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VOLUME 3



Stay Home, Stay Safe



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I hope this message finds everyone in good health. The world is witnessing an unprecedented situation in the form of COVID-19. We pray for everybody's safety and good health.

With respect to the release of the third volume of the alumni newsletter Anusmriti, I would like to commend the efforts made by Students' Association for Alumni Relations. The association under the guidance of the Dr. Sumanta Gupta



(Associate Dean, Resource) and Dr. Anirban Chowdhury (PIC-Alumni) have forged a strong linkage between the IIT Patna and its alumni.

Alumni of any institute have immense potential for upliftment, enrichment and advancement of their alma mater. To acknowledge their achievements and to provide them with well-organized updates of the college is surely a labour of love the institute would like to undertake.

We have constantly striven to provide a platform for alumni to present their valuable experience and insights to the students of IIT Patna. This is indeed helpful for students to know the real world, which requires aspiring and creative young minds to solve its many challenges. COVID-19, for example, needs really breakthrough solutions to ward off its serious threat to life. This alumni-student exchange is beneficial to the alumni as well, as they remain connected with their alma mater and can benefit from its many resources.

I once again thank the alumni office team of IIT Patna for their endeavor in bringing out the alumni newsletters regularly and also convey my best wishes to our alumni and the IITP alumni office for all their future efforts.

Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharyya, FNAE
Director, IIT Patna

Ex-President Association for Computational Linguistics
Ex-Vijay and Sita Vashee Chair Professor, CSE Dept., IIT Bombay
Professor of Computer Sc. and Engr., IIT Patna & IIT Bombay



Alumni Updates



PRANJALI KOKARE
BT/CSE/18
Software Engineer, Facebook



G LLOYDS RAJA
PhD/EE/18
Asst. Prof., Dept. of EE
NIT Patna



ABHINAY PALADUGU
BT/CSE/18
Associate Systems Engr.
Dell Boomi



ABHILASH KUMAR
BT/EE/16
Software Development Engr.-2
Microsoft



PRABINA PATTANAYAK
PhD/EE/16
Asst. Prof., Dept. of EE
NIT Silchar



GOVIL BUSI
BT /ME/14
Industrial Engr.
Engineers India Ltd.



ASHWIN GOYAL
BT/ME/17
Senior Software Engr.
Qualcomm



KUNDAN KR. SINHA
MT/EE/17
Jr. Telecom Officer
BSNL



SAMANTH SAURABH
PhD/CSE/16
Asst. Prof., Dept. of IT
IIM, Bodhgaya





YASH DOSHI
BT/CSE/13
Computer Scientist
Adobe Systems



APOORVA SHRIVASTAVA
BT/CST/18
Senior Business Analyst
Yellow Messenger



MAHENDRA KUMAR GUPTA
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Asst. Prof., Dept. of Mathematics
NIT Jamshedpur



SAISREE MIRIYALA
BT/CSE/18
Senior Member of Technical Staff
Adobe Systems, India



MAYURESH ANIL GADGE
BT/CSE/13
Schneider Electric Pvt. Ltd.



SAIFULLAH PAYAMI
PhD /EE/16
Asst. Prof., Dept. of EE
IIT Ropar



SANATH VURELLI
BT/EE/16
Senior Robotics Engr.
Monogram Orthopaedics



AYUSH KUMAR
BT/CSE/12
Machine Learning Scientist
Observe.AI



KK SAUNDRA PANDIAN
PhD/EE/17
Scientist
Ministry of Elect. & Tel. NEW DELHI



Alma Speaks



Gagandeep Singh (BT/CSE/12) is a B.Tech. Gold medallist IIT Patna Alumnus. He is currently a Tenure Track Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), which is among the top universities for computer science in the world. We commend him for his brilliant achievements!



Q. What motivated you to pursue a career in research to become a professor?

R. It has been my goal to pursue an academic career from the beginning. I like the freedom to define one's research agenda which can lead to the emergence of new research directions. There is also a sense of fulfillment in mentoring and supervising students, nurturing their skills, focusing their talent, and watching them grow as researchers.

