

Inter IIT Sports Meet All the hot news, results and gossip from the field as IIT Bombay hosts and wins Inter IIT. Page 3	Passing out students' survey Views of all UG final year students as their stay in IIT draws to an end. Page 4 and 5	IITB, IITM and IITK Ever wondered how it would be to live in another IIT? Here's a sneak peek. Pages 6
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British Petroleum, Merrill Lynch, Lime Group Tower Research, Nissan-Renault, Microsoft, Texas Instruments, UBS, BCG and a whole host of other big names in the world of corporate giants descended on our campus in December, each hoping to take a piece of the IITB cake. The placement season this year was quite successful but hectic. By 18th January, 787 students out of 1155 (68%) registered for placements had been placed. The placement process was split into two phases with Phase I scheduled from 1st Dec to 15th Dec before taking a break for the Inter IIT Sports Meet. In Phase I itself, a total of 469 students got placed, with an

Placements '07-'08 in a nutshell

With the placement season well under way and 787 job offers already made to students, InsIghT reviews the process so far.

the best with 88% of them getting placed already followed closely by M.Tech and B.Tech students with 81%. The Ph.D. placement performance of 9% is largely because of the fact that their interviews have multiple stages, including meetings with technical heads of companies which is a long drawn process. Anupam Ghosh, Ph.D. representative, assures us that these

Off campus rule modified

A welcome change from previous years was a modification of the Off Campus Application policy. According to revised placement policy, this year, students may apply to companies off campus immediately after the company has finished its recruitment process on campus, not having to wait until March like earlier. This policy was welcomed by both students and firms. On Day 1 itself, Deutsche Bank asked some candidates, who were found lacking in financial knowledge, to brush up their fundamentals and apply again some time later. Many considered this as collusion and expressed disapproval but it was well within the domain of legitimacy.

People penalized

The new penalty system allowed the placement team to crack the whip on any case of breach of rules. The offence could range from not appearing for interviews

problems, not to mention sleepless nights.

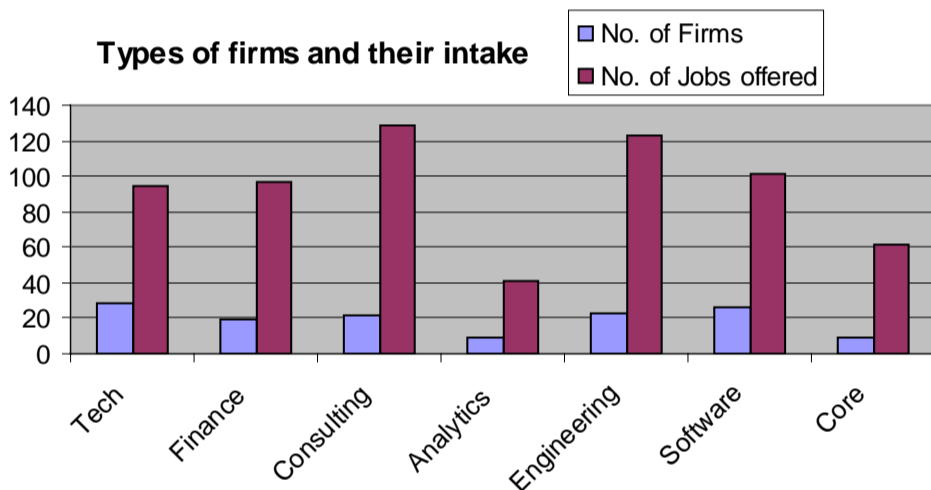
Firstly, the first few days were completely packed (with 13 firms on Day 1). And thanks to companies arriving late, the initial interview schedule went completely topsy turvy resulting in people missing out on some companies' interviews. Secondly, those who were shortlisted in many firms but were not receiving the final offers had to endure extremely long days from 8:00 am extending well into the night (4:00 am in some cases) only to end up having to arrive the next day again at 8:00 am.

A subtler observation, and a not altogether happy one for a technical institute, is that only 2 out of the 13 firms on Day 1 were technical in nature.

Attitude towards Pre-placement talk

Unfortunately, free pizza seems to be the sole reason for many to attend PPTs as demonstrated by the huge rush to get them and the seats closest to the back doors filling first. Many companies were surprised by the complete absence of questions and doubts at the end of their PPTs, being blissfully unaware of the truth. So much so that Prof. Subhash

Types of firms and their intake



average of 30 students a day. An extremely impressive figure, better than the previous years but one that should be taken with a pinch of salt. There were 13 firms on Day 1 which recruited 93 people in total, with Schlumberger and Deutsche Bank taking 24 and 21 respectively. The scheduling left much to be desired though and many people wondered why Value Partners, a relatively unknown firm which, at the end of the day, took only two students finally, was scheduled on Day 1. (More such examples in the "Scheduling Woes" section.)

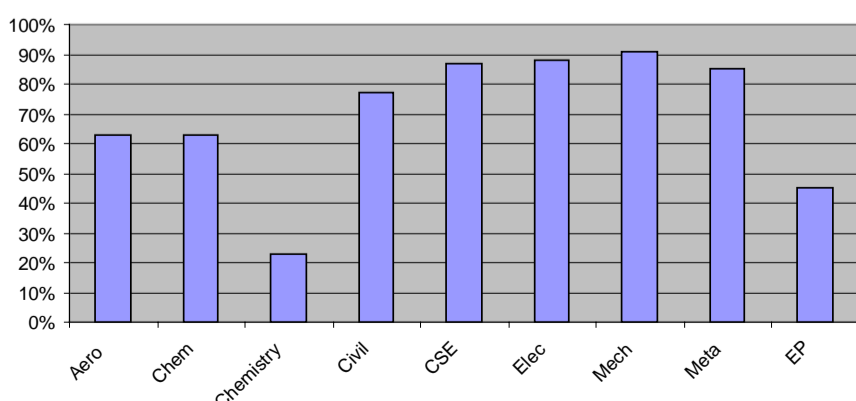
The number game

Taking a sneak peek at the numbers we find that 355 people got A1 jobs and 151 A2 jobs, i.e. 506 jobs with salaries of 6 LPA or more. A program-wise division shows us that Dual Degree students have performed

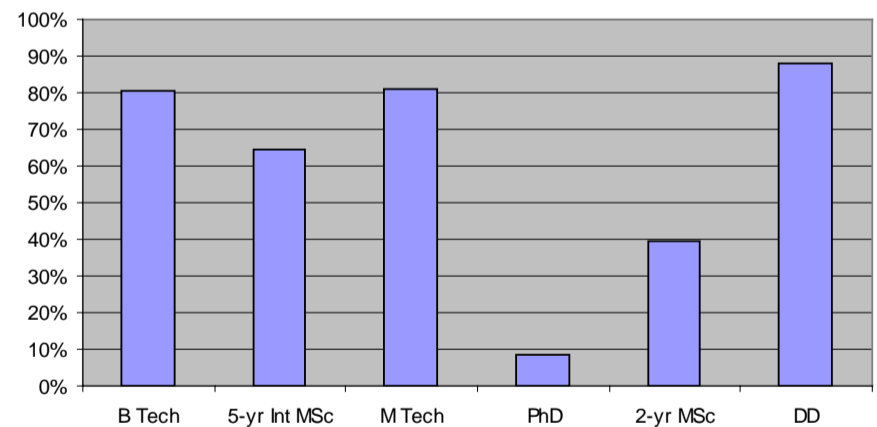
numbers will shoot up in the near future.

One can infer from the department-wise distributions that CSE, Elec, Mech and Meta have achieved over 85% placements while Civil is close with 77%. Aerospace and Chemical Engineering have been a little slow with 63% each. Jubin Chheda, M.Tech representative, explains that a lot of chemical firms recruited very few people and cited the excuse of having recruited enough people from other IITs. This could be in tune with the general feedback of companies that IITB students are not as well-prepared as other IITs. The low figures of Engineering Physics (45%) is largely attributed to a large fraction of students who registered for placements but decided not to sit for any interview and concentrate on further studies.

Dept-wise placement (% placed)



Program-wise placement (% placed)



after getting shortlisted to cheating in written tests. While only warnings were given initially, punishments were judiciously implemented in the later stages. For e.g. a fine of Rs. 1000/- was imposed on 25 people who were absent for the written test conducted by Amdocs.

Scheduling woes!

The placement team had conducted a survey with an aim to decide on the schedule of companies. Moreover, to get as many companies as possible to come on the first day, they devised a new slot based schedule where each day was divided into two slots. The slots were also prioritized like days, i.e. if you got placed in Slot 1, you can't sit for a firm in Slot 2. Despite the best intentions, the slot system led to some

Babu, professor in-charge for placements, decided to discontinue the distribution of pizzas after some time. The result, as one would expect, was a sharp decline in the number of people attending the PPTs.

Titbits from the placement front

Some minor but important points came to light on close inspection and talking to institute placement nominees.

1) Jubin mentions that PG students are actively opting for IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) firms such as Pangea3. These firms require a strong combination of technical knowledge and writing skills. We may see an increase in IPR firms in the coming year.

(Continued on Page 6)

Class of '82 gives back

Amidst the revelries of Mood Indigo 2007, another celebration commenced as IIT Bombay hosted the Silver Jubilee Reunion for the Class of 1982 and the Alumni day on the 29th and 30th December respectively. Over 120 alumni of the Class of 1982 from all over the world arrived at IIT with full gusto. Families were introduced and hands were shaken, as old friends caught up with each other.

They continued the tradition of the Legacy Project, started by the class of 1970 in which the alumni celebrating their silver jubilee pledge take up a project in IIT Bombay. This year, "The Class of 1982 Fund for Young Faculty" was initiated as their legacy project. The main aim of the project is to attract young and qualified faculty by augmenting a new faculty member's salary by about 25% for a period of three years. The batch has already raised Rs 4 crore in all and plans to mobilize another Rs 2 crore for the project.

After dealing with the serious issues, an enjoyable day ensued with the likes of photo sessions at lakeside, boat rides in the Powai Lake and guided campus tours as well as entertainment for the families. The day ended with a gala dinner being hosted for the 1982 batch, with a live concert of musicians and singers bringing back the eighties.

The day saw the alumni socializing and visiting their respective hostels with

Alumni Updates

Aayesha, Aishwarya and Tarun chronicle two major alumni-related events that happened on the campus- the generous donation from the class of 82' and the SARC initiative.

nostalgia. They then attended the Director's address followed by an introduction to HATS (Hostel Alumni Team Stewardship) which is a Hostel 7 alumni initiative for improving the facilities for the hostels and the hostel workers.

The celebrations ended with the Director hosting a high tea party. The class was honored with awards and felicitations; and they resumed their usual routine with a whiff of nostalgia of those good old times here in IIT Bombay.



ver jubilee reunions every year. They never envisioned the day when the IITs would have to write to the HRD ministry to increase their allocated funds, simply because they cannot pay salaries and electricity bills on time. As a long term solution, a new initiative under the Golden Jubilee banner has been taken – the Student-Alumni Relationship Cell – SARC.

Although the major motive behind SARC is to generate funds through the massive and relatively untapped alumni resource that the Institute possesses, the current plan of action includes the setting up of a web portal dedicated towards the increase in interaction among alumni and current students. Through this, against all odds, SARC plans to "reach out" to all 32,000-odd alumni of IITB. "If we know them, we can establish a relationship with them and only then ask for help", explains GSHA Prashant Khandelwal who is also spearheading the initiative.

