




Interview
Prof Chelva



BYTES

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ENHANCING PG STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS OF THE INSTITUTE- MYTH VS REALITY!

Events, functions and celebrations make for a vibrant institute life. One of the concerns bothering the Faculty and Students is the lack (or perceived lack) of participation among the post graduate students in the Institute. question also remains – is such a view of nominal participation among the PGs one of myth or reality? This is not an issue but a concern. A concern that there have to be genuine reasons for their limited/restricted participation in the events and activities. Ranging from academic aspirations to career obligations, PG students might suffer from their own workload. This potentially brings down their involvement in the affairs of the institute and thus a debate on this becomes a need of the hour. This column brings out the varying perspectives and worries in this regard.

- Saravanan Velusamy

Ayush Jain (Senate member, representing MTech)

Post Graduate students have already had an experience of being involved in such events/programs. Some would have headed clubs, others would have shown participation as members. So if we want to involve PG students for volunteering, etc. they could be given roles that suit the field in which they study, so that it adds value to their careers.

But, at the same time lack of experience in organizing events at IIT Gandhinagar sets them back from showing interest. In my undergraduate years, I contributed my small part in the events that were conducted because I got the required exposure into the working of the institute machinery. Such an exposure seems missing here.

Academic load acts as a deterrent. They not only have to manage course work but also research work. In the research field, uncertain circumstances are a common scenario. Also, as PG's were not given hostels before, it was difficult to collaborate and form teams. But now we can see active participation in many events organized in the new hostels. Proximity is the key.

Chinmay Ajnadkar (Welfare Secretary)

Out of 55 welfare committee members, not even 10 people are from PG while almost half of the student strength belongs to PG. But a bigger concern is many PG students feel detached with institute. An ideal environment for an institute is where everybody participates (or tries to) like a family.

When sessions to introduce the Student Council were arranged, the number of council members present was more than the number of listeners. After the session we saw many students near the Panchayat Circle. This tendency of not feeling the need to attend this session urges me to introspect if there is anything that can be done. Also, when we received many emails asking questions that were already answered in that session, the student body member in me felt disappointed. Moreover the Teachers' Day function saw disheartening attendance from the PGs.

Why do only some students participate and others do not? Here are some answers I got. "We are here only for two years", "We do not know how IITGN works", "UGs have lot of free time. We PGs have very heavy course load" etc. These are genuine concerns. But I'm much more worried if such lack in participation is due to disinterestedness. This applies to the undergraduate students as well. Therefore, how to increase participation?

Participation in college activities does not necessarily mean being a coordinator of an event or being a part of the senate. It can be as simple as stopping by the posters stuck on the wall. One may join a club

Karthikeyan Palanisamy: (Class Rep of M.sc Cognitive Science and a Mess Council member)

There is no structured introduction to the Institute activities. Therefore, it takes time to get accustomed to institute activities, its customs and culture. Students' participation could only increase gradually. During the second year, our concentration shifts to securing ourselves a good future. We naturally start working for career prospects such as a job or to join an institute as a PhD student.

Chakresh Singh (A Senate member representing Ph.D.)

Participation in any event is something that can't be enforced, but has to come from within. Since most of us have already gone through our college days, we tend to get more focused. We are aware of what we want and thus go spot on to get it. It is time for us to converge our energies in academic research and not dissipate by participating in a lot of activities. Not all of us can take the liberty to detour from research and participate as voluntarily as an undergrad could do. I'm also sure that if we are backed up by our institute and the faculties we could surely augment participation from the PG students as well. After all, who wouldn't need all the fun it provides?

and cultivate a hobby or one may even start a new club or volunteer for an event's work. Just gracing an event with one's presence can be a good gesture of participation. All it takes is to come for the event meetings like we come and interact in the Panchayat Circle.

We have all heard the popular tortoise and rabbit story. Here is a new one. One day a rabbit comes from the nearby forest and challenges the rabbit (who is now the tortoise's friend) to compete with him. The target is fixed in such a way that half of the race takes place on a tank bund and the rest on land. The native rabbit requests help from the tortoise (the tortoise can easily pass through the water diagonally with a higher speed). Tortoise readily agrees in view of brotherhood. This time the tortoise takes the native rabbit on its' back in the water and runs diagonally. The rabbit also helps the tortoise to increase the speed in water. As soon as they reach the land, the native rabbit takes the tortoise on its' back and starts running. The tortoise gets a stick to clear off the bushes. The native rabbit and tortoise thus win the race with this co-operation.

I think the message is very clear. To conclude, I would like to say that there is one group with loads of experience and there is the other which is very enthusiastic. And what I know and believe is if they both work together, there is nothing that they can't achieve.

RESEARCH VENTURES @IITGN

This column gives you a glimpse into all the cool and interesting research going on in IIT Gandhinagar. We will go into much more depth in the coming editions!

IT Gandhinagar, in a short span of seven years since its inception, has emerged as one of the leading technological institutes in India today. This article highlights a few of its many accomplishments in diverse research fields. The institute is actively involved in healthcare, water resources and river systems, nanotechnology, manufacturing, information technology and energy systems research.

In the field of healthcare, a mechanism has been developed to measure the patient's BP with the

help of a **wrist-band device**.

The device also has an arm-pressure cuff and pulse plethysmogram-based sensor. The sensor is

used for measuring blood pulsation at the fingertip. The machine can also measure pulse rate, haemoglobin, saturation of peripheral oxygen and perfusion index. Change in perfusion index helps doctors decide anaesthesia and pain measurement. The wristband has an LCD screen and some vital light displays that automatically change colour in an emergency. It shows red for emergency, green for normal and yellow and orange for precautionary steps. This research has been highly recognised from medical experts and patented.

The next breakthrough research is for **children with Autism** who often have a hard time dealing with noise. Background noise like that of a fan or a toilet flush or a vacuum cleaner can increase their anxiety. IITGN is developing low-cost devices for autistic children in India. This includes affordable headphones that act as noise-cancelling devices and low-cost sensors - part of a larger system being designed to educate, train and rehabilitate children with complex neurodevelopment disorders.



Dengue has always been one of the most deadly diseases in India with a fatality rate of around 0.2 percent. The number of reported cases this year has doubled as compared to last year. Finding out effective ways to combat it is a

major area of research. IITGN students **modelled the spread of dengue** epidemic in urban areas by first identifying the number of cases in each ward in the city, developing an algorithm for it and then studied its' correlation with rainfall pattern.

