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the
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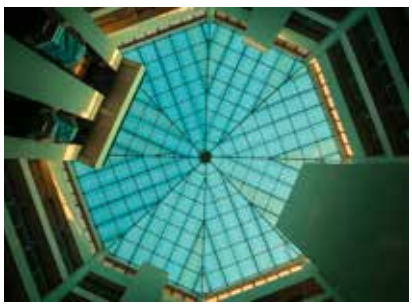

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Director's Message

It is my privilege to announce the publication of the very first edititon of The Shoreline 2014, a new avatar of the annual institute magazine which is conceptualized, designed and developed by the students of NITK, Surathkal.

NITK's annual magazine through the years has been a medium for expression of thoughts and opinions as well as a platform to showcase the sweet memories of college life from a literary perspective. It thus leaves an imprint not only in the memories of batches that leave our institute but also those that are to follow.

I sincerely hope that this magazine will bring back the moments we cherish most from this institute even as time flies by.

I congratulate The Shoreline team for a good coordinated effort towards producing this issue of the magazine. I would also like to wish all the outgoing students the very best in their future endeavours, careers and lives.

Dr. Swapan Bhattacharya

From the Dean's Desk

It gives me great pleasure to present the first edition of The Shoreline. This college magazine is a compilation of various endeavours of NITKians. The magazine is a reflection of the effort put in by the students, faculty and alumni in literary and creative domains. It is especially heartening to see the wide range of subjects that these articles span. It was indeed a privilege to mentor the first ever edition of this revamped Annual magazine, which witnesses a paradigm shift both in terms of content and presentation. Being involved in the creation of The Shoreline '14 through every stage of its development has been a pleasant experience.

It is my belief that this issue will be looked upon in years to come as a steadfast testament to the ever-growing reputation of our institute.

I tender my hearty congratulations to The Shoreline team for presenting a magazine that NITKians can be proud of.

Dr. Udaykumar R. Yaragatti

Dr. Sumam David
Dean, Academic

Dr. M. C. Narasimhan
Dean, Planning and Development

Dr. A. Kandasamy
Dean, Faculty Welfare

Dr. K. Chandrasekaran
Dean, Research and Consultancy

Dr. M. B. Saidutta
Dean, Alumni Affairs

Mr K. Ravindranath
Registrar

min

From the Team

In the fifty-four years since its inception, NITK as an institute has grown from strength to strength, and a chronicle of the milestones of this phenomenal journey is a requisite. The first edition of The Shoreline intends to do exactly that, as can be perceived from the several articles that exude a heady sense of reminiscence. From interviews of illustrious NITKians, to the anecdotes penned down by various contributors, the timeline of the magazine runs through the temporal span of NITK.

Sparse is the acknowledgement of the common NITKian for all the achievements and accomplishments, and for the diversity that the institute embodies. The Shoreline '14 intends to showcase, in indelible ink, the diverse and deep rooted talents of NITKians; it serves to recognize, celebrate and promulgate the achievements that usually go unnoticed. The collection of multifarious articles is a nod to the heterogeneity that has come to represent the institute. It is noteworthy that this edition of the annual magazine has seen proactive involvement from all strata of NITKians, including faculty, non-teaching staff and alumni. In this sense, this edition can claim to be a truly representative one.

'The Shoreline' represents the everlasting equilibrium between the tranquil setting of NITK and the dynamic actors who populate it. It must be recognized that The Shoreline marks a paradigm shift from its nearest predecessors, not just in name, but also in content – literary and otherwise. The effort put in by every member of the team, both in terms of the big picture as well as the smaller details, has been tremendous, and it would be heartening to see the fruits of this labour nourish the seeds of a new tradition.

This magazine would be incomplete without acknowledging the people that made it happen. We thank the Director, Professor Swapan Bhattacharya, for all the support he extended. Heartfelt gratitude must be expressed to the Dean of Students' Welfare, Professor Udayakumar Yaragatti, Dr. Hem Prasad Nath (SAS Officer), Mr. Kamlabh Singh (Assistant Registrar, Academic) and to Ms. Merlyn from the DSW office; The Shoreline owes a lot to their unflinching support and guidance. We are thankful to Mudrikaa printers for bringing this magazine to its material form and to Shodhan Photography for their cooperation during the group photo sessions.

The end product that you hold in your hands found its genesis in a strong desire to present a product that appeals both to the aesthetic sense and the intellect. We hope that our desire has been fulfilled.

THE CANDID CUPPA'

An interview series where *The Shoreline* catches up with some of the most distinguished members of the NITK family. We find out what makes them tick.

NITKians from all walks of life have time and again scaled great heights, and have attained admirable success in their diverse pursuits, leading inspiring lives and being the catalysts of a vibrant future. This section aspires to be a document of timelessness, preserving the instances of greatest pride to the institute; it acts as a unifying adhesive to the variegated arms of the institute's breadth.

THE PAVILION

Encapsulating the essence of procrastination. It's always good to kick off your footwear and relax.

TIME ZONES

Hear stories from around the world . An external perspective of the campus we call home

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THE CANDID CUPPA

SEA

> “If your idea is laughable to someone, that means the idea is something to work on”

AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF. K. V. GANGADHARAN

RCH & SOLVE

It is a lazy, warm Sunday morning in NITK. The roads leading up to the Main Building wear a deserted look. A lone, white car with a queer antenna attached to the roof is parked some distance away. A moment later, we enter the SOLVE lab where hushed silence prevails, broken only by the discreet whirr of sophisticated equipment. We're greeted by Professor Gangadharan with a genial smile, all semblance of formality discarded, replaced instead by a contagious enthusiasm that makes us forget to notice the time pass by for the next couple of hours.

Professor Gangadharan, you have been involved with NITK since 1993 and you have seen it go from an REC to an NIT. What major changes have you seen during your tenure here?

The first major change that has come is freedom. Earlier, when it was an REC system, we had a University dictating rules. If you look at your curriculum alone, 2003 to 2005, so many versions were there! By around 2008 or 2009, we had stabilized on the syllabus. It gave the students a lot of leisure time also, because the students knew what to expect. Subjectivity is limited now, right? The same person sets the syllabus, takes the classes, sets the questions and evaluates. This is not the case in a university system. This freedom has definitely had an impact on the students. For example, it has induced students to go for internships outside the institute - that was not there earlier in the university system. We can now give our students almost three months to pursue an internship. Earlier, our timing was decided by somebody else!

So how have you used this freedom? Has it changed your approach in classes?

Without this freedom, I don't think I would give questions with equations. Now my questions don't require you to remember equations. No industry requires you to remember equations! Also, suppose I attend a conference and find something quite new and interesting, I can now introduce it to the whole class! Suppose I feel, "Okay, something new has come up in dynamics." I don't need to worry about whether it is in the syllabus or not, because what I teach *is* my syllabus! Of course, there is a framework, but I have more flexibility. It gave serious teachers and students a lot of opportunity.

You started the SOLVE Lab at NITK. Could you please tell us the story, right from the Virtual Instrumentations Course that you started at NITK?

I actually started three courses - Finite Element Analysis for Mechanical Engineering, Applied Finite Element Methods, and Virtual Instrumentation - which was a unique programme. We now offer it as a theory-cum-practical course. That led to the Center for System Design, in which the major project that came up was the Virtual Lab. The Center for System Design is looking at an inter-disciplinary approach to solving any and every problem. SOLVE (Student Online Laboratory through Virtual Experimentation) is one of the projects of the Center for System Design. There are two models in this project – a simulation based virtual lab and a remote triggered virtual lab. Right now we haven't released them for public use, it is still under testing. We are hoping that by mid-2014 it should be available for public use. We have plenty of problems

that is giving us a lot of motivation [laughs]. Our initial expectation of the difficulty of the problem, and the actual challenge we are facing are very different. But now we are finally reaching a good level in terms of progress.

And I think it is really a matter of pride that we are the only NIT among the 13 institutes in India who are working on the project [pointing to the website - www.vlab.co.in]. Don't you feel happy to see the NITK emblem there? Initially there was an apprehension from the other side, "After all, what can an NIT do?" We have overcome that.

CSD is supported by National Instruments.

We don't really hear much about the SOLVE lab in college. Are you planning on opening it out to the public? What sort of model do you envision for it in an educational institute? When will SOLVE enter the classroom?

You may not hear much about SOLVE as we don't do much publicity. But we have gone outside to around 25 institutes for half-day workshops. We give them a 40 minute talk, followed by hands-on work. The aim is to introduce virtual labs in classrooms eventually, only as an add-on to the course; if you make it compulsory, it will fail. We will be able to reduce the time required for your actual laboratory. Right now, after going to any lab, half-an-hour is being wasted just to understand the instrument. With the Virtual Lab, you can do the experiment virtually. You need only 30 minutes of a lab – two students can do the experiment and finish it off, and another pair of students can do it in the next half hour. Presently in a group of 6-7 students in a lab, only one or two will actually work. Secondly, if you missed a lab and you want to understand it a little more, our current set-up does not give extra time. Of course, every experiment cannot be virtualized, and it is important to keep that in mind.

What about undergrads? Do they work along with you on the projects of the CSD?

In fact, this is all developed by undergrads [refers to website]. None of this activity is done by post-graduates. All the coding is done by B.Tech students. Two students from 2011 batch, and two from the next batch were involved. For the post-graduate level students, what I have given is the actual experimentation. That requires more concentration and dedicated work for a longer duration. I cannot get B.Tech students to work beyond a set period of time. Currently, I also have quite a few mini-projects with B.Tech students. We won't publicize anything! We are getting saturated now, and there is a lot of activity going on.

Are there other faculty who are involved with the CSD?

