

ISSUE 04
May 2018

NIB
NITCAA COCHIN IN-HOUSE BULLETIN



NITCAA
COCHIN

*Staying connected
now and forever*

President's Message



Greetings from your Chapter President.

First of all, let me thank you for re-electing me and my committee members for the 2nd term.

I congratulate Ranjini Menon for releasing this wonderful issue of NIB.

As the President, my responsibilities and commitments are multiplying day by day.

But I am very happy that I have an excellent team who are more committed and enthusiastic than me. With their support, we have successfully completed one year. Our dreams of NITCAA tower is yet to materialize but its realization is more of a reality than a dream now, as the District Collector has sanctioned our request for permitting construction of the tower in our land.

Sreekumar Pai of 1977 batch has taken over the charge of our Training Program intended for young engineers. This program will be rolled out shortly.

As always, we organised our NITCAA Day celebrations on 26th January 2018, at RECCAA Club, the details of which are given in the inner pages of this bulletin. Along with all the other annual awards, we introduced a new award this year 'Life Time Achievement Award to Engineers', which was presented to Dr. J. Latha, Vice chancellor of Cochin University of Science & Technology.

We have a vision. Together, as NITCAAites we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Reminding all of you once again, to officially register in NITCAA Cochin chapter, by taking membership, if not done already- let us join hands to make a better world.

My best wishes to all chapter members...

Mohandas M.M. (1972 Civil)

President

NITCAA Cochin Chapter

Secretary's Report



As we are about to commence another year of office, this committee is ready with whole lot of new ventures and activities.

This year NITCAA day celebrations on January 26th was a full day event with multiple sessions. The inauguration of the Ladies forum was the highlight of the forenoon session along with the scholarship distribution.

After lunch we had the election of the new committee. We are thankful for having been re-elected to the office. As two of our EC members had to step down from the committee due to their personal constraints, two new members, Mr Thankachan Thomas and Mr Jacob Kurian were elected to the committee.

The 11th Executive committee meeting was hosted by John of Matha on 10th February. The 12th and the last meeting of the year was held on 13th March, jointly hosted by Ranjini Menon and Prashant Pillai. Main discussion in these meetings was to find means to speed up the approval to NITCAA Towers which is still pending.

Later, a series of informal meetings were held to discuss the launching of Training Program for fresh engineering graduates. The timely entry of Mr Srikumar Pai helped in speeding up this project.

The first meeting of the year was held at Prestige Neptune courtyard, in a grand manner, hosted by Mr Thankachan Thomas, on 7th April. May 1st family meet and the training program details were discussed. Subsequently it was decided to hold a round table discussion with the Heads of the institutions of Engineering colleges nearby regarding this skill enhancement training program. The event, held on 13th April, was a grand success with the active participation of Principals and Heads of Departments of many engineering colleges. Their valuable suggestions were noted.

We seek the continued support of all the members of the Chapter for another year of successful activities.

Thank you

Darryl Andrew (1980 Mechanical)

Secretary

NITCAA Cochin Chapter



Our Team

The Executive Committee of NITCAA Cochin chapter for the year 2018-19

Mohandas Malayil	President	(72 Civil)
Thankachan Thomas	Vice President	(80 Civil)
Darryl Andrew	Secretary	(80 Mechanical)
Sameer Abdul Azeez	Jt. Secretary	(2002 Mechanical)
Ashok Kumar	Treasurer	(78 Electrical)
Dr. Supriya Subash	Member	(88 Electrical)
Shilen S.	Member	(87 Mechanical)
Jacob Kurian	Member	(80 Mechanical)
Joseph Philip	Member	(75 Civil)
John of Matha	Member	(85 Mechanical)
Mathew. M. Mathew	Member	(79 Mechanical)
Ranjini Menon	Member	(90 Civil)
Hashim P. A.	Past President	(78 Civil)

Special Invitees

Dr. Babu T Jose (Advisor)	Faculty
Prof. Shankaran Nair	Faculty
Dr. Ravindran Nair	Faculty
Babu Varghese	(68 Civil)
Fazal Ali	(79 Mechanical)
Regil Das	(83 Electrical)
Jijo G John	(91 Computer Science)
Prasanth Pillai	(2002 Production)
Srikumar Pai	(77 Civil)



26th January 2018

REPORT ON NITCAA DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 26th January 2018, the NITCAA Day Celebrations were held as a day long affair, spread across multiple sessions, at Reccaa Club by the Cochin chapter of NITCAA.

The registrations commenced at 11.30AM and the pre-lunch session was dedicated to the inauguration of NITCAA Ladies Forum. The programme started with an invocation by Ms. Uthara. Er. M.M Mohandas, President NITCAA delivered the welcome address. This session was presided over by Prof.K. Sankaran Nair, who delivered the Presidential Address and also conducted the proceedings for election of members to the Executive Committee of the Ladies Forum. The Chief Guest for this session was Dr. Poornima Narayan, Associate Professor at SCMS School of Technology and Management. She lighted the ceremonial lamp as a symbolic inauguration of this forum, and delivered the inaugural address. She gave a very enlightening talk on the social role of women, and the contribution that men too can make in creating an even and progressive society.

In continuation of its endeavour like that in the previous years, NITCAA gave away scholarships for academic excellence to needy students. Two of these scholarship awardees, namely Mr. Aravind M.S. from M.A College of Engineering, Kothamangalam, and Mr. Akshay K.B. from N.S.S College of Engineering, Palakkad were present in person to receive the scholarships from the Chief Guest. The session ended with a Vote of thanks by Er. Darryl Andrew, Secretary NITCAA.



