KALPA XII

IISER PUNE

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान, पुणे

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (IISER), PUNE



Kalpa 2012

Main Campus: IISER, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road,
Pune 411008
Campus I: Sai Trinity Building, Garware Circle,
Pashan, Pune 411021
Campus II: 900, NCL Innovation Park, Dr. Homi
Bhabha Road, Pune 411008

Website: www.iiserpune.ac.in

Contents

Acknowledgement
From the Editor's Desk

Zeitgeist
Annual Day
I Know what you did Last Summer
To Regensburg, with Gratitude
Rendezvous with a Tempting English Summer
Off Ranches and Cowboys
Kreeda Jung
The Orientation
The Oriental Tryst
Mein Deutschrunterricht
Cogito Ergo Percipio
'Shorr' in HR-4
Karavaan 2011
Physics at IISER
National School Intensive 2011
Film making Workshop
Science and Science policy with Bruce Alberts
Mimamsa 2012

Good natured
Lucky us
Pointing, directing and discovering
A smelly affair
The girl who picked the Eagle's nest
Trails, tales, tails and travails
Of songs, trumpets and pecks

Persistence of memory

Mile sur mera tumhara
Sanskrit
महत्तर: क:?
Hindi
वेदना की सीख
त्रुट्यावृत्ति
अनजान आँखे
विज्ञान की ऐसी की तैसी
Marathi
अन् ती ही न थांबताच निघाली
अजूनही काही बाकी आहे
किशोरवय
शब्द ते ...
पोटफोड्या "ष"

Gujarati

હું અને મારી ગુજરાતી ભાષા

કચ્છનો પ્રવાસ

Bengali

কলজ-প্রম

প্রভাত

Telugu

మార్పు

కలలు

Kannada

ವೇದಗಳೀಕೆ ಸುಲಭಗ್ರಾಹ್ಯವಲ್ಲ?

(ಜಲ)ಜನಕ?

Malayalam

എന്റെ പുതുവത്സരസന്ദേശം

നഷ്ടസൗഹൃദങ്ങൾ

ഒരു ശിശിരത്തിന്നോർമ്മയിൽ

English

The monetary value of cows

Hiking the Triangle-Tikona

Green Strips of Inspiration

Jejuri on my mind...

The Indian Girl

Which side will I fall?

My friend and the sea

The infinite ocean and the curious human

Eternal search

Silence

Giveth away Love

Then and Now:

Then and now with the director

Fresh New Faces

Hearty Congratulations

Young Achievers

Campus Updates

Visitors' Say

Bookends

Hold the hourglass. Look carefully. A heap of sand grains, drained through the neck, lies dormant at the bottom. Flip the hourglass. A torrent begins. Each grain of sand fights to squeeze through, swirling and rolling on its way to the neck, anxious of its freefall. Not knowing where the fall leads, it moves on. And as it moves, it becomes increasingly aware that its solitude was an illusion, that there are other kindred spirits like it, searching. It remembers where it was. It realises how far it has come, how things have changed. And suddenly, that doesn't matter anymore, all it remembers is the fall. The grain has hit the bottom. On reaching there, it realises that it is back where it had started, amidst the others. May be it had never really left their midst. Would the journey have been the same without them? Would the freefall of a single grain of sand be even half as lyrical? The time for pondering is short. Soon enough, the hourglass will flip again and the journey will begin anew.



Acknowledgements

Word to word, page to page, section to section, year to year; Kalpa is a product of efforts from a gamut of people.

Toss the letters of an alphabet and make a word. String these words and make a line. Strew together lines to make stories. Weaving these words to tell a story are all the contributors to Kalpa. Making time, year in and year out, to make the magazine what it is.

Tweaking, tuning and patching together these stories are: Abhishek, Alisha, Chaitra, Harsha, Krishna, Kshiti, Neha, Nisarg, Prasenjeet, Rachana, Roshni, Saudamini, Sharath, Sourajit, Sourav, Sujoy and Varun.

To these stories add illustrations and add some colours, and then you have a page. Invoking this imagery are the photographs and sketches by Nisarg and Marina, respectively. A share of photographs also came in from our Registrar, Dr. V. S. Rao and his personal secretary Mr. Ramesh Mohite.

Together these words and images make a page. Pile the pages of a kind and you have a section. Arshad, Prasenjeet and Sandesh meticulously designed these sections, creating a pleasing layout for the reader.

Voila! Bundle up the sections and you get the magazine.

Worthy of mentioning are the rookie editors – Ashwini, Nivedita, Radhika, Sharvaree and Shruti. We hope they had fun!

This magazine which we make is reviewed year after year by Dr. G. Ambika, usually hours beyond the working ones. Pointing out errors, mellowing our foolhardy tones and giving the necessary nudges to overcome inertia, she is our rock.

Kalpa is weaving imagination with time, taking flights in nooks and crannies of IISER Pune, and we thank our director, Dr. K. N. Ganesh for giving us the freedom to do so. We extend our gratitude to Typographica for putting this in print.

If your name has slipped our mind, we extend our sincere apologies.

Thank you all!

The Kalpa Team

Editor speaks

It is over. Finally. Packaged, sealed and delivered. Out in the open for criticism, away from the comfort of 'Microsoft Word' and 'Adobe Indesign' files hiding in the scatter on my desktop.

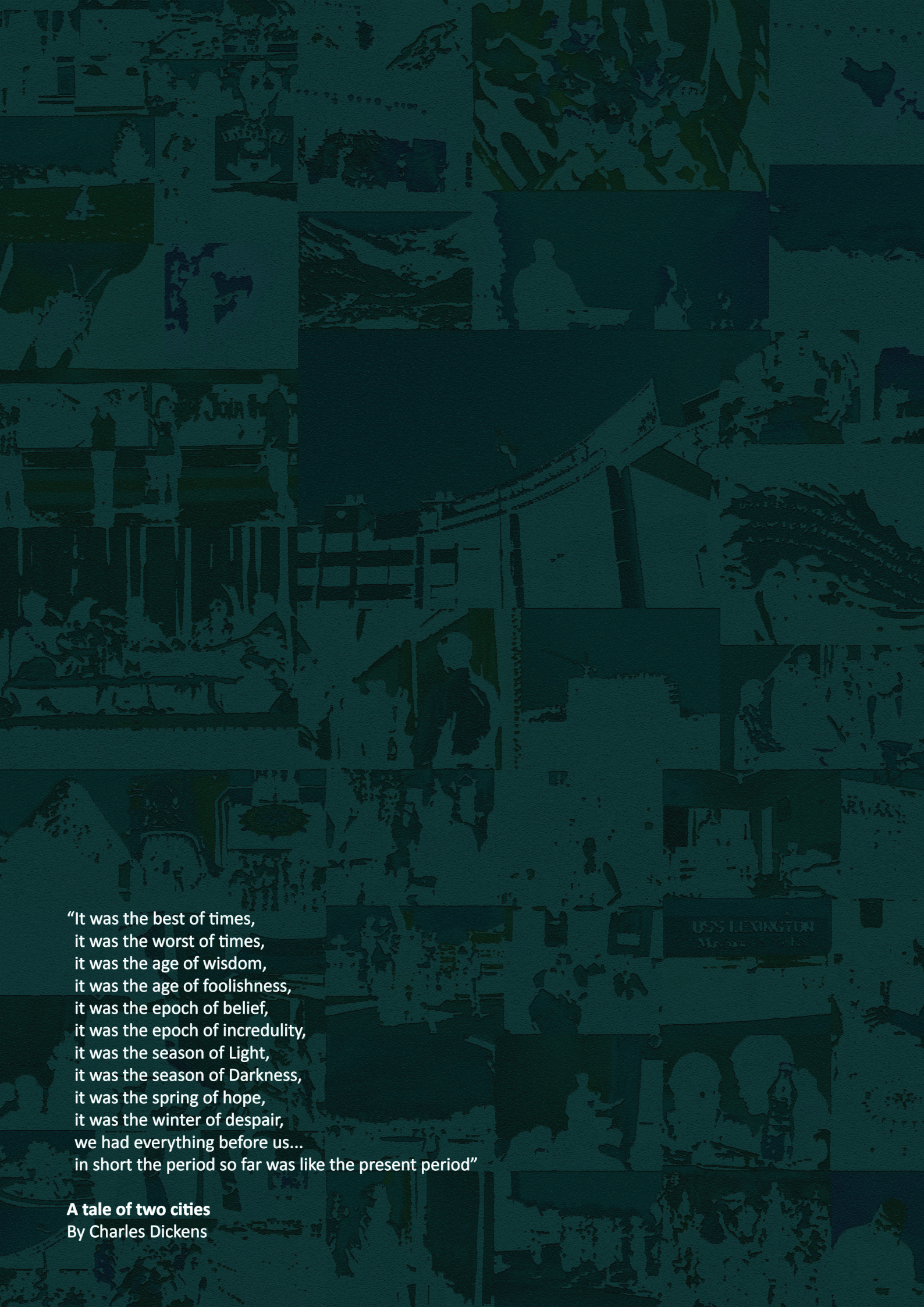
No more sleepless nights in my new found residence- the reading room. No more waking up to calls and e-mails for more edits. No more pestering peers who now run away at the sight of my shadow, for articles. No more meal skipping as one just wants the work to get done. No more...addiction? It is an addiction of a bittersweet kind. You can't sleep because semi-developed ideas haunt you; also those inappropriate commas, changing tenses, missing capitals and extra spaces between words! It is, indeed, addiction. The perfectionist's kind- and why should it not be! Kalpa '12 is not to be relished in the files on my desktop. It has to face the public, and it better do so in the shiny boots and breast coat of a perfected English man.

Kalpa 2012 is special, of course all Kalpas are, but this one gets an extra mark for this is a thorough student (more appropriately, IISER family's) magazine. Articles, reports, images, texts, designs, layouts, sections and ideas are all student written, captured, designed and developed. It is extra special also because this time we feature thrice the number of languages in literary articles than before (for all those who missed earlier issues, the number is nine. Quick! Flit through *Mile Sur Mera Tumhara*). Before you skip to *Mile Sur Mera Tumhara*, leisurely glance through the year that passed by in the chronologically arranged Zeitgeist or learn about noble ideas developing within the walls of the institute in Good Natured. That is not all, for the art lover we have selected photographs, paintings and sketches to treat your eye in Persistence of Memory. Now that seems a long time before you get to the literary articles. For the newcomer, we tell you of the changes the institute has gone through in Then and Now, for the nostalgic we have Bookends, and cry if you will because the latter is heartfelt.

Oh. It IS packaged, sealed and delivered. No more edits, no changes and no second chances. It is in your hands dear reader, read it while you can enjoy it.

With innumerable lessons in time management, I close this.

Yours,
Alisha



"It was the best of times,
it was the worst of times,
it was the age of wisdom,
it was the age of foolishness,
it was the epoch of belief,
it was the epoch of incredulity,
it was the season of Light,
it was the season of Darkness,
it was the spring of hope,
it was the winter of despair,
we had everything before us...
in short the period so far was like the present period"

A tale of two cities
By Charles Dickens



Section One

ZEITGEIST

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES

German for “the spirit of the times”, here we capture the essence our institute: festivals, talks, meetings, clubs and experiences. All these articles are placed chronologically and are broadly divided in five categories:

SUN AND SNOW

No, this is not about exotic locales, leisurely holidays or thrilling adventures. Unlike a lot of other students on a vacation, that is not what all IISERites do in summers and winters. We go visit prestigious institutes offering summer programmes on fascinating topics. We work under famous professors pursuing appealing alleys of research and try to publish papers. And a lot of us manage to learn a lot during these anti-holidays. IISER Pune also plays host to a lot of students- its own and those from other institutes (for) a lot of workshops. Not just science related ones. To find out more about the IISER way of vacation-life, keep reading.

The list has been painstakingly compiled for you by Arshad, Ashwini, Krishna, Nisarg, Revati and Sukriti

ANNUALS

Even as we waddle ahead with baby steps into the world of National-level institutions, we need to leave distinct footprints behind and strengthen our stride with each passing step. Hence there is the need for ‘big’ inter-collegiate events like our cultural fest- ‘Karavaan’ and the all-India Inter-College science quiz-‘Mimamsa’. These events help make our presence felt. On the other hand, events like the Annual Day, Physics at IISER, ‘Kreeda Jung’, etc. provide an excellent platform for students to grow as people and develop much-needed life skills. Large scale events like these see us transform from nerdy students into managers, co-ordinators, publicisers, interior decorators, quizmasters, water-carriers and people with other odd-jobs for a short while, and really, this change of field is quite refreshing. Life then settles down to normal for a gap of one year before the festivities begin again. Glimpses of these events can be found in the following pages.

The people who turned reporters to bring this to you are Ashwini, Rachana, Radhika, Sourajit and Yagyik.

FESTIVALS

With a daily routine heavily dotted with lectures and labs, every IISERite welcomes festivals with open arms. Come any festival, and the campus, and every face in it is lit; every corner buzzes with activity and echoes with the sound of celebration. Enthusiasm is palpable in the IISER air. Festivals are not just much-welcome holidays, but also a means of staying connected to customs followed back at home and an opportunity to get exposed to aspects of cultures previously unheard of. As the hostel acts as a home away from home for stranded souls, brotherhood (and sisterhood; feminists relax!) and harmony are the main feelings accompanied with respect for their customs and beliefs. Bounds are few and fun is the aim. Find out what this fun really looks like, in the pages that follow.

People who derived absolute enjoyment from these celebrations (which is evident from their articles that follow) are Ashwini, Shruti and Surabhi.

ZEITGEIST

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Apart from the big, annual events, IISER has a constant active background noise. The hubbub is caused mostly by clubs going through cycles of creation, extinction and revival. With the kind of freedom we enjoy, there's a club for everyone. Music, Dance, Art, Debating-name it and you have it (well, the club at least). Students have a chance to learn German and have stimulating discussions on neuropsychology to mention a few. Reports on the same are in the following pages. These activities are written and compiled by Kshiti, Radhika and Sukriti.

PERIODICALS

The Busy schedule of IISERites comprises of much more than classes and labs. Everyone juggles a handful of activities and, wondrously somehow manage to just keep everything in tandem. A look at their events' calendars divulges the staggering amount of activity that IISER buzzes with. These activities cater to our enormous range of interests. We have Colloquia on most Wednesdays with eminent Professors gracing our institute with their presence and talks on their current research. We also have SPIC MACAY concerts mesmerizing us time to time. Catch up with all this action in the section that follows!

The rather involved bunch that put this together is Nivedita, Sharvaree and Sukriti.



Rang Barse!

Photo by Sadhana Panzade

Although it was on the 18th of March, 2011 we decided to celebrate Holi on the 20th, a Sunday, so that we could get all colourful and dirty with no worries. It started with a bunch of boys and a handful of girls playing with water behind the fountain. Slowly, as more people trickled in, some harmless colours came out too. Soon, the number of people increased many fold. Tearing of shirts and pushing random people into puddles followed. Lots of colours and soon mud was displaced from the ground, straight onto people. And somehow the whole crowd shifted into the fountain which was filled with water. A makeshift music system was arranged and the crowd went absolutely berserk, colouring any and every person it set sight on!

‹ 30th March 2011

Annual Day

By Rachana Bhave

Empty streets, everyone huddled around the T.V screen; praying, cheering and hoping to hear the golden words “India is in the World Cup finals”. March 30th, 2011 might be remembered for the epic ICC Cricket World Cup semifinal between India and Pakistan, but the IISER folks have more to remember this day for. A year ago around this time, the foundation stone of the IISER Campus was laid in the august presence of our Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The IISER family was in zest of preparing for a celebration in commemoration of annual day. Like many other cricket fans, students at IISER were no exception to the rule, as everybody wanted to spend the day cheering for their beloved team. Clearly, the administration had different plans. To ensure everyone’s presence at the function, all places with even a remote possibility of amusement were closed for that day, be it the music room, the library (what were they thinking?) or the TV room. Even the Internet at Sai was switched off. Whether it was this or the presence of Prof. C. N. R. Rao and Prof. T. V. Ramakrishnan, our guests of honour, the students of IISER did not disappoint the organizers. Hence, the refurbished Multipurpose Hall (with air conditioners and sound proof walls!) saw a decent turnout. Many did manage to sneak out though, and I’m sure many places in Pune were brimming with IISER-folks. Of the few who remained loyal were, Bedartha and Shambhavi of the outgoing batch, our hosts for the day. Facing them, were excited whispers from the naïve and excited bunch of newly recruited editors awaiting the release of the annual college magazine, Kalpa ‘11.

The event was flagged off with a speech by our director Prof. K. N. Ganesh. He charismatically spoke about the changes our college had undergone over the years, from an initial strength of 40 to 400 students. We have indeed come a long way!

Feeling nostalgic but hopeful about the future, we next heard a highly entertaining yet inspiring talk delivered by Prof. C. N. R. Rao. His words still resonate in some faded memory, inspiring us to rekindle the spirit of science! This was followed by the release of Kalpa ‘11. After having spent months of brain storming and sleepless nights, our freshly-leaved Kalpa was out.

Inaugaration of Mendeleev Block by Dr. C.N.R. Rao



Not only do the students and the faculty make an institute, but also the support staff and administration who have a very important role to play. This was an apt opportunity to reward the staff (Academic and otherwise) for all the effort that they put in to ensure the proper functioning of the institute. These awards were received by the staff from the guests of honour. And going by the number of times I had to go on stage and back, it indeed was a long list of people to thank!

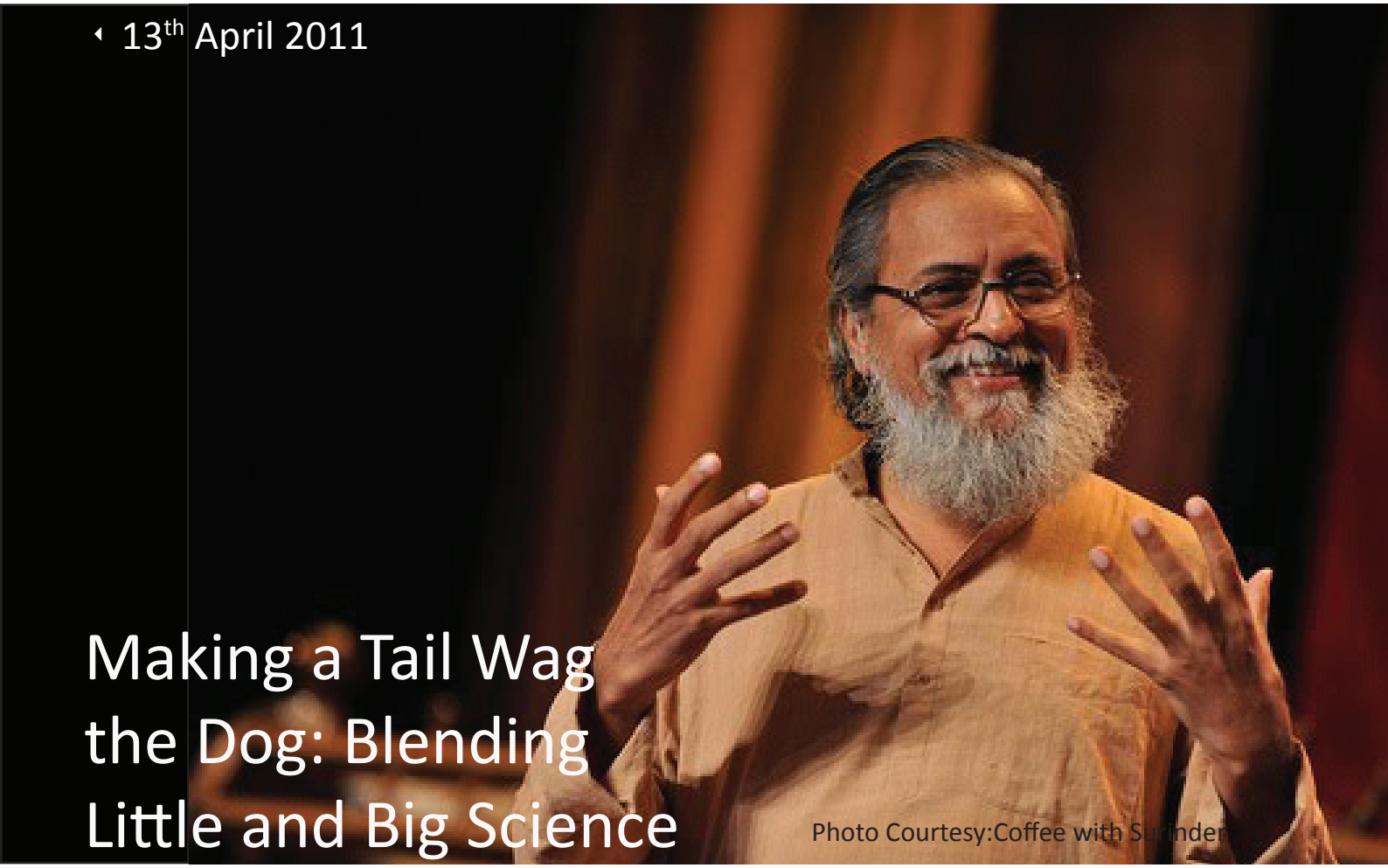
Dr. Sutirth Dey won the Best Faculty Award for his involvement and tremendous support to the students at IISER. A well deserved one!

Amidst all this, however, the cricket fervour was still not lost. A request from Prof. C. N. R. Rao for regular score updates was enough to reveal that he too had a bout of cricket fever. Interestingly, he even asked us to announce the score on the microphone (which sadly never happened!).

Next was the inauguration of the chemistry laboratory. The ribbon outside Mendeleev Block (the new chemistry lab) was cut and the periodic table mount was unveiled. Walking through the lab we speculated on how things would be once work began in the lab. What excited us most were the electricity-saving motion sensitive lights! Now, for someone who is wondering how we realised that, well, racing in the corridors did the trick.

By the end of the day; Kalpa '11 was released, students were motivated towards science, Mendeleev block was functional and well, India had won the match!

‹ 13th April 2011



Making a Tail Wag the Dog: Blending Little and Big Science

Photo Courtesy:Coffee with Surinder

Anil K Gupta,
Honey Bee Network,
National Innovation Foundation,
IIM-A.

It is amazing how a grounded man with infectious energy leaves a share of the feminine clan teary eyed in the process of putting across plans for sustainable development. That one hour lecture opened our eyes to the immense ability of innovations from simple things; be it weather-proof walls, walking vacuum cleaners or mobile washing machines. Given the current constraints, lack of education and facilities, it is amazing how parts of rural India come up

with innovative practices in order to improve their productivity. Raising his concern, he said that these indigenous practices had no scientific proof and, if one finds their scientific bases, these ideas can be patented and popularized to make development both economical and sustainable. The speaker, **Prof. Anil Gupta**, added that the current scientific community should find reasons behind these not-so-well-understood practices. The audience raised questions, debated on the ideas put forward by the speaker and expressed their own.

‹ 14th April 2011



Vishukani - the first view on a Vishu morning

Vishu: Waking up to a new year

On any other day I would've hated being woken up at 4 am in the morning, but this morning was worth it. I was blindfolded, dragged out of my bed and led into the unknown. The sight I witnessed on opening my eyes was unexpected. *Vishukani* was set up in my batchmate's balcony, a couple of oil-lamps were lit, the heady fragrance of incense sticks was in the air and soft music played in the background. The inky black sky above and the cool breeze made the atmosphere seemed magical, as though something had come alive from a myth. It was one of those rare moments when I felt peaceful and unnaturally calm. The *kani* was later shifted to the mezzanine in the A wing for the boys to see. All of them were woken up and brought to the *kani* blindfolded. All the Keralites were dressed up in traditional clothes; girls in *pattu-pavada* or half sarees and the guys in *mundu*. Waiting for another magical Vishu this year.

I know what you did last summer

Shh... Speak not a word. We know it all. Where you went, who you were with, what you did, we know every single detail. Kalpa's extensive personal research team, complete with stalkers has come up with a compilation (of sorts) of unusual and questionable activities performed by IISER students during the summer. Summer Projects!

A year of sloppiness and low attendance at lectures soon passes onto the glorious three months of May, June and July which IISER likes to call summer. And suddenly, quite ironically, there is this mad rush for projects, positions in academic institutes, research grants and what-not. Statistics suggest that on an average, a student at IISER gains more knowledge over the three month period of leisurely summer than the whole academic year put together!

Hardened stalkers and private detectives were hired this year to study this peculiar phenomenon of mental activity by IISER students and an interestingly long list was generated after much data collection and compilation. A quick glance through the list shows clumping in Germany, UK and other nations of the European Union. Secret Service personnel are conducting an investigation on a possible conspiracy of major brain drain from the Third World by the European Union. Another peculiar observation is a clustering in North-East India, especially Arunachal Pradesh. This phenomenon has been quite puzzling and no further study has been done so far. Much of the rest is scattered in various renowned labs across the globe. Though these researchers were proved to be of no potential threat to the nation, their activities were still monitored due to extensive fanfare back in IISER and, in a few cases, to inspire.

If anyone is in search of the tapes and documents that have resulted from this investigation, search no further for they have been destroyed immediately (even though there were quite a few priceless recordings). However, the list may be of use to the general reader for purposes of research and summer assignments. Therefore, Kalpa brings to you, the censored version of 'I know what you did last summer.'

PS: It has come to our knowledge that a few people have slyly escaped our flawless detection. To them we can only say, 'Watch out! We will know what you'll be doing next summer!'

Abhilesh Dhawanjewar
2nd year BS MS
Identification and estimation of species variation of Arachnida in Arunachal Pradesh.
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Abinand Reddy
2nd year BS MS
Bird species elevational distribution, Eaglenest Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Anurag Mishra
2nd year BS MS
Estimation of diversity of Philautus genus of bush frogs using molecular and morphometric methods, Eaglenest Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Arshad Nair
2nd year BS MS
The Effect of Anthropogenic Aerosols on Cloud Electrification
Dr. A. K. Kamra
IITM, Pune

Arya Thampi
2nd year BS MS
Magnetic Oxide-Silver Nanocomposites: Synthesis, Characterization and Anti-bacterial property
Dr. Seema Verma
IISER, Pune

Aswathy V G
2nd year BS MS
Analysis of various spectra
Dr. M. K. Jayaraj
Cochin University of Science And Technology (CUSAT), Kerala

Dincy Mariyam
2nd year BS MS
Human-Snowleopard Conflict Project
Dr. Charudutt Mishra, NCF
Dr. Ramana Athreya, IISER Pune
Mr. Kulbhushansingh Suryavanshi (Ph.D student) , NCF

K. Hariram
2nd year BS MS
Fractals and Fractal walks
Dr. G. Ambika
IISER, Pune

Krishna Anujan
2nd year BS MS
Comparison of undergrowth diversity across elevations and forest types, Eaglenest Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. Ramana Athreya

IISER, Pune

Kshiti Mishra
2nd year BS MS
Identification and taxonomy of Myrmecofauna and estimation of Species Diversity at different elevations, Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Meghana Raghunandan
2nd year BS MS
Identification and estimation of species variation of Arachnida in Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Neha Bora
2nd year BS MS
Identification of Sphingidae and estimation of moth variation and species richness indices at different elevations in the primary forests of Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Neha Mohanbabu
2nd year BS MS
Human-Snowleopard Conflict Project
Dr.Charudutt Mishra , NCF
Dr.Ramana Athreya , IISER Pune
Mr.Kulbhushansingh Suryavanshi (Ph.D student) , NCF

Niharika Sane
2nd year BS MS
Identification and estimation of species variation of Arachnida in Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Nisarg Desai
2nd year BS MS
Human-Snowleopard Conflict Project
Dr. Charudutt Mishra , NCF
Dr. Ramana Athreya, IISER Pune
Mr. Kulbhushansingh Suryavanshi (Ph.D student), NCF

Nishad Mandlik
2nd year BS MS
Number Theory
Madhava Mathematics Summer Camp
BhaskaracharyaPratishthana,Pune
Symposium On Number Theory
Prof. S.A. Katre and Prof. Bruce Berndt

Pranav Kumar
2nd year BS MS
Study of periodic potentials in Quantum Mechanics
Dr. M S Santhanam
IISER, Pune

Prathamesh Tamhane
2nd year BS MS
Bird species elevational distribution, Eaglenest Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Pratyush Kumar Mishra
2nd year BS MS
Preparation of Proline Derivatives using 'click chemistry'
Dr. Jyotirmayee Dash
IISER, Kolkota

Rachana Bhave
2nd year BS MS
Project Oriented Biological Education -2011
JNCASR, Bengaluru

Ravindra PN
2nd year BS MS
Comparison of undergrowth diversity across elevations and forest types, Eaglenest Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Sadhana Panzade
2nd year BS MS
Cloning and florophore tagging of gFmn2.
Dr. Aurnab Ghose
IISER, Pune

Sagar Lokhande
2nd year BS MS
Human-Snowleopard Conflict Project
Dr.CharudutMishra , NCF
Dr.Ramana Athreya , IISER Pune
Mr.Kulbhushansingh Suryavanshi (Ph.D student) , NCF

V Saudamini
2nd year BS MS
Identification of Sphingidae and estimation of moth variation and species richness indices at different elevations in the primary forests of Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

Saurav Sarkar
2nd year BS MS
Period three implies chaos
Dr. Shrihari Sridharan
CMI, Chennai

Shailendra Kushwaha
2nd year BS MS
Identification and estimation of species variation of Arachnida in Arunachal Pradesh .
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

J. Sree Vani
2nd year BS MS
Estimation of diversity of Philautus genus of bush frogs using molecular and morphometric methods, Eaglenest Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
Dr. Ramana Athreya
IISER, Pune

K. Sriram
2nd year BS MS
Electrophoretic deposition of Gold nano particles.
Dr. G. V. Pavan Kumar
IISER, Pune

Vishnu V. Krishnan
2nd year BS MS
Neutrino Physics; as part of the NIUS programme
D. P. Roy
HBCSE (TIFR), Mumbai

Vyankatesh Rajmane
2nd year BS MS
The study of Trade-off between growth rate and growth yield of oligophilic bacteria.
Dr. Milind Watve
IISER, Pune

Aashay Patil
3rd year BS MS
Physics of Gravitational Waves
Prof. Ganashyam Date
IMSc, Chennai

Rohit Chikkaraddy
3rd year BS MS
Ideal Mixing Behaviour of Alcohols at the interface of AOT/n-heptane/ water reverse micelles.
Dr. P. A. Hassan
BARC, Mumbai

Vivek Kumar
3rd year BS MS
Impact of the Human-specific loss of N-glycolylneuraminioc acid on the biophysical properties of cells.
Dr. Raghavendra Kikkeri
IISER, Pune

Anurag Agrawal
3rd year BS MS
Base catalyzed condensation of Aldehydes and Beta-ketoesters
Dr. Lakshmy Ravishankar
HBCSE-TIFR, Mumbai

Supreeth K S
3rd year BS MS
The role of SPL9 gene in plant development.
Dr. Anjan Banerjee
IISER, Pune

Akash Guru
3rd year BS MS
Generation of temperature sensitive mutants of fission yeast splicing factor SpPrp18 using Marker Reconstitutio Mutagenesis technique.
Dr.UshaVijayraghavan
IISc, Bengaluru

Varun Karamshetty
3rd year BS MS
Theory of Option Pricing.
Dr.MrinalGhosh
IISc, Bengaluru

B Sai Prashanth Kumar
3rd year BS MS
The role of mitochondrial dynamics during early development.
Dr.Richa Ricky
IISER, Pune

Sudheer Kumar
3rd year BS MS
Optimization of RNA Isolation from LCM harvested Potato Cells.
Dr. Anjan Banerjee
IISER, Pune

Satish Kumar
3rd year BS MS
Design of Algorithm to Group Galaxies into Clusters
Dr. S. K. Sirothia
NCRA, Pune

Ravi Raja
3rd year BS MS
Effect of Drugs in Neuron Cell Bodies.
Dr. Nishikant Subhedar
IISER, Pune

Kaniganti Tarun
3rd year BS MS
Effect of Drugs in Neuron Cell Bodies.
Dr.Nishikant Subhedar
IISER, Pune

Prashant Bhaskar
3rd year BS MS
Observation of Solar Activity Using a Two-Element Radio Interferometer.
Dr. Prasad Subramanian
IISER, Pune

Digvijay Porwal
3rd year BS MS
Synthesis of Methyl-2-(tert-butoxy-methyl amino)-4-oxo-6-phenylhex-anoate.
Dr. R. G. Bhat
IISER, Pune

Tanya Kumari
3rd year BS MS
Spectral reduction of spiral & elliptical galaxies.
Prof. Sri Anand
IUCAA, Pune

Mihir Sheth
3rd year BS MS
Experiments with Magnetic Circuits (NIUS Physics).
Dr. Rajesh B. Khaparde

Akash Gadekar
3rd year BS MS
Experiments with Magnetic Circuits (NIUS Physics).
Dr. Rajesh B. Khaparde

Amey Apte
3rd year BS MS
Experiments with Magnetic Circuits (NIUS Physics)
Dr. Rajesh B. Khaparde

S Arun Dixith Reddy
3rd year BS MS
Amino functionalized P (V) compounds synthesis and reactivity study.
Dr. R Boomi Shankar
IISER, Pune

Shreya Ray
3rd year BS MS
Trapping of cold Atoms.
Prof. Umakant Rapol
IISER, Pune

Siddartha Das
3rd year BS MS
Foundations of Quantum Mechanics.
Prof. Dipankar Home, Prof. Archan S. Majumdar
S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences

Ankita Malik
3rd year BS MS
Sythesis of Vinyl cyclopropane and vinyl cyclobutane.
Dr. S Chandrashekharan
IISc, Bengaluru

Rashmi Runjham
3rd year BS MS
Temperature Controller
Dr. Umakant Rapol
IISER, Pune

Karishma Bansal
3rd year BS MS
Data Analysis of Optical Astronomy
Prof. Sri Anand
IUCAA, Pune

Pallavi Patil
3rd year BS MS
Data Analysis of Optical Astronomy
Prof. Sri Anand
IUCAA, Pune

Monika Dash
3rd year BS MS
Theoretical & Semi Analytical Investi-

gation of Cosmic Explosive Events
Prof. Ram Bagav
ARIES,Nainital

A.Deepika
3rd year BS MS
Making of Telescope .
Arvind Paranjape
IUCAA, Pune

Dhanashree Khanale
3rd year BS MS
Intrisic versus Induced Variations in DNA Structure : Zinc-finger Protein Binding
Prof. Manju Bansal
IISc Bengaluru

Shibananda Das
3rd year BS MS
Observation of Solar Activity Using a Two-Element Radio Interferometer
Dr. Prasad Subramanian
IISER, Pune

Vikash Kumar
3rd year BS MS
Synthesis of hybrid peptide monomers for the construction of oligomers and their biomimetic materials
Dr. T. Govindaraju
JNCSAR, Bengaluru

Sourajit Basu
3rd year BS MS
Advanced Probability and Statistical Theory.
Prof. Rajeeva Karandikar
CMI, Chennai

C. Laltlan Zuala
BS MS
Synthesis and characterisation of CdSe nanoparticles
Dr. Shouvik Datta
IISER, Pune

Paritosh Sharma
4th year BS MS
Nanotube Assemblies
Dr. Harsh Chaturvedi
IISER, Pune

Gaurav P. Sawant
4th year BS MS
VSRP-2011 in Mathemtics
Dr. Amit Hogadi
TIFR , Mumbai

Krithika Mohan
4th year BS MS
Coarse object similarity and visual categorization.
Dr. SP Arun
IISc, Bengaluru

Pooja Naik
4th year BS MS
Automated Region of Interest based Diffusion Tensor Imaging of the human brain.
Dr. P. K. Roy
National Brain Research Centre (NBRC),Gurgaon

Jagruti Pattadkal
4th year BS MS
Role of Mechanical Tension in Axonal Branching
Dr. Aurnab Ghose
IISER, Pune

Swetha Bhagwat
4th year BS MS
Null Stream Analysis
Dr. Soumya Mohanty
University of Brownsville , Texas

Sachit
4th year BS MS
Evolution of evolvability in Yeast.
Dr. Sutirth Dey
IISER, Pune

Kaushtubh Deshpande
4th year BS MS
Observational tests of cosmological models.
Dr. J. V. Narlikar
IUCAA, Pune

Shweta Singh
4th year BS MS
Synthesis of Bio Fertilizers and Chemical Instrumentation
Dr.DK Dutta
Indian Farmers Fertilizers Corporation Ltd.,UP

Ankita Jha
4th year BS MS
Fog GAL 4 Expression Pattern and its role in Wing Disk
Dr. Anuradha Ratnaparkhi
ARI/IISER Pune

Roshni Bano
4th year BS MS
Purification of variants of the mouse prion protein.
Dr.JayantUdgaonkar
NCBS, Bangalore

Iti Kapoor
4th year BS MS
The delicate balance between gelation and characterisation of multicomponent gel systems.
Dr. David Diaz Diaz
University of Regensburg, Germany

Siddharth B.I.
4th year BS MS
Automated detection of Cricket Calls.
Dr.Rohini Balakrishnan
IISc, Bengaluru

Tushar Shrotriya
4th year BS MS
Testing Modified Newtonian Dynamics (MOND) using the Baryonic Tully-Fisher Relation (BTFR) on THINGS and SDSS data.
Dr Prasun Dutta
NCRA, Pune

Anirban Narayan Chowdhury
4th year BS MS
Accretion Discs as Probes of Spacetime Singularities
Prof. Pankaj S. Joshi
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

Sindhu Jammi
4th year BS MS
Detection system and Analysis for the BEC system
Dr. Umakant Rapol
IISER, Pune

To Regensburg, with gratitude.

By Iti Kapoor



A view of Regensburg.

I am pretty sure many of you, like me, would have dreamt of being in places like Switzerland or Paris in your childhood. This dream of mine came true last summer when I went to Germany for an internship. Although three months are nowhere near enough, I still had the time of my life. I would like to start describing one of the most memorable summers of my life by thanking DAAD for providing me this grand opportunity to pursue my research in a technically advanced laboratory, which also helped me get exposed to the other parts of the world.

On the 9th of May when I landed at the Munich airport, I was completely lost looking at the unfamiliar faces all around. I was perplexed, wondering about my stay alone for the coming three months. I then headed to the University of Regensburg with Dr. David Diaz Diaz, under whose guidance I completed my internship. However, I had to go without my luggage since it was misplaced somewhere in Moscow.

The city of Regensburg is very old and beautiful. One of the most fascinating things is the amazing climate throughout the summer. Another is the punctuality (never observed in India) in every aspect, from making meetings to attending lectures to train schedules. During my entire stay of three months in Germany and other trips in Europe, I never found a train getting delayed, even by a minute. Awesome trains! People in Germany are extremely honest. The



Left: At the Colosseum
Bottom-left: Me holding the Leaning Tower of Pisa!



helpful nature of almost each and every person was really surprising and gave me great satisfaction. They go out of their way to help any unknown foreigner. Though my first day in Germany did not have a good start, my professor, Dr. David Diaz Diaz, made it great by introducing me to the lab and my very cooperative lab mates who helped me find stuff in the city. They also explained to me the various things I needed to keep in mind during my stay.

My work experience was superb. Getting exposure to the new labs and new technologies will surely be highly helpful for my future research career. Working with a great group, I could actually apply myself more than ever and do the assigned job diligently which helped me with further commitments. Apart from work, it was an amazing experience to interact with people of so many different nationalities and cultures - to learn about their lives, traditions and aspirations. It gave me a new insight into my life.

Experiencing the way of living there with little knowledge of their language was overwhelming. Especially so with my awesome, cute and old landlady (and her fat scary cat), who did not know English at all. But both of us managed by using the *wörterbuch* (a German-English dictionary) for our conversation. It was great to live with my German landlady whose culture was totally different from mine. All the cooking sessions were wonderful. Going around the city shopping, partying and interacting with people was a memorable experience. The wonderful environment and the people there made it all so interesting and unforgettable that I would like to visit Europe at least once again in my life.

The best part of the stay was the weekend trips (obviously!). Visiting France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and also other parts of Germany felt out of the world and gave me memories which I will cherish all my life. A Berlin meet organized by DAAD gave us a chance to meet other Indians in Germany.

In a nutshell, DAAD gave me an enriching experience and sweet memories which I will cherish forever. Receiving the WISE fellowship was not only a wonderful opportunity for me but also a matter of motivation, pride and satisfaction.

Thanks a lot, DAAD!

Rendezvous with a Tempting English Summer



By Surojit Sural

"Do you feel nostalgic for any city you have visited in a foreign land?"
"Never! I am too much of a chauvinist to love anything foreign."

This would have been my conventional answer if you asked this question before I changed my mind a few weeks ago. This February, I was flying to New York for a PhD interview and had to change flights at Heathrow. While the airplane was hovering over London for a few minutes before landing, I peeped through the window and felt something for the first time… I remembered all those moments spent on the streets of London with my friends last summer. Climbing the stairs of St. Paul's Cathedral on all my four limbs (I am acrophobic), bargaining with the street artists for a pencil sketch of the Big Ben, posing for a Facebook profile pic next to the Tower Bridge; these are a few of my numerous exhilarating experiences in the city I fell in love with.

A bit of background… I was in the town of Southampton last summer. All I knew about the place was that this town on the southernmost tip of Great Britain was home to the Spitfire (the fighter plane used by allied nations in WWII) and was the port from where the Titanic had set sail. I worked in a building adjacent to the Southampton General Hospital (the largest medical centre in the county of Hampshire) which houses the research labs affiliated to the Cancer Sciences Division in the University of Southampton. My mentor for the summer, Prof. Paul





Townsend, is a fun-loving gentleman who is a strong believer of translational research. Though I was working in an applied setup, my project focused on a very fundamental question in biology: how do cells make the decision between survival and death? In the last few years, Paul's group has discovered some targets which are putative molecular switches regulating such cellular-level decisions in stressful environments.

I was part of a very enthusiastic research group comprising individuals of varied interests. Sarah, the postdoc I worked with, is a very motivated scientist and her husband believes that her research article printouts are the most travelled papers in the world (back and forth between home and work). Tom, the PhD student I shared bench space with, is a member of the university rugby team and loves ZNMD-type adventure (he raced with raging bulls in Spain that summer!). These people ensured that I have all the experiences of an English summer before I headed back home. We visited the Southampton Cider Festival where the local farmers brought more than 300 varieties of cider (I could taste only a dozen of them). When my IISER friends visited Southampton, we went to the Winchester Hat Festival which was a conglomerate of street performers from all around the globe (the term 'Hat' is derived from the hats kept next to performers where you are supposed to put coins). I still remember the amazing experience of holding a street performer's body in a perfect horizontal position in front of hundreds of spectators. I often ask myself, "Amongst a crowd of people where the majority were well-built Caucasians, why did he choose a lean Indian for the performance?"