Yes, we have Prof. Pruthviraj from Applied Mechanics, Prof. Vidya Shetty from Chemical Engineering, and Prof. Panduranga Vittal from Electrical Engineering. Now we are getting more faculty associated with us from Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering.

Apart from SOLVE, what other projects are being taken up under the Center for System Design?

Pruthviraj is working on aerial vehicles; taking images from the air to study soil erosion, active zones in the sea etc. This will be more economical and with a higher resolution as compared to satellites. Thermal imaging of plants is another interest. If I can just take an image of a tree and tell if it is healthy or not, it will be a big boon! Of course, it is not that easy! We also have an ambitious plan of under-water robotics.

Tell us about the Social Experiments you perform on your students?

[laughs] I take classes for the two sections - M1 and M2. I try something with M1 and something else with M2, and see how the reaction is, making an assumption that the two sets of students are the same or similar. For example, in one class I will make an announcement in advance regarding a test, and in the other class I will conduct it as a surprise test, and see if there is any difference. Of course, "announced test" means only one day's notice. Is there a difference? I found that this did not make much of a difference in the performance. I also tried being very harsh with one class. In fact this was Bevin Mathew's class (2013 SC President). I would make harsh statements, "You

are useless man! You cannot do anything useful man!" I found that the moment I become harsh, the entire class goes into a subdued mode, and even an interested student does not react. So if a teacher is strict in class, then it becomes counter-productive. So from next class onwards I started using a pleasant tone. Even if I had to shout, I shouted pleasantly [laughs]. With regard to attendance, again I noticed that it did not really make much of a difference. I saw that students were still coming to my class even if I did not take attendance. I collect feedback from my class very regularly, and analyze it. In the beginning we have an "Expectation Questionnaire" and after mid-sem we take feedback regarding the exam. I discuss with my class about my understanding of the feedback. When I take 6th semester, the same students who gave feedback in 3rd semester will be there, no? In the first class I will bring up the feedback they gave me and tell them few things that I will try to change, see even I am a human being, I cannot change 180 degrees, no?

You are also well known for your active support of extra-curricular student activities. How did the first BAJA team form, and what was your involvement in it?

BAJA started out of the need to do some hands-on work. One of the difficulties we became aware of was that we were not able to challenge the young crowd here. If I only take textbook classes and give you textbook problems, I cannot challenge you. Fortunately, a set of students came up and asked if they could try to create a vehicle. I talked to some other faculty members and said I wanted to put together a team that would build a car. Everybody laughed. "NITK students building a car? Running it?". If your idea is laughable to someone – that means the idea is something to work on. We derived a lot of energy from their laughter. We proved them wrong. I insisted that we take two students from each year – from first year to final year. And the team had to be pan-India – not just Jayanagar 3rd block [laughs] – there had to be no nepotism: no getting in neighbours, or cousins. That was how BAJA was formed. We wanted the activities to be out of classroom, with no credits awarded and no compulsion of faring well in exams. Just work, demonstrate, and learn.

Engineer was formally created in 2003. How did that happen?

2003 was the beginning of large amount of student activity. Engineer began as TechSplash. At that time we had IE conducting TechKREC; IE was an active group. IEEE was conducting some electronics related talks. CSI used to conduct lot of programming activities under the StarDot fest. I became the faculty advisor of ISTE and in 2003, we conducted the first TechSplash with a budget of Rs. 2.5 lakh, which was a ten-fold increase from the budget of Rs. 25,000 which was usual back then. People laughed again, but we made it possible. It was in fact a student whom everybody had written off who made TechSplash possible.

Should the Student Council take up more responsibility to make the clubs more representative?

But you could not even get a Student Council that is representative! One possibility that we suggested was that every post should have a deputy. In Kerala it works this way. If the President is a boy, Vice-President is a girl and vice-versa. It is difficult to manipulate, in my opinion, a girl [laughs].

What do you think about the current research scene at NITK? Do you see an upward trend in terms of involvement of students in research projects?

We are seeing a sharp growth in the research scene, with B.Tech students publishing their work, and taking their internships very seriously. In the last three years, you've seen a lot of students going abroad – of course, some of them are just going there to see the size of the clothes [laughs]. But many are using the opportunity well. So now the faculties' involvement is essential. The carrot is hanging at the front, so to speak. If you ask me my concern regarding the college, it is that student activities are getting more money-centric, but if you ask me what I am happy about, it is the research progress. The next thing that must be done is the introduction of inter-disciplinary projects. They have to be ungraded so that students work just out of passion.

Could you tell us about some of the luminaries or renowned figures from the Mechanical Engineering department at NITK?

We have given huge names to academia. We had Professor Balaveera Reddy who was Director of Technical Education of Karnataka, and then he was VC of VTU. And then we have Professor Appu Kuttan

who is now the Director of NIT Bhopal. I have worked under both of them. Professor Balaveera Reddy was the person whom I reported to first. If you want to know a teacher of eminence, Professor BS Samaga was the man. He was an IC engine specialist. Even other department students used to come and request him to take classes! Even at the age of 70, he would sit down and take classes.

There are many more but the list is too long.

Could you tell us about the SPARSH foundation? [www.thesparshfoundation.org]

This is one of the outcomes of the students. SPARSH is an alumni group – but has nothing to do with your alumni association. I used to catch use of mobiles in the class. If somebody's mobile rang, I'd confiscate it. I'd find the total price and ask the student to donate 1/4th of the price to SPARSH to get the phone back [laughs]. Later I felt donation should be voluntary. I could not punish you to help somebody.

Jagadeep Singh Gambhir is the person – from the 2008 batch, I think – who started it. I was fully into student activity during 2002-2008. Students could talk to me about anything, including personal problems. We used to take them to the beach for a talk. And we could even help some of them to come out of their difficulty. So, that group of students said, "Sir, we want to give something back to the institute", and came up with an idea called SPARSH. It's a foundation which identifies poor students in the institute and awards them scholarships. We source the money through donations. Everything, including the bank balance, can be seen on the website. This time I think we were able to give scholarships to some six people. We want to support at least 100 students a year. Earlier our plan was to create a corpus fund and then run it, but we did not get sufficient money to run it, because all the alumni involved are quite busy ●

Looking Beyond

A lot of effort was put into inking an MoU with Volvo; the money was from them and the ideas were from the faculty as well as from their corporate wing.

Volvo will now be actively involved in projects and internships – both in India and abroad. They are looking to organize expert-lectures called lecture-demonstrations [LecDems] and workshops. We have requested them to set up a facility on campus, but that is still in the pipeline. They will also be giving us their problem-statements so faculty and students can work together and develop innovative solutions.

This flags off heightened industry interaction - Mercedes-Benz, National Instruments, Moog India, Dell and Intel have also been involved in talks with our institute in recent times. We must be opportunistic and respond faster. Right now, we are working more with small industries. They want help, and they don't know whether NITs will listen to their problems. We are working with small and medium scale industries through CSD in the form of student projects. But we need higher commitment from our students. We cannot take up a problem and then two days later have a student saying, "I am not interested!" That is detrimental both for the student as well as the image of the institute ●

taking the aerial route

with Pruthviraj Umesh

By Arun Aryasomayajula

Professor Pruthviraj Umesh is one of the most popular teachers amongst all the first year batches fortunate enough to be taught Engineering Mechanics by him. Although most remember him for his enthusiasm and devotion to the subject in the classroom, there is a whole other side to him that very few are aware of.

As a child, when he used to stay in a home beside a PG accommodation block in Mangalore, he loved to fly IC engine planes or Control Line Model planes, which were essentially made out of sheet metal. These were flown by holding it in your hand and rotating the plane till the fuel was exhausted.

Arun is a third year undergraduate student of Civil Engineering. He plays the guitar and is a part of the NITK Music Club.

Pruthviraj Umesh is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Mechanics and Hydraulics. His interests include the application of remote controlled aircraft in wildlife conservation and agriculture. He is also working on thermal imaging as well as 3D printing.

His hobby was renewed in 2007, which also happens to be the year he joined as a faculty member at NITK Surathkal. Three students - Hari Shankar, Neil and Srinivas - approached him, requesting to work on building and flying RC planes under his guidance. At this point of time, he was working on flow visualization. He agreed to take them under his guidance and they started working on flying RC planes.

They bought the first plane, a ready made one available in the market. A team from Gujarat, including an NITK alumnus, trained Srinivas and he learnt how to control and fly the RC plane with sufficient amount of flight simulation training. The first competition they participated in was organized by DRDO – The Golden Jubilee Students Competition. They had to construct a deployable low cost outdoor system for this competition. They went on to win the competition and received an award of Rs. 50,000.

After their first success, Dr. Sandeep Sancheti, former Director at NITK, granted Dr. Pruthviraj a funding of Rs. 3,00,000 to further his work in what had just started out as a hobby. He took up a new batch, a group of 11 students. They went on to build India's smallest autonomous aerial vehicle which flew on its own once the GPS co-ordinates of its flight path were fed in. A third batch of students went on to win the Innovate India competition by NDRC for which they had to construct a Low Cost Aerial Vehicle with an Enhanced Communication System. It was a huge competition, consisting of 280 participating teams from all over India, out of which only 50 teams were selected for the final round.

