiful glimmer with one more cult event coming to an end. But still there's no stopping as the four houses continue their exciting race for a mammoth points tally.



# Sports Updates

The month of November witnessed several major sporting events at IIIT-H. The final of the inter-house cricket tournament took place; with Agni defeating Prithvi to win the event for the third year in a row, thus establishing their supremacy on the cricket field.

Then, came the sports meet on 3rd and 4th November. Both the days witnessed many sports events in which all the students participated with great enthusiasm. The event was kicked off by a 1500 m race and then the march-past of the houses; where all the houses displayed their competitive spirit and turned up in large numbers. It was followed by faculty speeches and some cultural performances by various houses. For the first time, first year students showcased human pyramids and did balancing acts, something which impressed

all the viewers and judges alike. Then started other sports events like Discus throw, Javelin, Shot put, 400m race, 200m and 100 m race. Due to the large number of participants; the heats for the races were held on the 3rd while the finalists ran for the gold on 4th. These races were the highlight of the event with many of them having tight finishes. On the 4th, events like the Discus throw and

Shot-put were held for the faculty, wherein many faculty and staff members could be seen participating and enjoying these events. Then came a cricket match between the faculty and the students wherein the faculty showed their cricket skills and trounced the students' team. Prof. Sangal himself took part in this event.

After this the prize distribution ceremony took place, where all the winners were rewarded. Lokesh Kurra (UG2), who won 5 golds in the event and Khyati Chandu Raghavi (UG1) were declared the sportsman and sports-woman of the year respectively; due their spectacular performances on behalf of their houses. In the event, Agni house managed to get the most number of medals and garnered 830 points. Close behind were Prithvi and Vayu with 770 and 780 points each. Aakash couldn't perform well this time

and got just 510 points. But still it is the participation that matters and all the participants must be lauded for their efforts and performance. Hopefully IIIT will continue to have such good sporting events in the future too. Kudos to the PEC team for organizing such a grand event !!



*Winners at the 2k11 Sports meet*

# Pen Stand

## Wonderboy

“Courier for Roll number 20110\*\*\*\*?” she asked the guard on duty at Nilgiri. “Yes madam”, replied the guard. “ID card please.” Collecting it, she left for the hostel, stopping at the cafeteria for a quick cup of tea. As she opened the envelope, two of her friends joined the table. “Letter? From whom?” inquired one of them. With a quick look at the signature, she replied “It says here *Wonderboy*. Maybe it’s him again!” A sudden wave of excitement could be felt at the table, especially among the friends. They had enjoyed the previous letter and had cracked many jokes at its expense too. *Wonderboy* to them was just a crazy lunatic who they could make endless fun of. Ignoring their comments, she turned her attention to the letter...

*Dear you,*

*I hope this letter finds you in all your beauty, just like my eyes did when they first saw you. That moment, I experienced slow motion. Not the kind you read about in trashy romance novels, but the kind in which time stops just because you want it to. Ever since then, I’ve wanted to seize that moment forever. I know this letter’s coming late, especially since I’ve already written to you before. But I suppose that you found the earlier letter too vague and rightly so. So, I want to tell you everything I should’ve said way back then. I’ve been wanting to talk to you, been craving to see that smile of yours, again and again; to go on long walks that last forever. I’ve been wanting to know you better, to see the world through your eyes. And other times, I simply want to spend time with you. Just that: doing nothing. Expectations and fears of refutations don’t go down well with me. They grip me and I can’t be myself. I can’t be crazy. Perhaps, this is why I haven’t been able to come up to you and strike up a good conversation. A conversation that would create a gleam in those twinkle eyes. But why the fear when I first saw you? Why couldn’t I just walk up to you like everyone else? Why did I wait for three months, that too just to write a letter? I am doing this for the first time, writing myself on paper, to get across to you these emotions and feelings of my heart, which otherwise, wouldn’t have reached their home: your heart; which otherwise, would have drained down into oblivion. This letter may be addressed to you, but on second thoughts, I’m writing this to myself. It has your address because I want you to be a spectator; a spectator to this marvel that you’ve created in me. Because, in all it’s glory, it’s pretty awesome.*

*Hoping that this is worth some kind of response,*

*Wonderboy  
An Admirer*

She passed it on to the other two, rather they snatched it. Amidst the giggles and new jokes, she slowly walked away and headed straight for her room, with thoughts of ‘*Wonderboy*’ lingering in her mind. Once in her room, with her phone in her hand, she wondered whether he was “worth some kind of response”. The answer seemed as clear as crystal. Somewhere in a quiet corner of OBH-D, much to *Wonderboy*’s elation, his phone rang.

