

PING!

A Monthly Ping to all IllTians



What would you choose ???



Editor's Word

Hello again IITians !

Chasing your dreams can be an arduous effort if one is not ready to organize things. Imagining is important, but what is more important is being curious to find out the way. We are often allured by short cuts or 'easy ways' to achieve something. But the million-dollar question is, do we really want that thing?

The above lines were to make us all ponder over what we really want in life. Is it money or fame? Perhaps the best of both! I would opine peace and happiness. The education system in India has debased creativity under the pretext of building a name and amassing money. Undoubtedly, *Roti, Kapda aur Makan* are the basic necessities (and thus is money), but where does our passion and artistic self figure in these quintessential desires? We want safety; we want to be secure; but the best life experiences come when we drop these notions and go after what we truly want, whether it feels safe or not. In reality, however, we are unsure of what future has in hold for us.

Some of these thoughts are encapsulated in the term *Nirvana*. Immanent in the word is the idea of setting yourself free from the worldly pleasures of money, power and fame. Only then, can one truly relish and revel in the joys of equanimity. Mark Twain once said: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

IIT Hyderabad is a place filled with creative, innovative minds. All of us are significant in the sense of our own abilities. We have divergent thoughts, plethora of ideas, a huge spectrum of talent in widespread arenas and above it all, a coherent ecosystem. The past few years have seen the introduction of various new bodies which add an element of medley. A couple of such bodies are E-Cell and MUNSOC. Contrary to habitual response, these have witnessed discernible participation from the otherwise sluggish inhabitants. It'll be great to see a few more of such associations springing up. Oh! and that reminds me of the news that I wanted to share. IIT-H is revamping its cultural sphere with the setting up of various activity clubs. They are expecting a huge response from all IITians. Ping! hopes that we will not let us all down this time and come out in large numbers to participate, learn, share and grow.

As always, Ping! brings you all the happenings in and around the campus. We've included a riveting interview with Prof. Kannan, an alumni interview featuring Mr. P V Rama Sasank, the *inside* story of internships and a lot more. I would also like to thank the student community for their readership, valuable feedback and support. We will keep working hard to exceed your expectations. We firmly believe in the philosophy of consistency, quite unlike the internet facilities and electricity these days!

Wishing you all a very Happy Diwali

Happy Pinging!

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(About the cover page: It represents two contrasting lifestyles. While one showcases the effect of fame, money, media etc. the other represents living life by your rules and being a free bird. Former is a person who is a puppet of the society and a slave to money while latter is a free person, one who truly knows what he wants and is ready to take the path even if consequences seem fatal.)

Campus Buzz

The guest house sported an aura of spiritual peace and serenity from 1st of September to the 7th as the students of IIIT-H assembled to devote themselves to the almighty and seek his blessings. It was the time for **Ganesh Chaturthi** celebrations which, like every year, began with a grand *pooja* during noon on 1st of September followed by a scheduled *aarti* every day where *bhajans* and *kritis* tugged the heartstrings and lifted the souls of the devotees. The approaching mid semester exams did not curb the enthusiasm among the students on the day of Ganpati Visarjan which took place on 7th of September. The deafening chants of '*Ganpati Bappa Moriya*' and the incessant dance on the beats of Dholak energized the whole campus. After an exuberating campus tour, the idol was taken to Kokapeta Lake for immersion with a common plea from all: '*Agle Baras tu jaldi aa....*'



Ganpati Bappa Moriya !!!

The Freshers Talent

Showcase held on the 27th of August was a great opportunity for the freshers to let our hair down, show our talents and interact among ourselves and our seniors. Each house had to give a twenty minute performance which included dancing, music, a miscellaneous piece and a skit. The judges gave marks to each act on the basis of quality, theme, choreography and props. Preparations started one and a half weeks before the date of the event. Every night we would get together, discuss themes, write the scripts (strike it out, and start again), choreograph and perfect the dances and make the props. But all the effort put in was definitely worth it!

When the evening of the event arrived, the

whole college was buzzing with excitement. The student body seemed to have split into four and the house rivalry was evident. Students from all batches came to cheer their houses, praying for the victory of their respective houses. The audience was highly enthusiastic and cheered and jeered in equal measure.

The first house to perform was the Prithvi house. Their skit revolved around the pressures of life caused due to the educational system and the frustration due to unavailability of jobs. The main character has given up on life and decides to commit suicide but meets many people on the way who make him realize his responsibilities to himself and others around him, and give him a reason to live again. Parts of this play was something most of us could relate to, being subjected to a gruelling and strenuous work schedule. But the key to resisting pressure is to take control of one's life with full confidence, and not let the society or other factors control your life for you. With humor, *masala*, and meaning, this performance was definitely a fun one to watch.

Next came Agni house's performance, the theme they had chosen was Youth Politics. They aimed at showing the life of a politician right from childhood. There was a stark contrast between the two main characters, both start out as young men eager to actively participate in the Indian Government, but somehow, their paths diverge as they grow older, one gets led astray by the hunger for power and materialistic gains, while the other remains to be focused on his goal of doing good for his country and his people. After going through several traumatic and life altering ex-

periences, the misled politician comes to his senses, and undergoes a tremendous transformation where his life is altered forever. He is filled with remorse and regret, and vows to become a better politician and use his power for good instead of letting power take control of him and his actions. This was a very meaningful and thought provoking performance which highlighted with great detail and care where the young aspiring leaders of today are going wrong when joining the chaotic and tumultuous world of politics.

This was followed by Aakash house's performance. They took up the topic, Corruption of Police. The play brought forward the fact that, the policemen disguising themselves as do-gooders get away with lots of inhumane and bestial practices. They usually put on a mask of sincerity and commitment,

yet this is not reflected in their actions. The play depicted the way in which the police manage to hide the atrocities they perform by veiling it with a good deed initially, which they then exploit to the fullest. The play had a perfect blend of humor and substance. It also made one wonder about the way in which the government continues to insist on the reliability and easy accessibility of the law enforcement, when in fact, the truth is far from it.

The Vayu house was the last one to perform, they started out with a classical dance depicting the *dasha avatar* of Vishnu which was a treat to watch for all the Indian mythology fans. Then came the skit, it was, again, centralized around the topic of corruption but from the viewpoint of the Gods. It depicted Narada showing Brahma the common forms of

corruption seen everyday around us. This was followed by the mime act and the shadow dance, which really stole the limelight. The dancers moved with precision and grace yet their shadows were distinct and at the same time perfectly in sync with each other.

This concluded the performance by all the houses. All these performances were complimented by captivating songs, enthralling dance routines and a unique performance by each house in the miscellaneous slot.

Then there was the much anticipated final round of the Flair 2k11. A total of 10 contestants were shortlisted for the final round, 5 girls and 5 boys. The third round was a talent show wherein each contestant had to try and "dazzle" the judges. The contestants were further shortlisted based on their performances and were asked some pretty challenging



Vayu House : Reaching new heights !!

questions.