Following this highly successful stint, he published a bunch of papers, one of his favourite being "The Application of Low Cost Unmanned Aerial Vehicle as a Monitoring Unit" in ARMS 2010. He has moved on to flying RC planes using Open Source technology and is currently working on a DRDO AR & DB project on the Simulation and Development of a Flapping Mechanism with a funding of Rs. 17.803 lakhs. He also assisted Professor Gangadharan in the construction and development of the Virtual Lab in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

He has recently taken up an interest in Aerial Photography. He was inspired to follow this hobby when he happened to see someone using a kite to take pictures. Professor Pruthviraj added a stabilization system to kites that he bought from Team Mangalore, a kite making organization that holds a record in the Limca Book of Records for the largest kite ever built. He then moved on to using this technology to assist in forest conservation and awareness on being requested to take aerial photos by the Forest Department at the BRT Temple Tiger Reserve and also at the jungle lodges in Karwar and Derbagh with the assistance of Mr. Vijay Mohan Raj, a famous animal and forest conservation activist.

He was also requested by the Archaeological Department under the Government of India to take aerial photos of Bekal Fort, Sringeri Temple and other archaeological sites. They have currently requested him to take aerial photos of all the archaeological sites present in Karnataka to spread awareness. It has become a growing passion for him, and one he pursues in all enthusiasm in his spare time. In his words – "I may spend the entire day flying my plane and taking aerial pictures of one site. 99% of them may be average. But one good aerial picture can fetch you a payment of Rs. 1.5 lakhs, which shows you how difficult it is to click such pictures that capture the essence of these sites."

Professor Pruthviraj has currently started using these planes for Thermal and Multispectral Imaging, used by the Agriculture and Forest Department of India to identify diseased plants. For this, heavy load octocopters (8 motors) with a payload of 5kg, hexacopters with a payload of 1.5 kg, quadcopters with a payload of less than 1kg and fixed wing planes for a payload of less than 1 kg are used. Kites and Helium balloons are also used as alternatives in this process of aerial photography. He has also developed an interest in Disaster Management, on being inspired by Professor Srihari from the Civil Engineering Department.

Despite all his laurels and achievements, his favourite moments are with his father, who helps him build every single plane from scratch and has attended every single flying competition with him •

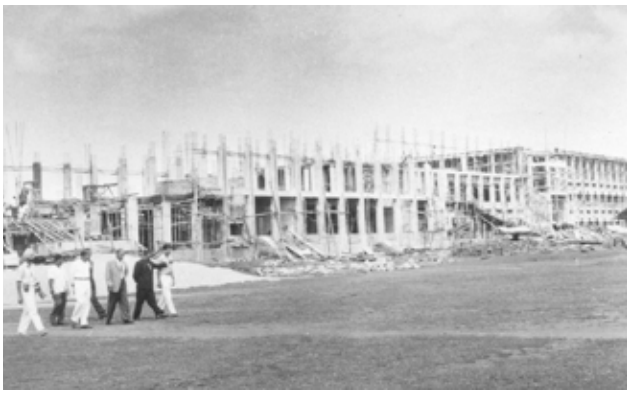
•REMEMBERING THE FOUNDERS•

An homage to the founders of our prestigious institute, by Prof. Udaykumar Yaragatti

In the year 1960 a barren land was converted into an education garden, educating students from all over the world in the field of engineering. The garden is Srinivasnagar, where the prestigious KREC (now known as NITK) stands like a giant sculpture. The one important person instrumental in making this barren land into an E-garden is non other than son of soil Sri Ullal Srinivas Mallya, the then Member of Parliament, who was a close associate of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. It was because of Sri. U. Srinivas Mallya, the great educationist, thinker and visionary, that the Government's acquisition of 250 acres of land for the Regional Engineering College was sanctioned in this holy land of Dakshina Kannada. Karnataka Regional Engineering College was born. The land is named as Srinivasanagar to respect Sri. U. Srinivas Mallya's contribution in bringing KREC to Surathkal.

KREC grew to what it is today thanks also to the efforts of two other giant personalities and sons of Karnataka soil, mathematician and Tripos Wrangler Dr. D. C. Pavate Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka University Dharwarad, and Dr. A.S. Adke, Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, Mangalore.

Dr. D.C. Pavate was born in a small village called Mamadapur in Gokak taluk of Belgaum district in a poor farmer's family on 2nd August 1899. Dr. D.C. Pavate's full name is Dadappa Chinthappa Pavate. His uncle, Siddaramappa Pavate, who was a Sanskrit Pandit, inspired him. He did his early schooling from Mamadapur, Rubakani, Gokak, Kolhapur and finished his matriculation from Dharwad centre with 99%. He did his college studies from Karnataka College, Dharward. Dharwad was the education and cultural center then as it is now. In the year 1923 he finished his BA in Mathematics by securing 1st class 1st rank. In the year 1924 he got admission to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University. After his education from Cambridge University he joined KLE Society College as lecturer. In the year 1928 he was appointed as Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics in Banaras Hindu University. From there he wrote his first book on Mathematics (on Calculus and Algebra), which was well accepted throughout India. Eminent people recognized him as Business Knowledged Mathematician. In the year 1947 he was selected to become the DPI of Bombay Province. In 1954 he became the 3rd Vice Chancellor of Karnataka University, Dharward. "Private Nagar" a beautiful suburb near Dharwad, is named after him. In the year 1967, Dr. D.C. Pavate was appointed as the Governor of Punjab by the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi. He served as Governor for one term. His Governance of Punjab was well appreciated by all top personalities. He was one of the eminent people in the country in all fields. So when KREC was sanctioned due to great efforts of Sri U. Srinivas Mallya, the Central Government made Dr. D.C. Pavate as the first Chairman of the Board of Governors KREC (1960). Such an eminent scholar/educationist was our college's first Chairman of Board of governors. As a bureaucrat he left no stone unturned in the creation of KREC. As a visionary he built a college that would stand the test of time. Quality in education - and quality alone - brought KREC to the standing it has in the country today. Such was his zeal in creating an institution that would be heralded in the years to come. His contributions to KREC's development are equally fondly remembered.



During same time Dr. A.S. Adke, great Civil Engineer from Dharwad district, was Superintending Engineer, Civil Public Works Department of Mangalore. Seeing his great development works in and around Mangalore, he was asked to select a site for KREC. Dr. A.S. Adke found this land between Surathkal Sadashiva Mahaganapathi Temple and Godess Dhumavathi Temple, Padre suitable. Then there was no looking back. He got it surveyed and made ready for construction work. This land was acquired and good compensation was paid to people who were owners of these lands. Central Government requested Dr. A.S. Adke to be the First Principal of KREC, to which he readily agreed. The first decision he made was to give employment to local people staying around. Even now people have not forgotten this. He made paper advertisement of teaching faculty throughout India and for non-academic staff advertising was done in the places nearby to give more room for local people. He even made 100% accommodation for teaching staff and only 30% for non-academic staff to discourage people from outside DK to come here, because accommodation was a big problem at that time. As a civil engineer he dedicated his service to the construction and planning of KREC. The robust structure of the main building is a testimony of the quality of his work. The systematic planning of administration and educational buildings hostels and staff quarters only added to show his vision as to the future expansion of the college. Many of the alumni still remember Dr. Adke's eye for detail. Whether on the classroom circuit or in the hostels, Dr. Adke's standards were among the highest. Dr. Adke himself lived in the Type III quarters, before the quarters that now stand were built. Such was his humility. Dr. D.C. Pavate, as an advisor to the Central Government, managed to get the attention and support of government through funds, which was very important during the development of the college. Like Dr. Pavate, Dr. Adke, got the attention and support of the government through funds or visits to the campus of eminent personalities even if they just happened to pass by. He also invited eminent people to KREC for inauguration functions and other events. He interacted with students and even labourers, ensuring that he too should be a part of their work, and his dedication lived up to his own expectations of himself. Dr. Adke was Principal from 9-3-1960 to 29-12-1967 and then he became the Vice Chancellor Karnataka University, Dharwad, working directly under Dr. Pavate. The tireless teamwork of these two visionaries, led to what KREC is today. We as staff and students are grateful and pay our humble respects to these great souls ●

Dr. Udaykumar Yaragatti is the current Dean, Students' Welfare. This article was originally printed in the souvenir brochure of U. S. Mallya's birth centenary celebration, in November 2002.

Wrangler D. C. Pavte (1st Chairman, KREC BOG) addresses the gathering at KREC while Dr. A. S. Adke (third from left) looks on

Wrangler D. C. Pavte takes a walk through virgin KREC campus

V. S. Kudva (from right) and U. S. Mallya with the then Finance Minister and Speaker of Madras Presidency

D. C. Pavate (second from left), K. Kamaraj, S. Nijalingappa, Lal Bahadur Shastri, B. D. Jatti and A. S. Adke (extreme right) at the KREC campus

The ReDx Experience

IN PURSUIT OF A BETTER TOMORROW

By Pooja Mehta

The way I look at engineering, it solves the problems we face in the world today. The answer to "What existing technology can be made better?" is *everything*. Our imagination has no bounds as to how many new things it can come up with everyday.

There's a contrary opinion which states that we have realised the maximum potential possible in terms of innovation. This can be backed by Gossen's first law of diminishing marginal utility. For example, there are so many Android apps that any new app you think of has already been made by someone else and exists in the market. However, it is surprising that in medical technology, we are eons away from reaching this stage!

I was exposed to this harsh reality when I got the opportunity to attend the ReDx (Redefining Diagnostics) MIT India Health Tech workshop at IIT Bombay, co-hosted by Tata Center for Technology and Design, MIT Media Lab and IIT Bombay. It was a 7 day program, from January 26 to February 1. When I found out about the workshop through a friend, the deadline to apply had already passed. I had just decided to pursue an MS in biomedical engineering, and the sudden materialization of this event in health technology seemed like a dream come true. I had nothing to lose and I thought I'd apply anyway. In a few days, I got an acceptance mail! At first I was shocked, since the application involved mentioning my GPA as well, which, to be quite frank, is mediocre. So I thought, "Not many people must've applied, great for me!"