Unsustainable exploitation of surface and groundwater resources for irrigation with inefficient management practices has resulted in rapid groundwater depletion in many agriculture-dominated regions across India. For the first time, a near **real-time drought monitor** for India has been developed which operates at 25 km resolution and is being updated daily. The district level meteorological, agricultural and hydrological drought conditions have been provided with



'GWP-Award India 2014' with the theme of 'Sustainable Water Resources Management'

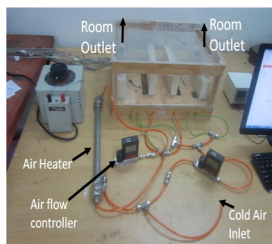
the lag of one day using different indices. A hydrologic modelling framework was developed after proper calibration and evaluation to simulate water balance variables (soil moisture, evapotranspiration, and runoff). Agricultural drought based on index representing soil moisture (up to root zone depth) deficit is being used to monitor drought up to district level. The developed near real-time drought monitoring system can be viewed online on the institute's website. This research has received by **GWP-Award India 2014** for Sustainable Water Resources Management.

In the field of nanotechnology, an extremely **transparent nano-material** has been developed. The nano-sheets are rich in boron unlike graphene which is based on carbon. The boron makes them not only highly transparent, it also provides material scientists a wonderful platform to utilize its rich chemistry. These nanosheets are like ultrathin sandwiches with metal atoms trapped between boron planes that are 20,000 times thinner than human hair. Such thinness gives them unusual properties: they do not absorb visible light but strongly absorb ultraviolet light. This can prove very useful in making UV blocking coatings that still allow visible light to pass.

On the IT front, a new app called "**Fire Stop Goa**" has been developed and launched for Goa Fire & Emergency Services by IITGN. Apart from sending information about fires to the fire department, it will create awareness among the public by providing information on how to put out the fire.

The **Energy Systems Research Laboratory** at IITGN aims to solve some of the energy related problems of India and the world. Ethanol Autothermal Reforming provides reliable and efficient way of converting a renewable fuel (bio-ethanol) to syngas. The syngas produced can be used as feedstock for various types of fuel cells depending upon scale, availability and application. These fuel cells can then be deployed at remote locations to power the cell phone towers. This application is the most promising technology for processing logistic fuels such as JP-8 diesel in the context of marine fuel cell system applications. The current activities involve detailed experimental investigations into the impact of design and operating parameters on the process efficiency and stability of autothermal reformers in the context of marine diesel fuel cell systems.

In this fast computational era, size of the processing devices is reducing. However, the heat released by them per unit area is increasing exponentially. Therefore, there is a need for effective thermal management of such systems. Data centres are one of the highest energy consuming systems in the world. Hence, for the first time, a conceptual design of a **data centre prototype** has been developed in the institute for experimental testing with the aim to develop the system models for such complex systems for constructing the control strategies.



There is research at institute in the novel processes for precipitation and drug nanoparticles, neural basis motor learning, System-Identification-Based Approach for Understanding the Deformability of DNA, High Fidelity Computational Engineered Systems on HPC Platforms, Heat Flow and viscous plastic flow based model for friction stir welding of copper and many more with the deep root of interdisciplinary effort. Towards the institute's step of commitment to promoting excellence in science & technology, this is just the beginning. But as they say, all glory comes from the beginning itself. IITGN is all set to be among the top research institutes in the world.

- Yogesh Fulpagare

Why Amartya Sen's 'Country of the First Boys' can help reflect on the role of the IITs in India today

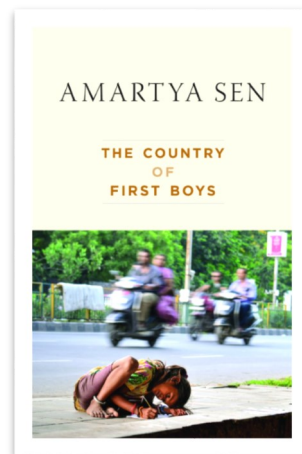
The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is the final destination, the ultimate prize for thousands of young people in India trying to chart a professional career. Established by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to accelerate India's development and deemed as Institutions of Excellence, IITs are believed to be a sure shot means to securing the ends of the good life that come from material prosperity and social recognition. For its promise of glory, many young Indians from as early as high school and sometimes in middle school are socialized into taking this highly competitive path to engineering education.

Philosopher and Nobel-prize winning economist Amartya Sen calls young engineering types and those who train to be medical doctors--most of whom are men-- the 'First Boys of India'. And India, Sen says, is a *Country of the First Boys*, which is also the title of his latest collection of essays. Despite their association with grand achievements the 'first boys' is meant to be a somber metaphor of India's uncertain glory. Many of the book's essays urge Indians to reflect on the contradictions and conundrums that underpin India's education system and society at large. Those of us privileged enough to be associated with the IITs should especially take note of the problems Sen articulates in this book.

Why, one might legitimately ask, should the IITs have to think about the difficult question of education reform in India? IITs routinely measure success by whether its graduates get placed in leading Indian and global corporations. If IIT-trained engineers and Indian medical doctors are among a handful of examples of India's globally recognized success stories, is it not cynical to make these 'first boys' a metaphor of the problems that ail India's education rather than symbols of national pride? After all, haven't the first boys achieved what they have despite the severe odds of scarcity and underdevelopment that mark India?

Far from targeting and blaming IITs for the problems of India's education system, Sen's metaphor of the 'first boys' draws urgent attention to the fact that India cannot progress if we do not recognize and address the problem of inequality in our education system. Progress is a much-contested word but for our purposes it may be understood as the responsibility of a society towards creating conditions by which every citizen can realize his or her capabilities. The IITs necessarily ought to be at the center of this debate both because of what they can do to positively address the situation and also because remaining oblivious of this question will ultimately undermine their own aspirations for success. A key problem highlighted in the *Country of First Boys* is that the Indian education system is centered on boys to the exclusion of girls. 'At every level', Sen writes, 'Indian education is obsessed with the first boys: In the classroom, in society and in the making of public policy' (P.130). This is reflected in the 2001 census,

which shows that half of Indian women are illiterate. This is problematic for two reasons: first, on the grounds of equity whereby the country fails to ensure that its girls get the fundamental right to decent education which is essential to the development of their basic capabilities; and second, this bias against girls causes tremendous inefficiency and loss to the Indian economy which despite its tremendous growth in recent years pays 'a heavy price for having a far less educated general labor force' than say China.' (p.134) The sparse representation of female students in the IITs reflects how deeply linked the destiny of the IITs are with the hierarchies and exclusions that underpin primary schooling and the first-boys centric Indian education system. The IITs cannot act like islands of excellence untouched by these larger realities of India.



In another thought provoking piece in his collection of essays, Amartya Sen. argues that the 'prevalence and reach of inequality and injustice in India are what should really

keep us awake at night' (p.182). The fact is that in the dominant celebratory discourse about the IITs the problems of inequality and injustice hardly feature anywhere. To their credit, IITs have in practice although not so much in their discourse, been far more inclusive in terms of caste, class and region compared to other prestigious private institutions due to various aspects of its policy of subsidized education and quotas. There can be many ways by which IITs can engage with the problems of inequality and injustice, one of them being directly including a critical reflection on them in the core engineering curriculum. The other approach is to redefine the criteria of success of an IIT graduate such that it goes beyond the current acid test of corporate placement. Success must be widely understood to be about making social impact at various levels to positively touch the lives of India's underprivileged. IIT Gandhinagar has already started doing some of this, a direction that must be intensified.

