December 15, 2007; Vol.: 52

nist e-news

A monthly news bulletin

NIST

Exam Fever

All the best

~ADVISORS~
Prof. Sangram Mudali
Dr. Ravi P. Reddy
Dr. Ajit K. Panda
Ms. Geetika Mudali

EDITORS

Mr. Amrut P. Mohanty
Mr. Dipti R. Lenka

Merry Christmas

e-Designer: Ms. Suman Acharya

National Institute of Science and Technology
Palur Hills, Berhampur, Orissa.
Phone: 0680-2492421, 2492422, Fax: 0680-2492627
e-mail: enews@nist.edu, Website: www.nist.edu.

Cover Page: Arup Nayak

nist

from the director's desk

The wind is chilly and the nights are cold. When it is December, the time is ripe for intellectual pursuits. Each year, NIST faculty use the slack teaching period in Nov-Dec to organize and participate in numerous workshops, conferences held in India and abroad. This year the DST sponsored workshop on Sensors in Mining and Minerals Industry brought together a galaxy of eminent scientists from all over the country. At the risk of shamefaced advertisement, my proudest moment was when the Hon'ble VC of BPUT in his inaugural address called NIST as the "crown jewel among the institutes of BPUT".

Two events exercised my grey matter quite intensely in the past month. The first one was the workshop by Shiv Khera, noted author and motivator. What struck me was that the man himself *walks-the-talk* unlike the others who simply preach. From a penniless person in the United States, to a renowned talk show host, and then onto India and his campaign *COUNTRY FIRST* to save India from corrupt politicians. Do hit the website on Qualified Learning Systems to find out more about this person truly worthy of respect. The second event was the Intel-UC Berkeley Workshop on Entrepreneurship held in Bangalore on Dec 12-13, to which were invited only top, select 20 institutes from around the country (NIST included) with a track record of entrepreneurship education. UC Berkeley's Lester Center for Entrepreneurship has spawned great start-up companies in semiconductors, IT, internet-based cos, networking companies, retail, manufacturing, etc. Over the last decade they have evolved the art of teaching entrepreneurship into its highest level and hence the Lester Center stands as the 5th top school for Entrepreneurship in USA. Apart from chewing on HBR case studies upto midnight (yes, I did six one-hour assignments in two days), I learnt what great teachers are all about. Prof Jerome Engel and John Danner were actors on a stage – their energy, their voice, the strength of their convictions and from the heart orations were extraordinary. The sheer tempo of the workshop is enough to convert the most timid person to a fearless entrepreneur. My promise – NIST EDC will work 200% on producing entrepreneurs for the country.

15 December 2007   **Sangram Mudali**

from the editor's desk

The fever of University examinations has grappled the students with all its trials and tribulations. Amidst apprehensions and with a meek but burly optimism to crack the exams, the students are all set to make a tangible mark in the record of the University. Being the forerunners in setting any benchmark, NIST students have never taken back seat in any arena. And the exams are no different. We wish all the students come out with flying colours.

Over the years NIST has proved that it secures the future of the students joining this institute by placing them in some of the most-sought-after, top notch IT firms and industries of highest repute. And this time it has taken a giant leap forward in providing some students with more than one option to choose from in regard of their placement endeavour. A bunch of 33 students who already have one job in hand have now been selected by Satyam proves the veracity of that.

All's well that ends well. The journey through the year 2007 has been the most cherishable affair for the future. It has marked a noticeable difference in almost all aspects, be it eye-catching infrastructure, hefty placement, intensive research & development, colossal grants, incredible honours & laurels. Let the same spirit spill over to the coming year and let's herald the beginning of a new era in the dawn of 2008.

Dipti Ranjan Lenka   **Amrut Phalguni Mohanty**

achievements

Placement: Double Bonanza…

Satyam Computer Services Dream Company Drive

The following are the already recruited students in various IT companies who got through the Satyam Computer Services again with a better package.

B.Tech, 2004-2008 Batch

Sl. No.	Name	Branch	Sl. No.	Name	Branch
1	Abhinaw Kumar	ECE	17	M. Meerambika	EEE
2	Akash Banerjee	CSE	18	Namrata Choudhury	IT
3	Amarendra Pr. Sahoo	EIE	19	Nitish Kumar Kyal	IT
4	Amit Kumar Dash	ECE	20	Pallavi Rout	IT
5	Ankit Kumar	CSE	21	Pankaj Basu	EIE
6	Anurag Rath	CSE	22	Raj Kumar	EIE
7	Ashutosh Tripathy	CSE	23	Rakesh Agarwal	ECE
8	Asish Ghoshal	CSE	24	Ravilla Hari Prasad	IT
9	Debasish Pattnaik	CSE	25	Sandhan Sahani	IT
10	Dinkar Kumar Verma	CSE	26	Satish Kumar	ECE
11	Epari Srikant	ECE	27	Satya P. Mohapatra	CSE
12	Gopal Krishna Behera	CSE	28	Saumya S. Satapathy	EIE
13	Indrani Pramanick	CSE	29	Sibapati Acharya	EIE
14	Kiran Dash	IT	30	Sravan Kumar Sahu	ECE
15	M.V.Krishna Kumar	ECE	31	Suraj Sekhar Purohit	ECE
16	Mousumi Bej	EEE	32	Vikas Kumar	CSE
			33	Vivek Panda	CSE

The first batch of MBA students successfully ventured into the job sectors… *Miles to go!!!*

MBA, 2006-2008 Batch

Sl. No.	Name	Company
1.	Meenakshi Gaud	I.M.S.
2.	J. Venkata Narshima Murty	I.M.S.
3.	Swetalina Mishra	Reliance General Insurance
4.	Sudeep Malana	Reliance General Insurance

Congratulations!!!

Scholarships

NIST provides different Scholarship schemes for B.Tech, MCA and MBA students based on economic criteria. A total number of 38 and 69 students have been selected to be conferred with the **Book Grant Scholarship (Rs. 1000/- per semester)** and the **Economic Hardship Scholarship (Rs. 750/- per month)** respectively, for the academic year 2007-08.

Teaching Assistantship

A total number of 44 students from B.Tech 3rd, 5th, and 7th semesters have been appointed as Teaching Assistants for various subjects. They will be helping the concerned faculties of 1st, 3rd and 5th semesters in carrying out a smooth teaching process. Each TA receives remuneration of Rs. 750/- per month for their assistance in the academic pursuits.