Upon reaching Mumbai, I found out how wrong I was. There were more than a thousand applicants, and they chose a hundred (including engineering students, design students and a few medical students) to participate. At the inauguration, until things were ready, the Google Glass was passed around for us to play with! The experience was exhilarating from the very beginning. We were introduced to the fifteen MIT instructors and the ten Harvard doctors who would be working with us throughout the week. Twenty-five projects were put on the table. Introductions to the problem statements were presented. We had to travel by bus that day, and we were told not to sit next to someone we already knew. This was such an awesome way for all of us to open up to each other. The top brass from Harvard and MIT actually started genuine conversations with us – it was amazing! Later that day, we went to Hinduja hospital (one of the biggest and most research oriented hospitals in Mumbai) and the doctors there told us about problems that they face in general, and the changes they would like to see in the current system. It was astonishing to hear about some obvious errors in the instrumentation that doctors use. The doctors made a 'wish list' for us – I found my pen just scribbling of its own accord on my notepad, and taking down specifications of what the doctors needed; this had never happened to me before. Around thirty-five items were put on to the wish list. The interesting thing was that about 30% to 45% of these things didn't even seem worthy of being on a "wish" list to us engineers. We affirmed that we could quite easily solve some of those problems. Others would definitely take many months of research and expertise. We then had a tour of the departments of the hospital which would be pertinent to our project. We also met patients, some of whom were regularly hospitalized and who wanted to share their opinion on difficulties they were facing and things that could be changed. The session at the hospital was extremely inspiring for everyone in that room, so much so that Mrs. Hinduja (the main trustee of the hospital) got an official permission for a research laboratory on the Hinduja hospital premises, just for engineering students like us, for research in health technology. She then told us that she would even give each of us guaranteed jobs at Hinduja! Day 1 was as emotional, touching and heart-warming as it could have been.

The next five days passed by in a whir. We didn't know when it was day or when it was night. All teams were continuously working in the lab in the biomedical engineering department at IIT Bombay. There was a constant buzz of action and energy at all times. My project was to come up with a non-invasive method to measure the hydration content in blood. As of now, there is no measure for hydration, unless you do a blood test, which gives you the concentration of solutes in blood, and not hydration content directly. I joined the team working on this project since I was already working on something similar back at college. The team was called mHealth, and had 4 projects under it, mine (HydroSpect) being one of these. On the day we were to begin the work, we returned to the lab after lunch to see that the whole lab had been set up for us with everything we could possibly need. There were 3D printers in the lab and pulse oximeters at all stations of the mHealth team for us to tinker with! It was heaven for an engineer.

Throughout the week, we had interaction sessions with entrepreneurs in healthcare, NGOs working on healthcare in rural areas, and patients themselves. On one of the days Ratan Tata himself came to look through all our projects! Each of these sessions was extremely inspiring. On the last day, each team presented their prototype to all the instructors and doctors, after which we had demonstrations open to the public and press.

What was remarkable about this workshop was that we literally had everything we needed. All resources were at the tip of our

hands. Including people. We had MIT instructors and Harvard doctors at our constant beck and call (It doesn't get better than that!) There were a lot of medicine related doubts that cropped up over the week – but each team had a doctor, so things were cleared up instantly. What usually may have taken us a few days of Googling to figure out, were answered in mere minutes. Doctors don't always know what problems engineers may be able to solve, and engineers don't always know what problems the medical world faces. This is the gap that this workshop bridged effectively - they put an engineer and a doctor in a room together and truly created magic.

Health technology has a whole new meaning in India. We don't need things to just be convenient and sophisticated. We need all that and we need it to be as cheap as possible. One of the main problems we face in our country is that people can't afford healthcare. And the government spends peanuts (4.1% of total GDP as opposed to over 10% spent by most countries) on healthcare. This really puts things in perspective for all those thinking "Which problems can we solve?" Ask anyone about the top five problems they face – you're bound to have "health" (of either themselves or someone they love) on the list. And it is our duty to solve this problem.

That one week at IIT Bombay brought out the best in me. As Ramesh Raskar (one of the people responsible for putting together an event of that magnitude) said at the workshop – "The paranoid survive, the anxious thrive." We should be paranoid about medical technology, and be anxious to see it pan out. We say things like, "I can't believe telegrams were the fastest mode of communication. How could people have lived before the Internet? It seems so primitive." There should be a time when people say "I can't believe people used to prick themselves and extract blood to find out what's wrong with them. How could they have tolerated it? It seems so primitive." And this time must come soon. Like yesterday. (That's my attempt at paranoia) ●

Pooja is a final year student of Electronics and Communication Engineering. Pooja believes in a green environment and prevention of cruelty to animals. Pooja is also an ace dancer and pursues photography as a hobby.

"They put an engineer and a doctor in a room together and truly created magic"

KEEPING THE MUSIC Alive

By Nakul Abhyankar

I had a passion for music right from childhood. I participated in a few reality shows, and along with the amazing four years of jamming with our NITK Music Club, this experience made me what I am today and choose music as a serious pursuit.

After my graduation, I joined Bosch and worked in Bangalore for a year. Life there, for me, was boring - though the salary was decent! It was then that I took the best decision of my life – the decision to join the only music conservatory in India - the KM Conservatory at Chennai. My life took a completely new turn as I moved towards a professional life in music.

Thereafter, a trip to Scotland was one of the most memorable events that I was a part of. I was one of the 20 students who was chosen to perform at two concerts; one witha Dr. A.R. Rahman (yes, him!) and the famous BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the second concert by the KM Hindustani Ensemble. The Scotland tour happened under the banner of Celtic Connections, one of the biggest folk festivals in the world.

The first concert was performed at the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow. I was part of the 40-piece choir and an 80-piece orchestra that was conducted by the very popular Matt Dunkley. We performed movie soundtracks like the themes from movies like Lagaan, Bombay, Warriors of Heaven and Earth, Roja, Slumdog Millionaire and many more. It was an amazing experience to be part of such a prestigious concert and to be performing with one of the greatest artists of our time.

The second concert was performed in the great hallway of the Kalvingrove Art Gallery. The ceiling was so high and the hall so long that the reverb time was 6 seconds! It was like singing in a huge cathedral! It was an enthralling experience which transcended me to a world of joy and happiness. Gosh! It is so difficult to describe this experience in words… All of you need to go there and experience the feelings I felt!

There was another surprise for me when I had to sing a classical piece for Dr. A.R. Rahman in my college; after I finished my piece, he said, "Well, a few of you guys should perform this in Coke Studio!" I was dumbfounded! We will be performing in Coke Studio in April (2014) and I am super excited about it!

To conclude this article, I would like to urge that if you are good at something and you feel that you are made for it, quit engineering and just go do what you want! I see a few of my friends, who are incredible musicians, wasting time in front of their computers in some random IT companies just for the money. Don't you think you would be living like zombies if you go to the office at 8 in the morning and come back at 10 in the night for the rest of your lives? Artists are meant to do what they want to do and what they have to do. God will take care of the rest ●

Nakul Abhyankar graduated from NITK in 2012 with an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was an active member of the NITK Music Club and has represented the college at numerous musical festivals. Nakul has also taken part in music shows, winning SaReGaMaPa (Kannada), and is an upcoming playback singer in the Sandalwood industry. Currently, he is a student of music at the KM Conservatory, Chennai.

THE ÆSTHETICS OF THE UNDERGROUND

By Shyam Krishna

The underground may be defined loosely as that music which hasn't widespread listenership. Perhaps more characteristic is what this entails: such music is generally not commercialized, and there is relatively greater freedom on the artist's part, leading to bolder innovations and also a sense of sincerity and intimacy. The birth of these scenes is generally marked by the coming together of a small number of like-minded people exploring and expanding musical boundaries, in a similar direction. Thereafter, the subculture can take two main courses: it might either get appropriated or become widely popular, or it might forever stay a niche movement. However, even these niche movements tend to exert continuing influence on the more popular forms of music.

When speaking of underground, the scene that first flashes into mind is punk. It displays the characteristics typical of the one eventual path that leads to fame and mainstream appropriation. Emerging in the mid-'70s, it was the revolution against musical and social structure. It embraced a minimalist approach to music as opposed to the then-current vogue of increased technicality: a famous cartoon in a punk fanzine depicts three chord-diagrams on the guitar and suggests you could form a band with only so much. As a social revolt, especially in the UK, it came during a time of high unemployment and amidst discontent in the working class. It worked as a subversive agent, with bands seeking to question, and ridicule, everything from record companies, the police, and public apathy, to even the Queen herself - recognizing the blindness in revering a hollow symbol of misplaced nationalism in a time of internal economic crises. Acting as a moral fuse, its notorious and very public transgressions had a role in the general relaxing of social norms. As the movement progressed, its ideas, both musical and otherwise, went through a stage of transformation and acceptance, turning punk into the genres post-punk and New Age, the latter of which went on to become hugely popular. Other harsher subgenres exerted their influence on metal forming the genre thrash, which had a role in rejuvenating the entire metal scene in the '80s.

When a genre breaks through, however, the inherent commercialization that occurs is often regarded with much hostility by its older fans, who term the whole process as 'selling out'. This results in a portion of the scene playing the forms that existed before the transition, and remaining 'old school', or 'cult'. Fading away of genres is also inevitable, after a point people run out of new things to say or do and the inflow of ideas dries up. The genre might still survive by undergoing huge transformations, even to an extent of becoming something unrecognizably different, though this would mean continuity in just naming. A very similar chain of events as happened to punk occurred with other erstwhile niche scenes: be it '00s dubstep, '80s hip hop or '70s electronica.

