



Y-Point

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Letter from IIT Bombay

ALUMNI CONTRIBUTIONS

by Prof. S.L.N. Murthy

Let me, at the outset, emphasize that this small piece has a broader canvass than [financial contributions/donations](#) !



On September 26th we had an alumni gathering in the city (at the Institution of Engineers' building at Haji Ali) at which Prof. Isaac (now adviser to NIIT whose shares are becoming a part of the Bombay Stock Exchange Index) spoke to the Alumni. Prof. Isaac, talked formally about some facets of IT in the Indian educational and training context. Inevitably, Prof. Isaac turned to his first love - student activity at IIT Bombay. What ensued was a bit of nostalgia, specifically concerning student initiatives in the sixties, seventies and possibly a part of the eighties - be it staging of plays in the city (and the pranks which followed) or the sense of entrepreneurship shown (Prof. Isaac shared the secret that his by-now- famous-car was sold to him by an IIT student!). The old timers among the faculty and the alumni feel that life on campus has become somewhat prosaic. May be this is one facet the alumni of yesteryears' can address - by finding sometime to come down to IIT, and share with the current students their secret recipes which permitted all the fun, enterprise and enjoyment, amidst academics.

For those of you who are academically inclined, and willing to venture into a career in teaching and research, opportunities will be plenty! Your Institute is embarking on a move to provide the benefit of IIT Bombay education to a larger number (we are targeting a total student population of around 4700 in four years' time as against the current 3500 or so) and faculty requirements could go up to 575 - from the current 375 or so. The first and second generation IIT Bombay faculty (many of whom were also IITB alumni - M.Techs and Ph.Ds) are fast disappearing (age catches up even in the ever-green IIT B environment!), and surely you don't want it that IIT B alumni amongst the faculty of the Institute, should get included in the endangered species list!

The work is challenging (including getting the B.Techs, to attend lectures - especially in the 8th semester - without having to invite their attention to the rules governing the award of XX grades!), the ambience free and friendly, the opportunities numerous, and the pay package not all that unfriendly if you consider the consultancy opportunities. Most importantly you don't have to commute to work - something which has become an invaluable plus point when you consider the current status of urban transportation in Mumbai. Add to this an opportunity to participate in building the IIT B of your dreams. This apart, I am sure that departments would be delighted to have our alumni assist in the form of visiting faculty, and share with the current students their professional experiences, expertise and perceptions, and, if alumni are so inclined, they could even do some serious teaching in practice-oriented courses.

The Institute will soon have a full fledged alumni cell - the establishment of which is our priority. We hope to network our alumni spread across the globe - and this needs inputs from alumni

about current activities, interests and mailing addresses. Considering the status of the database with which we started a few years ago, we have made reasonable progress, but this will have to take on the shape of a movement - with each alumnus taking on the task of locating at least another five who may have lost touch with the Institute. We wish to keep you informed about the happenings in the Institute and equally importantly, take pride in your successes and achievements. There are also numerous efforts at networking in various parts of the world - thanks to our active alumni.

There are also plans on for generating systems for greater involvement of Alumni in shaping IIT B of the next millenium and this makes it all the more essential to network effectively. All that we need are inputs for networking.!

I guess I should stop here. A [formal report on Alumni Contributions](#) of the other kind is being sent separately and may be found elsewhere in Y-point.

Sd/- (S.L. Narayana Murthy)

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October 30, 1998

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Editorial

Progress Report for 1998

by [Ram V. Kelkar \(B. Tech. \(EE\) 80 / H2\)](#)

In my editorial for the Summer 1998 Issue of Y-Point, I remember ending with a wishful comment to the effect that "while we may not raise millions like Wharton, let us at least raise a quarter million by year-end 1998 ..."



I am delighted to report that we have an excellent chance of not only meeting this goal but far exceeding it. The IIT Bombay Heritage Fund has received several significant commitments from alumni and is now undertaking a major fundraising drive to end 1998 on a high note. What is necessary to have a breakthrough this year is an effort from each and every one of you reading this page to pitch in and help ...

I think it would be fair to say that 1998 was a seminal year for the IIT Bombay Heritage Fund and for Alumni Activities ... indeed for IIT Bombay itself. We now have over 50-60 active volunteers busy on various tasks such as creating fundraising brochures, organizing events, meeting with alumni, building and enhancing the alumni database and doing all the other work needed to build an organization. A major event is planned in the San Francisco Bay Area on November 8th, where an announcement of a major donation from a distinguished alumnus will be announced to be followed by a major fundraising effort for the year end.