The final score tally was: Vayu bagged the first place with 90 points followed by Aakash with 77.9 points closely followed by Agni with 76.8 points and Prithvi came fourth with 76.3 points.

Everyone left exhilarated, brimming with house spirit. The week long practice imbued us with loyalty towards our house and made us more committed to our house than ever.

Alumnus Interview— P V Rama Sasank

P V Rama Sasank was a B. Tech student at IIIT-Hyderabad from 2000-2004. Later, he went on to pursue his PGDM from IIM-Calcutta. He then worked at ITC for over 2 years and then made his way into the Education Management Industry as the Director of Conduira which trains students for various examinations like CAT, MAT, GRE, GMAT etc.

You graduated from IIIT-H in 2004. How often do you visit the campus? What are the most prominent differences you observe in the campus?

Ever since Conduira opened a branch in Hyderabad a few months ago, I have been a regular visitor to the campus. Before that, I wasn't here much. I see that these days a lot of new buildings have come up or are under construction. The college has introduced many new branches. I remember that during our batch Computer Science was the only stream. Electronics was introduced in the next batch.

The faculty, with the addition of some new members, is still the same, which keeps a sense of continuity in the college. Also, I noticed that the gender ratio has improved. :)

What changes were you expecting?

Though I never gave it much thought, the growth had already started when we were leaving. A lot of companies were being set up in Gachibowli and that has placed IIIT-H at a unique advantage.

How did you find the atmosphere of the college?

Frankly, I was expecting a lot more energy. I don't see the campus buzzing with activity. The roads are empty. The canteens are deserted. At our time, there was always a match in progress at the basketball court. There would be some twenty couples hanging around in the campus. During our undergraduate days, we watched a lot of movies, TV series etc., but we had a lot more energy. Why is everyone sitting in the hostel? The energy in a college should be intoxicating.

Which aspect of college life did you like most during your time?

We never had any attendance constraint! I have always loved IIIT-H – even the exams – the sharing of notes, the cramming in the rooms, the mad last-night mugging. Also, I liked the humani-

ties courses for the perspective they brought in. Though my final year project did get a bit cumbersome, there is nothing I don't miss about IIIT-H.

You were in charge of leading a team of 25+ people to manage a business of over Rs. 1000 Crores. Can you draw an analogy with your experience in student life?

When we were still in college, we conducted an All-India mock AIEEE called "Spirit2K". It was my first experience at working with people from all walks of life like the faculty, Govt. officers and students. I still look back at it as the biggest challenge of my life. Once you have mastered the basic skills, the figures cease to matter.

How does your experience as a student in IIIT-H reflect in the policies of your institute?

When we started Felicity, our main aim was to create something that was different from all other college fests. The same idea caught up to us when we were starting Conduira against an established market monopoly. IIIT-H instilled a passion in us to do things till the finish. It taught us to not to go for something halfway.

It is said that the rules of an institution define its culture. IIIT-H enforces strict rules regarding even the attendance policy. How does it contrast with the rules at IIM?

Now that you mention it, even IIM has certain academic constraints these days. However, I see that the students are more distracted these days. With so much technology at their disposal, the attention is always dispersed. In our time, we didn't have Facebook or Wi-Fi on our mobiles.

How did you find the current batch of students in their outlook and ambition?

In my talk, I saw an admirable drive to ask questions. I also noticed that they were very well-



aware about their career options. They knew about CFA and other specialty courses offered by institutes. Naturally, they were ambitious.

In addition to the skills taught in classrooms, what do the current students need for the corporate world?

A better dressing sense, I would say. I know it sounds trivial, but believe me, getting into formals can be difficult. They also need to focus on their personality grooming. Communication skills also play a major part.

We now have an E-cell to promote entrepreneurship in our college. What would be your advice to them?

Entrepreneurship, they say, can be 'Enter Penury'. Instead of diving in, I'd rather advise you to take up a stable job and learn at someone else's expense for a few years. It takes a while to gain skills to manage a team, talk to customers and get things done. Another degree would be helpful. Success can be very elusive and it takes a lot of courage and maturity to handle rejection.

Entrepreneurship is not "cool". It is sweat-intensive. The rewards are exacting. Unless your idea is time-bound, you should get a few years of work-experience first.

This year our college completes its 10 years as a deemed university. You have been associated with the college since its inception. How do you think IIIT-H has fared?

IIITians have been doing extremely well. Our alumni have been to all the top universities and corporations in the world -including Deloitte, Microsoft and Google. IIITians have always been able to push their limits. All that percolates back to the campus. As a college, IIIT-H has also garnered prestige in academia and amongst the parents. I expect it to be in the top three colleges in the next five years with some more push. We can always improve on the infrastructure.

Apart from work what else do you do?

Every entrepreneur must write off three years of his life. When I was in ITC, I could find time to go to parties and for movies. Now, I spend most of my free time at my home in Vishakhapatnam. I have also started writing after graduation.

FOUNDATION DAY BASH

An air of exuberance and nostalgia pervaded the hallowed corridors of IIIT-H on 02.09.2011. It was the 13th anniversary of Foundation of IIIT-H. It was a time to reckon and acknowledge the efforts of the founders of IIIT-H and the challenges they encountered while establishing it as being in the vanguard of Information Technology.

The event began with the cutting of a grand cake. It had a image of Jagruti tree. The cake was cut by the first registered faculty of the institute, Prof. Vishal Garg, first registered staff of the institute, Mr. K Satyanarayana and one of the first students of IIIT-H family, Mr. K Subhash.

It was followed by a speech, delivered by Prof. Rajeev Sangal. He remarked that the institute has entered it's 'teens' and was ready to 'walk and run'. He also focused on the importance of the path a institute takes to achieve its goals and not just the goals itself. He also envisioned IIIT-H's ambition of being a world class institution of excellence that would provide solutions to the problems India is struggling with.

Mr. R Chandrasekhar and Mr. Ajay Sawhney graced the occasion with their presence. They chronicled the setting up of the Institute and how IIIT-H metamorphosed from just an ambitious idea into a center of excellence in the erstwhile sleepy city of Hyderabad circa 1998.

The event also focused on working towards internal reflection of what the institute does in practice while celebrating the journey towards reaching its goals.

At the end, all the students, the staff and the faculty members enjoyed a feast of sweets, cookies and namkeen together to mark a momentous end to a memorable day.

Faculty Interview - Prof. Kannan Srinathan

*"How do I provide good security to any service
Even if the other end is dedicated to a novice
It is easily done in Hollywood and Bollywood movies
Reality may need cryptography even for babies !! "*

Sounds like a quote from some famous poet, doesn't it? Well, this 'poet' is none other than our own Prof. Kannan Srinathan, who throws light on cryptography in his own poetic style! 'Ping!' recently had a face-to-face off with him, which was indeed an enlightening experience. Here are some excerpts from his interview.



Sir, is it true that you had a two digit rank in IIT-JEE?

No, it is not true. As far as I remember, the number in question probably isn't inherently interesting, perhaps other than being a palindrome as well as the difference of two perfect squares.