The other path is where such forms of music never catch on though they still tend to have diverse effects on music, sometimes much after they have faded away. Acid folk artists of the late '60s and early '70s were rediscovered by indie musicians in the US in the '90s and had a role in the formation of Freak folk as pioneered by the likes of Animal Collective. An example of the uncertainties in the path of musical influence is Vashti Bunyan, who had released just one album in 1970, which was largely forgotten for nearly three decades, before the effect of that album on the nascent freak folk scene, during the turn of the millennium, led to her being dubbed its 'Godmother'; she even went on to release material she had written in the form of a second album in 2005, a full 35 years after her first. Another group in this movement, the Incredible Strings Band, had a role in popularizing the use of African, Middle-Eastern and other exotic instruments in popular music and can be considered to be the first in the genre 'World Music'. They also influenced famous bands like Led Zeppelin, and allegedly were the inspiration for the sound of the *Sgt. Pepper's* album of the Beatles. From just these two examples of genres, it becomes fairly obvious that the two outcomes as outlined before do not exclude one another, and the massive and complex ways by which the underground effects changes in current music is evident.

While comprehending such developments in music, one cannot avoid the subject of grading musical output. The necessity of this is due to the seemingly endless amount of music that has been and will be recorded, and hence, in its barest form, it is a need to classify music into at least two categories: music that is worth listening to and music that is not. How does one definitively assert the superiority of a certain individual,

"Punk worked as a subversive agent, with bands seeking to question, and ridicule, everything from record companies, the police, and public apathy, to even the Queen herself"

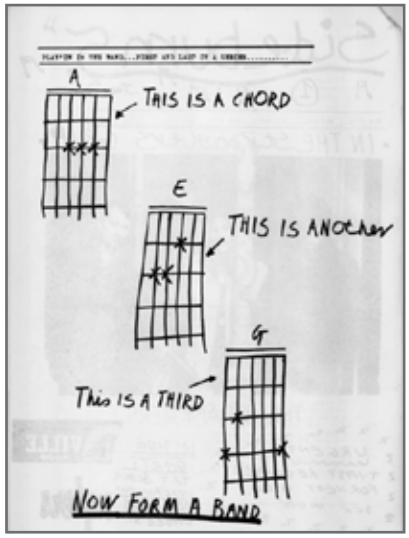
Shyam Krishna is a final year undergraduate student of Civil Engineering. His taste in music ranges vastly across genres, and he believes in embracing every facet of an artform.

band, or genre over another? For instance, one might say comparison across genres is akin to comparing apples and oranges, and stick to the best bands within a certain genre alone. Even going by such narrow boundaries, problems arise: genres have no concrete or absolute nomenclatures, and even if they did, this would mean only the progenitors would have any value, since the definition of a genre would invariably be based on them. Another view might hold technical mastery, of music theory or of instruments, to be the yardstick, and while this may be all encompassing, it will however relegate bands and entire genres that are almost universally acclaimed and vastly influential. The influence of musical output on select individuals, especially other musicians. This acknowledges the impact of such output on the music of today, and hence its role in defining what constitutes 'music' as such. Such a measure, which is generally embraced by music critics in some form or the other, has the flaw of not being current: one might have to wait for years or even decades to recognize musical impact. An absolute form of musical ranking, therefore, eludes and resists characterization, and to obtain a satisfactory classification, all these approaches need to be used in conjunction with each other rather than in exclusion, along with a healthy dose of intuitive grading borne of exposure.

Comparing music inevitably brings to light the issue of dogma. There always exist views which hold certain bands/people/genres as paramount, or worse, as inferior or 'not music'; such attitudes reflect resistance to and parochial non-acceptance of change The more infamous of these perspectives is the so-called 'Rockism', an outlook which holds 'rock' - infuriatingly vague as the term may be - to be *the* form of music, and worships rock artists of all eras with unquestioning devotion. Kelefa Sanneh published a famous critique of this in an editorial published in the New York Times titled 'The Rap Against Rockism', where he points out the subliminal racist and sexist undertones of this perspective. Non-acceptance of any aspect of music is tantamount to some form of social bigotry, since music is inextricable from its creators, and their world views. This, however, does not preclude one from having personal tastes, so long as one does not decry others' personal tastes, a fairly reasonable thing to ask for.

Appreciating music has the effect of broadening, or at least transforming, one's perspectives. New music, as characterized by scenes or by individuals, owes its novelty to the difference in perspective between the general public and the artists involved; it acts as a mirror reflecting mutating societal ethos. When a certain music is characteristic of a community, it serves both as a window into their lives and customs, and as vehicle of cultural exchange. As an example, pre-War blues in the US was the music of oppressed African-American sharecroppers, and its lyrical content provides insight into their outlooks and circumstances. As it influenced Chicago blues which was the predecessor of rock, it caused - at least to some extent - the transfer of perspectives between two previously stratified sections of society, and had a role in bringing them together.

The underground, though it remains



The cartoon titled 'Playin in the band... first and last in a series' (from the fanzine 'Sideburns')

relatively unseen, has effected far-reaching, and very visible, changes in modern society. With the advent of the digital era, it has become progressively easier to discover and procure music that would once have been very localized and inaccessible. Hence, the only prerequisite to be able to listen to new music is an open mind - or should I say ear. Granted, many times it might sound strange or forbidding at first, but persevering will yield great rewards: the more you learn to like, the more there is to like. I would, therefore, invite you to undertake this musical journey, cross boundaries and explore whole new worlds, or at least this same world in wholly new ways ●

The Demise of Dignity

By Vaishnavi B. M.

As she slumbered through a calm night
Dreaming of a fantastic world, so bright,
She was woken up by the scorching sunlight
Revealing to her, her dark plight!

Her dignity was destroyed heartlessly!
Her vitality was tested ruthlessly!
Her purity was snatched away brutally!
As she sat there, pleading helplessly!

She could only see her predators walk without fear,
As the world moved on, paying no heed to her tear.
All that she could see was injustice, so severe
-That her dearest life, to her, was no longer so dear!

She vanished behind the curtains of time
But her pleas rang a vibrant chime.
But alas! here, there are neither ears to listen
Nor hands, for a fair world, to christen!

Here, your best friend is mere silence
And a routine it is, dignity's demise!
Whilst goodness is buried in a deep crevice,
Brutality is looked up to, with praise!

…

JIGSAW & PUZZLES SOCIETY

By Elisha George

Elisha is a Second Year student of Chemical Engineering. She believes that live music is transcendent and good food is everything. She also says 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' is a pool of infinite wisdom.

Sentimentality holds little place in a college of logic driven individuals. The subtle precision of lines and nuances of colors seem trivial in a world of defined assumptions, probabilities and structure; where art is thought of as being an expression of the abstract. It's regarded as something separate from the science that forms the basis of our learning and education. Naturally, opinions and their intensity differ amongst individuals but let's consider a sample of clichés – they are what a society is characterized by.

The scientific method urges one to extrapolate from a known body of facts in order to come to substantial conclusions. It follows a certain procedure – the question, the hypothesis, the prediction, the experiment, and finally, the analysis – that has proved to be a reliable way of going about business in the research community. This structured and systematic approach to a problem or situation is adapted to various degrees in a horde of fields forming a list that the Arts rarely feature in.

Our sample group doesn't associate Art with structure. To them an artist can be a pseudo-talent who glorifies the freedom of his work and advertises its ambiguity. Technical analysis of his subject matter can come across as pretentious and it verges on impossible to ever define what the artist was trying to say with the discrete shapes strewn across a blank canvas. And they're not wrong.

The charm in artistic product is its ability to morph into something that the viewer identifies with. As much as we take pride in the clarity of our thought process, our subconscious doesn't work on the same overtly human wave length. The form and finesse of art bypasses the realm of awareness we know so well and creeps gently through to a quieter place where it settles down, ready to surface in a fleeting spurt of nostalgia or déjà vu.

But there's another side to the process that they never see. This inverse approach is daunting in a way you cannot understand until you're in that moment of complete doubt. When there's a block of stone, an expanse of canvas or even something as small as a bar of soap, and you're expected to breathe life into your work. All that freedom associated with the product is rarely there in its production.

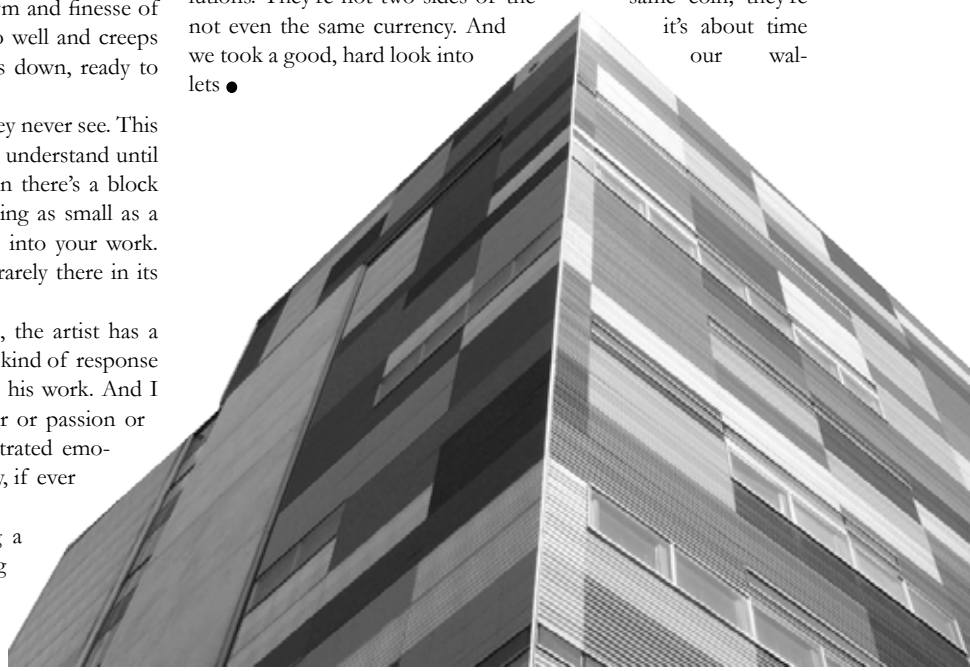
On the contrary, when a piece is developed, the artist has a painfully specific message in mind. To invoke any kind of response from a viewer, he must put something extra into his work. And I can't say if this something extra is love or anger or passion or depression. It's one very specific, highly concentrated emotion that he is desperate to convey. And it is rarely, if ever vague in his mind.