In the meantime, scores of students have volunteered to use the Golden Jubilee office for this purpose, where 10 VoIP ISD phones have been installed. After being trained by alumnus Bharat Desai's Syntel executives, these students spoke with 330 US-based alumni in December, most of whom pledged to donate. The marathon telephone session was aptly termed 'Phon-

a-thon' – only the first step towards the ultimate aim of generating Rs. 100 crore during the Golden Jubilee celebrations itself. The funds generated are for, but not limited to, the Golden Jubilee initiatives including a Faculty Development Fund, library endowments and infrastructural needs.

Although the institute is not at all new to receiving alumni donations, in the light of current financial concerns, SARC may prove to be a welcome initiative for sustenance and long term development. Let there be many more hidden Nilekanis, Menezes', Mashruwala's and Desai's willing to give back to their alma maters – for the sake of IIT Bombay!

The Wall of fame!

To acknowledge each and every donor, the institute is building a 'Brick Wall of Fame'. "We will put up a plaque of every student who walks into the institute on this wall, and keep it turned the other way. When that student passes out and contributes (a minimum amount of Rs. 1 lakh) to the institute, the plaque will be turned around to show his name," said Prof. Deepak Phatak, convener of the Golden Jubilee committee. This, he said, was being done to encourage "the culture of giving back" among students right from the outset.

(Aayesha Ghanekar and Aishwarya Ramakrishnan are second year students of the MEMS department. Tarun Mathur is a third year student of the Mechanical Engineering department.)

Institute

Contacting Alumni to raise Funds

The aim of the IITB Alumni Association (IITBAA) is to maintain a healthy rapport with all alumni –by sending in a monthly newsletter and organizing sil-

Grade Deflation?

Quite a few changes have been effected in the curriculum and teaching methods for the first year undergraduate students since the Senate's approval of the Biswas committee reforms. The set of consequences, however, has been a basket of mixed results. An important case in point is the change in the manner of instruction of common freshmen courses and most notable among these are the mathematics courses. The classes are now held in LT and the professors use slides as the medium of instruction.

While the general perception of the new curriculum is that of one offering more free time and less workload, the grading statistics tell another story altogether. This is unequivocally reflected by the grade distribution in the MA 105 course compared to previous years' MA 103 (see graph for a comparative analysis*). The figures indicate an 85% decrease in the number of AAs and a shocking 130% increase in the number of fail grades (FF/FR). The MA 103 grades of 2005 and 2006 are distributed around a mean of 7 and a standard deviation of 2. While the standard deviation increased to 2.3 in 2007, the mean has dropped from 7

Freshie academic woes

The grade distribution in the MA 105 last year is unlike any of the previous years. There is discontent among freshies with regards to large batches in classrooms and ineffective teaching methods. Miheer and Rohit discuss...

to 6. The freshmen would do well to take note of this.

An interview with Prof. Biswas brought out certain startling facts. As regards to the shift in classes to convo/LT he attributed a shortage of willing faculty members for such service courses. He also lamented the lack of dedicated classrooms in the institute that can accommodate 300 odd students. When we brought up the point about the grade statistics, Prof. Biswas agreed that the issue was definitely worth attention. He enunciated that an important aim of the new reforms was to eliminate any kind of mercy passing. He added that there would be a concentrated effort by various departments to run institute courses in both semesters as a means to help persons with backlogs to pass them easily.

ICs to LT to Convo

Our article in a previous edition titled 'The Re-Freshed Curriculum' had

concluded in the following manner - "As with every reform, the response and the effect shall be the verdict of time."

A semester later, it is time to assess the reformation through feedback from the persons who have experienced the changes. Talks with freshies, who are supposedly at ease with reduced credits and more academic freedom have revealed that all is not so pleasant.

A myth to be busted is that workload has drastically reduced. In courses like MA the material that was covered in two semesters (MA 103/104) until last year has been condensed into a single semester course (MA 105). Students are subjected to a crash course of sorts where they feel that concepts are covered only superficially. It is worth noting that this reduction in contact hours merely shifts the onus to study in greater detail on the students.

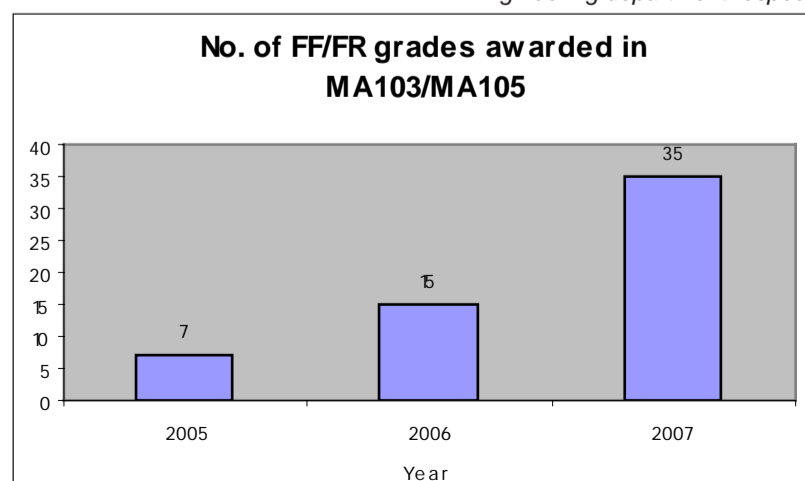
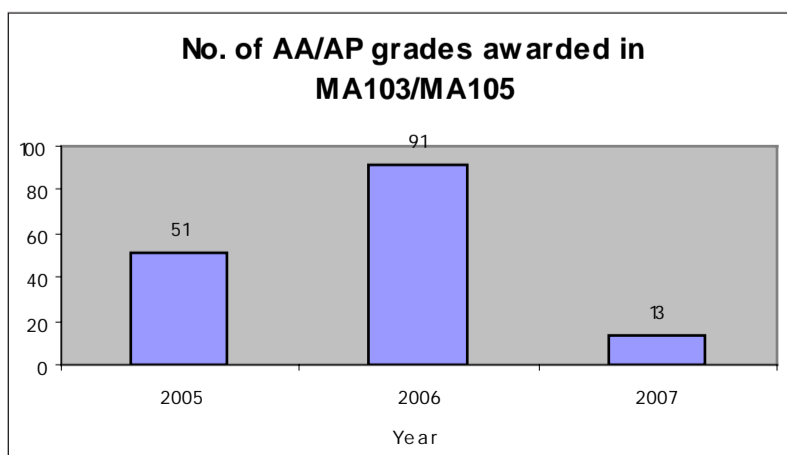
A case in point is a course which was

saw many woes – MA 103. With student-teacher interaction tending to zero, readily available notes and comfortable sleeping possibilities in LT, this course saw an alarming trend of many students 'giving up' on the subject. However popular opinion says that the students are happy with their teachers in the second semester. The DI classes in the convocation hall, however, have suffered from an abysmal student-teacher ratio; an inordinate amount of time is spent in policing the class. Unless we have better classrooms and better teaching methods with increasing student intake, the quality of instruction is sure to nosedive.

Prof. Biswas strongly agreed on the need for better classrooms. Many freshies complained of inept tutors too. Moodle as a platform for interaction has been suggested by the faculty and is gaining appreciation from the freshmen. With great choice has come great responsibility. The ball is in the freshie court: to make the most out of what they have got or to squander it all away.

*All grade details are from ASC's website.

(Miheer Desai and Rohit Vadera are second and third year students of the Mechanical Engineering department respectively.)



Gold-and Jubilee-ation filled the Inter-IIT Sports Meet held at IIT Bombay this year. After four years of coming second (in the last 2 years, we lost by a mere 2 points), IITB managed to bring home the overall men's General Championship with a whopping tally of 90 points. IITM placed a distant 2nd with 60 points, while the other IITs hardly made a dent on the scoreboard. The meet witnessed a number of thrilling nail-biters. IITB won both the football semis and finals in penalty shootouts, with it going to the 9th penalty in the finals! We won a cricket match by one run and lost the volleyball semis in 5 sets with almost every set going to deuce. The hockey semis went to extra time with us landing up on the winning side. This and lots more captivated the crowds from 14-21 December!

To summarise our collections in the men's events, we won Gold in athletics, badminton, basketball, football, hockey and swimming. We bagged Silver in lawn tennis, table tennis and weightlifting, and Bronze in volleyball. The girls secured Bronze medals in athletics, badminton, swimming and table tennis - a huge improvement from previous years.

This year, the sports meet had its fair share of excitements, disappointments, sights and sounds. We present some dollops from here and there. *Golmaal hai bhai sab Golmaal hai!*

1. The Doping Controversy

This is an issue that you would least expect to come up in an Inter-IIT sports meet. Based on charges of doping against an IITD athlete, dope tests were conducted on some crucial players from all the IITs. Ironically, the only athlete to test positive was one of our own, who was on medication involving painkillers and antidepressants. The 7.5 points that he had earned were recommended for deduction in order to move other athletes up by one position accordingly. Whether the points were indeed deducted is a piece of information we could not wholly verify.

2. Relay Video

The umpires of the 4x100 relay adjudged IITB 3rd, while a not-so-trustworthy video, taken by one of the participants, *supposedly* told a different story. If we had lost these 2 points, we'd have tied with IITD. And IITD would have taken home the athletics GC by virtue of having won more golds. However, since the video was inconclusive, the results were not altered.

3. Cricket Rules

The very first match between IITB and IITK saw some incompetent umpiring and on retrospect, was a harbinger to India's fate at the hands of Steve Bucknor! We were chasing a modest 114 when the umpires removed field restrictions, citing the rules that had been handed over to them before the match. Apparently, the organisers had failed to mention the rather obvious 5-outside-the-circle field restriction. During a crucial stage, IITK promptly sent 8 fielders to the boundary. Soon enough, IITB lost a wicket (incidentally one of the writers of this article) before IITK dug out their "spirit of the game" manual, and reverted back to the normal restriction! It was to be of no avail, as we ended up losing by 9 runs.

4. Hockey Anti-cheering

During the crucial IITB vs IITKGP semifinal tie, the IITD team was severely anti-cheering the home team and cursing the referees. An IITKGP player was given a yellow card for intentionally hitting one of our players (when it should have been a red), but even that was not acceptable to

We are the champions!

Aaditya, Aishwarya, Aayesha and Krishna narrate the highs and the lows, the jubilations and controversies that made IITB's thumping victory at the 43rd inter IIT a most memorable one...

the opposition. IITB won in extra time, and IITKGP promptly blamed the refereeing for their defeat. During the finals, the sight of some visiting players mockingly waving cash at the referees left a bad taste in the mouth.

5. Weightlifting Line-up

According to international weightlifting rules, a lifter who does not turn up for the initial line-up cannot participate. Going by the rules, the officials didn't allow an IITK lifter to compete. However, after a series of official requests and a letter to the officials, they finally decided to let him participate.

7. Basketball Hungama!

The standard of refereeing in basketball was allegedly not up to the mark, with heavy complaints coming from the IITKGP and IITM teams after they lost to IITB in the semis and finals respectively. In fact, in the finals, the IITM team almost staged a walk out after a couple of fouls went against their main player. Though they were persuaded to finish the game, they did so in a visibly angry mood. The IITM team also launched an official complaint against the low quality of refereeing in the board meeting, but agreed in principle that it was not biased, just poor in general.