Nist Robotics Club in 'Electro Utsav'

NIST Robotics Club (NRC) Student Members, Mr. Prasanta Kumar Nayak, Mr. Tapan Kumar Palei, B.Tech, 7th Semester and Mr. C.S.Laxman, B.Tech, 5th Semester, attended a National Technical Event, '**Electro Utsav'**, at Vellore Institute of Technology, University, Vellore, held on 22nd October 2007. They participated in the Automatic Robotics Contest, Line Follower, and won the 2nd prize of a Cash Award of Rs. 5000/- and the Certificate of Merit.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Seminars/Workshops at NIST

Seminar on VLSI Using Tanner Tool

A one day Seminar on **VLSI Design using Tanner Tools Pro**. (A Complete VLSI design system) was held at NIST, Berhampur on 5th November, 2007 in association with **Tanner EDA**, California, USA and **Integrated Microsystem**, Bangalore.

Tanner EDA provides Electronic Design Automation (EDA) software used by companies in a wide variety of industries. Its solutions enable designers to move rapidly from concept to silicon by enabling the design, layout, and verification of analog/mixed-signal ICs, ASICs, and MEMS. These scalable solutions have a wide range of applications in the biomedical, consumer electronics, next-generation wireless, imaging, power management, and RF market segments. Tanner EDA solutions offer designers the perfect combination of price and performance to meet any design challenge.

Dr. Rajinder Jit Singh, Regional Manager- South Asia of Tanner EDA, a division of Tanner Research Inc. California, USA, delivered lectures as well as demonstration with **Mr. Rajendra** from Integrated Microsystem, Bangalore on latest version of Tanner Tool. Dr. Singh obtained his Ph.D. in Engineering Mathematics for VLSI design in 1993 and has held patents and numerous publications on the subject. His research included VLSI architectures for high performance DSP and microprocessor design before he joined Mentor Graphics, Nassda Corp and now Tanner EDA.

More than 50 participants from various Engineering colleges as well as Electronics Industry of Orissa registered free of cost to attend this workshop.

DST Sponsored Workshop

A 12 day Workshop on *'Sensors for Mining and Minerals Industry'* sponsored by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, was organized at NIST from 19th to 30th November 2007. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Omkarnath Mohanty, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Biju Patanaik University of Technology (BPUT), Rourkela. Prof. E. S. R. Gopal, Emeritus Professor, IISc, Bangalore; Dr. R. Bhattacharya, Scientist- Emeritus, NPL, New Delhi; Dr. Chandar Prakash, DST, New Delhi and Prof.

Sangram Mudali, Director, NIST, were the other dignitaries present on the occasion. Various speakers like Prof. A. K. Mishra, IIT, Madras; Dr. M. C. Bhatnagar, IIT, Delhi; Dr. Shamima Hussain, ISMU, Dhanbad; Dr. Rajib Bandyopadhyay, Jadavpur University; Dr. M. S. Roy, Head, OSCOM, Gopalpur; Prof. A. K. Pal, Jadavpur University; Dr. V. S. Muralidharan, CECRI; Prof. S. Panigrahi, NIT, Rourkela; Dr. Sachin Sarangi, Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar; Dr. S. N. Behera, Institute of materials Science, Bhubaneswar; Prof. P. Pramanik, IIT, Kharagpur; Dr. P. Sujatha Devi, Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Kolkata; Dr. S. S. Tiwari, Sensors Technology, Gwalior, MP; Dr. Trinath Sahu, Berhampur University; Prof. B. K. Mishra, IMMT, Bhubaneswar, Dr. A. K. Padhy, NIST, Berhampur and along with Prof. Gopal and Bhattacharya highlighted the various aspects of Sensors and their applications in Mines and Minerals Industry. Visit to mines like Damanjodi, was also organized to have an onsite experience on the need of sensors for mining and minerals industry. Participants from BITS, Mesra, Ranchi; SUS Govt. College, Punjab; Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar; Indian School of Mines, Dhandbad; Surajmal College, Rengali; KIST, Bhubaneswar; JITM, Paralkhemundi; DRIEMS, Cuttack; SMIT, Berhampur; Berhampur University; and Sambalpur University attended the workshop. Extensive arrangements been made for the outside participants, taking care of their accommodation, transport facility and food. Certificate of participation was distributed to each of the participants in the valedictory function. Dr. Arun Kumar Padhy, Dr. Sukanta K. Tripathy and Mr. Mihir Hota coordinated the entire program.

Conference/Workshop/Seminars Attended

Mr. Amrut Phalguni Mohanty, Faculty, Dept. of English, participated in the Short Term Course on *"Communication and Management Essentials"* organized by the Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur during 2nd – 5th November, 2007 as a part of it's 'Continuing Education Programme'. Participants from various educational institutions and industries were enlightened with different sessions on some of the important aspects of communication and management skills.

Dr. B. Pavan Kumar, Faculty, Dept. of Management and Humanities Sciences, attended a Faculty Development Program (FDP) on *"Entrepreneurship Development"* sponsored by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, New Delhi held at Puri from 12th-23rd November, 2007.

Electronics Bus Schedule

The NIST Electronics Hobby Club (EHC), as a part of its research undertaking, introduced a digital display of bus, time and route, the **"Electronics Bus Schedule"**. The digital board got inaugurated by our Director, Prof. Sangram Mudali. The project is the output of the sincere efforts of Mr. B. Jagdish & Mr. Sambit Ku. Pattnaik of B.Tech, 2005-2009 batch under the able guidance of Mr. R. K. Dash and Mr. M. Suresh, Coordinators, EHC.

NIST-OIS: New Modules

Two new modules namely, **Bulletin Board** and **Human Resource Development** have been included in the Online Information System (OIS) of NIST. Bulletin Board is taking care of all notices for students,

staff and faculties. Human Resource Development keeps track of all details of the institute's employees' personal, joining, experience, and academic information. The appraisal process will also be taken care of by the HRD module.

The front page of the OIS system has also been given a new and attractive look. Now the browsers can take the view of the Notice Board, Recent News, NIST e_news, Faculty Search, Student Search, Book Search, Photo Gallery, and the Messages from the Director and Dean, even without logging in. It's all there in the front page. Within a short time the OIS facility will be extended to the wireless network all across the campus and the hostels for access by students.

Thanks to the entire NTCS team for their techno-friendly endeavours.

Friday Lecture Seminar Series

Date: 2nd November 2007

Speakers	Topic
Mr. Sudhakar Das	Studies on the Characteristics of $In_x Al_{1-x} As/ In_x Ga_{1-x} As$ based MODFET
Mr. Mukesh Sukla	Introduction to Digital VLSI Design
Mr. Jagannath Mohanty	Importance of Case Teaching Methodology
Mr. Bhaskar Banerjee	Service Marketing

Date: 16th November 2007

Speakers	Topic
Ms. Sumitra Ojha	Introduction to Mobile Technology
Mr. Mitu Baral	Introduction to Analog VLSI Design
Mr. Bhanu P. Behera	Marketing of Financial Services
Mr. Rajeev Panigrahy	Soft Computing

NIST WELCOMES

NIST welcomes the following members to its *parivaar:*

Ms. Madhusmita Tripathy joined NTCS as a Junior Software Engineer. She did her B.E. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from NIST, Berhampur. Before joining us she was working as a Test Engineer at 'Infowave IT Solutions', New Delhi. Her area of interest includes Java Programming, Oracle, VLSI and Software Testing.

