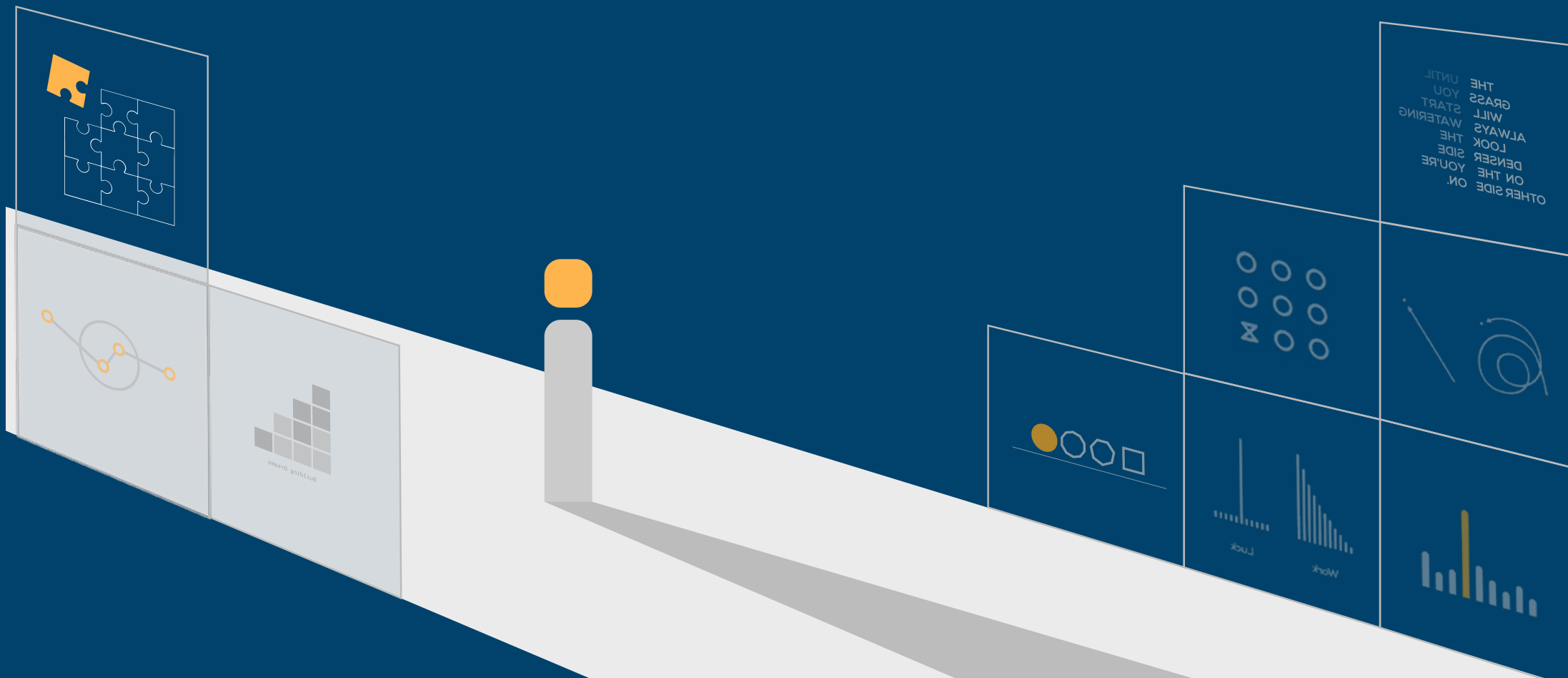
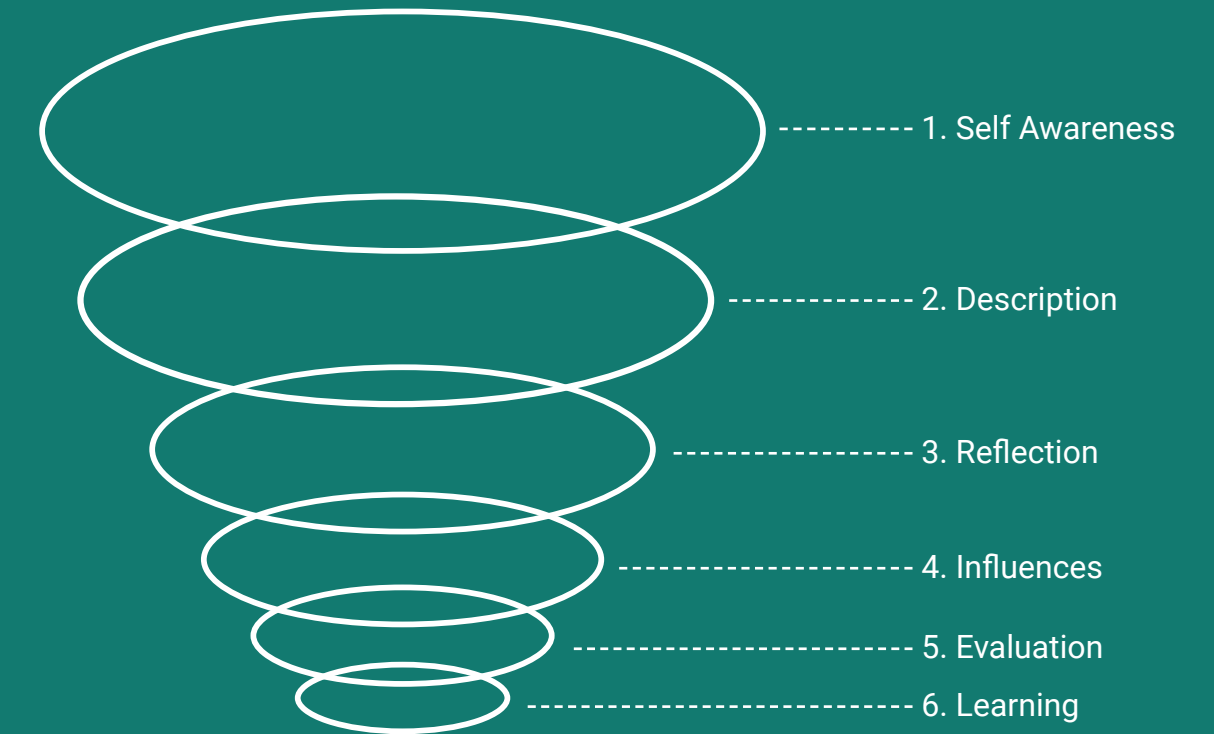
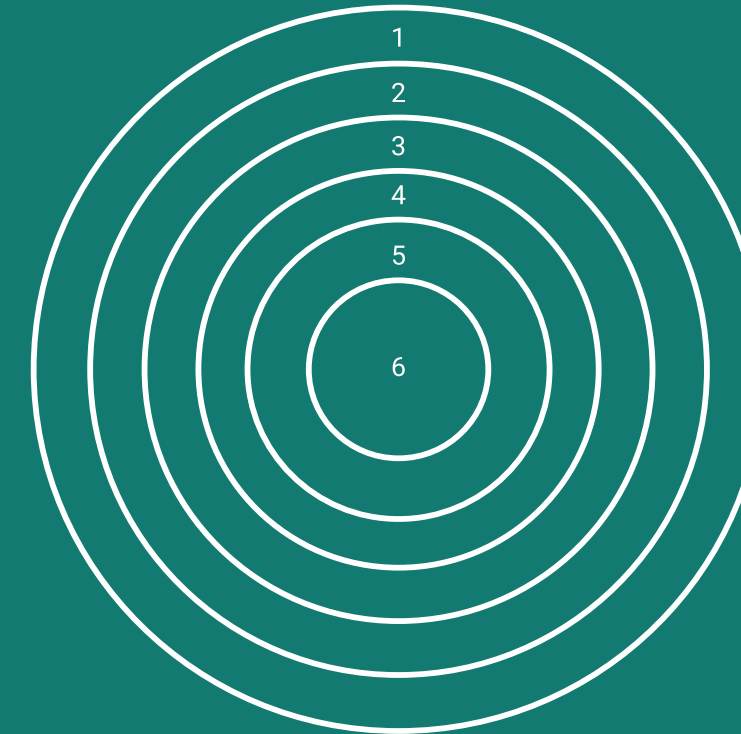


REFLECTION OF A DECADE

2011

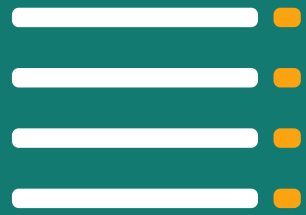


Stages Of Reflection



Gibbs' Reflective Cycle

It consists of the following six stages



Description

of the experience.



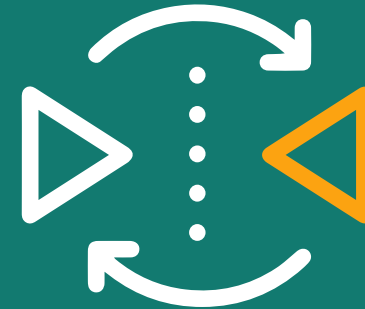
Feelings

and thoughts about
the experience.



Evaluation

of the experience, both
good and both.



Analysis

to make sense of the
experience.



Conclusion

about what you learned
and what you could have
done differently.



Action Plan

or how you would deal with
similar situations in the future,
or general changes you might
find appropriate.

“

The “Reflection of a Decade” is a celebration of the life, achievements, and learning experiences of the BTech Class of 2015. I have had the chance to listen to them confide their aspirations, fears, and hopes about the future when they were our students, and I am delighted to recollect those memories through this book. It reflects the inclusivity, growth among the students, how they overpowered the uncertainties and embarked on an adventure with their formative experiences at IITGN.

Congratulations to the BTech Class of 2015 for making this possible and inscribing the details of their life over a decade. Dealing with all the barriers, the success stories of your batch is, indeed, setting the standards high for the IIT Gandhinagar students. Beyond the academic excellence, the enthusiasm you showed during your campus life is reflected throughout this publication. Your stories provide a fresh perspective on your formation at IITGN and its contribution to your way of life and aspirations. The contributions of the BTech Class of 2015 to the Institute are extremely significant, including setting up of the class scholarships (through batch gifts) and three individual scholarships.

This document would set examples for the IITGN community for reflections and learning on the importance of curating diverse experiences of students on campus. It would also inspire the IITGN students and nudge them to pursue their dreams despite any challenges.

I wish good luck to the Alumni who took the extra mile to make this project possible.”

Foreword



Prof. Sudhir K Jain

Director, IIT Gandhinagar

Preface

Akash Keshav



“

A decade full of memories flashes by in a blink, making our hearts feel warm and eyes teary, again. Ten years ago we were stepping into the most important period of our lives, with a blank canvas waiting for us, to paint it beautifully. We stepped into the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, some of us feeling ecstatic while some still regretfully dealing with the loss of a few marks in JEE Advanced. Nonetheless, it was an epic feeling.

We probably entered IIT Gandhinagar thinking that our lives were set and that we would be getting packages worth one-crore whilst we also felt swept away by the IITian tag. We were growing to become adults and starting to take the most important decisions of our lives. The kid in us had managed to contrive the bright, vivid and incredible future we were just about to live.

We met some of the best people during the past ten years from across the country with different interests. Some of them became friends for life, while some became life partners. All of it combined to make some of our best memories from this last decade. From juggling between courses and project groups to struggling to find the best internships, jobs, and colleges, we have been through it all. For some of us, this journey has been smooth, while for some, a bumpy ride that added a few more pages to the experience section. This life-changing decade deserves to be credited and celebrated together.

In the past few years, all of us, at least at some point in time, have truly acknowledged the irreplaceable experiences we received from our undergraduate years which helped us in many situations. Our outlook on success has changed from earning money and big names to the self-satisfaction achieved through our hard work towards something we truly believe in. Some of us took the road less traveled upon after college and yet made it. These years have humbled us and given us memories to cherish for an entire lifetime.

We can go on and on like this till we fall short of words. Let this reflection book once again take you down the memory lane and through all the times of togetherness. Let those blazing late-night Halla Bol vibes be felt again. Let us again catch up with people we lost touch with and let us again feel proud of Amalthea and Blithchron. Let us again fight for the silliest reasons and let us again discuss our lives over a cup of tea. Let us revive all those memories tucked deep inside our hearts!”



Gone But Never Forgotten



Chandrakanth

“Chandrakanth is remembered as being the sincerest and most hard-working person in college. He never took anything for granted and worked extremely hard to see his family in a better place. It is extremely saddening that he couldn't talk to someone at the right time and ended up taking an unfortunate step.”

– Pridhvi



Lalit

“Thinking of Lalit, the first thing that comes to mind is his sheer willpower. His ‘never-give-up’ attitude was always his biggest strength. It always reflected in his proactive participation. Be it participating in activities where physical strength was not required, or cheering on his friends and teams with his presence during Halla Bol, his health issues never deterred him. He was extremely patient and never projected anger towards anyone.”

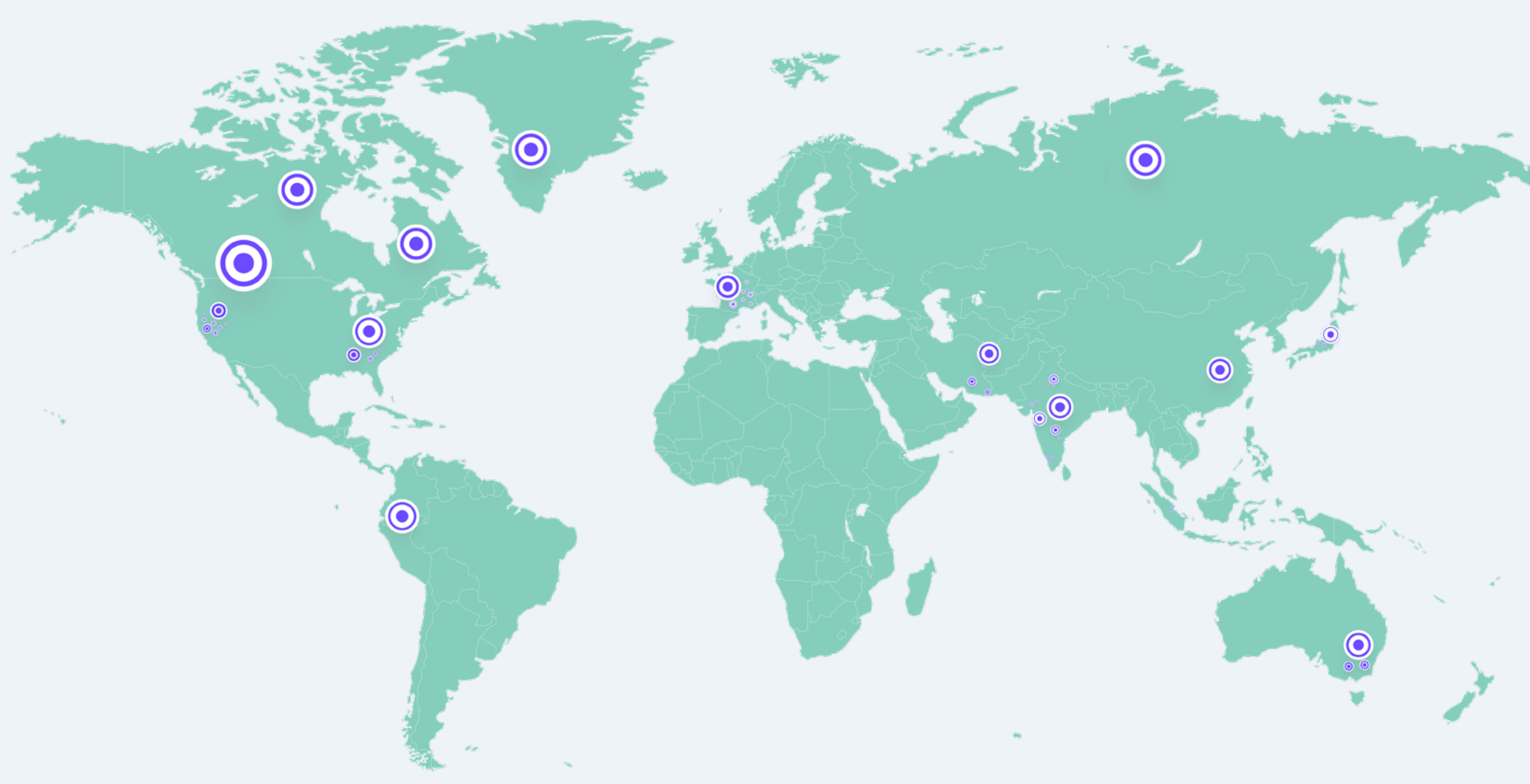
– Akash Keshav



Sujith

“Sujith was one of the simplest and happiest people you could come across. He always set the best example for how to handle things in a way that they didn't affect you too much. He always made everything fun, be it watching sports or even dining out. He is deeply missed when thinking about all the good times spent during college.”

– Pridhvi



Global Footprint

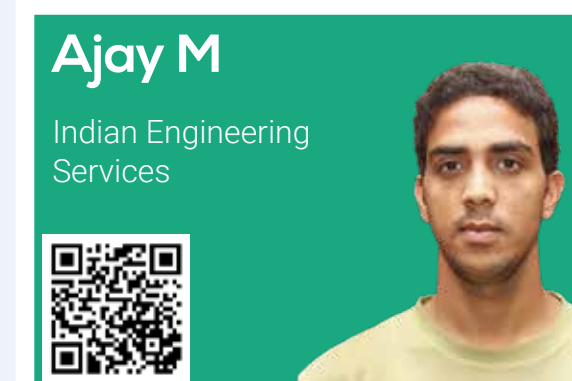
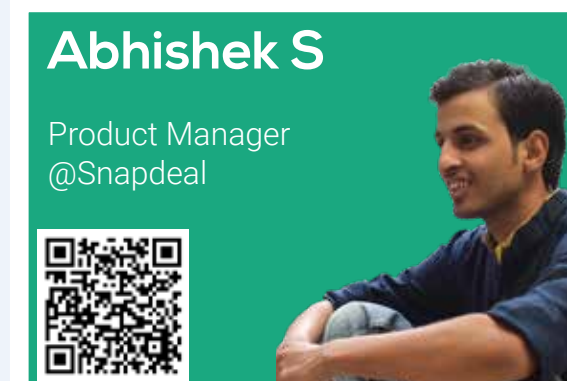
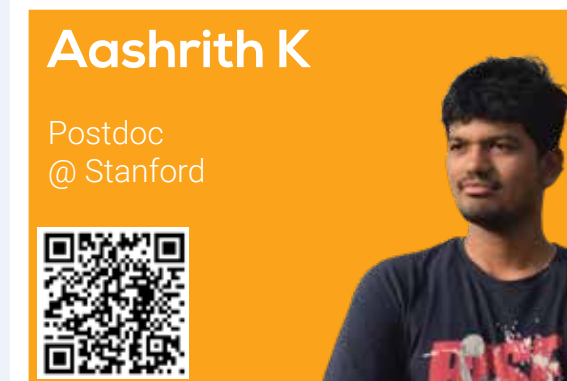
The subtle voices of proposals, complaints, dreams, boasts, and roasts are echoing from various corners of the world. The lines, curves, and zigzags of life learned back then at Chandkheda are creating a beautiful abstract around the map.

