

## **SILVER JUBILEE ALUMNI MEET OF BATCH OF 1982 – IT BHU**

**(Written by: Nihal Ansari-Mechanical 1982)**

A quarter of a century has elapsed since we graduated, yet we all cherish and would continue to cherish every moment of the unforgettable and glorious time of our lives spent in IT-BHU for five long years from 1977 to 1982. We, a batch of 305 students together, had shared our moments of joy, happiness and sorrows in the workshops, labs, class-rooms and the hostels while shaping our future in one of world's most renowned educational institutions, founded by the great Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya. We remain indebted to our Institute, the faculty and the supporting staff who had turned us all from a raw youth to engineers. We remain committed to fulfillment of the dreams of Mahamana by serving the Institute, India and helping the world as professionals and the humanity as world-class citizens.

To re-live those memories of sharing and caring once again, Batch of 1982 IT-BHU had been planning a reunion of its silver jubilee of passing out from IT-BHU since last two years. The seeds of re-union had been sown almost four years ago when Mr. Debashish Bhattacharyya (Mech'82) created '**IT-BHU-BatchOf1982**' group at Yahoo Groups website. One after the other, from words of mouth, through spread of emails, the group brought together more than 75% of our batchmates at one platform. The resolve for reunion meet became stronger after Mr. Ravindra Nath Singh (Mech'82) posted series of six long letters in Jan'06, reminiscing his days of those five years while narrating his 1999 visit to IT-BHU along with his wife & two little children. These letters added fuel to the fire of nostalgic feelings. Resolve turned into determination and plans to reunite at IT-BHU started.

Planning started, dates proposed, changed & frozen, expenditure envisaged, various activities discussed along with an idea to pay Gurudakhshina to our Alma Mater. A Corpus Fund idea mooted to collect funds for supplementing academic standards at IT-BHU. A Group bank account was opened by Mr. K. V .S. Manian to deposit our contribution for the participation and for the Corpus Fund.

We now needed persons who could actually take up the tough and hectic responsibility to get the things done at ground zero i.e. at Banaras and IT. Mr. Nihaluddin Ansari (Mech'82), who belongs to Banaras, voluntarily took the whole responsibility supported by some of his local childhood friends and a few able officers of Kotak Mahindra Bank, Banaras Branch, courtesy Mr. K. V. S. Manian (Electrical'82). They successfully carried out the responsibilities of booking Hotels and banquets halls, arranging transport, Bajra, Saree vendors, photographers, Banarasi Maghai paan, Pahalwan's Launglata and souvenir etc. 71 rooms were booked in advance in Hotel Clarks Varanasi, Hotel Hindustan International and the University/IT guest houses. Mr. Jayant Bhattacharya planned and allocated rooms to the visiting alumni in advance. Alumni and their families were picked up/dropped from stations/airport for which advance information of arrival/departure timings of alumni were collected. 9 Taveras and 4 luxury mini buses (35-seater) were hired to transport alumni & their families. 4 Bajras were hired for 3-hour ride on Ganges and to see Aarti at Dashaswamedh Ghat. All 4 Bajras tied together, moved in unison which became a talking topic of Banaras.

Prof. S. N. Upadhyay, Director, IT gave his whole hearted support and assigned Dr. Pradeep Kumar Mishra (Chemical Engg) and Mr. Vikalp Agarwal (final year student of Civil Engg) to organize things at IT-BHU. Through them, we got valuable support for booking university/IT guest house rooms, IT orchestra, hostel visits, lunch at hostel, alumni Milan function at Gopal Tripathi Auditorium, formal invitation to all HoDs (Heads of Departments)

and all 1982 era professors. Proctor office was informed of the alumni visit for easy access of transport vehicles. Hostel wardens were informed for access to rooms and few of the hostel Maharaj pitched in for serving us the authentic hostel food to reminisce hostel days. HoDs/Professors were invited for the Gala dinner for which transport was arranged.

A schedule of all activities as given hereunder was finalized before hand and circulated.

TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
<b>DAY 1 24.12.2007 MONDAY</b>		
1100	Visit to Sarnath for all those who arrived of 24 <sup>th</sup> morning	Alumnus to get ready, have breakfast & board Taveras by 1045 AM.
1400	Lunch at Rangoli Garden, Sarnath	
1700	Visit to Tulsi Manas Mandir, Durgakund Mandir & Sankatmochan Mandir	Alumnus to & board Taveras by 5 PM.
2200	Dinner at Sindhi Restaurant, Kerala Cafe	
<b>DAY 2 25.12.2007 TUESDAY</b>		
0900	Departure by buses/Taveras from hotels. Buses to stop at Lanka (30 min), take a round of BHU. Stop at Arts & Science faculties (10 min), Central Library, visit to Birla temple (60 min)	Alumnus to get ready, have breakfast & board buses by 9 AM. Delays will cut down time of hostel room visits.
1200	Hostel visits	
1400	Lunch at hostel with students & interaction with students	About 200 Final Year students will join us for lunch. It will be ethnic hostel menu for lunch on the same old hostel benches. Gift T-shirts to hostel workers.
1500	Board buses for Assi ghat, Bajra ride to Dashaswamedh ghat. Enjoy Aarti at about 1900 hrs. Visit Kashi Vishwanath temple, do shopping and then return to hotel individually by rickshaw/Taveras.	Alumnus to board buses by 3 PM so that we board the Bajras by 4 PM. Chips, fruit juices, chocolates, Launglata & mineral water will be served on Bajra. Top up with Meetha Paan.
2000	<b>Gala dinner</b> & Alumni milan at HHI with bonfire & DJ	Interact freely with IT faculties. Enjoy DJ music during dinner. Early attendance requested as faculties may start reaching by 8 PM due to cold winter.
2200	Souvenir distribution	Present souvenirs to faculties. Arranged by Sh. M. S. Reddy & alumni fund.
<b>DAY 3 26.12.2007 WEDNESDAY</b>		
0900	Departure by buses from hotel	Alumnus to get ready, have breakfast & board buses by 9 AM. Delays will cut down time of department visits.
1000	Official inauguration, announcement of donation/ legacy project, alumni milan	Chief Guest – IT Director Alumnus may prepare speeches for the occasion. Interact with faculties who may not have attended dinner. Old anecdote narrations. Present souvenirs to faculties.
1300	Lunch	Vegetarian lunch on the terrace under

		sun.
1400	Department visits	Proceed to one's own departments by buses/Taveras. Reassemble at IT building at 3 PM.
1530	Board buses for return to hotel	These buses/Taveras will be available to reach Hotel Clarks & also for return to your hotel/GH at the end of dinner party.
1800	Buy sarees & kurtas	Saree & Kurta vendors arranged at banquet hall of Hotel Clarks. They will be there till 1930.
1930	<b>Alumni</b> Dinner at Clarks	Shed all inhibitions with glass of booze in hand. Enjoy DJ music, IT Band, Dance till you drop. Top up with Maghai Meetha Paan. Some <b>Paan drippings</b> down on shirts will be the best souvenir to carry back.
2100	Souvenir distribution	Souvenirs distribution to alumnus. Arranged by Sh. M. S. Reddy
<b>DAY 4 27.12.2007 THURSDAY</b>		
1000	Visit to Sarnath for all those who stayed till 27 <sup>th</sup> afternoon	Alumnus to get ready, have breakfast & board Taveras by 0945 AM.
1300	Lunch at Rangoli Garden, Sarnath	

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

1. About 110 alumni, 200+ with family included made it to the reunion. It has turned out to be the Largest gathering of alumni in BHU history.
2. While Mr. Nihaluddin Ansari (Mech'82) was in thick of organizing all the activities, directing on phone, an army of about 10+ guys (Kotak Mahindra's and his local friends) were doing things behind the scene to make the event successful.
3. Mr. V. Subramaniam (Chem'82) created bulk SMS facility that came very handy in spreading message to each other when most of us were away from internet. He also brought in sponsors for the booze.
4. Mr. Manthani Sridhar Reddy (Electronic'82) brought in souvenirs for faculties & alumni through his company, nVidia.
5. Many alumni made it from across the world (USA, Thailand, Dubai, Bahrain, UAE). Few of them planned their travel at a short notice spending huge sums on travel. The only girl of our batch, Ms. Rita Agarwal (Electronic'82) planned her travel in just three days along with her son. Her comment got widely reported in local media "*Man Nahin Mana Aur Chali Aayee*". Mr. Shakeel Girkar (Chem'82) flew almost whole day just to cover Mumbai – Varanasi, due to bad weather but did not lose his resolve.
6. Five alumni traveled from Mumbai to Varanasi in car.
7. There were no formal hand-shakes. Everyone hugged each other to greet like long lost friends who had met after 25 long years. Alumni were very happy and showed their emotions freely. Even children noticed so much happiness on their father's face for the first time.
8. 24.12.07: Visit to Sarnath and pre-arranged lunch at scenic Rangoli Garden restaurant set the ball rolling for the 4 days of fun filled bonhomie, camaraderie, nostalgic reunion.
9. 25.12.07: alumni did not budge from BHU gate and wanted to enjoy every minute of the available time for Lankating.