Tell us something more about yourself.

I was brought up in Gachibowli. My father worked in Central University of Hyderabad, so I lived on campus and I am still living there. After my schooling, I went to IITM for the usual degrees and came back here in 2005. I have been working in IIIT-H ever since.

*I was born and brought up in Gachibowli
An unhappening village, I thought so then
surely*

*I watched Madras become Chennai subse-
quently*

*To then find the village contain a IIIT, was
lovely!*

How would you briefly define cryptography?

The more succinct I try to make it the more abstract it becomes. To a scientist I would say that, "cryptography is solving a problem with as minimum assumptions as possible". The more assumptions you make about the run time environment, the less cryptographic your algorithm is.

You can also define cryptography in the text book sense; that *crypto* means secret and *graphy* means writing. So cryptography is the art of secret writing. Earlier cryptography used to be so, but now it is more of a science and visible in several applications beyond secret communication. However, each time you ask me this question, you may end up getting a different answer .

*Can you store a secret, or at least try
Despite the prying eyes of the spy
Or get hacked and be left high and dry
With even the smiles turning wry*

*Can you send a mail, neat and proper
Privately and covertly to your partner
Even in the presence of an eavesdropper
With no need to charter a chopper*

*Can you digitally sign data, even in haste
With no worry of it being cut-and-paste
What should e-commerce do to reduce carbon
waste*

Yet be certain of leaving no bitter taste

*You speak over telephone in your own voice
Can it be authenticated despite channel noise
How do I get my personal health data dis-
played
Without the fear of it maliciously being re-
played*

How do I provide good security to any service

*Even if the other end is dedicated to a novice
It is easily done in Hollywood and Bollywood
movies*

Reality may need cryptography even for babies

*A set of women, none revealing their age
To find the youngest, how does one manage
Can you recognize a face without looking at
the image
And have surveillance with little psychological
damage*

*Will thoughts like the above take us ahead
Are they not those of a crazy man out of his
head ?*

*Fortunately, all such fears can be shed
For these are the focuses of a busy cryptogra-
pher instead*

What areas of research are you currently involved in?

Currently, I am working in three fields; Information Security, Theory and Algorithms (recall that I am part of C-STAR). In information security, I am working on secure multi-party computation and in algorithms I am working on distributed algorithms and in either case on their optimality and complexity theory too. All the three fields are closely interrelated. In algorithms, we deal with situations where we are sure about both, the run-time state of the system and the robustness and hard-ware technology of the system itself. If we are not sure about the run-time state of the system, we need cryptographic/secure solutions and if in addition we wish to be independent of hard-ware or anything else about the system, we need theory. This is the common thread that runs through all of the apparently distinct fields. In addition, I also love to think about the long standing problems like the integer factorization problem.

*What is to be found
When research papers abound
Why are some findings crowned
While certain others frowned
How do I turn things around*

*And eventually break ground
By doing work that is scientifically sound
Yet ensuring it is socially bound*

What inspires you to continuously move ahead in your research?

I have typically been inspired by scientists of five different kinds. I am briefly listing them (in no particular order). First, I admire thinkers who are able to conceptualize very difficult things. Shannon, for example, worked in the field of communication and conceptualized complicated things like "information" itself. Second, I like research that can result in tools and techniques for several other fields to independently use. Newton co-invented calculus when required for his work. Subsequently calculus has become an instrument in numerous other scientific fields. Third, I admire those who work on a problem irrespective of its difficulty and the time it takes to solve. Long standing open problems are perhaps mostly solved this way. Fourth, I admire engineers whose work has (potentially) unimaginable societal impact. For instance, look at the Linux operating system and the open source software revolution. Fifth, I am deeply inspired by great men who understand, analyze and propagate their philosophies like what Mahatma Gandhi did for non-violence and honesty.

*I knew its statement while I grew
But Fermat's theorem needed a Wiles, Andrew
I admire such determined few
For whom open problems are never overdue*

*Earth attracts apple or apple attracts earth
This is how Newton holds our breath
There is no wonder that his science of change
Entailed the change of science and its range*

*I admire the march by Mohandas Gandhi
One that the Mahatma non-violently made to
Dandi*

*There isn't a 'pinch of salt' in his dedication
A tangible form of his philosophy on medita-
tion*

I learn and analyze a bit of information

*Whereas Shannon understood the information
of a bit
I admire such beautiful conceptualization
An evolved form of academic titillation*

*His mathematical journey is historic
Hardy could hardly not term it heroic
This is possible only for Ramanujan and his
magic
Despite his life being too short and tragic*

Apart from research, what are your other fields of interest/hobbies?

In short, my hobbies are imagination and reading. When I was a kid, I started with stamp collecting, however as I grew up, the enthusiasm slowly died out (I probably understood that in English, the word hobby wasn't quite a synonym for stamp collection though association-rule data mining may still vouch for it!). I got more interested in reading books. There was a time when I thought of finishing one shelf of books in the HCU library per year. However, I soon realized that no matter how much I read I wouldn't be able to complete even a fraction of the library. After that I started to read in such a way that I could probably imagine what the author has in mind, so I wouldn't have to read the whole book to understand the concept. Now the reading has come down (perhaps because aged memory is more volatile and it requires time to just maintain, if not update, data in it) but I still feel happy when I sit in a library.

It is natural to wonder what is so important in mirroring knowledge from accessible sources like the library/Internet to one's head. After all, the library has a higher memory capacity, is much less volatile and can support many concurrent accesses as compared to a human brain! The answer is analogous to the core concepts of computer organization and operating systems. The hard disk has a higher memory capacity and is much less volatile compared to the cache. Nevertheless, it isn't advisable to have an empty cache no matter how large the hard disk is. The bottom-line is that until and unless the cache (analogously, the brain) is full, there is an obvious scope for

improving the efficiency! Fortunately, the human memory isn't that small, and consequently, we can aim for a new leap in efficiency between any two leap years.

*A memory which is data-deficient
Causes the system to be inefficient
Speed of input is often insufficient
Imagination is what keeps it proficient*

*Most of us have heard of Albert Einstein
And that gravity is nothing but warping of the
space-time
Have you not heard him say, clear and pristine
That imagination is more important than hours
of browse-time*

You seem to have a lot of interest in sports. Which is your favorite sport?

I was active in the field of sports only till my school days. After that I didn't get much time. As a kid, I used to enjoy playing chess and carrom. As I grew up I became more interested in cricket and football. I have played table tennis at pre-zonal level too.

*In sport there is thrill
Of uncertainty in happen what will
And yet to go for the kill
Is enjoyable even to those standstill*

*In life, uncertainty is against our will
Causing most jobs to be repeat...until*

*Expect to swallow many a bitter pill
If 'success' only means paying the bill*

What are your views on the education system of India?

The current education system we follow is historically not quite Indian. I have read that early Indian system of education mainly focused on the three aspects of *Satyam*, *Shivam* and *Sundaram*. They would explore truths (what we call as science, today), they would explore things that are good for society (what we call technology, today) and explore beauty in the form of art, music etc. (what we call Humanities, today).

