



# Y-Point

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Letter from IIT Bombay

**LOOKING FORWARD TO 1999 ...**

by Prof. S.L.N. Murthy

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February 4, 1999

Dear Friends,

Let me begin by wishing all of you a very successful, satisfying and rewarding 1999.

As we look back on the year just gone by, we are filled with a deep sense of satisfaction over the recognition the Institute achieved during 1998. On all counts - be it in terms of the quality of education offered, or the quantum and impact of research, or the enthusiasm and commitment of its Alumni towards their Alma mater - we have clearly surged ahead, to occupy the leading position.



The Institute's near total domination in swimming events and in inter IIT sports, and the successes of Mood Indigo and (the experimental) Techfest have provided another dimension to the achievements and recognition. The Alumni day and the batch of 1973 reunion were highly successful events. Undoubtedly, the land mark event of 1998 was the flying start given to the School of Information Technology. Besides these, the Institute received significant funding for establishing a Centre for Aerospace Systems Design and Engineering, and, a pilot experimental facility for thermal hydraulic instability studies in boiling systems.

The most notable fall outs of efforts initiated during the previous year will be the Masters' degree programme in Information Technology, and a post-graduate diploma programme for working professionals. This year, the School of Management is doubling its intake in the Master's programme, besides starting a Masters' programme for working professionals, run on weekends.

As we look forward to consolidation of our position of primacy, and growth in key areas, we need to address some emerging concerns. The undergraduate student inputs to IIT Bombay continue to be of the highest quality, but the major metros domination as well as (relative) family affluence are clearly on the wane. It might soon turn out that even the modest tuition fees charged could generate affordability problems to twenty-five to thirty percent of the students. Several proposals are being examined, and we need to converge soon on a couple of feasible solutions.

A second major challenge ahead of us concerns the continuous modernization and upgradation of teaching laboratories. The departments are deep in the 'thought mode' on this issue, and we will have to initiate concrete steps very soon - if we are to retain and enhance our quality of education - and actively seek funding from a number of sources. These new challenges, besides other identified ones such as infrastructure, will keep us on our toes, and one cannot see many dull days ahead!! We are sure that with the level enthusiasm and collective efforts which are emerging, "we shall overcome", and march ahead.

With best wishes in all your efforts,

Yours sincerely,

S.L. Narayana Murthy  
Dean (Resource Development)  
IIT Bombay

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Editorial

### **Tryst with Excellence**

by Ram V. Kelkar (B. Tech. (EE) 80 / H2)

The basic premise of the IIT Bombay Heritage Fund is now well established following the financial success of the fundraising efforts in 1998. Yet as we look forward to 1999 and beyond, I am increasingly of the opinion that the strategic objective of the Heritage Fund is not merely to raise money for IIT. Dollars without direction are just that ... what we need is a goal, an objective, which is to build, maintain and enhance the pre-eminence of IIT Bombay as a world-class institution.



In that context, I found Director Sukhatme's comments during the [foundation ceremonies](#) of the School of Information Technology very apt - "IIT has a tryst with excellence," he said, and "we are committed to give the best that we and the nation would be proud of". In an [interview](#) in the [Fall '98](#) issue of Y-Point, Victor Menezes also said much the same, that "continuing to invest and produce world-class alumni is what it's all about".

How best can we consummate our "Tryst with Excellence" ? It will take a joint effort on the part of the IIT Bombay administration, the students and the alumni to establish the goals and priorities. The inputs to this master plan will have to come from a broad array of stakeholders rather than relying on a small group of central planners. We need to learn from world-class institutions such as MIT, Harvard and Wharton, some of which have made concerted efforts in recent years to focus on fundraising plans, not in isolation but in conjunction with significant investments in faculty, equipment and infrastructure.