1998 is also significant for us from my perspective since many IITians from the 1960s and 1970s, and some from the 1980s too, have finally made it to the very top in their chosen fields of endeavor. In companies ranging from hi-tech to academics to industry to finance to management consulting, IITians have reached positions of prominence to the point that it has attracted the attention of the international press, and that of senior decision makers and recruiters at companies across the world.

The successes are a proof of what we all knew in our hearts as we think about our unique experiences in Powai ... that we had the privilege and the fortune to have spent our formative years in the company of many extraordinary young people representing the very best of India's schools. And that experience has helped us become successful in our own lives.

I will end by appealing as usual to all of you to stop and think about how you can help the institution that has given so much to you ... even \$100 from each of us per year could easily raise over \$200-250,000 if we also ensure that our employers match the contributions. Please take a moment to send in your tax deductible contributions to the IIT Bombay Heritage Fund. All it takes is a check and a first-class stamp ... the address is Treasurer, [IIT Bombay Heritage Fund](#), 10489 Rampart Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014.

Interview

Victor Menezes (BTech EE 70 / H8)

by [Ram Kelkar \(BTech EE 80 / H2\)](#)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
November 3, 1998

NEW YORK -- Victor J. Menezes is the rarest of corporate creatures: a Citicorp survivor. A 26-year veteran of that company and its notoriously brutal corporate culture, Mr. Menezes this weekend was handed a tough new job as co-head of the global-investment and corporate bank, with Michael A. Carpenter, at the recently formed Citigroup Inc. The move came as part of a surprise restructuring that prompted the departure of Citigroup President -- and onetime heir apparent -- James Dimon. A native of Pune, India, Mr. Menezes received a degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in 1970 and a master's of science in finance and economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology two years later. He has worked at Citibank ever since.

Q: What were your first thoughts on learning about your new position ?

A: Overwhelming ... there is quite a lot to do in terms of bringing these two organizations together.

Q: What are the most vivid memories you have of your days at IIT Bombay ?

A: Hostel 8, Powai Lake, gymkhana ... the Debating Society, the first Mood Indigo ... editing Technik and representing IIT in debating ... playing basketball and soccer. We were the first residents of Hostel 8 which was still under construction then.

Q: What do you value most from your IIT experience ?

A: A combination of pretty hard work ... rigorous work, and connecting with a variety of people from different backgrounds and cultures. IIT was clearly an important experience in my life in learning to deal with a variety of people which is critical in the world of business today.

Q: Where did you earn your first paycheck and how did you celebrate ?

A: Rs. 2000 a month in Bombay ... I took my parents out for dinner in a Chinese restaurant.

Q: What were some of the setbacks you had to overcome on the road to success?

A: Working in a lot of difficult situations ... Hong Kong when the real estate and stock market collapsed, Latin America in the LDC debt crisis, restructuring Citibank's consumer operations in Europe.

Q: What does your success allow you to do that you couldn't do before?

A: It gives you the confidence to deal with situations and come up with solutions ... it doesn't set you free since you end up working more !



Q: How do you relate to other IITians today ?

A: I am in touch with a variety of them, but not as much as I would like to ... we need to network more. I relate to IIT Bombay people across the board ... I was involved in a lot of extra-curricular activities.

Q: What message would you send to the IIT Bombay administration ?

A: IIT has a terrific brand name and reputation and with the alumni doing so well all over the world, it is very important to preserve that ... continuing to invest and produce world-class alumni is what it's all about.

Q: What do you think are the responsibilities of the alumni?

A: It is a two-way street ... IIT needs to reach out to the alumni, and the alumni have to show their interest. Most successful philanthropic or funding efforts begin with creating a personal bond between the individual and the institution which then translates to a financial activity.

Q: Who were the most influential people in your life ?

A: Dad (Manuel) - he was my inspiration to join IIT and retired as the Chairman of the Indian Railways, Mom (Nina), Tara, my wife, for putting up with me ! And John Reed.

Q: What's new and interesting in your own family life outside work ?

A: My eldest daughter just graduated from Harvard and is now working as an equity trader on Wall Street. I have three other children ...