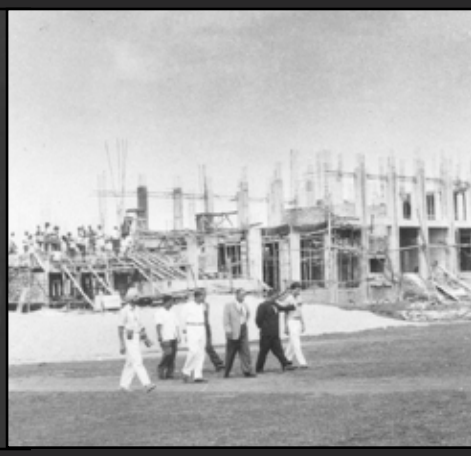
Something as seemingly simple as choosing a shade of blue can pitch him into an overwhelming wave of paranoia. The blue can't be too bright, or too light (and yes, they're very different), neither can it be a dark that verges on dull. No, the blue has to perfectly embody the essence of the artist. And it is up to him to find that blue. Not once, not twice, but for every brush stroke that he executes.

And while the process doesn't have half the structure of a mathematical derivation, it can boast the same level of complexity. To pacify all those bespectacled individuals who took a break from their pages of deltas and epsilons to gasp at the atrocity of these statements, I will agree that higher stages of science and math can only be tackled by a brain that is as astute in its intuition as it is creative in its logic. Given no prior rules and formulas, the greater portion of this population would be wallowing in innocent befuddlement while failing to ever see more than the superficialities of the phenomena they should chance to witness. People who open a book and see those connections and logically transform them from just occurrences to relations and correlations and beautiful paths of derivation are exceptional. And what's more, they're artists.

Our sample of clichés see art as ambiguous and science as definitive. But neither is either. Art begins relying heavily on precision and Goldilocks figures (no approximations allowed) whereas scientists cut to the chase and make all the assumptions they can possibly get away with in their model. And while the former concludes with the ability to result in an overwhelming variety of responses from anyone who participates in it, the latter ends in one exact deduction.

It's important to understand that art and science are not discrete. Nowhere were they meant to be mutually exclusive. Instead, they embody principles that are markedly similar. And to truly understand either, we must break away from our sample group because it was never logic that vied with creativity, or vice versa. It's always been close minded bigotry raging against progress and solutions. They're not two sides of the same coin; they're not even the same currency. And it's about time we took a good, hard look into our wallets ●





LOOKING BACK

Dr. M.B. Sai Dutta, affectionately known as 'Sai-D' among his students, is a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and is also the Dean of Alumni Affairs and International Relations. Dr. Dutta is known for his engaging style of teaching and his ready wit. He is also a long-time exponent of Carnatic Music.

THE DAYS OF YORE

By Prof. M. B. Sai Dutta

It was on a warm summer afternoon in September, 1976 that I reached Mangalore with my father to take admission in the then Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal. Fifteen days earlier, I had received a telegram from KREC stating that I was being offered a seat in B.Tech Chemical Engineering, asking if I would like to accept it. Having decided to do engineering, I had sent a reply telegram stating that I would join, and here I was in Mangalore. My father had visited Mangalore earlier in 1950-51 in his official capacity as an engineer looking after the minor ports in Madras Province, which included Malpe and Gangolli fishing harbours. As the train approached Mangalore, my father enquired with the TTE about hotel 'Udupi Krishna Bhavan' that had existed in 1950. The TTE said it still existed, and so we went and checked into the hotel, which was adjacent to 'Mohini Vilas'. The next day, I took admission and was ushered into my 'bathroom attached' room (Room No: 49) in the first block.

The initiation/introduction (an euphemism for you-know-what) program was at its final stages as I was among the last to get admitted in that academic year. So I did not have to endure that for long. We were told about the horrors of first year and were warned about Engineering Drawing, which we had in both the semesters. We had only two attempts to clear a subject and in case we failed, we had to take a drop (lose one year) and try to clear it in the next two attempts. Failing to do so would entail rejoining first year as a fresh student again. The success rate in first attempt was about 50%. Our seniors insisted that we join them in a 'strike' so that we could get one more chance to clear a back log. So, instead of two chances, one got three chances to clear a paper. We did not realise then that in our second year we would go on 'strike' for such onerous reasons like 'junior engineers in government are not paid well'. Worse was to come yet. One of our batchmates met with an accident near Panambur and died. The bus belonged to Anil Roadways (Route No:2). We went on a 'Rasta Roko', stopping traffic on NH-17. The police came and tried to reason with us. In the meanwhile, an Anil Roadways bus came close and on seeing the commotion, the bus workers abandoned it and ran away. Someone took the steering wheel and some pushed the bus until it came to a halt near the second and third block junction. To cut a long story short, the bus was burnt, the college was closed and we were thrown out of the hostels for fifteen days. One can see the relics of the past even today: the two bus stops inside the campus at which the Anil Roadways bus used to stop - one in front of Amul Parlour (now a favourite haunt for accessing WiFi) and the other behind Director's Bungalow. We were given two days to vacate the hostels and those two days were the most difficult ones we spent. We were in constant fear of getting attacked by the people who had lost their bus. Nights were spent on the hostel terrace with all three doors of the hostel closed and electrified, boiling water kept ready in the mess in huge vessels, chilli powder stored in each wing and piles of stones stacked up in the terrace to ward off any attack. Our escapades in the second year put us back so much that we had to sacrifice our vacations thereafter for the next three years to complete the degree in five years.

On the academic front, things were no different. There was commotion in the hostel on the night prior to the 'Process Calculation' exam. My roommate woke me



up and told me that there was some problem with the question paper pattern and that all chemical students were gathered in a ground floor room trying to figure out what needs to be done. I went down and saw the whole class, with a few of them in tears. Earlier we used to answer five out of eight questions and in the previous 'ordinance paper', it had become four out of six. The complexity of the problems had gone up as well. Some of the studious ones were trying to decipher the question paper and all others were surrounding them to make some sense out of it. In that commotion I could not understand what was happening and went back to my room to sleep. The exam began the next day at nine, and for the first 15 minutes almost all of us were staring at the question paper, not knowing what to do. At the stroke of nine-thirty, the first bold one stood up and walked out of the exam hall. That was followed by a mass exodus. A few of us stayed back to fight. These setbacks never diminished our enthusiasm in life or in engineering and many of my classmates went on to become CEOs and Managing Directors. It was indeed a very eventful second year.

When I joined the institute, there were only three girls, one each in fourth, second and first year. All were day scholars. When we were in second year, two girls joined and both, being from far off places, had to stay in the campus. One girl was from North India and used to play tennis. A lot of guys thus took a fancy to tennis and would hang around the tennis courts in the evening. Every one-act play, every drama, be it in English or Kannada, in the inter-block competitions would involve one character, dressed like a girl with a tennis racquet in hand, who would be ridiculed by all the other characters in the play. This girl tolerated us for two years and then called it quits. She took a transfer to some other institute and went away. We must have been one horrendous lot in those days, because no girls from Mangalore colleges would participate in any of the cultural events conducted at KREC. The quitting and going away of the 'girl from the North' made us realise our uncivilized behaviour and from then on, good sense prevailed and the results are for you to see today.

In 1977 as the country came out of 'emergency', we wanted to open up and started the inter collegiate cultural festival, which in 1980 took the name 'Incident'. For a week, the programs would begin at 5:00 pm, after college hours, and end at 10:00pm. The number of participants and the variety that we had were plenty. The Films Club was among the only entertainment we had (the Nataraj Theatre at Surathkal, where we would watch night shows and walk back to the hostel, was another) and there would be movies every week without fail. This being the sole entertainment would result in all faculty and their families being present for every movie. Holding umbrellas to watch movies in spite of heavy rains was the defining part of this unforgettable experience. I knew no Hindi in those days and during comic scenes everyone would laugh and I would be silent. Slowly, I learnt to understand Hindi by context. I never learnt Hindi even though my second year and third year roommates were from Bihar. My second year roommate, on the day we met, put a condition that we need to converse only in English; he had failed in the first year English paper. He later discontinued his studies because he could not clear the English paper. My third year roommate had no such problems with English, but he hardly stayed in the room. So I never learnt Hindi while at Surathkal. It is a different story that I could master only the 'Tapori' language during my stay at IIT Bombay and made it dignified, proper Hindi after watching 'Humlog', 'Buniyaad' and 'Saans'.