One of the concerns I have is that we should not focus solely on the "hot" areas that are the current fashion. It is wonderful that IIT Bombay has or will soon have a School of Information Technology and a School of Management. Yet we should not forget that the most valuable thing we got at IIT was a balanced, broad-based curriculum. We gained analytical skills and the ability to solve any problem, and this has allowed IITians to succeed not only as computer scientists but also as management consultants, bankers and money managers. Another concern is that in focusing faculty efforts on raising money from industry and via consulting assignments, we risk losing our best teachers who are demotivated from doing what they do best - which is teach.

I believe that it is especially crucial that alumni voice their opinions and give their suggestions in this matter. Only after many years and decades in industry and academia does one truly get a perspective on what really matters, and one appreciates which part of our IIT educations made a

difference to our lives and careers. Studying and competing with the best and the brightest, under demanding teachers and with the best course materials is what it is all about, and the challenge is in coming up with ideas on how to build and maintain such an institution.

We are in the process of planning a roadshow for Director Sukhatme and Prof. S.L.N. Murthy in Spring '99, and I invite alumni to write to us, to either the [president@iitbombay.org](mailto:president@iitbombay.org) or thewith your ideas on what IIT Bombay should do in its journey to excellence. We will share your ideas with them so that when you meet them, you can hear their plans for 1999 and beyond.

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.

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Interview

### **Parag Saxena (BTech ChE 77)**

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

Parag graduated in 1977 with a BTech in Chemical Engineering, following which he did an MS at the Univ. of West Virginia, a stint in Becton-Dickinson, an MBA from The Wharton School, and a brief stint at Booz, Allen. He began his career in fund management at Citicorp Investment Management in 1982. Following a leveraged buyout of the firm which was renamed Chancellor Capital, Parag ran the \$1.5 billion small-cap fund for 13 years building one of the best small-cap track records. He then headed Chancellor's venture capital effort where his fund's size is \$2.3 billion. Chancellor has been a venture capital investor in companies such as Ascend Communications, CompUSA, HealthSouth, Parexel, Starbucks, etc. Chancellor Capital Management was acquired by INVESCO in 1998 and Parag now heads a subsidiary called INVESCO Private Capital.

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

A: ... endless conversations with IITians about every subject imaginable under the sun. I played a significant role in the first Mood Indigo and have wonderful memories of all of them. Having often acted and debated I have great memories of the lecture theatre and other auditoriums. Walks into the hills and around the lakes are great memories too.

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

A: By far the most valuable thing about the IIT experience was the interaction with all the bright minds



around. The challenging, fascinating multitudinous ideas and discussions was the best part ...

**Q : Both of us are like many other IITians who are working in non-technical fields such as Investment Banking or Consulting ... what value is our engineering education now ?**

A: I think the engineering education we had had two benefits. The first is that we never grew frightened of mathematical concepts. The second is the ability to be comfortable with any problem -- and always be able to break it down into its component parts. I believe that I learned a great deal from my education that conceptually I still use. In fact, as a venture capitalist, everything I have ever learned comes in useful.

**Q: Do you find your experiences in elected positions in IIT useful in your career today ?**

A: By working in various organizational positions, elected or appointed, I learned how to deal with people ... that too is an invaluable experience.

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

A: My first paycheck was at a summer job -- Dr. Beck and Company, Pune -- at the princely salary of Rs. 150 per month. I celebrated by buying a book for an upcoming family vacation.

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

A: Initially the major stock market corrections looked like serious setbacks, but eventually they have all been overcome. My biggest mistakes have been to be conservative and not grow as fast as we could have.

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

A: Professionally, it enables me to contemplate projects on a scale larger than ever before. Personally, it enables me to contemplate just about any activity.

**Q: How do you relate to other IITians today ?**

A: I am in very close touch with a couple of dozen classmates and hostelmates. There are a number of IITians that I see more than four times a month. However, we do not network and use our combined strength as well as we could.

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

A: Anything that they do to remind IIT alumni of the value of their IIT experience would be worthwhile. Anything that that the administration can do to strengthen the alumni network would be a benefit ... from the point of view of curriculum, an increased emphasis on humanities courses.