Teenies :

Favorite hangout	Gymkhana and Y-Point
Studiosness rating	7
Most dreaded Professor	Prof. M.S. Kamath
Most dreaded course	Kamath's course
Ragging experience	None - H8 was a new hostel
Favorite mess food	Masala Dosa
Favorite book	Lawrence Durrell - "The Alexandria Quartet"
Currently reading	Octavio Paz - "In Light of India"
Favorite vacation spot	Italy ... Tuscany and Umbria
Favorite cartoon strip	Wizard of Id
Golf handicap	Don't play golf ... I play tennis

rticle

25th Year Reunion at IIT : A personal account

by Dilip Ahuja _____

About a hundred of us attended the 25th year reunion at IIT Bombay on December 21st, 1997. Each of us came away with valid impressions. One sketchy personal account of the event follows,

written primarily for those who could not make it, to convey to them some of the flavour of that gathering.

Most of us arrived through the portico in the main building. The first thing we noticed there weren't any carps swimming where we were used to seeing them, testifying no doubt to the difficulty of maintaining a stagnant body of water in tropical climes. Climbing the stairs we came to the registration area in front of the notice boards. All of us were given white T-shirts to wear with the IIT logo, partly to aid recognition and partly for the same reason school uniforms are favoured.

All of us milled around in the area surrounding the registration desk. This provided opportunity for first contact, handshakes, hugs, questions and sometimes disbelief. The questions were generally similar, relating to career paths and families. It was remarkable how in some instances, recognition was instantaneous even when we had not thought about another for 25 years. Having been his guinea pig in an experiment on hypnotism, I was happy to see Dinesh Arya again. Recognition wasn't always mutual. Some of us had changed much, having grayed, lost lots of hair, and more than amply replaced the loss with so much adipose tissue that recognition became difficult. Ashok Mulani couldn't believe it was Khandekar that he was meeting, and they were once roommates. All of us missed not seeing some who didn't make it. I had hoped to run into Vijay Kalanjee.

"Do you know what Bhaskar is doing these days?" Sankar asked me.

"I believe he is in Madras writing poetry."

Suspecting a hint of disapproval in my reply, Sankar retorted, "As long as he is happy, we ought not to be judgmental."

"Absolutely."

IIT had organized several events for alumni during the morning before lunch. Visits to the campus, to Powai lake, to IIT's website. We were so engrossed in exchanging notes that these events were grossly under-subscribed. Later I was told that they were intended for the families of other alumni (non-25-year ones). As at any good party, groups formed and dissolved. Someone asked Bongo (Sarin) if he was still living in the States. "No, I came back in 1975. I went there for the same reason as people who watch Baywatch. Once that was accomplished, I came back." As we were being joined by Noorjehan, looking more gorgeous than ever, Bongo chimed: "Oh there's Noor, the object of all our fantasies." While demurring that it was not quite true, Noor did compliment Bongo on the sexiness of his wife.

The lunch was in a shamiana put up in front of the lecture theatre. The food as always was forgetful and the conversations more interesting. Professor Isaac recounted to Ashok Mulani how he once had a student who coaxed the Russian Minsk-II computer to play tick-tac-toe, not realizing it was Ashok who-done-it. Lunch was followed by the main "function". Gita flawlessly delivered a carefully scripted welcome address and Daffy was the master of ceremonies, having had the benefit of attending a similar re-union the previous year. By virtue of his prolonged separation anxiety from the Institute, he will have the benefit of attending at least three more consecutive silver reunions. As MC, Daffy was superb.

The 25-year old alumni were upstaged by the 10-year olds. The 1987 batch, flourishing mostly in Silicon Valley, first presented a cheque for a million rupees to the Institute. Their bonds to the Institute are perhaps stronger and the credit they give the Institute for their current well-being greater. The Director, Professor Suhas Sukhatme made a (fairly typical) glowing speech about the Institute's accomplishments, potential and promise, to which Daffy had the perfect one-liner. "I had no idea that I had gone to such a nice institution."

The afternoon was a celebration of the divergent paths that boys of our batch had taken. The girls seemed to have followed fairly straightforward and predictable patterns. There were boys from our batch who were manufacturing and selling children's garments, fruit drinks, installing swimming pools in the middle east, and breeding race horses. (What Maclai has single-handedly done was not included in the list.) Coupled with the fact that everyone in the little group at hostel that I was a part of chose non-engineering careers (computer science, math, physics, public health) one was tempted to hold forth on recommending increasing the generalist content in IIT undergraduate curriculum. However, it was impressive how many of our batch-mates were now running engineering firms of their own. The education they had received had quite obviously had seemed to serve them well.