Q. What were the hardships and difficulties you had to face over this long journey of almost 10 years?

R. My journey has involved many challenges and difficulties. During my time, the temporary campus of IIT Patna had limited facilities compared to the older IITs. In the first semester, the internet did not work in our hostels, our computer lab did not have enough machines and was not accessible 24x7. These facilities have gradually improved over time. Since we were the first batch at IIT Patna, we had no seniors to advise us or any old exams to prepare from. Overcoming these challenges required extra effort. After IIT Patna, I moved to ETH Zurich. Adjusting to a new culture, working, and teaching style was challenging. There is fierce competition for faculty positions at top universities. All candidates interviewing at these places have stellar records. I worked super hard, sometimes non-stop for many days, so that I have strong publications at top conferences which typically have low acceptance rates.



Q. Which college year was the most memorable for you and why?

R. While each year was full of great memories, stories, and experiences, I would rate the first year as the most memorable as it was also the first time I met some of my best friends hailing from varied backgrounds. Further, we had no established campus culture. This led to many things that I would say were peculiar to our batch. Among these, I fondly remember competing to sit in the first row of morning classes by waking up as early as 4 am and making a reservation by placing notebooks on the tables. This practice gradually died down in the later years.

Q. Can you elaborate on how IIT Patna has played a role in your success?

R. The undergraduate curriculum at IIT Patna exposed me to a variety of topics in computer science and beyond. The internships in the USA and Australia and the bachelor thesis gave me research experience at an early stage. I appreciate that the faculty at IIT Patna pushed me to keep improving, and provided the necessary guidance and mentorship when it was needed. The faculty also helped me in preparing my application for the graduate program at ETH Zurich. I am very thankful for all of this.

Q. How did you manage pressure and time while in college? Have college experiences helped you to deal with it in your workspace?

R. The curriculum at IIT Patna was quite demanding with frequent exams and project deadlines. This required managing time and stress as well as collaborating with classmates. My college experiences have enabled me to remain calm under pressure and improved my time management and decision making. I can better prioritize my tasks for a particular day and decide when to keep working on a task and when to take a break and restart again the next day. Also, working with my classmates on various course projects and exercises improved my skills for effective collaboration in a research group.



Q. In which clubs were you actively involved during college days and are you still pursuing those hobbies?

R. I participated in competitions organized by the cultural and sports clubs. Although I did not win many of those, I do remember winning the cleanest room award in 2009. I also organized coding competitions via the computer science club NJACK during the annual cultural event Anwasha. I still play cricket and football from time to time. Another hobby that I have picked up recently is cooking.

Q. What message or advice you would like to give to your Juniors here at IITP, trying to establish a successful future?

R. Clarity of thoughts and self-belief are critical. Determine your goals early, break them down into smaller milestones, and consistently focus your energy on achieving these milestones. Also, having the best grades does not guarantee success. Developing a problem-solving attitude is more valuable as unlike the exam questions, most real-world problems have no well-defined solution.



Road to Success



The four years at IIT Patna have been instrumental in shaping me and my outlook towards life. As Albert Einstein beautifully puts it - "Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything one has learned in school". To all my friends out there - enjoy the four years! The four years will help you shape your personality, and your personality is lot more than just the academics. Beyond the technical education, my four years at IIT Patna taught me how to learn, how to make mistakes and how to keep improving. I'm grateful to the entire IIT Patna family for that experience.

With the ever-changing world, I know we are all anxious about our way forward in life. Of course, work passionately towards what excites you. Make new mistakes and fall without fear, for failures teach way more than successes do. But, please don't forget to enjoy IITP along the way!

Cherish the moment and make a whole lot of memories. For those moments and memories are the only things that will live with you forever. Enjoy IIT Patna, trust me, it's wonderful and you don't want to miss out!

Mr. Pranav Suresh
(BT/CE/18)
MS, Stanford University



IIT Patna has been a place of immense learning for me as it provided me with many opportunities that have shaped my career today.

While initially wanting to pursue research as a career, I actively searched for summer internship prospects abroad. The major challenge in the process was to find the right opportunity that suited my interest. Previous research experience acquired during my internship in my sophomore year, along with a strong SOP and LOR, played a crucial role in my selection as a summer intern at the University of Tokyo.

