

Director's Message: Student Yearbook 2012

Dear Friends:

As we prepare for the Convocation to hand over to you your well-earned degrees, and as you prepare this "Year Book" to remember your days at the Institute, let me recall some moments with you:

- The "open house" in which I met you the first time in March 2009, well before I took office at IITGN. I returned to Kanpur admiring your leadership and initiative. I also noted your unhappiness about IITGN not offering "Minors" and "Honours" due to faculty constraints. It is heartening to see a very good percentage of you graduating with Minor(s) and / or Honours.
- Some of you marketing IITGN outside the Convocation Hall in IIT Bombay in June 2009 to the students coming for JEE Counseling. No wonder I enrolled myself as a member of your fan club.
- How after Blithchron in January 2010 I wondered loudly if my faculty colleagues and I could only match your dedication and commitment.
- Prof Nitish Thakor interviewing three of you in March 2010 for one slot of internship at the Johns Hopkins and ending up taking all three. It later became a habit for me to receive positive feedback on your internships, and I start to claim for myself some credit for your great performance (my bachchaas, of course!).
- The unpleasant episode when we spent late night hours at the Chandkheda police station in our pursuit for dignity and justice.
- My spontaneous announcement to Prof Jaison and Maj General Aga while on a visit to the Boys Hostel under construction in July 2010: let us move the Pioneer Batch here since only they can take the hardship of a hostel that still did not have toilets. You stood by me, moved into the hostel and did not protest even once.
- Your dignified protest by putting black boxes on your Facebook pages, and the subsequent conversation with your leadership in the night in the A-block meeting room. My confidence in your maturity (well beyond your young age) was not betrayed and we all came out as winners from that crisis.
- I challenging myself if I can address your farewell event "Udaan" without emotionally breaking down and successfully meeting the challenge (almost).

You came to IITGN in August 2008 with a dream in your eyes. I too came to IITGN with a dream (albeit a somewhat different one) ten months later. Soon we both found that the route to our dreams was the same and as co-travelers on that route for three years we grew together and had some great fun, some good camaraderie, and some valuable learning from each other. Not many people are as fortunate as you and I to get an opportunity to create a new university, and all of us at IITGN understood it rather early and started to make best out of this opportunity.

As you prepare to leave for a bigger world that awaits you outside, I must continue to work on our common mission of building a great school here: a Nalanda, a Taxila. And, I hope that the future generations of IITGN students too will have your kind of commitment and passion. As you chase your dreams, with each success you bring glory to your alma mater and help me reach nearer my goal.

You get only one life to live and life does not have a rewind button. I wish you the courage and the wisdom to take what life has to offer you.

Sudhir K. Jain