



# Pulse

FEATURED ARTICLE: THE SOLAR ECLIPSE - RAAHU'S REVENGE PG 6

THE YIN AND THE YANG: A NEWCOMER'S PERSPECTIVE OF IT BHU PG 5

THE UPCOMING FESTIVALS: IT'S FEST-O-MANIA PG 3

## Pulse is back!

Our college stands on the celebrated threshold of IIT-hood. The majority of the previous semester has been spent contemplating the permutations and combinations that could be employed, the dilemmas that the attainment of this esteem necessitates, while daydreaming about the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. And finally, vision seems to be transforming into reality.

It is true that post-IIT-isation of our college, things will change. There have been talks of increased funds, better infrastructure, superior amenities et al. All this is celestial, but there's much more than this to the picture that you and I are painting jointly.

When in 1954, Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the first IIT, he intended to achieve the same eclectic melange of theory and practice that, through workshops, laboratories and theory classes, IT BHU has long before mastered. In fact, our college has been the evangelist of the engineering revolution in India for over nine decades now. I feel we take a little less pride in our glorious past, when we turn up at LC to relish evening tea over electrifying conversations, our collective chest should be pumped up a little more.

While it is important that the world acknowledge our splendour as a college in re-christening us, I think that the focus on value, which used to be the USP of our college, is diminishing. We have, unfortunately, become better at marketing than at engineering. What I imply here is that every student who demands better infrastructure in the college should question himself whether or not he uses the college library. He should be mortified if he does not refer to the innumerable publications we subscribe to (for those who are ignorant even of the subscription, refer to the campus news section). He should feel guilty for being unaware of the names of all instruments in his laboratory (it can, as easily, be a shield). For though it is important to be known as an IIT, having value at par with an IIT is imperative.

With this humble intention of value-addition, we bring to you PULSE. It is our modest effort at trying to share happenings, events, opinions and beliefs with each other. We solemnly promise that we shall strive to bring knowledge, from various renowned knowledgeable figures, both within and without the campus, to your room every once in a month.

This monthly newsletter belongs to you. Divide, discover, discuss, debate, if you feel like, blow up even the most erudite of articles to smithereens. Unless you are nique, you are welcome.

Or, as Rahul Raj said, feel the Pulse; stay alive.

Team Pulse

### TEAM:

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| S. Vignesh          | Nandit Pathak         |
| Rajnik Kalia        | Divyayoti Das         |
| Anil Kazi           | Aditya Shanker Prasad |
| Anuradha Jhwar      | Aviral Shrivastava    |
| M.S Ramakrishnan    | Piyush Ranjan         |
| Anant Raman Sharma  | Deep Ariswala         |
| Devender Singh Maan | Praharsh Sharma       |
| Shreya Singh        | Swarnika Nag          |
| Mitali Shekhawat    | Pankhuri Agarwal      |
| Aashu Anshuman      |                       |

### COVER STORY

## THE SOCIAL NETWORKING BUG

Contributors: Divyayoti Das, Aditya Shanker Prasad, Anuradha Jhwar, Anant Raman Sharma

Are you on Face book? Do you have an Orkut profile? are some of the first questions one asks to a new acquaintance these days. Gone are the days when we frequented social outings to meet our buddies, gone are the days of even the cell phone. Social networking, the buzz word among not only the youth of today, but also the very young and the very old alike, has increasingly become the staple of every household in every society in every country. We eat, we sleep, and we socialize through the web. It is understandably difficult to imagine life today without a personal social networking profile. What with the ability to connect to your friends, find new people, and interact with people right from your desk, Social Networking has changed the way we live our lives. But then, exactly when and how did we start spending our lives on the net?

The earliest forms of generalized communities on the Internet started as early as in 1985 with the launch of the WELL or Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link' by Stewart Brand and Larry Brilliant. The WELL basically provided online forums where internet users could talk about various topics, a trait that holds true for today's popular networking sites as well. Some other earlier Internet communities include TheLobby.com (1994), Goodies (1994) and Tripod (1995). These early communities focused on bringing people together to interact with each other through chat rooms, and share personal information and ideas around any topics via personal homepage publishing tools which was a precursor to the blogging phenomenon. Some communities focused on linking people together via their Email addresses, like Classmates.com (1995) or SixDegrees.com (1997).

For the first time, SixDegrees provided a base where one could create a user profile, send messages, create friends lists and seek out fellow users of common interests. Strangely this idea did not catch up with the online masses at that time and the site, described by its creator as "ahead of its time", was eventually shut down. But eventually, the year 2002 through 2004 saw social networking catch mainstream popularity in the form of firstly Friendster, then MySpace, and finally iEgo. By 2006, MySpace was reportedly getting more users than Google. 2003 saw the emergence of Facebook which by 2006, thanks to a non-geographical following and inclusion of externally developed add on applications to profile pages, had become the largest and fastest growing site on the planet. Google's own social networking site, Orkut, an independent project of a Turkish engineer Orkut Büyükkökten, was launched around the same time. Soon, social networking began to flourish as a component of business internet strategy at around March 2005 when Yahoo launched Yahoo! 360°. The online bug was here, and it was epidemic fast.

Today it is estimated that there are more than 200 different social networking sites on the Internet that are fast developing a wide community base in different areas like education, dating, business, etc. And it doesn't take a genius to figure out why such sites have become so popular in our world. Would you say no to a service that lets you share your vacation photos with all your friends and family, no matter how far you are away from them? As the race to be the most well connected and well informed goes on, social networking is only going to get bigger and

**Orkut** is a free-access social networking service owned and operated by Google. The service is designed to help users meet new friends and maintain existing relationships. The website is named after its creator - Google employee Orkut Büyükkökten. Although Orkut is less popular in the United States than competitors Face book and MySpace, it is one of the most visited websites in India and Brazil. In fact as of May 2009, 47.83% of Orkut's users are from Brazil, followed by India with 17.51%.

**twitter** is a social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters, displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers who are known as followers. Senders can restrict delivery to those in their circle of friends or, by default, allow open access. Users can send and receive tweets via the Twitter website, Short Message Service (SMS) or external applications. While the service costs nothing to use, accessing it through SMS may incur phone service provider fees.

**facebook** is a currently ranked the most popular social networking site, operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. Users can add friends and send them messages and updates their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Additionally, users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region. The website's name stems from the colloquial name of a book given to incoming students at founder Mark Zuckerberg's high school along with their that showed the faces and names of the school's students and faculty.

**myspace.com** was launched in August 2003 after some employees of eMachines with Friendster account realized its potential and decided to mimic its most popular features. It was the most popular SNS of USA till competitor Face book overtook it in April 2008. My space allows photo uploading and blogs and the profiles also have interests and details section. My space allows users to customize their profile pages with HTML and musicians are allowed to upload their songs in mp3 format in MySpace music section.

Continued on page 7

# CAMPUS SCAN



## ABSOLUTELY RELATIVE? WELL NOT ANYMORE!

By: Aviral Srivastava

The decision of the authorities to revert back to absolute grading in just 2 years has caught everyone off-guard. And what's more, most students are still in the dark about the latest development!

Relative grading, a system followed by the IITs and NITs, was quite popular among IT students ever since it was introduced with the first year batch of 2007 but never found favour among the teaching faculty. Under this system, it becomes easier to score good grades even in tough subjects— as long as the class on the whole leans poorly. Sources revealed that the pass mark had even fallen to single digits in certain subjects! - Obviously something the faculty wouldn't tolerate. However absolute grading could actually prove advantageous in easier subjects or for branches with lesser strength as it would be theoretically possible for everyone to get an 'S' grade. In IIT Delhi, select subjects like Mathematics have absolute grading while in some IITs, the professors have the choice of scoring their individual subjects according to the absolute or relative system.

On the other hand, this means that the overall GPA of current second and third year students will be unclear since their scoring would be partially relative and partially absolute.

However sources, on the condition of anonymity have revealed that if our institute becomes an IIT, then the IT council will have the choice of maintaining the relative grading system. An alternate solution could be to adopt a relative grading system with minimum cut-off as followed by the IITs. Regardless, the word on the street is that folks better dust their books and start studying!



It is 10:30 p.m. Priyank has just returned to his room from a meeting with a sponsor for a promotional event that he and his team members are organizing. It's a quiz that will be organizing for local school students, and we expect to draw a participation of over 2000", he says. Quite a stir, you would agree.

On 1st June, 2009, Priyank Ranjan, Ashay Dhar, Anuj Toppal, Sachit Khandewal, Yogesh Shukla and Pawan, all students of 3rd year in Ceramics Engineering, launched a website called Padhaku Joker, which provides career counselling/guidance/advice to students in the 10th to 12th standard age-group. "As children, we'd all dreamt of owning a company, and running it independently. And now, it's really happening", an excited Priyank tells me. And ITES being a virtually no entry-barrier sector, they found it relatively easy to set up shop. "We were slightly late though, we just missed the admissions season", he says, getting positive. Hardly matters in the long run though, we agree.

"So why such a website?" "The education sector is a colossal but not so well chartered sector. There is a certain kind of expensive guidance that students generally seek, for which there is no credible source. The people best suited to guide students about which coaching class best fits their personality traits/deficiencies etc. and whether or not it is advisable to join a certain course in a certain college, are people who have been through this system. Hence, we created a platform to bring these two groups [viz. college goers and school students] together. Similar guidance e-ventures do exist and are quite popular (Coolwinvest.com, Pagaripay.com et al), but most of them target undergrads who seek an MBA. So this was vitally virgin territory."

"This new venture has managed to garner quite some media

attention; the hexastyle has already had significant mentions in Dainik Jagran, I-read, JAM, besides Rasbo Mirchi.

Besides admission advice, Padhaku Joker (or PJ) also provides other services to school students, such as updates of deadlines for forms on their mobile phones. Their core business, however, is advice. Hence, if a student wants to inquire about a certain course in a certain college, he posts the question on the website. This post receives replies from a wide variety of students, which are, obviously, moderated by the PJ team. This gives the student an eclectic mix of perspectives to help him better gauge the course on the parameters that he deems appropriate. "Since the engineering college coaching phenomenon took off, parents have been quite willing to spend if they see their children getting better future secured. Therefore, a website like ours has a large, clearly defined and impenetrable market."