The current education system is certainly not enriched by its training-oriented approach and rigid time lines. It is not enough to know how to do things; equally important is to know what to do and why, when, where and how best to do them — higher skills should not be acquired without increased sense of responsibility and other related virtues. Earlier, such wholesome learning was the goal of the system (and the student) and the examinations, if any, were only a means to that end.

Corruption is one of the hottest topics of debate these days. Have you ever been a part of corruption?

The answer to this question has to be yes. Whether you like it or not you have to be a part of it. Today you have to pay money in any office you go to, be it to get your driver's license, get vehicle registered or get a ration card. Where I have been directly involved is when I built my own house in my village. Funny, to register a piece of land worth Rs. 9,000, I had to pay Rs. 20,000! There is a very long ladder which you need to climb to get the final signature. The ladder starts with a person who fills up the form for you with a special fountain pen and only that form is accepted. You have to pay the person a few hundred rupees for filling the form. Then an agent takes the form and the money. Everybody in the corruption ladder takes his share until the form reaches the actual person. They call you to take your fingerprints and the whole process is done. The agent takes care of the whole thing; you just have to pay the money.

*A country of the corrupted and the calculated
Requires the entry of the erupted and the educated*

Why is a person awarded PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) degree irrespective of the field of research, and not any specific degree like 'Doctor of Computer Science'? Do you think the name is apt?

Yes, the name is apt. PhD is not a typical degree. It is an honor. It is given to a person for his scholarship, hard work and the contribution

to his field of study. This process is common irrespective of the field of study. The field of study is a happenstance, and is likely to change with times for a typical researcher. Today we have numerous fields of knowledge. This compartmentalization is done just to curb the complexity. There is a proverb that, "Today man knows too much for one man to know much". Studying the whole available knowledge is not possible. This division merely aids study.

*One's specialization really isn't quite special
Especially in higher degrees like the doctoral
Creativity is a natural process that is cerebral
Independent of man-made partitions, in general*

Tell us something that you like about IIIT-H and something that you don't?

IIIT-H is a new institute and it requires time to grow. I am sure that the institute is moving in the right direction. What I like the most about IIIT-H is its good environment; and there is very little bureaucracy involved. The institute maintains an optimum level of stress on the students and faculty which is necessary to improve their performance in their respective fields. However, there are a lot of things that are left for the individual to decide. This may lead to person overburdening himself.

*Where freedom to work is quite aplenty
But freedom from work is surely scanty
It's very young and not yet twenty
Guess what is it?: Of course, triple-I T*

Tell us something you remember from your college days?

It's been a long time since I was in college. So I don't remember much of it. What I remember of college is the unique atmosphere of our hostel. The first two weeks of college were very frustrating. I wondered how people could live in such an atmosphere and still manage to complete their degree! But there was a drastic change after the fresher's night. Even two hours before the fresher's night I was unsure whether I could survive in the college. However after that night everything seemed so

perfect that I was ready to spend my whole life in hostel and couldn't imagine leaving it after finishing my degree. This drastic shift of one's mentality is unique to college and is unlikely to be seen anywhere else.

*Those who manage to work and to play
Are likely to find some truth in what I say
Despite the long breaks after every May
College is the time of your life, any day*

What are the qualities that you value in a person?

It is said that man admires the qualities that he does not have. However, qualities that are good even if taken to an infinite level are the qualities that I admire. Dedication is an instance of one such quality. Humility is perhaps another.

What is your view about open source/ patents?

Patents do stop free flow of information but are a part of business. It however, does not differ much from names in the (public domain) research papers. The patents are for money and the names in the books are perhaps for fame. So these are just two different categories. They don't have any significance. At the end of the day, nobody needs to worry about who invented the wheel, but everybody uses it. That's how things actually are. It's not a relevant, big-time important problem to ask whether a patent is there or not. Even if the wheel was patented, it hardly makes any difference now. "The wheel is lasting and only important things will last and, the only lasting things are those which are going to be important-it doesn't really matter who found it, who published or what he or she did with it. Mankind has got it and that it will last is important." The patents do not stop the flow of information forever; 100 years or 1000 years from now everybody will have forgotten the patent but the knowledge remains.

*Contributions lasting as long as the civilization
are important*

*Contributions that make civilizations everlasting
are more potent
If such a contribution were to be associated
with a patent
Sooner rather than later, it would turn out to
be void and latent*

What are your views on the following quote "Luck is nothing but marriage of hard work and opportunity"

The quote completely demystifies "luck" whereas I believe in some mystical luck beyond this quote. For instance, what if the work wasn't necessarily as hard but that doesn't show in the results, it does get mystical. Let me explain. Luck can be associated with the space-time. The questions should be "Are all spaces equal and are all times equal?" Our actions are space dependent in sense that some place is better suited for some specific actions, like teaching is better done in a classroom. Our actions are also dependent on time in the manner that sometimes it is better to perform certain tasks like first-aid is better given early after an injury. So, I would say that, luck, is the marriage of your work and space-time. If done at the right place at the right time, even a small effort could result in big gains. Of course, things get far fetched and deeply mystical where traditionally the above concepts have been extended, quite straight-forwardly, to that of auspicious time and auspicious space.

*Where to drill for water, if you need to fix
When to swing the bat, if you need a six
In all matters there is always a weighted mix
Of one's skill and Mr. Luck's bag of tricks*

What is your message to the students?

Life is too precious; let it be so in foresight rather than in hindsight.

*From Pythagoras to von Neumann
And from Archimedes to Richard Feynman
As men they are rare and uncommon
Though them as role-models we often summon*

Internships : Under the Hood!

Gone are the times when being a gold medalist with a reputed degree was considered a sufficient proof of your talent and corporate calibre. That was a time when you could easily get a good job by showing umpteen occurrences of eights and nines in your grade sheet and impressing the interviewers by giving sweet and cunning answers to some pretty obvious questions. But the last decade has witnessed a drastic change in the corporate scenario, thus affecting the recruitment process as well. Companies now prefer graduates who have 'something extra' in their CV, something that can help them choose the best amongst the best. One such 'extra' feature is Internship.



Aditya Deshpande
A student of CSD, Aditya did his summer intern at Google Bangalore. Tip : Get started from 5th semester itself!

The trend of doing internships started gaining popularity a few years back, and today almost every student who is on the verge of entering the competitive corporate world, wants a good internship to his name. The reasons are many- ranging from building up a weighty CV, to getting some money during vacations. Very often, the whole process of a person's internship seems like a black box to others. There are students who are curious about internships and look forth for the same, but in most cases this curiosity ends up with a congratulatory post on the internee's Facebook wall (with a desperate and futile demand of a lavish party). So Ping! brings to you the inside stories of some admirable interns from the institute, unravelling the most exciting and interesting behind-the-curtain details and answering the most-hyped questions about internships!

