

IIIT-Delhi Chronicles

News. When It Is Ready.

1-30th November, 2014 – Volume 1 Issue 4

Editor Speak

With the exams over and the demos done and dusted, we can look forward to recuperating during the Winter Break. And what better way to do that, than with this edition of the newsletter.

But before that, we would like to mention that in the previous edition of the newsletter, we failed to properly address the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in the article on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Drive. We regret this error and will strive not to repeat it again in the future.

IIIT has been busy, and even though our semesters may be 4 months long, they are full of activity. We celebrate this buzz around campus, and want to share it with all of you.

To more good news and less of bad news!

Inauguration of CERC quarters at IIIT-Delhi

Sahil Babbar and Shayan Lahiri

CERC has reached yet another milestone with the inauguration of their physical quarters. On 19th November, the inauguration was done by Dr. K.D. Nayak, Director General, DRDO. The total space allotted to CERC amounts to 3300+ sq. feet. Also present were Dr. Atithan, Director Scientific Analysis Group (SAG), DRDO, Mr. Susheel Verma, Director Cybersecurity, DRDO and Dr. Pankaj Jalote. The lamp lighting was done by Dr. Jalote and Dr. PK and the inauguration was attended by about 40 people. Dr. Nayak gave a speech to faculty members and students alike and his speech can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lorssk6zOB>
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DRDO and CERC members at the inauguration ceremony

CERC was founded on 23rd January, 2014 and currently has 6 full time faculty members, 2 adjunct faculty members, and 23 students and is growing rapidly. The faculty from CERC has given talks at various universities and places in the past few days, like Prof. Chakravarty and Prof. PK delivered lectures in IGDTUW, Dr.

Rahul Purandare visited Centre of Artificial Intelligence & Robotics (CAIR) of DRDO, Bengaluru, Prof. H.B. Acharya delivered lectures on Network Security in Peru. CERC has also hosted security experts from all over the world. Talking about the foundation stones of CERC, Cyber Security experts from all over the world have come together in making of the first Cyber Security Research Centre in India. To name a few, Dr. Gulshan Rai (Director General, CERT-In), Dr. Mustaque Ahamad (who set up the first Cyber Security Centre in the world), Dr. Niranjana Thirumale (CTO of the EMC India Center of Excellence (COE)), Mr. Felix Mohan (CEO of CISO Academy and Director of the Indian Navy's Information Technology practice) and the list goes on. The senior members of CERC have almost more than two decades of experience and recognition in the field of Cyber Security, whom we get to see in the TechTalk and seminar series!

Thefts and Robberies hit IIIT-Delhi!

Digvijay Singh

The month of November saw some of the most disturbing happenings in IIIT-Delhi. During this time a slew of thefts inside IIIT-Delhi took place as well as outside the gate leading to Okhla Metro Station. We put the pieces together to bring you all the details.

On the 12th of November, three students left the library building, leaving their laptops behind, in a room full of people. On their return, their laptops were missing. Soon after, a warning was issued regarding this theft, and an investigation followed. Coincidentally, there was a "hard-drive" failure in the CCTV footage server, and thus even video footage was not found. This was followed by an investigation by the General Manager (Operations) - Arun sir, and Head of Student Affairs (Hemant Sir), where they interviewed people in the room to get more details. Even after all this, the investigation did not lead to any conclusive results. And thus, till date their laptops have not been found, and most likely been sold off.

From interactions with the victims, we found that their laptops were stolen, within 15 minutes after they left. It seems to be the case that, not only was it well planned (and executed) but also that they likely knew that the victims usually leave their laptops behind for long durations. Even more surprising was, this "coincidental" lack of video footage. Persons present in the room, did not notice anyone come in or go out, except for one person (they were busy with their laptops, etc.).

This was not the first warning for such thefts. It has been reported that the ECE M.Tech lab was robbed a month before, and perhaps twice. Similarly, in the past as well, robberies of the B.Tech labs has been reported - the culprit was caught though (he was from outside IIIT-Delhi).