The project of the IITs to help build modern India coincides with the project of Indian democracy. The system of democracy has unleashed a socio-economic churning in the country that has profoundly changed many aspects of Indian society reducing debilitating inequalities, mass hunger and politically empowering many hitherto underprivileged caste groups. But the democratic project of India is not without its deep shortcomings. The IITs have the historic opportunity to become crucial interlocutors in helping the Indian education system and thereby Indian society at large by consciously realigning its goals with those of Indian democracy and taking everyone along an important step forward.

- Prof Mona Mehta
and Prof Raghubir Sharan

KNOW YOUR CAMPUS ---> Block-7

I, the towering personality on campus, shall bring you stories of places, spaces, and people that you might have otherwise missed.

Today, when I look down towards the terrace of block 7 from my 100-ft height, I recall how close we were to not having the green terrace at all! During the design process, the architects, faculty, students, and the engineering team would debate every Tuesday about the design, and while it was planned to try some passive cooling technologies in block 7, the terrace was originally planned as an ordinary terrace.

When it was suggested that beyond the passive cooling and window treatments, other ways to further reduce the heat gain to the building must be explored, the idea of the green terrace was born. Not only will the plantation and shade help keep the building cooler, it will also create a one-of-a-kind chill-out place.

Look at it today! I wonder if it will be used for gupshup sessions, evening exhibitions, winter events, or as a gardening club territory? What if it just ends up being the best make-out spot on campus?

- Prof Harish P M



In Conversation with... Prof Chelva

The visiting professor talks about college, distractions, entrepreneurship and his experiences as a Sri Lankan Diplomat during the Civil War.

How did you happen to teach at IIT Gandhinagar?

It all started when Dr. Jain accepted the Directorship at IIT Gandhinagar – Me and his other Caltech colleagues were really excited because of the great challenges he would have to face. We were confident that he was well prepared for it. Dr. Jain and I had kept in touch over the three decades since grad school. I have been visiting the institute since 2010 and giving talks. My company is sponsoring interns from IIT Gandhinagar since 2012. I also taught a short course last year and two half-semester courses this semester. So, it's more of an evolution.

Did you have any expectations from IIT Gandhinagar before you started your course in August?

Yeah, definitely. Being an IIT, I expected nothing but the best – a student body of extremely high potential and capability. Also, knowing the administration, I knew that they would stop at nothing to provide the best education. So yes, I had, and I still have, very high expectations for IIT Gandhinagar.

How was your experience here in IIT Gandhinagar, and how did it fare with your expectations?

In terms of intellectual capability, I definitely found students of very high calibre. I also found some students who were challenged, which was not something I was expecting, but I suppose in any population of significant size you are bound to get that.

The other thing that I noticed this time, more than the previous instances, is the plethora of distractions that students face. I see students with so many temptations and distractions – they can do anything they want! – and this choice is both a blessing and a curse. There are those who are able to use the choice in a very constructive, productive and broad-base building manner... then there are those who are pulled in so many different directions not fulfilling their core requirements.

I know that the credo at IIT Gandhinagar is that you are adults, you make your choices and you face the consequences. While I find this to be true at IITGn with regards to external accountability and honesty, when it comes to self-accountability there are some who need help. Those who are not good at making decisions get spread too thin, and as a result compromise their position. I am myself trying to sort out whether should we strictly adhere to our motto of treating the students as adults, letting them figure it out

for themselves and not intervening at all. I don't have an answer at this time. With regards to deficiency in maths it is being well-addressed making help available from faculty as well as peers.

What exactly are the distractions you are talking about?

Choice, tremendous amount of choice. For instance, students can stay in their dorm room and surf the net 24 hours if they want to, get into Facebook and all the other things I don't even know about. 35-40 years ago, when we went to college, we did not have cell-phones there was no internet. Of course, we had other distractions, but now-a-days, the distractions are available at your fingertips.

In terms of examples, I think there are students who broaden the perspectives by doing other things besides the engineering curriculum, while performing well; and when I say well, I mean A-level and definitely not below B+ level. Like Nisha Rawat who got a Gold Medal in the inter-IIT sports meet. I'm sure those who do many things have their own challenges, but they work it out!

So we are talking about 2 extremes here. Either spoon-feeding or just leaving them entirely on their own. But have you ever come across a middle path where we give them freedom but we also guide them in a way. Is there a way to help students realize themselves on their own, and then work hard in that particular area?

I think there are mechanisms available, the one that I have seen close to home – peers. I have seen Peer guidance to be quite alive at IIT Gandhinagar and I don't think it is too much or too less. Second thing is faculty involvement; I see a lot of faculty members who take an active interest in student activities and extracurricular activities that are going on. The third one is bringing in speakers who are experts in different fields that students are thinking of expanding into. I have seen a few of those, and I'm sure this is something we can always expand.

Something about Sri Lanka now.

Could you tell us about your involvement during peacekeeping forces in Sri Lanka?

That was a very complex time, and we can have an entire interview on just that! I'll tell you briefly about my involvement in the conflict during the time of the IPKF.

I always believe the protagonists in any conflict should have a way to communicate and have consistently promoted this concept to both sides. One day I get a call from the Sri Lankan ambassador in Washington D.C. stating that the defence minister was in the U S and that he wanted to speak with me. During this meeting held at a non-descript house in Florida, the defence minister offered to set up a meeting with President Jayawardene with the purpose of setting up a channel of communication with Prabhakaran (Leader of LTTE). That then led to several visits to Sri Lanka – months in the jungles going between the President and Prabhakaran, and I believe that the

channel was successfully set up. I just carried messages between these two leaders. I never knew the technical details.

What were your most striking experiences?

My role was nothing but a credible messenger operating on a need-to-know basis, and I was very clear on that from day one. My opinions didn't matter. All that mattered in this role was to listen very carefully to what the respective leaders had to say. Often, I would write it down, read it back to him, to make sure that it was what he meant, and then I would memorize it and destroy the piece of paper and do the same thing back and forth. That was the first time I really realized, and it is very interesting, that in matters of extreme importance words are very few. They don't need to make political speeches. Both of them would just say maybe 2 or 3 sentences. And that would capture everything that was necessary to be said.