Support from the institute has been apt and timely. "Besides just initial monetary support, we have been provided with a full fledged office by the TBI (Technical Business Incubator) of our college. We've got a very encouraging mentor in Dr. P.K. Mishra, who heads NCIE, which is the parent body of TBI." The other source of money for maintenance of the website has been advertisements, which only goes to say that the website is commanding attention already.

Team PJ does see some of deficit areas too. "All six of us being from the same college, we can hardly be described as a diverse board. We have identified a strong necessity to get people from a lot more varied backgrounds on board. Having said that, most of our friends too, sadly, are from engineering colleges, and hence, cannot be of great help. But," he adds, optimistically, "we're working on it!". Well, good luck PJ!

By: Nandit Pathak

## Saving Private LC

By: Shreya Singh

I still clearly remember the time when I was a fresher; we moved in entire coy mobs, not once daring to look up, especially at LC- "the hub of seniors". It was this ostracizing that whetted our curiosity for LC. This was where we looked at the "who's who" of IT day in and day out; and the permanence and flamboyance of the "LC appearance" was the touchstone by which to judge the potency of the holder. It was then not only the centre of all visual and verbal gossip but also the pith of extremely important meetings and discussions; conversations in which IT breathed. As soon as the "fear of being ragged" started disappearing, we too began frequenting this place of pilgrimage and became a part of the family. Often, we got "treats" there from even chance acquaintances with seniors; I guess we never really paid.

Apart from being a "chai-holic" what particularly drove me there was the spirit and enthusiasm of LC. It represented for me the buffer that IT is, that there was enough room, enough shade and enough chai for everyone.

Although I hate to acknowledge it, the entire "anti-ragging mission" has been subversive for our IT culture in more ways than one and this can best be witnessed in the current state of LC. The destruction of the benches below the shed is tantamount to the Taliban destruction of Bamyan. It has subjected its oldest and most cherished cultural asset to the whims and fancies of the locals and proctors. LC today, even in the "peak evening tea" time, is devoid of any ITians. And for the first year students.... no fear, no parchment, no ragging, no treats. They simply remain unaware of what it was. Our beloved LC has become a mere tea stall comparable to all others in the university. As if all this was not enough, all the senior branches have been allotted hostels as far from it as possible and bikes have been banned to assure its desolation.

It pains me so much because I miss the endless chattering of this place that, mixed with the incessant chirping and its natural aura on rainy days, gave me the sense of belonging and warmth. The only ray of hope seems to be the post-placement season in which IT may come out of its hovels and salvage our "LC culture". At the risk of sounding foolishly fanatic, I petition all people who harbor similar feelings to rise to the simple cause of "having evening tea" and saving our private LC.

## Orientation Ceremony

By: Piyush Ranjan

July 22nd saw the inflow of new engineering enthusiasts into the institute. The freshly selected JEE candidates registered themselves for the odd semester in the morning and later in the day attended the Orientation programme hosted by the Institute.

The ceremony was inaugurated by giving flower tributes to the founder, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya which was followed up by the kulgeet and a welcome address by the Director. The Director spoke volumes about the quaint and serene lifestyle of Varanasi, relating its glorious past and the city's rich culture and heritage. Following his speech was an address by the Dean of Engineering Faculty, Prof. Vinendra Singh. A report on JEE2009 followed up, given by the JEE 2009 chairman Prof. M.K. Ghosh. 729 students have been admitted this year in various programmes, including Undergraduate, Integrated Dual Degree and Integrated Masters Degree. 106 students did not register in the first counselling session which were filled by the sliding method, introduced for the first time in the JEE system. 86 preparatory students got admission into various UGD/IDD/IMD programmes.

Prof. K. S. Dubey informed the new entrants regarding their first year programmes which was followed up by information about the gymkhana by the IT-Gymkhana President Dr. P.K. Mishra. Rector Prof. B.D. Singh blessed the faculty and wished them good luck for their upcoming college lives. The newcomers and their parents were cordially assured for a ragging-free atmosphere in the Institute. The vote of thanks was given by the Prof. S.K. Tiwari, Vice-Chairman JEE2009 and was followed by the National Anthem.

IT-BHU welcomes all those new 729 new hearts and wishes them a great future.



## with Prof. B. N. Diwedi

By: Abhishek Mehl

Everyone of us has enjoyed the digresses of Prof. BND, but how well do we really know him?

Q. Sir, we would like to know about your childhood.....

A. I come from a very superstitious Brahmin family. At an early age, I was sent to a Sanskrit school where we used to recite shlokas but very soon I realised that science was my true love. So, I was shifted to a UP board school. The school was 2 km far from my home and I walked to the school and back bare feet every day. I emerged as the topper in the 10th standard exams. This helped me get a scholarship to pursue higher studies at Queen's College. I did very well there as well and got selected for the electrical engineering course in IT-BHU, which at that time was the best college in India. But I realised that engineering was not my cup of tea and my true passion was physics. So, I had a discussion with a like-minded friend of mine -- Sant

Krishna -- and both of us decided to drop the course we were pursuing until, in favour of B.Sc degree from the Physics department of the Science Faculty of IT-BHU.

Dr. Kripashankar Dubey (KSD) was a year senior to me then.

Q. Are you still in contact with that friend of yours?

A. I had not been in touch with him since 1973. But very recently, I came across him on the internet and we reformed contacts.

Q. What drives you to go on researching even after you have been doing it for the past so many years?

A. My interest is the Sun. It is the source of all energy and that is precisely what excites me. If we can produce a mini-sun in our laboratories all queries of ours would be answered. The Max-Planck Institute appreciated my work in this field and invited me to give a talk on an instrument I had devised in this regard. This happened in 1991. They were highly impressed with my research data and with my instrument's blueprint. The instrument was used in a satellite launched

in 1995. The instrument appreciated my research by awarding me their highest honour-- the Gobtan Award is?

Q. If we may ask -- what is your nickname among friends and colleagues?

A. Sholo -- yes--that is what people call me.

Q. What is the reason that you remain in IT-BHU even though any university on earth will gladly have you as a professor?

A. I believe BHU is the best university in India. I go to Germany to learn and in turn, teach them what I know. But when it comes to working abroad? Umm... no. I want to serve my country like any other patriot.

Q. Final Question, sir. As a rational, scientific mind, do you believe in God?

A. I believe in you. I mean, God is everywhere. He is living in every person. So when I support my students in reaching greater heights, I am doing the work of God.



## IT'S FEST-O-MANIA!

By: Divyanshu Das

As north into the semester and everybody is already busy, some with studies, some with sports, some with the jitters, but most with just about nothing. The college scene in the country will soon be a hub of activity with a host of stunningly spectacular festivals being held in the coming months. Pulse decided to gather up a few of these big names in the college festival scene to get the IT junks out of their beds and into the buzz.

**What is it that defines a college's status?** Its history, its academics, its alumni? Some say it's the grandness of a college's cultural fest. A place where letting your hair down finds a new meaning. Are you up to it?

**Mood Indigo:** The annual cultural fest of IIT Mumbai. Started in 1973. Mood I claims to be the biggest college fest held across Asia. Held for 4 days towards the end of December, it attracted a record footfall of 75000 from over 600 colleges across India last year.

**Rendezvous:** the biggest and grandest cultural fest of North India, held at IIT Delhi. Involving a participation of more than 350 colleges, over 70 grand events and a 40000 strong crowd, it is slated to be held from the 23rd to the 27th of September. Be sure to catch it!

**Antaragni:** cultural fest of IIT Kanpur, to be held for four days from 22-25th October. One of the most popular fests in the college scene, it attracts participation from all the major colleges across India.

**Fastamber:** is the annual cultural fest of NIT Trichy, being held since 1984. One of the biggest fests of South India, it takes place in the third week of September.

**Oasis:** Oasis is the cultural festival of BITS Pilani. More than 1000 students from colleges all over India participate in the fest. This year, Oasis is set for a date of October 27-31.

**Pulse:** is the week long annual cultural, literary and sports extravaganza of the most elite medical college in India, AIMS, held in the second half of September every year since 1972. Apart from medical colleges, it also attracts participation from IIT Delhi, JNU and DU.

**Ragam:** the cultural fest of IIT Calicut, set to be held in the months of November/December.

How many times have you dreamt of putting your engineering expertise to some use? Design or build something, show off your programming agility? Or test your managerial skills? There are a host of stages where you can showcase your technical prodigy.

**Shastra:** is the annual technical festival of IIT Madras, starting from September 30. Shastra is entirely student managed and is an ISO 9001:2000 certified for implementing a Quality Management System.

**Techniche:** is the annual techno-management festival of IIT Guwahati. The 19th edition of Techniche is to be held from 3rd September 2009, for three days.

**Technozion:** the techno-management fest of NIT Warangal, being held from September 25-27.

**Aarush:** national level techno-management fest at SRM University, from September 9-12.

**Tharva:** the annual techno management fest held at NIT Calicut. Slated for October 22-25.

**Techniva:** the technical festival of Manipal Institute of Technology, slated from 8-12th of September.

**GeoW7as:** the International Technical cum Management Carnival of Vellore Institute of Technology starting from September 19th.

**Sports, anybody?** Utkrish, the annual sports festival of IIT Kanpur, is held around the end of September, right after the inter IIT sports meet. A must for every sports lover.

## BOOKS ON TUBE

The Online Library

By: Aditya Shankar Prasad

Many of us might still have not had a taste of research, but those who have will agree that a very important part of research includes reading and learning from the work of our peers. In this manner we not only update ourselves with the developments in the scientific world but also recognize our peers who share common interests with us. Hence, scientific and technological journals are the bible of the researcher. But do you know what treasure houses our own in-campus libraries are?

The IIT BHU Main Library and the BHU Main Library apart from having subscriptions to many of the important and highly respectable journals in print, maintain subscriptions to selected online journals. Using the packages from the INDEST consortia on IP addresses students and teachers can view various online journals and abstracts.