8. Match-fixing?

The ill-feeling between teams was epitomised by the cries of match-fixing that were heard when IITB was mistakenly awarded 10 points for basketball on the official scoreboard, even before the finals had finished! This was a result of some miscommunication with the painter. Though he was instructed to display the 3rd place points, he also painted the points for the finals on hearing some students shouting aloud that we had won. Ultimately, the hosts had to deflect suspicions of match-fixing, and one was left wondering whether IITB would have painted the results in advance even if the match indeed was fixed!

A little detective spirit will lead to the digging up of several such incidents, but due to space constraints, we shall leave that to the interest of our readers. For now, let's analyse a few of the critical issues pertaining to our organisation of the meet.

1. Food

The Inter-IIT mess at H-12/13 was of a high standard. Besides being the only mess capable of accommodating so many people, it provided lots of variety, with sugar, spice and everything nicely spread out over the week-long meet. Rarely did it fall short of food, and the starters, drinks and desserts were also a huge success. The catch, you ask? IITB, for some reason, had to bear a substandard menu at H-9 for the entire course of the meet. The food during the pre-meet camp was great, but Inter-IIT saw the advent of special weight-conscious meals. Looking at the standards set, not only at other Inter-IITs, but for the other IITs in our own Inter-IIT, the food was disappointing to say the least.

2. Transport

Most people did not find it too inconvenient to travel from their hostels to H-13 for meals because of the highly efficient tum-tums; every

contingent member was given a bus pass for the duration of the meet. That which eludes the conscientious student everyday was a common sight during Inter-IIT, and was at most times full to capacity. The increased frequency was much appreciated and its quiet hum always managed to bring a smile to the faces of the tired sportsmen.

3. Facilities

Many students noted that most hostels and rooms required renovation and a fresh

coat of paint. There was also the issue of girls' housing; H-10 was largely empty as girls were relocated to staff quarters in anticipation of a large female turnout for conferences that were going on in IITB around that time. There was often only cold water for bath, and a few had a torrid time with the bathrooms, till it was promised that they would be cleaned twice a day. The canteen was a big plus, serving hot, decent food at very affordable rates.

4. Sports Infrastructure

Though a lot was promised, one didn't see drastic changes in facilities for most sports. The relaying of fields indeed made a difference. The lights on the football field were, and continue to be, a pleasure; strikers practising on the glistening grass is indeed a sight to catch! The new flooring for the badminton court was impressive, and the lighting for volleyball and basketball was sufficient. Besides these, new TT tables and kits for other sports were bought as well. Every member of the contingent received a personal kit bag, and a large compensation for shoes. However, it was disappointing to miss out on a turf pitch and lights for cricket, and there was substandard lighting of the hockey and athletics fields.

5. First Aid

The first aid facilities, on retrospection, were terrible. The first aid desk just had the bare necessities, and there wasn't even a board signalling where it was. There weren't even stretchers for sports like football and badly injured players had to be literally carried off the field. Thankfully, the hospital services were up and running.

In conclusion, yet another incredibly enjoyable and eventful Inter IIT has passed. Till next December in IITM, it's us who can go around crying ourselves hoarse, "We are the champions!" A grand win at home warrants something special from the authorities, as was promised. Defending champions, we are, and hopefully will be one year from now. Either way, it's the spirit of sport that always wins, as a lazy sports buff and critic signs off.

(Aaditya Ramdas is a third year student of the CSE department. Aishwarya Ramakrishnan and Aayesha Ghaneekar are second year students of the MEMS department. Krishna Ramkumar is a final year student of the 5 year integrated MSc Chemistry program.)



43RD INTER IIT MEN'S GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS TALLY

	ATH	BASKY	BADY	CRIC	FOOTER	HOCKEY	TENNIS	SWIM	TT	VOLLEY	W-POLO	WL
BOMBAY	20	10	10	-	10	10	6	10	6	2	-	6
DELHI	12	-	-	10	2	-	-	-	2	10	-	-
GUWAHATI	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KANPUR	4	-	-	-	6	2	2	-	-	-	6	-
KGP	-	2	6	2	-	-	-	6	-	-	2	2
MADRAS	-	6	-	6	-	-	10	2	10	6	10	10
ROORKEE	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-

43RD INTER IIT WOMEN'S GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS TALLY

	ATH	BASKY	BADY	TENNIS	TT	SWIM
DELHI	-	2	-	-	-	-
GUWAHATI	-	-	-	-	-	-
KANPUR	-	2	-	-	6	6
KGP	6	-	-	-	-	10
MADRAS	10	10	10	-	10	-
ROORKEE	-	6	6	-	-	-
BOMBAY	2	-	2	-	2	2

Where are we headed?

InsIghT conducted a survey across passing out students with an aim to understand their aims and career interests after IIT. We also tried to gauge their level of satisfaction with the placement process and their opinions on some related issues.

Post December is *lukkha* season: Placements, *Apping*, CAT are more or less done and in the bag. We thought that this would be the best time to gather perspectives of the passing out batch of 2008. The goal of the survey was simple: to gauge what final year students as a whole felt about their experience in IIT. The more subtle goal is to present a view of the changes that occur through our stay here, and perhaps seek a reason as to what makes us "IITian".

The Survey was conducted across the UG batch of 2008. In total 184 B. Tech and 117 DD final year students responded to ten questions about their jobs and experiences at IIT.

Why IIT:

When asked the reasoning behind choosing IIT, two-thirds responded with 'IIT Brand name and future prospects'. 25% said that their interest in Tech and Engineering got them here, while the remainder attributed their choice to peer or parental pressure.

"Disillusionment towards academics is present. However IIT is not solely responsible for it. JEE aspirants are responsible for what they are getting into and if one comes in lured by the future 'prospects' alone, one should not crib."

Before and after IIT:

(Graph 1) 43% of the respondents came in wishing for a dream job post their degree. Around 28% wished to pursue future studies while only 13% wished for an MBA. Post four years at IIT while the trend doesn't change the numbers certainly do. (Graph 2) Given a choice now, 57% of IITians would take up a job, while only 20% still wish to pursue foreign studies.

The MBA appears as a strong second choice among students with around 30% opting for that as a second choice. The underlying trend here seems to be that if one cannot get a job then the MBA is the next best thing to do. One more fact to note is that more people wish to take up non-tech jobs as compared to tech jobs, by over 12%.

However, reality doesn't always match our expectations and (Graph 3) currently 68% of the students are taking up jobs (Equal tech and non-tech). Only 18% are actually pursuing an MS-PhD, down by around 10% from when they entered as freshies.

A well 'placed' opinion:

Around 80% of students were placed at the time of the survey. Of these 25% are not happy with the job they have. The main reasons seem to be unsatisfactory job profiles and remuneration, which account for nearly all the dissatisfaction. Location and reputation does not seem to worry the IITian much.

"My interest shifted from physics to math in my final year. Though this is mainly due to intrinsic differences between physics and maths, my peers and my department have also contributed."
-Final Year EP student

On being asked what a potential employer looks for in a potential hire (Graph 4), an overwhelming 46% said that CPI is the most important criteria. 22% said that communication skills are then the most important followed by preparation accounting for 12%. **A most startling fact was that extra-curricular activities were accorded importance by only 2% of students.** Organisational skills were accorded much more preference than internships and projects, another revealing fact into the prevailing mindset.

On the question of role models 35% said that seniors with great job offers were their role models. Surprisingly though around 25% of students said that their parents were their role models and guides, with very few according any importance to the peer group.

What you wanted and what you got:

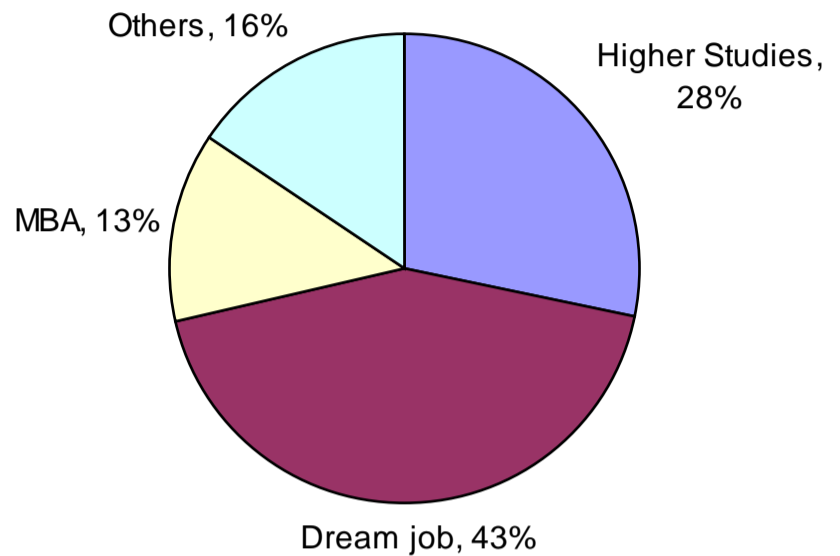
Finally we wished to compare what people expected to gain out of IIT and what they actually felt they got after their stay here. Around 40% said that they came here to get good technical skills and 35% said they came here for the tag. However, only 25% say that they have gained sound technical competence at IIT. What people value the most is the strong peer network at 30%, which has doubled from the initial expectation of 15% of the students as freshies. Another 25% say that what they gained the most are strong social skills.

What the survey revealed:

So what do we interpret from these results? Firstly, freshies are not a lost cause. There

(Graph 1)

As a freshie, what was your dream after IIT?



RIGHT FROM THE HEART

"I think only those people can take full advantage of IIT who have had good guidance in the form of good peers or a strong background in an excellent school. You find the same bunch of people participating everywhere. Only those who are talented are given a chance, there is literally nothing to help someone hone his/her skills in IIT."

The second point is that those who need good guidance are ignored. The mentorship program is really badly managed. There was no one to tell us in the freshie year what is required for the path one wants to pursue. We were left to interpret and draw conclusions by ourselves. One comes to this realisation during the placement season and then it's too late. The point I want to bring home is that the system should not such that we repent after four years but have a better planned tenure at IIT. This is only possible under good mentorship and counselling."

- Abhinav Dudi
Final Year Aerospace Student

technical one. There is repulsion from technical pursuits, with the small number of MS-PhD aspirants dropping by a third by the end of four years, and people shifting to MBA, and non-tech jobs. Another thing to note is that most seem to be happy following the beaten path, with very few wishing to start up on their own. Of course, it might be that the entrepreneurial spirit would be checked for some time until some experience is got, and more importantly, till one can get some financial backing.