There were so many people, so many special interests, with many of them carrying weapons. That was my biggest challenge, not to be in their radar while going in and out. There is a brave field journalist that I knew at that time – Anita Pratap. She gave me the best advice. She told me, "Chelva, have a lot of pockets, keep money, plane ticket, passport and visa, and move faster than information". The one thing that saved my life – to just keep moving and keep moving very fast. That to me was the most challenging thing.

Parting points – do you have any message you want to give to the students via our magazine?

Realize your own potential. What I learnt from teaching the second year maths class is that the students really didn't realize how capable they were. When we were able to put them through an intense 3-4 day session, they themselves saw how significantly they can improve their performance. Many students suffer from lack of belief in themselves. I cannot overemphasize the value of attending classes and doing homework. Leave nothing behind; do everything that is within your powers. Learn to manage your time, you should believe in yourselves and you should make use of everything that is made available to you. On leaving nothing behind I wish to point out that the top student who scored 100% in both tests also attended 100% of the lectures and 100% of tutorials.

Also about entrepreneurship, I want to make a point about the classic Silicon Valley case. Silicon Valley genesis in 1930s from Stanford University with the advent of HP by William Hewlett and David Packard. One thing to bear in mind, is that they first made the best oscilloscopes that were available at that time, *then* they built a very successful business around it. Likewise, I think our students also need to first do whatever they do best, and *then* become entrepreneurs. Everybody else wants to be an entrepreneur! What makes you different are your strengths.

- Sanket Shah & Noopur Joshi

An SOS for our Clubs!

SOS

/ˈɛsəʊˈɛs/

noun

an international code signal of extreme distress, used especially by ships at sea.
"they put out an SOS that they were on fire"

• an urgent appeal for help.
"I'd thought of phoning a desperate SOS to James"

• **BRITISH**
a message broadcast in an emergency in an attempt to contact a person whose whereabouts are not known.
"here is an SOS message for Mr Arthur Brown about his brother, who is dangerously ill"

number of registrations, it means that students are interested to participate. Then, it is the responsibility of the respective clubs and club-heads to stop the attrition and keep the interest alive", remarks Ajinkya Tupkar, Convener of Student Senate.

"We discussed this issue in the Senate a few weeks ago, and took steps to ensure continuity of Club activities", says Vishvendra. Rules have been laid down, strictly specifying the minimum frequency of meetings to be conducted by each Club-head. The Senators hope that this will put some accountability on the Club-heads, and believe something substantial will definitely arise when they meet.

IIT Gandhinagar has a total of 12 clubs - 8 under the Cultural Council and 4 under Technical; which is way more than the number of events conducted in over 2 months of this semester. Only 5 out of these 12 clubs have had noticeable contributions in the events till now – Drama, Music, Art, Dance and Literary to some extent. Even then, none of these clubs have had 'regular' activities to promote their specializations. This is the case, even when there a huge and enthusiastic participation (read: form-filling) in each of the various clubs by the energetic bunch of freshers that pour in every year. Every year after the Club introductions are done in September, a large number of students register for these clubs, but a majority of them still remain relatively inactive all year. There are mighty spikes in student activity during Jashn and Halla-Bol, but these are few and far apart. Why are our clubs in such a sorry state?

One opinion that a large chunk of students seem to have, is that our 2 biggest flagship events – Blithchron and Amalthea might be the reason behind the clubs' half-hearted performance. This year, Blithchron has a team of about 85 students, whereas Amalthea has about 75. More often than not, these organizing teams end up taking more students than necessary. It is a lose-lose situation – the students get a pseudo-post without substantial involvement, and the teams also cannot function efficiently. "The magnitude of these events mentally drain out the students", says Palak Sadani, Cultural Secretary. Our own General Secretary, Vishvendra Singh agrees "These students feel that they have done enough, and do not wish to participate in club activities, which are comparatively much smaller in size". However, both Palak and Vishvendra agree that these events are not the only problem, but rather a small contributing factor. "When the Clubs are getting such a large

“Rather than pursuing big and flashy events, the clubs need to do more casual and informal gatherings”, says Prof Amit Prashant

But, instead of a minimum number of meetings, why can't we focus on the regularity of events? "Rather than going after big and flashy events, the clubs need to do more casual and informal gatherings", says Prof Amit Prashant. An excellent example of such an informal gathering is the Jam-Session that happened recently. When the freshies come in every year, they are overwhelmed with the number of choices they have, and end up being a part of multiple things. This means the clubs will have registrations to show, but minimal interest and enthusiasm. Having small but regular (read: weekly) events will allow for exploration at first, and later provide a window to go deeper. They will encourage people to come out of their rooms and participate. Moreover, the metric to evaluate credibility of any club should not be the number of members but the level of inter-college participation it does; and every club should participate in at least 2 such events outside of college. Such well-performing clubs should be supported by the institute with easier access to funds and flexibility. Competing on an inter-college level will automatically increase the amount of time given to club events, which will in turn drive up the quality and continuity of our clubs. Food for thought.

Clubs define the extra-curricular atmosphere of any institute, and a strong club-culture goes a long way in the overall holistic development of the student that IIT Gandhinagar so firmly stands for. Clubs bring passionate people together, and effortlessly bridge the oh-so-hyped gap between the UG-PG students. The institute has been more than generous in supporting all our initiatives and activities. It's time we proved our worth as well.

- Sanket Shah

Matrimonials

A suitable partner required for mass mailing. No hostel bar.

If interested, kindly reply through mass mailing.

Looking for a partner from IITGn who has access to washing machines!

Additional Bonus: having access to a refrigerator from which food is not stolen

Looking for anybody, somebody, please.

Non-negotiable requirement : Immunity to fogging.

A WARM WELCOME TO IIT GN !!!

Dear Friends,

Being a quintessential Indian student, name of IIT rang a bell in my head. Who knew that a culture shock awaited my decision!!! The "typical college life" (on a spectrum of normality for any social science student) got a mind-numbing change. Initiated with loads of fascination and shocks, I am now settling with the phase of amusing social and self-reality! I never knew a concept like freedom can be 'HSS coated'. Little changes in my typical day then and now:

Mess

Then...An area where you usually find some decent eatables, lots of news and jittery talks, official cribbing and sarcasm sessions, picking up dates, trespassing and intermingling in conversations that interest you, perks of sharing localities' tiffin (including Profs!) and just relaxing till you don't get the buzz of your work loads...

Now...An area where groups sit and eat given food in rows, rare intermingling. An attempt to trespass a group conversation might be as fatal as getting a social stigma! This is the area which is active only during the meals time; extra hanging in there = stupidity and sign of joblessness..

Addas

Then...Addas were unstoppable buzz and booze on self-allotted areas in campus.

Now...Addas – A place given by the college to 'relax'. Recreational facilities are also made available- internet! Carom board! Random people sleeping around! And I better not start on with the booze famine!! *Namo Gujaraat!!*

Making out

Then...Active making out spots...People around: "Folks let me know when you need the room!"