Here is where you can find the new Addas of Batch 2011.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 📍 India | 📍 Belgium | 📍 Australia |
| 📍 Germany | 📍 Israel | 📍 Switzerland |
| 📍 Netherlands | 📍 France | 📍 Hungary |
| 📍 United Kingdom | 📍 Japan | 📍 Philippines |
| 📍 United Arab Emirates | 📍 Singapore | 📍 United States of America |

Sneak Peak : The Batch Of 2011

where everyone has their own story...



Akash

Program Manager
@ Paytm

Akash K

BDE
@ Arista Networks

Akshay

Akshay R

R&D Engineer
@ Sonomotion

Ankit P

Design Lead
@ Pratilipi

Anoop

Anshul G

Product Manager
@ DeHaat

Apoorv P

AVP Developer
@ Tradeweb

Aryan

Senior Frontend Developer
@ Sleek



*information is picked from Linkedin as of 15th of June, 2021.



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@ Recko



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Management Trainee
@ Prataap Snacks Limited



Ayushi P
PhD Candidate
@ UMass Amherst




Bajranj K
Software Engineer
@ ICU Medical



Chetan C
Engineer
@ IOCL




Deep R
Student
@ Fanshawe College




Dhaval T

Dhruv P
Software Engineer
@ Google




Dhyey S
Co-Founder
@ vCalling



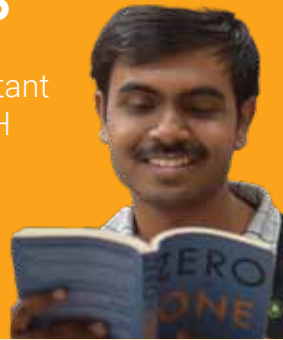

Dilip B

Engineer
@ IOCL




Durvesh S

Associate Consultant
@ Invensity GmbH

Dwaraka




Eepsit T

Co-Founder
@ vCalling




Gaurav M

Data Scientist
@ The Energy Authority




Harsh G

Head of Product
@ Wysa




Himanshu Y

Manager
@ PNB



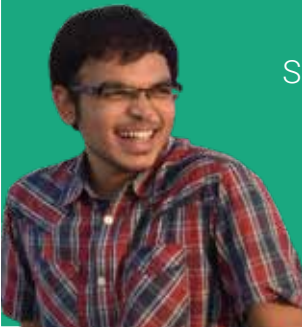

Hira L

Indian Engineering
Services




Ishan U

Software Engineer
@ Google




Joy N
Data Scientist
@ Facebook




Kimaya K
Senior Engineer
@ Samsung




Krishan M
Engineer
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Hari
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Lokeshwar N



Madan T
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@ Tesla




Mahesh K
Sales Manager
@ IOCL




Manasa B
Senior
Software Engineer
@ Xilinx




Manoj K
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Mayank S

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@ Uber




Mihika S

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@ Testbook



Parth G

Backend Lead
@ WYSA



Parth S

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Pawan G

Piyush M

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@ Intel Corporation



Pradeep



Prashant V

Technical Lead
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Prasit P

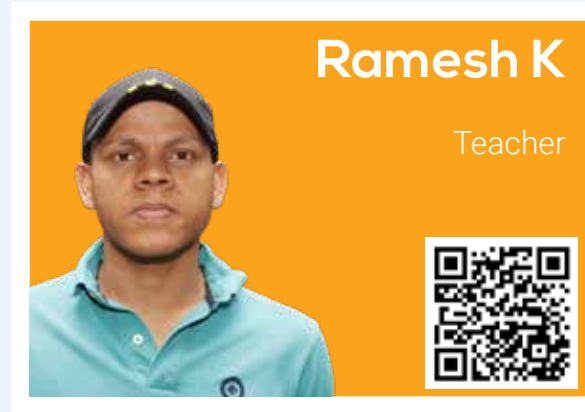
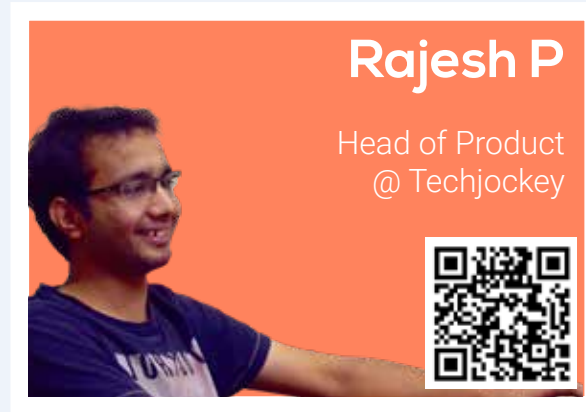
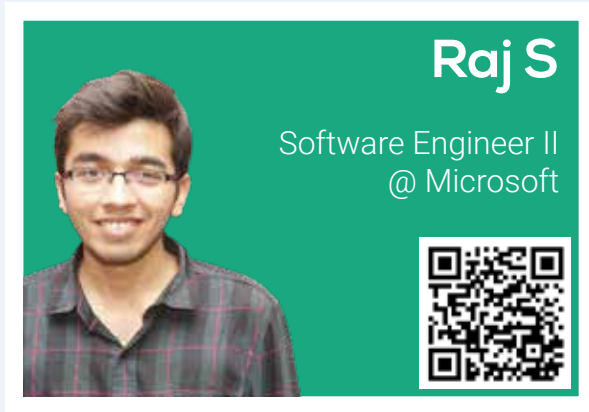
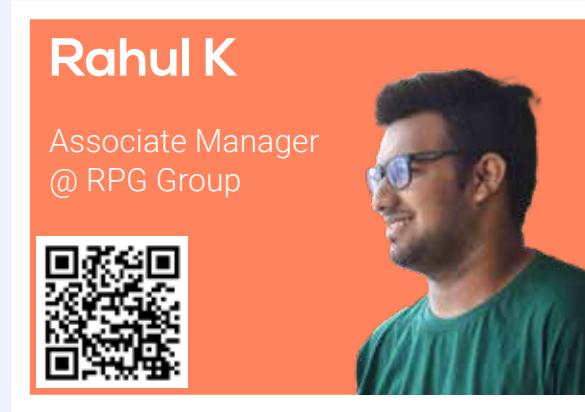
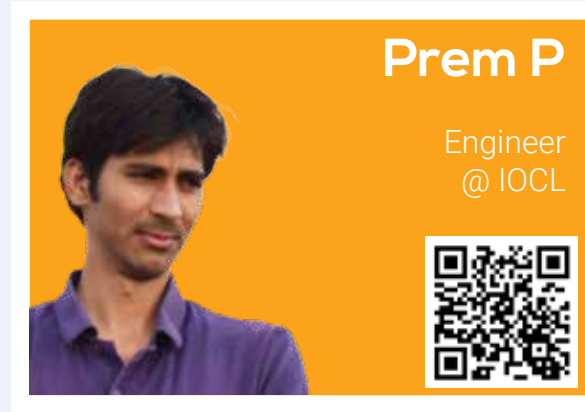
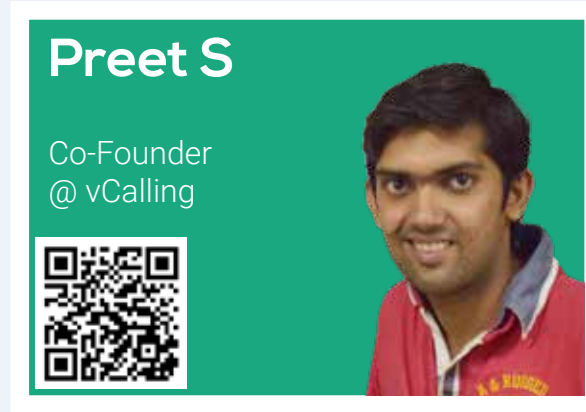
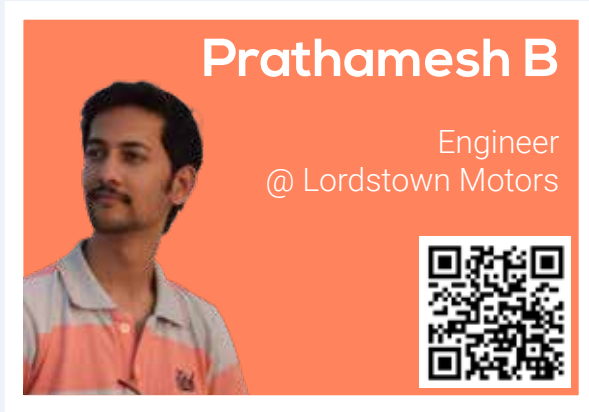
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Prateek B

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@ AnaCap Financial







Ravi K

SRE
@ Cisco



Rizu K

Manager
@ Diageo



Rohan P

Farming



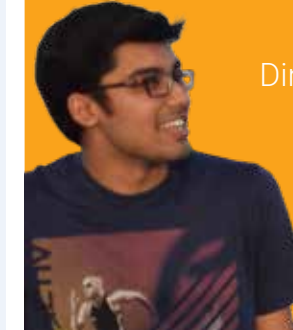
Ronak K

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@ MCQdb



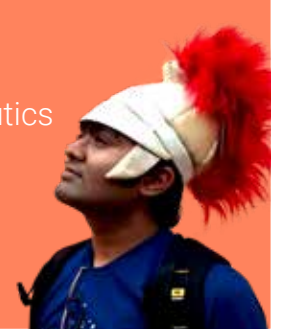
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Director Data Science
@ Salesforce



Sachchit V

Lead Engineer
@ General Aeronautics



Sahil M

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@ Bajaj Finance



Sai T

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Sr Software Engineer
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Sanjay K

Engineer
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@ TransIn Logistics




Saurabh S

Manager
@ OYO




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Automation Engineer
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Consultant
@ Bain & Company




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Product Manager
@ ShareChat



Utkarsh P

CX engineer
@ Valuefy



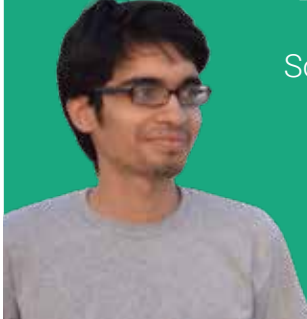

Utsav M

Senior Manager
@ Zee Entertainment




Vaibhav G

Software Engineer
@ AWS

Vaibhav M

Senior Analyst
@ Supr Daily




Vinit J

Co-Founder
@ Savvology Games




Vinod R

Engineer
@ HPCL




Vishal Y

Co-Founder
@ Fyndster




Vivek P

Product Management
@ Indegene




Yashodeep C





A Glimpse - 2011

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar

Intense atmosphere in L-Block auditorium moments before India lifted the worldcup!



WATCH THE HIGHLIGHTS

Dorjee Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh since 2007, dies in a helicopter crash. Dorji Khandu, who went missing on Saturday on a flight from Tawang, is dead along with four others after their helicopter crashed in bad weather.

Bin Laden is dead, President Obama addresses the Nation

Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the most devastating attack on American soil in modern times and the most hunted man in the world, was killed.



IIT-Gandhinagar's state of the art campus to be set up near Gandhinagar on 440 acre land: Chief Minister, 2011



MODI @ AMALTHEA TI

State government has decided to give a land on 99 year lease with a token amount of just one rupee for setting up a campus of IIT-Gandhinagar. Chief Minister Narendra Modi announced this while inaugurating a technology summit organized by IIT Gandhinagar today. The campus will be set up on the land of 440 acres near Palaj-Vasan area near Gandhinagar and will house state-of-the-art infrastructural facilities..

IIT Gn students spotted enjoying playing football even after heavy rainfall turned the ground into swimming pool



sources say they were preparing for upcoming inter iit Tournament

IITGN witnessed the birth of Nyasa, 2011

a new initiative that focuses on the welfare of the on-site construction workers and their families, and, in particular, their children. The project, led by Prof. Mukta Tripathy, aims to raise social awareness within the Communities. The team distributed woollen clothes for the children in winter and organized a community lunch for the workers and their families (about 400 people) on Republic Day



IITGN launched its new B. Tech. curriculum starting with a five-week Foundation Programme (July 19 - August 23, 2011) for the batch of 2011.



FP IITGN 2011

The Programme focussed on social awareness and emphasised values, creativity, sports and physical activities, and team work and communication. The inaugural address of the programme was delivered by Shri N. R. Narayana Murthy, ex- Chairman, Infosys on July 19, 2011.

After about 290 hours, Anna Hazare ended his hunger strike in Delhi this morning.

little girls, Ikrah and Simran - the tricolour painted on their cheeks and wearing Anna caps offered him coconut water and honey to bring up the moment.



First mean mechanics workshop initiative

A Robotics workshop-cum-competition was organized on September 4, 2011 for the first year students in which eighty students participated. The members of the winning team comprising Abhishek Sancheti, Gaurav Mahmuni and Vaibhav Mathur, received a 4GB pen drive each

Moments Imprinted

where memories are created...

Diwali



Musty



Eureka



Holi



Janmashtami



Ganesh
Chaturthi



Teachers'
Day



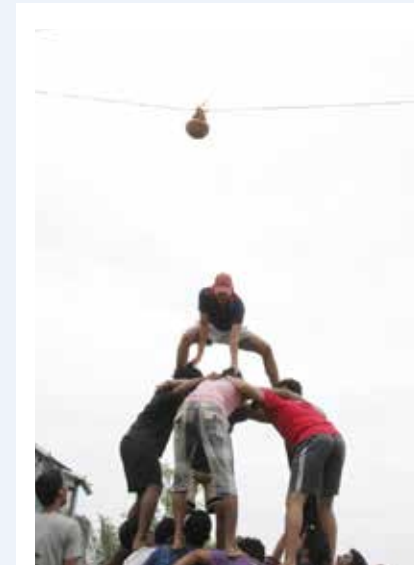
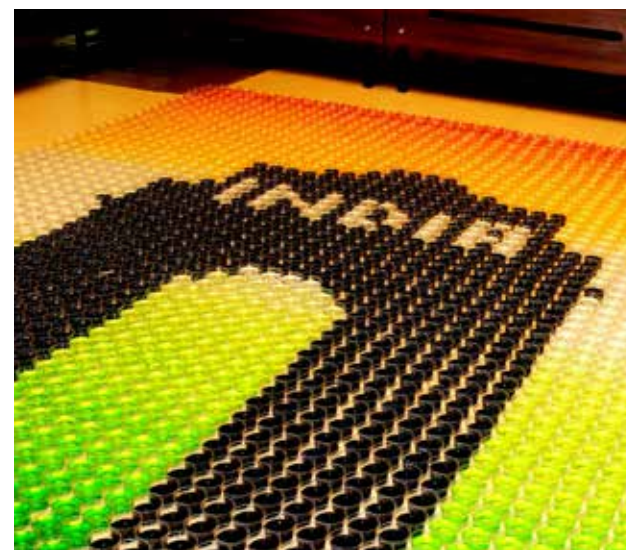
Navratri



Onam



These events connected us through all our diversity. No one would miss a tensed match at Halla-Bol. Through Blithchron and Amalthea we unitedly displayed creativity and event-management skills. On the other hand, Jashn added bright colours to a rather unexciting semester routine. We created the best memories and the best friendships through these events. The memories are as fresh as it was all about yesterday...



Foundation Programme

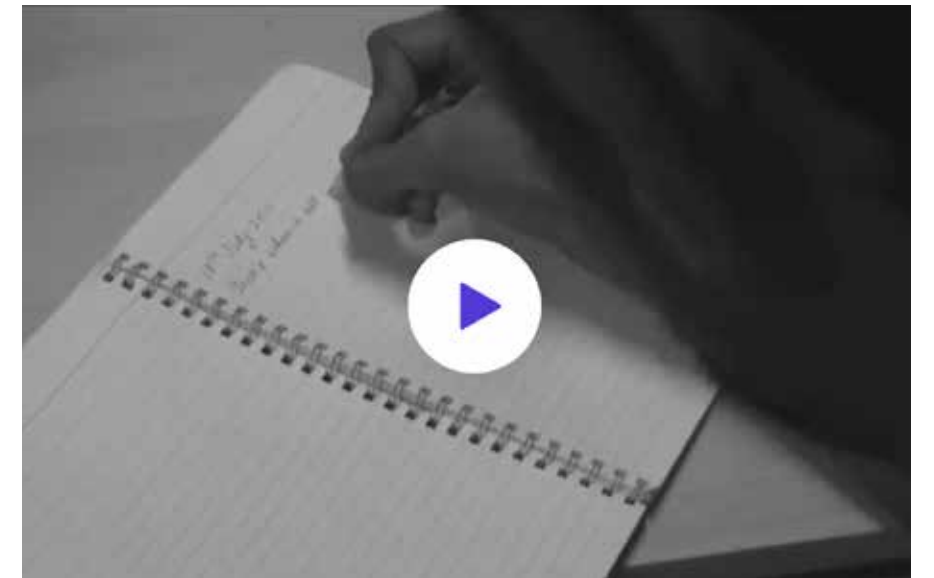


Mr N R Narayan Murthy on
foundation day at IITGN | 2011



IITGN launched its new B. Tech. curriculum starting with a five-week Foundation Programme (July 19 - August 23, 2011) for the batch of 2011. The Programme focussed on social awareness and emphasised values, creativity, sports, physical activities, teamwork and communication. The inaugural address of the programme was delivered by Shri N. R. Narayana Murthy, ex-Chairman, Infosys on July 19, 2011. The programme included a wide variety of activities such as debates, discussions, workshops on diverse topics (freehand sketching, clay modeling, origami, photography, and dance & theater), visits to places of special interest, presentations by eminent persons, musical performances and games.

"I was always a little introverted and not very outgoing when it came to making new friends. But FP helped me a lot in breaking the ice and making new friends. The group activities and workshops gave us a reason to get to know each other and make friends."
- Deep



The first ever IIT Gandhinagar
Foundation Programme Video 2011





Amalthea



Amalthea, our annual technical summit has taken a truly proud form today. Started back in 2010, its main aim is to spread technical knowledge and cultivate enthusiasm in young minds to develop innovative technology. It has been bringing together great minds from the industry and providing a common platform for them to interact and collaborate. Our batch played a small yet significant role in shaping it, from those tiring marketing trips to accompanying our guest speakers, it had been an amazing learning experience. Let us hope that in the next few years, this event becomes one of the most successful annual technological meets run by students.

"The support which I received from the peers and conveners of Amalthea at that point of time was tremendous and working with them taught me many things. That actually became the Lesson #1 of leadership for me."

– Saurabh





Blithchron



Blithchron, our two-day cultural festival brings together different talents from various universities, colleges and institutes across the country. Remember how we brainstormed for new events? We launched the fashion show event, Panache, which is now one of the most important events in Blithchron. Antarangee, String Theory, Synchronize and many more interesting competitions bring vibrance to the entire campus. Blithchron is now being taken to new heights by our fellow juniors, who add a lot of creativity and innovation to it. Can we go back to those pronites and rock the floor?