- Deepak Kathayat (UG1)

# Ping Wall

## NIGHT

Mere noise is what I hear,  
and to your silence am I adhered;  
Your arms open, to me they point.

But let me be clear,  
I am still undone,  
unprepared to join.

The hour is at its peak,  
I cannot let it pass.  
Much needs to be done,  
Before I drowse and sleep!

But Night..!!  
why should I trust you?  
I remember the last time,  
You haunt me still;  
You have those powers,  
You call them dreams;  
Those sights and sighs,  
That could silence my cries.

You come without a face,  
Yet you wear a mask;  
Your ocean of expressions  
sails around your task;  
Your mirror of reflections,  
can reflect my soul!  
Your clusters of emotions,  
Help assists your goal.

Look, the clock is ticking,  
and oh!..the hour is done;  
My careless eyes blink,  
Like the stick beats the drum;  
But why?..  
why you seem so elusive,  
why you seem so natural;  
A solace to me..  
Child of a mortal.

Into your world you drive me in,  
And from your ocean,  
You pick that Grin;  
Now, mere silence is what I hear,  
and to your noise am I adhered.

By,  
Shiv Raj  
(UG1)

# HSCO Updates

A social awareness program on the RTI act was recently conducted in IIIT-H. It aimed at enlightening the students on the power & importance of the RTI act. The session started with Mr. Sai Krishna displaying the slides about HSCO and explaining the work it does. Then the session was taken over by the speaker, Mr. Nachiketa Sharma - a student of NIT Warangal, who gave a presentation on Right to Information act. The students rose up to the occasion and over 70 members attended this interactive session. The event ended with a doubt clearing session. The students were very enthusiastic and based on public opinion, it can be rightly said that this interactive session was a grand success.

## About HSCO

Helping Stick Charitable Organization (HSCO) is a non governmental organization which works with the motto of 'service'. This organization has been started by a set of students to render their services to the society by involving emerging citizens— students in bringing about a change. The major areas in which HSCO is planning to spread its wings are health, education and social affairs. Each field has its own independent vision to accomplish the collective mission – 'Service for All, All for Service.' A series of programs will be planned and executed in each of the aforementioned fields.

## **HSCO- IIIT Hyderabad :**

Workshop on Computers: HSCO-IIITH has adopted the Chavadi's Poor Student Ashram, Gachibowli for four months to conduct Education (Computer) Camps.

- Students were made friendly with the Microsoft Office and MS Paint. Students' dormant minds were ignited and urged to bring out their creativity, and were helped in making some artistic wonders.
- Awareness about different types of software and their utilization as well as application was introduced to them.

## Workshop on Developing English:

- Members of HSCO IIITH were broken down into groups and were given tasks of preparing student friendly presentations of English lessons being taught to students of all classes. These presentations were presented to them and explained, which would help them being strong in their own required level at the least.

## Birthdays and Festive celebrations:

- Members of HSCO generally celebrate their birthdays with the children at Chavadi ashram . The evening party is generally held there and the children also participate in some small games and recreations held and then a small dinner follows.

- Even festivals like Christmas are planned to be held here and a brief schedule is made which includes even the doubt clarifying session, keeping their upcoming half-yearly exams in mind.

As HSCO is growing we need financial assistance for sustainability and smooth functioning. I'm sure that at

some corner of your mind you have an urge to give back to the society and the needy for the leverage they have given you to be successful. Our organization will help you in fulfilling your dreams. We humbly request you to donate to the best of your might. We assure you that your contribution will be used for purposeful activities of the needy. We shall keep you posted of these developments. We shall send you periodic newsletters. We invite you to visit our website ( [www.helpingstick.org](http://www.helpingstick.org) ). The website gives a bird's eye view of the activities which we have done till now.