Mr. Pramath Nath Acharya, joined as Faculty in the Department of Management and Humanities Sciences. He did his B.Com, M.Com, and LLB from Berhampur University. His Research interest includes Accounting and Finance.

NIST e_news wishes the new members a great future ahead.

EVENTS

Bioinformatika – The 1ˢᵗ Anniversary

The month of November 2007 witnessed the publication of the 1ˢᵗ Anniversary Issue of **Bioinformatika,** a quarterly Technical Publication of NIST. The official publication of The NIST Bioinformatics Club, *Bioinformatika*, since its launch during November 2006, has already been able to create a niche for itself. Besides arming the academic/research community with a platform from where to spread their findings, it also endeavors to educate the common people about the potentials of bioinformatics. Its efforts have found widespread endorsements from eminent personalities like Hon'ble Ministers, Govt. of India & State Govts, Govt. officials, Hon'ble Vice Chancellors of reputed Universities, reputed Entre-preneurs etc. The enthusiasm amongst the *bioinformaticians* for submitting articles regularly is also noteworthy. The entire project was a brainwork of our Respected Director, Prof. Sangram Mudali, which has been carried out under the able editorship of Prof. Suash Deb, Coordinator, Club Bioinformatics.

The NIST Bioinformatics club is organizing a workshop during Jan'08 to celebrate the successful comple-tion of the 1ˢᵗ year of the magazine. Distinguished personalities have given their consent to address the gathering.

For more information on the workshop, contact Prof. Suash Deb, Faculty, Computer Science & Engineering.

Doubt-Clearing Classes for Hostellites

The Institute, in its pursuit of rendering help to the students beyond classroom teaching, has initiated the "Doubt-clearing Classes" in different hostels since 2ⁿᵈ October, 2007. Initially, three courses, Electrical Machines, AEC and Network Theory, were offered on the basis of the performance of the students of previous batch. Classes are held in the evening hours and on holidays. On students' request, now classes are also held in subjects, such as, Mathematics, Physics, Basic Electronics, Basic Electrical, Mechanics, etc. This is a process which aims at not only clarifying the students' doubt and to have a better under-standing of the subject but also builds up a rapport between the faculty members and student community. This service is offered entirely free of cost. Some 5ᵗʰ and 7ᵗʰ semester students have also shown interest in taking classes in this program.

Terms and Conditions:

- The courses are optional and free of cost.
- A student may wish to take one or more than one course. A student opting for one course may not necessarily take all courses.
- Once students opt for a course, it is compulsory for them to attend all the classes of the opted course.

Free Medical Consulting Extended For All NISTians

The existing free medical consulting by Prof. Raj Kishore Mahapatra, MD, F.C.G.P, for the faculties, staff and hostel students of NIST has been further extended for the entire NIST family. Now the non-hostellites can also avail this facility by producing their photo ID card and signing in the register avail-able with the doctor with their name and college roll number. He may be consulted at the following address:

Prof. Raj Kishore Mahapatra Tel: 0680-2281772 (Clinic)
New Bus Stand Road, Behampur 0680-220962 (Res)

CREATIVITY CORNER

Winning in the Downturn-2

Mr. Ratnakar Mishra
Faculty, Dept. of Management & Humanities Sciences

(This part of the series attempts to lay emphasis on strategies initiated by the Government of India towards 2000-01 to counter the falling demand and penetration of foreign brands. The situation during 1990-2000 was discussed in previous part)

The concept of LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) gave us a market flooded with foreign brands and a 'low demand low price' situation towards 2000-01. It was a recession as per the experts where the recovery of production cost is difficult despite a good market potential. All this happened due to the uncertainties in market and frequent changes in authority structure, volatile revenue policies etc. Usually whenever there comes uncertainty in market, the flow of money gets affected. People stop purchasing and go for hiding their wealth. The overall investment gets affected and the value of project investments is turned to be a high risk. There will be a panic in the market that may push the market to lull. Justifying this, the falling index of share market can be taken as an example whenever there is a mid-term poll or even the general election.

At situations like this, to make the matter worse the big players play devilish to maintain the panic so that they only can survive at the cost of several small business houses. The case of *'Thumbs up'* takeover by Coco Cola from Ramesh Chouhan owned 'Parle' was an eye opener. Despite *Thumbs up* being a leading player in cola market and Coco Cola was entering Indian market for the second time, it succumbed to a forced takeover bid from the later. Though the case could not brought under the ambit of 'unfair trade practices' but everybody felt the pain of Mr. Chouhan. The bottlers played truant to Mr. Chouhan and sided with the multinational forcing for negotiation to hand over the baton.

Finding new market segments or even new market altogether is a solution to situations like this. And that Government of India exactly did it. It took steps to open up the market and to alleviate the fear of people so that they can invest or spend their money in the market.

In 2000, Govt. of India constituted several committees under the leadership of industrialists like Ratan Tata, KM Birla, Rahul Bajaj, Mukesh Ambani and others to help govt. formulate policies to revive the lost ground. Later on a lot of initiatives were taken by Government which is discussed here to bring the readers close to the genesis of now booming Economy.

1　**Investment by Government on infrastructure projects**: The golden quadrilateral NH project trolled out by the then BJP govt. is a good example to start with. This project alone successfully helped many core industries to revive. Industries like cements, steel, chemicals that were battling for survival turned out to be profitable ones. A host of ancillary industries are dependant upon the core industries. So once the core giants are reedy, others can come out of red.

2　**Investment by people on infrastructure:** For people, the housing is the prime investment and regarded as infrastructure. To attract people for real estate and housing projects etc. the bank interest was at 7% from a whopping 16% in 1990s. Furniture, steel, cements, chemical, paints are some of the industries to be benefited by housing and real estate project investment by people. So deliberately the interest rates are kept low to lure people to spend.

3　**Less deposit interest rate:** Going for bank deposits? Do not go.

4   **Flexible policy mooted:** Lifting of quantitative restriction (QR) is one much anticipated policy which alone can help many products from being called as a dumped product. New market exploration and utilization can be possible with this lifting so that it would help a lot to the exporters to go for new overseas market.

5   **Less Tax:** Octrai waived to help the small retailers gaining their price line.

6   **Leveraging the management:** Many government owned loss making units were successfully handed over to private parties to manage like the BALCO to Sterlite and Paradeep Phosphates to Zuari Agro etc.