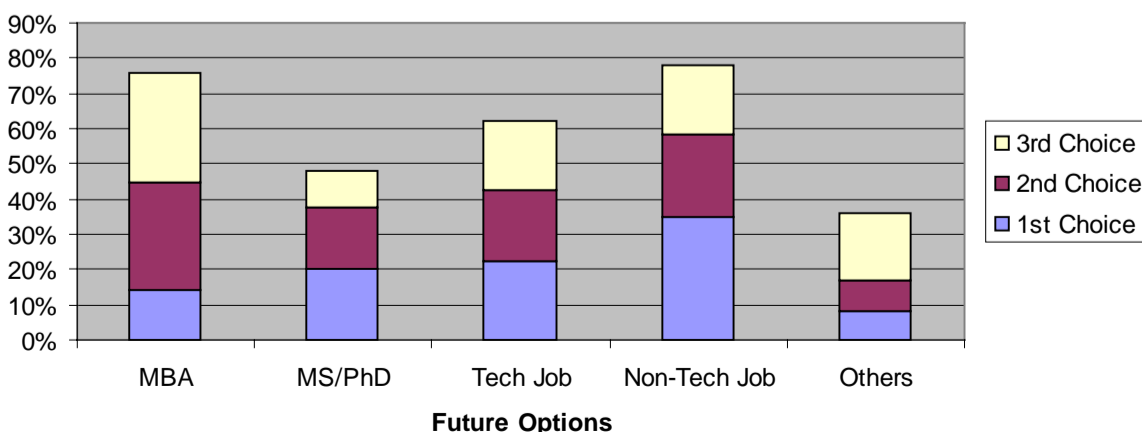
Another thing to note is that the emphasis on organizational skills is markedly low (something that freshies and sophies should make a note of). Conversely, a majority seems to recognize the importance of CPI. Communication and social skills gain more importance here. The sad thing is that this comes at the expense of extra-curricular activities.

What you told us:

Some of the responses we received were quite varied. Aims on entering IIT diverged from 'Starting an educational institute' to 'Getting a girlfriend'. A lot of students expected to gain a personality when they entered as freshies. Some of the more interesting career choices included social service, writing and even a music director!

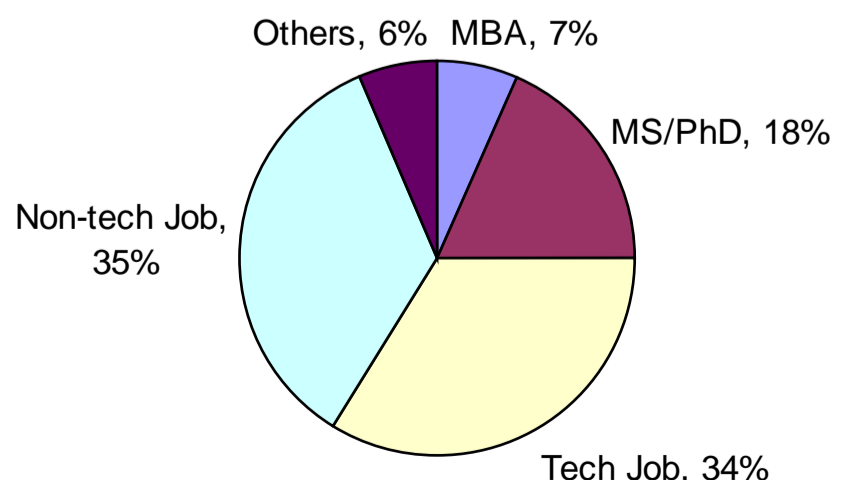
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(Graph 2) What would you prefer to do once you get out?

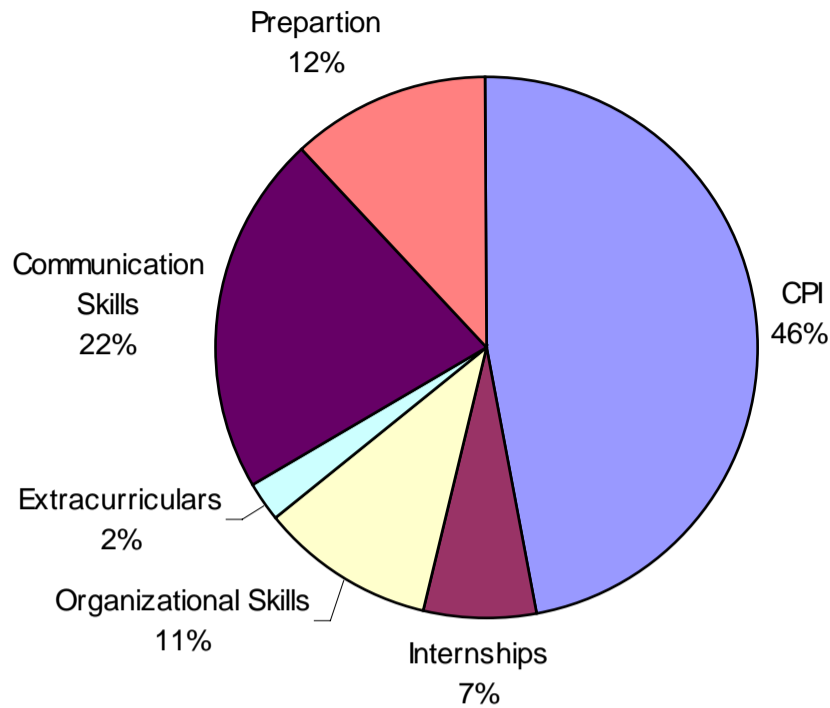


(Graph 3)

What will you do once you get out?



(Graph 4) What is the most important skill that employers look for?



Many responses were about the inadequacy of the mentorship programme with many people feeling that they had not been guided properly. "They (freshies)

should be told about how the decisions they make during their three years greatly influence what happens in the fourth-extracurric/orgnizational/acads - an

RIGHT FROM THE HEART

"In the absence of world class educational institutes in other fields in India, IIT becomes a default option for most including myself. What I've learnt from my four years here is that engineering isn't for me, that I have overstayed my visit to a mistaken destination, and now I want to leave."

honest appraisal of the key factors that come into play in apping/recruitments should be provided to them."

Some also felt that that due importance should be given to CPI and academic performance. On the other hand people felt that had the curriculum been more flexible, it would have retained their interest in academics. A physics student wrote, "My interest shifted from physics to math in my final year. Though this is mainly due to intrinsic differences between physics and maths, my peers and my department have also contributed." There was discontent with the placements as well, with many stating that the schedule of companies ended up determining their jobs rather than personal choice. Sometimes this caused people to

take up non-tech jobs even though they would not have minded/preferred a tech job. Said a student, "Cracking a job is also like a lottery, when it's your day it's your day. So there's no perfect formula".

While some have been optimistic and said "IIT is a great place to live: every place can be improved though!" some have also questioned students lack of responsibility. "Disillusionment towards academics is present. However IIT is not solely responsible for it. JEE aspirants are responsible for what they are getting into and if one comes in lured by the future 'prospects' alone, one should not crib."

And Finally

InsIghT would like to thank all the students who took the time to fill the survey and tell us their opinions. While we agree that the survey was limited, it is hoped that this endeavor would spark some more activity and thought from students in order to achieve a more fruitful stay at IIT Bombay.

(Arunabh Sinha and Rajlakshmi Purkayastha are final year students of the MEMS Department)

A very important question that comes up during placements is the following - "What does an employer look for in a résumé and what does she/he consider as important?" The word of DR1 getting placed here or the Mood Indigo OC getting placed there invariably spreads around among the freshies and sophies and a perception is formed. We thought it would be interesting to try and analyze the short-listing patterns of the top companies that came around for placements this year to try and answer our earlier question through a slightly more systematic and rigorous methodology. Undoubtedly, the procedure that we have employed isn't an exact science but it is simple and fairly reasonable as you shall see. More importantly, we hope that these results will help freshies and sophies prioritize their options and help them make informed choices during their life in IIT, if pocketing a great job is what their dream is.

Our Methodology:

We divided jobs into five sectors- Consulting, Core (General), Core (CS/Elec), Finance and Analytics. In each sector we chose a pool of 4-5 of the top companies and from each category, we randomly picked out 20-30 résumés of people who had made it into the shortlists of those companies. Our survey indicated that most IITians held CPI and posts as the two most important parameters on which a résumé is gauged. Therefore, the desire to know the relative weightings between the two naturally follows. In addition, one would like to know the importance given to extra-curricular activities, internships, special skills (certificates in finance etc).

Our Protocol:

We categorized CPI in three groups - A (>8.5), B (<8.5, >7.5) and C (<7.5). Organizational posts were also classified into three categories I, II, III as follows (not exhaustive):

- I. IB heads, Institute General Secretaries and Placement nominees, Hostel G. Secs., Department G. Secs
- II. CGs, Managers, Institute Secretaries, Hostel Co., Student Mentors, Institute Club OCs, Placement Co-ordinators.
- III. Co-ordis/Orgs, Hostel Secys, Club

What do recruiters look for when they shortlist?

InsIght attempts to address this question by surveying the resumes across the shortlist of 20 companies spanning five different sectors.

conveners, Hostel fests, Department mentors etc, CRs, PT co-ordinators

We admit that this classification may invite some objections but suffice it to say here that we kept in mind the general perceived status of these posts and/or level of commitment involved. At the same time we based our classifications based on certain PPTs where the companies like Opera and McKinsey declared their perception of various posts. For each sector (Consulting, Core etc) we obtained a matrix displaying the relative number of people short-listed from each category (A-I, B-II etc). Before diving into the results, however, we bring the readers' attention to a couple of subtle (but obvious) points that should be kept in mind while looking at these matrices:

1. The number of people in categories A-I, B-I and C-I will always be lesser as people holding posts in category I constitute less than 5% of the entire population. One must not infer that companies have any particular bias against such people.
2. However, reasonable conclusions can be made by comparing the numbers in categories A-III (High Acads, weak posts) and say B-II (Fair Acads, Middle level posts) which can be assumed to be fairly well populated. These numbers would definitely be indicative of what companies prefer.

Consulting

Companies: McKinsey and Co., BCG, Opera Solutions, AT Kearney
No. of résumés analyzed: 29

	I	II	III
A	2	13	7
B	2	4	0
C	0	0	0

The consulting shortlists indicate a general preference for candidates with strong academic records. At the same

time organizational skills are also strongly recommended. We observed that people in category A-III (weak posts) generally had one or more among exceptional extra curricular achievements, internships at reputed places or publications etc.

Core (General)

Companies: Schlumberger, P& G, Shell, ITC
No. of résumés analyzed: 27

	I	II	III
A	1	4	8
B	2	5	3
C	1	1	2

This was perhaps the only set which was dispersed all over the place. One can observe a preference to academics over organization. In contrast to the consulting shortlist we have A-III more populated compared to A-II. Another interesting fact was that 3 out of 4 résumés in row C (weak Acads) had 2 strong industrial internships each.

Finance

Companies: Merrill Lynch, UBS (IT & EQ), MS (IT & IB), Lehman Brothers
No. of résumés analyzed: 30

	I	II	III
A	0	5	12
B	0	3	3
C	0	5	2

Here, the emphasis on academics is clear but still a little weak. More importantly, lack of emphasis on organizational skills is conspicuous by its absence. We also observed that five out of seven people in category C-II and C-III had exceptional internships in financial firms and organizations.

Core (CSE-Elec)

Companies: Tower Research, Microsoft, Google, Komli
No. of résumés analyzed: 20

	I	II	III
A	0	3	12
B	0	2	0
C	0	1	2

The trend of lower importance to organizational posts continues. The concentration on academic performance has increased with only very few exceptions. At the same time, since these companies recruit from CS/EE exclusively, a large percentage of the class could make it into the shortlists.

Analytics

Companies: Inductis, Fair Issac, Fractal, PriceWaterHouseCoopers, Market RX
No. of résumés analyzed: 23

	I	II	III
A	0	1	12
B	0	3	6
C	0	0	1

In case of analytics, one must note that most of the recruiters were day 4/5 companies. We saw a substantial number of high CPI students in their final shortlists. Most day 1-2 firms (atleast those in the consulting, management-tech categories) tend to associate importance to extracurricular activities and organisation. This could be a possible reason behind students with high CPI not making it to the day 1/2 shorlists. Students who made it through the shortlists but not through the interview process would have lost out on communication skills.