These are a few of the numerous wonderful experiences I had last summer. Though I didn't touch upon the details, nothing would have been perfect without my six IISER batch mates who visited the UK with me. Planning for the weekend started every Monday on Skype conference calls but eventually we always decided to spend laidback weekends in the English countryside. When I look back now, it was one of the most eventful summers I have spent in my life. Surprisingly, it took a few more months for me to realize that I am still infatuated with the enamouring English summer experience.



Off ranches and cowboys

By Shweta Bhagwat

Last summer I was in a small town of Texas named Brownsville to do my project. My project was on a particular kind of data analysis technique that gravitation wave researchers use. But, more than just the project, I learned a lot in other aspects of life and gained lots of unique experiences.

I remember them like yesterday - those nights we spent in ARC room (the control room that had computer access), sometimes working on our codes but mostly playing games like paper-ball cricket and listening to music. On most nights, I stayed up till six in the morning, watching the sun rise as I walked on one of those pretty wooden bridges across the *rasacaas* to our apartment. *Rasacaas* are small lakes and there are a lot of them spread across this little town. This little town lies on the border of the US and Mexico, thus has old buildings in Mexican style - with domes and arches. Most department buildings have a very historic and elegant look that is quite unique to the border cities. The town itself is very beautiful with lots of long winding roads. It's two hours away from the South Padre Beach, a pure white gravel sand beach. I loved this beach and used to visit it quite often while I was there.

Being one of the smaller towns of the US, the people here have a very interactive and cooperative lifestyle. In fact, I was stunned by the amount of care and affection that the local people offered to us all the time. It was because of the people I met there that I will cherish the memory of this trip forever. Let me narrate one of the innumerable incidents that fall in this context. I had to go to the social security office (one of their government buildings) for some formalities. While I had no difficulty finding the bus routes and timings to figure out how to reach this place, I had problems finding a bus that had convenient timings. So I asked a guy who had visited the department to meet one of his friends about other modes of commuting (cab system). He chatted with me for a couple of minutes and then very kindly offered to give me a ride to the social security office. He is one of the best friends I made during my stay in the US. And this is just one of the many beautiful incidents



Umbrellas, Shorts and Texas: the South Padre Beach

that happened. Another time, our apartment had some sort of problem with the renewal of electricity contract and we had a power cut. I can't forget how our neighbours readily came to help us sort it out. Seriously, where in the world other than here do you find such affable people? I have never made as many friends as I made there over such a short period of time. We used to play basketball in the evenings and then gather at someone's home to watch the NBA matches. In fact, in a span of two months we had so many parties and outings that I probably will never get to experience in any other place. Every time I talk to one of those friends on the phone, I feel I have to visit that place again sometime in future, just to meet all these amazing people again.



At Hard Rock Cafe, San Antonio

Kreeda Jung

By Yagyik Goswami

A basketball ring without a net outside on the parking lot or plastic cones for goalposts on a concrete floor outside the hostel may not sound as exciting as plush grounds and racing tracks; but when you've got to play, you've got to play! The parking lot would just have to do.

The annual sporting event "Kreeda Jung" at IISER, was scheduled to begin in August and it would provide a platform for the students of IISER-Pune to pit themselves against one another in the various forms of sport that this institute holds dear.

The start was awaited with great anticipation; practice sessions making their way into not just a few daily schedules. People were pushing themselves, and their teammates, very hard indeed; after all, one's swagger was on the line. Whether it is football played outside the hostel, Table Tennis, Volleyball or PC gaming… winning rules! Enough said.

PC gaming saw its fair share of skill on display, a team of 4th year students became the indisputable conquerors in (you guessed it), the Age of Empires-The Conquerors, with a decisive victory in the final.

The CounterStrike team from the 3rd year managed to get ahead of its competitors in high-speed, high-intensity rounds which saw some clinical team performances and quite a few wicked solo efforts.

Meanwhile, in the physical world…

In Table Tennis, squaring-up to some pretty fierce competition, Kaustav Dey chopped and smashed his way to become the deserved winner and was crowned the T.T. champion.

Volley ball, a perennial favourite at IISER-Pune, saw many new faces measuring themselves up to the old guard. After a long and hard-fought tournament, the Shooters, a team consisting of players of different batches emerged victorious with an impressive performance throughout, capped by a strong display in the final.

Surprisingly, football matches were played with teams of four players plus substitutes; the infrastructure being the deciding factor in the format of the competition. The run-up to the final was fiercely contested, the eventual finalists unclear until the last minute of the last league match. Ultimately we had the team consisting of 3rd year students, emerging clear winners in the final.

These winners were awarded with certificates in a prize distribution ceremony on Sports Day. Even though every triumph has a story of defeat to tell, all that can be said is well played or rather better luck next time!



The orientation session

The Orientation

By Anandita De

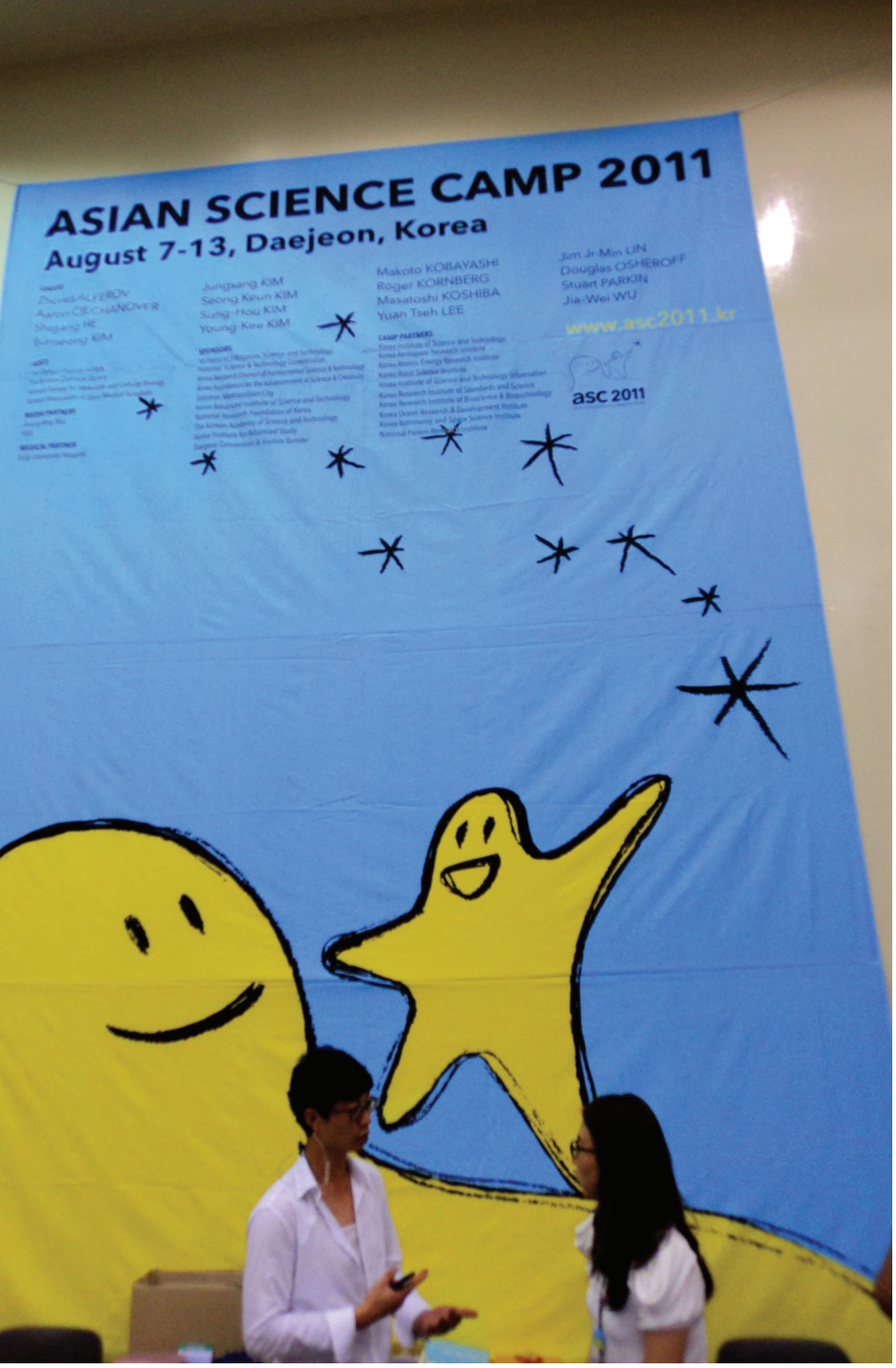
On the 31st July a young band of excited students, myself included, arrived here at IISER Pune. Fresh out of school and eager to pursue a career in science, we had come here from almost all parts of India. The journey of our college life began with the assignment of roll numbers at the reception. Little did we know that these roll numbers would decide so many things for the next five years - like who would be our roommate, our lab partner, and a part of our hang-out group!

The first day went by in the completion of the admission formalities and the assigning of rooms. We got a taste of hostel life and mess food (which did not seem so bad then!) that day. Our first day was followed by a two-day orientation program which was to give us an idea of what IISER is all about, what is expected from us, and what we should expect from them. It began with Prof. Shashidhara welcoming us since our Director, Prof. K. N. Ganesh, was away. He talked about the goal of making world class scientists here at IISER Pune. He also told us that the institute is completely supportive of anyone who wants to pursue anything beyond science, which was really encouraging.

Next we were addressed by Prof. Sourav Pal, the Director of NCL. Since NCL is the mentor institute of IISER, it was only fitting that he should address us. He captivated everyone with his charming personality. He asked us to be proud of having chosen to do science since earlier it was considered taboo. He justified his statements with several anecdotes from his own lab.

In the afternoon we had a tour of IISER, NCL Innovation Park and the laboratories at Sai Trinity. We were all dazed by the modern and highly advanced instruments. I am sure many of us had not heard of, let alone seen, such instruments. I was particularly fascinated by Dr. Umakant Rapol's laser cooling lab, where he uses lasers to cool down atoms (to reduce their energy). Dr Shivprasad Patil's atomic force microscope was also quite captivating. Though I did not understand everything, the fact that they were building a microscope right there blew me away!

On the next day, we had a session with Prof. K. P. Mohanan and our counsellor Rebecca D'Souza. Rebecca was really friendly and encouraged us to share our problems with her. Later, Mohanan intrigued us with many questions, scientific and otherwise, which forced us to think. He challenged well known and accepted facts and asked us to justify them, which gave us a flavour of how research is done. With that ended our official orientation program and we began our true orientation as we embarked upon this journey called college life.



The Asian Science Camp Schedule Poster

An Oriental Tryst

By Anurag Agrawal and Abhishek Mishra

"All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveller is unaware." There are some journeys you can only imagine and wonder how they will turn out to be, and one of its kind is your first trip abroad. The Asian Science Camp 2011 which was held in Daejeon, South Korea, was a wonderful experience for some of the travellers from IISER, Pune.

When I was told to write about the camp, a lot of memories suddenly flashed in front of my eyes and it took me a while to figure out how I could describe this wonderful experience. I guess it's best to start from the beginning. It feels good when you see your name in an official list of 29 people representing India, especially when you are going to Korea. At this point, it will be appropriate to throw in some facts.

Europe has been the cradle of many important events since ancient times. Be it democracy, renaissance or the industrial revolution, all of these can be traced back to Europe. Even today, Europe generates more Nobel laureates than Asia. This caused top gun Asian scientists, in the year 2005, to come up with the idea of a science camp along the lines of the annual Lindau meet in Germany. The proposal aimed at enlightening young scientists through discussions with great scholars of the world and promoting international friendship and cooperation among the talented students of the next generation belonging to the Asian region. Since then, the Asian Science Camp has been an eagerly awaited annual camp of the best academic and scientific minds across international lines.

Even now I don't exactly know the selection procedure for the 29-member Indian delegation. Like every year, a bunch of KVPY and NIUS fellows received a mail from HBCSE informing them about the camp and inviting them to apply for it. It was asked if the applicant had a valid Indian passport and then 29 people were shortlisted based on some unknown criteria. A total of 5 students from IISER Pune got selected - Anurag Agrawal, Rohit Chikkaraddy and Upendra Singh from the 2009 batch of students and K. Sriram and me from 2010 batch of students. The only other institute which could manage 5 students was IIT Kanpur (and this piece of information made me very proud).

So this entourage of 29 people starting from HBCSE Mumbai, via the awesome peninsular Hong Kong airport, reached their destination to attend the week-long camp at the Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Korea (KAIST) from the 7th-13th of August, 2011. After a warm welcome we were all invited to the opening ceremony which



A peek into the culture of Korea

was just spectacular. As the ASC 2011 official motto depicted "The great mind in you", some of these great minds turned out to be great artistes too and presented their culture in a very entertaining way. From India, Ms. Ramya gave a traditional performance.

The most baffling thing about the Indian delegation was that more than 20 students and all the three teachers were *kattar* (strict) vegetarians (you can imagine our plight in an east-Asian country). Well, more than 200 students from 19 countries, including non-Asians from Egypt and Australia participated in the event which consisted of lectures, camps, tours and poster competitions; and of course, "pure non-veg food". The host institute was KAIST and their hostels were simply amazing. The rooms were air-conditioned, had LAN ports and electric locks and the mattresses were twice as thick as the ones in our hostel. It rained almost every day there so everyone was given an umbrella along with a bag and a T-shirt.

The next day started with a lecture from the founder of ASC and the Nobel laureate Masatoshi Koshiba who talked about "The Birth of Neutrino Astrophysics" following which started the series of lectures. Some of them were quite awesome and some of them were the usual "lectures" during which you struggle to keep your eyes open. The lectures were on a wide variety of topics, ranging from semiconductor research to drug development and from supersolidity to neutrino astrophysics. Quite a few Nobel laureates gave a personal account of their life and career, which I found very interesting. This was perhaps in response to the popular buzz among the participants, and a question that came up repeatedly in almost every lecture in one form or another was "How to win a Nobel Prize?" One Nobel laureate even confessed that he had never done his homework. Every one of them was humble and willing to express their personal experiences. Apart from the lectures there was also a form of academic activity called a 'camp' wherein 24-25 students divided into groups along with a "leader" talked about a certain topic, providing a platform for better discussion and learning environment.

The highlight of the camp was a grand banquet on the night of 9th August at the Daejeon Convention Centre. It started off with a wonderful sand-art video and a traditional Korean orchestral band performance, and was followed by a lovely group song by school kids. The tour on August 11th was a great experience. We went to a steel plant of POSCO, and saw the whole process of steel manufacture. We had lunch in a restaurant where we finally got to eat something vegetarian (i.e. rice and boiled potatoes), and believe me, it tasted delicious, with salt, pepper and *chaat* masala added to them. We went on to see a garden built by an ancient Korean king. We also visited a centre for nuclear fusion research and learnt about the ongoing developments in the field. Each one of us got a traditional foldable Korean fan

from there as a gift.

The last day saw teams of 4-5 students preparing a scientific poster and presenting it. The poster making was a great team-exercise and it broadened our knowledge both in terms of science and creativity. All the posters made by different groups were superb in their own way and were quite informative. A few of them were announced as the best scientific poster and the creators were awarded medals. This was done at a grand closing ceremony wherein along with the best poster awards and the best question awards, every participant got a nice certificate enclosed in a velvet cover as a token of having attended this great event. From IISER Pune, Rohit Chikkaraddy and Anurag Agrawal succeeded in getting the best poster medal. The highlight of the ceremony was the Korean street dance followed by each one of us showing the weirdest moves possible from our countries and shaking our leg to the beats of Korean music.

The camp is in many ways one of the most memorable events of my life. It was my first trip ever to a foreign country. I learnt (or at least tried) to eat with chopsticks, I interacted and made friends with peers of foreign nationalities, ate fruits for a week (hence lost a few kilograms of weight) and attended an unprecedented number of lectures in a week's time. We came back after enjoying a week full of fun, science and inspiration.

They say "A traveller without observation is a bird without wings". What I observed was that the 2011 Asian Science Camp not only encouraged further interest in the exploration and application of pure science, but it also inspired students to be the pioneers who will pave the way for Asia to emerge as a place with a stronghold of scientific knowledge and discovery. Regardless of our nationality, different cultural, religious and national backgrounds, we share an important common ground: our passion for science. From the process of making a poster to simple conversation at dinner, we were able to interact and learn from each other. Our distinct cultures and languages emphasized our feeling of belonging to India. We were able to feel proud to be Indians, and at the same time appreciate the diversity of other languages, cultures and nationalities.

The Indian Delegation





Shorr in HR-4!

By Nivedita Rangarajan

"Did you see the notice board?" yelled a frantic friend. "What notice board! Something special?" replied a now rather anxious crowd. Indeed it was something special. A colourful notice had been put up, inviting all the students of the 2011 batch to "Shorr in HR-4" to be held the next day at 2:30 pm. The batch had been divided into 10 groups and each group was required to put up a Hollywood/ Bollywood spoof, the one catch being that we had to turn up in mismatched clothes!

Quite naturally, anxiety gripped everyone as to what exactly was going to happen. But what a day it turned out to be! Discussions ensued in every room as to what exactly constituted as "mismatched". As the day progressed people acquainted themselves with other members of their group and finally decided on their outfits, trying to make them as "mismatched" as possible. The next day saw all the groups in a mad rush to come up with the best spoofs possible. The hours went by creating quick storylines, witty dialogues and decidedly odd roles. All of a sudden it was 2:30 pm – time for the show to begin! People walked in awkwardly wearing their mismatched outfits, praying they didn't look worse than the others. After a short introduction, the spoofs began! Many Anarkalis, Gabbar Singhs, Romeos and icebergs were introduced amongst laughs, table banging, cheers, and whistles. The spoofs came to an end followed by a huge round of applause. Sure, we made fools of ourselves but at least it was fun! And we hadn't laughed so much at ourselves in a long while. Our spoofs were followed by a few nice performances by our seniors – the F.R.I.E.N.D.S theme song and a solo guitar-cum-song performance. There was fun, frolic and indeed a lot of 'Shorr' in HR-4!

There was fun, frolic and indeed a lot of "Shorr" in HR-4!



At this point we thought we were done for the day but that was not to be. Somehow we ended up giving entertaining impromptu minute-long introductions. This helped us find out quite a bit about our own classmates and their different skills. The introductions, however, took a little while. Hence, we couldn't finish on time. The entire day was then rounded off with the seniors providing us all with (multiple) rounds of snacks and drinks. In fact, we were asked not to leave till all the food was eaten up. So the last part of the day consisted of all of us sitting around, relishing *vada-pavs*, quenching our thirst with cold drinks and reliving the day through fits of laughter. A wonderful end to a wonderful day!





7th August 2011



(Top) The gym equipment, (Right) Inaugaration of the gym

Gymnasium

For all the fitness freaks, and more so for those with the well rounded bellies and bottoms, who craved alike for the dearth of fitness formulae - IISER's Gymnasium had finally arrived! The much awaited gym was set up on the third Floor of HR-4 in three rooms and to the surprise of some (and disappointment of many others!) a common gym for boys and girls was set up with their very own personal trainers. The gymnasium was inaugurated by Mr. Nandu Natekar, eminent badminton player, on 7th August, 2011. It functions on all days of the week (sparing Sunday evenings) and a nominal fee is charged for its membership. IISER's fitness *mantra* had finally arrived!



Arvind Gupta with his toys
Image courtesy: IUCAA website

Colloquia with Arvind Gupta

Our first colloquium of the Fall semester was an exciting one. Arvind Gupta from the Inter University Centre of Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune was the speaker. More than speaking, he showed us things like spinning toys and laser beams in beakers. He demonstrated how much fun science can be and how easily science could be learnt if only we knew how. He enthralled the audience with his science-toys and fascinating little experiments, all of which could be reproduced with very minimal resources. 'Learning Science through Toys' was a wonderful start to the colloquia of the semester.

15th August 2011

Independence Day



The day began with old patriotic melodies filling the campus. Many turned up in traditional wear, friends coordinated their clothing so as to form the tricolour and everyone was brimming with patriotic feelings. It was, after all, India's 66th Independence Day. In the morning, we all assembled for the flag hoisting. The members of Great Wall (security services) marched smartly and saluted our Director, Prof. K. N. Ganesh, who then hoisted our national flag. Saluting the flag, we sang our national anthem with passion. After a few words of wisdom from our director, the crowd headed towards the delicious array of snacks and tea. On the whole, we all left the scene with a renewed sense of patriotism and love for India.



Colloquia with Prof. Sujatha Ramdorai

Another Wednesday, another colloquium. The talk was on 'Dreaming of Numbers' and the speaker was Prof. Sujatha Ramdorai, from TIFR, Mumbai and a member of the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council (PM-SAC). The talk started with Prof. Ramdorai explaining elementary concepts like the different systems of numbers, and then proceeded to their mathematical significance and development. Her talk aroused great interest in the audience, as was reflected in the questions asked.

Mein Deutschunterricht...

By Kshiti Mishra

Hallo an alle!

In August, IISER once again started an initiative to make its students well-versed, or at least versed, in German- a very useful skill to master considering that Germany houses a lot of quality research institutions. Most batches at IISER received a mail stating that German classes would be starting soon. Also, a certain Ms. Girija Natu (NOT related to Dr. A. A. Natu, who sent the mail) and Mr. Andreas Wiebel were to be our 'Deutschlehrer's'. The classroom was overflowing with people who came with no clue of what to expect along with a multitude of reasons for why they wanted to learn German. Some were inexplicably in love with the hissing-spitting-tongue, some with everything German; some wanted to add one more feather to their already decorated linguistic caps; some ambitious ones were fixed on their summer-heading and some came because it was the only foreign language option available. Over a semester there have been plenty of ups and downs, downs particularly in our number. Four months have boiled us down to a small handful of people. But mostly everyone who left, I'm sure, have gained something from the class. At least the German greetings of 'Guten Tag!' and 'Guten Abend!', some more tiny sentences and a few pleasant experiences. Who wouldn't, with teachers as enthusiastic as Girija ma'am and Herr Andreas? Contrary to my expectations of dry classes of mincing sentences and deriving grammar, they made our classes really interesting, interactive and fun (clichéd but true nonetheless). Nouns, conjugations, pronouns and prepositions are not the only things we've learnt. We started off the course with an interesting word game called 'Welches Wort hast du?'(Which word do you have?), which involved each of us getting a word and looking for people in possession of related words. I suppose that got a lot of people hooked for a couple more classes. Soon, however, people gradually started trickling off. I wouldn't blame that on the course though. We've had sessions of constructing dialogues and presenting them in front of the class with complete freedom to imagine extremely creative sentences. As if everyone completely messing up isn't enough amusement for everyone else, even our teachers participate very enthusiastically to the extent of acting as animated waitresses, among other roles! We also learnt about several aspects of German culture and politics. For instance, during the week of Oktoberfest, the German festival of beer, we enacted a scene in a typical Oktoberfest tent complete with a PowerPoint presentation of Germany and the festival flashing in the background. We also got invited to an Oktoberfest celebration at the Race Course! That was not all. We had more entertainment in the form of a German movie (for anyone interested, it was 'Gegen die Wand', a quite acclaimed movie at that) which was a reflection of the lives of Turkish Germans; complete with bags of Peppy and bottles of Coke brought by Herr Andreas that were passed around during the screening.

Our teachers have also been so kind as to advice students going to Germany for the summers about accommodation and other useful aspects. All in all it was one hell of a course. Apart from a few 'brilliant' people, most of us probably still have problems phrasing a single grammatically correct sentence and stare with dazed expressions and open mouths when Girija ma'am narrates an entire paragraph in unbroken German. But we've all come out with a thoroughly enjoyable experience on our hands. I'm sure there's much more German, fun and movies to look forward to!

‣ 22nd August 2011



Photo by: Athira

Janmashtami

Krishna Janmashtami, one of the most popular festivals of Pune, began with the campus decorated with bright, golden marigolds and the traditional mango leaves; complete with the delicacies of *kheer, poha, roti* and *biryani*. As is traditionally done, the macho men of IISER set up the *Dahi Handi* ceremony on the back lawn. One after the other, teams from various batches gathered, to form human pyramids in an attempt to break the *handi.* Their attempts repetitively foiled by horrendous showers of water strewn from the balconies. Finally, when the mess staff threatened to break the *handi,* The Hercules of the 4th year rose up and above and out poured the *dahi*. Oh boy, it was worth the wait!

‣ 24th August 2011

Colloquia with
Dr. Rana Adhikari

This Wednesday saw Rana Adhikari, a faculty member of Physics at CalTech and a leading researcher in the experimental effort for detection of gravitational radiation (GW) from astrophysical sources at the LIGO labs, talk about Gravitational Wave detection with laser interferometry. He described how these interferometers can measure space-time strains which are 100 million times smaller than a proton. All the physics students of IISER flocked to the lecture hall and were definitely not disappointed.

28th August 2011

Padharo Mhare Des!

This day saw a mesmerizing SPIC MACAY Rajasthani folk concert by Bhutte Khan Manganiyar and his troupe. They painted an image of Rajasthan, a land of vibrant colors and talents, right here in the Multipurpose Hall of HR-4! The heady hypnotic combination of rhythm and melody in their songs left the crowd buzzing with excitement. The famous song "*Kesariya Balam*" was a super hit and was performed again on popular demand.

After the concert some curious students asked the performers about the instruments like *sindhi sarangi, khartaal, kamaicha* etc. which were played during the concert. Bhutte Khan-*ji*, the most loved of the group, told that *khartaal* got its name from *khar* meaning hand and *taal*- rhythm and is made of teak wood. Then he started teaching the students how to play it! The concert remains a memorable one.



Bhutte Khan-*ji* at the centre

Photos by: Nisarg Desai

The troupe performing on the *sindhi sarangi* and the *khartaal* with zest



Cogito Ergo Percipio

By Sukriti Bansal & Nisarg Desai

I think, therefore I am. This is what the above three Latin words mean. Do you ever dare to question the seemingly obvious? Why are we all where we are? What are the forces that drive us and make us who we are? We *Homo sapiens sapiens*, are we just flesh and blood with a neural brain or do the realms of our so called mind reach out to something known as consciousness? Are the body and mind separate entities, independent of each other or different manifestations of one and the same? What are emotions? Did you know that emotions are different from feelings?

Well, these are just some of the questions discussed in our discussion group. This group is a bunch of inquisitive IISERites interested in pondering over fundamental questions and enthusiastic about getting into intellectual discussions. These sessions are headed by Prof. Mohanan and Dr. Dey who avidly carry out the discussions and stimulate cogitation amongst all the people present.

So, what do we do in our sessions? Generally, we are shown talks or scientific documentaries that serve as food for thought in the discussion that follows. Any point raised in the talks is subjected to critical evaluation, no matter where it comes from or how complex the topic is; in order to reach nothing but the logical truth. It is a good forum for people conditioned by society (or maybe bad!), as they get challenged when even the most commonly accepted views are put to test through cerebration. We also get to watch movies addressing interesting questions! For example, 'Das Experiment', a movie based on the Stanford prison experiment, showed us how it is possible for ordinary, even good people to become perpetrators of evil. Another movie called 'Dayerah' by Jafer Panahi, depicts a brilliantly woven story set in the present day crowded city of Tehran, showing the reality of life, particularly the discrimination and violence against women in an Islam dominated society. Dr. Dey also treats us with Monty Python videos, which though thought provoking and meaningful, are funny and entertaining as well!

"Does God exist or is the experience of divinity simply the rush of certain exalting chemicals in the brain?"

The issues that we discuss in these sessions range across a broad plethora of topics: Does God exist or is the experience of divinity simply the rush of certain exalting chemicals in the brain? Ever thought about the purpose and meaning of life? Do our lives really have a purpose? What do you define as normal, that which should be, or that which statistically is? Why did the Europeans develop at a great pace and acquire the power to colonise while the rest of the world watched?

So what do we get from it all? Answers? Not always. What is important is the approach towards the question; an approach that we believe is important for answering any question in life. Acquiring answers in this manner gives a sense of satisfaction and the unanswered questions leave us itching with curiosity. These sessions added a new dimension to our realization of how amazing and mysterious the world is, how complex we humans are, how appearances can be deceptive and how we are blinded by our beliefs!

‣ 7th September 2011

Colloquia with Dr. Anand Deshpande

'Dealing with Data Overload' was the topic of this colloquium. Dr. Anand Deshpande, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director of Persistent Systems, Pune talked to all of us about how in today's world one has to deal with huge amounts of data in all lines of work. And why managing this is extremely important in order to make sense of any data. It was an extremely interesting and useful colloquium.

‣ 9th September 2011

Onam



The beautiful flowery decor.

This is THE festival of God's Own Country and was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm by Keralites and non-Keralites alike. An intricate flower carpet was arranged in the central wing under the chandelier. A huge group then headed out to the '*Malayali Samajam*' of Pune. After a long wait in multiple queues and a lot of pushing around from all directions, the door of the dining hall opened and finally we could gorge on the awesomely yummy Kerala food. The memory alone brings water to my mouth!

‣ 14th September 2011

Colloquia with Prof. Sanjeev Dhurandhar

Prof. Sanjeev Dhurandhar of IUCAA, Pune, gave this colloquium on Gravitational Wave Astronomy. Gravitational waves (GW) are caused by the propagation of a change in the gravitational fields. They travel at the speed of light. Professor Dhurandhar described the physics of GW, their detection, generation and their sources. He also discussed the astrophysical information that can be gleaned from them about the universe. He described this as the beginning of a new avenue in astronomy.

‣ 16th September 2011

Colloquia with Prof. Jogesh C Pati

It was a very special week as we had two colloquia in three days, the second one being a colloquium by the distinguished Prof. Jogesh C. Pati from Stanford, USA. His talk was titled 'Unity in Diversity: Towards a fulfilment of Einstein's Dream'. The professor gave us a brief overview of fundamental particles and their forces. He then proceeded to describe the recent attempts to unify these particles and forces, and the spectacular empirical successes of some of these attempts.

‣ 21st September 2011

Dr. Kamala Shankar

Students from IISER and NCL flocked to the NCL auditorium to attend a SPICMACAY concert by Dr Kamala Shankar who plays the Shankar Guitar. The Shankar Guitar, a modified version of the Hawaiian Slide Guitar is made from a single block of wood, with thicker walls and no sound hole. This guitar has only recently begun to be adapted to Indian classical music and many players modify the instrument as per their requirements. For most of us it was the first time we had heard the instrument. The sweet and the unusual melody of the guitar left the audience spellbound.

‣ 27th September 2011

Aarti Tai

We were treated to a SPICMACAY Hindustani Classical concert performed by Smt. Aarti Ankalikar Tikekar. Aarti Tai, as she is called by everyone, was accompanied by her daughter Swanandi Tikekar and a few students on the *tanpura* and chorus. She did not open with a *bada khayal* or *guru vandana* as is the custom, but rather with a round of questions! She asked students to name a few *ragas* and *taals*. She then talked about a few *ragas* followed by *aalap* and *swar gayan* session. She made this session very lively by asking the audience to follow her as she sang. Her blissful voice truly enthralled the crowd. She concluded the concert with a *bhajan 'Avagha ranga ek jhala*'. Her presence not only charmed and delighted the young audience but also inspired them.



Aarti Tai enchanting the crowd with her voice

‣ 28th September 2011

Colloquia with Prof. A K Cheetham

This week's visitor was Prof. A. K. Cheetham, FRS, Department of Material Science and Metallurgy, University of Cambridge. His lecture titled 'Recent Advances in Inorganic-Organic Framework Materials' was a part of the International Year of Chemistry 2011 Lecture Series. He talked about Zeolitic Imidazolate Frameworks. These are related to aluminosilicate zeolites and are sub-classes of Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs). He went on to describe his recent work in these fields. His talk was very popular and students hounded him with questions long after the lecture.



Photo by: Anurag Mishra

Karavaan '11

By Ashwini Ramesh

After more than a year, the campus had sprung back into action. Karavaan '11, IISER Pune's Cultural Fest had finally arrived! As the 23rd & 24th of October were earmarked on the calendars, the K-Team brainstormed for months and slogged to present 2 days of a joyous Karavaan. And oh boy, were we in for one wild rollercoaster of a ride!

The stage was set on what had transformed from 'African-esque' grassland to a vast expanse of a well leveled ground! The autumn breeze, the blaring lights and an enthusiastic audience set the ambience just right for the start of our fest.

With the sun just at the horizon, Karavaan'11 commenced with a soulful rendition of a carnatic song followed by the traditional lamp lighting ceremony by Dr. K. N. Ganesh and other student representatives. Following this was 'The Showcase', which saw IISER folks shed their lab coats and goggles to display their hidden talents. Whether it was dancing to the latest Bollywood numbers or classical fusions interspersed with foot-tapping musical performances, the whistles, hooting and applause from the audience kept growing louder. The night had just begun!

Following this was the much awaited Band Wars, hosted by Alisha & Sourav who swung into action setting the mood right and were, of course, very much omnipresent. The show kicked off with Apophenia whose music and style was as bizarre as their name suggested. As they set the stage on fire with their first song 'Left Right Left', the crowd added fuel and kept up the blazing fire. Be it the wild head banging sessions or the intense air guitars, the energy level could only increase exponentially, never flattening, irrespective of some lows from the other three bands; after which the crowd was hit Point Blanc! Bhaaaaaaaaam!!! This band created some extraordinary beats and the music blended perfectly with the lead singer's voice and a few effortless stunts. The result: a wild audience in a jam-packed ground pulsating with life and an indisputable win for Point Blanc in Band Wars.

The party was still on! The ever crowded stalls lined up at the sides had to attend to a starved, barbaric, mess-oppressed audience, be it with the mouth watering golgappe, falafels or Cad B's! Of course it would be a great prejudice to not mention that a good chunk of the audience managed to warm their seats and loyally perform the role of passive spectators while their insane counterparts grooved to the tunes of the DJ.



IISER-folks grooving to the DJ!

That very night as we hit the warm cozy bed, out came the elves and the pixies! They scurried about hither and thither, putting up posters, decorating the halls, occasionally chipping in a few questions to the quizmasters and bearing the drudgery of a certain very off beat singer to get them through the night.

As dawn set in, the knights and sleeping beauties walked into a magically transformed land where, the bright colours of Karavaan streaked across the halls which were adorned by several medium-sized, black, Karavaan "tee-ed" volunteers waiting at the registration desks. The literary chapters of Karavaan were inked by major events like Pot Pourri, BLAB, Devil's Advocate and Quizzes! The literary leg of Karavaan was, according to the event organizers, the coolest and most successful of all. All thanks to the time dedicated (read: whiled away) by the organizers of these events. Hours turned into sleepless nights as our very own reading room became the hub of all Karavaan related activities, a bustling warehouse, wherein sat tiny worker bees churning out questions and rules for these events, their productivity increasing by the hour (only on the night before Karavaan). At any given point of time, anyone who walked into the reading room could not have missed the multiple sets of 'round tables' (rectangular actually), each headed by its own King Arthur, digging their gold mines (minds) for the invaluable questions they were

in dire need of.

While Pot Pourri was a two tiered event - a written prelim followed by "Shipwreck", Devil's Advocate was a courtroom debate. Both events witnessed highly competitive teams battling it out for the top spot, with Yagyik and Abhilesh of the home crowd grabbing first place in the former event, and the team from IISER-Thiruvananthapuram emerging victorious in the latter. Sadly though, BLAB, an event much looked forward to was dropped due to the poor response it gathered at the Registration. However, the three quizzes – Hindukush: the India Quiz, How I Watched My T.V.: the Entertainment Quiz and the Business and Tech Quiz had impressive turnouts and the competition was cut-throat. The lively audience gave away some answers to the participants, much to the annoyance of the hosts. Quizzers from the Armed Forces Medical College walked away with the top prizes for Hindukush and the entertainment quiz while the business quiz was won by a team from IISER Pune.

Undoubtedly, Antakshari took the centre-stage and was a big hit among the crowd! The event was staged at the mess atrium with the nawabs and begums seated on cozy *deewans* and in keeping with tradition, served with *paan*. Though the program began on a shaky note, the Bollywood beats and lively music put it back on track. After some intense rounds of the '*antaras*' & '*mukhda*' and rigorous eliminations, the dark horse of the race: IISER Bhopal, emerged as winners.

As the afternoon sun soaked the green lawn, the

The Karavaan "on-the spot" poster



creative minds huddled up for junky wars and out came the craziest masterpieces made from junk. It ranged from photo frames, to delicious butter scotch sundaes and truly lived up to the name: Junkyard Wars.

Next up: Face Painting. As the artists experimented with their 'white mice', out flew the Devil, Bat Women and modern Picassos. However, Ankita Jha's modern yin and yang painting was the masterpiece of the day.

The lawns also hosted fun games such as the hoola hoop game, 'The Lord of the Rings', rifle shooting to 'Pop a Balloon', an innovative in-built track for a remote controlled car racing game 'Need For Speed', a 'Paint Ball' arena and a t-shirt painting event. Amidst this fun-filled extravaganza, IISER put its best foot forward in promoting the native student-run initiative for the benefit of underprivileged children, Disha, and helped raise funds by selling home-made eatables.

After a day full of activity, the most anticipated event of Karavaan'11 had arrived. The opening performance of ProNite was by the triumphant Point Blanc. After an encore or two, the much anticipated band, Blakc took centre-stage. The guitars were tuned, amplifiers were set and under the shining lights the band took off. The crowd lost all their inhibitions and gave in to the incredible music! The audience was hypnotized by the Blakc-magic. The nerds and geeks inhabiting this unknown territory let their hair down and swung to a new high like never before!

Karavaan'11 reached its crescendo before coming



Photo by: Nisarg Desai


Photo by: Nisarg Desai


Photo by: Athira

to a gentle stop when Dr. V. G. Anand, the man behind the show, was ushered on the stage. He personally thanked the key student organizers, Somil, Abhijith, Arshad, Varun and Sumanth, and dedicated Karavaan'11 to the outgoing Class of 2007. On popular demand to exhibit his talents, he rendered the 80s' melody "*Hum tum ek kamre mein bandh ho*" only to be followed by an ear-shattering applause from the audience in response.

The fest ended on a perfect note with next day's classes suspended while the crowds swayed to the tunes of the DJ!


Photo by: Anurag Mishra

(From top clockwise) The band Qafiya in performance; Shawn Perriera of Blakc; The Karavaan art team in action

ATM



Photo by: Nisarg Desai

The ATM at IISER Hostel

For those of you who have just turned eighteen, it was not too long ago that you were standing in the bank for three hours with a token numbered 100 when 56 was on call. For those of you who have had the privilege of adulthood for a while now, it was not too long ago that you were running around trying to catch the right bus to take you to Sai so that you could withdraw money from Cosmos. But no more! Everyone is eighteen! Everyone has ATM cards! And now, HR-4 has an ATM! The long awaited ATM finally arrived on 24th October 2011 and was inaugurated by Prof. K. N. Ganesh on the occassion of Dhan Teras. All of us here at HR4 are exceedingly grateful for its existence.Now all that is left for us to do is name it!





Diwali

As the clock struck 7 on Diwali morning, girls had quick baths and ran down with their hands filled with colours. Soon a beautiful *rangoli* spread across the floor of the atrium. The bright colours were vibrant against the black background. In the evening, the hostels were decorated with *diyas*. Many people lit *diyas* and candles in their rooms as well. The hostel looked divine in the candlelight. The *rangoli* was also decorated with *diyas* and the atrium adorned with garlands. A *pooja* was conducted and after receiving the *prasad* and having a special dinner, everyone went out to burst crackers filling the night with light.

Photo by: Nisarg Desai

12th November 2011

Physics at IISER

By Sukriti Bansal

Physics at IISER is an event held every year to acquaint people with the ongoing research in the field of physics at our institute. This event sees PhD students and recently joined faculty members giving talks and presenting posters that describe their areas of research. Held on 12th November in the year 2011, the event was comprised of 8 talks and about 26 poster presentations.

Prof. Avinash Khare gave the opening talk on discrete non-linear equations and new identities for Jacobi-Elliptic Functions. Following it was a very interesting talk by Dr. Abhijeet Sonawane on the role of time scales in the evolution of bimodal degree distribution networks. This talk discussed scale-free and small-world networks using interesting real world examples which we could actually relate to. Next, Dr. Aparna Deshpande introduced us to her research field of probing atoms, molecules, and surfaces for applications in nanotechnology.

Soumya Singh Roy, a PhD student delivered a talk on "How long is a Quantum Bit Quantum?" Wondering what a quantum bit is? Well, a Quantum Bit (or Qubit, a cute nickname!) is a unit of quantum information, i.e. the physical information that can be stored in a two-state quantum system. A number of entangled Qubits taken together is a Quantum Register. The talk had a discussion about 2, 3 and 4 Qubit registers.