Members of the Ladies Forum



After a hearty lunch, the Business Session commenced at 2.00pm.



To add an element of fun to the proceedings, Baby Ridhi Ratheesh performed a cinematic dance.

This session commenced with Er. M.M Mohandas, President NITCAA, mentioning about the various activities done by the Executive Committee for the year 2017-18. Er. Ashok Kumar, Treasurer NITCAA presented the Statement of Accounts. Er. Darryl Andrew, Secretary NITCAA thanked all members present for their support and guidance provided to the Executive Committee. Subsequently, the election of office bearers to the Executive Committee of NITCAA for 2018-19 was conducted. Prof. Ravindran Nair, the returning Officer, carried out the proceedings. The members of the current Executive Committee were retained for one more year, except for Er. Sandeep Krishnan and Er. Robinson K.B., who had expressed their inability to continue due to their pressing official engagements. Therefore, two new members were elected in their place.



Prof. Ravindran Nair

The next session was a Health Talk, which was delivered by Dr. Lisamma Joseph of Ernakulam Health Centre, who enthused the audience with her interactive lecture on general health issues, spiced with a steady dose of humour.



Dr. Lisamma Joseph

The grand finale of the day was the formal function of the NITCAA Day Celebrations, which commenced at 1500 hrs, with an invocation by Ms. Sruthy Sreedhar.



Er. M.M Mohandas, President, NITCAA Cochin Chapter, welcomed the gathering for this session. The Chief Guest of this function was Dr. V.J. Kurian I.A.S, Managing Director, CIAL and the Guest of Honour was Dr. Sivaji Chakraborti. Director, NIT Calicut. They were introduced to the audience by Er. Sameer Abdul Azeez and Er. Prashanth Pillai respectively. In his address, Dr. Sivaji Chakraborti appreciated the efforts of NITCAA Cochin in its various endeavours, and assured the alumni that due consideration shall be given to the proposal by NITCAA Cochin Chapter for an off-campus centre of NIT Calicut at Kochi.

Dr. V.J. Kurian, in his address, extolled the role of engineers from REC Calicut, with a special mention of Er Jose Thomas of '82 batch, in setting up of Cochin airport and the efficient



Dr. Sivaji Chakraborti



Dr. V.J. Kurian

The major highlight of the evening was the distribution of the NITCAA awards, an introduction of which was given by Dr. Babu T. Jose, Advisor, Award Committee.

The awards included (a) NITCAA Life time Achievement Award presented to Dr. J Letha, Vice Chancellor, CUSAT, (b) Prof. K.M. Bahauddin Award for Distinguished Engineering Teacher of Kerala presented to Dr. G Madhu, CUSAT, and (c) Prof. P.M. Jussay Gold Medal for Best Outgoing Student of NIT Calicut presented to Mr. Joel Joy.



Dr. Babu T Jose



Dr. Darryl Andrew

The third edition of NIB or NITCAA in-house bulletin was also released on the occasion by Dr. J. Letha,



The World NITCAA Meet WNM-2018 is scheduled to be held at Calicut this year and Er. Nityanand Kamat, Chairman, Organizing Committee-WNM 2018 briefed the audience on the same. The registration portal of WNM-2018 was also launched on the occasion.



Er. Nityanand Kamat

The final agenda of the evening was the felicitation of members who completed their 'Saptathi'. As per the tradition, 8 of these members were felicitated with 'Ponnadas' by the past presidents.

Another highlight to this year's celebration was the replacement of the conventional memento with Green Certificate, which certified that a sapling was planted in the name of the recipient in the serene environs of RECCAA club. These were handed over to all the guests of the day, whilst displaying photos of the Ficus Microcarpa saplings planted, thereby underlining NITCAA's commitment to the environment and green initiatives.



The function came to an end with the proposal of vote of thanks by Er. Darryl Andrew, Secretary NITCAA, which was followed by high tea.



This program was co-ordinated by Sameer Adbul Azeez.



In their reply speeches, all the awardees thanked NITCAA Cochin Chapter for the honour they were bestowed with. Dr. J. Letha paid tributes to her family and teachers who had played a pivotal role in shaping up her career. She attributed her success in scaling CUSAT to new heights, to a strong team, in which Dr. Supriya played a key role.



Dr. J. Letha

Dr. G. Madhu returned the prize money of Rs. 1 Lakh to NITCAA and requested to use it as a corpus for instituting a biennial award for 'Best PhD thesis in Engineering / Technology from Kerala'.



Dr. G. Madhu



Joel Joy dedicated his achievements to his late father in his return speech

Members at Sapthathi



Er. K.G. Gireesan



Er. K.K. Paul



Er. R. Sivaprasad



Er. M. R. Devadas



Er. V. Damodar Raja



Er. V. O. George



Er. V. O. Thomas



Er. M. K. Krishnan

Bustling Summer @ RECCAA CLUB



Swimming and
Badminton
coaching camps
for kids

Our Champions



John of Matha ('85 batch)
current 55 plus Badminton
National Champion



Liyana Fathima Ummer trained at RECCAA club pool.
Champion, 100 meter Freestyle, District Aquatic
Championship (Niece of Basheer Kalanad, '78 Batch)

RECAMPUS'92



...LH beauties of 90 batch...