However, at the end of college, after a lot of deliberation, I found my interests leaning towards pursuing a management degree. Therefore, I decided to go ahead with the campus placement offer for getting some corporate experience instead of applying for research positions. I believe that CAT is a test that can be aced with a lot of practice and some smart problem-solving techniques.

Apart from academics, being an active participant in activities such as dance and sports, along with various PORs in college, helped me build a good overall profile. These PORs, along with my experience at Prayatna, helped me get selected as a fellow at the prestigious 'Teach for India'. I believe that the knowledge gained in IIT Patna has made me appreciate and utilize the opportunities that I got later in my career.

"Fortune does favour the bold, and you'll never know what you're capable of if you don't try." I have always been reminded of this quote by Sheryl Sandberg at each tough point in my career. Therefore, I believe that it's imperative to look for opportunities that attract you and work hard to get them. We may not know for sure where we would finally like to end up in our career, but it is these opportunities that ultimately lead us there.

Ms. Ravneet Kaur
(BT/CST/17)
MBA, IIM Ahemdabad



Placement Stats

In the current year, almost 105 companies have collectively extended 185 job offers so far while about 40 companies have provided internship opportunities to the pre-final year students.

Compared to last year, this year, around 11% growth has been observed in the number of recruiters. Eventually, this helped our institution to achieve over 65% placements for 2020 graduating B.Tech. batch.

Microsoft Corporation has bagged the credit of presenting the highest domestic package of 40 lakhs per annum while the highest international package (59 lakhs per annum) is provided by Rakuten, a Japanese e-commerce company. In this rush, Google offered the highest package of around 2 crore per annum through off-campus mode in the year 2019-2020.

Job and Intern recruitments were mostly noted in the realm of Software Engineering, Technology Consulting, Analytics, Research and development, Graduate Engineering, etc.

In current year IIT Patna has also witnessed PSUs including IOCL and HPCL as placement drives for 2020 graduating pearls along with international offers from Rakuten, Topline Co. Ltd., Max Connect, Weather News, etc.



Construction Updates



The construction of IIT Patna's campus is progressing at a steady pace. This year, construction activities in the campus progressed under two phases, namely Phase-I Part-2 and Phase-II. The Gymkhana building is now fully functional with squash courts, badminton courts, rooms for various club activities, etc.



Phase-II construction of buildings including the auditorium, library, guest house, central lecture hall, Students Activity Center, workshops, and residential buildings for students, faculties and staff is under progress. All these have been undertaken by the CPWD, and the percentage of completion up to April 2020 has been noted as 38.5%.



1) Reimbursement for Data Plans:

In the current scenario of this COVID-19 pandemic situation, the institution decided to conduct online classes for the benefit of students. However, due to poor internet connectivity at most of the students' residence, the benefits were not greatly cherished. Hence, in response to these difficulties faced by the students, Institute has decided and agreed to Vice President's request of giving Rs 500 for upgrading internet connection or providing a pendrive with recorded lectures to students in need.



2) Free Coursera courses:

The everlasting quarantine has made productivity a daily struggle for many demotivated students. As an effective solution, the Gymkhana has partnered with Coursera, one of the best online learning platforms, for providing free online courses for students. Coursera is providing free certified courses for students and alumni of IIT Patna to aid them in sharpening their skills in areas that interest them. The Gymkhana will continue to ensure the betterment and welfare of students and alumni.



3) Students' Technical Council:

Technical growth of an institute plays a key role in development of students and determining the progress of the institute. To facilitate and improve the technical aspects of the institute, 'Students' Technical Council (STC), IIT Patna', was formed with the help of 'The Technical Affairs, Students' Gymkhana'. STC intends to develop technical skills of students and help them to participate in various renowned competitions all over the globe, by assisting various technical and informative activities for the students to benefit from.

STC acts as an umbrella under which all technical clubs and events will come under, providing a common platform for all events to benefit from. Currently, Intra College Tech Championship (ICTC), a smaller version of Inter IIT Tech Meet, is being held under STC. The structure is based on Inter IIT Tech Meet and many hackathons and challenges are being conducted as a part of it, so as to give exposure to students of the real competitions. STC is currently in its developing phase and hopes to elevate the technical culture of the institute to a new level.