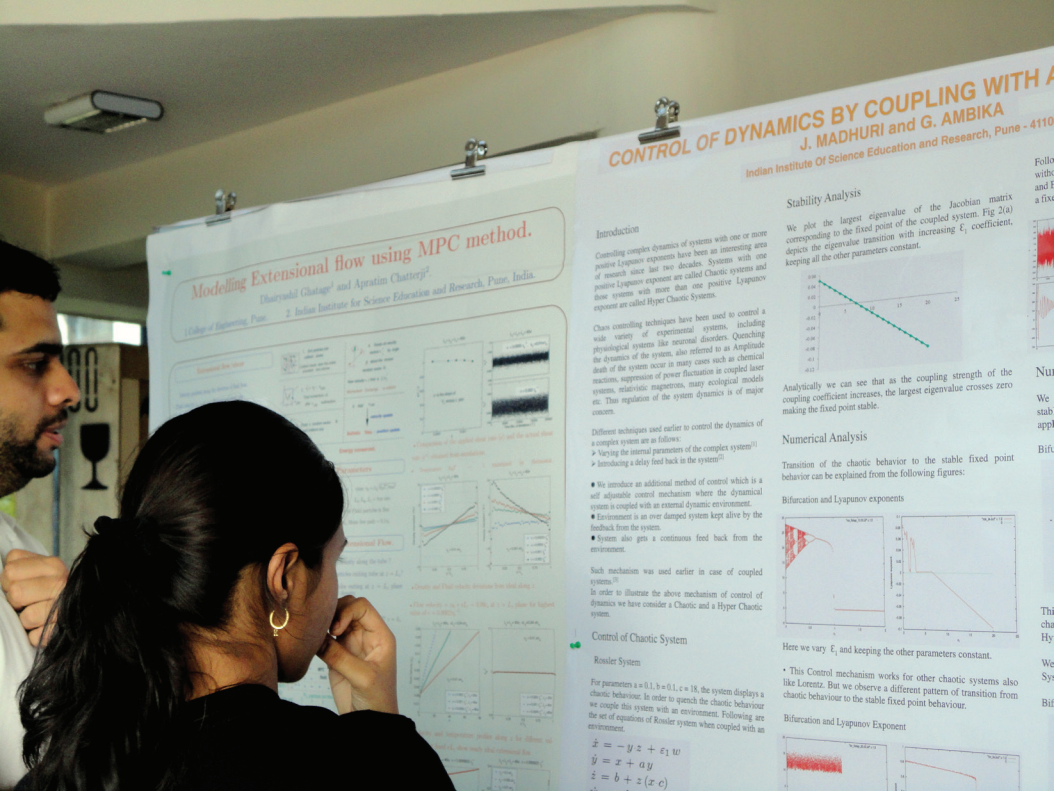
"Do we need to revisit Bohr Exciton Radius of a hot exciton?" This was the question addressed by Padmashri Patil in her talk. She suggested, through her experiments and published research, that nanocrystals should be intermediate in size (neither too small, nor too large), in order to maximise power conversion in solar cells using PbS-type semiconductors.

After these talks we had a lunch break followed by a poster session. All the posters put up provided a lot of information about the research work of the professors and students at IISER. Some of the titles of the posters were intriguing, for example, Shear Unzipping of Double Stranded DNA and Fractal Walks.

After the poster session, Dr. Sunil Nair introduced

Poster presentations





Spectroscopy (FCS). The closing talk of the day was, again a very interesting one, given by Arun Babu who spoke about coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and Forbush decrease (FD). Forbush decrease is a non-recurrent rapid decrease in the observed cosmic ray intensity following an inter-planetary CME. The talk discussed about a model to explain the mechanism of FD.

All in all, it was a good learning experience. Exposure to so many diverse fields of research in physics at our institute helped give better insight and guidance to students who are yet to choose their specialisation. It also gave an opportunity to people from different disciplines of physics to come together and exchange their ideas, which could lead to greater insight in inter-disciplinary areas.

us to his pursuit for new multiferroics (the materials in which ferroelectricity and ferromagnetism coexist). A. V. R. Murthy explained about probing the role of chain length on the diffusion dynamics of π-conjugated polymers by Fluorescence Correlation

◂ 16th November 2011

Colloquia with Prof. Anil Kumar

This colloquium was presented by Prof. Anil Kumar from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Prof. Kumar gave us a detailed tour of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance right from its discovery in 1946 to its practice during the 50s and 60s as CW (Continuous Wave) NMR to parallel processing using Fourier Transform NMR. Following this, he described the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), its uses in hospitals and in the practice of radiology. He highlighted the upcoming field of Quantum Information Processing. This talk was fascinating as many of us had only seen huge NMR machines at the NCL Innovation Park in our first semester here at IISER.

◂ 19th November 2011

Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty

SPIC MACAY

This day saw a wonderful Hindustani vocal concert by Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty in the NCL Auditorium. He is a notable vocalist of the Patiala *Gharana*. A graduate from Rabindra Bharati University, he became disciple of Ustad Munawar Ali Khan, son of the legendary maestro of the Patiala-Kasur *gharana* and Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan. Anyone present in his concert could feel his soulful voice which effortlessly flowed from *aalap gayan* to Rabindra *sangeet*, leaving an everlasting impression in our minds.

National School Intensive 2011

By Sukriti Bansal

Seven days of life immersed in Indian art and culture – a gamut of classical music and dance forms (also folk dance), a miscellany of native arts and crafts ranging from sculpting to puppetry, Kathak to Kathakali, and above all – the opportunity to personally interact with artistes and maestros of varied arts from all over the country. All of the above under one roof for a week!

Does it sound intense? Well, it was meant to be, for this is the National School Intensive 2011 that I'm talking about. It was held from 24th-30th December 2011 at Delhi Public School in Pune. The art and culture-loving SPIC MACAY volunteers at IISER took advantage of this wonderful opportunity to get a feel of a Gurukul-like environment and headed to DPS for a week long stay on the campus. This national level event, organized by SPIC MACAY, saw students from all over the country participating and getting exposed to the very best of Indian heritage.

A regular day of a person at the NSI would begin at four in the morning with Naad Yoga sessions conducted by Dr. Kiran Seth followed by Hatha Yoga until 7:00 am. Thus *Brahmamuhurta* would be put to the best of its use. Those who followed the *yoga* sessions sincerely could find themselves purified physically, mentally and spiritually, and in greater harmony with their inner selves. Then there would be half an hour (from 7:00 to 7:30 am) set aside for *Shramadaan* followed by personal time and breakfast at 9:00 am. After that, there would be three hours long intensives

The Kathakali Intensive students put up a great performance





Presentations from the pottery and sculpture intensives

for students with their respective masters (under whom they had registered) from various fields of music, dance, theatre, art and craft. The eleven art forms taught in these intensives were – puppetry by Shri Dadi Pudumjee, sculpting by Shri Dinkar Thopate, Kathakali by Shri Kalamandalam Gopi, Hindustani vocal music by Ustad Rashid Ali Khan and Smt. Shruti Sadolikar, Kathak by Shri Nandkishore Kapote and Smt. Sunayana Hazarilal, Violin by Smt. N. Rajam, Warli painting by Shri Hareshwar Vanaga, Bharatanatyam by Smt. Swati Daithankar, Paper Mache by Smt. Ranjana Joshi, Kalamkari by Shri Gurappa Chetty and Pottery by Shri Vinod Pawar. The intensives lasted for five days and concluded with presentations and performances by students displaying the art forms they had learnt. On observing this, the audience was fascinated by how much and how well the students had learnt from their Gurus in just five days.

After lunch there would either be a talk or a folk performance by a leading artiste. This would be followed by the screening of a film classic every day. The films that were screened were *Paras Patthar* directed by Satyajit Ray, The Making of the Mahatma by Shyam Benegal, The Great Dictator by Charlie Chaplin and Seven Samurai by Akira Kurosawa. Each of these movies was made by the greatest directors of all time. All of them had great depth and a strong take-home message.

Dinner would be served at 5:00 pm. Yes, you read it right; the dinnertime really *was* from 5:00 pm to 6:00pm, keeping up with the ideal time proposed by scientific studies and also by *Ayurveda*. The sun is the source of all energy and our body metabolism is optimum in the presence of sunlight. This is why *Ayurveda* strongly advocates the end of all activities post sunset. Hence these ideal timings...

After dinner we would be graced by wonderful concerts of great maestros. These artistes included Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena), Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan (Hindustani Vocal), Shri. Venkatesh Kumar (Hindustani Vocal), Pandit Birju Maharaj (Kathak), Smt. Reshma Musale (Lavani), Padma Bhushan Pts. Rajan and Sajan Mishra (Hindustani Vocal), Padma Shri Kalamandalam Gopi (Kathakali), Smt. Manjusha Patil Kulkarni (Natyasangeet), Padma Bhushan Dr. N. Rajam (Hindustani Violin), Sh. Uday Bhawalkar (Dhrupad), Padma Bhushan Vidvan T.N. Seshagopalan (Carnatic Vocal), Shri Bahauddin Dagar (Rudraveena), Prof. T.N. Krishnan (Carnatic Violin), Vid. Shruti Sadolikar (Hindusatni Vocal), Padma Vibhushan Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia (Bansuri) and Vidushi Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande (Hindustani Vocal). The concerts proved to be perfect conclusions to the long, frenzied and activity-packed days.

On the last day of the National School Intensive, we were taken for a heritage walk. We visited Shaniwarwada, old forts and temples of Shivaji's time, and witnessed the art and sculpture of the Marathas. We also visited a museum on Parvati hill.

Overall the intensive was a very healthy and enriching experience. It helped us recognise the subtle, the abstract and the inspiring flavours present in the essence of our Indian culture and heritage. It refined us on multiple planes, consciously and unconsciously, and was truly an experience to cherish.

Photos by: Nanda Gopal

FILM MAKING WORKSHOP

By Nisarg Desai



Photo by: Ravindra

After last year's success, IISER once again invited K. P. Madhu for conducting the movie making workshop in the winter break. This time, the workshop was open for IISER and non-IISER faculty as well as students from other institutes like the IITs.

The workshop started with PowerPoint presentations on major aspects of film making with more emphasis on the grammar of scientific documentaries. These presentations were designed so as to give an overview of the technicalities involved in each and every aspect of a film, which include research, scripting, direction, presenting on screen, camera work, lighting, sound and editing.

Along with the technicalities, discussions during the presentations also gave us an idea about the psychological impacts of things like hairstyle, dress etc. which can be easily manipulated and also about strange and interesting stuff like psychological impacts of pupil size, chin size, neck length, shoulder size, nose length etc. which have evolutionary origin and are difficult, but not impossible to manipulate. Basic rules of composition derived from paintings and photography, that make the frame aesthetically pleasing and how a particular kind of music can create or change a mood drastically were also discussed.

Keeping all these in mind, we were supposed to come up with ideas for a movie, involving scientific concepts and choose the best idea in terms of simplicity and practicality and write our own script based on the idea. This was where the fun began! Now with the script in hand, we had to have a crew and actually make a movie like professionals! The crew should include a director, camera person, sound person, light person and an editor; and for docu-dramas, talents (technical term for actors). The idea was to play each role at least once and master the role of our liking by repeating it in someone else's movie if you get a chance. This began with the end of first week.

Next week on, along with helping/playing a role in somebody's shoot, we discussed and improvised our own scripts. In the free time, we 'studied' random movies. That included observing each and every aspect of aesthetics like composition, sound, lighting and special effects in each and every frame and discussing possible improvements. This gave an idea of the kind of mistakes one can make. However, the real learning takes place by making our own mistakes and that's what we did in the following weeks.

After the shooting, the entire look of the movie is determined by editing. We were introduced to a semi-professional, nonlinear editing software, Adobe Premiere Pro, for this purpose. In order to appreciate the flexibility provided by the nonlinear editing setup, we had discussions about the old linear editing setups and the difficulties faced because of linear editing format.

Lot of mistakes committed while shooting started popping up on the editing table. If possible, attempts to correct these mistakes were made by re-shooting.

Now, from the available footage, we were supposed to create a rough cut (technical term for a rough layout of the movie), and take suggestions from others on possible improvements for the final movie. Taking the comments and suggestions seriously, all of us were ready with the final cut (technical term for the final layout of the movie) by the end of the month. All of these movies were screened for the IISER-NCL community.

Thus, in the end, the movie making workshop turned out to be a great learning experience for all of us. Now, when we watch a movie, we can comment on the grammar! We know how some effects are created. We can observe the tricks that are used to fool the mind; we can distinguish between the emotions created by the music from the emotions created by the picture! We know how appearances can be deceptive! And, it is an amazing experience to be able to do that!

Lights-Camera-Action!

By Revati Sudam Mandage

Movies are where imagination meets the real world, making a perfect composition that leads the viewer into his own world. But how to make the composition can be better understood when you actually deal with it!

And with this idea, started the second 'Scientific Media Workshop' at IISER in December 2011. Under the guidance of K. P. Madhu, a highly enthusiastic and 'inhomogeneous' (ranging from students to researchers) group set off on a journey of creativity, but travelling on a scientific path!

To get your viewer acquainted with the facts in science is hard. This is because of the absence of the human factor. Making science movies is an attempt to bridge this gap. And when you understand this very thing, you are ready to make your own 'science movie'! Before you start your journey, you should have a map with you, representing where to go and how to go there. This map is made by the scriptwriter who must write it in such a way that it will help the movie maker view different parts of journey in advance.

The journey begins with shooting, in presence of the director, sound technician, light person, a camerapperson and a talent (one who acts).

"All quiet on the set… Sound?"

"Ready"

"Lights?"

"Ready"

"Camera?"

"Rolling camera"

"ACTION!"

Oh, a continuity girl should also be there in your troop. Even if a guy is playing the role he is called a 'continuity girl' (why? there is a funny reason for that, find it out!). The movie basically consists of large number of cuts and so as to not confuse your viewers you must maintain continuity. All this continuity girl does is to make sure that there will not be any jumps in the actions.

The hardest thing is keeping the talents pleased- "Sir, tea is ready, please have it.", "Please hurry up, ma'am otherwise lighting conditions will get worse…" and no matter what, you still have to do it. So the fun continues till we come to an inevitable end -editing. Maintaining the continuity, avoiding jump cuts where even a frame out of place makes a difference! Here comes in the skill of the editor, you have to edit it in such a way that it will be enjoyable for the audience.

And so the enjoyment begins at the end of the workshop, in Raman Hall, where all the productions will be screened. But for you, this is not just joy, rather a feeling of true satisfaction!

Your journey teaches you a lot - to find beauty everywhere and to learn a little more in everything. It truly leaves you behind with something which you start appreciating. What is it?

It's very difficult to describe it over here. But your very first movie will certainly tell you about it!



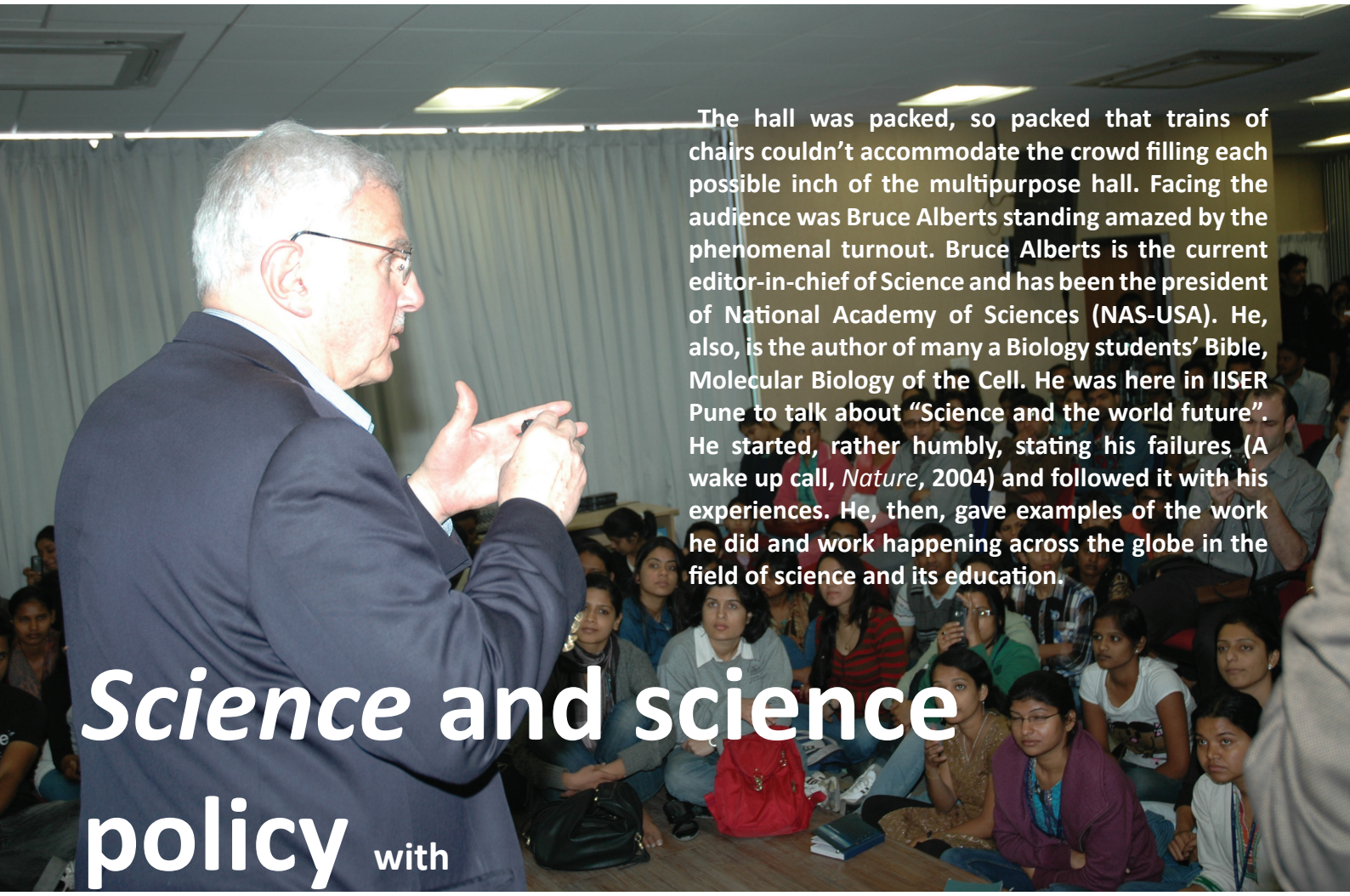
The workshop participants

‣ 18th January 2012

Colloquia with Prof. Michel Morange

Prof. Michel Morange, Professor of Biology and Director of the Centre Cavailles for History and Philosophy of Science at Ecole Normale Superieure, Paris visited IISER for a span of five days. He spoke about the challenges for 21st century biology (systems biology, synthetic biology, and the wedding between functional and evolutionary biology). He mainly talked about the fields and approaches in biological research that, according to him, are fading in importance like molecular biology (reductionism), and those that are gaining importance like interdisciplinarity. The focus of his talk was epigenetics and the possibility of it replacing genetics. One would think that audience might get bored after the week long lecture series by the same speaker but clearly otherwise was observed.

‣ 21st January 2012



The hall was packed, so packed that trains of chairs couldn't accommodate the crowd filling each possible inch of the multipurpose hall. Facing the audience was Bruce Alberts standing amazed by the phenomenal turnout. Bruce Alberts is the current editor-in-chief of Science and has been the president of National Academy of Sciences (NAS-USA). He, also, is the author of many a Biology students' Bible, Molecular Biology of the Cell. He was here in IISER Pune to talk about "Science and the world future". He started, rather humbly, stating his failures (A wake up call, *Nature*, 2004) and followed it with his experiences. He, then, gave examples of the work he did and work happening across the globe in the field of science and its education.

Science and science policy with Bruce Alberts

We had an opportunity to speak to Bruce Alberts and ask him to share his experiences and views on a range of topics. The questions went both ways with him asking about our experiences too. The memorable session touched topics like the education and examination system, policy; its makers and its making, students and teachers, and more. Read the following where Siddharth (SBI), Sachit (S), Alisha (AP) and Rachana (RB) and Bruce Alberts (BA) discuss their concerns and opinions.

Science and its education:

[While answering BA's question about the selection and background of students in IISER...]

SBI – And what you were referring to – a single exam making a big impact on one's education – the same problem exists here.

BA – In a college, one of the faculty members conducted a study a long time back. He asked the faculty of the college, who were the bottom 5% of their PhD students and who were the top 5% and he made a list of these. He studied what they had done in their exams before they were admitted and what was written up about them in the interviews and why they were taken. And he found that there was no correlation at all with exams, exams have nothing to do with how good a scientist you are (laughs). So if you do better than a certain level, the rest makes no difference you know. What really correlated was how the interview went – if they described their work well, or asked the faculty a good question then that went very well in their favour. He's hoping to publish this in Science.

"But then what happens when you have a new problem, a real problem in life? You have to solve it! "

BA – So what're these exams like?

SBI – Multiple Choice... Quick answers. And the national board exams are a different matter. As in, they are corrected by different teachers all over the country. They're very difficult to standardize.

S – They are heavily biased toward memory. In India, in school education there's a very strong philosophy of "There is one and only one right answer." "There's one and only one right way of expressing it."

And after you come to a place like IISER, the first two semesters of undergraduate education is unlearning everything you've learnt. There's clean up. Suddenly, there's "Ask your own questions".

BA – That's very interesting. That fits with many things I've seen in the United States. If education is teaching you that there's only one right answer, then all you need to do to be educated is to know the right answer. But then what happens when you have a new problem, a real problem in life? You have to solve it! Well, I know that in countries like Japan where they have a very critical exam for everything, naturally it just ruins your education system. Students spend all their time cramming for an exam. It's very miserable. And once they succeed, they go to college and they don't want to do anything else. (laughs) They're sick of education. They want parties.

AP – It happens across India as well. When we start in school, we all love science. And by the time we're done with school, the proportion of science lovers just drops exponentially. Why do you think this is so?

BA – Yeah, they hate it and I would hate it too! Because mostly you're just memorizing. If they had the kind of education that you are having in college, it would do good for them. But science that is defined as memorizing names of things or what scientists have learnt and studied isn't much fun.

Education Policy:

S – You've spent a long time in setting or advising on education policy and making evidence-based policy. How much resistance have you faced from policy-makers when you show them that this is what's happening and that it just doesn't work?

BA – So the trouble with politicians is that they're only looking at the next 2 years and many things that science tells you is that you have to plan for 10 or 20 years. And even if they actually accept the fact that it will be a better world in 10 years if I do this thing, the thought comes that "Am I going to get elected because nobody is going to know that?" So they try these short term things. Often these go out with a boom. They are not for the long term but it gives them more votes. This is a real problem. So with all our sophisticated public, caught up by issues like climate change which we face in the United States, people need to make sacrifices in their personal life and their lifestyle to do something about climate change. But if you tell a politician to tell somebody that... If people don't actually understand what the science says or whether they should believe it, they'd rather not make any sacrifice than do something that scientists say is good for their grandchildren. Because they don't understand how science works and they think

"Oh can I believe that or can I not believe that?" So in the United States people are usually confused by politicians who make simple arguments about why, for example, climate change is not a problem. - Its better if it gets warmer, it's too cold right now!

SBI – So, in your 12 years at Washington, were you able to affect some change on these perceptions?

BA – Yes. So the way it works in the United States is that the Academy makes its reports and then often the people on the committee are asked to testify in Congress about what they've found. We also have lots of NGOs working on the environment or on health issues and they are very active in lobbying Congress. They use Academy reports very effectively. They say, "The academy says this and that and so you have to pay attention." That makes a difference. But often it takes a long time between everybody recognizing what is right and them changing the law. Compromising between the different lobbies takes a lot of time and effort. Eventually I think we will do the right thing but it'd take 10 or 20 years.

Educating the world:

SBI – What do you think is the single most important thing to change to make that process faster?

BA – Well, if you have an educated public and a democracy that can't be fooled and that understands what science is and that respects scientific judgments and that could put pressure on politicians that we need this... I mean, it's never going to be perfect (laughs). And right now, we have this kind of situation in our Congress that you have in your Parliament, where basically the major party is trying to make the other party look bad. And to me, all they want is to win the next elections so in the process they're damaging the country so I would say that this is anti-patriotic even though the Republican Party now says "We're for America" but they're actually hurting America in order to win votes for the next elections.

And right now, we have this kind of situation in our Congress that you have in your Parliament, where basically the major party is trying to make the other party look bad. And to me, all they want is to win the next elections so in the process they're damaging the country so I would say that this is anti-patriotic...

AP – Now, speaking about education of the public, how do you begin? Do you start with educating people first or do you educate the teachers first?

BA – Well, you can't do anything without teachers. Teachers are critical because there are not enough scientists to do the education and we don't know how to do it really. I think there should be a major focus on teachers.

Finland is a great example. In 1970, they started a major change in how they train teachers, how they reward teachers, how they treat teachers and how they select them. They took 25 years to start to see that having a powerful effect. And right now Finland is doing very well because they have a really good teacher core.

In the United States, a lot of our PhD students who finish in science - some of them would be interested in teaching at lower levels but the system into which they would be going is not very supportive. They don't want to work in a system where people do not reward excellence and where orders are given from the top of the system that doesn't make sense. That is where they as outstanding teachers wouldn't have a voice in changing or improving the system.

You have, I think, a similar problem in your State Universities. You need a lot of good scientists to go and be Professors at State Universities. But so long as State Universities are not well run, and don't reward merit and don't keep on improving, and if they don't have the ability to work there and do something important for the university and for the students and to be treated well, people are not going to go.

So I feel that our problem is at the pre-college level where we know that the main reason good teachers leave is not because of how much money they're making, but because they're not respected and they're told or given orders to do things that don't make any sense and constrained by certain tests and those kinds of things.

I was amazed to discover that in Indian states when the Governor changes and the party changes, they change the Vice Chancellor. And then of course if you give the vice chancellorship to someone who is not chosen on the basis of their ability to really be a leader in education but on some other basis, then that person appoints other people and the whole thing decays below him or her.

AP – How are things different in the US? Is there any system we can adopt here to improve matters?

BA – All the State Universities in the United States have Boards of Regents, a group of distinguished people who care about education. The Governor appoints some fraction of the Board of Regents as they turn over but the Board of Regents has a longer life time than him. So most of the Board of Regents is from a previous set of Governors. And the Governor can't change the Chancellors because it's only the Board of Regents that can do that. So that insulates the universities from the politics- which is incredibly important. It seems like a simple idea for India to do this but it's complicated.

I have heard cases in India of deans being related to politicians or strongly influenced by them – that's a disaster for the future of India. I don't know how you'll change it. If one state takes this as an experiment and shows it makes a difference then the other states would try to compete.

This is one thing I learnt to appreciate about the US from my travels around the world, all our universities are completely merit based. Many highly developed countries also have these problems that you have here. At a Frontiers of Science Conference I attended, the co-chair from the UK was a brilliant young Italian physicist from Cambridge. He told me he's in Cambridge because he couldn't get a good job anywhere in Italy since he didn't know anyone. So that's a really critical issue here because the teachers produce the next generation. Also that tradition is really something that people should be working on.

Examinations:

S – We'd like to change our education system to meet better standards, to make a more scientifically literate public. This will require large changes in the way examinations and teachings are carried out. What kind of resources do you think are required, for example, do we have to pay teachers more? What is the best strategy to make the change happen?

BA – Well, I think that the main problem with teachers is not the pay but the work conditions and so that's easier to fix than the pay. I think that changing the exams is the most powerful thing you can do. I've seen the last 12 years or so after the 'No Child Left Behind' policy drove everything in the wrong direction by making testing for teachers in schools that was of the wrong kind, the cheap kind. They want to spend 1 dollar a student for testing them. And for 1 dollar a student, they save some money but they ruin the system. There was a study that I was on with a 'President's Council of Advisors in Science and Technology' (PCAST). It's all on the website of PCAST. They made this recommendation - Change the nature of the exams and you will change the nature of the teaching. They calculated that a good exam would cost about 45$ per student, not 1$ a student because it would not be multiple choice. It would be written, comprehensive reading... all that stuff. This committee recommended that the Federal Government subsidise states because everything lies in what the states did. The idea is that the test development process is expensive if you do it right. If you're testing by multiple choice then it's not so expensive.

"Well, I think that the main problem with teachers is not the pay but the work conditions"

AP – How do you define a good test?

BA – A good test is one that drives good teaching and learning. So they're much more complicated. If you look at the NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) website, you'll see material on this. It was lead by Rick Shavelson, formerly the dean of education in Stanford University. He spent his life on science assessment. It's not easy, I mean, I couldn't make a good exam. Getting the people who work in science assessment together with the best scientists, that's my dream; to make really outstanding assessments and then - like scientists - we test the effect of these assessments on science teaching and learning, and use this to feedback into the development of the test. But that's not what we usually do in education. Education is sadly too close to politics, and politicians like simple answers. They didn't realise all the horrible things that would happen with the "No child

left behind" policy.

AP – Don't you think there is a huge hype for the whole term "test"? No three hour examination, no one day examination can determine the ability of a child sitting in examination hall.

BA – That's right. So we mostly talk about only a summative assessment that we use at the end of the course. We'll talk mostly about course exams not national exams, mostly because that's what's driving most of us. There's also a different kind that has developed – Formulative exams that you give during the course of a semester of teaching. So you find out what the students know and don't know. I'm talking about teachers actually knowing when their students have understood something or not. And also by those kinds of tests they can tell the students what they really want them to know – We don't want you to memorize, we want you to think. You'll see that in the PCAST report.



Papers and their audience:

SBI – The way research papers are written has changed greatly over say the past 50-100 years. What do you think are the major changes in the way papers are written and is that reflective of a change in the way science is actually happening?

BA – Its probably different in different fields, I'll only answer for Biology. I think that the critical thing is writing all the methods and making them available so that people can use them. We're losing a lot of that now. People are lazy about describ-

ing their methods - “I used Kit A from Company B”... What will you do 5 years from now when the company no longer exists? There’s really no excuse now as you have space for supplementary material available online. Time and again when I’m teaching students from papers, we can’t figure out what they’ve done.

I think there’s lot more pressure on publishing quickly which makes papers less interesting. Papers used to be longer too. So now there’s this whole write short, get it out fast attitude... But that’s because of lots of competition in overcrowded fields. I tried to get *Science* magazine to be more effective in getting methods clear. Scientists need to know how to write better. I find many scientists cannot write an abstract that people outside their immediate field can understand. We keep sending it back and eventually we just have to rewrite it. There’s terrible communication. So we’re losing something.

Science has a huge readership and a large enterprise and it’s completely different from what it was 50 years ago. When I was your age, I knew everybody working in my field. Nobody is worried about stealing things because if you did that nobody would ever talk to you again. That was the network. But now it’s so big! Nobody knows anybody! It’s got some disadvantages.



Paid research:

SBI – Finally, we just wanted to know your views on policy that could combat paid research, like Exxon funding climate research?

BA – So we have lots of declarations of conflicts of interests, and we’ve tried monitoring that. People don’t believe stuff that comes out completely contrary to what everyone else is saying. Politically motivated research isn’t very effective in changing people’s minds. Its used by the politicians to try and confuse people. The scientists are not confused by them. I think most places in the United States will not let you take money from places where there is any restriction on publishing what you find.

Off the rack:

AP – Now a question on popular demand. Do you have any other hobbies other than pure science?

BA – Yes, reading history, biographies. I don't like fiction. I like non-fiction like history of different periods or battles of people or good biographies.

RB – You surely have traveled around a lot. So what's one place that you will always want to revisit?

BA – Of course, India! What did you think! I've been to India 25 times. 10 times before I even came through the Academy. My wife's now on a bus up in North-East India, and has been here more times than me.

‹ 25th January 2012

Colloquia with

Prof. Jagdev Singh

This Wednesday, we saw **Prof. Jagdev Singh** of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore giving us a talk on the solar corona and the ADITYA-1 mission. He spoke about the physical and dynamical characteristics of various coronal features, coronal observations and role of various physical processes in heating of the coronal plasma. It was a very interesting colloquium and was a treat for all the aspiring astrophysicists of IISER.

‹ 26th January 2012

Republic day



Photo by: Nisarg Desai



Republic day- the Flag flies high!

India's 63rd Republic Day was celebrated in style on the IISER Campus. We woke to the sweet sound of patriotic songs of the yesteryears and hurried to attend the flag hoisting ceremony. The ceremony commenced with the IISER's guards doing the march-past, which they had rehearsed over the past couple of days. The ceremony was lead by our Director Prof. K. N. Ganesh who hoisted the tricolour in the reception front of the HR4 Campus. Dressed in traditional attire, the staff and students sang the National Anthem. Following this was a speech by Prof. Ganesh with a small tribute to our nation and its advancements in science followed by the eagerly awaited high tea. Then there were the patriots who watched the three hour long Republic Day Parade on Doordarshan like the good old days, moments of pure nostalgia. I don't know if it's was the warmth of the January sun or the pure joy of togetherness, this day was definitely one of the memorable days at IISER!

◂ 28th January 2012

Saraswati *pooja*

As Saraswati *pooja* approached, the Bengalis of IISER switched to overdrive mode, and their preparations were amazing! The day began with the *Push-panjali*. The priest made the crowd chant *shlokas* in praise of Goddess Saraswati. After each cycle of recitation, flowers were offered to the idol. After that everyone was given scrumptious *prasad* containing fresh fruits and *payas*. *Luchi* (read *puri*) and *aloo dum* followed. Everyone had turned up in traditional wear with girls wearing sarees and *salwaar kurtas* and boys in *kurtas*. Even little kids ran around in their new *kurtas*. The day ended with a delicious Bengali lunch which included Bengali delicacies like *begun bhaja* (fried Brinjal), *khichudi*, tomato *chutney, papad*, mixed vegetables and *roshogullas* topped with a sigh of content. All in all, it was a wonderful celebration.

Mimamsa 2012

Photo by: Abinand

By Sourajit Basu

The 4th edition of the inter college science-challenge conducted by the Science Club, IISER Pune, Mimamsa was held in the Spring Semester of 2012. Mimamsa '09, the very first edition, was held at the Pune level with a few preliminary entries from cities nearby. The next edition saw greater numbers, and last year with three centers in Maharashtra (Pune, Mumbai and Nagpur) and one center in Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad), Mimamsa '11 had for the first time crossed state boundaries!

Mimamsa 2012 was held in nine centers – Pune, Mumbai, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata and Ahmedabad making it one of its kind science challenge at the national level. Over two hundred teams registered from the 9 centers, which is almost twice the number of teams from the previous edition. The preliminary round, held on the 15th of January, was a written round with descriptive questions which tested the very fundamentals of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

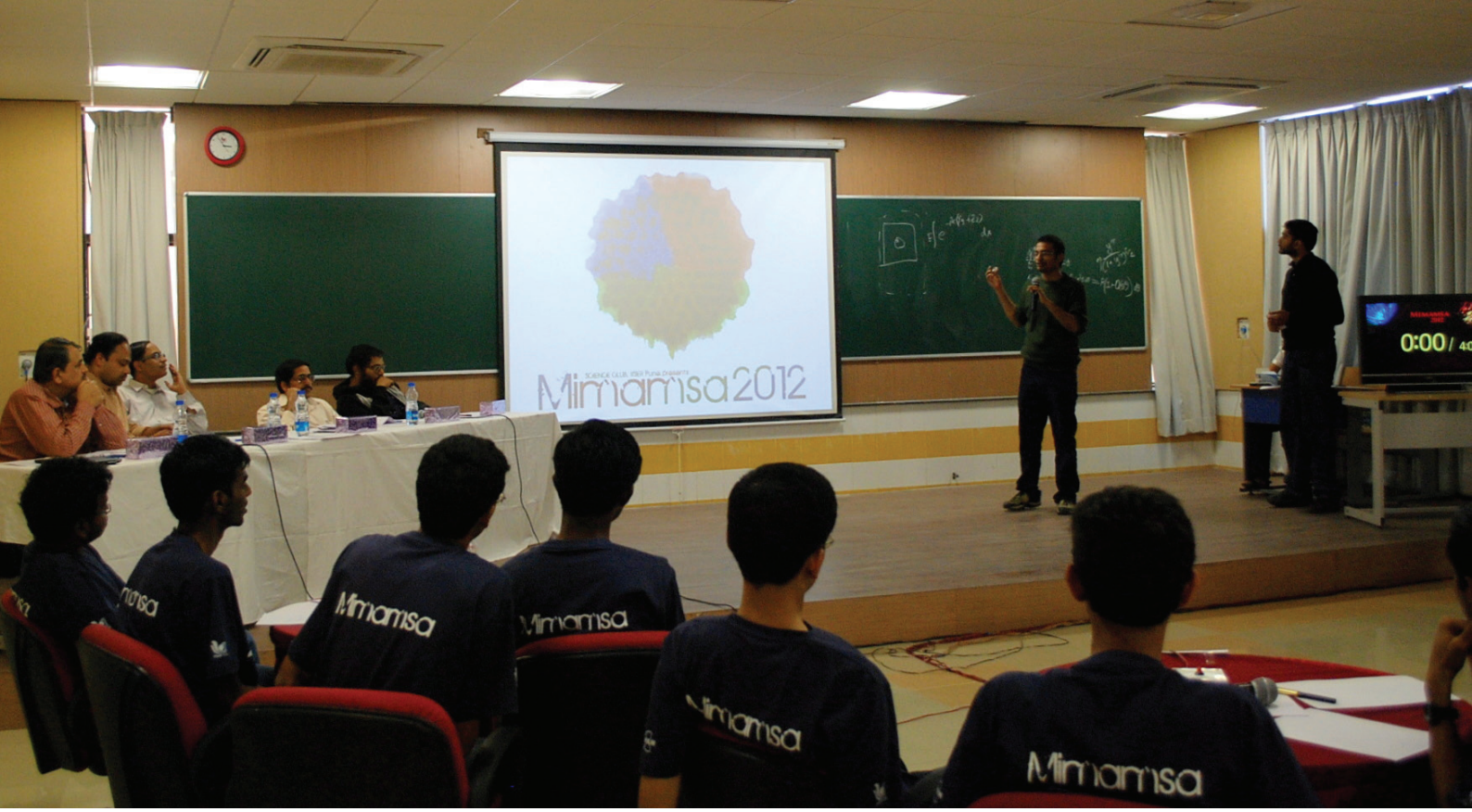
The four teams which qualified for the finals of Mimamsa 2012 were: IISc Bangalore, IISER Trivandrum, IIT Kanpur and St. Joseph's Bangalore.

After 14 hours of quizzing, in the closest Mimamsa ever, where the winner was truly anyone's guess, an all first year team from IISc Bangalore stole the show and were announced the winners of Mimamsa 2012! Second and closely following in third position were IIT Kanpur and IISER Trivandrum.

A speech by the Director of IISER Pune, Dr. K. N. Ganesh, and the distribution of prizes marked the end of the Mimamsa 2012, leaving everyone with higher expectations of Mimamsa 2013!



Photo by: Vishnu K



Testimonials

"Awesome is the word! Thank you Team Mimamsa and all the other teams, for an un-forgettable and brilliant weekend, which was a mental, social AND gastronomic treat.
Not to forget, the chocolate toast and Cad-B's, they were FANTABULOUS!
Seriously, we love you guys, you're the best."

-Sashank Pisupati, Runner Up (IIT Kanpur)
(Courtesy Facebook)

"Congrats team! Amazing effort and good show. Congratulations to IISc - the hallowed name of the institute is still in the top. Great show from IISER – Trivandum, amazing jump, and great effort from St Josephs' from Bangalore. Reading your exposition online. It is very interesting. Keep it up IISER , Pune. This is a truly amazing show and we are very glad that you are doing this."

- A FOLLOWER ON the Facebook page

"Mimamsa was a wonderful experience, which I shall forever cherish. I really enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere at IISER and am rather envious since such excitement and energy is not easy to find at IISc. Team Mimamsa was really helpful. A week long Mimamsa can seriously be conducted, provided it is in summer. I am confident that all UGs at IISc will be glad to contribute anything towards making Mimamsa even better. Hopefully IISc shall retain the title. The Mimamsa T-shirt shall be one of my most prized possession."

-Amogh Kinikar, Member of the winning team from IISc

(In a mail sent from the participant)



Photo by: Sharvaree

"Mimamsa as a quiz is very different from what one connects the term "quiz" with. It is slow and deep, searching elegant and thought provoking answers. This year, I personally think, chemistry did not have as many elegant questions as other subjects. I hope that in the following years more people, both faculty and students, involve themselves with this as presently the show is put up by a handful of them."
- Anirban Hazra, Assistant Professor

"Bigger, tougher and grander than ever before. Everything had been taken a level up. I personally felt that it was an exhilarating experience. 14 hours of quizzing is no mean job, and the participants handled it with aplomb. It was a pleasure watching them work out question after question and carefully give an answer. What was even more fun though, was watching the judges grill them as to why they said what they did. The best minds in each field then proceeded to explain what the right answer was and how to get to it. A totally different and truly amazing journey, Mimamsa was an intellectually stimulating treat for participants and spectators alike."
-Nivedita Rangarajan, Ist Year Int. BS/MS Course

"Although I looked forward to the biology round, the mathematics round was the best of all. It made me appreciate the beauty of mathematics. Even funnier were the smiling faces (sadistic pleasure) of the judges as the participants racked their brains over a question. It was funny how none of the teams took the risk of treading waters of the deep thought round. 21 being a "prime number" was an even bigger revelation. The exposition round by St.Joseph's only added to the constant buzz of excitement. The energy was electrifying. Working for Mimamsa this year was very memorable, so much so that I wanted to be in the space–time dimension of Mimamsa even in the following weekend. I am looking forward to an even better Mimamsa next year."
- Rachana Bhave, 2nd Year Int BS/MS Course

It's all about the questions. Organization can be done for any event. Questions are the identity of Mimamsa and this year they weren't upto the mark. The physics questions were not delicate enough and chemistry was all organic. If ever Mimamsa comes to an end, it will be due to the lack of good questions. Apart from the questions, everything else was great.
-Shadab Alam, 5th Year Int BS/MS Course

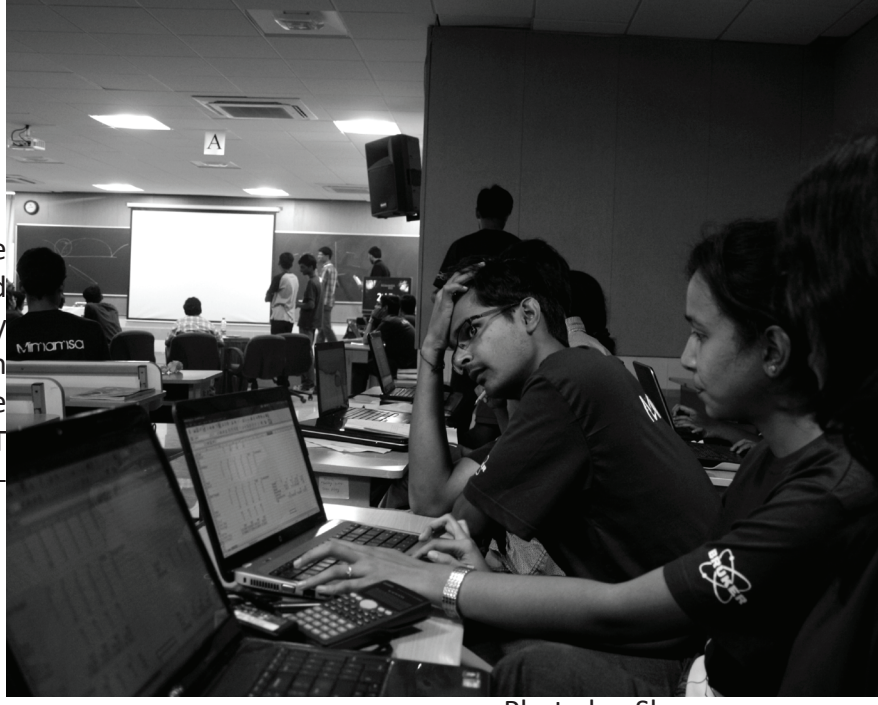


Photo by: Sharvaree

"The enthusiasm of the judging panel for the chemistry round was amusing. They huddled around involved in deep discussion during every question, reminding me of electrons around an atom! Surprisingly, the maths round was the most interesting of all rounds. The trouble IIT Kanpur took to get to the finals was appreciable."

