

# SRIJAN

## ॥ सृजन ॥

the ninth 2002-2003 annual college magazine



*Contours of the mind*

मन की उड़ान



# GENESIS

"The Making of the Magazine"

Facts and figures about the first professional magazine of NITH

• Kumar Vijay Mishra •

Few people would believe but '**SRIJAN**' is actually a movement, at least something more than a magazine. In an institution where literary activities are seldom an object of deliberation or attention; for a magazine to acquire so magnanimous an eminence in such a short period is certainly enviable, if not astonishing.

"A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives the rose". And so, much of the '**SRIJAN**' traditions owe themselves to '**PRERNA**', the college wall magazine, which has seen involvement of so many disinterested volunteers for literary pleasure over bygone four years. In my first year, when I co-founded '**PRERNA**' with the then final year student Vishal Rana, we all had a dream; that someday we will have a print college magazine at par with the highest literary standards. In second year, when '**PRERNA**' movement was in full swing with over ten editors toiling day and night, we tried to revoke previous RECH print magazine '**RACEME**', which was gathering dust at the publisher's office, but in vain. By that time the RECH community had become quite conscious about not having any regular print magazine and questions demanding the same were raised regularly in at least three consecutive ISTE Student-Teacher Interactions '*Vox Populi*'. In pre-final year, when a new team of editors, including a new faculty coordinator, was to be formed, the members were drawn heavily from the '**PRERNA**' team. The new team gave a new name and a new identity to the college magazine namely '**SRIJAN**'. The first issue of '**SRIJAN**', where nine editors were required to shape the magazine in a mere month, was primarily aimed for beginning the magazine culture. No doubt that the first issue of '**SRIJAN**' came under heavy fire from student community with respect to its scholastic standard. But I still consider this as an achievement for our team since our magazine movement has been successful in instilling a sense of pride and consciousness among students over these years, which was completely missing four years before.

And so here we are: With not merely second '**SRIJAN**', but the first magazine of NITH which witnessed participation of around thirty editors, chosen from a pool of applicants almost double in number; received a record over 200 entries from at least 120 different contributors, minus of course, fine art entries; involved technology to the max be it computer graphics or recording interviews; required several thousands of man-hours work; and even inspired people outside the editorial board to attend scholastic and very democratic discussions in its meetings. Certainly the magnitude of work that the present magazine required is at least ten times more than '**SRIJAN-I**'. It's, in no way, a copy of previous issue.

But then this time '**SRIJAN**' editorial board had to change their objective; given such a colossal number of documents to deal with. While last time it was to provide a platform to the maximum of budding authors and artists while compromising with the merits; this time we have essentially focused on providing readers with some chosen masterpieces only. It was felt that the platform for literary expression for unseasoned contributors is already present in the form of '**PRERNA**' and that '**SRIJAN**' is required to showcase, and not catalogue, only the best literary talent. That has lead to the inclusion of several novel ideas like columns, opinion-poll, interviews, reports, photo-features, fillers, entirely new get-up and a lot more through four sections in the magazine. *Podium* reports the happenings of the college. *Divvy* is a collection of some chosen compilations on topics of interesting reading. *Contours Of The Mind*, the thematic section, displays select work of fifty-some NITHians. *Yore* is a journey of our alumni through their memories. In a nutshell, while *Podium* is present, *Yore* is past; while *Divvy* is fact, *COTM* is fiction.

This entirety is reflected not only in the opus but also the composers. The '**SRIJAN**' editorial board has been formed to be diverse and complete in all respects. Ranging from literary intellectuals, experienced event-managers, swift typists, popular-flavor writers, abstract illustration artists, jaunty cartoonists and even human resource experts, it includes all cadres of talented persons. '**SRIJAN**' editors are often asked how they get drive to work relentlessly. The answer lies in their thirst for literary pleasure, esprit de corps within the board, love for their institution and above all, their impulse of attaining and delivering the best. But their journey through the work has not always been a primrose path. Some of them had to wait a lot for interviewing some dignitaries; a few were badly, regularly and exclusively ragged by some unenlightened, medieval-minded barbaric students while visiting senior hostels for mag-work; some were even unable to do justice with their studies due to work load; and a couple of them had to shuttle several times between college and town, in the scorching heat, for getting peerlessly designed '**SRIJAN**' certificates printed. Yet all this was unable to budge the boulder. Having never seen so many people of exceptional caliber, ardor and morale, together for a common cause, it was quite an experience for everyone.

This culture doesn't culminate here and this zeal doesn't reach the zenith here. In fact, as said, 'none of the paintings is finished; it only stops at some interesting places'. So, this '**SRIJAN**' opens a lot of scope for posterity and will be not only a milestone but also, I am confident, a benchmark for the future issues.

Still notwithstanding all our attention, meticulousness and care, the quality or methodology in the making of '**SRIJAN**' can always be questioned and reprehended. But then we do and also respect our basic national values: democracy, equality and most importantly, freedom of expression!! In fact we would like to know your voice too; needless to say, for all that you have to drop a line to us.



# SRIJAN

## ॥ सृजन ॥

the nith 2002-2003 annual college magazine



अग्निमीले पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य देवमृत्विजम्  
होतारं रत्नधातमम् ॥

Rigveda 1/1/1//





# COLOURS OF MIND



**Soumitri**  
1st year  
Architecture





From the Director



## Message

*I am highly delighted to witness the glow of another issue of 'SRIJAN' rolling out so soon.*

*The college magazine 'SRIJAN' heralds the bloom of creations. It provides an exposure for the wide spectrum of literary and artistic talents of the students that culminate into the ambrosia of life and philosophy. It is heartening beyond all limits to see students extract time from their strenuous schedule to explore the unknown facets of their minds that reflect sheer intellect. The students, thus, dive into a deeper and broader perspective that encompasses within its folds human life, society, religions, relations, ethics and morality, and step into the world as a multifaceted personality from the realms of the college.*

*I extend my heartiest congratulations to the editorial board and all those who have shelved their time to elevate this magazine to unprecedented highs. I hope the tradition survives.*

(Dr. S.K. Bhowmik)  
Director  
N.I.T. Hamirpur (H.P.)





## छोटी सी बात

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, हमीरपुर को राष्ट्रीय संस्थान का दर्जा मिलने पर वार्षिक पत्रिका "सृजन" के इस प्रथम अंक को प्रस्तुत करते हुए मुझे अतीव हर्ष का अनुभव हो रहा है।

अपने इस नवीन रूप में "सृजन" न केवल संस्थान के बदलते स्वरूप को प्रतिबिंबित करती है वरन् एक तरह से मानव मन की आशाओं, अभिलाषाओं व उद्गारों को शब्दों द्वारा चित्रित भी करती है।

वास्तव में हर सृजक का ध्येय ही "तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय" के संदेश को प्रसारित कर मनुष्य की ज्ञान-मंजूषा में वृद्धि करना होता है। राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, हमीरपुर की यह पत्रिका इसी दिशा में एक छोटा किंतु महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

"सृजन" के संपूर्ण संपादक मण्डल को इस अनूठे अंक के प्रकाशन के अवसर पर मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ एवं बधाई।

सरोज ठाकुर

(श्रीमती सरोज ठाकुर)

वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता,  
प्रयुक्त विज्ञान एवं मानविकी विभाग  
राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान  
हमीरपुर (हि.प्र.)





*From the Chief Editor*



## Peripeteia

Amidst inclement winds, the flinty plateau  
Hath taken the deadly gloomy hue.  
Yet, budded with flowers; and dew,  
There, but beneath the lovely blue  
Of heaven; had lived lovelier mortal races.  
Where fleeting time engraved their faces,  
With al' the tears hidden n' not shed by them.  
Living like savages were they, when  
The dark slyly eclipsed the pulchritude  
Of their mind, so to leave them dumb n' mute.  
To relish lurid sparkles of stolid iniquity  
And oblivious to the God, to his divinity,  
From all their lore had they seceded,  
That the marl herself wept, waned n' writhed.  
Pallid, grisly, foggy; such the hills, the rivers,  
That then art estivated in churlish summers.  
Races of men rejoiced bestial company still,  
And to their own soliloquies turned deaf till  
Fluttering butterflies, man could find so dull,  
On lilies, roses n' tulips would they ne'er cull,  
In better eons had he built lamp-towers a few,  
Canaries of hope n' peace o'er which ever flew,  
Torches these should remain, man so wished!  
Lo! Lights of lurch they too, but extinguished.  
Of icy august mountains, angelic whites faded,  
And were they with murky tints as if braided.  
The blazing sun simmered and so did the moon,  
And soaring tides usurped the strands so soon,  
To avouch, had not as if the dread culminated,  
With loud levins, the firmament fulminated,  
"Fuddled with nescience have now ye become,  
Thy paeans or prayers should I why welcome?  
Deprived thee be of senses, tastes and artifices,  
Far n' faint like stars be thy all loved wishes."  
Men - old and young, had void and somnolent  
Minds; afraid of quietus, some turned violent,  
Some while bowed to brazenly feel tyranny  
Of compatriots of their own; many a many,  
Yes! Many a many drops of blood, to quench  
Their urge, falling on hands that rose to clench  
Could fill myriad sanguine pails but as in vain,  
Had so little a mercy and so much a disdain.  
Evil! O evil, the earth was, and its realm,  
Enclosed in paroxysm of affright and qualm.  
Soul of man stood naked sans imagination, ,

Unable to recreate, it longed for exhilaration.  
None else did he implore but God when at rim,  
And groveled weepingly for granting him,  
For lamps of faith, the power to relume,  
In nature and natural, the sanity to resume.  
"The dusk of ignorance did lead thy son,  
To nights of vehemence, blood and arson.  
Numb and torpid had really I become."  
But mute was God. Then there was a hum.  
N' was seen, His nimbus but at long last,  
"Frightful was it, thou should forget the past.  
Calm! Sure of blood will vanish all the rills,  
Will glimmering waters o'erspread these gills.  
Aflutter doves n' pigeons will whisk al' o'er,  
N' on lovely daises will soon butterflies hover.  
Let I know first but before all your wishes."  
Man meanwhile grappled like netted-fishes  
Pleading with tied hands and so was he seen,  
"O lord! O sovereign! O power! O supreme!,  
Ah! My tears, my sighs need you, my balm,  
On my blank mind may you put your palm,  
To impart it, the power and instinct of design,  
To fill it, with ideas and expressions of mine.  
May fairies of faculties of brushes and pens,  
Dwell in jeweled sands and tranquil glens."  
The air was felt still but dumb n' serene,  
How can be He still mum or mean!  
Emerged fairies then but, soon through flashes,  
Oh! How can He be silent on son's wishes!  
Swans all, too, flew o'er brooks of ingenuity,  
Pouring rains replenished pails of morality.  
Fear of Him and fear to nothing,  
Pathos for poor and sense of giving,  
All such did keep the fraternal state.  
For the plenitude of love and void of hate  
Had made eternal all the moments of mirth,  
Times were they when thus had taken birth  
On earth, the glittering, beaming SRIJAN  
Such the power of thought and creation.

*Kumar Vijay*

(Kumar Vijay  
F

Electronics & Communication Eng





## **Drawn Breath**

With dotting remembrances and silent tears...

Life is eternal and love is immortal.

The other world is a horizon which is nothing save the limit of our sight.

Such was the charming and wondrous character of PAOKHOLEN SITLHOU that though he may have said to have decamped to heaven, his friendship and society will be ever present as immortal.



01/03/1984-19/03/2003

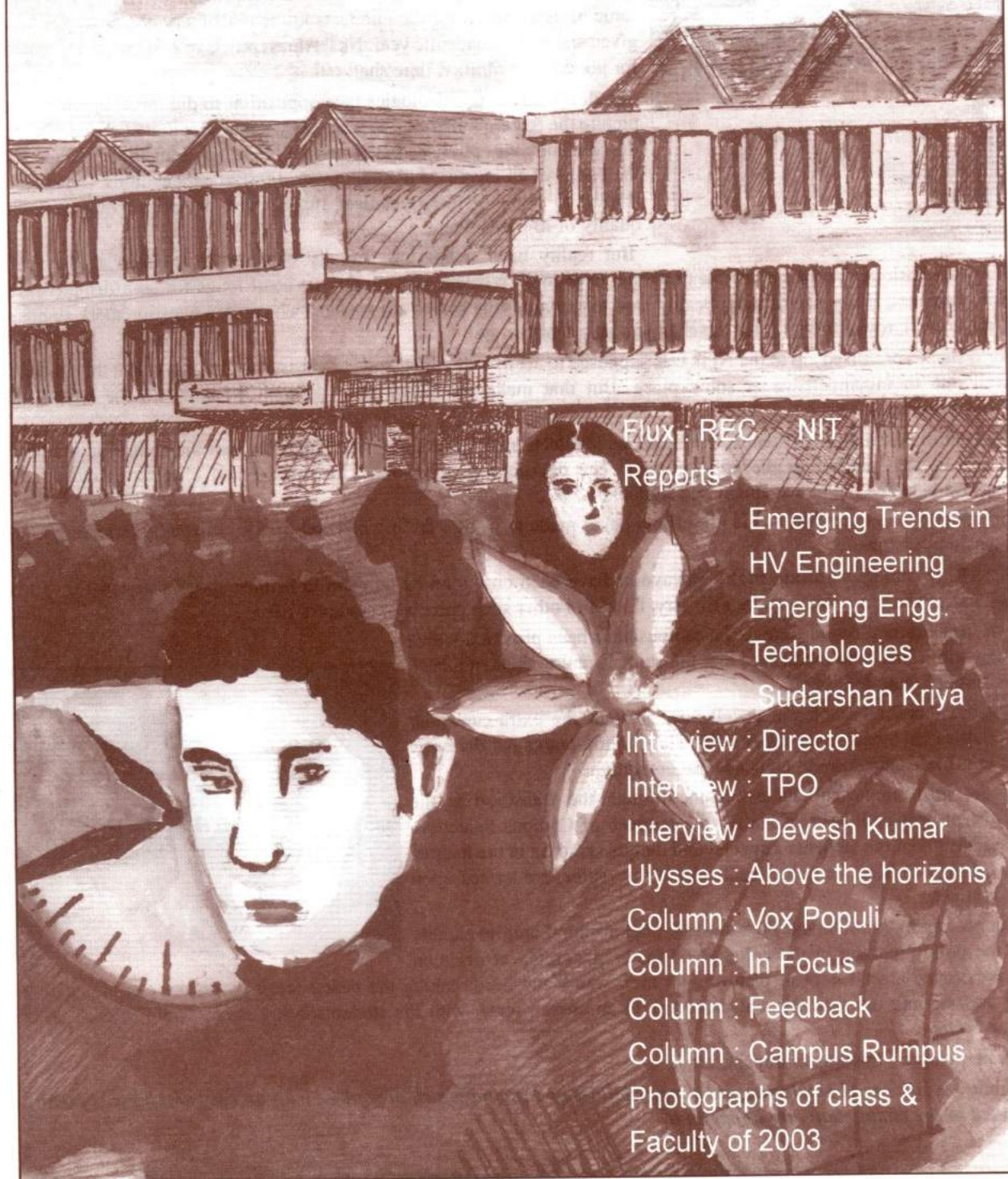
Blessed are those who are pure at heart, for they shall see the God.





# PODIUM

रंगभूमि



Flux : REC NIT  
Reports

Emerging Trends in  
HV Engineering  
Emerging Engg.  
Technologies  
Sudarshan Kriya

Interview : Director

Interview : TPO

Interview : Devesh Kumar

Ulysses : Above the horizons

Column : Vox Populi

Column : In Focus

Column : Feedback

Column : Campus Rumpus

Photographs of class &  
Faculty of 2003

Graphic By : Sauvik Podder





## ◆ FEATURE/Comment

### Flux: REC ↔ NIT

● Kapil Sundrani ●



Time floats by, but memories tarry for long. In quest of melioration, changes are sought and one such change has been the transition of **RECs** to **NITs**. Once a topic of deliberation for the intellects in the machinery, the transition was finally given shape this academic year. **NIT Hamirpur** is one of the elite group: whether for good or for nihility, time shall tell.

As all revolutionary ideologies face opposition so did this transition. Keeping in picture the regional interests, as were depicted by Regional Engineering Colleges, the rule book was published even for the NITs. The transition brought with itself the boons of an increased aid and a world full of expectations: expectations with respect to infrastructure, technical support and an overall improvement in the quality of life at College.

But reality bites: **what** has actually changed is a matter that confronts the intellects. Have the basic requirements for the transition been met? Wisdom says no but the heart longs for an affirmative reply. The snails pace development, if any, seems inexplicably hard to explain. With scarce conspicuous changes, a question mark stands over the integrity of one and all, towards trying for the change ogle a worthy one.

The World Bank's promised aid to the NITs was supposed to act as a stepping stone towards a bright future. But things don't always work out well due to incompetence at some place. But that makes or seems to make no difference to the already sky-high standards of the institution.

With the control passing to the Centre, the sedulous intellects sitting there thought it better to rest the control in the hands of an experienced and prompt teacher of the college itself. The decisions required have been swift and efficacious even in times of misunderstandings between the management and students.

The ripe effect of the transition has led to efforts being made to instil a feeling of youth in the college by inducting a green and newfangled teaching faculty.

With the AICTE ratings **running high**, endeavours have been on a marked burgeon to further uptick the status by allowing an **unobstructed** use of the basic facilities like Library, Labs and other such parcels of student's life.

The environs near the Second Gate to the campus have been provided with a magical taction and it has been made sure that the students enjoy their ride back to the hostels through that door itself.

To dilate the focus on academic excellence, most of the extra-curricular adulterous activities have been done away with. This in turn, marks out the basic objectives of **complete** education of an academic institution.

One of the most important achievements through the transition is the attraction of the professional institutions for the purpose of Campus Selection. The NIT status has given the students a special and unique standing in the league. And like any other institution the noble feedbacks of the visitors are looked upon with **utmost respect**.

The students having a noble and puissant say, play a limpid and invaluable character in the policy making in the college and in the panorama of decision making, the concerned are all kept in picture with their wants and needs taking the center-stage. Even the communication system between the students and the management has come to an unseen level, with the students being made aware of each development concerning the college.

The flux perpetuates, making its impact felt.....

They rightly say ***We are chameleons, and our partialities and prejudices change place with an easy and blessed facility and we are soon wonted to the change and are happy in it.***







### Emerging Trends in High Voltage Engineering



The Department of Electrical Engineering., National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur (H.P.) (Deemed University), organized two weeks long ISTE/AICTE, New Delhi sponsored short termed training programme on Emerging trends in high voltage engineering during the period 18/2/2003-28/2/2003. Er. R.K. Jarial, officer in charge; high voltage laboratory and Senior Lecturer in Department of Electrical Engineering, was the coordinator of this training programme.

During this short term course the latest developments in high voltage technology in the area of electrical power generation, transmission and distribution systems for improving electrical power quality and reliability were discussed by eminent experts invited from IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur, IISC Bangalore, BHEL Hyderabad, Power Grid Corporation of India and other neighbouring organizations.

The inaugural speech was given by Dr. V. S. Basel, Professor Emeritus, AICTE who was also the chief guest.

Lectures on various domains pertaining to the monitoring system, supply or transmission along with national grid system were delivered by galaxy of learned teachers from different Engineering institutions.



The workshop reflected a chain of events from past to present and a peep in future. The main stay of the workshop was HVDC-high voltage direct current. The importance of HVDC and its utility as means for economical bulk transfer beyond a certain transmission distance.

The faculty included geniuses in this field who enlightened the participants over a period of 10 days with their much acclaimed research.

The valedictory function was chaired by Dr. R. L. Sharma director (Officiating), NIT Hamirpur on 28-2-2003. This training programme was appreciated by the participants due to good organizational support and participation of quality experts over the entire country.





### Emerging Engineering Technologies

It is a well known fact that the known sources of fossil fuels in the world are depleting very fast and very soon man will have to increasingly depend upon renewable resources of energy. For developing countries like India, large scale demand of energy for meeting day to day domestic, institutional and industrial requirements can be met by utilizing solar thermal system, biogas, P V cells and wind energy, etc. i.e. non conventional sources of energy is one of the areas of emerging technologies which have higher priority with reference to national needs. Energy needs of a developing country like India are going to increase significantly in foreseeable future. Hence it is absolutely necessary to plan for this critical input, so that the country's development is not hampered.



Thus, renewable energy is envisaged to supplement the conventional energy system in a big way. It is the need of the hour to expand R & D efforts, field testing and demonstration of environment friendly technologies supported by educational and training programmes.

Relevant platform of such nature for experts, technologists, academicians and industry to share information on research and development in all areas of emerging energy technologies was organized by the Mechanical Engineering Department of NIT Hamirpur.

This conference was spread over a span of 2 days i.e. from 28-29 of March.

The conference elicited very good response from academic institutions, research organizations on wide ranging topics of current research for presentation in form of technical papers. Distinguished delegates from all over the country with wide ranging experience contributed to the dissemination of information by way of both formal and informal interaction.

The inaugural lecture of the conference was delivered by Mr. J.S. Saini, Prof. IIT Roorkee on potential methods of enhancement of efficiency of Solar air heaters.

The elite and vastly knowledgeable panel of experts and lecturers for the seminar gave their expert lectures on topics- Solar Energy, Wind and Hydro Power, Engineering Management and Energy Utilisation.

The convener and co-convener for this conference were Dr. N.S.Thakur and Dr. R.K. Sehgal respectively.



The highlight of this conference was energy management and utilization. Though some advancements have been made in this field yet milestone is to be achieved. The views of the experts evolve new dimensions to the thinking as well as practical process.





### Sudarshan Kriya

Scientists have recently discovered the connection between the body and the mind. This implies that our emotional state and thought processes affect not only the brain but also other systems, specifically the endocrine system, the hormones and the immune system that protect us from a variety of diseases including infections and cancer.

The Art of Living basic course (Healing Breath Workshop) is a 20-24 hours course usually taught over a 6 days period. This program has uplifted the lives of many people worldwide. The workshop includes knowledge and processes which help one understand patterns of the mind and emotions. In addition, specific techniques using the breath are taught which reduces stress and anxiety, while bringing the mind to a peaceful, centered state.

The highpoint of the course is Sudarshan Kriya practice, a healing breathing method which is so simple yet so effective. Physically the practice provides greater oxygenation and purification of the blood, yet Sudarshan Kriya is more than a mere breathing technique. The specific rhythms of breath used in the practice have a noticeable effect on the mind and the emotion. Tension, anger, anxiety, depression and lethargy are released and forgotten. The mind is left calm and centered, with a clearer vision of the world, our relationship and ourselves.

In the beginning of the course all participants are asked to quit tobacco, smoking, non-vegetarian foods, alcohol in any form, tea and coffee, for the entire duration of the course.

There is a great interest in the North American scientific community in the wide ranging effects of Art of Living programs. In India, the researchers at AIIMS, NIMHANS, and Bangalore Medical College are involved in this unique research. Current research activities include (i) Treating depression using Sudarshan Kriya. (ii) Impact of Sudarshan Kriya on somatic manifestations of marital adjustments in women. (iii) Effect of Sudarshan Kriya on alcohol dependent patients. (iv) Tobacco cessation/prevention through Sudarshan Kriya. (v) How Sudarshan Kriya and Pranayam relieve stress?

In the last one and half year, "Art of Living Foundation" has organized three Basic Courses in NIT Hamirpur. First course was organized from 25-09-2001 to 30-09-2001 by Mrs. Kamlesh Chauhan from Mandi, in which 59 persons had participated, including teachers and their family members, boys and girls. The second course was organized from 15-01-2002 to 20-01-2002 by Miss Ritham from Chandigarh, in which 43 persons had participated. Recently, a third course was organized from 07-01-2003 to 12-01-2003 by Mrs. Kamlesh Chauhan from Mandi, in which 58 persons participated.

"Teaching in an engineering college for last 10 years, I have seen how brilliant students and intellectuals crumble under stress, occasionally, to a devastating level. If this technique of Sudarshan Kriya is incorporated, it will really eliminate their very entering into a world of stress considerably. Just 30 minutes of this self care act as a safety valve", shares Dr. Sunil, Applied Sciences and Humanities Department - a beneficiary of the magical Sudarshan Kriya.





# ◆ INTERVIEW/Director

## "I used to read Gorky and see good movies"

*-reveals Dr. S. K. Bhowmik, Director NIT Hamirpur in an intimate interview with 'SRIJAN'.*



*Among his students, Dr. S. K. Bhowmik, Director, NIT Hamirpur is widely perceived as a grim faced man in his mid fifties delivering lectures incessantly on fluid mechanics or gas dynamics.*

*To get an insight into his genius life and not so highlighted side, the interviewing committee of 'SRIJAN' decided to have a rendezvous with him.*

*A teacher at core; an administrator by instinct and a perfect gentleman by birth aptly describes him. The moments of the interview brought before the editorial board a humble man in spite of all his achievements. He is surely a man of firm determination and grit who inspires students to pursue knowledge rather than information. A gentle smile on his face encouraged the 'SRIJAN' team to start with a volley of questions:*

### Excerpts:

**SRIJAN:** *With an extremely busy life and working as an administrator as well as a teacher, how do you keep a balance between both?*

**Dr. S.K. Bhowmik:** For this I have to work extra hard. Normally I come by 8 a.m. and leave by 5:30 p.m. On Saturdays and Holidays I work half day, except on for Sundays. Therefore I work for almost 60 hours a week. Basically I am interested in teaching, but if I have to compromise on any one of them then I will surely choose administration and not teaching.

**SRIJAN:** *How do you keep yourself fit?*

**S.K.B.:** Diet has to be balanced; almost everyday I walk for an hour or so in the evenings.

**SRIJAN:** *Yoga?*

**S.K.B.:** No, Not yoga!!! Walking in the evening keeps me fit and fine.

**SRIJAN:** *What changes do you find comparing your own student life and that of your present students?*

**S.K.B.:** Impression is that students are more informed (Thinks for sometime), busy about their career, less interested in their learning and more interested in getting a high salary job.

**SRIJAN:** *Does it affect their intelligentsia?*

**S.K.B.:** Basically we cannot compare them at all. Every generation always has a gap with its predecessor. Everyone gains more & more information. Intelligence, to be defined is how to synthesize information & how quickly you use that information. So if you have got more information and you have to quickly

synthesize that information.

**SRIJAN:** *Would you please elaborate on what grounds our college may benefit on its recent transition to NIT?*

**S.K.B.:** One of the greatest benefits that we have got immediately is the journal. Many of the faculty members and students used to say, "We don't have the journal", but now almost all of the journals nearly 75-80% of their necessity is available through internet. In that respect we are equivalent to IITs, IISc and even other NITs and deemed universities. (Coughs) We are expecting more funds from central government to modernize the labs and see that those funds are used appropriately. Second benefit we have is that this is a deemed university. We can orient our course any time we want. We can also start some certified courses that will prove beneficial to our students. We are thinking to organize some courses like advanced programming skills by the computer science & engineering department; the workshops can offer programs on advanced machineries as well as welding technology.

**SRIJAN:** *When may our college may expect to start post graduate and doctorate courses? Is any proposal for the same in the pipeline?*

**S.K.B.:** We are planning to start courses and for that we have written to the Central Government, as its approval is necessary. We have already got approvals from AICTE for four postgraduate courses. This year I will try to start postgraduate courses and also we are planning for PhD. Courses.

**SRIJAN:** *Our College has not witnessed convocation ceremonies for such a long time. What are the reasons for its postponements and when should we expect the next convocation? In this case may we please request you for the convocation this year, if possible?*

**S.K.B.:** Unless we have a permanent Director it's not possible to pursue the convocations. Without a regular Director an institute must not be run for a long time. For this you need a lot of initiative, a lot of drive and extra hard work. If I have to continue, I will try that from the next year convocations are started again. I will only try. I cannot promise.

**SRIJAN:** *In your opinion, what are the pointers for healthy faculty- students' relations and in case of deterioration, what steps must be taken to improve them?*

**S.K.B.:** It is only through interaction. It cannot be done immediately, at least those people who are responsible must apologize immediately, either through press or personally. Then things could have changed immediately. So in such conditions the situation may not change immediately. (Thinking for sometime with conviction) But that must come from the student's side immediately if they have done something wrong. Even if some faculty could have done wrong they should have come to me. They should have given me some time so that I could have taken some action. I was unaware of the fact at all. Else I would have settled the matter.

**SRIJAN:** *Compared to other peer*





institutions, in our college central facilities like the library and the computer centre (CC) have quite restricted and in adequate timings. How do you propose to improve that?

S.K.B.: We should have the flexibility. In fact we had the flexibility, but our observation was that hardly 2-3 students stayed there except during examinations. Once the research activity and P.G. courses start, there will be a necessity and it will start again.

SRIJAN: But according to our calculations, C.C. is the busiest place for students?

S.K.B.: It's not true. We have the feedback that the Internet facility is used only for personal benefits and not for research oriented activities, which are supposed to be undertaken by an emerging engineering student. The academic atmosphere has to be created; whatever amount of money you spend, it will be no good unless interference from students, politicians and the staff members stop. We cannot waste time, solving the problems of your hostels. They should be solved from your side only.

SRIJAN: In your opinion, what are the strongest and the weakest points of our college?

S.K.B.: The institute has a good campus and a good working climate for the intellectual persons. The staff here is young, energetic and they work efficiently. However the institute is far away from main city and communication facilities are not good.

SRIJAN: We also did not have much campus recruitments in this session so elaborate the reasons?

S.K.B.: One of the main problems is that it (is) far away from the main city and also it is a new institution. Alumni are not all well developed. Students lack general knowledge. This is a complaint that I get as feedback from companies, so that has to be improved.

SRIJAN: How important or relevant, according to you, is a college magazine or a literary activity in a technical institution like this?

S.K.B.: Whatever activities are going on, it must be reported somewhere. From this magazine, we can know how and what the students want to express.

SRIJAN: What role does it play in our personality development?

S.K.B.: For a person to be a complete man not only should he have technical knowledge, but he should also spend some time in other activities. For example Einstein spent some time with violin.

SRIJAN: In what recreational activities do you involve yourself?

S.K.B.: (Smiles) Previously I used to read a lot, but now I don't get time. I read popular science magazines, newspapers (and go) walking. With these three activities I am regular.

SRIJAN: Everyone knows you as a good academician and a good teacher but they don't know the personal side of you. How do you get this drive?

S.K.B.: One has to be sincere; I have been associated with good friends during my

**"The one year I  
spent in MIT, USA  
still shines in my  
memory.....It  
(bachelorship) just  
happened!!"**

studies in IISc, Bangalore. We had certain groups and they were good human beings. One should not only think about himself but also for others. In old age you will realize all such things. Secondly your health has to be very good. You have to keep yourself fit.

SRIJAN: As a director of NITH, will you please elaborate on your roadmap, with time frames, to take our college to the peak of academia?

S.K.B.: The students must be responsible and must have interest in academics. We will shortly open P.G. courses and PhDs. We will encourage the faculty for more relevant research projects. We are planning to invite people from industries for guest lectures. Labs will be improved. We are planning to arrange for a meeting of the alumni interested in developing the college.

SRIJAN: Sir regarding Industrial Training, why it has been restricted to once in four years as we had it twice in four years previously?

S.K.B.: (Because) Students do not take the training seriously.

SRIJAN: Why did you prefer to remain single?

S.K.B.: (Laughs) It just happened. There are some things that (are) not under your control and you cannot do anything about it.

SRIJAN: What is your most memorable moment of your life and gift you received from this place?

S.K.B.: (Thinks) I regret not having taken the opportunity to do my PhD at MIT (USA). The one year I spent there, in this process still shines in my memory. I was most impressed by the method of teaching there. The honesty and dedication with which the students and teachers worked taught me many things in my life.

SRIJAN: Do you think that the students should be encouraged in reading non-academic materials?

S.K.B.: (With conviction) Yes surely. In my student life, I used to read a lot many novels and plays, although I do not get time any more. I have read Maxim Gorky's plays. I also had a taste for Bangla literature in my school days. Apart from all these I have also read Prem Chand's Godan. I also used to see good movies. I remember having seen Battleship 14, one of the best technical movies of my time. It's also required that whatever the students do, it should be in a balanced way.

SRIJAN: Finally, Sir, what's your message for the students of this college?

S.K.B.: What ever you do, it must be done honestly and sincerely. Your attitude must be positive. It may sometimes happen that your decisions go wrong but that should not bother you if it is not intentional. Leave all your tensions at your workplace. You should also be good human being. Above all you should keep yourself fit.





## ◆ INTERVIEW/Training and Placement Officer

### "Emphasis On Industrial Training; Enhance Communication Skills"

- says Er. Vinod Kapoor, Training and Placement officer, NITH in an exclusive interview



The focal point of any professional college is the "Training and Placement Office". It is a Mecca for all those who aspire to get placed in any reputed firm just after the successful completion of their course. Our Training and Placement Officer Er. Vinod Kapoor, Head of Electronics and Communication Engg. Department, who assumed the office last year, is a soft-spoken and amicable person, well versed with the knitty-gritty of the placement procedure. He took time out of his packed schedule for a one-to-one conversation with the interviewing team of 'SRIJAN' and looked quite eager and comfortable when the ball was set rolling for the interview. His enlightening interview with 'SRIJAN' is an excellent showcase of his zeal and dedication to his job.

Here are **excerpts** from the interview:

#### **FEEDBACK OF THE COMPANIES**

The interview started with queries regarding the feedback of the companies, which visited the campus last session. The Training and Placement Officer informed that, in general, companies were satisfied with students as far as academics are concerned although they pointed out a few grey areas for improvement. For instance, the Mechanical firms did not find the students up to the mark in machine drawing. While the IT firms felt that the students should improve their hold on computer languages like C and C++. Most of the companies found the students lacking in communication skills.

He said that the Training and Placement cell is "quite active", contacting the companies through letters or e-mails and if possible meeting them personally. In addition, the Training and Placement Officer informed us that companies like - Quark Media House, Larsen and Toubro, Patni Computers, Defence Research and Development Organization, Syntel and Wipro are at doorstep for campus placements for the next batch.

#### **GENERAL TIPS**

The aim of the Training and Placement Officer is to get maximum number of students placed through campus recruitment exercises. To accomplish this aim the Training and Placement Officer suggested some vital points. The students should take their semester examinations "seriously". Every one should maintain a good academic record so that a greater number of students can qualify for the cutoff percentage set by the recruiting organizations.

Since communication skill is the Achilles' heel of our students, the Training and Placement Officer plans to organize mock Group Discussions & Interviews to improve their confidence in facing such tests. He appealed to all the students to work in this respect at their own level too. In this regard the Office also organizes workshops and seminars on topics of current interest like 'Entrepreneurship Enhancement', 'Technology Management' etc. in coordination with the concerned external agencies.

#### **ON FACTORS AFFECTING PLACEMENTS**

A general notion among the NITH students is that the inaccessibility of the College hampers the Campus placements to a lot of extent. But the Training & Placement Officer did not feel the same.

"We mention in our request letter to every Company that if they have any problem in coming to the College, then we are ready to send our students for interviews to any place that suits their convenience". Clarifying further, he added that most of the companies wish to visit the college & have a look at the facilities, since it is a factor which they consider before deciding about the placements.

"The most appropriate time of contacting the companies is during the months of September & October and this precious period was lost", grieved the Training & Placement Officer when asked to comment on the effect of recent disturbances on placements. He further added that five companies 'Future Tech', 'Blue Star', 'Larsen & Toubro' and 'Wipro' who were in the list but could not visit because of the these tumults. The lapse of two months resulted in fewer companies visiting the campus for recruitment exercise, because by the time the College opened, most of the Companies had fulfilled their requirements.

"Like everywhere, recession in the market has adversely affected placements here too", remarked the Training and Placement officer speaking on the negative influence of recession over placements.





### ON INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

As a counsel to the third year students, the Training and Placement officer stated that "They should maintain a work diary to enter all the details collected everyday during their Industrial Training".

"Students should take Industrial Training punctually and sincerely", he added.

The Training and Placement Officer further recommended that the students should prefer working on paper presentations & projects of R & D value as these will not only improve their placement prospects but also their chances of admission into Indian and foreign universities for postgraduate programmes.

### ON INVOLVEMENT OF STUDENTS

The cooperation on the part of students in updating the TPO Department with any relevant information is always required for boosting up the placement process. For this purpose, and also to facilitate the recruitment, the Office has formed a committee of student representatives, which serve as a link between the Office and the students.

Through the interview with 'SRIJAN' the Training and Placement Officer also appealed to alumni of our institute to pursue the companies to visit the campus for recruitments and also thanked them for being quite active in this respect and requested for further co-operation.

"One should take semester examinations 'seriously'... Many companies have already confirmed for recruitment of the next batch."

### THE BOTTOMLINE

All in all, the interaction with Training and Placement Officer was quite an experience. The 'SRIJAN' team was quite contented with his honest answers and could only conclude that much is also required on the part of students to hone up their skills in various essential areas.

### **IMPORTANCE OF TIME**

- To realize the value of one decade, ask an emperor who wants to enlarge his empire.
- To realize the value of one year, ask a student who has failed.
- To realize the value of one month, ask an employee getting monthly salary.
- To realize the value of one week, ask a weekly magazine editor.
- To realize the value of one day, ask a daily wage labourer.
- To realize the value of one hour, ask a job aspirant waiting for his turn outside the interview room.
- To realize the value of one minute, ask a person who has missed the train.
- To realize the value of one second, ask a person who has survived an accident.
- To realize the value of one millisecond, ask the person who has won a silver medal instead of gold. In Olympics.
- To realize the value of microsecond, ask an ISRO scientist.
- To realize the value of one nano second, ask a hardware engineer.
- Alfred Hitchcock is a man notably fond of food. He is said to have once been a guest

At a rather sparsely furnished dinner table, which had yielded him no more than a small portion of one thing or another amounting to a totally unsatisfactory sum? As the coffee was being brought in his host said, "I do hope that you will soon dine here again".

- At a Sunday night tea which the author Hamlin Garland attended he was served

Some fresh mushrooms. "Are you sure madam", he asked his hostess with great concern, "that these are not a poisonous variety of mushrooms"? The hostess assured him they were harmless and edible. As he still hesitated, looking speculatively into space, his hostess asked him if he was still afraid. "No", mused Mr. Garland, "I was just thinking of the effect on American letters should you be wrong".

- William Penn was exhorting a drinkard to cast off his habit. The drunkard lamented that this was impossible, "No", said Penn, "it is as easy as opening of thy hand friend". "Tell me how this is and I will do as you say", said the drunkard.

"Friend, when thou findest any vessels of intoxicating liquor in thy hand, open the hand that contains it before it reaches thy mouth and thou wilt never be drunk again".





◆ INTERVIEW/District Collector

## "Younger Blood Brings In Enthusiasm"

- Devesh Kumar, IAS, DC, Distt. Hamirpur



*Human beings need once in a while to take stock of life. No one can genuinely progress without doing so. The interview with Mr. Devesh Kumar, who was the IAS topper in his batch, was one such effort to bring to light a bench mark for all students to learn something from a genius who has once been through this phase. A successful administrator and a graduate from IIT Kanpur, he is a picture genius: an affair of energy and aptitude for patience, that is what Mr. Devesh Kumar is all about. A very practical individual, who has an inside understanding of the system and the apparatus existing in the machinery. A man with very "Indian Values" but yet advanced in*

*his outlook he defines clearly the difference between being modern and western. An avid sports lover and a complete sportsman in his days, he came through the challenges with his will power as his stepping stone. His words act as an inspiration....*

### Excerpts:

**Srijan:** Being a part of bureaucracy, how do you strike a balance between the political pressures and your ethics?

**Devesh Kumar:** (Smiles) Given the present system you have to give weight to the politicians since it is they who are running the show, it is as simple as that. Apart from this, the present era is a time of transparency in administration and communications have become so fast and are pretty good. So I don't foresee any problems between us. It is that both the administration and the politicians are entwined with each other: they cannot do without us and we cannot do without them. It is a symbiotic relationship.

**Srijan:** What about the red-tapism in the machinery?

**DK:** (What do you understand by red-tapism?)

There are some reasons behind the current situation. A person who has been recruited as a government servant, once appointed, can't be removed so easily. It is as simple as that. This job security plays an important role in this kind of work culture. Secondly the answerability is very less.

And one more thing is that if you want to extract

work from your subordinates, and suppose they are not working properly and you want to punish them by means of transfers or whatever, it is not so easy. Times are changing. The same system existed fifty years back. Then people worked sincerely. It is just **"Deterioration in thinking and culture of the social fabric"**. Nobody wants to work. Our mindset has changed, our morals have lowered, our culture has disappeared and our character is no longer a consideration.

**Srijan:** Why do you think that the mindset has changed in the last forty to fifty years only?

**DK:** (Questions us the same)

By nature man is selfish and pleasure loving from the start and he has always worked to satisfy his needs. In the last fifty years he has been more successful in doing so. Every society has a good side as well as a bad one. But after a certain limit, man's patience ends and he realizes the truth.

**Srijan:** How have your priorities changed in the transition from an ordinary man to a successful administrator?

**DK:** I don't say I am successful. I have still not found





my priorities. As far as the work is concerned, I have set my own principles. I do my work with full dedication. But the basic thing I have realized is that we must not do bad for others. As far as possible, extend a helping hand.

**Srijan: What difference will the inclusion of young blood make to the Indian political scene for the time being and in the longer run?**

**DK:** Why politics, it is in every field. There are some advantages with the younger blood. Firstly it gives birth to a new generation in politics. And secondly it brings in enthusiasm. But there are shortcomings too. Many a time it brings in gunda elements. Everyone has his own vision. The older cadre won't change so easily to adapt to the newer ideas.

**Srijan: What steps do you propose for the improvement of our town Hamirpur?**

**DK:** Hamirpur has a few problems like parking, water scarcity and the farmers depending mostly on traditional crops. We are trying to introduce cash crops. We are thinking about introducing medicinal plants, herbs and horticulture.

**Srijan: Even the transport situation and the entertainment levels are not quite up to the mark!**

**DK:** I don't see any problems with the transport situation. And as far as the theatres are concerned they run wholly on a commercial basis. It is not a viable option here.

**Srijan: Sir, we get a bus in not less than half an hour!**

**DK:** I think half an hour is a fair enough time.

**Srijan: There has been a speculation regarding engineers being debarred from taking the exams like administrative services. What are your comments?**

**DK:** In India, parents pursue a job security for their children. So immediately after your 10+2 you go for engineering or such other options. It is only in the third or final year of engineering that people start to think whether they should go for a job or pursue I.A.S. What is wrong in that? If I realize that I can contribute better in some other way, why not take the route. Even the administration benefits from this.

**Srijan: Among people coming from missionary schools and the other from Government schools,**

**there is a marked difference in the education. To what extent is the basis of selection judicious?**

**DK:** I don't think there is any difference. The only difference maybe in the language culture. There is a kind of inferiority complex. See, even you are talking in English and maybe feel ashamed to talk in Hindi. The English have kept us slaves. But there are benefits too. When you go abroad it is an asset. People get good jobs easily and settle easily.

**Srijan: You must be aware of the recent strike in NIT Hamirpur. What difference could it have**

"Our culture has disappeared and our character is no longer a consideration.....Sports teach you discipline and increase your commitment and your will power."

**made had the administration at the district level acted as a supervisor?**

**DK:** Our involvement should be the last resort. The interference on our part should be minimum because our interference will be in a different manner.

**Srijan: What all extra-curricular activities at the school level helped you in developing leadership qualities?**

**DK:** I was (a) sportsman. I played at the State's level in gymnastics and football. Even during my exams, I played volleyball. It is very important that one plays daily. It teaches you a lot. It keeps both the mind and the body fit. You must realize that the mind and the body is a single thing. Mind is throughout the body. Everything contributes to your mind.

Sports teaches you discipline and that helps a lot. It increases your commitment and your will power. To achieve anything you need will power. When I was preparing for my exams in 1997, I suffered a dislocation and was in bed for more than three months from August to September. But I still prepared lying on the bed. So when one has the will power to do something, one surely gets through. But the point is that this works for a good cause only.





## **Ulysses: Above the Horizons**

**Four years of life at NITH from the eye of a final year student**

• Kumar Vijay Mishra •

### **Through A Funnel Of Time...**

A sense of strange wistfulness surrounds my mind, when I am writing this feature here at my home town in central India. The monsoon drizzles have almost wiped out dusty layers over the window pane that is facing my study table. It's 6th July 2003. Exactly four years before on this day in the year 1999, I chose REC Hamirpur/ECE seat during my engineering counselling held in the state capital.

At that time I had, candidly, no first-person information about the college. Still, I went for it and left out some other known options. Since popular view is that all RECs are hoards of crème-de-la-crème. The RECH session was to start from 1st August. As I prepared myself for a new life with almost a month to spare, my discussions with my pals and kins did make me to believe of deodar trees, snowy peaks, frozen rivers and, of course, bunches of apples n' almonds (Although I found later on that such discussions were not exclusive to my family only. Every other NITHian had dreamt the same!).

It was a long journey from Jabalpur to Hamirpur. I reached Hamirpur on a rainy day. My father told me of being in college within an hour. Boy! That one hour made me to imagine what not! Bespectacled professors, bibliomaniac students; multi-floored library, central cooling system; lush green surroundings, castle-looking hostels...so much and so beyond imagination!

### **...With A Myriad Of Experiences...**

Well, it's been four years now and still a month left in college, but I already feel I am out of it. So it's like a butterflies-in-the-stomach kind of feeling when I feel so fortunate to summarize all my four-year experiences out here. I am really grateful to the Podium team to choose me for this job namely for a 'very frank but objective' write-up on four-year stay at NITH.

While in the next few pages, I wish to chart out tell-it-all stories of my NITH life which should also be a common experience to every other fellow student; nevertheless, some of them may be too personal.

My NITH life, quite unexpectedly, started with one-month captivity in the C-Block of KBH. People labeled it with the ghastly euphemism 'the official ragging period'. Actually, I felt the way too ridiculous, since the de facto "ragging" (that's what we have come to name this eccentric behavior of burgeoning young students; although the term is yet to enter the OED the way we know it, the Webster's 1997 edition defines it, in one context, as 'a series of activities by university students to raise money for charity'. Going by that, most of us should have packed off loads of cash by now) started only after that! That one-month of August of 1999 reminded me of one fairy-tale where the witch used to keep little children on a feast till they grow too plumpish to taste better. Those days I fasted for many consecutive meals since I couldn't withstand the trauma of eating in the KBH mess due to

the salacious remarks and inhumane behavior of senior students who relished the frightening and awful faces of freshers. "Coward"- that's what many of us may call me and persons like me but then it is no bravery in submitting yourself silently before your barbaric senior.

The post-August time brings back in my memories the pictures of Guantánamo Bay prison. Despite all official punitive measures, we all were constantly under threat. Freshers were searched, caught and then subjected to what not. It was like an 1849 California Gold Rush except that the golden treasure was here a young teenage student and those on the prowl were just a year older than him. So terrified were we in those days that we discovered the meaning of the phrase 'REC Hamirpur' in its anagram as 'Unarm, hit, rip!' (Changing the name to 'NIT Hamirpur' brings no respite to freshers since the name has now been anagrammed as 'Pain thru rim!').

Many neo-moderates have openly advocated the restriction of ragging to 'mere introduction' of juniors. But I feel he is actually the senior who needs to be introduced to the junior rather than the latter to be introduced to the former. In fact, the solution lies in metamorphosing the way of thinking we look at people junior than us. If we look at western universities which have a first name culture (unlike the call-me-Sir attitude of NITHians), not only will we be able to create a fearless environment in NITH but we will also be enjoying more and making our stay here more memorable. The choice is clearly ours, whether we want to catch up with the worldwide university culture or would like to

**The Webster's 1997 edition  
defines ragging, in one  
context, as 'a series of  
activities by university  
students to raise money for  
charity'!**

languish in the dark medieval dungeons of thought.

### **...With Prejudice And Pride...**

My next few years although, were spent with utmost comfort with occasional eruptions of 'obvious anger' of senior students, I discovered many hidden aspects of the outer world which was very different than what I would have perceived while being only at home.

In second year, I crept in many student organizations and tasted the harsh realities of professional lives. I was astounded



# ◆ COLUMN/Survey

## VOX POPULI

### NITH Undergraduates Are Nocturnal Readers, Says SRIJAN-Survey

NITH students are certainly newsmongers and read the first page of almost every newspaper in the library. While girls prefer to read while listening to their favourite music, boys were equivocal in preferring a quiet environment for reading. However, most of the students are nocturnal readers; a serious unhealthy trend prevailing in the student community worldwide.

These and many more interesting revelations have been unearthed in a recent SRIJAN-Survey on general reading habits of NITH students which was conducted during the period 17-20th May 2003 within the college campus.

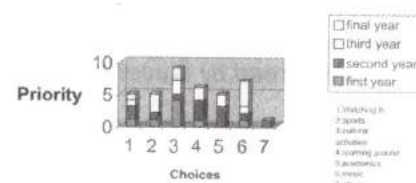
#### METHODOLOGY

The survey process covered a sample of sixty students randomly spread over the regions, genders, batches and branches. No other personal data was asked for in the survey form which asked the volunteers to tick their choices against a score of questions. The answers to each question were then tabulated against the four above-stated categories for statistical analysis. The SRIJAN survey group then spent hours of discussion with other editors and students on the finds of the survey and concluded some general trends in the reading habits of NITH students.

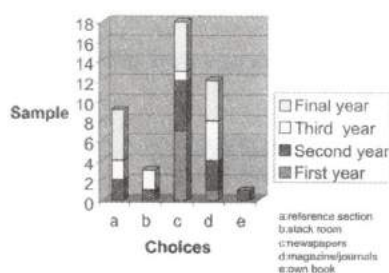
#### GENERAL READING HABITS

It was interesting to see that majority of the students, especially freshers, prefer engaging in cultural activities over reading nonacademic stuff. This although should not be startling since the management 'yuga' of this age demands students to also excel in domains other than academics. However, at the same time, sports were not a preference of students; the trend which is said to be attributed to poor sports facilities in the college and also to the rigorous academic schedules. Most of the students feel that in NITH, sports are not given required attention and encouragement. Quite strikingly, the final year students seem to be more inclined towards listening music. May be this is one of the stress relieving means for the students as they come under pressure for finding jobs and careers! Only third year seems to prefer academics over other activities; to be taken probably as preparing strong resumes for expected recruiters in the next session. A freedom from first year's acrimonious ragging life and a beginning of actual college life makes sophomores to spend time in roaming around and blowing whistles towards the fairer sex.