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

A: There is no question that every IITian owes a lot to their alma mater. We can never thank our schools and colleges or our parents enough. As I said before, IIT should reach out to the alumni and make it easy for them to stay in touch.

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

A: My parents, have both had a major influence on my life. My father inculcated in me curiosity, which I think is a great quality. My mother taught me to be skeptical which I believe, is another valuable quality. The writings of P.G. Wodehouse developed a love of language and a sense of humor (of course, I have never met P.G.W.).

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

A: I love to spend time with my family -- going home is a delight - specially since I travel so much. I love reading, anything outdoors, travel and food.

**Teenies :**

Favorite hangout	Vihar Lake and anyplace that served chair
Studiosness rating	5
Most dreaded Professor	Prof. Raja Rao -- Heat Transfer and Home Paper
Most dreaded course	Solid Mechanics
Favorite club	Bridge Club
Fondest Mood-I memory	Zakir Husain and Hari Prasad Chaurasia
Ragging experience	Great ... it was non-physical
Favorite mess food	Omelets with endless onions and chilies
Favorite book	Collected writings of Rabindranath Tagore
Currently reading	Ron Chernow's Biography of John B. Rockefeller
Favorite vacation spot	Palm Island on the West Coast of Florida
Favorite cartoon strip	Laxman then ... and Asterix now
Golf handicap	A zillion

Article

## The campus infrastructure crisis

by Deepak Sabnis

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So how do our hostels look like now, after all these years ? The words that follow can only capture a fraction of the shock that I received on a recent visit to India. Moreover, even a classmate who lives in India - and is therefore not suffering from NRI-itis - was just as shocked, so the crisis is indeed serious for all of us alumni to think about.

“What are you scanning in? Vacation pictures?” asked my colleague Greg.

“Sort of... These are pictures of my dorm back in India”. The hesitation in my voice was clear.

“Seems like it is boarded up. Does anyone still live there?” asked Greg.

This dialogue just about sums up the condition of Hostel 5 - and of other hostels - my home from 1967 through 1973. I have been visiting the IITB campus regularly all along. I have witnessed the changes in slow motion. There are more buildings housing more departments. There are a few more hostels and the campus is greener than it used to be in my time. This greenery, while soothing to the eyes, also hides a sad fact ... the hostels are in bad shape. To be fair, hostels are not the only buildings in need of repair and paint. The same is true of Department buildings, staff quarters and the Convo Hall. The pictures you see were taken by me in October 1998. These pictures barely show the condition the hostel is in. The interior of the rooms is even worse. The glass window panes are broken. The doors need to be replaced. I can go on and on. However, words cannot even begin to describe the extent of the deterioration. The best I can do is to urge you to go visit your hostel next time you are in Mumbai.





IIT is doing what it can to keep the infrastructure functional with the resources it has. They fixed up the toilet blocks of all hostels some time back. They are focused on keeping the structural integrity of buildings in good repair. They have to stretch their funds to fix not only the hostels but also the departmental buildings and staff quarters.

Some of you may be aware that the batch of '72 made a pledge to raise Rs. 5,000,000 to help with the painting of hostels and Convocation Hall. So far they have raised Rs. 2,000,000. Nearly half of this amount has been donated by alumni residing in India. IIT has gone ahead and painted hostel 6 and the Tansa hostel (aka hostel 4.5). They have pledged to paint hostels 2 and 3 this year. There was another effort by Poorvi Vora which has raised some money to paint Hostel 10.

What can we do? The efforts listed above need a boost from all IITB alumni. The need for on-going maintenance is obvious. We need to raise enough money to make it happen. It is not a new concept. When we lived in these hostels, we did pitch in to make our stay more enjoyable. We pitched in to provide an air compressor for our bikes, we pitched in to add more magazines or to the music library. We did it even when our means were small. We have a commitment from IIT to improve the condition of the hostels. They are going ahead with the repair on our assurance that we will come up with the money. We need to hold our end of the bargain.