Now...Making out OMG!!! We don't even like them to hug in Public. People around: "Hush. Hush...did you see her? She just walked out of his room!"

Communication

Then...Chill rapport with every soul. The only rule we follow: Nature brought you to life few years ago- that doesn't give you *beep* right to rule me. We respect all for who they are. That's it. No other criteria.

Now...The relation tag determines who is what for me: Teachers are formal creatures and competition is our favourite hobby. It's like 'how the hell he/she can do so much!'

Party

Then...Party every fortnight (Yaay!). When there is too much work: Work hard, but party

harder. We took care of our dopamine well: helped us boost performance.

Now...Parties?? Um.....wait. Let us find some occasions first!

*Special observation:

Then...Most of the people there were 'Marxists'.

Now...Most of the people here are also 'marksists'.

My cultural 'Today-I-Learned' log:

Being a girl falls in different kind of 'species':- this is self- experienced by 'hawww' factor labelled in every conversation beyond casualties with a guy.

There is nothing to question about the following features:

- An overwhelming 'quiz' culture.
- 21 plus or minus olds still follow the hierarchically arranged classroom patterns with pride. Study for exams. Listen to every 'order' of teachers.
- Liberalism is placed in *hierarchy of instruction, conversations and academia*.
- We trust so much in our education system that a compulsory course has to be taken for 'communication'.
- Competition is our birthright, and we need to strive for victory.
- Socialization is an 'activity' of refreshment.
- 'Chilling' in general implies that you have no work.
- Compulsory courses in HSS make you more 'open- minded'?!

So, now if anyone raises a brow hearing that I am from IIT, a grin just appears on my face screaming: 'Y you no understand, my friend - grass is always greener on the other side!'

But these itsy-bitsy changes in my routine have also drawn my attention to few fascinating things here which keep my mind grounded in peace :

A great bond between seniors and juniors!

There is a sense of belongingness. Though the love flows in form of bum-kicks, in-group bonds are definitely worth a praise.

A co-ed philosophy is promoted through atypical systems.

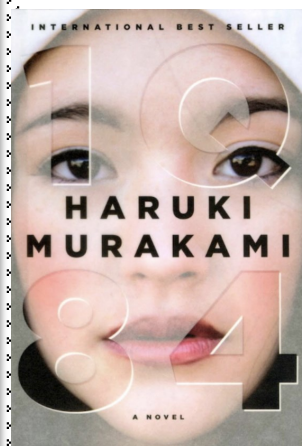
There are enthusiast minds who genuinely strive for innovation: the students have great exposure to global opportunities

Conscience about following the ethical code

It's a great experience being here. I hope this spirit loiters...

- Pranjali Kulkarni

Book Review



1Q84 is the Magnum Opus penned by Haruki Murakami and which was published in Japan in the year of 2009-2010. The book starts off on a racy note when

the female protagonist risks her life after she decides to listen to the advice of a taxi driver. The novel follows the lives of the two male and female protagonists in parallel only for the reader to realize how closely their worlds are related and they are entangled together for life. Interestingly, the novel pays tribute to George Orwell's mammoth work, *1984* and takes the reader to Murakami's unique surreal world of 1Q84. Murakami sticks to his style and uses references from multiple other authors such as Frazer's *Golden Bough* and Anton Chekhov's *Sakhalin Island* to emphasize on the social connotations in the book. Each of the character is uniquely developed which is Murakami's speciality and one is awestruck as a reader when by the end of the novel, the character of the security guard matures. The novel further impresses the manner in which Murakami uses a religious cult to influence and change the lives of all the characters. George Orwell gets his befitting tribute by Murakami who meticulously pens how the socialistic state can perpetuate thought crime.

Earlier this year critics were bidding for Murakami's candidature for the Nobel Prize, though there are some prejudices that how can a best selling author and a sensation among young readers be a contender for the highest literary award. A regular reader of Murakami will however vote for his candidature for the high intellectual discussions in his novel and his impressive ability to convert modern day events into epics.

- Jagriti Gangopadhyay

THE FORGOTTEN HEROES OF SCIENCE

As I start writing the series of essays “Forgotten Heroes of Science” I have also realized what’s been forgotten! Has their science been forgotten? Or their name? The truth is that their credibility at the right time is forgotten. The timely credits and applauds that should have been given to them when they were around! But all these forgotten heroes are still in someone’s heart & mind, making an impact either by their extraordinary scientific contributions as well their fantastic persona!

- Prof Sivapriya Kirubakaran

Our first hero is also called “The Dark Lady of DNA” because of her groundbreaking work on the structure of DNA—Rosalind Franklin.

In April 1953, the journal Nature published three back-to-back publications on the structure of DNA. The first article was a pure theoretical one written by Watson & Crick (W&C) from University of Cambridge, and the other two by Rosalind Franklin and a PhD student Ray Gosling from King’s College London were experimentally rich. These papers laid a foundation for the structure of DNA and eventually fetched a W&C a Nobel Prize in 1962.

The whole story started on a bitter note when Franklin, an expert in X-ray crystallography, had been recruited to King’s to work as an independent researcher. Prof. Maurice Wilkins expected that Franklin would work as a postdoctoral fellow under his guidance. From that point, Franklin and Wilkins simply did not get along. To add to this, Raymond Gosling, a PhD student who had originally worked with Wilkins had been transferred to Franklin (without Wilkins knowing). Working with Gosling, Franklin was able to get two sets of high-resolution photos of crystallized DNA fibers.

W&C’s first attempt to crack the structure of DNA took place in 1952. Their three-stranded, inside-out model was a disaster. Following complaints from the King’s group that Watson and Crick were walking on a thin line, Sir Lawrence Bragg, the head of their lab in Cambridge told them to stop their work on DNA. However, at the beginning of 1953, Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling, became interested in the structure of DNA, so Bragg decided to set W&C on the problem once more. At the end of January 1953, Watson visited King’s, where Wilkins showed him an X-ray photo that was subsequently used in Franklin’s Nature article. This image, called ‘Photo 51’, had been made by Gosling who is once again supervised by Wilkins, as Franklin prepared to leave the terrible atmosphere at

King’s and abandon her work on DNA.

Watson recalled that when he saw the Photo ‘my mouth fell open and my pulse began to race.’ According to Watson, Photo 51 provided the most important clue to the double helix. Theoreticians like Watson and Crick needed data and Franklin had that in the form of X-ray data. She included her data in a brief informal report that



was given to Max Perutz of Cambridge University. In February 1953, Perutz passed the report to Bragg, and then it went to W&C.

W&C now had the data they needed. Since the report was not confidential, there is no question that the Cambridge duo acquired the data dishonestly. However, they did not tell anyone at King’s what they were doing, and they did not ask Franklin for permission to interpret her data.