"I remember first year ke baad, Soham and I stayed back, and wo jo L block wala computer room hai vaha jaa kar humne excel banaya tha, ki kya cheeze last time galat hui thi and kya improve honi chahiye..."
- Vinit





Hallabol



Ten nights of roaring cheers, petty yet gruesome competitions, unending giggles, uniting games and timeless memories. Halla Bol remains our favourite event in the college. It is the all-night sports festival in which the games are modified and made more challenging and at the same time more interesting. It also promoted inter-batch bonding. Halla-Bol is probably the only event in which faculty members and students are seen enjoying together. Those nights were simply magnificent and incomparable. The teams, which were made over tea, ended up winning tournaments (however, the referees did still have to handle quite a few intense squabbles). Attending morning classes was next to impossible, however we did have some of the most carefree nights of our life.

“Halla Bol me mujhe bahut injuries hui hain, specially badminton khelte hue. 2 baar meri hi team wale (Eepsit) ne mere leg pe badminton maar diya tha. Aur ek baar badminton khelte khelte hath dislocate ho gaya tha to samne wali team ko walk over dena pada. Doosri baar frisbee khelte khelte frisbee intercept karne kuda, aur vo sidha mere muh pe lagi aur mera daant mere lip ke niche ghus gaya. Bahut khoon nikla. But the point is, despite all this, every year, I used to wait for Halla Bol desperately and used to participate in all games.”

- Ankit



Jashn



Jashn, started in the year 2011, is a three-day fun-filled intra-institute cultural fest with innovative, traditional and exciting events/games, including art exhibition, photography and movie-making competitions, quizzes as well as dance, drama and musical performances. It was started with a vision to promote inter-batch interaction and elevated the participation of students in cultural events.

In this picture, the students can be seen dancing on stage and entertaining the audience by it. The photo was shot in the old campus of IITGN, which most of our alumni call "Visat-se-right". The fest also had several other events like the prom, live angry birds, mehfil-e-jashn, art expo, etc.

"None of us knew first thing about dance, but last year tha apna to everyone wanted to do something crazy and fun that we would all remember. Anyway, kaafi mast experience thaa, Especially the part of rehearsals, one of the most memorable part was Mess ke pass me jahan tutorial classes hoti thi wahan pe practice karna."

- Vishal



Winter Carnation



This event, co-conceptualized by the faculty members along with students, is chiefly organized by the cultural body of the student gymkhana. It is known as the 'IIT Gandhinagar mela' where the IITGN family collectively enjoys regional food, music and dance. Winter Carnation has proved to be a broader platform for interaction between students, faculty and staff.

"Winter carnation reminded me of my childhood, when we used to go to gaaon ka mela with our friends and do random stuff, eat from food stalls, dance, have lots of fun. One extra advantage we got with our own winter carnations was to team up with staff, faculty, family members and setup our own shop in and earn some money and get an idea how to earn money by selling chai and chat."

- Ramesh





Birthdays

Birthdays are very special moments of our lives. It was the day we entered this world and every year, the occasion marks the beginning of new challenges and accomplishments. Wait but who talks about that? "Party bhai party!", "Cake muh par laga iske!" and "Maaro aur maaro, meri birthday par bohot maara tha!" sums up what we assume birthdays to be!

"For us, b'days were not about the cakes or the gifts! For us they used to be a different kind of fun - that adrenaline rush of giving someone a GPL or the horror of being its victim! By 11:59 the entire gang would end up at one place to celebrate the person's b'day without any invitation or even a call. The best part of hostel life was that we got a chance to celebrate someone's b'day every other day and would also get to see someone or the other run away from getting their share of GPLs!"
- Akash



Batch Trip



After completing three years in college our immediate seniors came up with the idea for a batch trip, which was happily supported by the institute. The trip, for them, was a memorable experience. We also thought of organizing a trip for our batch. The organizing team gave us the option of going to either a place with mountains or with beaches. The batch voted and to our surprise, Goa was rejected. It made us realise that many of us had put to good use the 3 years and already been to Goa. Anyway, the organisers started to brainstorm towards figuring out the location, duration of stay and other details of the trip. Our selected destinations were Haridwar, Auli and Rishikesh. The trip progressed from Haridwar after a harmonious Ganga Aarti. After having survived a crazy landslide on our way to Auli, we finally made it to our luxurious hotel rooms where we witnessed some wonderful snowfall. During our time in Auli, we not only skied, but also went snow hiking there. During our return, we camped near the river Ganga and went river rafting, where we saved an overturned boat as well. After this trip, we safely returned to college. Words are not enough to describe the journey the 60 of us had been on, while some of us experienced our first ever snowfall, snow hike and what not, it also remains the trip where we beat, or at least had our first close encounter with death. The batch trip is something that always comes rushing back to the mind whenever there is a mention of our college days.



"I remember everyone was stressed after seeing the big stone that just fell right in front of our bus, and then the food in Joshimath; everyone was surprised as to how good the resort was, the snowfall, river rafting etc, all these things seemed to be just perfect!"

- Rohan



Udaan

"Let us keep flying higher and higher conquering all the fears."
Udaan celebrates the end of an amazing journey within the premises of IIT Gandhinagar. It is the formal farewell dinner held for the graduating batch, congratulating them for conquering all their fears up to that point and wishing them strength to continue shining in all their future endeavours. It is an evening that is highly nostalgic, where the soon-to-be graduates relive their memories and share their experiences through their valedictory speeches. The faculty members participate as well by sharing their favourite memories with the students and also by wishing them good luck.

Udaan - hum fir se udd chale!

"Udaan is the moment when you suddenly realise, the wonderful journey is about to end. Udaan is the moment full of emotions, you don't want this journey to end but you can't hold time, time flies. We are ready to fly in the real world but we don't want to leave the family we created in the last four years. Udaan is the most awaited event for every student graduating from IIT Gandhinagar."

- Sachchit



You Are Not Alone

Tight-mouthed, all of us shared most of these issues...

Language Barrier

Knowing only English, से लेके केवल हदी समझने तक, ஓரே தமிழனாக இருப்பது, it was difficult for freshers from all over India, to cross linguistic barriers and connect with others from different backgrounds. The language barrier was one of the key factors in determining our friend groups, especially in the first year. However, over time we really got accustomed to this diversity and accepted it.

“

I was like zero in Hindi. In the foundation program, we had many group activities. They played a huge role in helping me learn Hindi fast. My roommates, Dhawal and Joy also used to translate their conversations into English and that helped me a lot to get comfortable with the new language.”

- Pridhvi

“

It’s hard to connect if you’re not speaking the local language. People will start in English but eventually gravitate towards the language they’re more comfortable with. Initially, I felt like going back because it would’ve been difficult had things continued like that for 4 years. I started carrying my notebook around to write translations all the time, and the foundation program helped a lot. If it had started just with classes, I don’t know how much Hindi I’d have learnt. But the purpose of foundation wasn’t learning, it was gaining experience. So that helped me learn Hindi.”

- Hari

“

Not knowing Hindi helped me in my play during Eureka. It was not an easy journey but at the same time it opened up an opportunity for me to learn a new language. It helped me make new friends and it also helped my friends in having some fun which I feel is a part of life.”

- Abhay

“

Initially, I had a very tough time, especially when I would see my friends who could talk in English fluently and I was not able to even understand them properly. It was a setback but turning back was not an option, hence I teamed up with people like Hari and started learning the language. And the English course by Sharmita Ma’am was really helpful.”

- Saurabh

Academic Inconsistency

It becomes really difficult sometimes to score well in college. There are multiple reasons. Sometimes we do not like the courses and sometimes we are too busy to have the time to like them. However, you are definitely not alone.

Academic

adjective  uh · ka · duh · muhk

Definition of Academic

- connected with education and subject of interests

Similar

- Life is full of ups and downs, it is consistently inconsistent. It is all about how one perceives it and reacts to it.

What has academic inconsistency taught you?

Inconsistency

noun  in · kuhn · si · stuhn · see

Definition of Inconsistency

- the fact or state of being inconsistent.



“

In the first semester, we had a course in C-programming. In the very first class, after teaching, the professor asked if anyone had any problem. I don't know about the others but I had a lot of problems! I had never gone through anything like this previously in my life. It was completely alien to me. I looked around and waited for someone to raise their hand, but no one did. So finally, I told the professor that I literally got nothing from this class! I remember, at the end of the semester, I got a D grade in the course, and I was super happy”

- Ramesh

“

Foundation was good but problems began when the studies started. I didn't realise I needed to put in some extra efforts to match the people around me. And I never took help, because I felt like since nobody was as bad as me, pol khul jaayegi ki tum kitne kharaab ho.”

- Ankit

“

I had a 5.5 GPA because I couldn't grasp or understand English. If someone understood the material in 1 hour, it took me 2 hours to do the same. While writing answers I couldn't express myself perfectly in English so the professors wouldn't get what they expected and it would cost me my marks.”

- Vishal

“

My focus on extracurricular activities in the first year affected my GPA but second year onwards I started to focus on my studies and it helped me a lot in improving my GPA and I realized it is possible to do better. So in my opinion, even if you lose track of good academics once in a while, instead of losing hope, change your focus and you will be back in the game again.”

- Sukriti

Cultural shock / Financial issues

Each one of us had our own hurdles in the four years of college. Some of us faced financial difficulties whereas for some it was the cultural shock received by seeing people from such diverse backgrounds. We were a group of people from the remotest places in the country as well as the metro cities. From east, west, south and north. Some of us were too candid while some were too shy. Some even faced issues with the mess food. However, the four years taught us well to adjust as well as accept.

“

I come from a very lower middle class family and it was for me to graduate as soon as possible and start earning for my family. Had it not been for the scholarships that we used to get, bohot mushkil ho jata IIT me survive karna!”

- Madan

“

I come from a remote village area. Aur uss village me internet nahi tha 2011 me. To mujhe 200 km dur, sheher jaana pada just to know ki mera result kya aane wala hai - whether I am going to get any rank or I am not going to get selected.”

- Ramesh

“

I don't know whether it counts as cultural shock or not but I was surprised to see how normal it was to use bad words in regular conversation or how common it was for students to smoke. It was hard to control yourself if someone was using bad words but I am glad that till date I have not used any bad words despite all the efforts put in by my friends.”

- Abhishek

“

When I attended the first lecture in English, I didn't get anything. I assumed that poor batch bhi yahi aur mai bhi yahi, because I thought that nobody understood anything. And when the professor asked if anyone had any questions, one student fluently asked a question in English. And then I felt like I'm the only one who doesn't understand any English.”

- Sanjay

Balancing of Extracurriculars & Academics

“Should I take part in this event as well? Oh but I have to focus on my CPI also.” Balancing extracurricular activities along with academics remains one of the most important tasks in college. No such theory proves that cutting from extracurriculars makes you score a perfect 10 or taking part in them completely screws academics. After all, the art is in balancing the two.

“

I was always passionate about pursuing a career in aeronautics but until my 2nd year I did not take it seriously. I was satisfied with my academic performance and I was having a good time with my friends, playing FIFA and participating in extracurricular activities. But when I realized that I needed to put more effort to fulfill my dream I started putting more effort in academics and took several core projects in my 3rd and 4th year.”

- Sachchit

“

Balancing both academics and extracurriculars is important. I spent my 1st and 2nd years exploring new things in extracurriculars. But my focus shifted towards academics in my 3rd and 4th year. This helped me build a balanced CV by the time I graduated.”

- Tushti

“

I was a very chilled out guy, doing well academically as well. I never took the load of leading a team or participating heavily in too many activities. Although I made sure I was present around the campus but never got into anything at an intense level. But now I feel I should have participated more, not to fill my resume, but to create memories. So if you are doubtful as to why you should participate in extracurricular activities, the reason is to create memories. It was something that I could've balanced better”

- Prateek

“

Sometimes when we lead a big team or participate in some big college fest, we forget about why we are at IIT and stop caring about our academics. You have to put that extra effort to balance out your academics and extracurriculars. There were moments during the Blithcron preparations when I missed lectures and assignments because of which I had to put in extra efforts to catch up with the academics. But these extra efforts helped me in building a balanced resume.”

- Vinit

Peer Pressure

Dealing with peer pressure was one of the bigger challenges. Sometimes, when our friends get the best opportunities, we envy them and feel insecure. On the other hand, many of us take having talented batchmates as an opportunity to learn from them. However, peer pressure taught us the best way to deal with any kind of pressure.

Peer Pressure

noun 🗣️ peeuhr · preh · duh · shuh

Definition of Peer Pressure

- influence from members of one's peer group

Similar

- Peer pressure comes in many forms, at times it pushes us to do good and at times it puts us under immense pressure. Pretty sure all of you have faced some kind of peer pressure, we don't realise it at the time it's happening but it does leave us with a mark and we grow and learn from that.

What valuable lesson has peer pressure taught you?



“

Everybody is doing an internship after the second year. Koi kisi badi company me jaa raha hai, kisi ke private contacts hai, uss company me they secured something, and I am like Wow. So cool! What can I do? Nothing.”

- Rohan

“

Peer pressure was a real thing. When I used to see all my friends busy with leading different teams of Halla Bol, Amalthea, Blithcron, I used to feel left out, but at the same time I was not very comfortable with leading the teams. This was the reason why I picked the video editing activities and paved my own path towards getting involved in the college activities.”

- Utkarsh

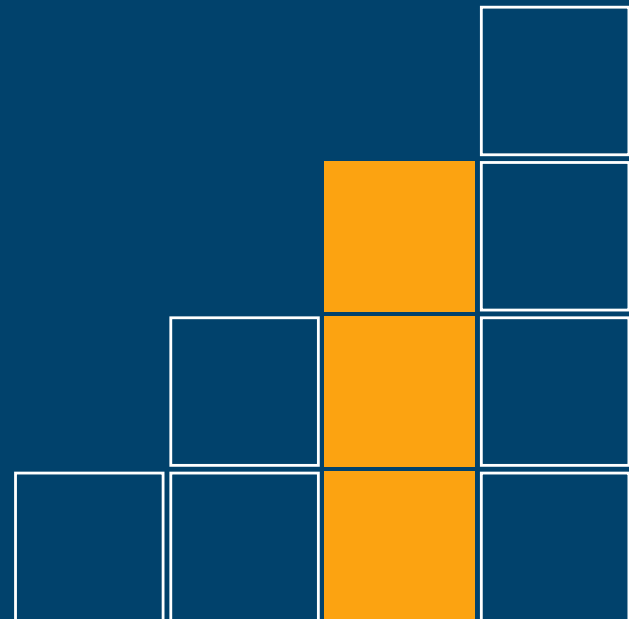
“

Grades are real numbers but life is like a complex number and it is hard to compare complex numbers. I consider my life a complex number rather than a real number and I do believe that I should not compare myself with anyone and should do only those things that make me curious and happy. I never wanted to do something to just put in it my CV, be it a summer internship or be it being a part of an organizing committee of something. So I would say I never felt any peer pressure even when I was preparing for JEE.”

- Aalok

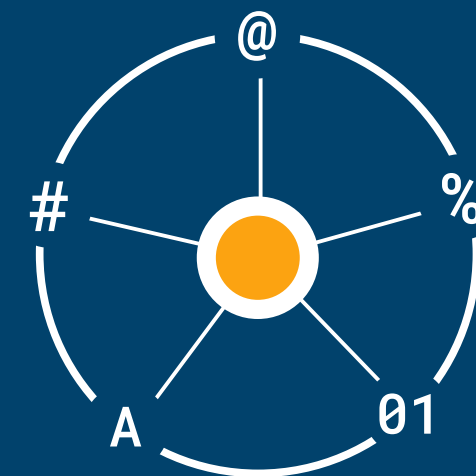
One Decade, Many Stories

Cheers to all the different, unique, inspiring and astonishing stories...



"The only regret I have from my college life is that I should've socialized more and explored new things. My advice to other students is to not blindly follow others' life as an example, but to learn slowly through your own experiences and mistakes."

- Living life, zero steps at a time.



He gained a lot more gratitude and appreciation towards the extremely qualified and "awesome" faculty IIT provided, making him regret not acquiring more perspective by taking up more projects with them.

- Learnings for lifetime.

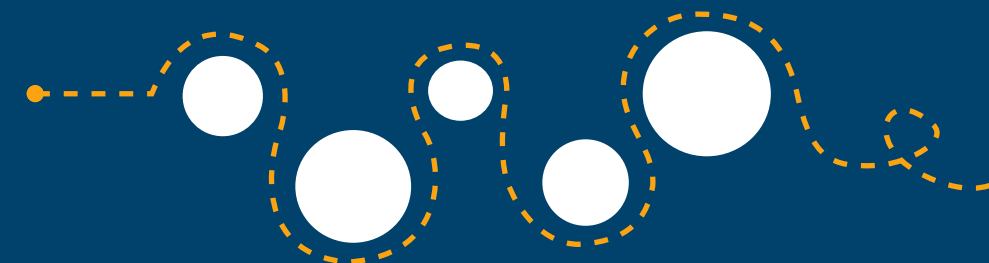
"The undergraduate education is a time to explore various interests whereas graduate education is a time for gaining maturity in what you want to do."

- The accidental researcher.



He cannot control others but only how he chooses to respond, and just because of a few things, which are quite common, he cannot give up his friendship.

- Behti hawa saa.





Aalok Gangopadhyay

Living Life, Zero Steps at a Time

Aalok's funda in life has been simple: live in the moment, do what feels right and you will find the right path to a fulfilling future. Close friends recall their first impression of him: footballer, guitarist, and a man with a robust frame that had people often mistaking him for a senior.

On seeing his JEE results, he was disappointed as he was expecting a higher rank. Preferring a promising branch over established IITs, he came to IIT Gandhinagar. Unlike most other freshers who wanted to be a part of event organizing committees, he opted out of those and enjoyed a very light first year. Participating just to add another entry in his CV was very unappealing to him, and he believes that effort is best placed in things that spark your interest. He proudly remembers how on one hand he used to get real serious in a fun game of Mafia on the weekends, on the other hand, he would not prepare at all for boring course exams. "I couldn't sleep the first night I received the role of the Mafia. I felt guilty for lying and blaming others. The psychology involved in the game was intriguing". His outlook on grades was interesting, "understanding levels cannot be represented in real numbers, they are more like complex numbers, often incomparable to one another." Experimenting has been at the core of his life. His notable food experiments

include Panipuri with tea and wringing Rasgullas, mixing them in gravy and eating them as if they were pieces of Paneer. An experimental mindset combined with a revolting spirit meant that he was intrigued by concepts like atheism, nonconformism, and then philosophy in general. He talked about how his sudden interest in philosophy soon led to an existential crisis, with hours of over-analysis, lack of concentration, and nihilistic tendencies. One fine day, an experiment with sleep observation went wrong which led to a prolonged stretch of insomnia with palpitations.