We thank the Institute Placement Team for their help in conducting this study and those who gave us the permission to analyze their résumés.

(Karthik Shekhar is a final year student of Chemical Engineering Department)

Us and Them

Nithya and Vaibhav compare lifestyles across IITB, IITK and IITM and wonder whether the grass is any greener on the other side.

IITB Slang Term	IITM Equivalent	IITK Equivalent
Yaar	Macchaa, Da, Ra	Yaar
Infinite	Hajjaar	'n'
Ditch	Pack	Ditch
Do badly (Sadly, we can't print the more succinct three-letter synonym)	Cup	Tel machana
Delta	Slysha	Thoda
Dayaaaa	Warasshhttt	Daya
Cracku	Stud	Chaapu

The IITs have been collectively ranked as the third best technological institute in the world. But are they really all that similar? This feature endeavors to provide a glimpse of those few small things that make life in every IIT different, by taking the examples of IITK and IITM.

Food

IITK's SAC has an attached restaurant! Don't hold your breath, though; some students prefer mess food to the food served there. IITM has a whole host of eateries besides a Mega Mess to ensure their students never suffer the pangs of hunger. Students are offered a choice of cuisine and caterers at their messes and they can pick a different one every month. There are also swank cafeterias with food at extremely reasonable rates and an honest-to-goodness, life size Café Coffee Day, complete with giant glass windows and plush sofas.

LAN Bans

IITK has no LAN ban, though they did have a 'reverse LAN ban' - one cannot access the net between 9 AM and 9 PM in the Computer Centre! IITM has a LAN ban on every weekday from 1 AM - 5 AM. (We wouldn't even consider this a ban.)

Transport

IITK is twice the size of IITB. Internal transport is largely non-existent. Cycles are a must; otherwise you might have to travel 5 KM on foot to reach the main gate. IITM is also a lot larger than IITB but internal transport is excellent. Buses ply

up and down very punctually and fares are a maximum of Rs. 2. Cycles are also ubiquitous, at least among the freshmen.

Wildlife

IITK has more - and varied - fauna. Peacocks are everywhere, keeping students up at night. There are also many monkeys, which cause problems by following the noble Communist ideal that property (especially when edible) belongs to everyone.

IITM shares a border with a National Park, and hence has ample wildlife. Deer and blackbuck are two of the more diverse forms. If you have an appetite for danger, there are snakes and scorpions as well.

Monkeys are in abundance here too and chatter at you rudely from outside the giant glass windows of the CCD.

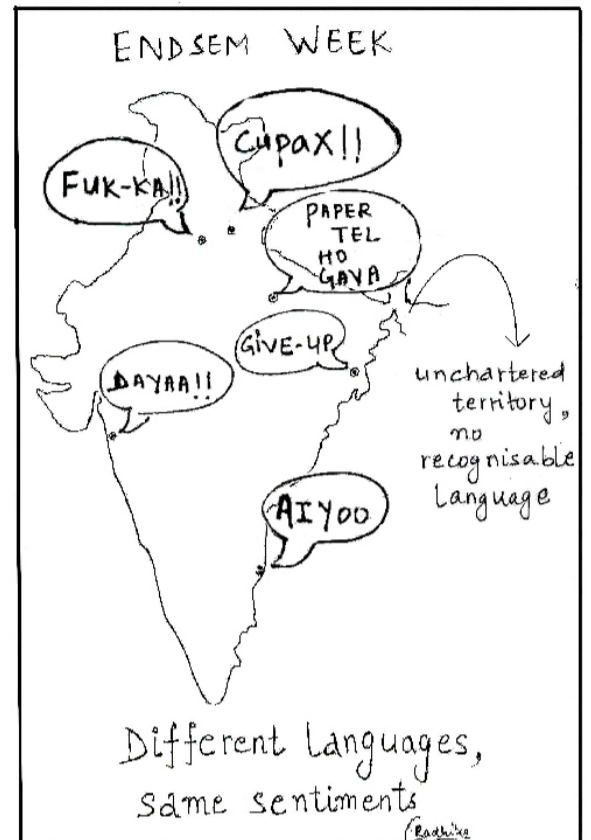
Elections and Fests

Elections in IITK are serious business. Regional blocs are actively sought out (especially among the PGs). A post going uncontested is unheard of. Elections in IITM are held in March and are a really big deal. Curiously, the entire institute elects even the heads of the inter-college fests Shaashtra and Saarang.

IITK has two fests that we don't - a Sports Meet called *Udghosh*, and a film festival called *Umang*. IITM is more similar to us,

having only hotly contested inter-hostel trophies for Cult, Tech and Sports.

If you want to know more about IITM slang, do read: http://archiv.tu-chemnitz.de/pub/2006/0020/data/MAtthesis_EvelynRichter.pdf



(Vaibhav Devanathan and Nithya are third year students of the Engineering Physics Department)

The Hare and the Tortoise

Pradyot Porwal pens down his experience of a morning ride in a *Tum-tum*.

I don't think there's any human on earth who hasn't read or heard the story about the Hare and the Tortoise. The moral of that story is- "slow but steady wins the race". I quite agree with the moral, but somehow, didn't understand the story. I couldn't come to terms with the fact that the hare slept while the tortoise walked past it. I always wondered- 'how can one go into such a deep slumber while in a race, however weak the opponent be? After all, everybody wants to win, and win for the fame'. But as the saying goes (can't remember exactly who gave it, so let us assume it was me)- "IIT is the place where you get all the answers". I very recently realized how true that was.

I was late that morning for the lecture- being an IITian to the core and following all the set standards sincerely and dutifully. Had the quickest break-fast of the season and took out my bicycle, thinking of why don't we have 'x'-eating competitions as other countries do, where 'x' is a free variable. Pat came the reply- TII- This Is India, the land of the *Kamasutra*, but no food. With this, another question popped up in my mind which I refrain from writing here, considering we live in a fairly conservative society, and where one has to just wear a short skirt to arouse a national movement against obscenity, but of course, you have to be a celebrity or a tennis star, or whatever. Without going into much detail about the pros and cons of such an inspiring movement, I'll resume my story. Just as I reached the gates of my hostel I felt a huge jerk. The moment I came to my senses, I saw myself on the ground and the cycle-paddle lying by my side without

the cycle.

I left the only iron-creature that had stood by me all the rainy days there itself to run for another, which was also going to be my savior- The *TUM-TUM*. Luckily I had a



coupon with me and hence I boarded it like a king. I was sure that the newspaper had a fantastic 'fortune' column for me that day simply for the reason that I was able to get to board a *tum-tum* at 8.25 in the morning which was going exactly where I intended to! So I sat on a window seat, resuming my discussions with myself about the competition.

Suddenly, one of my friends popped-up his face from out of the window, and asked me if I had an extra coupon. "Ha, such a fool, coupons are never extra, they're never enough" I laughed and I nodded in negation. So, he resumed his walk, and my *tum-tum* resumed its dream-run. It turned sharply and floated past the hostels, stopping here and there to pick-up kids deserted by the bicycles or autos.

Not being one of the regulars on *tum-tum*, I was enjoying the ride that cold and pleasant morning. The journey seemed long and I loved that. As we neared the SOM, I

stood-up to get out as all the other fellow passengers, feeling good of a refreshing early morning *tum-tum* ride. I thought- "A *tum-tum* ride a day, keeps the doctor away" could be a hit in IIT.

Anyways, as soon as I got down, I saw the same friend walking around 50 meters ahead of me. It was a fatal blow to my spirits. It was 8.40, 15 minutes from H13 to SOM, the distance that I cover everyday, precisely in 8 minutes on my bicycle! And I remembered all the stops that wretched vehicle had taken and I had enjoyed all the while, as the others frowned and cursed. And I remembered all the wrong turns it had taken when I had shrieked with excitement as a four-year old while the others still abused and cursed.

But I knew now, that this was it. This was the answer to my long standing doubt- "How can the hare still sleep while the tortoise walks past". It had been demonstrated, and how aptly so! Hail IIT, the temple of learning, the centre for excellence of practical knowledge. Now I exactly know what to do the next time I get late- walk; because "the hare sleeps while the tortoise slowly walks past it".

PS: (i) For all Maugham fans, sorry for imitating your God.
(ii) For all regular '*tum-tum*'ers- I appreciate your spirit.

(This article was sent to us by Pradyot Porwal, a second year EE student. Its contents are his personal opinions.)

Placement Review

(Continued from Page 1)

2) Shlumberger lived up to its tradition of inviting résumés at the last minute when nearly 30 people it had shortlisted (out of ~100) didn't appear for interviews. It is high time the Placement Team took up this matter with the firm. The unfairness of this process is very obvious as the news of last minute applications spreads extremely quickly within the circles of those present at the venue and not others.

3) The continued online system of résumé submission in html format was again brought under the scanner. People were displeased that despite years of opposition, the much easier method of submitting in PDF version was not implemented. The placement team discussed this matter in some detail but decided to remain with the current system as it extracts the CPI details straight from ASC and hence, makes résumé verification simpler. We sincerely hope that the next placement team overhauls the current system and allows PDF submission possible.

On the whole, the placement season has had a good run so far. Moreover, the level of formalism and order that has been brought into the whole placement procedure over in the last three years is commendable. However, we still have some way to go before we equal and then better the last two years' figures of 80% placements.

(Vivek Upadhyay is a final year student of the Computer Science Department)

Time is an illusion

gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/~insight/leisure

~~October 11, 2007*~~
Lunchtime doubly so

insight

MAHAUDEN'S

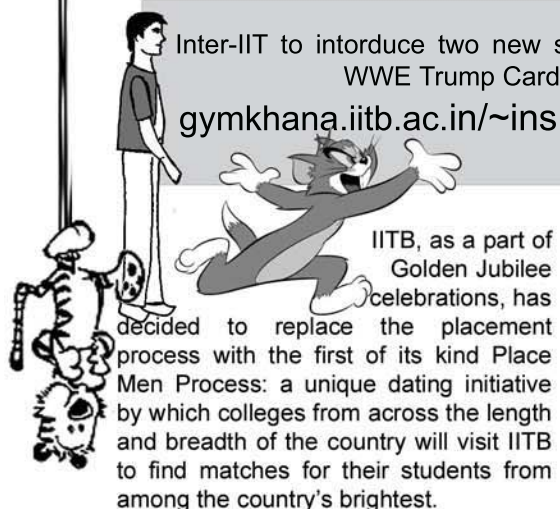
Students' Gymkhana IIT Bombay

*Volume X Issue XLII

Inter-IIT to introduce two new sports: Mafia & WWE Trump Cards
gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/~insight/leisure

Puzzle Competition
Identify all well-known characters in the queue and win *big* prizes
On This Page

Enough of The News
Let's just waste this space blabbering about something useless. Who wants news anyway!
All Over This Page!



IITB, as a part of Golden Jubilee celebrations, has decided to replace the placement process with the first of its kind Place Men Process: a unique dating initiative by which colleges from across the length and breadth of the country will visit IITB to find matches for their students from among the country's brightest.

Hot tips from the Profile Building Workshop by St. Xavier's, Mumbai-
1. Academic performance can be mentioned, in case of a gross lack of points.
2. "Positions" of responsibility should be highlighted.