Franklin’s laboratory notebooks reveal that by 24 February, she had realized that DNA had a double helix structure where she noted that ‘an infinite variety of nucleotide sequences would be possible to explain the biological specificity of DNA’. To prove her point, she would have to convert this insight into a precise, mathematically and chemically rigorous model. She did not get the chance to do this, because Watson and Crick had already been working and were the first one on the finishing line – the Cambridge duo had rapidly interpreted the double helix structure in terms of precise spatial relationships and chemical bonds, through the construction of a physical model.

In the middle of March 1953, Wilkins

and Franklin were invited to Cambridge to give their opinion on the proposed model of DNA, and they both agreed it must be right. There was also a mutual agreement that the model would be published solely as the work of Watson and Crick, while Wilkins and Franklin would publish the supporting data separately. On 25 April there was a huge gathering at King’s to celebrate the publication of the three articles in Nature. Franklin did not attend because of her illness with ovarian cancer. She died of the disease in 1958.

In 1962 Watson, Crick and Wilkins were awarded Nobel Prize for their work on the structure of DNA. Although there is no doubt about her achievements, only Wilkins mentioned her in his Nobel ceremony speech. This is where her respect and her credibility have been taken away and forgotten! Nevertheless Rosalind Franklin will always be a “Scientific Icon.”

My Little Brother

My little brother born in summer

It is so much cooler

He tries crawling

But ends up falling

Then starts crying

But never stops trying

I can have so much fun

Once he starts to run



Sree Samhita
Class V
(D/O) Sriram Kanvah

Deadline Poetry

In the geeky world
of soulless competition,
struggling to prove and be proven,
I am in the quest for questions
in the cauldron of solutions.
In these quiet corridors
of dreamers and dream-merchants,
where faces turn into races,
like rats and their mind-games,
weaving necklaces of illusions,
selling dreams and
buying empty visions.
I am in the quest for questions.
In the vacuum between achievements and
ambitions
treading through rings of smoke
in the night-clubs of wordy loners,
where life lives on the edges of time,
and time lives in its own abandonment,
I am in quest for questions.
In these chambers of silence,
where blank faces stare at blank walls,
I hunt for words and phrases,
to complete chains of broken thoughts.
Lost,
In the myriad battles,
between I and myself,
I search for questions
through the clouds of chalk-dust
misting blackboards of memory.
I am in the quest for questions,
to fill up the gaps between rhyme and
rhythm,
and complete my deadline poetry.

- Prof Arnapurna Rath

Food-Truck Review



Street food is one of the most enjoyable pastimes and delightful culinary experiences in Indian cities. Regions particularly around offices and educational institutions are populated with numerous food joints that offer a break from the mundane and the familiar. Gandhinagar too has its share of food stalls and a little exploration will yield some neat little pit-stops for the hungry Jack or Jill. One such stall is the 'Hot n Spicy' food truck on the DAICT-NIFT Road. Situated near the TCS office, this quaint little place is easy to spot with its bright illumination and neatly laid out plastic tables and chairs around.

The menu has vegetarian and non-vegetarian options with wraps, rice dishes and fried snacks on offer. The choices of wraps include stuffing like mushroom, paneer, egg and chicken in combination with mayo sauce. Each wrap is served with two sauces, one with

a tangy-sweet flavor and another with a more spicy essence. This offers a wonderful burst of flavor when coupled with the crispy textured wrap and the melt-in-the-mouth stuffing.

The Rice dishes, although not too many on offer like the wraps, serve as an extension of the great taste that the wraps provide. Try the Egg rice or Biryani after devouring a wrap for a full meal experience!



Must try: *Deviled Eggs* – Boiled eggs with a twist

Timings: 6:30 PM to 11:30 PM

DAICT-NIFT Road, Gandhinagar

Cost for two: Rs 250 (approx.)

- Tushar Meshram

What's up with The Local Train?

Review of their new album - *Aalas Ka Ped*

The Local Train, the band from local roots of New Delhi which specializes in Acoustic/Rock, has become the new face of Hindi Rock genre. The band launched its new album a few weeks back—*Aalas ka Ped*. The band currently consists of four members and has recently won the Sennheiser's Top50 talent hunt.

"Aalas ka Ped" has introduced seven songs in the tracklist. The song *Yeh Zindagi Hai* starts off slow and picks up the pace, changing from Guitar to the Guitar-Drum duo. The lyrics go round the happenings in daily life, heart break and fake mask that people put on.

Kaise Jiyn is a youthful soundtrack that hits the right notes. The song is also available on acoustic and has an easy on the ears feeling.

Aoge Tum Kabhi starts with a trippy tune but then turns to one typical Indi-rock song that is common among all the bands out there. *Choo Lo* is one of the songs that stands out from the others, with a 40-second long guitar track in the beginning. It seems like this melodious but monotonous song has come out right from the heart of an old-school lover.

Another song from the same background – *Dil Mere* is the most relaxed song of the album. The music is sweet-toned and takes over the repeated lyrics which is all about a guy sharing feelings to his heart.

In an interview with the band manager - Ramit, we came to know about the thought behind the name of the album. Ramit described it as – "The album is like the albatross around our neck. It took us close to 4 years to complete the album. The name is symbolic of the same.



During Raman's college days a close friend in the hostel would not come out of his room for days, and his friends wrote and drew an *aalas ka pedh* on his door. That somehow was apt for the album we recently took out."

Overall, the album is a must-listen for every music lover. With this, The Local Train makes a fitting debut into the world of indie music in India. Watch out for this band!

- Mridul Pareek

OF SUSPENSE THRILLERS WITHOUT SONGS

Which was the first Hindi talkie without songs?

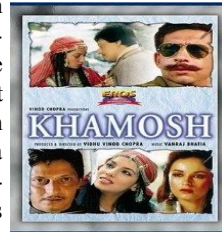
Such trivia questions sometimes lead to vigorous discussions on the merits of commercial Hindi cinema vis-a-vis the integral song and dance routines. The discussions occasionally expose our biases and romantic notions of regional and non-masala cinema. Interestingly, in the vast ocean of formulaic pot-boilers, there are several gems that strive to tell a story without falling prey to escapist frills. Over the past decade, one can spot at least a movie each year which dares to do things *hatke*. This is even leaving aside the genre of the horror-thriller, which in the Indian context usually attracts a less-than-perfect letter grade. Just ask the current FTII Chairman about how his 'hundreds of movies' worth of experience went out of the window, when *Khuli Khidki* revealed his uncorrupted potential. One can even leave aside movies that would be labelled as action-thrillers. The emergence of the modern Hindi superstar as an embodiment of Human Muscles from Gray's Anatomy has much to do with the lower levels of hunger and poverty in the country today than a few decades back. The hero during the golden age of Hindi cinema, was truly representative of the underfed masses who would prefer a sumptuous buffet and care two hoots about working on their physique or performing three different martial arts in slow motion while being airborne. No, one only needs to look for the authentic suspense-mystery thrillers, with their singular focus on crimes of passion, to realise that mainstream Hindi cinema is often subjected to reverse-racism.