7   **Changing Lifestyle:** High spending by govt. on IT and ITES was witnessed in those days in name of information superhighway. Lying of fiber optics all over the country, preparing the backbone broadband among all four metro, formed part of the policy. It enabled for a change of people's lifestyles converting them from savers to spenders. BSNL constituted from Department of Telecom to augment the competition in the market.

Virtually the motto of 2000-01 was to spend, not to save so to enable the money to flow in market and in this process in one way the producer can recover the loss ground and in other way new customer base can be created.

Basically the core sector of industries includes the steel, cements, chemicals, petroleum, automobiles, power etc. upon which many ancillary sectors like pig iron, sponge iron, refractoriness, spare parts, textiles, rubber industries and so on are dependants. Similarly the core sector in consumer field includes the housing, home appliances, automotives etc. upon which many other sector like the cosmetics, furniture, FMCG, hotels and food beverages are dependent.

So Government of India tried a lot to lift the core sector in both industries as well as in consumer section so the entire economy can be taken to a new height. All these efforts showed their positive result and now we are enjoying being one of the fastest economies in the world. Our GDP is now reached at 10 points and the Sensex is showing beyond expected performance.

(To be contd…)

Tips to Remain Ever Happy

Collected by **Suvendu Choudhury**

☺   Avoid greediness, everything belongs to God. You should be able to leave any worldly possession at a moment's notice. Such should be your detachment towards worldly things. By this attitude you can eliminate jealousy also which is generated when you compare your possessions with others.

☺   You should perform each and every task, however small it may be with one pointed and undivided attention. When everything starts appearing important to you, whether small or big, then you have actually started moving towards the path of greatness. Your greatness is judged by how you perform each and every small thing in your life. There is no low or high work. There is no 'choice' or 'preference'.

☺   Avoid selfishness; expand your consciousness to include the whole world as your family. Leave the attitude of doing everything only for your own comforts, pleasure, profits. Remember the principle,

☺   Reduce unnecessary worldly involvement.

☺   Have a good company. Avoid mixing with people having negative attitudes and materialistic outlooks.

☺	Always keep a smile on your face.

☺	Never expect anything from anybody. Please note that by helping someone, you are not doing any obligation to him. You are simply doing a Godly work and are basically helping yourself by elevating and purifying yourself by doing this good karma. The other person has simply given you an opportunity for doing so and you must be thankful for it.

☺	Reduce your collection of worldly possessions and luxuries to the bare minimum, which are just necessary for your survival and basic comforts.

☺	Most people think that when all their problems will be over, they will start their development plans of life. But, remember, problems are an integral part of life. They will never end. One problem will go, another will come. THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN THE WORLD WHICH IS GREATER THAN THE STRENGTH OF YOUR MIND AND WHICH CAN'T BE SOLVED. TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE UPS AND DOWNS AND UNEXPECTED THINGS IN LIFE. YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING IN LIFE.

☺	Give to the world more than what you take from it. Your life on the earth would be considered worthy only when you can give the world more than what you get from it.

(To be contd…)

A Thought

Smruti Sagarika
B.Tech., 7th Sem, Team e_news

The flow of time seems to have stopped
The soul and body as if a hard rock.
Danger is everywhere and
Unnatural death has become natural,
No more a shock.

People suffering here and there,
But who has the time to stand and stare?
The hearts so selfish,
The eyes so cruel, to see all the horror,
And behave as if all is well.

When a man dies, his only sorrow,
Is to part away from his dear forever,
With only disappointment in the heart,
To leave behind wailing friends apart,
But, this is not true, I fear.

No one to mourn for the person gone,
For his departure, his absence.
The void gets filled in a trickle of time.
Isn't this to say that,
His poor soul is being duped?

But why? Why this indifference?
Why is this selfishness?

We take pride as His greatest creation,

Then why can't be our heart so large,
That the whole world gets in,
Leaving no place for the hatred, fear and sorrow
And making this world a better place to live in.

Fate

Jagannath Satpathy
B.Tech., 3rd Sem, Team e_news

As wind blows across my face,
I think what is its fate...
From where had it come
and to where shall it go?

I sprinkle above the dew in my hand
and feel the rain on my face.
Still trying to weave a fate
with the strings of undreamt...

Every sunrise, every sunset
do resemble their ancestors.
Why then the future doesn't seem
to be a son of the past?

No one runs the race
to be engulfed by the earth.
Eventuality falls short of fate
when time sets the track.

We carry a key in our hand,
and question the immortal.
Silence speaks, though tongue retrieves
"use the key to open the gate".

Mindsplash!!

Vijayalaxmi Mohapatra
B.Tech., 5th Sem, Team e_news

It's the most happening time of the year with most of the things happening at the same time (I mean exams, parties, celebrations, test matches, quarrels, patch-ups and goodness knows what not ☺☺ !). Well life's like that and we have to take it in our stride. Now comes the real issue how do most of us do that? To be clear and precise **how do most of us cope up with stress, anxiety or excitement?** Now this single question fetches innumerable answers (Every one has their unique style!).To begin with some listen to music, all kinds of. Some like reading books (again all kinds of ☺). Some prefer talking and gossiping with friends. Some like going out for walk. Some watch movies. Some play games. Hey! if I start that ways I will end up eating my own brains. But that is not what exactly is red-alerting.

It becomes an issue when some of us resort to means like smoking, drinking or any other form of addiction. It's more common than we have anticipated it to be. The people who are mostly affected by it are the students, corporate personnel and all those other stressed fellows. The slightest depression fetches a cigarette. Parties today seem to be incomplete without the sound of 'cheers' and the clink of glasses! Any occassion be it joyous or be it marked with sadness these things have crept in like weeds! It is not unusual for friends insisting a drink on your birthday or forcing it down one's throat in case of a heartbreak! One gulps down sleeping pills in order to beat the stress. Some are 'sadists', i.e., enjoy inflicting pain on others whereas some are 'masochists', i.e., ones who enjoy inflicting pain on self. Tantrums and mood swings are some of the common symptoms. Some of the popular myths also promote these activties...like smoking increases concentration, or alcohol enhances performance etc. But do these things really help? Instead of lifting one up they push further into the darkness and hopelessness. They have resulted in only destruction of lives. Rather than symbols of strength and power these are symbols of weakness and cowardice.

Lots of reforming measures are being taken. For an instance in the recent decree issued by the honorable Supreme Court of India the cigarette packets should bear the repelling photographs of the effects of smoking on them along with the statutory warning. Many celebrities also have promoted the cause of no-smoking and non-alcoholism (they obviously thrive on publicity!). Awareness programs are also being conducted. Ask any of the parents the efforts to dissuade their children from such addictions are as much as they could be...(The siren just goes off at the mere mention of such things!). Well enough of preaching goes on and will do so till it falls on deaf ears! Yes I mean all this is useless if the person concerned is not heeding it.