- Gaurav Sawant, 4th Year Int BS/MS Course

"The amazing participation in Mimamsa 2012 made it more interesting. What I will miss most about Mimamsa is the fact it forces me to think about concepts in Physics and Chemistry which I otherwise wouldn't have pondered over."

- Siddharth Iyengar, 4th Year Int BS/MS Course

"I learnt many things about sound arrangements. Enjoyed playing soothing music, rather deciding what songs were to be played, during the quiz."

- Nisarg Desai, 2nd Year Int BS/MS Course

"The finals were conducted very efficiently and everything ran smoothly which is beautiful for a mathematician. I felt that the questions were appropriately set given the time limit for each round. I am glad that the juniors are taking up the responsibility of making questions."

- T. Ashwin, 4th Year Int BS/MS Course

"Right from my first year I have been a part of Mimamsa. Having anchored the last two Mimamsas, having been a part of the question making team, having interacted with my peers from other top colleges; I know Mimamsa is a great platform not just for the participants but for everyone who makes Mimamsa happen."

- Sourajit Basu, 3rd Year Int BS/MS Course



‣ 1st February 2012

Colloquia with
Sir Tom Blundell

The Month of February was made cheerier with the visit by Sir Tom Blundell, Director of Research and Professor Emeritus, Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge, UK. Not only being a distinguished scientist who has made substantial contributions to the development of the field of structural bioinformatics, but also his warm and witty nature has captured several hearts. He began his talk expressing his passion for travelling, trailing his way across several borders and learning new languages. He narrated bits and pieces of his love story from the African landscapes, the honour of being a brother-in-law of a country's General and his hectic schedule that involved shuttling between Matabele Land and Cambridge. Along the way he stumbled upon IISc in the peninsula and was instantly charmed by its intellectual youth and the Indian classical music. We were pleasantly surprised when he told us that he can even play a bit of the *veena* and persuades his friends to organize classical concerts every time he visits India! Next he proceeded to the core of his talk explaining how his group had developed a software for sequence-structure recognition and for comparative modelling and databases for three-dimensional structures of proteins, which is now widely used. Also as an offshoot he has set up his own company and has pioneered methods for structure-guided drug discovery. His was an excellent talk which piqued the interest of those present and even managed to put a photo of the IISER musical performance which had taken place the previous evening! He told us that he had done a sort of reverse protein folding, wherein from the final folded 3D structure he determined the original amino acid sequence, and how similar structures might imply similar sequences and common evolutionary history. We left the room with a sense of I-feel-like-a-smarter-being and, more importantly, we had met The Tom Blundell!

‣ 14th February 2012

The Chand Nizami brothers

The NCL auditorium was once again decked in welcome of the Chand Nizami brothers for a Qawwali Concert. The Nizami brothers include Ustad Chand Faridi Nizami, Shadab Faridi Nizami and Sohrab Faridi Nizami. They are not only trained in Qawaalis but also in Hindustani vocal music. It was a pleasure to have the great Qawaals of Sikandar *Gharana* with us. The Nizami *bandhus* captured everyone's heart as they sang '*Naina milaye*' and '*Kun faya kun*'. The concert was peppered with *shayaris* bearing messages of '*aman*', i.e. communal harmony and patriotism, also a few humourous specials for the occasion of Valentine's Day. The concert came to a close with the resounding applause for the brothers' famous '*Mast Kalandar*'.

‣ 22nd February 2012

Colloquia with
Prof. David Glanzman

Today's colloquium was among the most interesting ones here at IISER! The topic was Memory Erasure and Memory Reconsolidation, and the speaker was Prof. David Glanzman from Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology, UCLA, California, USA. He is an extremely witty man and had us in splits with his subtle humour. In this talk he explained how he had studied neurons in *Aplysia californica* and had come up with amazing results on memory reconsolidation. Apparently every time a person recalls a memory synaptic connections are formed! The synapses reform every time a memory is reconsolidated. What was all the more amazing was that evidence suggested these synapses that reform are distinct from the ones existing earlier! His talk was highly intellectually stimulating, leading to a lot of discussion, debates and innumerable questions.

‣ 23rd February 2012

The Carnatic Concert

On the 23rd of February came the much awaited Carnatic concert by renowned vocalists Ranjani and Gayathri. The event, co-organised by IUCAA and SPICMACAY, was held at Chandrashekar Auditorium in IUCAA. The sister-duo, accompanied by accomplished violinists and percussionists, wooed the audience with several beautiful compositions such as '*Ninne Nammite*' and '*Barse Badariya*'- a Meera *bhajan*. The concert ended with an *abhang,* '*Bolava Vittala*' on popular demand, followed by an interactive session with the audience which saw youngsters eagerly asking questions about various aspects of the duo's style of singing. The artists were pleased to see this enthusiasm and curiosity amongst the youth.

‣ 28th February 2012

National Science Day



A bookfair in Sai Trinity campus on National Science Day.





Section two

Good Natured

Lucky Us

By Himanshu Badhani

India is a funny land. There are 4 United States and 10 Japans and 100 Australia's hidden inside it, striving for every single piece of bread! A home to one fourth of the world's illiterate and underprivileged population, our country is really a subject of study as to how we are able to dispose of such a huge human potential in the so efficiently managed dumping grounds called slums. There are 50 million families living in these slums that work day and night, contributing to the infrastructural development of the "future world power". They are making the buildings of the best educational institutes of the country while their own children are unaware of the alphabet. For this day and night labour they get less than four thousand rupees per month on which a family of five people (on an average) has to be fed. While we, the IISER undergraduates, are getting 5,000 rupees per month for a reason which I really do not understand. I am not trying to increase your knowledge of the poverty statistics of India. All of you were forced to mug that up in high school. All I am trying to tell you is how funny we are, as a college and as a country.

"For this day and night labour they get less than four thousand rupees per month on which a family of five people has to be fed."

There are millions of children who can't understand what is written on those huge hoardings of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (The Education to All Campaign). They don't know the meaning of phrases like '*Sab padhein sab badhein*' or 'Each one teach one'. They can't read the expiry date on medicines and they don't know that they should'nt pay more than the MRP, because for them, God-knows-what those three letters stand for! We certainly don't belong to that "class" (thank God!), but why? What have we done that is so special, or what was their mistake?

We are simply lucky that our parents were able to send us to school. We got good education, unlike the majority of Indian children, otherwise we could have been in their place. We could have been walking more than 2 kilometres everyday to fetch 6-7 litres of water for consumption (as a matter of fact that is nearly the same amount and the quality of water you waste in a single flush!). Again, we are extremely lucky. Everyday about ten Domino's deliveries are made in the hostel (that increases to more than 50 on Saturdays), every day about thirty kilograms of food is thrown in the waste bin that includes milk, butter and fruit jam! And in the backyard of our institute there are about 80 families who haven't seen milk after they left their villages in the hope of better earnings. Lucky us, isn't it? Lucky insensitive fools!

Not that insensitive though. IISER people are really concerned about pets. About a month ago four puppies had the privilege of being brought up in the campus. There were sufficient number of people who came forward to feed the street puppies with Pedigree. It is evident that IISER students can't compromise with the quality of food those puppies get. I don't know how much a pedigree packet costs but it is certainly more than 5 rupees per kg. 5 rupees is the cost of 1 kg of the rice on which more than half the population of this country feeds. Going back to the dogs again, no notices or e-mails were circulated and still those puppies got fairly good sponsorship. I realised that the Vision 2020 will be achieved at the right time; if not for the humans, then for the dogs of India, for sure. After all, these dogs have the blessings of the Indian high class. "Disha", a student association in IISER-P working towards the underprivileged children, on the other hand, lacks volunteers, stationery and shelter! Funny isn't it? 'Lucky them'- that is what I think when I look at those puppies.

I am certainly not against puppies; I am against the extreme state of laziness that is found in almost all Indians. We are really good at ignoring the reality and living all our life in an illusion. How many times do we have to be told that we are one as a society and as a nation? A famous statement of Mahatma Gandhi comes to mind - "If you have more than what you need then it is certainly not yours." So, though we may not realize it, it is our duty to return what belongs to them. Through "Disha" we try to pay back to the society in the best possible way we can - by educating kids who can't go to the school. Serving our society is a service to ourselves because we are social animals who live in an iterative prisoner's dilemma. We are going to need each other, but hardly anyone cares. In an institute where there are so many game theorists, such ignorance really is... Funny.



Pointing, directing and discovering

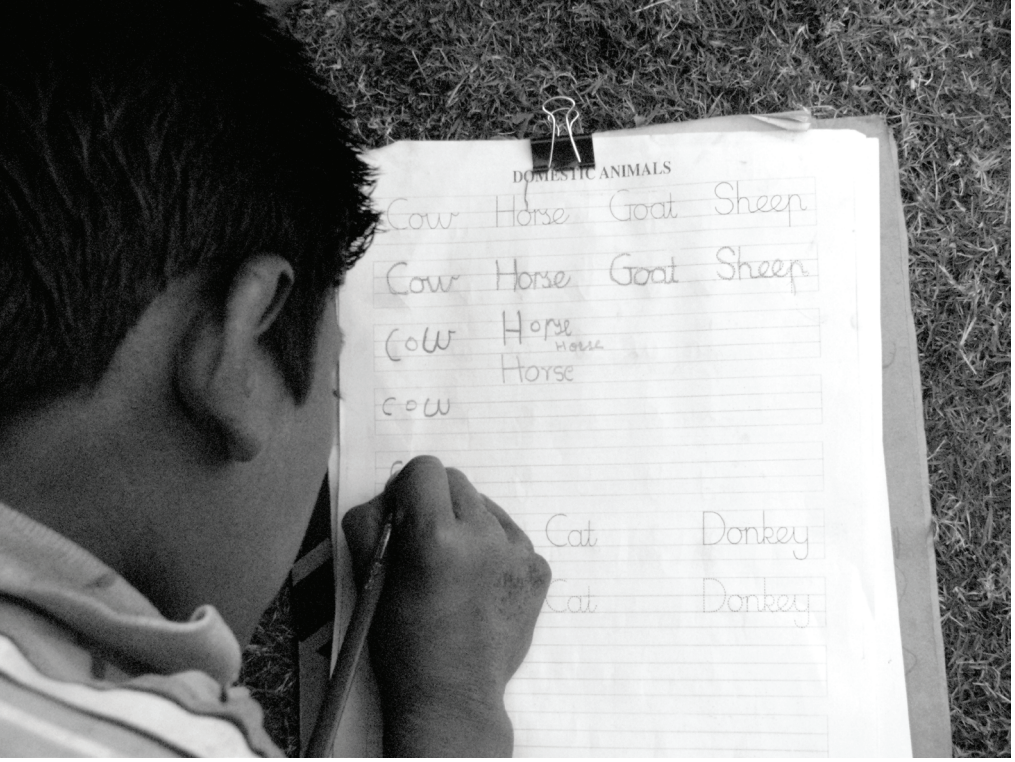
By Krishna Anujan

As a general rule, clubs and activities at IISER are jinxed and they never last beyond a couple of meetings. They usually fizzle out after giving it a name and including it formally in IISER's activities. This however, is not true about 'Disha'- a student initiative to educate underprivileged children in the slums around the campus, with high ideals. This was started a year ago as a voluntary initiative by a few seniors and was not formally organized into its present form. People joined in mostly by hearing about it through common friends. However, after two semesters of commendable work in the *bastis* of Someshwarwadi - near NCL Innovation Park and a semester at Janwadi - a turn off Senapati Bapat Road, this group decided to formalize their activities at IISER. The aim was also to build a volunteer base and expand to more areas and also to get support from the faculty as well as the administration. This year, it has been integrated with '*Prarambh*', a formal NGO based in IT firms around Pune which teaches students from Municipal schools over the weekend.

"The aim was also to build a volunteer base and expand to more areas and also to get support from the faculty as well as the administration."

In August 2011, the volunteers of Disha organized a meeting for all who were interested, the first of its kind, where a short overview of the activities in the previous year were highlighted and the plan for the coming session was proposed for the existing programmes at Janwadi and Someshwarwadi. Another such programme was launched in the settlement of *Laman Tanda*, socially a very backward area next to Someshwarwadi. The initiatives in all three places involved volunteers spending around an hour and a half each day in a suitable public building with school-going students below 10th standard and teaching them subjects like Mathematics, Science and English with the aim of making them appreciate these disciplines and to spark their curiosity. The current school system is entirely contradictory to this ideology and the teachers find it impossible to keep the enthusiasm levels high in a class of 40 or more kids. The volunteers roughly followed the syllabus followed by the schools but tried to teach the topics in a way that was easily comprehensible and retainable for the kids.

In September, encouraged by an increased volunteer base, Disha decided to take up further activities to increase their visibility and credibility in the areas where they were working. The work went on ambitiously with one activity each month. These activities began on a small-scale in September, with a cleaning drive in the playground and classroom, a *mehandi* competition for girls and sports competitions for boys, an exhibition of arts and crafts by the children, a game of housie for all… IISER was only too happy with the Diwali sweet stalls selling goodies made by a cottage industry for women at Someshwarwadi and it was practically a hotspot during Karavaan. This stall was even manned during the day by a couple of young men from Someshwarwadi which says a lot about



Padho aur badho

their boosted confidence levels.

In October, the volunteers of Disha went on a tour to Vigyan Ashram, an initiative in 'learning while doing' by Dr. Kalbag, a 3-hour drive from Pune. During the visit, the 20-odd volunteers who had gone, watched a documentary which was made about Dr. Kalbag and the commendable work done for the development of the adjoining rural areas at Vigyan Ashram. The students who reside in the place get to learn hands-on science and technology which has strong relevance to agriculture and its modernization. We saw a few cost-efficient and practical harvesting machines, which help improve the yield significantly, developed by a former student at the Ashram and implemented in fields nearby with excellent results. We helped for an hour or two with the manual labour around the place learning how to cut grass, feeding the cattle, planting trees and looking around in the electrical laboratory. At the end of the day, all of us had a few lessons to take back home and implement.

In November, as part of children's day celebrations, Disha organized one-day Science camps at the three locations where classes were being held - Janwadi, Someshwarwadi and *Laman Vasti*. The camp was planned to be full of fun, Science and games. The morning session saw a demonstration by a member of Arvind Gupta's team who showed the kids how to use commonly available materials to make science toys and games. The children were highly enthused by this and competed with each other in the next session when they were allowed to make these on their own. Post lunch, there were different sessions for older and younger kids. The older children were taught how to use a digital camera and a photography competition was held. The younger children were given an option between *Bandhani* and clay modeling. After the workshop where they experimented on different material, they displayed their works of art in an exhibition. The smallest of the lot had loads of fun during the treasure hunt and obstacle relays where there were plenty of prizes to be won! At the end of the day, everyone was exhausted but the efforts put in to conduct this were appreciated by many in the community.

From the beginning of this spring-summer semester, Disha has taken the advice of a few people and begun a class for the children of the construction workers in the campus who are primarily migrants without proper paperwork. Their children, if not educated, also inescapably fall into the same labour. Classes are held every evening near the Mendeleev block for a handful of children who have joined these sessions. This programme has received much appreciation and support from the administration and faculty as well as the construction company. The numbers of students are also increasing each day.

This dynamic project expands continuously with inputs and active participation across batches. As part of the newest campaign, Disha has set up a trust fund run on donations from students and researchers to buy stationery and learning material for students. Further plans for expansion include a weekend intensive activity sessions in village schools, a training camp for volunteers and a summer workshop for those interested in social causes at India's largest NGO. A little love, a little hope and quite a bit of dedication can go a long way indeed!



A smelly affair

By Siddharth B Iyengar

The paper recycling bins prepared by volunteers

Garbage, waste, trash, junk, rubbish.

Stuff we never like to think about yet generate so much of all the time. It's all just collected into a bag and dumped on the street. Someone else comes along and picks it up; it travels a few dozen kilometres, and ends up as another mote in a huge landfill, something city-dwellers seldom see. This is a very dirty and dangerous system; one that is not sustainable at all.

IISER too produces its share of waste. We can't really do anything about the stuff which comes from the labs (potentially toxic or harmful), but we can do something about the large amount of waste generated in the hostel and cafeteria. A group of environmentally conscious students got together last semester and started thinking about how we could pay more respect to our garbage, and make something useful come out of it. With some dynamic leadership from the 2010 batch, and advice and active participation from Dr. Anirban Hazra and Dr. Deepak Barua, we set about identifying causes to work on. First, to connect with our subject, we spent a Monday afternoon sorting through five bags of garbage (roughly one day's worth of waste) at HR4. It was quite interesting, with old chappals, some battered teacups and even unused packets of pasta turning up. The bulk of the garbage was paper, plastic and multi-laminates (tetra-paks, biscuit wrappers etc.), and since food and dry waste were mixed, it was quite a smelly affair.

The kind of stuff that goes into a dustbin



The lowest hanging fruit was the massive quantities of paper that is generated by the students studying very hard throughout the year. After scouting out for good boxes, we set up a system of smart looking recycle bins all over the Sai Trinity building and the hostels, where people can put in used paper. These are regularly emptied and then sorted by student volunteers. One-sided paper is collected and funnelled to the activities of Disha, the student organization that works for the betterment of primary education, while completely used paper is kept for eventual recycling.

Our meetings have also generated many more ideas - composting, biogas, recycling metal and plastic, dealing with food-soiled waste, etc. Dr. Rao has been very supportive of these ideas, and we're planning to work together to have a comprehensive waste management plan for the IISER campus. We look forward to finding more solutions for our waste problems in the coming year, and spreading awareness about this within the IISER community.



The Girl who picked the Eagle's Nest

By V Saudamini

"Hot chocolate and Maggi!", Nima's voice comes floating into our tents, one early morning in Bompu.

“In the summer of 2011, thirteen of us from the 2010 batch accompanied Dr Ramana Athreya to study the flora and fauna of Eaglenest and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly”

Here I am sitting in my room, looking for a perfect beginning to this article, jogging my memory to ferret out dates, when I suddenly realise that the image of Eaglenest in my mind is a collage, not a film roll. It’s been almost a year since that trip, but the memories still overwhelm me, sending a wave of nostalgia and a deep longing to return. They occur in no particular order and their impact varies depending on my mood. Nevertheless, these are events that have left an indelible mark on my life. So, I decide to write this article as a collage - a collage of beautiful, silly, life-altering experiences in Eaglenest.

‘Hot chocolate and Maggi!’, Nima’s voice comes floating into our tents, one early morning in Bompu. Some of us buy into his diabolical trick and wake up eagerly, only to be bitterly disappointed. ‘Piri-la! Piri-la! Piri-la!’, Nima again. Piri-la Top (also known as Bra Top) - our destination for today and the reason for so much clamour on an otherwise peaceful morning. For the next few hours all eighteen of us could be found on different elevations, me being at the lowest one, making our way to the Top. And man! Was the climb worth it! I recall the last leg of the trek, standing in the warm sunshine alone, grateful for being last, surrounded by short trees bearing orange blossoms, their branches forming a welcoming arch above me, and crying – crying at the sheer beauty of it all. This particular image, fast fading from my memory, is something I want to hold on to desperately.

The shift of our base from Lama Camp to Bompu resulted in the seven of us, led by Aamod, making this transition on foot. The journey was twenty kilometres long and I remember completing it in four hours (or was it six?) and not being the last one to reach! There were quite a few ‘20-km-walks’ for some of us after that, but this was our first. I remember two events vividly... *We have just reached Sunderview Camp and are waiting for the lunch to be prepared, when all of a sudden Prathamesh spots a dark cloud rising and drifting towards us. Within seconds we hear the distinct buzzing of a huge swarm of bees making its way towards us. A yell from Aamod, ‘Inside, all of you!’, a scramble to get on our feet, a rush of air across our faces followed by the relative safety of the makeshift kitchen (a few bees did stray in).* If this was a scare, then Sreevani and I can never forget the anxiety gripping us all the way from Sunderview to Chakoo. Our journey was peppered with stories of Aamod’s encounters with wild elephants and fresh elephant tracks and dung. Sree Vani and I who were bringing up the rear were terrified, to say the least (especially after I remarked ‘I think I heard an elephant trumpet’). I didn’t think adrenaline could be pumped for that long in anyone’s blood. No wonder we reached Bompu earlier than expected! (And despite what others say, I really did hear an elephant!)

The star of Bompu had to be the Green Rat Snake that basked in the attention showered on it by each one of us, remaining a ‘perfect gentleman’ all the while. *“Hey, it’s breathing!”, I exclaim, as the snake coils up in my hands and does not stir at all after that.*



Keeping the obviousness of that interjection aside, the feel of its thick, scaly skin rising and falling against my palms was just amazing. I remember Meghana describing with much feeling, the time she held the first lizard we found at Lama Camp and felt its tiny heart, beat against her fingers. This feeling of amazement and wonder was brought upon by the realisation that we were actually holding life in our hands - a fellow creature in a different guise. Try doing this and you'll never think of frogs, lizards, geckos, snakes and scores of other creepy crawlies as repulsive.

The stories go on - spotting the moon for the first time since our arrival in Eaglenest, resplendent in the sky next to the watch tower in Chakoo; waking up to a cheerfully sunny morning at 5:30 am, looking out of the open tent flap to catch my first glimpse of the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas; staring at the blanket of stars enveloping us, on our first night in Lama Camp; squishing and getting squished in the pick-up truck; the gigantic *Atlas* moth; Kesang (the master chef) singing 'Seela ki jawani'; spotting a huge hornbill; waking up to bloody toes (leech attack); showing off our Kurki and Damdoom bites as battle scars; Bharat's (a local field assistant) 'pyaara didi'; photographing the moth screen in heavy rain; the leeches and the fireflies at Sessni; the amazing feeling of isolation in the middle of nowhere; the blackness of the forests at night and the nights kept warm by the fire, the hot chocolate, the companionship and the camaraderie.

The twenty-one day stay at Eaglenest gave me a fresh perspective to life. We were returning to our camp at Bompu, one night, after the usual sampling of spiders, frog calls and moths. It was around midnight and I was swaying in the pick-up truck (it is impossible not to), staring at one particular star that I could see clearly. We hadn't had a bath in days, hadn't combed our hair and hadn't seen ourselves in the mirror since our arrival. We had no idea how we looked and none of us cared. We had no idea of what was going on in the world outside, and none of us were curious. None of us, at that moment, had any





The crazy bunch - Sree Vani, Neha, me, Krishna, Meghana, Abinand, Kshiti, Niharika and Abhilesh. Missing from the action are Shailendra, Anurag, Prathamesh and Ravindra, who was busy photographing our antics



idea of the number of days that had gone by since we had arrived, the number of days left for our stay, what time it was, or what day of the week it was, and none of us wanted to know. All my apprehensions before the trip, all my worries of the future, all the little things that bothered me regularly, all of them dissolved into inconsequence. They seemed small and not worth the amount of space they occupied in my mind. At that moment I realised that for the first time in my life I was truly living in the present. I wasn't worried about yesterday or tomorrow, but was taking one moment at a time and living it. A tiny smile sprung on my lips and I faced this realisation with a calm I struggle to find in my day-to-day life.

Somewhere out there, my friends, are places that are beautiful. Places difficult to imagine when there are people and automobiles milling around you. Places, incomparable in grandeur, filling you with a sense of awe and calm at the same time. I have witnessed one such place. Sitting here in my room, this place seems far away, its existence resembling a myth. Yet, I know I have been a part of its existence and this knowledge, I will cherish forever...

(Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. In the summer of 2011, thirteen of us from the 2010 batch accompanied Dr. Ramana Athreya to study the flora and fauna of Eaglenest and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly.)

(Photos by: Ravindra and Abinand)

Trails, tales, tails and travails

By Neha M



After hours of juggling around with four bags all around Delhi; being squeezed into a sumo which already had ten other people (no complaints!); getting stuck in a tiny village because of a landslide, driving through the steep and narrow hair-pin bends of the world's tallest mountain ranges, the Himalayas, for nearly two whole days; I stood, on top of the terrace of the guest house, admiring the beauty of the snow-capped mountains of the trans-Himalayan district of Spiti. The earlier mentioned discomforts were forgotten immediately - the place was worth it all and more!

With more snowfall than rainfall and with more peaks above 4500m than below, Spiti is a high-altitude cold desert with hardly any vegetation, let alone trees. With the altitude come the freezing temperature and much worse- altitude sickness! After taking a short break (necessary for acclimatization) at a much lower altitude, we left for our base camp village- Kibber. This village gets the credit of being the highest motorable village in the world (courtesy: Google), standing tall at 4200m, surrounded by much taller peaks. Being a big village for Spiti-an standards, it has about 80 odd houses, one of which became our residence for the following two months.

After a day of rest, we went for short walks to get to know the people and the terrain. Though no one mentioned it, all of us were on a mission to spot the spotted king of the mountains - the snow leopard, lurking somewhere in the rocky gorges. However, the snow leopard was not the only thing to look out for. We saw herds of blue sheep and ibex grazing in the pastures. They are excellent climbers and can easily climb up and down the steepest gorges in a way that could put any mountaineer to shame. On these short trips we encountered a lot of other animals like the skink (a lizard like creature) and a lot of birds including the awesome threesome- the Himalayan Griffon, the Lammergeyer and the Golden Eagle. Generally, such trips were very informative because we got to know not only about the flora and fauna of Spiti but also about a lot of pressing issues in Conservation Science.

Returning back to the base camp was always nice as it meant good food, talking to the local people



The Jatayu of the Himalayas

and on a few lucky days (when both the weather and electricity were in our favour) watching movies. When we were not doing any of the above, we would stand on the terrace with a spotting scope and scan every visible bit of the mountain with the hope of seeing a dark black dot moving out on the white snow or a moving rock with a long tail against a rocky background. However, the snow leopard would not appear anywhere.

Once our RBCs had increased (well acclimated to that altitude), we started going out for some 'serious' field work which turned out to be a lot of fun because of our field assistants who were always willing to help, teach and entertain us and made even the long tiring uphill climbs lively (believe me there is nothing lively about it- every five steps you have to stop and pant like a dog!). Few of these were away from Kibber, so we had to travel in the state transport buses. The bus journeys always amused me because everyone in the bus seemed to know everyone else! On reaching the destination, we would be taken to some house in the village (and on demand explained the long relation between the owner of the house and some person in Kibber) and be allowed to make food for ourselves. A visit to any house in Spiti is not complete until you have had a cup of tea or sometimes several. People are very hospitable and friendly and I mention this particular incident because it is not what you expect from a field trip- we were camping in a village of four households when we were invited to watch an IPL semi-final match at one of the houses and also were offered food and tea to enjoy during the match. When you consider getting to watch a movie on the laptop as a luxury, getting to watch a live match is outstanding.

"The bus journeys always amused me because everyone in the bus seemed to know everyone else!"

On a more serious note, we had to climb up and down the slopes and look for snow leopard scat and note down its GPS location, which when put together and analysed would give an idea of the spatial distribution of the snow leopards. On the



A common canid in Kibber

other hand, we had to visit different villages and interview people to get to know about their attitude towards the wild carnivores in the region. It was an interesting exercise as we got to interact directly with the local people, which helped to get a better idea of the tradition and culture of the place and also connect with the place better. We then got to do some core Ecology field experiments on the plants' species. That is when I realised how rich the flora of the region was (not like the rain forests but definitely above expectation for a desert). Summer is the most happening time in Kibber or at least it felt so. A lot of scientists visited Spiti during our stay there and one of them even conducted a nature camp that we got to be a part of. It was an eye-opening experience for a city-person like me as I learnt to observe, admire and feel close to nature.

After two months of constant searching for the 'ghost of the snow', we found all the signs of its presence but not the animal itself. However, we got to spot two Tibetan wolves enjoying their kill. It felt like getting a consolation prize because everyone else who travelled with us caught a glimpse of the snow leopard.

Two months of mountain life taught me a whole lot of survival skills, to be close to nature and observe every detail of it (really… I see a lot more birds these days. I am sure they existed before!), developed a different way of looking at issues (and not to forget- I learnt Hindi!). Above all, it helped me take a few life changing decisions. It made me realise that high altitude is the place for me except for the low oxygen!

(Photos by: Nisarg Desai)

Spitian Valley of Flowers





Of songs, trumpets and pecks

By Alisha and Rachana

Photo by: Nisarg Desai

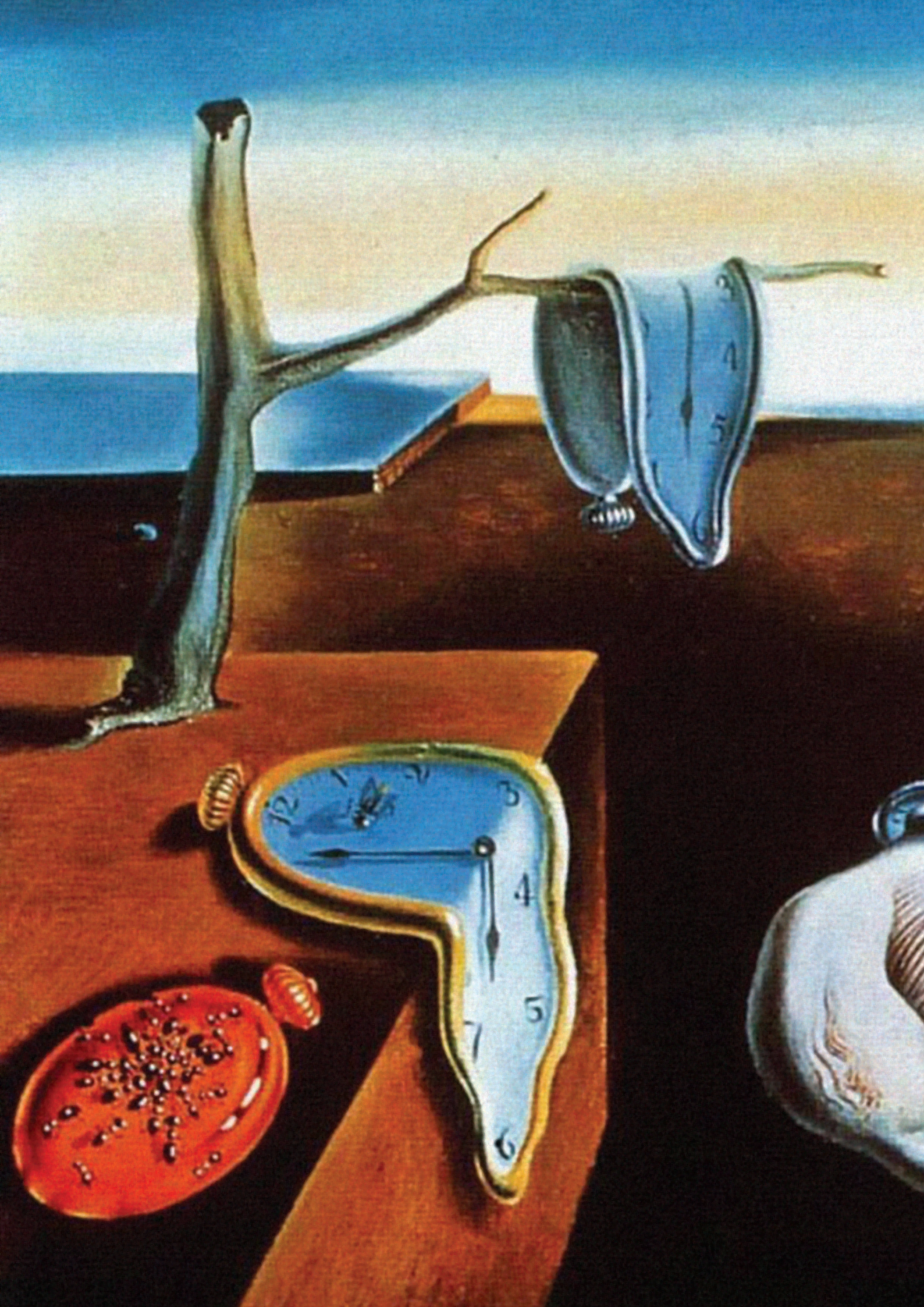
The woodpecker pecking on wood silenced the banter after 10 minutes. 3 minutes later the tiny cicadas did what the woodpeckers couldn't And if none of the above worked, the elephant trumpets came to time's rescue 2 minutes after that!

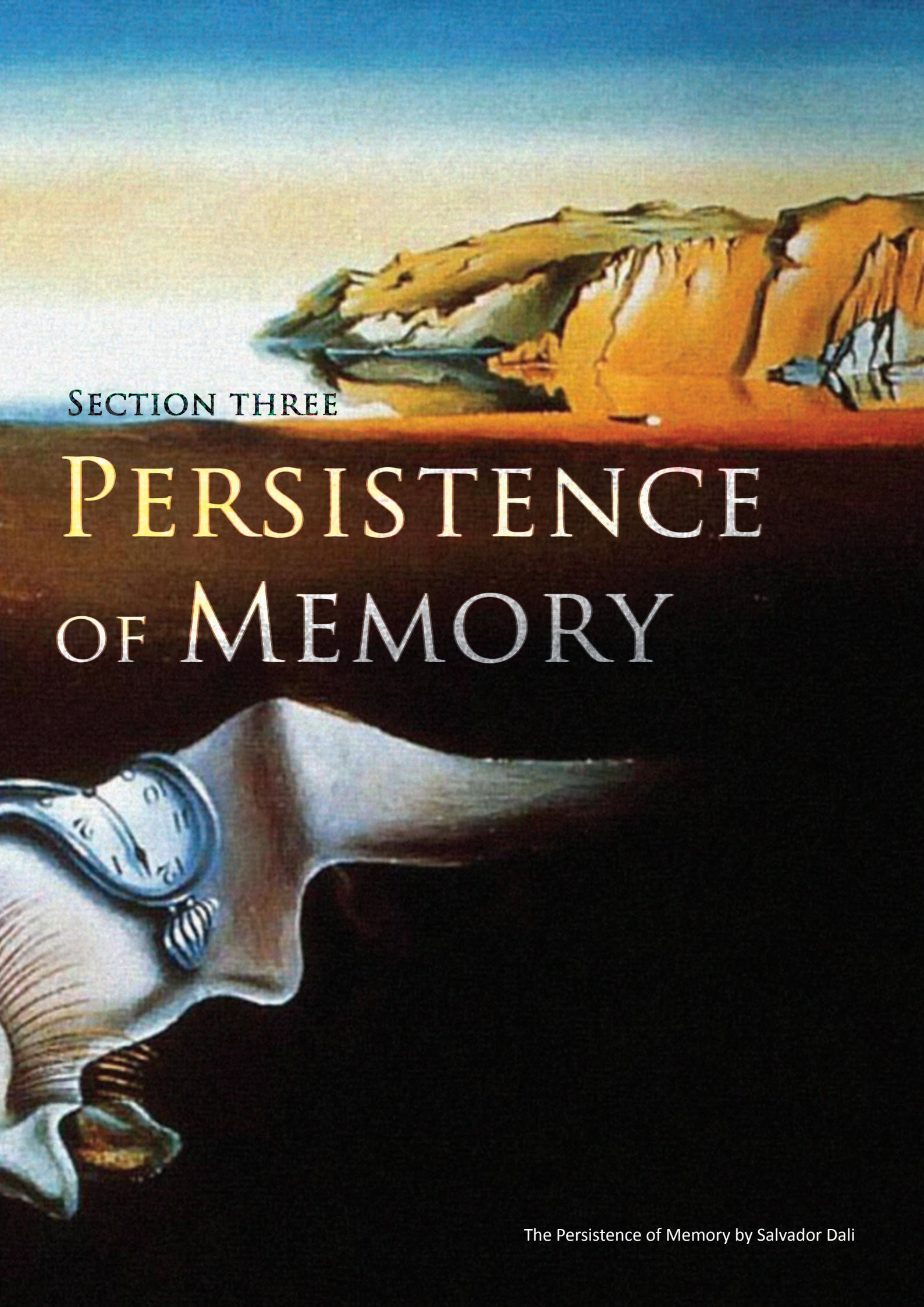
If you have confused this for a sanctuary or an amusement park or even a jungle-themed restaurant, allow me to disappoint you because the J. N. Tata Auditorium at IISc, Bangalore is none of the above. The animal calls in the auditorium were a rather innovative way of ensuring that none of the presentations at SCCS -2011, exceeded their allotted time of 15 minutes.

The 4th edition of the Students' Conference for Conservation Sciences (SCCS) - Asia chapter, organised from 14th -16th Sept, 2011, in Bangalore, was a place where a dozen IISER Pune students and about 400 more participants from across Asia gathered for their love of Conservation science, ecology, the host city or even to escape the hostel mess food.

In spite of its informal approach, the conference retained its deep concern - with the students and scientists, alike, expressing their views on conservation with infectious energy. The student presentations described their work regarding various aspects of conservation - ranging from endangered species, their habitats and diversity, the conservation landscape and its association with human communities. Learning from the experts through the talks and workshops conducted on communication, adaptive management, genetic studies, data analysis and many more added to our knowledge about the science of conservation. There were poster presentations too, which gave a broad view of the current work being done across Asia. The highlights of SCCS were not just these, but also the opportunity to personally interact with the who's-who in conservation.

With our (the IISER lot) misfit age (SCCS targeted the PhD's and Post Docs more) and not so misfit knowledge, at the end of 3 days, we left the conference with friends across Asia (Networking helps! - Lesson from a Workshop), photographs, memories of the hilarious but honest presentation from a Sri Lankan (I can never forget that), the chirping whistle and, of course, the uber cool water sippers.