> **"I could master only the 'Tapori' language during my stay at IIT Bombay and made it dignified, proper Hindi after watching *Humlog*, *Buniyaad* and *Saans*"**

Fans were provided in the hostels when we were in our final year. Till then we had lived without fans. There was no generator backup back then. Many a night was spent in candlelight preparing for tests and exams. Campus placement was next to nothing, and if my memory serves me right, only three from our batch of 250 received campus placements. Lack of opportunities made many take the entrepreneurial route, and you get to see a lot of them these days (very successful ones) when they come back for reunions. Hotel Sadanand came into being in 1978 to quench the thirst of students, and was the only watering hole other than looking up to palm trees for salvation. It needs to be mentioned here that the ground floor left wing was always reserved for people who were 'high' with and without spirit. Many of them went on to hold high positions (no pun intended) in their career and this speaks volumes about their focus in spite of their non curricular activities. First year students lived in First Block, Second years in second block … and Final years in Final block (the present Fifth Block). Then we went on the highway (NH-17!) of our careers to wherever it took us.

And here I am writing a piece for The Shoreline (having never written anything for either Karnatakian/Vitruvian in earlier years) in the year when my son is graduating from this institute. I indeed feel very happy that I got to do it atleast now ●

Brave. New. World.

By Prof Rajendra Udupa and Aashish Mane

Most of the Earth's resources (that are in rotation in our economy) are transformed by the labours of some kind of engineer. The engineer's success in the global workforce is a testament to the importance of technology in the development and progress[1] of humanity.

Technology has come a long way since the 18th century. The advances made in technology during the industrial revolution gave rise to economic and social forces that shifted the balance of political power all across human civilization. While observing the evolution of science and industry, it is also interesting to note the evolution of our relationship with matter and our environment. Even the Queen of Pop is gleefully aware that she is in fact, "Living in a Material World". It is clear that the Industry has catered to the growing demand for making labour easier and life more comfortable. Not only has mechanisation and industrialisation relieved the physical labours of workers but it has also multiplied productivity. A leap forward in human development, as seen after the industrial revolution is, however, invariably overshadowed by a cloud of conflict and struggle. Fortunately, we've had great thinkers like Smith and Marx whose ideals have directed us toward a freer and more exciting existence today. At the turn of the 21st century as we withdraw our cash from machines or employ ABB's finest on our assembly lines, another advance in technology promises a future free of unnecessary physical labour and menial or repetitive tasks. Just as the interaction of the human with its environment evolves progressively so does the experience of the machine or robot. With the advent of automation we have gained a more precise control over our machines by giving them a degree of control over their own operations. Although we have opened many new doors of possibility, the issues of capital accumulation[2] and the demand vacuum are bound to affect the social and political structure of our world.

History has shown us that eventually there have always been more jobs than there used to be and that with better social integration, standards of living inevitably improve. But this trend does not definitively indicate a better future for us. The global economy has still not fully recovered from being rudely awakened in 2008. With a fragile Eurozone and the US and China jousting over resources, trade and currency, the nature of the cultural and the political order of the new global society becomes almost impossible to predict. At the World Economic Forum, Davos 2012 the topic for one of the debates was, "Is 20th-century capitalism failing 21st-century society?". Sharan Burrow, the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation was the only panellist in favour of the proposition. She was of the opinion that, "We've lost our moral compass" and that, "unless employers and workers sit at the table with governments and redesign the system, then we will continue to fail as a society, and nobody will like the social unrest that will follow." One of the issues at the core of the discussion was that of jobs, both their creation and stability. Raghuram Rajan, then Professor of Finance at the Booth School of Business explained the relationship between innovation and the capability of the workforce. He believes that we need to encourage entrepreneurs to innovate and create new opportunities, while simultaneously improving the capability of the workforce for the new jobs that will be created.

Automated control has already been well-received by the manufacturing and chemical industries. Soon automation will find its foothold in the sectors of service and infrastructure and again there is promise of an evolution in our relationship with our landscape and each other. This change will reflect in a major reorganization of what constitutes the global workforce as many old jobs will be replaced by a few new ones. In this period of transition those who invest in the new technology gain considerable economic power. According to Marx, these Capitalists unfairly distribute the increased profits from the improved productivity thus accumulating more capital to reinvest. Marx believed that this exploitation of labour was the primary cause for social unrest which expresses itself as the class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. Another major impact of such a redistribution of wealth is that the rich have more money to spend on non-essentials and the poor are left with little capital to invest in the likes of healthcare, education and food. This creates a demand vacuum in these essential sectors which in turn makes these sectors suffer, thus jeopardizing sustainable growth.

Moving forward in the 21st century we must acknowledge that technology and information have always been incredible forces when it comes to shaping society and today the engineer finds himself right in the thick of things, whether it is space exploration, the application of quantum entanglement or developing green mining techniques. As engineers we've earned ourselves a very valuable stake in society. With this power of agency comes a responsibility toward nature and social justice, not because they seem to be noble ideals but because they facilitate human development.

1 Development as realisation of capability, progress as expansion of capability. See page 1, Development as Freedom, Amartya Sen

2 See chapter 25, das Kapital, Karl Marx

References:

"Marx and the Mechanical Turk" - J Bradford Delong, Project Syndicate

"Automation needs to be tackled with the economics of the 19th century" - Alex Hern, NewStatesmen

Dr. K Rajendra Udupa is a professor in the department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering. He has been a faculty member at NITK since 1982, and has vast experience in research as well as industrial consultancy.

Aashish Mane is a final year student of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering. He is a member of the football team and is active in theater as well as literary groups.

NITK IEEE | Social Initiative

By Amit Raj

A glimpse of NITK's technical prowess can be seen in the four technical clubs of the college. NITK IEEE is one of them, with a group of highly motivated students brimming with ideas. With a steadily growing membership and a penchant for student activity, the club strives for excellence in all of its endeavours. Having won four awards, including the best student branch and best student enterprise awards, the club has set its sights on taking up more challenging and socially relevant projects.

One of the most ambitious projects, which promises a tremendous impact, is "JAGRITI". This project is an attempt to catalyze and contribute to social welfare efforts, by using the power of crowdsourcing in problem identification and resolution, and by providing an anonymous straightforward platform for reporting issues. The plan is to start by concentrating the model on child labor and child abuse, and thereafter expanding to cover other issues as the project grows.

India is sadly the home to the largest number of child labourers in the world. The 2001 national census found an increase in the number of child labourers from 11.28 million in 1991 to 12.59 million in 2001. 40% of the labour in the precious-stone cutting sector consists of children. NGOs have discovered the use of child labourers in the mining industry in Bellary District of Karnataka in spite of a harsh ban on the same. A major concern is that a huge number of child labour cases go undetected, partially owing to the distributed nature of the problem.

A growing phenomenon is using children as domestic workers in urban areas. The conditions in which children work is completely unregulated and they are often made to work without food, and for very low wages, resembling the situations of slavery. There are cases of physical, sexual and emotional abuse of child domestic workers. The argument for domestic work is often that families have placed their children in these homes for care and employment. There has been a recent notification by the Ministry of Labour classifying child domestic work as well as employment of children in dhabas, tea stalls and restaurants as "hazardous" occupations.

The trend is that, although many people sympathize with the situation of these children, they fail to take action owing to lack of efficient and formal channels of authority. Child rights in India suffers from a lack of awareness and a lack of initiative on the part of the people.

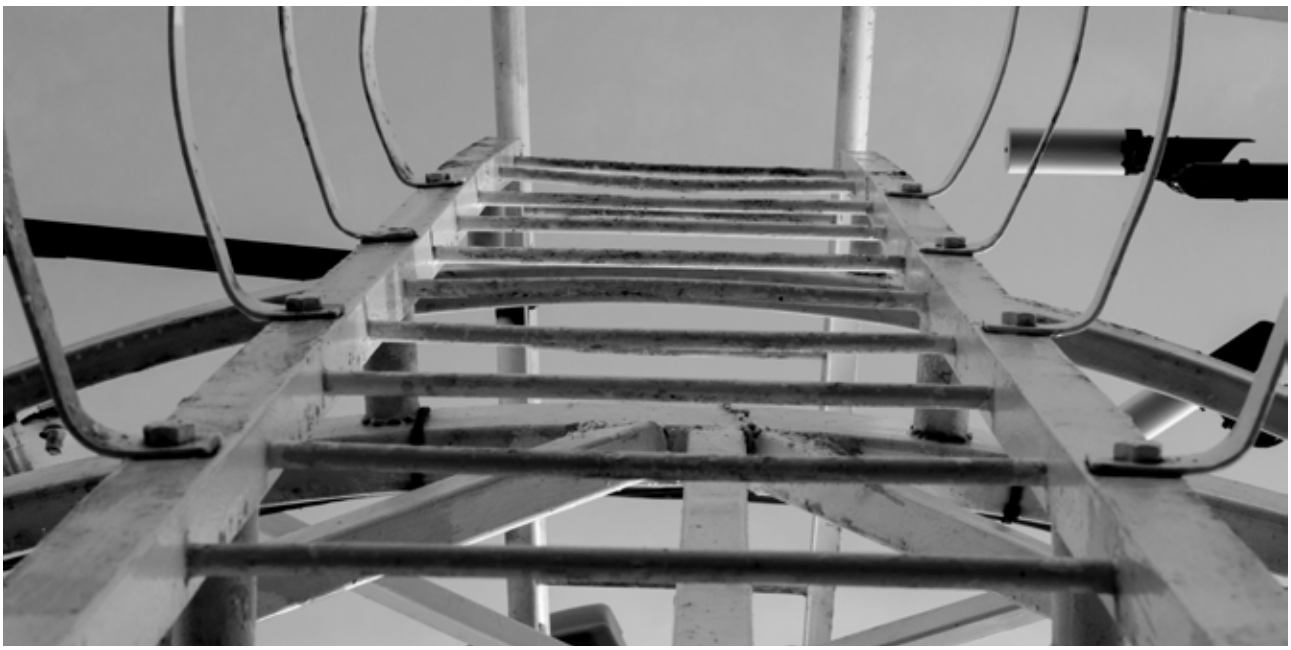
The first phase of the Jagriti project tackles this very issue. If there exists a framework through which one could make a difference in a simple way, one would indeed try to do so.