Preference against academic



What the library offers?



visit library to satiate their bibliophilic thirst. However, only 40% acknowledged that they visit library regularly or everyday and many have been unable to keep time for library-visit for reading non-academic stuff. On the other hand, as many as 20% of the students admit not visiting library even once a month for reading purposes.

When asked about their favorite readable material in the library, more than half of the students say they would prefer to read newspapers and magazines in the library. This is quite a drastic find since the reference section which is actually aimed for attracting avid readers could fetch only 15% support. A large number of students are of the view that there is 'not much' for interesting reading in 'that section'. Only the final year prefers to visit the reference section quite often, while the third year likes to read magazines.





Among other general reading habits, the survey finds that a large number of students couldn't confirm reading academic material outside trade subject as 'important'; of course leaving first year which is made to study subjects ranging from Thermodynamics to Basic Electronics and C Language to MOS.

The general reading speed of NITH students is quite less than the national average at meager 50-100 words per minute (wpm); the mechanical guys claim to be a step ahead with the average speed ranging over 150-200. Girls were way ahead of the rest with their claims lying outside the boundaries of 250 wpm. Another result showed that girls prefer listening to light music as against a quiet environment by boys while reading. Apart from this, a large section, more than 80%, of NITH students' community is a nocturnal reader preferring post 11:00 p.m. period for antiquarian habits. Only 5% claimed reading in the 'Brahma Muhurta', the Vedic study time!!

### NEWSPAPER READING HABITS

More than two-thirds of the students go in for personnel subscription and 90% of them read newspapers daily. While the mechanical guys enjoy reading a newspaper copy of others; electrical students prefer hostel common room for procuring newspapers. Largely, students feel that despite electronic media coverage they feel newspapers is their staple diet while some also opine that newspaper coverage is far more comprehensive. The newspaper stories that find a lion's share in being read by students are that which pertain to international politics and sports. Science news occupy third place closely followed by domestic politics. A majority of CSE students read science news while civil guys were equivocal in reading sports news. Celebrity gossip is something which girls really enjoy to be familiar with. The most neglected column is that of business to be mostly read by only second and final year students while defense news is something everyone prefers to avoid looking at.

Most of the students rarely pay any attention to the book reviews published in the newspapers. Only 20% undergraduates read financial newspapers on the regular basis; while here ECE students leave others behind by claiming to be a regular reader of money matters. Also, there is nothing like any unanimous choice for a particular newspaper as the survey finds students indicating as many as 9 different newspapers when asked their favorite one.

### LITERATURE READING HABITS

Our students choose novels going by their forewords and also by recommendations of peer groups. Final and the third year were unanimous in not buying novels for reading. An overwhelming

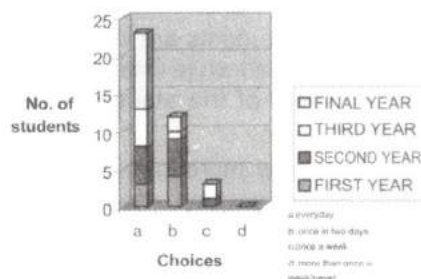
majority of third year students prefers reading prose while second year prefers non-fiction stuff. God knows but final year is more inclined towards poetry!!

Another finding suggests that students are inclined towards reading comedies. A minuscule community also reads thrillers and spiritual stuff. Girls prefer to read social and detective bestsellers as against architecture students who prefer reading romantic novels. Most of the ECE guys prefer reading essays while civil students read short stories in prose. This point towards a very healthy trend, meaning while the international youth reading is towards thrillers and violence-oriented novels, the NITH student community is far from this inclination.

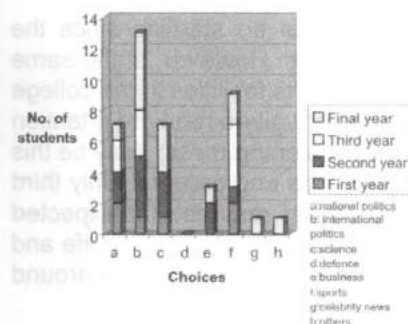
### NITH BIBLIOLATERS: INTERESTING TRENDS

In a nutshell the NITH students are showing healthier trends in today's world of ever degrading reading habits. Its' true that intensity, interest and inclinations vary from batch to batch and gender to gender; NITH is, nevertheless, full of bookworms. Also, although the survey method may be called as too unscientific; it is certainly quite representative since most of the sampled persons have replied to the survey. Here we wish to assert again that the views and opinion presented here are essentially of the survey volunteers and not of the editorial board.

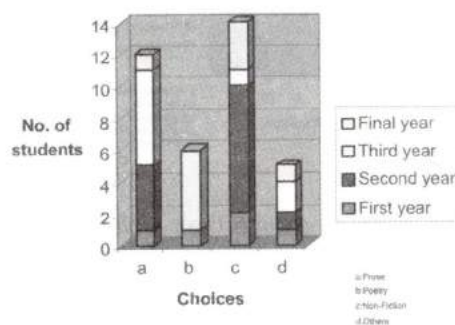
Frequency of reading newspapers



Kind of newspaper stories you often read



Kind of literary books preferred







## IN FOCUS

### Ever(est) rising

He came, he saw, he conquered, yes it was indeed Alexander the great. The same happens to be true for one of the former students of our college. **Vikas Dabas** a pass out of the previous year is scaling new heights. He is one of the frontrunners among the final candidates selected in a joint venture by the Indian army and the 'National Geographic Channel', for conquering the highest peak of the world, Mt. Everest.

Standing tall at 29030 feet, it's a dream of every mountaineer. Vikas Dabas is known to have an inclination towards mountaineering. While in the college, he along with his friends explored most of Himachal Pradesh including the Dhauladhar ranges. He emerged a winner after going through a rigorous selection procedure. He was among the five people selected from Delhi, then trained at the Nehru Institute of mountaineering in Uttar Kashi. Now the stage seems to be all set for his ascent on the highest peak.

Perhaps what made him beat thousands of other candidates was his fit physique, which he accounts to his interest in sports. He took part in most of the sporting events and has also won many medals. Our well wishes are with him.

### INS MONDOVI

**Akashdeep gautam**; a III year student and a dedicated NCC cadet, was among a handful of candidates to have been trained at INS Mandovi. In all there were eighteen days to be spent on the beautiful beaches of Goa. He had excelled in N.C.C and allied fields. He also has an inclination towards activities like sports. No doubt, his hard work and determination made him the only candidate from Himachal Pradesh to be selected for the same.

### Best Student Award

This year's NITH Best Student Award is won by **Kumar Vijay Mishra**, final year 1999 batch student of Electronics & Communication Engineering. The award which carries a cash prize of Rs. 1000 along with a citation is awarded every year for all-round performance in academics, cultural activities, community service, sports and extra-curricular activities.

### Entrance Exams

It's no surprise that with so much of intense studies to be done in the college, our students fare brilliantly when it come to competitive exams. For people like **Manikant Tiwari, Deepti Sharma, Puneet Kaul, D B Bhardwaj, Gautam Naik, Kumar Vikramaditya, Gopal Krishna Agarwal** and **Mohit Joshi** G.R.E. proved to be a cakewalk, as all of them have cracked the G.R.E. with good scores. Our students have also performed well in the GATE. A few of the top performers being **Viney Kaushik** (I.I.T. Kanpur), **Pawan Kumar Mankala** (I.I.T. Kanpur), **Vimal Bhatt, Garima Mishra, Varun Sood, Ashwini Mudgil** and **Ashutosh Agarwal**. Others whose names could not be mentioned are not far behind.

With due credit to concerned people the placement scenario has brightened up and is still improving. Firms like DRDO, Hero Honda Motors Limited, Quark Media House, Patni Computer Systems, HFCL (Himachal Futuristic Corporation Limited), Ingers-Roll Rand Wadco Limited, HMSI, Secure Meters and Tata Consultancy Services have already paid a visit to our college and many more are still expected before the session ends.

### The Happening N.I.T. Hamirpur

With the organizations like ISTE, the Rotaract club and various societies of the departments, NIT Hamirpur keeps buzzing with some event or the other.

The Indian Society For Technical Education Students' Chapter, NIT Hamirpur never seems to have a dearth of events. Throughout the year, the organization conducted like debates, group discussions and quizzes. The month of April saw a whole new brand of quizzes, as it was the quiz bonanza month. The I.S.T.E. plans to organize 'Praudyogiki' that'll include a paper presentation and a host of other interesting things.

Rotaract too is a leader in it's own way. Throughout the year they did something or the other, be it blood donation camps or literary missions, cultural weekends (Rotaract Sundays) or fun filled evenings with those hilarious 'Nukkad Nataks'. The rotaract is it's own kind of winner.

Other societies like the CSOC (Civil Society), SOME (Society Of Mechanical Engineers), ELSOC (Electrical Society), SPEC (Society For Electronics Culture) and FORCE (Forum Of Computer Engineers) are also not far behind. They too have made some serious contributions towards the extra curricular activities aimed at developing personalities by organising several group activities now and then.





◆ **COLUMN/Letters**

## **FEEDBACK**

### **Focus On Tech And Trivia**

The next issue of the college magazine 'Srijan' should contain articles related to science. But the articles should not be specializations in science. They should be general articles readable by all.

Another important aspect should be to include the views and articles of the non teaching staff of this college. The magazine should contain a collection of the best in poetry and prose rather than too many of them. A due importance should be given to expressions, views and writings of the recent happenings of the world. Articles on Gujarat, Iraq and Afghanistan must find a place in the magazine.

These would make the magazine more constructive and confirming to the tastes of all.

Er. Anup Kumar  
Assistant Professor,  
Mechanical Engineering Deptt.

### **Make Contributors Pool More Diverse**

All the sections of the college employees should be included. Magazine should contain articles regarding latest achievements of the college. Non teaching employees should be given proper representation. Our magazine should also include alumni section. There must be a proper procedure to award prizes for best articles in each section so that more students can be attracted. Magazine should have maximum number of articles.

Er. Ajay Guleria,  
Computer Administrator,  
Computer Science and Engineering Deptt.

### **Losing Originality**

The real meaning of 'Srijan' is to create. So we expected something that was original and straight from the heart. But with due appreciation to all those writers who 'Srijanated' their own articles, hardly did I find an original one. The editors are hence advised to include only those articles which they feel are coming straight from the heart of the writers. Or the name should be changed to TOPO.

Prashant Kumar Ojha,  
Second Year  
Mechanical Engineering

### **Freshetarian Please**

'Matters of the Heart' the last issue of Srijan (2001-2002) hardly lived up to my expectations of a college magazine. Its soul was missing and without it all the rest was worthless.

The magazine was merely a congregation of hurriedly compiled articles which lacked life in them. A part of them were from various sources and such articles should not have been there.

The articles selected should be in confirmation with the theme of the magazine and should have something new and fresh in them. The magazine should contain a brief summary of the events of our college.

Pritam Nanda,  
Second Year,  
Mechanical Engineering

### **Highlight Achievements**

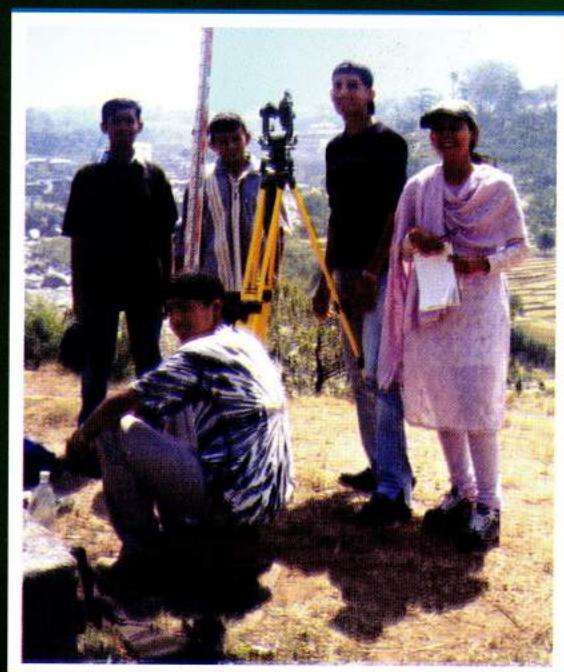
As for me, Srijan being the magazine of an Engineering college should have technical articles.

The last magazine appeared to be a family entertainment magazine which is definitely not our aim. For including the articles there should be open competition and only the best articles should find a place. Achievements and rewards of the students should also be listed.

Saurabh Sonal  
Second Year,  
Electrical Engineering

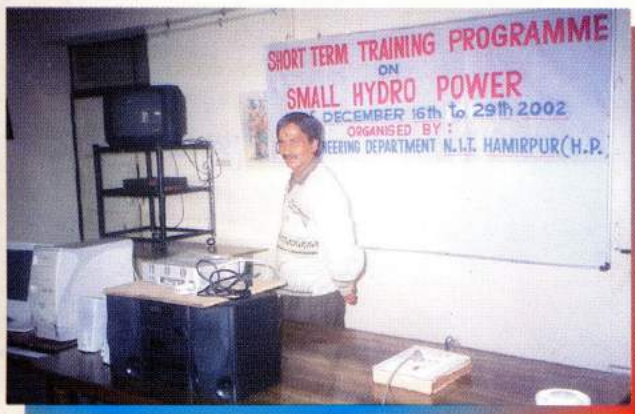


# *Techno Trend*





# Techno Trend







## ◆ COLUMN/College Rags

### CAMPUS RUMPUS

#### SOME NEAT PROPOSALS

Studying at a co-educational college has its own set of advantages. One gets to see a variety of styles of proposing. Here is one such proposal that was dashed even before seeing the light of the day.

One of the boys went up to his friend (a girl of course), and asked her for a date. The proposal was not offered as yet, but the girl somehow foresaw his next move and sweetly sang a phrase. The poor guy, not having enough mastery over English, mistook it for a scornful abuse. This misunderstanding had such enormous implications that it assumed the proportions of a legend all over the campus.

Kuch Kuch Hota Hai has had its influence over would be proposers as well. Boys are increasingly tending to propose in the style as was projected in that movie.

Another day one boy went up to a girl and said in front of the entire classroom, "Hi, I want to be friends with you." He was about to start an imitation of Gen. Musharraf's infamous Kathmandu handshake when the girl quipped, "Waah! You boys will throw chalks at us at every possible opportunity and at the same time want to be friends with us!!" She turned her face away from him just like a plot from a Bollywood film. Some guys later admit having had the thought of committing suicide after being humiliated publicly in class. Strange are the ways of love!

#### EXPERT SPRINTERS

Believe it or not: Girls sprint faster than boys.

One fine spring morning, during the annual Saraswati Puja celebrations, a senior caught hold of a junior, gave him a flower that he had plucked from a garden where plucking flowers was banned, and asked him to give it to a specific girl on his behalf. The fresher unwillingly, but fearing reprisals from the senior, went after that girl. She sensed the situation and walked briskly. The boy did the same. After some time, the boy was seen running after the girl with a rose in hand. People gathered around the street to view this rare and amazing sight. After running for about a hundred meters, the boy had to stop to regain his breath. The girl gave him a slip. Isn't this proof enough that girls run faster than boys?

#### CAMPUS LINGOS

Jargons are an integral part of every college. Here are a few jargons that are in vogue in our college.

**Jangoo:** (derived from the German word 'Zugang') Fresher.

**Baba:** Lonely and Companionless.

**Topo:** An advanced form of tracing.

**Frustee:** A person gripped by frustration.

**Khajjal:** Extremely irritated.

**Senti:** In love

**Mama:** One who excels in the art of giving advice when it is neither asked for nor desirable.

#### CLASSROOM CHORES

It is a well-known fact that most of the students have the habit

of up shirking their daily studies only to stay up till late night to chat within their respective groups. Needless to say, they find themselves unable to get up in the morning to attend classes. However the seventy-five percent attendance clause forces them to attend classes in a half-awake condition. The result is that they are frequently caught by teachers dozing off during their fifty-five minute lectures. Another effect is that the desks are found scribbled by some over enthusiasts who strive desperately to stay up in class. The most famous is the scripture that was found on one of the desks. It recorded, "in the memory of those who died waiting for the bell to ring." If all this was not enough, this inscription was found scribbled on a tombstone in a graveyard.

#### NICK NAMES GALORE

Professional colleges have always been renowned for some peculiar traits and traditions. Once you succeed in making headway into such a college, you are almost sure to get a new name.

Such names are usually Hindi variants of animal names. If you are lucky, you may get away with a highly illogical name, absurd to the point of stupidity.

The name-giving process is quite a lengthy and complimented one and may be divided into the following steps:

a) Classify the individual into the category he will be put into for the purpose of rechristening. The following categories are available:

1) Body structure

2) Facial expressions

3) Common habits

b) Search a thesaurus for a series of synonyms of the basic name decided for the person.

c) Choose a name for the same.

d) Now call a meeting of all the hostlers at a public place and declare the rechristening.

In NIT HAMIRPUR, names like 'ping-pong' and 'dong' may sound to be stupid and childish, but students of our colleges have a great appetite for such names. English names may be distorted beyond recognition or their Hindi variants may be found. For example, 'Kala' may be disfigured to 'Blacky' and vice versa. Names also prove to be subtle indications of your features. 'Chuha' and 'Gaenda' are quite common in the "name making" vocabulary. They may be applied to any frail or bulky character going by general by their structural trends. Even girls are not beyond the tradition. If you are a female James Bond you may be called "Bond." Other names are also prevalent, but are being kept behind the curtains for the sake of saving ourselves from the wrath of the other gender.

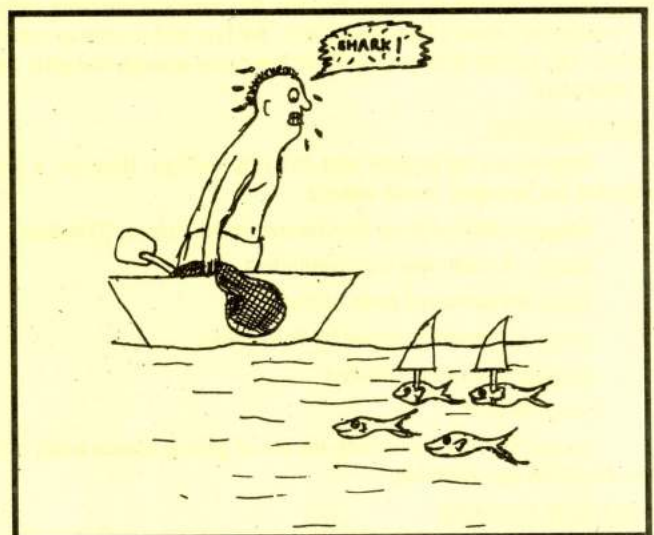
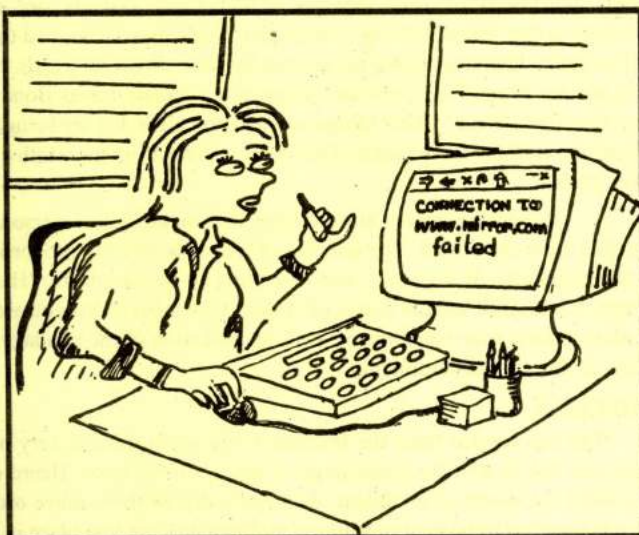
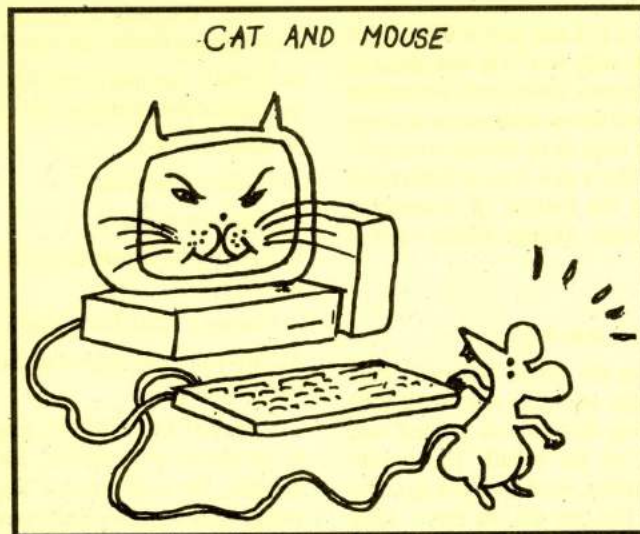
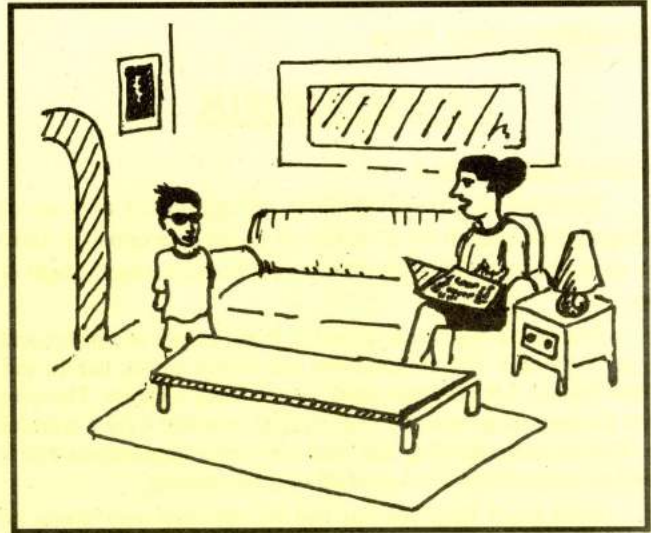
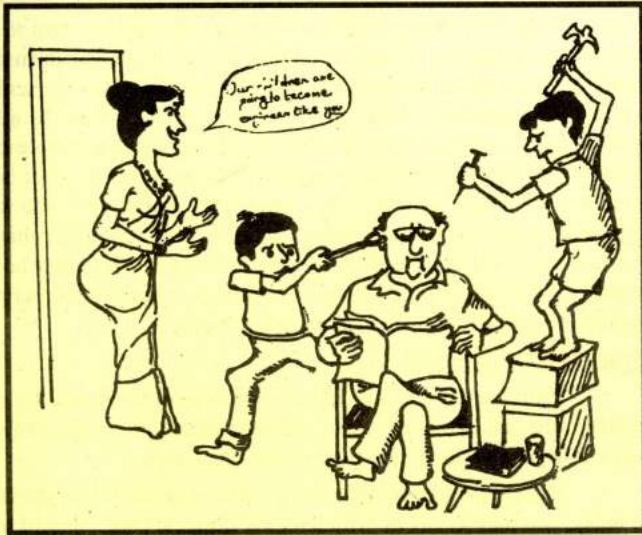
Indeed the names are a legacy that makes you a personality separate from the crowd. The number of names is directly proportional to the popularity of a person, and is a thing to be proud of. "Haathi, Murga, Kutta, Billi" are the marks of respect that suggest that you are not an alien among your batch mates. It is an indication of the bondage that exists in the student community.

#### TAILPIECE

The bus service from the Institute to the main town is very poor; often one has to wait for hours to get a bus go to the town. Heard on a bus, from the mouth of a student, who had suffered from above ordeal, "If someone has to be kept in solitary confinement, the best place is NIT HAMIRPUR-it's Saza-e-Kaalapani."



## HYSTERIA !!



Graphics by Sauvik Podder



# FACULTY OF NIT, HAMIRPUR



**Sitting 1st Row : Left to Right**

Er. (Miss.) Sonil Jindal, Er. (Mrs.) G. Khanna, Mrs. Veena Sharma, (Director) Dr. S.K. Bhowmik, Mrs. Saroj Thakur

**1st Row : Left to Right**

Dr. Devidi, Mr. Vijay Shanker Dogra, Er. B.B. Sharma, Dr. Y.R. Sood, Dr. N.S. Thakur, Prof. Lalit Awasthi, Dr. Rakesh Sehgal, Mr. Sushil Kumar, Dr. R.K. Jharial, Dr. B.S. Kaith, Er. Vinod Kapoor

**2nd Row : Left to Right**

N.C. Sharda, Er. Ajay Chauhan, Dr. Y.D. Sharma, Er. Surender Soni, Er. Narottam Chand, Mr. Somesh Sharma.

**3rd Row : Left to Right**

Er. Ajay Guleria, Er. Ashok Kumar, Mr. T.P. Bhardwaj, Mr. Anoop Kumar, Er. K.S. Pandey



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# CLASS OF 2003



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# CLASS OF 2003



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**2nd Row :** Sanjay Deb, Ashish Aggrawal, Inder Kumar Singh, Abhay Uppal, Mohit Dhiman, Dheeraj Sehgal, Rajan Biswas, Vinay Sharma, Sandeep Chandel, Mithun Sood, Mayank Behl.

CLASS OF 2003



# CLASS OF 2003



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Ist Row : Ashish Negi, Bibhu Ranjan Mahapatra, Rashmi Mundra, Deepti Sharma, Dipesh Dhillon, Sankalp Makkar, Vivek Vyas, Om Kant Shukla, Jitendra Kumar, Durga Prasad Dash, Vivek Tomar, Manish Mahajan, Sameer Mahajan,

IInd Row : Amit Bisht, Nishant Sharma, Yogendra Kumar, Syed Kamil Hussain, Navdeep Sood, Tej Prakash, Viney Kaushik, Gourav Bansal, Amit Rana, Surya Bir Singh, Vishal Singh.

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**Second Row: Left to Right**

Shailesh Srivastava, Jayesh Pandey, Ajay Chandela, Anil Kumar, Pyari Krishnan, Jayant Singh, Sunil Chauhan, Rachit Mehra, Shilpi Chauhan, Sanjay Chauhan.

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Abhijit Kumar, Jaydeep Bhattacharya, Pusparaj, Acharya, Nitin Gupta, Sanjeev Jaswal, Rahul Sharma, Vipin Sahni, Kashmir Singh, Vikas Anand, Ravneet Kaur, Rajan Parmar, Jayant Dubey.



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Chander Vijay Singh, Sukesh Azad, Vikramaditya, Varun, Vivek Sood, Kumar Digvijay Mishra, Nansraj Sharma, Tarun Sharma, Muneesh

### 2nd Row : Left to Right

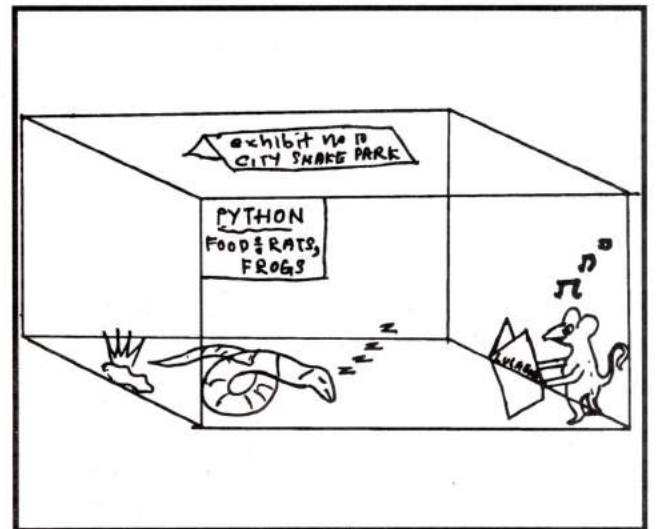
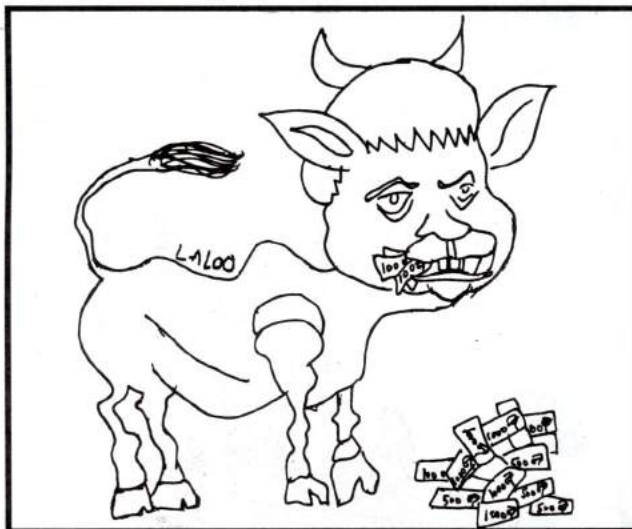
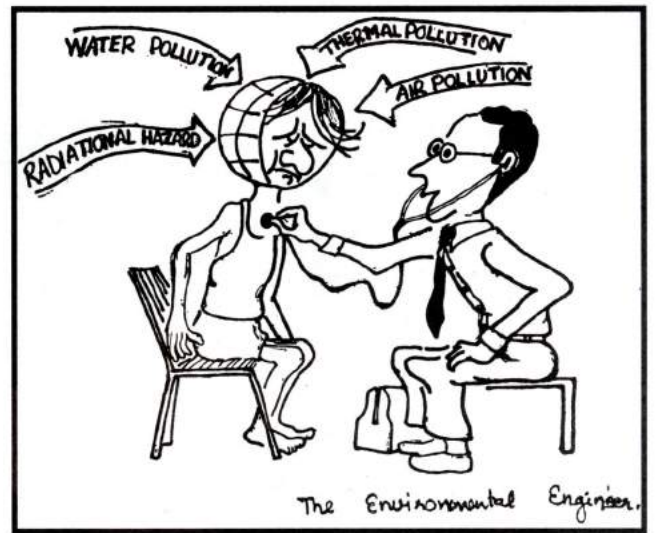
Vikas Nhardwaj, Gurdeep, Rahul Gupta, Gaurav Kapil, Adesh, Anand Vikash, Prakash, Tarun Thakur, Ashok, Ashish Shyam Rai

### 3rd Row : Left to Right

Kumar Diwakar, Sumit Chauhan, Dr. Bhardwaj, Saurabh, Manikant, Vikas Kumar, Ashutosh Tiwari, Rohan Maria.



# HYSTERIA !!

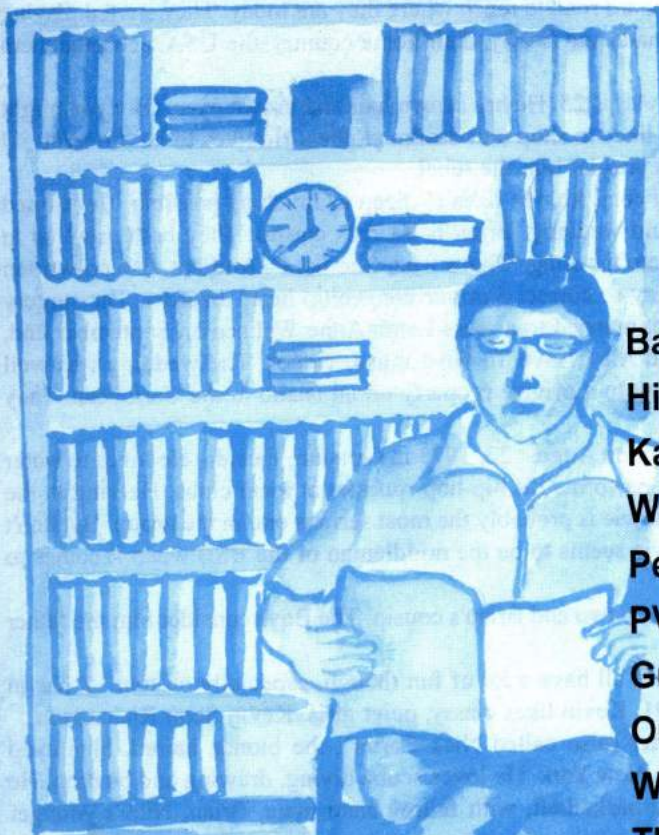


Graphics by Sauvik Podder



# DIVVY

## परम



Back Street Boys

Himachal Pradesh

Kailash Temple

Walt Disney

Petronas Towers

PVC Winners

Guffaw

On Logoleptic Verbivorism Of

Wordaholic Lexicomaniac Lingauphiles !!

The Limit Of Subramaniam Chandrashekhar

Nazca Lines

New World Trade Centre

Management Of Wastes

Column : Spectrum

प्रेम चन्द

भारतीय स्थापत्य

Graphic By : Sauvik Podder





## BACKSTREET BOYS

*THE JUVENILE GENERATION DELIRIUM OF THE ORLANDO BAND!*

*When people were fed up of listening to the head banging rock songs and the same old melody of the early 80's Goldies, there emerged a sensational group of five excellent lads hoping to conquer the heart of the late 90's people.*

Meet Nick, Brian, Howie, AJ and Kevin. Almost all the girls have heard of them. They are the one and only, marvelous Pop boy band Backstreet Boys!

BSB are the greatest R+B sensation ever and have swamped the world with over SIX hit singles! Have you heard Quit Playing Games, Anywhere for You, Everybody, Larger Than life, The Call, Shape of my heart or their latest and greatest Drowning? If you haven't, then switch on the to their music now! The Backstreet Boys are known all over the world for their talent. Many people consider them to be just a bunch of good looking guys who will soon be replaced. This is not true!

The Backstreet Boys have not had it easy. They have traveled a long, hard road to reach where they are today. They started playing in shopping plazas in Orlando, but found success first in Europe, then Canada and finally, their home country, the USA, accepted them into the music industry. This acceptance took a lot of time and effort.

To bring them all into focus, first there is Alexander James Mc Lean (AJ) is 25. He has brown hair and brown eyes. (But you might have seen him with blond hair -- he dyed it for a while). He says that he likes to shop and design clothes. He likes to be different. AJ loves writing poetry, playing billiards and hanging with his mates. They consider him the rebel.

Second of the member is Brian Thomas Littrell was born in '75 on Feb. 20th. He likes to sleep as much as possible. He learned how to sing when he was a boy in church. He performed in churches and wedding. Brian is Kevin's cousin. They both grew up in Lexington, Kentucky. Brian was the 5<sup>th</sup> member to join BSB. Brian wrote the song "That's what She Said". And has also co-written many other songs. In the spring of 1998, Brian underwent elective surgery to correct a minor congenital heart disorder. The surgery was relatively simple and Brian came through with flying colours. He got married to actress Leigh Anne Wallace on September 2nd, 2000. Leigh Anne had been in the BSB's As Long As You Love Me and All I Have To Give music videos. The wedding was well attended by 300 of their friends and family. For the honeymoon, they went to a private property on an island in the Caribbean. They want to have kids someday, but for now their focus is on their careers.

Third of them is Howie or Sweet D. Howie Dwayne Dorough was born on August 22, 1973 in Orlando, Florida. He loves to water ski, swimming and racquetball. Howie is a professional dancer and often performs his hip-hop routines at local clubs. He sang in the choir at school and was a member of various community theatre groups. Howie is probably the most serious one in the group. But don't think of him as no fun because he can be just as crazy as the others. Howie seems to be the middleman of the BSB when it comes to settling arguments and other disputes amongst the boys.

Fourth member is the head/leader of the group Kevin Richardson is thirty two and Brian's cousin. The Boys consider him the father of the group since he is the one to make

Sure that everyone stays on track and gets down to business (they still all have a lot of fun though, especially on tour...). Kevin says the saddest time in his life is when he lost his father to cancer in 1991. Kevin likes classy, quiet girls. Kevin Scott Richardson

Final member is the youngest and the smartest Nicholas Gene Carter (also called Nick Carter), the blonde haired, blue eyed youngest of the group. Nick was born on January 28th, 1980 at Jamestown New York. He loves scuba diving, drawing and boating. He also loves playing video games (they call him Mr. Nintendo Freak!) And basketball, with fellow band mate, Brian. Nick's younger brother Aaron Carter is also well known as the teen singer!

Backstreet Boys are very talented, wholesome people. Most of them started out by singing in a church choir. Despite their fame they have kept their feet on the ground and have not become involved in drugs and drinking. They are also very close to their families, which is extremely important. They sing about every day problems. Kevin says they just want people to forget about their problems for just one minute so they can enjoy the Backstreet beat!

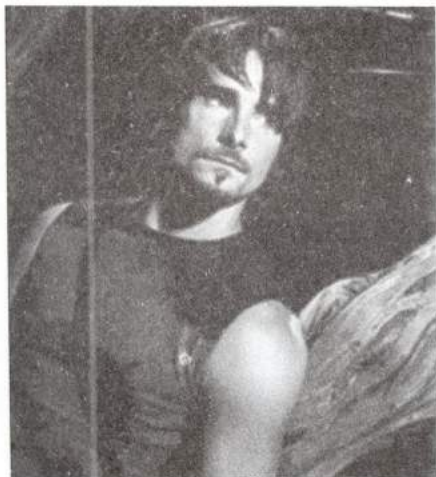
Well, with five gorgeous, talented guys with great personalities no wonder they're stars! Nick and Brian both have smooth, soft voices which harmonize well. Kevin sings much deeper and Howie up high. AJ likes to do a bit of rap as well.

Together all five of them make up a great group who are definitely worth taking notice of. There's one question people have been asking for ages: How did the BSB get together? Well, here's the answer! Howie, A.J., and Nick were making the rounds of singing and acting auditions when the guys met Kevin through some friends on the music scene. They found out how well they could sing together and decided to give it a go as a group - they just needed one more voice to make the sound just perfect. Kevin suggested his cousin Brian back in Kentucky. Brian said yes, and the BSB as you know them were officially born!!!





The Backstreet Boys have created a nice image for their young fans to follow. One example is the way they look. Their fashionable clothes are cool and up-to-date. Teenagers relate to their baggy jeans, oversized shirts, and top-of-the-line shoes. A. J. and Howie have



goatee beards and all of them have short, sometimes colored and spiked, haircuts. Young fans feel they can relate to these guys because their appearance is interesting and attractive to them. The Backstreet Boys are also polite during interviews. They all thank God and their families for their success and talents. They participate in charity events, and they avoid setting bad examples for young people to follow, such as promoting alcohol and tobacco products.

On a last note, the lyrics and music of The Backstreet Boys create is a definite reason they are popular. Their music attracts all ages. They sing slow love songs that will touch a couple's hearts. For example, "Anywhere for You" is written about a person ready to make sacrifices for the one they

love. The chorus is straight forward and touching:

I'd go anywhere for you.  
Anywhere you asked me to.  
I'd do anything for you.  
Anything you want me to.  
Your love as far as I can see.  
Is all I'm ever gonna need.  
There's one thing for sure.  
I know it's true.  
Baby, I'd go anywhere for you.

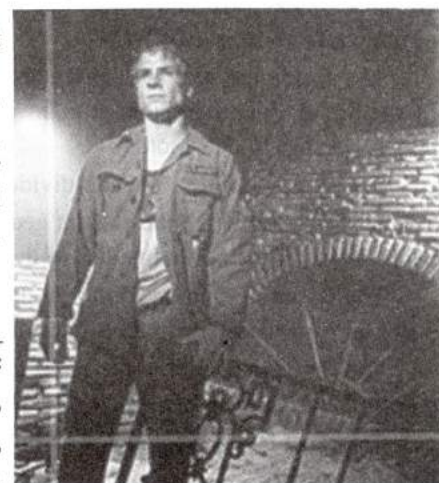
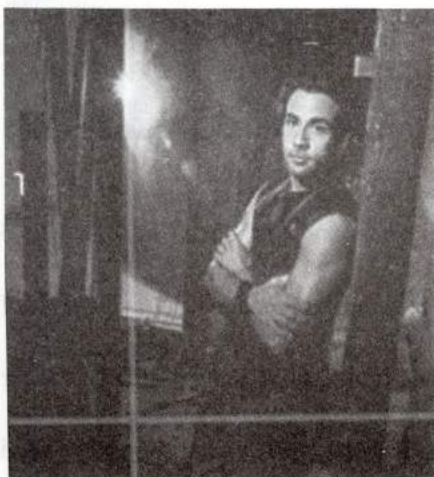


On the other hand, songs like "Everybody (Backstreets Back)" and "Larger than Life" are more upbeat. They make a person feel good and want to dance. This type of music is versatile. Disc jockeys play it on easy listening, light rock, and top-40 radio stations; and radio promotion also helps a group become popular.

There are several reasons why The Backstreet Boys have become popular. The manipulation of the media and the wonderful lyrics and music play a large role, but the most important issue is their image. Young people have enough negative distractions in their lives. Peers, advertisements, music, and television programs and commercials all play a part.

Therefore, it is nice to find a group that does not participate in a negative image.

Through their young generation music they have thrown a nice image of music in today's world. The group band has further stopped producing their music but their past hits soothe all of us. They will be back in near time with their new sheet of music. Till then keep listening to BSB!!!



Compiled by:  
**Rahul Sharma,**  
First Year,  
Electrical Engineering.





## Where The Myth Meets The Materiality *Himachal Pradesh: The Abode Of Pantheons*

*The place which inspired authors to write literary masterpieces, led musicians to compose symphonies and gave India a fairy-tale land.*

Literally "an abode of eternal snow" Himachal Pradesh is as beautiful as you can imagine it to be, as exciting as a fun filled life and as interesting is a fairy tale. Combining the awesome and the beautiful, Himachal Pradesh brings to mind the poetic imagery of Kalidasa and Milton in 'Paradise Regained'.

With lush green forest, bubbling streams, emerald meadows, enchanting lakes and eternal snows it nestles in the lap of Mother Nature. Himachal Pradesh in a small world in itself, entered from the plains of Punjab or from the hills of Shimla, through beautiful meandering valleys, slopes covered with Pines and typical temperate mountain flora. The attic beauty is personified in the cover of endless pine trees.

The inhabitants of the valley and hills are gay, rustic, dignified, proud and secretive like most mountain dwellers living in places of difficult access. Himachal Pradesh has everything an eye would like to see. It's been called as the 'Dev Bhoomi'; even the Gods wish to come to this place for solace & beauty.

On 8th March 1948, the rulers of twenty-one princely hill states of Punjab & Shimla hills signed an agreement, which resulted in the formation of Himachal Pradesh as the Chief Commissioner's province from 15th April 1948. Himachal was granted statehood on the 25th of January 1971 when it became the 18th state of the Indian union.

### PHYSIOGRAPHY

Himachal Pradesh lies in the lap of the Himalayas-the great Himalayas about which the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru once said:

"Himalayas are not only near to us but also very dear to us for they always been a part of our history and tradition, our thinking and poetry, our worship and devotion. They are only physically present in India, dominating the vast Indian plain but for every Indian they convey a deeper message".

They Himalayas are the most magnificent feature on the face of Earth. They form a part of complex folded mountain chains that radiate from the Pamir knot in Iran: Himachal is the heart of the western Himalayas.

The region has two special features: First, that the main axis of the Himalayas is here cleft by the Sutlej; the second that in many parts of it there is a double range of snow peaks, running almost parallel to one another.

The state is divided and sub-divided by the white snow clad peaks, known as 'dhars' into three physiographic divisions: The Siwaliks, known to the ancient geographers as Maniaka Parbata, have a remarkable crest at 600 hundred meters. The longitudinal depressions on the northern sides of the Siwaliks are called as 'duns'.

The lesser Himalayas form two definite ranges: the Dhauladhar and the Pir Panjal. The Dhauladhar, visible from the campus of National Institute of Technology, separates the longitudinal sections of the rivers Beas and Ravi.

The Pir Panjal, larger of the lesser Himalayan ranges bifurcates from the great Himalayas near the banks of Sutlej forming the water parting between the Chenab one side and the Beas and Ravi on the other.

The great Himalayas are lower and more broken in Himachal rather in east Kashmir or Kumaon .it separates the drainage of Spiti from that of Beas.







## **RIVER SYSTEMS**

Ravi, the ancient Parusni of the Rig Veda, rises in the Pir Panjal where the boundaries of Kangra, Kullu and Lahual districts meet. The Beas also rises in the Rohtang pass of the Pir Panjal range north of Manali, lying perpendicular to the Chandra River, which flow on the other side of the mountains. The landscape of Beas is both pleasant and varied. Within a span of fifty kilometers as many as three climatic zones occur, from the Alpine of the Rohtang with rainless, treeless and snowy terrain to the sub Alpine down the pass, to the temperate zone of Manali Kullu with typical coniferous trees.

Already known to the Rig Vedic Aryans as the Satadra, the Sutlej takes its birth in the Mansarovar Lake in Tibet some three hundred kilometers east of Indo-Tibet border. For the first few hundred kilometers of its journey and even after entering Kinnaur, the Sutlej traverses through rocky terrains with high peaks looking down upon it from either side but from Sarahan in Shimla district there is dramatic change of scene. The valley broadens out; the soil is fertile and therefore richly cultivated.

## **LAKES**

There are few lakes in Himachal Pradesh, necessarily small in size but well known for their scenic beauty. Himachal has one of the largest artificial lakes in India - Gobind Sagar. The other lakes are those of Rivalsar, Khajjiar, Manimahesh, Parashar, Renuka, Chandratol and Surajtal and etc. Migratory birds commonly frequent Khajjiar and the Gobind Sagar lakes.

Most of these lakes are considered sacred for thousands of years and particularly the lake of Rivalsar has become famous on account of its association with the Buddhist teacher Padmasambhava.

## **WILDLIFE**

Himachal is the home of wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and avifauna. These include the leopard which is the most widely distributed mammal in the entire state, the snow leopard, Ghoral, Musk deer - the state animal and Monal - the state bird.

Leopard or the panther (*Panthera Pardus*) the leopard is found all over the state from the foothills to track near the snowlines. It lives both in forest and in open rocky areas.



*Black Musk Deer*

*Musk Deer*

*Monal*

Musk deer (*Moschus Moschiferus*) is the state animal of Himachal Pradesh. It occupies a position between the deer and an antelope. The musk deer has a dark brown coloured thick winter coat.

## **CLIMATE**

Himachal Pradesh experiences wide variations in climatic conditions ranging from areas receiving very heavy rainfall to the cold almost rainless deserts of Lahual, Spiti, Pooh.

The southwest monsoons and the winter monsoons are the systems, which govern the basic pattern of weather in the state.

Summer in Himachal begins in the middle of April and continues till the end of June. Summer is pleasant especially in areas lying over 3000 meters. Though in Siwalik Hills and lower Himalayas the temperatures are high.

Monsoon arrives at the end of June and continues till the end of September. The breath taking natural beauty is in its full bloom during the rainy season.

The best season in Himachal is autumn. It begins in late September or early October and continues till the third week of November after which the winter sets in. The skies are clear and there is enough sunshine all through the day. Places at high elevations may receive first snowfall in mid September.

Winter is severe in Himachal. Frost occurs in most part of the state while snowfall is common in tracks like above an elevation 2200 meters. Avalanches and snowstorms are common in tracks lying above the snow line. The spring commences from the middle of March and continues till April.

## **TOURIST DESTINATIONS**

### **Shimla**

Shimla derives its name from Goddess Shyamla Devi, which is another manifestation of Goddess Kali. The capital of Himachal





Pradesh came into light under British when they discovered it in 1819. Till then it was a part of the Nepalese kingdom and started as a small village as Simlu (or Simlah). In 1864 it was declared as the "Summer Capital of India". After independence Shimla became the capital of Punjab and later named the capital of Himachal Pradesh.

Simla (as it was spelled during British times) or Shimla is situated at an altitude of about 2200 m (about 7220 ft). It is a summer resort and has industries producing textiles and processed food. From 1865 to 1939, Shimla was the summer capital of India.

The Shimla Convention, at which representatives of China, Tibet, and the United Kingdom met to discuss the status and borders of Tibet, was held here in 1913. The city also played host to famous Simla Pact between India and Pakistan in 1972. It is also the home place of Nobel Laureate Rudyard Kipling whose home 'Tendrils' stands there even today.



The Ridge forms a place of huge tourist interest. More so with the Christ Church overlooking the ridge. Built in 1846-1857, it is the second oldest church of Northern India. The Church's exquisite beauty comes with the stained glasses that are fitted on its windows. It opens only on third and fifth Mondays of the month. The Mall, which runs parallel to Ridge, is the most flocked-on marvelous shopping road. The city also has some historical utilities which are remnants of British India like hospitals: Snowden (IGMC), Lady Reading and Lord Ripon, Regal Tunnel, Cecil Hotel (the first in the chain of Oberoi's, it is listed as one of the most luxurious hotels in the world.) and Viceregal Lodge. As a tourist, you will also find the famous Jakhu temple (where Lord Hanuman is believed to have taken rest while returning with Sanjeevani on way to Sri Lanka), Kali Bari and Sankatmochan temple here.

There are other scenic sites nearby which are venues of adventure sports lovers like Kufri and Mashobra.

#### Manali

Perhaps the most famous spot of HP is Manali which is situated in Distt. Kullu. Its geographical position, which is amidst valleys, plays advantage to a perennial pleasant climate here. It is located on the shallows banks of Beas and is famous for its woolens. Other attractions include the legendary Hidimba temple, Vashishath hot water springs and Rohtang Pass (which is covered perennially with snow and witnesses snowfall even in summer: also it joins Lahaul valley with rest of Himachal).

#### Kangra

Kangra is more famous for Dharmshala which is the seat of Tibetan Government-in-exile and its spiritual leader Dalai Lama. It houses many Buddhist monasteries and historical Mcleodgunj. Kangra valley also suffered heavy earthquake in 1905 and is said to suffer tremors every 100 years. Also, it houses Andretta, the retreat of Irish actress Norah Richards who established Punjabi theatre there. In Kangra, one will also find famous Hindu shrines like Jwaladevi Shakti Peeth, Chamunda Devi and Baijnath, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Shiva.

#### Others

In fact, each and every district of HP is famous for some kind of unique attraction: be it Solan (apple orchards and Naina Devi) or Chamba (crafts and picturesque beauty) or Lahual-Spiti (snow desert and adventure sports), each has a unique culture. Khajihar given a sobriquet 'mini-Switzerland of India'. Other HP spots include Chintpurni, Tattapani, Dalhousie and a couple of dams also.

#### **HIMACHAL: WHERE THE MYTH MEETS THE MATERIALITY**

Isn't it incredible to live in a fairyland, in a world of dreams and in an Avalon? Certainly, yes. But the bottom-line lies in preserving the natural and cultural heritage of Himachal.

Compiled by:  
Swati Mahajan,  
First year,  
Architecture.