SECTION THREE

PERSISTENCE OF MEMORY

The Persistence of Memory by Salvador Dali















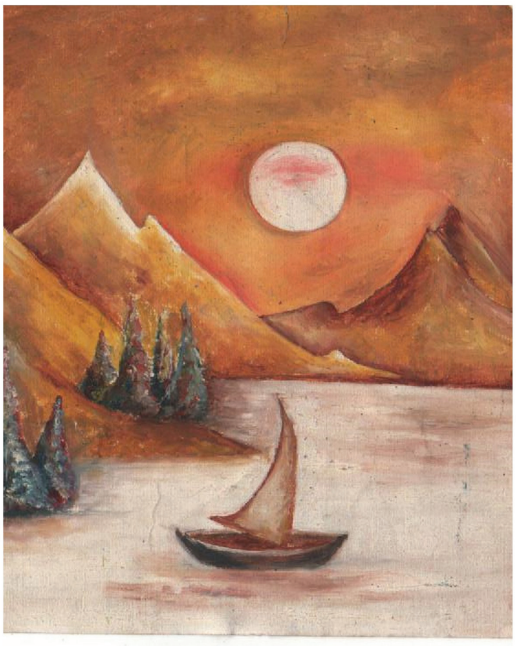
Experimenting with Light

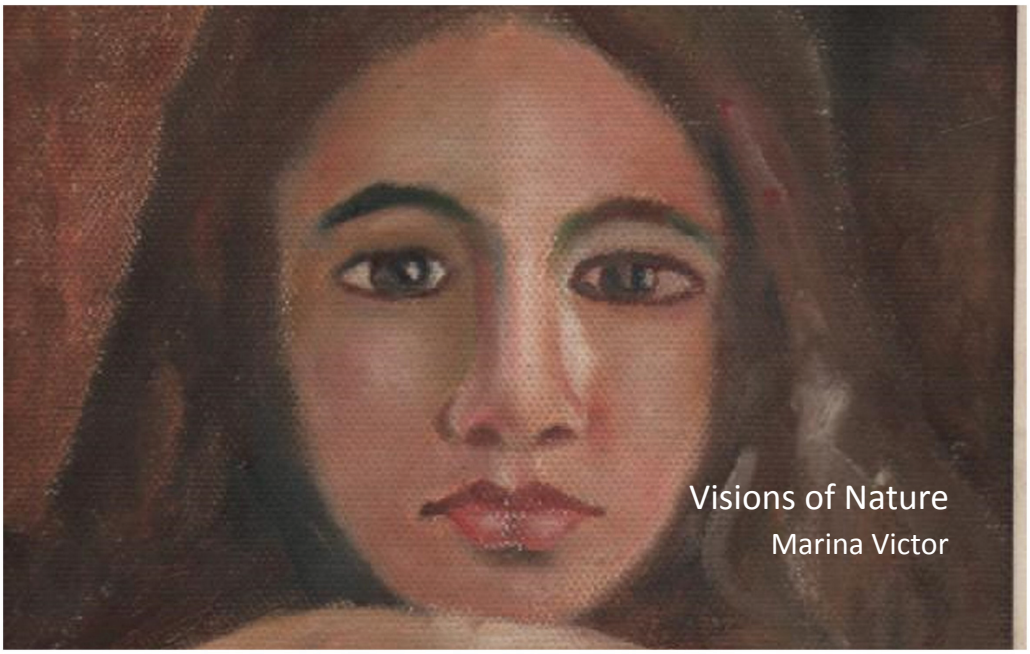
Vishnu K











Visions of Nature

Marina Victor



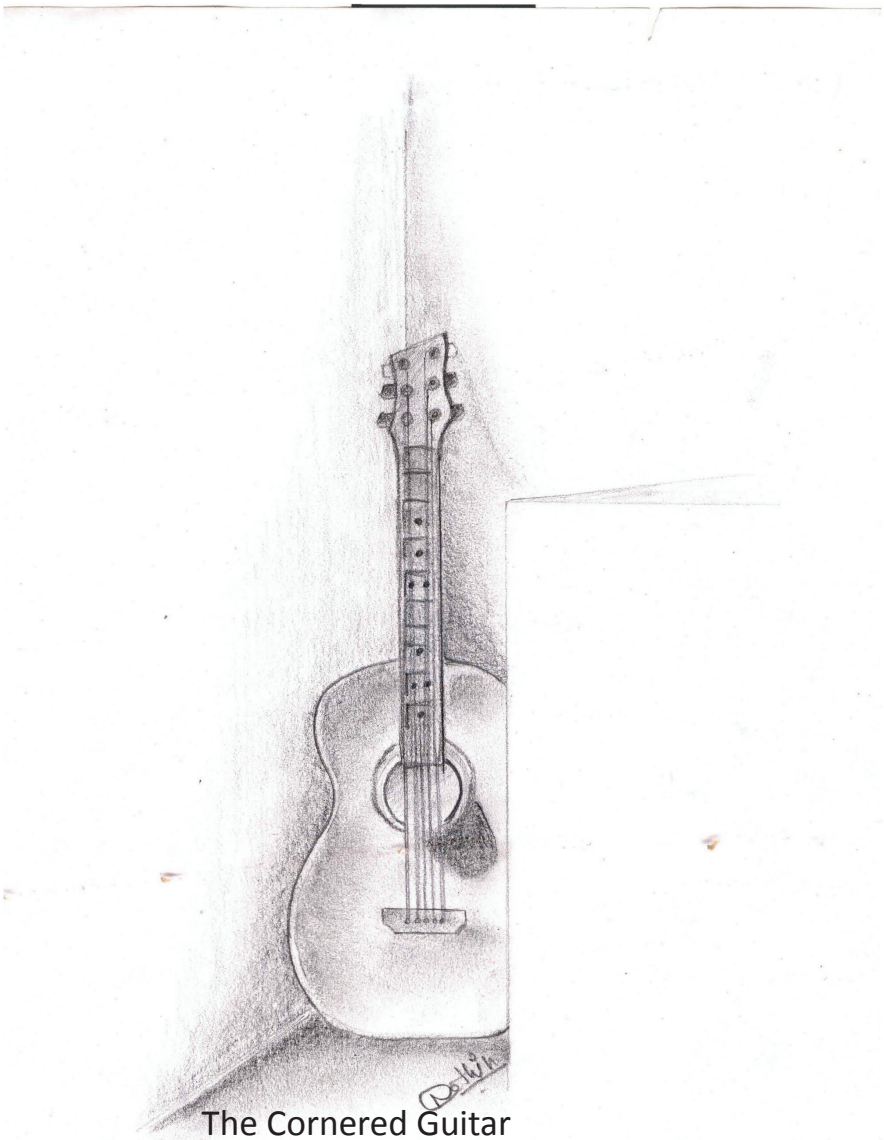




Sketches

Marina Victor





The Cornered Guitar

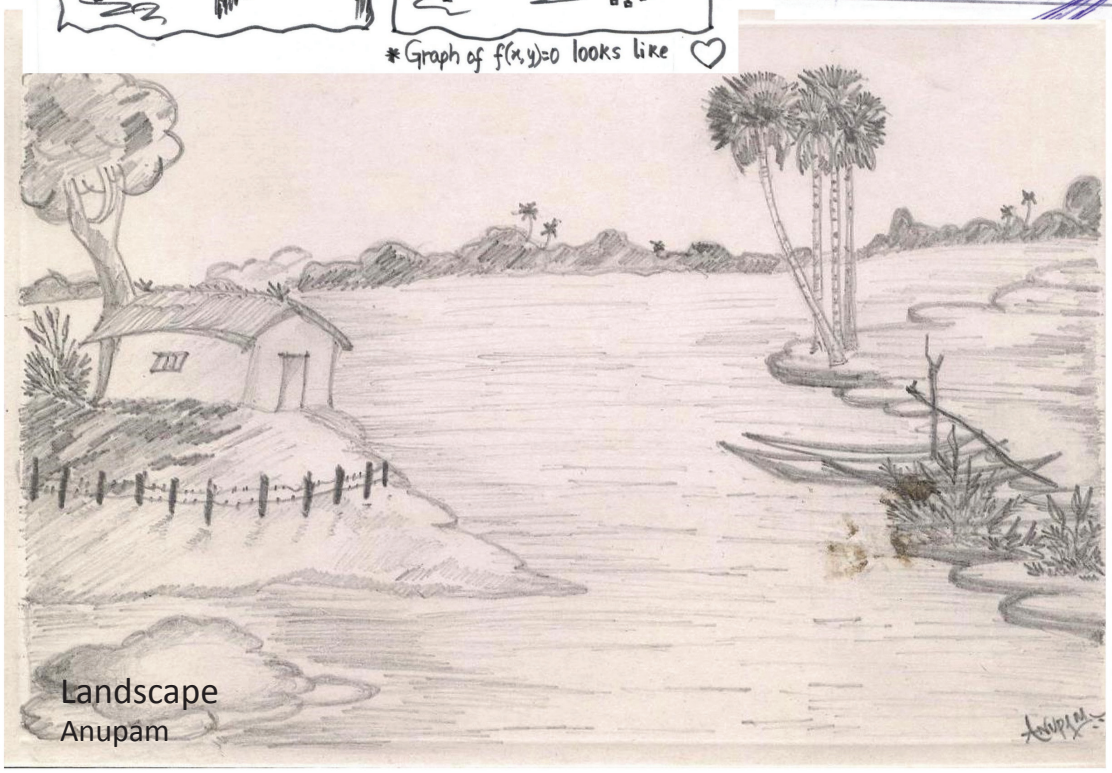
Nithin





Ravindra





Landscape
Anupam



Brownie - The Pup
Niharika Sane


bengali
nglish
arati
indi
annada
alayalam
arathi
nskrit
elugu

Section Four

Mile sur mera tumhara

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.”
-Nelson Mandela

This quote above represents in true sense the spirit of the following section. India is a spectrum comprising innumerable colours - an assorted motley of countless regions, religions, rituals, traditions, festivals, eccentricities, hopes, dreams and, well, languages. Languages, that have, in the past, caused rifts and in the present, have resulted in biases and stereotypes. Languages that, despite all of this, bind us to our roots, all the while reminding us that we are tied together by a single bond – our Motherland. IISER Pune could be called a mini-India of sorts albeit with skewed representations. Hence it is only natural for its annual magazine to accept contributions in the major languages of India. For the students to read and express in their mother tongues, we present to you a collage of articles in 9 different languages – an expression of their diversity and a venture to unite. Different notes, one tune.

...toh sur bane hamara!

महत्तरः कः?

राधिका रविकुमार

Mahattarah kaha? *(Who is greater?)*

This story is about a conference organized by a Mathematician, to which the numbers zero to nine were invited. However, all numbers except zero arrived for the conference. Noticing his absence, the others started looking for zero. When zero was finally found and questioned, he expressed the condescending opinion of the other valued numbers toward him, forced him to remain absent. In order to showcase the importance of zero in mathematics, the mathematician demonstrated how the transition for single digits to higher values would not have been possible if not for zero.

There lies a hidden message in the story which says that, there exists no syllable which is not a part of the scriptures, no plant which cannot be used for medication and no person who is useless. To realize one's ability and to put them into use is what is of utmost importance.

- Radhika .R

बहुकालप्राक् सर्वे सङ्ख्याः एकस्मिन् देशे वसन्ति स्माते साऽन्योन्यमेव क्रीडन्ति, खादन्ति, स्वपन्ति च स्म। तेषां नामानि एकोनः, द्विदासः, त्रिगर्तः, चतुरेन्द्रः, पञ्चशीलः, षड्कः, सप्तशक्तः, अष्टरिपुः, नवनीतः, शून्येशः, चेति। एकस्मिन्नहनि गणाचार्यो नाम एकः प्रसिद्धः गणितज्ञः सर्वान् संख्यान् सम्मेलनार्थं स्वस्य गृहमामन्त्रितवान्। तैः नियुक्तस्थले समये आगतं च। यदा सभारंभोऽभवत्, अष्टरिपुः उक्तवान्, " भोः! किं युष्माभिः शून्येशः दृष्टम् वा?" इति। नवनीतोऽवदत्, "क्वचित् समयपूर्वमेव अस्माभिः सह आसीत्। अधुना कुत्र गतवान् सः?" इति।

इदम् श्रुत्वा गणाचार्यः, "अलम् चर्चया। वयं सर्वे अन्वेषणं कुर्मः। सः अत्रैव कुत्रचित् स्यात्" इत्यवदत्। अतःसर्वे शून्यं प्रतिदिशम् अन्वेशितुमारब्धाः। स्वल्पकालपर्यन्तं चतुरेन्द्रः विटपान्तरितं शून्यं दृष्ट्वा, तं गणितज्ञस्य गृहं गन्तुं प्रेरितवान्।

तत्रागतं शून्यमाहूय, गणाचार्यः प्रीत्या अपृच्छत्, "किमर्थं गुप्यते त्वया?" इति। साश्रुनयनः शून्येशः अवदत्, "गणिते मम कोऽपि मूल्यं नास्ति, अहं व्यर्थोऽस्मि इति सर्वे कथयन्ति। अहम् अतिदुःखितवानस्मि। अतैव मया भवतः गृहं नागम्यते।" एतत् आकर्ण्य गणितशास्त्रप्रवीणः सः पहस्यावदत्, "त्वं स्वस्य महत्वं न जानासि। अहं अधुनैव दर्शयामि" इति।

सः सप्तशक्तमाहूय सर्वान् तस्य मूल्यमपृच्छत्। "सप्त" इति सर्वे अकथयन्। तदनन्तरं सः शून्येशं सप्तशक्तस्य दक्षिणतः स्थातुमादिशत्। पुनः सः मूल्यम्पृच्छत्। "सप्तैव" इत्यासीत् सर्वेषाम् उत्तरम्। ततः शून्यं सः सप्तशक्तस्य वामतः स्थातुमादिशत्। "इदानीं मूल्यं सप्ततिः" इति सर्वे अकथयन्।

तदा गणितज्ञोऽवाच, "शून्यस्य सहायतयैव युष्माभिः मौल्यम् वर्धतीति। अतः शून्यः मौल्यहीनः न, अपितु तेन विना गणितशास्त्रः अपूर्णः।

अथोऽक्तम् –

॥ नाक्षरं मन्त्रहीनं नमूल्यंनौषधिम्।
अयोग्यः पुरुषः नास्ति योजकस्तत्रमुख्यम्॥



वेदना की सीख

बृहस्पति कुमार गौरव

१. थकान इतनी है, जी करे कुछ थाम लूँ, पर सहारा इतना सख़्त नहीं मिलता।
मुकाम अंतिम है क्या, दिल करे सोचूँ, पर मुकम्मल इतना वक्त नहीं मिलता।

२. अकेलेपन की इस दर्दनाक ठण्ड से अकेला ही लड़ता हूँ;
कभी सामाजिकता की चादर, तो कभी प्यार का कंबल ओढ़ता हूँ;
मिलती नहीं ज़रा सी भी राहत, कुछ ज़्यादा ही कम तापमान है;
प्रभु-भक्ति की आग ही शायद इस ठण्ड का अंतिम समाधान है।

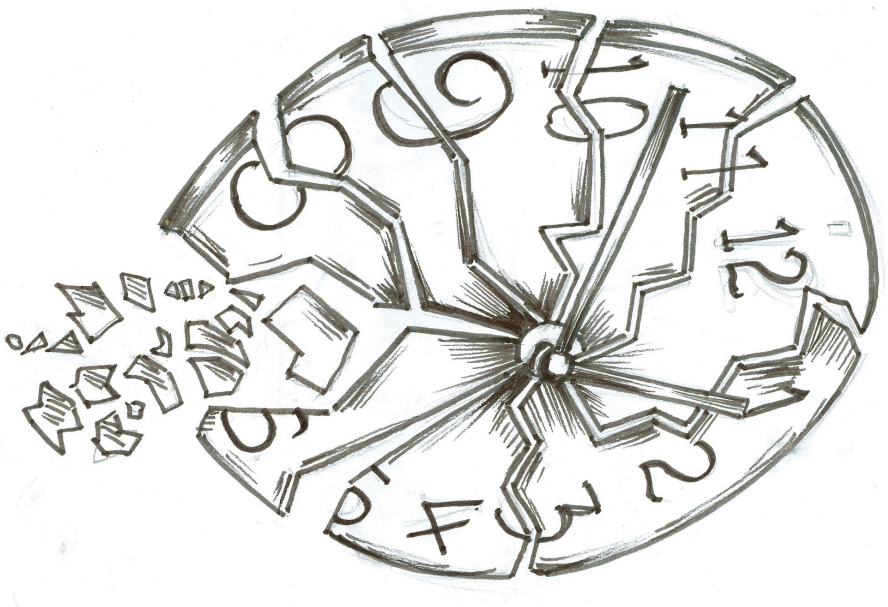
३. घबराहटों की शुरुआत नहीं होती कुछ त्वरित आहटों से;
वे तो दिल के अनजाने कोनों में छुपे हुए डरों की उपज हैं।
जंगों में मुलाकात नहीं होती कुछ राजनैतिक गलतियों से;
वे तो मानसिक पाशविकता के कुछ असर महज़ हैं।



त्रुट्यावृत्ति

बृहस्पति कुमार गौरव

परीक्षा की इस विषम वेला में, परीक्षक की आशा-मर्दन लीला में,
तथ्यों की अकस्मात् विस्मृति से उत्पन्न भय से पीला-पीला मैं
खिन्न होकर सोचता हूँ, क्यों न लड़ा उस आलस्य से,
छिन्न-भिन्न कर झुका दिया जिसने अपने प्राबल्य से।
पर न जाने क्यों यह शोकानुभूति लगती जानी-पहचानी है।
याद आया, यह तो पिछले अर्धवर्ष की दोहराती कहानी है।
अब तो चिंता चौगुनी और वेदना विदीर्णकारिणी हो गई।
अनुभवोपरांत भी सुधार नहीं! समस्या बहुरंगिणी हो गई।
उफ़! यह हानि सह-सहकर भी न सुधरने की विनाशकारी आदत;
आतंकवादी हमले सह-सहकर भी जैसे शांति-वार्ता करता है भारत;
जैसे वर्षों पराधीन रहकर भी स्वसंस्कृति का होता तिरस्कार;
जैसे बार-बार मुँहकी खाकर भी नष्ट न हो पाता अहंकार;
जैसे अगणित मौतें देखकर भी जीवन-क्षणभंगुरता का न होता भान;
जैसे कोटि-कोटि जन्म लेकर भी परमार्थ-पथ का न होता ज्ञान।
भौतिकता से आध्यात्मिकता तक इस आदत की काली छाया है।
इस पर विजयी हुए बिना कभी साफल्य कहाँ किसने पाया है?
हे ईश्वर! कृपया मुझे ऐसी स्मृति, ऐसी एकाग्रता दो,
की हुई गतिविधियाँ याद रहें, त्रुटियाँ न दोबारा हों;
कि पश्चातापाग्नि त्रुटि की हर आवृत्ति के साथ तीव्रतर हो जाती है;
एक बार जलना तो सह्य है, बार-बार की जलन असह्य हो जाती है।



अनजान आँखे

नवीन कुमार

दो दिल एक-दूसरे से मिलने को बेकरार हैं,
दो मन एक हो जाने को तैयार हैं;
वो आँखों ही आँखों से कुछ कहना चाहती है,
फिर भी मेरी आँखें, ये जानकर भी अनजान रह जाती हैं।

कुछ कहना है, शायद उसको,
मेरी आँखों में डुब जाना है उसको;
पर न जाने क्यूँ वो चुप रह जाती है,
फिर भी मेरी आँखें, ये जानकर भी अनजान रह जाती हैं।

उसके चेहरे पे एक ख़ामोशी नज़र आती है,
उसकी ये ख़ामोशी एक कहानी लिख जाती है;
एक-दूसरे के इंतज़ार में पूरा दिन कट जाता है,
फिर भी मेरी आँखें, ये जानकर भी अनजान रह जाती हैं।

प्यारी-सी मुस्कान है, उसके चेहरे पे,
कुछ लफ्ज़ छुपे हुए हैं, उसके होठों पे;
वो अपने लफ्ज़ों को होठों पे लाना चाहती है,
फिर भी मेरी आँखें, ये जानकर भी अनजान रह जाती हैं।

पता नहीं क्यूँ, हर गाना तराना लगने लगा उसे,
आजकल हर मौसम सुहाना लगने लगा उसे;
इशारे ही इशारे से अपने पास बुलाना चाहती है,
फिर भी मेरी आँखें, ये जानकर भी अनजान रह जाती हैं।

उसके बिना हर वक्त, बेगाना लगने लगा,
उसे ही देख-देख कर मैं ज़िन्दगी जीने लगा;
इसी इंतज़ार मे पूरी उम्र गुज़र जाती है,
फिर भी मेरी आँखें, ये जानकर भी अनजान रह जाती हैं।

विज्ञान की ऐसी की तैसी

नवीन कुमार

जो कभी नहीं देता हमें ज्ञान,
जो भटकाता रहता है हर वक्त हमारा ध्यान;
ज़िंदगी के हर मोड़ पे करता है सब परेशान,
उसे मैं अपनी भाषा में कहता हूँ विज्ञान ।

क्या कहूँ मैं दोस्तों तुमसे अपना हाल,
इस विज्ञान के चक्कर में ज़िंदगी हो गई हलाल;
अक्सर मैं सोचता हूँ क्यूँ देता हूँ इसपे इतना ध्यान,
जिसे मैं अपनी भाषा में कहता हूँ विज्ञान ।

न जाने अबतक इसने कितने पागल पैदा किये,
इसके चपेट में नॉर्मल भी ऐबनॉर्मल बन गये;
किसी न किसी रूप में जो लेता रहता हैं इंसानों की जान,
उसे मैं अपनी भाषा में कहता हूँ विज्ञान ।

न गर्लफ्रेंड न फ़ेसबुक न ट्विटर न ऑर्कुट,
जो भी इसके चक्कर में पड़ता है बनता है चिरकुट;
हम लोगों को छोड़कर पागलों को बनाता है महान,
उसे मैं अपनी भाषा में कहता हूँ विज्ञान ।

इतने सारे असाइनमेंट्स न जाने कितने क्विज़,
जो करते हैं हर वक्त हमें कन्फ्यूज़;
जिसे पढ़कर आजतक कोई बना नहीं है तीसमार खान,
उसे मैं अपनी भाषा में कहता हूँ विज्ञान ।

अब और सहा नहीं जाता,
गर्लफ्रेंड के बिना रहा नहीं जाता;
इसके चक्कर में निकल रही है जान,
उसे मैं अपनी भाषा में कहता हूँ विज्ञान ।

मेरी बात मानो तो वो वक्त अब दूर नहीं,
इंसान तो क्या परिंदे भी नज़र नहीं आयेंगे कहीं;
डाइनामाईट और ऐटमबम सब इसी की है दान,
उसे मैं अपनी भाषा में कहता हूँ विज्ञान ।

अब वक़्त आ गया है मेरे दोस्तों दुनिया बचाने का,
विज्ञान की इस फ़िज़ूल बात को छोड़ गर्लफ्रेंड पटाने का;
तभी तो मैं कहता हूँ हटा दो इससे अपना सारा ध्यान,
उसे मैं अपनी भाषा में कहता हूँ विज्ञान ।

ये प्यारी सी ज़िंदगी फिर न मिलेगी कभी,
जो कुछ भी करना है कर लो आज या अभी;
इसके चक्कर में न जाये कहीं चेहरे की आखिरी मुस्कान,
उसे मैं अपनी भाषा में कहता हूँ विज्ञान ।।

अन् ती ही न थांबताच निघाली

व्यंकटगिरी

येईल तो पावसाळा...
जरा वाट बघूया...
म्हणुनी,
थांबलो त्या रानावरती...

उनाड तसाच,
उजाड तसाच.....

निजणारी ती पाखरेही उडाली,
रोज थांबणारी ती,
आज ती ही निघाली...
तशीच.....
रणरणत्या उन्हाची फूस तिला,
चालताना उन्हात,
ती फक्त चालतच राहिली...

एक आस तिथली,
त्या वृक्षाची...
ती आस कशाची,
वेडी ती आशा...
रोज थांबणारी ती,
आज न थांबताच निघाली...
उजाड झाडाखालून,
सावलीही न थांबताच निघाली.

An Ti Hi Na Thambatach Nighali*(Bereavement)*

The poet describes the lament of a tree which does not even have the company of its shadow in the summer, since its leaves have been shed. Metaphorically, he is pointing towards the loneliness felt by a person in the face of difficulty.

-Vyankatesh Rajmane

अजूनही काही बाकी आहे

रश्मी

Ajunahi Kahi Baki Aahe*(Looking Back)*

This is a poem about rediscovering life. We leave our dreams behind in the quest to achieve money, position etc. which is success for many people. But the true sense of happiness is still missing. There is a need to stop and think about what the real meaning of our life is. The poet feels that sometimes it is important to listen to what our heart says. She feels that by slowing down in this rat race, shall help us rediscover those people, situations and dreams that were lost somewhere in the past.

-Rashmi Kulkarni

अजूनही काही बाकी आहे
ते क्षण सोनेरी
ओंजळीतून सुटलेले
निसटलेले
त्यांची किरणे होणे बाकी आहे.

धूसर धूसर दिशा
कधी भटकलेल्या,
कधी भेटलेल्या,
कधी दुरूनच पाहिलेल्या,
त्यांची वाट होणे बाकी आहे.

तेच रस्ते, तीच गावे
तेच चेहरे ओळखीचे
आपलेच एक
अनोळखी अस्तित्व शोधणे बाकी आहे.

कधी राहून गेलेल्या
कधी राहू दिलेल्या
कधी सुप्तपणे कुरवाळलेल्या
आकांक्षा –
अजून आयुष्यावर ओवाळून टाकणे बाकी आहे.

केलेल्या चुका,
मिळालेल्या सजा,
फेकलेले शब्द,
झेलले जे भाले
त्यांचा ताळमेळ लागणे अजून बाकी आहे.

वळणांना वळणं भेटली
तीच पुन्हा पूर्वीची
थांब अजूनही...
पुन्हा एकदा
जगणं मनभर पसरणं बाकी आहे

किशोरवय

प्रसेनजीत कावळे

का कधी कोणी वाटते आपलेसे
ज्याची मारलेली मिठी अजूनही आठवते

डोळ्यात तरंगती आठवण, कानात वाजते श्वास
स्वप्नातला तो स्पर्श, जागेपणी लागलेला ध्यास

बागेतील ते आसन
सोबत घालवलेले क्षण

घट्ट पकडलेला तो हात, शांततेतली ती भिती
गार सांजवेळी रात, तरी तळवे झाली ओली

जमतं का रे तुलाही ह्या आठवणीत रमायला
वेळ मिळतो का कधी आपला फोटो काढून पहायला
वेडच्या ह्या मनाला समजावे तरी कसे
का कधी कोणी आपले नसूनही वाटते आपलेसे

***Kishorvay**(Teenage)*

The poem describes the feelings of a young girl who is in love. She reminisces their previous meeting with fondness. Her thoughts dwell on the time spent with him and she wonders if he does the same. The poem creates a vivid image of her emotions that will bring back memories of their first love.

-Prasenjeet Kawale

शब्द ते ...

रुची वासनिक

शब्द सुरेख ते ओठांवर आले
मुखात येता वाचांगत झाले
काय होते मनात काही कळेनासे झाले
शब्द सुरेख ते ओठांवर आले

मनी माझ्या होते ते गुपित बनुनी,
पण आले सामोरी ते वेस लांडुनी
दिव्य सृष्टीत त्यांचे स्वागत झाले
शब्द सुरेख ते ओठांवर आले

घेत होते ते उंच आकाशात भरारी
देत होते ते मला तीक्ष्ण कटारी
दिवसाच्या वाटेवर प्रताप बनुनी चढले
शब्द सुरेख ते ओठांवर आले

दिसे आज मला विश्वात ज्योती
जणू सागरात सापडला मोती
पक्ष्यांचे स्वर साद देण्यास गुंग झाले
शब्द सुरेख ते ओठांवर आले

***Shabda Te...**(Words)*

The feeling of freedom the poet experiences when her thoughts leave the confines of her mind and come out as words gives her immense joy. In this poem, she compares this feeling of ecstasy and the satisfaction of sharing those words with others by comparing them to several aspects of nature.

-Ruchi Wasnik

पोटफोड्या 'ष'

मिहीर कुलकर्णी

Potfodya Sha
(The alphabet 'Sha')

Sometime or the other, we all have wondered about the existence and presence of the letter **ष** *.This article is about the so called 'Shatkon Sha'. Its occurrences, and its special position in Marathi is explained in this article.*

-Mihir Kulkarni

पहिलीत असतानाचा प्रसंग. पणजोबांकडे संस्कृत श्लोक म्हणायला जायचो. पहिल्याच दिवशी ते म्हणाले, ''अनुनय मपनय विष्णो,'' मी त्यांच्या पाठोपाठ म्हणालो ''अनुनय मपनय विश्णो''. ते म्हणाले विश्णो नव्हे 'विष्णो'. बराच वेळ डोके घासूनही मला दोन्हींमधील फरक कळला नव्हता. अनेक जणांना लहानपणी (आणि कदाचित अजूनही) प्रश्न पडला असेल की या दोन्हींच्या उच्चारात नक्की फरक काय? किंवा कशाला ती उगाच एकाच उच्चारासाठी दोन दोन अक्षरे? तेव्हा या पोटफोड्या 'ष' बद्दल थोडी माहिती जाणून घेऊया.

मराठी आणि संस्कृतमध्ये अनेक साम्ये आहेत तसेच अनेक वेगळ्या गोष्टीदेखील आहेत. ज्या गोष्टी सारख्या आहेत त्यातील महत्त्वाची गोष्ट म्हणजे देवनागरी लिपी आणि वर्णमाला. यातूनच मराठीत असलेला पोटफोड्या 'ष'.

संस्कृतमध्ये 'स, श, ष' या तीनही वर्णांचा उच्चार वेगळा होतो. काही भारतीय भाषांमध्ये उच्चारातून तसेच वर्णमालेतूनही यातील एक किंवा दोन गाळले जातात. जसे बांग्लामध्ये 'स, श, ष' यांचा उच्चार 'श' असाच होतो. बिहारमध्ये केवळ 'स' उच्चारला जातो. कोंकणीत उच्चारातही आणि लेखनातही 'ष' नाही. मराठीच्या प्र माणबोलीत संस्कृतप्रमाणेच या तिघांचा उच्चार वेगळा होतो.

'स' चे स्थान 'दंत्य' आहे. म्हणजेच 'स' उच्चारताना जीभ दातांना स्पर्श करते. 'श' चे स्थान 'तालव्य' आहे. म्हणजे जिभेचा स्पर्श टाळूला होतो. तिसरा पोटफोड्या 'ष' आपल्याला जीभ आणखी वर न्यायला लावतो. हा 'मूर्धन्य ष' उच्चारताना आपली जीभ टाळूच्या सगळ्यात वरील भागाला (मुर्धा) स्पर्श करते. यावरून मराठीतील ट, ठ, ड, ढ, ण हे मूर्धन्य वर्ण म्हणजे 'ष' ची भावंडेच. त्यामुळे हा 'ष' आपल्या भावंडांबरोबर (विशेषतः ट, ठ, आणि ण) आपल्याला अनेकदा आढळतो. उदा. अष्ट, कष्ट, चेष्टा, वरिष्ठ, कनिष्ठ, पाषाण, कृष्ण इ हा 'ष' क, प, फ वगैरेंबरोबर देखील दिसतो. जसे निष्कारण, बाष्कळ, पुष्पक, निष्फळ इ.

फारसीत क़, ग़ वगैरेंचा उच्चार करताना जीभ मराठी क, ग च्या मागे न्यावी लागते. कदाचित त्यामुळेच की काय, फारसीत सगळेच जीभ मागे नेऊन उच्चारायचे असते असा मराठी भाषकांचा ग्रह झाला असावा. म्हणूनच फारसीमध्ये 'ष' नसताना देखील काही ठिकाणी फारसी 'श'चे मराठीत 'ष' झालेले आढळते. हिंदी–उर्दूतील चश्मा मराठीत मात्र चष्माच आहे. काही ठिकाणी हुशार, शौक, खुश इ. रूपे अनुक्रमे हुषार, षौक, खुष अशी देखील आढळतात.

ह्या 'ष' बाबतीत सगळ्यात मोठी गंमत म्हणजे अनेक जण स्वतःच्या बोलण्यात काही ठिकाणी 'ष' उच्चारत असले, तरी त्याची त्यांना स्वतःलाच कल्पना नसते.

હું અને મારી ગુજરાતી ભાષા

શર્વરી વડગામા

Hun Ane Mari Gujarati Bhasha
(Gujarati and me)

One of the earliest, strongest and longest-lasting bonds that most people form while growing up is with their mother tongues. However, sadly, with English taking over a huge chunk of language-space in educational institutes, mother tongues are fast losing their value. This heartfelt article is about the author's resilient ties with her mother tongue- Gujarati. It is a tale of how the bond was first forged and how it endures still.

-Sharvaree Vadgama

ચાલો આજે તક મળી ગુજરાતી ભાષાને મળવાની; ફરી મળવાની કહીએ તો પણ ચાલે! હું એમ નથી કહેતી કે મારો ગુજરાતી ભાષા સાથે નાતો નથી, પણ આ નાતો સંજોગ અનુસાર ફેરફાર પામતો ગયો છે.

નાનપણમાં સૌપ્રથમ મા શબ્દથી શરૂઆત થયેલી. મારી ગુજરાતી ભાષા સાથેની દોસ્તી દિવસે–દિવસે ગાઢ થતી ગઈ. વધારે શબ્દો મારી સાથે (મારા કંઠે) જોડાવા લાગ્યા અને હું ગુજરાતી ભાષાને ઓળખવા લાગી. થોડો સમય વીતતા હું ગુજરાતી ભાષાને સમજવા લાગી અને પછી તો તે મારી બહેનપણી બની ગઈ. ગુજરાતીની સાથે સાથે અમને નિશાળમાં અંગ્રેજી, હિન્દી અને સંસ્કૃતનું જ્ઞાન આપવામાં આવતું. મને બધી ભાષાઓ ગમે પણ ગુજરાતી સાથે મને થોડો વધારે લગાવ. જાણે તે ભાષા મારા ભાવ અને લાગણી સમજી શકતી હોય તેવું લાગતું. તમને થતું હશે કે એવું તો કઈ હોય, તે પણ કોઈ ભાષા સાથે? હા, હોય! મને હતું. તેના દ્વારા હું મારી જાત, મારા મનની વાતને ખૂબ સહેલાયથી વ્યકત કરી શકતી. અને તે ભાષામાં બોલાયલા શબ્દો મારા હૃદયને સ્પર્શી જતા.

અમારા ઘરમાં ગુજરાતી જ બોલાય. એવું નથી કે બીજી ભાષા નહિં બોલવાની, પણ વિના કોઈના કહેવા પર ગુજરાતી જ વપરાય. મમ્મી પ્રેરણા મળે તેવા લેખો વાંચીને સંભડાવે, પપ્પા ન સમજાય તેવી કવિતાઓનું પઢન કરે અને પછી મમ્મી તેનો અર્થ સમજાવે , આ બધું જ ગુજરાતીમાં. સમય બદલાતો ગયો અને 'અંગ્રેજી'માં બોલવાની પ્રણાલી શરુ થઈ. અમારી નિશાળમાં અંગ્રેજીમાં બોલવાથી જાણે લોકોને મોટાઈ લાગતી, તેવું હું માનું છું. અંગ્રેજી ન આવળતું હોય તો લોકો શરમ અનુભવતા. જેવું આવડે તેવું અંગ્રેજી લોકો બોલવા લાગ્યા. આ વાત મને ન સમજાતી. કોઈ ભાષા આવળવા કે ન આવળવામાં મોટાઈ કે નાનાય કેમ? ભાષા તો એક માધ્યમ છે. તમારી વાત, વિચાર, ભાવ, લાગણીઓ વ્યકત કરવામાં અને તેવી જ રીતે બીજા લોકોને સમજવામાં અંગ્રેજી જ વાપરવું એવું કેમ? મને તે ભાષા પ્રત્યે કોઈ દુર્ભાવ નથી. પણ લોકો જે ભાષાનો આસાની થી પ્રયોગ કરી શકે તે જ તેમણે વપરવી જોઈયે. પણ જાણે અહિંયાતો અંગ્રેજી જ બોલાય. નિશાળમાં વિદ્યાર્થીઓ અંગ્રેજી બોલવા લાગ્યા. મને આ જરાય ન ગમતું. કારણ કે હું માનું કે ભાષાના વપરાશ પર કોઈનિયમ ન રાખ્વો જોઈયે.

પછી હું કોલેજમાં આવી. ગુજરાત બહાર મહારાષ્ટ્રમાં ભણવાનું થયું. આમ થોડુ–થોડુ મરાઠી શીખવા લાગી. અમારી કોલેજમાં ગણ્યા ગાંઠિયા ગુજરાતીઓ, ગણું તો છ–સાત માંડ. આથી ગુજરાતીમાં બોલવાનું ઓછું બને, અંગ્રેજી અને હિંદીમાં બોલવાનું વધુ બને. ગુજરાતીમાં બોલવાનું સાવ બંધ તો ન થઈ ગયું કારણ કે ઘરે ફોન પર વાત કરું ત્યારે તો તેમ લાગે કે ગુજરાતી બોલવામાં મારે કોઈ પ્રયત્ન કરવો પડતો નથી. તે જાણે આપો આપ આવી જ જાયે છે. એવું પણ ન હોતું કે મારી બીજી ભાષાઓ નબળી છે, પણ ગુજરાતી ભાષા સાથે આવું બહું થતું. ક્યારેક હું વિચારતી કે એવું કેમ? તમે કઈ બોલો અને વ્યક્તિને તે સમજાય તે બસ. તો આ ભાષાનું મારા મને આટલું મહત્વ કેમ? આવું જોડાણ કેમ? આ સવાલો ના જવાબ મને મળ્યા નહી.

એક દિવસ હું મારી બહેનપણીઓ સાથે આઈસ–ક્રીમ ખાવા નિકળી. નાનકડા બાકડા પર અમે બેસીને આઈસ–ક્રીમની મજા માંણતા હતા. ત્યાં જ મારી

બહેનપણીના મમ્મીનો ફોન આવ્યો અને તે બંગાળીમાં વાત કરવા લાગી. અમે બધાં બેઠા હતા ત્યારે અંગ્રેજીમાં વાત કરતા હતા પણ અચાનક તેના ઘરેથી ફોન આવ્યો ત્યારે બંગાળિમાં મંડી પડી. ત્યારે મારા મનમાં વિચાર આવ્યો કે આવું કેમ? બધી ભાષા

આમ જોઈયે તો સમાન જ છે, તો બધાને જુદી–જુદી ભાષા પ્રત્યે લગાવ કેમ? આ સવાલનો જવાબ મને મળી ગયો. જે ભાષા આપણા ઘરે બોલાતી હોય, તે આપણાથી વધારે નજીક લાગે. તેના સાથે એક પ્રકારનો લગાવ લાગે. તે ભાષામાં બોલાયલા શબ્દો જાણે વધારે અસર કરી જાય. આ બધું માતૃભાષા હોવાનો પ્રતાપ છે.

કચ્છનો પ્રવાસ

શર્વરી વડગામા



Kachchh no Pravas*(A Trip to Kutch)*

This is an account of a holiday trip to Kutch(Gujarat) filled with abundant scenic beauty, diverse and breath taking landscapes, palaces and beaches, all interspersed with the rich culture, heritage and warm hospitality that is typical of Gujarat.

-Sharvaree Vadgama

આમતો અમે ચાર– એટલેકે પપ્પા, મમ્મી, બહેન અને હું–ચારેચને સાથે રહેવાનું બહુ ઓછુ બને. આથી મમ્મીને થયું કે ડિસેમ્બરની રજાઓમાં એક નાનો પ્રવાસ કરીએ, જેથી સાથે રહેવાનું પણ થાય અને સાથેસાથ નવી જગ્યા જોવાની પણ તક મળે. ઘણી બધી પ્રવાસ થઈ શકે તેવીજગ્યાઓ વિચારયા બાદ બધાનો મત કચ્છ–ભુજ પર સહમત થયો. આમ, અમારો ત્રણ દિવસનો કચ્છ– ભુજનો પ્રવાસ નક્કી થઈ ગયો.

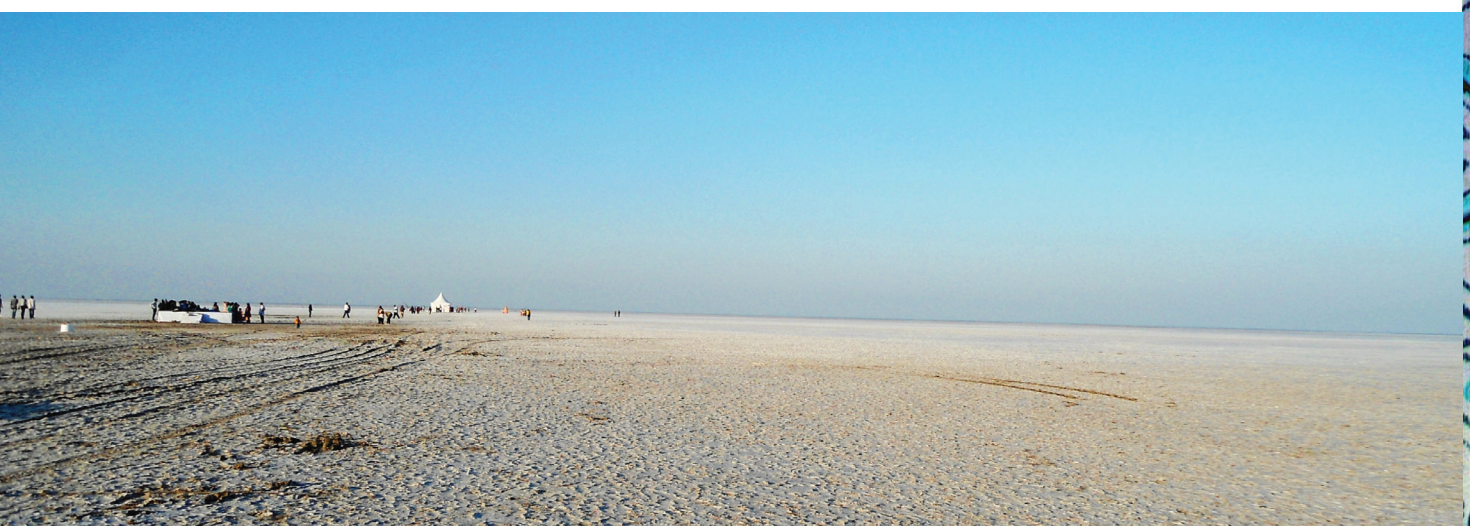
રાજકોટથી છ કલાકની ચાત્રા બાદ અમે અમારા રહેઠાણે પહોચ્યાં. રસ્તામાં અનેક પવન–ચક્કીયો, સુંદર હરિયાળી અને રંગ બેરંગી આકાશ માળતાં અમે પહોચ્યા. પહોચતા રાત થઈ ગયેલી એથી અમે સીધા જમવા ગયા અને કચ્છી દાબેલીની મજા લીધી.

અમારો રૂમ મહેલની સામે જ હતો, આથી રૂમમાંથી જ મહેલના થોડા જરજરીત ખંડો અને માંચડો રાતના જોવા મળ્યા.

સવારે પ્રાગ મહેલની અંદર ગયા. ૨૦૦૧ની સાલના ૭.૮ ના ભૂકંપ બાદ પણ આ મહેલનો મોટો ભાગ તો સહી–સલામત હતો. મહેલમાં અમે સૌ પ્રથમ રાજાની સભા ભરાય તે ખંડમાં ગયા. ત્યાં બોલીવૂડની ફિલ્મ (ચલચિત્ર) 'લગાન'નું શૂટિંગ થયુ હતું. અતી વિશાળ ખંડ અને સાદા ઓરડાથી ત્રણ ઘણી ઊંચાઈ. તે ઊંચાઈથી લટકતા લાંબા ઝુમ્મરો. બીજા ખંડમાં પ્રવેશતા અમે કાંચના અને લાકડાના અતી સુંદર વાસણો જોયા અને રાણીનો ખૂબ સુંદર જૂની કલાકુતિઓ વાળો ખંડ જોયો. રાજાના ખંડમાં તેમણે શિકાર કરેલા પ્રાણિઓના માથા લટકાળેલા હતા. તેમાં દવા છાંટીને તેમને સાચવવામાં આવ્યા હતા. મહેલમાં અતી સુંદર ચિત્રકામ અને રાજાના નાનપણના ફોટાઓ રાખવામાં આવ્યા હતા.

ત્યાર બાદ અમે શીશ મહેલ પહોંચ્યા. તેના નામ અનુસાર તે મહેલના દરેક ખંડમાં કાંચનો ખૂબ ઉપયોગ કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો. ત્યાંના એક ખંડમાં તો ચારેય દિવાલો અને છત પર ખાલી કાંચ જ છે. નાના–નાના કાંચના અને અરીસાના રંગ બેરંગી ટુકડાં રાખવામાં આવ્યા હતા. અમે જાણયું કે આ રાજા ખૂબ શોખીન હતા અને તેમના કહેવા પરજ આ મહેલ બનાવવામાં આવ્યો હતો.

બીજા દિવસે અમે માંડવી જવા નિકળ્યા. રસ્તામાં ભીરંડીયારા ગામમાં સરસ મજાના મીઠા ગરમા–ગરમ પકવાન માણ્યા. રસ્તામાં સરસ નાના–નાના ભુંગા જોવા મળ્યા. કચ્છી લોકો ભુંગામાં રહેવાનું પસંદ કરે કારણકે કચ્છના અતિશય ભયંકર તાપ અને ઠંડીથી બચવામાં ભુંગા ખૂબ મદદ કરે. અમે ધ્રોબણા ગામે ઉતર્યા જેથી ભુંગાને સરખી રીતે જોઈ શકાય. ત્યાંના લોકોને પણ મળ્યા. ત્યાંનુ પ્રખ્યાત જરીકામ અને આરી ભરતકામ જોયું. ગામની બાયુઓ એટલી ઉદાર કે તેમને અમે બહેનોને આરી–ભરતકામ વાળા કાપડ આપ્યા. ગુજરાતીઓના પ્રેમભર્યા વ્યવ્હારથી અમે ગદગદ થઈ ગયા. તે બાદ અમે રસ્તામાં કાળા ડુંગરે ગયા. અને પછી ઘોરડો પહોચ્યા. પછી અમે માંડવીના દરિયા કિનારે ગયા. ત્યા દરિયાને ખૂબ નિરાંતે નિહારયો. નમક ગમે ત્યાં હોય ખારું જ હોય. પછી અમે બધાં ત્યાની સંધ્યા માળતા હતા. નીચે સફેદ ધરતી ઉપર પીળો અને લાલ–સૂરજ અને વાદળી આકાશ. કચ્છમાં વિતાવેલી આ સાંઝ મારા જીવનમાં ખૂબ યાદગાર છે. આ યાત્રાની યાદો મારા મને હજી પણ તરબતર છે.