The simplest thing to say it all would be that **'there is no shortcut to success'** and **'life just moves on'**! Life today is more than stressful and we do not need to add to that. As friends and family members we can discourage every instance of such addictions. We can focus ourselves more constructively towards life. When it comes to exams we can study hard and relax in order to beat the stress. Failures, be it in any context, must be faced courageously and not like *Mr. Devdas* (Not everyone is lucky enough to have a movie dedicated to himself!). We must remember that not only does addiction lead to deterioration of physical well-being but mental and social well-being as well. We embarrass our near and dear ones by such activities. Everybody knows how a drunken scene spoils the entire celebration. I must say that eating someone's brain is a much better alternative. With the festive and examination season on its full swing, *Mindsplash* just urges its readers to stay away from addictions and enjoy themselves to the hilt...not forgetting the exams of course. All that matters is health. Well "Health is wealth"....and believe me wealth is something☺!

Mindsplash wishes all its readers **"A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year"**!

[Any suggestions or feedback regarding the article are welcome and can be mailed to vijaya_126@hotmail.com]

The Talking Mirror

Ankan Ghosh
B.Tech., 7th Sem.

The mirror has seen a major upheaval in the events happening across the world. Nandigram and Godhra became flash-points in the scepter of the Indian politics. With political heavyweights pitted on both sides of the fence, one can only fathom the plight of the people who bore the brunt of rioting and ignominy of losing homes and property. Interestingly, CPM govt. adopted the cause of industrialists while the Trinamul sided with the peasants. The rigmarole of politics is funny. The left played right while the right played left! The Godhra riots revelations (courtesy sting operations!) took the conscious of the educated Indian by storm. Perhaps, it becomes doubly difficult when the state machinery takes law in its own hands (clearly proved in Nandigram and Godhra). One can only hope for a more amicable and acceptable settlement to the Posco issue which has all the makings of snowballing into a huge political hara-kiri.

The upcoming Gujarat elections have already made the parties scurrying for preparations. It would take something special out of Narendra Modi to battle against his own incumbents as well as the other political parties. India's strategic defense capabilities received a shot in the arm with the successful testing of the missile interceptor in the Bay of Bengal. This propels India into the elite club of nations boasting of such expertise. Full marks to the DRDO for delivering quality weapons arsenals at shoe-string budgets. Ethnic Indians protesting against marginalization in Malaysia were singled out for some real harsh treatment by the authorities. Only Time can tell, whether the govt. espouses the cause of not only the Indians living in India but also those living abroad. In the telecom sector, Reliance communications and COAI were locked in a bitter war of sharing of spectrum for cellular operators. The move of the Telecom Ministry to allow the CDMA major Reliance Communications to foray into the GSM services seems to have worsened the relationship further.

Indians had a reason to celebrate when Mr. Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of UN's inter-governmental panel on climate change shared the Nobel Prize for Peace along with the former US Vice-President, Al Gore. Creating awareness about global warming and measures to counter it, are on the agenda of this team. India won the ODI series against Pakistan 3-2 at home. Sourav Ganguly's sparkling form in tests (century at Kolkata; double century at Bangalore) is surely giving the Aussies some sleepless nights. Sri Lankan spinner Muralitharan eclipsing Shane Warne's record of 708 test wickets has been the toast of the cricketing fraternity. The success of the Shah Rukh Khan-Deepika Padukone starrer *Om Shanti Om* yet again highlighted the popularity and superstar status of Shah Rukh Khan amongst his fans. The movie has slashed many a box office record, furiously heading towards the target of being the biggest Bollywood grosser ever.

[The writer would love to hear from you. Please mail your valuable comments, views and suggestions to me at ghosh_ankan@rediffmail.com]

Tech Check

Ankan Ghosh & Srastanka Kumar Behera
B.Tech., 7th Sem.

Living Bioterror Detector

The trouble with biochemical weapon detectors is that they generate an unacceptable number of false positives. This is because existing detectors are unable to distinguish between all the subtle ways in which pathogens interact with the biological systems and so are easily fooled. The system that Benjamin Shapiro and colleagues, University of Maryland, USA, have come up with uses cells that die when exposed to a particular pathogen, which provides the early warning. The cells are also engineered to produce a signal, such as fluorescence, when attacked. They are stored on a chip that keeps them alive and that also monitors the light they produce. The cells can be exposed to pathogens in the air via a semi-permeable membrane. When the cells die and emit light, the system should know within minutes that pathogens are present – just like the canaries that were once used to warn miners of a build-up of toxic gas.

'Spit' Filter

After email became a popular means of communication, it didn't take long for marketers to start bombarding people with unwanted and unsolicited messages. Today, this unwanted email, or "spam", is the bane of many users' inboxes, even though numerous programs and techniques are available for combating it. Now, that internet phone calls are becoming popular, brace yourselves for another problem – internet telephony spam, or "spit". But the German industrial giant Siemens is ahead of the game and has come up with a way to filter out unwanted spit. The technique has long been used in the battle against email spam, albeit with mixed results. The idea is to keep a list of known spitters and, when an incoming call is received, have the receiving computer search for the caller's name or number on the spit list. If the computer finds a match, the call is rejected. This all sounds sensible enough, but if that's all it took to combat unsolicited email, we would surely have killed it off years ago.

Fabric Displays

Wearable displays have long interested electronics company, Philips. They could be used to display useful information or as a fashion statement. But one problem is that the liquid crystals normally used in flexible displays usually exist in a glass-like state, which ultimately limits the extent to which they can be bent. Now Philips says it may be possible to build much more flexible liquid crystal displays by imprinting a cell-like structure onto an ordinary fabric using a stretchy elastomeric material such as silicone to create each pixel. The pixels can be filled with a flexible electro-optical material such as a non-glassy liquid crystal, or a plasma. Conducting fibers within the material then make each pixel addressable. The result is a display that has the same material properties as a fabric. Way to go for fashion buffs, indeed!

Courtesy: www.newscientisttech.com

Watch out for our next special on 'gadgets'.

[Consistent with our endeavour of providing exciting tech bits, we would graciously invite you to mail your suggestions, views and remarks at ghosh_ankan@rediffmail.com and srkbehera@yahoomail.com]

Quiz

Subhasis Dalal
B.Tech., 7th Sem, Team e_news

1. Kishore Biyani is the CEO of which retail management company?
2. The foil, epee and saber are weapons used in which Olympic sport?
3. In how many languages is the "Tintin" comics released world wide?
4. What is the popular name of "Hikari Super Express" in Japan?
5. Which Dutch coach is the pioneer of total football?
6. Which song from the film "Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves" was a worldwide smash for Bryan Adams?
7. In which year was the 'USA for Africa Charity Singles,' "We are the World" released?
8. In which country was the motor car invented?
9. In which 1998 space film did Bruce Willis play oil driller, Harry Stamper, who saves the world?
10. How many legs do a fly have?