In the 1950s, along with the rest of the country, Bombay film industry was undergoing its own power shifts owing to the Partition. Bengali filmmakers transplanted from Calcutta were now jostling with talent from the Punjab and Pakistan. Baldev Raj (or B.R.) Chopra was one of those aspiring to make their mark and with movies such as *Naya Daur* and *Sadhna*, had charted a path to cinematic success. In 1960, he directed *Kanoon*, starring Rajendra Kumar and Nanda, an intriguing movie devoid of songs with a romantic track that is central to the suspense rather than distracting from it. The movie purports to illustrate how *andha kanoon* could end up defeating the principles that it is supposed to uphold, namely protection of the innocent. The movie uses a trope that was ahead of its times, of the purveyors of justice placing bets on how the system could be exploited by or for a guilty person to be let off. Though the ending of *Kanoon* is contrived, the movie serves as an interesting preface to Hindi film industry's obsession with how the Indian judiciary writes *tareekh-pe-tareekh* but



never seems to get it's *faisla* right. The movie is from a time when the country was yet to fully comprehend its turmoils. B.R. Chopra went on to make several other mystery-suspense movies such as *Ittefaq* and *Dhund*. The former was a song-less thriller, in the mould of a single act play though not so much of a whodunit. *Dhund* did have songs, with Chopra favourite Mahendra Kapoor crooning Sahir Ludhianvi's lines of wisdom, "*Sansar ke har shae ka*". Though deeply inspired by foreign stories and movies, both of these are successful adaptations and are clear testimonials to Chopra's skill.

One movie that should make a must-see list of suspense thrillers has also been made by a Chopra, though no relation to B.R. As a fresh graduate of FTII, Vidhu Vinod Chopra dabbled in mystery and suspense thrillers, with his first two movies, *Murder on Monkey Hill* and *Sazaye Maut*, revealing a strong grasp on the structure of the genre. His third movie *Khamosh* plays out as a whodunit (or a couple of whodunits) in a film shooting unit where members turn up dead at periodic intervals. The movie was unusual in several respects. First, while the movie starred numerous well known names such as Shabana Azmi and Naseeruddin Shah, these characters played fictional versions of themselves. Second, enabled in part by its movie-within-a-movie format, it blurred fiction and realism of film industry issues such as the casting couch and cut throat competition. In spite of the Agatha Christie-inspired element of multiple crimes converging in the same story, the movie successfully establishes itself in an Indian context. Finally, and without giving away the ending, the movie with all its share of red herrings gets the conclusion right. The murderer is revealed to be someone who is clever and cold-blooded, but neither psychopathic nor blood thirsty. Chopra's depiction of the 'villain' as neither outright evil (or mentally ill) nor *gareeb aur lachaar* is particularly praiseworthy.



Along those lines, a movie worth a watch is the Keshu Ramsay directed *Khoj*. Keshu was one of the five Ramsay brothers, famous nay notorious for being the custodians of horror cinema in India. What *Khoj* lacks in horror or supernatural elements, it more than makes up with plot points inspired by thrillers adorning innumerable W. H. Wheeler book-stalls at our railway stations. The production values, crisp editing and sincerity of the main actors such as Naseeruddin Shah, Danny Denzongpa and Rishi Kapoor, elevate an otherwise inconsequential movie into an engrossing tale. The story revolves around the missing wife of the protagonist and the...oh, well the rest will

certainly lead you to untangling the puzzle. The movie does have songs, but these contribute to the story and the suspense and are unlikely to be fast-forwarded for being sheer waste of time. many ways, *Khoj* illustrates the challenges facing movies in this genre. Mystery-suspense thrillers that do not rely on heavy infusions of comedy, tragedy, romance or action, still must project their characters as being acceptable for those other genres. Thus, in one analysis, *Kanoon* may be classified as being socially relevant, *Khamosh* as being a masala entertainer and *Khoj* as escapist rubbish.

In the end, having songs or not is only secondary. *Kanoon* is possibly the first Hindi talkie without songs (in reply to the trivia question posed at the beginning). The Raj Khosla directed trilogy (*Woh Kaun Thi*, *Anita* and *Mera Saaya*) had umpteen jewels including the Lata Mangeshkar-Madan Mohan creations *Naina Barase Rimjhim Rimjhim* and *Tu Jahan Jahan Chalega*. However, these commercially successful movies were also genuine suspense-mystery thrillers. For a country whose cinema so emphatically straddles realism and escapism, the *hatke* mystery-suspense thriller provides an unparalleled view of the industry's strengths and frailties. And that *Drishyam* is *paisa-vasool* entertainment!

- Prof Bhaskar Datta

Obituaries

We are sorry for the sudden death of the two-month-old IITGN green rickshaws.

Death of the omnipresent IITGN passive cooling system. Hopeful reincarnation - Friday the 13th.

We mourn the death of basic human necessities in the campus—flush, ATM, geysers, Indian toilets, city life.

Could Dadri incident be viewed in isolation?

A lot is being written on the recent lynching of Mohamad Akhlaq in Bisara village of Dadri, Uttar Pradesh. The attacks on Akhlaq and his family took place after an announcement about his family storing and consuming beef. While I am swallowing the well researched, eloquent articles appearing in newspapers, magazines and blogs written on the issue, I still remain unsatisfied and persuade myself to take the path of questioning the recent happenings. This may be my own bias, since I have taken this incident too personally. I am grappling hard to understand the incident not through the lens of history, sociology or political science but through the lens of everyday lived experiences.

The other day, I was having non-veg food in the mess, sitting besides a vegetarian friend who said, "I don't have any problem in sitting besides people who are having *non-veg*, it's totally fine. They are free to have whatever they want." Appreciating the act of benevolence of this well meaning friend, I was sunk in thoughts as to how this statement of 'not having any problem' thrown at me, created a certain kind of hierarchy. An hierarchy which reminded me of the "tolerance" the friend showed towards my food habits. Almost as if his food habits are something that are beyond questioning or "natural" and mine are not questioned or treated at par with him due to his "liberal" values. This "naturalness" that we ascribe to vegetarian food, makes it unimaginable for any kind of food consumer (veg or non-veg) to say, "I don't have any problem in sitting besides people who are having *veg*, it's totally fine. They are free to have whatever they want." This "naturalness" comes with a certain notion of "purity" attached to vegetarianism. Vegetarian consumption through these subtle gestures seems to us as the one which is "prescribed" and indulgence in non-vegetarian food as the one which is "occasional" or something that is "tolerated" by our vegetarian friends. The mainstreamisation of veg and the Othering of non-veg is thus normalized.