This laptop theft comes as a red siren - since many of us have the habit of leaving our laptops behind in a lab/classroom/library to get a quick cup of coffee or water. Plus, it is not feasible to pack the laptop and take it with you every time, say when you have to use the bathroom. Thus, a combination of vigilance on the students' part and tighter security measures should help act as a deterrent for further such activities.

November saw its fair share of robberies as well. Earlier in the month, on the 3rd of November, Sahil Babbar (Member, Newsletter team) was about to use Gate No. 6 to go to the Okhla Metro Station. On reaching the gate he found many security guards standing there. Some moments ago, a student had been robbed at knifepoint and his laptop was taken. Soon warnings followed from the student body itself, after Hemant sir was informed, and soon thereafter by Arun sir confirming the laptop and mobile "snatchings". Soon afterwards, IIIT-Delhi beefed up security on the passage to the gate. The timings of the gate were limited to only day-light hours. The guard at the gate was now to be stationed outside rather than inside the gate. Also, a security guard in plain clothes was to stand guard on the passageway to be on the lookout. Regular patrol by a beat constable and Security Supervisor was set up. Have these measures helped? For the time being, yes. However, many of us have now started taking the longer route to Govindpuri metro station to avoid that route altogether. It remains to be seen whether the passageway from the gate becomes completely safe.

It is said that, when it comes to security, being paranoid is good. We need to take incremental measures to tighten our security until all such events are put to an end for good. Us being an IT institute, I believe we can play an important part in this field. We have some excellent faculty, and with the help of motivated students, security can be beefed up using innovative engineering. Security Robots - why not? Campus-wide Laptop and Mobile Security Solutions - in a Hackathon maybe? Flying Drone patrols - let's do it! Let us use what we have to make IIIT-Delhi safer.

We will keep a check on any more of such events. And always, be safe!

Entrepreneurial Activities at IIIT-Delhi

Bavneet Singh

"IIIT-Delhi aims to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in specified domain areas of IT."

In the recent past, we have seen some very interesting startups like Wizters, Backpack, Engage, Find A Way and Meri Awaaz emerge from IIIT-Delhi. All these have been very encouraging and motivating examples of technological entrepreneurship. Most of these startup ideas were taken up as small projects that were later converted into BTPs upon realizing an entrepreneurial motivation and capability. The institute has been very supportive to all the entrepreneurial ideas that have come up and provided help in whichever way possible. There is an Entrepreneurial Advisory Board as well, which is helping IIIT-Delhi by trying to establish an entrepreneurship culture through ENT activities.

IIIT-Delhi highlights and believes in "encouraging students for entrepreneurship" as one of its primary aims. This article is an attempt to inform the students about the current support system and the ongoing entrepreneurship activities in the institute.

With active involvement of Dr. PK and Hemant Sir, the Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) of IIIT-Delhi has been arranging talks in which an experienced entrepreneur comes and talks about his venture, the challenges faced and the lessons learnt. The fancily named "Wisdom Walks" are being talked about here. We have had four Wisdom Walks so far at a frequency of once every two weeks. The first Wisdom Walk was on August 26th and was addressed by the founders of home-grown startups; Apoorv Saini (Wizters), Apoorv Narang and team (Backpack), Aditya Nayak (Meri Awaaz) and Find A Way team. The following Wisdom Walks saw some high profile entrepreneurs address the students of IIIT-Delhi in an interactive session. We had Dr. Harindar Keer (FlixStock) for the second Wisdom Walk discussing key entrepreneurial issues with the students. He is also in the Entrepreneurial Advisory Board of IIIT-Delhi and has been visiting the campus to interact with students for entrepreneurial guidance since quite some time. The third Wisdom Walk was addressed by Dr. Pramath Raj Sinha (Indian School of Business, Ashoka University, 9dot9). The fourth Wisdom Walk was addressed by Sachin Gaur (MixORG, Mobile Harvest). All these Wisdom Walks saw young entrepreneurial minds of IIIT-Delhi listening to these great speakers and then getting engaged in healthy discussions to get their questions answered.