As the semesters went by, he felt that the ecosystem pushed the students to keep climbing the ladder, making them more concerned with what to do next, rather than enjoying what they were currently doing. People spend their third year searching for internships and the fourth year preparing for jobs. The effort and stress involved in this search process make it difficult to focus and enjoy the curriculum. So one fine semester he decided to not apply for internships and jobs and rather focus on learning things that interested him. However, on a friend's insistence, he applied for a research internship at CalTech and got selected. After the internship experience, he decided to pursue a future in research. But sticking to his initial resolution, he did not

spend time on the application process and instead continued working on his research problems. Eventually, after completion of his bachelor's program, he continued working as a junior research fellow. He is currently working towards a Ph.D. at IITGn in the field of Computer Vision and Graphics.

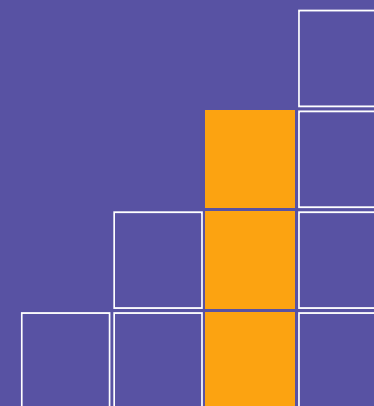
The only regret he has from his college life is that he should've socialized more and explored new things. His advice to other students is to not blindly follow others' life as an example but to learn slowly through their own experiences and mistakes. "Imagine a hypothetical world where you are the only human alive. Imagine how you would be spending your time in such a world. If the things you would be doing in that world are fundamentally different from what you are currently doing, then it implies that, in a sense, whatever you are doing right now is essentially to please others. So stop worrying about the impression you will make on others or the expectations others have from you. Through a process of introspection try to realize what would be your definition of a fulfilling life and then pursue that vision with dogged persistence. The most important thing to remember in life is that if you treat life like a ladder, climbing one step after the other, you will never have lived your life. Stop for a moment, stand still, look around you, appreciate what you have right now. Everything else will work out on its own."

If I ever be famous it'll be for :

Designing a language that speaks about that which cant be spoken about

One thing I'm really good at but no one knows about it :

Speaking random gibberish and making people think that I am speaking some existing language XD





Aashrith Koundinya
Saraswathibhatla

The Accidental Researcher

Aashrith's one funda in his academic and professional life has been to try being a Jack of all trades because even if it doesn't make you a master of any, it does make you a well-rounded person, adding to your self-confidence. He ardently believes and stands by his message of going out of the box to learn and explore multiple different things. This funda has made Aashrith the self-learner that he is today.

When his IIT rank didn't match up to his expectations, he was slightly disappointed amidst the happiness that his parents expressed. After contemplating and deciding against re-appearing for the exam, he landed at IIT Gandhinagar. On stepping foot in the campus, another disappointment awaited him in the form of the campus not standing true to what had attracted him on NEWS and YouTube. Aashrith recollected having to cross certain hurdles in the initial months. Coming from a small town, he underwent some difficulty interacting and mixing with students from big cities who came with a lot of knowledge and awareness of what they wanted to do. But instead of letting that pose as a barrier, he consciously made the effort to be with them to know better and learn. One thing he learned was not to be a part of any group and rather freestyle his way through friendships.

This attitude also helped him overcome the language barrier that he faced. He curiously kept asking and learning the meaning of every new Hindi word being exposed to him (and of course a lot of the gaalis). He was also grateful for the fact that the people around him were very helpful, making his batch feel like a family during his college years, which helped him grow as a person.

During these four years, Aashrith was interested in academics, liked what he was learning in Mechanical, and secured a research internship which helped him to learn about research. And apart from this, he was on a journey to learn a lot more than what the academic degree would offer. Utilizing the freedom of the college culture to learn a lot more outside of mainstream academics, he played a lot of Volleyball. Having had very little exposure in his hometown, he utilized all opportunities to learn to talk to people, communicate in multiple languages, coordinate within teams and learn the subtle art of taking losses, making him more and more confident each time he tried and explored something new. Even his position as the student council convener gave him an opportunity to learn crisis management and enforcing the code of conduct.

Recounting a piece of advice from a faculty member, Aashrith agrees that undergraduate education is a time to explore various interests whereas graduate education is a time for gaining maturity in what you want to do. After earning a bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering, he went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue a PhD. After defending his PhD recently, Aashrith started as a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford University.

His key takeaways from his four year journey at IITGN and his message to the juniors at all stages of the course is to explore new avenues apart from academics and to make use of the full potential of all that IIT has to offer. He encourages people to take up research projects and focus on soft skills like writing and communication. He pushes the students to fight and effortfully armour against imposter thoughts trying to bring them down by gradually building confidence. He says, "If I don't know something today, I'll put in the effort to learn it." His message to the juniors is to be kind to themselves and conscious in those efforts.



I knew the best spot in IITgn for :
For hanging out with friends was NBH terrace

If you want to _____ you should ping me
Know about academic research





Abhay CA

Learnings for Lifetime

IIT is where Abhay formed friendships that would last him a lifetime. The IITGN community helped build who he is today and has added a lot to his life. In spite of linguistic barriers, IIT, through its inclusivity made him feel very much a part of its culture. He learnt the power of collaboration and made conscious efforts to maintain his relationships. Having had no aspect of his life that IIT hadn't touched, when asked to think about a life lesson that IIT gave him, Abhay says, "IIT has given me life".

Abhay was not in the slightest disappointed with his JEE rank, rather he was happy about the fact that he did get in. Having a father who travelled all around the country on business trips, he developed the perspective that being in a place away from home helps grow as a person. And this led to him going on this journey to gain the best education.

Having come to fulfil his dreams and make his own identity, his journey in IIT was not easy and had its own hurdles. The first challenge that Abhay faced when he entered IIT Gandhinagar was the humongous language barrier as a result of his South Indian upbringing. Although he could interact comfortably in English, he found it necessary to learn Hindi to connect with people.

Which, along with his impulsivity led him to participate in two Hindi dramas, clearly without having given it much thought. Playing the role of a serious Lok Sabha speaker in one, he delivered multiple jokes that cracked up the entire audience, and that too with a blank face, which was made possible thanks to him not understanding even a single line. As he learned, he would make multiple mistakes and mix up genders in Hindi, while facing friendly ridicule over the same. Over 6-7 months, he worked at polishing his Hindi, enough to confidently go out and speak to strangers for Blithchron fest marketing. During all this he realised that people don't actually leave you out, rather you have to make the right kind of effort to not get left out.

During the first two years, he found himself facing academic difficulties and receiving his first-ever zero in the very first quiz at IITGN. What comforted him then, was the fact that most other classmates got zeroes as well, even the smartest ones. That's when he turned to his roommate for constructive criticism and encouragement. He realised whatever you do alone gets better when you collaborate. He realised the importance of developing social skills, taking initiative and helping the institute's cause which was so much more than merely academics. Apart from academics, he was someone who

had been in multiple positions of responsibility (POR) during these years. He had also been the Senator and had represented IITGN at the inter-IIT Gymkhana Summit. All of these were the experiences that gave him the confidence to take up even more demanding PORs in his later academic endeavours, like being the Placement Committee member in IIMB.

After 4 years at IIT, he pursued an MBA degree from IIM Bangalore which helped him fastrack his career. At the start of his career, he found himself in the middle of the real world where he had to put to use interpersonal skills more than academic learning as well as balance speed and quality unlike the fast-paced IIT deadlines.

Realising the importance of the minor HSS courses he took in college, he advises the juniors to reap the benefits of the same. He gained a lot more gratitude and appreciation towards the extremely qualified and "awesome" faculty he had at his disposal back at IITGN, making him regret not acquiring more perspective by taking up more projects with them. Since in the real world, it isn't easy to find such credible and knowledgeable people at our close proximity, ready to devote their time for you, his advice to the juniors is to make the most out of their access to them.

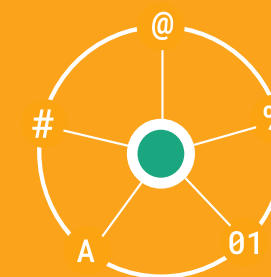
Abhay accepts that the tag of IIT does prove helpful in getting jobs where IITians are considered to be good at things like analytics, handling pressure and working with people from different backgrounds. His parting advice to readers from IIT is to be open to new ideas. He also suggests having keen ears to valuable things others have to say without having any inhibitions towards the same.

If I ever be famous it'll be for :

Guinness record for watching most movies in movie theatre.

One thing I'm really good at but no one knows about it

Making memes B)





Abhishek Sancheti

Behti Hawa saa...

Abhishek Sancheti is a self-assured optimist with a chilled out attitude. He goes with the flow, and accepts circumstances along with people as they come while making sure he maintains his own individuality as well. A young boy from Rajasthan saw IITians around himself in the family and it became his childhood dream to get into an IIT. Correction, the dream was to get into one of the older IITs. Once he happened to visit his cousin in Ahmedabad and passed by the old campus of IIT Gandhinagar at VGEC, and joked that he would never go there to study. However, destiny had other plans for him. After securing a rank below his expectations, Sancheti weighed his options in terms of place, branch, rankings and decided IIT Gandhinagar would be his home for the next four years of his life.

Sancheti was one of the guys who weren't really bothered by the first quiz of Maths in the first year. He was able to deal satisfactorily with academics and never stressed much about it. He recalls that it had always been a zig-zag curve, performing well in one semester and screwing up a little in the next, and so on and so forth. Right from the beginning, he was the overall event coordinator of Halla Bol which remained his favourite event in college. After his third year, he was able to get an internship at a multinational firm and

got lucky by getting a pre-placement offer as well. Sancheti, with his "kuch na kuch toh ho hi jayega" attitude thoroughly enjoyed his undergraduate life. He played late night FIFA with his friends, watched series, bunked many classes, even at some point completely stopped attending them, hated the manufacturing lab course and at times went on a no-bathing spree. He enjoyed the most in his fourth and final year of college. He recalls watching Bigg Boss that year with his entire group just for one participant!

Apart from all the fun, Abhishek Sancheti never compromised with his own beliefs and moral code. He was a part of that friend group in which smoking was common. Sometimes he had to hide or throw cigarette packets to control his friends, only for them to start smoking again the next day. However, to date, he has never smoked a cigarette or consumed alcohol. He was that person who never used any abusive words. In fact, his friends did try to make him abuse, quite a lot, but they never succeeded. The reason behind his ability to control himself from giving in to peer pressure or retaliating against his friends is his mastery in not being bothered by what others did. Since he cannot control others, he chooses to focus on what he can control and that is his response. In addition to that, he also believes that just due to

a few practices, which are anyway quite common, he shouldn't be giving up on his friendships. Sancheti was a very clear-sighted person.

After being in an industrial job for a year, Sancheti quit to kick start his UPSC preparations. He was willing to contribute to the civil services right from college and had planned to start the preparation in his final year. However, the buzz of the last year didn't let him do that. The three years he invested in preparing for UPSC were quite challenging and uncertain, after all, it is one of the toughest exams. However, he still took the risk to go for it as it was something he wanted to do. He acknowledged the fact that people around you end up having high expectations after being aware of the IITian tag and with those expectations, a vast syllabus too awaited him. Dismally, he could not clear through all the rounds of the exam. Sancheti never regretted it and was not dejected, he moved on to other things that life had to offer. Currently, he is in a product management role at one of the leading e-commerce stores in India and is chilled out trying to maintain a good work-life balance.

Sancheti always does the things he likes and wants to do and does not just blindly follow the crowd. He suggests the same funda that he followed, "do not do something just because it might be visible on your resume or it is very happening or just because everyone happens to do it. Be a part of things you connect with, and above everything else, sab theek hai yaar!"





To anyone getting into IIT, he suggests, “Don’t do what I did, study and be disciplined because it will carry forward. Don’t do things just because others are doing them. Some amount of peer pressure is good, it takes you out of your comfort zone to do things. Doing all of those will add to your advantage. Always encourage your friends if you feel they’re good at something. Make friends, some of them will stay throughout your life. You need those people who you can talk to about your issues.”

- Zero to one.

Ayush was among those students whose career goals were clear, right from his school days. His clear and focussed mindset helped him bag the Director’s silver medal at IITGN. However, no medal could match the level of willpower he possessed. His journey up until now has been an ode to patience.

- Phir se udd chala.



The foundation year for him was a door to new experiences. He enjoyed it thoroughly as it entailed meeting new people and getting introduced to them, making friends, exchanging contacts and making multiple plans of hanging out later.

- Struggles to strides.

Something he realised as a part of the industry that he didn’t at IIT was that people overvalue core skills, like work ethics, that are achieved through practice and experience and don’t ever leave. He also believes in not discounting the factor of luck that occupies a huge place in everyone’s success. He believes he could have explored more subjects and career paths while in college.

- Happy Hari.



Happy Hari!



Ankit Pandole

“Chemical engineering was never a tangent, it was a parallel line that I never touched.” This sentence barely gives an overview of the rollercoaster Ankit’s professional life has been, with unexpected ups and downs and blind turns. From feeling lost in chemical engineering to finding a home in designing, it’s been one hell of a ride.

Ankit followed the herd mentality and took up engineering by following his friend. He was happy as long as his parents were happy with his rank and with his pictures up on roadside hoardings. Ankit’s priority was set on stepping out of his state to see the world and he would’ve taken whatever college provided him with that opportunity. He was happy about the college and its campus. Another thing that added to his happiness was the fact that he had already made a friend from his batch beforehand, so he had somebody to be with from the very first day.

For Ankit, the foundation course was his time to shine. Being enthusiastically involved with extracurriculars, he came into the spotlight for all his batch mates and seniors as the guy who danced, played the guitar, started a band with his best friend and more. Seniors used to call him to their rooms

to perform and showcase his creativity and then offer him a chance to participate in fests like Blithchron, Amalthea etc. For him, the problem started when studies began and he started lagging behind. Everything added to his academic struggle. From spending too much time playing FIFA, to last minute studying, to feeling like he couldn’t ask for help because nobody would be as bad as he is and “pol khul jaayegi ki tum kitne kharaab ho.” This hellish study period continued till his 2nd year where he wasn’t doing too well academically, whereas his extracurriculars were still working pretty well. But he didn’t feel like quitting this awesome life around him which IIT had provided him with. He had friends around him doing the same courses that motivated him to keep pulling through. He quit things only on a short term basis, to return to doing them the next day.

The third year felt the worst to Ankit because the academic courses got the tougher, along with the pressure to do summer internships. And everyone had started figuring out what they wanted to do. For him, having to cover up for the lag added extra pressure in the already difficult year and he accepted the conditions as unimproving. Once while studying, he saw one of his friends working on their startup idea and wanted in. Since he was the more creative

Zero to One

one, they advised and encouraged him to take up the design aspect for their website. For this, he learnt Photoshop, UI, UX through courses and tutorials, with the constant support of his friends. Through this, he realised that he found this kind of work fun and wanted to do this after graduation while taking up deferred placement as a safety net. Because of this experience, his biggest takeaway had been to always encourage friends to do something they could be good at, as this helped him land into an area of interest and turned his entire career around.

After graduation, he worked at his startup with his friends for 2 and a half years, then worked as an intern at a design studio in Mumbai for a while. Realising the lack of growth and scope, he shifted to Bangalore and worked at a firm for 1 year before leaving to explore a better opportunity. Since then, he has been working at his current company, where he recently even got promoted to head of the design team. Getting a job in Bangalore was a huge hurdle that he had to overcome with respect to getting his portfolio and work approved by some of the biggest design tycoons. Their putting down of his work pushed him to work harder and improve the quality of the work that he did along with raising his understanding of how design companies worked. And then he went above and beyond what companies usually do. He has built a mini family within his company in Bangalore and is happy and satisfied with his work. He strives to help the design team grow and elevate it to the next level.

Something he realised in the industry which he never did in college was that he should’ve put in more effort during college because when he made the same efforts in work, he got results for those. He also realised that talking to people, networking and reaching out helps build confidence and is very important. To anyone getting into IIT, he suggests, “Don’t do what I did, study and be disciplined because it will carry forward. Don’t do things just because others are doing them. Some amount of peer pressure is good, it takes you out of your comfort zone to do things. Doing all of those will add to your advantage. Always encourage your friends if you feel they’re good at something.

One thing I’m really good at but no one knows about it
My product understanding - it has grown considerably

I’m legitimately bad at:
Staying in touch with acquaintances



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Ayush Choudhary

Phir se Udd Chala...

Ayush was among those students whose career goals were clear, right from his school days. His clear and focussed mindset helped him bag the Director's silver medal at IITGN. However, no medal could match the level of willpower he possessed. His journey up until now has been an ode to patience.

He was in his 8th grade when he decided that IIT should be the starting line of his success journey. He was bright, ambitious, hardworking, and a go-getter! This landed him in one of the most prestigious institutes in the country. Not feeling successful enough is a common attribute of go-getters. Ayush too didn't really appreciate his rank, and it was because of that that he decided to make IIM his next goal. He started preparing for CAT quite early. In his final year, he got fascinated by Data Analytics. After his graduation, he joined one of the MNCs, where he worked for three months, while searching for other career options in the field. But he was down on his luck, and what followed changed him and his perspective towards life to a large extent:

One day, while cycling, he felt a sudden jerk in his body and fell down. As he stood up after a while, he discovered weakness and pain in the right-hand

side of his body. He somehow drew his cycle home, but the night was no better. The symptoms and weakness increased, and he decided to return to his home as soon as possible. Meanwhile, he wasn't able to work with his right hand, and his speech delivery became unintelligible. When he reached the airport of Indore, his hometown, he got a stroke, and his body became completely paralyzed. For ten days after the incident, he stayed admitted at one of the hospitals, where he lost his speech completely. When he woke up, he immediately asked when he would be able to resume his job. His parents weren't really sure about the answer, but they consoled him saying that he would be okay within 6 months. No one knew that things wouldn't get normal for the next two years. Seeing his dreams shatter in front of his eyes and then feeling extremely helpless was followed by a series of doubts which perhaps nobody could solve at that time. For the next two years, he lived the life of a warrior. He exercised and did Yoga for 6 hours during the day while preparing for CAT. In his words, "Do saal me to mujhe aisa laga ki hardly driver ka ya delivery boy ka kaam mile to bhi mai kar lunga". After a few months, while he was attempting the exam, he faced issues while writing with his left hand as he couldn't write with his right hand. This added to his disturbed mental state at that time. He couldn't clear CAT, but in the typical Ayush Choudhary

style, he didn't give up and decided to attempt it one more time having gained more idea about the paper pattern. Meanwhile, he tried to apply for a job, gave numerous interviews and faced rejections. Some companies wanted sales guys, some companies judged him to be incapable because they used computers very heavily for Data Entry and Excel. He then joined a start-up from Indore. He started preparing again while practicing to write with his left hand. While doing his job, he cleared CAT in his next attempt, joined IIM Indore and overcame the complaints that we all possibly have with our lives, all at once. He often talks about how his mom used to motivate him throughout the journey and how he never really felt broken. He always believed that the end of this tunnel is bright, and one day, everything would be okay to make way for him to achieve his dreams. Ayush wishes to have his own Wikipedia Page that talks about his story. When asked how he got the patience and courage to stand where he is right now, he said,

"Mujhe samajh me nahi aaya ki maine kaise kiya, par maine kiya!" Describing the storm that his life was, with such tiny droplets of simplicity.