If you are interested please contact Kiran Kumar Thota at [kiran21thota@gmail.com](mailto:kiran21thota@gmail.com) (9989963693)

Abhishek Chinni,  
UG-1,  
Team HSCO-IIITH



# Ping Recommends

## **Music Album- 'Fallen Empires' by Snow Patrol; alternative rock:**

This time in our music section we'll be previewing (not reviewing) Snow Patrol's upcoming release- Fallen Empires. As with other previous Snow Patrol albums, this isn't one which you will instantly fall for. It's more the one which will drift in and out of your mind, embedded in your head for days. The lyrics, as we have come to expect from Snow Patrol, are the album's biggest strength with the guitar, keyboard and the constant drums being a pleasant backdrop. Take for instance the lines *'I can see you at the front gate/As you wait on my return/The years have blurred to eons/But the tears have never dried/But I'm not coming to you like this/So battered down inside/I will take the road forgotten/Again'* from The President which cause the classic hit-the-replay-button stimulus.

'Lifening' with it's poignant strings and Lightbody's trademark deep vocals, and 'The president' promise to be an instant hits with the Snow Patrol faithful while 'This isn't everything you are' is a more generic adaption of Snow Patrol's music style. 'Called out in the dark' along with 'Broken bottles form a star' though being unmistakably Snow Patrol's creation point out to the new direction the band is experimenting with. Fallen Empires manages to be sincere and relatable, a visual and real experience in spite of the ethereal and intangible music. Although it has an undeniable romantic undertone, it's much more subtle, classy and upbeat than a regular Enrique love song and that's the crux of the alum.

## **Android app:**

**Pixlr-o-matic:** A photo editor par excellence, the quality and variety of customization puts to shame Adobe's PhotoshopExpress app and makes others like Pic.say and Little Photo seem juvenile. Pixlr is probably the only full scale editor available for free. It offers a variety of col-

our and lighting effects and loads of frames. The polished and light interface is an added bonus.

**CamScanner:** It does what it says on the label - scans pages. However, the way it enhances them is just mind blowing. Also it's method of saving the scans as a pdf document is unique and extremely user friendly, with convenient options to rearrange, merge and split the documents. A must-have app for students who constantly require photocopies.

## Ping Team

**Special thanks to:** Dr. Giridhar Rao

**Advisory Members:** Aditya, Archit, Himanshu, Ishaan, Ishan, Kaustav, Mayank, Nahil, Nitish, Rishi, Sankalp and Shipra.

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UG1: Akshat, Aneeq, Deepak, Harrshit, Monica, Nikhar, Parth, Priya, Raveesh, Shivraj, Sudhanshu and Vibhav.

**Designing:** Aashit, Deepank, Rituraj

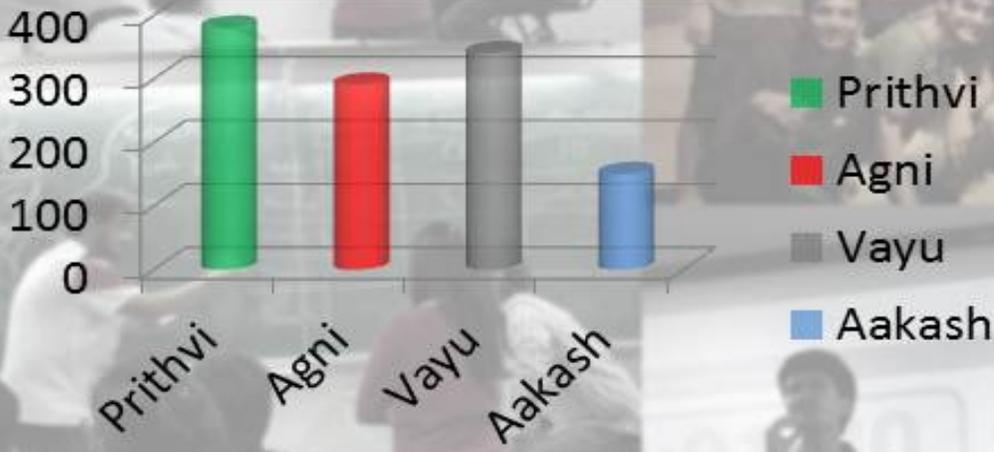
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**About the Front Page:** The Banyan Tree was made by a few UG1 students — Bharat Jain, Shantanu Patil, Lovepreet Sidhu and Ravneet Singh, near OBH D Block using only mud and leaves. We commend their creativity, effort and imagination and would wish to see a growth in similar activities in our campus.

## Cultural



## Sports