Discussing and questioning these experienced entrepreneurs is a great way to learn about entrepreneurship which is something that can't be lectured and taught as a course. It would be

wrong to say that these talks are beneficial to just the ones interested or fascinated by entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is a way one chooses to lead his life, the things learnt in the process are learnt by self-doing, and one can gain great wisdom by listening to such stories. All entrepreneurs have had their own way of doing things and their own reasons for the same. There is a lot to learn from all of them before setting out on your own path.

Diary of a Fuccha

Anonymous B.Tech 2014 student

"I'll fight it. I'll fight it for you. Don't you worry about me, Hazel Grace. I'll find a way to hang around and annoy you for a long time."
-John Green

The past month seemed more like Augustus Waters each day, as it progressed. I couldn't imagine it "hanging around" for a long time. Only the latter seemed true. Little did I know, annoying didn't even scratch the surface.

Now, that the month of relaxation after the mid-semester week, with the extra breathing room, as much of it you can get in IIITD anyway, was over, it was time to pull up our socks, tighten our laces and get ready to run for the grade-marathon, to right our wrongs, wash away our sins and try and get a decent SGPA. With the plethora of upgradations in WhatsApp, it was now time for our academic graph to resonate with it.

But the horror didn't end with the Halloween party, rather continued on week after week in the form of end-of-semester evaluations. Demonstrations and projects, vivas and lab-exams and I was as good as a zombie with dark dark circles under my eyes coupled with frazzled hair.

Fights broke out (Yep...third years throwing punches...over a *girl*...near the *girls hostel*) and frustration pelted out. So much so that not being able to go and watch "Interstellar" caused many to shed a tear(or so I heard).

But with the air of finality that the end to this semester brings, came a heartfelt understanding. The instructors who, I thought, had the sole purpose of making my life difficult were suddenly friends. Attending the troublesome lectures was suddenly melancholic just because they were the last. Heart-to-hearts were held with the rivals. And this place was home.

As my first semester comes to a close, bringing bittersweet memories to mind, as troublesome as the past semester was, I realize that Augustus Waters could be as annoying as he wanted, Hazel Grace would still fall in love with him.

But then again, love changes to hate pretty fast at IIITD.

Cultural News

Digvijay Singh

It is time for the round up on the cultural news and events that took place in the month of November.

1) Byld organized the last Hackathon of the semester on 5th November. Adding a new flavor to the competition, they allowed for an open theme as well, where the participants were allowed to use any idea in any domain. Shrey Bagroy and Ambar Pal of B.Tech 2014 batch won the themed competition (on crowdsourcing) while Nalin Gupta, Lohitaksh Parmar, Kushagra Singh, also of B.Tech 2014 batch, won the open themed competition.

2) FooBar with the aim of motivating Btech '14 batch organised a competitive programming contest, ProSort[14] Junior. The contest was organized by Ambar Pal and FooBar Team. There were total 9 prizes worth Rs. 2800 plus 5 IIIT-D T-shirts with special prizes for Non FooBar members, fastest submission, ECE students and best female participant. The contest winners were Rounaq Jhunhunu Wala, Harshvardhan Kalra and Kushagra Singh. Also, 6 special prizes were awarded.

Foobar also organized the last competitive programming contest of the semester, ProSort[15]. The winners of the previous competition organized the event this time. There were prizes worth Rs 3000 to be won with special prizes for M.Tech students and Female participants. The competition was won by Harsh Manocha, with Ambar Pal and (our dear Alumni, non-competitive) Deepanker Aggarwal coming 1st and 2nd Runners-up respectively.

3) A special Tech Talk on Open Source and Google Summer of Code (GSoc) was organized by Byld on 14th November. Dr. Pankaj Jalote was also present to share his views on Open Source Culture. Also, Mr. Ashwani Sharma from Google, joined in on the talk via Google Hangouts to take up any doubts and questions. This session is primarily to assist students who want to apply and go for GSoCs in the future.

4) The new design club, Ink, had its first session on "Layer and Vectors" on 14th November. This is to be followed by a poster making competition later this month. This competition will be used to decide the entry to the club. Siddharth Gupta, Vedant Swain and Sarthak Ahuja are administering the club as of now. As Siddharth points out, "the goal of the club is to have a community of people really interested in learning design and not just photoshop."