Students in educational institutes all over India have been protesting against his systemic preference given to vegetarianism. There is a considerable amount of institutionalisation of vegetarian food through various state financed educational institutes and offices. Our institute which is also a state apparatus, through subtle ways promotes the consumption of vegetarian food. Our institute din-

ners, for example, the recently organised freshers party dinner, did not have non-veg on its menu. Some may be quick to point out logistical inconveniences of offering non veg in the state of Gujarat and the economics related to it. However, these arguments proves the point further that how these ideologies are manifested at the regional level where the state systematically 'others' non-veg food making it inaccessible by playing out religious politics or simply giving a demand-supply argument. These unkempt conditions of access, economics and supply of non-veg created by the state, informs everyday decisions of an institute like ours and consequently affects its students. It is a cyclical process where all these layers of society are influenced by each other. Agreed, that per plate market cost of non-veg is more than veg, but are we talking about mere economics here? Our institute consists of students and faculty members from diverse backgrounds, and for many of them non veg constitutes as a staple part of their diet. What we call as an "Institute" dinner, which should ideally incorporate the needs of its diverse population, can it be called as one?

Meanwhile, in Ban -Industan



I want to point out that this issue of food policing is not merely economic but an ideological one, where the domination of a particular ideology creates economic unviability for consumption of certain kind of food. The particular kind of brahmanisation of our country trickles down to all its apparatuses and the arguments of economics, access and logistics seems to be unquestionable. How is this systemic, structural violence different from the physical violence perpetrated on Akhlaq? The politics of food, as to 'who should eat what', is just about where we draw the line. Today it is beef, tomorrow it may be something else. Today the issue is cemented with religion, someday with something else. My comparison of everyday food politics with the Dadri incident may seem as an extrapolation, but to me, both are the symptoms of the same disease.

- Noopur Joshi

Straight from the Nerd Department: "Online Privacy"

Apps and Browsers to help you browse more privately

Most of you might have heard about incidents of government surveillance on personal data and censorship on various websites, which they think are not "good" for the people. But there is always a trick around all kind of blocks. Well, the service which helps any internet user to maintain an online privacy or access blocked websites is generally referred to as VPN. VPN stands for Virtual Private Networks, because it helps the users to send and receive data to anyone else on the web in such a manner that it will look as if both the devices are connected to each other directly in their own personal network although they might be from different continents.

But these VPN creates some disadvantages for service providers which are region specific. For e.g., people use VPNs to pretend as if they are using internet from USA and can use services like Spotify, Google Play Music Manager, Netflix etc which are not available for Indian users. Many YouTube videos are also region specific and people misuse VPN services for watching those videos.



VPN App for Simplicity Lovers: Tunnelbear:

Tunnelbear is one of the best tool for online privacy and freedom for those who don't want to get into pain of setting up their own VPN. It is currently available for four platforms: Windows, Mac OS X, Android and iOS. Currently, they provide two protocols: OpenVPN and IPSec (only for iOS users).

It is really easy to use. Just download the app, register with an email ID and you are good to go. But on the downside, the free membership gets you only 500 MB per month with additional 1 GB per month if you help them market their app by sending a tweet.

Conclusion:

Pros:

- Simplicity
- Ads blocking and erasing your online footprint
- It's servers are spread around the globe

Cons:

- Personal details stored including credit card details for those who buy the app
- P2P not allowed

(Continued on page XII)

(Continued from page XI)

- Speed is quite low when in the range of 10-20 Mbps
- They use only 2 protocols and OpenVPN can't be customized to connect using other ports or use UDP instead of TCP. UDP gives a much better speed compared to TCP
- Bitcoin accepted only for yearly payments.

TunnelBear VPN is perfectly suitable for users who are looking for a simple and easy to use VPN. This service is not at all for those who seek for higher powers and full control on their VPN.



P2P allowed

Cons:

- Geo-IP workaround is not as secure as physical server switching
- Keeps logs for a long time
- No BitCoin. Only PayPal and Credit Card payments.
- Pricing is high compared to some major rivals
- Only UDP OpenVPN on two ports

VyprVPN is a very solid VPN service provider. While there are some things which are not so good their service, overall it's a great value for the money. It's not the cheapest one you can find, but it is one of the few "Premium" VPN services available these days.

VPN App for Customization Freaks: VyprVPN

VyprVPN is currently the best VPN for high end customers according to top reviewers. VyprVPN hosts more than 700 servers worldwide with no traffic limitation of any particular server and is recommended for those who need highly customized selection in VPN.

VyprVPN supports PPTP, L2TP/IPSEC and OpenVPN protocols. OpenVPN is available with two encryption ciphers namely 128-bit BF-CBC and 256-bit AES-CBC. Both of them use UDP and port 1194 and 443 for the later. They use all three major protocols for connectivity and cover most devices and platforms. VyprVPN works on Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, iOS and Android.

The main functional difference between VyprVPN and other VPNs is the method of assigning IPs and locations. They do a geo-location trick by assigning IPs from several countries to servers physically located in other countries. So most of the time, the customer gets connected to the Netherlands server and will get the IP of any other country they want.

Due to the use of this non-conventional method, you get the advantage of achieving the same bandwidth speed regardless of country you connect to, if that country IPs are assigned in the main cluster such as Netherlands. But on the other hand, if the datacenter faces some problem, all "countries" will have problems and the latency increases if you just want to use a server from your "own country" or a neighbour one.

Conclusion:

Pros:

- Many VPN locations across the globe, even if not all of them are physical locations
- Good software for most popular OSes (Win, Mac, iOS and Android)
- Good speeds, reliable connections

Best Search Engine for Online Privacy: DuckDuckGo

Obviously mostly of you use the phrase "Google it" or "Bing it", but these Search giants have been alleged for using their market influence to manipulate the search results according to their "partnership" needs. Recently Google India had been accused by CCI for abusing the rankings of internet search results.



DuckDuckGo

So if you are concerned about the manipulated search results and privacy issues of these search giants, maybe you should try DuckDuckGo.

DuckDuckGo (DDG) is a search engine which emphasizes on Privacy and doesn't track any personal data. DDG generates its search results from key crowdsourced sites like Wikipedia and from partnerships with other search engines like Yandex, Yahoo and Yummly.

Two main reasons for using DDG over others:

No tracking - Google, Yahoo! and Bing track you all the time to give you "personalized" search results, DDG doesn't.

Easy shortcuts: For example, typing "!images IITGn" directs you to a Image Search for IITGn; "!yt IITGn" gives you YouTube results, "!wiki" gives you a Wikipedia page, etc.

DDG even has Android and iOS apps and you can replace DDG as your default search engine in all the browsers, Android OS and iOS.

- Karma Patel



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