Please take this as an urgent call to action for all alumni to get involved. Consider taking Kanwal Rekhi's challenge and donate 1% of your annual earnings to the cause. For US based alumni, if you donate through the IIT Bombay Heritage Fund, your donation is tax deductible as a charitable donation. The fund is set up to accept cash as well as stock donations.

Checks should be made payable to "[IIT Bombay Heritage Fund](#)" and mailed to the following address ... Treasurer, [IIT Bombay Heritage Fund](#), 10489 Rampart Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014. For information on how to donate stock, click on the "[Heritage Fund](#)" button on the home page for the Heritage Fund. The URL is <http://www.iitbombay.org>.

Deepak Sabnis ([deepak\\_sabnis@iitb.ac.in](mailto:deepak_sabnis@iitb.ac.in))

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*Editor's Note :*

Prof. S.L.N. Murthy, Dean of Resource Development, has informed us that ... "we did paint Hostel 2 and 3 last December, and Alumni who visited hostels on Alumni Day, I am sure, were a little relieved!! Hostel 10 was to be taken up around this time, but the structural repairs are taking somewhat longer. So H-10 painting projected completion is more like in June 1999". Clearly, your help is needed if this critical process of shoring up the infrastructure is to continue.

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Article

### **Nostalgia Nites : The 60s**

by D. P Agarwal

***Ed. Note : All of us have memories of how we ended up in IIT Bombay, often more by chance than by design ... we welcome such contributions from alumni.***

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The campus was barely a year old when I arrived there in early July 1960. If one considers a life as a series of accidents, then this was perhaps the biggest accident in my life.

I had planned on going to the Engineering College in Indore and was already accepted there. However, some time in June, an application for admission to IIT Bombay arrived mysteriously at my brother's home. I was spending part of my vacation with my second brother and contacting me there would have taken some time. The application deadline had either already passed or it was fast approaching. Assuming that I must have sent in for the application, he filled it out to the best of his knowledge and sent it in. He also thought that if I was going to go to IIT Bombay, I might as well study there something other than Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering, which were the only choices available in Indore. The steel plants offered big opportunities in those days and so he put Metallurgy as my first choice. The next thing I knew was that my application was approved. To this day, I do not know the identity of the person who sent that application to my brother. I did not have an interview either. My friend Chandra Khattak told me recently that he was asked to come in for an interview. He made the long trip from Dehradun to Bombay only to learn that he was on a waiting list for his first choice in Metallurgy.

I arrived in Powai about a week after the classes had started. That meant that I was spared the famous initiation ceremonies known as 'ragging'. A few of my other late arriving colleagues were not so lucky. The second year students had already had their fun. Thus, my classmates who had suffered through this humiliating experience themselves only a week earlier, decided to subject at least a few of us to these rituals. Ours was the first five-year batch and it seems that a large number of us arrived late. Therefore, many of us also had the distinction of being ragged by our own classmates.

My first order of business after arriving in Bombay was to purchase a raincoat and a pair of gumboots. However, these were no match for the Bombay monsoon season and a new campus in perhaps the most inhospitable area in Bombay. It looks picturesque now, but it definitely did not look that way in 1960. Walking to the classes involved wading through puddles and small streams, and within a week the skin of my feet was literally dissolving in water. I was assigned to Hostel 2, which was still under construction. In fact, everything except Hostel 1 and a laboratory building, was under construction. The rooms were new, but the beds and mattresses were not. If it were not for that mattress in my room, I would have never appreciated the true meaning of the phrase "sleep tight and don't let the bed bugs bite". We were all used to mosquitoes, flies and

other insects, but the sight of those bugs in my bed was completely new to me. I am not sure how we got rid of them, but I do not remember seeing them again.

I have forgotten the names of many of the teachers but the memory of one person is permanently etched in my brain. That memory is that of Sardar Pritam 'PT' Singh. He was the one-man athletic department. Brig. Bose was the Director, and it was the duty of PT Singh to make men out of us new recruits. He conducted exercises in the morning and his demeanor was akin to the Sergeant in Gomer Pyle episodes.