...The mighty ones of '80 batch @ Vythiri 2017...

...Onam at the Campus, 2015...

...Onam at the Campus, 2015...



...Here time stands still...



...1972 batch meet at Delhi, March 2018...

...from there they march to a new horizon...



...Glamour guys of 72 batch...



...VAT 69 @the campus after 25 years...



...Reliving memories after 25 years, 90 batch...



...the tell tale pathways...

NITCAA Cochin chapter initiatives

One of the major activities this committee of NITCAA Cochin had planned to take up during their tenure, was to address the skill gap in the field of engineering wherein fresh graduates have been finding themselves unable to meet the demands of their preferred industries. Adding to this issue is also the lull in the industry that has reduced employment opportunities considerably, pushing an increasing number of youngsters to opt for self-employment.

By pooling in the resources of NITCAA to benefit the society, two major projects were initiated

Skill enhancement training program

Short term courses, with more emphasis on practical skills required for the industry, to be offered for final year engineering students/fresh graduates in core engineering streams

To begin with, two courses are set to take off immediately,

Course 1. Importance of Skill Certification in Civil Construction

Course 2. Basic of Solar Power systems- On and Off Grid

Courses conceived and designed by Er Srikumar Pai & Er M.M. Mohandas, Er Krishnakumar G & Er C M Varghese respectively.

COURSE DETAILS

HSE	HSE (Health Safety and Environment) Importance of HSE in Civil Construction.
TENDERS & TENDER DOCUMENTS	Familiarity with practical tendering, commercial and technical terms, derivation of BOQ.
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	Interpretation of drawings, Developing practical steps for execution, Familiarity with construction materials, Specifications, priorities in procedures, Latest trends, Construction Site visits to facing challenges.
ESTIMATION & COSTING	Estimation of Quantities & Project Costing.
SELF CONFIDENCE & PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	Imparting Communication Skills, Confidence Building and Hands on training.
DURATION	80 hours spread over two weeks.
FEES & BATCH SIZE	Rs.12000/- 30 Participants (Special Rates for Group Registrations)

Training at:
EVERGREEN Energy Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
V8023/A, Ambudamoodu, Palacchavada
NGO Ors Road | Kakkanaad | Cochin - 682 030
☎ 0484-2421546 ☎ 9447148348 ☎ 9873751418 / 9138954853
✉ egerphd@gmail.com www.egenergytech.com

NITCAA Cochin Chapter
B-11/2nd Floor | Mother Superior Opp. North Railway Station
Emukulam -682 020 | Kerala | India

Course Overview:

One Day workshop:
Fee - Rs.2000

Solar PV Grid Engineer
[30 Hrs Course]
Fee - Rs.15000.00

Basics of Solar Power Systems- Off Grid, On Grid.

After completing this program, participants will be able to undertake:

- Pre-Commissioning Inspection of the Grid
- Connected Rooftop Solar PV Power Plant
- First Commissioning Testing of the Grid
- Connected Rooftop Solar PV Power Plant
- Maintain Personal Health & Safety at project site

Training Institute:
V8023/A, Ambudamoodu, Palacchavada
NGO Ors Road | Kakkanaad | Cochin - 682 030
☎ 0484-2421546 ☎ 9447148348
✉ egerphd@gmail.com www.egenergytech.com

Registered Office:
28/29B (New 5/13/1) Santhi Nagar | Kadavanthara | Cochin-682 020 | Kerala | India

A round table discussion and chat, on “Enhancing employability through skill certification courses”, was held on 13th April, 2018. This brain storming session, attended by heads of institutions from the engineering colleges in and around Cochin, gave more insights into the need of the hour.



Entrepreneurship drive

Startup entrepreneurship opens up unprecedented business opportunities and its associated technology requirements for India. If a startup entrepreneurship culture can be created here, it can stimulate creation of thousands of jobs and pave way for economic and social development of the region. NITCAA fraternity, consisting of an eclectic spectrum of accomplished individuals, endeavours to create a successful Startup Ecosystem.

With this perspective, a series of lectures focused on fostering startup entrepreneurship, capitalizing on the diverse background of its member, is being conducted by our chapter periodically. Four events have been held successfully and attended by technocrats, students, Alumni, entrepreneurs, academics etc. Steering this project is Er Shilen Sagunan and Er Jijo John.

NITCAA Towers

Another prestigious project of NITCAA Cochin is the proposed studio apartment complex to come up in RECCAA valley, Kakkanaad. The 4 storied building with 6 dwellings on each floor has been planned and designed by experts in the field and is awaiting approval from the local authorities for the kick off.

Grim facts



Facing the declining growth ON declining oil

C. M. Varughese
1978 Electrical

In the last 150 years, we were visualizing the industrial era where growth resulted in an exponential way called Perpetual Exponential Quantitative Growth (PEQG). We moved from bullock cart age to smart phone age, an exponential growth stimulated by technology on cheap and abundant fossil fuel – Oil, the blood of the industrial world.

When plants, animals and humans follow a qualitative and limited biological growth, does PEQG look artificial? Exponential growth or limitless growth assuming limitless resources in a finite planet is impossible. The qualitative growth makes us love our family, friends, villages, towns, communities and the local economic systems.

To reach PEQG, we assault the planet off everything and anything looked as resources, trying to find more oil, alternate energy, increasing efficiency, developing new technologies etc, each of these have its own limitations.