কলেজ-প্রম

পার্থ প্রতিম পাত্র

***College-Prem** (Love)*

Once upon a time, with a heart happy with dreams, I fell in love. Dreaming of long walks, poems, ice creams and kisses, dismissing all those rumours of her engagement, I dreamt on happily till one day, together, we happened to meet a serious man; acquainted to her! Who could it be? Alarmed I was, and totally at sea! Till all those rumours, they started echoing in me…

-Parth Pratim Patra

এক বুক আশার পুকুরে নেমে
একদা, আমি পড়লেম প্রেমে
আর সেই প্রেম সায়রে পড়ল ঢিল
মনের অঙ্কে হল হাজারো গরমিল।
যার আমি প্রেমে পড়লেম,
বন্ধুরা বললে, 'ও হিয়া আগেই হয়েছে নিলেম।'
ওদের কথা মানি নি -
প্রেমিকা যে মোর মানিনী।
দুদিনের মাথাতেই খাওয়াতে হল ফুচকা।
পরদিন ফের হিয়ায় লাগলো মচকা-
দাঁড়িয়ে আছি হেদুয়া মোড়ে ঠায়
কখন আসে - প্রতীক্ষায়।
এলো না ছাই !
রাগ হল বড্ড আমার তাই।
ফুচকা সেদিন খেয়ে নিল -
আজ যে তার আইসক্রিম খাওয়াবার পালা ছিল।
আর আমার ভাগ্যটাও কতদিন ধরে নেই আমার বশে-
খাওয়াবার পালা নিয়ে জিতল সেই প্রথম টসে।
পরের দিন যেই না হল দেখা
ধরেছি চেপে : খুব যে বানালে বোকা?
তখন দিলে একখানা দারুণ যুক্তি মোরে-
ও ওদিন ওদের টমি কে নিয়ে ঘোরে।
তাছাড়া, ফুচকা নিয়ে ওর কবি হওয়ার ইচ্ছ!।
সেদিন লিখছিল 'লবনাক্ত চুমুর কেচ্ছ!।'
শুনে অবাক ; বলি, 'ওটা কি জিনিস!'
বলল, 'ফুচকা খেয়ে ছোট্ট একটা কিস।'
মনে বললেম, 'সেদিন ঐ টে গেছে বাদ'
বুঝতে পেরে বলে, 'বিচ্ছিরি তার স্বাদ।'
সেই দিনই মোর প্রেমে পড়ল ঢিল।
প্রেমের অঙ্কে হল হিসাব গরমিল।
সেদিন ও হাঁটছে আমার সাথে
ঘনিষ্ট হয়ে কলকাতা রাজপথে-
মোদের তখন হাত ধরাধরি
প্রেমের কথা হিয়ায় ভূরিভূরি
হঠাৎ দেখি সামনে এক গঁভীর মহাশয়-
দেখে মোর লাগলো ভারী ভয়।
কে হতে পারে-?
ও যে প্রণাম করল তাঁরে।
পড়তে পারে ধরা মোদের কেচ্ছা !
ঘুরেছি কতদিন প্রেমিকা নিয়ে যথেচ্ছ !
ঘটল তখনই ঘটনা একখানি
মনে পড়ল ইয়ারদের সাবধানবাণী।
ডেকে মোরে বন্ধু বলে দিলে পরিচয় ;
ওঁ যে তার ভাবী শ্বশুর মহাশয়॥

আমি তখন স্কটিশচার্চ কলেজে পড়ি। ওই কলেজের প্রেম সংস্কৃতিটা এমনই ছিল। হয়তো আজও আছে তেমনি কিংবা আরও অগ্রগণ্য। হেদুয়া পার্কে আমরা দেখতাম প্রেমী-যুগল দের অদ্ভুত সব আচরণ। আমার কলেজ-প্রেম-পথগামী কোনও বন্ধুর সঙ্গে এমন অঘটন হয়তো বা ঘটেছেও।

প্রভাত

আনন্দিতা দে

Prabhat(Morning)

As darkness recedes, and the day slowly fills up with light: this beautiful change stirs up many thoughts in my idle mind.

I observe, nature rejoicing at the first touch of sunrays and ushering in a new day with full vigour. As the human noise sets in, I wonder, do the sun rays penetrate the dark layers of the human heart?

-Anandita De

সকালে যখন আমার ঘুম ভাঙে তখন চারিদিক অন্ধকার | অন্ধকার মানে দিনেরআলো তখনো ফোটেনি, বিদ্যুতের আলো অবশ্য সামনের রাস্তাটাকে আলোকিত করে রেখেছে | আমার বারান্দাটা তখনও ফুটফুটে জ্যোৎস্নায় পলাবিত | তার স্নিগ্ধ আলোয় উজ্জ্বল চাঁদ যেন আমার দিকে তাকিয়ে হাঁসছে | আমিও তার দিকে তাকিয়ে হাঁসি | আমাদের মধ্যে এক অদ্ভুত সম্পর্ক গড়ে ওঠে | সে যেন দূর থেকে আমার দিকে বন্ধুত্বের হাত বাড়িয়ে দিয়েছে| সেই হাত ধরে আমার অসীম অনন্ত আকাশে উড়ে যেতে ইচ্ছে করে| তখন ভেতর থেকে এক আওয়াজবলে, "তোমার স্থান ধরণীতেই" | ধরণী মা,তার বন্ধন থেকে মুক্তি পাওয়া কি এতই সহজ ? তাই এই ধরণীর থেকেই চেয়ে থাকি আকাশের দিকে, সারা আকাশে জুড়ে কত তারা | আলো হওয়া পর্যন্ত এরাই আমার সঙ্গী |

এই সময়টা আলো আর অন্ধকারের মিলনপর্ব| একজনের আগমন, অপরের অবগমন | অথচ একজন ছাড়া অপরজনের অস্তিত্ব নেই | আর আমি তাদের মিলনপর্বে উপস্থিত একজন দর্শক !

আমার বারান্দাটা পশ্চিমদিকে, তাই সূর্যোদয় দেখতে পাইনা | তবে দেখতে পাই তারাগুলো আস্তে আস্তে মিলিয়ে যায় | ঠিক কখন তারা আকাশপট থেকে মিলিয়ে যায় বোঝা মুশকিল | আকাশের রঙ গাঢ় নীল থেকে হাল্কা হতে থাকে | সামনের মাঠে গাছগুলির আকার স্পষ্ট হয় | ওই দূরে পাহাড়গুলো তবে তখনও কুয়াশাবৃত |

সূর্য আরও ওপরে উঠলে সামনের মাঠে, দূরের বাড়িগুলিতে তার প্রথম লাল কিরণ এসে পড়ে| আমারও সেই প্রথম লাল কিরনের ছোঁয়াটুকু পেতে ইচ্ছে করে | এই সব বিচিত্র লীলার মধ্যে আমার সেই পুরানো বন্ধু চাঁদ এখনও আমায় ছেড়েযায়নি| তার আলো অনেক ক্ষীণ হয়ে এসেছে, তবুও সে আমার দিকে তাকিয়ে বলে, "আমিআছি !"

প্রথম যখন বারান্দায় যাই, চারিদিক নিস্তব্ধ থাকে | সময় যেতে যেতে পাখির ডাক শোনা যায়! কোনটা সুমিষ্ট, কোনটা তীক্ষ্ণ, কোনটা কর্কশ| তাদের সবাইকে দেখা না গেলেও, তাদের ডাক শুনেই বুঝতে পারি, তারা প্রাণ খুলে নতুন দিনকে আহ্বান জানাচ্ছে | কিন্তু যত সময় যায়, যানবাহন, কারখানা, মানবজাতির ব্যাস্ত পদক্ষেপের শব্দের মধ্যে হারিয়ে যায় পাখিদের কলকাকালি |

এবার আমার মনে কিছু চিন্তার উদয় হয় | প্রত্যেক ভোরে রাতের অন্ধকার কাটিয়ে আলো হয় | কিন্তু সেই আলো কি মানুষের মনের সব অন্ধকার দূর করতেপারে ? মানুষ অন্ধকারের নিস্তব্ধতার থেকে দুরে পালাতে চায় | কিন্তু এই অন্ধকার নিস্তব্ধতাই কি মানুষ কে নিজের মধ্যে তাকিয়ে দেখার সুযোগ করে দেয় না ? সেই অন্ধকারে, নিজের গভীরে হানা দিয়ে দেখলে হয়তো মানুষ প্রভাতের সূর্য খুজে পাবে | সেই সূর্যেরআলো, বেদনা, হিংসা, জ্বালার অন্ধকার দূর করে দেবে |



మార్పు

యం. ప్రణీత్ సింహ

***Maarpu**(Change)*

Everyone in our country, nowadays, talks about social change. If asked about the kind of social change people say corruption less or poverty less India. Can this solve the social unrest in our country? Will a construction worker and a professor be treated equally in the society after this is achieved? Through the article the writer says that what is really needed is a change not in creating physical assets for everyone but a change in attitude, where all are treated with same dignity rather than showing mercy to the underprivileged.

-Pranith Simha

ఈ సంవత్సరపు వేసవి సెలవులలో జరిగిన సంఘటన,నేను నంద్యాల నుండి గుంటూరు ప్యాసింజరు ైలులోప్రయాణిస్తున్నాను.పనులకాలం కావడంతోరైలుఅంతా వలస కూలీలతోనిండి వుంది.నేను ఎలాగోలా లగేజిక్యాబిన్‌లో ఇరుక్కున్నాను.క్యాబిన్‌లో ఒక ఆవిడ తన పిల్లలనుఅదుప ులోపెట్టుకోవడానికి,వాళ్ళని పడుకోపెట్టడానికి స్థలం కోసం గట్టిగా అరుస్తూ ఆ క్యాబిన్‌లోని ప్రయాణికుల్ని బాగానే ఇబ్బంది పెట్టింది.అయితే నేనుఆ ఇబ్బందిని తల్లిప్రేమ గాను నలుగురిలో ఎలా నడుచుకోవాలోతెలియనితనంగా భావిస్తాను.ఇంతలో నా ప్రక్కనున్నపెద్దమనిషి"ఏమ్మా అట్లా అరుస్తావేంది?వచ్చే స్టేషనులోకిందకి దించాలా ఏమి?"అని.అంత వరకు అరుస్తున్నఆవిడ ఆ పెద్దమనిషి అరవగానేముడుచుకొనిపోయింది.ఆమె భర్త "సారు!దానికి తెలియదులే పిచ్చిది దానికి నేనుచెప్తానుగాని". "ఏంది నువ్వు చెప్పేది అప్పటి నుండి చూస్తున్నా" అని ఆ పెద్దమనిషి అన్నాడు.ఇంతలోఅందరు కూలీలుకలిసి ప్రాధేయపడితేగాని ఆ పెద్దమనిషి శాంతించలేదు.

ఈ సంఘటనగమనిస్తేఆ వలస కూలీలుముక్కూమోహం తెలియని ఆ తోటి ప్రయాణికుడుకిందకి దించి వేస్తా అనగ ానేఎందుకుభయపడిపోయారు?ఆయనకూడా మాలాంటి ప్రయాణికుడేమా మీద ఆజమాయిషి చెయ్యడానికి ఆయనకు ఏ హక్కులేదుఅన్న జ్ఞానం ఎక్కడికి పోయింది?వీళ్ళూ నాలాంటి వాళ్ళేనన్న జ్ఞానం ఆ పెద్దమనిషికి ఎందుకుకలగలేదు? ఆమె ఇబ్బంది పెడుతుంటేఆమెతో నిశ్శబ్దంగా వుండమనడం మానవ సహజ లక్షణంఅనిఅనుకోవచ్చు కానిఆయన ఆజమాయిషి ఏంటి?ఇదిఎంత వరకు దారితీస్తుంది?

ఈ సంఘటనఎందుకుచెప్తున్నానంటే ఈ మధ్య మనదేశంలో సామాజిక మార్పు మీద పెద్దఎత్తున చర్చ జరుగుతుంది.ప్రతీ ఒక్కరూ తను చెయ్యగలిగినదంతా చెయ్యడానికి సిద్ధంగా వున్నారు. నా అనుమానంఏంటి అంటే ఇంతకీ మనంకోరుకుంటున్న మార్పుఏమిటి?ఏ లక్ష్యం కోసం ఇంత మంది కష్టపడుతున్నారు? మన లక్ష్యంఏంటి అన్నదానికి జాతికి దిశానిర్దేశం చేసిన ఒక నాయకుడు ఇలా అంటారు "ఇప్పటి నుండి ౮(ఎనిమిది) సంవత్సరాల తరువాత నా దేశాన్ని ఇలా చూడాలనుకుంటున్నాను:

(*) గ్రామం ఇంకా పట్టణాల మధ్యఅంతరం వుండకూడదు.

(*) పరిశుభ్రమైన నీరు, ఇంధనం అందరికి అందుబాటులో ఉండాలి.

(*) సామాజిక అసమానతల కారణంగా ప్రతిభావంతులకు విద్యఅందలేదుఅన్న పరిస్థితి ఉండకూడదు.

(*) పేదరికం లేనటువంటి భారత దేశంలోనేనుఉండాల నుకుంటున్నాను.

పైనపేర్కొన్నవన్నీ జరిగితే మనదేశంలోని సామజిక అసమానతలు, సమస్యలూ తొలగిపోతాయా?నేను తొలగిపోవు అని అంటాను.పైన పేర్కొన్నవన్నీ జరిగితే కొలమానాలూ, సూచీలలో మనంఅభివృద్ధి చెందామనిచంకలుగుద్దుకోవచ్చు కానినిజజీవితంలో సమస్యలు అలానే ఉంటాయని నా అభిప్రాయం.

ఎందుకంటేఉదాహరణకుపేదరిక నిర్మూలన అనేది నిరంతరాయం జరగవలసిన పని రెండుపేల ఇరవై లో రెండుపేలపదకొండు యొక్క కొలమానంఆధారంగా కొలుచుకొనిపేదరికం తగ్గిపోయింది అనిమురిసిపోతే అది మూర్ఖత్వం అవుతుంది.నేడు రెండు పూటలా భోజనం దొరికితే చాలుఅన్న ఒక్క పేద కుటుంబ అవసరాలు రెండుపేల ఇరవై లో పేరుగా ఉంటాయి.

కాబట్టిపైనపేర్కొన్న లక్ష్యాలన్నీ కేవలంభౌతికమైన సదుపాయాలుకల్పించేవే తప్ప, మానసికమైన పరివర్తన కలిగించేవి కావు.వీటన్నింటినీ మించి మనిషిని మనిషిగా గౌరవించే రోజు, వలస కూలీలుకానీ, ఇంట్లో పనిమనిషి కానీ, ఇంకా పేరే ఎవరైనా కానీ ఒకరిని ఒకరు గౌరవించుకొనిరైలులోతోటి ప్రయాణికునిగా ప్రయాణించిన రోజున, దీన దుఃఖిత సమాజం అని ఏది అంటామో అది కూడా స్వావలంబనతో ఒకరి మీద ఆధారపడకుండా ఉన్నంతలోఆనందంగా జీవించిన రోజున మాత్రమే ఈ దేశాన్ని నిజమైనఅభివృద్ధి చెందిన దేశంగా పరిగణించాలి.

సదుపాయాలకల్పన అనేది నిరంతరంగా జరగవలసిన పనిఅందులోకూడా ముందుకువెళ్ళవలసిన అవసరం వుంది కానీదాని కోసం ప్రభుత్వాలూ, అనేక రకాల సంస్థలూ పనిచేస్తున్నాయి. వ్యక్తిగతంగా మనం చేయవలసిన పని మనిషిని మనిషిగా గౌరవించడం.

"మనుష్యులు కావలి!
ఉచితమైనతెలివైన వ్యవస్థలుకాదు,
కర్కశ దృష్టిగల విశ్వాసం కాదు,
కొండలంతటి సిరులదొంతరలుకాదు,
అందమైన నవ్వులుగల అధికారబలంకాదు,
శక్తివంతమైనకలంకూడా కాదు,
మనుష్యులు కావాలి!"

(ఇది రాష్ట్రీయ స్వయంసేవక సంఘ కార్యకర్త పుస్తకం నుండి గ్రహించబడినది.)

కలలు

కేశవ ఫణీంద్ర చెరుకూరి

***Kalalu**(Dreams)*

According to Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam one should dream. Not just dreaming but those dreams have to be put into reality by doing the required work. The things which you think of without knowing take the form of dreams in your mind. But for these dreams to come true one should think and work for it. Only then do they become true.

Till now nobody has been able to determine the time period of dream nor the reason for dreams. One can spend a few minutes or few years in their dreams.Now think about his words again.Did he say about day dreaming or dreams that can change you?

-Kesava Phaneendra Cherukuri

"కలలు కనండి, అప్పుడే అవి నిజమవుతాయి" అన్నారట అవుల్ ఫకీర్ జైనులుబ్దీన్ అబ్దుల్ కలాంగారు. ఆయన ఎవరని అనుమానం వచ్చిన పక్షంలో పూచీ మొత్తం ఆ అనుమానం వచ్చిన వాళ్ళదే.భారత రత్న బిరుదు పొందిన ఒకానొక శాస్త్రవేత్త గురించి తెలియక పోవడం గురించి ఏమనడానికి లేదు.

ఇంతకూ విషయం కలల గురించి ,కానీ కలాం గారి గురించి కాదు, కలల గురించి ఆయనగారన్న మాటలు మనం మననం చెసుకోదగినవి. వాస్తవం గురించి అంతగ ఆలోచించడానికి ఉండదు. అది మనఎదుటనే ఉంటుంది.లేనిదాని గురించి వాస్తవం కన్నా మరింత గొప్పగా ఉండేలా ఆలోచించాలి . ఊహించాలి.....కలలుకనాలి....అప్పుడవి నిజమయ్యే అవకాశం కూడా ఉంటుంది.ఆలోచన లేకుంటే ప్రయత్నం చేసే పరిస్థితి కూడా రాదు. కలాం గారు అందుకేకలలు కనమన్నారు. కానిఆయన చెప్పింది పగటి కలల గురించి మాత్రంకాదు.

పగటి కలలుగాలిమేడలూఒకటేనని పెనకటనేపెద్దలుచెప్పారు. మెలుకువగ ఉన్నప్పుడు రావాల్సినవి ఆలోచనలుకానికలలు కావు. పగలేకలలుకంటున్నారంటే పని చేయవలిసిన సమయంలోనిద్రపొతున్నారని అనుకోవాలి. ఈ రెంటి వల్ల ప్రయోజనంఉండదని వేరే చెప్పన్నకర్లేదు. అలా కాకుండా గుండెనిండా ఒకే విషయాన్నినింపుకుని తెలిసీ తెలియకుండా కూడా దాని గురించే ఆలోచనలు సాగిస్తే ఏదోఒకనాడు ఆ సంగతులేకలల్లోకి కూడా వచ్చేస్తాయి. ఆ విషయం కల్లోకి వచ్చిందంటేదాని గురించి మన మనసులోఅంతగా ఆలోచన జరుగుతున్నదని అర్థం.కొన్ని సంగతుల గురించి ఆలోచనలు మనకుతెలియకుండానే మన మనసు లోతుల్లో జరుగుతుంటాయని చాలా మందికి తెలియకపోవచ్చు.నిజానికి ఇటువంటీ విశయాలేనిద్రలోకూడా మనసులోకి వచ్చి కలలవుతాయి.కలాం గారు కలలు కనమన్నారంటేగట్టిఆలోచన ఏదో చేయమన్నారని అర్థం. హాయిగా నిద్రపోయికలలు కనమని మాత్రంకాదు. ఊరికే కలగని వదిలేస్తే చాలదు, అది నిజమయ్యేదాకా కష్టపడి పనిచెయ్యాలి. చెప్పిన మాట వినడాన్ని ఒక అర్థం సూచిస్తే, విని మరియు ఆలోచించడాన్ని మరొక అర్థం సూచిస్తోంది. అదేపెద్దల మాటల్లోఉండేగొప్పదనం.

ఎలుకలూకలలు కంటాయని, వాటికీ కలల కారణంగా తెలివి పెరుగుతుందని ఈ మధ్యనే పరిశోధకులు పెల్లడించారు. కొత్తగా నేర్చుకున్న సంగతులుకలలద్వారా మనసులో మననమయ్యిగట్టిగా గుర్తుండిపొతాయని మరొక సిద్ధాంతం వచ్చింది. డి.ఎన్.ఏ నిర్మాణాన్ని కనుగొన్నప్రొఫెసర్ క్రిక్ ఆ తర్వాత తన పరిశోధనలనుకలల పైపు మళ్ళించాడంటే మనిషి జీవితంలోకలలకుండే ప్రముఖ్యత ఏంటో అర్థమవుతుంది. కలలుఎంత కాలంకొనసాగుతాయి అన్నది మరో చిక్కు ప్రశ్న. అవి చాలా తక్కువ సేపుఉండవచ్చు లేదా చాలా ఎక్కువ సేపుఉండవచ్చు.అవి ఉన్నతక్కువసేపట్లోసే చాలా కాలంగడిచిన భావాన్ని కలిగించొచ్చు.కలలుకాలగమనంలో మనల్ని వెనుకకి తీసుకుపోవచ్చు లేదా ముందుకీ తీసుకుపోవచ్చు.లవణరాజు అనేఆయన తన కలలోడెబ్భయిఏళ్ళుఅనుభవించాడు. ఈ రకంగా మళ్ళీ మళ్ళీ వచ్చే కలల గురించి శాస్త్రవేత్తలు భాష్యాలు చెప్తుంటారు, అవి మనసులోతుల్లోనిలిచిన భావాలకు ప్రతీకలుగా ఉంటాయంటారు.

పగటి కలలు కనడం మేలా?కలాం గారు చెప్పినకలలు కనడం మేలా? మీరే ఆలొచించండి...

(సోర్స్: విజయగోపాల్)
(Source: Vijaya Gopal)

ವೇದಗಳೇಕೆ ಸುಲಭಗ್ರಾಹ್ಯವಲ್ಲ?

ಮುಮುಕ್ಷು

Vedagaleke Sulabhagrahyavalla?
(Why are vedas not easy to understand?)

Ancient Indian literature is not just a hallmark of mastery of Indians over literary skills, but also is replete with priceless knowledge. But, since most of it is in the language of Sanskrit , reading between the lines is hardly an easy job, partly owing to the complicated structure of sanskrit sentences and mainly due to almost no knowledge of the context in many cases. Thus, misinterpretation and ridicule have been invariably associated with the scriptures since the vedic era itself.

Moreover, the use of "non-paniniya" usages only aggravate the situation.

This article points at many pitfalls encountered during the quest for understanding the vedas and other ancient works by drawing appropriate examples from the matchlessly-vast Indian literature and gives a gentle warning to the seeker. Through such a warning it also suggests possible ways of circumventing these problems encountered.

-Mumukshu

त्र्यंबकं यजामहे सुगधिंपुष्टिवर्धनं उर्वारुकमिवबन्धनात्
मृत्योर्मुक्षीयमाऽमृतात् ।

ವೇದೋಪನಿಷತ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಣಿಕೆಗೂ ಮೀರಿ ನಮಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆರೆವ, ಸುಲಭವೆಂದು ಕಾಣುವ ಈ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾಕ್ಯಾರ್ಥ,"ಹೇ ಸುಗಂಧಿಯೇ! ಪುಷ್ಟಿವರ್ಧನನೇ, ಸೌತೇಕಾಯಿಬಳ್ಳಿಯಂತಹ ಈ ಬಂಧನದಿಂದ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಅಮೃತದತ್ತ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ಯುವಂತಹವನಾಗು" ಎಂದು. ಆದರೆ, ಇದರ ಗೂಢಾರ್ಥದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಒಂದು ಕಥೆಯೇ ಇದೆ. ಅಜನನೆಂಬ ಋಷಿಯು ವೇದಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುಕುಲವನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುತ್ತ ಶಿಷ್ಯರ ಜ್ಞಾನದಾಹವನ್ನು ತೀರಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಜೀವನವನ್ನೇ ತಪವನ್ನಾಗಿ ಆಚರಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಬದುಕಿದ್ದನು.

ಹೀಗೆ ಪಕ್ವಮನದಿಂದ ಸಾಧನಾಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಅವನು ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಕಾನನಮಾರ್ಗವಾಗಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿರೆ, ಒಂದು ಸೌತೇಕಾಯಿಬಳ್ಳಿಯು ಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಆತುಗೊಂಡು ಬೆಳೆದಿರುವುದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದನು. ಆಗ ಅವನ ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಡಿದ ಉಪಮೆಯು ಇದು–"ಭೂಮಿಯೆಂದರೆ ಕರ್ಮಭೂಮಿ, ಮರವು ಸುಗಂಧಿಯು, ಎಂದರೆ ಜಗತ್ತಿನ ಸಾರರೂಪವಾಗಿ, ಗಂಧಯುಕ್ತನಾಗಿರುವ ಪರಬ್ರಹ್ಮ. ಅವನೇ ಪುಷ್ಟಿವರ್ಧನನು(ಪುಷ್ಟಿ–ದೈಹಿಕವಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ), ಜೀವನಾಧಾರನು. ಈ ಕರ್ಮಭೂಮಿಯು, ಜನ್ಮಮರಣಯುಕ್ತವಾದ ಸಂಸಾರವು, ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಅಧೋಗತಿಗೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ನಾನು ಬಳ್ಳಿಯಂತೆ ನಿನ್ನನ್ನೇ ಆಶ್ರಯಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಮೃತ್ಯುವಿನಿಂದ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಅಮೃತತ್ವದೆಡೆಗೆ(ಜ್ಞಾನಾಮೃತದೆಡೆಗೆ) ಕರೆದೊಯ್ಯು" ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ. ಪುರಾಣವೇದೋಪನಿಷತ್ತುಗಳು ಇಂತಹ ಹಲವು ಅಣಿಮುತ್ತುಗಳಿಂದ ತುಂಬಿಹೋಗಿವೆ. ಇವುಗಳ ನೈಜಾರ್ಥ ತಿಳಿಯಲು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಜ್ಞಾನವಷ್ಟೇ ಸಾಲದು, ಎಲ್ಲ ವೇದಾಂಗಗಳ ಇತಿಹಾಸವು ಕೂಡ ಅಗತ್ಯ.

"अथा तो ब्रह्मजिज्ञासा"

"ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಅತಿ ತೀಕ್ಷ್ಣವಾದ ಉದಾಹರಣೆ. ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂತ್ರಗಳಿಗೊಂದು ಅಳಿಸಲಾರದ ಸ್ಥಾನವಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಸೂತ್ರದ ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಸೂತ್ರವಿದು "ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಜಿಜ್ಞಾಸೆ ಮಾಡೋಣ" ಎಂಬುದು ಇದರ ವಾಕ್ಯಾರ್ಥ.

ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಎಂದರೇನು? ಇದರ ಹಿಂದೆ ಏನಾಗಿತ್ತು? ಎಂಬ ಹತ್ತು ಹಲವಾರು ಮಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಒಡನೆಯೆ ಮುತ್ತುತ್ತವೆ.

ಮುಮುಕ್ಷುವು ನೇತಿ ಮಾರ್ಗದಿಂದ ವೇದಪುರಾಣಾದಿಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿ, ಉಪಾಧಿ, ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ–ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಜ್ಞರ ವಿಚಾರವಂ ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಥಿಸಿ, ಕಟ್ಟಕಡೆಗೆ ಬರುವ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವಿದು ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಆಚಾರ್ಯತ್ರಯರು ಸೊಗಸಾಗಿ ವರ್ಣಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಪಂಚಮವೇದವೇನು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರತಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೃಷ್ಣನೇ ಸಂಬೋಧಿಸುವಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜುನನು ಕುರುನಂದನನೇ... ಆದರೆ ಅದು ಕುರು– ಕಾರ್ಯ, ನಂದನ ಸಂತಸವನ್ನನುಭವಿಸುವವ ಎಂಬ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯಾರ್ಥ ಸುಲಭಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿ ತೋಚುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗೆಂದು ಈ ಲೇಖನದ ಉದೇಶ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಬದಿಗಿಡಿ ಎಂದಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಇದೊಂದು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಪೂರಿತ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಯಷ್ಟೆ. ಪುರಂದರದಾಸರು ಸಾರಿದಂತೆ, "ವೇದವು ಅರ್ಥವಾಗದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಸುಮ್ಮನೆ ಗೌರವಿಸಿ ಫಲವೇನು?" ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವು ಮರಣಸನ್ನಿಹಿತನದಷ್ಟು ಉತ್ಕಟವಾಗಿರಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಹಲವು ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನಗಳಿಂದ ವೇದವಾಕ್ಯವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ, ಮಥಿಸಿ, ನಿರ್ಧಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದೇ ಈ ಲೇಖನದ ಸದಾಶಯ.

पूर्णमदः पूर्णमिदं पूर्णात्पूर्णमुदच्यते।
पूर्णस्य पूर्णमादाय पूर्णमेवाऽवशिष्यते॥

(ಜಲ)ಜನಕ?

ಮುಮುಕ್ಷು

Jala janaka
(The creator of Water: Hydrogen)

With exponential advances in science and technology, the notion of man about himself, as a part of the universe, has changed drastically. Yet, most people yield to cling to the idea that man is the pinnacle of the process of evolution. This poem personifies an atom of hydrogen and tells that at the end of the day, even man is made of hydrogen, just like most of the universe. It appeals to man to know his place in the way of things and to lead a path of humility.

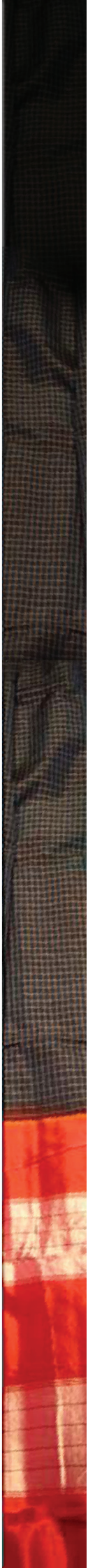
-Mumukshu

ಹೀಗೆ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ನಾನು ಸುಮ್ಮನೆಯೆ ಕುಳಿತಿರೆ
ಮನದ ಕ್ಲೇಶ ಮೂರ್ತವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯೊಂದು ಮೂಡಿತು
ವಿಕಾಸದೋತ್ತುಂಗಶೃಂಗವನ್ನೆ ಏರಿಹ
ವಿಕಾಸದಿಂ ವಿಶೇಷಜ್ಞಾನಸ್ರೋತನಾಗಿ ಮೆರೆದಿಹ
ವಿಧಾತನ ವಿಚಿತ್ರಸೃಷ್ಟಿ ವಿರಾಜಮಾನ ಮನುಜನೆ?(!)
ಆ ಮನುಜಕುಲವೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯಾಗಿ ನನ್ನ ಮುಂದೆ ನಿಂತಿತೆ(?)
(ಆಗ)....
ಕೇಳದೊಂದು ದನಿಯ ಸೆಲೆಗೆ
ಕರ್ಣಪಟಲ ಮಿಡಿಯಿತು!
ಅನುಭವಕೆ ನಿಲುಕದಾಜ್ವಲಚ್ಚಕವಾಲ
ಮುಂದೆ ಸುಳಿಯಿತು

"ಕೇಳು ಮನುಜ!(ವಿ)ಕಿಅಣದಿಂ ಮರಣ ಬರುವ ಮುನ್ನವೆ
ವಿಕಾಸವಾದದಾವಿಚಿತ್ರ (ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ)
ವಿನಾಶವಾದ ಕಥೆಯ ವಿಶ್ವ ತಿಳಿಯುವ ಮುನ್ನವೇ..."

ನಭದಜಾತ, ಜಗದಸೋತ ನಾನೇ ಜಲಜನಕನು
ಜಗದೊಳಿರುವ ಅಣುಗಳೆಲ್ಲ(ನನ್ನ) ಗರ್ಭಸಂಜಾತರೇ
ನಭದ ಒಳಗೆ ಅಣುವಾಗಿಹ ಎಲ್ಲೈ ಕುಬ್ಜಮಾನವ
ಅಣುವ ಶರಧಿ ನೀನಾದೊಡೆ, ಜಗದೊಳಣುವು ಅಲ್ಲವೆ?!

ಅಣುಗಳಣುವು ಮಾಡೆ ನಿನ್ನ ಅಹಂಕಾರ, ಜೀವನ
ಅಣುಗಳಲ್ಲವೆ ನೀನು ಕ್ಷಣವೂ ಮಲಿನಗೊಳಿಪ ಪವನ
ಅಣುಗಳಿಂದ ತೋಯವು, ಅಣುಗಳಿಂದ ಪೃಥ್ವಿಯು
ಜಗವಿಚಿತ್ರ ಪ್ರಾಣಿಸತ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವವೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವು.
ನಾನು ಎಂಬ ಉಳಿವೆ ಪರರ ಭಿಕ್ಷೆಯಾದ ಜೀವನ
ಇದನು ಅರಿಯೆ, ಪಾಪ ತೊರೆಯೆ, ವ್ಯರ್ಥ ನಿನ್ನ ಜೀವನ...



എന്റെ പുതുവത്സരസന്ദേശം

കാവ്യ ലിയോ വാക്കയിൽ

Ente putuvatsara aashamsakal

(My new year wishes)

A tale with a twist. This is the tale of a young journalist who pens down his philosophical ideas about the mind, its strength, its durability and unpredictability. He inspires his young readers to wake up, react to the world and to succeed. Soon after, he is visited by a team of police officers sent to arrest him, on charges of inciting rebellion and insurgency through the media. The brave revolutionary calmly surrenders himself and awaits his fate. This is a story of courage, valour and a strong will, a few lessons to learn for every youth.

-Kavya Leo Vakkayil

സങ്കീർണ്ണമായ ആ വഴികൾ താണ്ടി ദൂരത്തേക്കു യാത്രചെയ്ത ആ കാൽപ്പാടുകൾക്കു അനേകായിരം യാതനകളുടെയും ഉള്ളിലമർത്തിയ ആഗ്രഹങ്ങളുടെയും സ്വപ്നങ്ങളുടെയും കഥകൾ പറയാനുണ്ട്. ജീവിതത്തിൽ ജനിച്ചനാൾ മുതൽ സഹിച്ച ത്യാഗത്തിന്റെയും വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കലിന്റെയും വിടപറയലിന്റെയും അടിച്ചമർത്തലിന്റെയും അധിനിവേശത്തിന്റെയും പോരാട്ടത്തിന്റെയും സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തിന്റെയും വിപ്ലവത്തിന്റെയും കഥകൾ...

പണ്ടൊരിക്കൽ പറഞ്ഞവാക്കുകൾ "മനസ്സ് അത് ഒരു ത്രാസാണ്. എന്ത്, എവിടെവച്ചാൽ അതു തുലനപ്പെടുമെന്ന് പറയാനിതുവരെ ആർക്കും കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല" ഇപ്പറഞ്ഞവാക്കുകൾ പണ്ടുപറഞ്ഞതുമല്ല, ഞാനെഴുതിയതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ എന്റെ മനസ്സിൽ എന്താണെന്ന് ഊഹിക്കാമോ? ഇല്ലഇതാണ് മനസ്സ് ആർക്കും പിടികൊടുക്കില്ല. എനിക്കുപോലും എന്നെ മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിയാത്ത അവസ്ഥകൾ. ഇതു ഏവർക്കും അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടാകും. ഉള്ളിൽ ഒരു ശൂന്യത. എന്തുപറയണമെന്നോ എങ്ങനെ പ്രതികരിക്കണമെന്നോ അറിയാനാകാതെ മനസ്സ് വിവേകത്തെ കൈവിടുന്ന നിമിഷങ്ങളെയാണു ഞാൻ ഏകാന്തതയെന്നു പറയുന്നത്. ചുറ്റുമുള്ളവർ അന്യരും അവരുടെ വാക്കുകൾ ചൂഷണങ്ങളുമാകുന്ന അവസ്ഥ. ഏതോ ഒരു ചുഴത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട് ഉഴലുന്ന മനസ്സിനെ കരകയറ്റാൻ പ്രതീക്ഷയുണ്ടോ ജീവിതത്തിൽ?? ഉള്ളവർ ഭാഗ്യവാന്മാർ. അവർ ജീവിക്കട്ടെ. അല്ലാത്തവരായ ഏവർക്കും ഇനിയും അനുദിനം മരിക്കാം. ഉള്ളിൽ ഉയരുവാനുള്ള ഉണർത്തുപാട്ടാകട്ടെ നിങ്ങളുടെ അനുഭവങ്ങൾ. കത്തിയെരിയുമ്പോഴും ഉയർന്നു പറക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഫീനിക്സ് പക്ഷിയായി മാറാം. പ്രത്യാശയും പ്രതീക്ഷയും പുതുമയും നിറഞ്ഞ ദിനങ്ങൾ, നല്ല വാർത്തകൾ, വിജയങ്ങൾ – ഇതാകട്ടെ ലക്ഷ്യം. "ലക്ഷ്യം മാർഗ്ഗത്തെ സാധൂകരിക്കും. വിജയം നിങ്ങളുടേതുമാത്രം. ഉണരൂ... പ്രവർത്തിക്കൂ... വിജയിക്കൂ... ഏവർക്കും നവവത്സര ആശംസകൾ."

ഈ എഡിറ്റോറിയൽ എഴുതിയവസാനിപ്പിച്ചപ്പോൾ രാത്രി പന്ത്രണ്ടു കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. ഫീനിക്സ് പക്ഷിയായി ചിറകുകൾ ഉണർത്താൻ ആഹ്വാനംചെയ്ത ആ ജ്യേണലിസ്റ്റ് ഉറക്കത്തിലേക്കു ചിറകൊടിഞ്ഞുവീണു..

കോളിങ്ങ് ബെല്ലിന്റെ നീണ്ട മുഴക്കം കേട്ട് അയാൾ കണ്ണുതുറന്നു. അടുത്ത് ഇന്നലെ എഴുതിയവസാനിപ്പിച്ച എഡിറ്റോറിയലിൽ മഷിപ്പേനയിലെ മഷി പടർന്നു പിടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു ഇന്ത്യാമഹാപടത്തെയാണോ അതു മഷിയിൽ വരച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്? "തന്റെ പുതുവത്സരാശംസകൾ ഇന്ത്യക്കൊരു ഉയർത്തുപാട്ടാകാനല്ല യുവജനങ്ങൾക്കു വിപ്ലവത്തിലേക്കുതിരിയാനുള്ള ഉപകരണമാണ് ആകേണ്ടത്" – അയാൾ പാതിയുറക്കത്തിൽ ഉറക്കെപ്പറഞ്ഞു.

കോളിങ്ങ് ബെല്ലിന്റെ നിർത്താതെയുള്ള അലമുറകേട്ട് അയാൾ വാതിൽക്കൽ വന്നുനിന്നു. ഉറക്കത്തിനിടയിൽ ആരും ഉണർത്തുന്നതിഷ്ടമല്ലാത്ത അയാൾ സൗമ്യതവിടാതെ കപടശബ്ദത്തിൽ ജനൽപാളിയിലൂടെ പറഞ്ഞു, "തുറക്കാം. അല്പം കാത്തുനിൽക്കൂ. ഞാൻ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നു. താക്കോൽക്കൂട്ടം കാണുന്നില്ല, ഒന്നു തിരയട്ടേ." വീടുമുഴുവൻ മാന്തിപ്പറിച്ച അയാൾ ഒടുവിൽ ചവിട്ടിക്കടിയിൽ നിന്നും താക്കോൽക്കൂട്ടം കണ്ടെത്തി. വാതിൽ തുറന്ന അയാൾ പോലീസിനു മുന്നിൽ കീഴടങ്ങി. "മരണം മുന്നിൽ വരുമ്പോഴും പിടക്കാത്ത മനസ്സ്" അതാണ്ഒരു വിപ്ലവകാരിയുടെ ഹൃദയം. നക്സലൈറ്റ് ക്ലാസുകളിലെ ആദ്യ പാഠങ്ങൾ അയാൾ അന്ന് വീണ്ടും ഓർത്തു. സാവധാനം പോലീസ് ജീപ്പിൽ കയറിയ അയാൾ തന്റെ പോലീസ് മേധാവിയോട് തിരക്കി, "എന്റെ ശിക്ഷാപത്രം കൈയിലുണ്ടോ?" പോലീസ് മേധാവി അതു നിവർത്തികാണിച്ചു. അയാൾ തന്റെ പേരും ജോലിയും കഴിഞ്ഞ് ചുവന്നമഷിയിൽ എഴുതിയ കോളം വായിച്ചു.

കുറ്റം : "വിപ്ലവം യുവജനങ്ങളിലേക്കു പടർത്താൻ പേന ആയുധമാക്കി ശിക്ഷ : തടവ്, രണ്ട് വർഷം."

അയാൾ പൊട്ടിച്ചിരിച്ചു. എന്നിട്ടു പറഞ്ഞു "എന്റെ ത്രാസിനെ തുലനപ്പെടുത്താൻ ഈ രണ്ട് വർഷത്തിനാകില്ല സർ." ലാത്തിയുടെ വേദന അയാളറിഞ്ഞു. ഒപ്പം ചൂഷണ ശബ്ദങ്ങളും. തന്റെ പുതുവത്സരസന്ദേശം ഒരു യാത്രക്കുറിപ്പായി ആ മുറിയിൽ പാറിക്കളിക്കുന്നതുമാത്രമായിരുന്നു വേദനയിൽ പിടയുമ്പോഴും ആ മനസ്സിൽ. വിജനതയിലേക്കുനോക്കി അയാൾ ആരോടെന്നില്ലാതെ പറഞ്ഞു : "ഉണരൂ, പ്രവർത്തിക്കൂ, വിജയിക്കൂ.."