3. PT (Practical Training) will have much importance.
4. You can lie...but not in your résumé.

The process will be controlled by the Institute Place Men Team (IPT) with representatives from every department. Here is what the head of IPT, Panditji, had to say, "The process aims at fulfilling the ultimate goal of every IITian by bypassing the middle-stage of placements." The IPT also wants candidates to note that in horoscope matters requiring divine intervention, all decisions taken by the IPT official astrologer will be final.
We wish the Team all the best.

Tentative Schedule

14 Feb : Slot 1- St Xavier's, Mumbai
Slot 2- St Stephen's, Delhi
Slot 3- Jai Hind College, Mumbai
15 Feb : Slot 1- HR College, Mumbai
... and finally ...
14 Nov : Slot 1- IITD
Slot 2- IITB
Slot 3- IITR
Waiting list : IITM, IITG, IITK, IITKGP

That 07's Show

A bored eye's view of the greatest (in IITB, at any rate) events of 2007

5. The Pink Slip

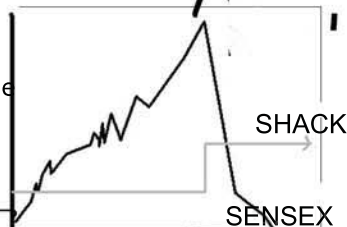
The Swimming Pool area was repainted for Inter IIT - Pink. Bright Pink. A highly placed official revealed that it was meant to get more girls to join IITB

4. Animal Wars Episode VI: Return of the Panther

Everyone's favourite felines reared their ugly heads again; prompting the dispatch of a certain e-mail to all residents of IITB that had everyone in splits. A sample: "Do not rear livestock such as cows, goat and fowls, as they attract panther"

3. Rise in Shack prices causes global financial consternation and subprime mortgage crisis

2. The End of an Era



In Loving Memory of
Sujata Palace

who passed away
sometime during the summers

The demise will be mourned by one and all including, but not limited to
Bey Jaan Daruwala, P. K. Daruwala
Sharaab Ganguly, Syed Biryani

May the soul rest in peace

1. Guess what. Nothing else matters

The colleges will be allotted slots according to a rating system based on the "quality" of students as perceived by a typical IITian.

The Place Men Procedure:

1. Résumé (Profile) submission along with photo and horoscope.
2. Group Discussion
3. Personal Interview (PI)
4. Very Personal Interview (VPI)

TWAIN: A Mobile-Phone Alarm Activated Automated Teeth-Brusher-cum-Shaver

Who: Ashish Agarwal, a second-year student from Kota who cracked first place in Yantriki in his first year, and then almost received 4 XXs last semester.

What: For almost a year, Ashish has been reaching class late due to over sleeping his alarm. On building a statistical model of his activities between the alarm and his reaching class and then solving a quadratic program, he concluded that the optimal solution would be if someone could brush his teeth and give him a shave while asleep; and set out to build his robot.

Features: Ashish's robot has many advanced features including nano-scale

microscopic sensors on the tooth-brush bristles that first scan the teeth surfaces and then apply advanced real-time pattern-matching algorithms to compute the spatial bacterial density function and control the time varying position and vibrational velocity of the robotic-arm controlling the brush, to minimize the expected bacterial concentration remaining after a fixed amount of time spent in brushing. Surprisingly, the exact same algorithm also minimizes the sum total length of all facial hairs remaining unshaven after a fixed amount of time.

Meanwhile, Ashish's neighbour, Abhishek Agarwal (a final year student)

has already written out a business plan, submitted it to all business-plan competitions in Asia and secretly formed a company (whose details are available in the uncensored, unrated and uncut version of this report on gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/~insight/leisure).

Fast Forward: The institute is considering banning the device within the IIT campus for a few months, since a majority of the students turning up on time with sparkling teeth and clean-shaven faces every morning may be too much of a shock for many of the TAs and faculty to digest immediately.

TWAIN expands to Technology Without An Interesting Name

MI + Techfest : 2027

Student festivals don't seem to be getting any smaller. We recently had the good fortune of meeting the Publicity Manager of My Techfest 2027. She told us that, in the future, MI and Techfest have combined to a month long techno-cultural extravaganza (hence the name). She had travelled back in time to publicize the event twenty years in advance! She left behind a publicity brochure. Here are a few extracts:

1. Welcome to the grand-daddy of all Lecture Series. My Techfest '27 gives you the opportunity to interact with one of the greatest philosophers of our time - GOD. Yes, a once in a lifetime opportunity to have a telepathic conference with God. Simultaneous transmission at OAT and Devi Temple, 25th December, 7 PM onwards.

2. Hierarchy: My Techfest follows a simple 27 tier hierarchial system. Starting at the top with God,

(who else?) and working one's way down, one encounters such important officials as the By Internal Nepotism, Departmental Assistant Superlative Sub Core Group member - Day One (BINDASSCGDO).

3. Footfalls: MI Techfest '27 is expected to have around 200 billion footfalls. This is quite surprising, since the population of the world is only 20 billion.

To calculate number of footfalls

No. of footfalls = Nx
Where, N: Actual number of footfalls
x: a number
After this, multiply the number of footfalls by 10, and quote in all further communications

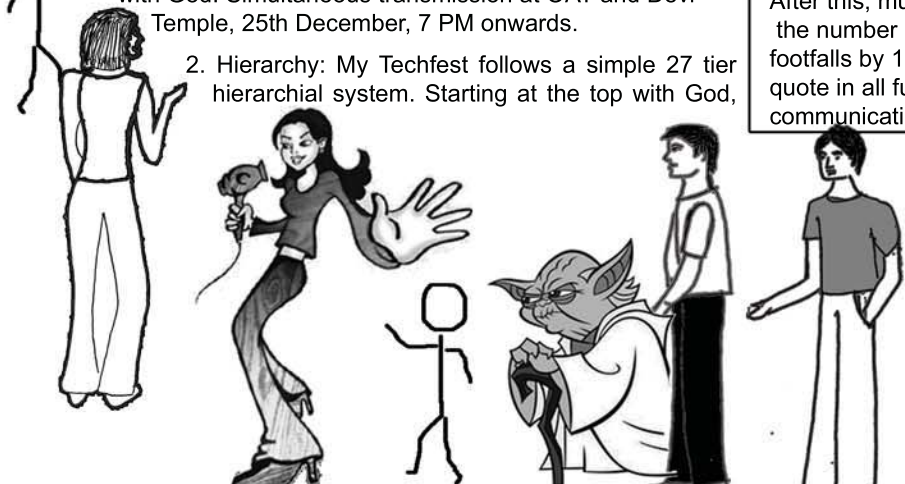
4. Workforce: All students of IITB in '27 are de facto members of the My Techfest workforce, as are all living alumni. We also recruit through the JEE

5. Attractions: Thermocouple is a couple dance workshop where one of the dancers must be hot, and the other must be a robot.

Silicon Age is a display of prehistoric technological artifacts such as the PC, the iPod and the automobile

6. Prizes: The record budget (equivalent to 600 Kohinoor diamonds) has allowed us to give away priceless prizes, including a date courtesy our Saudi Arabian sponsor Al Mond, a ten-night-one-day trip to Antarctica (seasonal offer only) and a cellphone number

See you at the all team meet at 12 midnight, 31st October 2027 - iff you're still alive.



Ghaza, Eeshan, Dash, Neha, Archana, Tanny,

കേവ

I watched the Inter-IIT Sports meet more intently this time compared to the last time it was held at IITB. This probably also had to do with the fact that I was training along with the students athletics team for the Staff Inter-IIT meet which was to immediately follow. I love sports, having represented my college and university in quite a few games in my youth and can watch for endless hours any sports activity.

On a sports field there is a sense of equality and barriers of class and status are easily overcome. For instance, during the Staff Inter-IIT meet, the faculty and the non-academic staff were sharing a sense of camaraderie, not possible in their everyday official interactions. Or to give a personal example, Ashutosh Oli, (supposed to be my look alike in spite of being five inches taller) who is my student in class was my coach at the Gymkhana ground teaching me the nuances of hurling the shot put, discuss and hammer. He was there giving moral support during my competition and gave useful last minute tips.

Coming back to the Inter-IIT students meet, I must confess that I managed to watch only some of the events like athletics, basketball, weight lifting and a bit of cricket but was overjoyed and filled with a deep sense of pride when IITB won the Men's General Championship. I was reminded of the last Inter-IIT sports meet which we had hosted and the GC had gone to IIT Madras. I had then felt bad because I thought as hosts we should have been better prepared and the home crowd support had also seemed minimal. I had probed for reasons and was told by student participants that the LAN connection to individual hostel rooms was to blame as students were not coming out of their rooms to play in the evenings. Over the years the craze for gaming has probably ebbed but I still feel that lot more students need to be out in the evenings jogging or playing any sports. Academics in no way gets hampered if one plays for an hour in

Inter IIT - A view from above

Professor Kushal Deb, HSS department, recollects his memories of the 43rd Inter IIT sports meet in an exclusive column..

the evening. Sarvesh Paradkar has been our triumph card for swimming events in the last few years and he has maintained outstanding grades in academics.

During the Inter-IIT sports, the star attraction was of course the basket ball competition in the evenings. Top players like Farooq, Anchit, Kedia, Pranit and Krishna were the cynosure of all eyes and the team lived up to its top billing. I was happy to see Kedia bounding about with such enthusiasm and vigour because about two years back, in my HS 205 course, I would always find him indifferent and bored. I remember asking him if either my course or my teaching was particularly bad and being given a nonchalant reply that other than the Stock Market nothing else interested him. Now at least I was aware of his other passion. Basketball was the most watched event, being held on prime time and at the central location. In comparison an equally pulsating event like Volleyball suffered due to its location and there was none to watch our weightlifting and table tennis teams perform. The G.Sec. Sports and the secretaries of various events should probably coordinate amongst themselves so that players of other games don't feel de-motivated due to lack of audience.

Watching athletics early in the morning was fun and we barely managed to retain our athletics trophy. Our male athletes were over shadowed by two outstanding athletes from IITD – Shival Kathe and Irfan who won many events between them. Sports throw up ironical situations which seem contrary to the norm. We had a cricket team led by Behera which had practiced diligently through out the year but just faded out due to some inexplicable reason. On the other hand, in athletics we had this cherubic laid back character Gautam, who would hardly turn up for practice. But his sheer natural ability and strength saw him win both the Discuss and Shot-put, bettering his last year's personal records. Then there was Selvam, our champion long distance runner who was dubbed as our "Kenyan" import by other IITs due to his complexion and looping style of running. It is sheer pleasure to watch this PhD student run. His broad grin after winning the 1500 meters was so infectious that everyone quickly forgot the fracas and bad blood created during this final nerve racking event when we stole ahead of IIT Delhi (who were till then one point ahead) to get the Athletics trophy.

I must also point out that more girls need to come out and play various games and compete. The girls' team did well in table-tennis but otherwise their performance didn't stand out. They should draw inspiration from Sandhya, the PhD student from EE Dept who may have just won a bronze in Discuss but her commitment to daily arduous practice is worth emulating. I am told that the women's basket ball team

all these years could be formed only due to the untiring efforts of Sai Pooja and Mansa, both of whom pass out this year. I hope others would step in.

At the heat of the moment, many a time competing teams and the crowd seemed to forget that we all finally belong to the IIT fraternity and happen to be located at different geographical locations.