On the race of moving from bullock cart to motor car to airplane to spacecraft and so on, breaking the bounds of mother earth, we assumed we are entitled to break all limits of time, space, productivity, comfort and so on. But we have noticed over a period of time, the extinction of species, forest depletion, population explosion, top soil erosion, ground water depletion, chemicals in food, cancer and finally 'Global Warming' - the biggest disaster of the century.

The primitive man treated earth as a single living whole. The rivers, clouds, wind, rain, soil, even rocks and mountains were treated with humility, reverence and a sense of gratitude whereas the modern man treated mother earth as a one time exploitable and disposable source of goodies to run our financial system and to make money.

Any resources can be drawn out on a bell curve fashion only, initially exponential and steady and then descending further. The same is the case with oil. We reached peak oil utilization in 2005 and remaining oil is only half of the totally formed oil over a period of 150 million years. At the present consumption rate, oil will last for just 40 years more. From 1960, oil consumption has almost doubled every 10 years, leaving just 1200 billion barrels. Now, considering the current consumption rate of 80 million barrels per day, the existing stocks of oil will last for 15,000 days only.

After peak oil, we noticed food price increasing, real estate price sky rocketing, financial crisis, unemployment, increase in tax, unlimited money printing –collapse of financial system world over. The social unrest in middle east is being told the result of all these factors with lower real production, further falling production leading to financial collapse where big corporations got bailed out but resulting in increasing common-man's tax and so system to bounce back never happened and leading to further price increase, job loss, production fall etc, going on.

Transition is the solution for the above crisis. The beliefs - big is good, more is beautiful, individualism is prime, one size fits all, accumulation first, charity then etc - have to be changed to Small is beautiful, less is good, local is important, community is strength, sharing is charity and diversity is paramount. This approach only can work in an energy declined world.

Let us rebuild the social capital – bond in the family, community and society, love, respect, caring, peace and harmony. Let us understand the oil predicament and behave accordingly.

Let us move from global to local to reduced energy need, promote local food habits thereby keeping local economy up, enrich the water level in agricultural soil and bring back the vitality of soil by working with nature avoiding pesticides and chemicals. Let us build resilience to village, town, society to absorb the energy declining shocks.

We are proud of you Anjali



Anjali S
2014 Electronics
26th rank in
Civil Service Examination 2018

A chat with Srikumar Pai

1977 Civil



Q. Sir, let's start from the present. We know that you just retired from your 30 years of service in Civil engineering industry in Oman and returned home to settle down at Cochin- please tell us briefly about your professional career.

S. I graduated in Civil Engineering, from REC in the year 1977. Got chance to work in various Departments including Kerala PWD and Central Government Postal construction wing. In the year 1991, I went to Oman and worked there 26 years. 2 years I was running a construction company in India before leaving for Oman.

Q. Can you compare the work culture in this industry at Oman with that in Kerala?

Construction is well organized in Oman. There is no shortage of construction raw materials and most of the projects are completed very fast. Only problem is that they have to depend upon expatriate labours. Since there are no Bandh or hartals, none of the days are wasted.

Q. What you feel is the future prospects of a Civil Engineering graduate currently?

Civil Engineering is one of the oldest branches of Engineering. It contributes a lot to the progress and developments of a country. New construction methods like 3D Printing is future of the country. About 33 million people are working in Construction industry alone. There is an excellent chance and growth for hard working and dedicated people

Q. Even now, almost all engineering graduates look at middle east as a paradise with lucrative job opportunities. What is the actual status of construction industry there?

S. India is the best place to work and enjoy life. However saving potential and working condition is better in Gulf countries. Due to fluctuation in Oil prices, the chances are less now when compared to last year.

Q. Now let's get back to our campus- REC/NIT Calicut. Your bonding with the campus, the memories of the four golden years and about your 'Pai Vani'?

Entry to REC was unexpected. I had joined for B.Sc Physics at Maharajas College, Ernakulam. One of my neighbours received two application forms from REC Calicut, one of which was given to me. Thus I happened to apply and got admission. The life at REC was fantastic.

In those days we had a music system in C hostel by which we could play songs and could be heard from all men hostels. It was operated between 5PM to 7PM and many students used to wait for these timings to hear beautiful songs from different languages. Every month we used to get some money to bring new songs. Those days, we used to play Music using HMV records. We purchased records from Calicut city. We had more than 1000 music records of different languages. Mr. Cyriac Abraham of 1976 batch was in charge of it. When Cyriac left after completing the course, the same was handed over to me. I brought some innovative ideas. One of them was listener's choice. and it was inaugurated by our Principal Bahauddin



sir. Members could fill a form asking for their favourite song and drop inside the box kept at hostel warden's room. Every day it was collected and played by mentioning their name, hostel room number etc. It became very popular. People used to sit in front of their hostels to hear their favourite songs. Then I started announcements. All important messages from college, hostel, exam dates and knowledge based

information etc were announced through this. Chances were given to many students to announce news. Also conducted "BEST ANNOUNCING VOICE TEST" competition. Fortunately or unfortunately this record room was used to make announcements during the fight between REC students and Kattangal residents. Which went for 2 to 3 days without connecting to outside world. Students fondly named this Music system to Paivani

Q. Your association with NITCA Muscat chapter ?

I was an active member of Cochin chapter until I leave to Muscat in the year 1991. I took initiative to start the Muscat chapter in the year 1992. Extremely happy and proud to see that I initiated the First World RECCAA meet in Muscat in the year 2002 and still it is continuing. The speciality of the first meet was that there was no registration fees. We provided the delegates free food and accommodation and all expenses from and only expenses for the delegates were ticket charges. From Cochin alone 22 delegates came to Muscat.