When I'm not working I'm _____

Watching a TV show/movie or Cycling or day dreaming

If you want to _____ you should ping me

Plan a trip





Deep Rahul

Struggles to Strides

Aptly summing up his entire academic and professional life, Deep Rahul calls the story of his journey- ‘Struggles to Strides’. As compared to other classmates, having had a slightly rockier path laid out, he has had more than his fair share of struggles during and after his years at IITGN. And now he takes his strides on the path of sorting things out and building his career.

Engineering and as an extension, IIT seemed like an obvious choice for Deep who loved subjects like Math and Chemistry in school and grew up in a society that normalized the path of taking up engineering and getting into an IIT. And when the results came out, he was slightly disappointed but also very happy. The campus wasn’t much of a disappointment for him because he measured his evaluation of it on how much he enjoyed himself there- which was a lot.

The foundation year for him was a door to new experiences. He enjoyed it thoroughly as it entailed meeting new people and getting introduced to them, making friends, exchanging contacts and making multiple plans of hanging out later. Along with this the opening to explore new activities thrilled him. According to him, this was the best phase of IIT as it eased the students

into what the hardcore engineering life had in store for them. During this period, he faced certain difficulties by virtue of him being an introvert who lacked confidence. He found the people around him to be extremely talented, outspoken and an amalgamation of very fancy hobbies and interests and he found himself lost and doubting whether he had any such thing going for himself. He found himself reflecting on his lack of interpersonal communication and confidence. Having had stage fright, he could not participate in a lot of activities but found his calling in other extracurriculars like organizing and participating in gaming events and exploring within other arenas that he was already interested in.

Transitioning from foundation to the first year, seemed like a sudden shift from something so breezy to serious and focused academics. One of the most impactful incidents was from his final year when unfortunately, he got caught using unethical means during an exam. The committee decided to fail him and hold him back a year. This decision of the committee came as a very harsh and huge setback. His parents were stressed and couldn’t tell anyone else in his family as they always looked up to him and exemplified his achievements. After a lot of discussion with his parents and contemplating

dropping out or changing colleges, he decided to continue and see it through one last year. Post this, he studied and planned his path further ahead from this point. He realized there was no point blaming anyone or anything, rather decided to make the best of the situation. He took away the lesson of making mistakes but not messing up this big time. His advice to all would be to do whatever they do with integrity and hard work because whether one messes up small or big time, one has to pay for it. Having found the positive in this situation, he looked forward to getting a fresh start in the new campus.

After his IIT years, he went to Delhi to prepare for the UPSC exams. He took the first attempt lightly and couldn’t crack it in the second attempt either. By the time he attempted the exam for the third time, he had lost all hope and the motivation to keep putting in any effort. Post this he decided to take his academic journey abroad, to Canada. He has been there since the start of lockdown and has found himself adjusting much better to the easy flowing transition of the college culture there. The academic flow allows him to learn things slowly and gradually instead of the Indian academic culture of pressuring students from day 1, giving him time to commit to a part time job as well. Even though his parents are very much capable of funding his education, he strives to rely on himself for the same.

One of his most precious takeaways from college have been the friendships he has formed he has made for his lifetime. Staying in contact with them personally and professionally even after all these years is what makes him reminisce about college happily, remembering all the times they showed up for him as his support system in times of difficulty, be it helping him cope with the fear of studying or helping him figure out getting through any other issue. And today, he hasn’t let all this struggle dampen his efforts to live a more purpose-driven and well planned out life.

You should never ask for my advice on:

Fashion wear

If I ever be famous it’ll be for:

My writing





LakshmiNarasimhan Narayanan

If his friends had to describe him, their responses would range from “It took me one semester to learn his name”, “Learning his name is like writing an answer in the exam. It’s better we settle with Hari.”

Hari liked Math and Science and the only option at that time for someone who didn’t want to study medicine was engineering. After 2 years of prep, he got into IITGN and chose it over Madras and Hyderabad because he wanted to go to unexplored places. Although he went with the comforting hope of finding someone from Tamil Nadu, he was surprised to find not even one student from his linguistic background.

This linguistic hurdle enveloped five weeks of the foundation program. He found it very hard to connect with people due to his inability to converse in the local language. He found that “people will start talking in English but eventually gravitate towards a language that they’re more comfortable with. This initial turbulence made him feel very low about the fact that this was how it was going to be for the whole 4 years and almost made him consider leaving IIT and going back. But he realised that the purpose of the foundation program wasn’t learning, it was gaining experience and he made full use

of the group activities to develop his language (even if it meant carrying around a notebook everywhere and writing translations down). He credited the foundation program for giving him the friends that he has because being an introvert, if not for the catalyst, he would have been friends with just his roommates. But by the end of the foundation year, all 120 people knew each other. And he had gotten comfortable with learning Hindi without the incessant urge to leave.

After trying his hand at organising Blithchron and Amalthea, Hari realised that was not his cup of tea as he was not appropriately extroverted. But his belief that “in IIT, there was something for everyone and you can explore”, inspired him to start a chess club at IITGN. Soon it had started growing and gotten quite popular within a year and Hari won at an intercollege level as well.

In his third year, Hari got an internship at the University of Washington but due to the lack of a passport, couldn’t bag that opportunity, ending up in some other company. Post that he aimed to do his MBA from an IIM but could not go for it as he chose the wrong exam centre, that is, Ahmednagar instead of Ahmedabad for the CAT exam. Post this he again couldn’t give his

Happy Hari

GRE because of the lack of a passport and ended up getting a job from the place that he was interning at in Chennai. After 1 year of doing this, he finally gave his GRE and went to the US. There he did his masters from the University of Maryland and “I closed my eyes and opened my eyes and 16 months were gone.” Then he gradually transitioned from doing mechanical engineering to software engineering, changed companies and got married somewhere in the middle of all of this (which is still a big secret from his batchmates). He had never imagined this unexpected set of events to take place and for him to be working in such a big company. But now that that’s done, he feels like its charm has been lifted and now wants to move to a startup. For him, between his big company job and his marriage, the latter seems like a bigger achievement because his company isn’t a lifelong commitment.

Something he realised as a part of the industry that he didn’t at IIT was that people overvalue core skills, like work ethics, that are achieved through practice and experience and don’t ever leave. He also believes in not discounting the factor of luck that occupies a huge place in everyone’s success. He believes he could have explored more subjects and career paths while in college. His roommates and batchmates remember him as a happy person with a perennially fun attitude. For him, it came out of a feeling of having fun times with good people. He wasn’t one to stress too much, rather abided by the ideology of “chalta hai, ho jaayega”, and since one can’t have much control over things, he’s had this want and need to be and to also make others happy.

If you want to _____ you should ping me

Talk some random philosophy without reaching conclusions

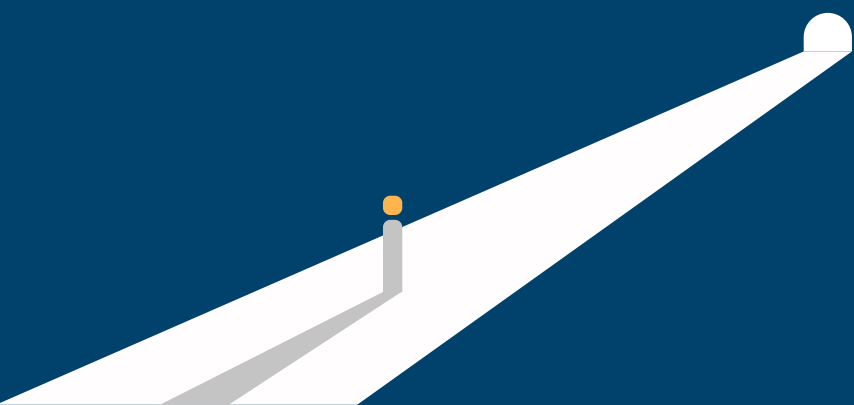
Believe it or not, I...

Can sleep anywhere and anytime! lol XD



Happy Hari!





After graduation, he joined Tata Motors as the Manufacturing Engineer for the truck assembly plant. He played a key role in launching BSIV trucks by ensuring equipment readiness in the assembly shop.

- Tamso maa jyotirgamaya.



Getting out of college and entering the industry brought about realisations not only in the work spectrum. Prateek realised the importance of communication, the importance of taking breaks and balancing other priorities with work. He realised that office and work are important but so is your social life.

- Neither the best, nor the worst. Just perfectly average.

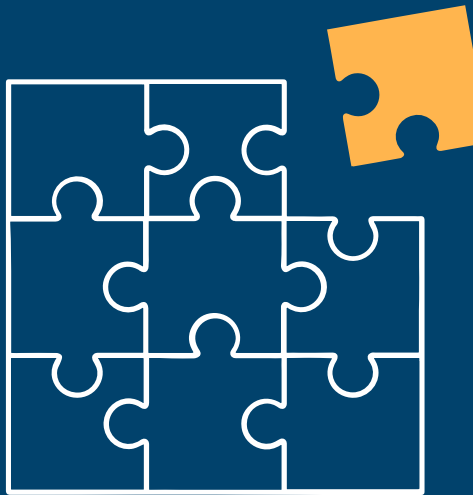


He said that in the professional world, the most important factors are connections and skills which matter more than grades. He explains that applicants needn't mention their CPI. A higher CPI doesn't necessarily increase the chances of a job.

- Everything works out if you work it out.

During his first year, he had to face many issues while settling in a new place, which also affected his academics greatly. He felt that the other people might have already experienced many things in school that he hadn't yet. It took an entire semester for him to make himself ready for the struggles that a BTech life demands.

- Breaking the walls.





Madan Taldevkar

Tamso Maa Jyotirgamaya

When one comes from a low-income background, having an inquisitive outlook towards things around you might not come naturally given the priorities in day-to-day life. Fortunately, Madan's parents understood the importance of a good education and always encouraged him to explore and learn different things at school. While he did not have the luxury to take things apart at home, as any kid would do, he engaged himself in exploring the library his school had to offer. Attending science fairs and issuing every science magazine he would find in his school library not only fuelled his interest in science and technology but drove him to choose engineering as a career and led him to IIT Gandhinagar. Madan recollects that without the financial support by generous patrons while preparing for JEE and later by the MCM scholarships provided by the institute, studying at a prestigious institute like IIT, would have stayed a mere dream. His journey serves as an inspiration that nothing can hinder the strong will and passion for reaching the farthest of the heights.

As a freshman, he enjoyed learning various manufacturing processes through trade workshops. During the same year, he found his passion for fitness and just like most of us, friends for life. He still remembers the day

when his team was declared the winner of the prestigious UL engineering challenge for their design of an electric rickshaw for the Indian market. He got an opportunity to do a summer research internship in the MKOPSC safety center at Texas A&M University. Talking about various courses at IITGN, he mentioned taking a course project, which turned out to be very demanding and challenging. He was very disappointed as he barely managed to secure the passing grade. He, however, maintains that it turned out to be a great learning experience. While the first three years were entirely about bringing out your best in academics, the fourth one was entirely about bringing out the best memories of college life.

After graduation, he joined Tata Motors as Manufacturing Engineer for the truck assembly plant. He played a key role in launching BSIV trucks by ensuring equipment readiness in the assembly shop. After three enriching years at Tata Motors, a desire to have a deeper understanding through formal education in Industrial Engineering led him to pursue a master's at Texas A&M University. As the sole bread earner, it was a massive decision to leave a well-paying job and invest in higher education that demanded significant fees. Ultimately, "where there is a will, there is a way." He got his master's in

Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M. He not only did an internship but landed a full-time role at his all-time dream company, Tesla Motors, California. Currently, he is working as an Industrial Engineer, helping Tesla to accelerate the world's transition towards sustainable energy. He believes in opportunities and strives to make the best out of them. According to him, getting into IIT was like entering a room with countless doors, and one must decide which ones to knock on and which ones to leave. Although he did not organize many techno-cultural events, he does not regret it,

One thing I'm really good at but no one knows about it:

Cooking, best dish Mushroom Masala

I knew the best spot in IITgn for:

Cold Coffee- Canteen near the Library, Shed 2





Mayank Shekar

Everything Works Out if You Work it Out

Mayank's life has been full of interesting experiences and one thing he has inferred from his experiences in the past decade is that every situation can be made the best out of by taking control of it and adapting yourself accordingly. Mayank was deeply interested in CSE since his school days. He got accepted into IIT Gandhinagar for the B.Tech Program in Mechanical Engineering, which was not his primary preference. Mayank was inspired by his hardworking peers. But as Mechanical core courses started to come in, even though the course was not his first choice, he made the best out of it. He believes that when we are in college most of us start planning what our future might look like, we think of multiple options and our plans change along the way. For him, it swayed from MBA to Ph.D. to SWE jobs. According to him, changing plans along the way is okay as long as you find convincing enough reasons to do so. Mayank recalls that in the starting of his 4th year, he was considering a Ph.D. course after college at the university he went to intern at. He was doing a research project under Professor Anirban Dasgupta, one he was really interested in. But after working on it for 7-8 months, the direction they took hit a roadblock. This made him realise that there could be similar dead-ends in Ph.D. research work as well and that he

was better suited for an industrial placement opportunity, which made him start working towards it.

Apart from academics in college, Mayank was also a part of the college football team. He recalled how the Inter-IIT tournaments were really memorable trips. He explained how any sport can help people in general with their physical as well as mental health. Football is one thing he has continued even after college.

He said that in the professional world, the most important factors are connections and skills which matter more than grades. He explains that applicants needn't mention their CPI. A higher CPI doesn't necessarily increase the chances of a job.

When asked if he has any regrets from his college life, Mayank said that he is satisfied with his academic performance, but felt that he could've done better on the personal front. "I should've gone out of my comfort zone and tried things outside my personal interest". "Maybe I wasn't mature enough to have

personal goals back then, but I am now", he says. Another thing that he added was the importance of soft skills like communication. There are many people who are smart but bad at effectively articulating, and that kind of hampers their growth. He also said, "Most of the professional interaction you will have after college will be with non-engineers. This is where people skills and communication helps."

Mayank suggests that in your Undergraduate years, try to go into the breadth rather than going into the depth since most people end up doing a job that is different from what they studied in college. He says that it is alright to set extremely unrealistic goals. "You don't necessarily need to reach the goal immediately, but ensure that you are on the right path which will eventually lead you to it. Things will move in the right direction if you try to be happy in your career and life." He explains that first salaries are often low so don't get bogged down by that, stick around as long as there is learning and mental peace. Salaries eventually increase over the years.

"I had a relatively smooth journey to where I am right now. People often don't value what they have if they don't have to struggle a lot for it. Be happy and keep moving, it will all work out eventually"





Prateek Baldwa

Neither the Best, nor the Worst. Just Perfectly Average

An academically high scoring childhood, four years of IIT and multiple successful jobs later, it takes a lot of courage and humility, to call yourself perfectly average. Especially when you've had your fair share of downs with these ups and have struggled through them to turn out victorious on the other side. Prateek here, is just the embodiment of this.

Prateek's journey shows us that life is only as easy and as enjoyable as you make it with your efforts. Having been among the toppers for all his school life, he struggled during his 12th grade because of external misfortunes like accidents and bad health. And he came from a culture where importance is given only to higher ranks and people with lower ranks are looked down upon. Although, he didn't let this stop him even when he had to give a second attempt for JEE, and realised that whether your rank is 500 or 3000, you're going to find your photo in the newspaper. That's how accepting Kota had become of low rankers as well as other things in life being prioritised over academics. The foundational years for Prateek had been very laid back and easy going. He lived an unusual student life of missing early morning lectures, not having the motivation to go out and explore or travel, not participating or getting actively involved in any extracurriculars or even

getting out and socialising. His room was his haven and his mind a perfectly comfortable place to inhabit all by himself. In hindsight, he realised how useful it would've been to pick up and learn those values that the foundation program was providing. He realised that his bringing up in a competitive town had not given him enough exposure, encouragement or supportive guidance for the importance of going out and seeking new experiences, and so he continued to maintain that stance.

He got his internship in the second year which gave him just enough insight for him to decide to make his career in electrical engineering. This also led to more focus on academics as well.

Post IIT, he did two jobs in analytics and although he feared coding, he started enjoying it after getting a push into understanding it better. Now, after years of experimenting and trying out everything that came his way, he found his passion lay more towards analytics, particularly finance and has even extended his expertise to teaching others. He strongly believes in personally working his mind towards finding solutions to problems, be it at the workplace or even at home. At work, he believes in team discussions

and brainstorming to solve problem statements instead of looking for bookish solutions for open-ended problems. He gets a kick out of sitting down with a problem and conceptualising each step of the solution. Instead of waiting around, he would rather look for how to act in the moment to solve the problem immediately. As a by-product of such a thought process, he believes and advises others to plan and prepare for anything they enter into. Be well researched so you're prepared to face the problems you encounter. It's beneficial even if you have a blurred picture as an idea or a roadmap to follow, instead of getting totally blind-sighted.

Getting out of college and entering the industry brought about realisations not only in the work spectrum. Prateek realised the importance of communication, the importance of taking breaks and balancing other priorities with work. He realised that office and work are important but so is your social life. And he worked towards never undermining his social life. He started taking more initiative and ownership for himself and working towards doing things to benefit his clients. He also took up exploring the possibilities in research and experiment based projects. Having thought of Electrical Engineering as difficult but realising the potential he held there through exploring and experiencing under his father's guidance, he urges everyone to plan and explore.

One thing he asks others to never come to him for advice on is when to do a particular task. Because his major life force is procrastination and he might end up asking them to do it right before the deadline. When asked what he would want to be famous for, he humbly declines even the hypothetical idea of fame. His parting lines being, "Don't think you're superior just because you're in IIT, you still have to work hard."

I'm legitimately bad at:
Expressing myself

When I'm not working I'm _____
Reading books





Pridhvi Raj

Breaking the Walls

Pridhvi is the kind of person who speaks only as much as it is necessary. His native place is Andhra Pradesh, a place whose craze for JEE is not unknown to the country. However, Pridhvi wasn't that crazy about the exam. His purpose of choosing Engineering was the legacy of his family, just like most others. After two years of preparation, when the results came out to be a bit lower than expected, he was pretty upset, unlike his family, who were very happy with the fact that he had qualified through the exam.