INDEST, which stands for Indian National Digital Library for Engineering Science and Technology, is a HRD ministry initiative to provide "shared subscription" or "Consortia-based subscription" to electronic resources. This greatly reduces the cost of the subscription and at the same time manages to meet the needs of today's technical institutions. IITs, NITs and ISCs across the country now use the INDEST packages for their research purposes.

One of the biggest advantages of the INDEST packages is that as long as you are accessing the site on campus, you do not require a username and password. INDEST works on the basis of IP addresses, and computers with IP address belonging to BHU do not need to login to view full texts at the e-journals sites.

So how exactly can you start using these resources? All you need to do is go to the IIT BHU Main Library website or the BHU Main Library website. At the IIT BHU Main Library site, visit the Electronic Journals page under the E-Resources header. From there you can find a list of all the journals subscribed by us and links to the sites so that you can searching and reading without any hassles. Once you've opened the BHU Main Library site, you will need to go to the Journals Page (a link is provided on the left side of the home page). From there you can access the sites of the journals subscribed by BHU, which include more than just scientific journals.

Links to the following electronic journals are provided at the IIT BHU Main Library website:

- ACM Digital Library
- ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers)
- ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers)
- ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)
- Digital Engineering Library
- Science Direct
- IEL (IEEE Electronic Library)
- New Scientist
- Nano Trends
- Springer Verlag's

These are just a few of the journals present; to see the entire list visit the website. Make sure to check out this amazing resource provided by our institute, because if we students do not utilize our opportunities, neither we nor our institute can excel.

## THE INTERNSHIP SAGA

By: Deep Jariwala

As every even semester in IT-BHU starts, a periodic phenomenon of mass hysteria is witnessed for summer internships. A very generalized term in the IT jargon, only a few students are actually aware of what an internship actually is and its true purpose. This is exactly why this article finds place in this issue.

As per the academic rules of IT-BHU, summer internships are compulsory for all students completing their 6th semester, except for the Mechanical Engineering students who have to do them after both the 4th and 6th semester. These are the compulsory internships and are meant to be relevant to your field of study. Besides this, students of other departments can take up internships of their choice after 4th semester. The compulsory internships may either be in the form of an academic research project in some University or research institute, or industrial research project in the R & D department of a company. Else they may be industrial visits which normally are exhaustive and through studies of a production plant operations and functioning.

## Academic and Industrial research

These are meant to develop an interest for scientific research in the mind of the student. The student must have a sound fundamental knowledge and a keen interest in a niche area of his/her subject. Such projects prove highly useful to such students and help them develop a good background to pursue a career in research. There are

a large number of academic institutions in India where a good amount of research is done on a wide range of topics in all the possible branches such as the seven old IITs, IIT-BHU and IISc, Bangalore along with a lot more non-degree awarding institutions like JNCASR (Bangalore), BARC Mumbai, TIFR Mumbai, etc. Just to name a few. Interested students can check the websites of such institutions to find out relevant people and approach them for an opportunity to work under him/her for the summers. Many of the above mentioned institutions also have their own summer fellowship programs in addition to a few nationwide programs wherein the students are officially supposed to apply through the program. Normally the program details are released on their respective website after mid-October. Also the right time to start applying on an individual basis is after December.

Some students from IT-BHU even end up for academic research internships/projects in foreign universities and institutes. Although most people feel that it is a very prestigious achievement or that such people have reached the pinnacle of academic life in IT-BHU, this is a misconception most of the times and one should not get carried away by it. There are thousands of universities in this world and a lot of them have a huge number of projects with a bountiful of funding. These universities require cheap labor most of the times and thus take up students from countries like India and China as summer interns without considering any merit and even fund their travel and stay. Therefore these days it is not a big deal to manage an academic research internship abroad by mere email applications. The point remains how useful or relevant is that project/internship going to be for one's future career. Over the years there has been a substantial fraction of students who have been for such internships and have done no fruitful work. Finally they tend to take up a job and join industries where such an experience is irrelevant.

This was one of the main reasons of putting an embargo although temporarily, on such internships after 6th semester by the IT-BHU administration a year ago and it was definitely justified for avoiding such cases. Therefore such internships turn out to be useful only if

one does relevant research pertaining to his/her interests and is willing to pursue higher studies in the same.

Research at good universities abroad is obviously a better option due to more money and better infrastructure. As far as intellectual capital is concerned the top Indian institutions are no less competent. A research project must be sought abroad only if there are very limited resources in one's area of interest in India. Also if one has a definite subject of interest, it gets convenient to shortlist a handful of people with whom it is easy to communicate. The process for foreign interns, started ideally after mid-November, is usually lengthy, pertaining to passport, immigration, etc.

For students who are baffled as where to start from, we shall be existing active areas of research relevant to each branch/department in IT-BHU in each issue of Pulse. Another good way to start is from one's own department. One should check the research interests of their department faculty on the IT-BHU website, study about those topics and approach the faculty for guidance and support. Each department has its own policy regarding academic research for compulsory internships in India as well as abroad, and the students must ensure that they are allowed to pursue such an internship before applying to avoid last minute hassles.

Industrial research projects in R & D labs of companies provide a deep insight into real time problems faced by industries in existing technologies or in developing new products. Experience on such projects normally gives one a good amount of technical knowledge and also some advantage during campus placements in relevant companies. One can easily find out about the relevant companies and can then look for a contact in the same or may visit their website for details.

A large number of first year students are going on internships which, just to clear misconceptions, is unwise. They can always take up some self developmental activity but should not try to get themselves into an industry or a research project, since one does not have enough knowledge about his/her own branch. It may even cause wrong perceptions about the branch or research if one finds it too difficult. Current and emerging research areas in the field of materials science relevant to Metallurgy, Ceramic, Material Science, Applied Physics and Applied Chemistry departments:

Synthesis and characterization of optical, magnetic, medicinal properties of metal and metal oxide nanoparticles.

Organic dyes and other novel materials for photovoltaics.

Synthesis of metal/oxide nanowires and their applications in energy storage, photovoltaics and nanoelectronics.

Synthesis of carbon nanostructures and their applications in energy storage devices, advanced composite materials and nanoelectronics.

CVD and PVD growth of thin films and characterization of their electromagnetic and optical properties.

Powder metallurgy to produce high performance alloys and nanocomposites.

Synthesis of conducting polymers and their applications in displays and photovoltaics.

Polymer based nanocomposites for biomedical and other advanced applications.

Novel fuel cell electrode materials and materials for hydrogen storage.

Spin polarizable magnetic materials.

Research in many of these areas is carried out in our own institute and one can definitely find out a lot of relevant information with the help of BHU's online journal subscriptions.

small is no small...

its BIG...

By: Piyush Ranjan

## The NanoScience and Technology Centre

Manufactured products are made from atoms. The properties of those products depend on how those atoms are arranged. If we rearrange the atoms in coal we can make diamond. If we rearrange the atoms in sand (and add a few other trace elements) we can make computer chips. If we rearrange the atoms in dirt, water and air we can make poxonia.

No, we are not here to make poxonia but to tell you that this might be possible in the near future and you might be the ones doing this. HOW? That's what you will ask. And it is Nanotechnology that stands as our answer. This incredible science of incredible nano-particles, particles that we can't even see with naked eyes is the solution to lot of problems and fortunately we have a research facility regarding Nanotechnology in our very own campus.

Located across the road in front of the Metallurgical department the NanoScience Centre was created through the generous funding of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India under its programme Nano Science and Technology Initiative. The Unit was sanctioned in the year 2005 for five years. Being a trans-disciplinary centre of Banaras Hindu University it has three distinct components: Physical sciences (Department of Physics, BHU), Engineering sciences (Metallurgical Engineering, IT) and Medical sciences (IMS), Professor O N Srivastava, Department of Physics, BHU stands as the Programme Co-ordinator and Professor R K Mandal, Department of Metallurgical Engineering, IT-BHU is the Deputy Programme Co-ordinator.

On enquiring as to how does the NanoScience Centre help the students and benefits the research output of IT-BHU, Professor R K Mandal said, "The quality of man power is assessed by the tools and equipment that he or she has handled at M.Tech and Ph.D level. In this regard, the centre has a multimode scanning probe microscope and nanoindentor under mo. Many of our students are being trained. Please note that however, we do have problems of getting Ph.D students for engineering sciences. Further, we have started demonstrating this facility to our part 2 students in physical metallurgy [practical]."

What the Centre needs right now is good people to do good research. The stakes in the area are high and so are its results. Opportunities galore in the field and so does money. What is needed is an aptitude and love for research. So if you think you may have an aptitude in the research field, the size-wise small but size-wise huge NANO particles may come to your rescue.

## China snuffs out protest

At least 200 people were killed and more than 1800 injured in, by far, the worst instance of ethnic violence in Urumqi, the capital of China's restive western province of Xinjiang. The violence was a part of the ongoing ethnic tension between the Hans—the largest ethnic group in China—and the Uyghurs—a Turkic, and predominantly Muslim, minority ethnic group in China.

The unrest in Xinjiang is another chapter in a long history of tension between the Han Chinese and the Uyghurs, but it is mostly the result of the frustrations experienced by Uyghurs over the last decade as the rapid pace of Chinese development in the region has brought scores of Han



Uyghurs protest outside the Chinese consulate in Calgary.

migrants to Xinjiang and has displaced Uyghurs from their traditional livelihoods and communities. While the violence that has emerged on both sides of the conflict is shocking, the most surprising aspect of the events may be that the tension had not boiled over into direct confrontation until now. Western journalists described this as the worst clash between the authorities and demonstrators in China since the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989.

## GM EXITS BANKRUPTCY

General Motors completed an unusually quick exit from bankruptcy protection. Once world's largest and most powerful automaker—new GM is now leaner, cleansed of massive debt and burdensome contracts that would have sunk it without federal loans. But GM, whose 40 days under court supervision was far shorter than



GM president and CEO Fritz Henderson.

anyone predicted, faces the worst auto sales slump in a quarter century. At a news conference, CEO Fritz Henderson said the revamped auto maker will generate cash and repay billions in government loans ahead of a 2015 deadline. GM also announced a partnership with eBay Inc. to test auctioning vehicles online.