## Kailasa temple

### The Indian Utopia

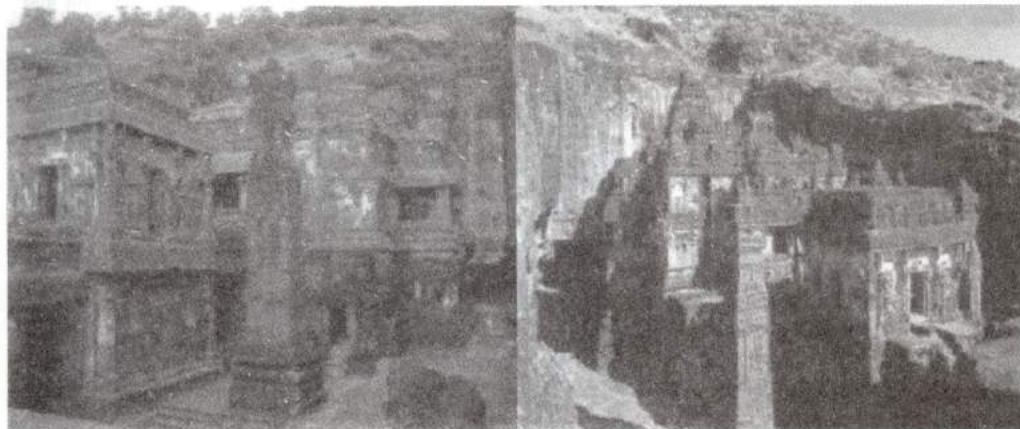
*Kailasa Temple since made is a rendezvous place not only to pray but also to visit. The ambiguity is still anonymous of its creation!*

Hindu Kailasa Temple is the jewel in the crown of the mysterious temples in India. Carved to represent Mt. Kailasa, the home of Lord Shiva in the Himalayas, it is the largest monolithic structure in the world, carved top-down from a single rock. It contains the largest cantilevered rock ceiling in the world. Within the courtyard is the massive multi-level temple, its pyramidal form replicating the real Mount Kailasa, the Himalayan peak said to be the home of the Hindu God Shiva.



The scale at which the work was undertaken is enormous. It covers twice the area of the Parthenon in Athens and is 1.5 times high, and it entailed removing 200,000 tones of rock. It is believed to have taken 7,000 labourers 150 years to complete the project.

The rear wall of its excavated courtyard 276 feet (84 m) 154 feet (47 m) is 100 ft (33 m) high. The temple proper is 164 feet (50 m) deep, 109 feet (33 m) wide, and 98 feet (30 m) high.



The Ajanta cave specimen consists of a gateway, antechamber, assembly hall, sanctuary and tower. Virtually every surface is lavishly embellished with symbols and figures from the Puranas (sacred Sanskrit poems). The temple is connected to the gallery wall by a bridge.

Kailasa temple has a huge courtyard that is open to the sky, surrounded by a wall of galleries several stories high. The Kailasa temple is an illustration of one of those rare occasions when men's minds, hearts, and hands work in unison towards the consummation of a supreme ideal.

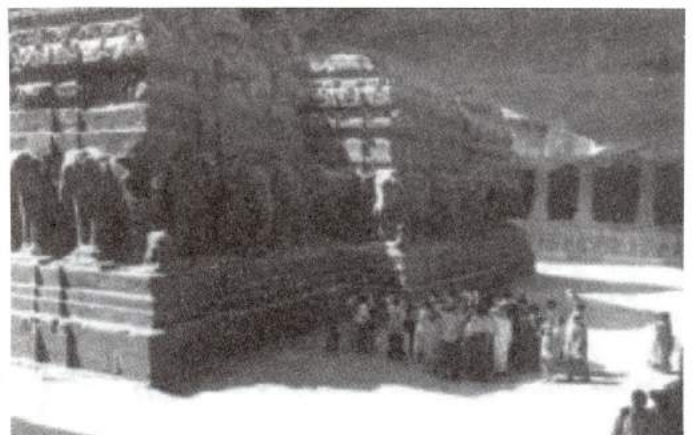
### The Ajanta and Ellora Caves

#### Ajanta Caves

The Ajanta group of caves, lying deep within the Sahyadri hills, cut into the curved mountain side, above the Waghora River, was discovered in the 19th century by a group of British officers on a tiger hunt.

Located 100 km from Aurangabad, Ajanta encompasses 29 rock-cut rooms created between 200 BC and AD 650 using rudimentary hand tools. Most are Viharas (living quarters), while four are Chaityas (temples).

Ajanta began as a religious enclave for Buddhist monks and scholars more than 2,000 years ago. It is believed that, originally, itinerant monks sought shelter in natural grottos during monsoons and began decorating them with religious motifs to help pass the rainy season. They used earlier wooden structures as models for their work. As the grottos were developed and expanded, they became permanent monasteries, housing perhaps 200 residents.







The artisans responsible for Ajanta did not just hack holes in the cliff, though. They carefully excavated, carving stairs, benches, screens, columns, sculptures, and other furnishings and decorations as they went, so that these elements remained attached to the resulting floors, ceilings and walls.

They also painted patterns and pictures, employing pigments derived from natural, water soluble substances. Their achievements would seem incredible if executed under ideal circumstances, yet they worked only by the light of oil lamps and what little sunshine penetrated cave entrances.

The seventh century abandonment of these masterpieces is a mystery. Perhaps the Buddhists suffered religious persecution. Or perhaps the isolation of the caves made it difficult for the monks to collect sufficient alms for survival. Some sources suggest that remnants of the Ajanta colony relocated to Ellora, a site closer to an important caravan route. There, another series of handcrafted caves chronologically begins where the Ajanta caves end.

#### **Ellora Caves**



Near Ellora, village in E central Maharashtra state, India, extending more than 1.6 km on a hill, are 34 rock and cave temples (5th-13th century). Located about 30 Kilometers from Aurangabad, Ellora caves are known for the genius of their sculptors. It is generally believed that these caves were constructed by the sculptors who moved on from Ajanta. This cave complex is multicultural, as the caves here provide a mix of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain religions. The Buddhist caves came first, about 200 BC - 600 AD followed by the Hindu 500 - 900 AD and Jain 800 - 1000 AD.

Of the 34 caves chiseled into the sloping side of the low hill at Ellora, 12 (dating from AD 600 to 800) are Buddhist (one Chaitya, the rest viharas), 17 are Hindu (AD 600 to 900), and 5 are Jain (AD 800 to 1100).

As the dates indicate, some caves were fashioned simultaneously - maybe as a form of religious competition. At the time, Buddhism was declining in India and Hinduism regaining

ground, so representatives of both were eager to impress potential followers.

Although Ellora has more caves than Ajanta, the rooms generally are smaller and simpler (with exception of Kailasa Temple).

#### **Kailasa Temple, Cave #16 at Ellora**

These two stunning collections of photographs should carry a warning: incurable wanderlust may result from examining either one. Although different in format (The Sacred Earth is in colour, while Planet Peru is black and white) and subject matter (Milne traveled the Earth to photograph places he feels to be special, whereas Bridges concentrates solely on aerial photos of Peru), both author/photographers present sweeping panoply of landscapes that, through the ages, have instilled wonder in the beholder.

The authors have a deep sense of appreciation and responsibility for the natural splendors of the Earth; both use the word sacred in its broadest sense, meaning the feeling of transcendence experienced by those fortunate enough to have shared the same vistas. Bridges's book is a vertical exploration of Peru,

consisting of starkly dramatic black-and-white photos that capture the eerie, timeless beauty of such places as Machu Picchu and the dead city of Pacatnamu. Milne's book is simply splendid. Glorious color, sensitive prose, and marvelous images fill every page. The reader cannot help but be moved by the simple grandeur and majesty of these 140 sacred places, and there is more to come; this ambitious work is the first volume in a projected series. Either titles would enhance any general collection; to have both would be ideal.



Compiled by:  
**Rahul Sharma,**  
First Year,  
Electrical Engineering.





## WALT DISNEY

### THE CONJURER OF DREAMS

*Mickey Mouse, the magnum opus of Disney celebrates its 72nd birthday this year. A peep into the inspiring but struggling life of Disney reveals that his early days were not very different from any ordinary man.*

It is not so that only kids love Disney. Infact everybody loves Disney. All the characters of Disney are unforgettable. It would be appropriate to say that the creator of fantastic Disneyland was one of the dreamiest characters that history has ever recorded. Owing to the fertile imagination that so gripped this gangly man with this country boy figure lost in deep thought, we would perhaps still be foreigners to this concept of sprawling amusement park that attracts millions of tourists from all over the world. But it was solely on conviction and hard work that Walt Elias Disney has earned a place in hearts of people across the globe.

The creator of Mickey Mouse and founder of the Disneyland and Walt Disney World Theme Parks were born in Chicago, Illinois, on December 5, 1901. His father, Elias Disney, was Irish-Canadian. His mother, Flora Call Disney, was of German-American descent. Walt was one of five children, four boys and a girl.

During the fall of 1918, Disney attempted to enlist for military service. Rejected because he was only 16 years of age, Walt joined the Red Cross and was sent overseas, where he spent a year driving an ambulance and chauffeuring Red Cross officials. His ambulance was covered from stem to stem, not with stock camouflage, but with drawings and cartoons.

After the war, Walt returned to Kansas City, where he began his career as an advertising cartoonist. Here, in 1920, he created and marketed his first original animated cartoons, and later perfected a new method for combining live-action and animation. Walt began his career by launching a cartoon series called Alice in Wonderland in August 1923. He was 21 and the project was financed a loan of 500\$ that he borrowed from his uncle. Both Walt and his brother Roy Disney were in this together; Roy at camera and Walt doing all the animations. They worked hard. Series flopped.

On July 13, 1925, Walt married one of his first employees, Lillian Bounds, in Lewiston, Idaho. They were blessed with two daughters: Diane married to Ron Miller, former president and chief executive officer of Walt Disney Productions; and Sharon Disney Land, who served as a member of Disney's Board of Directors and passed away in 1993. The Millers have seven children and Mrs. Lund had three.

Despite failure of Alice In Wonderland, undeterred Walt started a new series called Oswald the Rabbit. Oswald did better but Walt was once again duped by the distributors, who having bought the copyrights, took charge of series themselves. Not disheartened at all, Walt made a significant decision that was to affect the future course of things. He decided to go into business on his own. Mickey Mouse was born that year and celebrates his **72nd Birthday** this year i.e. 1928.

Mickey's talents were first used in a silent cartoon entitled "**Plane Crazy**." However, before the cartoon could be released, sound burst upon the motion picture screen. Thus Mickey made his screen debut in "**Steamboat Willie**," the world's first fully-synchronized sound cartoon, which premiered at the Colony Theatre in New York on November 18, 1928.

Walt's drive to perfect the art of animation was endless. Technicolor was introduced to animation during the production of his "**Silly Symphonies**." In 1932, the film entitled "**Flowers and Trees**" won Walt the first of his 32 personal Academy Awards. In 1937, he released "**The Old Mill**," the first short subject to utilize the multiplane camera technique.

Mickey was Walt's first success. His matchless imagination and his uncap ability to turn the ordinary into something wonderful was applauded by the audience. But it was only with '**Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs**' (December 21, 1937) that was a definite windfall for Walt and made several million dollars on this one. During the next five years, Walt completed such other full-length animated classics as **Pinocchio**, **Fantasia**, **Dumbo**, and **Bambi**.

In 1940, construction was completed on Disney's Burbank studio. The staff swelled to more than 1,000 artists, animators, story men and technicians. During World War II, 94 percent of the Disney facilities were engaged in special government work, including the production of training and propaganda films for the armed services, as well as health films





which are still shown throughout the world by the U.S. State Department. The remainder of his efforts was devoted to the production of comedy short subjects, deemed highly essential to civilian and military morale.

Disney's 1945 feature, the musical **"The Three Caballeros,"** combined live action with the cartoon medium, a process he used successfully in such other features as **"Song of the South"** and the highly acclaimed **"Mary Poppins."** In all, 81 features were released by the studio during his lifetime.

Walt's inquisitive mind and keen sense for education through entertainment resulted in the award-winning **"True-Life Adventure"** series. Through such films as **"The Living Desert," "The Vanishing Prairie," "The African Lion,"** and **"White Wilderness,"** Disney brought fascinating insights into the world of wild animals and taught the importance of conserving our nation's outdoor heritage.

Disneyland, launched in 1955 as a fabulous \$17 million Magic Kingdom, soon increased its investment tenfold. By its third decade, more than 250 million people were entertained, including presidents, kings and queens, and royalty from all over the globe.

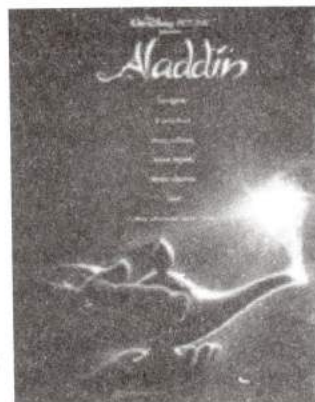
A pioneer in the field of television programming, Disney began production in 1954, and was among the first to present full-color programming with his **"Wonderful World of Color"** in 1961. **"The Mickey Mouse Club"** and **"Zorro"** were popular favorites in the 1950s.

Disney directed the purchase of 43 square miles of virgin land -- twice the size of Manhattan Island -- in the center of the state of Florida. Here, he master planned a whole new Disney world of entertainment to include a new amusement theme park, motel-hotel resort vacation center and his Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow. After more than seven years of master planning and preparation, including 52 months of actual construction, Walt Disney World opened to the public as scheduled on October 1, 1971. Epcot Center opened on October 1, 1982. Prior to his death on December 15, 1966, Walt Disney took a deep interest in the establishment of California Institute of the Arts, a college level, professional school of all the creative and performing arts. California

Institute of the Arts was founded in 1961 with the amalgamation of two schools, the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and Chouinard Art Institute. The campus is located in the city of Valencia, 32 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

The characters of Disney are of course very near and dear to us. Characters like **Goofy, Donald Duck, Pluto, Mickey Mouse,** etc. makes us laugh a lot. Mickey Mouse makes us understand the love and its relations with partner by

understanding the difference between the two. It is Baloo the Bear who takes us to adventure aspiring young generations to join the line of air field or to become pilot. Many other stories like **Aladdin, Snow White, The 101 Dalmatians, Peter Pan, Little Mermaid, Cinderella,** etc. are some of the products of Disney which takes us all to the land of fairy tales told by our grandparents. Movies like **Lion King, Road to Eldorado, Jungle Book, Robin Hood, Winnie The Pooh,** etc. are, of course, some of the hit products of Disney. The adventures of **Uncle Scrooge** and his nephews **Huey, Dewey and Louie** along with other characters like **Gyro, Gearloose, Launchpad, Hazel The Witch, Miss Quackfaster and Beagle Boys** are







*The Duck World Of Disney*

unforgettable. The value of money and our desire to get is all shown with Uncle Scrooge as shown in Duck Tales. The new way to look to a metropolitan city was also shown in **Duck Tales** in **Duckburg**.

A pioneer and innovator and the possessor of one of the most fertile imaginations the world has ever known, Walt Disney, along with members of his staff, received more than 950 honors and citations from every nation in the world, including 48 Academy Awards and seven Emmys in his lifetime. Walt Disney's personal awards included honorary degrees from Harvard, Yale, the University of Southern California, and UCLA; the Presidential Medal of Freedom; France's Legion of Honor and Officer d'Academie decorations; Thailand's Order of the Crown; Brazil's Order of the Southern Cross; Mexico's Order of the Aztec Eagle; and the Showman of the World Award from the National Association of Theatre Owners.

Walt Disney's success can be credited to four things: hard work, panache for details, extraordinary imagination and some luck. His intention for enthusiasm would have gone on endlessly had it not been for the fatal illness that suddenly seized him in the midst of this hectic activity. It was only because of Disney giving break to some of the famous music personalities that have their own position in this music world like **Backstreet Boys**, **Boy zone**, **Britney spears**, **Anastacia**, **Christina Aguilera**, **N'SYNC**, etc. Through Walt Disney' creations the future generations will continue to celebrate what he once described as " the precious, ageless something in every human being which makes us play with children's toys and laugh at silly things and sing in the bathtub and dream." And to children all over the world he will always be the one that actually brought fairyland into their lives. The morals explained by Walt Disney through his cartoons are very valuable. Their emotions carry us to new horizons across the heart where we not only find happiness but we cry when we want to and laugh when we want to without any restriction!

Compiled by:  
**Rahul Sharma,**  
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## PETRONAS TOWERS - ABOVE ALL!

When someone mentions the world's tallest building, what springs to mind? For anyone who hasn't been keeping up with such things, the Empire State Building usually comes top of the list. As it happens, the title has moved once or twice in recent years, most recently being held by the Sears Tower in Chicago. But always the building in question was in the United States - land of the skyscraper. Ten years ago, six of the world's ten tallest buildings were in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York. Today, however, American architectural marvels such as the Empire State Building and Seattle's AT&T Gateway Center are being dwarfed by projects in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Seoul.

The latest building to take the honour is located not in the US, but in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Designed by New Haven-based Cesar Pelli & Associates, Petronas Towers has become the tallest skyscraper on the globe at a staggering 88 stories and 450 meters high. Costing a whopping US\$1.2bn and uniquely designed by Cesar Pelli & Associates, it rises to 1,483ft (451.9m) in height and is all of 33ft higher than the Sears Tower.

### GRAND OPENING

42nd MERDEKA DAY / INDEPENDENCE DAY

AUGUST 31st, 1999

The world's tallest building came alive when it was presented to the world amidst a display of scintillating fireworks and a spectacular light and sound show in an opening ceremony that was filled with pomp and splendor. The five-minute light and sound display is play entitled "A Vision Realized" traced the efforts of the nation in realizing many of the projects that have become the nation's pride.

The laminated blue glass paneled windows of the awe-inspiring towers shone as Prime Minister Datuk Seri & Dr Mahathir Mohamad officially opened the latest Malaysian physical and economic landmark.

Situated in a prime location in the capital, the gleaming 420m Petronas Twin Towers, occupies a total built-up area 341,760 sq. m. (3.7 mn sq. ft.), a symbol of the nation soaring success it exemplifies Malaysia's sky-high ambitions towards the new millennium. It symbolized how far the country had come from a country of paddy fields and tin mines to one on the verge of industrialization.

Straining their necks to look upwards, thousands of Malaysians gathered in front of the 88-storey monumental towers as laser beams shone high into the sky to illuminate the country's coming-of-age.

### ABOUT THE ARCHITECT

Designed by Cesar Pelli & Associates (US) in association with KLCC architects. Cesar Pelli, former dean of Yale University's School of Architecture, also designed Canary Wharf in London, and the World Financial Center in Manhattan, New York City.

### THE INSPIRATION

The Towers were designed to symbolize strength and grace using geometric principles typified in Islamic architecture. It is composed of two rotated and superimposed squares with small circular infill. These geometric figures have been described by architects as symbolizing unity, harmony, stability and rationality - all important principles of Islam.

Like the exterior design, the Towers' entrance design was also inspired by the country's cultural heritage, incorporating contemporary Malaysian motifs adapted from traditional handicrafts such as "songket" and timber carvings. The overall character of the building is high-tech and international but distinctively Malaysian.

### CONSTRUCTION INNOVATIONS:

Completed in 1997, the Twin Towers are a striking glass-and-steel combination with floor plans based on an eight-pointed star. One of the first challenges of construction was anchoring of the Towers to the ground. The bedrock beneath the site was feared to be very irregular & Thornton-Tomasetti, the structural engineers, suggested relocating the towers about 200 feet (60 meters) so that could bear on soil.

For the new location, they designed an underground forest of 'friction' piles to provide greater distribution of the Towers' weight. Over the piles was poured a reinforced concrete foundation mat, upon which the Towers rest. The Towers are framed with a structure of concrete core walls & columns, which according to Engineers, was the best choice for several reasons. In Malaysia, the local Contractors on the job were more familiar & comfortable working with concrete than with Steel.

Inside the 6-storey tower retail podium, music lovers have access to an 864-seat concert hall (the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas - a venue of architectural and acoustic distinction), an interactive petroleum discovery center (PETROSAINS) will be made ready for science buffs and an art gallery. The Towers were topped-out in March 1996 and occupation began in early 1997. Tower One is currently being occupied by PETRONAS, the state-owned petroleum corporation. PETRONAS' associate companies are occupying towers Two





while the remaining space has been leased out to Multinationals.

WEBB TEAM'S EFFORTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PETRONAS TOWER

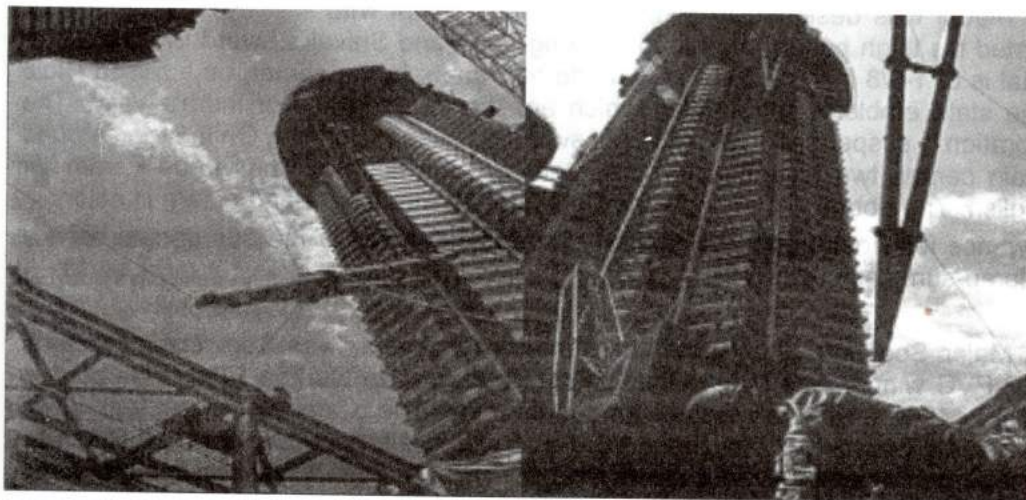
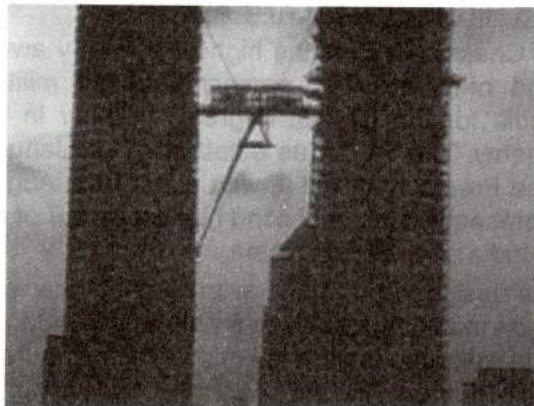
When it came to the mammoth task of installing all the security and data wiring for the project Webb Electronics was selected to supply and install all the security and data cabling for an intelligent building environment.

The sheer size of the project was daunting to begin with, necessitating the supply, installation and testing of almost 700km of cable, including fibre, co-ax, Cat 5 and telephone cabling. This infrastructure was designed to serve such things as security cameras, smart card readers, door entry controls, and almost 6000 voice and data communications points. All horizontal data cabling on each of the 88 floors of both towers was Belden, Cat 5 copper is connected to a



'vertical fibre' backbone running up each of the towers.

"The unique construction challenges presented by the Towers also impacted on the design of the structured cabling system. In effect, we had to design the system as we went along. As these required us to make a number of on the spot decisions as to how we could accommodate those changes within our design" says Webb. The shape of the Towers also meant that every single floor was slightly different than the one below it, meaning that Webb



could not simply produce a 'standard' design template for each floor.

In the spirit of Lao Tse, the Chinese philosopher, "Architecture's power lies not in its physical powers but instead in the space created by those walls."

Compiled by:  
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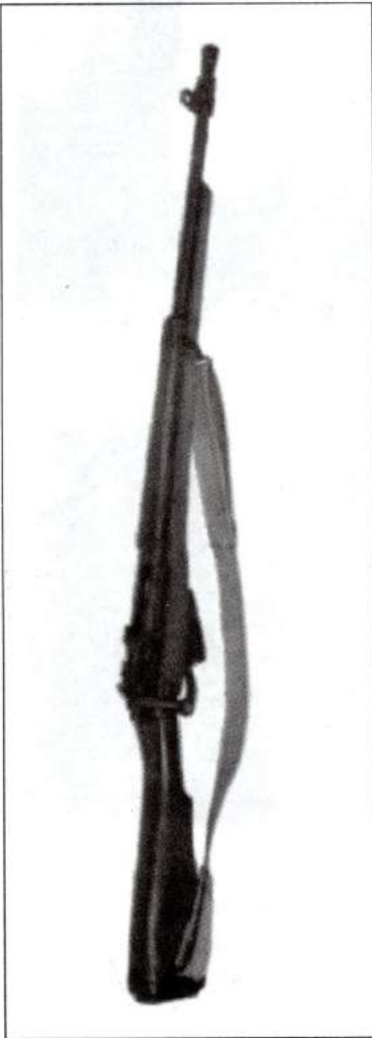




## **The Sagas Of Courage**

**"They gave their lives so that we can live"**

*This story celebrates the gallant life and times of Param Vir Chakra winners of Himachal Pradesh, the state which has given hundreds of martyrs to the nation.*



In the scorching noon of June, when a common man takes a nap amidst air-conditioners, a soldier at the western border of Rajasthan gives regular sweating but cautious patrols. In the shuddering nights of December, when we all pack ourselves in cozy blankets, a warrior at Siachen replies back to extremist enemies of the country day and night.

Whatever are the weathers, whatever celebration or catastrophe his family is in, this soldier has never been strayed from guarding our nation and its subjects. Although every soldier's life and service is priceless and deserves not only appreciation but also worship, some of them are born fighters. The country has always honored such Param Virs or extremely brave individuals. This feature takes a look at Param Vir Chakra (PVC) winners of Himachal Pradesh, the place which has seen huge enrollment of its people in Indian Army and allied services.

### **PVC: NATION'S HIGHEST GALLANT AWARD**

The Param Vir Chakra (PVC) is the highest gallantry award for officers and other enlisted personnel of all military branches of India for the highest degree of valour in the presence of enemy. The PVC was established on January 26, 1950, by the President of India, with effect from August 15, 1947, and presently it is the second highest award of the government of India after Bharat Ratna.

The medal was designed by Mrs. Savitri Khanolkar who was married to an Indian Army officer. By sheer coincidence, the first PVC was awarded to her son-in-law Major Som Nath Sharma for his bravery in the Kashmir operations in November 1947.

The medal was designed to symbolize Rishi Dadichi who donated his thigh bones to gods for making Vajra and Shivaji's sword Bhawani. The medal is of 1-3/8 inch radius and is made of bronze. In the center, on a raised circle is the state emblem, surrounding which are the four replicas of Indra's Vajra. The decoration is suspended from a straight swiveling suspension bar. On the rear, around a plain center, two legends are separated by lotus flowers. The words Param Vir



Chakra are written in Hindi and English. The ribbon which holds the PVC is of 32 mm length and purple in color.

The award carries a cash allowance for those under the rank of second lieutenant (or the appropriate service equivalent) and, in some cases, a lump-sum cash award.

### **PVC WINNERS FROM HP**

The first PVC winner (1947), Major Somnath Sharma of 4th Kumaon Regiment, was from Dadh, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. The second HP PVC winner was Major Dhan Singh Thapa of 1/8 Gurkha Rifles was born in Shimla and was awarded the medal in 1962 for his services in Sino-Indian war. The Kargil war of 1999 saw two heroes of HP to be awarded PVC namely Captain Vikram Batra, 13 JAK Rifles (Palampur, Kangra) and Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, also 13 JAK Rifles (Bakan, Bilaspur). A more elaborative portrayal of their chivalrous times is given below.





### **MAJOR SOMNATH SHARMA:**

Major Somnath Sharma, son of Major General Amarnath Sharma, was born on 31 January 1923, in Dadh, District Kangra. He was commissioned in the Kumaon Regiment on 22 February 1942. During the Second World War, he had fought in the Arakan Operations. His brother, General V.N. Sharma, served as the Chief of Army Staff during 1988 to 1990. On 22 October 1947, Pakistan launched the tribal invasion of Jammu & Kashmir. To save the State from a tribal invasion, which was approaching the valley at a very fast pace, India dispatched troops to Srinagar.

The D Company of 4 Kumaon, led by Major Somnath Sharma, was airlifted to Srinagar on October 31st. When his company was asked to move to Srinagar, Major Sharma's arm was in plaster. He had suffered a fracture on the hockey ground and was advised rest till the plaster was removed. But he insisted on being with his company at this crucial hour and was allowed to go.

D Coy led by Major Sharma which had taken up position south of Badgam was asked to stay on in the area till 1500 hours. At 1435 hours, D Coy was subjected to firing from some houses of Bagdam village. The Coy did not return fire for fear of killing innocent people of the village. A large force of the enemy, about 700 strong, appeared from a depression to the west of his position. It attacked with coy with small arms, mortars and heavy automatics. Major Somnath Sharma understood the gravity of the situation and the imminent threat to both Srinagar town and the airfield was looming large before his eyes. He rushed across the open ground to his sections, exposing himself to enemy fire. The company held on for six hours against heavy odds.

When heavy casualties affected the firing power of the company, Major Sharma, with his right hand in plaster, took upon himself the task of filling the magazines and issuing them to men, operating light machine guns. While he was busy fighting the enemy, a mortar shell exploded on the ammunition near him. His last message to Brigade HQ, received a few moments before he was killed was, "The enemy is only 50 yards from us. We are heavily outnumbered. We are under devastating fire. I shall not withdraw an inch but will fight to our last man and our last round." His answer is now part of the Army lore.

Major General Amarnath Sharma received India's first and the highest war-time gallantry medal, Param Vir Chakra, on behalf of his brave son. The citation to Major Somnath Sharma reads, 'His leadership, gallantry and tenacious defense were such that his men were inspired to fight the enemy outnumbering them by seven to one for six hours, one hour of which was after this gallant officer had been killed'.

### **MAJOR DHAN SINGH THAPA**

Major Dhan Singh Thapa, born on 10 April 1928 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, was commissioned in the 8 Gorkha Rifles on 28 August 1949. The Sirijap valley, north of the Pangong Lake in Ladakh, was considered vital for the defense of Chushul airfield. The 1/8 Gorkha Rifles had outposts there to thwart any enemy encroachment in the area. One of these outposts named Sirijap-1 was held by a platoon of 'C' Company under the command of Major Dhan Singh Thapa when the Chinese attack came on 21 October 1962. At 0600 hours on 21 October 1962, the Chinese opened a barrage of artillery and mortar fire over Sirijap-1 post. Some shells fell on the command post and damaged the wireless set. This put the post out of commission. The Chinese then attacked the outpost in overwhelming numbers. Major Thapa and his men repulsed the attack, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. But the Chinese mounted another attack in greater numbers.



Major Thapa again rose to the occasion and repulsed the attack, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. The third Chinese attack was, however, more powerful and intense. The enemy now came with tanks in support of the infantry. The platoon post was now in a much depleted strength owing to the casualties suffered in earlier attacks. But the post held out till the ammunition lasted. When it was finally overrun by the Chinese, he jumped out of his trench and killed many intruders in hand-to-hand fighting. He was eventually overpowered and killed. Major Thapa was believed to have been killed in this engagement, and the original citation reflects this. He was later discovered to have been taken prisoner by Chinese soldiers and after his release from the POW camp, he resumed





his military career. He retired as Lieutenant-Colonel.

For his gallantry act, Major Dhan Singh Thapa was honoured with the highest wartime gallantry medal, Param Vir Chakra. His citation reads, 'Major Thapa's cool courage, conspicuous fighting qualities and leadership were in the highest traditions of our Army'.

#### **CAPTAIN VIKRAM BATRA**

Captain Vikram Batra, son of Mr. G. L. Batra, hails from Palampur, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

During summer of 1999, Pakistani soldiers and Pakistan-backed mercenaries occupied a sizable portion of heights in the Kargil and Drass sector. The idea was to occupy the region by force. It was in the Kargil war that on 20 Jun 99, 13 Jammu And Kashmir Rifles was tasked to capture Point 5140 in Kargil. Capt Vikram Batra, in an audacious move, decided to attack the enemy position from the rear along a sheer cliff face.

Undaunted by fire, the officer, followed by five of his men climbed up and hurled two grenades into the enemy Sangar. As three enemy soldiers came out, he single handedly engaged them in close fire fight and killed all three. Mortally wounded, he went back and called forward his men, regrouped them and led them to capture Point 5140.

For his sustained display of the most conspicuous personal bravery and junior leadership of the highest order in the face of the enemy, Capt Vikram Batra has been awarded the Param Vir Chakra posthumously, reads his citation.



#### **RIFLEMAN SANJAY KUMAR**

Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, son of Mr. Durga Ram, a resident of Bakan, Ghumarwin in Bilaspur was the leading Scout of the team tasked to capturing Area Flat Top on 04 Jul 99 during Kargil operations. Having scaled the cliff, the team was pinned down by auto fire of an enemy bunker, 150 meters away.

With complete disregard to personal safety, he crawled up the ledge and charged the bunker. Hit in his chest and forearm, he continued to charge. After cleaning the first bunker, he picked-up the enemy machine-gun and charged the second enemy bunker. Three enemy soldiers were killed on the spot.

For his sustained display of the most conspicuous personal bravery and gallantry of the highest order in the face of the enemy, Rifleman Sanjay Kumar has been awarded the

Param Vir Chakra, reads his citation.

#### **JAI HIND JAI JAWAN**

Perhaps the best way to honor the bravery and heroism of these patriots, it can be argued, is not even PVC, but the continuation of their tradition of allegiance and love for the country by every citizen.



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### Guffaw !!!

- \* A boy was crossing the road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent down, picked up the frog and put it into his pocket. The frog spoke up again, "If you kiss me i will turn into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week." The boy took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to his pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me I'll turn into a beautiful princess, I'll stay with you and do ANYTHING you want." Again the boy took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess that I'll stay with you for a week and do anything you want. Why don't you kiss me?" The boy said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog is cool."
- \* Three friends - a surgeon, an engineer, and a politician - were discussing which of their professions was the oldest. The surgeon said "Eve was created from Adam's rib - a surgical procedure." The engineer replied: "before Adam and Eve, order was created out of chaos, and that was an engineering job." The politician said, "Yes, but who do you suppose created the chaos?"
- \* Three engineers and three managers are traveling by train to a conference. At the station, the three managers, each buy tickets and watch as the three engineers buy only a single ticket." How are three people going to travel on only one ticket?" asks a manager. "Watch and you'll see," answers an engineer.  
They all board the train. The managers take their respective seats but all three engineers cram into a bathroom and close the door behind them. Shortly after the train has departed, the TTE (Travel Ticket Examiner) comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the bathroom door and says, "Ticket, please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. TTE takes it and moves on. The managers saw this and agreed it was quite a clever idea. So after the conference, the managers decide to copy the engineers on the return trip and save some money.  
When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip. To their astonishment, the engineers don't buy a ticket at all.  
"How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed manager.  
"Watch and you'll see," answers an engineer.  
When they board the train, the three managers cram into a bathroom and the three engineers cram into another one nearby. The train departs. Shortly afterwards, one of the engineers leaves the bathroom and walks over to the bathroom where the managers are hiding.  
He knocks on the door and says, "Ticket, please."
- \* A Civil Engineer & a Computer Engineer were sitting next to each other on an airplane.  
The Computer Engineer leans over to the Civil Engineer and asks if he wants to play a fun game. The Civil Engineer just wants to sleep so he politely declines, turns away and tries to sleep. The Computer fellow persists. He explains, "I ask a question and if you don't know the answer you pay me Rs.50. Then you ask a question and if I don't know the answer I'll pay you Rs.50." Again the Civil Engineer politely declines and tries to sleep.  
The Computer Engg, now somewhat agitated, says, "O.K., if you don't know the answer you pay me Rs.50 and if I don't know the answer I pay you Rs.500!"  
Now, that got the Civil Engineer's attention, so he agrees to the game.  
The Computer Engg. asks the first question, "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" Then Civil Engineer doesn't say a word and just hands the Computer Engg Rs. 50.  
Now, it's the Civil Engineer's turn.  
He asks the Computer Engg., "What goes up a hill with three legs and comes down on four?" The Programmer looks at him with a puzzled look, takes out his laptop computer, looks through all his references and after about an hour wakes the civil engineer and hands him Rs. 500.  
The Engineer politely takes the Rs. 500 turns away and tries to return to sleep.  
The Programmer, a little miffed, asks, "Well what's the answer to the question?"  
Without a word, the Civil Engineer reaches into his wallet, hands Rs. 50 to the Programmer, turns away and returns to sleep.
- \* My Di's cooking has always been the target of family jokes. One evening, she prepared dinner a bit too quickly; the kitchen filled





with smoke and smoke detector went off. Although both of us (me and my brother) have received fire training, none of us responded to the alarm. Annoyed, she stormed through the house in search of us.

She found us in bathroom, washing hands over the loud buzzing of smoke alarm, she asked us to identify the sound.

"It's smoke detector", we replied in unison.

"Do you know what that sound means"? She demanded.

"Sure", my brother replied. "Dinners ready"

- \* One of my thirty something cousin recently got his first pair of glasses "just to see at night". When he went to renew his driver's license, he thought he could pass the eye exams without them.

Carefully evading the chart, he was positive he had passed until the man administering the test said, "Let me give you a hint, Sir. Those are numbers, not letters".

- \* When my friend was eight, his father gave him a haircut but made a terrible mess of it. Later at a barber shop where they went to repair the damage, my friend proudly announced that his father had cut his hair. The barber took one look and asked, "what did he use-a knife and fork".

- \* **LOUD MAD OR SAD**

The psychology instructor had just finished a lecture on mental health and was giving an oral test.

Speaking specifically about manic depression, he asked, "How would you diagnose a patient who walks back and forth screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, then sits in a chair weeping uncontrollably the next?"

A young man in the rear raised his hand and answered, "A basketball coach".

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*1) What's the difference between Electrical Engineers and Architects?*

*A: Electrical Engineers build weapons, Architects build targets.*

*2) To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the Engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be*





## On Logoleptic Verbivorism Of Wordaholic Lexicomaniac Linguaphiles!!

*What is common between the words plica, vug, ogee, redd and mecca? Well, they all have letters in reverse alphabetical order! Just like this, there are more interesting words out there waiting for you. And no! We haven't cooked up all this philological stuff - look up into your dictionary and you will be baffled!*

When John Keats wrote 'A thing of beauty is a joy for ever; its loveliness increases, it will never' (Endymion, Book 1), he meant many odd things that can constitute things of beauty. Obviously it depends, well, on one's own interests. For a logophile (Gr logos word + philos loving), enjoying the magic and music, the sounds and stories of words is something so enthralling and that is precisely (you would have surmised by now) what we will be dealing with here.

And puhleez! This is not another hurly-burly exposition which gives you ten tenets for increasing your vocabulary! The aim is to introduce you to some unspoken facts about English words without knowing which your 'wordy' life can not be so exciting.

### **"There Is No Butter In Butterfly": Misleading Words**

Ever misspell a word in your school report that cost you a grade? Ever make a typo in an office memo for which you paid a heavy price? Don't be disheartened if you think you may never master the whimsies of the English language. Take comfort in the fact that there's no universal god of orthography who once decreed, "And ye shall spell potato as p-o-t-a-t-o." Indeed, there are many words which have been formed precisely through this process, that is to say, erroneously since once they were misspelled (interestingly, correctly spelled words have been lost!). Take niddering (a coward; the word comes from ME/Medieval English nothing which was once a correctly spelled word), helpmeet (a helpmate esp. wife; comes from the phrase "an help meet for him" (i.e. a help suitable for him); it was incorrectly written as "an help-meet for him" and erroneously interpreted as "a helper for him") and derring-do (daring acts, from ME dorryng do (daring to do) misprinted as derryng do and interpreted as a noun form).

But then, there are words which directly appear quite misleading. For instance, the Canary Islands got their name from dogs (and not the bird Canary!), a light-year is a unit of distance (not time), and a triolet is a poem of, well, eight lines. These are red-herring words that appear to mislead us in the beginning but if we look deeper everything becomes obvious. Triolets are so called because the key line in the poem appears thrice. Find-out what makes 'attic salt' (graceful wit), prick-song (written song) and histrionic (related to acting) so different in meaning compared to what can be perceived from their spellings.

Also, mostly variants of more common words, some words may appear to be misspellings of everyday words. They will add to your verbal arsenal, especially if you are playing a game like Scrabble, or may come in handy if your keyboard happens to have a broken key! Take passible (susceptible to sensation), monestrous (related to mammals which experience one estrus), assoil (pardon), eagre (high tidal wave), calendar (a cloth-machine), quean (disreputable woman), dragoon (a trooper) and navvy (laborer). So check out what meaning do hight, angary, stile, cingular, specie, alarum and wether carry?

Equally confusing are the words formed by the process known as back-formation. A back-formation is a word created by removing rather than adding an element, e.g. the verb "to edit"

has been formed from the noun "editor" (unlike, for example, the usual way nouns are created, e.g., 'lover' from the verb 'love'). Back-formations are often denounced when they first appear, but many times they fill a real need. Consider emote (back-formation from (b.-f.f.) emotion), sass (b.-f.f. sassy), aesthete (b.-f.f. aesthetic), dentulous (b.-f.f. edentulous) and esthesia (b.-f.f. anesthesia).

### **"Is There A Vowel-less Word?": Rare And Ridiculous Words**

There are words which have very unusual arrangement of letters. Take verisimilitude (a word with alternating consonants and vowels), DIOXIDE (a word which reads same upside down), indistinguishability (a word with six 'i's; also, indivisibility), yob (rowdy youth; a word coined by spelling a word backwards; also mho), syzygy (shortest word with three 'y's), gyp (the only word made up entirely of letters with descenders; a descender letter has protrusions to lower row of writing like g, y, q, p, as against b, d, h, etc.), spendthrift (the longest word whose normal and phonetic spellings are same; phonetically it is SPEND-thrift), brougham (the most silent letters in a row; pronounced as 'broom'), logology (If you assign a value of 1 to the letter a, 2 to b, and continue up to 26 for z, logology averages 13.5, the perfect midpoint of the alphabet) and kine (plural of cow; a word having no letter similar to its singular, cow); they all have something unique to notice!

Coming to the last word kine, we have some more words which have irregular plurals as numen (pl. numina), opus (opera/opuses), virtuoso (virtuosi), occiput (occipita), trousseau (trousseaux), chrysalis (chrysalides), os (awra, ossa and ossar depending on the meaning), lemma (lemmata) and cherub (cherubim).

If we forget to mention words in which all vowels occur once and only once, then this section may appear incomplete. It is not difficult to find them out but the fact remains that they are not in abundance although we neglect their beauty when we come across them everyday. Most of them are suffixed with 'ious' and 'ion', start with a vowel itself, are plural forms or proper nouns like abstemious, ossuaries, arterious, facetious, annelidous, armigerous, epuration, inqurate, uncomplimentary, education, euphoria, cauliflower, Uvarovite, Mozambique, Euphorbia and Praseodymium. 'Perfect and pure' examples in this category are somewhat hard to find. My list includes subcontinental, duoliteral and permutation. Can you find more?

A tougher challenge may be to find words which have no vowel in their spellings (no acronyms please!). One may quote three-letter words which often end with 'y' as in fly, why, pry and cry. But what about gyp (fraud), cwm (natural amphitheatre), syzygy (pair of opposites; the word is also a great wrist exercise if written in cursive!) and crwth (a violin). But then people forget that as per modern English grammar, 'w' and 'y' are semi-vowels. Most of the vowels-less words are of Welsh origin wherein, these two letters are actually vowels (Here, note that one Welsh consonant with no English equivalent is 'LL' as in Lloyd and Llewellyn!).

Continuing our word game, here's an exercise for you, can





you find some words which sprout other words when beheaded. Easy-peasy: erose, ligneous, scop, junto, pelf, vaward and sallow! What if the job is reverse; I mean if you find out any word which can be formed by placing a letter before a given word. Like tirade from irade; so what about ubiety, ambit, estival and lanate?

A distinct category is 'kangaroo words' not because they originated in Australia but because they carry smaller synonyms of them within their spellings like 'appropriate' has 'apt'. The joey word has to have its letters in order within the parent kangaroo word, but if all the letters are adjacent, e.g. enjoy/joy, it doesn't qualify. Other kangaroo words are respite (rest), splotch (spot), curtail (cut), instructor (tutor), feasted (fed/ate), scion (son), indolent (idle), frangible (fragile/frail) and amicable (amiable).

Lastly for unusual words; guess what makes words like extemporize, plausible, impresario and macroscopic so different? Well, they are some of those few words which need both fingers to type using a qwerty keyboard!

### **"I Am Geoff But Call Me Jeff": When Pronunciation Makes A Difference**

Try saying aloud the word 'sixish' quickly six times. How did you fare? May be not so perfectly. You guessed it right - many words are different only because they can not be pronounced easily and are like a single-word tongue-twister. Measure the elasticity of your tongue with indubitability, vicissitudinous, latitudinarian and indefatigability.

Remember last time when you described your friend's profession in one of those glitterati socialite evenings as philogyny (fondness of women) instead of phylogeny (evolution science)! Well, don't attribute your pal's embarrassment to yourself for that. In fact, many words have quite similar pronunciations that we are left confused about them. They are not homonyms (different spelling words that have same pronunciation). They are twin-words: malefic-mellific, immanent-imminent, acerbate-acervate, provenance-prevenance, perspicacious-perspicuous and contumacious-contumelious.

In many languages like Spanish and Hindi, words are spoken just as they are spelled. But, English is too strange in this context and it is not uncommon for a novice to find words with altogether weird pronunciation. The list is endless and even a first grade student can give us examples like 'but' and 'put'. But can you notice some more fascinatingly pronounced words like: segue, victual, contretemps, demarche, daedal, maieutic and brougham! Every year thousands of words with misleading pronunciation appear in US National Spelling Bee contest and only a better understanding and love for words help participants to tackle these out in this prestigious and nail-biting contest. For more information on Spelling Bee and words appearing in it, log on to [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com).

Continuing our pronounciational investigation, some words take too much time to speak out. These are exceptionally long words or sesquipedalian words. Most of the longest words in English are names of chemical compounds, names of diseases or technical words, and not very interesting to remember or talk about. But here are some of the longest words that are fun to write and recite: deinstitutionalization (removing from institutional life), honorificabilitudinitas (a grandiose extension of honorificabilitas or honorableness; this is the longest word Shakespeare ever used: see Love's Labor's Lost, Act 5, Scene 1), antidisestablishmentarianism (properly, opposition to the disestablishment of the Church of England (rare): but popularly cited as an example of a long word) and floccinaucinihilipilification (action or habit of estimating as

worthless; from flocci, nauci, nihili, pili words signifying at a small price' or at nothing' enumerated in a well-known rule of the Eton Latin Grammar). As an aside, it is worth noting that most of the time, the only purpose these words serve is to be cited as examples of longest words.

Words longer than sesquipedalian words have been named as hippopotomonstrosesquipedalian words. Examples are (apart from the category name itself): supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (nonsense-word used esp. by children, now means fantastic; made popular by the Walt Disney film 'Mary Poppins' in 1964) and pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis (pneumoconiosis caused by the inhalation of very fine silicate dust; this is the longest word in Oxford English Dictionary). For those doubting the validity of these words, calling them made-up words (aren't all the words made up?), please see the book "Mrs. Byrne's dictionary of unusual, obscure, and preposterous words". It is a delightful compendium of bizarre, curious, and outlandish words.

Contrary to this, some words are too short to remember yet they are beautiful. They are often monosyllabic and we use most of them daily. Some of those which we don't are: erg (energy unit), lee (shelter), kip (to sleep), dun (a color), maw (jaw of a carnivore), tor (peak of a bared hill) and ret (to soak to moisture).

### **"A Thank-you-ma'am may save you from a road accident": Towards More Picturesque Speech**

There are some words (or should we say group of words!) which seem very unreal like ha-ha (sunk fence; as per etymological research, it comes out of the sound Ha! which comes out when one gets trapped into such a fence), aa (lava having a rough surface), thank-you-ma'am (a bump or depression in a road), la-di-la (pretentious) and papilionaceous (pertaining to butterfly). Some more picturesque words/phrases-turned-into-a-word that make conversation or writing juicier and more colorful are johnny-on-the-spot (a person who is ready at hand whenever needed), high-muck-a-muck (an important but arrogant person), dyed-in-the-wool (uncompromising), bric-a-brac (an antique collection), will-o'-the-wisp (a delusive goal; also jack-o'-lantern) and hop-o'-my-thumb (a very small person).

However use of some words may embarrass you if you don't know their correct meanings. Such seemingly risqué words are vomitorium (passage to amphitheatre), urinator (diver), defalcate (embezzle), mensuration (measurement of geometric quantities) and castigate (to criticize severely). Contrary to all these dirty-sounding words, there are some high-sounding words which actually describe a rather simple idea and prompt you to ask 'Why make life easy?'. Substitute these for the indicated simple words and watch the fun: philoprogenitive (prolific), comestible (edible), splendiferous (splendid), pulchritude (physical beauty), apothegm (maxim) and pronunciamiento (pffclamation).

True, you may dislike some words because of irritation caused by mispronouncing them. But on the other side, you may love some words because they are simply flip-flop and so funny, for example, hoity-toity (giddy), hugger-mugger (confused), topsy-turvy (confusing), hurry-scurry (turmoil) and namby-pamby (dull). In fact, the editors at Verbatim: The Language Quarterly asked word lovers to pick the word they think sounds the best. Turns out "mellifluous" took top honors, and was followed closely by "ubiquitous" and "serendipitous". Other words that tickle the tongue include "callipygian", "conundrum", "flummox", "isthmus" and, of course, "tintinnabulation". My pick? Well, what about "assonance" and "clicketyclack"!





### Tracing Etymologies

An English dictionary is like a fast-food outlet where you can have varieties like Italian spaghetti, Spanish tortilla, Yiddish pancake, Russian vodka, German hasenpfeffer and Japanese sashimi. Meaning, English language is also a potpourri of words from different languages. At some point of history when different cultures merged, these were taken from the respective language as such and hence are aptly called loanwords (words we borrow from other languages but never return).