The language barrier is something that many people face during their IIT journey. In the case of Pridhvi, the group activities of the foundation program played a nice role in introducing him to the basic Hindi vocabulary. There were instances when someone had to repeat the conversations in English for him. However, his roommates were immensely helpful in the matter. During his first year, he had to face many issues while settling in a new place, which also affected his academics greatly. He felt that the other people might have already experienced many things in school that he hadn't yet. It took an entire semester for him to make himself ready for the struggles that a BTech life demands. In his words, "One thing that I realized was that, whatever you were in the past, you have to work hard to survive here...." He is grateful to the

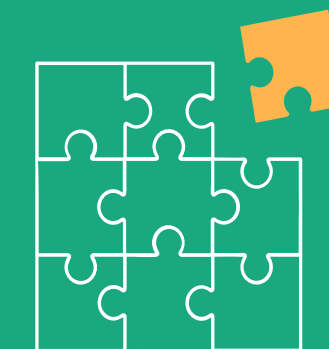
then fourth-year seniors, who were approachable and used to tell him what he should focus on and how to manage things. He was interested in pursuing business minors and hence did some extra courses. However, later, he got more interested in the computer science area and picked up courses related to that field. Though at the end of the four years, he couldn't complete minors in either of the two, yet was satisfied that he had learned enough in both fields and enjoyed the same. The subsequent years of his BTech were spent enjoying the process. He used to go for night-outs, hang out with people, have engaging conversations, and make memories.

After his BTech, he joined an MNC, where he could learn many things and at the same time got a reasonable amount of time to prepare himself. After working there, he felt like working with start-ups for at least the next 5-6 years. He joined one of the start-ups with a decent salary at that time. In the following years, he worked with a few more start-ups and learned that along with money, good work culture is also essential. If one ever wants to start something of their own, this is something which has to be kept in mind.

One of the crucial things that Pridhvi learned while he was in BTech is that

one should never stop asking questions. Don't think too much as to what people would say. At the same time, don't mix with people just because you NEED to be with them. Just don't be where you feel uncomfortable. Another thing that he mentioned is the art of handling pressure which he learned in his college days. How they used to submit their assignments at the last moment, and at the same time maintaining the quality of it, is something that teaches the art of giving your best even during tense situations.

Currently, he is working with Dream11, a place which gave him exposure to a lot of new things. He learnt about how the start-up functions, how even a small mistake can affect a lot of people, and the importance of being with the right kind of people. He is also planning his own start-up which he might pick up after a few years.



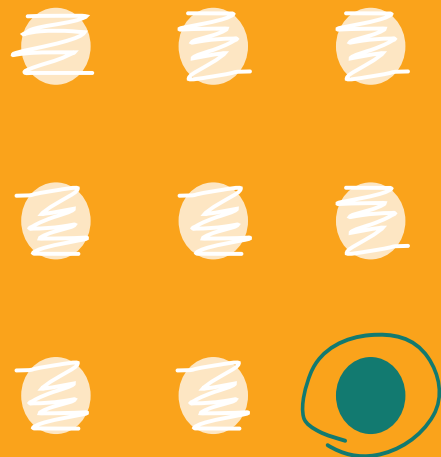
If I ever be famous it'll be for:

For building an unicorn in India

Believe it or not, I...

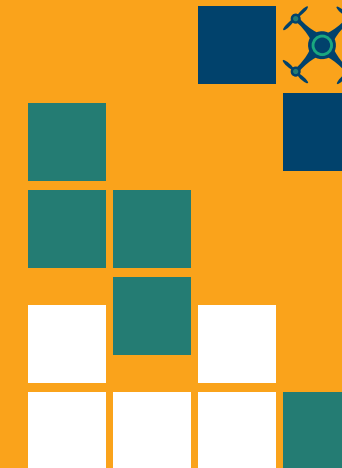
Hate potatoes, never eaten one in my entire life





"Success is subjective. While money is success for some people, for some people, power is. For me, success is the ability to give back to society. Since success is different for everyone, people attain their success at different points in their life. Don't judge your success on others' parameters. Strive towards what you feel is success, and you will never feel dissatisfied"

- Find your success and get it.

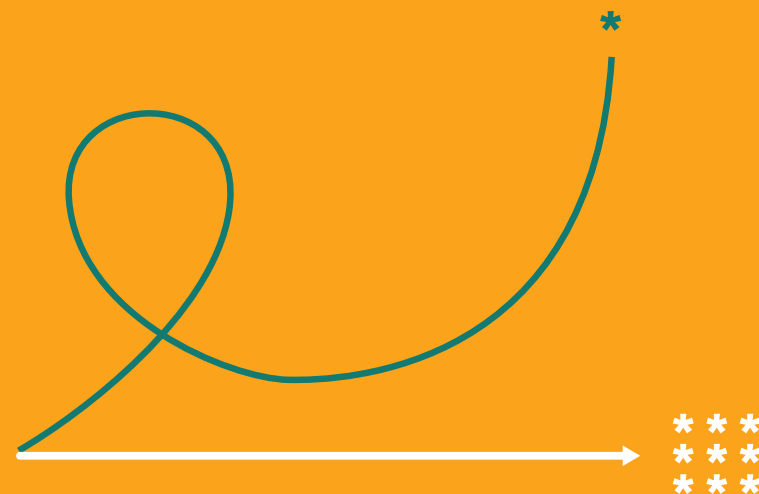


In college, he was called 'Bhagwan'. This title was due to the fact that he was nailing the Engineering drawing course of the first semester without studying anything. Everyone was quite surprised that he could even solve twisted questions very easily, while he didn't spend even a minute practicing the drawings.

- Building dreams & drones.

He had a very unique logic for choosing electrical as his branch: "Sabne bola, dubla patla sa hai, mechanical shayad nahi kr payega. Kuch shanti se baith ke ho sake aisa kaam le le. Electrical sahi hai!"

- Going with the flow.



Hindi ⇌ अंग्रेज़ी

Unlike many others who chose engineering and IIT for their aptitudes and interests, Sanjay came here for the wonderful life portrayed by his IITian cousins. His cousin's stories of how to get into IIT and how to go ahead from there challenged him to take this up as a plan.

- Gaaon se sheher tak.

He is the kind of person who can prepare you for all interviews. The way he speaks and presents himself can clearly demonstrate what he achieved leading the Amalthea Marketing team. He gained a lot of confidence, which he lacked since his school days.

- Script is in-progress.





Ramesh Kumar

Hailing from a small village in Bihar, Ramesh Kumar had to travel 200 kms to Patna just to check his JEE result. He didn't have any specific college choice, he just wanted to get admission into an IIT. After looking at the new IIT rankings, Ramesh decided to go ahead with Mechanical Engineering at IIT Gandhinagar. His first impression of the hostel and the infrastructure of the campus was slightly disappointing, as he felt that it wasn't befitting of an IIT. Ramesh didn't face any difficulties in adapting to college life since his 5 years of schooling at JNV followed by his preparation at Super 30 had given him enough experience of staying in a hostel.

After the first year, Ramesh started to see the bigger picture and set realistic goals. He recalls how, many locals near the college didn't even recognize the name "IIT" and often mistook it to be "ITI". Even as he scaled down his previously unrealistic expectations, he never felt disappointed since his family and people from his hometown were always happy leading to almost no performance pressure. Ramesh believes himself to be lucky that his parents didn't inquire much about his grades and academic performance, since it generally puts a student under a lot of stress. He believes that most parents should let their child operate autonomously at college, since the parameters of "good performance" change radically in college as compared to school. "70% of the batch scored 0 marks in the very first quiz, which

Find your Success and Get it.

doesn't mean they are all failures."

"It is interesting how I used to feel sad about scoring 90/100 in school, but here, even a D grade in a few courses gave me immense joy", he said. Ramesh had taken an education loan and received reasonable pocket-money from his parents. He kept his lifestyle under control and avoided any leisure expenditure.

Ramesh's best experience at college was his year-long tenure as the Mess Secretary and the Volleyball Captain. He proudly recalled the various reforms he brought to the mess system at IITGn. "Caterers used to mention high quality brands in their contract to obtain funds accordingly, and then went on to buy cheap quality goods to make money. When this came to our notice, we imposed a fine on such violations and did inventory checks almost every day". Other reforms introduced by Ramesh include Roti-making machines, biometric verification and serving of non-veg food in the mess. "Since meat costs more than vegetables, there was backlash from the vegetarian community, as they were being served food of lesser value for the same fees as non-vegetarians. So we served sweets exclusively to those who ate vegetarian food at the mess to balance it out", Ramesh explains. He says that being the Mess Secretary taught him great communication skills and the

ability to see things from different perspectives and act accordingly. "I collected a fine of around Rs. 50,000 from the caterers and then had to talk to them almost every day, which taught me how to handle such tricky situations", Ramesh adds. The idea to form a girl volleyball team and to train them for the INTER IIT meet in a span of mere 6 months was one of the radical decisions he and his colleagues of the volleyball team made and executed.

When asked about his best memories at college, Ramesh replied in an instant : Halla Bol. "The intense energy at 2 a.m. in the night is something I can never forget", Ramesh says. Ramesh shares how he and his friends made a Handball team while drinking tea at a table and then went on to win the tournament with that team. Ramesh adds that it was not the win that made it memorable, but the experience of playing with close friends, most of whom were not particularly athletic but gave their 100% nonetheless. "In the teaching industry, the working schedule is not fixed, which doesn't leave much time for sports", Ramesh says, reminiscing his playing-days.

Ramesh figured out two major challenges in the education sector of India: Lack of real-life example-based learning and complexity of various subjects involved. He says: "Simplification of complex concepts has always been underrated but it is exactly where real development and growth comes from". His innate passion for teaching made him join one of the fastest growing JEE + Medical coaching institutes of India where he landed through the campus placement. For the last 6+ years, he has been enabling the next generation of India with quality skills of connecting Maths & science concepts with real life examples and breaking down a bigger problem statement into smaller ones for better visualization. Today, many of his students have realized their dreams of studying in IITs, NITs and AIIMS & Ramesh is totally determined to revolutionize the education system through his analysis-based education, non exam-based, & student centric teaching methodology. "Education is the fundamental block of a nation's growth and a small change in our approach could bring unimaginable results... I feel blessed & fulfilled to be a part of it"

"Money is success for some people, for some people power is success. For me, success is the ability to give back to society. Since success is different for everyone, people attain their success at different points in their life. Don't judge your success on others' parameters. Strive towards what you feel is success, and you will never feel dissatisfied"
- He closes the conversation with this.

If I ever be famous it'll be for :

My contribution in educating indian rural kids.

If I ever be famous it'll be for :

Am worried about the politics of India.





Rohan Patidar

Going with the Flow

Rohan is a person who forever had this mindset of “Jab jo sahi lagega kar lenge yaar!”

He had a very unique logic for choosing electrical as his branch: “Sabne bola, dubla patla sa hai, mechanical shayad nahi kr payega. Kuch shanti se baith ke ho sake aisa kaam le le. Electrical sahi hai!”

Even after getting into IITGN, right from joining the CKF group, to being one of the organizers of the Batch Trip, none seemed to be his active decisions. Owing to this bindaas attitude, college days were quite memorable for him. He could enjoy those days to the fullest. The “go with the flow” philosophy always worked for him. He loved his subjects and he loved what he was doing, without having any regrets.

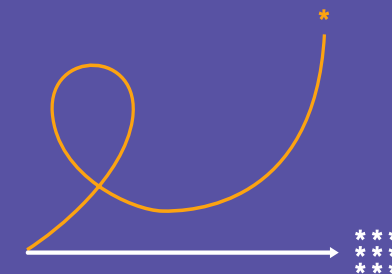
Rohan had not really planned what he wanted to pursue ahead. And his struggles were real! Everyone around him was getting a decent internship. Some could make it to big firms. Some had their own contacts. This was not the case for him. Hence, he thought of approaching one of the professors for the gauge well, and learnt how to achieve what the professor demanded. He

completed the project and got more interesting core projects. Those projects were good enough to get published. And that was how he got into projects and research. By the end of his four years, he was a part of 7 research papers! This was a really big achievement. But yes, some of his words, which every IITian would probably relate with were, “Yaar pressure to feel hota tha... Jab tumhare paas woh IIT ka tag hota hai, to duniya to thik hai, tum khud apne aap se kuch expectations rakhte ho ki kuch to karna padega!”

Little did he know that even more struggles awaited him in his life after IITGN. He didn’t join a job immediately, in order to pursue higher education, following the advice of his mentoring professor. He got admitted to the University of Washington in Seattle, which is an expensive city to live in. He also faced issues in coping up with the syllabus under the quarter system, and again lacked an internship placement which surrounded him with the clouds of depression. He tried his best to make things work, but the repeated unsuccessful attempts had created a sense of self-doubt. Later he got employed in the same university as a research assistant. It was then that he applied to Mathworks for a job, where he eventually landed up. After this, things seemed to be quite stable for him but something still felt missing.

He had many questions for himself, “Ye sab to kar liya, ab kya? What is my ultimate goal? Abhi isse aage kya? Was I supposed to work just to secure my old age or marriage? Do I love staring at the screen all day long?” That is when he decided to return to India even though he did not have a solid plan as to what he would do after returning. He spent a good time here with friends and family and later on decided to pursue farming and related businesses. Of course, the decision was tough but as Rohan puts it, “He feels free!”.

And now, he has no regrets. He is happy, content, and is able to enjoy all the moments of life that a typical 9-5 job seeker might be missing. He went with the flow, but ensured not to get trapped in the whirlpools.



If you want to _____ you should ping me
Learn to walk fast, eat fast, contact me and Ujash. (We are RKBs- Raftar k Badshahs) another silly shit :D

I’m legitimately bad at:
Identifying ingredients/spices in food by tasting.
Nobody even asks me if salt is fine in the curry.





Sachchit Vekaria

Building Dreams & Drones

In his school days, Sachchit used to read a magazine that explained the complex concepts of science and technology in simple words. He read about the latest inventions, mega-structures, how India needs to invest more time and effort in developing its science and technology etc. All this fostered his interest in the field of engineering, particularly in the field of Aerospace engineering. However, the region to which he belongs didn't have enough facilities for quality education. His parents came to know about IIT through one of the school teachers. Due to the lack of coaching facilities in his town, they shifted to a new city where Sachchit could study well. He was quite sure that he wanted to get into the field of Aerospace. After the results were declared, his main focus was to opt for the particular branch in whichever college possible. However, to his bad luck, he wasn't able to get Aerospace in any of the colleges. He didn't secure a good score in the school board exams as well. Hence, it was tough for him to get admission in good colleges in Gujarat too. He felt the closest branch to Aerospace was mechanical, and the closest IIT to his house was IITGN, hence he ended up there.

In college, he was called 'Bhagwan'. This title was due to the fact that he was nailing the Engineering drawing course of the first semester without studying anything. Everyone was quite surprised that he could even solve

twisted questions very easily, while he didn't spend even a minute practicing the drawings. He was quite a decent scorer when it came to academics, but was not very involved in the extracurricular activities. The main reason behind this was that all the perks of extracurriculars told to him by his seniors didn't sound convincing enough to him. He believed that there could be no visible benefit of such kinds of activities. He believed that more than those positions of responsibilities, the skills that you possess were important. He remembered how he once made a website for Amalthea!

According to Sachchit, he didn't really believe in working too hard on the subjects he didn't like or found to be his weak ones. He said, "your strong point should never disappoint you." He had experienced this in one of the courses. He was pretty confident about the subject, but just messed up everything due to overconfidence. That was one of those rare moments when he had actually felt low. Otherwise, in general, he had been a very fun guy. He loved to talk and make friends. And he cherishes those friendships even now. Sachchit had forever remained interested in being a part of DRDO. After BTech, he applied there but didn't get selected. Meanwhile, he was working on a project, which seemed intriguing to him. So, he started working under one of the professors of a similar field at IIT Bombay. At IIT Bombay, he

did everything that he missed out at IITGN like being a part of extracurriculars, having positions of responsibilities, standing out in academics etc. In his words, "IIT Bombay me machaya hai maine!"

He found Academics at IITB quite easy as compared to the way Prof. Murli Damodaran had trained them. He didn't have to work much for grades, as he already knew a lot of the stuff. So, he started getting involved in other activities. He motivated his batchmates to stand for PORs. Hence, he had connections with many position holders of the college including the general secretary. He even increased his hostel's participation in sports events. He credits IIT Bombay for teaching him the qualities of leadership, networking, team-building and inculcating him in a good work culture. He was quite inspired by Harsha Bhogle's speech at IIM Ahmedabad at that time. He developed the attitude of not giving up until a task was completed.

After IIT Bombay, he again tried to apply for DRDO externally. He did not get the job. Instead, during campus placement, he got an offer from GE for which he was not particularly happy because that was not something he wanted to do. Meanwhile, he had to attend a conference. It so happened that one of the chief guests was not able to attend the conference because he had some urgent calls from the new company that he had started. The person was the chief designer of LCA (Light Combat Aircraft). He asked his professor to recommend him for the job in that particular company. The professor sent an email to the person, set up an interview, and now, Sachchit is working in that particular company. He isn't working in DRDO, which he had always planned to, but he is still in the defence sector.

Sachchit believes that he never had enough of the IITGN life. If he ever got a chance to live that life again, he would study more, participate more in activities and make more friends. He believes that most of the students don't utilise IIT life to its fullest. He considers himself lucky that he got a second chance to get rid of the regrets that he could possibly have. He is also grateful to his parents who never interfered or forced him to do anything. He was always free to choose whatever he wanted to, which is one of the reasons he has landed up where he is today.

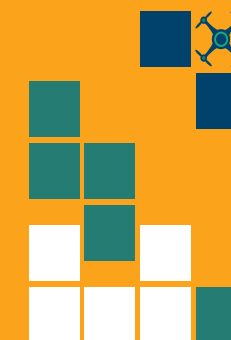
PS: Apart from work, Sachchit is among the top 1000 players of FIFA, another commendable achievement!

Believe it or not, I...

Also get doubts on what to do in life

I'm legitimately bad at:

Dealing with emotional People





Sanjay Kholwad

Gaaon se Sheher Tak

Unlike many others who chose engineering and IIT for their aptitudes and interests, Sanjay came here for the wonderful life portrayed by his IITian cousins. His cousin's stories of how to get into IIT and how to go ahead from there challenged him to take this up as a plan. The thirst for so many opportunities didn't let him stay behind it all.

As soon as he entered college, he felt "isse acchi jagah koi hai hi nahi." It was this very college that offered him to build a second family with his batchmates and have all the fun they ended up having as well. He tried his hands at all the sports, from cricket to football to basketball and found hidden within him, passionate love for basketball. The Foundation Program, according to him, was the best period as it did not involve a lot of studying, giving him time to socialize and partake in extracurriculars. From Ahmedabad heritage tours to calligraphy to informal sessions with seniors, he engaged in all kinds of fun.

The only thing posing as a barrier for him in this phase was his linguistic incapability when it came to English. Finding it normal to not be fluent in English, Sanjay felt this was the case with everyone in the first lecture and

assumed that no one probably understood what was going on until he heard one student ask a question in fluent English, which burst his bubble. Initially, he found people who mainly spoke in Hindi and actively avoided activities that required English speaking or writing. But when this lack of fluency started affecting academics, he took efforts to learn to speak the language by watching movies, reading novels and learning from corrections made by well intentioned people around him.