## Drought hits India



More than a quarter of India's districts have been affected by drought.

The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said that the country is facing severe drought. However, there is ample food grain stock to ensure no one goes hungry. This year the monsoon rains have been scant and about 40% (246 districts in 10 states) of India's districts are facing drought. The Indian Metrology Department has said that this year the country faces a 24% deficiency in the annual rainfall.

The bad monsoon has been attributed to the El Nino phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean. The El Nino acts as a heat reservoir and is thus creates a lower pressure region hence drawing the monsoon winds away. The El Nino causes droughts not only in India, but also in Australia and Africa.

Due to lack of irrigation, a bad monsoon hits the Indian farmer very badly. Apart from ravaging India's rice, cane suse and groundnut crops, it has also disrupted the flow of water into main reservoirs and hit vital hydropower generation. The major tasks before the government are the steady introduction of food grain into the market and prevention of black marketing and hoarding. Hoarding of grains leads to steep rise in prices.

## DISNEY BUYS MARVEL FOR \$ 4 BILLION

The Walt Disney Co. is buying Marvel Entertainment for \$4 billion in cash and stock. That means many of your favourite comic book—turned movie characters, like the X-Men, Iron Man, Hulk and Spiderman, Fantastic Four and the Daredevil (to name a few), are now members of the same family as Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Wall E.

The deal was announced on the 31st of August and will close by the end of this year. Under the deal, Disney has bought rights to 5000 Marvel characters (most of them created by comic book legend Stan Lee). Disney CEO Robert Iger said the deal will bring benefits like the ones Disney got from acquiring Pixar Animation Studios in 2006. So don't be surprised if you see a movie next summer with the title "Donald Duck vs. The Hulk: you won't like it when they get angry."

## Krishna Godavari basin dispute

### RIL vs RNRL

Around 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas was discovered by Reliance in the Krishna Godavari basin in October 2002. In 2005, the Reliance Group was split between the Ambani Brothers with RIL going to Mukesh Ambani and RNRL to Anil Ambani. A family pact was made in 2005 in which RIL was to supply 28 million cubic meters of gas a day at \$2.34 per million units to RNRL for 17 years. In September 2007, the Indian Government fixed a price of \$ 4.2/mmBtu, but this was later reversed by the Bombay HC, which ordered RIL to supply the gas as per the original agreement. The main issue is the pricing at which the gas should be transferred, and the price at which RIL is supposed to give gas to fertilizer and power companies.

Mr Ram Jethmalani, Senior Counsel for RNRL, said

if NTPC officials agree to pay \$4.20/mmBtu of gas rather than \$ 2.34 mmBtu, which is contracted price with RIL, NTPC will have to pay an additional Rs 30,000 crore for 12 mmscmd of gas.

During the annual general meeting of RNRL on 29 July 2009, Anil Ambani accused the petroleum ministry of siding with RIL and accused RIL of inflating the capital expenditures to earn supernational profits.

However, the government wants the court to allow RIL to continue sale of gas to users other than RNRL. It accused the two companies of surreptitiously misappropriating national resources and treating it as personal and family property. RIL's revenues from gas sales could take a big hit if the judgment is indeed made operational. RIL has already contracted to sell 15 mmscmd of gas to various fertilizer companies and a further 12 mmscmd to power producers at \$4.2 per mBtu. Its current output is known to be around 25 mmscmd only, but this is expected to be ramped up to 80 mmscmd by the end of this fiscal. However, according to the judgment, RIL has to part with 28 mmscmd for 17 years to RNRL at \$2.34/mBtu, a loss of revenue estimated at \$1 billion.

## SPORTS

### Contador wins 2009 Tour de France

Spanish Alberto Contador of team Astana won the 2009 Tour de France. Andy Schleck from Luxembourg came in second place. American Lance Armstrong, seven-time Tour-winner claimed the third and final podium spot, behind Contador, having returned from retirement with the Astana team, after winning the 2005 Tour de France.

Hamilton wins 2009 Hungarian Grand Prix July 26: McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the FIA Formula One Hungarian GP 2009. Massa was recently injured after a spring got loose from Rubens Barricello's car and hit his head during the race. Seven-time world Formula One racing champion Michael Schumacher announced his plans to replace Felipe Massa in the second Ferrari car in the 2009 European Grand Prix in Valencia, Spain. However, due to a pain from an earlier neck injury, he has confirmed that he will not be able to return.



### WIMBLEDON

Roger Federer of Switzerland won the longest Wimbledon final in terms of number of games(77) to win a record 15th Grand Slam title beating Andy Roddick. The win took him past Pete Sampras of USA who had won a record 14 major titles and was restored him to world no. 1.

In women's singles, Serena de feated her sister Venus Williams, for the third time in a Wimbledon final. Mark Knowles and Anne-Lena Groenefeld sprang a surprise in the mixed doubles final, while the Williams sisters won the women's doubles title. The men's double title went to the team of D. Nestor and N. Zimonjic.

### INDIAN SCENE

#### PM launches INS Arihant in Visakhapatnam

On July 26th India reached a milestone when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his wife Gursharan Kaur launched the country's first indigenous nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant for sea trials. The launch coincided with Vijay Diwas, which marks India's triumph over Pakistani intruders in Kargil. With the launch of the submarine India will join the exclusive club consisting of US, Russia, China, France and the UK with similar capabilities.

#### Fisichella grabs podium finish at the Belgian Grand Prix

Vijay Malaya's F1 team Force India managed to gets its first points with a podium finish by the Italian driver Giancarlo Fisichella at the Belgian Grand Prix on 30th August. Fisichella came in behind Kimi Raikkonen (driving for Ferrari) by just a second. This was Force India's first points in 30 starts by Fisichella. The next race is at the Italian's home circuit at Monza. Fisichella will start at the pole position as he was the quickest at the Belgian Grand Prix. We hope 'Fis' is able to weave his magic again.

Compiled By: Aviral Shrivastava

# Articulation

## GOD's City

By: Aditya Shankar Prasad

Varanasi is said to be the city of temples, ghat and ghats. Though the ghats were an attraction to the students of old, many newcomers today would rather flock to the nearest shopping mall. To truly appreciate a ghat, one has to discover its soul on his own. In this and subsequent articles we would like to tell you about some of the popular ghats in the city, so that students can truly discover the meaning of it by the river Ganga.

The Dashashwamedh ghat is one of the most popular ghats in Varanasi, probably surpassed in popularity only by the Ass Ghat. It is also part of the group of five ghats, known as the Panchatirthas, which are considered more sacred than the others. The others are Assi Ghat, Manikarna Ghat, Panchaganga Ghat and Adi Keshavi Ghat.

The story of the Dashashwamedh ghat can be deduced from its name—the sacrifice of ten horses. Legend has it that it was at this very ghat that Lord Brahma had performed a holy sacrifice of ten horses for the welcome of Lord Vishnu.

Located in the heart of the city, a unique feature about the Dashashwamedh ghat is



that it is divided into two parts, separated by Prayag Ghat. An interesting fact about the ghat is that it is the first historically recorded site associated with the horse sacrifice performed by the Bharu Shiv Nagas King in around the 3rd century BC. The ghat in its present form was built in 1748 by Bakshi Bajrao, the Maratha emperor (presently known as Nana Sahab) and later by Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore in 1775. The ghat is home to the Dashashwamedheshwar and the Dashadevshwar temples. Every evening Aarti is held at the ghat.

The ghat is also a hit with the IT crowd, with many students preferring to spend their evening in the presence of the serene and calm Ganga, under the starry sky, and calming effect of the bells as the evening Aarti takes place. Visiting the ghat is a sort of rite of passage and you cannot truly call yourself an IITian if you haven't visited this ghat at least once.



## JUNK FOOD JOURNALISM

By Divyajyoti Das and Anant Raman Shama

Is it just an animal? Or is it an alien? Did it come from Outer Space? Are you safe from it? To find out, watch the scoop on "Sensational" today at 10 o'clock.

"IS YOUR COW FROM OUTER SPACE?"

That's your typical opening line from the evening bulletin of the national news channel India TV. Most of the times, these lines are displayed boldly on the screen with a voice reading them out just in case the viewer is too dumb to do it for himself, thank you very much.

Welcome to the age of popcorn news, where loud, twisted and attention grabbing headlines matter more than factual accuracy. Where "Sensationalism", a term that originally helped set important news to a wider audience, has become a tool for the media to score higher TRPs. Where the facts are more twisted up than fiction just for the sake of the "shock value" to the audience.

Today's audience is a victim of excessive media coverage; it's an audience whose currency has become voyeurism; what with the innumerable scoops about the most trivial of incidents about celebrities that it delightedly laps up. And the media is in no mood to break the highly milkable trend. So, rather than getting a story about the middle east crisis, we are treated to an hour long masala laden 'scoop' of how Deepika is having an affair with Saif Ali Khan. What is more surprising than the lameness of these stories is the eagerness with which the aam janta follows them.

Increased competition between news channels and cost cutting has radically changed the quality of mass media. Instead of focusing on major issues and the depth of the stories, journalism is repackaging and reproducing the same news over and over again. Emergence of a large number of news channels has led to a competitive scenario where only sensibility matters. Rather than egging journalists to be more efficient and effective, this has made them victims of the current trends. And the current trend is junk food journalism.

A glance today at the less-than-medicare language used by The Times of India, a newspaper earlier considered suitable for the intellectuals, is enough to make one realize the sorry state of print media in our country. Terms like masala and masala seem to have replaced proper digestible English and celebrities' lifestyles seem to have taken the center stage in their coverage. The public today is slowly and steadily dumbing down; thanks to a diet of sugar coated news that can be likened to the burger and soda that today's generation prefers so much to a proper meal. Complicated argument is mostly avoided, or else extremely dumbed down in order to "feed it" to the widest range of viewers. Regardless of the accuracy, the media publishes what it thinks will garner attention. Thus a false scientific claim will nevertheless make headlines if it promises a lot of controversy. A cricket match will be dissected and analyzed for weeks; a chess champion will be forgotten in seconds.