Finally I must state that I had my moments of apprehension during this inter-IIT meet. The passion for competing and the vociferous crowd support which I had felt was missing in the last Inter-IIT meet five years back, seemed overwhelming this year. I was worried that fisticuffs would break out during certain moments and the name of IITB would get tarnished if students from other IITs got beaten up. I really wondered whether the "Chak De" effect was leading towards a jingoistic attitude towards one's brand name (IITB, IITM, IITD, IITG, etc), and attempts were being made to win at all cost and there was an inability in all teams to accept that those who are defeating them were probably better than them on that day. I need not elaborate but in hind sight, the doping accusation against the two top athletes from IIT Delhi was in bad taste. Similarly the highly unsporting behavior of Shival Kathe (who had been declared the best athlete of the meet) when he tried to block and elbow out Selvam our long distance runner so as to deny IITB crucial points tarnished his other wise exceptional performance. I also felt that during the nail biting basket ball final between IITB and IITM, the banter from our home crowd was crossing limits of civility. The OSO inspired sledging of IITM players-"Yenna Rascalla" was in bad taste. At the heat of the moment, many a time competing teams and the crowd seemed to forget that we all finally belong to the IIT fraternity and happen to be located at different geographical locations.



...Ashutosh Oli, (supposed to be my look alike in spite of being five inches taller) who is my student in class was my coach at the Gymkhana ground teaching me the nuances of hurling the shot put, discuss and hammer.

Look, he's not smoking!

Students in IITB are taking to cigarettes at an alarming rapidity. Why do we do it and is it worth it? Sagar Shah observes...

"Smokers Die Younger"- I saw this on a packet of cigarettes in my third year and it appealed to me like Maverick did in Top Gun. Shelling out a hundred bucks spontaneously, I smoked half a pack at lakeside with a couple of my friends. A cigarette in my hand, I felt like a man! One may say it was my choice to smoke.

What concerns me in this article is the ease with which students take to smoking now. As a freshman I would have been scared to hell to smoke before seniors; now it's a matter of pride to smoke in the corridors. Alcohol and smoke go hand in hand now. And there are no barriers between juniors and seniors now. Earlier, we used to avoid smoking with seniors, which is not the case now. Every IITian begins by thinking he will never get addicted. Smoking at staff canteen post lectures is a daily ritual. Attending meetings for the various organizational bodies at Shack, having the lovely morning snack at Kresit, now the juice at Bhavani, or the famous *chai* at Mahendar bhai (main gate) is inevitably accompanied with smoke flying off. A non-smoker obviously feels out of place and just to feel a part of the group, he starts to smoke, one a day. The craving begins, and soon, he finds himself walking all the way to staff-c for a smoke, gathering those difficult four bucks from his wing. It surely is a sight. And when one cannot wake up in the morning without a cigarette, the reality of addiction has set in.

Once while making fun of the whole habit, we were discussing how disgusting this habit has become and how addicted we all are (contrary to our earlier beliefs that we could never be addicted and we carry a will stronger than Skywalker), we realized that we smoked without sense or reason. Smoke before lunch, after lunch, before lectures, after lectures, before an exam, after an exam, with a *chai*, without a *chai*, in times of stress, in times of idleness, being happy, being sad, being with friends, being alone etc. It dawned upon me that I had become a chain smoker. It was ruining my health; I was depressed, hardly socialized, slept through the day and felt drowsy all the time. It was not as if I smoking to counter examination or project stress. One puffs away every waking moment of one's life without even noticing it. One grabs a quick smoke in a hurry, to kill time, while talking, while working. We smoke unconsciously, cigarette after cigarette, without even realizing. Is it worth it?

I decided that whenever I felt like smoking I shall stop everything and prepare myself

for a 'meditative' smoke. Go to some quiet place where I can sit undisturbed, alone. And when I do smoke, I shall only smoke – no multitasking. No more smoking with friends, with tea or coffee or no more hurried puffs. I followed this religiously, and pretty soon I discovered a sharp reduction in my intake.

Outside of campus, it's gradually becoming cool not to smoke. In the object oriented lives with ambitions at stake, everyone is realizing the effect of smoking on efficiency and lifestyle. Passive hazards are well known. Many of us smokers sincerely want to quit. We know cigarettes threaten our health, annoy our acquaintances and cost an inordinate amount of money. It increases anxiety, decreases mental strength, leads to drowsiness and exhausts all the energy.

Nobody can force a smoker to quit. It requires a personal commitment by the smoker. Many smokers use the cigarette as a crutch in moments of stress or discomfort; the cigarette is sometimes used

as a tranquilizer. But the heavy smoker who tries to handle severe personal problems by smoking heavily all day long, is bound to discover that cigarettes do not help him/her deal with his/her problems effectively. When it comes to quitting, this kind of smoker may find it easy to stop when everything is going well, but may be tempted to start again in a time of crisis. Exercise, good food habits, or social activity in moderation may serve as useful substitutes for cigarettes, even in times of tension. The choice of a substitute depends on what will achieve the same effects without having any appreciable risk. Once a smoker understands his/her own smoking behavior, he will be able to cope more successfully and select the best quitting approaches for himself/herself and the type of life-style he/she leads. Quitting smoking not only extends the ex-smoker's life, but adds new happiness and meaning to one's current life. Most smokers state that immediately after they quit smoking, they start noticing dramatic differences in their overall health and vitality.

Finally, my love for smoke: 'I phoned my dad to say I had stopped smoking. He called me a quitter.'

(This article was sent to us by Sagar Shah, a final year Chemical Engineering student. Its contents are his personal opinions.)



If I tell you that the global mean temperature will change by 2°C, you might say, "so what? That isn't much anyway". Then I tell you that the maize production this year will be lower than last years', you might think about paying a bit more attention; and then I tell you that the monsoons are never going to be the same again. Then you might ask me what is all this about!" This is how Professor Anand Patwardhan, former head of SJMSOM, introduced his work at the organization that was jointly awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former vice-president of the United States, Al Gore. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was founded in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment programme. The Panel's first findings resulted in the formation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, enjoying the membership of 192 countries.

Prof. Patwardhan and his role:

The four assessments that have been done by the IPCC produces scientific material that is of the highest relevance to policy makers; each assessment takes nearly four to five years and is reviewed

The SILICON LOCKET is an efficient and intelligent remote health-care system for cardiac diagnosis with state-of-the-art electronics, embedded into an ultra small form factor. The system is a web enabled heart monitoring device with a host of advanced features to accelerate modern telemedicine schemes.

The device and its purpose

A person with a cardiac problem can wear this toffee sized silicon locket around the chest. The device is small enough to hide under the clothes without much inconvenience. The device can obtain the person's ECG due to his physical activities. Now the moment the ECG has any abnormalities, the device sends an SMS to the doctor. The doctor can then log in to the device remotely and observe the ECG. He also has the option of uploading data using a graphical user interface. Thus, the device helps the doctor timely intervene.

Salient features

Following are some of the breakthrough features of the Silicon Locket :

1) The locket is equipped with USB etc ports for seamless integration with mobile

Climate Control and IITB

Archana and Ajanta write about Prof. Anand Patwardhan, an alumnus and ex-faculty member of IITB and his role in the IPCC

and deliberated upon by top scientists around the world. Professor Patwardhan is one among them. A B. Tech in EE from IIT Bombay, he is interested in public policy and is deeply involved in both the scientific and diplomatic side of the climate change issue.

As one of the coordinating lead authors in the fourth assessment report, his

Related work happening on campus

Professor Parthasarathy and Professor Narayanan (HSS dept) are scientists under UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) who are working on 'adaptation issues' which involves finding and implementing ways of adjusting to climate change. Adapting to climate change entails adjustments and changes at every level – from community-based to national and international. The range of practices that can be used to adapt to climate change is diverse, and includes changes in behavior (e.g. in water use or farming practices), structural changes (e.g. in the design specification of bridges and roads), policy based responses (e.g. integrating risk management and adaptation into development policy), technological responses (e.g. increased coastal defense, improved forecasting) or managerial responses (e.g. improved forest management and biodiversity conservation.) They have worked extensively on suggesting the methodology for evaluation as well as reviewing the reports and giving suggestions.

The Silicon Locket

Sudeep Nag writes about the gadget developed by the concerted efforts of different research groups in IITB, its features as a revolutionary electronic health monitoring system and its potential.

phones, PDAs etc.

2) The choice of IC ensures a longer battery life and makes it economically more viable.

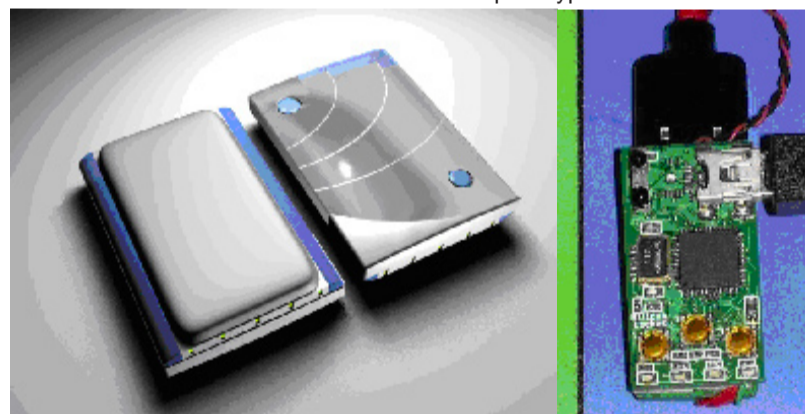
3) Also, there is a provision for transferring data to a remote computer or database.

4) Bluetooth interface with mobile phones and GPS based patient tracking systems

are under development. When the GPS based tracking system is ready for integration, the doctor will not only come to know that the patient has got a cardiac problem, but he will also be informed of the location of the patient, thus enabling him to dispatch an ambulance or help quickly.

An IITB endeavor

The prototype version of the Silicon Locket



Silicon Locket

colleagues and he have produced one of the most controversial chapters in the report, "Assessing key vulnerabilities and the risk from climate change". It deals with delicate issues such as the North Atlantic Ocean currents changing direction. The impact of such a reversal will be highly significant, especially on the marine ecosystem heavily affecting the fishermen in that region. These are exactly the things that governments do not want to hear or ratify. However, now, with 192 countries signing the IPCC's Summary for policymakers, the case, according to Prof Patwardhan, has been made successfully: Climate change is for real; humans have contributed significantly to it and continue doing so, the future is far from rosy if corrective measures are not taken soon. He believes, it is time for the IPCC to rethink its role. Now that the policymakers have understood the situation, they need to know what has to be done to avoid the worst circumstances.

(Archana Raja is a second year student of the five year integrated M.Sc chemistry program and Ajanta Akhuly is a first year PG student in the HSS department.)

has received certifications from ERTL, Government of India. The commercial versions will be launched in the market by industry partners such as Tata Consultancy Services. The locket has achieved substantial media attractions.

The Outlook Express has rated it as one of the top ten promising product by Indian researchers in July 2005. The Hindustan Times has quoted "Made in Mumbai, Wanted by the World" in January 2008. English, Hindi, Marathi and Bengali TV channels and newspapers came forward to point out the Silicon Locket's role in next generation health-care. IITB professors Prof. Rakesh Lal, Prof. Dinesh Sharma, Prof. Soumyo Mukherji and Prof. Sunil Sherlekar mentored this project and it was realized through the cumulative efforts of Vivek Vaid, Ashrut Ambastha, Sudip Nag, Sohrab Wadia and Maryam Shojaei Baghini.