5) The Institute is all set to organize its next Alumni Meet in December, with invitations already being sent out. Dr. Richa Singh is handling the event, with batch co-ordinators already helping in organizing and planning of the event. Dr. Richa who is handling Alumni

Affairs also recently took the initiative to setup proper communication with the Alumni, working on a yearbook and aggregating achievements of the Alumni.

6) Odyssey organized a fun promotional event in the campus itself to promote IIIT-Delhi's Cultural Fest. A treasure hunt, named "Curse of the Shadows" was organized on the 17th of November. The Odyssey team is planning more of such events across colleges in Delhi to further promote the event. The theme for Odyssey 2015 was also declared - "Reality is just an illusion" with events going to be focused around this. The treasure hunt too followed this theme with the competition being "mind-twisting" and "brain numbing".

7) The 1st Volume of the ECE newsletter was published on November 24th. The Editorial team of the newsletter comprises of a mix of dedicated students and Faculty mentors. The newsletter highlights key happenings related to ECE in our Institute as well as without. The first edition had interesting articles, including, a special "From the Director's Desk" - where Dr. Pankaj Jalote talks about our ECE program. Another interesting read was from Dr. Jyoti Sinha, in the article "Note from the Faculty" where she talks about her interest in Robotics and her project on "First Autonomous Car of IIIT-Delhi". We applaud this new face of ECE at our Insitute.

Follow-up on Intra-mural Sports Tournament

Shayan Lahiri

As promised in our previous edition, the list of winners are:

Basketball:

Men: Bomb Squad (Aakash Hada, Anant Rana, Ankur Poria, Burhan Nabi, Deepanshu Gupta, Rohan Katyal, Sauhard Gupta, Shikhar Singhal, Tanuj Singh Maan, Manish Rana)

Women: Magicians (Megha Gupta, Rekha Tokas, Anjali Chikara, Pooja Agarwal, Tanya Shreedhar)

Cricket:

Men: Deadly Trojans (Deepanshu Gupta, Rohan Katyal, Prateek Singh, Abhishek Gautam, Prakhar Gupta, Anant Rana, Ankur Poria, Manmeet Singh, Aakarsh Malhotra, Manish Rana, Sourabh Singh, Aakash Hada, Deepak Wali)

Women: NotFixedYet (Apoorva Mittal, Jagrati Gogia, Nikita Agrawal, Janhavi Agrawal, Shubhangi Prasad, Yesha Mittal, Aishwarya Pant, Ishita Ahlawat, Shivangi Mehra, Anjali Ujjainia)

Football:

Men: FC BHASAD (Kanishk, Shubham Kaul, Vivek Raj, Raghav Anand, Avikal Kohli, Shivam Jainer, Dhruv Pargai, Parth Srivastava, Vipul Panwar)

Women: Cincinnaati (Deepika Moorjani,

Neetika Chauhan, Pratiti Sarkar, Nishtha Chopra, Prerna Singh, Yesha, Akanksha Singh)

Tennis:

Men's Singles: Jinkeon Kang

Men's Doubles: Avikal Kohli & Jalaj Pandey

Mixed Doubles: Vahini Ummalalani & Lakshay Dahiya

Table Tennis (only Doubles):

Men: Rahul Manchanda & Vatsal Singh

Women: Apoorva Mittal & Janhavi Agrawal

Mixed: Anudeep Athlur & Janhavi Agrawal

Volleyball:

Men: Motley Crew (Ankur Poria, Manish Rana, Sourabh Singh, Anant Rana, Anudeep Athlur, Prakhar Gupta, Aakash, Deepanshu, Gagan Khanijau)

Badminton:

Men's Singles: Event was cancelled

Women's Singles: Vahini Ummalalani

Men's Doubles: Not completed

Women's Doubles: Megha Gupta & Paridhi Jain

Mixed Doubles: Manisha & Naresh Aditya Madhav

Congratulations to all the winners! We hope to see such enthusiasm in future editions of the Intra-mural Sports Tournament as well.