Even worse is the habit of the media taking on the role of the moral police, just in order to take the public imagination by storm. There are instances like the Anjali Murder Case where the apparently wise media decided that it was time to play jury and totally wrecked the already broken Taseer family. Such immaturity by the media has become a routine fiasco on TV. At other times, when there is nothing to "bring opera" upon, the breaking news is usually about a film star's dog's daily breakfast, or a month long discussion about a Bollywood marriage, or the groundbreaking research that has so far predicted the end of the world at least three times in the last five years, while National and Global crises lay forgotten under the carpet.

Living in a country that boasts of the largest youth population in the world, such a scenario in the media is no doubt disappointing. Rather than concentrating on sensationalism and sugary celeb scoops, news channels could bring to the fore the innumerable issues that plague the country behind the scenes. Rather than wasting hours holding debates on numerology and astrology, the media could interact with the youth population in order to enlighten and impress them towards a definite and meaningful process of change. Because mass media is a powerful tool, and in the right hands it is capable of changing the face of the society. But as the battle the TRPs wages on, there are no limits what this journalistic junk food may come to in the future. Rest assured, it shall only get more crazy and irrational and of course, completely entertaining. So, bite in!

## The Yin and the Yang: a newcomer's perspective of IIT BHU

By: Divyajyoti Das

Another year, another batch of freshers. Another futile attempt by the authorities to ban bikes on campus. And yet another drive to prevent ragging of the juniors. In all this hotchpotch of settling into another eventful year at IIT BHU, Pulse began wondering, how have the freshers been faring in their first week at IIT BHU? Pulse decided to approach the freshers and ask both the sexes their experiences, first hand.

So, with typical impartiality, Pulse presents:

**THE YIN.**  
 "...new people, new environment and the threat of ragging. I was nervous and scared at first. But everything has been peaceful till now. I luckily got a room in Gandhi Smriti Manik Chattram (Gananchitra, to layman), the first days were very boring, girls talked about stupid things all the time, too photos. I really hate such silly gossip and could not even sleep for the first two nights. But I grew used to it and have started making some friends. We went out so often, we watched two movies in the first week itself. We even got a cake and partyed at night to celebrate one of our hostel mates' birthday. The campus is so large, I had to learn to cycle! It was such a pain, but I managed anyway. For the first time in my life, I slept at the back bench in class! That was so satisfying! The teachers here are so cool, especially our physics teacher (BND!). And my orchid mates turned out to be so eccentric as me. Just three days into class and we were playing Truth and Dare, cracking jokes, singing songs, in short having a hell of a time! We haven't suffered any ragging yet, and that is a relief. But we also haven't had any kind of interaction with our seniors, and that is sad. Even though we live in the same hostel, we feel worlds apart, grossly isolated. (Pulse: authorities, please note!) After the initial apprehensions, I am starting to love my college. I feel quite lucky to have managed to get into IIT BHU, possibly soon to become an IIT!"

As told by Neha Aggarwal

**Pulse:**  
 We hope that your stay at the Institute is enjoyable too. Please feel free to ask us for help and speak out about any problems that you have! Welcome aboard, freshers!

## Book of the month: The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy

By: Vaibhav Shrivastava

**AND THE YANG.**  
 "I entered the IIT BHU campus with some reluctance in my heart, since IIT BHU had not been my first choice of college. It didn't take me long to note that the lush green spacious campus was in total contrast to the city's narrow, crowded and polluted streets. As the usual orientation and registration rituals finished I started feeling aware of being away from home for the first time. My mind swirled with questions: how good is the hostel? How is my schedule going to be? What about my teachers, the classes? Also importantly, will I get to rag? With my line now fixed, I set out for our first classes at IIT BHU. Loving the lecture halls in both a large campus is my first's play. We had to embark on a major search mission before we could find our classes. The teachers were surprisingly cool and relaxed about the syllabus given in a hurry. Things started! The next few days were so different. Every day, we would rise through an immense session at the Gymkhana and then plot back to hostel to enjoy delicious glasses of chocolate shake in the canteen. We would then play cards and listen to music late into the night, and struggle next day for the 8 am class! In our first day itself at the hostel, we saved a fellow junior into believing that we were seniors, and pretended to rag him!"

(Pulse: isn't the ragging free applicable here?)  
 The hostels are okay, and though the rooms are tiny, we managed to adjust ourselves. The power cuts in the hostel are very hard to endure, but enjoyable all the same. The hostel goes berserk, with torch lights being played all around, people running in the corridors, screaming madly. You can almost feel the mad energy in the air! The administration has been very strict in the matter of ragging, with the cases being negligible. I was lucky to meet my seniors, since most of the Freshers don't get that chance due to the Anti-Ragging Campaign. They attack me as good, fun loving and helpful, and definitely not as monstrous as described by the authorities. (Pulse: hope they are reading this!) It has been just a week here and I feel like I have been living here a long time. If this is how life goes on at IIT BHU, it's safe to say that my stay at this Institute will be very interesting and truly unforgettable."

As told by Prasen Jindal and Anshu Srivastava

"Space, is big. Really big. You just won't believe how vastly hugely mind bogglingly big it is. I mean you may think it's a long way down the road to the chemist, but that's just peanuts to space."

This is what 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy' says about space. Written (and re-written in many forms as a radio play, a TV series and a feature film) by Douglas Adams, and first published in London on 12 October 1979, the novel has firmly entrenched itself into pop cultural history, and has provided us with some of the wittiest and funniest moments in literature. The namesake of the novel is 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy', a fictional guide book for hitchhikers (inspired by the Hitch-hiker's Guide to Europe) written in the form of an encyclopedia. It follows the adventures of Arthur Dent, who on one fine day discovers that his house is about to be destroyed to make way for a free-way, and then, while trying to protect his house against the municipal authorities, he is told by his friend Ford Prefect (who is an Alien living on earth, a fact not known to Dent), that the Earth is about to be destroyed for a similar reason. With the Hitchhiker's Guide as their only help, they escape the destruction of their planet aboard a ship powered by 'infinite improbability drive', controlled by an egomaniac Alien, Zaphod Beeblebrox ('If there's anything more important than my ego around, I want it caught and shot now') and a terminally depressed robot Martin, who is ridiculed by many existential dilemmas, he laments 'Life, don't talk to me about life.' The book also contains the answer to Life, Universe and Everything, although I would not discuss it here. It is at once a zany adventure, and a study of 'beliefs'. Douglas Adams was a known atheist, and the book uncovers many facets of the fact. Read it for the sheer pleasure of Adams' mind boggling imagination, and to know that the guide's caption 'Don't Panic' rings true whatever the circumstance be. PS—Best read with a pan-galactic-gargle-blaster at hand.

## RAAHU'S REVENGE

By: Aditya Shanker Prasad

A collective gossip from the people of the ghat ushered in the beginning of a celestial event which has enraptured Man's imagination since the time he started looking up at the heavens for answers to the Universe. As the Moon rendered darkness over Varanasi, some began cheering and shouting with glee, while others started chanting and praying. Animals went haywire with confusion at the untimely setting of the Sun. Three minutes later, it was over. The Moon had passed and normalcy was restored. Standing there at the ghat, seeing people with mixed reactions got me thinking about how we humans have viewed events of such prominence over the millennia. It is surprising that there is just as much superstition about them now as there was in the past.

Although there are many stories woven around solar eclipses in Hindu mythology, one pops up more prominently than others. It is the story of how the demon Rahu occasionally gobbles up the Sun causing the eclipse. The story begins with an alliance of the gods and the demons to churn the sea and produce nectar to gain immortality. But soon, a quarrel ensued as to its distribution. Finally it was decided that Rukmini (in fact Lord Vishnu in disguise) would distribute the nectar. However, Rahu saw through Vishnu's ploy and, disguised as a god, sat in line next to the Sun and the Moon, managing to gulp a small portion of the nectar. But before it could reach his stomach, Vishnu, having found out about Rahu's deceit, severed Rahu's head from the front. Rahu's head, being immortalised by the nectar lived on and vowed to exact his revenge and so it is said that he eats the Sun and Moon whenever they get near. However, being a head he is only able to hide the Sun and Moon for small amounts of time.

A somewhat more historically important story is one from the epic, the Mahabharata. Arjun, on hearing of his own's death at the hands of his cousin's husband, Jayadrath, vowed to slay the latter before sunset or give up his own life. The next day however, Arjun fought in vain to get to Jayadrath. So, Lord Krishna, decided to help Arjun and hid the sun with his powers, making Jayadrath leave the protection of his tent and get slain. Seeing that Arjun had been successful, Krishna again used his divine powers and the Sun shone brightly again.

The phenomenon described here perfectly fits a total eclipse. Also, a lunar eclipse has been described to occur thirteen days before the solar eclipse. Astronomers have calculated all possible eclipse pairs visible from Kurukshetra and have found six possibilities from 325 BC and 1297 BC. Further astronomical evidence favours 329 BC.

The Chinese viewed the eclipse as a mythical dragon devouring the Sun, and hence the people would bring out their pots and pans to scare away the dragon during an occurrence. Prediction of solar eclipses was also an important task and being an astronomer could be hazardous. The eclipse was associated with the future health and success of the Emperor and hence, their inability to predict a solar eclipse could get the astronomers executed.

The Egyptians, Mayans and the Babylonians recorded the occurrence of Solar and Lunar eclipses, and devised their separate mechanisms to forecast such celestial events. However, very few of these records survive today. Just like the Mahabharata, there are many stories that talk of solar eclipses and their implications on the nation's fortune.

Science will always argue that the eclipse is just another celestial event and that its repercussions on us are as insignificant as the change in the weight of a page after a fire has been printed on it. Truly, the fact that a shadow of the Moon can change someone's fortune sounds quite foolish. Our ancestors probably knew the science behind eclipses too, but their respect for Nature deterred them from letting such events pass insignificantly.

## Lamborghini: The rise of the Mean Machine

By: Divyrajot Das

It's the subject of many a dream, the fantasy of every car lover. Just seeing one in the flesh gives you an organic sense of calm, a sense of nirvana. No other car has ever managed to evoke such extreme feelings in mortals as Lamborghini, the god of supercars, the legend of dreams, the pinnacle of human automotive engineering.