We are proud of the work done by the Professors and students of IIT Bombay and we wish them all the best in this extremely noble endeavour.

(Sudip Nag is a PG student in the Department of Electrical Engineering.)

Of late, the number of news headlines pertaining to IITB on issues none of us have heard about is on the rise. A lot many of us have been unaware of the pioneering work done by our own lot. One of these efforts has been by the Centre for Distance Engineering Education Programme or C-DEEP. Located in the ground floor of the Dept. Of Mathematics (and also an additional office in KReSIT), C-DEEP, now into its sixth year, has seen a sudden rise in its profile.

Lectures in the air:

From the second of January, C-DEEP has started transmitting lecture videos of about 13 courses via EDUSAT-the first Indian satellite dedicated totally to the service of the educational sector. While this in itself is not something new, considering the fact that the same was being done earlier via the satellite INSAT 3A, what makes the effort special is the fact that the content will now be aired unencrypted and free of cost, under a Memorandum of Understanding

Satellite video transmission of IITB courses

Efforts are being made by CDEEP to make the IITB course lectures available to regional engineering colleges across India including live transmission in some cases. Mohit Sharma reports...

(MoU) which has been signed by IITB with ISRO. Moreover, EDUSAT makes live interaction possible unlike the courses that were transmitted through INSAT 3A .

Aim of the initiative:

So why should IIT share its courseware with the students across the country free of cost? Prof. Kannan Moudgalya from the Chemical Engineering Department, who heads C-DEEP, reasons, "IIT is a taxpayer-supported institution at the end of the day. So it is but natural that we should be doing something for the country. About three and a half lakh students sit for the IIT-JEE exam, but only a handful of them make it to IIT. This does not mean that the others are not talented. Also, the bulk of the nation's engineers are supplied by

other colleges, not by IITs." Another point that emerged during the discussion is that of the shortage of quality teachers in the various colleges around the country. As of now, a college needs only to install a transmitter to avail this facility.

One wonders though, what good it will do to our system here at home. "I believe it will actually increase the standard of our courses." How? "Since all of it will be recorded, the professors, being the professionals that they are, would make fewer mistakes. Participation of outside students on Moodle's forums would lead to healthy discussions on the finer points of the courses. Also, should any student miss a class, he/she can always cover up with the help of the uploaded video lecture."

When asked about what effect this would have on an IITB student's life, who'd rather sit in his/her room and watch the lectures than attend the class, Prof Moudgalya said, "We trust the students to be honest on their part as we are doing something good for them. Otherwise we'd have to take away this facility, which would not do anyone any good."

However, with the 80% attendance rule in force, the matter seems to be more of a non-issue. One hopes that with this effort, everyone would finally be able to enjoy the fruits of the progress made by the IITs in the field of engineering education. And how can the students help? "By being more participative in the class as this will help in clearance of common doubts, apart from keeping up our image outside."

(Mohit Sharma is a second year student of the Civil Engineering department.)

I recently went on a three day visit to Coimbatore, where most of my mother's family lives. I stared out of the train window throughout and had plenty of time to notice how the scenery changed. I fell asleep after having stared the entire evening at red soil, dry brush and scorched grasses. I woke up to a very different sight. Coimbatore lies near the border between Tamil Nadu and Kerala and the land of coconuts leaves its unmistakable stamp on this place. The scenery outside looked like someone from the heavens had, in a careless fit of largess, upturned several buckets of emerald green paint over the earth. Fields and fields of banana and coconut trees rushed past us, in a haze of blinding colour.

We reached the sleepy station of Coimbatore and there I received the impression that never quite left me through the trip. No one speaks anything but Tamil there and several men scorn to discard their *veshtis* for the more modern trousers. The flashy advertisement boards outside show the latest designs in silk sarees as cows walk placidly amid the traffic. The smell is a mixture of the sickeningly sweet odour of fresh cow dung, mixed with the smoke coughed up from the bellies of busy vehicles, tinged with the intoxicating perfume of the jasmine flowers all women there wear in their hair. The whole place is like a town that should logically grow into a large and obdurate metropolis but is held back by rigid, orthodox people who cling proudly but desperately to a fast fading way of life.

Coimbatore overflows with relatives I never knew I possessed. Tamil is such an exact language that every relative has a specific name that I must call them by. My grandmother was one of a brood of eleven, three siblings and seven half-siblings (my great grandfather having remarried after my great grandmother's death). To complicate matters still further, my mother's sister married her uncle, my grandmother's half-brother. I'm informed that such marriages are quite common in Tamil Nadu where people are still painfully proud of their caste.

Down Under

Nithya Subramanian reminisces her trip to her native place south of India, giving us a portrait of a small town and its people



However that may be, I was drawn into a bewildering maze of relatives all of whom wanted to see me and recall when they'd seen me last in the days of my infancy. These are all educated people; there are high school principals and chartered accountants and mill owners among their number. But in every house I went to I found that though at their work they might compromise to modernity, their lives had always been rigidly traditional.

Most women there are housewives by choice. The women begin their day with making breakfast and seeing their husbands off. The morning is spent in prayers, gossip, cooking and the ubiquitous Hindi soaps. Ekta Kapoor is an influence that not even the most stringent Brahmins have been able to keep out. In the evenings when their husbands return, they retire grandly to rest, while the wives who have meanwhile dressed freshly and threaded jasmine buds through their hair, bustle about to prepare dinner. After dinner is a time for conversation before bed, which in many households is still a sheet spread on the ground.

An outing to a temple is the preferred pastime of a Sunday morning and accordingly, I was woken up at 5:30 to accompany *Perippa* to a temple atop a hill. Too groggy to protest, I listened to *Perimma's* animated description of the beauty of the idols. I was warned that I was in for a very thrilling ride as the route up the hill comprised several hairpin bends. What I was not warned of was that *Perippa* at his most dashing traveled at 40kmph on his Honda Activa. Conscious of me, a delicately nurtured female as his cargo, he never exceeded twenty. As we drove along the sun rose, women washed doorsteps and buffaloes ambled past. When we finally reached the hill, *Perippa* slowed to almost a halt and we negotiated the hairpin bends with hair-raising caution, tooting the horn loudly as we inched along while mules looked at us in mild surprise.

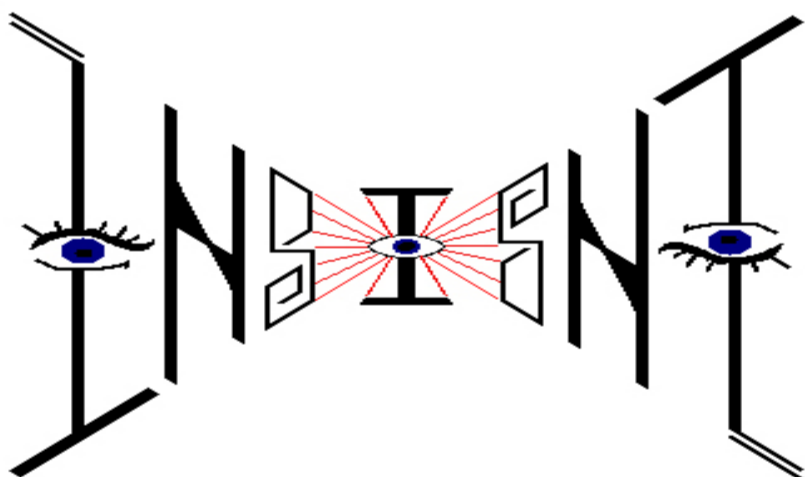
That evening I accompanied my Grandmother to our family temple. In Coimbatore, every street has at least one temple. As I made my way into the dimly lit interior, I was shown photographs of my ancestors as my grandmother told me of how when she was a girl, a hundred brahmins would be fed at a time inside the hall. She spoke of how musicians would sing there and my great-great grandfather would perform all the pooja rites. Now, it is dark and silent. There is a smell of incense and grease, the very stones seem weary. Their time is past.

As I sat in the train the next afternoon and watched that verdant scenery roll by, I thought of the past three days and of the blog entry I would write when I got home, of the relatives I never knew I had and of the life I was returning to.

But most of all, I thought of those people, clinging determinedly to a fading past and of watching the sun rise from the rear seat of a Honda Activa, as buffaloes ambled past.

(Nithya Subramanian is a third year student of the Engineering Physics Department.)

10



Logo Design Contest

We have received enthusiastic response but so far, we have not found the next *InsighT* logo. To help define the problem statement further, we present the following keywords that *InsighT* stands for. 1) Creativity 2) Integrity 3) News 4) Student 5) Frank 6) Fun 7) Liberal 8) Insightful. You can select maximum 4 keywords to design the logo. Please submit an initial concept which we can discuss and expand to form the logo. For all correspondence, mail us at insight@iitb.ac.in.

Readers Write



We strongly encourage freelance articles and are pleased with the response so far. Please contribute your opinions/ideas on any issue that you strongly feel about. You are also most welcome to share your experiences, anecdotes etc. Mail us at insight@iitb.ac.in.

InsighT team

Chief Executive Editor
Karthik Shekhar

Chief Editor
Vivek Upadhyay

THE EXECUTION PANEL

Aaditya Ramdas, Aayasha Ghanekar, Abhinav Mohan, Aditi Goyal, Aishwarya Ramakrishnan, Ajanta Akhuly, Archana Raja, Arunabh Sinha, Asgerali Masalawala, Ashish Goel, Eeshan Malhotra, Gautam Salhotra, Gurveen Bedi, Kumar Aakash, Krishna Ramkumar, Miheer Desai, Mohit Sharma, Neha Rambhia, Nithya Subramanian, Onkar Dalal, Rahul Dash, Rajat Chakraborty, Rajlakshmi Purkayastha, Rohit Vadera, Rutika Muchhala, Rylan Henriques, Shaunak Samvatsar, Siddhartha Das, Srivathsan B., Sudarshan Bhatija, Tannishtha Sanyal, Tarun Mathur, Vaibhav Devanathan

If you would like to join the *InsighT* team and/or give feedback, feel free to mail us at insight@iitb.ac.in or visit our website <http://gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/~insight>.

Questech

Red and Blue

Consider n red and n blue points ($n \geq 2$) distributed randomly on a plane. Show that it is always possible to join one red point to one blue point (one-to-one) such that no two such lines intersect and all n pairs have been joined by a line each.

The Tale of π and e

Without performing actual calculations, find the one which is greater between e^π and π^e .

Invariants

The numbers 1, 2, ..., 20 are written on a blackboard. It is permitted to erase any two numbers a and b and write the new number $ab+a+b$. Which number will be on the blackboard after 19 such operations? (Provide the logic for the solution. No brute force calculation permitted.)

(Mail the answers to onkardalal@iitb.ac.in or dale86@gmail.com with "Questech" as the subject. The early bird gets its worms at coffee shack.

Word Games

1) We've taken a few words and (conveniently) removed some letters from them, replacing them with blanks. Find the original words.

Example: - - a l y - -
Answer: Analyze

1. - - - - z k - - - -
2. - - - - - u u -
3. - - - u f a - - - - -
4. - a e a -
5. - - e l s - - -

2) Insert the word that completes the first word and begins the second.

An example:
con () ion

Answer: quest, since it gives conquest and question. Note that what is inserted in the brackets must itself be a word

1. pre () rally
2. fresh () ace
3. cur () or
4. crow () tender
5. may () lock

(Mail the answers to vaibhavdevanathan@iitb.ac.in with "Word Games" as the subject. Likewise.