According to Sanjay, not every course and every lecture you attend in college are going to help you reap benefits later in your profession. Instead, there are a lot of other surrounding things to focus on like communicating, ways of interaction, etc. Having had no pressure from his family and their constant support for him to do whatever he wanted along with their continual financial support allowed Sanjay to not think too much about his future career prospects till his fourth year. Post that, he felt like he wanted to pursue training for UPSC and went off to Delhi for coaching right after college ended. While in his final year at IIT, as a way to get a preparatory head-start, he used to take the editorials from hostel newspapers out and away for himself, leaving everyone baffled as to where those went.

For Sanjay, having experienced the best phase of his life in college, there wasn't much he was expecting or looking forward to after that. However, there were things he realised after graduating, one of them was realising how it was so difficult to find such genuine and honest people and faculty who imparted the most ethical knowledge. One thing he regrets not doing in college is putting in some added efforts towards exploring foreign internships in college, giving opportunities to which was a common practice at IITGN. Of course, later it would be possible to independently afford to visit anywhere but he missed out on it as a teenager.

He realized he hadn't given much attention to anything except studies and playing basketball and only realized the importance of having a personal life after passing out of college. One major takeaway from here was his love and passion for basketball. Having been captain, secretary and considering playing professionally but finding a lack in opportunities where he stays, he can very confidently say that he could professionally teach basketball.

Some advice that Sanjay left for his juniors was, "Have fun in these 4 years and don't lose out on any opportunity which you'll regret. I used to play basketball and played many tournaments too during college. Jitna enjoy kar sakte ho karo and padhai karo. Do anything that you like but enjoy it while you do it. And lastly, instead of bringing someone down or embarrassing them, learn to motivate people around you."

If you want to _____ you should ping me
Know how to chill

I knew the best spot in IITgn for :
Basketball court



Hindi ⇌ अंग्रेजी





Saurabh Singhal

Engineering is a widespread disease in India. If there are few people in your house who are engineers, then stay assured that you too will get the fever soon. Saurabh Singhal, a simple yet terrific hustler of IITGN, had the same reasons that pulled him to the kingdom of the learned. In his school days, he used to be among the lowest five rankers of the class, the reason being his dislike towards studying and indifference towards his abilities. In his 9th standard, his dad had a conversation with him and explained to him how they were not doing well financially and how important it was for him to study. This motivated him, and he worked hard for the next grade. The results improved, and this is how he realized that he has the capacity and intellect to do well in academics. He even started preparing for JEE in his 11th standard. However, due to a lack of proper assistance and coaching, he could not digest many concepts. He went to Kota in his 12th standard, but unfortunately, wasn't able to perform really well in JEE that year. He took a drop, prepared for the exam again, and got a score that opened the doors of IITGN for him.

During the initial years of his BTech, he participated in many extracurricular activities, Amalthea being the most important among them. He served as

the marketing coordinator of the summit, and the skills he learned still are a part of his identity. He is the kind of person who can prepare you for all interviews. The way he speaks and presents himself can clearly demonstrate what he achieved leading the Amalthea Marketing team. He gained a lot of confidence, which he lacked since his school days. People at IITGN were pretty friendly and supportive, but the extracurriculars were the thing that helped him discover himself. However, while being highly into such activities, he "screwed up" his first year. However, during the entire BTech journey, his target was to end up with a good placement. Hence, from his second year, he started working hard in academics so that he could at least maintain a decent score. For the rest of his college life, he spent a good amount of time working on projects which proved to be quite helpful to him, especially in giving him exposure and managerial abilities.

Saurabh was famous for his weird ways of solving problems. One such example is the way he figured out how to use Facebook in Ashok Vihar, where there was no internet connection. While sitting in the library, he used to scroll down his Facebook feed as much as he could. He then went to his hostel and slowly scrolled up to enjoy FB without the internet. He was also among the

Script is In-progress

founding members of the CKF group. Even though he had gained a lot of self-confidence during his college years, he was a pessimistic individual. This pessimist nature was mainly because of his insecurities about the future. He was always worried whether things would work out or not. This nature has often held him back while taking risks, while at the same time has also saved him from possible downfalls.

After graduation, he got placed in one of the companies where he had to work in the field of financial trading. He soon realized that this wasn't something he wanted to do. He then joined one of the start-ups, which according to him, was the base of his curiosity and will to learn more. He often switched between firms in search of better opportunities. Up to this point, he has worked with four companies, which has helped him learn many new things and has given him a clear picture as to what he is seeking in his career.

As he recalls these past ten years, he does not really feel regretful towards anything. He is very thankful for the life he had at IITGN, it's what helped shape his confidence as well as his personality, which in turn have gotten him to wherever in life that he is right now.

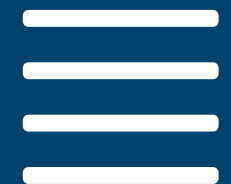
PS: Saurabh Singhal was among the few people who made a phone call to their homes when they saw that a big landslide had occurred in front of the bus during the Batch Trip.

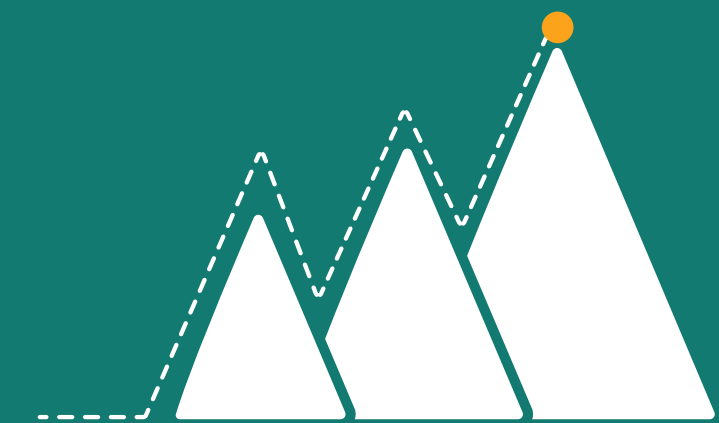
I'm legitimately bad at:

Deciding food order from a restaurant menu

You should never ask for my advice on :

Workout



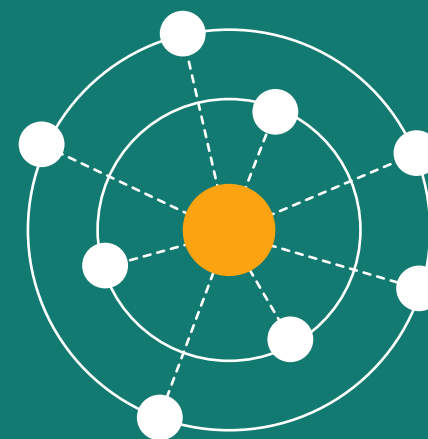


As a teen, it was a little overwhelming for her to adjust to college life. The casual use of foul language by people and the added attention she received due to the skewed gender ratio were things that made the already challenging college life even harder. While recalling this phase, she also laughingly recollected that her defence mechanism earlier used to be that of not speaking to people she didn't know.

- "Nevertheless, she persisted" -Elizabeth Warren.

It took the first few months to adjust to the culture of a campus that was just 30 minutes away from home, but very different from the homogeneous bubble she had been raised in. Even though she had a slightly rocky start, she built a tightly knit group of friends. Her top priority in these initial years was to get decent grades and explore her way through organising fests. She introduced the fashion show, 'Panache' in Blithchron and it blew into a huge hit.

- "Creating good trouble" -John Lewis.



Vinit believes that failure is as critical as success, if not more because you learn many things in the process. It is just how you take it and move ahead by not repeating the same mistakes. The journey through the start-ups has taught him that things often don't work out, and that you don't need to be good at everything to succeed in life.

- The parallel entrepreneur.

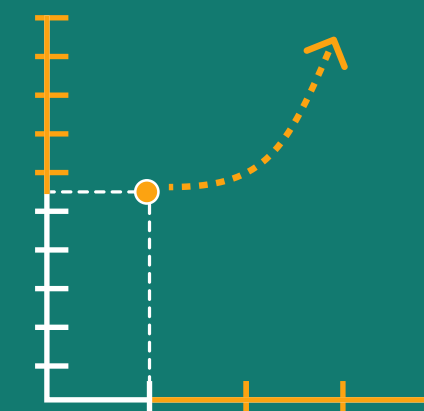


His first year in college was filled with a lot of fun along with new friends, exploring various things. However, Panchbhai faced several issues in the beginning due to the language barrier, just like his other batchmates who didn't have an English medium schooling.

- Chill karo, feel karo!

Currently, the co-founder of a startup and a committed employee at another full-time job, life hadn't always been so successful for Vishal, as he struggled with the feeling of not belonging at IIT because of a five-point-something GPA during his initial semesters.

- Life beyond 5.5.





Sukriti Gakhar

“Nevertheless, she persisted”

– Elizabeth Warren

‘Antriksh ke rahasya khojegi: Sukriti Gakhar’ is what the newspaper read after Sukriti topped the tenth standard boards in her district, Hisar, Haryana. Sukriti always wanted to study physics and become an astronaut, her childhood dream. However, it is never a straight road uphill. Advice from her parents, friends, professors and her personal experiences led her to pursue a different path altogether, that is Chemical Engineering. Presently, Sukriti is a research scientist at a growth-stage pharmaceutical company in the USA. She completed her PhD at the University of California, Davis.

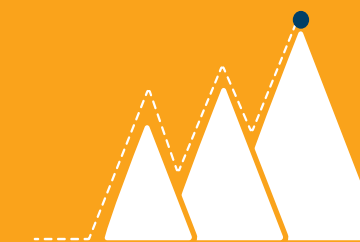
First-year was all about exploring new things. Sukriti took part in many events- Blithchron, Jashn, Halla Bol, etc. and really didn't care about the epsilon deltas, in fact, the courses didn't interest her. Attending just the initial classes of electrical and electronics courses made her drop the idea of changing her branch from chemical to electrical, about which she is glad today. However, like many other students, she fumbled up a little in academics. In her second year, she cut herself off from extracurricular activities and focused solely on academics.

As a teen, it was a little overwhelming for her to adjust to college life. The casual use of foul language by people and the added attention she received

due to the skewed gender ratio were things that made the already challenging college life even harder. While recalling this phase, she also laughingly recollected that her defence mechanism earlier used to be that of not speaking to people she didn't know. Not only has her outlook in that space changed but she also has now realised that it probably wasn't the best way to deal with things. Speaking of the challenges of being a girl in an IIT, one of her distinct memories was not getting included in group projects by the opposite gender. In the midst of handling arduous courses, the beginning of the third year was the time to ponder upon what would come next for her. A job? Higher studies? Calling off engineering? Sukriti had become interested in humanities along with research options in Chemical engineering. She recalls that the mentorship she received from Prof Rita Kothari, HSS, at IITGN played a key role in her life. She then took many courses with her and shared a similar life perspective. Well, her choice became evident now. She took up a research project and applied for a research internship at the end of the third year. At the end of her B.Tech, she applied for PhD opportunities in the US. When asked about what it is like to do a PhD she says, “It's a period of time when you don't know what you are doing but then it's also upon you to do something about it.” It is a time when you are neither a total professional nor

a student. For her, the time spent doing PhD was elevating, personally as well as professionally and it taught her how to be a real independent adult. She realised that she lacked laboratory experience in comparison to her peers who received better exposure in their undergraduate years in the US. From staying up late in her lab, developing rapport with group members, seeking guidance from the Principal Investigator, trying out her own ideas, learning research methods, taking biochemistry classes, Sukriti figured it all out in this ‘one of a kind’ journey and earned the doctoral degree. Comparing her journey, she realized that she could have gained more benefits academically at IITGN by concentrating better on the courses and taking up more research projects. However, for her, it was all good and most importantly if one is satisfied then why would they regret it?

Sukriti offers a piece of advice to all undergraduate students, and every other person finding themselves in a dilemma that never stress a lot about what the future holds. Eventually, everyone will figure it out and get what's best for them, till then live in the moment and do what your interests ask you to.



Believe it or not, I...

Can sleep for 12 hours - can sleep through hurricane as well

If you want to _____ you should ping me

Dance on punjabi songs





Tushti Shah

“Creating good trouble” – John Lewis

After her IIT coaching sir told her parents, “aapki beti ka IIT toh hone hi nahi wala”, Tushti happily selected Chemical Engineering after getting through JEE. She very candidly said she chose Chemical because she loved chemistry in school, and did not have enough guidance about what it would further entail. It took the first few months to adjust to the culture of a campus that was just 30 minutes away from home, but very different from the homogeneous bubble she had been raised in. Even though she had a slightly rocky start, she built a tightly knit group of friends. Her top priority in these initial years was to get decent grades and explore her way through organising fests. She introduced the fashion show, ‘Panache’ in Blithchron and it blew into a huge hit.

Before discovering her interest in Chemical Engineering in her third year, she always felt like she’d pursue an MBA. But in her third year, she realised she wanted to go for higher studies, which made her pull back from her extracurriculars to focus solely on studying, taking up research projects and internships. Once she realised what she wanted to do, she started taking steps towards that. She believes that there’s no right time to realise what you want to do. “It’s okay even if you don’t realise by the end of fourth year. At any

point in life, you can decide what’s the next best step for you and take it from there. If you try to map out your life too much, it leads to pain if you realise that the path you mapped out isn’t working out for you.”

While pursuing her PhD at UT Austin, she realised that one has to be flexible with their goals and open to exploring paths they hadn’t envisioned before. Because 10 years ago, she wouldn’t have imagined herself where she is today. After graduation, she has been working at a semiconductor company in California. A valuable lesson that professional life taught her, is the importance of work-life balance and creating and asserting boundaries in your life. She chose to stay in the US because of better career opportunities as well as cultural freedom. She divulged how the IIT tag mattered a lot in getting into Grad school but doesn’t matter so much beyond that.

As much as being a student in an IIT is challenging, being a girl student in one is even more so. The boy to girl ratio was highly disproportionate, leading to a lot of pressure and discomfort in day to day interactions. Tushti felt that clearing an exam does not alter the patriarchal culture or the deep rooted sexism in our society. From people attributing her successes to her being a

girl, to them discounting her making her way in organising committees by attributing her selection to the fulfillment of women representation. Calling people out on such biases is also often not met with enthusiasm and sometimes considered inconvenient. It also showed up when group projects involved multiple guys and one girl where the female students often were not equally consulted or involved. “Being a woman in an IIT can sometimes make you feel that you don’t belong.” According to her, “if you’re a woman, you have to prove that you’re worthy whereas a man can just claim it.”

Her advice to anyone getting into IIT is to be strong and be yourself without letting anyone tell you what you can or cannot do. There will be times of struggle and it’s okay to ask for help in those times.

As her advice to leaders of college organisations and committees, Tushti says it’s important for leaders to be able to communicate comfortably with people from diverse backgrounds and open mindedly take inputs from them, even when you disagree with them. Their input and insight could be helpful in understanding the issues that might not seem significant to the majority, but could actually be important to many. According to her, a leader should stand up to fight against biases and stereotypes even if it is inconvenient or difficult.

She claimed that IITGN gave her a certain amount of social awareness that engineers and the society at large lack.

If you can’t find me I’ll probably :

Reading books

If I ever be famous it’ll be for:

For bringing positive change in the world





Utkarsh Panchbhai

Chill karo, Feel karo!

Utkarsh Panchbhai is one of the more jovial and carefree people of his batch with an extremely positive attitude towards whatever life has to offer. He is a person who does not hesitate in accepting his shortcomings, and fearlessly strives to improve on them. Passionate about UX Design, over the years he has acquired a lot of experience in design and currently is working as a CX Engineer based out of Mumbai. Utkarsh's Journey right from the day of declaration of the JEE Advanced result to date has been fueled with vivid experiences, learnings and a lot of failures as well, but it continues to remain one that never ceases to amaze. He wanted to do his B.Tech from an IIT, and therefore took a year's drop after class 12. As the famous dialogue goes, if you want something with all your heart, the universe conspires to make it happen! He made it to IIT Gandhinagar and got a seat in Mechanical Engineering.

His first year in college was filled with a lot of fun along with new friends, exploring various things. However, Panchbhai faced several issues in the beginning due to the language barrier, just like his other batchmates who didn't have an English medium schooling. This never deterred his will to learn new things, or even his confidence to approach people. At the end of the

first semester, he rejoiced about the fact that while most of his friends had failed a course or two, he had surprisingly passed them all. A slight surge in confidence led to him having a slightly unfortunate second semester. When he thinks about this particular situation, he realises that failing a course only motivated him to do better the next time. He learnt an important lesson quite early, ask questions, no matter how silly they might seem to you, as it is always beneficial to have your doubts cleared. Often, one can get demotivated by watching others perform better and get better opportunities. Such peer pressure is amplified during college. However, Panchbhai was determined to engage in constructive discussions with his friends and learn from them. He said, "One of the best points of joining IIT is having a good circle of friends around you, that is very important to your life journey." Just by asking questions and doubts, he became friends with a lot of people, thus forming bonds for a lifetime.

Over time, he developed a keen interest in video editing and was the man behind teasers and trailers of Blithchron and other events. Come the third year, he started to focus a lot more on studies and that was also reflected in his marks. He maintained his stride in the fourth year, however, an

unfortunate event struck. Due to an unethical practice in one course, he was suspended for a semester.

While being suspended, Panchbhai got selected in the next round of the Ricoh Innovative Fellowship and was asked to visit Japan. Unfortunately, he couldn't and he still regrets this. However, Panchbhai learnt to look at the positives of whatever situations life threw at him. While he was suspended, he didn't go back home, instead, he led his first start-up Cofoz. His learnings of handling stress well are something that benefited him during his start-up days when a lot had to be handled skillfully.

Even after taking 11 courses in just a single semester (is that even possible?), he couldn't graduate with the rest of his entire batch. This might have shattered him a little, but it also made him a lot more resilient towards not giving up on what he desired. Looking back at this made him realise that going through it all helped him develop a never give up attitude and has gotten him where he is today.



Believe it or not, I...

Cook very good Chicken Biryani, Masala Khichdi, and beetroot sandwich

I'm legitimately bad at:

Saying NO to someone





Vinit Joshi

The Parallel Entrepreneur

“I was sleeping that day, when suddenly my mom came and woke me up saying that the JEE result was out. In half asleep mode, as I was brushing my teeth, my dad called me out and said – Beta, tera rank thoda piche ho gaya hai!”

This is one of the most common scenarios observed on the day of JEE results.

Two years back, his parents had made provisions for sending Vinit to Kota along with a few of his friends who were JEE aspirants. In Kota, they used to spend nights playing Rummy or Bridge and making memories for a lifetime. The rank was definitely not what he expected it to be. But that’s how a normal person gets into IITGN in 2011, only to never regret it in the future.

Being a Mumbaikar, the hostel rooms of IITGN didn’t really disappoint him. He was known for his sense of sarcasm. If you want to learn how to roast your friends well, Vinit is the go-to person. In his school days, he used to participate in a lot of extracurricular activities, which he continued to do even in college. He always believed that possessing management skills is

something that is very important and that it facilitates overall development. He remembers how they used to sit till late at night discussing what should or should not be done in Blithchron. Being a member of the core team of Blithchron, he was super invested in making the fest a grand success. According to him, all these extra-curricular activities, if done well, can serve one better than a two-year MBA could. He utilized his summers learning Java, HTML, CSS, etc. This made him someone who possessed both technical and non-technical skills.