Answers:

1. Future Group, 2. Fencing, 3. 38 languages (In India it is subscribed only in Bengali & English), 4. Bullet train, 5. Rinus Michael, 6. 'Everything I do, I do it for you', 7. 1985, 8. Germany, 9. Armageddon, 10. 6 legs

---

workshop by *shiv khera*

**Shiv Khera - The International Educator, Motivator and Management Guru
On 29th November 2007 at Swosti Plaza, Bhubaneswar**

A Report by Ms. Geetika Mudali, Placement Director

Some of the highlights of his workshop are:
1. While under stress some people break records, while others break themselves.
2. Businesses don't have problems. People have. Good people are assets to the organization whereas bad people are liabilities.
3. Without problems we are dead. Only those who are dead have got no problems. Thank god we have problems.
4. We cannot solve all the problems in life, but we can handle them.
5. God, give me the serenity to accept situations which I cannot change, be able to change the situations which I can and the wisdom to know the difference.
6. The biggest stress of today's time is trying to please all the people all the time.
7. Success does not make people arrogant or humble. It only unmasks them.
8. A hammer shatters glass but strengthens steel.
9. Sometimes in order to be kind, you got to be unkind.
10. Most of the time we are our own biggest problem.
11. You never measure a person neck down, but neck up.
12. Success is a matter of laws, not luck.
13. No matter what you do some people will always criticize you.
14. Cowards can never practice morality.
15. Any behavior that gets rewarded gets repeated. We must reward our children appropriately.

A boy wanted to know the secret of success. So he went to Socrates and asked him for the secret of success. Socrates took him inside the ocean till the water reached the boy's neck. Then, suddenly he put the head of the boy inside water for about 2 minutes. Obviously the boy was gasping for breath. When the boy's head was out Socrates asked him what his thoughts were inside the water. The boy replied that he wanted air very badly and he was only thinking about how to get it. Socrates explained to the boy that if he wants anything as badly as he wanted the air inside the water, he will get it. Nobody can stop him from getting success. In order to be successful you should have the burning desire.

Country First
1. While he was being hanged Bhagat Singh uttered these words " Gore angrezon ko to desh chhod kar jana hi hai. Mujhe to kale angrezon (citizens of the country who behave like traitors) ka dar hai."
2. In 200 years the British have not looted our country as much as the politicians have looted in the last 50 years.

Alumni Page

Contribution for NIST Alumni Scholarship Fund

Mr. Swagat Kumar Samantray	Rs. 2500/-
Mr. Prabhudutta Pradhan	Rs. 2000/-
Mr. Mukesh Sukla	Rs. 2000/-
Ms. Prerana Priyadarshini	Rs. 2000/-
Ms. Suvra Mallick	Rs. 2000/-
Mr. Piyush Pratap Panda	Rs. 2000/-
Mr. Siva Kumar Behera	Rs. 2000/-

NIST Alumni Association pays its sincere gratitude to all the donors for their contribution towards a noble cause. Dr. Arun Kumar Padhy may be contacted for any information regarding donations.

From Mailbox

From: soumyaranjan.biswal@dzcard.com   *To: enews@nist.edu*
Subject: hello!!!!!!!!!!!!   *Date: Mon, 1 Oct 2007 15:29:13 +0530*

Hello Nist e_news team,
Myself, Soumya Ranjan Biswal. Batch 2001-2005, IT Branch. I did my MBA from Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand. I am now working as an Assistant Manager in the company dz card, India. Our website is www.dzcard.com and also http://www.dzcard.com/dz_india.html I would like to send you the following link: http://www.dzcard.com/dz_india.html Because I think a part of my success belongs to NIST also. Today I am in the company's website and also in the company's brochure. And it's not a small thing. And I thank NIST and the faculties for making me go through all those sleepless nights….I think they finally paid off.
Thank you.
Best regards
Somu

From: sujit.satapathy@wipro.com   *To: psmallick@yahoo.com*
Subject: Missing NIST!   *Date: Mon, 22 Oct 2007 12:02:15 +0530*

Good Morning Sir,

I am Sujit Satapathy of ECE 2003 batch. Hope you remember me. Today I was going through NIST site and was happy seeing the Year Book 2007. I remember of those days of project you were my examiner and also the Entrepreneurship class. Class was so interesting and was very much informative. I'm missing those days I have been in my college. Different events like Waves, ISTE etc. It makes me cherished when I think of you dancing with me in Waves'06. Thanks for all those help which you have given me during my college time. I would be happy if you reply me.

"HAPPY BELATED DUSSHERA!"
Thanks & Regards
SUJIT SATAPATHY, *Project Engineer, Wipro Technologies, Pune*

From: skpanigrahi2001@yahoo.com   *To: akpanda62@hotmail.com*
Subject: Scholarship   *Date: Sun, 21 Oct 2007 15:45:57 -0700*

Dear Sir,
Wish you all a very happy Dusshera. Thank you for coming back to me on my proposal. It's great to know about the NIST ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND. I really appreciate that NIST is taking such initiatives. Even Panda Sir as telling me about this fund. I like the idea of 10K annually which will come from the FUND to which NIST alumni contributes. However my purpose is a bit different and here is what I think:

1) Firstly, the idea of creating an environment to make the students realize the importance of reading magazine, focusing on the interpersonal/group skills and spending time on their hobbies along with their course study.

2) Secondly, I just don't want to contribute once towards the scholarship fund. Rather what I am suggesting is to pay this money year after year, which will continue generations after generations. (I am thinking about designing a fund which will be able to pay off for the yearly scholarship, and at the same time will grow to beat inflation, something similar to perpetuity. This might take some time for me, but this is what I am looking for.)

3) Finally, which I have not stated earlier, I personally am not in favour of giving all the money to one student. Rather I will favour to distribute it to a small deserving group and hence can enrich more students. Thank you again for putting your valuable time into considering my proposal.

Regards
Santosh

Alumni Interview

From: ashrujit@gmail.com   *To: smruti.nist@gmail.com*
Sub: NIST e_news Interview

About me:

I was born in Cuttack, but we moved back to Bhubaneswar soon afterwards. I spent my middle school and high school years in Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda and Govt High School Unit-1 in Bhubaneswar, respectively. Then after +2 in BJB College, I joined NIST Computer Science and Engineering in 1998.

I now live in Austin, TX with my wife Smita and my dog. I work in a Round Rock Texas based startup company as a Database Administrator. I ride, read, hike and travel when I am not working with Databases. My parents and my brother live in Bhubaneswar.