Alumni Connect

Digvijay Singh

We recently got in touch with Kshitiz Bakshi – one of the brightest alumni of the class of 2014. We talked to him about life after IIIT-Delhi and much more.



[D] How's life been after IIIT?

[K] Life's decent. If there's one thing that has most visibly changed in life, it is discipline. You have to go back to Office the next day at the right time! The clock striking 12 in the night means it's time to go to bed.

[D] Haha, yes. I think that is why everyone you meet says their college life was the best...

[K] Yeah. It probably is very clichéd to say that by this time, but it really is one of the best parts of life. The atmosphere is unmatched in the industry. That is not to say the industry is all bad, though. They're just very different.

[D] Yup and the industry pays too. But before that, what do you miss most about college?

[K] The first thing that comes to mind is the people. But that might as well be for any phase of life where you get to meet incredible people. So I'd probably say freedom... I miss freedom the most.

[D] Makes working sound quite hard. How do you usually spend time on weekends? Do you get to do things you like then?

[K] When you have no time to do much on 5 days of the week, everything has to be scheduled on the weekends. So some things make the cut, some don't. Most weekends are spent meeting people. Could be family, or friends. I don't get to do much music these days, which is one part I sorely miss on my weekends nowadays.

[D] Let's hope you soon find more time for your guitar. Moving on, I already know a bit of Adobe and that you were working on the multitudes of libraries they possess. Are you still working in the same team?

[K] Yes, I am working in the CoreTech group which manages and develops functionality shared across Adobe applications. Under CoreTech, my team (and I) work on Imaging technologies.

[D] And how are you finding the work now, with 6 months into the job?

[K] I'm finding it good. Imaging is a field which I had zero experience with. I ran away from Linear Algebra based math, image manipulation, matrices, everything in my life at IIIT-Delhi. Little did I know that it's going to come back to bite me. This is a message to everyone at IIIT-Delhi -> do not sacrifice on the core courses. However, I feel a bit more comfortable in the field now. I'm now working on adding more features to libraries. The programming and designing part is good. Apart from that Adobe is a pretty cool company and the culture is great.

[D] What do you get to do at Adobe when you don't want to work?

[K] Hahaha! Mostly I just go and grab something to eat. * sheepish *

Then there's TT tables, Foosball, chatting with people. There are Lawn Tennis, Basketball and Volleyball facilities too, but I haven't done those yet. I've also spent hours on YouTube and Facebook. They're cool like that.

[D] Nice, so what are the people like at Adobe?

[K] People are great. You largely don't get that nerdy feel, but the people are pretty smart nevertheless. There's so much to learn! It certainly does keep the environment very relaxed and chilled. No body compromises on their work quality though.

This includes the managers too! Almost all managers at Adobe are from core engineering backgrounds and have been at where we are. There's none of that "My manager doesn't

know the technicalities" thing here. My manager even sits down with us to code sometimes!

[D] We all know, the pre placement module was set-up by you and Deepanker, both working at Adobe. Do you think anything more could have been added there or removed? Or also, how much of the practised questions are relevant while actually coding and programming?

[K] Good question. I used to think they'd be mostly irrelevant. I mean, we're creating huge products, who's going to care about, say, traversing through a doubly linked list? We can always have a look at the book for that.

But the truth is, it does come in handy and useful. We can always look at the book for the advanced stuff, but that limits us when we're brainstorming things. And those small optimizations become very important when you consider the sheer scale.

For examples; Deepanker used a trie data structure to write some sort of text parser for his application. I had to delve deep into bit manipulation to extract some performance out of a buffer implementation, while writing performance critical code. We almost filed a patent on one of it too. This is probably not the place for all the details though.

[D] Now that you have worked in the industry for a small while and know what it is like, where do you think you'll be in the near future

Near future being 5 -10 years :P

[K] Haha! To be honest, I don't know. It's still too early to call something like that. I don't have any concrete plans for that timeline yet!

[D] When do we get to see you at IIIT next?

[K] Pretty soon. There's an alumni meet coming up. And I'm also pushing for another Alumnus based venture, and talking to Professor Jalote about it. Should hopefully have more details about it very soon!