After four years of BTech, Vinit joined a start-up and worked there for six months, learning a lot about technicalities and how organizations like that one functioned. After this, he worked at a more prominent firm as a product marketer for about 2 years. During all these years, his primary motive was to learn as much stuff as possible because his eventual goal was to work on something of his own. Therefore, when one of his childhood friends approached him for a start-up, he immediately agreed. They managed to entirely automate a meal subscription service in Mumbai. After this, he was contacted by a friend who was involved in the mentorship of students, with whom he came up with a doubt-solving platform for school kids. During the

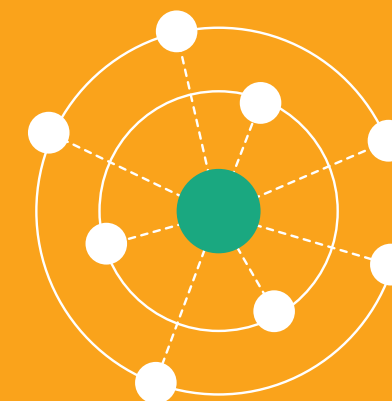
COVID-19 lockdown, they have started working on a real money game, which is based on game theory, and have gotten seed funding from one of the angel investors.

In his entire journey with all these start-ups, he accepts that, unlike the people who work in 9-5 jobs, there is no clear boundary between work life and personal life. However, he’s always been interested in this field and still enjoys what he does. One of the crucial insights that he gave about college life is that failure should be normalized. As he was reminded of the incident of the first math quiz, he said that it served as an eye-opener for many people. Unlike the prevailing norms, an F-grade or a semester back need to be a little more normalized as it simply means that the person now knows about what he needs to improve on. He also encouraged discussion about important topics or latest developments in various fields among friends as they enhance one’s knowledge to a large extent. Such discussions had instilled a curiosity in him, which is benefitting him even to date.

Vinit believes that failure is as critical as success, if not more because you learn many things in the process. It is just how you take it and move ahead by not repeating the same mistakes. The journey through the start-ups has taught him that things often don’t work out, and that you don’t need to be good at everything to succeed in life.

If you want to _____ you should ping me
Have your self-respect crushed XD

When I’m not working I’m _____
Busy giving armchair tactical advice to Manchester United





Vishal Yadav

Currently, the co-founder of a startup and a committed employee at another full-time job, life hadn't always been so successful for Vishal, as he struggled with the feeling of not belonging at IIT because of a five-point-something GPA during his initial semesters. Today he is the confident and committed co-owner of his own company.

Growing up, Vishal was made to believe that IITians were the cream layer of people and was scared to attempt the exam with very little preparation and not surprisingly he wasn't disappointed at all at the fact that he got into IIT Gandhinagar. And just like every other student turning up outside the campus, he had a difficult time finding it. On entering IIT he felt intimidated by the sheer amount of the English language being spoken and worried whether he would be able to survive there. He always found himself fearing being left out due to this language barrier. He felt like he could barely cope with understanding the lectures and took double the time to understand the concepts or study in English. Even when he'd write answers in exams, he couldn't perfectly express or convey what he knew in the English language, making it difficult for the professors to look for the answers. This lack of grasping the language led to a lower GPA of five-point-something. But

Life Beyond 5.5

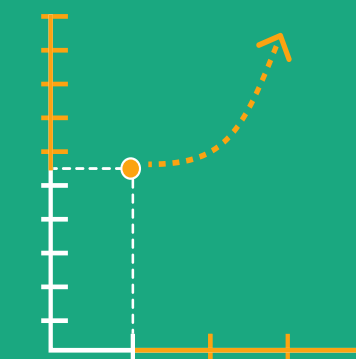
slowly, he learnt to master the language by watching TV series and gained his confidence by overcoming the inferiority and the fear of judgement while asking questions during classes. The English course by Prof. Sharmita Lahiri was very helpful and he was very thankful to her.

To the juniors going through the same issues, he suggests taking the English language course that IIT offers in the first semester. Post the 3rd semester, he had to cut down on a lot of extra-curricular activities like basketball and rather focus his attention on academics to improve his GPA to bag some good internships. He took up multiple courses, attended many lectures and started to feel the "FOMO" towards future career prospects. He believes that the mindset of seriousness automatically follows in the third year and pushes you to take those extra efforts. You don't just do what you're told to do in class but end up taking extra courses and planning towards attaining your wants and goals.

Post IIT, Vishal realised that your third and fourth years prepare you for way worse than real life has to offer and this gives a confidence boost to be able to continue what you've been doing in college. After the completion of college

and a lot of ideation over chai later he and six other friends built their startup. Rather than entering a startup venture to add "flavour" to your life, which would lead to it fizzling out in a year or two, he believes that a startup venture should add value to your life to get you through your initial few grind years.

A reality check that he received pretty late was that the expectant image set up during JEE coaching of the starting packages after IIT being around 22 LPA was just a sham. Vishal has come a long way from struggling with the language barrier to becoming a fluent English speaker and building the confidence that he exudes today.



I knew the best spot in IITgn for :

Celebrating birthdays perhaps, Shed 5 ke side stairs, I'm sure a lot of people must've known. But surely it was a pretty nice place.

If I ever be famous it'll be for:

Building a tech product



What Are They Up To Now?



Every student studying at IIT is worried about where they might end up in their professional and personal lives, after the 4 years of BTech. But looking back at the batch of 2015, it is evident that everyone creates their own story. All stories have different characters, different plots and different climaxes. Some pages might be full of colours, while others might be a little drenched with storms. Some might seem like a stretched narration, while others might be too abrupt to follow. Some might be torn yet readable, while others might be mended, yet tough to figure out. But the best thing is, you are the writer, the editor, and the narrator.

Each person of the 2015 Batch kicked off their journey with many dreams. Some dreams were realised, some dreams changed paths midway, and some still remain unfulfilled. But everyone figured out something eventually. No failed tests, repeated years, peer pressure, language barriers, break-ups or financial issues were able to stop them in the journey and the exploration.

Contribution By The Batch

The gesture of giving back to the place which fueled our wings to fly...



Class of 2015 Scholarship

IIT Gandhinagar has a robust system in place to provide financial assistance to students. There were several scholarships set up by the government and well-wishers. And most of the students benefited from these scholarships in some or the other form. To appreciate the support of IIT Gandhinagar and with a sense of strengthening the financial assistance system, BTech graduates of the class of 2015 came forward and set up this scholarship. More than 50% of students donated towards this cause.

Class of 2015 scholarship has been instituted by the Class of 2015 IIT Gandhinagar students and are open to all B.Tech students. The scholarship amount is upto Rs. 1 lakh per student per year to support internships (international or domestic), special projects and opportunities, financial needs, etc. BTech students with a minimum CPI of 6.5 are eligible.





Shri Arjun Raj Mehta Scholarship

Shri Arjun Raj Mehta Scholarship was instituted in the year 2019 by Rounak Mehta in the honour of his grandfather. The scholarship amount is Rs. 1 lakh per student per year and is awarded to one BTech student every year in order to support internships (domestic or international), and other needs.



Daya Shanker & Shakuntala Scholarship

Daya Shanker & Shakuntala Scholarship has been set up by Akash Keshav in honor of his parents. The scholarship amount is Rs. 1 lakh per student per year and is awarded to one BTech student every year in order to support internships (domestic or international), special projects and opportunities, financial needs, etc.



Late Ajodyabai Gulabchandji Randad Scholarship

Late Ajodyabai Gulabchandji Randad Scholarship is set by Akshay Randad in honor of his late grandmother and it is his means to express his gratitude towards his Alma mater. The scholarship of Rs. 1 lakh per year will support the undergraduate students for international internships, projects, and other needs.



Contribution

noun con·tri·bu·tion

Definition of Contribution

- a gift or payment to a common fund or collection.

Similar

- When you make a contribution, it means you're giving something away, whether it's your money, your possessions, or your time.
- A contribution can be in various forms. Some contributions are measurable, like a \$1000 donation to an NGO while some others are comparatively less tangible. When a student raises his hand in class to ask a question, he's making a contribution, because the answer to his question enriches the other students' learning experience.

What are your ways to contribute?

Legacy Lives On

A tree in the name of everyone...



“

When I came to know about the book - Reflection of the Decade, it immediately made me turn around to have a glance through the clips of my past ten years. Although everyone's life doesn't become a documentary, there is something to take away from all the stories. These lessons not only help you reflect upon your past success and blunders, but also guide others as to what lies in the bigger picture.

To commemorate the decade of IIT Gandhinagar's Batch 2011, and to bid a happy journey through the life waiting for them ahead, I would like to express my wishes by planting a tree for every student of the batch, as an initiative by the 14Trees Foundation by creating an IIT Gandhinagar Groove. Green colour is associated with growth, renewal, freshness and harmony. With this book, let us make sure that we colour our lives green.”

-Dr Pravin Bhagwat (IITK/CSE/1990), Founder, 14Trees Foundation.



Meet The Team

From tiny symbols to sweet syllables, from the corners of the characters, to the character of the corners, from the extended interviews to the crisp illustrations - for everything you will come across in this book, these were the people who came up with it's beautiful ideas. They were the ones who listened, felt and lived this decade with us in the last few months. Our sincere gratitude to them for their immense contribution in making this possible.

Arpita Kabra

Student @ IIT Gandhinagar

In a year, I will be completing my B.tech from IIT Gandhinagar in Electrical Engineering. I am fascinated and interested in the hardware underneath the keyboard of your laptop. Over time, I have developed a lot of understanding of cache memories and worked on projects aimed at improving their architecture for AI and Machine Learning applications. Apart from engineering, I try to do a lot of things, creative writing and painting being the most important. I feel that writing is the best medium to convey emotions and information strongly.

- One thing I absolutely love :
listening to music and other people's experiences
- If you are interested in computer architecture, we should definitely get in touch.



“ It is a special feeling to be able to know such unique, fearless and amazing stories of so many people. I feel inspired.



Misha Joshi

Managing partner @ Sync labs Consultancy

I am as curious as a cat gets and trust me it doesn't get you killed, rather it has helped me discover new worlds. Being a designer (Product/ UX), who is interested in psychology, being curious helps me connect the unconnected dots and design experiences for humans.

- One thing I absolutely love :
Long walks and exchanging stories
- If you are interested in decoding human behaviour and translating that in ideas we should definitely get in touch.



“ Listening to everyone's stories, made me realise that IIT is not only about the 'glory' and instead has its own struggles.



Piyush Bhagat

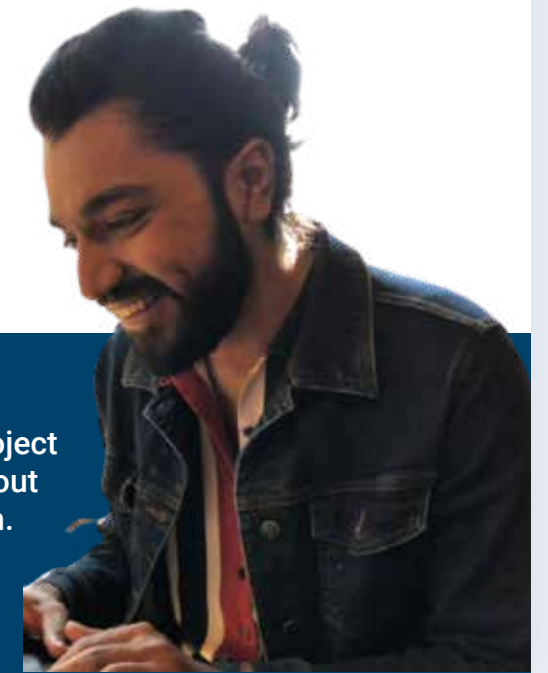
Creative Partner @Creativeland Asia

As a Visual Designer, exploring different mediums to express and execute my ideas has helped me to grow as an individual. I have worked on Films, stop motion films, photography, Illustrated storybooks, album arts, AR posters, and a lot more. My passion to learn and explore more and an eye for detail have made me capable of turning ideas into reality; be it commercial or personal projects.

- One thing I absolutely love :
Capturing time on Frames
- If you are interested in Building a Brand we should definitely get in touch.



“ Working on this project enlightened me about stages of reflection.



Raavi Patel

Student @ IIT Gandhinagar

I am currently pursuing my BTech degree at IITGN in the discipline of Civil Engineering. Technology resides in my head and art resides in my heart. I am a creative thinker, ideator and also a writer. I write poems, mainly in Hindi or Gujarati. People usually contact me if they want some really crazy ideas for marketing. Like most other IITians, I am interested in philosophical discussions. You may encounter a deep influence of Indian culture in what I think, write and say.

- You can ping me if:
You want a perfect hindi song suggestion for any mood
- If you are interested in bringing a positive change in the Indian Education system we should definitely get in touch!



“ After interacting with Batch 2011, I feel I don't have the right to complain about anything in life anymore. I grew up early :)

Sanjeev Rathva

Managing partner @ Sync labs Consultancy

I'm a quarterly-baked engineer from IIT Gandhinagar turned into a designer (Product/UX Designer). I really love collecting and solving the Rubik's cube, and like every other puzzle, the Rubik's cube is not very hard to solve. You just have to observe, understand and put the right piece at the right place at the right time.

That's how I design things too :)

- One thing I absolutely love :
Having conversations over Adrak wali chai.
- If you are interested in bringing your creative ideas to life we should definitely get in touch!



“ I realize that everyone has a different route to success, recognition, and peace, and one shouldn't be afraid to move instinctually.

Tanisha Rathi

Master's in Clinical Psychology

Hi! I'm Tanisha Rathi and I'm a Master's in Clinical Psychology, pursuing my further studies. Writing, being one of my core strengths, brought me towards the work put in for the book. Interacting with and knowing the growth journeys of these wonderful alumni of IITGN, be it personal or professional, has been a very insightful journey.

- One thing I absolutely love :
One thing I'm really good at is writing (I hope :P).
- If you're interested in Psychology or mental health we should definitely get in touch.



“ Listening to all these stories was like vicariously living the IIT life without actually going to one.

Thank You

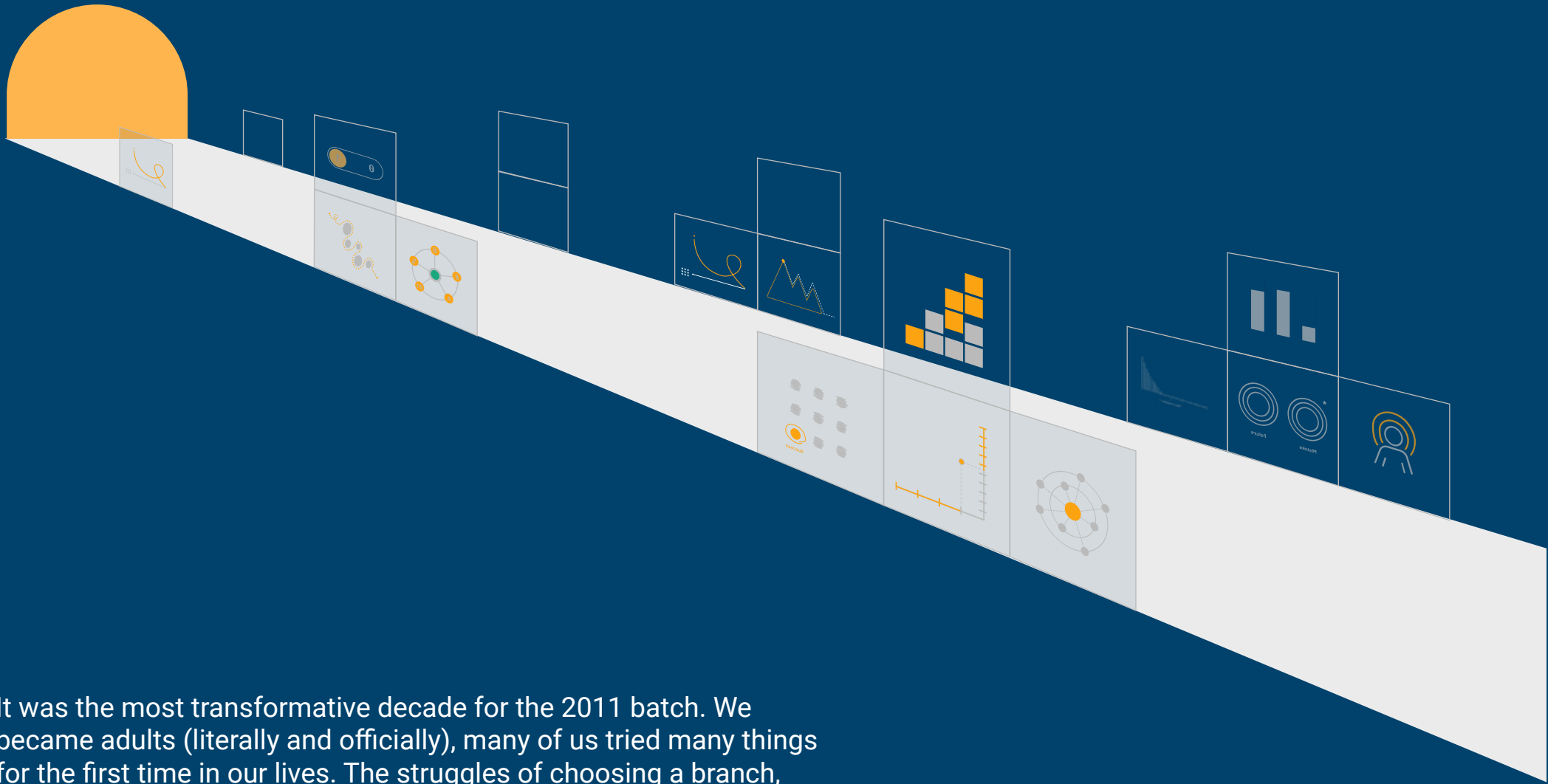
We would also like to extend our thanks to all other people who made this book possible by providing important resources and insights during the entire process. It is through their support and kind intervention, that we've been able to put this memory book together.

Gaurav Shukla, Staff, IITGN
Suman Kumari, Alumni, IITGN
Ankita Bhandari, Alumni Office, IITGN
Tejas Hortikar, Alumni Office, IITGN
Pushpak Baviskar, Alumni, IITGN
Saksham Singal, Alumni, IITGN
Viraj Shah, Student, IITGN
Harshit Kumar, Student, IITGN

This Is How Everything Started...

- memories of FP





It was the most transformative decade for the 2011 batch. We became adults (literally and officially), many of us tried many things for the first time in our lives. The struggles of choosing a branch, courses, friends, internships, jobs, juggling between right or wrong, taking some of the toughest decisions of life, have come a long way. But the road is never-ending for all of us. Let us keep treading with a childlike curiosity and pave our own way.