Cultural



Anwasha :

Anwasha, the annual techno-cultural festival of IIT Patna, was celebrated with all its glory and grandeur. The wondrous journey was inaugurated by our honorable Director, Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya. A multitude of events, ranging from technical to cultural, were excellently organised over the course of the fest. The hilarious stand-up comedy performance by Mr. Vipul Goyal made the audience fall about laughing, while the exhilarating music of DJ Rhea gave an unparalleled ending to the night.



Finally, on the third day of the fest, the exuberance was elevated even more by the spectacular and mesmerizing performance of Bollywood singing sensation KK, who, along with his band, captured the hearts of every audience member with his nostalgic songs. As always, Anwasha'20 was filled with surprises and everyone, including participants, audience and organisers left with a bundle of memories that they'll never forget.



Technical



Samnivesha :

The annual technical fest of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Samnivesha, was organised on 15th and 16th of February, 2020. The much awaited fest was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Prof. Deepankar Choudhary (ASCE Fellow, NASc Fellow), a distinguished professor of Civil Engineering faculty from IIT Bombay in presence of the Guest of Honor, Dr. Sriparna Saha, Associate Dean (Research & Development Division, IIT Patna). The elegant inaugural ceremony was followed by Prof. Choudhary's enlightening talk on "Glory of Foundation Systems of Civil Structures".

The fest also had the esteemed presence of two senior structural engineers from Tata Steel (Er. Sanjib Kumar Das and Er. Debasis Chakraborty), who gave their valuable insights into the practical world of structural engineering.

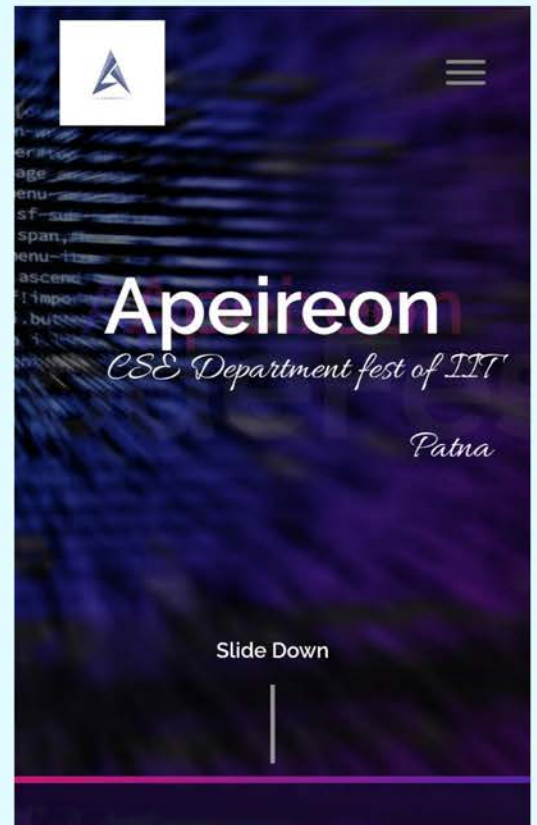
The two-day event also witnessed technical workshops on AutoCAD and SAP 2000 conducted by NDS (National Design Studio) and CSI (Computers and Structures Inc.) respectively. Samnivesha also hosted a slew of events, such as: Bridge-It, Geomanji, CiviQ, House of Cards & the Engineers' Conclave which involved the participation from various colleges across Bihar. Samnivesha concluded successfully with the prize distribution to the winners of various competitions.



Apeireon :

Apeireon, the departmental fest of Computer Science, saw massive participation in its very first edition under the support of Dr. Jimson Mathew (HoD, CSE Dept.). Amidst the coronavirus outbreak, although the scale of plans got reduced, the enthusiasm of the organizing team did not. Many innovative online events such as Mystery Language, CodeGolf, Hacking Challenge, Codesprint360 and Linux Desktop Customization were conducted successfully, amassing a vast online global reach of thousands in multiple events.