When an ambitious entrepreneur in Silicon Valley raises capital and an industrious farmer in an African hamlet raises cattle, they are not doing something very different, etymologically speaking. The words cattle, capital (and chattel) are of the same parentage. They are derived from the same word root - all are ultimately from Latin caput (head). Such words are called cognates. On the other hand, we have false cognates, also known as false friends. These are words that appear to be related due to similar spellings and meanings but have completely different origins. Consider sacrilegious (violating sacredness; differs from 'religious' but has roots same as sacred, saint and consecrate), scission (division; from root ME scindere (to cut) differs from scissors which come from the root OFr cisorium (cutting tool)), oust (to expel; differs from out but is related to obstetrics and obstacle), impregnable (strong; differs from impregnate which has also given us words like generate, engine, indigenous and germ), mellifluous (free-flowing; comes from root mel (honey) and has cousins like marmalade, molasses and the unlikely mildew also, but differs from melodious which comes from melos (song)).

Pakistani President Gen. Musharraf secured lexicographic fame last year when journalists used a freshly-minted term 'Musharrafic' after him. Whether this term sticks, only time will tell. But that's precisely how new terms are coined. While many fade like last year's fashion, some find their places in the venerated lexicon. Here are a few coined words coined by people of differing professions, we frequently and infrequently hear of: esemplastic (coined by poet S. T. Coleridge), hotsy-totsy (cartoonist B. D. Beck), psychobabble (journalist R. D. Rosen), ethology (zoologist I. G. S. Hilaire), eustasy (geologist E. Suess), Mcjob (novelist D. Coupland), locust years (Brit. PM W. Churchill), frabjous (writer L. Carroll; also from him, galumph and bandersnatch), doublethink (author G. Orwell; also, newspeak) and teetotaler (activist R. Turner), apart from (obviously) all those scientific words coined by scientists and inventors. However, many new words have been termed as 'legal' since they have been formed using "combining forms"; observe these and decipher their meanings: auto-bio-graphy, miso-cainea, pili-form, ichno-logy, mis-andry and chiro-mancy!

### "Diplomacy Anagrams To 'Mad Policy'!": Words About Words

Nothing is supreme. When the language has been so cruel, liberal, harsh and frank in giving each act, thing and person a befitting word, it has never shown nepotism to its own children, that is to say, words themselves. Surely, there are words used to describe words themselves. They are called meta-words. While anagram is the most famous of the meta-words, palindrome (words that spell same backwards; e.g. level, rotor, eve, race car etc.) is the most interesting one. The palindromic sentences are somewhat more famous. Take cue at: "Madam I'm Adam", "Go hang a salami; I'm a lasagna hog", "Doc, note, I dissent. A fast never prevents a fatness. I diet on cod", "Was it a car or a cat I saw", "Devil Dennis sinned, lived" and "A man, a plan, a canal,

Panama!". Palindromes make you exult "Ah ha!", "Oh, ho!", "Hey, yeh!", "Yo boy!", "Yay!", "Wow!", "Tut-Tut!", "Har-har! Rah-rah!", "Heh-heh!", and "Hoorah! Har! Ooh!" and "Ahem! It's time. Ha!". A closer cousin of palindrome is a semordnilap which when spelled backwards creates a new word (unlike yob and mho they are NOT "coined" by spelling backwards but just marvelous coincidences!). Examples include avid/diva, desserts/stressed, debut/tubed, strop/ports, nonet/tenon, oger/ergo and war/raw.

Similarly cousins of anagrams are aptagrams (words which anagram into their own synonyms as aboard/abroad, note/tone, abode/adobe, etc.) and pangrams (sentence that uses all 26 alphabets). Remember, in your ED class you had read one pangram: 'The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog', it employs 33 letters. So decreasing the count one-by-one we have: 'Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs' (thirty-two letters), 'Jackdaws love my big sphinx of quartz' (thirty-one), 'How quickly daft jumping zebras vex' (thirty), 'Quick wafting zephyrs vex bold Jim' (twenty-nine), 'Waltz, nymph, for quick jigs vex Bud' (twenty-eight), 'Bawds jog, flick quartz, vex nymph' (twenty-seven) and finally, 'Mr. Jock, TV quiz Ph.D., bags few lynx' (twenty-six! Also, 'Cwm fjord bank glyphs vext quiz!'). (If you can come up with a twenty-six letter pangram that makes easy sense and does not resort to names, initials, or mutant words, please rush it to me at vizziee@yahoo.com).

### "August And august Are Capitonyms...Ever Heard Of This?": Words On Wordplay

Wanna know more words about wordplay? Acrostic (poem where first letters of each line convey some meaning; read Lewis Carroll works for examples), etymon (root-word), logogram (written sign that expresses some word like '4' represents 'four'; also ideogram, logograph), metathesis (word-formation by transposing letters like dirt from drit, scart from scrat, prad from paard, bort from brot, gride from gird etc.), dysphemisms/euphemisms (respectively harsher and soother words for a neutral word e.g. Holocaust (dysphemism used by Jewish historians) and Final Solution (euphemism by Nazis) for 'massacre of Jews') and holophrastic (one-word sentence like "Go.") are some more meta-words to add to your voracious diet.

Many fabulous words are categorized as 'nyms'. See, if you can discover instances of these: aptronym, capitonym, contronym, autonym, anthroponym, tautonym, hyponym, charactonym, retronym, eponym, toponym, homonym/homograph and heteronym. Or with -logy/-graphy/-ism/-esis etc. kind of suffixes like: palilogy, battology, haplography, dittography, epenthesis, perinasm/periphrasis, antiphrasis, antanaclasis, paraleipsis, amphibology, tmesis, syllepsis, portmanteaux, anugram, anigram and eisegesis.

### "Hey! Thou Is Cheating!....Or Is This...Pure Magic!": Strange And Forgotten Words

Some words are too hypocritical. They just don't apply on themselves! Like 'palindrome' itself is not a palindrome. 'Anagram' has no single-word anagram. 'Synonym' has no synonyms. 'Thesaurus' doesn't have another word for thesaurus. It is very difficult to remember the spelling of 'mnemonic' itself. 'Onomatopoeia' doesn't sound the way it is. 'Phonetic' isn't spelled the way it is pronounced. 'Abbreviation' itself is such a long word. 'Monosyllabic' has five syllables. 'Hemidemisemiquaver' which describes the shortest note is the longest to pronounce. 'Descender' has only ascender alphabets. 'Opuscul' (smaller work) is bigger than opus (larger work). Baffling! Isn't it?

Many of your friends, who meet you after a long period, would have told you "You are not just the same, guy!". Well, like





people, words also change with time. So some words cheat us in the way that they have changed their meanings with time. Like demagogue (earlier meant popular leader), decimation (earlier meant killing smaller group) and feisty (earlier a contemptuous term). But these words are only street gangs-men. The real dons are those which have completely 'reversed' their meanings with time like egregious, officious, notorious, sycophant, harbinger and garble (Check out their etymological 'reversal' yourself). In linguistic circles these phenomena are called pejoration (semantic change to a negative meaning) and melioration (change to a more positive connotation).

Due to the profound impact and pace of linguistic evolution, many words are known only in their negative forms (may be because of natural human inclination towards negativism!). Let me see if you have ever used these forgotten positive words or at all, sure of their meanings; no doubt you would have always inadvertently used their negatives: ruth (pity; known negative is (k.n.i.) ruthless), sipid (pleasant; k.n.i. insipid), pervious (permeable; k.n.i. impermeable), vincible (conquerable; k.n.i. invincible), furl (roll up; k.n.i. unfurl), maculate (besmirch; k.n.i. immaculate), scrupulous (punctilious; k.n.i. unscrupulous), licit (legal; k.n.i. illicit) and evitable (avoidable; k.n.i. inevitable).

Because of this dubious nature of these words we often begin to suspect some innocent words. Should I wear an inflammable dress or a flammable one? We may suspect flammable and inflammable to be antonyms of each other while truth is just the opposite. Other such same-meaning words which appear to be antonyms of everyday words are: personate/impersonate, tegument/integument, criminate/incriminate, privation/deprivation, candescence/incandescence.

### **"I Often Eighty-six My Old Watches!": When You Can Speak With 'Not-Just-Words'**

It is said that students of words also read numbers since number roots are a source of many a words. So, let me test you if you can identify the meanings of these words and of course numbers hidden in them: quintessence, carillon, travail, redoubtable, coadunate, sexagesimal, decuple, ennead, myriad, bimillenary, googolplex, quinquagenarian, vigesimal, sesquicentennial, hebdomad, lustrum, duodecimal, bissextile, fin-de-siecle and senary. However, some words have been too outrageous in using numbers in their spellings as in catch-22 (dilemmatic situation), eighty-six (discard; also, 86), two-fisted (informal), twenty-twenty (normal vision), four-square (forthright), four-flush (bluff) and two-time (unfaithful). In your elementary mathematics class, you would have certainly read progressions and used formulae to find out the ordinal numbers. Here is one such succession but with 'ordinal words' (note that each word/phrase has a meaning): 'first water', 'second fiddle', 'third degree', 'fourth estate', 'fifth column'. Can you extend the progression now?

### **"What's In A Name?": Eponyms**

Do I favor nepotism? Yes I do. Since out of those many 'nyms', I have chosen only one for a bit detailed discussion. But I just can't help it. They occur so frequently in English language and people, too, love them so much. Since learning them is like listening to a whole story. Eponyms are words derived from names of persons. For example, America was named after Amerigo Vesputsi, Italian navigator. Similarly many inventions, countries, units of physical quantities, laws etc. have been named after famous persons associated with them. We are going to take a look at lesser known eponyms now. It is just your job to find the stories names of persons behind these words. Most of the earlier eponyms are

derived from mythological or ancient persons like circe, methuselah, aristarch, thespian, nemesis, mausoleum and caesarean. Sometimes eponyms are not after a single person but a group or family as in goth, mogul, rover boy, munchkin and berserk.

Even in modern times, eponyms have been evolving from the fictional characters like sad sack (inept soldier), sherlock (detective), zelig (seemingly omnipresent) and yellow journalism (spicy and selling news-stories). Even from real life, persons have consistently lent their names to many words fletcherise (chew thoroughly), grinch (who ruins amusement of others), daltonism (color blindness) and addisonian (elegant writing). Many everyday phrase are also eponyms like Maginot Line (ineffective defense), Hobson's choice, Murphy's law, Zeno's paradox, Peter principle, Parkinson's law, Potemkin village, Pyrrhic victory, Ponzee's scheme, Ockham's razor, sword of Damocles, and Russell's paradox. I particularly like those eponyms where the full name, of fact or fiction, has entered the dictionary since rarely people know of them as in Tommy Atkins (Brit. soldier), Simple Simon (a fool), Simon Legree (brutal taskmaster), Man Friday (a confidant), Jim Crow (discrimination against black), Prince Charming (a man who fulfills all romantic expectations of a woman), Uriah Heep (hypocrite), John Bull/Uncle Sam/Uncle Joe (personification of respectively England/USA/USSR), Benedict Arnold (traitor), Rube Goldberg (contrivance), Mae West (life preserver), John Hancock (signature) and Annie Oakley (a complementary ticket).

So next time when you come across words like randy, tony, bobby, ted and brad, what are you going to tell your friends? Uh! Petty eponyms! But then oops! They are just plain words (check their etymology); coincidentally also nicknames! Contrary to these words, you may also listen something like chandler, wheelwright, bowyer, cooper, sawyer, tinker and fletcher. These are words for professions of yesteryears which, today, exist only as surnames!

### **On Logoleptic Verbivorism Of Wordaholic Lexicomaniac Linguaphiles!!**

The world of words will never be so enthralling if you just mug wordlists up or cram the whole dictionary. In fact, if you are the person who opens the dictionary and finds one word and then goes back to some other related word and then again to some other just as in a Brownian movement (Ya, that's an eponym, but no more eponyms now!), you may not be alien to the fact that each word has a story just like any other person. Learning words while knowing their stories will definitely make you fall in love with them.

As a last exercise, can you now find what's the common theme that connects the words: dotty, horst, bijou, ait and dekho. Well (take the cue from introduction), they all have letters occurring as in normal alphabetical order!

So, Goodbye! Hasta-mañana! Au Revoir! Auf Wiedersehen! A Rivederci! (Ya! They all are loanwords!)

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## THE LIMIT OF SUBRAMANIAN CHANDRASEKHAR

*Geniuses are seldom born; most of them are self-made. The life and times of Nobel Laureate Subramanian Chandrasekhar are an epitome of this as the following story reveals.*



In 1946, a boyish-looking man was driving every week from Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin to the University of Chicago, a distance of 160 kilometers, to teach a class of 2 students, Tsung Dao Lee and Chen Ning Yang. Many wondered why he took trouble to teach these two students and why these students wanted this particular teacher. They had to wait for some years for an explanation. In 1957 the two students were awarded the Noble prize in physics.

The boyish-looking teacher was Subramanian Chandrasekhar, one of the world's leading astrophysicists. Besides making significant contributions to the study of the stars, he has written books that are recognized as classics in physics. He also won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1983.

S. Chandrasekhar was born on October 19, 1910 in Lahore, now in Pakistan. He had his basic education in Madras. From childhood he was fond of reading. While most of his classmates never read books outside the syllabus, he visited the library regularly and read every new book in physics,

even research journals.

Those were 1920's when modern physics was taking birth. There was a flood of new, exiting discoveries. In particular books of such great scientists as Arnold Summerfield and Arthur Compton drew Chandrasekhar to modern physics. And before he was 18 his research papers appeared in renowned scientific journals. By the time he did his B.A. (Hons.) at the Presidency College in Madras, he had many papers to his credit. One of them even appeared in the proceedings of the Royal Society, a rare honour for one so young. In due course, he went to Cambridge as a fellow of Trinity College.

At the age of 27, Chandrasekhar's reputation as a promising astrophysicist was established. When he reached USA in 1937, eminent astronomer and director of Yerkes Observatory, Otoo Sturve, recognized his genius mind and offered him a job at the University of Chicago.

In the world of astrophysics Chandrasekhar is best known for "Chandrasekhar's limit". This imposes a restriction on the size of a highly dense variety of star known as White dwarf. If this type of star has mass in excess of limit, it explodes like thousands of nuclear bombs ignited together to become a very bright star, called Supernova, until all the excess matter is shed in the space. Although Chandrasekhar calculated his 'limit' purely on the mathematical equations, astronomers have found that all white dwarf stars have masses within his prescribed limit.

As early as 1935 he had come close to speculating on the formation of "black holes", super heavy heavenly objects, a spoonful of which weighs several thousands of tons. But contemporaries were not prepared to accept that intriguing speculation.



Chandrasekhar has also made significant contributions to understanding the atmosphere of stars and the way matters and motion are distributed among the stars in a galaxy. His work on rotating fluid masses and the blueness of the sky is well known. Today, at the late age of 75 when most scientists retire, Chandrasekhar continues to study the effect of gravity and electromagnetic fields on the rotating black holes.

Recipient of many medals and honors, Chandrasekhar a physicist, an astrophysicist and an applied mathematician. Every decade or-so he changes his field of study. He studies a new subject from scratch, masters it and makes significant contributions to it.

"Great men are seldom born", Chandrasekhar warns young boys and girls, "All great men are self made"!



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## THE NAZCA LINES

### The Mysterious Alien Markings?!

*The mysterious nazca lines found in desert of Pampa sands, South America are the finest examples of several unraveled but interesting facets of this rational world. Perhaps the so called extraterrestrial in carvings gives key to our past! Commentary reveals the entire enigma!*

Since the Nazca Lines were discovered in the 1930s in the desert of pampas in the Nazcan plateau, not one single theory has been put forward to explain all of the marks on the desert plain. A prominent scientist has called it 'one of the most baffling enigmas of archaeology'. However, scientists have recently completed an extensive worldwide study of ancient cultures which offers some intriguing new insights into this archaeological conundrum.

Why have the Nazca Lines proved such an insoluble mystery? The reason lies in the sheer variety of designs, which include around 300 pictures, commonly referred to as 'geoglyphs'. Some of the better known of these figures are shown. The relative sizes of the spider, monkey, condor and lizard (among others) can be judged against the largest figure - a stylized heron with a zigzag neck, approximately 900 feet long. However, as diverse as these geoglyphs are, others are different again, consisting of totally abstract shapes. And even among the abstract designs, there is diversity. Whilst one design in particular contains no less than 365 angles, others, in the form of spirals, contain no angles at all.

Although the recognizable animal geoglyphs draw most of the attention at Nazca, they are in fact dwarfed by the huge trapezoidal (wedge-like) designs. Some of these wedges have sides more than 2,500 feet long. The wedges, in turn, are outdone by the lines themselves, which run perfectly straight for up to 5 miles.

What could have been the purpose of all these diverse lines and geoglyphs? The Nazca plain is virtually unique for its ability to preserve the markings upon it, due to the combination of the climate (one of the driest on Earth, with only twenty minutes of rainfall per year) and the flat, stony ground which minimizes the effect of the wind at ground level. With no dust or sand to cover the plain and little rain or wind to erode it, lines drawn here tend to stay drawn. These factors, combined with the existence of lighter-coloured subsoil beneath the desert crust, provide a vast writing pad that is ideally suited to the artist who wants to leave his mark for eternity.

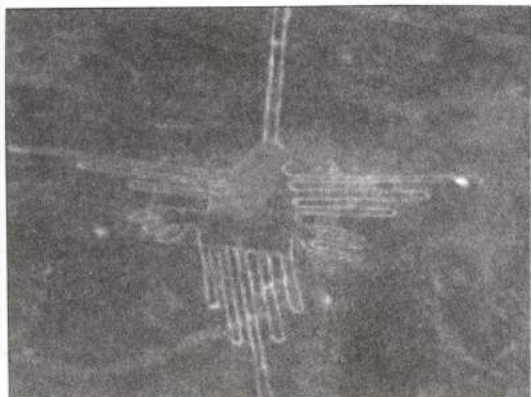
The Nazca Lines appear to be a jumbled mess, scattered seemingly at random over the desolate plain, crossing and intersecting for no apparent reason. In some places, carefully drawn geoglyphs have been partly obliterated by the huge wedges. Furthermore, there is a great contrast between some drawings which have been perfectly executed, and others which have been sloppily drawn. More puzzling still, many of the images are so big that they can only be viewed from the air at a height of 1,000 feet. By whom were the lines and figures intended to be seen?

The foremost expert on the Nazca Lines is undoubtedly Maria Reiche, a German mathematician who has devoted more than fifty years of her life to the study and protection of the Lines. Reiche has led a determined effort to discredit the Von Daniken theory of extraterrestrials. The strategy of this attack has been to argue that the Nazca Indians constructed the Lines relatively recently - some time between 300 BC and AD 800. In support of this possibility, some scientists have put forward ingenious ideas on how the geoglyphs could theoretically have been designed from the ground. The more important evidence, however, is that which attempts to link the Lines definitively to the Nazcan culture. Here, neither of the two key pieces of evidence survives close scrutiny.

The first piece of evidence is a series of radiocarbon dates, based on ceramic and wood remains which were left at the Lines by the Nazcan people. It is claimed that this proves that the Nazcans constructed the Lines. On the contrary, the dating of these materials tells us only that the Nazcans lived in the area of the Lines. Since the Lines themselves cannot be radiocarbon dated, the possibility remains that they already existed when the Nazcan culture emerged.

The second piece of evidence is the alleged resemblance of the Nazca geoglyphs to certain features found on Nazcan pottery. This is an important issue because it potentially offers proof that the Nazcans had either designed the images or at least viewed them from the air.

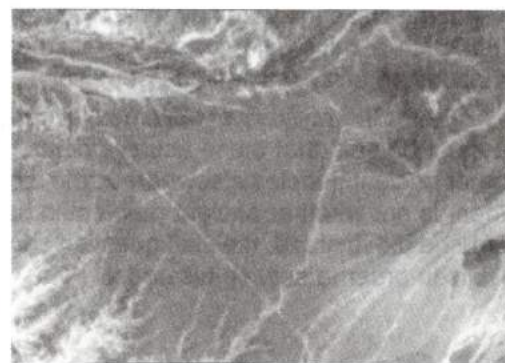




The Nazcan pottery is exhibited by the museum in the nearby city of Inca. The first supposedly matches the lizard in figure, the second supposedly matches the spider; the third supposedly matches the hummingbird. In all cases the similarities are tenuous and key points of detail from the highly stylized geoglyphs are different or missing on the pottery. Other examples are equally tenuous. In their eagerness to disprove the von Daniken theory, the experts seem to have forgotten that it is quite normal for ancient artists to reproduce figures of birds, insects, reptiles and sea creatures. If the judgement of these experts had not been so clouded, they might have wondered why the Nazcans did not decorate their pottery with the more unusual designs of the Nazca plain - the wedges, the intersecting lines and the abstract shapes.

How does Maria Reiche explain the purpose of the Nazca Lines? Although Reiche admits not to have reached a definite conclusion, she leans heavily towards the theory that they represent an astronomical calendar. She claims that the Nazcans used the lines and figures to measure the key points of the solar year to assist with agricultural planning. However, Reiche's theory, like Von Daniken's, has collapsed under the overwhelming weight of logical argument stacked against it.

In 1968, a study by the National Geographic Society determined that, whilst some of the Nazca lines did point to the positions of the Sun, Moon and certain stars two thousand years ago, it was no more than could be expected by mere chance. In 1973, Dr Gerald Hawkins studied 186 lines with a computer



programme and found that only 20 per cent had any astronomical orientation - again no more than by pure chance. In 1982, Anthony Aveni obtained similar results, whilst in 1980, George Petersen pointed out that Reiche's theory did not explain the different lengths and widths of the lines. More recently, Johan Reinhard has noted that the surrounding mountains provided a ready-made and much more effective mechanism for the Nazcans to use as a solar calendar; the lines would thus have been quite superfluous to them. In addition to this avalanche of scientific opinion, we should also note that Reiche, like von Daniken, has failed to explain the significance of the animal geoglyphs.

How else might we explain the Nazca Lines? They were certainly not Inca roads, since many lines begin and end in mid-desert, and they were certainly not irrigation canals, since most of them do not lead to sources of water. With all possible practical purposes exhausted, many writers have begun to focus on the symbolism of the lines and figures. All manner of religious cults have now been suggested - ancestor cults, water cults, fertility cults and mountain cults.

The leading proponent of the cult theory is Johan Reinhard, who has identified many lines leading to religious shrines, water sources or mountains. Reinhard has argued convincingly that the Nazcans worshipped the mountains, but why would they worship inanimate objects? Reinhard noted a widespread belief amongst ancient Andean cultures that various gods - whom they revered as their ancestors - resided in the mountains. These gods controlled the weather and hence the water supply which determined the fertility of crops and livestock. Reinhard added that the chief god Viracocha was closely associated with both mountains and water.

How does the worship of mountain-gods explain the Nazca Lines? Johan Reinhard detailed various ancient traditions, according to which the mountain-gods took to the skies in the form of eagles or condors. As Reinhard explains, this cult theory explains the single most significant aspect of the Nazca Lines:

'That the figures can be best seen only from the air is explainable as being due to the ability of the mountain deities to oversee the area, such as appearing





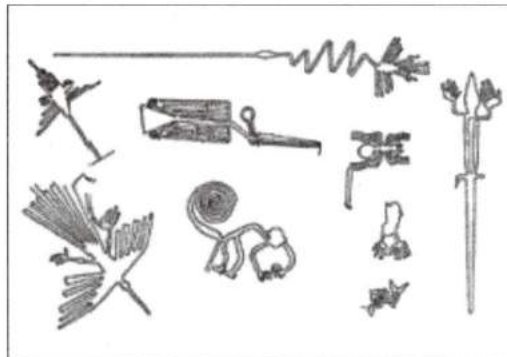


as birds or in the form of the flying feline.'

Throughout the world, ancient people were obsessed with Sky-gods who would fight battles in the Sky and descend to the Earth. In the books 'The Phoenix Solution' and 'When The Gods Came Down', the author revealed that these Sky-gods were associated with the disintegration of a celestial 'mountain', with the depictions of such a mountain symbolising an exploded planet, and with the term 'mountain' thus referring metaphorically to 'planet'. In short, conclusion, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the religions of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia were 'exploded planet cults'.

Might the decoding of the ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian mountain-gods enable us to solve the mystery of the Nazcan mountain-gods? In short, might the Nazcans, too, have followed an exploded planet cult? At the moment, the jury is out on this question, but it strikes that such a cult would certainly explain the profound religious beliefs which evidently inspired the Nazcans to draw their astounding array of lines and geoglyphs.

As for the mystery of how the Nazcans managed to raze mountain tops and draw perfectly straight lines over ravines, it must be said that these achievements, whilst being totally awesome, are no more awesome than the achievements of other ancient peoples elsewhere in the world, the Great Pyramid of Giza being a notable example. The important question, then, is not whether ancient man could have performed these miraculous works, for it is quite clear that at some point in time he did. Instead, the vital question should concern the impulse which drove ancient man to reach beyond his everyday limits in order to service his gods!



Compiled by:  
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First Year,  
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*Why Technical People are Paid Less than Managers*  
*Engineers and scientists will never make as much money as business executives. Now a rigorous mathematical proof explains why this is true:*

*Postulate 1: Knowledge is Power*

*Postulate 2: Time is Money*

*As every engineer knows,*

*Power = Work / Time*

*Since Knowledge = Power, and Time = Money, we have*

*Knowledge = Work / Money*

*Solving for money, we get:*

*money = Work / Knowledge*

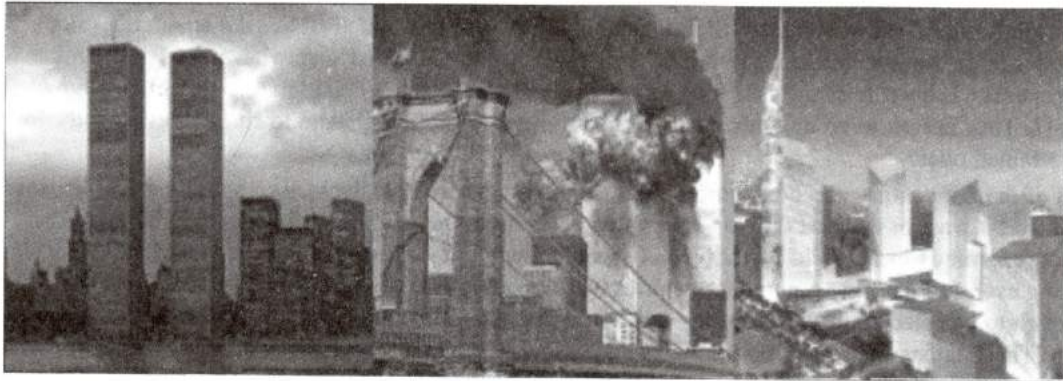
*Thus, as Knowledge approaches zero, Money approaches infinity regardless of the Work done. Conclusion: The less you know, the more you make.*





## NEW WORLD TRADE CENTRE

(AN ARCHITECT'S EYE)



**A MEMORY**

**A DISASTER**

**A HOPE**

### INTRODUCTION

A complex of angular towers and a spire that would be among the world's tallest structures has been officially selected as the design for the World Trade Center site in New York.

A 1,776ft "vertical garden" will be built in New York to replace the World Trade Centre. The bold design by Berlin based architect, Daniel Libeskind, will be the globe's tallest building and maintain a seven-acre section of the gaping hole where the twin towers once stood for a memorial to victims of September 11. The \$210 million blueprint for lower Manhattan defeated the rival proposal of two 1,665 foot lattice worked buildings in the final of an international competition. A separate architect will be chosen to design the memorial, known as the "Park of Heroes."

### ABOUT ARCHITECT

Daniel Libeskind has won the remarkable race to rebuild the World Trade Center with a design that points a needle tower 1,776 feet into the sky and preserves the pit of the disaster as a meditative public space.



Born: Poland, 1956

Career: Lecturer in architectural theory at Cranbrook academy, Harvard and UCLA

Notable work: Jewish museum, Berlin, Imperial war museum, Manchester

From its base in Berlin, Studio Daniel Libeskind has designed major cultural projects such as an addition to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Imperial War Museum in Manchester. His \$200-million scheme for the redevelopment of Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum provides crystal-like additions that rise and fall between the original buildings. He was recently named holder of the Frank O. Gehry chair at the University of Toronto's architecture school.

### MAIN FEATURES OF THE DESIGN

A sloping, angular collection of buildings with a spire that will rise 1,776 feet and define the Lower Manhattan skyline has been chosen for the World Trade Center site. The design, by Studio Daniel Libeskind, features five towers, cultural facilities and a pit that will serve as the framework for a memorial to the approximately 2,800 who died on this site Sept. 11, 2001. The Libeskind team has framed its design for the 16-acre site as an homage to the victims and to the year of U.S. independence. He has suggested that the pit will serve as a quiet and meditative "Libeskind's proposal will cost about \$330 million. Many in Manhattan's downtown business community have opposed plans to immediately rebuild millions of square feet of office space, as this would add to the glut downtown. The World Financial Center, across from the World Trade Center site. The plan features a 541-metre (1,776-foot) spire, topped with gardens. It beat the other finalist team, led by New York-based architects Rafael Vinoly and Frederic Schwartz, which proposed two decorative steel towers in memory of the twin towers destroyed in the 11 September 2001 hijacked plane attacks. At ground zero there is 2.5 million square feet of vacant space. Libeskind's scheme calls for a 1,776 ft. (532.8 meters) tall towers with the "Gardens





of the world" at the top. The most dramatic component of his plan includes the memorial space set some 30ft. below grade on a bed rock foundation with exposed slurry walls on the west. An elevated walkway encircling the site constitutes the memorial promenade.

#### **GENERAL VIEW POINT**

Others have advocated building a tower even taller than the original 411 metres (1,350 feet) towers, as an act of defiance against terrorism. Some of us are even directly discarding the option of vertical expansion

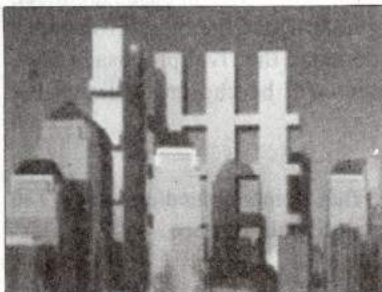
#### **AN ARCHITECTURAL POINT OF VIEW**

Some one has rightly said, "When you learn to fall than only you learn to walk". But this statement does not seem to fit in case of selection of the new design for the world trade center. Finally they have decided that what next WTC would be like. Libeskind (architect whose proposal has been selected) is ready to pose a yet another challenge to global terrorism, in spite of all that devastation that occurred on 9/11. They are set to go up to the max vertical limits of their ability. And to surprise everybody, those limits will well pass the max ever attained ones.

It was the end of the 8th century and beginning of 19th century, when people decided to chose vertical expansion because of the scarcity of the land. But it was for the first time on 9/11 when necessity to review the idea was felt. And everybody including me was thinking that some great minds in the field of architecture would come with a certain solution to vertical expansion. And they came with the idea of going even further high. A number of entries were called for the design of new WTC all over the globe. But Libeskind's idea was lucky enough to be selected inspite of being very surprising one. Most of people won't like the idea of the vertical expansion in modern scenario. The finalists each featured buildings surpassing Malaysia's 1,483-foot Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest. The World Trade Center stood at 1,350 feet. But we can't stop our creativity for an excuse of terrorism. If terrorism can damage you vertically than it can damage you horizontally or in any other direction as well. So there is no need to change your way of thinking but of course the way to protect that thinking. And that is not the job of architect. Hence I full agree with the idea of Libeskind.

#### **OTHER MODELS IN RACE**

Destroyed by the evil culture followed by the Al Quaida, the architects of United States Of America being fearless gave several more structures which are followed by the design selected and holds a good place in the race of best designs of a magnificent structure.



*Meier et al first.* Richard Meier was very cocky in his presentation: "We're the New York team," he said. "Some say we're the dream team." But what this team came up with looks like a classic case of design by committee. They put reflecting pools on the footprints of the twin towers, which let light through to a memorial space below - so far, so normal. Then they took the shadows which the towers cast (to the west) on September 11, and planted them with trees. One of the shadows went into the river so that area becomes a "floating memorial plaza" which 5000 people can fit onto should they so desire. It's one of dozens of different memorials which they're dotting around Lower Manhattan, in a kind of distributed remembrance which won't really work.

Next *Skidmore Owings & Merrill*, who teamed up with four artists, including Jessica Stockholder, to create what they call "a dense grid of vertical structures that support multiple strata of public and cultural spaces". What that means in practice is a set of no fewer than nine more-or-less-identical skyscrapers shoehorned into a very small area, with the occasional sky bridge connecting one to another. They all have sky gardens on the top, which is nice, but no matter how airy they are, street level will become dark and permanently in shadow, and it's not going to be a nice place to be.

The odd team out of the seven is *Peterson/Littenberg Architecture and Urban Design*. It's a small partnership which impressed the LMDC with its approach to the site and somehow made it,

as architects, to the final round. It's one of the few teams to break the rules: while the LMDC said that it didn't want to build on the footprints of the original towers, Peterson/Littenberg put an amphitheatre in one of them.

This team was also one of the prime movers behind opening up West Street into a tree-lined promenade which stretches all the way down to the Battery. It's a great idea, and one which the LMDC has adopted, but it was specifically excluded from this particular brief. Again, Peterson and Littenberg ignored the brief.

As urban planners, rather than architects, this pair spent a lot of time designing a lovely garden, and constructing a pedestrian-friendly street grid. They're the only team which not only extended the original streets into the World Trade Center site, but also added a brand new street as well. The final plan is certainly a nice place to be, but it shows very little in the way of boldness

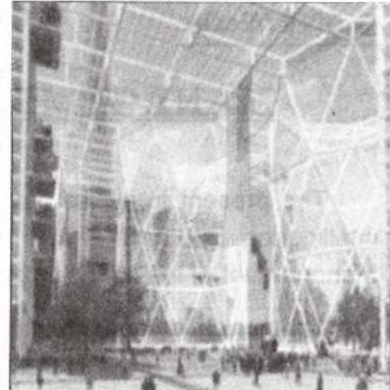






or imagination. And the new skyscrapers aren't imagined at all, beyond the fact that their height is limited to 55 stories (roughly the height of the existing American Express building).

Think, a huge team including *Frederic Schwartz, Rafael Viñoly, Shigeru Ban and David Rockwell*, couldn't come to any decisions at all, and instead presented three different designs. The first, called Sky Park, floats a 16-acre park into mid-air, with various buildings huddled in the darkness below. The last, called the World Cultural Center, is a crazy idea to build a latticework around the footprints of the original towers, and then slap various cultural institutions (schools, theatres, whatever) inside the latticework at various different heights. At the exact points in midair where the planes flew in to the World Trade Center would be a memorial linking the two structures.



*Foster and Partners* is definitely an improvement on the previous four. Lord (Norman) Foster knows his onions when it comes to monumental architecture, and he's designed a beautiful twisting "twinned tower" which would be a welcome addition to any city's skyline. He calls it "the most secure, the greenest and the tallest in the world," and there's no reason not to believe him. It will be filled with high tree-filled public atriums at various levels, which will provide stunning views over the rest of the site as well as far beyond.

There could even be funiculars sweeping us all up the side of the building at high speed - what an attraction, and not just for tourists. Foster has kept the footprints as voids, and placed high walls around them to set them apart and intensify the memorial experience.

Finally, there's *United Architects*, a group including Foreign Office Architects, Greg Lynn, Kevin Kennon, RUR Architecture, and UN Studio. Somehow, they've managed to transcend all the

problems which faced the other large groups in the competition, and come up with a very strong, simple and new idea. United Architects, just like Liebeskind, go down to bedrock and build vertical sacrosanct areas around the edge of the footprints. Looking up from the bottom of their voids, however, one sees not just sky but skyscrapers too: "the memorial and the development are not divided, but linked," in the words of Greg Lynn. The effect is a cathedral-like space, where the buildings carve out a volume of light.

One enters the space walking down a spiral from Greenwich Street, passing various cultural institutions on the way; to go back up, there are elevators back to ground level and higher still, up the sides of the new buildings.

There are five of them altogether, each at least 65 stories tall, and each touching on the next at least once. At street level, there will be huge gaps between the buildings, maintaining street grids and view corridors. But 60 stories up in the air, they converge onto a minimum of five stories of contiguous space: a whole new public area, 200,000 square feet in all, high in the sky.

*The American architects have, thus, shown the modern evolution of the human brain which has created the above splendid models. This has proved that the world is now shifting to the newer and the brighter side which is obviously not only out of harm's way but also ogle contagious!*



Compiled by:  
Ajay Sharma,  
Pre-Final,  
Architecture.





## MANAGEMENT OF WASTES FOR PRODUCTION OF ENERGY

The present trend for development of technology is towards advancement of information technology and artificial intelligence. But there is also an extreme need for production of electricity efficiently and in environment friendly ways. Management of waste for production of energy is one of important ways to achieve this objective.

The per capita consumption of energy is an index of development of a particular nation. If the energy is produced by conventional sources of energy like coal, oil, this energy production will be associated with the biggest enemy of mankind, i.e., environmental pollution. Moreover, these sources of energy are very likely to be exhausted with in a few years. Therefore the only solution is non-conventional and renewable sources of energy. The energy from wastes is one of the important types of non-conventional energy sources.

The energy produced from the waste can be used for the development of the society. This development through industrialization will produce more waste. This waste can again be used for production of energy completing the energy-waste cycle.

The municipal wastes in urban areas are causing harmful bacteria and emission of gases, which are affecting the environment of the cities. This waste may be collected, processed and used for the production of electricity in the form of distributed generation. The waste from the industry like sugar industry can easily be bunt in mini thermal plants for steam as well electricity generation. It has been estimated that a sugar industry requiring 5MW of electrical power can produced about 8 MW of electricity from sugar cane waste. Similarly in rural areas, the cattle dung and other agriculture wastes can be used in the biogas plant. The gas produced in this way can be used for cooking and lighting purposes in the rural area and will also provide enriched manure for supplementing the use of chemical fertilizers. It will also reduce the drudgery of rural people in walking long distances to collect fuel wood. This will also save our forests by reducing the need of wood for cooking purposes.

In many countries, a multi-agency approach has been followed in implementing this programme of waste energy management involving various village organizations and government organizations which provide construction, maintenance, and training services and also a number of promotional and awareness generation campaigns. In India, over 25% of the total potential of family size biogas plants have been achieved. Such households have been meeting their cooking fuel requirements largely and lighting fuel needs partially with biogas. With the current level of achievement, the programme is estimated to have resulted in a saving of 3.9 million tonnes of firewood and 0.9 million tonnes of urea per year as well as providing 5 million person-days of employment.

This management of waste will provide clean and affordable source of energy. It will not only mitigate the energy crisis to some extent, but it will also provide pollution free environment. Hence it is desirable that students and researchers should work in this important field for the benefit of society at large.

By:

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Asstt. Professor/Lecturer,  
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N.I.T. Hamirpur.



**SPECTRUM**

This feature presents web diamonds from click mines. Here are some of the interesting and select websites recommended from fellow NITHians apart from our own compilation. So, hold your breath to have a look, if your recommended website features in this section.

**<http://batesmotel.8m.com>**

Well, those interesting photographs with the US flag fluttering on the moon and enigmatic shadows of Armstrong and Aldrin may be enough for the idea that "possibly" maiden moon-landings in 1969 were the invented befooling fake fuffs. And no, this time they are not Russians telling us that! This American website proves all to make you believe that something was wrong in those photographs of Appollo "mission". It also presents NASA's replies to the "allegations". Fairer case, indeed!

(Site recommended by: Abhishek Ranjan, ECE, Second Year)

**<http://www.isoc.org/internet/history/>**

Next, we have internet society, basically a group of people committed to develop the internet "to benefit all people in the world". A nice idea of course, but it doesn't really lead to a terribly interesting looking site. But that isn't why I'm recommending it. It contains one of the best histories of the internet I have come across. Yes, it is a bit technical but if you want to know how it came about, and the role that TCP/IP played, this is your place. (Site recommended by: Om Kant Shukla, ECE, Final Year)



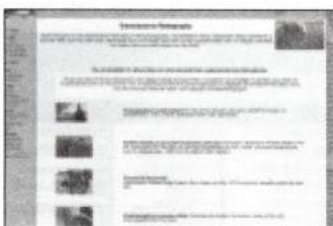
**<http://www.worldwidewords.org>**

Subtitled "Investigating international English from a British viewpoint" it is a fascinating list of English words and phrases giving not only their meaning but how they came about. Compiled by Michael Quinion it is clearly laid out and very simple to navigate. The Q and A section is probably the most interactive, where you are invited to ask how phrases and words came about - and don't forget to look out for the fascinating and entertaining derivation of the phrase "by jove". And by Jove what a terrific site that is - and don't worry about the lack of pictures or fancy graphics, if you have any interest in the English language you are going to be there for a while. (Site recommended by: )

**<http://www.vivacricket.co.za>**

Cricket is played all over the world; so, why not brush up on your own technique with this site? The site, based in New Zealand, is excellent because not only does it have a wealth of information on everything about the game but it helps teach it too. You need to become a member to access the virtual coaching area but once you've done this there are loads of articles packed with advice on technique and strategy. As you can see in this 'batting section' you can read up on grip, stance and general tips. Although there's a general lack of images, but overall the pieces are clear and well written. Go and feel inspired in the 'Cricketing Legends' section where you can meet the stars and relive their glory days. (Site recommended by: Surya Bir Singh, ECE, Final Year)

**<http://www.tvcameramen.com>**



This is a community site about the lives and stories of camera operators. It encourages camera operators to anonymously send in their experiences on the basis that sharing means learning. They make for some amusing reading even if you've never been behind a camera, with articles on how to break into the world of TV and film written by working cameramen and the hints and tips are a useful start if you're interested in that career. The travelogue is also useful even for every independent traveller. It's got facts and information about many countries, their economies and political climates as well as handy links such as where to find an ATM machine and what jabs you'll need before you go. (Site recommended by: Amit Rana, CE, Final Year)

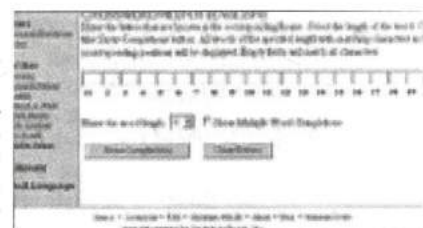
**<http://68.38.162.231/cgi-bin/complete.pl>**

Yes, the URL address looks too cryptic. But then, there's just enough reason to recommend this nifty tool which helps you cheat on crosswords - well they can be very frustrating! If you're working on a crossword and find yourself stumped by a word, simply enter the letters that you know in the corresponding boxes below. Select the length of the word. Click and all words of the length you've chosen with matching characters in the specific positions will be shown. Then all you have to do is try and match one to the clue you've been given! No, it's not cheating - you're just a multitasking genius! (Site recommended by: Nishant Singh Sipehia, ECE, Final Year)



**<http://www.airliners.net>**

Its enthusiasm for flying, and its appreciation of the marvel that is air travel, just rubs off on you as you look through. No mention of air accident stats, or none that I found, and it's usually the first thing I encounter on these types of sites! Inspiring images of Concorde made me want to experience the real thing. These images are sent in by flying fans from around the globe and you too can contribute a piccy. The site's really interested in old or rare plane images if you have them. If you're getting into this airborne encyclopaedia the







data and aircraft model history section is very readable even if you haven't a clue how a 199' 11" wingspan, and economy high density configuration, actually impacts on your experience when you fly. The site is loaded with images which you can send as e-cards or purchase as large sized prints. And lest we forget, news. Our very reason for existing is also catered for, with the editorial highlighting the latest airline headlines all collected here. (Site recommended by: Kumar Digvijay Mishra, ME, Final Year)

<http://www.napoleonguide.com>

Well, a whole site has been dedicated to this pint-sized Corsican and it's well worth a browse of Napoleon Guide. Although, unlike the man it portrays, the site's not handsome or pioneering, however, the content though really makes up for the lack of design aesthetic. Each aspect of Napoleon's life is explored, from images of the Emperor as a young man, at his coronation, and in the battlefield. If the battlefield is an interest area, then maps highlight where combat took place and give an indication of Napoleon's relentless ambition. Love letters aren't what Napoleon is most famous for, but they provide a fascinating insight into how he felt towards Josephine while away on various campaigns. There are also a few to his other lovers which provide an interesting contrast. The site places Napoleon's life in context with the era, and I couldn't resist highlighting this particularly gruesome contraption - the guillotine - used to execute around forty thousand people during the French Revolution.

<http://www.cheesenet.info>



For all you fans of cheese - and no I don't mean Chris Long's reports - the cheese fanatics online home is at Cheesenet. The World Cheese Index is indeed true to its word, you can search for any type of cheesy matter by country, name, animal that produces it, or curd process incidentally. The results show a variety from Romania, Spain, Denmark and many more. For some, cheese has become such a passion, they've felt inspired to write and some are actually quite good. James Davies 'Ode to Cheesedom' had me smiling! There's a lot more, from cheesemaking techniques to a glossary on all the unique terms.

<http://www.oldversion.com>

I know you are always in touch with the latest, newest and most up to the minute news on the world of technology, but what if the adage 'if it ain't broke, don't fix' it were applied to the 'net? Well, Old Version has taken on the challenge. While upgrading to a newer version can often be a good thing, at other times your computer may not be compatible with the new version and a conflict occurs. Now, help is at hand. If you're searching for an old version of software this site archives various programs of yesteryear. Something to remember - Old Version currently provides software for Windows operating systems only.

<http://www.acronyms.ch>

More help is at hand if you're getting frustrated with the acronyms that pepper the techno world. The Ultimate Computer Acronyms Finder is a database of computer-related acronyms. You can search for acronyms in a variety of ways. It was interesting just to browse through the alphabetic categories - there are so many the mind boggles. The site helps when it can, with brief descriptions of what the term you're looking up actually refers to. So Large Scale of Integration, or LSI, means so much more when you know it relates to the quantity of transistors that are placed on one chip (Ye! I know ECE guys need no formal introduction for this, but what about others!). If you'd like the database available as a permanent resource you can download a PDF version of the archive (O obviously, in one floppy!). One other thing - if you know of an acronym that isn't there, why not submit it to be added to the database.

<http://www.badpuns.com>

Since I started compiling this column, I wanted to include something plainly hilarious, so when one of my friend recommended this joke site to me, I had to go and have a look. This site wins hands down on clean fun - it's a family-safe funny site which makes you groan and chuckle at the same time. Generate a random shaggy dog story, and if you want more you can call up another random story within that section or click to find humour in a similar vein - as all the content is cross-indexed. There are an amusing set of cartoons which are updated regularly and once again you can dig up a random one from the series to get your funny bone's worth.

<http://www.thepaperboy.com.au>



If you've had your fill of television news, and want to get stuck into the papers, take a look at the impressive Paperboy. It's an Australian based portal that links you to over 5000 newspapers from around the world. The site design is bold and relatively easy to use. Apart from the standard way to access content - by country - a nifty tool enables you to submit a headline you're interested in reading. The meta-search engine trawls through seven major online news site databases and delivers the papers writing about your topic of interest. There are an impressive array of papers from around the world - from Bhutan to Bolivia and over to Botswana - a truly global viewpoint accessed so easily. But if it's only regional news (I mean something like Bangladesh's 'The Independent' or LA's 'The Daily Picayune!') that excites you more, then your pick should be <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com> where you will find good coverage of regional papers.





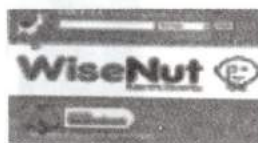


<http://www.idebate.org>

Debating is not just a simple case of standing up and saying the first thing that comes into your head, so if you want your voice to be heard, then take a look at IDEA: The International Debate Education Association. The purpose of this site is to act as a central resource for debaters around the world. If you're not familiar with debating techniques then there are a host of exercises and learning tools to gain more experience. Once you've prepped up and are familiar with the language of the debating world, take a look at the IDEA database. The latest debate topics are posted up and give a snapshot of the diverse themes covered on the site.

<http://sunsite.informatik.rwth-aachen.de/Maps/>

The Perry-Castaeda Map Collection at the University of Texas displays maps from every world region. This collection covers the world's political, physical and topographical landscape and there are some beautiful maps to look at. Check out the historical maps, which show the geographical outline of the world's countries in Medieval Times. You can enlarge the map using the icon which appears in the bottom right hand side of your browser. There's even a map drawn in 1896 of the tallest buildings in the world, which seems more like art to me than topography.



[www.dogpile.com](http://www.dogpile.com), [www.wisenut.com](http://www.wisenut.com), [www.webwombat.com](http://www.webwombat.com)

Well, my quest for more search engines have led me to these three: first one is a widely used meta-search engine, second one is generic search engine and third one is Australia-based geographic search engine. So, are CSE guys listening? (Not long ago did I hear the final year

CSE guys were busy in making a search engine better than the Google as an assignment!) Well, then one of the most interesting search (err...meta-search) engines for you people is <http://kartoo.com> which gives results in the form of a map showing the realations and links between them (for example, as shown here, are the results of search for the phrase 'Elvis Presley')!

<http://www.abstractfonts.com>

We have seen enough about meanings of words. So now, from the meaning of words to their appearance. Move aside Times New Roman and Arial, as Patchwork, Stingray and Riddleprint are in town at abstractfonts.com. There's a huge selection of free fonts - at last count 9664. There are so many to browse through you may just want to check out the Top 100 fonts which is updated every day. There's a lot of variety and you can cast your vote for your preferred typeface. Click

on 'details' to get some stats - such as how many of you have downloaded the font. And if you find yourself becoming a 'fontaholic', go speak about your addiction in the forum - there are over 500 members so be prepared for lots of opinions.



<http://pan-flute.com>

You know the flute based music heard on film scores and unfortunately also in garden centres? Well it's most probably created by pan pipes. Pan-flute.com aims to reintroduce us to these instruments and the music they create. First off, watch the Flash-animated history of the pan-flute which takes us through the instrument's origins and development across Europe, the East and South America. Images of excavated artefacts depicting figures playing the flutes and pan-pipe music

overlayed on the animation create an atmospheric introduction to the rest of the site. Delving in a little deeper, we can see that this is a family of instruments and you can find pages explaining their origin, how they are played and, the nicest bit, there's a sound clip attached to each instrument so you can what kind of music is produced. You'll need either Quicktime or Real Player to hear them. You can even get interactive and play panpipes using your mouse.