Q. Your other activities and hobbies?

S. I am a member of Toastmasters International, a non-profit organization for improving communication and leadership skills spread in 142 Countries. I served this Organization as Club President, Area Director and Division Director. I was the Club Growth Director in the year 2016-17 in charge of 485 clubs spread in 7 countries. I also received excellence in Club Growth award from the International President.



**WNM 2018
@ CALICUT**

EMERALD CONVENTION CENTER
10, 11, 12 August - 2018

NETWORK . INNOVATE . EVOLVE

GD

എന്ന കടമ്പ



K. V. Mohanan
1978 Electrical

ആർ. ഇ. സി. യെ കുറിച്ച് ഒരു ഓർമ്മ പങ്കുവെയ്ക്കുക പ്രയാസമുള്ള കാര്യമാണ്. കാരണം അത് ഒന്നല്ല പലതാണ് പതിനായിരങ്ങളാണ്. ഒന്നിൽ നിന്ന് മറ്റൊന്നിലേക്ക് ചുറ്റിപ്പടർന്ന് വേർതിരിച്ചെടുക്കാൻ കഴിയാത്ത സങ്കീർണ്ണത മഹാഭാരതവും അങ്ങിനെ ആയരുന്നുവല്ലേ.

പലരേയും പോലെ എനെയും കേരളത്തിലെ ഒരു കുഗ്രാമത്തിൽ നിന്നാണ് ആർ ഇ സി യിലേക്കു പഠിച്ചു നടത്. അതു കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ആംഗലേയ സീമകൾ ഭേദിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നില്ല. അദ്ധ്യാപകരും ഒരു കൂട്ടം അന്യഭാഷാ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളും പറയുന്നതു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിയാതെ ഞാൻ കൂഴങ്ങി. ഇട്ടോടിയാലോ എന്നും ചിന്തിക്കാതിരുന്നില്ല. പക്ഷെ പിന്നീട് കാലുറച്ചു. വിറയാർന്ന എന്റെ കാലുകൾക്കും മനസ്സിനും ശക്തിയും ഊർജ്ജവും പകർന്ന കലാലയത്തിന്റെ പടിക്കു മുന്നിൽ മനസ്സുകൊണ്ട് ശിരസ്സ് നമിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഒരു കഥ പറയാം.

സാമ്പത്തിക തെരുക്കും നന്നേ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഒരു കാലമായിരുന്നു അത്. ഈ പ്രതിസന്ധി പൊതുവേ എല്ലാവരേയും ബാധിച്ചിരുന്നു. അത്യാവശ്യം വേണ്ട 'തക്കിട തരികിട വ്യാപാരങ്ങൾക്കും' പണം കണ്ടെത്തുക ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടായിരുന്നു. തക്കിട തരികിട എന്നുപറഞ്ഞാൽ തെറ്റിദ്ധരിക്കരുത് കേട്ടോ. ചില്ലറ മദ്യാപാനം ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാൻ വയ്യാത്ത ദിനേഴ് ബീഡി, ആത്മാവിന് പുക, വല്ലപ്പോഴും ടൗണിൽ പോയി ഒരു സിനിമ (കട്ടാങ്കൽ ജയാ ടാക്കീസിൽ വെള്ളിയാഴ്ചത്തെ അവസാനത്തെ കളി നിർബന്ധം), മണാശ്ശേരി തൊട്ട് മുക്കം വരെയും ചാത്തമംഗലം തൊട്ട് കുന്നമംഗലം വരെയുമുള്ള ഷാപ്പ് തീണ്ടൽ, മുതലായവ ഇതിൽപെടും. ഇതിനെല്ലാം വക കണ്ടെത്തിയിരുന്നത് മെസ്സ് ബില്ലിന് അയച്ചു തന്നിരുന്ന പണത്തിൽ നിന്നായിരുന്നു. അപ്പോൾ സ്വാഭാവികമായും മെസ്സ് ഔട്ട് ആകുകയെ നിവൃത്തി ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ.

പിന്നീട് ഉള്ള ആഹാരം പലരുടേയും ദയാ ദാക്ഷിണ്യം കൊണ്ട് നിവൃത്തിയുപോയിരുന്നു. കാന്റീൻ വിജയേട്ടൻ, ഹോട്ടൽ ഡി റാണി കട്ടാങ്കൽ, എന്നിവർ ഈ കർമ്മത്തിൽ ഭാഗഭാക്കുകളായി. അന്ന് ഏറ്റവും ഭയപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നതും കാണാൻ ഇഷ്ടമില്ലാത്തതും ഇവിടങ്ങളിലെ പറ്റുപുസ്തകമായിരുന്നു.

വൈകുന്നേരത്തെ കോളേജ് ബസ്സിൽ ടൗണിലേക്ക് പോകുന്നവരെ തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞ് അവരുടെ പകരക്കാരനായി (അവർ അറിഞ്ഞും അറിയാതെയും) മെസ്സിൽ കയറി മുഷ്ടാനം ഭോജനം തരപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതും പതിവായിരുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ മെസ്സിൽ കയറി ഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കുന്നവരുടെ ക്രമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചപ്പോൾ അതിലൂടെ ഒരു മത്സര ബുദ്ധി വികസിപ്പിച്ചെടുക്കുവാനും കഴിഞ്ഞു. നഷ്ടപ്പെടുവാൻ ഒന്നേ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ, നാണം !