The first question that arises in the minds

of all is: "Whew! How did he get that intern?" Obvious as it is, getting an internship in good companies is not easy. **Aditya Deshpande** (UG4), who did a Software Engineering intern at Google, shares his story: "There is a call for resumes around Oct/Nov and based on CGPA, candidates are short listed for phone interviews. The next stage comprises of phone interviews. Generally the interviews start with a discussion of academic projects and previous work experience mentioned in the resume. Afterwards the interviewer asks questions pertaining to algorithms and data-structures." But is it always necessary to go through the same multi-stage interviews and the same set of technical questions? **Shipra Malhotra**, internee at Bell Labs, disagrees with this. "My interview was not a question-answer session but rather a conversation where they told us what they are working on and enquired about what we see ourselves working on in the future (based on our interests). There are also some questions on the extent of our commitment, going further for long term projects.", she says. **Navni Bhojwani** from Microsoft adds more comfort to the answer with her words "It is not always important to give the right answer, what matters more is the approach you take to solve a problem at hand. They give you sufficient hints in case you are stuck at some point. Sometimes if the interviewers are few in number, group interviews are conducted. In such a scenario you are supposed to be quick and give answers before others can."

Shipra Malhotra
Her hobbies include reading, blogging and finding new ways to lighten her chronic boredom ! She did research intern at Bell Labs, Bangalore.



Tushar Bisht, another internee from Google Hyderabad has a different story. "There are two routes to get an internship. One is the on-campus route, where your re-

sume first goes to the Placement Committee and then to the company. At that time, I had a CGPA of 7.75. The announced cut-off from Google was 7.5. But the observation made was that they were not accepting candidates with CGPA below 8. Thus, I tried the off-campus route. I submitted my resume through an erstwhile senior who was working at Google. Through this route, I got the internship!”

Another question which excites the minds of internship aspirants (and probably haunts others) is about the nature of work that is supposed to be done during internship. Well, this varies from one company to another, and ranges across a vast variety of technical tasks. While Tushar worked on a Google search appliance which essentially searches Intranet documents, Aditya and Shipra were a part of the apps team in Google and Bell Labs respectively. The work may be as interesting as extracting trends from Twitter, as Navni did, and its can be as complicated as going through several thousand lines of code, which **Soumya Vishwanathan** went through, during her intern at Amazon. But Soumya does not seem frustrated with the jumbled world of codes. “The work made me understand that writing a code for an industrial project is a lot different than our normal assignments. You eventually learn how to read through thousands of lines of inter-coupled code and understand it. We had to go through the entire process of design, coding, testing and review.”

So does being an intern only mean



Navni Bhojwani

Summer internee at Microsoft, Hyderabad.

Tip : While giving an interview, be at ease. Don't be hasty!

working hard to get some money and experience? Well all those who have done a good intern will surely disagree to this. As Shipra and Soumya share their experiences of life in Bangalore- “Interactions were common and fun. We would discuss each other’s projects and have meetings to solve each other’s problems. There were Friday snack times, which

included talks on random topics including self help, Parallel thinking etc. Besides this, there was an outdoor trip to an adventure place near Bangalore and the final farewell dinner. Overall, it was a free environment”. Navni also shares her experience “Life is fun at Microsoft.

Tushar Bisht

A student of CSD, Tushar did his intern at Google Hyderabad.

Tip: Take things light! Because knowledge matters more than your CGPA.



They have flexible timings.

There are foosball, table tennis, pool tables and X-box's all around. There was also a dinner hosted by the MD of MS-IDC for all the interns. Having dinner at the same table as the MD of the company is a nice feeling and makes you feel important too! Apart from that there are frequent team outings and socials.”

Coming to on-site intern experiences, one can expect a hell lot from Google, which is considered the best Indian company in terms of employee welfare. Tushar explains this by means of his own experience. “The environment at Google is very relaxed. There are certain people who turn up for a few hours a day play a little over there and put in minimal hours of work. People over there enjoy life, they play and work simultaneously. Very few people slog it out. Also, you are assigned work only according to your level. If you are a third year student, as I was, they do not expect you to know more than you should. Moreover, my mentor even asked me if I was comfortable with my project and gave me an option to work something out if I wasn't.” Aditya adds up the fun part of Google’s atmosphere- “Google is famous for its cafeteria’s that serve gourmet cuisine, and moreover all the food is free. Apart from the four meals: breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner, you can gorge on chocolates, cakes and drink cappuccino's rest of the time. I guess majority of the enjoyment is directly proportional to the amount of weight you have piled on! Also there is a weekly social event on Friday, TGIF that everyone looks forward to. Then there are team off-

sites and intern off-sites where we indulged in fun activities like bowling, paint ball, go-karting among others.”

It is a general notion that internships are only beneficial to B.Tech four-



Ishan Misra

Summer internee at Yale University. Tip: Focus on the areas you are really interested in. It will fetch you more benefit.

year students, and not for the MS/dual degree students. Tushar who is a dual degree student himself, has a divergent view on this, as he tries to explain why he strived for an internship - “At first, I applied just for the sake of it, with a 'nothing to lose' attitude. When I didn't get a call from Google HR guys, I personally called them and gave four serious interviews. I was particularly impressed with Google's policy for dual degree students of getting another internship the next year if one's feedback was good. It is not necessary that a dual degree student must pursue research throughout his or her life. Internships give you exposure as to how day jobs are and go a long way in helping us, dual degree students, in deciding between an industrial job and a career in research.”

Not only do the summer internships add an 'extra' something on your CV and experience, they can even go a long way to securing your future. Many a corporate give Pre-Placement Offers to internees they are proud to call their own. **Mayank Gupta** (UG4) feels that it's easier to get placed in a company through an internship than gruelling rounds of continuous interviews during placement season. In-fact, the expected number of interviews is less than a normal course as your internship work adds weightage. For example, **Ankit Baheti** (UG4) got PPO from Amazon without giving a single interview. For students who did a university intern, a recommendation from his/her guiding Professor is an added advantage which enables them get in top Graduate Schools of the world.

But does an internship only make sense when done in a reputed company? Or do there

exist some substitutes to the normal office-interns? The answer is definitely 'Yes'. **Ishan Misra**, who did summer internship at Yale University, shares his totally different experience, which started with a “Good! I am impressed” statement by a reputed Professor. So how did he get it ? “I regularly attended a discussion group on the topic (Distributed Systems and Randomized algorithms) conducted by a visiting Professor from Iowa. He suggested that I should read some papers and helped me get in touch with the Yale faculty. Subsequently, I read many papers on Deterministic parallelism. Finally, the Professor at Yale contacted me in March and invited me to Yale, and I accepted!”