<http://www.centuryinshoes.com>

Ah! Leaving the compilation without letting you know something from the world of fashion makes me feel yakk! While you may find so many portals dedicated to latest prints from 'all xyz fash-designers of Italy or France', you can hardly gulp in the "exotic" and "very new" trends of them. Also, while we will look for everything ranging from mazy hairstyles to pungent perfumes, we often

forget one essential ingredient of our spruced-up attires, namely our shoes, only the right kind of which make you a complete person. This site, dedicated to latest in boot-fashion, will also introduce you to the old vogue. There's so much to titivate here, indeed!

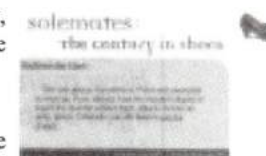
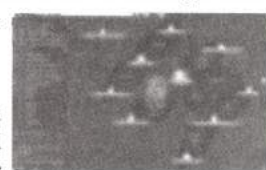


<http://www.chezscotty.com>

I know you still remember those totorous moments when you just couldn't get the kind of virus that inflicted your PC. Or you couldn't get answers to why your modem didn't respond the way it should. Well, here's a kind of "just the right" site for all "that"! There are so many suggestions for general PC maintenance. It also has cues for maintaining your modem and internet-browsing. With information on latest viruses on prowl, it also has 'online virus clinics' for that. With other general tips and tricks, it also contains memory and hard drive maintenance section.

<http://www.quoteland.com>

Someone suggested me to take a look at Quoteland, which is definitely worth bookmarking as a language and encyclopaedic resource. As you've probably guessed from the title this is a quotes treasure chest, designed to help you identify a quote and generate one as well. The site is cleanly laid out, but a little dry. Author's quotes, for instance, brings you famous or obscure names and what they said. There's hundreds and they're alphabetically listed. For a more multimedia experience you can browse through the library where you can find audio and video clips of key events, speeches, and







some fun trivia. The library appears to be a growth area, so do send in your suggestions to help it along.

<http://www.tennisforall.org>

This is a great resource for all you bat and ball fans, and it's free to access. The site has a technical leaning and uses leading tennis players to demonstrate technique and style. There are frame by frame images of players, such as Marat Safin's tennis strokes, and great animations, such as this Pat Rafter one, which is looped. This repetition is useful for understanding the technique. There are also six galleries with some great images of current world tennis champs. This site makes tennis know how available to everyone - all you need is access to a computer and you're in. Ultimately, though, you have

to get out there and practise, but this is definitely a good place to pick up training and technique tips.

<http://pw1.netcom.com/~rlederer/index.htm>

Now, we take a look at an author's and academician's website. Yes, it's more on wordplay. It opens with the words like "Carnivores eat meat; herbivores eat plants and vegetables; verbivores devour words. If you are heels over head (as well as head over heels) in love with words, tarry here a while to graze or, perhaps, feast on the English language. Ours is the only language in which you drive in a parkway and park in a driveway and your nose can run and your feet can smell." You can browse through the Lederer's columns, books and talks. It also gives tips for learning language apart from giving more boggling info on wordplay. Best, it gives links to organisations

and websites which are just mad about language. And should you have any question regarding language ailments, why not ask doc Lederer!

<http://www.sportsrules.50g.com>

Lastly, here's a site that I just wished for. This site is an encyclopaedic resource if all you want is to know about the rules and regulations of any sport. The site also gives dimensions of the playgrounds/courts etc. of the sport and the equipments (bat, ball, etc.) used to play them. Lest your know-how is just objective, the site also gives the history of each sport. The site is quite systematic. It first gives essential and smaller versions of the rules and then proceeds to give complex rules in detail. It also has a glossary of the terms related to the sport. At the end, about the breadth and coverage. Well, it has an alphabetically arranged

pop-down which covers every sport ranging from somewhat heard ones like aikido, beach volleyball, darts, croquet and korfbal to least heard ones like jai alai, shinty, windsurfing, hurling and even curling. Need I say more!

Finally, a word for all of you. Surf all these webplaces and do let others too know about them. See you, in this section in next year's SRIJAN issue. Hope you and your recommended websites make it to this column!

Verbivores



Compilation:

Kumar Vijay Mishra,

Final Year,

Electronics & Communication Engineering.

### **Engineers and Light Bulbs**

**How many first year engineering students does it take to change a light bulb? None. That's a second year subject.**

**How many second year engineering students does it take to change a light bulb? One, but the rest of the class copies the report.**

**How many third year engineering students does it take to change a light bulb? "Will this question be on the final exam?"**

**How many civil engineers does it take to change a light bulb?**

**Two. One to do it and one to steady the chandelier.**

**How many electrical engineers does it take to change a light bulb?**

**None. They simply redefine darkness as the industry standard.**

**How many computer engineers does it take to change a light bulb?**

**"Why bother? The socket will be obsolete in six months anyway."**

**How many mechanical engineers does it take to change a light bulb?**

**Five. One to decide which way the bulb ought to turn, one to calculate the force required, one to design a tool with which to turn the bulb, one to design a comfortable-but functional- hand grip, and one to use all this equipment.**





◆ परख/जीवन चित्र

## प्रेमचन्द



उपन्यास-सम्राट मुंशी प्रेमचन्द के लेखन की यह विशेषता रही है कि उन्होंने जो कुछ भी लिखा वह यथार्थ के बेहद करीब था। सामाजिक कुरीतियों तथा विषमताओं का जैसा चित्रण उन्होंने किया, वह न तो उनका समकालीन कोई अन्य कर पाया और न ही आज तक उपलब्ध साहित्य में कोई अन्य ऐसा उदाहरण देखने को मिलता है। निस्संदेह इसका एक मुख्य कारण यह था कि जो कुछ उन्होंने लिखा, वह सब कुछ स्वयं देखा व भोगा था; और वही टीस ..... वही कसक ..... वही मार्मिकता ..... वही यथार्थता उनकी प्रत्येक रचना भारतीय परिवेश व जनमानस का दर्पण है, जिसमें कल्पना या फंतासी के लिए कोई स्थान नहीं है। बस है तो केवल वास्तविकता ..... इसके अलावा कुछ नहीं।

प्रेमचन्द का जन्म एक गरीब घराने में, आजमगढ़ जाने वाली सड़क पर बनारस से चार पांच मील दूर लमही नामक गांव में ३१ जुलाई १८८० को हुआ था। उनके पिता डाक मुंशी थे।

सात साल की अवस्था में उनकी माँ और चौदह साल की अवस्था में पिता का देहान्त हो गया। घर में यों ही बहुत गरीबी थी, पिता के देहान्त के बाद उनके सिर पर कठिनाइयों का पहाड़ टूट पड़ा। रोटी कमाने की चिन्ता सवार हो गयी। ट्यूशन कर कर उन्होंने मैट्रिक पास किया और फिर बाकायदा स्कूल मास्टरी का दौर चला जो चुनार से शुरू हुआ। और फिर तो प्रतापगढ़, इलाहाबाद, कानपुर, हमीरपुर, बांदा, बस्ती, गोरखपुर, तमाम जगहों में तबादले होते रहे। जो, अब पीछे मुड़कर देखने पर लगता है, शरीर के लिये भले असुविधाजनक और कष्टकर रहा हो, जीवन-अनुभव के कोष को उसने भरपूर समृद्ध किया होगा जिससे अधिक मूल्यवान रचनाकार के लिये दूसरी कोई चीज नहीं।

नौकरी करते हुए ही प्रेमचन्द ने एफ.ए. और बी.ए. पास किया। करना एम.ए. भी चाहते थे पर वह सम्भव नहीं हुआ। .....स्कूल मास्टरी के रास्ते पर चलते-चलते सन् १९२१ में, जब आप गोरखपुर में थे, गांधी जी वहां आये और ८ फरवरी १९२१ का दिन था जब उन्होंने गाज़ी मियां के मैदान में भारी भीड़ के सामने सरकारी नौकरी छोड़ देने की घोषणा की। प्रेमचन्द का अपना मन तो सब शंकाओं-आशंकाओं के बाद भी काफी पक्का था पर अपनी पत्नी से पूछे बगैर इतना बड़ा निर्णय किया भी कैसे जा सकता था। आखिर पत्नी ने भी अपनी हिम्मत पक्की की। प्रेमचन्द की अपनी तबीयत उन दिनों बहुत खराब चल रही थी और घर की दूसरी परिस्थितियां भी अनुकूल न थीं - और प्रेमचन्द ने १५ फरवरी १९२१ को अपनी तेईस साल की सरकारी नौकरी छोड़ दी-और बिल्कुल बेसहारा हो गये, जब कि दोनों जून की रोटी का भी कुछ भरोसा न रहा।

उसके बाद कुछ महीने उन्होंने कानपुर के मारवाड़ी स्कूल में काम किया लेकिन स्कूल के मैनेजर से विवाद हो गया और वो इस्तीफा देकर बनारस आ गये, जहां उन्होंने कुछ महीने 'मर्यादा' का संपादन किया, कुछ महीने काशी विद्यापीठ में पढ़ाया और फिर 'माधुरी' के संपादन का निमंत्रण मिलने पर लखनऊ पहुँच गये, जहां आप छः-सात साल रहे और फिर अपने मासिक पत्र 'हंस' के संपादन के लिये बनारस पहुँच गये। कुछ समय बाद साप्ताहिक 'जागरण' भी निकाला। लेकिन दोनों ही पत्रों में घाटा होने के कारण सिर पर कर्ज का बोझ लदता गया। जिसको उतारने के लिए आपको मजबूरन बंबई जाना पड़ा पर वहां का रंग-ढंग देखकर साल भर के अन्दर ही भाग खड़े हुए और पुनः बनारस आ गये।

बंबई का पानी उनको रास नहीं आया था। लौटने के कुछ समय बाद सन् १९३५ में बीमार पड़ गये और ८ अक्टूबर १९३६ को ५६ वर्ष की अवस्था में जलोदर रोग से उनका देहावसान हो गया।

संकलन:

चन्द्रशेखर शर्मा

द्वितीय वर्ष

विद्युत अभियांत्रिकी





## बुनियाद से बुलन्दियों तक

(भारतीय स्थापत्य)

हमारी संस्कृति, हमारी सभ्यता, हमारी इमारतें हमारी पहचान हैं। हमारी इमारतों की जड़ें उपनिषदों और वेदों पर टिकी हैं। इन्हीं इमारतों ने आधुनिक काल के स्थापत्य को रूपरेखा प्रदान की है। भारतीय अपने साहित्य को स्थापित करने के साथ-साथ पश्चिमी देशों द्वारा दिये गये योग्य सिद्धान्तों को भी भली-भाँति उपयोग करना जानते हैं। प्राचीन भारतीय वास्तुशास्त्रियों के गुणों का वर्णन करते हुए एक पर्यटक ने कहा था:

“वो रेखा के बारे में सोचते हैं, तो क्षेत्र का निर्देश देते हैं। वो रेखा बनाते हैं, तो आकार का निर्देश देते हैं। और जब आकार बनाते हैं, तो समय का निर्देश देते हैं।”

विविधतापूर्ण सहअस्तित्व वाले समाज का भारतीय स्थापत्यकला पर भी अलग-अलग प्रभाव पड़ा। उदाहरण के तौर पर अति प्राचीन सिन्धु घाटी सभ्यता से प्रभावित खूबसूरत आंगन वाले घर, मंदिर और शाही महल जिनमें होते थे, सुन्दर मेहराब और अनगिनत स्तंभों वाले बड़े-बड़े हॉल, अठारहवीं सदी का ब्रितानी प्रभाव वाला नव श्रेष्ठवाद (न्यू क्लासिस्म), यूरोप का ग्रीक-रोमन प्रभाव वाला नव जागरण काल, गॉथिक शैली वाले अग्रभाग और बरोक शैली के चर्च के साथ-साथ आधुनिक शैली के नये-नये प्रयोग वाली इमारतें बिखरी पड़ी हैं।

सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और आर्थिक बदलावों ने आत्मविश्लेषण और सिंहावलोकन की जरूरत पर बल दिया है। इस दौर में वास्तुविद और प्लानर भी दोराहे पर आ खड़ा हुआ है। उसके सामने एक तरफ हजारों बेघर हैं तो दूसरी तरफ बढ़ती आवश्यकताओं और उन्नत इच्छाओं वाला मध्यम और उच्च वर्ग भी है।

भारतीय स्थापत्य कला पर आधुनिकीकरण का जबर्दस्त दबाव पड़ा। परंपरागत, रूढ़िवादी और मतविभिन्नताओं वाले भारतीय समाज को प्रत्येक आयाम से आधुनिक स्वरूप देना था। देश के नीति नियंताओं ने इसके लिए पश्चिम के विशेषज्ञों और व्यावसायिक लोगों की सेवा और तकनीक लेना ही उचित समझा। इस तरह नये भारत की आधारशिला विश्व प्रसिद्ध फ्रांसीसी वास्तुविद ली कॉर्बूज़ियर ने रखी। उन्होंने भारत की विकसित होती राजनैतिक और सांस्कृतिक समझ के प्रतीकस्वरूप चंडीगढ़, पंजाब में एक प्रशासनिक शहर की रूपरेखा बनाई। उनके सिद्धान्तों ने भारत के युवा वास्तुविदों पर गहरा प्रभाव छोड़ा। साठ के दशक के अंत में अमेरिकी वास्तुविद लुइस खान को आई.आई.एम. अहमदाबाद की डिजायन तैयार करने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई। इस इमारत के निर्माण में उनके द्वारा किया गया ईंटों का इस्तेमाल भारतीय स्थापत्य कला के इतिहास में न सिर्फ मील का पत्थर बना, बल्कि एक प्रेरणा के तौर पर भी उभरा।

ए.पी. कण्विंदे, मानसिंह एम.राणा, बी.पी. दोशी, जे.ए. स्टीन, चार्ल्स कॉरी, अनंत राजे, राज रेवाल, लॉरी बेकर, रागजीत साबिकी, उत्तम सी. जैन सरीखे चंद वास्तुविदों ने इस दिशा में सहायनीय योगदान किया है। ‘भारतीयता’ को नई परिभाषा देते हुए आधुनिक भारतीय स्थापत्य को रेखांकित करती कृतियां निर्मित की हैं। यही नहीं, आर्किटेक्ट को चाहे मिस्त्री, ड्राफ्ट्समैन कहे या वास्तुशिल्पी, इन्होंने इस मिथक को भी तोड़ा है कि वे सिर्फ इमारत का खाका तैयार करने, उसकी तामीर और बनावट की ही जानकारी रखते हैं। वह भूस्वामी की शारीरिक और आर्थिक आवश्यकताओं का ही नहीं बल्कि अब तो सामाजिक, राजनैतिक, सांस्कृतिक व धार्मिक हैसियत और छवि का भी भरपूर ध्यान रखते हैं।



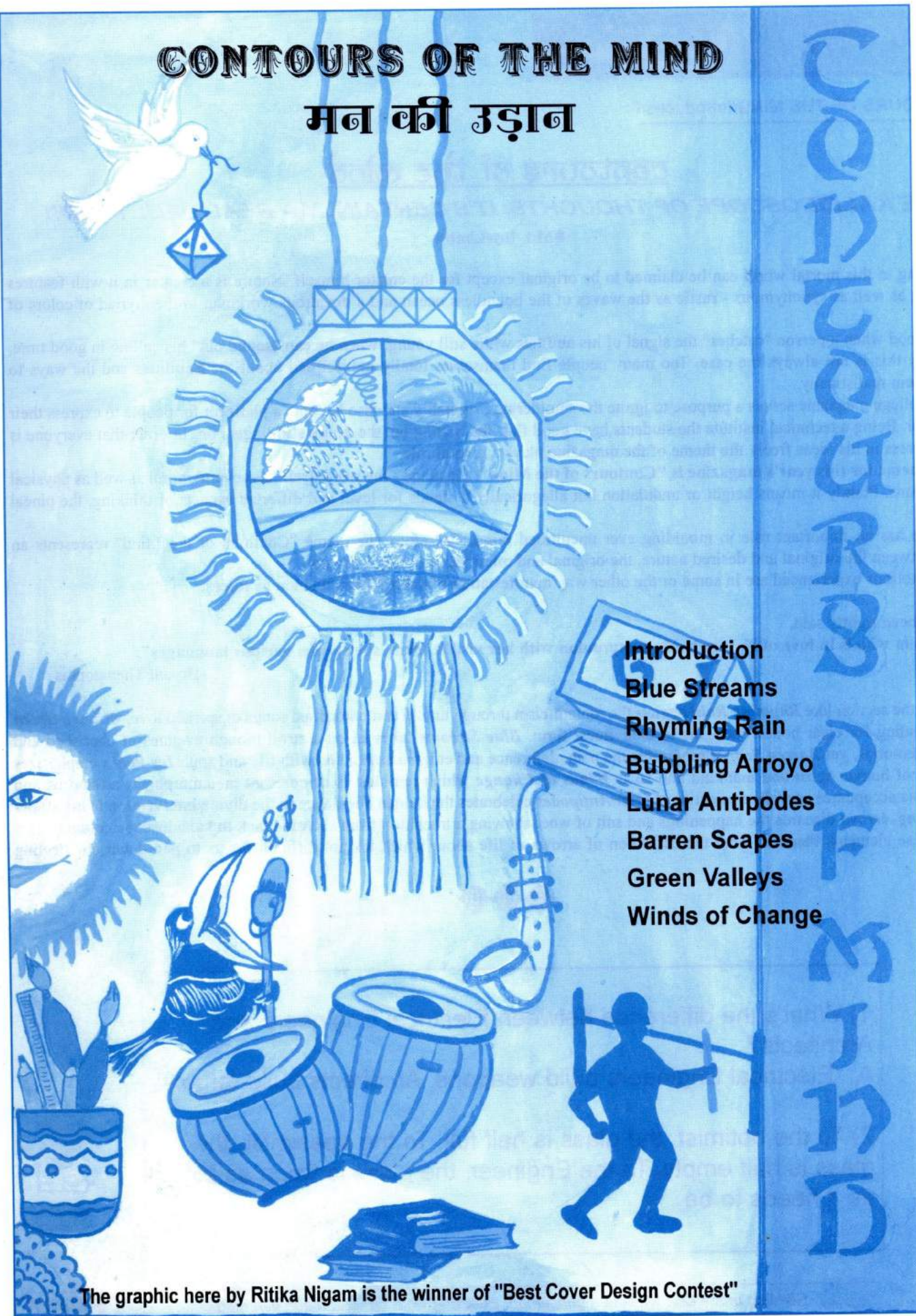
Graphic By : Rimpay D

संकलन:  
निधि शर्मा  
प्रथम वर्ष  
वास्तुकला शास्त्र



# CONTOURS OF THE MIND

## मन की उड़ान



The graphic here by Ritika Nigam is the winner of "Best Cover Design Contest"





## contours of the mind

**THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF THOUGHTS; IT'S CERTAINLY A BEAUTIFUL MIND!!**

●Md. Intekhab●

Nothing in this mortal world can be claimed to be original except for the creator himself. Nature is a creator in it with features contrasting as well as synonymous - rustic as the waves of the boundless ocean and a dexterous workman in the myriad of colors of butterflies.

It is good when a person "catches" the signal of his abilities while still young; when he can "sound out" his calling in good time. Regrettably this is not always the case. Too many people find themselves totally uninformed about their abilities and the ways to estimate them realistically.

The college magazine serves a purpose to ignite the smoldering originality and also become a platform for people to express their literary flair. Being a technical institute the students have good flair for writing but the desire still lingers on. In order that everyone is able to express in his ideas freely the theme of the magazine plays a pivotal role.

**The theme for this year's magazine is "Contours of the Mind".** Contours - the word itself has several moral as well as physical interpretations. Plainly it means height or undulation but allegorically it stands for level and different aspects of thinking, the pineal emotions.

Nature has an important role in moulding ever uncultured mind. Therefore, the theme "Contours of the Mind" represents an analogy between the original and desired nature, the original and mind the deriving innovator.

All emotions experienced are in some or the other way manifestation of natural phenomenon or forces.

It has been rightly said,

**"To him who is in love of Nature holds communion with her visible form, she speaks various languages".**

-Bryant Thenatopkis

While the section like ***Rhyming Rain*** depicts the romanticism through untold and untouched songs of spirited love, we have ***Green Valleys*** standing for clear honest thoughts in their finest form. ***Blue Streams*** takes us on a stroll through avenues of cherished and indelible memories, yet ***Barren Scapes*** represents the pain, deference and enigma associated with life and soul. ***Icy Peaks*** emphasizes the victory of human spirit and mankind and so is ***Winds of Change*** which reminds us of constant metamorphosis around us and rapidity of its acceptance as well as rejection. ***Lunar Antipodes*** celebrates the human allegiance to the divine intervention in his affairs and ***Bubbling Arroyo*** discards the happenings and snit of woe: showing a transition from solemn black to kaleidoscope colours.

All these elements blend in them the definition of arrows of life about which it's not difficult for us to pen down our fleeting emotions.



1) What's the difference between Electrical Engineers and Architects?

A: Electrical Engineers build weapons, Architects build targets.

2) To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the Engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be



# GOD'S OWN LAND



SERENITY



CRYSTAL DAWN



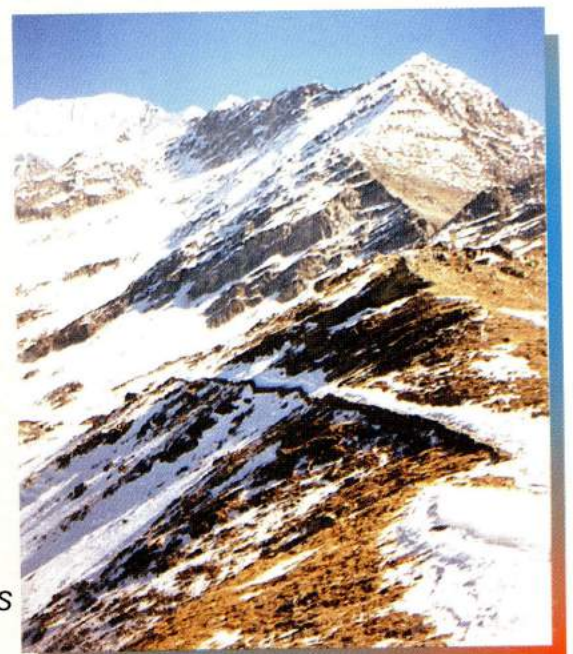
DAWN OF SPRING



ECHOING GORGES



WRATH OF NATURE : FOREST FIRE!



INVINCIBLE HEIGHTS



# *Our Alma-mater - N.I.T. Hamirpur*



*Welcome to N.I.T. Hamirpur*



*Applied Science Department*



*Electrical Engineering Department*



*Mechanical Engineering Department*



*Computer Science & Engineering Department*



*Library*



*Auditorium (under construction)*



*Open air Theatre*



# BLUE STREAMS

## विस्मृत यात्रा: यादों का मंगल

“महूर्तमपि जीवेत नरः शुक्लेन कर्मणा ।  
न कल्पमपि कष्टेन लोकद्वयविरोधिना ॥”

याद  
मेरा बचपन  
मित्र का बिछोह  
Away You Keep My Helm  
Please...

Graphis By : Sonam Tashi





◆ मन की उड़ान/विस्मित यात्रा : यादों का मंजर

## याद

-सिद्धार्थ कोहली

प्रथम वर्ष

संगणक विज्ञान एवं अभियांत्रिकी



Graphic By : Sujit Kumar Brahma

**आत्मकथ्य :** "समय के साथ-साथ नये साथी मिलते हैं, पुराने खो जाते हैं, केवल रह जाती हैं तो उनकी यादें"

ना जाने किस पथ पर चला जा रहा हूँ,  
 प्रेम में उसके बहा जा रहा हूँ,  
 भीगे नयन पर मैं हंसता रहा हूँ,  
 इस दुनिया से मैं सिमटता रहा हूँ,  
 कौन हूँ मैं, कहाँ जा रहा हूँ।  
 वही मेरी प्रेरणा, वही मेरा सब कुछ,  
 कहना है मुझे अभी उससे बहुत कुछ,  
 ये भीगी लताएं, ये शीतल हवायें,  
 हर क्षण मुझे उसकी याद दिलायें,  
 कौन हूँ मैं, कहाँ जा रहा हूँ।  
 वह प्रेम का सागर वह करुणा का गागर,  
 न भूल सका मैं उसे इतना चाहकर,  
 भेजा था उसने मुझे समझा बुझाकर,  
 मिलना है मुझे उससे आकर,  
 कौन हूँ मैं कहाँ जा रहा हूँ,  
 याद में उसकी पल-पल मैं रोता रहा हूँ,  
 चक्षु खोल मैं सोता रहा हूँ।  
 मधुरिम गीत मैं गाता चला हूँ।  
 अपने हृदय को समझाता चला हूँ।  
 कौन हूँ मैं कहाँ जा रहा हूँ।





◆ मन की उड़ान/विस्मित यात्रा : यादों का मंजर

## मेरा बचपन

-नीलम चौहान  
जनपद अभियांत्रिकी  
प्रथम वर्ष

शीशम के पेड़ पर झूलता छलांग लगाता,  
'सपना'  
वो नहाकर सावन की फुहार में  
मिट्टी की खुशबू लेता,  
पीछे खेतों में मिट्टी के धरौंदे बनाता,  
खुले आँगन से चाँद निहारता,  
कभी उड़ाता उमंगों की पतंग,  
जज्बातों के पेंच लड़ाता,  
मेरा बचपन।  
रेत के टीलों पर,  
रेत ही की भाँति  
हवा में उड़ता,  
वक्त के साथ दूर निकल गया  
मैं खड़ी देखती रही,  
और आज भी वहीं खड़ी हूँ  
निहार रही हूँ  
बचपन को  
यादों के आइने में।

आत्मकथ्य : आडंबर से भरे इस विश्व में बचपन की किलकारियाँ भला किसे सहसा याद न आ जाएँ।



Graphic By : Avesh Parashar





◆ मन की उड़ान/विस्मित यात्रा : यादों का मंजर

## मित्र का बिछोह

-सौरभ कुलश्रेष्ठ  
प्रथम वर्ष  
विद्युत अभियांत्रिकी

उसका रुदन मुझे चकित कर रहा है।  
उसका दुःख मुझे झंकृत कर रहा है।  
वैसे तो वह वज्र हृदय है,  
सोचकर हैरान हूं वह रुदन कर रहा है।  
उसका रोना है मानो,  
नवपल्लवित अंकुर का झड़ना,  
सुंदर चेहरे का पक्षाघात से अकड़ना,  
भोर की किरणों पर कोहरा छाना  
कल्पनाओं के ग्रामों में जलप्रपात आना।  
ऐसा नहीं है कि पिघल रहा है हृदय उसका।  
विपरीत परिस्थितियों में जकड़ा है हृदय उसका।  
उसका रोना तो स्वाभाविक ही है।  
आखिर कोहरे में मेघ है,  
वायु में वेग है,  
पक्षाघात साध्य नहीं है,  
अंकुर को खाद नहीं है।  
रोना तो उसके लिए अटल सत्य है।  
आखिर उसका कारण भी तो अकाट्य है।  
आज उसकी परममित्र से बिछुड़ने की बेला है।  
अनजान राहों पर पा रहा खुद को अकेला है।  
वो मित्र जो साथ-साथ रहे, साथ-साथ बढ़े।  
साथ-साथ खेले, साथ-साथ जीवन कण्टक झेले।  
वह मित्र जिसने उसे जीना सिखाया,  
उसे शक्ति दी, उसे भक्ति दी।  
उसे तंत्र दिया, उसे मंत्र दिया।  
उसे प्यार दिया, दुलार दिया।  
उसे प्रभा दी, उसे विभा दी।  
उसे ज्ञान दिया, उसे मान दिया।  
उसके कण-कण में प्रवेश किया।  
उसे नया वेश दिया।



Graphic By : Ritika Nigam





उसे अखण्ड बनाया, उसे प्रचण्ड बनाया।  
 उसको आनन्द का उन्मेष दिया,  
 उसमें जो कुछ था शेष दिया।  
 उसे निजपथ दिया, ज्ञानरूपी रथ दिया।  
 उसे जीवन सिद्धांत दिया, उसे एक चित्त शांत दिया।  
 उसे दी एक प्रेम की बयार,  
 उसके जीवन में दिया नया निखार।  
 पर यह बिछोह भी तो उसे,  
 जीवन पथ पर अग्रसर कर रहा है।  
 बिछुड़कर वो नया ध्येय प्राप्त करने वाला है।  
 सम्पूर्ण सृष्टि में अपनी एक पहचान बनाने वाला है।  
 वो लम्हें वो पल बरसों याद रहेंगे।  
 रो-रोकर जाने वाले फिर पुराने दिनों की फरियाद करेंगे।  
 एकान्त में तुम्हारी स्मृति में डूब जाया करेंगे।  
 हर घड़ी, हर लम्हा, हर वक्त, हर मुसीबत,  
 तुम्हे याद करेंगे, तुम्हे याद करेंगे।

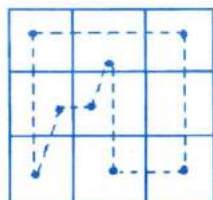
आत्मकथ्य अपने अतिप्रिय मित्र के बिछुड़ने की वेला के विषादपूर्ण वातावरण को दर्शाया गया है एवम् उसकी यादों को संजोया गया है।

### MOVERS AND JUMPERS

The objects is to start on any square, visit every other square exactly once, and return to your starting place from each square, you can only move to another square in the same row or column, from a square with a number, you must jump that many squares in some direction, from a square containing an arrow, you must jump same number of squares in the direction.

↓	↓	2
1	1	1
1	→	↑

Solution :







## Away You Keep My Helm!

By:  
**Vikas Saroha**

Second Year,  
Electronics and Communication Engineering.

### A Worried Fellow

The departing sun was giving way to the languid darkness. It was an hour ago that Mrs. Mallik's son Ram was expected home. This was not the only reason for Mrs. Mallik's trepidation but also the way in which Ram was changing, changing in a dubious way. This was literally giving her sleepless nights. Wouldn't any other mother feel the same way when the lone heir is .....god knows headed somewhere. Being the only son, Ram was expected to do all the duties of a son as well as the responsibilities of the head of the family were soon to be given to him.

Ram not completely oblivious to his mother's worries regarding him was sitting on the bridge across the stream, with his distinguished equanimity eventually vanishing. This spot, without doubt, was his favorite. He had been visiting it for the last sixteen years. And what did he do there? Only he knew, he talked with someone, probably himself.

The purpose of this visit was to rid him of the indecisiveness that had descended on him. It isn't that he hadn't got tackle problems, in fact this father-less boy has had loads, but what worried him was the consequence of a wrong decision. Hastily he grabbed his bag and sprinted for the last bus for his home. Fortunately he reached the bus stop, just in time for the bus. Another half an hour and he'll be home.

### A Proud Son

Ram was still a kid of five years when he lost his father. Maj. Anil Mallik, a martyr of the 1971 war, a Vir Chakra awardee, was a brave man. Had it not been for his mother's insistence Ram would have joined the army himself. Ram wielded the tag of being a 'Mallik', son of a brave man and a very responsible and sensible lady. Mrs. Mallik had been working as a teacher since 1972.

The wall clock had struck 8 when the door bell rang. Mrs. Mallik, expecting Ram, hurried to the door. Yes it was indeed Ram, merry and cheerful as always. Seeing her son in a state of normalcy, some of her concern subdued but still the worries were not completely allayed. "Where have you been, I was beginning to worry", asked Mrs. Mallik. "I was on the bridge, admiring the serene beauty of the place, lost all track of time and ..... You know ma!" replied Ram.

"Are you sure, there's nothing troubling you", with a grin, "Why do I get the feeling that you are hiding something from me"

"Ma every thing is just fine. You know me. I haven't hidden anything from you."

"I know that's what worries me all the more, if there's anything it's got to be something concerning you. And you don't want your ma to worry about it."

Ram understanding the futility of any discussion at this point of time, when he had reached a decision, gave a comforting smile.

"Ma I am starved may I have something to eat."

"Sure, dinner will be ready in fifteen minutes in the mean time you have a change."

As usual Ram was up at five in the morning. After the daily ablutions he took to the ground, skirting the residential area. Going by hearsay Ram had been keeping this routine for quite some time now. No doubt at 6 ft. 2 in. he had a musculature that anyone would envy. The training cadets never ceased to amaze and excite him. Some times he wondered how it would feel to be a part of them. Every now and then he would find time to drop into the gym and sweat a few good and satisfying hours.

### The College And The Girl

Being Thursday, the first couple of hours were free today. Ram decided to utilize this time for the impending exams. In a couple of week's time, exams would ensue. From the corner of his eye he could see Sukanya approaching the table where he sat. With a heap of fat and dusty books to look into, he paid no heed towards her arrival, or pretended that way.

Yes he had made his decision. She sat beside him for a few moments and when couldn't get Ram to talk; she crouched over the table and commented "Wow! Started preparing for the exams". With a start Ram acknowledged her arrival and flashed a warm smile on his nodding face. He intended some serious studies. She sat there for a few moments, blinking her eyelids in a flurry. Sukanya let it pass, she would let allow her latest and best friend and a prospective lover, study.

Sukanya was, indisputably the most beautiful girl in the college. With silky black tresses, there were stares all the way. Always





stares. Boys and men alike, stopped doing whatever they were doing, as she glided by like a model on the run way. If rumors were to be believed she once bugged up the traffic from a side walk, outside the college. Whistles and catcalls were a way of life. And after a brief of befriending, the beauty queen Ram was proud of her. And he was equally proud of the fact that he took pride in his beautiful friend. She was an expert at brevity, didn't reveal much about herself. People were always on the lookout to find out more about her. This further added to her goddess status. A single word uttered out of place could be the news on the campus. The news that she would eventually date Ram had spread like forest fire. Ram too enjoyed a status among the men that equaled Sukanya's among the girls. Presumably both were celebrities of sorts. Sukanya for obvious reasons and Ram for his intelligence, smartness, athletic body and to crown it all, a charming nature.

After attending all the scheduled classes Ram made his way to the canteen and eased himself on a chair next to Sukanya's who was waiting there for three hours.

"How are doing this morning?" asked Ram.

"I am fine"

"I assume studies are going on well"

"Yeah!"

"By the way how's Renee?"

"Oh! She is recuperating well", Renee was her cat that had injured it self while fighting with a stray cat.

"What about the movie this afternoon", enquired Sukanya?

"I would have been obliged but got some family arrears to run."

"That means no movie today"

"I am sorry but no..."

"Ok, no probs"

"Ok see ya tomorrow". And the usual good bye rituals followed.

### **Ram's Dilemma**

Ram had lied for the first time. How he wanted this day to come and when it comes he denies permission. One half of him, Ram the college hero, was constantly snarling at him. Whereas the other half, Ram, the son of Vir charka Maj. Mallik, the cool, calm and better half cheered him for his audacity. It was a sort of no win situation.

Ram was in love with Sukanya and equally fond of her. He had to choose his way and this is what he did yesterday on the bridge. He had two paths to pick from. First one being easy and most obvious - to take the plunge and go about as a lover boy. There was indeed no harm in loving somebody and being loved but only as far as it does not cast its spell on other more important things. Ram felt, in taking the first path there was a bleak possibility of things going haywire and he was not the sort of person who left things to chance. How could the lone heir of the Malliks indulge in anything that could put the family name at stake? Though the odds were heavily in favor of going about it but what resisted him were the extremely high stakes. This was when he started searching for another option, not an easy one. But it seemed to be more reasonable and full proof. He would take things one at a time and would let time decide if it was the correct decision. Before leaving his sanctuary, the bridge he had indeed taken his decision.

Sukanya called up that evening.

"Hello can I speak to Ram"

"May I know who's calling", asked Mrs. Mallik.

"Namaste! Auntyji this is Sukanya here"

"How are you dear ? calling after a long time, hold on a sec; I'll call Ram"

Ram took the receiver confidently and expressed his reluctance to go anywhere out with her.

Sukanya was surprised. In a state of commotion she continued the conversation.

"What's the big deal? It was you who initiated the relationship and now you are backing off."

"Sukanya dear! I am not backing off it's just that I am in the middle of doing things more important that freaking out "

"Come on Ram you don't have to be that blunt with me, speak out what's on your mind, I'll listen"

"Look Sukanya, I am at the helm of my family, the Malliks, I have got huge responsibilities on me. You know my dad sacrificed his life doing a great thing. I know I can't go any where near that greatness but surely enough I need to give it my best shot. And for that I need to spend some time with myself."

"Does that mean we are finished with a relationship which never started?"

There was no response from Ram's end, soon the line went dead.

What made Ram make up his mind was his long visit to the bridge yesterday. Hearsay was absorbing every point of his argument that happened to be simple and lucid.

"Yeah! I do love her, no doubt. And by doing what I am about to do my love for her won't die down. In fact my fondness for her would grow all the more. To love and be loved it's not necessary to move hand in hand and do all sorts of crap that the lovers are





supposed to do. I'll keep it simple and straight. I'll not step out of my way and neither would let her do that. Taking one thing in a stride I would give my best to whatever I ought to do as a son, as a student and as a friend, but for now at least not as a man in love. My conviction is that the lack of my knowledge about Sukanya, the curiosity, would keep my interest alive in her. Going by this the intensity of my love should grow."

The other half was pleading desperately, "No! This is not correct, you must not do that. If you loose her now she'll never ever be yours. Consider yourself lucky and go and hold on to her hand."

"No I have decided and this is exactly what I'll do"

With these final words he left the bridge yesterday. His better half had overpowered the other one.

#### **Sukanya's Appreciation**

The next day Sukanya met him in the canteen. He didn't know what to say. She sat against him. She was wearing a white suit with a yellow dupatta. "Gosh! She is really very beautiful", thought Ram. Finally after an eternal silence she spoke up "Well! I thought about it yesterday, I went over it again and again. At first I was disappointed; I felt you had betrayed me. But when I went over it all over again, I realized perhaps you were right. May be I was expecting a bit too much from you. I would like to thank you for giving me this insight." Ram had nothing to say. He simply looked into her deep expressive eyes.

"Ram I want to confess something"

"Ya go ahead"

"After getting to know you more I have fallen in love with you"

Ram was listening to every word intently. He never expected this, not today at least. Sukanya turned around and was gone. Ram was impressed with the maturity and understanding she had shown. His love and respect grew all the more.

#### **Ram: A Relieved Man**

With every thing sorted out he was a relieved man today. He was in a jubilant mood as he strode his way to his sanctum, the bridge. Was he a lot of oomph!? He was contented and satisfied. He had made a decision. At the same time he also gained Sukanya's support and love.

"To be fond of some one is a good thing, and continue doing so for a longer period is even better. To achieve the latter keep a part of the person unknown and feel the constant curiosity tugging your love, never letting it fall."

Ram reclined to one of the best sleeps he has had in the last couple of years. Mrs. Mallik too was relieved to see the same old charm and a new vigor back on Ram's face. She thanked god for everything and slept the best of her sleeps.

Hearsay has it; Maj. Anil Mallik's statue on the 'chowk' was overwhelmed by a sense of pride, affection, satisfaction and relief.

**Tube Thought:** Sometimes reality is not as harsh as it seems and dreams can be more a killer.

### **SPIRITUAL QUOTES**

*Thinking you need rest makes you restless.  
Thinking you have to work hard makes you tired  
Thinking you have worked hard brings self-pity.  
--Sri Sri Ravi Shankar*





◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Blue Streams

PLEASE...

By:  
Rahul Sharma,  
First Year,  
Electrical Engineering.

Through the Obscurity,  
Let the radiance infiltrate in;

Through the billows of sorrows,  
Let the sparkle filter in;

In this desolate globe of eternal brutality,  
Let the damp of benevolence in;

Though we are petite,  
We want our imaginings to fly in;

But we desire only a goblet of water,  
Not the brook to imbibe in;

No carefree laughter silence ever after,  
So let the jovial smile in;

We are petite bashful mortals,  
And don't want bullies to funnel in;

We are the birds of this gratis atmosphere,  
So bestow us the open firmament to flutter in!



Graphic By : Sonam Tashi

**Tube Thought :** Freedom is an imperative to the happiness and prosperity of any common man. We came from a free land to a land where we need freedom and not the restrictions!



# A Party of Physicists



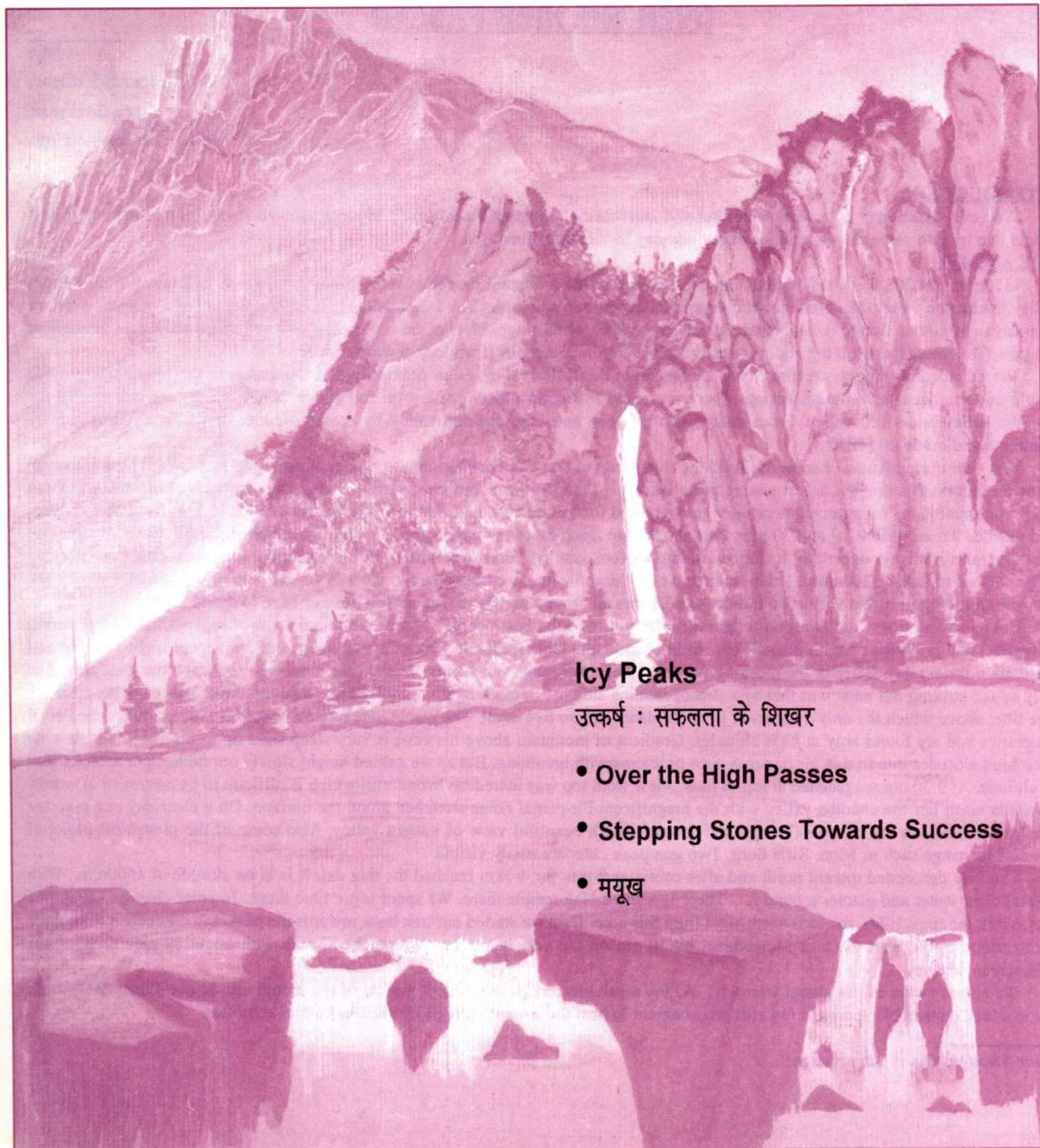
**Learning physics becomes much easier when we  
look for the lighter sides in every aspect.**

**Sauvik Podder**  
1st Year, Electronic Engg.



# ICY PEAKS

उत्कर्ष : सफलता के शिखर



## Icy Peaks

उत्कर्ष : सफलता के शिखर

- Over the High Passes
- Stepping Stones Towards Success
- मयूख

Graphic By : Binod Mukhia





## ◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Icy Peaks

# OVER THE HIGH PASSES

By:

Neeraj Kumar,

Pre-final year,

Mechanical Engineering.

### INTRODUCTION:

"You can take a man out of mountain but you can't take a mountain out of him". Mountains have always enthralled me. In this article I've tried to share my experience of my odyssey in western Himalayas.

### THE ASCENT:

4350mtrs [14,268 feet], height above mean sea level of the mountain pass known as -Indrahara, which is gateway from Kangra valley to chamba valley. My home town dharamsala, abode of his holiness The Dalai lama is situated at the lap of a majestic Western Himalayan Mountain Range -Dhauladhar. Dhauladhar means white range. Most of the peaks of this range remain snow clad throughout the year. The range I am talking about is easily visible from our campus if we look towards north.

The Dhauladhar ranges stretches from Dalhousie to the Kullu valley. Such proximity of Dharamsala to the mountains provide ample opportunities for mountaineering. There are many mountain passes present on this range. These passes are gateway to the chamba valley and kullu valley. From dharamsala one can enter the chamba valley by crossing either of the two passes namely indrahara and minkiani [4250m].

Last year during August I went for Trekking in a group of six. Our destination was a sacred lake -Nag Dal Lake. There are seven lakes present on this range. Largest among these lakes is -Lam Dal lake. and most sacred is Nag Dal. Trek from Dharamsala to nag dal is approx.40K.m. We arranged necessary gear required for trek and food etc. On first day we trekked for 10 K.m from McLeodganj and reached Triund [2900 m] at 7.30 p.m. Our aim was to reach up to the base camp, a natural cave called Lahesh Cave. Weather on the mountains is always uncertain. It started raining. we took rest in a forest rest house. Because of night and bad weather, we decided to go only up to Ilaka [3200mtrs]. Ilaka is situated near the snow line. we trekked up to ilaka, with the help of torch light, and reached there around 10 pm. It was very cold and dense mist was all around us. There was no rest house or cave to spend night.

But as saying goes "traveling on toughest routes you find the best people". There we found some shepherds from neighboring villages. They provided us with a small hut made of mud and stones. Due to lack of space inside hut, we spent night chatting and planning our next day. Early in the morning we packed our rucksacks and around 3.am in the morning we started our final trek. The only sound striking our ears was that of a stream running side by. In torch light we trekked up to lahesh cave. This cave lies near the tree line, above which the only vegetation is small plants and no tree at all. The plants here having beautiful flowers, have medicinal properties and are found only at high altitudes. Gradient of mountain above his cave is very steep right up to the indrahara pass. At such high altitudes due to thin air one may face problems with breathing. But as we gained height slowly our bodies got acclimatized to altitude. At 9:30 am we reached at top of pass. View from top was incredibly wonderful which is difficult to be portrayed in words. Towards north lies the chamba valley with the magnificent Pir-panjal range stretched along the horizon. On a clear day one may see the Mt.Kailash, on the pir panjal range and towards south beautiful view of kangra valley. Also some of the prominent peaks of dhauladhar range such as Mon, Rifle horn, Two gun peak, etc. are easily visible.

Then we descended toward north and after continuous trek for 4-5km reached the nag dal. It is at an altitude of 4000mtrs. With crystal clear water and glacier around it. There is a small Nag temple there. We spent some time there. To enter chamba valley one has to trek for appx.10hrs. towards north-west from this lake. Then we started our trek back towards the pass, and descended from there up to triund. We were back at McLeodganj by 10 pm on the very same day. We reached home with lingering memories of our Himalayan odyssey.

We all are aware of the global warming. As the result glaciers have receded in most of the mountains on our planet. We should try to adopt sustainable approach towards environment to heal the wounds caused by various human activities.

**Tube Thought:** As in introduction!!





## STEPPING STONES TOWARDS SUCCESS

By:  
Karan Madan,  
Second Year,  
Civil Engineering

Nothing succeeds like success.

Success in life is what each one of us wants to achieve in any field or for that matter every field. But success is not something we can achieve overnight, we have to sow the seeds, water them everyday to get the fruits we want.

Success is not innate, we have to inculcate it in our discipline, determination and hard-work. Success as a result of hard-work gives us a greater sense of achievement and satisfaction. It has been rightly said by Henry Ward Beecher, "Victories that are cheap are cheap. Those only are worth having which come as a result of hard fighting."

In spite of the enormous hard-work we put in, we still may not succeed. Some time or the other we may fail. But we should remember that every failure is a 'comma', not a full stop. We should plan around our failures, not against them. The first and foremost thing is to believe in ourselves that we have the potential and the ability to succeed in even a very difficult task.

"The idea of faith in ourselves is of the greatest help to us.

Throughout the history of mankind, if any motive power  
Has been more potent than another in the lives of great  
Men and women, it is that of faith in themselves."

-Swami Vivekananda

Secondly we must always do the task at hand then and there rather than saying, "I'll do it someday." When we say this we are just delaying the work because someday is not a day of the week.

Everybody dreams of being successful but only those succeed, who wake up to realise their dream. In other words just thinking about a problem may not solve it but working towards its solution will.

A great misconception we have is that successful people are genius and we are not. We harbour extra-ordinary notions about them and this in fact is the greatest obstacle in our road to success. Winners don't have something extra-ordinary in them that makes them successful. They have a sense of timing. In a similar way we should also try to do the right thing at the right time. Whenever a problem comes up we should say, "I must do something" rather than "Something must be done."

We feel that everything is easy for winners but what we don't know is that it must have been difficult before it got easy. What winners have, are qualities which lead to success. Really! So do we. These qualities are inherent in each one of us. We just have to realize them. It is like having a treasure underneath our house and not knowing it. As soon as we know it our way of looking at things changes. We start believing in ourselves and our ability to succeed.

The desire to succeed can be portrayed by the following lines:

"Somebody said that it couldn't be done, but he with a chuckle replied that "maybe it couldn't", but he would be one who would say so till he tried. So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin on his face. If he worried he did it. He started to sing as he tackled the thing. That couldn't be done, and he did it.