The highlight of this function was the result of a survey (undertaken soon after registration) of the wives who had come with their IIT husbands. The overwhelming majority felt our defining characteristic was our lack of modesty. It is unbelievable how many of us think ourselves to be God's very own gift to the world.

After the function we were all invited to go to our respective hostels for tea. The walk to the hostels was pleasant. It was a cloudy and cool December evening. The walk seemed a lot shorter than it did 30 years ago when we felt life in IIT without bikes was unlivable. The hostels were in a much worse shape than the main buildings and it was easy to see why funds for their upkeep were required. The tea was boiling hot, still served in steel cups, and only slightly less insipid than it used to be. I found myself sitting next to Daffy.

"Is the young lady sitting next to you your daughter?" I asked him.

"Yes."

"She is really movie-star quality beautiful."

"She has been asked a few times but has turned down offers to act in films," Daffy replied, "one has to get one's fundas straight, then one can sell shirts, build swimming pools and breed horses."

Later there was a dinner for us, which provided more opportunities for continuing our conversations. Gita introduced me to her daughter.

"This is Ahuja."

"Pleased to meet you" she said as we shook hands, "I have heard so much about you".

"That's unlikely, there is Ahuja-the-superior from our class who is more talked about, I am the inferior one." A sheepish grin gave Gita away.

Later, while standing next to Professor Bedford in a line for dinner I said to him to start a conversation: "I believe you taught us field theory".

"In that case, tell me what is the curl of a field."

"It is represented by an 'X', more than that I couldn't have told you on the day I graduated."

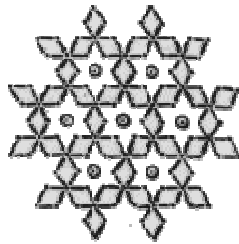
"I was just pulling your leg."

It was all good fun. The dinner was followed by a variety entertainment program (the nondescript variety). Several of the non-Bombay visitors were going to stay overnight in the staff hostel. As on weekends during my tenure there, I made an exit. I couldn't help noticing that students from outside Bombay had bonded more effectively than those of us who decamped from the Institute on weekends. As I was leaving, it struck me how very articulate everyone was that day. One could have had an intelligent conversation with just about anyone from our batch, or any batch for that matter. The lack of modesty never ceases.

Article

Rangoli in the time of Unix

by Ms. Suranga Date



The monsoon just shying away from the Konkan belt, and the campus glistens a natural green in the sunlight. Roads look unnaturally clean, since the *Roaming Cows* have not set their eyes on them as yet. Thats wonderful, because Dussera is upon us, and its that time of the year, when all the PC's , servers, UPS's, line printers, in our lab , get, what can very kindly be described as a "*flick of the cloth*".

Recall the days of the Russian system *EC 1030*....generations got their B.techs , Mtechs and Ph.D's , all the while engaging in guerilla warfare with the existing hardware, software, not to forget humanware associated with it. *Dussera poojawas* when Prof J. R. Issac , accompanied by those who worked those machines daily, came in , and broke a coconut in front of the CPU, the vermilion and marigold-strewn card readers, printers, tape drives and disk controllers looking on indulgently. (Certain observers of the proceedings, looking through the glass from the outside, would have probably and fervently hoped that the coconut would break *ON the CPU*.....!). Everyone appeared as if by magic , at the time of Prasad, which was bits of coconut scraped/cut out of the whole with the help of strip of metal, that originally was a respected part of the card reader.

Then came what everybody then called *Microprocessors*. PC was still a short form for Public Call. Various labs had these small machines, and Dassera puja simply got Decentralized. Everybody organised their Lab's pooja, and sort of sauntered over to the Old Ec-1030 room for tea and "light" snacks. For old-times sake, the coconut was still broken in the computer hall. Maybe this sort of "initialised" the rat network that operated below the false flooring.

The Golden Age really happened when we got our first Unix system. Folks started talking of Node 1, Node 2, monitors..... the computer hall got partitioned into a "Console Room" , zealously guarded by those who earlier policed the EC-1030. There was an equitable mix of humans and machines in the computer hall. *Dussera pooja* took longer now as there were more terminals to

decorate, more keyboards to sprinkle vermilion on, and more chairs to navigate thru in the hall. Computing was getting more humanised.

Our *finest years* were obviously when we got our Unix system V machine which was named Kailash. The earlier system was scrapped and one fine day, EC-1030 and other unused stuff actually got carted away in a truck, never to be decorated for Dussera again.....(sniff).