Puppies in the campus

Utkarsh Gupta

Disclaimer: If I hurt anyone's feeling, I am sorry but this is something which I feel very strongly about.

First, let me tell you and the people who know me can testify that I am a big dog lover. I just love dogs but when someone recently asked me "Hey, do you like to play with the puppies in campus?" I had to say no to them.

The puppies at this point of time are at a very cute age. Everyone wants to play with them, give them food, hold them and have fun with them. Yes, all that is fine. But the big problem is no one thinks what happens after they grow up. Let's face it, many of us don't like dogs (puppies being an exception). Our campus always has a lot of dogs who follow students

in the hopes of getting some food. I and a few other dog lovers don't mind that but for the rest of the student community it's a pain and very uncomfortable. Sometimes, I've had to intervene and take the dog away. When the puppies grow up, they will still expect the same amount of care and love they are receiving now. After all it's in a puppy's nature to have trust in people. Ironically, people are not as great as the puppies think that they are. People are selfish, they just want to play with them and have fun. For them it's just a toy but for the puppy it might be a matter of their entire life. These very people might be the ones who will complain to the authorities about the number of dogs in the campus when they grow up. Let me give you an example, a friend of mine who was not very fond of dogs started giving milk to the puppies daily. Once they grew up, they knew that this person gives them food, and hence started following the person all around campus which caused many problems. In these situations, the authorities intervene and throw the dogs out of the campus. My friend is okay, but what happens to the dogs? They are thrown out of the only place they know. It's difficult for them even to survive.

I am in no way suggesting that we should not intervene and not do something about them. I am just saying that if you want to do something, be sure that you will not mind doing the same thing when they grow up. You should be ready to fight with the authorities when they are planning to throw them out. On a side note, if you really want to help, find good homes or good NGOs for the dogs and the puppies so that they live happily even after we have passed out.

The Little Angel

Suman Pani

Waiting in a long queue,
That's where I saw her,

On the other side of the bars,
A little Angel,
In a colorful fairy dress.
Climbing a dangerous stony Staircase
I mentally chided her parents,
And went back to my video games.

As time passed I saw her again,
Playing with kids ,
Chasing the sparrow ,
Or just dancing to some inaudible song.
Lost in her world.
I started to wonder,
If her parents were around?
Or was she Lost?
But I didn't help,
For I was busy with my video game.

I saw her for a last time
Just before i left.
Sitting on the top stair,
All alone,
Far from where I stood,
So I left , without talking to her,

Assuring myself,
Her parents were there.

Now she haunts my dream
I see her cry
I go closer,
Only to stumble back behind
Her fairy dress torn,
she, full of scars,
Looks at me with teary eyes.

And told
"I got sold,
You could have saved me,
But didn't care,
You were far too busy to act human,
I was lost, you knew,
So why didn't you?"

And I wake up gasping,
Trying to find comfort within,
But all my soul does,
Is echo the question,
and ask my heart if she knew,
"Is the accusation true?"

House of Traps

Harshit Verma

You wakeup in the morning
Opening your eyes while yawning
You find yourself where you were not last night,
That's when your senses start to fight,
Seeing those faces cry which you haven't seen before
For the traps are lurking behind each door,
You start asking the reason
For your presence in such a prison,
They don't tell you much but scare you with their acquaintance
Of the possible serial killer behind such a disturbance,
You find a tape recorder under the carpet
Listening to which you all are set,
Yes, it was him telling the rules of the game,
Transgression of which if forward came,
You will be winning a deadly chance to meet death
Or else to be safe you should play having faith,
In the chances of survival that are rare,
and reason for the game lies in what common you all share,
There are not only traps but also chances.
And rare are the places where death itself dances,
You have poison running in your veins
Which will be robbing you out of your sense,
To which only he has the antidote,
Now start consuming the time you've got,
Which is getting finished every moment,
Do it till you further can't,
There are no promises that you'd survive,
No matter how hard you'd try to stay alive,
It's the game that began on his call
But would end with you after all.