**Tube Thought:** In the following article I have expressed my views on how to succeed in life. Some of these might hold key to our goals in life





◆ मन की उड़ान/उत्कर्ष : सफलता के शिखर

## मयूरव

-अरुण डांडा

द्वितीय वर्ष

ऋण आवेशिकी एवं संचार अभियांत्रिकी

इस उज्ज्वल अधियारे जीवन के  
हर क्षण को हमने देखा है,  
हर पल को है महसूस किया,  
ये जीवन समय की रेखा है  
है दुःख तुम्हें गर मिला अधिक,  
ना शोक करो, सुख भी आएगा  
फिर स्नेह सुसज्जित जीवन से  
भला कौन जन पछताएगा।  
है हममें भी वो छिपा हुआ,  
जो होता है इक विजेता में  
है कहीं ना कहीं हममें भी वही,  
जो शायद था नचिकेता में।  
इक दिन उन चांद-सितारों से

हम वक्त बेवक्त खेलेंगे,  
प्रतिदिन सूर्य की लाली से  
हम अपना मस्तक धो लेंगे।  
है आज वक्त इन हाथों में  
कर लो दुनिया को तुम अपना,  
एक नये आगाज की खातिर  
ना जाने वक्त फिर कब आएगा।  
तो उठ जाग मुसाफिर, कदम उठा  
इस जीवन नौका को आगे बढ़ा  
इक दिन फिर वक्त होगा तेरा  
उन्नति चूमेगी कदम तुम्हारा।  
इक नया सवेरा आएगा।  
इक नया सवेरा आएगा।।

आत्मकथा : धैर्य ही उद्यमी पुरुष का श्रृंगार है।



Graphic By : Sujit Kumar Brahma



# RHYMING RAIN

## रागिनी : गीत स्फुरण के

“प्रियवाक्यप्रदानेन सर्वे तुष्यन्ति जन्तवः ।  
तस्मान्तदेव वक्तव्यं वचने का दरिद्रता॥”



प्रेम का अध्याय  
कौन हो तुम  
मैं तो उस से प्यार करूंगा  
A Prayer From The Lover





◆ मन की उड़ान/रागिनी: गीत स्फुरण के

## प्रेम का अध्याय

-अंकुर शर्मा

तृतीय वर्ष

आवेशिकी एवं संचार अभियांत्रिकी

टूटती सपनों की बिखरी साँसों से,  
चलो आज लिखें प्रेम का अध्याय प्रियतम्।  
हो प्रेम का अध्याय ऐसे  
जैसे-  
चाँद निखरा, चन्द्रिका-निखरी हुई हो,  
कुछ अंधेरा, कुछ सहर,  
भूमि से आकाश तक बिखरी हुई हो,  
मरुस्थली मरीचिका, सुधामयी जैसे हुई हो,  
मृत्यु जैसे जीवन में परिणय किये हुई हो,  
मिलने की घड़ियाँ प्रिये फिर से वही हों,  
और तारों की महफिल ने अपनी बाँहें फैला दी हों।  
सत्य की कोई किरण जैसे खिली हुई हो,  
मेरे प्रस्ताव पर जैसे तुम शरमा दी हो,  
झरना झूमा करता हो कैलाश गिरि पर,  
सर सरि हिल्लोलित करती लहरा-लहराकर,  
-हो जैसे रात्रि रास की,  
और राधे तुम कान्हा की, जैसे बनी हो।  
ओ प्राणप्रिये, ओ राधे  
चलो आज लिखें प्रेम का अध्याय प्रियतम्।



Graphic By : Vibha Gupta

आत्मकथ्य : “जब मन की तरंगों ने बुद्धि को विराम दिया तो भाव पन्नों में उतर गये।”





◆ मन की उड़ान/रागिनी: गीत स्फुरण के

## कौन हो तुम

-पूनम भास्कर

द्वितीय वर्ष

ऋण आवेशिकी एवं संचार अभियांत्रिकी

फिर सूरज उगा

फिर तारे सो गये

फिर रात, दिन में तब्दील हो गई,

फिर, एक परछाई नूर में उतरी,

फिर, एक सवाल मन में उभरा,

कौन हो तुम ?

जो मेरे रूह के साथ रहते हो

हर पल हर साँस पास होने का एहसास दिलाते हो

हर गम में जो मेरे हमदर्द बनके रहते हो

हर राज, हर खुशी में जो मेरे साथ शामिल होते हो

वह कुछ न बोला।

नम आँखों से फिर दोहराया मैंने सवाल

जिसके बचपन की तुम ही थे, एक कहानी

जिसकी निराशा के तुम ही थे, एक रोशनी

जिसकी दोस्ती की तुम ही थे, एक कुर्बानी

जिसकी तन्हाई की तुम ही थे, एक रागिनी

फिर भी वह कुछ न बोला।

कब सूरज डूबा, कब तारे निकले

कब दिन, रात में तब्दील हो गई फिर मौत ने मुझे दावत दी

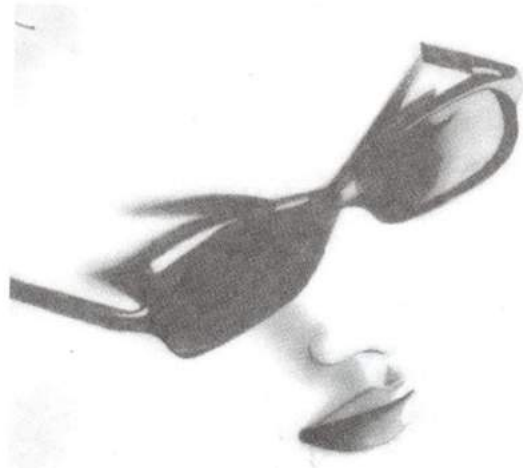
फिर उस परछाई ने मेरा हाथ पकड़ा

मैंने दिल पर हाथ रखा

कोई हलचल, न कोई धड़कन थी

मुझे जवाब मिल गया

वह तो मेरी ही परछाई थी।



\* Graphic : Divya Rai

◆ Best Entry (Art) Winner

**आत्मकथ्य :** अकसर मैं तन्हाई में बैठकर सोचती हूँ कि इंसान हमेशा दूसरों के बारे में बात करता है पर कभी अपने व्यक्तित्व के बारे में नहीं सोचता, यह नहीं सोचता कि वह स्वयं कितना अकेला है।





◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Rhyming Rain

## **A PRAYER FROM A LOVER**

By:  
Md. Intekhab,

First Year,  
Computer Science and Engineering.

The fire of your anger scalds  
Me already aflame;  
Put out with the cooling waters of  
Love this burning flame.

As I am unfamiliar with  
Your manners and your grace  
O maiden full of magic,  
Show me your alluring ways.

I fear that I may come to hold  
You in my arms in the dark  
At night, so sound in approach  
As warning your anklet bells.

In adoration of your face  
I have spent the whole life.  
O priestess of the Goddess  
Plead for me in my grief.

**Tube Thought:** Everyone has a cherished maiden which  
drives him to attain success in life.



Graphic By : Rimpi D.



# BUBBLING ARROYO

आह्लाद : मुस्कुराते चेहरे

THE FIRST HOUR

“ईप्सितं मनसः सर्व कस्य सम्पद्यते सुखम्।  
दैवाऽऽयतं यतः सर्व तस्मात्सन्तोषमाश्रयेत्॥”

The First Hour  
A Party Of Physicists  
Valentine Blues  
W. T.

हड़ताल

आखिर हम इंजीनियर हैं

आदेश

मॉडर्न द्रोणाचार्य

Graphic By : Sonam Tashi





## THE FIRST HOUR

By:  
**Satish Kumar/Virag Dhulia,**  
 Pre-final Year,  
 Electrical/Computer Science And Engineering

Come sunrise and the heavens bestow a new day to earth and life begins to rise from its dark, deep hibernate veil of inactivity and darkness and descends down on earth, a new instance of daily course. The dominance and quietness of silence begins to thaw the thunder-sound of beeps and alarms.....

.....Amongst the chaos of noise and beeps outcomes the mutter of a guy saying "what a sweet voice, why don't you sing something?" But alas!!! What is heard is the cracking, noisy and perturbing beep sound and a harsh voice shouting "Sonu, hey! Sonu, get up yaar, it is getting late for classes, come on, come on, just get up now." But Sonu the male version of our ALICE IN WONDERLAND is too busy for such mind-numbing warning. But at last, Sonu gives up to the constant effort of his room-mate to wake him up.

Sonu wakes up to find himself in a mess of chronological disorder with less than a quarter to an hour left with him to attend the square lectures. So he sets in the fourth gear to just get on time.

So one must be wondering about the laziness of Sonu. But behold! we still have Bunty who is still busy signing the autographs of his fans. Meanwhile our Mr. Perfect being ready to set up with his daily matter-of-course whereas Sonu maps his way to the aqueous place of morning where a usual 'no vacancy' sign is no unusual sight. Then some vain efforts by Sonu to get hold of a vacant room raised the usual warning, "cool man! it is still fifteen minutes", which escalates Sonu's tension and he starts parading in the poet's corner. Finally Sonu pays a piety to the in-obstruct able and unavoidable natures call. Eventually our half-baked hero, Sonu, contentedly lands himself in the valley-de-royale cuisine of the palace of seminarians.

To entertain his fiery appetite Sonu asks for the virtually delicious and the very famous 'paratha'. But the universally famous mess bhaiya being cool and indifferent to the self-invited hurry of Sonu, takes no pains to serve him specially before others. Infuriated and annoyed Sonu finally manages himself for a 'paratha'. Facing an acute dearth of chronological measures, Sonu rushes out of the mess munching the paratha and....

.....thinking that he was quite a bit lucky in getting just right on time. Meanwhile Sonu's room-mate Bunty, as Sonu thinks, being busy with his fans in wonderland would wake up to find the gravity of the chronological disorder much deeper.

But wait, lady luck had more fateful surprises in store for Sonu. As soon as he steps out of the valley-de-royale he is dumb founded to see Bunty, our second half-baked hero who was just signing the autographs of his fans in his wonderland and that too he was all set to attend lectures! Sonu failing to account for the chronological mismatch, asks "Hey Bunty, you were wandering in your wonderland just two minutes before"...Bunty just giggles off Sonu's sarcastic comment. Bunty stares at Sonu for a while, snatches the paratha and runs away....

**Tube Thought:** The article depicts the daily real life show in the college hostels. It presents a practical picture after break of dawn for some people.

### **SPIRITUAL QUOTES**

*Thinking you need rest makes you restless.  
 Thinking you have to work hard makes you tired  
 Thinking you have worked hard brings self-pity.*



मैं तो उससे प्यार करूँगा

-प्रवीण जसवाल

प्रथम वर्ष

## जनपथ अभियांत्रिकी

मैं तो उससे प्यार करूँगा, पर वो भी तो प्यार करे।  
 एक नहीं, सौ बार करूँगा, पर वो भी तो इक बार करे॥

मैंने माना मैं मृग हूँ,  
 वो मूल्यवान् कस्तूरी है।  
 मैं हूँ उसके लिये और वो  
 मेरे लिए जरूरी है।

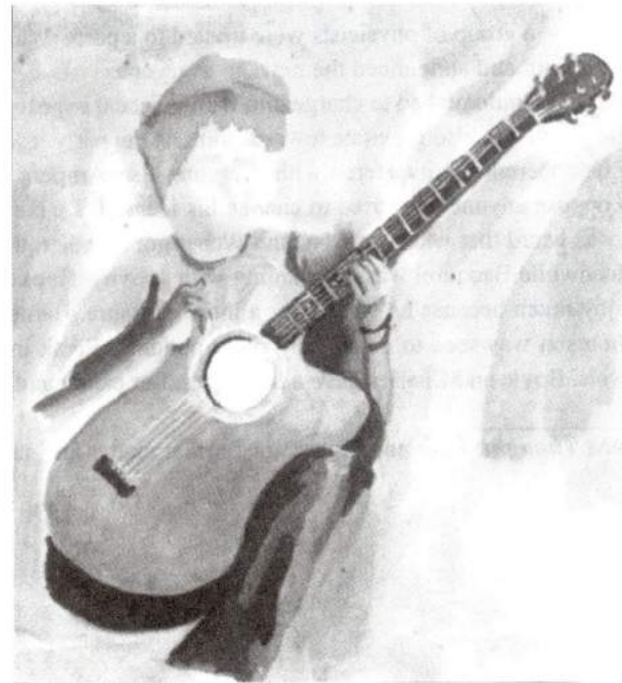
मैं सब कुछ स्वीकार करूँगा, वो भी तो कुछ स्वीकार करे।  
 मैं तो उससे प्यार करूँगा, पर वो भी तो प्यार करे॥

मैं सागर हूँ खारा-खारा,  
 वो नदिया की बहती धारा।  
 लेकिन मेरी बांहो का  
 मिलना है उसे सहारा॥

मैं अपना व्यवहार करूँगा, वो अपना व्यवहार करे।  
 मैं तो उससे प्यार करूँगा, पर वो भी तो प्यार करे॥

इश्क आग का दरिया होता,  
 इक शायर यह गाता है।  
 जो भी इसे पार कर सके,  
 बस प्यार वही कर पाता है॥

मैं यह दरिया पार करूँगा, पर वो भी तो पार करे।  
 मैं तो उससे प्यार करूँगा, पर वो भी तो प्यार करे॥



Graphic By : Sauvik Podder

**आत्मकथ्य :** “हर दोस्त अपने दोस्त से कुछ उम्मीदें रखता है, उसकी आँखों में कुछ सपने होते हैं, ये दोस्ती अपने मुकाम तक तभी पहुँच पाती है जब वे एक दूसरे की उम्मीदों पर खरे उतरें”।





## A PARTY OF PHYSICISTS

By:  
Md. Intekhab,  
First Year,  
Computer Science and Engineering.

One day, a group of physicists were invited to a party. When Archimedes heard about it, he was so buoyant about it that he jumped out of his bath and announced the news to everyone.

Coulomb had to charge him with indecent exposure. Newton initially did not move, but once he forced himself to go, everyone else seemed to also gravitate towards him. At the party it was found that Wátt was the most powerful speaker. Young, on the hand, tried to be coherent but interfered with everyone else. Ampere talked mostly about current events which Ohms tried to resist. Lenz tended to oppose anyone who tried to change his ideas. Tesla had a magnetic personality but not as wide as an area of influence as Weber. It was heard that when Faraday and Weber got together, they can surely generate a lot.

Meanwhile Becquere was beaming with activity. Hooke also had fun because it was an extension of his natural self. Pascal did not enjoy much because he was under a lot of pressure. Bernoulli was less pressurized: his secret was to move quickly. At the food table Thomson was seen to enjoy only plum pudding. Plank tried to grab food in quanta, but Bohr would only allow him to take certain levels. Boyle and Charles gave a lot of gas after eating and claimed that it was only ideal. Einstein protested that every thing is relative.

**Tube Thought:** Learning Physics or for that matter any subject becomes easier when we explore the lighter side of it.

### **Risk of Plane Bombs**

A mathematician and a non-mathematician are sitting in an airport hall waiting for their flight to go. The non-mathematician has terrible flight panic.

" Hey, don't worry. its just every 10,000th flight that crashes ".

" 1:10000? So much ? Then it surely be mine "!

" Well, there is an easy way out. Simply take the next plane. Its much more Probable that you go from a crashing to a non-crashing plane that the other way round . So, you are already at 1:10,000 squared ".





## VALENTINE BLUES!

By:

Souvik Kumar Chakravarty,

First Year,

Electronics and Communication Engineering.

It was Valentines Day yet again. The spring air was flagrant with love. My friends could even smell it. I, however, could smell nothing.

"You're probably suffering from a nasal congestion. Why didn't you instill NASIVION (nasal drops) before leaving home?" opined Sushma, clearly irritated at my nonchalance to the fragrance of love (oops! Platonic love is the word for the day)

"You'll remain the same moron that you were! Better smarten yourself up or else you'll get nothing but a whip on your butt from these Kolkata girls," said Natasha, with a sarcastic smile.

The three of us, along with Rahul and Sashi, were out on a mission. The latter two had met Sushma and Natasha before and had been 'in line' since then. It was I who had acted the Matchmaker then, but how this V-Day love had rollicked on into its first anniversary, is beyond my comprehension. It's not that there hadn't been a few hitches in between, but I had ironed them out. (Never mind the occasional sandal blows I had received from these two girls in the process!) I thus got a feeling of the fact that if I emerged jobless after passing out from this institute, I could definitely take up the profession of a matchmaker. I had a knack for it.

I am definitely a matchmaker sans match. (Pun intended) Although I have compiled a book "Ladki Patao aur Life Banao," I am not quite adept at this art. However I find my life no less 'banaya' without a girlfriend. Actually, preaching and practicing are quite distinct from each other, and according to my maxim, "a good preacher of Kaliyuga never practices his own preaching."

About a month ago, the five of us had been sitting at a café, talking about Balasaheb Thackeray and his Shiv Sainiks, who were out on a mission to cleanse India by lashing out at Archie's unethical and immoral business tactics. 'Fathers' day' and 'Mothers' day' were all right; even 'Wife's day' is acceptable. But Valentines Day with its cousin 'Friendship Day' (especially when people find it difficult to differentiate friendship from love-blame it on Kuchh Kuchh Hota Hai) was an attempt to steamroll over India's cultural grasslands. It was unacceptable to the point of fanaticism. Ransacking of Archie's galleries by Shiv Sainiks was discussed at length, and our hearths went out the owner of the shop and the insurance company which had to bear the brunt of the lathis of the followers of Lord Shiva.

My heart went out to such an extent that I followed up with

an emotional blitzkrieg. Only if I had a girlfriend like Rahul and Sashi-I helped 'catch' one. So it was their duty to get me one.

"Girlfriend kya market mein bikta hain, jo bhao bola aur kharid liya. # \ % @ # (censored), to have a girlfriend, hard work and labour is essential. Doodh-shoodh pee kar body banao. Unless you have a body like Salmaan, no girl's gonna look at you." How Sashi's 5 ft.5 in. skeleton resembled Salmaan's from any profile, I couldn't make out. I was on the verge of breaking down when the girls reminded them that a friend in need is a friend indeed. After a lot of haggling they agreed to help me get a girlfriend.

I haven't specialized in woman psychology, so I was not in a position to decide how to start. The girls advised me to select V-Day for an auspicious beginning.

So here I was, clad in Newport jeans (Rs. 399 only). My friends asked me to go in for a 'mustache', but the price tag created flutters in my economical heart. I didn't go about Salmaan style. I roped in one shirt from my father's collection of Peter England. I wanted to go out in a kurta pajama, but my friends warned that this outfit would only encourage wild chases from stray dogs.

I was walking down Park Street in this outfit, I was least used to. Needless to say, my gait was distorted beyond recognition.

"Uncouth, don't hop. Walk smartly!" said one of the girls.

"Can't you see? This jeans is too small for me. I can hardly move my legs. Wont it rip off if I try to stretch or sit?" I queried. All the answer I was fed with was a kick in my back.

Later I saw a girl at a distance, trying to cross the road bustling with traffic. The scene reminded me of Vivek Oberoi in Dum, and was about to start an emulation when Natasha interrupted, "Stupid, can't you differentiate a married woman from a girl." Ashamed at my foolishness, I blushed and walked on.

Halfway down the street came the Archie's Gallery. We hopped in. I was left mesmerized by a card. It had the following caption printed on it:

"I am Laloo, you're my Rabri;

I am a Bhaisa (buffalo), you're my Bhaisey;

I am a ganda (rhino), you're my gandee..."

I proudly showcased my latest purchase to Natasha. At first she burst into peels of laughter, but when I told her that I was





looking to purchase it she seethed in anger. "Uncouth, anari..." she began with and went on to use the latest words in her dictionary of spoken English. Realizing that the people around were enjoying this drama without a ticket, Sushma pulled her away. I was left flabbergasted and speechless.

Sashi handed me a card. The price tag read "Rs. 75 only." (Frankly speaking, I had chosen the other card going by its price tag sporting a soothing one digit figure. I am not a seasoned proposer. So selecting the right card, so getting the right words for the right moment is not my cup of tea.) My heart sank. However, a look at Natasha made me weak from within. If she unleashed her 'Fists of Fury,' I would be left with a black eye, a bleeding nose, a sprained leg.... It wasn't all this I cared for; it was the hospital charges (incurred due to Natasha's fists of fury) that made me abide by Sashi's commandments. I was even forced to buy a pack of Cadbury's Celebrations, which made me go break. (I had tried a lot to remind Sashi and Rahul of the anaxoric trends in vogue among girls nowadays. Gifting chocolates was out of fashion. "How about lassi with malai?" I quipped. All these mumbblings did not help.)

We moved on to an adjacent place, where my well-wishers felt I could come across a girl to my liking. Little did I realize that it was going to be the mistake of a lifetime.

They found a girlfriend fit for me. She was not Salmaan's Aish. To me she appeared less of a girl and more of a hit - 'wo'man. Weight: about 65 kg; height: about 5 ft. 7 in; Complexion: wheatish. I was busy comparing my thighs to her biceps when Rahul signaled me to make my move.

"Are you mad? Isn't it absurd to propose a girl without even knowing her suppose she slaps me? Who would take me to the hospital and fill the hospital charges. Suppose she falls on me. Ill get buried alive. Its simple suicide. I can't put my hard earned prestige

at stake." (How much of a prestige I had, I was in doubt.)

"We're there to tackle any emergency. This is a test case. If

you succeed, a better one is on the offing for the next attempt." They dangled a carrot and I was led astray.

I ambled up to her. I was in a shaky state. My heart was pounding like a sledgehammer. One last burst of adrenalin, and I managed to mutter, "I lloov..." The rest is history.

Her eyes became like burning embers. I noticed the twitch in her biceps, the frown on her face, the hardening of her mouth...

My book "Ladki Patao aur Life Banao" had only one advice in case you get trapped accidentally in such a situation. It states, "When in doubt, flee!"

I realized that any further delays would put my honour at stake. I could be reduced to mincemeat. I sped! My friends shouted at me to get my bounty worth Rs. 200 back.

"I care two hoots about the bounty! Life is at stake," I screamed. I ran like I had never run before. When I succeeded in pulling away from the danger area, I discovered a rip in my jeans.

Since that day I never venture outdoors on Valentine's Day. Matchmaker, my friends call me. I file no objection to this humiliation. Proposing and making girlfriends is an art and I am no master at it.

"Little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Do not venture out on a girlfriend making expedition unless you possess enough flair. It is prohibitively expensive. You could end up paying through your nose. It can lead to a total annihilation of your social prestige, and 'obliterate' your self esteem," my compiled book reads.

All this had held well till a few months back, until I met Shyamali. After that it was Kuchh Kuchh Hota hai. My old principles are now in the dumps with forthcoming changes to my book. After all, my first principle is - there are no principles.

**Tube Thought:** Tickling your emotions, this is a reflection of the experiences that culminate into 'growing up'.

**The very thought, 'I am here in this world to do service', dissolves the "I" and when the "I" dissolves, worries dissolve. Service is not something you do out of convenience or for pleasure. The ultimate purpose of life is to be of service.**

**An uncommitted mind is miserable. A committed mind may experience rough weather but will reap the fruits of its toil.**

**When you make service your sole purpose in life, it eliminates fear and brings focus. Anzassion and meditation should continue as practices till you realise that they are your very nature.**

**The flaw in doing something as an act is that you look for a result. When it is done as your nature, you are not attached to the result and you continue doing it. An action that arises from your nature is neither tiring nor frustrating. For example, daily routines like brushing one's teeth or bathing are not even considered actions because they are so integrated into one's life. You do all this without doership. When Seva is made part of your nature, it happens without doership.**





◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Bubbling Arroyo

W.T.

By:

Varun Rajput,

Computer Science and Engineering,  
First Year.



Graphic By : Sujit Brahma

My first experience of traveling alone through Indian Railways, after gaining admission in NITH was a bit tragic and taught me a lesson too. I was returning home to enjoy my Diwali holidays with my family members. From Una to Delhi a number of friends accompanied me but at Delhi station my fellow mates deserted me. I was in possession of a general class ticket of Avadh- Assam express, which was scheduled to arrive at 8:00 a.m. at platform number seven of Delhi station.

When I reached the platform with a heavy bag on my shoulders and a water bottle a huge crowd of passengers on the platform sent shivers down my spine. I promptly got the feeling that it is going to be very difficult to seize a seat in the general class compartment.

Trying to act smart I enquired from one of the vendors that where will the general class bogie position itself. "It will stop just in front of my shop", said the vendor and warned me that in this train only the big and the bold can win a seat. This shook me from head to toe because big, I was not and bold, I was not sure. Till now I had become quite sure of one thing that a tough struggle lay ahead of me.

At about 8:00 a.m., as per the schedule, the train arrived at the platform. One of the general class bogies positioned itself right in front of the vendor's shop. The arrival of the train was followed by the huge rush of the passenger jostling their way out and the bogie. Quickly, I summoned up all the courage and joined others in the conquest of winning a seat in the general class bogie but it seemed to be a distant dream as entering the bogie was even more difficult.

The urge to get inside the bogie as quickly as possible attracted a large number of passengers at the entrance just as the bees attracted to honey. The struggle for entering the bogie turned out to be the supreme most struggle as people strived hard to enter the bogie. Before it would be too late I started pushing some of the passengers in order to clear my way to the entrance.

My efforts proved fruitful and I somehow managed to reach the entrance of the compartment. But just before I could take a step





inside, a big fat man jumped upon me and I saw myself land on the platform. Following the proverb "If defeated in weight, wait", I watched the conquest. Struggles often result in wriggles and soon smacking and kicking started. The slaps and bouts ensured my distance as I stood impotently watching other's sweating in the supreme struggle for winning a seat.

Thankfully, a porter came up to me and offered me his services in return of twenty rupees. To this proposal I agreed immediately and gave him my bag. The porter had a good experience of such situations and easily pushed me near the entrance of the bogie. Just when I was only a step away from entering the bogie the porter held my bag asked me to pay him rupees twenty lest he would not leave the bag. I had forgotten to pay him at the starting of our endeavor. I requested him that I will pay him once I get a seat but all my requests fell on deaf ears. I had no choice but to step down. Once again I failed.

I paid the porter an amount of rupees twenty and urged him to try again. Once again I failed, but this time I even lost my water bottle. The porter too got the feeling that I was out of capacity for facing such a difficult struggle and fled away. Having suffered a loss of a water bottle and twenty rupees, I decide that I have had enough and dropped all the plans of returning home. But then an idea like a lightening flash struck in my mind and I entered into the bogie reserved for military men but there the conditions were even worse. One military man bearing large moustaches was in full fury. He pulled out his leather belt and started smashing the civilians out of the bogie in the same fashion as Sourav Ganguly smashes the ball for a six. Resistance fathers resistance and so, hits followed. I stood numb analyzing the chances of being smashed out, as the ferocious man gradually approached me. I quickly requested one of the army men standing besides me to allow me a small space in the bogie; fortunately he pitied me and told the raging bull that I was his distant brother. Generous as he was, he not only helped me but also offered me some biscuits. Nevertheless this help could fetch me a space as big as the biscuit.

At about 8:45 a.m. the train departed the Delhi station. For the rest of the journey, I was standing or sitting on someone's suitcase. I also learned the tremendous role of toilets in the bogie; they not only serve their usual purpose but also in such pathetic situations provide an excellent resting place.

When I reached Lucknow at 6:00 p.m., I breathed a sigh of relief. The thought of meeting my family members and being able to celebrate Deepawali with them lightened my heart as I hopped on the familiar rickshaw.

**Tube Thought:** Given the prevailing malversation in the Indian Railway even traveling can prove to be troublesome, if you have not ensured for your comfortable journey. This humorous account of my real life incident is intended to bring smile on the face of the reader.

### **Engineers and Light Bulbs**

**How many first year engineering students does it take to change a light bulb? None. That's a second year subject.**

**How many second year engineering students does it take to change a light bulb? One, but the rest of the class copies the report.**

**How many third year engineering students does it take to change a light bulb? "Will this question be on the final exam?"**

**How many civil engineers does it take to change a light bulb? Two. One to do it and one to steady the chandelier.**

**How many electrical engineers does it take to change a light bulb? None. They simply redefine darkness as the industry standard.**

**How many computer engineers does it take to change a light bulb? "Why bother? The socket will be obsolete in six months anyway."**

**How many mechanical engineers does it take to change a light bulb? Five. One to decide which way the bulb ought to turn, one to calculate the force required, one to design a tool with which to turn the bulb, one to design a comfortable-but functional- hand grip, and one to use all this equipment.**



◆ मन की उड़ान/आह्लाद-मुस्कुराते चेहरे

## हड़ताल

-सौरभ कुलश्रेष्ठ

प्रथम वर्ष  
विद्युत अभियांत्रिकी

बहुत दिनों से खाली थे, सोचा कुछ धमाल करें।

चलो हड़ताल करें।

प्रथम प्रश्न था, ढूँढ़ें कोई कारण।

जनसमूह कैसे जुटेगा अकारण?

चल पड़े मित्र मण्डली के पास,

उन्हें हुआ हमारे प्रस्ताव का आभास।

पहुँचते ही उन्होंने दो चार दे डाले सुझाव।

हमने किया इनमें सर्वश्रेष्ठ का चुनाव।

इस कार्य के लिए आगे आये मित्र दो चार।

एकत्र हुई भीड़ हम फूले नहीं समा रहे थे।

भीड़ के साथ आगे बढ़ते जा रहे थे।

पहुँचते ही सारी कक्षाएँ बंद करा दीं।

दो चार तर्क देकर कुछ और भीड़ जुटा ली।

अब तो धरती पर कदम नहीं हमारे थे।

आगे हम थे पीछे लग रहे नारे थे।

कामकाज हुआ चौपट, पढ़ाई हुई ठप्प।

जहाँ देखो हड़ताल पर ही गप-शप।

अगले दिन समाचार पत्रों में देखा अपना नाम।

पर ये नहीं पता चला हम हुए प्रसिद्ध या हुए बदनाम।

अगले दिन निर्देशक के साथ कुछ शिक्षक आये।

बारी-बारी से वे हमें समझाये।

जब मिला मस्तिष्क को ज्ञान तब हुआ हमें भान।

खाली दिमाग में घर करता है शैतान।

जब बुद्धि में आई बात तो हमने पकड़े अपने कान।

अब ऐसे कार्यों में नहीं समझेंगे अपनी शान।

यह बात समझते हुए हमने समाप्त की हड़ताल।

अगर सुलझाना है समस्याओं को तो मिलानी पड़ेगी ताल से ताल।

सभी ने इस बात को समझा हड़ताल में नहीं है किसी का भला।

कॉलेज पहले से भी व्यवस्थित और सुचारु रूप से चलने लगा।

**आत्मकथ्य :-** कहावत है-खाली दिमाग शैतान का घर।

आधुनिक परिवेश में विभिन्न तंत्रों में हो रही हड़तालों पर व्यंग किया गया है।





◆ मन की उड़ान/आह्लाद-मुस्कुराते चेहरे

## आखिर हम इंजीनियर हैं

-मुरली मनोहर

द्वितीय वर्ष

यांत्रिकी अभियांत्रिकी

तो साथियों समय आ गया है समाज को जागरूक बनाने का। बुद्धिजीवी नागरिक होने के नाते हमारा कर्तव्य है कि हम समाज को कुछ बुनियादी तकनीकी चीजों से अवगत कराएँ। आखिर हम इंजीनियर हैं। अब परसों की ही बात लीजिए पाल साहब की छत गिर गई पूछने पर पता चला कि पंखा लगा रहे थे। अजी! किसी इंजीनियर से सलाह मशविरा लिया था ? नहीं न! तो गिरे भी क्यों नहीं? हल्की छत पर भारी पंखा कैसे टिक सकता है। किसी दिन दीवार में कील लगाने लगोगे तो ईंट पड़ोसी के घर में गिर पड़ेगी। अजी, हम इंजीनियर बनकर सड़क पर क्यों खाक छान रहे हैं ? - आप लोगों की वजह से। पूछा तो होता-तुम्हें क्या पता कि किस दीवार में कैसे कील लगानी है और कितनी लंबी कील लगानी है ? आपने तो मकान का नक्शा भी नहीं बनवाया-अरे जनाब आपको तो दीवार में प्रयुक्त छड़ सीमेंट का अनुपात भी नहीं पता। ये सब पता तब चलेगा जब इंजीनियर के पास जाएँगे। हमने, खासकर मैंने इंजीनियरिंग की डिग्री कोई जल्दबाजी में नहीं ली। बल्कि एक एक 'सब्जेक्ट' को गोल्डन चांस तक पहुँचाया था। किसी भी विषय की गहराई तक जाने की हमारी जो आदत थी। पर अभी भी हमें 'सर' की एक-एक बात याद है। उन्होंने 'फेयरवेल' पार्टी में कहा था-"बेटा, तुम अपने बनाए घर में कभी मत रहना और अपने बनाए ब्रिज से कभी मत गुजरना। तुम सौ साल जिओगे"।

खैर छोड़िए बात तो चल रही थी, समाज-कल्याण की। एक दिन मैं सड़क से गुजर रहा था कि अचानक किसी के गिरने की आवाज आयी। पीछे मुड़कर देखा तो एक बुजुर्ग गड्ढे में गिर पड़े थे। दौड़कर उठाया तो कहने लगे, "पता नहीं सरकार को क्या हो गया है? अच्छी-खासी गली को सड़क बनवा दिया, दो तीन माह में ही गड्ढे हो गए हैं। अब तो चलने लायक भी नहीं है। अब उन बुजुर्ग को मैं कैसे समझाऊँ कि ये गड्ढे नहीं 'स्पीड ब्रेकर' हैं ये दुर्घटनाओं से बचाती हैं। आपको पता भी है कि चिकनी सड़कों पर ज्यादा दुर्घटनाएँ होती हैं। पूछिए कैसे? हाँ अच्छा सवाल किया। तो सुनिए-चिकनी सड़कों पर कोई बाधा तो होता नहीं, गड्ढे भी नहीं होते और ड्राइवर के पास कोई काम भी नहीं होता है तो उसे नींद आने लगती है और नींद खुलती है निकटवर्ती अस्पताल में।

पिछले साल मैं पटना जा रहा था-बस से एक भाई साहब जो मेरी बगल की सीट पर बैठे थे, पूछ बैठे-ड्राइवर के सीट के पीछे ड्राइवर क्यों लिखा रहता है? अचानक आगे से आवाज आयी-"तो क्या आपकी सीट के पीछे ड्राइवर लिखा रहेगा। सीधे क्यों नहीं कहते कि साहब भाड़ा नहीं है"। अरे भाई! ड्राइवर इसलिए लिखा है कि जब ड्राइवर बस में आए उसे अपनी सीट ढूँढनी न पड़े। तभी एक सज्जन बोल पड़े जो शक्ति से ही इंजीनियर लग रहे थे-"ड्राइवर के सीट के पीछे ड्राइवर इसलिए लिखा रहता है कि ड्राइवर जब बस में आए तो उसी जगह पर बैठे और वहीं से बस चलाए, किसी दूसरी जगह से नहीं।" बाद में पता चला कि अपना गेस सही था वो भी इंजीनियर थे। चौंकिए मत, हमें अपने कॉलेज में गेस करने में महारत हासिल है। केवल तुम्हें और गेस पर ही हमने काफी 'सब्जेक्ट्स' क्लीयर किए हैं। अच्छा तो हम कहाँ थे-याद आया सड़क के गड्ढे की बात हो रही थी और हम पता नहीं किस जंगल में भटक रहे थे। आपने टोका भी नहीं। अपनी बात बाद में, समाज कल्याण की बात पहले। एक इंजीनियर का समाज के प्रति एक बड़ा कर्तव्य है बल्कि उसका काम तो सूक्ष्म-से-सूक्ष्म निरीक्षण करना है। जैसे दीवार पर कोई कीड़ा चल रहा है तो हमें हर पहलू पर विचार करना होता है-ये गिरता क्यों नहीं? कारण: उसने दीवार को जोर से पकड़ रखा है और अपने शरीर के भार को संतुलित किया है। पर ये तो किस्मत भी हो सकती है। या फिर गुरुत्वाकर्षण इतनी सी चीज़ पर काम करना भूल गयी हो।

खैर छोड़िए ये चीजें ज्यादा पेचीदा है। ब्रेन हैमरेज होने का डर है। याद आया-आजकल इंजीनियर्स की मौत ब्रेन हैमरेज या हॉर्ट अटैक से ज्यादा हो रही है। आजकल चार साल की पढ़ाई तो मजे से गाते-गुनगुनाते, खाते-पीते या नाइन्टी मारते बीत जाती है पर जब डिग्री मिलती है तो पता चलता है कोई काम तो अपने लिए है ही नहीं, ऐसे में हॉर्ट अटैक न हो, तो क्या हो? लेकिन कोई इंजीनियर पागल हो जाए तो? मत पूछिए-लादेन पंगेबाज को तो सुना ही होगा, दुनियां से पंगा ले लिया। अतः मैं समाज और सरकार से अपील करूँगा कि वैसी स्थिति न आने दें। आखिर हम इंजीनियर हैं .....

**आत्मकथ्य :** तन्हाई में पुरानी चीजों को लिखने का शौक है। ताकि बाद में ये मेरी जिन्दगी की किताब का पृष्ठ बन सकें।



Graphic By : Sujit Kumar Brahma



## आदेश

- निधि शर्मा  
वास्तुकला शास्त्र  
प्रथम वर्ष

उनके विभाग के ऊपर से  
एक आदेश आया,  
जिसे पढ़कर बड़े बाबू का सर चकराया ।  
आदेश था  
हिन्दी का प्रयोग ।  
हिन्दी के विकास में  
दीजिए सहयोग  
हिन्दी हमारी राष्ट्रभाषा है ।  
प्रयोग राष्ट्रभाषा की देशभक्ति दर्शाता है  
हिन्दी में ही सम्पूर्ण राष्ट्र को  
एक सूत्र में पिरोने की शक्ति है ।  
प्रयोग राष्ट्रभाषा का  
कठिन नहीं, आसान है  
राष्ट्र का सम्मान है ।  
हिन्दी का प्रयोग गौरव समझें  
शरमाइये नहीं  
यह लिखने से ही आएगी ।  
घबराइये नहीं  
शब्दों के लिए अटकिए नहीं  
शब्दों के लिए भटकिए नहीं  
सरल और सुबोध हिन्दी लिखें  
भारतीय हैं, भारतीय दिखें  
लेकिन  
आदेश की जिस बात से  
बड़े बाबू का सर चकराया  
था; कि वह आदेश तो  
अंग्रेजी में आया ।



**आत्मकथा :** हिन्दी की वर्तमान स्थिति के परिपेक्ष्य में वर्तमान व्यवस्था के ऊपर व्यंग्य किया गया है ।





## मॉडर्न द्रोणाचार्य

- सौरभ कुलश्रेष्ठ

प्रथम वर्ष

विद्युत अभियांत्रिकी

द्रोण आज जरा जल्दी में थे, आज उन्हें धनुष के बीच तार कैसे सही की जाये विषय पर एक्स्ट्रा क्लास लेनी थी। जनवरी का महीना आ गया था; पर कोर्स आधा भी नहीं हुआ था। अतः अब वे केवल इंपॉर्टेंट टॉपिक पढ़ा रहे थे।

आज सुबह पत्नी से झगड़ा हो गया था, झगड़ा तो खैर रोज होता है पर आज कुछ तगड़ा हो गया था। क्योंकि घर में राशन खत्म था।

इस बात को लेकर गुरु द्रोण का मूड खराब था। रह-रह कर वे “द्रोण कोचिंग क्लासेस, धनुर्विद्या में महारत हासिल करने के लिए आइये, दो महीने में गारन्टीड सक्सेस” जैसे किसी बोर्ड की कल्पना में डूब जाते।

प्रिय शिष्य अर्जुन ने गुरुजी को परेशान देखा तो पास आकर बोला, “क्या बात है गुरुजी, आज तो आप एक्स्ट्रा क्लास लेने वाले थे।”

द्रोण बोले, “अर्जुन! आज मूड ठीक नहीं है, ऐसा करो आज तुम ही कुछ पढ़ा दो। और नहीं तो धनुष की विभिन्न किस्मों पर ही ट्यूटोरियल दे डालो।” द्रोण जानते थे कि अर्जुन मना नहीं करेगा। आखिर प्रैक्टिकल्स का सवाल है क्योंकि अर्जुन और कर्ण थ्योरी में समान रूप से पक्के हैं और प्रैक्टिकल के नम्बरों से ही निर्णय होना था कि टॉप कौन करेगा।

विचारों में खोये हुए गुरुजी के पास एक लड़का आया, उसने गुरु द्रोण के पैर पकड़ लिए और बोला, “गुरुजी मेरा नाम एकलव्य है, कृपया मुझे ट्यूशन पढ़ा दीजिए।” गुरुजी ने सोचा पे स्केल तो न जाने कब रिवाइज होगा। तब तक एक ट्यूशन क्या बुरी है। पर इससे पहले वो कुछ कह पाते भीम वहाँ आ गया, मायूस होकर गुरु द्रोण बोले, “मैं ट्यूशन नहीं कर सकता, एक तो ये मेरे सर्विस रूल्स के खिलाफ नहीं है, दूसरा मेरा कांशस भी मुझे एलाउ नहीं करता।” यह वाक्य गुरु द्रोण ने जरा जोर से कहा ताकि भीम सुन ले और पितामह से कहे, हो सकता है एक-आध इन्कीमेंट ही मिल जाये।

एक दिन द्रोण बच्चों को आखेट विषय पर प्रैक्टिकल ट्रेनिंग देने के लिए जंगल ले गये। टिप्स देते हुए बोले, “देखो बच्चों। यदि तुम आखेट को समझो तो तुम्हें पता चलेगा, आखेट दो प्रकार का होता है प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष। अप्रत्यक्ष आखेट पर पिछले साल प्रश्न आ चुका है, इसलिए हम इस बार प्रत्यक्ष आखेट पर कन्सन्ट्रेट करेंगे। इंग्लिश मीडियम वालों को यह बात जरा ध्यान से सुननी चाहिये, क्योंकि इंग्लिश में इस पर ज्यादा पुस्तकें नहीं मिलती .....।” गुरुजी अभी व्याख्यान दे ही रहे थे कि उनका कुत्ता वहाँ आया, उसका मुंह बाणों से भरा हुआ था। गुरुजी ने कुत्ते से पूछा “किसने किया यह कुकृत्य?” कुत्ते ने उन्हें पीछे आने का इशारा किया। कुछ दूर जाकर उन्होंने देखा कि एकलव्य गुरु द्रोण का कटआउट सामने रखकर बाण चलाने की प्रैक्टिस कर रहा था। गुरु द्रोण को देखते ही उनके चरणों में झुक गया और बोला-“गुरुजी मैं आपके आशीर्वाद से धनुर्विद्या में पारंगत होकर आज इस भीलबस्ती में एकलव्य कोचिंग क्लासेस चला रहा हूँ।” अर्जुन चीखा-“आप इसका अंगूठा कटवाइये नहीं तो मैं आपकी शिकायत करूँगा कि आपने ट्यूशन की है।”

गुरु एकलव्य को एक ओर ले गये और बोले-“बेटा मैं तुमसे गुरुदक्षिणा चाहता हूँ, घबराओ मत मैं तुम्हारा अंगूठा नहीं माँगूँगा, मैं मांग भी लूँ तो तुम देने वाले थोड़े ही हो, परन्तु अर्जुन जैसे लोग तुम्हें यहाँ जमाने नहीं देंगे। तुम ऐसा करो कि दूसरे राज्य में चले जाओ, मैं तुम्हें सिफारिशी पत्र दिये देता हूँ, नौकरी अवश्य मिल जायेगी, और हाँ अपनी यहाँ की कोचिंग क्लासेस तुम मुझे दे जाना। देखो भूलना नहीं, प्लीज।”

कुछ दिनों बाद एकलव्य दूसरे राज्य में धनुर्विद्या का प्रोफेसर था।

उधर भीलबस्ती में अब यह बोर्ड लगा था-“द्रोणाचार्य एकलव्य कोचिंग क्लासेस-केवल दो महीनों में निपुणता।”

**आत्मकथ्य :** “आधुनिकता के इस परिवेश में जो समाज में बदलाव आ रहे हैं, उन परिवर्तनों को विशेष रूप से शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में, एक पुराने प्रसंग से तुलना कर व्यंग का रूप दिया गया है।



Graphic By : Souvik Chakravarty



# LUNAR ANTIPODES

दिग्दर्शन : आस्था के चरण

“काष्ठं कल्पतरुः सुमेरुरचलश्चिन्तामणिः प्रस्तरः ।  
सूर्यस्तीव्रकरः शशी क्षयकरः क्षारो हि वारां निधिः ।  
कामो नष्टतनुर्बलिदितिसुतो नित्यं पशुः कामगौ ।  
नैतांस्ते तुलयामि भो रघुपते कस्योपमा दीयते ॥”

स्त्री

Mornings

Gone With The Wind

Money Matters





## स्त्री

-आशुतोष अग्रवाल

तृतीय वर्ष

यात्रिकी अभियांत्रिकी

मृत्युः सर्वहरश्चमुद्रवश्च भविष्यताम् ।  
कीर्तिः श्रीवाक्च नारीणां स्मृतिर्मेधा धृतिः क्षमा ॥  
श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता अध्याय १० श्लोक ३४

श्री कृष्ण कहते हैं कि हे अर्जुन “मैं सबका नाश करने वाला मृत्यु और उत्पन्न होने वालों का उत्पत्ति हेतु हूँ। तथा स्त्रियों में कीर्ति, श्री वाक्, स्मृति, मेधा, धृति और क्षमा हूँ।

कदाचित् सम्पूर्ण गीतोपदेश में भगवान् श्रीकृष्ण ने प्रथम बार स्त्रियों के प्रतीकों का उल्लेख किया है। स्त्रियों में मैं स्मृति हूँ। मेधा, धृति और क्षमा, स्मृति : मनोवैज्ञानिक कदाचित् राजी न हो पर स्त्रियों की स्मृति पुरुषों से अलग होती है, पुरुष की स्मृति बौद्धिक होती है पर स्त्रियों की स्मृति अस्तित्वगत होती है, स्त्री याद करती है बुद्धि से नहीं, विचार से नहीं अपने पूरे होने से, टोटल बीइंग, इसलिए एक पिता है और एक मां है, पिता पुत्र का सम्बन्ध बड़ा औपचारिक मालूम देता है, क्योंकि सम्बन्ध के तार बुद्धि से जुड़े हैं, अपराधी पुत्र को पिता घर से निकाल देता है पर मां, कभी नहीं।

एक सैनिक मरता है युद्ध में तो हजारों मील दूर मां के प्राण आंदोलित हो जाते हैं क्योंकि पिता की तरह गणितीय सम्बन्ध नहीं है, सम्बन्ध अस्तित्वगत है, स्त्री के पूरे अस्तित्व में बसा होता है उसका एक पूरा रिश्ता। इसलिए कोई पुरुष पिता न भी बने तो भेद नहीं पड़ता, कोई भेद नहीं पड़ता: व्यक्तित्व में कोई कमी नहीं आती, इसलिए पुरुष की उत्सुकता पिता बनने की कम और पति बनने की ज्यादा रहती है।

अगर कभी पुरुष की उत्सुकता पिता बनने में रही भी है तो उसका प्रयोजन है वंशवृद्धि।

मां का सम्बन्ध उसके बेटे से निष्प्रयोजन है क्योंकि उसकी स्मृति बुद्धि से नहीं, विचार से नहीं बल्कि उसके अस्तित्व से है। स्त्रियों में धृति हूँ।

धृति यानि धीरज, धैर्य, स्थिरता, स्त्रियों जैसा धैर्य और कहां मिलेगा, पुरुष बहुत अधीर है, अस्थिर है, पर स्त्री शांत है धैर्य से भरी है। जहां तक स्थिरता का प्रश्न है, सहनशीलता का प्रश्न है तो ज्वलंत उदाहरण के रूप में है स्त्रियों का गर्भधारण। कोई पिता किसी बच्चे को एक दिन अपने पास नहीं सुला सकता, बच्चा रात भर मैं परेशान कर देगा, पुरुष अधीर है।

स्त्रियों में मैं क्षमा हूँ।

स्त्री के व्यक्तित्व में जिस मात्रा में प्रेम है उसी मात्रा में क्षमा है, जितना ज्यादा प्रेम होगा उतनी ज्यादा क्षमा होगी, जितना ज्यादा धैर्य होगा उतनी क्षमा होगी और ये सब स्त्री के मौलिक गुण हैं, पुरुष को क्षमा अभ्यास करनी होती है पर स्त्री की क्षमा सहज ही होती है, वह उसका स्वभाव है।

इस प्रकार भगवान् श्रीकृष्ण ने अर्जुन को बताया कि अगर मुझे स्त्रियों में प्राप्त करना है तो इन गुणों में मेरा प्रत्यक्ष दर्शन पाना, वास्तव में स्त्री के ये गुण महान हैं, अद्भुत हैं, अतुलनीय हैं।



**आत्मकथ्य :** 'नारी में अन्तर्निहित कुछ ऐसी प्रकृति प्रदत्त विशेषताएं होती हैं जो कि पुरुष को उससे पृथक् करती हैं।'





## ◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Lunar Antipodes

**MORNINGS**B  
Md. Intekha

Second Year

Computer Science and Engineering

When morning's caravan had crossed the night  
On the fringes of the sky appeared signs of light.  
Fled from the heavens the stars in hasty fright,  
And calls to prayer sounded from mosque and height,  
The face of black night vanished slowly then,  
The whole wide world was filled with light and sun.  
The moth hid its face, the morning came apace,  
Bird says filled God's wide wide space.  
Fresh and cool blew the breeze, the earth's surface  
Lit up, and cheered the heart with its grace.  
As men on earth, the angels in the skies  
were lost in wonder at nature's mysteries.  
The red of twilight, sky of splendid sheen,  
The laden trees, the desert, meadows green  
Pearls of dew on cheeks of roses seen,  
The valley full of flowers, a wondrous scene  
The rose's scent wafted everywhere  
with the gusts of cool, refreshing air.

**Tube Thought:** Coming from an industrial town with red skies my first experience of blue clear skies helped me to describe transcendence beauty of this place.

**Loud, Mad or Sad**

**The psychology instructor had just finished a lecture on mental health and was giving an oral test.**

**Speaking specifically about manic depression, he asked, "now would you diagnose a patient who walks back and forth screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, then sits in a chair weeping uncontrollably the next"?**

**A young man in the rear raised his hand and answered, "A basketball coach".**





## GONE WITH THE WIND

By:  
Kapil Sundrani,

Second Year,

Computer Science and Engineering.

The classic of the World War two era depicted the fading civilizations. But in the face of civilizations it is the values that seem to change. Intellectually, physical self has no existence and that implies that values dwell in the soul. The soul roars "I exist from all eternity; behold I am here and I shall exist till the end of time for my being has no end." Then why should the values once set in should change! Is it just because human proclivity demands selfish gains?