നഷ്ടസൗഹൃദങ്ങൾ

അശ്വതി.വി. ജി.

Nashtasauhridangal *(Lost friendship)*

The woes of a heart lost in the sea of letters that failed to notice the colours and music of friendship. Where should she roam, whom should she know in order to find the meaning of today's beats? The rhythms of rain, the affinity of dewdrops towards blossoms, unseen and unheard flavours of life –the images appear darkened in the dreams…

Are the suppressed hopes raising today as the wordless world breaks its fences of silence?

-Aswathy V.G.

നഷ്ടസൗഹൃദങ്ങൾതൻ വളപ്പൊട്ടുകൾക്കിടയിൽ
കണ്ടുകിട്ടിയതാം പുസ്തകത്താളുകൾ;
അക്ഷരച്ചെപ്പിന്റെ പച്ചപ്പുകൾക്കിടയിൽ
നഷ്ടമായിപ്പോയഹൃദയമായ് മാറവേ;
ഇന്നെന്റെ സ്പന്ദനത്തിന്നർത്ഥങ്ങൾ തേടുവാ–
നെവിടെ ഞാനലയേണ്ടൂ; ആരെ ഞാനറിയേണ്ടൂ?

മഴയുടെ തേങ്ങലിലലിഞ്ഞുചേർന്നീടുന്ന
പ്രകൃതിതൻ വിരഹാർദ്രരൂപം,
മലർമൊട്ടുതഴുകുന്ന നീഹാരബിന്ദുതൻ
പ്രണയാർദ്രമാം ക്ഷണികതാളം,
അന്നെന്റെ കൺകളിൽ തടയാതെപോയതാം
താളഭേദങ്ങളായ് വേഷങ്ങൾ മാറവേ.

നിനവിന്റെ നെറുകയിൽ മാത്രമായ് കണ്ടതാം
നിറവാർന്നമൗനത്തിൻ ഭാവം,
പറയാതെയറിയുന്നപതറാത്തവാക്കിന്റെ
ഗഹനമാംനിസ്പന്ദഭാവം,
ഇന്നിന്റെ ശൂന്യതയിലൊരു നേർത്തകനലായ്
പ്രതീക്ഷയായ് തെളിയുന്നതാവാം!

ഒരു ശിശിരത്തിന്നോർമ്മയിൽ

ആര്യതമ്പി

Oru Shishirathinnormmayil
(In memory of an autumn)

The autumn season brings back memories of the past. Admiring the beauty of the woods and fallen leaves, the poet dives into moments of introspection. Realising that she had gone too far off, her hopes of returning diminishes. A moment of tantalizing radiance strikes her and her voyage back to the present begins. What is left behind are the monochromatic frames of an unspoken era of her life.

-Arya Thampi

ഏതോ ശിശിരത്തിന്നുണങ്ങിയ മരമേ,
എന്നോ ഭവിച്ച എന്നെ കാണുന്നു ഞാൻ നിന്നിൽ.
നിൻ ഉണങ്ങിയ ശിഖരങ്ങളുടെ വശ്യഭംഗി,
എന്നോർമ്മകളെ തിരികെ വിളിക്കുന്നു.

ഒരു നനുത്ത പനിനീർപൂവായിരുന്നുവെൻ മനം,
എൻ ഭൂതകാലത്തിലെ അശ്രുകണങ്ങളായ്, ഈ മഴത്തുള്ളികൾ.
ഈ വാനിന്നേതു കോണിലൊളിച്ചു നീയും ,മാരിവില്ലേ?
ഏതു പുഴവക്കിൽ മറന്നുവച്ചുവെൻ പ്രതിബിംബം?
ഏതിരുട്ടിൽ കളഞ്ഞുപോയെൻ നിഴൽ?
എൻ വിരൽത്തുമ്പിൽ നിന്നൊലിച്ചു പോയ ജലകണമേ,
നിന്നെയും ഞാനശുദ്ധമാക്കി!
എന്നാത്മാവിൻ ജാലകങ്ങളെ,
നിങ്ങൾക്കിനിയുണ്ടോ, ഈ ഇരുട്ടിൽ നിന്നൊരു മോചനം?

ഓ, ശിശിരത്തിൻ തവിട്ടണിഞ്ഞ വൃക്ഷമേ!
നിന്നിൽ തളിരിടും പുഷ്പമാകാൻ എത്രമേൽ ഞാൻ കൊതിക്കുന്നുവോ,
ഈ മേരുതൻ നെറുകയിൽ മകരമഞ്ഞുമായ് സൗഹൃദം പങ്കിടവേ,
കാണുന്നു ഞാനിന്നൊരു സൂര്യോദയം!
ആ പ്രകാശരശ്മികൾ എൻ കഴലിൽ തലോടവെ,
ഏതോ സുന്ദര സ്വപ്നത്തിൽ മുഴുകുന്നുവെൻ മനവും...
ഏതോ വിദൂരമാം ഒരു ജലബിന്ദുതൻ,
തിളക്കം പതിക്കുന്നു, എൻ നേത്രങ്ങളിൽ.

ഇത് മറ്റൊരു യുഗാന്തം...
പിന്നിട്ട ദിനരാത്രങ്ങൾ, ദിനാന്തങ്ങൾ,
നിമിഷങ്ങളായ് തോന്നവേ,
അറിയുന്നു ഞാനെൻ ശിശിരകാലത്തെ,
തവിട്ടണിഞ്ഞ, തളിരിടാൻ വൈകിയ സ്വർണ്ണശിഖരങ്ങളുള്ള,
പേരറിയാത്ത എത്രയോ മരങ്ങളെ...

Mile Sur Mera Tumhara

For tweaking, typing and setting the Indian languages for
the readers we thank the following.

Editors

Abhishek Mishra :Hindi
Prasenjit & Mihir :Marathi
M. Sharath Chandra :Telugu
Sourav Sarkar & Sujoy Saha :Bengali
Sanskrit: Harsha
Malayalam: Krishna Anujan
Kannada: Neha. M & Chaitra A.
Gujarati: Kshiti Mishra & Nisarg Desai

The Monetary Value of Cows

By Srikishna Sekhar

It's almost as if humans are living in a world within a world. We've been living in a dream world for the last two millennia. We didn't like living in trees, so we didn't. We built houses and huts. Then we started to live together, rather than in bits of nomadic tribes. And then we invented words like 'civilized' to pretend as if we knew what we're doing.

And we built things, like buckets, and wheels, and carts, and bottles, and juice. But we had no way of measuring how better is one human is than another human. So we started to assign values to things, using the rough rule - 'The shinier, the better'. So we got polish, and iron, and other sparkling things, like gold, and diamonds. And everyone went nuts over them. They were so shiny, that it distracted people from breathing. There were people lying dead all over the place, because they forgot to breathe. Such was the shiny-ness of gold.

And people weren't happy with their food, and leather, and footwear, and clothes. No, they had to barter things. So they traded a cow for beans. And the next morning, a large beanstalk was seen growing out of the ground…

So they were bartering. But people made bad deals with other people.

"Sure! You can have my soul. But what do I get in return?"

"Oh, you get this really shiny bit of metal!"

"But isn't that a bad deal for my-… Ooh! Shiny!"

Then people said "Look, we're better than you. So we shall rule you". And they did, for thousands and thousands of years. And the Kings and Queens decided to increase their popularity by printing flyers with their pictures on it, and handing it out to the peasants. Sadly, these flyers were made out of shiny metal.

The people couldn't dispose of shiny metal that easily. And plus, it was shiny. So they couldn't just trash it. And they decided to trade it in instead of their souls.

Thus, currency was born. And the King and Queen thought they were pretty popular with the locals, because demand for the flyers had increased dramatically. But they didn't realize it was a soul-replacer.

But, after a couple of years, when the news eventually did reach their royal ears, they were pretty delighted to find out that their faces had replaced the peasant's souls. Then the King murdered the Queen, and married another six hundred.

Meanwhile, back in peasant town, people were still trading in shiny bits. Someone decided to call this the 'economy', because it sounded like a disease. He thought it would be a joke. It was for a while until people realized that by calling it an 'economy', it was very similar to calling themselves a 'civilization', and now they'd have a legitimate excuse to not know what they're doing.

Once the economy was invented, people started to say things like 'Hey! I'll let you pay me 6 shiny bits to take my soul!"

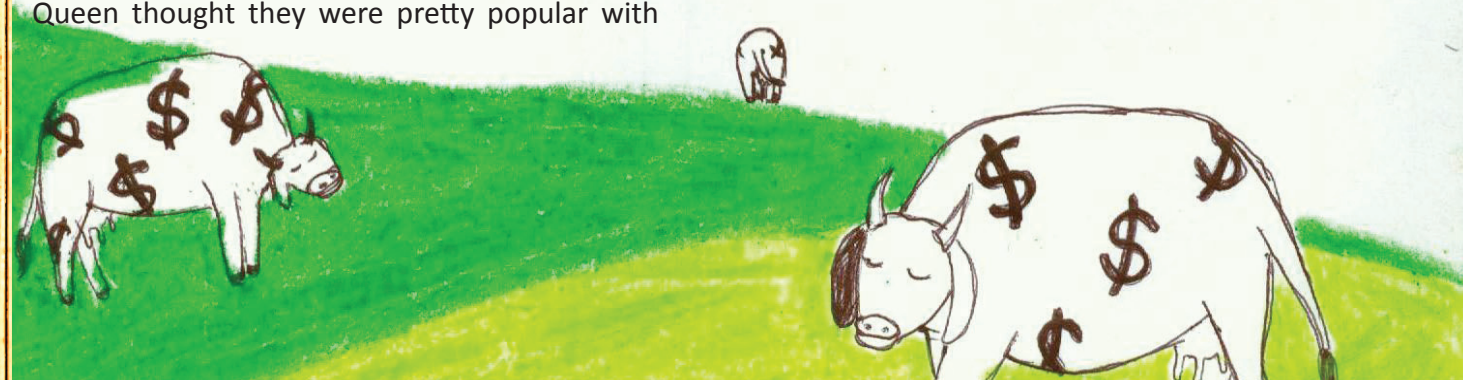
Then the Kings and Queens wanted more popularity, so they killed other people in other lands, and handed their flyers to the other land people. Then they realized what they'd done. And they were so angry, that they killed even more people, from even more lands. And then they realized what they'd done, and they killed people from other lands. And they realized what they'd done…

Then came the industrial revolution (where people overthrew the Industry) and by now, there was a 'government' and other fancy words, to give people very legitimate excuses to goof off, and not know what they're doing.

And by this time, people had lost the original point of money. It was now printed on paper. Not shiny. Boring.

But they were still flyers. Still trying to advertise people. Except now, it was dead people. That, again, sort of ruined the point of money.

And now people are saying "Look, I have no money. I'll sell you my cow for your soul…"



Hiking the Triangle-Tikona

By Chaitanya Athale

A weekend hike in August to the fort Tikona turned out to be a walk in the clouds. The omens however were not good - the weekend prior to that saw firing in Maval by the police at protesting farmers. Their grouse- the diversion of waters to quench the thirst of the ever-expanding Pune city at the cost of agriculture. With some apprehension of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, but a curiosity to hear the protestors' side of the story, I began a short drive to the base village from Pune. Were it not for the broken glass on the highway, one wouldn't have thought anything had happened at all. Indeed going closer to the base of the fort reminded me of the reason for the hike- pristine greenery, few people and idyllic pastorals. The hike is billed in the "Trek the Sahyadris" book by Harish Kapadia as an 'easy' one. But the slush and the traverse over a hill, down and up again meant it wasn't short. Once on top, we were inside the clouds. The ubiquitous 'maushi' (aunt in the local tongue) was there to offer piping hot sweet tea with lemon- vitamins and plenty of carbohydrates to reward us for the walk. Plus the warmth. Walking had kept us warm till then, but once amongst the ruins of the forts, a reduced pace meant we were rapidly beginning to feel clammy, especially due to the rain-soaked clothes. A walk through the 'darwajas' and imaging the structure of the ruins ended with choosing a dry spot to eat our picnic lunch. Surprisingly we were not accosted by monkeys- the largest of the permanent residents of most of the forts in the area. The beauty of the small pink flowers clinging to the black rock, rain-soaked made me wish we had a field-botanist with us. Anybody who can identify the flower, do please drop me a line! In the spirit of not destroying the natural habitat, we left the pretty wall-flowers as they were. After a two hour walk down, some of my first-time hiker friends tried to wash away the soil on their clothes, a seemingly Sisyphean task, since they had to make it from the water source back to the transport, through more slush.

Fort Tikona facts

Timeline: Built ~700 C.E. Satvahan Dynasty, 16th Century controlled by the Deccan Sultanate of Nizamshahi, then Marathas in 17th Century, changing hands repeatedly with the Mughals. Finally in the 19th century taken from the Maratha control to the British. It is currently disused and has no human settlement.

Practicalities: Height- 1,605m (sea level), located near Kamshet, approx. 60Km from Pune. Nearby is Fort Tung and can be combined for a longer hike.

References: [1] Harish Kapadia (2003) Trek the Sahyadris. 5th Edition. Indus Publishing, India.

[2] Wikipedia "Deccan Sultanates" and "Satvahana Dynasty".



Green Strips of Inspiration

By Dincy Mariyam



I was standing in the balcony of my room in the evening and enjoying the beauty of nature. The sky appeared to be splattered with blue and white blotches, and the hill far away in the horizon with green and brown blotches. It was drizzling outside. The sound of silence echoed. As I stood there admiring the beauty of the lush green patches brought alive by the recent summer showers, two small birds flying with strips of green grass caught my attention. I watched them with curiosity as they landed in the window of a locked room. They were making a nest... Magnificent! I called my friend who was sitting on the bed and playing games on her laptop. She exclaimed, "Ooh... Nice!" They flew back and forth carrying twigs and dry grass to construct their "Home Sweet Home". They went out again. I waited for a long time to see them return, but I finally gave up and went inside.

After a few days, I saw them again. They had completed constructing their home. It was a tangled mass of green grass and dry sticks, but it still looked endearing. I couldn't see the birds though.

The entire bird episode had taken a back seat in my mind until one day I found that room open. So I decided to go and find the nest. I was shocked to see that the nest had been crushed to pieces by the window. I felt sorry for the birds. When they returned in the evening, the scene that awaited them was pitiable. I searched the nest to see whether there were any eggs or fledglings. It was empty. I felt relieved that no life was harmed. I went back to the room and updated everyone with my recent findings. All of them shared my feelings.

Some days later, I went to the balcony and stood gazing around. I searched the window (where the nest existed). They had cleared everything. No birds. I kept an eye on that place for a few days in the hope of seeing those birds. They were never seen.

As said, out of sight, out of mind, I had forgotten about the birds and their nest, until on one lazy day, my friend spotted the birds flying with the green strips towards the same room. She pointed them out to me and shouted with joy "Hey! The birds are rebuilding the nest!" I looked at the birds in astonishment. I couldn't believe my eyes. They were building their new home! I thought for a while- "Are they risking their life again?" There is no guarantee that their nest will be safe. Thankfully nothing bad happened because I saw them flying in and out of their new home nearly every day.

Jejuri on my mind...

By Suneeta Vardarajan

When I first landed in Pune a year-and-a-half ago, Pune seemed a small unfamiliar town, a half-forgotten memory from years ago. The next year was spent getting used to the streets, alleys and sights, and I hardly thought of any interesting places near Pune to visit – it never occurred to me that there would be any, apart from the popular mountain spots. That is, until I accidentally came across a slim volume of poems in English by a Marathi writer I had vaguely heard of. The book was called Jejuri (the name of a place the poems were about) and was written by Arun Kolatkar. Jejuri is a small place within an hour's travel from Pune, more of a pilgrimage town with the shrine of Khandoba. I thought the book would make nice reading on the religious culture of Maharashtra.

I opened the book and started reading by the window, as I always do. Yet, just a few pages later, something seemed different in the air. I became aware of a strange growing sense of disquiet. Suddenly, without a warning, a restless wind burst into the room, making the pages rustle with its impatient force. Before I knew what was happening, Jejuri tore through the pages. It danced in front of me, like a vision, and then firmly pushed itself into my mind. My mind was filled with vivid images of the streets, sounds and people of Jejuri. Its sights and sounds seemed more real and immediate to me than the neighbourhood I lived in. And, try as I might, there was no getting it off my mind.

In my virtual world, I travel every day through the railway station of Jejuri. The sight that greets me on arrival is that of its permanent inhabitant…

`The spirit of the place|lives inside the mangy body| of the station dog,| doing penance for the last| three hundred years under| the tree of arrivals and departure'

…I look at the railway indicator, which never works, that has `swallowed the names of all the railway stations it knows'… and then I walk through the streets of this holy town where,

`what is god| and what is stone| the dividing line if it exists| is very thin at jejuri| and every other stone| is god or his cousin.'

I pass the bus station where the priest eagerly awaits the arrival of the next bus.

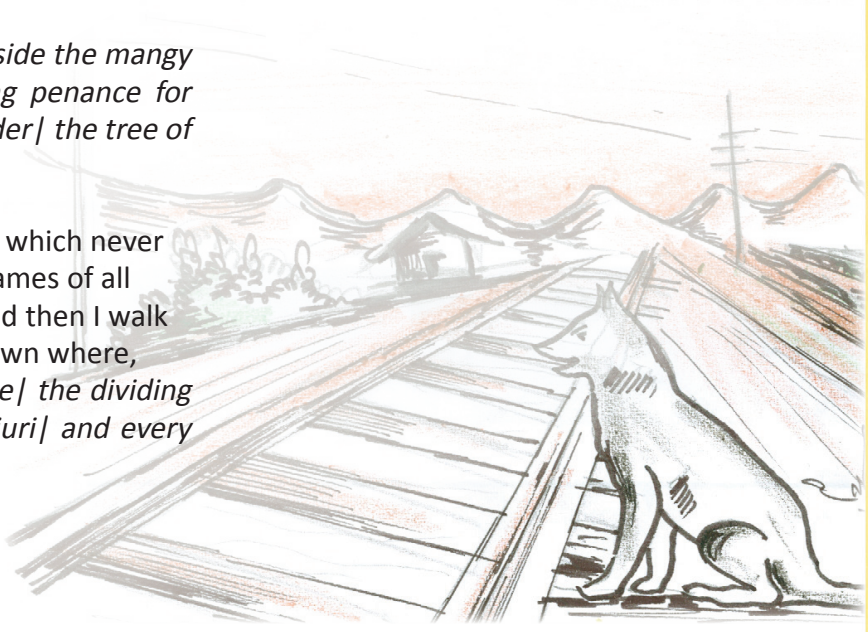
`The bus goes round in a circle.| Stops inside the bus station and stands| purring softly in front of the priest. A cat grin on its face| and a live, ready to eat pilgrim held between its teeth.'

Arun Kolatkar, who died in 2004, was an artist and a successful art director in advertising in Mumbai. He wrote poetry (in both English and Marathi), and his stunning book of poems, Jejuri, won the Commonwealth poetry prize in 1976, the year it was published. Kolatkar saw Jejuri with the eyes of an artist, taking in its sights with precision, empathy and humour. In his own words:

`I have a pen in my possession which writes in 2 languages and draws in one'

I have not been to Jejuri yet. Perhaps a part of me is afraid of being shocked by a chaotic modernized small town instead of Kolatkar's magical world. But then again, perhaps I don't need to worry. I am sure the mangy dog still lives in the station and the old indicator is still there like a fossil next to a new digital version. I am sure that somewhere in Jejuri, a priest is still waiting eagerly for a busload of pilgrims while arranging another ceremony on his brand new 3G cellphone.

(All quoted text in the article is from Jejuri, by Arun Kolatkar, New York Review Books Classics)



The Indian Girl

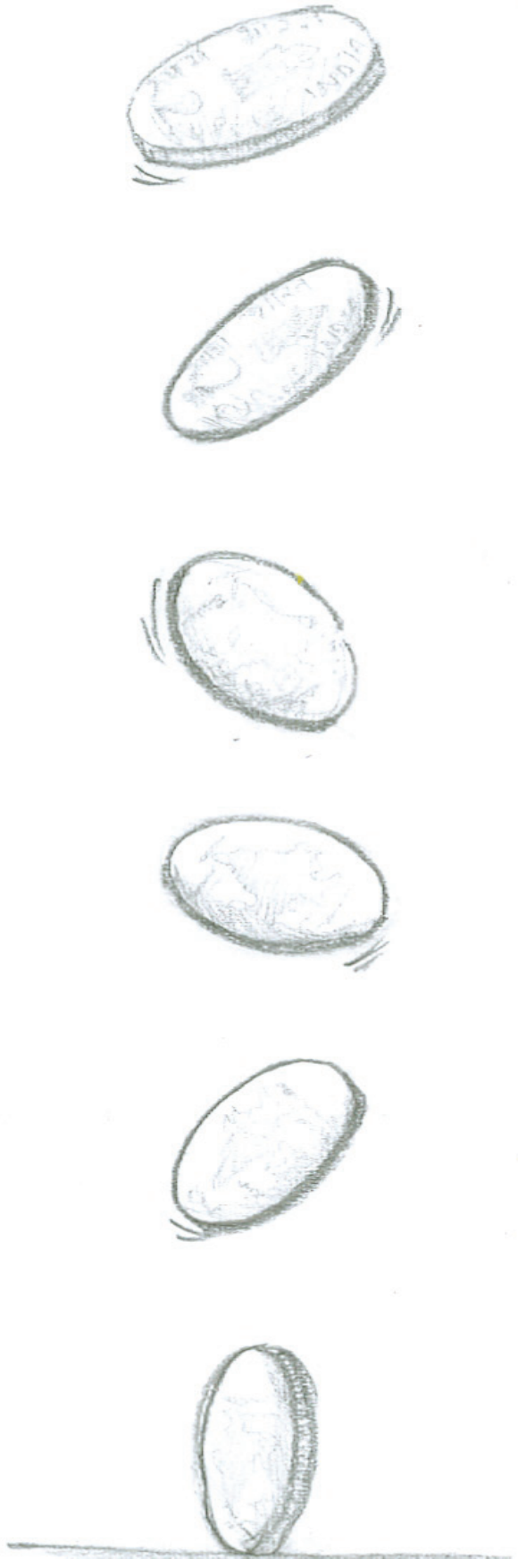
By Somendra Singh Kharola



She was riding behind him on the bike.
Her straight hair, curved ponytailed,
fluttered in the wind.
She had ten piercings on two ears,
and one on her lips,
and one in her belly button.
The tattoo of a Mantis,
she had knifed on her wrist.
Her legs, polished brazen as rosewood is,
hugged the haunches of the engine tight.
Her hands slithered and teased from beneath
as they wrapped him tight
(her chin on his shoulders,
her nails clawing his flesh: He smiled,
he tapped the gear, and revved harder).
Black goggles on her eyes,
and bleached white teeth,
and bright red nail polish,
and long drumstick fingers,
and chiselled carved calves.
Leather boots with sharp kicks.
Shredded denim shorts,
which began before her thighs
and ended before her waist.
A white striped top, short and tensed,
as a drum's membrane,
which bulged her cleavage,
and when she crouched in front,
it was of exact length to show
a little pink of her threaded underwear.
But even then,
when I revved my bike to take a closer look,
she, with a gentle tuck and a gentler nudge,
stretched her shirt down,
and covered it all,
as she rode away,
with a laugh on her smile.

Which side will I fall?

By Sandesh Bhat J R



Round, shiny, two-faces.
Fifty-Fifty
For it possesses no charm;
It's not that it falls fair,
But that it falls.

It flies high,
Flipping and flapping its wings that it much desires
From high above-
It wants to see this world;
Forever.
And yet it falls.

And spins and leaps on the ground;
As it says:
'Wait, wait…It is not time yet'
For it is not the time for judgement;
For it is not the time to fall.
And yet it falls.

And, finally:
Two faces.
But those eyes,
They see only one:
Flat out-
on the ground.

I walk along this Edge of a fence,
I know not for how long.
And, as I see:
My left, my right;
I pray with all my might-
For when the day comes for my fall;
May it be the right side,
The good side.

My Friend and the Sea

By Shruti Paranjape

She is engulfed now,
In silence and darkness.
My friend; her end,
Fills me with sadness.

Why did she have to die?
I really don't know.
It seems so unfair -
Why did she have to go?

With the sun glistening off the frothy waves,
And the coconut fronds rustling in the breeze.
The gentle water lapping around my ankles,
The sea always gave me a sense of peace.

But the sea now churns my heart,
With a wrenching sorrow.
Twenty-sixth December is etched in my mind;
The shock just refuses to go.

On that bright Sunday morning,
She went out to play.
Not knowing the sea would turn against her,
On that fateful day.

The wall of water approached the beach,
And the children froze mid-play,
As the sea rushed in to swallow them,
Like a hawk marking its prey.

Her books still lay sprawled out,
On the nursery floor.
And her dog still awaited her,
Quietly by the door.

The infinite ocean & the curious Human

By Govind Unnikrishnan

After nearly eighteen years on Earth which passed as if trying to challenge Einstein's equations like those neutrinos in the LHC, I'm pretty sure of one thing now: Newton sure wasn't trying to be modest when he said, "I was like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me." At least, he was finding some pebbles and shells. I find it difficult to even imagine myself as an old crab walking backwards on the shore. Science is but one among the oceans of knowledge that exist today and yet it seems astronomically huge. On the other hand, that feeling, the feeling that you understand and that you're not just looking on dumbly, is too tantalizing for one to keep himself from diving headlong into this fathomless abyss of satisfaction.

It is quite obvious that one cannot comprehend the whole of science- life is too short for that! But then, that doesn't seem to hold people back. Since the very beginning, humans have been a curious species and we continue to be so. Humans have always asked questions like, "Why is the sky blue?", "What is the speed with which a stone comes down on dropping it from a height?", and others of this sort. Though knowing the speed with which the stone comes down doesn't make you feel better when the stone hits you, we keep asking such apparently useless questions. This is what sets humans apart from all living things on this Earth. Curiosity, boundless curiosity, is a unique trait of humans.

This makes one wonder whether we are better off being curious. Does it really matter in the end? The prospect of living a "non-curious" life like that of a plant doesn't seem to hold much appeal. Humans are the way they are-you just can't help being curious. Why we are like this is a question for evolutionary biologists or maybe philosophers to answer. Whatever be the case, humans continue their voyage in the oceans of knowledge, seeking some unknown and distant shore.



Photo by: Sharvaree

Eternal search

By G Ambika

All through my life I was searching and searching,
Since the time when conscious thought trickled in me;
Every wakeful moment with ever increasing zeal
With all the five senses bestowed on me.

Searching and searching I grew up and flew
Detached and senseless over travails of life;
Sorrows and joys all glazed past me softly,
As I was seeking for the essence of life.

All through throws and jerks of abandon,
I looked for this essence in internal quests:
Never could I get this in fullness and rigour,
Though I could get its sparks in bits quite often.

The richness of those sparks fills me with bliss,
With expanding zest to pursue the search;
To fix all the bits for the fullness still hiding
Till the gush of its wholeness zooms me to fruition.



SILENCE

By Chaitra A

It's there in the chirping of the birds flying by,
It's there in the roaring of the rivers flowing by,
It's there even in the thunders of the storms rolling by,
That thing, called silence...

It is mysterious, it is elusive,
It is always there, but passive.
What is it, that which makes me submissive?
That thing, called silence...

Is it the peace that is sought?
Or is it the lull after a battle fought?
Is it the absence of thoughts?
That thing, called silence...

Is it there within us, or has it died
Leaving behind an infinite void?
Are the answers to us denied
By that thing, called silence...?

GIVETH AWAY *LOVE*

By Anandita De

As Valentines Day goes by, I sit and wonder about this unique feeling called love! Why do we need a day to celebrate love? Can we not make our loved ones feel special on any day? Maybe, the answer is in the question itself.

In our busy and hectic lives, do we have time to spare a thought for anyone other than ourselves? We are so caught up in the web of life that we forget about those who make our living possible. We fail to notice the people who make a fool of themselves just to make us laugh, people who share our troubles without letting us know and people who lend us their support silently, unconditionally.

So, yes! There is the answer! It is the day we need to realise all the love we receive in our lives. It is the day to appreciate and acknowledge the presence of all those who make our life enjoyable. We are in an illusion when we think we are totally independent and we don't need anyone. Love is what holds us together; love is what holds everything together. Amongst the darkness of hatred and jealousiy in this world, love shines a light of hope. It brings beauty and makes life worth living.

You do not need expensive gifts to make your loved ones feel special. And you definitely DO NOT NEED a special day! Those are just used by companies to advertise their products. A gesture of kindness is enough to light up their day and yours too! There is no greater joy than to look at someone's face light up with a smile of pure happiness!

But you should not restrict these gestures of love and kindness only to your loved ones! I have found love and kindness at unexpected places. I often used to ride the rickshaw of a grandfather (that is what I would like to call him) while returning home from school. He spoke to me as I was his own granddaughter. He asked me to study hard and make it big in life. I was very surprised and touched at the same time.

In my eyes, he has also made it 'big' in his life. He has educated his two sons, raised them to be respectable men in society and served so many in his own small way. So there is no specific time, place or person to whom you can show your love to! Spread it whenever possible, wherever possible. I would like to end by quoting a hymn we used to sing in school:

"Love is something, if you give it away
Give it away, give it away,
You end up having more.
Its just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any
Lend it, spend it and you'll have so many
That it will roll over the floor ."



Come gather ‘round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You’ll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you
Is worth savin’
Then you better start swimmin’
Or you’ll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin’.

Times they are a-changin’
Bob Dylan


SECTION FIVE
Then
and
Now



The Times have changed. IISER is no longer the barren 98 acres of wasteland that it used to be. Change has crept in through closed laboratory doors and the ever-wide-open main gate, into library bookshelves and cafeteria fridges, into empty and filled hostel rooms alike. In the words of a certain Rouge Prophet, “The sun is the same in a relative way but we’re older”.

Indeed when we look back, we find that the grass was greener. However the days seem just as bright with a stronger ebb of people in and out of IISER. The oldies frown as their spaces are encroached by chirping, chattering newbies. The usurpers aren’t just young fledglings though. This year saw an incursion of Integrated PhD and PhD students, new Faculty, Fellows and Administrators into the corridors, labs and common spaces in the campus. The otherwise serene cafeteria sells more coffee than ever before though faced with tough competition from its cooler alternative, the Danette Choco Smoothie. The library has turned into the hub of the Sai Trinity building with students, especially first-year undergrads (ironically) spending most of their free hours there. To accommodate for this, the library also has got a revamp with more books, online journals and a pseudopodium in HR4.

With every new sunrise, the face of the IISER panorama rises in majesty and verticality. Toil and sweat along with bricks and cement have given shape to the brand new blocks, bungalows, complexes and other megastructures enclosed within the boundary walls. Zooming in from this bird’s eye view, an im-



pressive line-up of amenities resolve themselves into washing machines, in-hostel ATM, the new state-of-the-art Chemistry laboratory and a structure of striking beauty, a clandestine chamber complete with the elusive fountain of youth, the new bathroom in the ground floor of HR4. The new hostel, the Director's bungalow and the Physics laboratory block are on their way to completion and occupation. Both Sai Trinity and the new campus have been refurbished with new equipment, not just microscopes and ultra-centrifuges but treadmills, weightlifting benches, bars and dumbbells.

This new influx has brought not just more mouths to feed and bodies to build but also a horde of new minds that seeks challenges, activity and recreation. The student body of IISER has taken up the task of generating club after club to propose and execute activities of the ranks of quizzes, art, waste-management, social service, discussions on movies, dance and the like. Sports facilities at IISER remain pretty much the same but as they say the real fun in sports does not demand a well-maintained ground or expensive equipment. On a different note, in the past year, news seems to be travelling at supersonic speeds after the unravelling of IISER's permanent newsmaker-Sentience!

As the academic year comes to a close and the sun sets over the IISERian horizon, people look happy, well-settled and optimistic. An air of complacence has finally settled all around IISER even though the dust from the trucks and the construction vehicles have not. However, this too shall pass.

What were the major challenges in shifting from the academic circle at NCL to the administrative one at IISER Pune?

I consider it as very fortunate to move to IISER Pune as the first Director after almost 25 years of experience in CSIR labs such as CCMB and NCL. While I could do my academic research with all freedom in these institutions, I also learnt good lessons in science management and developing leadership abilities. So, it was a boon for me and I had no difficulties in switching roles. I started my career at CCMB, Hyderabad while it was being established and my initial growth was synchronous with that of CCMB, an experience that had quite an influence at IISER Pune during the past 5 years. At NCL, I learnt a lot about working with scientists of different disciplines ranging from organic chemistry, to biology and to chemical engineering. Working with very versatile Directors such as Dr. Mashelkar and Dr. Sivaram was a fantastic learning experience in the art of managing science and envision the future.

The initial major challenge at IISER Pune was to put in a healthy administration from scratch, simultaneously establishing the first year of teaching course work for students. While, to some extent NCL provided support in administration, the latter part was new to me. I was lucky to have experienced colleagues in Prof. Ramachandran and Ambika and the very enthusiastic RGB in setting up the academic courses (theory and practicals), library, hall of residence, evaluation methods etc. Both Ambika and RGB assumed seamless responsibilities from academics to the welfare of students. Our first year at IISER Pune is a great unforgettable experience, one of sincere hard work and a passionate involvement in everything we did. Only courage of conviction guided us since no precedence existed for any situation.

Only courage of conviction guided us since no precedence existed for any situation.

With the increasing number of students, faculty and changing times, do you think the objective of the institution would be lost? How do you plan to counter it?

Critical and creative thinking and inquiry-based learning should become part of IISERs' educational aims.

Not really. Some objectives can be achieved well with scale up, since for all new ideas there will always be a critical number of students responding positively. However, we should not reach our final projected growth in terms of faculty too soon. It is better to give essential support to the appointed faculty to enable them reach their full potential. I feel that there should be good diversity in the growth profile, which should spread evenly across all disciplines and sections. We should also go international in terms of students and faculty. Good liberal arts and courses promoting alternative careers for science should be introduced when we are ready. Finally critical and creative thinking and inquiry-based learning should become part of IISERs' educational aims. When more students get to do research projects early in their UG programmes and make effective contributions, one of the important aims of IISERs will be realized. On the other hand, a difficult but important thing that needs to happen happen is the emergence of a strong post-doctoral research programme at IISER, which is desirable for making us globally competitive.

Then & Now

with the DIRECTOR



From 40 in 2006 to a strength of 500 in 2012, how would you define the journey?

A combination of challenges, fantasies as well as a sense of achievement and satisfaction.

The journey of scale up has been a combination of challenges, fantasies as well as a sense of achievement and satisfaction. The main challenges of scale up each year were how to manage the increased student accommodation, classroom space and the associated academic administration. In particular, an unforgettable situation was when the 2007 batch of students arrived in the campus with their parents and luggage and the accommodation (now called HR2) was not ready. In addition, the weather was not kind with pouring rain. Thanks to Sutirth and RGB who worked with enormous patience and guile that we could manage the situation. The year after that was a different challenge with the 2008 batch of students spread over 4-5 flats and we had to scale up our transport and mess. Day to day life was not easy and I am grateful to all the wardens and the students for bearing the living difficulties and not allowing them to come in the way of academics. The decision to hire 7 floors in Sai Trinity building and setting up modern teaching/research laboratories, classrooms and office spaces for faculty in an uncompromising way was the most important decision in my opinion that paved way for the present emergent position of IISER Pune. Only this helped us in competitively attracting excellent faculty, who are the key to the eventual success of any institution. Another important decision was to go ahead with building HR4 without waiting for the master plan and HR4 has provided the greatest cushion and space for us to absorb all scaling up issues. Moreover it has given the “campus feeling” for the students and faculty, pending the time and process-dependent-completion of the envisaged campus of IISER Pune. So, everyday is a day of making some decisions, and as Mahatma Gandhi said “almost anything you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it"

You have to interact with a variety of people every day. How do you manage this so effectively?

I am glad to know that I do it effectively! This has been the most interesting aspect of my job. I know that when people approach me, it is for something that they think is important to them. So, I respect it and try to listen and give my attention to the best. When colleagues seek to meet me, momentarily beforehand I try to guess the reason and prepare myself for the response. I have experienced that most of the times personal conflicts arise essentially due to communication gap and trust deficit. Once this is amicably addressed, it is generally a happy situation. A senior person once told me that a Director's job is essentially managing peoples' ego! Thus this cannot be interlaced with my own ego. I have never felt ashamed to say sorry when I am wrong and fortunately I have some brave colleagues who are never afraid to tell me when I am wrong. When I evaluate someone's action or behaviour, I always put myself in that position and so reach the inevitable conclusion that even I would have done the same. Many times it helps resolving the issues. I always try to be fair to people and situations which means trying to reach fair compromising solutions. Humans have to be treated humanely and my general motto has been to follow George Bush Sr: "In crucial things, Unity; in important things, Diversity and in all things, Generosity". I believe in all these attributes and more so in the last one!

A Director's job is essentially managing peoples' ego!

6 years and still growing - are you satisfied with the growth curve?

I am always a dissatisfied but happy person. Satisfaction, I believe many a times is detrimental to reach your best. In terms of students and faculty strengths as well as campus progress, we could have done better. We may be doing relatively better, but we have not been able to keep up with the growth curve envisaged in the project plan. Of course we have to keep growing forever! While we have done quite a bit of innovation in terms of teaching methods, curricula and evaluation, I believe we need to accelerate in terms of quality research output. That is the immediate way by which the outside scientific world will recognise us and the rest will follow. One of our shortcomings is the absence of good outdoor sports facility. Hopefully this should come up soon.

Prof. K. N. Ganesh with the Kalpa editors



Many times creativity which is essential to good research cannot be picked up in conventional tests.

Do you believe that the attitude of students has changed over the years, both within and across batches?

I can certainly perceive such a change as the channels for admission is shifting. Given the diversity in background of students, there will be some differences in their attitude even within a batch. I feel that the attitude is getting better, as students are slowly realizing the novel aspects of IISER system. I feel that we still have to reach a stage before we routinely attract competent research students, who will be the very key to our research output.

With all the administrative responsibilities, how are you managing your research?

I must confess that my research has taken a toll.

Yes, I must confess that my research has taken a toll. However, it is not so much due to the time factor as it is due to lack of concentration. My research students have been making good progress in difficult experiments, but I am unable to meet them and discuss science regularly. I am also unable to go to lab benches and guide them on practical designs of experiments as I used to do earlier and that makes a difference. Moreover there are several manuscripts pending and it requires considerable concentration to complete them and get them out as publications.

What according to you is an ideal admission procedure for IISER Pune?

First of all, at present we have multiple admission channels, which itself is good in not accumulating the stereotypes. A good system which I know is difficult to implement is testing students for different desirable attributes such as language proficiency, logic, problem solving ability, conceptual understanding, etc and grade them separately to draw up our own custom merit list. Many times creativity, which is essential to good research, cannot be picked up in conventional tests and unfortunately our procedures do not allow us to select students by any other means. So, we need to have our training designed to bring the best in the students that we admit.

Research has become very competitive and you have to rediscover yourself to keep up to the challenge and keep running, even to remain stationary! For this I need to be spending at least 4-5 hours per day just thinking about my research and this is where concentration flops, with my mind wandering in different directions.

I must tell you that the greatest happiness for me is when I receive an e-mail saying that our manuscript has been accepted for publication after a competent and professionally challenging review process. Nothing else can match that happiness. I had one such moment just yesterday when a good piece of work got accepted in J. Org. Chem. and I now feel energized. After all, it is science and research that will stay with us forever and I must negotiate with myself not to lose it irrespective of other factors.

Congratulations!

Prof. K. N. Ganesh is the Director of IISER Pune. The Kalpa team was in conversation with him. He has been Director for another term.



Fresh New Faces

The Latest Additions to IISER Pune's Family

New faces appear on the IISER campus each day, a few young, a few old, a few who want their stories told. The campus plays host to all their dreams and nurtures their ideas and provides a platform for excellence. Kalpa welcomes all the happy new faces in IISER and wishes them a long and pleasant stay.



Prof. Peter Schneider

First on the list is the brand new JC Bose Chair - Prof. Peter Schneider, one of the world's leading mathematicians!

He paid us IISER-P folks a visit during the month of September and discussed what he worked on. He gave a short course on 'Local Fields'. These, as this not-so-knowledgeable reporter understands them, are fields complete with respect to a non-Archimedean valuation that are very important in number theory.

Prof. Schneider works with p-adic methods in arithmetic and geometry. He has also made MAJOR contributions to Iwasawa theory, Langlands' programme and p-adic analysis.



Dr. Nirmalya Ballav

Dr. Ballav is an extremely knowledgeable faculty in Chemistry who is also a fun person to interact with.



Dr. Anisa Chorwadwala

Dr. Anisa Chorwadwala is a young, enthusiastic and vibrant Mathematician who is also a great teacher.



Dr. Anirban Hazra

With his million dollar smile and dedicated participation in all extra-curricular activities, social and environmental causes, Dr. Hazra is a valuable addition to the Chemistry team.



Dr. Sunil Nair

A hard-working physicist who focuses strongly on-strongly correlated electron systems!



Dr. Anindya Goswami

Dr. Goswami is a bold and innovative Applied Mathematician, a rarity in this pure science institution, and a fine academician in his league.



Dr. Aparna Deshpande

This female physicist is a brilliant teacher and is looked up to by all her students.



Dr. Mrinalini Puranik

This charming spectroscopy specialist is bound to have a spectrum of surprises in store for us!



Dr. A. Raghuram

This athletic mathematician came, saw and ventured to alter the scene of Mathematics at IISER. Brimming with optimism and motivation, he is all set to improve the Mathematics department one step at a time.



Dr. R. Vaidhyanathan

Here's a Chemistry professor who oscillates between 2 C's- cricket and Chemistry!

Scripting words for the research, search and activities at IISER for the Public, we welcome our new publicity consultant.

Ms. SUDHA RAJAMANI
Assistant Professor



Dr. DHARMADHIKARI
Guest faculty



Dr. SHANTI KALIPATNAPU
Sr. Consultant (Pub)



Young, sprightly and approachable, the IISER fellows connect with the students and faculty alike.

Dr. SUDIPTA BASU
IISER Fellow



Dr. ASHNA BAJPAI
IISER Fellow



While the researchers are grinding away in the labs, the administrative staff works behind the scenes to make the researcher's life easy.