Someone once overestimated the number of tea drinkers in the department one Dussera, and we sent a broadcast message over the system about "free" tea being available in the corridor outside. The constructively interfering scrape of Software lab chairs, followed by a mass exodus of students into the corridor, was a credit to the IIT students single minded devotion to certain things.

We are now in the *New Computer Sciences building*. Very big, very roomy, we have several systems now, but Kailash plods on, somewhat like an aging patriarch, presiding over "these modern new fangled types". The number of machines and terminals, that are decorated has increased drastically. There are also a lot more different labs in the building, with a larger variety of hardware.

Sometimes one feels it is all getting out of control. Too vast. Too BIG.....

So it was with a sense of wonderment that one ventured out of the lab this Dussera, to observe a bunch of students of our department doing a *Rangoli* at our Department entrance..... decently large, and with potted plants placed strategically to curb any enthusiastic types from charging out of the Softwarelab and messing it up..... Mango leaf torans at the entrance with marigolds, all the PC's inside preening with their flower power, keyboards shrugging off the occasional vermilion dust across their face.

And the HOD announcing that the puja would be done by our Office Superintendent, as the eldest person. There was a whiff of agarbatti's, and all our servers shared in that. A mild refreshing sprinkle of coconut water, must have got those megahertz into a wild state...and *then there was Music!*

The students of the Computer Science and Engineering association (CSEA) sang a Saraswati Aradhana, (didn't know these engineers could sing so well). If Kailash, Nilgiri, Everest, Bhishma, Vindhya, and other servers of our lab had feelings (I am not sure they don't:-)), they would probably crash and reboot with joy!

A nice cup of tea and a plate of snacks later, courtesy the CSEA, technology ceases to look threatening, and humans loom larger than ever.... In this age of faster and faster machines, quicker and quicker responses, smarter and smarter users, it's nice to know that in IIT Mumbai, our students still remember that big *SYSTEM ROOT*, up there, and celebrate the day with tradition, music, flowers and color.

rticle

Bollygeet Masala

by Shrikant "Ouch" Awalegaonkar (B Tech 1979 / H5)

Editor's note : Ouch and his band were a highlight at Mood Indigo in the 1970s

Bollywood Beatniks in action ... we were thinking about what to call the 'sound' that we were creating. We were taking old Hindi film songs, the ones with golden melodies and poetic lyrics, and re-inventing them, so to speak. The music is colored with jazz, blues, funk, rock and swing, all very American, and contemporary.

The first thought was to call it 'fusion' music. But again, the term 'fusion' brings to mind the kind of music that reminds one of a mixture of oil and water, where barring a few rare cases, East and West do not really blend.

Finally, after reading about how Hollywood has influenced the many aspects of Indian life and entertainment, with terms such as Bollywood and Bollychat respectfully sprinkled among filmi gossip, Bollygeet just seemed to pop out of the head! It was perfect! A taste of old Hindi songs spiced up with a funky jazz-rock swing.. Bollygeet Masala!

In the end, one cannot but acknowledge the talent that drove the creators of these eternal classics to such great heights. It is on shoulders of giants such as Naushad, Salil Chowdhury, O.P.Nayyar, Madan Mohan, Shankar Jaikishen, S.D.Burman, and others that careers of countless individuals have flourished. Even after so many years, these songs still have in them that something special, which inspires..

'Bollygeet Beatniks' somehow seem to capture all of this. And we are..

Sumita Singh (on Babuji Dheere Chalna & Hawle Hawle Havai Dole). Be it shinin' or rainin', if you do find her, she'd be rockin' or swingin'!

Chandu Ketkar (on Jawani Aye Maste Maste Bin Piye & Yeh Desh Hai Veer Jawano Ka). The bluest of the blues get bluesier once Chandu takes the lead as the crooner.

Swati Kanitkar (on Zara Holle Holle Chalo Moray Saajana & Aap Ki Nazarone Samjha). Her voice pours forth like an endless stream, soft as silk, and rich as cream.

Raj Nijjar (on Maye Ni Maye Mere). This intense and soulful vocalist connects instantly!. The poetry flows as he soars effortlessly.

Anita Kulkarni (on Jiya Beqaraar Hai & Jawan Hai Muhabbat). Sounds like wind dancing on wings of butterflies.. light as a feather, clear as the sky..

Gananath Moharir (on Manzil Wohi Hai Pyar Ki). An excellent musician who sings rarely, he renders this hypnotic tune superbly.

Ajay Divekar [H7 '92] (on Rima Jhima Geere Sawan). Cool and composed his singing goes, elegantly, with a touch of gold.