ആദ്യമത്തെ മൂന്ന് മാസത്തെ ഓറിയന്റേഷൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ് ഇറങ്ങുന്ന പുതുമുഖത്തിന് മുതിർന്നവർ മൂലത്തിൽ നട്ട് തരുന്ന

ആൽമരം പരിപോഷിപ്പിച്ച് പടർന്നു പന്തലിപ്പിച്ചു തണലാക്കി നടക്കുമ്പോൾ നാണത്തിന് എന്തു പ്രസക്തി !

ആർ ഇ സി യിൽ എത്തിയതിനു ശേഷം എന്റെ ആദ്യഭക്ഷണം ഡി റാണിയിൽ നിന്നായിരുന്നു. അത് വാങ്ങി തന്നത് നേരെ മുതിർന്ന ബാച്ചിലെ വട്ടൻ നാണു (യഥാർത്ഥ പേരല്ല) ആയിരുന്നു. വളരെ ശുഷ്കിച്ച ശരീര പ്രകൃതിയുള്ള നാണു കോളേജ് ഗുസ്തി ടീമിൽ 'പിൻ വെയിറ്റിൽ' (48 കിലോ ശരീരഭാരത്തിൽ താഴെ) മത്സരിച്ചിരുന്നു. തൃശ്ശൂരിൽ നിന്ന് ചില തടിയൻമാർ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നറിഞ്ഞു ഓടി വന്നതാണ് അദ്ദേഹം. എന്ന് ആദ്യമായി ഭേദം ചെയ്തതും നാണു തന്നെ. തടിയൻമാരെ എതിർപ്പൊന്നും കൂടാതെ 'പെരുമാറാൻ' അവസരം കിട്ടിയാൽ ശുഷ്കൻമാർക്കു നല്ല രസമാണല്ലോ. പിന്നീട് ഞാൻ ഗുസ്തി ടീമിൽ 'വെൽറ്റർ വെയിറ്റ്' (74 കിലോ) വിഭാഗത്തിൽ നാണുവിനോടൊപ്പം പങ്കെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഞങ്ങൾ നല്ല സുഹൃത്തുക്കളും പല വർഷം തുടർച്ചയായി യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി ചാംപ്യൻമാരും ആയിരുന്നു.

എന്റെ വിവരക്കേടുകൊണ്ടും നിർഭാഗ്യം കൊണ്ടും ഞാൻ അഡ്മിഷൻ കഴിഞ്ഞു ഹോസ്റ്റലിൽ എത്തിയത് ഫുൾ സെറ്റപ്പിലായിരുന്നു. തേച്ചുമിനുക്കിയ കളസം, ഫുൾ കൈഷർട്ട്, കറുത്തു മിന്നുന്ന ഷൂ! വ്യാഘ്രങ്ങൾക്ക് കുശാൽ. ഭേദമുറകൾ പലതും കഴിഞ്ഞു ഞാൻ നിലം പൊത്തിയപ്പോൾ അവർ എനിക്ക് ദയവോടെ വസ്ത്രങ്ങൾ തന്നു. ആദ്യം കളസവും ഷർട്ടും. ഷർട്ടിന് മീതെ ബനിയൻ, കളസത്തിന് മീതെ അണ്ടർവെയർ, ഇടത്തെ കാലിലെ ഷൂ വലതിലും വലത്തേത് ഇടതിലും. ആ രൂപത്തിൽ എ ഹോസ്റ്റൽ തൊട്ട് കട്ടാങ്കൽ ഡി വരെ. വഴിയിൽ പലരും എന്റെ അടുത്ത് എത്ത് കുത്തി നോക്കി അവരുടെ കണക്ക് പുസ്തകത്തിൽ പേരു ചേർത്തു.

ഞാൻ കാടുകയറി പോയി അല്ലേ. തുടക്കത്തിൽ തന്നെ പറ്റത്തില്ല, എല്ലാം കെട്ടു പിണഞ്ഞു കിടക്കുന്നു. സങ്കീർണ്ണത എത്രായാലും പ്രധാന കഥയിലേക്ക് വരാം.

സെമസ്റ്റർ പരീക്ഷ. മിക്കവാറും എല്ലാവരും ടൗണിൽ ഒന്നും പോകാതെ മിനക്കെട്ടു പഠിക്കുന്ന സമയം കമ്പയിൻ സ്റ്റുഡിയായിരുന്നു പ്രധാനം. മൂന്ന് നാലു പേർ ചേർന്ന കൂട്ടായ്മ. അന്നത്തെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ നട്ടെല്ലായിരുന്നു ഈ കൂട്ടായ്മകൾ. വിജയേട്ടന്റെ ദയാ വായ്പിൽ കിട്ടിയ വൈകീട്ടത്തെ ചായയും മോന്തി ഹോസ്റ്റലിലേക്ക് നടക്കുന്ന സമയം. ഞങ്ങൾ മൂന്ന് പേരുണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഓർമ്മ. കാന്റീനിൽ നിന്ന് M B യിലേക്കുള്ള കുറുക്ക് വഴിയിലൂടെ ആകെയുള്ള ഒരു ദിനേഴ് ബീഡിയും പങ്കിട്ട് നടന്നു M Bയുടെ മുന്നിലുള്ള ഗാർഡനിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ എത്തി. അവിടെ ചെടികൂട്ടങ്ങൾ പലരുപത്തിലും വലിപ്പത്തിലും വെട്ടി ചിട്ടപ്പെടുത്തി നിർത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു ചെടിക്കൂട്ടത്തിനുള്ളിൽ വലിയ തോതിൽ ഒരനനക്കം ! വല്ല പട്ടിയോ കുറുക്കനോ ആയിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ആദ്യം കരുതിയത് അപ്പോഴാണ് വള്ളിപ്പടർപ്പുകൾക്കിടയിലൂടെ