This supercar phenomenon was born in 1963 in the small Italian countryside of Sant'Agata Bolognese, as a result of a spat between a tractor factory owner, Ferruccio Lamborghini, and the then owner of the supercar giant Ferrari, Enzo Ferrari. Lamborghini found problems with the Ferraris he drove, but was snobbishly rebuffed when he complained to Enzo Ferrari. Hence, Ferruccio set out to show Ferrari his idea of a proper sports car. Armed with the talent of engineers Giotto Bizzarini and Gian Paolo Dallara and designer Franco Scaglione, he developed what went on to be the first ever production Lamborghini, the 350GT. Thus, Automobili Lamborghini was born.

The new company soon achieved success in 1966 with its first truly iconic car, the Miura. But before long, the company suffered a major setback in 1972, and Ferruccio had to sell his company to investors and the father of one of the greatest supercars in the world ended in a farmer's life in a vineyard. In 1973, the company introduced the legendary Countach. The Countach literally gets its name from a Provençal exclamation, "countach!", for a beautiful woman. It featured Lamborghini's signature wing up door, razor sharp edges and an in-your-face space age design. The futuristic design of the Countach manages to make passersby stop in their tracks even today.

In spite of this, in 1978, Automobili Lamborghini declared bankruptcy due to the ongoing oil crisis and was subsequently bought by the Chrysler Corporation. The Corporation set about improving a design by Italo Marzotto Gandini, smoothing out the sharp edges seen in the Countach and improving noise reduction and vibration.

The result, Lamborghini Diablo, considered one of the most elite supercars till today, was released on January 21, 1990, and remained an almost exclusive model by Lamborghini throughout the 90's.

In 1994, the car giant again faced financial crises and was sold to the Indonesian investment group, Megatech. Though it managed to triple car sales in a year, after only a year of taking over the reins, Megatech had to sell its shares of Lamborghini, owing to the changing automotive conditions. Automobili Lamborghini was bought by German automaker Audi, which has been its sole owners ever since.

In 2001, after a gap of more than ten years, Lamborghini let loose the infamous Murcielago, named after the famed fighting bull. Apt to its name, the Murcielago was a monster, with the humungous V12 engine that propelled it to 100 mph in under 8 seconds, and top speed of an insane 205 mph. The takeover by the German giant had resulted in major efficiency performance engineering that gave the new Lamborghini the power to carry off its raging look, taking it to new heights. Soon, a tamer version, the Gallardo was released, sporting a V10 instead of a V12, but even for the tame Gallardo, they say,

"Treat it with respect, and it just might not kill you." Such is the power of the Lamborghini.

The most recent offering from Lamborghini is the Reventon, an extremely limited edition supercar inspired from the F-22 raptor fighter jets. The Reventon boasts to be the most powerful, most expensive and most exclusive of all the Lamborghinis, with only 20 units built so far. If there ever were a reason to make money, it would be to be able to buy a Lamborghini. Each Lamborghini is crafted, machined and perfected by hand, hence only a handful of cars roll out of production every year, with a price tag that makes them the symbol of only the very elite. It's a supercar without equals. That is why, it is said:

"If it's not Lamborghini, it's just another car"

## THE EAGLE HAS LANDED...

By: Ransuk Kaira



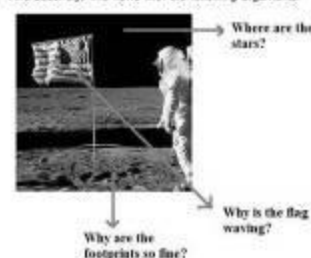
Or has it? On the eve of the 40th Anniversary of the first landing on moon, 28 % people of the world asked, believe that man never landed on the moon and that this quote was nothing more than a part of a movie script. It was nothing but the most elaborate Hollywood set act ever so that the US could snatch the bragging rights from the USSR during the chaotic days of the Cold War. Crazy, right? But can you improve the arguments of the naysayers?

For one, all the "fools" before this met with the USSR:

1. First man-made satellite in orbit (October 1957, Sputnik 1).
2. First living creature to enter orbit, a female dog named Laika. (November 1957, Sputnik 2).
3. First to safely return living creature from orbit, two dogs Belka and Strelka, 40 mice, 2 rats (August 1960, Sputnik 5).
4. First man in space, Yuri Gagarin, also the first man to orbit the Earth (April 1961, Vostok 1).
5. First to have two spacecraft in orbit at the same time (though it was not a space rendezvous, as frequently described) (August 1962, Vostok 3 and Vostok 4).
6. First woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova (June 1963, Vostok 6, as part of a second dual-spacecraft flight including Vostok 5).
7. First crew of three cosmonauts on board one spacecraft (October 1964, Voskhod 1).
8. First spacewalk (EVA) (March 1965, Voskhod 2).

And all of a sudden, on 20th July, 1969, the USA surged ahead and started producing the more powerful rockets, better technology and more sophisticated modules.

And secondly, and flows with the following arguments:



### The Explanations

1. The sun was shining. Cameras were set for daylight exposure, and could not detect the faint points of light. Even the brightest stars are dim and difficult to see in the daytime on the Moon. Neil Armstrong said that he could not see stars on the daylight side of the Moon with his naked eyes. Edwin Aldrin saw no stars from the Moon. The astronauts' eyes were adapted to the brightly sunlit landscape around them so that they could not see the relatively faint stars. Camera settings can turn a well-lit background into ink-black when the foreground object is brightly lit, forcing the camera to increase shutter speed in order

not to have the foreground light completely wash out the image. The effect is similar to not being able to see stars outside when in a brightly-lit room - the stars only become visible when the light is turned off.

2. The dust is silicate, and this has a special property in a vacuum of sticking like "bakum powder or wet sand".
3. The astronauts were moving the flag into position. Without air drag, these movements caused the free corner of the flag to swing like a pendulum for some time. A horizontal rod, visible in many photographs, extended from the top of the flagpole to hold the flag out for proper display. The flag's rippled appearance was from folding during storage, and it could be mistaken for motion in a still photograph. Videotapes show that when the flag stops after the astronauts let it go, it remains motionless.

## JAI HO MAYAVATI

You have friends, you have crossing of lines, and then, you have Mayavati.

My first memory of Mayavati is of her sitting in the Lok Sabha with a smug across her face as she plays the filing fiddle in the fall of the Vajpayee Government at the Centre by a margin of a single vote. I remember a feeling of disgust creeping through me even at that age. What is it about her? We have had other leaders who have been as, if not more abusive of the powers the common man has bestowed upon them. If Ms. Mayavati had her political rival thrown into jail and her house burnt to ashes to settle scores, you also had Ms. Jayalalitha who had a Karunanidhi dragged out of his house by the police in the dead of the night. If Mayavati was arrested in the Taj corridor case, Lata Pissad Yadav was indicted in the fodder scam case. Seriously, what is it about Mayavati that we so dislike?

The difference, I hate to say, lies in our psyche. And that is because the mentality of showing our heads in the sand does not work in this case. Ms. Mayavati is so brazen - so in-your-face - that she does not leave an option besides extreme disgust for her misadventures. We are repelled because only she dares to wear diamonds that can feed 4000 people for a month - the others have their jewels stashed in up in a dark vault in Switzerland. We are repelled because only she dares to buy aircraft at the same rate as hot gaudy suits. Others just bow down them off their friends for a 100 crore deal here or the scrapping of an unfavourable clause there. We are also repelled when she declares her prime ministerial ambitions publicly while others play cloaks and daggers.



The scepticism can go on but the narcissism takes the cake, the king and the cherry. The humongous complex she is having built is off-timely to the people (including Dalits to whom it is dedicated) - barricaded by two layers of 12 feet high walls - but I caught a bird's eye view during a hop over flight from Lucknow. The view, I dare say, would have been aesthetically pleasing, not unlike the Red Square in Moscow, had it not been for the images of emaciated children flitting through my mind. Drought is afflicting 47 districts of UP and aims worth INR 300 crores have been requested from the Centre and INR 557 crores for her "beautification drive". This is on top of the INR 2000 crore she has already flitted away. To put things into perspective, the Bando-Ward seepink cost 1600 cr.

And so I finish my rant, but innumerable articles before this. And herein lays the crux of the article: the ranting is all we do. How many of us have ever exercised our franchise? I have not, though I could have been for three years now. And, I can say with almost certain convictions that neither have you, dear reader. We choose not to use the only weapon we can fight with.

You reap what you sow.

By: Ransuk Kaira

Continued from Page 1.

## THE SOCIAL NETWORKING BUG

When they said, the world could get no smaller, social networking brought everyone across the planet to the distance of a few clicks. The efficient connectivity provided by a Social Networking site has found new uses every day. Comparisons have found that social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are great ways to build their brand image. These companies are able to drive traffic to their own websites while encouraging their consumers and clients to have discussions on how to improve or change products or services.

Social networking is allowing scientific groups to expand their knowledge base and share ideas, and without these new means of communicating their theories might become "isolated and irrelevant." A recently published study reveals New Biotechnology Firms (NBFs) are using social networking sites to exchange scientific knowledge. A trial run in Social Networking use is being seen by college students using the services to network with professionals for internship and job opportunities.

But what about the effect that this aspect of web culture has had on our social lives? What seems so efficient and connective has actually made people less social. Look beyond your Facebook/Orkut page and your social life might well be negligible. Ask yourself if you can remember the birthday of a close friend without a reminder from your social networking site. Ask yourself when was the last time you made the effort of meeting your neighbour rather than just writing on his wall? So is the world actually getting smaller or have the distances in fact increased?

Social analysts have found that Social Networking sites have an adverse effect on productivity. People today are more concerned with the number of friends they have, rather than their workload. Workplaces and educational institutions are thus being compelled to ban Social Networking sites, due to the sudden plunge in work output. Another meaningless culture that has developed is the habit of sending "friend requests" to any Tom, Dick and Harry you just met at the New Year's party. Not only is this meaningless, but it could also prove to be dangerous.