I was planning on writing about the five years of my life on the campus, but the memories of the first few weeks seem to have taken more space than I had planned. Therefore, I must stop here ...

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Article

### **Alumni Day 1998**

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Alumni Day '98, a landmark event in the Institute's calendar took place on Sunday, December 27. The participation was more than 425 Alumni and family members. Predominantly present were alumni of the Class of '73, who were celebrating their silver jubilee of graduating from IIT Bombay.



Besides the socialising and catching up with friends, the highlight was the address by Prof Sukhatme, Director and the comments, presentations, anecdotes by some of the alumni in the afternoon programme. Children were kept busy with a magic show and variety entertainment programme and the popular multimedia and internet room. Alumni showed keen interest in maintaining their contact with the Institute.



Article

## Glimpses of Mood Indigo '98

by Amit Sinha (BTech 4th Year - MechEngg) and the InslghT Team

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Come December and the whole campus is gripped with MI fever - it was much the same this year too. MI'98 - 'Bombayed' got off to a cracker of a start on the first day and then never really looked back. This year, there was something in store for everyone. The classical music aficionados got to listen to the likes of Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and Ustad Zakir Hussain. The latter's fusion nite definitely being the high point of the festival. An unimaginably large crowd thronged the OAT and the security guys had their hands full. But, a lot of IIT-ians were denied entry into the OAT - something that makes one wonder if the real purpose of the fest is being served. The last two nites catered to the younger generation. Live Wire was good as usual with a spectacular display of pyrotechnics (courtesy Wizcraft) but the Silk Route concert left much to be desired.



**Pandit Shivkumar Sharma**



This year's MI also saw an effort to portray the culture of the city through an exhibition aptly titled 'Indradhanush'. A series of lectures were organised as part of the exhibition. 'Horizons' - the workshop series - was graced by TV personality Annu Kapoor and by eminent cartoonists like Unny and Sabu. The Ball Dancing Workshop was a very big draw - especially among the IITians public.

Competitions at MI this year carried a whopping prize money of over 2 lakhs and saw a bevy of colleges fighting it out. IIT Bombay decimated the opposition in the Lit. trophy and ended up as the winners of the overall GC also, leaving St. Xavier's a distant second!! CRY took an active part in the goings on with themes related to Child Labour being given as topics for a lot of events.

The theme of the fest - 'Bombayed' was best brought out through the screening of various documentaries and through various posters strewn around the campus. MI this year proved to be a lovely experience. Here's looking forward to 1999.

### **Exhibition**



### *Fashion Show*



- Courtesy -

[InsighT](#) - a student's mag.

[insight\[!\]mitra.cse.iitb.ac.in](http://insight[!]mitra.cse.iitb.ac.in)

Article

## **JUNGLEE comes home to inspire**

by [Anshuman Bapna](#)

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On the 15th of Jan, 1999, the students of IITB came face to face with one of IITB's pride - Rakesh Mathur. And it wasn't difficult to see why he is one of the most successful netpreneurs in the world today. Fielding questions that ranged from how a virtual databank works to, well, what his grade card was at IITB, Mr. Mathur, the savvy "jungle" charmed the inquisitive audience with his repartees and incredible insights into the working of the retail market on the internet. He was speaking at the Prelude to Techfest'99, IIT Bombay's annual technology festival.

Presently, Vice President of Amazon.com - the company that bought Junglee.com at a whopping \$240m - Mr. Mathur spoke at length about his brainchild as well as his present responsibility.

Amazon was formed in mid '94 by Jeff Bezos and was launched in mid '95. Today it's valued at \$900m and is the #1 global e-commerce brand. Rakesh Mathur described Amazon.com as 'the world's largest store with a personalised feel'. On the other hand, Junglee 'makes frictionless commerce possible by making every product from every supplier available for purchase by every customer. Thus together they help customers discover, find and buy every product for sale on the web. No wonder that Amazon has come up trumps, what with the reigning paradigm in internet business being "winner take all".