മടക്കിക്കുത്തിയ ലൂക്കി കണ്ണിൽപെട്ടത്. ഞങ്ങൾ തൊട്ടടുത്തുള്ള ചെടിക്കൂട്ടത്തിന് പിന്നിൽ ഒളിച്ചു. എന്തോ പന്തികേട് ഉണ്ട്. നേരം ഏകദേശം ഇരുട്ടിയിരുന്നു. ആ മങ്ങിയ വെളിച്ചത്തിലും ഞങ്ങൾ കണ്ട കാഴ്ച....

ഒരാൾ ചുറ്റിനും പരതി നോക്കി ഒരു ടീ സ്കായർ ചെടിക്കൂട്ടത്തിനുള്ളിലേക്ക് തിരുകി കയറ്റാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നു. ടീ സ്കായർ ഒളിപ്പിച്ചു വെയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ലക്ഷ്യം. അതിനു ശേഷം അദ്ദേഹം ചെടിക്കൂട്ടത്തിൽ നിന്നും സാവധാനം പുറത്ത് വന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ആളെ വ്യക്തമായി. ആത്മാർത്ഥ സുഹൃത്ത് !

അവസാന വർഷ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയായ നായകൻ എന്തിന് ടീ സ്കായർ ചെടിക്കൂട്ടങ്ങളിൽ തിരുകി കയറ്റാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചു എന്നുള്ള ന്യായമായ സംശയം നിങ്ങൾക്കും ഉണ്ടാവാം. അൽപം ജാളുതയോടു കൂടിയാണങ്കിലും പറയാതിരിക്കുന്നത് എങ്ങനെ !

അടുത്ത ദിവസം രാവിലെ നായകന്റെ GD (Goemetrical Drawing) പരീക്ഷയാണ്. ഒന്നാം വർഷത്തെ GD ഒരു കീറാമുട്ടിയായി അന്ന് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മുന്നിൽ വിഹ്വനം സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു നിൽപ്പുണ്ട്. ഇത് അവസാന ശ്രമമാണ്. വളരെ അടുത്ത സുഹൃത്തുക്കൾക്ക് മാത്രം അറിയാവുന്ന രഹസ്യം. ഒരു അവസാന വർഷ വിദ്യാർത്ഥി ഡി ഹോസ്റ്റൽ മുതൽ MB വരെ ടീ സ്കായറും തൂക്കി ഒന്നാം വർഷ GD പരീക്ഷ എഴുതാൻ നടക്കുന്നതിന്റെ അനൗചിത്യം അഥവാ ജാളുത ഒഴിവാക്കാനാ

യിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ വെപ്രാളങ്ങൾ. രാവിലെ ഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കാനെന്ന വ്യാജേന കാന്റീനിൽ പോകുക, അവിടെ നിന്ന് പരീക്ഷക്ക് അഞ്ച് മിനിറ്റുള്ളപ്പോൾ ചെടിക്കൂട്ടത്തിൽ എത്തുക, ടീ സ്കായർ എടുത്ത് MB ലേക്ക് പായുക. വളരെ നല്ല പദ്ധതിയായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ ഞങ്ങൾ പുറകിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന കാര്യം അദ്ദേഹം അറിഞ്ഞില്ല.

ഞങ്ങളും തയ്യാറെടുത്തു. പിറ്റേദിവസം രാവിലെ തന്നെ MB യുടെ മുന്നിലെ പലവിധ ചെടിക്കൂട്ടങ്ങൾക്ക് പിറകിലൊളിച്ചു. പരീക്ഷക്ക് അഞ്ച് മിനിറ്റുള്ളപ്പോൾ നായകൻ എത്തി ചെടിക്കൂട്ടത്തിൽ കൈ എത്തിച്ചു ടീ സ്കായർ പുറത്തെടുത്തു. വലിയ അഘോഷത്തോടെയും ആരവത്തോടെയും ഞങ്ങൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ജാഥയായി തോളിലേറ്റി പരീക്ഷാഹാളിൽ എത്തിച്ചു.

GD എന്ന കടമ്പ അദ്ദേഹം തപ്പിതടഞ്ഞ് കടന്നു. ഇന്ന് ആയിരത്തിലേറെ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ തിളക്കമുള്ള നായകൻ !

REC vs NIT

T. Chandrachoodan
1978 Batch



In my opinion REC and NIT are two different entities located at the same space but separated in time dimension. I would



like to scribble some random points which come to my mind when I think of my life at Calicut REC. I was there between Oct 1974 to Feb 1979, since I belong to 1974-78 batch. That period was of great importance to me as my basic identity in life was established then. Those were also trying times in the political history of our country.