But, such websites have also been used in the past to write people about a public issue. A recent example is the ethnic violence against the Ligitar Muslims in the Xinjiang province of China by the Chinese Government. The locals used Face book to let the world know of their plight, and garner support from different corners of the world.

A much more serious issue at hand is the misuse of such websites. There have been growing concerns about users giving out too much personal information and the threat of sexual predators. Many of us would remember the case of a teenager in Mumbai being lured away by people he had made friends on Orkut, leading to extortion and finally the kid's demise. There have also been a lot of occurrences of 'stalking', wherein random people on social networking websites get access to people's personal information, which can be easily misused. Just a few months back, some students from a school in Delhi made a fake profile of a teacher they wished to humiliate. Furthermore, there is an issue over the control of data—information that was shared or removed by the user may in fact be retained and/or passed to 3rd parties. This danger was highlighted when the controversial social networking site Goodup harvested e-mail addresses from users' e-mail accounts for use in a spamming operation. The study demonstrates how easily Social Networking websites can be misused.

With all its pros and cons, Social Networking can be very addictive. We just need to know where to draw a line, so that you don't wake up one day with the realization that it's your Facebook page that's in control of you, rather than the other way round.



## ...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!

By: Swapnika Nag

In India, the arrest of a person is supposed to be carried out only in compliance with certain procedures. For example, a person who is being arrested has a right to know on what grounds and under what allegation he or she is arrested. The police is also prohibited from using any force, threat or intimidation upon a detainee. An accused is only an accused till proven guilty. That is what the law says. And this is what the law does...

"If you tell them you are innocent, they will torture you so ruthlessly, you will break down and confess to anything," says Maqbool Sahl, a photojournalist from Srinagar who was picked up by the Counter Insurgency Kashmir (CIK) that accused him of spying for Pakistan. Maqbool was detained in Harinwa, one of the many secret detention centers spread across the country where people picked up on mere suspicion are tortured to insanity.

THE WEEK's chilling cover story dated 27th June 09 confirmed the existence of our own little Guantanamo Bays, where extreme physical and psychological torture is employed to extract information from the detainee. Countering terrorism is one thing, but stretching an accused's legs wide open, till the balls of his joints are displaced, injecting drugs through the rectum to humiliate them, depriving them of food and sleep or using peptide injections which could drive the detainee crazy, is quite another. I do not condone a terrorist's cause, but many a time innocent people are abducted, abused and inhumanly tortured in the name of interrogation.

According to Indian Penal Code, a person cannot be kept in custody to gather information against a third person. Maybe this is why Hayat Sheikh, a household servant from West Bengal, was produced before a magistrate charged with a petty offence. Questions arose when Sheikh fell ill and died soon after his release; questions that still remain unanswered.

Family members allege that Sheikh was arrested to gather information about an absconding relative. It is also said that Sheikh had suffered serious injuries all over his body from torture, and was subjected to electric shocks while in custody. But the post mortem report reads a completely different story. Sheikh died of Jaundice. Corruption, which is rampant in India, has not spared the medico-legal experts.

A series of Indian laws makes it difficult or even impossible to prosecute abusers employed by the state. In particular, police and paramilitary forces are protected under the almost absurd Section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which says that unless sanctioned by the federal government, no offence by a public servant can be brought to court. Permission to prosecute is rarely granted, even when an investigation has strong evidence of human rights violations. When the judiciary itself turns criminal, there is little the innocent civilian can do.

"It is just as well that justice is blind, she might not like some of the things done in her name if she could see them."

## THE BUDGET IMPACT

By: M S Romakrishnan

When Mr. Mukherjee gave his budget speech on the 6th of June, there was a huge uproar especially amongst some of the industry big wigs. The BEI fell by almost 1500 points on that day. Moreover, there was criticism from various quarters for not bringing in any of the so called "Big Bang Reforms". But, in any case, just to clear misconceptions, a budget is not an announcement of government policy but merely a financial statement.

Mr. Mukherjee's budget is one with the socialist tinge. He has increased government spending to an extent where our fiscal deficit this year could be as high as 8% of our GDP, an increase from 2-3% last year. But what is the logic behind this move to increase govt. spending? Keynes, a great economist had a theory that a free market economy can work properly only when there is govt. participation, the extent to which is determined by the then economic condition. Contrary to public opinion, I personally feel that at this time in the economic crisis, an increased govt. spending helps in stimulating demand. The policy makers seem to believe, if not create, the domestic demand and want to generate growth not by just wooing foreign investors and capital but also by creating a strong domestic market which one can turn to in the eventuality of a global meltdown similar to this one. This "calculated gamble" (as I would put it) that the FM has taken intends to improve the presently low consumer confidence from the bottom of the pyramid i.e. drive consumption initially from the lower income class rather than the normally followed approach of "Trickle Down", which is why you haven't seen major tax breaks or subsidies to big industrial houses in this budget.

This budget has also laid a lot of stress on infrastructure, with increased spending in areas such as transport, education and health a major part in rural areas. Moreover, the govt. has also increased spending in the social sector schemes like the NREG (National Rural Employment Guarantee) Program, Rajeev Gandhi Rural Drinking Water Program and Rural Sanitation program, National Rural Health Mission and the Bharat Nirman Program. The govt. is also considering offering education vouchers to poor families to enable them to send their wards to good schools. The budget has also laid a lot of stress on Agriculture, and rightly so. If the need is to create a strong domestic demand, then, that can be generated only if the agricultural class begins to consume more.

The govt. has also proposed to replace the existing Value added Taxing (VAT) system with the globally accepted system of Goods and Services Taxing (GST) system by the end of this financial year. This implies a more Comprehensive tax system, both direct and indirect tax system which will make the tax administration efficient more compliant. This will improve govt. revenue by making tax collection more transparent.

However, the expected hike in the FDI caps especially in the banking and insurance sectors did not happen. That is surprising because a govt. appointed committee headed by eminent economist Raghuram Rajan had submitted a report stating that the hike would be in the interest of the economy. Furthermore, the very fact that this govt. got re-elected with more decisive mandate also raised expectations in this regard. Another area where the budget was a letdown was when it came to disinvestment. At a time when govt. is running a high fiscal deficit, one could have expected that govt. would have tried to generate revenue by partial/whole divestment of certain public sector undertakings but the FM has preferred to keep mum on this subject. Maybe the ghosts of the left still haunt him.

I would like to conclude by saying that it may not have been a high impact budget with the so called "Big Bang Reforms" or one that would entice foreign investors but is nonetheless a budget which has the vision to drive consumption in the rural areas and, as Amartya Sen puts it, can generate growth right from the bottom of the pyramid.

## JUNG'S TEST

By: Aashu Anshuman

At first look, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) test looks like yet another Facebook quiz that annoys you by appearing on your requests page; the catch here is that the results here are certified by Carl G. Jung, world renowned psychologist, psychoanalyst and psychiatrist, and disciple of the father of this business, Sigmund Freud. Based on the former's 1921 book titled Psychological Types, the mother-daughter duo of Katherine Cook Briggs and Isabel Briggs Myers identified distinctly 16 discrete personality types, each of which, in general, exhibits certain behavioral preferences. The CFP (Certified Consulting Psychologist's Press) calls MBTI the "best-known and most trusted personality assessment tool available today". And despite the skepticism surrounding the test, as many as 2 million assessments are administered annually.

The Theory of Psychological Type was proposed by Carl Jung, in which he proposed the existence of two dichotomous pairs of cognitive behavior: thinking and feeling (rational functions) and sensing and intuition (irrational functions). Myers and Briggs modified the theory to add two more dichotomous pairs - extroversion and introversion (attitudes) and judging and perceiving (flexities). Although people use all of these four cognitive functions, one generally finds more expression in an individual. This dominant function is supported by the secondary (auxiliary) function, and to a lesser degree by the tertiary function. The fourth function called the shadow is always the opposite of the dominant function. The four functions operate in conjunction with the attitudes, that is, each function is used in either an extroverted or introverted way.

The indicator is based on the precept that people fundamentally prefer one choice over the other and not a bit of both. If, thus, does not indicate the strength of ability or the degree of aptitude but ascertains the clarity of a preference. Furthermore, the theory states that an individual naturally prefers one overall combination of type differences. Since there are four dichotomous pairs, there can be sixteen distinct personality types. This overall personality type can help determine the most suitable careers for an individual. Thus, an INTP (which, by the way, is my personality type) is best suited for professions like engineering, computer programming and law. This means that my type is introverted (shades Thinking/Perceiving). And the preferences of an individual of the type ESPJ (Extroverted Sensing/Feeling/Judging) will be completely opposite to mine.

Even though the indicator is quite popular throughout the world, it has had its share of criticism. Jung's methods, primarily consisting of introspection and anecdote, have largely been rejected by modern psychology. There is no scientific or experimental proof for the existence, or manifestation, of the dichotomous pairs. Furthermore, researchers have found the reliability of the test to be low, since 20% to 70% of the results have been found to vary upon retesting after some gap. Skeptics call the test vague and general and question the fairness of the test. But some additional work by theorists like David Keirsey has made the test more precise and definitive. One of the major precepts the theory rests on is that individuals are the best judge of their own type. No type is good or bad, just preferred or not preferred by an individual.

For better understanding the test, visit if One of the better sites that offers it for free is <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-bin/JTypes2.asp>. Go, analyse yourself.

"Whatever the circumstances of your life, the understanding of type can make your perceptions clearer, your judgements sounder and your life closer to your heart's desire"

-Isabel Briggs Myers

## G-Talk

## DEUCE

By: Mizal Shekhawat

On the 5th of July the world sat down to cheer and watch the imminent victory of Federer in the Wimbledon men's singles final, confident that he will break the long standing record set by Pete Sampras with his 15th grand slam title victory, with even Pistol Pete in the stands to witness it. Federer's aura while stepping on to the court carried with it the memories of his resounding successes, and the excitement that history was going to be rewritten. However, all those who expected The Fed Express to run through Roddick just as though he was just another mortal were in for a shock. Roddick took the first set 7-5 serving with mettle and backing it up with excellent stroke play, with even his weak back-hand bringing him several winners. Although, winning the first set hardly wins the match though, with Federer fighting back to win the second and third set 7-6 in fiercely contested tie-breaks. Roddick clawed back the fourth set 6-3, this followed by the first set which proved to be a fitting climax to a close contest, with all of 14 games!