We thank our alumni who participated and came forward to congratulate the organizing team for hosting the very first edition of 'Apeireon'.





In January 2020, a blood donation campaign was carried out by NSS IIT Patna in collaboration with AIIMS, Patna and Traffic Safety week with Department of Transportation, Govt. of Bihar.

As a token of complement NSS IIT Patna was awarded in the closing ceremony of Traffic Safety week.

2nd Batch of nine JNVST (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test) students appeared in the examination in Patna. NSS IIT Patna was also credited with the "Best Red Ribbon Club" by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the occasion of World AIDS day, for spreading awareness about AIDS for last two years.

NSS IIT Patna organized a short program to explain the students about "Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat" program in order to spread the message of "Unity in diversity".

IIT Patna also took part in the state Government initiative of "Jal Jeevan Hariyali" for the conservation of environment and abolition of dowry and alcohol addiction. Students from the institute actively participated in the Human Chain demonstration organized on 19th January 2020.

NSS IIT Patna has also started Adhyayan Teaching in Dilawarpur village (near Gate 2 of IIT Patna) with 140 students.



Covid-19



Fight against COVID-19

During this tough time, IIT Patna has taken various initiatives to tackle the pandemic and to provide timely help to the needy ones.

IIT Patna is developing a multilingual event monitoring system in order to establish reliable connections between policy makers, humanitarian organisations and affected citizens. The Incubation Centre (IC) at IIT Patna has called for proposals for rapidly deployable solutions to combat COVID-19 in the areas including hygiene and social distancing, curative devices and sanitizing equipment. IC, along with eight incubated companies, has been concentrating in developing solutions as a part of COVID response.

Personal protective equipment like face shields, bodysuits, etc., social distancing tracker, and food and drug delivery robots are being developed by Sybilline Robotics. Other solutions include preparation of decontamination devices for PPE (including N95 masks), developing telemedicine platform for monitoring patients, prototyping a Quarantine Management System for tracking quarantined people, testing for patients at mass scale, improved video conferencing facilities and portable ventilators at lower cost.

Face shields prepared by IC, IIT Patna have been distributed to the nearby Bihta police station. Shri. Viswa Ranjan, Registrar and Vice President of IC, IIT Patna, handed over 25 face shields prepared in the laboratories of IC, IIT Patna to Bihta police station in the presence of Deputy Registrar (Admin), PIC-IC, and Security Officer.

The faculty of IIT Patna are working hand in hand with IC for getting these solutions developed.



Appeal for Alms



To enable the institute to pursue its goal of maintaining high standards of teaching, research and co-curricular, contribute to the following priority areas:

- 1) **Medals for best academic achievers**: To celebrate the academic excellence, that may include (but not limited by) awards to the best performing student in their category (e.g., top-rankers in different disciplines).
- 2) **Student Scholarships**: To nurture excellence amongst students by awarding scholarships to the deserving candidates.
- 3) **Student Travel Grant Program**: To provide financial assistance to students and faculty for participation in international technical conferences, symposia, etc.
- 4) **Institute Development Fund**: To fund new facilities on campus based on the "Master Plan", with the facility to be named after the donor.
- 5) **College Fests and Clubs**: To succour for the development and maintain the exuberance of different clubs running throughout the year by fulfilling their needs and for their development at their peak.
- 6) **National Service Scheme (NSS)**: To aid for projecting a better NSS Society in IIT Patna for social benefit of the nearby regions of IIT Patna.

Requesting your generous contribution to the Alumni Cell by mentioning the specific area through the payment portal link provided below.

<https://saar.iitp.ac.in/don.html>



Credits

Gaurav Pratap Singh
Yuvi Dhelawat
Aman Kumar
Sajal Kumar
Bagisha Kumari
Aravind Ajay
Sushant Sinha
Anshu Anand
Ananthajit

Dr. Anirban Chowdhury
(PIC-Alumni)

Staff, A. Dean, Resources
Mr. Azizullah Palvi

Special Thanks to

Dr. Sumanta Gupta
(A. Dean, Resources)

Pictures Credit:
Nitesh Dwivedi
(BT/EE/19)