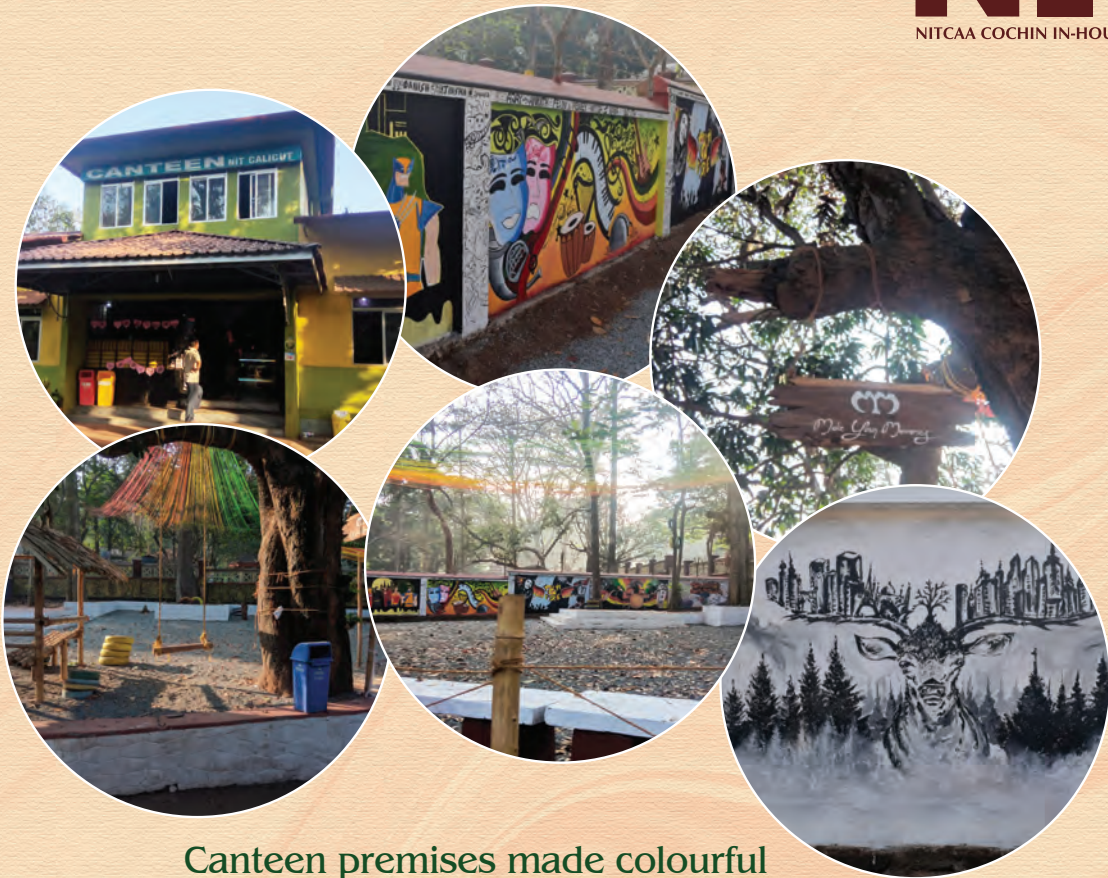
Chathamangalam was a sleepy village otherwise. There was large scale poverty existing. The watershed event of Kerala's political and social history, namely the Land Reforms Act, by then 4 years old, was yet to manifest fully its positive

and negative effects. We could see many men and women coming to collect unused food from our hostels. Like in other parts of Kerala, the landscape was then by and large intact, unlike now. Luxury was not a necessity, to put it metaphorically. We never had ceiling fans in our rooms, for example. The food we used to get was tasty but not expensive. Students could manage a month's food with Rs 150/- One could see movie at the local thatched talkies for just one rupee. Even the "first class" was charged Rs 1.25, usually occupied by our teachers. Good quality films were brought by our Film Club. The films made by Satyajit Ray and famous Italian and Swedish directors were among those screened. The canteen was a meeting place par excellence. The mini canteen which started later near the hostel served tea and snacks even at 2 a.m

I feel overwhelmed by the nostalgia of those wonderful times. The changes happened in the last 45 years baffle me. There was generation gap even then; in our times when we were young we had strong differences of opinion with elders and the narrative exchanged between the generations was at times acrimonious. But nevertheless there used to good communication channels between generations. Now, being at the "receiving end", I am surprised that the present young generation has no inclination to communicate with elders.

Is the strident progress of technology also responsible for that?.

A feast for eyes.....



**Canteen premises made colourful
by the current students**

Photo courtesy for this issue

Er. Sudhakaran K. K. (1977 Batch)

Sancho Simmy Louis (2015 Batch)

Editor's Note



Ranjini Menon ('90 Civil)

As Sandeep Krishnan, the creator and editor of NiB, had to step down after successfully publishing 3 issues, I was entrusted with this responsibility and I can only hope, I do justice to this duty.

This quarterly bulletin of NITCAA Cochin chapter, hopes to bridge the gap between the glory days of our campus life and our continuing activities as an alumni community. Hope you enjoy reading about the latest ventures and events of the NITCAA Cochin Chapter while also reminiscing cherished memories.

This bulletin is the result of the combined effort of our family spanning nearly 6 decades and I express my sincere gratitude to everyone who was a part of this endeavour.

Finally, a special mention to the Cochin Chapter President and Secretary and all the EC members for their whole-hearted cooperation as well as the sponsor, Prestige Group.

Last but not the least, appreciate the design efforts by Mr. Aneesh. B of Nprint.

Contact us : editornib@gmail.com



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