The story behind the birth of Junglee also makes interesting reading. Mathur and his co-founders - who were doing research in Stanford University - got together in May'96. Seed funding arrived in '96 June. The company landed Washington Post jobs in Jan '97 and Yahoo Shopping in Dec '97. Finally in August '98 Junglee.com merged with Amazon and the rest they say is history. Junglee's success did not go unnoticed. They bagged the ACM Database Paper of the Year Award in '96 and featured in a number of top 100 lists. Replying to a query about funding in the States, Mr. Mathur attributed the relatively easy financing for Junglee to his Venture Capital contacts from his Intel days. Between the four of them they owned 6.5 million shares of a total of 12 million. At 50 cents per share, it came to \$3.25 million. The finance people had a buy back option for 48 months. So, they ensured that most of the ownership was with them.

Commenting on the fears that the exponential growth of the internet would soon plateau, Mr. Mathur remarked that the complexity of interaction between users of the internet depended on the nature of interconnectivity. For example, if a person is communicating with  $n$  others, the level of complexity is itself very large. The internet shall make it possible to connect simultaneously 100m users. The level of complexity if quantified, would be larger than the universe! Since we haven't even started approaching that level of connectivity, the future of the internet was limited by only one thing, our imagination. Explaining the working of an Internet Mall( as a bookstore in Amazon's case), Mr. Mathur pointed out three factors that made these online services good value for money: Accessibility, comfort and paranoid Customer Focus. He stressed that an online book retail business made more sense in terms of inventory and cash flows. After all, Barnes & Noble sells a book in 185days while it needs to make its payments to publishers in 30 days. On the other hand, an online store can afford plenty of cash surplus since it gets the order, sends

shipments and receives the credit transaction within 3 days while the payments are still 27 days down the line.

Drawing from his own experiences as an entrepreneur, Mr. Mathur stressed on the importance of having like-minded partners, best hired hands and most importantly - customer focus. No wonder that everyone involve with Junglee.com is a millionaire. One can expect no less with such guiding principles that Rakesh Mathur lays down as "a new math  $1+1>2$ ".

Anshuman Bapna [\[bapna6ue@jccs.iitb.ac.in\]](mailto:bapna6ue@jccs.iitb.ac.in)

Organiser, Techfest '99

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Incidentally, it might interest people to know that the original utterer of the words 'Yahoo' and 'Junglee' the inimitable Shammii Kapoor is a total 'net' fan !

Prof. S.L.N. Murthy, Dean (RD)

Article

## Inter-IIT Sports Meet '98

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The 34th Inter-IIT was held from 14th Dec to 19th Dec 1998 in IIT Bombay. A record number of participants (544) took part in this sports meet. They represented all the IIT's including IIT Gauhati, which fielded 44 athletes.

The Aquatics championships were as usual held in the month of October as it is too cold to conduct the Swimming and Water-Polo matches in December. Here, in both, Swimming as well as Water-Polo, IIT Bombay retained the Aquatics Title winning all but two swimming events and setting a record in as many as 12 of the events at stake! The star attractions of the Aquatic meet were the Kopikare brothers and a newcomer from IIT Kharagpur- Debashis Sen. The three among them accounted for almost all the medals at stake with Milind Kopikare winning the Individual Championship award.

The Inter-IIT meet was inaugurated on the December 14th by Padmavibhusan Prof. M.G.K. Menon. All the contingents did the traditional march-past with last years winners of the General Championship, Kharagpur leading the other teams. IIT Gauhati won the Trophy for the Best March Past. 15th morning saw the events beginning in full earnest with the finest athletes of each team vying for the top honours. The Athletics events saw a fine display by IIT Kanpur's Akshay Sharma, a virtual one man army of the IIT Kanpur team. He won all the track events except the hurdles. IIT Bombay came close behind IIT Kanpur in the race for the Athletics Championship, thanks to a spirited team effort by Jagdeesh, Basak, Partha, Satya and other guys in the IIT Bombay athletics team. Weight Lifting was eventually won by IIT Bombay but not without its share of hiccups. Till the very end nobody was sure who would win the crucial Weight Lifting 10 points. Thanks to Jackal and Partha, Bombay just managed to retain the Weight Lifting trophy by a slim margin.