Education gives us the unmatched power of reasoning and it is important that the students bring a certain wisdom to their knowledge. I don't believe that the same God who has endured us with sense of intellect intends us to forgo their use. Then why is it that we relinquish the truth and indulge in what we call 'Maya'.

Maya is an unreal illusionary and deceptive image of the creation. And mankind finds unwarranted gains in Maya. Renunciation in known to be the goal in life which may serve as a pathway towards salvation and 'Karma' is believed to be the necessary path to achieve it. Karma here implies unselfish acts of philanthropy and achieving the objectives for which one has been given a chance for re-birth. No one has yet realized the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education must be to unlock that treasure.

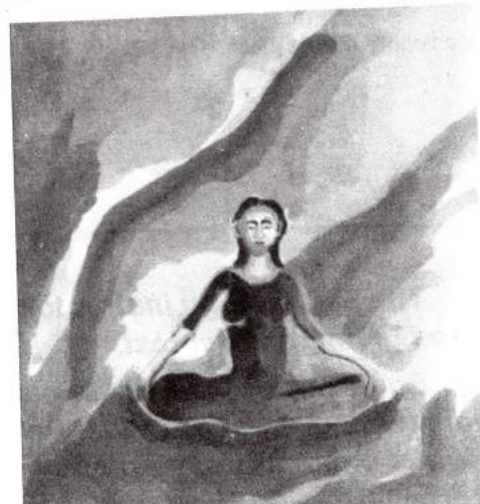
Some people weave burlap into the fabric of our lives and some people weave gold thread. Both contribute to make the whole picture more beautiful and unique. But the lesson is, not to be bullied into silence: the silence of soul. Never allow yourself to be a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life: define yourself.

Definition of one's self will not be in its entirety without the definition of the 'Atman'. Atman means consciousness, spirit, soul, the source of life and the cosmic power behind the body-mind complex. Just as the body exists in space, similarly our thoughts, intellect, emotions and psyche exist in Atman, the space of consciousness. Atman cannot be perceived by our senses because the senses abide in Atman.

Life, with all its moral values cannot be complete without Him who put Atman in all. This is achieved by worship and what we call 'Dharma'. This in no way implies the fellowship of any sect or religion. Dharma implies, the eternal law governing, upholding and supporting the Creation and the world order. It also means duty, righteousness, ideal conduct, moral principles and truth.

Henry Wordsworth Longfellow has rightly said:

"Tell me not, in mournful numbers  
Life is but an empty dream!  
For the soul is dead that slumbers  
And things are not what they seem.  
Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art; to dust returnest,  
was not spoken of the Soul.



Graphic By : Sauvik Podder

**Tube Thought:** The article tries to realize the illusions that have crept into the life of most individuals. People in their blind quest for materialistic comforts have lost the importance of character and soul.....One must stop and try to see the spark in the darkness.





## ◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Lunar Antipodes

**MONEY MATTERS**

By:  
**Swati Mahajan,**  
First Year,  
Architecture.

Date: 323 BC

Place: Asia Minor

Alexander the Great, is lying on his deathbed smitten by plague, overcome by unrest, anxiety and pain gasping for one last breath of health. Alas in his mind, comes the map of the 'world', his conquered world to be perused. 'Take it and give me one moment's health in barter!' But there is no response except, of course, the sound of the rushing feet of his faithful attendants. He points towards his empty hands and rays, "Look at them and show them to the masses."

This was the end to the endless hunt for materialism exhibited by each and every corpse that visits the cremation grounds, expressed if not in the above mentioned form, but at least in one of its prototypes. Times have changed, landscapes have changed and the face of earth has been altered. But something that never has, nor will ever change is the human mind. What previously was the stature of a gold studded chariot, a palace, scores of servants and attendants and adorations of the body is now metamorphosed into palatial bungalows, latest models of luxurious cars, electronic gadgets and cosmetics from the stores lining avenue De Champs Elyseus, Paris.

Money in economics is defined as a matter of three functions i.e. food, shelter and clothing. We really cannot add the fourth function that money is important for happiness.

Let me ask you, "Will you trade your mother's love for all the diamonds in the world?" Surely not because we all know that money can buy the diamonds but never a mother's love.

Money may help you ascend the social ladder but it can never lead you to the doorway to happiness.

We might have forgotten the meaning of true happiness but the trees remember beneath which a Patanjali once meditated, the earth remembers which was blessed when a Buddha stepped on it, the firmament remembers when Krishna preached him the principles of non-attachment on the grounds of Kurukshetra.

The secret of true happiness lies within us. The sentence has, in fact, become the most hackneyed statement of all times, an object of plain mockery, something so commonly repeated at a temple, mosque or church that we choose to ignore if not abhor it. But did any one of us stop and question: why and how? None of us perhaps, and those who did, got more formidable trite answers.

The inner world if properly harnessed through meditation and self-analysis, experimentation might come to give us the same amount of pleasure and grant us the supreme state of ecstasy, immersed in which a Jesus does not mind getting his body pierced with nails. Thus we see that the quest for happiness is all about experimenting with what we have forgotten and so in the world of Rado's and Gucci's. I dare to say that money is not important to be happy, for money supports the body and senses while happiness is a much deeper concept and deep down. We all know that monetary world is nothing but a web in which we all get lost sometimes. Remember the Master card's ad-line: 'your beloved's smile: priceless; for everything else there is Master Card!'

**Tube Thought:** Today as the world is getting more and more materialistic we need to stop and analyze what is more important to us 'money' or 'true happiness'. Those of the view that money is the pathway to true happiness need to realize the hollowness of the claim.



## LA BELLE DAME SANS MERCY

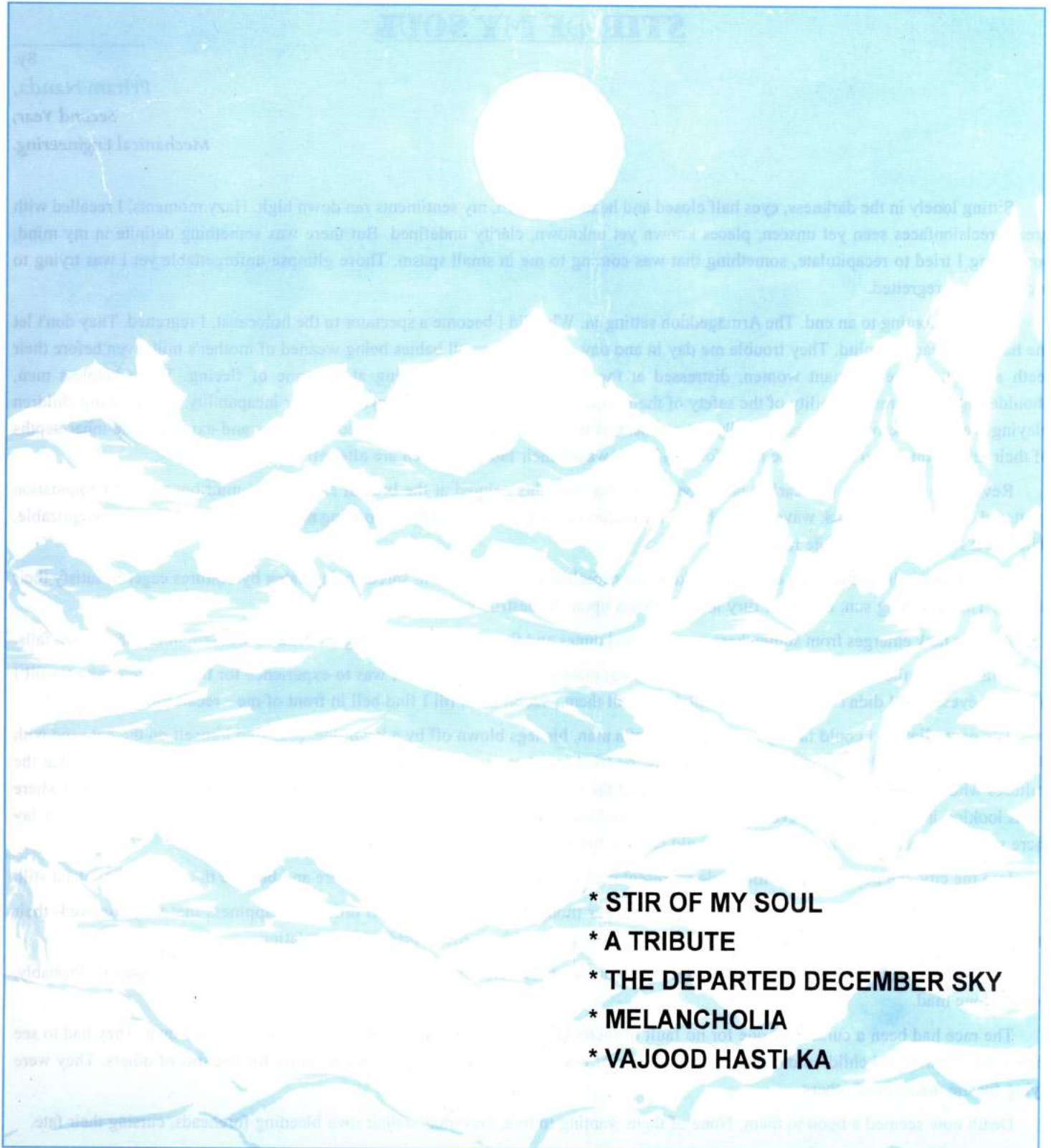


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Computer Science



# BARREN SCAPES

गोधूलि : सपनो की सांझ



- \* STIR OF MY SOUL
- \* A TRIBUTE
- \* THE DEPARTED DECEMBER SKY
- \* MELANCHOLIA
- \* VAJOOD HASTI KA

Graphic By : Soumitri





## STIR OF MY SOUL

By:  
Pritam Nanda,  
Second Year,  
Mechanical Engineering.

Sitting lonely in the darkness, eyes half closed and head bent down, my sentiments ran down high. Hazy moments, I recalled with great precision faces seen yet unseen, places known yet unknown, clarity undefined. But there was something definite in my mind, something I tried to recapitulate, something that was coming to me in small spasm. Those glimpse unforgettable yet I was trying to recall them, I regretted.

Mankind coming to an end. The Armageddon setting in. Why did I become a spectator to the holocaust, I regretted. They don't let me have my peace of mind. They trouble me day in and day out. Those small babies being weaned of mother's milk even before their teeth are out. Those pregnant women, distressed at the burden they were carrying at the time of fleeing. Those helpless men, shouldering the big responsibility of the safety of their families, yet unable to do so, crying at their incapability. Those young children playing with radioactive dust, occasionally eating them as we did as a child, handling used cartridges and exploring the inner depths of their knowledge as to how to use them for playing. It wasn't their fault. Children are after all children.

Revolving at a rate, I had earlier not experienced my thoughts calmed at the broken and burned mud houses, their foundation shattered by the terrible shock waves. The obliterated bodies of men, women and children lying not far away. The skin not recognizable, whether it was a black or white race.

Not far away, the cattle lying dead, their skeletons revealed, and their flesh in shreds being eaten by vultures eager to satisfy their hunger. The scorching sun, at its full fury looking down upon the destruction with awe.

A battle tank emerges from somewhere near the sand dunes and fires - the sound falling on dead ears. A remaining check post falls.

This was not the end. It was the beginning. The beginning of a trauma, I knew I was to experience for the next few minutes till I open my eyes. Still I didn't open them. I wanted to recall them - recall them till I find hell in front of me - recall them till I burn.

The next glimpse I could faintly catch was that of a man, his legs blown off by a landmine, dragging himself on the hot sand with the help of his hands. Reaching near the dead cattle, he tried to eat away the red sun burnt flesh, occasionally waving his hand at the vultures whose share he was snatching. As the man and the birds tried to ward off each other, my vision took me to the far end where I was looking into a dead man's eyes- eyes wide open and burning as the red sun rays fell on them. His chest pierced by bullet, he lay there still. Besides him lay his wife, a month old child at her bosom. Her face was emotionless. She was dead.

Into the city, the population- a miniscule representation of the people who once lived here and bustled the streets- was stand still.

No signs of life though they were breathing, no anger though their senses were in order, no happiness that they survived- their faith- and life completely eroded by apocalypse. It was now a life without life, world without relations- a dead world.

The only movement to be seen was that of an old man in tattered clothes, drinking ale from a bottle and laughing away. Probably, he had gone mad.

The race had been a cursed for one for no fault of theirs. They were being eliminated for no faults of their own. They had to see their men, women and children die for personal whims of others. They had to experience brutality for the sins of others. They were dying for the madness of others.

Death now seemed a boon to them. None of them wanting to live, they stoned their own bleeding foreheads, cursing their fate.





Why did they take birth on a land where they are being killed? Why did they enter a world maligned with arms and ammunitions? Why were they living in a world where conflicts of interests are a must? It was better to die- they thought to themselves.

I tried to concentrate. A man kissing his wife for the last time. A child crying at the top of his voice and pointing to the wound on his leg showing it to his mother- who helplessly watched it. An old woman, her bones broken, lying still and wailing for her lost son- who was her only old age support.

A drop of tear escaped my eyes. Still sitting lonely in the darkness, eyes half closed and head bent down, I wondered why God created mankind.



**Tube Thought:** The whole essay I have written is an expression of my subconscious mind put to paper. Wars are really dangerous and horrible with effects that go far beyond our imaginations. My purpose of writing the article is to bring out to the readers a sinister angle of war, be it war against evil.





## THE DEPARTED DECEMBER SKY

By:  
J. Elancheran,  
Pre-final Year,  
Electrical Engineering.



Graphic By : Soumitri Deva Dutt

On that creeping dusk of December,  
When I zinged those waves of love,  
And the bosom that brought me up  
It was all a gone case of trauma.

The slackened breeze and gazing  
Daffodils Stood silently with a mourn.  
The drizzling December sky and  
Screeching sparrows too were mum.

Evident mumbles of a shrinking voice  
From deep inside is still disagreed.  
The inevitable changes are many  
But this change was a real heavy

The December sky has departed  
Right into the folds of history  
Never to return and Never to reflect.  
Still I feel those last moments.

**Tube Thought:** Each of us, have our own thoughts of pains and memories of some acute emotions lying in the gloomy corner of the heart. There are no words that can define them or by no means you can tunnel it out. It's true that some feelings neither can be expressed to other people nor they understand it. These are not the simple words rather from somewhere deep inside, the expression of my feelings for the loved one who departed for lifetime. I dedicate these words to that beloved soul of kindness and affection I lost forever and the understanding is up to you.





## ◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Barren Scapes

◆ *Best entry (english) winner***A TRIBUTE**By  
Pritam Nanda,Second Year,  
Mechanical Engineering

My steps faltered, trying to walk over corpses  
Lying in the saline water, decaying and stenching.  
I moved on, nevertheless, walking by them,  
Their dead faces expressing distress and awe.  
Their hands and legs bent in awkward postures  
Dancing, they had been to the tune of hell.

A night before, the dance had been long.  
The night had been dark and cruel,  
With an eerie song.  
The song was played by the violent winds  
And the beats were from deadly sea tides.

They danced the whole night long on the earth  
Atop the trees and in their broken mud houses.  
Till they fell into the un-welcomed waters  
Falling short of vigour and breath.

The sea they had worshiped for ages had  
At last betrayed them.  
The wind they had admired so much  
In the hot evenings had  
At last ditched them.  
The clouds they had invited so much  
In the rainy season had  
Been dark enough to wipe them out.

Unfortunate they had been,  
Falling prey to the wrath of nature  
The night was long, so long that all slept.  
No one awoke the next morn  
To see the golden sun.  
No one opened eyes to watch the sea,  
Calling back her waters, the tides receding.  
The sky clearing, the winds calming.

No one saw the new dawn in its full glory  
I was the mere spectator in the silent land  
The silence broken by none.  
Standing lonely in the crowd, I gazed at the sky  
Its vastness rivaled by none.  
From the sky, a bright ray of hope  
Touched the marred land  
And lo, the blessed land was  
All alive again.



Graphic By : Sauvik Podder

**Tube Thought :** TRIBUTE is a poem dedicated to the thousands who lost their lives in the cyclone that hit Orissa coast in 1999. The saga did not end there. Thousands more got traumatic and had to be admitted to mental asylums. Lakhs lost their homes and farms. Any description of the horrible cyclone is insufficient. Through this short poem I wish to convey my tribute to the departed souls.





## MELANCHOLIA



Graphic By : Sonam Tashi

By:

Vijay Ramakrishnan,

Pre-final Year,

Electrical Engineering.

My Life started well,  
Hugs and kisses from family galore.  
We did not talk evil of each other,  
No insults on our tongues,  
Looked at each other,  
Face to face, with no weapons held.  
When our tears mingled as one,  
And our smiles, brighter than the moon.

But replaced by youth,  
Drowning in the dizziness of right or wrong.  
Again a sweet little girl,  
With a crown of jasmine instead of diamonds.  
A gold chain round her neck so fair,  
As secret as the wild bee's song.

I never saw so sweet a face,  
As that I stood before.  
And with screams of wild protestation,  
Another illusion!!!!

Life started going down the spiral  
Even God perfidiously snatched his share  
Toes slowly sinking in the sand,  
I felt like my family abandoned me!

Now my friends gossip behind my back  
No one seems to care about me or like me.  
Not even my family!  
Teachers oddly look at me.  
And have their own thoughts of me.  
Family, friends, all gone, forgotten,  
Sadness replaces fear.  
And the wrong hands always awaiting its prey...

Evil life I live. Evil, evil, evil!  
I do not laugh any more nor do I joke. I am serious!  
My life as I know it is a living Hell!

**Tube Thought:** Dedicated to: "la belle dame sans mercy"





◆ मन की उड़ान/गोधूलि: सपनों की साँझ

## वजूद हस्ती का

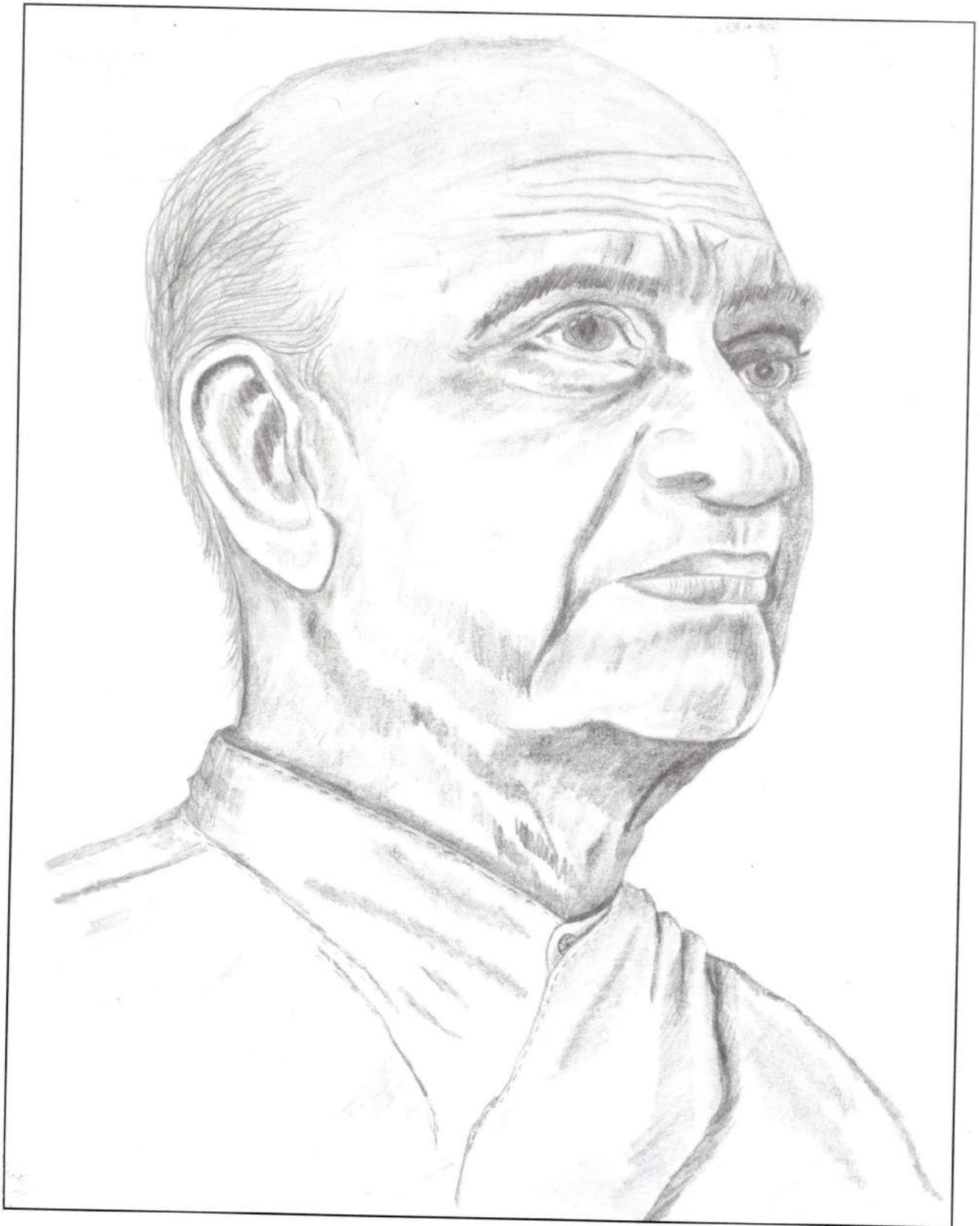
वजूद नहीं किसी हस्ती का,  
 यहाँ बस नाम के शौकिन्दे है।  
 दबती है नींव जमीं के नीचे,  
 और बनते ऊपर घरोंदे है ॥  
 गरजती है पाने को जमीं,  
 हैं जिस पे कुछ इंसान ।  
 ये सब हैं वो भटकती रखें,  
 हुई थी जो कभी कुर्बान ॥  
 मेरे दो शब्द लिखे पन्नों को देख,  
 जमाना यूँ तो ना हँसता ।  
 दो गज़ल गालिब की होती,  
 कुछ ने कहा मैं हूँ जमाने से अलग,  
 पर मैंने खुद को जमाने सा पाया।  
 हाँ लगी मुझे भी ठोकर,  
 जब-जब राह में पत्थर आया ॥  
 कायल है यहाँ अशिकी के सब,  
 पर बदनाम हमेशा आशिक को पाया।  
 हाँ, तरस खाती है दुनिया मोहब्बत पर,  
 जब-जब मोहब्बत ने मर कर दिखाया ॥

आत्मकथ्य : दुनिया के दिखावे में असलियत को लोग भूल चले है।





## IRON MAN OF INDIA



**Arti Sangrai**  
Final Year  
Electrical Engg.



# GREEN VALLEYS

अंगोर : गेथनी की बाहें



“अन्तर्गतिमलो दुष्टस्तीर्थस्नानशतैरपि ।  
न शुध्यति तथा भाण्डं सुराया दाहितं च सत् ॥”

Graphic By : Vibha Gupta

लुक-छिप कर  
किनारों की किस्मत  
Omega  
Divine Design





◆ मन की उड़ान/अंजोरा: रोशनी की बाहें

◆ सर्वश्रेष्ठ कृति (हिन्दी) विजेता

## लुकछिप कर

-रोहिणी पराशर

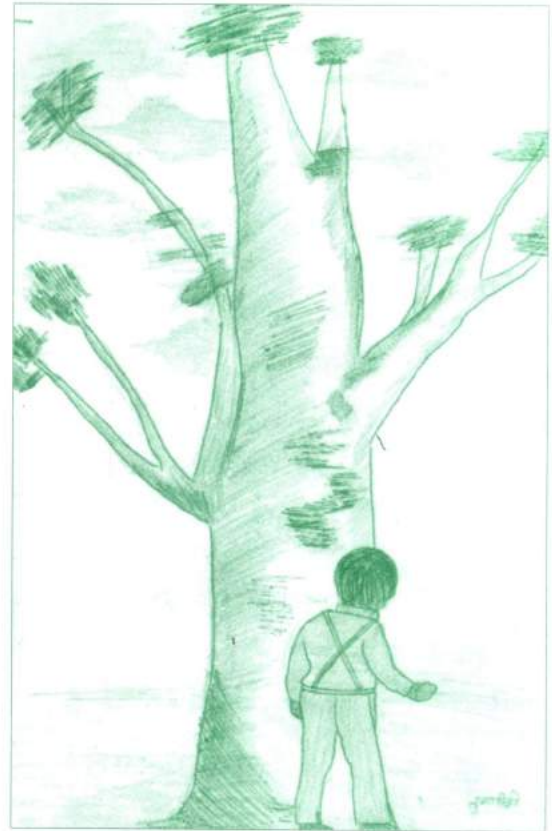
तृतीय वर्ष

ऋण-आवेशिकी एवं संचार अभियांत्रिकी

आज तुम से लुकछिप कर,  
पकड़न-पकड़ाई में खुद को ढूँढना चाहती हूँ,  
कागज़ की कश्ती में वापिस तैरना चाहती हूँ।  
फिर झूले पर घण्टे पलों से बिताऊँ,  
नानी-दादी की कहानियों में परियों संग उड़ जाऊँ।  
चोरी-चोरी, चुपके-चुपके खेलने भाग जाऊँ,  
फेर सबसे रूठ कर माँ के आँचल में छिप जाऊँ।

न जाने गुड़िया को दुल्हन बनाते-बनाते,  
कब संवर बैठी मैं।  
तितलियों के पीछे भागती,  
आज भंवरोँ से शरमा जाती हूँ।  
बारिश में भीगती-भागती,  
आज गीली मिट्टी की सौँधी खुशबू में खो जाती हूँ।  
जाने कब चंदा मामा, दुल्हन रात की बिंदिया बने।  
तब की तपती धूप आज जीवन की सच्चाई बनी।

आज माँ सहेली बनी,  
दादा की उँगली पकड़ घूमती मैं, जाने कब सहारा दे बैठी।  
रूठती-मनाती बहिन हर मुश्किल का हल हो गई,  
कुछ चेहरे ना जाने कहाँ खो गए,  
अपनी धुँधली यादें छोड़ गए।  
खेलते-कूदते दोस्त, हाल-ए-दिल समझ बैठे,  
तो कुछ दर्द-ए-दिल दे गए।



**आत्मकथ्य** : इस कविता में बचपन की मीठी यादों को याद किया गया है, एक लड़की के बचपन से लेकर युवावस्था तक का चित्रण किया गया है। रिश्तों के बदलते स्वरूप को दर्शाया गया है।



◆ मन की उड़ान/अंजोरा: रोशनी की बाँहें

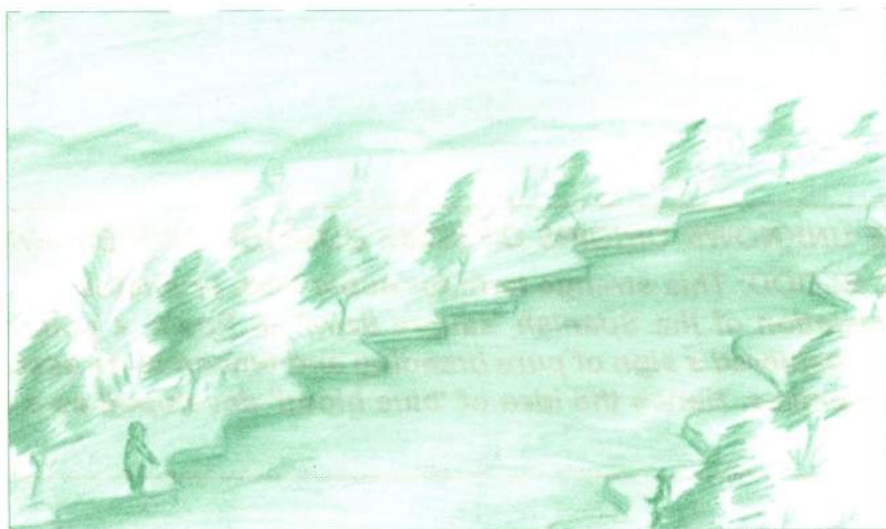
## किनारों की किस्मत

-आनंद विकास

अंतिम वर्ष  
यात्रिकी अभियांत्रिकी

किनारों की भी अज़ब है ये किस्मत,  
कभी एक-दूजे से वो मिलते नहीं है।  
हो दरिया चाहे हो कोई समंदर  
फासले इनके कभी खत्म होते नहीं है।  
आए तूफ़ां या हो लहरें निरंतर  
है काबिज जगह में ये हिलते नहीं हैं।  
तन्हाईयों में ये रोते है अक्सर,  
पर सिसकियां दिलों की सुनाते नहीं हैं।  
सोचे है थामे ये ख्वाबों की कश्ती,  
हो सवार इन पर वे पहुंचे वहां पर,  
न हो फासले जहां खत्म हो जाएं ये अंतर,  
मिलन हो दिलों का और देखे समंदर,  
मगर ये ख्वाब है हकीकत नहीं है।  
कि मिलना किनारों की किस्मत नहीं है।

**आत्मकथ्य :** मेरी अनुभूतियों की अभिव्यक्ति है मेरी कविताएं, कहते है पाना-खोना, मिलना-बिछड़ना किस्मत का खेल है। पर क्या किस्मत ही सब कुछ है?



Graphic By : Sujit Kumar Brahma





## omega!

By:

Souvik Kumar Chakravarty,

First year,

Electronics And Communication Engineering.

As the blue horizons blur beyond the expanse of the universe,  
 And knowledge becomes a renegade,  
 The redundant bird of humanity merges into the bounds of green materialism,  
 Leaving the world to grapple with the whiz of abstract protoplasm.

The fetid fete-champetre of cut throat competition encompasses the mind and spirit,  
 Obscuring ethics and morality into the deepest bosoms of an engulfing darkness;  
 And the mythical love chars itself in the flames of obsession and passion,  
 Only to redeem its existence at the flair of bards concocting tales of love terminating at the trunnions.

As progress synergizes at the cost of human emotions,  
 Man trudges along a blistering desert of greed sans end  
 In an endeavour to seek the mirage of attainment,  
 That skews off into attrition with the murky smog of divine enlightenment.

And thus the Phoenix of Apocalypse spreads its wings,  
 To generate a vortex that draws into its curls all the stigmatized glitterati;  
 The wheel of history trespasses into another sojourn of Noah.  
 Omega! Omega! Omega!

**Tube Thought:** The world today is characterized by raw materialism that sets the stage for the final doomsday conflict. Prophecy is what I call it; cynicism is what you may think it to be.

### THE UNKNOWN ORIGINS OF SOME COMMON EXPRESSIONS:

**BLUE BLOOD:** This strange term for noble birth or aristocratic descent is a direct translation of the Spanish 'saugre azue'. In Spain, a pale complexion used to be considered a sign of pure breeding and tended to be associated with aristocratic families. Hence the idea of 'blue blood' developed as a hallmark of the nobility.





## DIVINE DESIGN

By:  
Arun Dhanda,  
Second Year,  
Electronics Communication and Engineering.



Graphic By : Sujit Kumar Brahma

When I was little, my mother used to sew a great deal. I would sit at her knee, and looking up, ask her what she was doing. She would tell me that she was embroidering.

As I watched her work within the boundaries of the little hoop that she held in her hand, I complained that looked messy from where I sat. She would smile at me, look down and gently say, "Son, you go about your playing and let me do my business." A few minutes would pass and I would hear mother say, "Son, come -sit on my lap." I would be surprised and thrilled to see a beautiful design. I would look at it on disbelief as it looked so messy from beneath.

Mother would say to me, "Son, from beneath it did look messy and jumbled, but you did not realize that there was a plan on the top. It was a design."

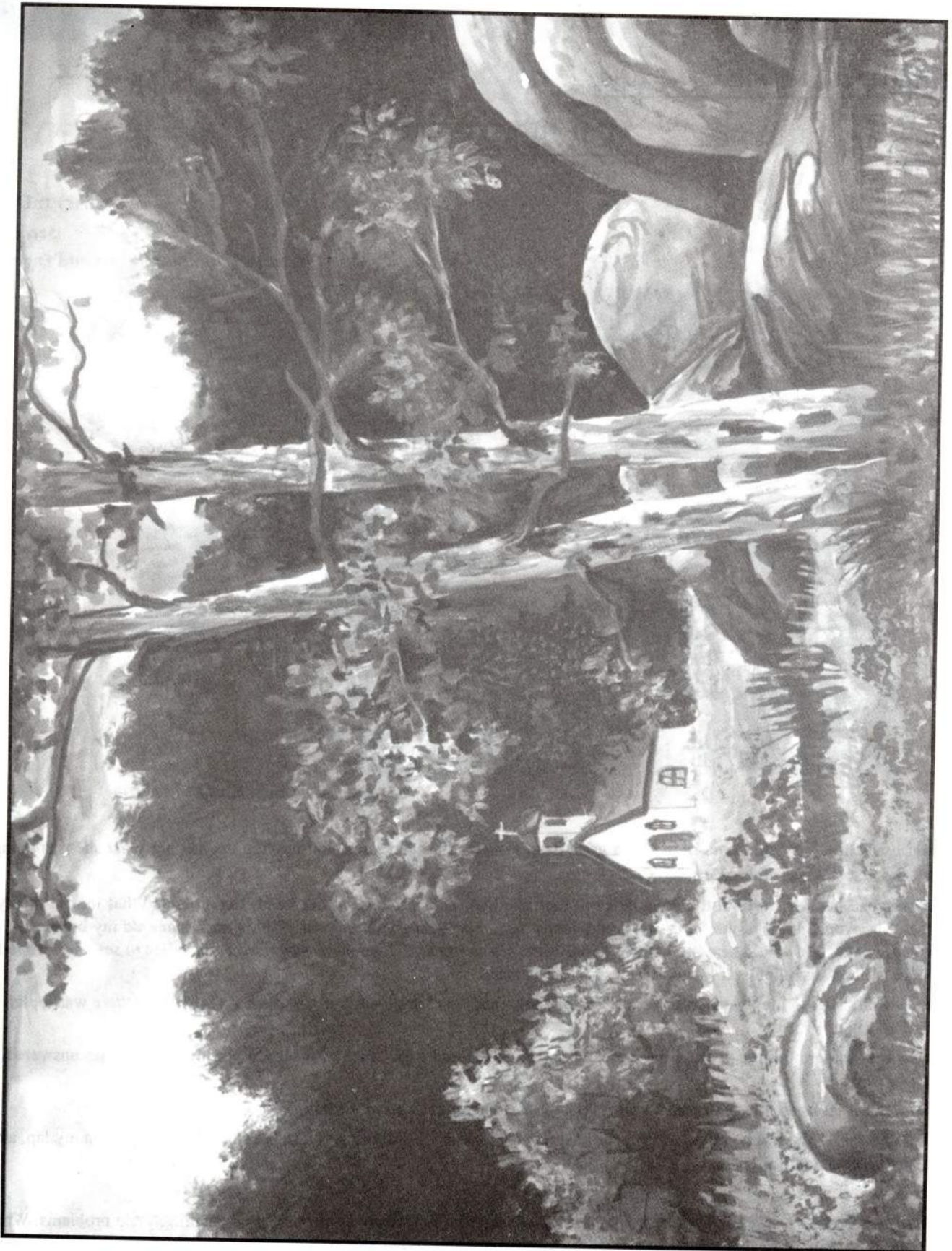
Many times throughout the years, I have looked up to heaven and said, "Father, what are you doing?" He has answered, "I am embroidering your life."

I said, "But it looks so messy to me. It seems so jumbled. The threads seem so dark. Why cannot they be bright?"

Father had said, "My child, you go about your business and one day I will bring you to heaven. I will put you on my lap, and then you will see the plan and design."

**Tube Thought:** It is very easy to get disheartened and to lose hope, when we are confronted with seemingly big problems. Whenever I think of life it appears to be in a mess, but something awaits me on the other side of darkness





**Bibha Gupta**  
2nd Year, Electronic Engg.



# WINDS OF CHANGE

परिवर्तन : एक आधुनिक गद्य

“पत्रं नैव यदा करीरविटपै दोषो वसन्तस्य किं।  
नोलूकोऽप्यवलोकते यदि दिवा सूर्यस्य किं दूषणम्॥  
वर्षा नैव पतन्ति चातकमुखे मेघस्य किं दूषणं।  
यत्पूर्व विधिना ललाटलिखितं तन्मार्जित कः क्षमः॥”

End Of An Epoch  
Striker Saddam  
Ego-Science Fiction  
A Quiet Life  
Kal Aaj Aur Kal Of Kashmir  
मानवता की लाश  
गमन





## End Of An Epoch

By:  
Mrs. Saroj Thakur,  
Sr. Lecturer,  
Applied Sciences & Humanities Department

August 25, Year 2018

Sitting in this auditorium among students, many of whom I was sure had been forced by their seniors to fill the chairs to give a semblance of at least a respectable farewell to me, I was suddenly filled with nostalgia for what had been for such a long time my working place. Oh, this tooth was really giving me a lot of trouble, but still the plate in front of me looked tempting enough to tolerate a visit to my dentist, the steaming hot Gulabjamun melting in my mouth, how nice it tasted but why didn't I listen to my rational self?

Looking at the boys, oops! sorry, students I thought of a number of them having passed out from this college and were they any different from the ones sitting in front of me? Did I use the word "college" but it is "National Institute Of Technology," my rational self again corrects me. But what is the difference between a college and an institute-- a question good enough to put in the first Periodical examination-- making a mental note of it I felt a bit satisfied, wasn't it a good practice to put all those questions to the students that you don't know yourself? But you are going to be retired in a few days, wasn't this farewell in this very context only, warned my rational self.

What was happening to me? Why was I not able to concentrate upon the totality of the situation? Perhaps old age was fast catching up with me--what was this boy saying--was he putting a question to me, regarding my experiences in the college? Damn this habit of dozing of in between discussions, ever since I had taken to the wearing of these thick glasses, it had really become so very convenient to take a wink or two in the class itself, when the students thought I was deep in thought, I enjoyed a nap, and had they not slept in my class all these years, why must I be guilty! Oh, it was really painful to sit in the same posture for such a long time!

But what was this boy asking me--"Could you please relate a few of your memorable experiences in this institute as we understand that you have been associated with the college since last many years?" Oh God, not again, How boring not only to teach the same syllabus year after year but to answer the same very questions, why can't these students be innovative? Looking surreptitiously at the watch of the boy sitting next to me, I could easily see the time and the date, oh God, my kids back home had arranged for a small get together, I may not be late for that. But why I used the word kids for my grown up children surprised me.

"Madam, please tell us something about the time when this institute of ours was known by the name of REC," pestered the same boy again.

Was it "our institute" that caught my attention once again? When did we start calling this college as an institute? Walking down the memory lanes, I gasped, wasn't it in the year 2002 that we gave a new nomenclature to this college. Suddenly I shuddered at some unpleasant memory.

It was the same date, August 25, 2002 when an epoch came to an end ushering us in a new era. How do I remember the date after such a long time? But how could I ever forget as it was my Birthday that day when suddenly hell let loose and a horrible incident unheard of in the history of this glorious college of ours took place. Suddenly I found myself drifting towards happenings of the past on that fateful day.

August 25, year 2003.

Sitting in the serene and peaceful environment of the Manimahesh Temple, the blind Dhritrashtra asked Sanjaya of the outcome





of the 18th day of the famous Mahabharata war.

"Oh Sanjaya, tell me what the faithful friends and followers of my son Duryodhana now plan to do to help him in this great war"?

Duryodhana having been forced to run away from his palatial residential quarters the Dhauladhars, where he reigned supreme and his words were considered to be law by all the residents of the Mount Kailash, lay hidden in the dense forest surrounding forest covering majestic "Techno Kingdom" situated in the foothills of the Dhauladhar Ranges.

"My brave sons lie unsheltered today, oh! who will help them to regain ascendancy to the legitimate throne that only they must accede to", lamented Dhritrashtra.

Our own Dhritrashtra was not born blind like his legendary namesake but this loss of sight was a recent development. Did he not revel in his accomplishments all these years and more so during his ascendancy to the royal throne? All these years he had shown unparalleled bond of love for the Techno Kingdom that was not only his alma mater but was also his sustenance. And his love for Pandavas that the poor innocent Pandavas thought to be genuine affection, was in fact a make-believe mask. It was during this sojourn that he developed loss of sight and in the love that he developed for his most favorite son, almost became oblivious to great good of the "Techno Kingdom".

The outcome of this royal protection resulted in what we mortals call subjugating the rights of the ordinary and commonplace citizens of the kingdom who by virtue of being junior most in the hierarchy had to bear wrath of higher ups for no fault of theirs.

Pandavas having relegated all the rights to the Kauravas, or to be specific, Kauravas had usurped the Pandavas from any say in the running of the affairs of the kingdom (had they not insisted upon to run their own affairs without any outside agency poking its nose all the time) and our great warriors came to know of the atrocities being committed on the hapless juniors when some of them came crying to them with the telltale signs of the beatings that they had to suffer on slightest pretext.

And how could the great Pandavas shirk from what they thought was their Dharma, as was it not true that the eldest Pandava was himself Dharma personified. Being custodians of the law and order of whole of the kingdom in the larger public interest, the Pandavas plunged in a skirmish that turned out to be the greatest ever war that the inhabitants of Techno land had witnessed.

This is what led to the great war of the "Techno Kingdom" where the people who inflicted injuries and those who suffered injuries had years of emotional bondage. Was it not that both the warring groups were related to each other through common lineage and had lived peacefully for such a long time although their mutual interest collided most of the time.

The war started on August 8, 2002 and came to a bloody end on August 25, 2002, exactly on the 18th day of its having started. And it is the 18th day that I was able to see clearly even today through the celestial vision of Sanjaya.

Dhritrashtra in his vision of the land where green bucks are aplenty and where he soon planned to migrate had unfortunately overlooked the importance of the legitimate rights of sons of Pandu and ultimately lost contact with the near ones who had stood by him through thick and thin in spite of occasional differences. And in an unprecedented manner had tried to pass the maze to his own sons.

That day the omens had been bad and although even his faithful Sanjaya had reprimanded him for this obsessive "Putra Moh", yet he waited with excitement the outcome of the immoral action of the few faithful that led by Ashwathama, Kripacharya and Kritverma had gone in the thick of the night to attack the sleeping Pandavas to avenge the shame of defeat.

Everything was silent at the Pandava camp. The attackers followed by some others, either out of fear or curiosity, carried loads of stones to destroy the Pandavs while they slept peacefully after winning a war that lasted for 18 days. On the way they came across the "pustakalaya" where the ancient books of knowledge were amassed with great care and love.

"Away with the books", shouted a young soldier who in spite of being in the Asharam for a very long time was not able to qualify in the great arena where the skills of the pupils were challenged in the open to attain public approval.

And in their maddening frenzy burnt all those rare books!





"Down with the enemy's armours", shouted another, and went in flames all the "ashatras" and the "shashatras" of the poor Pandavas that they had amassed with the help and assistance of numerous friendly kingdoms, the likes what we call today World Bank Assistance.

"March onwards". "Death to Pandavas", warlike cries made the feeble hearts tremble with fear. "Victory to these brave warriors", exclaimed Dhritrashtra with obvious pride, relegating all thoughts regarding whether it was right to attack the camps of Pandavas in the night whereas the moral law of the war proclaimed that after sunset the war must not continue.

"Sanjaya, please give a vivid picture of what these brave warriors did to harm the enemies", cried Dhritrashtra with anticipation mixed with excitement.

"Armed with stones they raided the enemy camps and have started hurling stones at the camp", said Sanjaya, "but it seems that the Pandavas are not in their camp". "Oh God, they have started destruction all round."

"The chicken hearted cowards! Dhritrashtra exclaimed with disdain. "How they ran away fearing the wrath of the friends of my brave son". "Tell me more about their heroic feats," urged the old man full of excitement.

The trio followed by faithful non-entities kept on hurling stones at the hapless Pandava women and children.

"Destroy the chariots, that they use to reach the battle ground," a cry went up and in an instant all shifted their fury on the chariots of various colours and hues that the poor Pandavas had bought with their meager savings and donations from the helpful friends.

Having wrecked all the chariots they went back shouting victory to their side.

Dhritrashtra beaming a full smile could not fore see the grim future. And how could he see, wasn't he blind! And Ashwathama, what happened to him? Perhaps he roamed alone the forests of Techno Kingdom, shorn of his friends and admirers to lament his fate.

And this was how the REC came to be known as NIT. I remember all those news reports that all newspapers were filled with after this incident and this was how people started to know the new name of our college.

### **August 25, Year 2018**

Someone was tugging at my sleeves, perhaps I had a reverie and had seen all those happenings of the past and here in the present I heard faintly the still persistent voice of the same boy, "Please tell us something about how and when this institute's name was changed from REC to NIT? And I wondered why a change of any kind had to precede by a bloody revolution where those who are hurt are our own and those who inflict grievous injuries are also our very own.

**Tube Thought:** A satire which interestingly fits into the reality.

#### ***Why Technical People are Paid Less than Managers***

***Engineers and scientists will never make as much money as business executives. Now a rigorous mathematical proof explains why this is true:***

***Postulate 1: Knowledge is Power***

***Postulate 2: Time is Money, As every engineer knows,***

***Power = Work / Time, Since Knowledge = Power, and Time = Money, we have***

***Knowledge = Work / Money, Solving for money, we get:***

***money = Work / Knowledge***

***Thus, as Knowledge approaches zero, Money approaches infinity regardless of the Work done. Conclusion: The less you know, the more you make.***





◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Winds Of Change

## STRIKER SADDAM

By:  
**Vikas Saroha,**  
Second Year,  
Electronics And Communication Engineering.

### The Child:

It all goes back to his mother's womb, during the mother's pregnancy with Saddam, his father died. Another son died when he was 12 years old. The mother tried to commit a suicide and have an abortion. An Iraqi Jew family stopped Subha, the mother. So depressed was she, that she couldn't even bring herself to look at her own newborn son. The newborn was handed over to her brother, Khairallah Msallat, until the child was three. He returned to his mother only to find a step-father. The step-father's inhuman treatment along with frequent abuses could have made him what he seems to be.

### Adolescence:

Saddam's first acts of infancy can be dated back to 1956. Only 19 yet, he participated in a coup against King Faisal II. Though the attempt failed, if anything, it made him more determined. His next target was the Republican prime minister of Iraq, Abdul Karim Kasim. Yet another failure for the baathists. Saddam was hit by a bullet in the leg. He escaped to Syria and subsequently to Egypt. Saddam with the help of CIA, returned to Iraq in 1963 and played an active role in the downfall of Qasim.

### Adult:

The baathists came to power, Saddam earned a law degree from the Cairo University. He married his first cousin, Sajida Khail. Saddam served as the head of the Baath part's internal security agency, the Jihaz al Hannen. With the help from Americans Saddam cleaned Iraq of the pro Qasim communists. This regime couldn't last long and was overthrown in November in the same year, consequently. Saddam was imprisoned. He was released 5 years later, only after the Baath party returned to power after yet another coup. This time his maternal uncle, Khairullah's cousin General Ahmad Hasan Al baker led the coup. As Bakar's frail health made him resign on 16th July 1979, Saddam took over. The fatherless shepherd boy now owned the country with the second largest oil reserves.

### The king:

The first strike was against Iran barely after being 14 months in power, in September 1980. It was launched to recover the State-al-Arab water way. Earlier in 1975 Saddam was made to sign the water way and a group of islands to Iran in lieu of Iran's resolution to stop cross border support to Kurds. Kurds, under Mustafa Barzani, had gained control of Kurd dominated areas in northern Iraq. With Iran's support withdrawn, the Kurds were crushed. This was Saddam's reply to the rejection of a deal that he had offered to the Kurds in 1974. The Kurdish guerilla resistance grew harsh and so did Saddam's attitude. Iran became a bigger threat after the Iranian revolution. Finally, he decided, to teach Iran a lesson, to settle old scores. The severity of Iranian resistance and hence counter attack was least expected. It took the Iraqi's off guard. Saddam was in rough waters had it not been for the Americans. In the summer of 1982 Iranian forces advanced upon Basra. U.S. decided to do everything to save Iraq from a possible defeat. Iraq was made a U.S. ally by flying Donald Rumsfeld to Iraq and establishing diplomatic relations with Iraq for the first time.

### The Administrator:

Saddam created a model health care system in Iraq. He once killed his health minister in course of a cabinet meeting for having purchased fake medicines. Education was made compulsory. Though harshness prevailed here too, staying away from school would land the absentee in jail! Beyond doubt, he served his motherland. Had it not been for his skill, Iraq would have been rebellion torn nation. The British left Iraq in 1920, with all kinds of border troubles as existing between India and Pakistan. The rulers have done well





to hold it together. Saddam having been just one of them, has done a wonderful job.

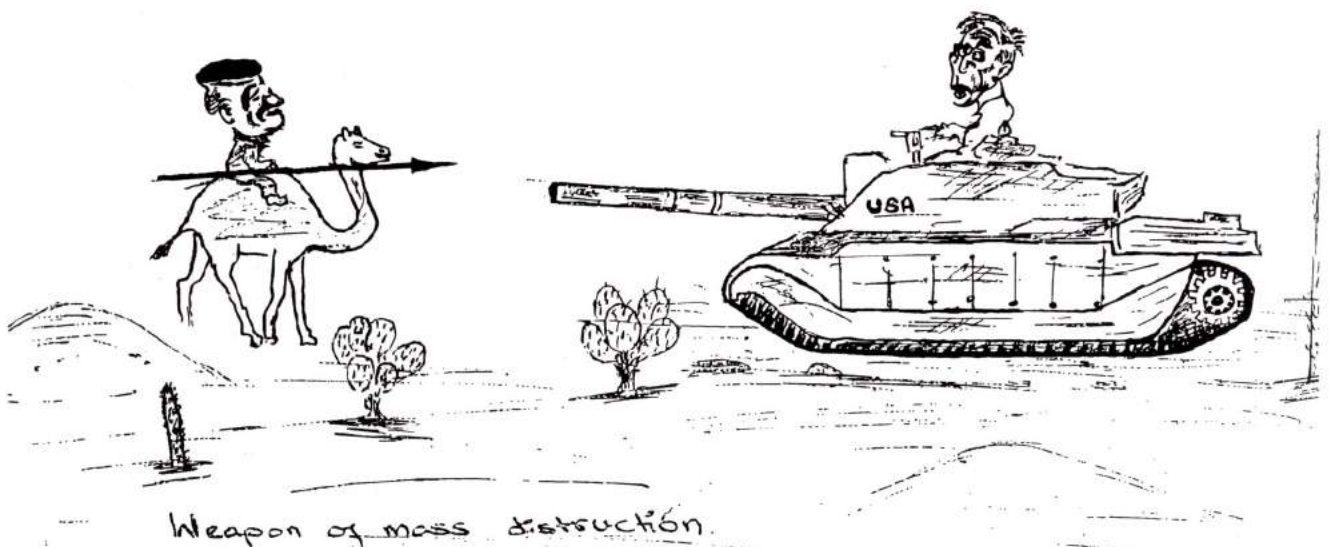
#### **A Defeated Ruler:**

Americans have taken control of Baghdad. As expected, no trace of Saddam yet. Was he killed in the bombing? It is really hard to tell. Throughout the 21 days before Baghdad fell, there were mere threatening statements, employed by weak opposition to engage the invader in a war of words: Where did the elite Republican Guards vanish? Some surrendered, some killed, but some of the elite forces are missing as well. If Saddam is still alive he could play the game of hide and seek like Osama-bin-Laden, but that is probably not his style. The most probable would be to live in exile with over 6 billion dollars stacked away in various banks life would be fairly easy.