He also shares his experience at the university, whose atmosphere, according to him, was very innovative and encouraging. “For the first few days I was overawed by the Yale culture! As I got used to it, I just spent time getting to know what the group was working on. I also started reading a lot of papers on (Distributed Systems and Operating systems). The OS curriculum in IIT-H does not provide the required hands on experience. In Yale, the undergrad

Soumya Vishwanathan

Summer internee at Amazon Bangalore, Soumya finds internships as excellent opportunities for industrial exposure.



students would have finished writing an OS by the end of the course. There I got this opportunity to code and learnt a lot. Their CS department has highly respected professors in the field of CS and the atmosphere is encouraging. The Professors are friendly and allow all sorts of informal contact: Skype, Cell phone texts, etc. Furthermore, we would have weekly lunches where the group members would discuss their progress, and we had visiting professors from world over join us. The environment is very friendly yet very professional at the same time, something India must definitely work on acquiring.”

So at the end of the day, what is it that these 'seniors' would like to advise to their juniors? Well, summing up all the recommendations and 'words of wisdom', here we serve you the gourmet- "Preparation is vital for success in the interviews. You should start your preparation towards the end of 5th semester. Don't wait for the email to come. Students should focus on areas which they really are interested in and accordingly apply for internship, rather than just getting in to some place where they have a guarantee of getting in via a known source. Also, always stick to the basics: almost all companies ask questions on Data Structures and Algorithms. In interviews it pays more to be systematic than rushing ahead to the solution. First clarify the question, think about it for a while and then start explaining your approach. As a first step it is a good idea to give out a naive solution immediately, explain its inefficiency and state that you are thinking of a better approach. Also during an intern you should make an effort to explore the culture of your company, this is generally documented on intranet with videos, articles, presentations etc. This helps you make an informed choice about your future prospects. Being an intern gives you a lot of exposure to your future. You bear almost all the responsibilities that a new employee would have. It is a good way to understand what you might end up doing!"

Felicity Buzz!

Zombie Zone, Hack-in, CID – no, these are not tidbits from a sci-fi thriller; these were all events in Felicity Buzz, successfully organized by students of UG2. 30th September to 2nd October proved to be three breathless days for the organizers as they set out to give the entire college, especially the freshers, a feel about what Felicity is all about. And the college responded in large numbers, which we had to – who could resist the amazing activities in store!? While Outdoor sport activities

like Tug of War, Dodgeball, Pittu and Futsal brought out team spirit and camaraderie, events like Paper Dancing and Paper Dressing brought out the showman in everyone. Antakshiri and E-Quiz, held in both Hindi and Telugu, gave us solace that all those years of reading gossip and watching countless movies have always had a purpose.

No event in IIIT-H is complete without an online presence and UG2 made sure that this trend would continue. Events like Hack-in, Cache-in and Mathematica were so engrossing and mind-boggling that all those participating were either on the computer, breaking their head over the problems, or perennially distracted when doing something else. And then there was Zombie Zone. Participants sat for hours to outwit one another in DOTA and AOE. FIFA fanatics fought it out with countless attacks and counter-attacks, because it doesn't matter if you aren't Messi, as long as you can score with him in FIFA. Racing enthusiasts fought it out top be on IIIT-H's very own blacklist in NFS. Lastly, the most popular game on campus : Counter-strike. All hell broke loose as bullets and grenades flew from one team to another. In all, Felicity Buzz was thoroughly enjoyed and we congratulate the organizers for a job well done.



Thrill at its best in *Robosoccer @ Buzz*

What's Next ?

'Gandhian' is one of the most popular attributes given to Anna Hazare following his movement against corruption, and no one can deny him this. Austere in his white clothes and distinctive cap, and reminiscent of days of yore as he undertakes a fast unto death for the country, his image now leads the revolution against corruption, and seeps up the wick of the burning public like steady oil. His belief that just passing and implementing the Lokpal bill cannot end corruption buzzes through everyone's mind as they wonder—what's next??

Ping decided to gather opinions on and ideas as to how the anti-corruption tide can be kept in without dying out after the hype dies down. As much as a law can solve a problem, much of it can be done by the common man who has nothing to do with making the law. A unanimous vote went for trying to stop corruption at a basic level-- by keeping up a level of integrity towards yourself and the country, by just upholding your duties instead of taking the easy way out, and by avoiding black money and bribes. Given that our population is what makes corruption come back, not because of the presence of bribe takers but of the bribe givers-- it's a simple demand-supply curve—this would effectively put an end to corruption. But evidently any change we wish to see in an entire country, let alone even a community, takes some time to become reality.

A Lokpal Bill is one that empowers a Lokpal to carry out legal procedures against corrupt government officials at all levels. Constant vigilance was valued as a good way of preventing the growth of corruption. However, are only politicians who take bribes corrupt? Some felt that while such leaders may be financially corrupt, those who are silent about the issue and make no move to stop corruption despite being in a position of power, are morally corrupt.

One should prevent becoming a morally corrupt individual because of a despicable

'chalta hai' attitude. Are you willing to submit only the original rent receipts and original medical bills for tax exemption, or will you—like countless others—dodge the bullet when it comes on to you? The beginning of all modes of corruption is a seemingly small dose of moral corruption. We may be quick to exercise our rights, but always shirk from our duties and leave things be to avoid the trouble. A flip side to the Anna revolution that was pointed out was that though it ignited the collective consciousness of the dozing Indian youth, it was not able to create a single capable leader, that we could promote in general elections. 'India Against Corruption' could be an NGO or a Facebook page, but as of now, never a political party where issues can be taken up and dealt with constitutionally.

As we gear up to vote for a new government every few years, the only way to eradicate corruption in them completely and successfully is to put our foot down first. When politicians can bend to demands for water, power, and better living conditions, they should be able to promise us results when asked for a corruption-free society. Even if they are not able to bring about results quickly, the political pressure on all parties to maintain squeaky-clean images increases. If people had constitutionally demanded the Lokpal Bill before elections, the party that promised to pass it would win, and the party that won would have had to pass the bill. We must learn to wield democracy as an implement for the people. Ultimately, corruption is an attitude. An attitude shared among those with power or money, which converts money into power for those who bribe, and power into money for those who accept. It takes effort to change a single person's attitude, but that of the country's persona? It was never a path strewn with roses. Seek change and be the change—we have to be the change we have to see. So you ask what's next? We're next!!

Pen Stand

Sorry Dada

I rushed through the front doors and galloped straight towards the reception with my heart pounding. The distinctive hospital smell nauseated me.

'Ramlal Dinkar?' I puffed.

The receptionist, on the phone was indifferent. 'You don't say so? (indistinct murmurs) you ain't gonna do *that*? You would! How wicked of you!' She gave a hysteric laugh.

There was a metallic clang as the elevator landed beyond the foyer. A welter of people hurried out as the doors quivered open.

'Ramlal Dinkar?' I repeated, this time forcefully and with a hint of exasperation, tapping my fingers on the mahogany.

The receptionist did not seem pleased. With an expression, as if someone had stuffed a week's unwashed sock in her nose, she fed the computer with some information and muttered, '606!'

I ran across the room, scurrying past the trays and carriages, round the huge sofa. The elevator was almost full. The doors shuddered and began to close. Squeezing through the crowd, pushing away people en-route, I made a huge leap towards the elevator. I wedged my left foot between the doors and shoved them apart.