10. 25.12.07: Prof. S. N. Upadhyay Director, IT, met with the alumnus in his chamber as he was going outstation for some official engagements. Issues of importance for help to students/IT were discussed with him.
11. 25.12.07: Hostel lunch was arranged in Morvi hostel. Alumni behaved like students irrespective of their age and status and were whistling, giggling, hugging, narrating stories in front of their wives and children. Whistling got reported in the local media. *‘Seetiyan bajayee, gale mile, yaad kiye gujare pal’, ‘Morvi hostel mein jute puraniyon ne ki khoob dhamal chaukari’.*
12. 25.12.07: Alumni were surprised to see all 4 Bajras moving in unison. So were the Banarasi gentry who were also not used to this sight.
13. 26.12.07: Almost all alumni had misty eyes when Kulgeet was sung.
14. 26.12.07: Alumni assembled in Gopal Tripathi hall, resolved to create Corpus Fund to help improve standards/infrastructure in IT. Local media reported: *‘Hostel wa lecture theatre upgrade karenge Puraniye’.*
15. 26.12.07: Alumni and their families were dancing, dancing and dancing for almost three hours, non-stop at Alumni dinner.
16. 26.12.07: Many alumni, adept in music & songs entertained the group with their live performances.
17. Many ladies who had tasted Banarasi Maghai Paan for the first time still relish the taste. After the fun filled 4 days of reunion, one alumni’s wife commented *‘After seeing all this, I feel proud of marrying an IT BHU guy’.*
18. 26.12.07: Culmination of alumni meet was with big bang of fireworks, literally.
19. 27.12.07: Alumni couldn’t hold tears on departure which was rare at this age and status.

The reports which appeared in the local media are attached. There are six DVDs made for the meet which has been circulated to all alumni. These are besides alumni’s own taken video/photographs. The event has brought us and our families closer.

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL BATCH OF 1982** (Written by Ravindra Nath Singh-Mechanical 1982)

### **a) The birth of a special batch**

Born in the July month of 1977, at the Institute of Technology – BHU, the Batch-82 was exceptional and unique in many ways since its inception. The batch was the largest in strength with one and only one Rita Agrawal. The batch had both - the driver, T.S. Anantharaman (AIR-2nd) and the guard, Kakkad (AIR-2000th) of the IIT-JEE train. It was the first Batch with Semester System. It was the Batch that won maximum trophies in sports, started famous Kashi-Yatra event, published Impulse, actively participated in the election campaigns and a Batch that emerged as the most imposing and dominating of all batches for all five years! The zenith of the conformity of this Batch (1977-82) being special was the grand RE – UNION MEET in December 2007.

The year of inception of the Batch, 1977, itself was an eventful year in the history of India that saw a great political change. The dreadful emergency was lifted. With Mrs. Gandhi, her invincible Congress Party too was defeated for the first time after ruling the nation for 30 long years. Janata Party came to power. Political events had impacts on the Batch’82 in two prime ways! Firstly, it opened the gates of ragging that was banned for two years; and secondly, set the leaders of the Chhatra-Sangh free to roam and roar once again! Both played

a great role during the formative years and in the personality and the character developments of the Batch'82.

### **b) The great mixing process**

JEE being an all India Exam, it had squeezed-in India itself into IT-BHU. Like an African jungle, it had 400 new strange animals. Hostel Wardens like ring-masters, had hard time identifying and selecting two of them of the same specie - geographically and linguistically – that can be put in the same cage as room-partners! But hardly could the wardens do anything more with the boys from different states-more in number than listed in the Indian National Anthem from all the 22 Indian states appeared on the scene.

When interaction began - some combinations found each other strange. Most notably odd situation was when a pure south Indian and a pure Bihari interacted. One armed with zero knowledge of Hindi and the other with poor English. With just a little conversation they soon got convinced that they can't understand each other and harder they tried harder grew the problem!

Five years period indeed was very long and the Institute had its wonderful systems that increased the probability of a great mix-up and interaction amongst the batch-mates. Random allocation of hostels, room partners in the first year; the two year common Basic Sciences Course for all the branches - the same subjects, workshops, practicals, drawings and the Technical Writing - and above all the system of allocating divisions in the alphabetical order of names! A classic system that deserves all admirations worthy of a great University!

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