#### **Saddam's Mind:**

Saddam lived in a room full of books on Stalin. He had consciously modeled himself on Stalin and had brought out a Stalin like personality. His rise through coups and assassinations had convinced him that he had inherited the mythical mantle of leadership from Nebuchadnezzar (ancient king of Babylonia), Saladin (recaptured Jerusalem in 1187) and Nasser (Egypt's leader in 1950). The belief could have been deepened with layers of sycophantic followers. The war itself was a lost cause. A great sin against humanity, genocide for the people of Iraq and surely a misadventure by the U.S. and the U.K.

**Tube Thought:** The article tries to capture the lesser known part of Saddam's life.



Graphic By : Binod Mukhiya





## ◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Winds Of Change

EGO-SCIENCE FICTION

By:  
Swati Mahajan,  
First Year,  
Architecture.

Doctor Gunther relaxed back in his seat. His moment has finally arrived. As he sat today in 2039 A.D., his mind wondered off to the time, when at the age of 23, he had a dream, a mission then considered impossible of making an exact replica of human being: a human clone. What could be done with monkeys and chimps can also be done on human beings, he reasoned and set out on a journey, obvious of the implications or the other things he could achieve in his life time. He was sure of just one thing, his ultimate goal of creating a human clone. After receiving U.S. aid for his project he literally segregated himself from the world. For weeks together he would work, day and night with D.N.A. samples till he dropped to the floor with exhaustion, and slept for days at a stretch. He lived, ate, drank, slept and breathed wrapped in the thoughts of cloning. And soon the tall handsome, Dr. Gunther was reduced to an emaciated pack of bones.

Finally he hit upon the right solution to his quandaries. He found that the embryo, after undergoing the scientific process, would become a baby. But that was not all if the baby was kept in a time chamber it could be transferred into a seventy five year old Dr. Gunther in only seventy hours. This clone would possess the same features, some mental capabilities, some voice, same gait, etc. but only difference between him and the clone would be that the clone would be as healthy and strong as he was at the time of the birth.

And now this Dr. Gunther II was about to enter this world as Dr. Gunther triumphantly uttered the word "EXECUTE". There was a blinding shower of sparkles that issued from the time chamber followed by a whirring of levers and gadgets. Tears of joy, of jubilation, of ecstasy of.....of.....it was hard to describe Dr. Gunther's feelings at that moment when he beheld a human form emerging from the time chamber: a Dr. Gunther II without his weakness and ailments.

Some days later, when the original doctor referred to the clone as Junior, the clone retorted, "Look doctor, I don't see any reason why you should call me your junior. I possess the same abilities as you do and you keep treating me as your kid brother."

"But I created you, eh" the doctor defended himself. "You will get the due recommendation for that all right". "But now that I m here, I'm the better person, why, you are no more than a silly old scientist with one of his legs already in the grave while I m fresh as baby. I have a long way to go..."

The quarrel went past the seventh degree. Two penknives rose in the air and two pools of same blood flooded the floor as he and his clone dropped down dead.

Come to think of it, he was probably wrong. He was right in giving the clone the same features, the same mental facilities and the same gait, voice etc., but he surely committed a blunder in giving the clone same EGO!!!



**Tube Thought:** Man is toying with nature, with the help of science. The recent attempts at cloning humans can make a day dawn, when we will be wiped out by our own creations which attempt to sabotage the basic laws of nature.





## A QUIET LIFE

By:  
Kumar Vijay Mishra,

Final Year,  
Electronics And Communication Engineering.

### The Trend Of Our Times

For an oppidan individual, to wish for a serene and quiet atmosphere around himself is like asking for more. Take the case of any person living on a 9th storey flat aside a busy crowded square in a megalopolitan city. The ill-sounding raucous beeps of vehicles make you strap those cushions around your ears while taking a nap in the night after an equally obstreperous day's work. And your cacophonous horror doesn't stop here; your frenzied neighbour wants to enjoy wild rock tracks on his max-volume stereo and makes you too, to listen to this dissonant nonsense throughout the night.

In the morning when you expect somewhat quietude and turn-on your idiot-box for some tranquil entertainment, what all you find? Heavy metal rock again on Channel 9! Or on Channel 10, so violent headlines like this:

"And yesterday night, two people were found heinously murdered in the Napier Town at the outskirts of the city with the murderer brutally cutting-off their tongues!"

No different is the Channel 11, "The weekend murder tolls have reached a dozen with the latest murder last night."

"Do they have anything soothing to tell us?", muttered Dev Kumar. And he kept on changing the channels with every channel scooping-out the stories of violence and weekend murders only. At length at Channel twenty-second, he found a morning talk show with a man-and-woman anchor duo seemingly indulged in some recreational gossipmongering. The gleaming red lipstick lips, dancing eyebrows and chic voice of the lady would make any man surely insane.

'So Ravi, what do you think is the reason of so much weekend violence in our city?'

'O Riya, it is only the trend of our times!'

"Enough!", Dev was more bored rather annoyed with such kind of news items and changed the channel again. And channel twenty-third was a bit different, featuring birds, amidst light background music, flying high in the sky and then coming to nests to feed their chicks. Dev was mesmerized by this unusual peace depiction.

"In the backwoods of Shantivan, far, very far from your city will you find such serene images of innocent wildlife. Come and enjoy a quiet weekend camp where the urban hubbubs will not touch you even in the remotest sense", claimed the program.

Almost instantly, any circumlocution will be in vain, you would have guessed, Dev planned for a trip to Shantivan coming weekend:

### The Search For Quietude

The thirty mile travel from the city to Shantivan was a tranquil Friday drive. Dev never felt so much contented before. Certainly this weekend is going to be quiet a promising experience for him. Even the guard at the sanctuary gate seemed to promise that, when Dev peeped out of the window of his car and showed his pass to the guard, "Good Afternoon Sir. Off to parking-zone first. And then to the camping zone towards the north. Please don't stray away to west which is full of wild bears. Eastern zone is extremely quiet and nominally crowded, if you prefer that."

"Thanks a lot."

"Good Day Sir", smiled the watchman.

It was obvious for Dev to camp in the east which was quieter with no likelihood of getting disturbed by anyone. He primarily wanted 'complete silence'. He found his camp-site down a large cliff encompassed by several green bushes. He fastened his A-frame tent there and took packaged-lunch. When he zipped himself inside it for a snooze at noon around 2:55 p.m., he experienced an uninterrupted nap for the first time in his life after so many years of those terrifying 9th storey nights.

Dev was employed at Magma Studios as a sound-recordist and was more prone to the metropolitan din compared to any usual citizen of an industrialized society. He was a twenty-nine years old bespectacled single and had a thin physique with a fair and clear face. A very reserved-looking man, he was always found in formal wears. His extremely submissive voice and nervous face would make him appear the most innocent-faced person in the world. But his fear of noisy annoyances was his terrible ailment. No doubt, Dev really enjoyed the siesta and slept as if he had actually died. Ya! Surely because he didn't wake-up for even dinner.





Faint voices woke Dev up. It was late night, exactly 11:30 p.m. when he could clearly hear droning sounds coming from the top of the cliff as if someone had turned a radio on. He wore his glasses, climbed over the cliff and hid himself behind big bamboo bushes. A middle-aged man of ashen gray hair was sharpening his chopping knife on a rocky slab. His tent looked like a medieval yurt in front of which the man had set camp-fire. To make things more terrifying, a monstrous hound was also present near to that rurally-dressed man.

But that radio broadcast? O Ya! The receiver set was really there...beaming out the inharmonious folk songs.

"Sheru! Why are you barking so much? There is no one here....or is someone really there?", the man stared at the bushes in front of him, "Hey! Who's there?"

Dev's face looked too scared as he came out of those hedges. He advanced only a few steps when the dog started snarling at him.

"Hey Sheru! Quiet my dear, quiet! For this person, YOU need not to poke your head", grinned the fellow as he could surmise the fainthearted looks of Dev. The next moment his hands ceased honing up the machete and were extended for a shake, "O, I am just joking, man. Well, I am Natwar."

"Will you please turn that transistor radio off?", pointed Dev instead of shaking hands.

"But why?...OK well", Natwar switched-off the set but still stared at Dev, "So you seem to be a working executive. But I am a hunter. The one who hunts EVERYTHING."

But Dev's purpose was fulfilled. The radio set was somehow turned off; so he returned ignoring whatever Natwar was saying. He reached only to the tall sal tree but then turned his head back to Natwar, "Excuse me, if you can please shift your camp to the riverside since this zone is for peace-loving naturists".

No sooner this was heard by Natwar than he threw his chopping knife towards Dev. But thank gosh! It instead pierced the sal stem down to its pith. Dev wiped the drops of sweat on his forehead as Natwar's eyes glowered at him. The veins on the latter's face were clearly visible and he shouted, "Man! Don't try to preach me. If you feel troubled, I suggest YOU change your place."

"Cool...Cool...Abb...OK...Ok, I will change my campsite."

#### **The Mysterious Follower**

A nice winter morning. The resplendent riverside. And solitude.

Exactly this is required to enjoy fishing. And that's what Dev had planned. The utter stillness in the environment gave him inexplicable pleasure. But as if he was doomed for din, his fishing reverie was broken by the rustling of leaves in the bushes behind him. He gasped as if what all was in store beyond those ghostly thickets.

"Hi chap! Enjoying fishing? But something is missing from your fishing equipment. Guess what?", the person was Natwar.

"Wh...what?"

"This...big chef's knife! How do you plan to eat your catch?"

"Now, what are YOU doing here? And why you always carry such sharpening weapons with yourself?", questioned Dev perplexingly. Even at this young age, his forehead was showing wrinkles with sweat all over the face up to the temples.

"Fishing man! Fishing! And don't you know that there are wild bears nearby. I think some of them have crept in here too. Today I saw footprints of the bear near to that large cliff where I was staying."

"Will you stop following me?", screamed Dev angrily.

But Natwar continued, "And haven't you heard of that weekend killer. Who knows he may be here... in the jungle...It could be ME too...Ha...Ha...Ha". The more Natwar laughed, the more impatient Dev grew.

"Don't try to frighten me. O God! Leave me alone. I can't hear your nonsense at all", yelled Dev closing his ears with his palms. He then left the place hastily leaving his fishing pack there only as Natwar guffawed enigmatically.

That day by noon, Dev had shifted his tent to somewhere deep into the forest where he was confident of not being traced. He could enjoy his lunch as well as dinner in desirably silent environs. So, when he slept he never thought if he will be disturbed again at midnight. But he was wrong. He could clearly hear rasping sounds at midnight and soon discovered that Natwar was nearby. However this time he didn't wake-up to make sure of his convictions. Natwar had certainly established his camp somewhere around. And this night was not going to be any different from those 9th-storey nights since the dog was barking unusually. Before his eyelashes came down he could hear what Natwar was telling his pet, "Sheru, don't yowl so much or the bear will take you".

The morning was a bit different with someone shouting 'Dev, Dev' outside the tent. Who else? "Hey man! The bear killed my dog. Help me a bit in its burial", Dev was told by the visitor when he opened the zip off. He was Natwar carrying the dog's body in his lap. The dog was buried in a pit which was dug-out by both Natwar and Dev.

"Now, this is my last day here. Please don't disturb me at all. I want to spend this quietly", Dev requested with a warning tone. "Well, you are no authority to tell me that. Let everyone go wherever he wants", Natwar's voice was stern and awful. "O God! Why don't you understand? You are going to kill me then", Dev yammered as he walked towards his camp while Natwar smirked again.

#### **The Curtain Opens**

This time Dev's camp was somewhere around the deepest woods. As he finished erecting his camp in the evening, his annoyance





knew no bounds as he heard some movement in the bushes at his back. Natwar struck again but this time he had a bigger dagger in his hands, "Hi! The only thing that I haven't asked you is your name".

"No! No...leave me alone", Dev treaded backwards while Natwar advanced towards him with the dagger. Dev then ran towards deep into the forest. He ran and ran almost unconsciously not knowing where he had left his camp behind. He realized that soon and then started searching for that. That didn't take much time and he discovered his camp soon. But it was closed from inside. Before he could have tried to open it, someone zipped it off from inside. Natwar was resting on his couch inside, with that dagger in his hand.

"What do you want?", asked Dev annoyingly.

"Because this place is no longer safe, I just wanted to suggest you that we should camp together", Natwar was puzzled as he came out of the tent, "But what's your problem?"

"How many times I need to tell you that I can not tolerate any noise. Even the noise created by your voice, when you speak, is not acceptable to me. The rustling of bushes, the purl of waters, the honing of your knives, the patter of your steps, the growl of your hound, the twitters of sparrows, the fizz of...Horrors! I hate every little sound", Dev was clearly desperate when he took off his glasses and turned his face from Natwar towards a sal tree..

"But don't you want to enjoy? Then why you have come here?", somewhat baffled Natwar asked.

"Off...for a quiet weekend", Dev cleared his glasses with his handkerchief.

"But how is it possible here where so many persons camp together", queried Natwar deridingly.

"I thought it is possible. And for that, I even tried to kill your barking dog but in vain", there was a strange sparkle in Dev's eyes when he said that.

"W...H...A...T", gasped Natwar with a clear horror on his face, "But...the bear..."

"There is no bear! There is no bear! I am the bear...I made those bear footprints so that you run away from me", shouted Dev interruptingly. His face had changed completely. He looked confident, harsh and more terrible when he turned his head towards Natwar. "But you didn't. So I have planned a different treatment for you."

Natwar was so shocked, at the same time petrified also, that he couldn't speak a single word. His eyes were stilled by awe and terror to the extent that his hands were shivering and he didn't even realize that Dev had taken the dagger from his hands. "Now just shut up your mouth like this", shouted and grinned Dev deceitfully as he showed his finger to Natwar by putting it on his lips, "And experience a complete silence now."

#### **Postscript**

The next morning was quite bright when, at the sanctuary barrage, the guard greeted Dev who was driving the car, "I hope Sir, you had a terrible weekend."

"Certainly. I have the experience!", chuckled Dev in a mischievous way as he looked at a bottled tongue lying aside his seat inside the vehicle.

And what the Channel twenty-second anchors had to discuss on Monday morning:

"Gee Riya! For the first time this winter, there was no murder last weekend!"

"O Ravi! May be the weekend killer was also off for a quiet weekend!"

***Tube Thought:*** The real world encloses so many bizarre thoughts and beings. As per one such conviction, the effect of urban pollution on man can be quite bestial as it did to our protagonist.



# *Extra Curriculars*



*Workshop*



*Jagrata*



*NCC Cadets*



*On Glacier*



*Kailash Boys Hostel*



*Editorial Board*



*All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy*



*Descending down snowy peak*





# Rangoli

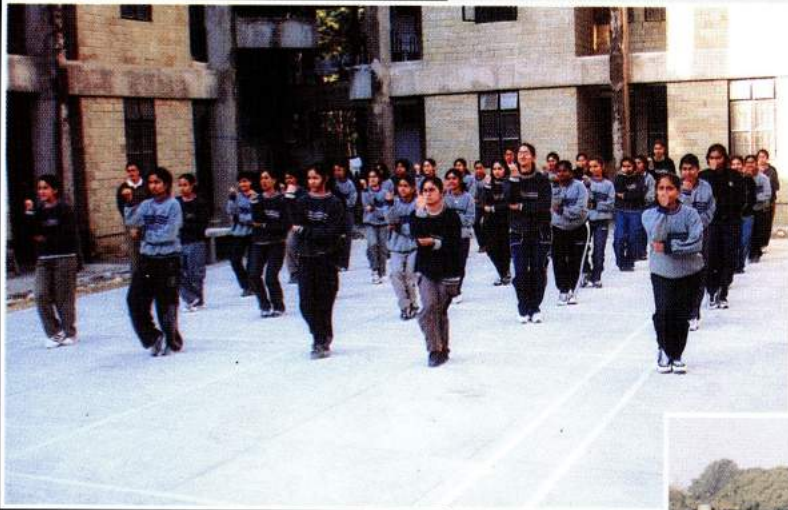








# *N.I.Tian's in different moods*



LA FEMME NIKITA



FRIENDS GIRLS ! ?



100 GIRLS ! ?



CREATORS ??





## ◆ CONTOURS OF THE MIND/Winds Of Change

### KAL AAJ KAL OF KASHMIR

By:  
**Rahul Bindroo,**  
First Year,  
Electrical Engineering.

"The woods are lovely dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep"

These lines written by Robert Frost were found written in Pundit Nehru's hand on his table shortly after his death. The promises here must have included the promise done to the people of Kashmir, about their dues, by Pundit ji. He would have never imagined the resent situation at Kashmir.

Kashmir, the paradise, on the earth has become a graveyard. This land of Sufis and saints which once flourished among the waters of the Dal, Chenab, Jhelum and Wular is now flooded with rivers of blood and hatred. The Sufi Islamic way of life that ordinary Muslims followed in Kashmir complemented the rishi tradition of Kashmiri Pundits (Hindu), leading to a syncretic cultures where Hindus & Muslims revered the same local saints & prayed at the same shrines.

The roots of the Kashmir clan are named in the Mahabharata. Such was the beauty of Kashmir that Emperor Ashoka, the great visited this place and founded the city of Shrinagiri (today's Srinagar is located about three miles from Shrinagiri) in about 250 BC. Kashmir from the 6th century onwards was ruled by Hindu rulers during whose rule much of archaeological & other development works. For instance King Lalitaditya (7th century) built the famous Sun temple & formed the city of Pharihasura.

It was in the mid 12th century that Muslim invasion started in Kashmir. Turks in 1322, under the leadership of the flamboyant Zulkadur Khan, first invaded Kashmir. It was in the period 1394 - 1416 that central Asian ruler Sikander invaded Kashmir and brought about mass conversions to Islam. When the tyranny of Sikander was over, only eleven Kashmiri Hindu families had survived!

The Golden period of Kashmir began with the Mughal empire spreading its wings over India. In this period, Mirza Haider, a relative of Humayun, conquered Kashmir. Kashmir was then gradually absorbed into the Mughal Empire. After the rule of the Moghals ended, the state came under the rule of small local rulers. These rulers were weak & Kashmir again went into the depths of darkness. It was in the early 19th century when Maharaja Ranjit Singh, one of the greatest rulers of India, regained the state & appointed his Dogra feudatory

Gulab Singh to rule the state that Kashmir again began to prosper.

But the highly inaccessible valley could not survive the British aggression. On March 16, 1846 the recent state was created by a treaty between the British East India Company acting on behalf of the British government and Maharaja Gulab Singh in Amritsar. After this, there was never any stability in Kashmir for the whole century, till Independence. This century was marked by communal riots in Kashmir led by Sheikh Abdullah and his Muslim conference (converted to National Conference in 1939)

In 1947 the British left the subcontinent but divided it into India & Pakistan. On the eve of partition, Kashmir was among 500 'princely states' that had the choice of maintaining their Independence or joining India or Pakistan. Rulers who needed more time to make up their minds had the option of signing a "standstill agreement" that entitled them to continue receiving certain services from either India or Pakistan or both. The rulers of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, wanted to sign the instrument of accession with both the countries. Pakistan immediately accepted the proposal but India did not give its consent. In an attempt to force Singh's hand, Pakistan gave its tacit consent to a tribal invasion into Kashmir, prompting the Maharaja to accede to India. A limited war erupted between India and Pakistan. On Dec 31, 1947 a highly unconstitutional offer of plebiscite was made by the then Prime minister Nehru in the UN assembly.

After this the relations between two countries became strained. The brewing hatred resulted in two full fledged wars in which Pakistan was defeated. After this Pakistan adopted the tactics of guerrilla warfare & imposed a proxy war upon Kashmir in the name of religion. In 1986 on the eve of Janamashtami, one of the most shameful acts of religious massacre





took place. Several ancient Hindu temples were destroyed and scores of Hindus were killed in the city of Anantnag. After this, in the period of 1990-91 in a state of terrorist violence, 2400 people died & about 300,000 were driven out of their homes.

Terrorist violence witnessed a steep upward trend after that but got controlled with the general elections in the state after a gap of seven years. Farooq Abdullah, son of Sh. Abdullah, came into power. After this the Prime minister of India & Pakistan met each other a number of times. But Pakistan continued to foster terrorism.

In late April 99 there was a large scale springtime infiltration in the region of Kargil. The infiltrators about 700 in number succeeded in occupying most of the peaks in region. This led to limited war for the first time; the Indian armed forces used air power to stop infiltration. This war led to a steep rise in military presence near the border and a full fledged war was eminent.

Due to Pakistan's alliance looking with the US in the war against terrorism, Pakistan had to unwillingly stop cross border terrorism for a period of time. This prevented the worst from occurring. But still Pakistan is helping foreign mercenaries to wage militancy in India.

With all these years of violence in Kashmir the common man has been devastated. Most of the families lost their properties, family members, friends, in short their life has now become dependent on guns & bullet. All of them, if not openly but in their hearts want peace back in Kashmir & all of them fervently hope that a day will come when the militancy infested state shall shine with the grandeur of the 'Paradise on Earth'.

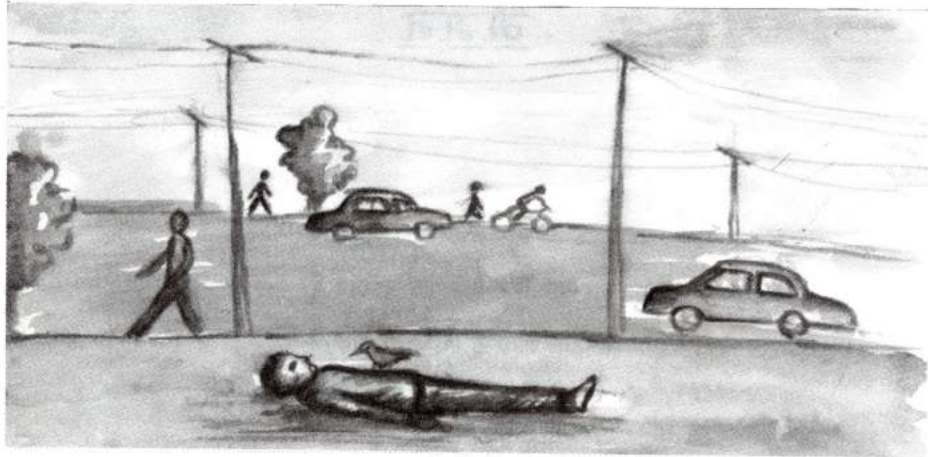
**Tube Thought:** Kashmir, the paradise on earth is known for its beauty, but very few know its political history. This article gives small amount of the Kashmir's history.



Graphic by : Sauvik Podder



◆ मन की उड़ान/परिवर्तन: एक शाश्वत सत्य



Graphic By : Sujit Kumar Brahma

## मानवता की लाश

-विकास त्रिपाठ  
द्वितीय व  
जानपद अभियांत्रिक

वो देखो उधर कितना अंधेरा है, और  
कोहरे ने सारा शहर घेरा है,  
तभी देखा पास में जमघट लगा हुआ  
सोचा किसी तमाशबीन का डेरा है  
दिल में उमंग लिये हम उधर भी चल दिये,  
पास जाकर देखा कुछ और ही मंजर  
जाने वहां कब से एक लाश थी पड़ी  
पहचान थी मुश्किल, वो थी सड़ी गली  
गौर से देखा तो मैं पहचान गया  
इसे तो मैंने गांधी-नेहरु के साथ देखा था  
लेकिन ये गुमशुदा था बड़े अन्तराल से  
किसी से जहमत न उठाई गई  
ढूँढने के इस बवाल से  
भूल कर इसको सब चले गये एक अंधेरी गली  
आह! पाँच दशक बाद इसकी लाश ही मिली  
मूर्खों! इसकी हत्या तो दानवता का भी हास है  
गौर से देखो, पहचानों, ये तो मानवता की लाश है।

आत्मकथ्य : “स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों का भारत आज अपने स्वर्गीय क्रांतिवीरो का आदर करना भी भूल गया है।”





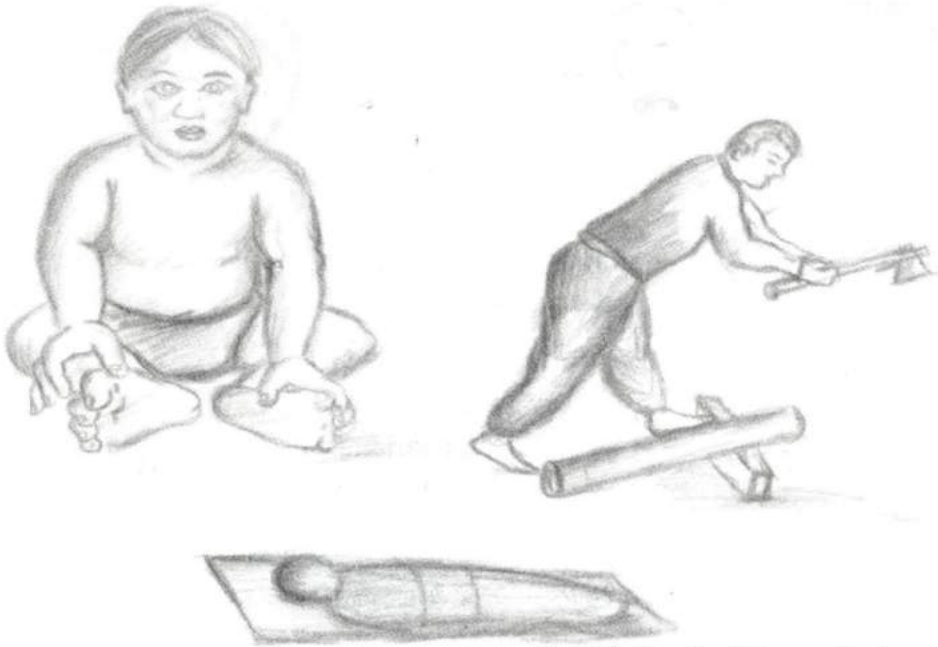
◆ मन की उड़ान/परिवर्तन: एक शाश्वत सत्य

## गमन

-चन्द्रशेखर शर्मा  
द्वितीय वर्ष  
विद्युत अभियांत्रिकी

बार-बार फिर वही पाठ दुहराता हूँ  
चंचलता लाता हूँ निश्छलता गाता हूँ  
पथ आगे जाने पर कुछ भूल जाता हूँ  
नभ नीला बतलाता हूँ  
बार-बार शून्य से जीरो को आता हूँ।  
माया से माया बिखराता हूँ  
नव बंधन में खुद को पाता हूँ  
क्षण-प्राप्य को पाने में श्रम समय लगाता हूँ  
प्रयाण काले माया बंध पाता हूँ  
बार-बार शून्य से जीरो को आता हूँ।  
बार-बार शून्य से जीरो को आता हूँ॥

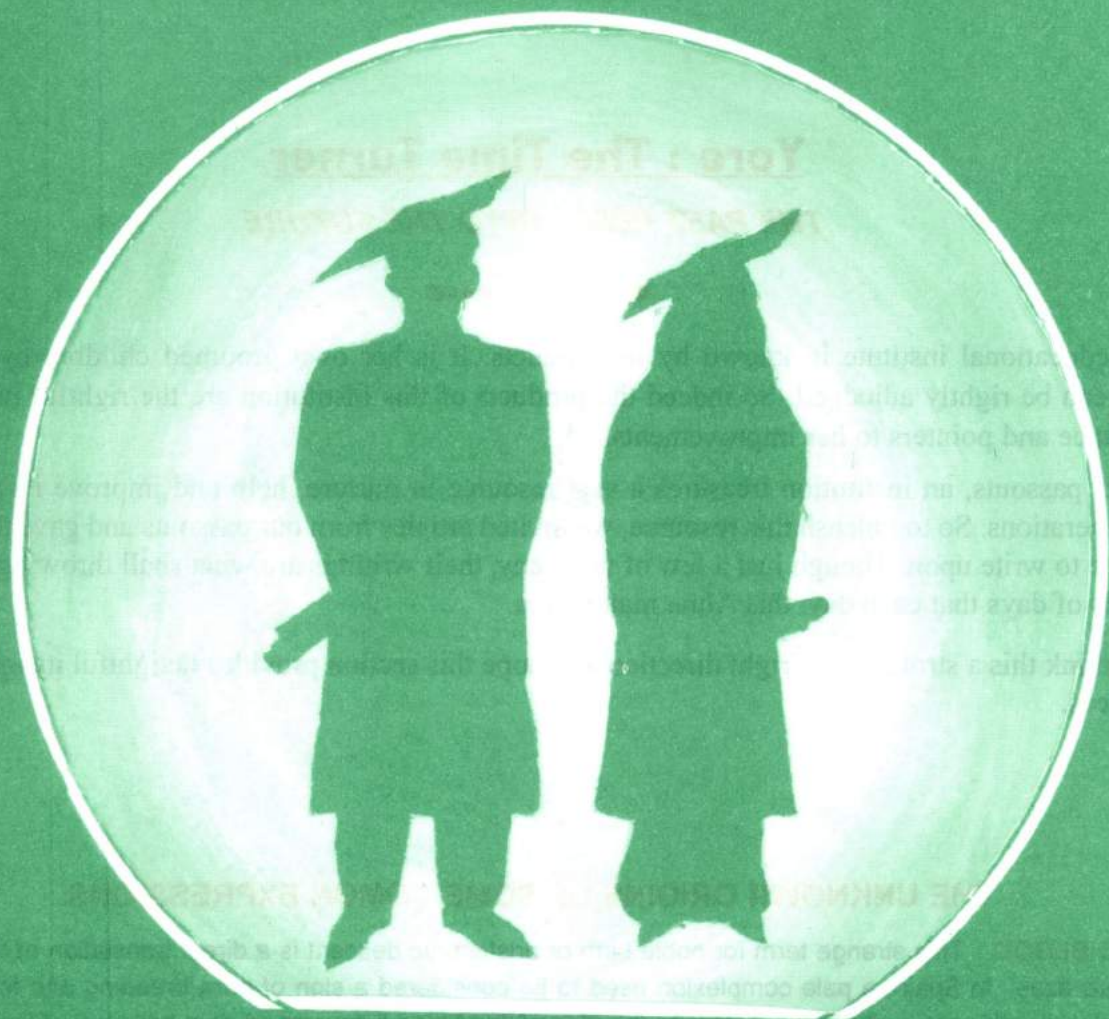
आत्मकथ्य : जीवन रूपी पहिये पर न जाने कितने चक्र पूरे किये।



Graphic By : Sujit Kumar Brahma



# YORE पढचिन्ह



Introduction

Lessons From A Golden Past

Indelible Memories

Those Were The Best Days Of My Life

Studies : Keep Them Away From Me





## **Yore : The Time Turner**

### **THE PAST PEEPS INTO THE FUTURE**

●Avinash Rude●

An educational institute is known by its products. It is her own groomed children by whom her efficacy can be rightly adjudged. So indeed the products of this institution are the rightful judges to her performance and pointers to her improvements.

In its passouts, an institution treasures a vast resource to nurture, help and improve its present and future generations. So to unleash this resource, we invited articles from our passouts and gave them similar guidelines to write upon. Though just a few of the many, their writings are what shall throw light upon the thousands of days that each day, this Alma mater lives.

We think this a stroke in the right direction and hope this section provides delightful insight into their experiences.

#### **THE UNKNOWN ORIGINS OF SOME COMMON EXPRESSIONS :**

**BLUE BLOOD :** This strange term for noble birth or aristocratic descent is a direct translation of the Spanish 'saugre azue'. In Spain, a pale complexion used to be considered a sign of pure breeding and tended to be associated with aristocratic families. Hence the idea of 'blue blood' developed as a hallmark of the nobility.

**AS SURE AS EGGS IS EGGS :** How did this peculiar way of saying 'without a doubt' originate? In all probabilities, an egg is here a deliberately comic distortion of x.

In algebra, a basic equation is that  $x$  always equals to  $x$ . If anything accepted as a rule by all mathematicians and logicians, it is just that -  $x = x$ . So if you want to give a guarantee of the accuracy of a prediction, for instance, you might emphasise that it is as sure as  $x = x$  or as eggs is eggs.

**DRESSED UPTO THE NINES :** Why smartly dressed sometimes referred to as dressed up to nines? A theory suggests an illusion to a very high standard, nine marks out of a possible ten. This does not sound very convincing. A more likely explanation is that the phrase was, in early English, something like 'dressed up to then eyne'. - i.e. 'dressed up to eyes'. In recent times, the old phrase 'then eyen' was misheard as 'the nines'; and written down that way.





## LESSONS FROM A GOLDEN PAST

Looking back time always brings you happy moments. And when I received the mail from Avinash asking me to pen down my thoughts about my life at REC (though you people may like to call it NIT now, for us, its always RECH), I was excited as well befuddled about what to write. After thinking for quite a long time about my core issue, I settled for little suggestions at last. I am careful not to put these as some boring advices or the success formula he had asked in his mail. These are just my views and opinions with no allusion to anyone.

On the personal front, I learnt what sustenance is at RECH. It taught me the national language (surprisingly, in my part of India, Hindi is still used sparingly!). It gave me some very good lessons of life, which I still follow. But on the technical aspects, I mean the academics, what did I learn? This question always floundered in my mind when I was doing my B.Tech. But the quest never sustained too high. But when I crossed the shores for higher studies, I can see what we are missing. To be frank, asking a student to be seriously concentrating on his "studies only" when he is at his prime time of youth is too demanding. On the other side of the coin, if he is too frivolous, I can bet he is leading himself nowhere. Right now, there may be many students in the pre-final and final years thinking about what their next step is? I pen down these thoughts in an optimistic hope to give them some sort of options.

To all those willing to pursue higher studies, there is one thing I feel everyone doing bachelors in engineering must remember. You are not expected to be a master of every course you take. All that is expected out of you is that your fundamental ideas are strong. Unfortunately, you may not put efforts in that direction when you are doing a course, which you will understand when you are in your Masters. And to add to the woes, the questions we face in our exams are mostly way ahead than testing our understanding of fundamentals. If you expect yourself to be in a very good institution for masters, please be sure to be very clear in foundations of every concept. As a guideline to mechanical engineer, you need not know procedures to design a luxury car but it is imperative of you to know what the theories of failure are! And you have to be sure of them throughout your lifetime. So do spend time on basics.

Coming to the people who are for jobs, I feel afraid of jobs. I had a good taste of private and public organization in India. Public company lived up to its notorious distinction of wasting taxpayer's money and the private was not very good either. So what do I do at all? I definitely feel a lack of interest in young Indian engineers to think and implement business plans. Not that we don't have the acumen to do it, its just an attitude of life we lack. For any success in business, the first requisite is independent thinking and it's been our way of life style that we depend heavily on our relations. I don't blame it either. But it's high time that the new generation learns it soon. By business, I essentially don't mean a million dollar investment. There are lot of opportunities that start from harnessing proper resources in small villages and towns. Explore!

Few words on personal life. Though I don't know exactly what you people do for hobbies now, all we did was play table tennis at odd hours, seasonal cricket and hopping around the campus in bikes. And as always, the studious ones stayed in their rooms! An active campus life is needed to develop an active attitude. Do take the initiative of organizing some sort of group activity every week. A healthy schedule of concentrating on work for 5 days and having two days (the weekend) of fun filled activities makes you to feel complete. Do you people screen movies at least now? (I hope we are the first to do it - we watched KKKG using our computer and projector at the main building on a beautiful Saturday nite!) I have always heard people saying there is a lifetime to enjoy, study now. To me, it's all rubbish. This is the age you can do both. And failure to do either one will keep your conscience burning all your life. Don't miss them.

Above all advertisement is one of the key ingredients to recognition. Be an active participant in lot of technical conferences around the country and arrange them regularly at REC too. Also it is very disheartening when I see our institutions web page being unkempt and very little informative. With top class computer engineers studying there, I am sure it can be lot better. Hope I haven't bored you all a lot, I wind up here. Do mail me your comments.

**S. Arjun Tekalur**

T. S. Arjun, a 1998 Mechanical Engineering Batch student (passed out in 2002) is now pursuing his M. S. (Experimental Mechanics) at Department Of Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics in University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, USA. He can be contacted at [tsarjun@yahoo.com](mailto:tsarjun@yahoo.com).





## INDELIBLE MEMORIES

I got admission in REC Hamirpur in 1991 (Jesus that sounds long time before) but memories are still crystal clear. Huge construction works were going on in 1991, there was no mani mahesh hostel, no girls hostel (I think it is Kaveri) and all the first year students were living in Shivalik Hostel. Seniors were in Kailash. Ragging was at its peak, 20-30 slaps were normal each day.

There were lots of strikes as well. In fact our batch was pretty good in strikes, sports and studies and that is the reason lots of our batch mates are very successful. I feel emotional whenever I think of that period as it reminds me lots of good memories, the companionship, the attachment, the bloody assignments, the unapproachable girls, the teachers bias towards girls and especially their long viva sessions with girls, I don't know that passion in them still exists or not and lots of other things.

I think that was the best phase of my life and those memories are going to stay for life time. Few good incidents were getting best male model prize in 1994 and topping the university in 1995 and getting First class First Hons.

At the bus stand, the day we left the college for the last time, the whole batch was crying. I have one aim, some day I want to come and teach at REC Hamirpur (or NIT as you call now, I still prefer REC).

**Rahul Chhillar**

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Rahul Chhillar, a 1991 Civil Engineering Batch student (passed out in 1995), works as Project Engineer at Department of Public Works, New South Wales, Australia. He can be contacted at Rahul Chhillar, 14/33-37, Lindat St., Hornsby, NSW-2077, Australia.

## THOSE WERE THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE...

'I came, I saw, I was conquered'.

Even before I went for admission counselling, I had declared that REC Hamirpur Computer Science was my destiny. At that time the seats for 'Central Board' students had not been declared. In Gujarat Central Board students get 5 seats (Across REC's, across branches!). Apart from it, there were some 100 candidates more eligible than me for that single seat in computer science.

I think the single reason why I made it was that: I wanted it most. Of course that was because while others were concerned with the cold and distance; I envision myself walking amongst apple tree lined paths, enjoying a quiet snowfall, drinking apple liquor. Aah!

Still, apple or no apple, RECH was not dissappointing. Infact, it was an instant bonding. And the bond grew stronger with time, will stay for a lifetime.

The freedom, the space, the diversity enthralled me. Life was a constant adventure. RECH is not a 'happening' place. But you can make things happen with just the right effort and the right support. After all, even life doesn't happen by itself!

And that my friends, is the best thing about my alma-mater. You have the potential to experiment, change, improve. And the more challenging it is to change, the more thrilling it gets, and greater is the joy of achievement. And adversity has always led the wise to invention, not destruction. Right?

I learnt a lot there (of Computer Science, I graduated innocent!). And inspite of all I did and all I could have done; I would not change a single day of my stay at RECH.

Because though not the best way but I lived it my way.  
Remembering the people and the place always,

**Vikram Dalal 'ullu'.**

---

Vikram Dalal, a 1998 Computer Science & Engineering Batch student (passed out in 2002) works as an IT consulatant in the Information Systems Audit Department in Pricewaterhouse Coopers India Ltd. in Pune. He can be contacted at dalalvikram@epatra.com.





## STUDIES! KEEP THEM AWAY FROM ME

Out of school and into the college. What's on one's mind? Fashion, sports, fests and a hell lot of fun. Studies are the last thing that can come to mind when you are entering into the college.

Gone are the days when parents and teachers sit on your head and command you to study. College is cool and fun. The myth breaks on the first day itself, when you get the timetable showing you a way to a busy day ahead. In the class first day is fun and you come to know each other and the teachers. And from the second day, the lecture seems to be as long as a century with nothing getting into the head. After a week you ask, what the hell? The college is not supposed to be like this and that too a professional college. I am big enough, but these teachers are telling me to study and huh! Giving me "homework" (read assignments) to do. I have not come here for this, and these seniors, they are treating me like anything. I want unlimited fun and jeans and T-shirts and the canteen.

But wait my dear; you are missing one important point. What do you think you are here for? What for the crores of rupees have been spent in the buildings, the equipments? And why do the faculty members are spending there life here. Not for giving you fun dear. The important thing is studies.

But studies, and an engineering college. Everyone told me no one studies there. Yes dear college means studies and an engineering college more so. And that's because in an engineering college you come to know the how, why, what and where of many things. Not only things technical but also of life. In an engineering college you learn to 'engineer' things. Who built the Konkan Railways, engineers did. Who sent the GSLV into the space, engineers did. Who built networks to supply power to you, engineers did. Who built the Internet, engineers did. Who is building those massive hydel projects, those roads, those tanks, missiles, ships, Engineers are. Think anything and you will see an engineer's part in bringing it to you.

Don't you want to be a part of it? Creating something, developing something useful for people. I do, I do wanna be a part of it. Don't you feel that tingling sensation in your fingers? Yes, I feel it; I will also create new things. But for that you will have to study.

Study! Hmmm.... Huh, Studies! That's it dear, you have to know the how and why of things before you can use it in bringing out those wonders of engineering. Isn't there another way out? Studying these books makes me feel sleepy. Books are a pleasure if you don't cram its contents. Don't read between the lines - its blank out there. Read each line and think over it.

As Dr. Susheel Chauhan Sir has quoted "Indulge yourself in CHINTAN (Thinking) and not in CHINTA (Tension)".

Relate each line to things around you. How does it give an idea about those things? You will discover each line giving you instant knowledge these are your small steps towards becoming an engineer.

But how can one understand things at first go. You won't. You'll have to re-read it. But it depends on you, how much you get in the first time. Because every time you re-read it you'll come to know different things. You can view the same things with different perspectives. Everything in science and engineering is very vast and you can never have absolute knowledge of anything. It's only the question of how much for the moment. But shouldn't I go for absolute, even if I can't get there.

Rather not, because in the four years at college one has to learn the basics of everything. But, why all? Why not everything about one? That's an important one, all are important because when you are going to develop those big marvels (in common jargon when you'll be in the field) those marvels require at least basic knowledge of a vast variety of fields. Say a satellite - it involves a lot of electronics, communication, computers, electrical, mechanical, chemical, materials and what not. So what ever you study, study whole heartedly. Because what field will come handy at what time you never know.

So the important thing is to at least learn the basics of everything you study. That's fine buddy, but will someone in the world tell me what the hell "BASICS" is? BASICS of something is, knowing the why, how, where and what of it. You should be able to explain what the thing actually is, what it is physically, if it's mathematical, then how can you relate it to something physical. How is it going to behave under different conditions? Why do we need it, why does it behave in a particular way? What if we make a certain change.

### Where can it be used?

What are its brothers and sisters (means similar things). What are its limitations? And things like that? I think you now have got an idea about the basics. It is difficult to define. One can say that you should be able to answers the basic questions about it.

Questions! Who's going to ask these questions? Will I get them in the exams? As for the exams, you will get only a few of them. But regarding asking them, you're the one who's going to ask them. Ask them to yourself, (think about what could be the probable answers) Look for the answers in the books. Discuss it with your friends. Ask the teachers. Never be afraid to pose the questions to the teachers. And even then if you don't get an answer (1 in thousand); you can find it out on the net. There are a lot of texts available and lot of people eager to answer the questions.

For basics do I have to remember the formulas? It's not important to remember them, but they are handy, because when you require them you won't have to go and search through the books or the manual pages. Ok I'll learn the basics and read the books. Then it should





free me of 75% attendance rule.

Not exactly! It is true some people don't like classes and like to study by themselves, and many people feel sleepy in many classes. But it's easy to grasp the things when someone who already knows it very well, tells it to you. You'll never feel sleepy if you remember the questions "why", "how" and the family. Each line of the lecture can ring a question in your mind. You can relate it to something you previously learnt. Don't be afraid to mouth your doubts and questions in the class. It'll make the learning process a lot easier and fun.

Everyone has his/her own unique style of studying-- some like to make notes, some like it with music, some like it alone, some like partnerships, some like the library while some like the room. Learn by studying in whatever way you are comfortable with, but simply learn. Know the basics.

Learn at night; learn at day, learning is the key.

But the facilities here are not good. Very limited. Nowhere will you get the whole world at your disposal. Each place has its own good points and some limitations. You're an engineer, so you have to carve out a way of using those good points to overcome those limitations. Will learning all these basics sincerely, get me the top rank and a 20K job. Frankly speaking at this point I draw a blank. Marks, I believe will easily fall into place, if you know the basics well and you can put that last night fight. It is the most important part of engineering. You come to know the capability of an engineer. Finishing 5 chapters in one night when one took two days.

And about the job, everyone will tell you his/her own story. Even if you miss out on the campus, any institution or organization will like you to join them, if you have the knowledge. The bottomline is to know the basics. And along with the basics, another key thing is practical knowledge. You ought to have the feel of the things by your own hand. Whatever you learn, know it practically. How does it look in reality? How is it implemented in practice? How and where it is used? What are the requirements for it? What precautions are to be taken while using it?

Practical knowledge will give you a distinct advantage while using it for building your marvels or working in the field with it. Those big dams, high tension DC lines, the accurate radars, GSLV, a crash proof operating system, a mission to the moon, robots in your campus, a highly automated lathe, design of buildings like no one has seen before.  
**TINGLING FINGERS!!!**

It is ironic that this article comes from a guy who did everything in four years at college except studying. But dear friend, this world is full of paradoxes. Everything seems to be at a place where it should not be. Just enjoy it, the basics, the books, the lab equipments, the Tingling in your fingers.

But I thought college is fun! Who said it isn't? You have to have a lot of fun. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Fun you'll get in Rotaract Sundays, ISTE quizzes, in HILL'FAIR, sports day, farewells, freshers, dancing sessions in the hostel, chat sessions in the canteen. It's all fun.

But that's only few days in a year, what about rest of them?

Common Yaar! A weekend movie and visit to the town is fun. And nothing can be more exciting than the girls on the Mall Road. So fun it is... basics....

Currently I am doing a Diploma in Embedded Systems Design at CDAC, Chennai

All those who want to kick me for this boring article, can do it at [san\\_deep210@rediffmail.com](mailto:san_deep210@rediffmail.com).

Enjoy Life.

**Sandeep Kumar Chawla**

Sandeep Kumar Chawla, a 1998 Electrical Engineering Batch student (passed out in 2002) is pursuing Diploma in Embedded Systems Design at Centre For Development Of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Chennai. He can be contacted at [san\\_deep210@rediffmail.com](mailto:san_deep210@rediffmail.com)





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 And anyone else, who helped us but whose name has been missed.

-kumar vijay mishra





## My Memory



## Editorial Board 2003



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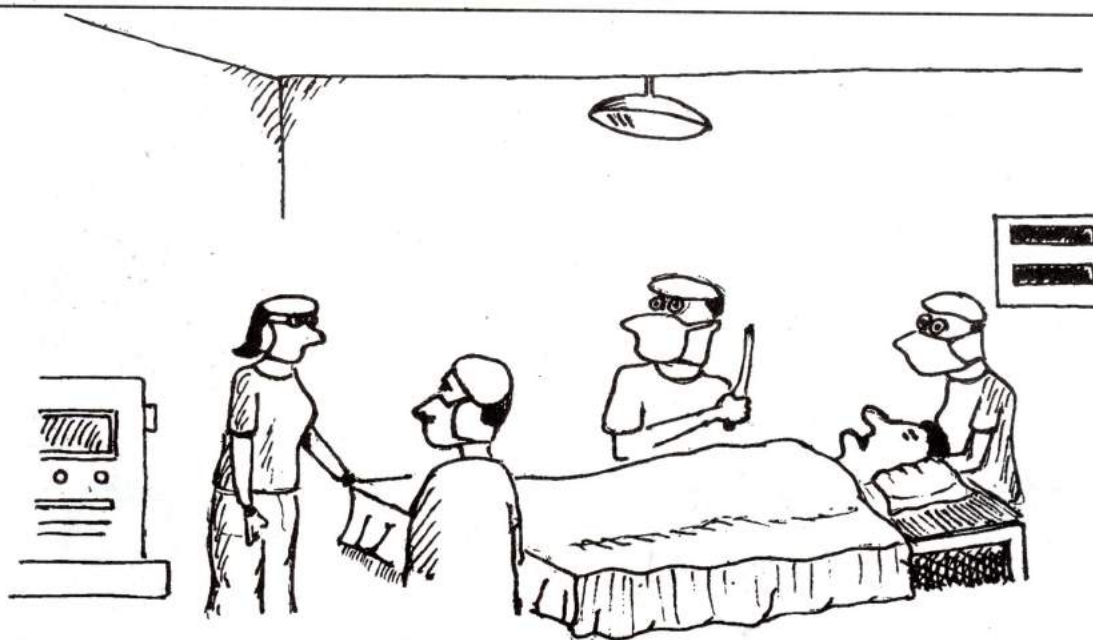
Vineesh V.



Ritika Nigam



Swati Mahajan



Nurse get on the net, go to [surgery.com](http://surgery.com), scroll down and click on the "ARE YOU TOTALLY LOST?" icon.

Graphic By : Sauvik Podder



ॐ द्यौः शान्तिरन्तरिक्षं शान्तिः पृथिवी शान्तिराप  
शान्तिरोषधयः शान्तिः । वनस्पतयः शान्तिर्विश्वेदेवाः  
शान्तिं ब्रह्मशान्तिः सर्वं शान्तिं शान्तिरेव शान्तिः  
सा मा शान्तिरेधि ॥

ॐ शान्तिः! शान्तिः!! शान्तिः!!!  
सर्वारिष्टा सुशान्तिर्भवन्तु ॥





*Contours of the mind*

ਮਨ ਦੀ ਤਹਾਨ