Mr. SANTOSH KALE
Accountant



Mrs. MARIAMMA JOHN
Dy. Registrar (Fin. & Accounts)



Mrs. NEETA DEO
Software Engineer



It's a tough life in Science. The sun never sets in IISER labs as researchers burn the midnight oil when grappled by the peculiarity of a question. Several sheets of A4 sized paper, countless refills and ink cartridges, innumerable all-nighters, infinite disappointments and umpteen mugs of coffee later, the first rays of hope coquet in the horizon. The joy of this sensation, the sigh of triumph is worth a hundred words of congratulations and is the best reward that anyone can ask for. Kalpa, however, feels obliged to commend the fruits of toil that these researchers and competent students have achieved. Though times have changed, a few things never alter, never fade and never wither. We salute true grit, true patience and true genius, truly timeless virtues.

Hearty Congratulations!



Dr. Ramana Athreya wins Whitley Award

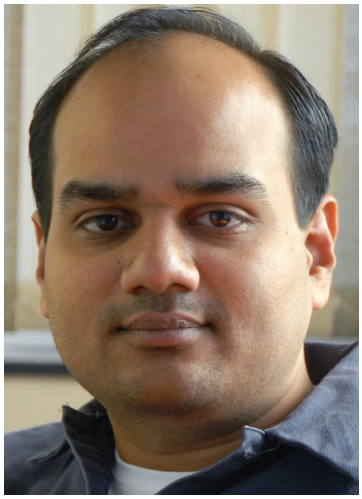
As he beamingly received the award, he thanked the organization for making the world a better place for his nine-year-old daughter to live in.

When you discover an exotic new bird species and get to spend time in one of the most beautiful forests of the world, you think that life just couldn't get any better. However, Dr. Ramana Athreya, just added another exotic feather to his cap (no pun intended) when he was selected as one of the seven recipients of the Whitley Fund for Nature awards. The awards, presented by HRH, The Princess Royal and backed by David Attenborough, reward projects helping communities and projects around the world.

They are an annual competition, first held in 1994. In the 18 years since the scheme began, it has given grants worth more than 6 million dollars to support the work of inspirational conservation leaders in 70 countries and built a network of more than 120 Whitley alumni. As he beamingly received the award, he thanked the organization for making the world a better place for his nine-year-old daughter to live in.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with him, Dr. Ramana Athreya is an Associate Professor at IISER Pune and a co-ordinator with Ecosystems International. He juggles the roles of an Ecologist and Radioastronomer effortlessly. This makes him, unequivocally, the poster-boy of IISER's interdisciplinary policy.

Dr. Sudarshan Ananth bags NASI-Young Scientist award



Call it the first Fermat's prime or the first Mersenne prime or even the first odd prime, but three's definitely a charm for Sudarshan Ananth. He has been selected as one of the NASI – Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Awardees, 2011, thus completing his hatrick bagging the Young Scientist Awards from all three National Academies in India. Hatricks aren't new to the most promising player of IISER's Faculty cricket team! Kalpa congratulates him on this rare prestige and wishes him grander success in the days to come.



Professor Galande elected fellow of INSA

Prof. Sanjeev Galande has been elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. This is in recognition of his original research in the field of Epigenetics. Prof. Galande, apart from being a well-applauded Epigeneticist, has a lesser known alter-ego of an excellent photographer, adventurer, musician and a hard-core wanderlust.

CHANDRA: In Quest of Perspectives

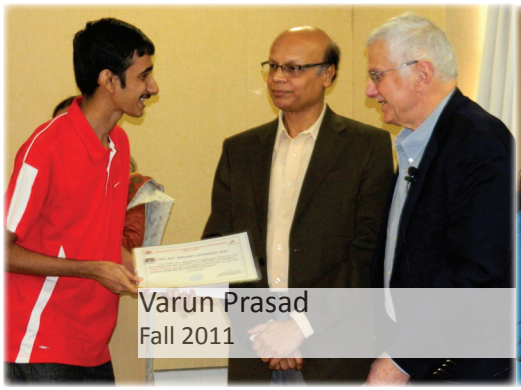


IISER Pune has produced an educational documentary entitled 'CHANDRA: In Quest of Perspectives' on the life of Nobel laureate Astrophysicist Late Prof. S. Chandrasekhar. This is part of the centenary celebration highlighting Prof. S Chandrasekhar's contributions in Astrophysics, Physics and Mathematics. The film is made by the award winning documentary filmmaker Mr. Nandan Kudhyadi, with Prof. Jayant Narlikar as the main scientific consultant and IISER's own Dr. Sudarshan Ananth as the narrator. Though it lacks in his usual brand of straight-faced humour, it is well researched and has been extensively shot on locations like Chicago, Yerkes, Cambridge, London, Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune. It has interviews with luminaries like Roger Penrose, Martin Rees, Kip Thorne, J V Narlikar, Abhay Ashtekar and others. This documentary was aired on National Network of DD-1 on 19th October, 2011 at 9:30 am.



IISER Pune awarded Dewang Mehta Business School Award

If this was dessert, here is the candied cherry on the top. IISER Pune has been chosen for "Dewang Mehta Business School Award" in recognition of leadership, development, innovation and industry interface. This is indeed an immense achievement for an Institute as young as ours.


Varun Prasad
Fall 2011


Shruti Paranjape
Fall 2011


Patankar Tanmay Sanjay
Fall 2011

CNR Rao Prize Winners


Lokhande Sagar Fakirchand
Fall 2011


V. Saudamini
Fall 2011

Sweat and toil, burning the midnight oil; hard work and perseverance always pays off in the end. This fact was revealed with better conviction as undergraduates were awarded accolades for willing to achieve, making sacrifices and outshining the others. The final outcome for their hard work is reflected in their smiling faces, an immense sense of satisfaction and achievement. Let these scholars, trailblazers and young achievers remain a source of inspiration to all.

Congratulations and celebrations!

Young Achievers



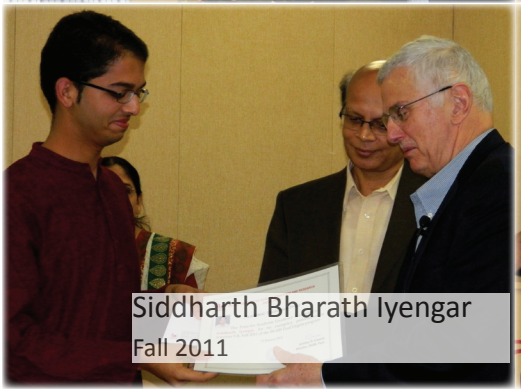
Rajkumar
Fall 2011



Soumitra Athavale
Fall 2011



Sarthak Parikh
Spring 2011



Siddharth Bharath Iyengar
Fall 2011



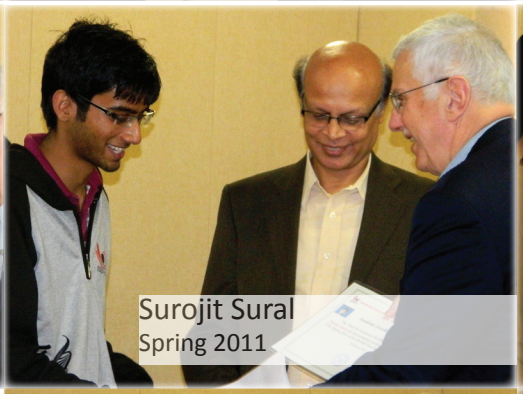
Neha Agrawal
Spring 2011



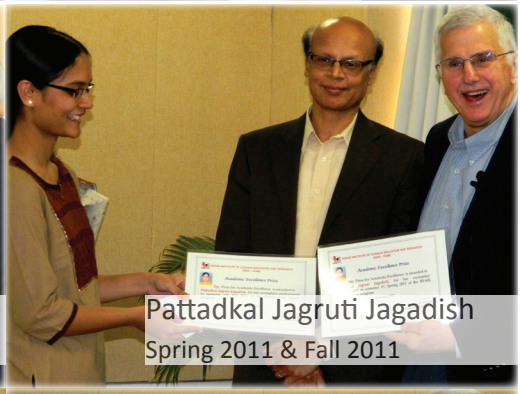
Uma Sridhar
Fall 2011



Sachit
Fall 2011



Surojit Sural
Spring 2011

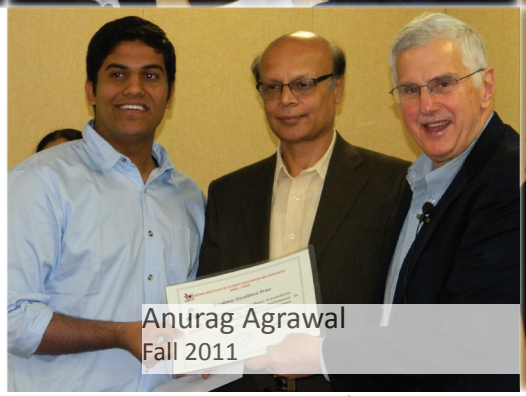


Pattadkal Jagruti Jagadish
Spring 2011 & Fall 2011

Apeksha Tare
Spring 2011

Ashutosh Agnihotri
Spring2011

Mohammed Zuhair M.M.
Spring 2011



Anurag Agrawal
Fall 2011



Roshni Bano
Fall 2011

Academic Excellence Prize Winners

Hearty congratulations
to all the toppers!



LIBRARY

Walking into the IISER library for the first time, one is struck by the sheer compactness of it. The three rows of books, the couple of computers, the modest seating and the leisurely librarian all paint the picture of a tiny, insignificant part of IISER life. However, within its digital records and sparse bookshelves, thrives a throbbing world of knowledge, discovery and information. This digital Alexandria grows in leaves and bounds each year as more journals, books and papers are added to the repository.

If numbers are what you are looking for, over 2000 print books, 2000 electronic books and innumerable online resources have been procured during the last year. The IISER library's advent into the technological sphere was marked by the launch of the IISER Digital Library (IDL) with 85 records in it. Some of the online resources procured include Relaxys, JoVE, Online Journals, Wiley Interscience, Royal Society of Chemistry Package, SciFinder Scholar, Scopus, Faculty of 1000 and iThenticate. Relaxys is a web-based solution for all Chemists, quite literally, as it integrates searches for reaction and substance data. F1000 is a post-publication peer review database for the benefit of Biologists and Medical Researchers. The database is quite trustworthy as the articles are rated by few of the most eminent faculty in the respective fields and categorized according to their importance.

Virtual Biology has now reached a higher plane of existence and efficiency. It is with immense pride that the librarian reports the acquisition of JoVE, which is the world's first and only peer-reviewed, indexed journal to be listed in PubMed. As researchers, IISERites know well enough that there exists but a thin line between legitimate borrowing and plagiarism and there is a lot to lose if a scientific paper is reviewed and found to be plagiarised. Come iThenticate, shielded and on a white horse, the solution to every researcher's woes. It is a 'plagiarism checking web tool' which compares the author's data to a massive online database to confirm authenticity and save everyone from embarrassment.

The library also expanded its activities as it organized a book exhibition with textbooks, scientific writing and popular science publications in the Ramanujan Hall on the event of the National Science Day, 28th of February 2012.

The library in the Sai Trinity building also extended a short, much-awaited arm into HR4 giving students a refuge in times of need and reference. Stocked with crisp, brand-new books, and also a horde of old and hardbound volumes of collected discussions of scientific societies to add antiquity and wisdom to the place, it is a real boon for all resident students of HR4, as they no longer need to make a trip to the library at Sai each time they want to issue a book or need to refer to something. The library also houses a set of magazines and weeklies for any interested readers.





LABS

Various labs at IISER saw a shower of equipment and infrastructural add-ons in the previous year. With each lab aiming to achieve a world-class facility, purchasing state-of-the-art equipment and recruiting skilled personnel was on full swing. Not only were new and sophisticated gizmos flown in but also pre-existent devices multiplied in number. Amongst the many additions, the few prominent ones are -

THE MENDELEEV BLOCK

The completion and subsequent setting of this Chemistry laboratory hub was undoubtedly last year's most significant addition to IISER's world-class facility. Now, with more space and well-planned facilities available to house the Chem professors and their laboratory setups, an endless stream of new devices like the Mass Spectrometer have been (and are being) added to its already long and impressive list of experimental paraphernalia. To non-Chemists (like the visitors to this lab), the sleek, new-age look of the place was much more appealing than the off-white mountains of equipment housed inside. What puts this block ahead of other drab IISER buildings (painted in cream-and-red and covered in steel grey sheets) is the aquamarine (the name of the exact shade is compromised for most of the readers are probably male) walls along the corridors. Equally arty and quite surprising are the glass framed paintings and pieces of art lining these walls. Also the supremely frigid glass version of the modern periodic table. This building symbolizes convenience with a colour laser printer and an ample lawn, however disconnected they may be. The frosting on the cake, however, is the motion sensing lights in every lab and faculty room! The working condition of these lights has been tested by a group of crazy nightly visitors who ran all over the place triggering the sensors on to the point of irritation.

THE UG BIO LAB

The latter half of last year saw the setting up of an exclusive, self-sufficient Biology lab dedicated for undergraduate studies and thus started the influx of apparatus such as laminar air-flows, autoclaves, incubators etc. Speak of good fortune for the first years!

With the undergrad laboratory moving out to a new complex of its own, the pre-existent laboratory was upgraded to a new facility called 'THE NEW RESEARCH LAB' (whatever happened to the christeners of the new Physics and Chemistry blocks?). Set up to support high-end research, several equipments such as TIRF and confocal microscopes, Acta liquid chromatographer, Inverted fluorescence microscopes, Lyofilizers etc were brought in.

PHYSICS LABS

The Physics labs got several new equipment and machinery to aid the wide variety of research that is going on in the lab. These include SEMs, EM-CCD camera and several other devices for the laser lab.

ħ block: The new Physics lab





CONSTRUCTION

With all the labs slated to shift their base of operation from the Sai campus to their respective laboratories at the Main campus before next Spring, constrution work at the campus has accelerated multifold. Returning from trips home or even a week-long vacation, IISER-ites invariably raises eyebrows as they notice another building lining the once-blank landscape.

Following the completion of the Chemistry research lab complex the 'MENDELEEV' block, next on line is its twin, the Physics research lab, identical in design yet deceptively contrasting in nomenclature. The construction of the complex has nearly been completed and it will soon begin to get populated with the brain and the brawn (the equipment of course) of the Physics department. Along with the already existing apparatus, several new and state-of-the-art ones are also expected to dock shortly. Physics at IISER is eagerly awaiting its facelift!

THE HOSTEL BUILDING

The hostel building fastened its climb towards the sky, one storey a time, last year. It has now completed its ninth and final step. If you are lucky enough to discover the stairs amongst the rubble (or alternatively, ask for help), a determined climb would lead you to the terrace right at the top. The unobstructed view for miles across is quite a treat from IISER's own Cloud Number Nine.

The interiors of the building and furnishing of the rooms are being done at a fast pace. If all goes well, the newbies of the 2012 batch will be housed in the new hostel (with the luxury of having to put up with only one roommate). Along with them, the inhabitants of the other HRs will also be moving into the complex.

The construcion of the other residential complex has also commenced. Though unrecognizable now, it will slowly (and firmly) rise to live upto our expectations.

FACULTY HOUSING

The construction of the complex that will be housing the faculty began last year and it seems to be progressing quickly. The complex will be ready for occupation by the end of next year. It will be visible testament to IISER's interdisciplinary policy as Mathematicians, Physicists, Biologists and Chemists will live in the same threshold.



Inset: The new hostel rooms



DIRECTOR'S BUNGALOW

The construction of the complex that will serve as the residence of the Director was started last year and it is well-near completion.

Don't be surprised if you found a comfortable and warm looking bungalow right next to HR4 in the near future.

The upcoming 9-storey hostel building.

LECTURE COMPLEX

Gladiators have fought and died. The Colosseum in Rome has burnt and tumbled down. Millenia later, in memoriam, the master architects of the IISER campus decide to recreate this pagan fight club. And come the new lecture hall complex at IISER Pune in close resemblance to the Roman Colosseum. This facility is set to begin operation at the beginning of Spring 2013.



HR4 UPDATES

Several additions have been made both to the residential and classroom sections of the HR4 complex in a year's time.

THE ATM

The inauguration of the ATM on the 24th of October on the occasion of *Dhan teras* (finally!) was a welcome gesture among IISER's student community as it spared them the long voyage to the bank in order to withdraw money. But little did they know that this Any Time Money machine would be 'non-operational' more often than not.

THE LAUNDRY ROOM

The arrival of the washing machines (unsung heroes when at war with one's dirt-filled clothes) was rejoiced at the hostel as they now relieved many students of their wardrobe woes.

THE GYMNASIUM

The arrival of the ATM and the washing machine meant that the hostelites were now deprived of their regular exercise quota (which earlier comprised of long walks to the bank or washing ones clothes). Outraged at this, the health conscious population of IISER demanded the immediate inauguration of a well-equipped Gym which was conceded to by the management.

On the other hand, the classroom section of HR4 saw the addition of tutorial rooms and a state-of-the-art e-classroom.



ATM at HR4

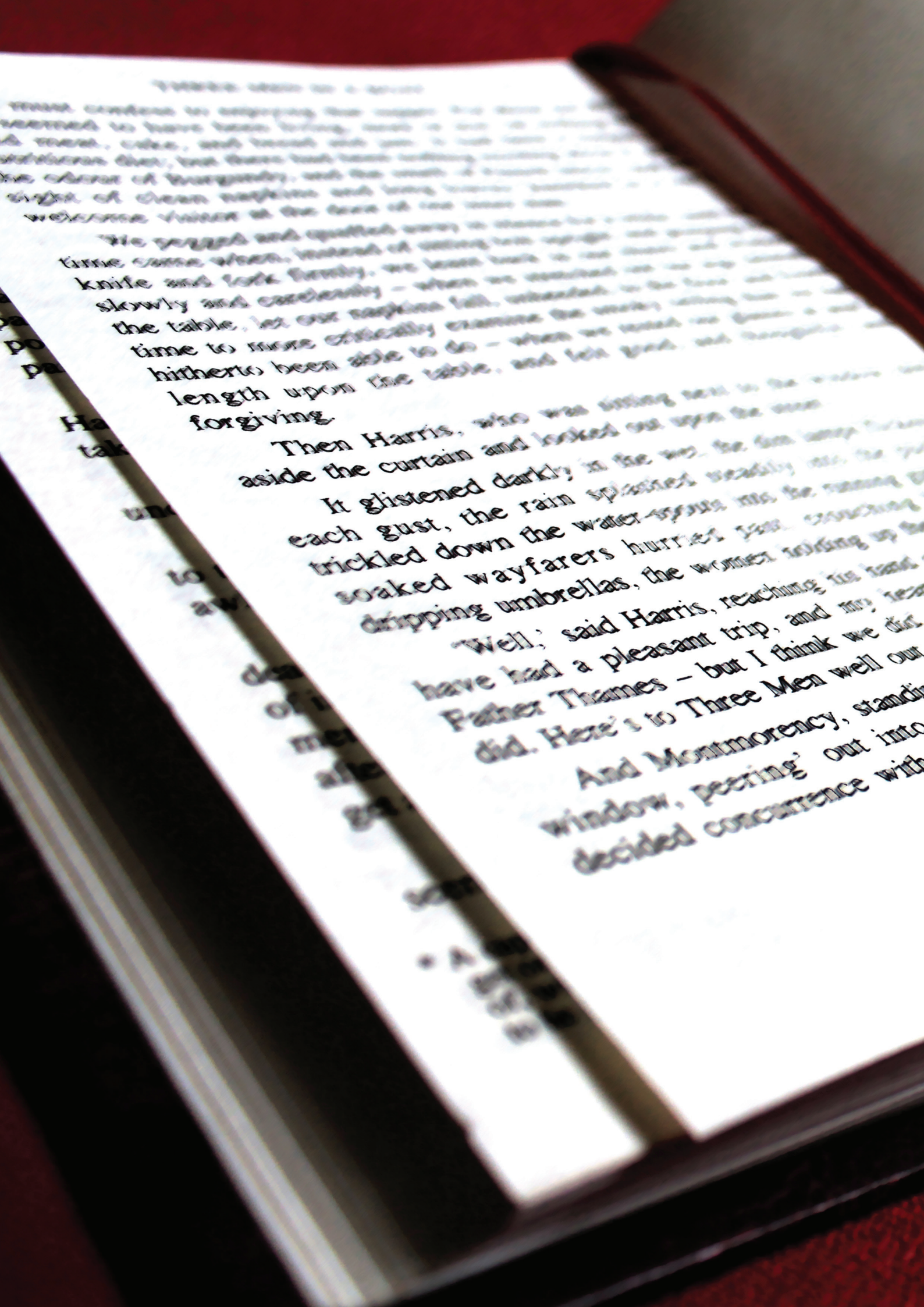
The new gymnasium

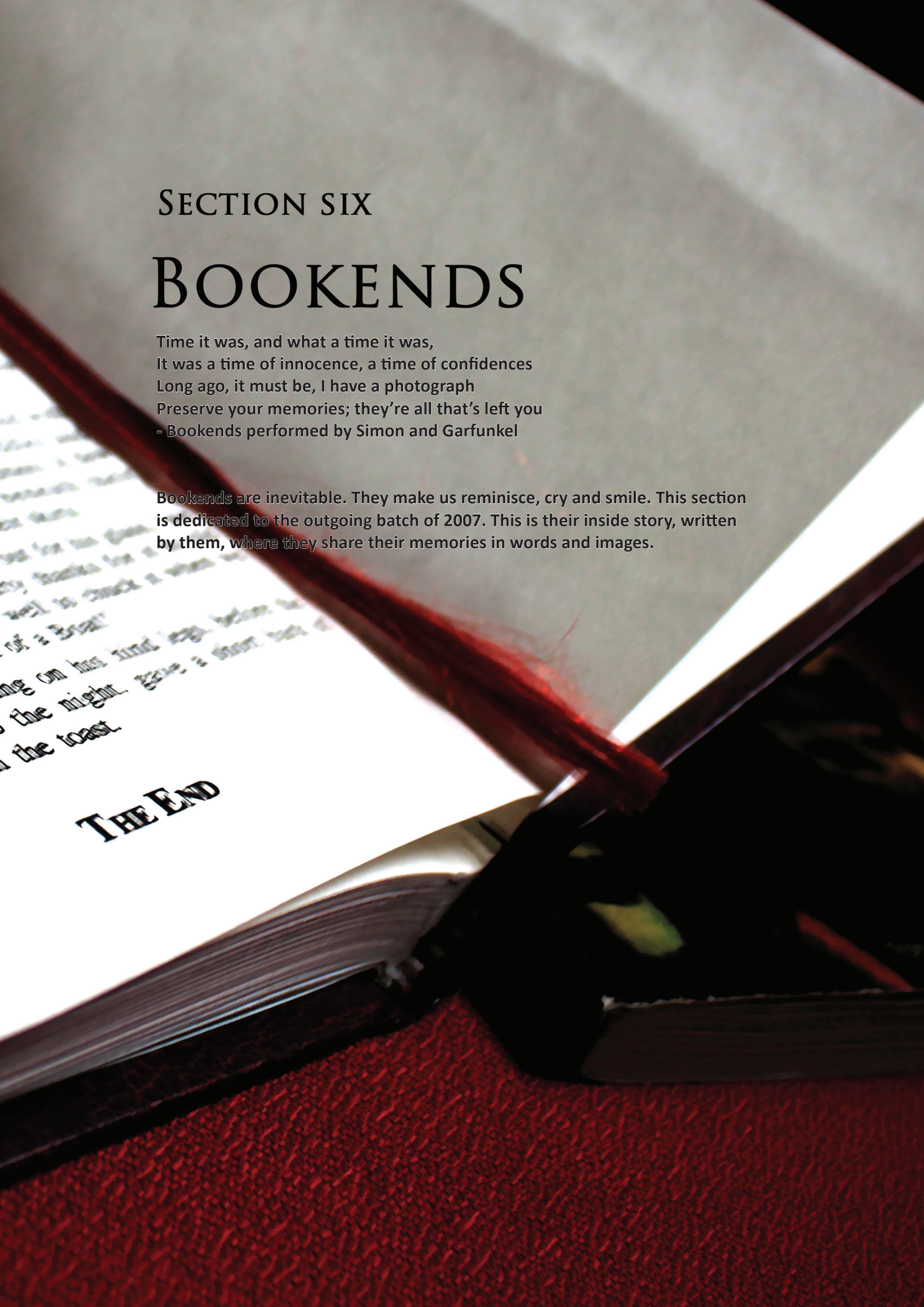
Photos by: Nisarg



Visitors' Say

1/12/2011	Edward Byrne. Monash University Australia	I am very impressed by the high quality of your activities. I hope we can collaborate in the future! E.B.
MAR 22, 11	TERRENCE DEACON 165 TRAVALINI COURT EL SOBRANTE CA 94803 USA	EXCELLENT CONVERSATIONS EXCELLENT EXPERIENCES EXCELLENT CHAI
April 1, 2011	Prof. Dr. H. Münstedt, University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Institute of Polymer Materials D-91058 Erlangen, Germany helmut.muenstedt@www.uni-erlangen.de	Thank you for the comprehensive information on IISE. I wish you all the best for a bright future of your institution!
Sept. 30th 2011	Ulrike Beisiegel President of University of Göttingen Germany	Exactly the right concept for science and education. Excellent faculty setting up a perfect Campus. Congratulation! I wish you that you can create the perfect academic spirit! [signature]
Sept. 30th	Hiltraud Casper-Helme Vice-President of the University of Goettingen	We are happy to cooperate with your internationally highly recognized institute. [signature]
1/21/2011	Bruce Alberts Editor-in-Chief, Science magazine, USA	It was a very great pleasure for me to visit an exciting new university that has an equal emphasis on inquiry science education and science research. Your students were wonderful, and I believe that your graduates will make great contributions in the future to both India and the world!
02/01/2012	Tom Blundell Cambridge University UK	Wonderful to find such a lively group of faculty and students, promising a new and exciting phase in Indian science. Great hospitality and great fun!





Section six

Bookends

Time it was, and what a time it was,
It was a time of innocence, a time of confidences
Long ago, it must be, I have a photograph
Preserve your memories; they're all that's left you
- Bookends performed by Simon and Garfunkel

Bookends are inevitable. They make us reminisce, cry and smile. This section is dedicated to the outgoing batch of 2007. This is their inside story, written by them, where they share their memories in words and images.

“Honestly speaking”

By Sarthak Parikh

I eyed with suspicion and contrived detachment the celebration among many friends, as the clock in the examination hall chimed the end of the last ever exam in Science for them (God give strength to the rare warrior or two who would fight one last time during the summer break). I watched with suspicion because I wondered if I had felt liberated to an equivalent degree when I wrote my last Social Sciences paper a week back or drew the last diagram of a brain for Biology. And I affected a sense of indifference, albeit with some difficulty, as I could already picture myself two years from now, writing my final Chemistry paper for twelfth standard. A tiger who has tasted human blood is a man-eater for life. Keep the tiger away from blood for two more years. Or the leashed tiger will go crazy. The wait for that day was long but the result was guaranteed.

Or, was it? Enter IISER. Enter first year. Enter Chemistry. Heck, enter Biology! And now you are already eyeing the third year. Another two-year wait. You think about your friends from tenth standard - did life betray them as well? You enter the third year, and you are already dreaming about the fifth. No classes, no homework, no exams...the three boundary conditions for your Utopia*! The human soul is always two years into the future.

Things did not stop at two. We lived in three hostels, read in three libraries and had classes in three separate campuses. But what IISER offered, and still does, cannot be quantified (I am of course not talking about the INSPIRE stipend or grant).

During the journey (or maybe in the end), you realise that coming to IISER was the right decision and you are proud to call yourself a/an ...(we really need to come to a consensus on a group name).

*No seniors, the fourth condition desired by several but may be is very difficult to realise.





Growing with IISER

By Ayesha and Srija

With a tear in my eye and a smile on my lips, what can I say... now that it all comes to an end Our second home that filled us with such wonderful memories, we now leave it all behind us and try to move on. With longing and nostalgia we look back, we look back to where it all began. A bunch of scared and unsure kids trodding the muddy corridors of HR1, holding tight to the comforting and warm pallu. Intimidated and unsettled, we found solace only in the equally confused eyes of our batch mates.

Like a toddler's first steps, our very first moments in IISER on the muddy roads of Innovation Park, we came in with aspirations. Our arrows were aimed at the skies, to be inspired and awed by the wonders of science. We soon got into a routine in which no day was the same as any before. There was always something new to learn; from a lecture, from an experiment, from a discussion. Before we knew, we became a part of the building of an institution. With our overflowing enthusiasm to give our best to everything we touch, we started our very own science club, music club, art club. And soon with the help of our beloved teachers (Dey Sir and Bhat Sir, how can we ever thank you enough for everything), we started organizing events, Karavaan the legacy passed on to us by our seniors and Mimamsa, our brain-child.

The most commonplace things now have a place in our hearts. We remember wistfully our days of fun-filled practicals, lab reports, the excitement before a viva. Aha...we could make a book out of all those special messages we shared in the margins of our notes, during long lectures.

The margins were always too small to contain the *gyan* that we wished to share and the discussion would soon spill on to the evenings spent sitting on the stairs in front of our rooms... continuing well into early mornings. From the latest hot fads to the ruminations about the futility of it all and then back to worrying about what to wear to insti the next day... Our *gupshup* looped the circle of sense and nonsense regularly.

Out of our cozy homes, our hostel taught us everything we needed to know to face the world. Through the nights before exams, in the lawns of HR1, with a book in one hand and a spoonful of maggi in the other, we learnt to laugh our way through the exams of life. With every birthday party that we celebrated, with every joke that we shared, with every tear that we consoled, we learnt to care. Life might take us far, endow us with riches and success, but I would always miss the *samosas and vada-pavs* we had in NCL market.

And more so, how can we ever forget the kindness of our teachers, who with patience accepted our ignorance and showed us how to make a path for ourselves. Away from the protection of our homes how can we forget all that this college taught us to face the world with our heads held high. We came in, a bunch of scared and confused kids, holding onto mamma's pallu for comfort. We grew up together, our dear insti and us. It fills us with pride, to see what it has become and what it has made us, confident, ambitious and all set to take the world.

बैच'07– ये आखिरी अलविदा ना हो...

विभम शुक्ला

मुझे यह लेख लिखने के लिए तब कहा गया, जब मैं अपने अंतिम वर्ष के शोध–प्रबंध (थीसिस) पर काम कर रहा था। इसलिए विचार आया कि इस लेख को भी एक शोध–प्रबंध की तरह ही लिखा जाए, क्योंकि यह लेख हमारे बैच पर 5 वर्ष तक किए गए शोध को दर्शाता है।

प्रस्तावनाः
बैच'07, भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान (आयसर), पुणे का द्वितीय बैच। दिनांक 16 अगस्त, वर्ष 2007 में आयसर परिवार में 54 नये विद्यार्थी सम्मिलित हुए। यह विद्यार्थी आयसर में अपने 5 वर्ष पूर्ण कर के इस वर्ष आयसर से विदा लेंगे। इन 5 वर्षों में विद्यार्थियों ने विज्ञान के साथ–साथ अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी आयसर का नाम रोशन किया। उसके साथ ही यह सभी विद्यार्थी आयसर को बेहतर बनाने के लिए हमेशा प्रयत्नरत रहे।

अनुभवः
महाविद्यालय के प्रथम दिवस पर ही हमें, छात्रावास तैयार न होने की सूचना प्राप्त हुई। इस ही कारण से हमारा सत्र एक सप्ताह की देरी से प्रारंभ हुआ और असुविधा के लिये प्रबंधक समिती को खेद था।

ज्येष्ठों (सीनियर्स) से परिचयः
उस सप्ताह में सबसे पहले जिनसे हमारे बैच की मुलाकात हुई, वे थे हमारे सीनियर्स, बैच'06।शुरूआत हुई हमारे परिचय सत्र से जो एक सेमेस्टर बाद सीनियर्स से दावत लेने का सत्र बन गया। इस 5 साल के अंतराल मे हमारे सीनियर्स का काफ़ी अहम किरदार रहा। कौन–से विषय लिए जाएँ,किसके साथ प्रॉजेक्ट किया जाए, ऐसे कई महत्त्वपूर्ण सवालों के उत्तर हमें अपने सीनियर्स से मिले और साथ में मिले कभी न भुलाए जाने वाले पल। उन पलों में सबसे यादगार है हमारे द्वारा आयोजित किया गया सीनियर्स का विदाई समारोह।

प्राध्यापकों से संबंधः
सीनियर्स के बाद हमें वे लोग मिले जो उनके भी सीनियर्स थे–हमारे प्राध्यापकगण, जिनकी संख्या उस समय काफ़ी कम थी। आज उनकी संख्या हमारे बैच की संख्या से भी आगे निकल चुकी है। हमारे प्राध्यापकों ने हमें विषयों में लगभग सभी ग्रेड्स दिए (ए, बी, सी, डी और बहुत ही लज्जित होकर कहना पड़ रहा है एफ़ भी), लेकिन अंतिम वर्ष में हम अपना कार्य अपने प्राध्यापकों के कारण ही पूर्ण कर पाये। हमारे प्राध्यापकों ने हमारी समस्याओं का समाधान करने के साथ ही हमे उत्कृष्ट शोध के लिऐ प्रेरित भी किया। भविष्य की योजना से संबंधित कुछ सवालों के उत्तर ढूँढ़ने में काफ़ी मदद भी की। हमारे इन्हीं प्राध्यापकों की वजह से आईआईटी–जेईई से आने वाले और अभियांत्रिकी के क्षेत्र में जाने के इच्छुक 50 विद्यार्थियों में से लगभग 30 विद्यार्थी आज विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में अपनी राह बनाना चाहते हैं। शुरूआत से ही हमारे संरक्षक बनकर हमारे साथ रहे हमारे सुतीर्थ डे सर, जिन्हें हम कितनी भी रात को परेशान करने में, भारत के विश्व कप जीतने पर उन्हें उछालने में, एचआर–2 में अन्धेरा होने पर उन्हें डराने में, या फिर किसी का जन्मदिन मनाने पर उनके सामने उसे निर्वस्त्र करने में कभी नहीं हिचकिचाए (सर, इन सभी कर्मों के लिए आपसे क्षमा अपेक्षित है)।

सहपाठीगणः
हमारे छात्रावास में हमें मिले हमारे सहपाठीगण। पढ़ाई से परेशान हों या जन्मदिन की रात मार खाकर बेहाल हों, हमेशा हमारे साथ होते थे हमारे सहपाठीगण (हाल–बेहाल करते भी वही थे)। जो भी किया, अच्छा या बुरा, सब इन्हीं के साथ किया, फिर वह कक्षा में किसी की गलत उपस्थिति लगाना हो या परीक्षा के पहले वाली रात को पढ़ना, या फिर कारवाँ, आईपीएल, मीमांसा का काम। शुरू में हमारे साथ में रहने का एक महत्त्वपूर्ण कारण हमारे सीनियर्स भी थे। बाद में साथ रहने की एक आदत–सी हो गई, जिसके कारण हमें इस वर्ष सबसे विदा लेते हुए बहुत दुख हो रहा है।

कनिष्ठों (जूनियर्स) का आगमनः
एक साल बाद जब आयसर में हमारे जूनियर्स का आगमन हुआ पर हम कभी सीनियर्स होने का पूरा फायदा नहीं उठा पाए। इसका हमें हमेशा गम रहा। मुझे लगता है परिचय सत्र महाविद्यालय के संपूर्ण जीवनकाल मे होने वाले रिश्ते की नीव रखता है, चूंकि हमें यह मौका नहीं बोला, हम अपने जूनियर्स के साथ उस सुखद रिश्ते का अनुभव नहीं कर पाये जो हमने और हमारे सीनियर्स ने किया। पर उन के साथ बिताए खटटे–मीठे पल हमेशा याद रहेंगे। एक बात के लिऐ हम अपने जूनियर्स से हमेशा नाराज़ रहेंगे कि वो इस वर्ष भी आयपीएल में हमसे अच्छा खेले और हमें इस बार भी आयपीएल नहीं जितने दिया।

छात्रावासों में व्यतीत किया गया समयः
बैच'07 ही एक ऐसा बैच है जो अभी तक आयसर के तीन अस्थायी छात्रावासों में रह चुका है। हम जब आए तो हमें आवंटित हुआ था एचआर–2। बड़ी ही बेरहमी के साथ हमें हमारे बैच की छात्राओं से दूर रखा गया था जिन्हें आवंटित हुआ एचआर–1। एचआर–2 मे हमें काफी अच्छे पडोसी मिले, जैसे कि आयएसबीएआर महाविद्यालय, जिनके इंटरनेट का हमने मुफ्त में तब तक उपयोग किया जब तक आयसर ने हमें वहाँ से स्थानांतरित नहीं कर दिया। लगभग दो साल बाद हमें स्थानांतरित कर के एचआर–4 भेज दिया गया, जहाँ न तो इंटरनेट था, न थी तीन किलोमीटर तक खाने की कोई जगह। कुछ समय पश्चात हमारे बैच की छात्राओं को भी एचआर–4 स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया, जिससे हमारे बैच के कुछ छात्र काफी खुश हुए, लेकिन उनकी ये खुशी क्षणभंगुर सिद्ध हुई जब हमें एक सेमेस्टर बाद फिर से स्थानां तरित कर एचआर–1 भेज दिया गया, जो शायद हमारे जाने तक हमारा छात्रावास रहेगा।

आयसर में किये गये कर्मः
इन सालो में हमारे बैच ने काफी ऐसे काम किये जिस पर हमारा बैच गर्व कर सकता है। विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में रहने के साथ ही हमारा बैच खेल–कूद और सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र में काफी आगे रहा। सबसे पहले किए गए कार्यों में हुआ समूह गठन का कार्य, जिसमें सभी विद्यार्थीयों की रूचि और प्रतिभा के अनुसार समूह, जैसे अक्स, आरोह, सायन्स क्लब, स्पोर्टस् क्लब आदि का गठन किया गया। मीमांसा और आयपीएल की शुरूआत भी आयसर मे बैच'07 ने ही की।

खेल के क्षेत्र मेंः
महाविद्यालय में होने वाले वॉलीबॉल, काउंटर स्ट्राइक, एज ऑफ़ एम्पायर्स, सूडोकू आदि खेलों में बैच के विद्यार्थियों ने प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया। बैच'07 आयपीएल की एकमात्र ऐसी टीम है जिसमे सभी खिलाडी एक ही बैच से हैं। हाँ, मैं उसी टीम की बात कर रहा हूँ जो पिछले तीन साल से निरंतर निर्णायक खेल में हार रही है। इसके अतिरिक्त बैच'07 ने एनसीएल क्रिकेट टुर्नामेंट, बिट्स–पिलानी स्पोर्टस् मीट, आयआयटी बॉम्बे टेकफेस्ट आदि, एसे कई स्पर्धाओं में आयसर का नाम रोशन किया।

सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र मेंः
आयसर के सांस्कृतिक उत्सव, कारवाँ में भी बैच के विद्यार्थियों ने नाटक में अभिनय, मेज़बानी, नृत्य, गायन आदि कलाओं का प्रदर्शन एवं आयोजन किया और सराहना भी प्राप्त की।

थोडा सा भावुकः
इन्हीं सबके बीच महाविद्यालय के चार साल कैसे बीत गये, कुछ पता ही नहीं चला। सीनियर्स चले गये, हमारे महाविद्यालयीन जीवन का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा खत्म हो गया, लेकिन इसके साथ ही एक बहुत अच्छी बात हुई, वो था हमें एचआर–1 प्राप्त होना। एचआर–1 अंतिम वर्ष में हम सभी के लिए अपनी यादें बनाने का एक उत्तम स्थान सिद्ध हुआ। शुरूआत हुई अवकाश के दिन खेले जाने वाले वॉलीबॉल के खेल से, जो अभी तक हर अवकाश के दिन खेला जा रहा है। धन्यवाद राहुल सैनी का जो आज भी हर किसी को सुबह उठाते हैं। फिर शुरू हुई रात भर खत्म न होने वाली बातें। आज भी एचआर–1 कभी नहीं सोता, यहाँ हमेशा कोई न कोई किसी कक्ष में जाग रहा होता है। एचआर–1 हमारे सहपाठियों से रिश्ते के लिए भी काफी महत्त्वपूर्ण रहा। इस एक साल में हम एक दूसरे से इतना मिल लिए जितना पिछले चार सालों में भी नहीं मिल पाये थे। इन सभी के लिए मैं राव सर को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा जिन्होंने अंतिम वर्ष के लिए हमें एचआर–1 आवंटित किया।
फिर वह समय आया जिसकी हम सभी को प्रतीक्षा थी ।आयसर में हमारे कुछ अंतिम दिन, लेकिन हमें नहीं पता था कि जब यह समय आएगा तब कितना दुख होगा। थीसिस से अधिक हमें इस बात की चिंता थी कि हम अब यहाँ से जाने वाले हैं। जो भी मित्रगण हमें मिले थे, बने थे, वो अब कहीं गुम हो जाने वाले हैं। सबसे यह वचन लेकर कि याद करें तो मिलते रहेंगे और इस आशा के साथ कि हमारे निकलने तक तो आयसर को विश्वविद्यालय की उपाधि मिल ही जायेगी, हम सभी अलविदा कहने को तैयार हैं।

अपने सभी सहपाठियों, सीनियर्स और जूनियर्स को आयसर में बिताए पलों को यादगार बनाने के लिए धन्यवाद करते हुए मैं इस शोध–प्रबंध का अंत करता हूँ।

As another academic year whooshes past nearing its end, one more batch of the BS-MS Dual Degree Programme gears up to spread out its wings and soar out of their stronghold into the open skies. For us, it will take time getting used to the absence of familiar faces. The void will not be easy to fill. However, the challenge of acquainting with a bigger set of new faces will make it easier to get over the loss. For them, it will be the end of an era- a step into the world of heightened responsibilities. A sudden change from days filled with sunshine, friends and minor trifles to everyday battles with the big bad world. They will always find the light of goodness though, in the phials of their memories and experiences of good times gone by. As the present bookends break away and fall off into the unknown vastness of the world, to be tried and tested and emerge shining, the book-ends-in-line must brace themselves to support all the books that will lean on them with the same strength. Left behind for us is a trove of reminiscences trapped onto the pages of Kalpa for eternity, while the neophytes stumble and fumble, getting used to their own paradigm shift. The Kalpa team wishes both of them the best of everything.

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