The doors engulfed me inside the cavernous elevator. As the machinery started inside the shaft, I heard the receptionist say, 'Aw.... he left you despite knowing that you were sick! SICK!'

The elevator slowly rose. I chanced a look around. Besides me, trusted to a nurse was a cadaverous old man in a wheelchair. His

head was lolled onto one side and his hollow eyes stared into infinity. Life had deserted him, at least in a spiritual sense. I was immediately absorbed in a *pensive mood*.

'Oh mom, com'on! It's my last year at school. I have to go on the tour. All my friends are!' I spoke in an assertive tone, on the verge of breaking into tantrums.

'I don't know son.' My mother looked uneasy. 'Your grandpa's been so ill lately.'

'Oh dada's so strong, he'd-'

I was interrupted by a slow and familiar screech of my Grandpa's wheelchair. He slowly drove towards us and a few yards from me, came to a halt.

He had grown pale and extremely thin over the last few days. He coughed more often than he breathed. A moment of indecision had caught me.

I moved towards him and sat on my knees. I held his hands in mine and spoke, 'Dada, my school's going on a trip and.....'

He, in his calm manner, gently caressed his hands over my head and spoke, 'Go.' His lips turned into an upward concave, his sagging skin more profound than ever. He, then, coughed.

Almost mechanically, I walked out of the elevator, oblivious to my surroundings.

'The tour was a blast mom. Awesomely dawsomely fabulous!' I performed a little pirouette on the spot.

'Dada..... Dada.....' I shouted. No one replied. An alien feel seemed to have settled in the house. 'Where's dada, mom?'

I shot a questioning, tensed glance at

her. The truth already began to prick me. She did not answer but only wept. Her tears said a lot. I felt like a goat who had been heavily fed before being slaughtered.

A guilty teen looked up at me from the white vinyl below. I felt terrible, sunk into the deep abyss of contrition.

Involuntarily, I stopped in front of a door. '606' was plainly stenciled upon it. I placed my hand on the knob but did not turn it. I was scared. The door for some reason seemed the heaviest I had ever used. It took a great amount of fortitude to spin that small protrusion.

The room was illuminated by stark fluorescent lights. They provided a shimmering aura to all the objects within the room. Right in front of me, was a high bed and on it lay a frail body. For a moment I visualized the bed floating amidst a sea of clouds, with bright beams of light focused on it from all four directions, carefree of material possessions.

My heart skipped a beat when I saw the chest on the bed heave ever so slightly. I rushed towards the bed and sat on the stool. I looked at him intently. He seemed asleep and even the oxygen mask couldn't conceal the tranquil smile on his face. He had grown extremely pale and weak. Contrary to the gloomy ambience, he was like a white expanse of pure serenity.

I was so lost that it took me quite some time to register the beep of the cardiac monitors and the hiss of the respirators. The profusion of intravenous bottles and lines connected to the impaled blood vessels by sharp needles unhinged me slightly.

I closed my hands on his wrinkled arm and whispered, 'Dada?'. He opened his eyes slowly and turned his head to face me. His smile broadened and an intense satisfaction seemed to have embraced him as if he had just completed his four holy pilgrimages. A tear

swam out of his watery blue eyes; a tear that appeared to have been yearning for freedom for a long time.

He tried to get up, to speak, oblivious of his physical incapability to do so. A doctor, whose presence I was ignorant of until now, seized him by his shoulder and helped him settle comfortably on the bed. 'Injection time.' He smiled as a gesture of amiability.

The needle on his syringe was about three and a half inches long and a sparkle of light danced off its shaft. He pushed it into dada's arms, all the way to the hilt. Dada gave a dry gasp of pain. My skin crawled at the thought of the needle piercing through his arms into his tissues as the dark red blood swirled up in the clear solution.

'Ow! God! Ow! It hurts!' I leaped on one foot holding the other one in my hand trying to locate the pike.

'Oh come on here now. You're such a strong guy.' My dada spoke. He took my foot in his hands and searched for the culprit.

'Ow! Ow! Ow!'

'You're a strong guy. Superman, eh? My 10 year old little superman. Ah...here's it. Close your eyes... its gonna be painless. Yes... here it is...here!'

I slowly opened one of my eyes and realized that the pain was gone. 'Its gone! Thank you dada!'. And I jumped into his laps, wriggling and laughing.

I shuddered at my helplessness as I saw all those sharp needles piercing those fragile veins of his. All I could do was place my hand on his. His strained body relaxed and his smile returned.

He continued to look at me with those calm blue eyes of his. He couldn't speak; he seemed to be communicating with his eyes.

MUNSOC Updates

'Did you enjoy the tour?'

It was the last straw. Guilt swam its way out on tears. I placed my head on his arm and cried- profusely, loudly.

It took me quite some time to get hold of myself. I realized that it might hurt him to see my tears. I wiped them off with my sleeves.

My hand was on my thighs when dada reached out for it and circled his fingers around my first finger. He had a sort of an assured look and he closed his eyes.

'It's really scary! It's toooo dark!' I was walking alongside grandpa in a forlorn alleyway.

'It's going to be fine, son. You trust me?'

I nodded. He stretched out his hand towards me. I caught hold of his finger with my puny hand. A sense of security enveloped me and I knew then, that I was not afraid to cross that alley.

The grip on my finger loosened. The cardiac monitor blipped loudly, the pattern went barmy. The peaks slowly began to flatten. There was a sudden rush in the room. 'Hurry, Hurry! The paddles...fast!'

The doctor placed the paddles on dada's chest. His right thumb made contact and a powerful electric charge spread through the chest, arcing from one paddle to another. His body jerked upwards, arms flopped across his chest, jaws locked tightly cutting through his tongue, eyeballs rolled with intense pain and his hands twisted inwards. The doctor repeated the procedure - once, twice but the lines on the monitor had gone flat - completely. White saliva emanated from his mouth. His body was now cold and numb. I realized that he had departed from our world.

- Nikhar Agrawal (UG1)

A delegation of 16 people set out, suited up for yet another MUN, which this time took us to the city of dreams, Mumbai. On 17th September, after a 12 hour long journey we arrived at Chattrapathi Shivaji Terminus, and rushed to get ready for the inaugural session. HOTEL UNICONTIENTAL- 3 rooms, 16 people. I will leave the rest to your wild imagination.

TM-MUN was efficiently organized as a part of 3 day college fest CARMA. It was constituted by 5 committees namely- Special Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL), Futuristic Security Council (FSC), Disarmament and International Security (DISEC), Human Rights Council (HRC) and Security council. Rishabh Dhall co-chaired SPECPOL. For the first time we had a student from IIIT-H chairing a committee. So, 11 bright eyed first timers, 4 experienced MUNer's and a member of the executive board set out for the first session of TM-MUN. Srijan and Aakash were a part of FSC, Shreyam, Shantanu, SP Mohanty, Sahiti, Ashutosh, Sudarsh and Arnav constituted SPECPOL, Lavanya, Shivani and Ankita were in DISEC, Anuj Katiyal and Anubhav were in HRC.