Years at NIST:

With my score in JEE, I was offered admission to several RECs (NIT) and all government engineering colleges in Orissa. However, none of them had any seats left in Computer Science department and almost all of them taught in a curriculum that was developed in the 50s or 60s. Berhampur University had a course curriculum comparable to the IITs and even some of the US universities. NIST in particular had one of the best faculties in the region. Even though Berhampur, as a city of education, wasn't too inviting, I decided to come to NIST.

My batch had probably the biggest concentration of geeks, nerds, independent thinkers and plain radicals. As much as some of us loathed the idea of living in the hostel for a year, we were so much thankful later to whoever made that rule. Some of the best friendships, partnerships, healthy competitions and animosity (though none on my part) were built during that first year.

Outside classroom, two of the most memorable, enriching and career-altering (in some sense) events were the scholarship to attend the International Conference on High Performance Computing (HiPC, 2000) at Bangalore and the summer training program at IIT, Kanpur. It was the HiPC that inspired me to look beyond the usual "finish B.E, get job in IT".

During my final year, I decided to give the GRE and apply for admission to US graduate schools. Since IT recruiting was really bad due to the economic recession, I was also preparing for CAT and XAT admission tests. After a decent GRE (2020/2400) and TOEFL (293/300) score, I was confident that I would get 3-4 admission and scholarship offers out of the 7 or 8 programs I had applied for. I did get admission offers to Washington University, University of Texas and George Washington University, but none of them offered any scholarship of any form. I decided to defer all admission offers and keep writing to the Graduate Program committees, individual professors and department chairs. XAT was delayed that year and I appeared it after my GRE. The verbal section seemed too easy compared to the GRE verbal section and the analytical section was full of questions that I could easily solve by applying Regular Expressions. As a result, I got interview calls from both XLRI and XIMB, but both of the institutions denied admission since our 8th semester won't have been over before beginning of their first term.

So after these disappointments, I decided to wait till fall of 2003 to see how the schools respond to my scholarship requests. Towards second week of January, 2003, TCS was conducting walk-ins and I was lucky to get an opportunity to be interviewed. I was selected and decided to join TCS. I worked in TCS till December 2003 when George Washington offered scholarship for PhD in Computer Engineering. In summer 2005, the federal project I was working for and the ECE department in general had a major funding setback. I completed another semester with my own funds and graduated with a Masters degree. Since then, I have been working as DBA in various small and big companies, including Satyam, Nissan, Marlabs and now at Biometric Access Company. An interesting, off-the-beaten-track experience during this time was a fellowship at the National Academy of Science, an organization that advises the US Government in Science, Engineering and Medicine policy. There is many such career options beyond IT consulting that one might pursue after an engineering degree.

Advice to current Students:

Many of you take English communication for granted. I have observed many of you use "chat room" language while writing emails, almost every sentence ends with trailing periods (....), names are shortened and appended with an 's' or 'y', and other things which are supposedly "cool". I believe many of you have the misconception of being labeled backward, old and uncool if you don't write in that fashion. That might be true in communication among your friends, but its definitely not acceptable in business communication. Knowledge of technology is not the most desired trait to succeed in the IT consulting world. I have seen many good engineers being left behind in their careers due to their lack of communication and inter-personal skills. And many technology dim-wits have progressed exponentially due to abundance of these very skills. Fortunately, NIST has many facilities including the PPT program, the library, all the teachers and alumni that you can use in improving these skills. You should also continuously read good English (fiction or non-fiction). What you read has a very subtle, but definite effect on how you speak and write.

There are many career options after completion of your degree. List your priorities and talk to a career guidance counselor. There is much reading material available that will give you information about almost any kind of career. Make alternate plans for your career. Soon you will find that apart from your efforts, there are many other factors beyond your control that is going to shape your career and future. It is futile to lose heart and stop trying when you come across any failure. I always wanted to be a CIA or MI-5 secret agent, President of United States, a truck driver, a notorious network hacker and a leader of a cult organization among other things. May be I still have time to experiment with some of these career options. I may succeed or may be I would end up a pathetic failure in all of them. At least, I won't have any regrets that I didn't give it a sincere try.

Keep dreaming and make all your efforts sincere, there is no limit what you can achieve. Remember that you can achieve only as much as you can dream.   All the best!

Ashrujit Mohanty, CSE 98 – 02, ashrujit@gmail.com
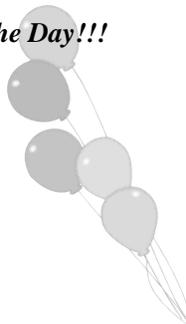
birthday bash (16 Dec. – 15 Jan.)

NIST e_news wishes a very *Happy Birthday* to:

Mr. L. K. Raju	19-Dec
Mr. Swagat Ku. Samantaray	20-Dec
Mr. K. Lakshmi Narayana	29-Dec
Mr. Atanu Dutta	2-Jan

Many Many Happy Returns of the Day!!!

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY

NIST e_news wishes a very *Happy Joyful Marriage Anniversary* to:
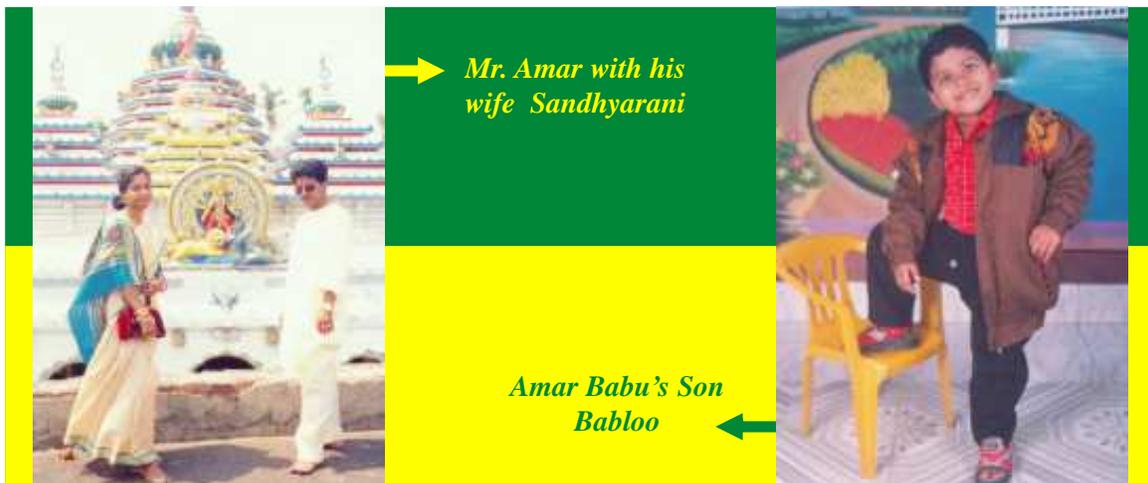
Dr. Motahar Reza	19-Dec