Cricket was probably one of the most exciting events at the meet. Throughout the qualifying matches, Reddy and his team from IIT Bombay seemed to be the favourites to lift the trophy. But as it always happens in one day cricket, luck seemed to favor Kharagpur this time as they won the trophy from IIT Madras in the final match.

Football saw IIT Bombay regain its lost form and win the trophy despite all odds. Half the players in the team were injured and nobody really expected them to even reach the finals. However when it was time to face the final crunch, the experienced K Ravinder and his team demolished IIT Delhi by a formidable 2-0 margin. Volleyball was a cake walk for Bombay all the way. Sreedhar, Madhu, Goli, Bhatia Sari and others in the IIT Bombay volley team seemed to have had done their homework well as they outdid every other team with ease.

The race for the Hockey trophy had



set the teams working on their calculators as all teams seemed to be evenly balanced in the league matches. Fortunately for Bombay, at the end of the final day, the mathematics seemed to settle down to them winning the trophy provided they win against Madras by a margin of at least a goal. The Bombay team showed a high level of maturity and kept this aim in sight throughout their deciding match against Madras. Their efforts paid off finally as IIT Bombay lifted the coveted Hockey trophy.

The Basketball matches were the greatest crowd-puller of the meet with the crowd even getting pretty emotional at times.



Encouraged by the strong crowd backing, the flashy colored home team, led by Siddharth Joshi, won the Basketball Championship for IIT Bombay. The deciding match was the one held on the final day against IIT Delhi, which IIT Bombay won by a nail-biting margin. Tennis again saw IIT Bombay upset the champions IIT Delhi and win the trophy, thanks to a fine performance by Hemkar and Ramanathan. The Badminton Trophy went to IIT Kharagpur with Arpit of IIT Kharagpur leading the team.

The General Championship of Inter-IIT 98 went to IIT Bombay as they accounted for the maximum points. Incidentally this has been the best performance by any team so far as far as points is concerned. IIT Bombay won a total of 98 points, just 2 short of a perfect 100! The previous highest total by any IIT at an Inter-IIT meet has been 93 points. Keep up the spirit Bombay, and lets hope next year we surpass that elusive 100 point barrier!



Article

## IIT Bombay in the News

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- Bharat Desai, founder-CEO of Syntel, visits his alma mater - "[Cyber millionaire ties up with IIT to set up hi-tech lab](#)", as reported in Economic Times, March 8, 1999 (© Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.)
- Vinod Dham, the chief designer of the Pentium, visits TechFest at IIT Bombay - "[A can of dreams](#)"- January 30, 1999. (© Rediff on the Net )
- Shailesh Mehta is featured in three articles in the Economic Times dated December 29, 1998 - "[Banking is no longer bricks & mortar](#)", "[Effective risk management success secret](#)", and "[Customised solutions our strength](#)" (© Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. )
- [Rekhi extends helping hand](#) ... click [here](#) to read about Kanwal Rekhi's visit to India and TiE's plans for India. (© Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.)
- "[India's Hot School](#)" ... click [here](#) to read the articles from the December 7th Issue of Business Week (© 1998, The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc.)
- US DoC [refuses to renew software license](#) of IIT Bombay Computer Centre, and read about [Mood Indigo '98](#) ... from the December 8th issue of The Times of India (© Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. )
- [IIT to set up School of IT](#) (© 1998 Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Ltd.)
- [IIT Bombay ranked #1](#) by India Today ... click [here](#) for the story (© Living Media India Ltd.)
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