There was competitive participation and heated debating in all the five councils throughout the four sessions. After intense lobbying and head pulling, resolutions were drafted, voted upon and sent to United Nations Information Center for India and Bhutan. Ashutosh Borkar got a special mention for his efforts in the council. Sahiti's efforts were lauded as well.

Now to the fun parts, in DISEC, Afghanistan went on to say that if they can't cut people's arms they might as well legalize opium. As always the after party was epic, and everyone let their hair loose after the hectic MUNing sessions. We spent our free time visiting some of the eminent landmarks in Mumbai. It was, as they say, legendary!

Parliament Updates

There were by-elections for the representative of UG3 from Vayu house. Siva Karthik was elected as their representative. The elections for UG1 were held. Two representatives were elected from each house.

Aakash

1. Sudhanshu Shekhar
2. Tarang Goyal

Agni

1. Himil Sheth
2. Vibhav Srivastava

Prithvi

3. Arpit Merchant
4. Santhosh Kumar

Vayu

1. Arnav Sharma
2. Tushant Jha

Room allocation procedure has been simplified. A mail to any one of the four UG4 representatives two days in advance will do away with the problems experienced to find a proper authority and getting their signature. Lights on the plinth of Felicity Ground have been installed. This place can be used to celebrate birthdays or any other impromptu events.

To resolve issues related to Hostel, Hostel Secretaries have been made who will work with CoW.

For further details and updates visit the Parliament website web.iiit.ac.in/~parliament. You can also post on our Google group iiit_parliament@googlegroups.com

Two to tango

Be it the Wright Brothers or Batman And Robin, partnerships have been responsible for the most cherished and sometimes even era defining moments of history. Keeping in mind this spirit of camaraderie, Two to Tango was organized on 24th September, 2011. Groups of two enacted out different situations, through different methods, to show all that the bond they possessed was indeed the strongest.

Ruchit Bhatt (UG3) and Vibhav Srivastav (UG1) of Agni bagged first prize. Theirs was a miming act in which they showed exemplary synchronization. Following closely was the team of Varun Aggarwal (UG3) and Urmi Ghosh (UG3) of Vayu, who presented a hilarious spoof on the ubiquitous 'Lose fat in X days' advertisements. Placed third was the team of Raveesh Motlani (UG1) and Vishrut Mehta (UG1) who brilliantly handled the upper and lower part of a puppet and impressed the crowd with a variety of moves.



Winning performance by Ruchit and Vibhav

Apart from these, there were many memorable performances, such as a blind-folded dance, few swap dances and a special dance sequence, which involved a girl's ghost haunting her boyfriend! Overall, it proved to be an event which not only fulfilled its intention but also entertained all present no end.

Ping! Recommends

Android Apps:

Cut the rope: Finally the game that made us all want to shift to Google's Cupertino-based rival has landed on Android. A delightfully simple interface, engaging game play and great graphics, not to mention the central character's super cute reactions make the game an awesome time killer. (Although the game is paid in the Android market, it is available for free at getjar.com)

HDR Camera: Bored with your phone's low quality images with dull colours and a washed out effect, try this app. It takes a triple shot and stitches them together to give vibrant results that would put to shame many a high-end cameras.

Swype: A non-market app to show off to your iPhone mates, this is a keyboard which will drastically improve your texting speed. Initially the swiping is a bit slow, mainly due to your inability to trust the app's accuracy, but the speed improves exponentially over time. A must have for heavy texters.

Music Album:

Night at the opera (Queen):

Probably the greatest album by the greatest rock band of all time, 'Night at the opera' built upon the success of Queen (the album), Queen II and Sheer heart attack. The album starts off with 'Death on two legs (dedicated to....)' a vicious, guitar-heavy, hate-song composed by Mercury and sung by Brian May. Next up is a seismic shift to a piano based, music hall style reminiscing 'Lazing on a Sunday afternoon' which with it's innovatively recorded megaphone-type vocals is a treat to the ears. One more of Queen's innovation is seen in the song 'In love with my car' (the most famous of Roger Taylor's songs) in which the ending rev-

ving noise was recorded using Taylor's Alfa Romeo. '39, a sci-fi song about space explorers, 'Sweet Lady', a fast riff-heavy rocker and 'You're my best friend', John Deacon's first single are good companions to 'Seaside rendezvous' which is best known for the 'musical bridge' section where Mercury and Taylor mimic musical instruments using their throats alone. This album however is best known for 'Bohemian rhapsody', a masterpiece which combined rock, ballad and opera into one. A guitar solo is used as a bridge between the starting ballad part and the intermediate opera one. The opera then gives way to a hard rock/heavy metal part which finally ends in a slow, repenting tone. Another classic 'God save the queen' is an instrumental adaptation of the British anthem which after it's release was performed at almost each of their concerts. All said and done, this was probably the album which cemented Queen's place in the annals of rock music.

Book:

Driven to distraction (Jeremy Clarkson):

For all petrol-heads out there, 'Driven to distraction' by the inimitable BBC-Top Gear presenter Jeremy Clarkson is an absolute laugh riot. It's his collection of motoring columns for the Sunday Telegraph. Clarkson, renowned for his hatred of Porsches, combines motoring with socialism, environmentalist and men moustaches. Hurling brickbats with abandon, Clarkson, who is quoted to have said "it's better to be wrong than to be boring", is a delight with his political incorrectness and intricate observations about mundane Toyota's and exotic Lambo's alike. What also adds to the reading experience is his genuine mushiness and child-like glee about all things not in his almost all encompassing hate list. Driven to distraction is a genuinely enjoyable read full of sarcastic humor that you can pick up for 15 minutes of a light read, then forget it for a few days and again repeat the cycle.

Ping! Wall

My Memory, My Book !

Covered round with crimson red,
Cheerful,lavish, and glad;
My book.....
I remind,
"You are a perfect bind
Belong to none but me,
slave of a Profound mind!"

Less time though I may have...
You should ,but never lag,
capture every shot of life,
all my moments of Dark and Light;

Life is short, you doth know;
and so I keep my ambitions low,
I ponder here and wander there,
making merry and thinking rare;

I carve my way through a crossroads many,
making use of every penny;
cagey, cunning, clever, apt...
Every time, now and then,
I taste a Bliss ,
of unknown smell...

Banking every bit of Glory,
for a museum in my memory,
My Memory!....My Book!..

I turn around through a page,
for a glimpse of my glorious age;
Alas!

madly like an infant you cry,
My Book!....

You shout and shatter!!
I don't know why?
What for you appear so blank?
It is you who should remember,
Not me; I am but,
an observer, a reveler ;

Now, I wonder if I lived a life?

With my memory I filled My book,
Filled it!!!....
Yes...all but white;
And now, I stand..
blank with a face,
Thoughtless and Wide..
recollecting the Footprints,
Washed away by tides.

-Shiv Raj (UG1)

Ping! Team

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Photography contest



Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations



Foundation Day Bash