Devi Giri (on Hansta Hua Noorani Chehera & Jaa Re Udja Re Panchi). The edge in her vocals cut thru the sound, like lightning splicing the clouds.

Shrikant (Ouch) Awalegaonkar (on Suhana Safar, Wahan Kaun Hai Tera, & Diwali Blues).

We have created and programmed all arrangements using synthesizers and sequencers on a desktop music workstation. It has taken almost 50-60 hours for each tune not counting the

numerous recording sessions each lasting several hours, with the whole project taking over 18 months ! The search for perfection has indeed been elusive. Creating this has been an intensely personal and gratifying experience, and we are profoundly satisfied with the result. We have tried to create a mood and a style that flows smoothly from song to song, keeping the pace while generally preserving the refreshing and uplifting ambience. The atmosphere could be described as happy and intimate, one that goes especially well while driving on long distance trips, having an after dinner chat with close friends and family, or just quietly listening while relaxing or reading. Given the chance, it is certain to grow on you, pleasantly.

Although this is our first CD and still a hobby, we have taken this with utmost seriousness, and we would dearly like to share it with all you music lovers. To that end, it is available for listening purposes at the CD Jukebox of www.broadcast.com. And if any of you are interested in having a copy, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at shrikant@erols.com

Article

How green is our campus ...

by Ms. Aruna Thosar-Dixit, PRO (IIT Bombay)

Its the tail end of the monsoon here at the IIT Campus. One of the loveliest of times, as, except for a few light showers, a blue and clean sky covers our thickly wooded campus, the hills are still green and the Powai lake still abundantly full. I can go on about the butterflies flitting about and birds... but you'll say desist, we get the picture. You must blame this rhapsody of the natural beauties of the Campus on the the location of my office, (3rd floor Main Building) which to my benefit has the best view from the main building and is to the disadvantage of visitors who have to trek 3 floors up to the public relations office.

I may be biased, but the fact remains that the 520 acres of land given to IIT for its campus at Powai in 1958, was unique. Unique because it was a piece of land encircling on one side the Powai lake, on another side it was bordered by undulating hills and the Vihar lake. It had marshy land, gentle slopes, steep gradients - a variation in terrain plus rich vegetation making for a picturesque and unique location.

In the four decades of its existence as the IIT Campus, the green cover on this land has increased. Staff and students who lived here in the 1st decade, on visiting recently, have commented on the large trees and abundant greenery everywhere. How has this been possible, when there has been equal development of academic, hostel, residential and other built up areas, besides roads, and grounds and parking sites?

One reason has been that a conscious effort in planning has been made to preserve the natural assets and strike a balance. Recent examples - while building the new faculty multistorey residence not a single tree was cut; when the School of Management building was started, at least 6 large trees were carefully transplanted and are flourishing. The result is that even in the inhabited areas, the spaces between buildings and along the roads have thick vegetation.

In IIT's master plan, there is an area of about 56 acres, along the Powai lake, behind staff hostel and hostels 8 and 9, which is earmarked as conserved land. They have called it "eco self sustaining zone". This site is probably one of the few pieces of land in Mumbai, which still retains its original natural forest cover. The Bombay Natural History Society regularly arranges bird

watching and nature treks in this area.

Every year, IIT holds a "Vanamahotsav" during which a tree planting drive is initiated. It was during one such festival that four acres of land behind hostel 3 was prepared and cultivated as a medicinal plants nursery with over 90 varieties of trees, plants, creepers of medicinal value. Last year, teak saplings were planted on the lower hill slopes. And this year, a malodorous wasteland area in front of the faculty residential building called "Whitehouse", was cleared and leveled and planted with gulmohur, indian laburnum, festal palm and other saplings.

Then, there are the cultivated areas (some artistically, some usefully, some 'wildly') around the academic buildings, hostels, hospital, guest house, et al. The staff members residing on ground floor of a residence, lay claim to a portion of the land, fence it off untidily but picturesque and a delightful village-like backyard develops of coconut and banana, rose and mogra, drumstick and cudipatta. There are residential gardens in IIT Campus, where the mango, coconut, jackfruit, jammun, amla or badam tree planted years ago by one resident is bearing fruit now to the enjoyment of the present resident.

Sound idyllic? It is, particularly in comparison to Mumbai city, which is now only a boundry wall away. In our official literature we have claimed that we have increased the green cover, rich in flora and fauna. The claim is justified and the leopards visiting the Campus so freely certainly seem to think so!