person of the month

Born on 1ˢᵗ January 1967 as the second son, in the family of Mr. Gandharb Chandra Sahoo, a shop-owner in Bhubaneswar and Mrs. Bimala Sahoo, a homemaker, Mr. Amar Bikram Sahoo, completed his schooling from Janata Bidyapitha, Kusunpur, Cuttack, in the year 1984. He did his B.Com from Nimapara College, Nimapara, Puri and also did his Diploma in Computer Application. At the age of 25, he joined as the Chief Accountant in Hotel Meghdoot, Bhubaneswar. In the year 1997, Mr. Sahoo joined National Institute of Science and Technology, Berhampur, as an Accountant. And henceforth, there is no looking back. For the last 10 years he has been with the Institute with all his ever indomitable spirit of dedication and loyalty. He is well-known for his amicability, trustworthiness, fidelity and devotion.

Mr. Sahoo leads a very happy conjugal life with wife Mrs. Sandhyarani Sahoo, a B.Sc in Mathematics. They have a 7 year old son, M. Ansuman Aryaprakash (*Babloo*) who is now in Std-I, DAV Public School, Berhampur. Known well as *'Amar Babu'* in the campus, Mr. Sahoo takes a great interest in sports like Volley Ball and Table Tennis. He has acted as a scorer twice in the Inter College Table Tennis Championship organized under Berhampur University and Biju Patnaik University of Technology.

Mr. Amar with his wife Sandhyarani
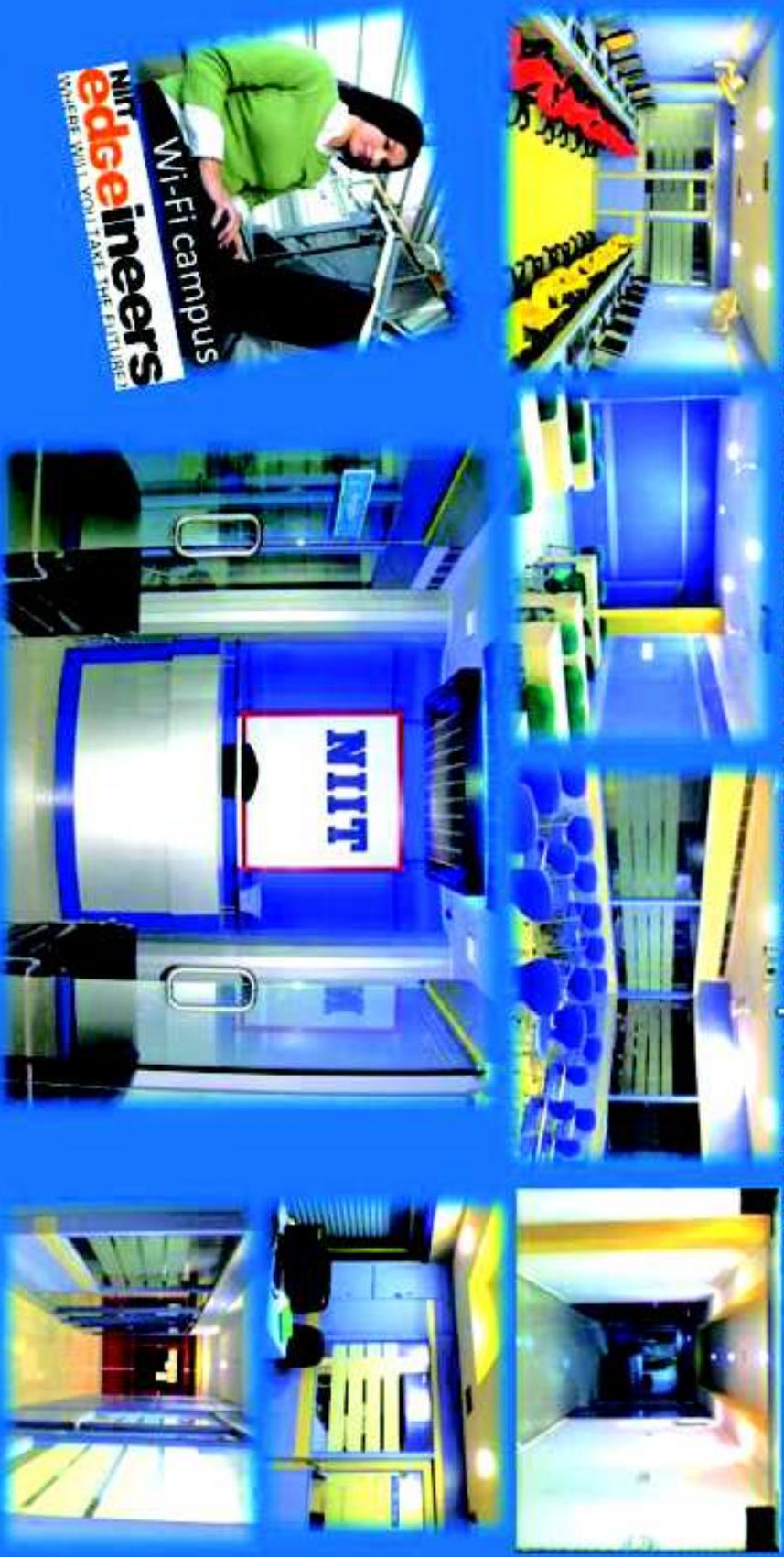
Amar Babu's Son Babloo

He shares a very rich experience being at NIST. Working efficiently, Mr. Sahoo owes the credit to Prof. Sangram Mudali, Director, NIST. The love, affection and support he has got from the entire NIST family, holds paramount significance in his life. He has come across many ups and downs in his life and can just never forget Prof. Mudali's help and assistance, particularly the incident, when he had to get one of his eyes operated from Kallyapa Hospital Madras, and was penniless.

Mr. Amar owes his sincere gratitude to the entire NIST fraternity for being beside him through the dark and sunny sides of his life.

NIST e_news wishes our Amar Babu a bright future ahead.

NIIT
Be More Ambitious

Fast Track Power Packed Programs for Engineering/MCA students

Choose Nothing But The Best

New World Class NIIT Berhampur Centre

Wi-Fi campus

NIIT edgeineers
WHERE WILL YOU TAKE THE FUTURE?

NIIT, Sri Sai Complex, 1ˢᵗ Floor, Gandhinagar Main Road, Berhampur, Ph:2223280/6450192

Authorised Education Partner:

ORACLE

Sun

Microsoft

CompTIA

intel