The crux of the situation was that after watching the first four sets, with each and every shot and volley there was an irresistible sudden urge to applaud for Roddick, the irony being that now I wanted Roddick to win and make a grand recovery for his career. I started cheering for Roddick and started arguing with my brother who gave all possible reasons for Federer's victory. I could not understand my mixed emotions and the very next moment after Federer's serve I found myself supporting him. In the amazing silence when the victory was swinging between the two, my "unswerving" loyalty was rallying between Federer and Roddick much like the ball! The tranquility of Federer's face and the brilliant delivery of his shots were magnetic but it was because of the excellent gameplay and the sturdy perseverance of Roddick that we were witnessing the glorious, eye-popping, electrifying, grand Wimbledon finale. The most awaited moment came when Federer was finally able to break Roddick's serve, and soon, Sampras' record. And that very second I heard the staunch supporter of Federer—my brother—say, "I wish it was Roddick..."

## RESTAURANT REVIEW: CRESCENT VILLA

By: Pankhuri Agarwal

Meal for two: Rs. 350, Service: very poor, Food: okay, Convenience: on the main road, Ambience: Good

Adding to the number of eateries on the road to Vijaya Circle is a new restaurant called Crescent Villa. It is near Ming and Crystal Bowl, and being located on the main road, grants easy access, something that is not so common for a restaurant in the city. The ambience of the place, though not as relaxing as that of Iba, is still decent, and the light background music adds to the effect. Although the furniture leaves a bit to be desired, as there isn't enough leg space under the tables, and this writer's table was particularly creaking, the food was good. And it wasn't too heavy on the pocket either. The quality of service however has scope for improvement. Overall it merits 3 stars out of 5.

SCHOOL OF ROCK

By: Dishaank Gupta

It started as an effect of blues, few individuals holding guitars and drumsticks, having an altogether different perception towards everything and what they created, we better know it as Rock music. It would the guitar's place as a lead instrument and soon distorted replaced the amplified blues progressions. Rock Music soon evolved out in every direction; hence many sub genres came into existence and flourished.

Once a very famous cartoonist wrote "You can't know what's new until you learn what is old". Therefore it seems necessary to find the roots in the Rock & Roll of '50s and the unforgettable night of 18 July, 1954 when three men including a 19 year old Memphis truck driver named Elvis Presley got together to release some songs and the rest is history. It wasn't a mere musical style but influenced the lifestyle of many and played an instrumental role against social radicalism also.

Rock music got legitimate as 'real' music in 1960s with the help of bands like The Beatles and The rolling stones. The Beatles defined new heights of popularity and success. They brought in folk rock music and later Bob Dylan in 1965 walked onstage armed with a Fender Stratocaster, a week the first he appeared in public with an electric guitar. In the second half of the decade, LSD- inspired vice began which gave birth to Psychedelic Rock and eventually the appearance of Jimi Hendrix transformed the tone of instruments from soft and heavenly to loud and distorted. Rock music intertwined with hippie culture culminated in a mentality of social peace and sharing and festivals like Woodstock 1969 made an astounding impact.

Innovation and experimentation are definitely the major ingredients of the formula which drove something forward after a certain extent and here, Progressive Rock did the job. They incorporated many new instruments and elements drawn from classical and jazz music. Bands like Pink Floyd and Jethro Tull pushed the envelope beyond the rock music's compositional boundaries.

Short frenetic songs, had edged music and stripped-down instrumentation combined with anger and frustration hit the stages in the early 70s and called Punk rock. It was the result of the anger, frustration, consumerism and due to Politics of rebellion. These bands started playing with very less knowledge of music's technical details and skills. They didn't know the rules of music and hence they

were able to break the rules. They expanded the definitions of music without even realizing it. These bands tried to evoke the communal mentality into the masses by showing their confrontations against commercialization.

'Metal heads' and 'steel horns' evolved during the decade of 70's resulting from one of the most popular genres of music called Heavy Metal music. Led Zeppelin, a hard rock band started many records and proved them as the most successful rock band in 1973. This new genre included heavy hitting drums, distorted guitars and intense vocals along with mellow sections and spacey elements. Later, the melodic section phased out and bands like Iron Maiden and Motörhead, toughened the sound even more.

Rock Music was getting commercialized and the terms like 'market share' and 'monopoly' started creeping in, which gave birth to a revolution of alternative rock (termed for the music that were not signed to the Big six record labels then). This revolution was spearheaded by a band Nirvana, in one fell swoop made this definition a misnomer. Grunge music featured songwriting over virtuosity and they denied giving conventional marketing promotions also. It based the reminiscent of punk music like the raw sound and lyrical concerns with the heavy metal elements and often referred as the 'godfather of the punk theology'. Now comes the era of fusion when Green Day fused pop with punk music and bands like Linkin Park started combining the rap with the distorted guitars of heavy metal music.

Since then, many experiments have been accomplished and numerous other sub genres evolved. The popularity of rock music declined to a considerable extent in the current decade largely due to piracy and the rising popularity of other styles like Hip Hop.

Rock music preserved many ideologies and spawned a medium to express their views but primarily every band just wanted one thing and that is to make good music and music needs only listeners whether to hate it or like it. A random blog describes in the best way - "Bands want in varying amounts the following: to make records that sell, fame and fortune, a career, to mean something, to be recognized, drugs and women and a rock star lifestyle. Often when they get it they imitate (Sid Vicious, Kurt Cobain) or struggle to come to terms (The Who), or make a career (Stones) pass out of view as fashions change (Sneakers), change direction (U2) realize they have nothing more to offer (Eminem) or go too far (Hendrix, Brian Jones ad infinitum).

Together, they tell the story of rock music's evolution and revolution across half a century and had one common element: dedication for the music. 80 years later whose effect still resonates.

HOW TO LOOK COOL ON THE INTERNET

by Dhivyajothi Das



PROBLEM SECTION

It's been almost two decades since the evolution of networking into what is today the World Wide Web. Millions of people have made the Internet an integral part of their busy and important lives. The others are busy striving to look important by spending their otherwise useless time on the Internet. Below is a guide on how to waste time and at the same time look cool on the internet. I believe many of you will find it highly enlightening and useful for yourself.

**First:** Join as many social networking sites as possible. It doesn't matter if you do not know how to use them; half of the users do not know either. Send friend requests to all your buddies just to show them that you have signed up before them (Ha Ha HAA!)

**Second:** Sign up to all the efficiently useless and tasteless applications that the site has to offer, such as Stapsiter, I poke, Emote, etc. in order to make your profile look sophisticated. You can also take such highly insightful quizzes as "Find out how you will die", or "How far will you survive in a Horror movie?"; among others.

**Third:** Search the net for e-mails that read "PLZ READ THIS!! URGENT!! FORWARD TO 15 PEOPLE IN 15 DAYS OR YOU WILL DIE/FAIL IN UR EXM. ETC., ETC.!!", and send them to all your friends. This will ensure that your inbox always looks full and important with reply and forwarded mails. Never mind if your online "friends" curse you for this; they are just jealous.

**Fourth:** Send friend requests to all and sundry, even if you have never met or never talk to them when face to face. Send them scraps like "hey man! whaddsup?!", "hwz ty, dude?" or even carry ones like "hey sexy, we's cockin'!". That's the beauty of the Internet. You can look as cool on it as you want to without looking stupid.

**Fifth:** Learn the internet lingo. The more wrong and dreadful your English is, the cooler you sound. Use cool street talk like "wassup, dude?!" "ASAP", "LoLz", etc with sophisticated swear words like "fouk", "botch", "wtf", etc. Remember to use lots of emoticon icons even if you never really need them coz, they are so cool and hip man!!!

**Sixth:** ALWAYS use the internet to communicate with everyone, even if they are sitting next doors. It increases your peer respect. I mean, simple talking is just not sophisticated enough, especially for socializing with the girls! Not to mention, if the conversation is getting uncomfortable, you can just close the chat box and pretend to be "offline".

**Seventh:** Sign up to as many communities as you can get your mouse pointers on so as to look important and noble to your online buddies. Some good examples of such communities include "stop child abuse", "I detest terrorist attacks", "stop killing mother earth", etc. You won't even have to go out and work for these causes ever to impress everyone.

**Eighth:** In your "about me" put "I'm handsome and cool and smart and outgoing, like making friends", even if you look like a baboon, stuffer like an idiot, have a non-existent social life, and have never gone out of your house for the last 20 years. On the internet, it never matters!

**Ninth:** Update your status box every five minutes, even if you are doing nothing even remotely remarkable. Use cool and heavy sounding phrases like "Nostalgia is a seductive liar", or something sullen like "I don't care what the world thinks of me", even though you spend every minute of your existence worrying about how good your online profile looks.

**Tenth:** \*\*!!\A/VIE INANe! Y!!!\*\* Agreed, it is incredibly difficult to write that way and it's even more difficult to read, but nothing is cooler than WriteG in ALIErNaTe CaPITaL aNd SmAlL lEtTeRs!!! Put in lots of practice beforehand to be prepared. Punctuate like crazy. I mean, one comma is for losers! How can you be ECgCRED if you use less than 10 exclamation marks?! LoLz, this jst n Kw!!!!!! EVERY sentence has to have at least 10 periods too.

The Internet is a constantly evolving entity that is steadily making us dumber by the day. So, before web address, let us take a stupid today... to form a Facebook community called "Stop the internet brain drain" or something similarly sophisticated and make all our online "friends" join it. Till then, I hope my cues will help this dumb race in pretending to look smart on the Web. For the record, I'm DJ "The Destroyer". Dis (cool name, huh?) a smart, handsome and incredibly intelligent guy who loves making friends (full profile available on Orkut!). Oh heck, my room-mate is asking me to sign in on Orkut to chat....gg, to, bye-bye...mah!!!!CIAO....!!!



HOCUS - FOCUS