Jagriti plans to develop a web based anonymous simplistic environment, which can be used to report sighted child labour, abuse and other such issues. Such a platform provides power directly to those who wish to act but are bogged down by the fear of bureaucracy. Aided by a mask of anonymity, anyone so predisposed to bring about change can fearlessly employ the platform.

The undertaking also plans to employ data analytics to discern the nature of the reports and to determine the geographical distribution of the issue. Collaborations with NGOs and other volunteering organizations will be established to aid in the efforts of prevention of child labour and to ensure primary and secondary education to all.

Another IEEE social venture under SIGHT is the "Interactive learning for the Blind." Following the success of "Educational games for the blind" deployed under SIGHT in Mangalore a few years ago, a team of students are working on developing interactive learning for the blind. The team is collaborating with the St. Aloysius School for blind to develop applications that the students at the school desire. This venture basically seeks to develop a low cost and easily accessible apparatus that would aid the blind in perceiving shapes and understanding math more interactively. The proposed instrument is a slate with an adaptive surface whose shape can be changed depending on the data it is fed.

NITK being a technical institute for education, the club and its members also display a keen interest in knowledge dissemination. The "NITK open Collaborative learning" and the "Online programming tool" projects are doing exactly this, by developing an online interactive platform wherein students can explore and learn through the resources provided ●



The Curious Case of BARTER in Today's World

By Srinivas Balasubramanian

Srinivas Balasubramanian, better known as 'Hanni', is an alumnus of NITK. He received his Bachelors degree in Information Technology in 2010 and his Masters degree in 2012. Currently working for Microsoft at Redmond, USA, Hanni enjoys a legendary status at NITK. He is remembered for being a great teacher, a liberal soul, a prolific quizzer, an avid football fan and a vicious competitor in any strategic arena.

Before any of you jump to conclusions, I would like to say up front that the butler didn't do it. Butlers are some of the most honorable professionals in existence and despite constant attempts of society to cast aspersions on their impeccable character, they have endured and will continue to do so, much like our good old friend the barter. Getting back to the matter at hand - this case was brought to my attention by a friend of mine, a notorious Parjun Rao a couple of years ago, while working on a product that could revive the barter system, and has got me thinking ever since.

The barter system is widely accepted as the logical precedent of money as we know it. Does the barter exist today? The answer is a resounding yes! We trade information in college on a daily basis: Notes for missed classes, explanations of concepts we understand, information about the best place to grab a bite, all of these are examples of barter. But barter even in our daily life goes beyond just information, right? The right to your favourite spot in class (only if you are a regular), or the right to other people's food when they make a trip home or even borrowing stationery for an assignment or exam- these are all common trades that are carried out as a barter on a regular basis. Well, you may argue that when you lend your notes to someone you don't really ask for anything in return, so it does not constitute a trade, but in most cases it's technically just deferred payment that is made when the opportunity arises. In some cases the payment might just be something as simple as good will, but technically we can classify these activities as trades, and going forward it is easy to see why this would be convenient.

Clearly the spirit of barter lives on, and with good reason I might add. Do we really want all our transactions to go through money? Would you want every transaction in your day to be a formal one? Not only is it cumbersome but could also leads to a loss of intangible factors like goodwill, bonhomie, etc which play an important role in defining our happiness. Moreover there is also a possibility that such a system would prevent trades. "Trade is good"- I know that this differs from the wisdom of Gorden Gekko who professed that "Greed is good", but greed facilitates trade. A trade happens only when both parties believe that it is beneficial for them. In other words, the seller needs to get a value higher than what he values the product at and the buyer needs to get the product for a price below which he values the product or as Michael Scott would put it, it's almost always a "win win win". This disparity in the valuation of a commodity is what facilitates trade and drives the world's economy. Coming back to money preventing trade, here is an example: Say you need help with a couple of chapters before your final exam and you decide to ask your friend for help. If you were to offer him some money, say Rs 10 for a couple of hours of his time, there is a possibility he would be offended and refuse to help you. If the amount were say Rs. 10,000 perhaps he would help just because it represented a decent payment in itself. However, if you were not willing to part with that kind of money, the introduction of a monetary incentive in this case could work against you and prove a hindrance to the trade. Obviously money has its advantages, simply put it enables markets to establish "fair prices" in a market through healthy competition. Money in itself has no value but derives its value from being a widely accepted medium of exchange. The medium is provided by a credible third party - in most cases the government - and facilitates trade. A barter inherently requires a social relationship, a well-defined system or interaction of some sort to facilitate trade - but money opens up avenues for new trades by abstracting away some of these requirements.

So there is clearly incentive for people to use money, i.e. to open up a set of trades that would otherwise be rendered inaccessible. But is there incentive for people to barter? In fact other than the convenience to barter with individuals in close proximity, there is additional incentive for those of you who celebrate the fifth of November to barter as well; namely taxes. Taxing barter transactions becomes complex and not many countries have a framework to deal with the same. Accounting barter transactions just makes it worse. Interestingly enough it was not until Karl Hess, a free market anarchist and tax resister who was denied the right to own money by the Government of the United States, exploited bartering to sustain himself that laws were put in place to tax bartering in the US. Now I am not suggesting that you try holding off on taxes by exploiting such loopholes but this is just one of the chinks in the shiny armor of the economic system which we have chosen to embrace. But beware if you do trade yourself from a pin to a ship, something that a certain Mr. Dwight Schrute could help you with, the tax agencies around the world might not care much for legal loopholes.

The internet revolution among other things has certainly made the world a smaller place, it could certainly provide a well-defined system that facilitates barter transactions across the world, reducing the dependency on money. Another reason I bring this up, is recently there was news that the Chinese government might not recognize bitcoins as legal currency, this could potentially mean that bitcoin transactions in China might be "barter trades" from a legal stand point. The move from representative money to fiat currency, currency without intrinsic value not backed by tangible goods, towards the end of the last century has opened the door to new and innovative forms of currency such as the bitcoin. Modern currency is just a commodity that is governed by the forces of demand and supply. The demand for currency is driven primarily by the legal obligations to pay tax, while supply is left to the discretion of individuals running the nation's economy and is typically based on macroeconomic indicators. Now even though the bitcoin has caught the interest of money launderers on the Silk Route and techie investors alike, it does pose some interesting questions. If alternative currencies do gain momentum and gain widespread acceptance what implications does this have on the world economy? Does the government have the right to levy a tax on people who never deal with "real" money? Would they be forced to interact with the official currency just for tax reasons? If people across the board adopt decentralized currencies, does it indicate lack of faith in the policy makers? Could this potentially remove the need for regulatory authorities and pave the way for a free market anarchy? Fair warning: Most of this might just be far-fetched theory but for those of you who are dreamers I do hope that this provides some interesting food for thought ●

An 1874 newspaper illustration from Harper's Weekly, showing a man engaging in barter: offering chickens in exchange for his yearly newspaper subscriptions (Image Source: Wikipedia)

I CAN'T MOVE

By Kevin Anilson

I wake up and look to my side
I haven't been asleep too long
The iron tracks disappear 'round the corner
I'm caught and I can't move at all

The low rumble begins, the metal vibrates,
The ground's own melancholy song.
My writhing body struggles for naught
A minute or more and I'm gone.

I grit my teeth and scream at the sky
The sky so hauntingly blue
My forearms clench, I kick and I growl
There's nothing that I can do

The train rounds the corner, its horns blaze away
Thousands of pounds of steel
I reluctantly give up, my muscles relax
my fate, my destiny sealed

It didn't strike me till then, brains for naught have I,
to look down at my waist and hips
There were no ropes, no chains, no constraints
I was free and didn't know it

Ten seconds to go, I can run if I want
But somethings amiss, I fear
My ropes are imaginary, my chains don't exist
And yet, I'm held back right here

Four seconds to go, I'd like to escape
Three, and I welcome my death
Two seconds to go I pray my last prayer
One, I breathe my last breath

THE ROAD

By Amrutash Nanda

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
("The Road Not Taken" - Robert Frost, 1-5)

One morning in my English class back in 7th grade, this poem showed up on my Gulmohar text book. Like every other poem, the teacher recited it once and explained to us the meaning of the seemingly complex lines in a manner that we could understand. Even then, most of it went over our heads and the memorized answers were more than enough to fetch us good marks in the test. Not once did I realise that there would be a day when I would see the reflections of my journey so far in this very poem and that the question posed in this poem would end up becoming the most important and pivotal question of my life. Have I made the right choice? This question haunts everyone at some point in time, after all what we do or become in our lives depends on the decisions that we make today.

Looking back at the road that I've travelled so far, there were the good ol' carefree school days where you could just blindly hold the hands of your parents and be guided by your teachers past every obstacle. Right after the Class X boards was when most of us were faced with the 1st diverging road, - 'Biology or Computer Science?' - Which logically, to Indians anyway, leads down to the choice between Engineering or Medicine. It's still school and we're still "kids", so most of our parents make possibly the biggest decision of our lives for us.

Then there were two crazy years where we frantically ran from school to coaching classes with only one thing in mind - IIT. So far it seems like everyone's story. We were probably too naïve to make a choice and ran along with the crowd – herd mentality as many would put it.

And then comes engineering, when your life is set for the next 4 years. But the decision making doesn't end there- You have to choose from 9 odd branches - tough task you'd say? Nah! If you're a topper, there are only one or two branches that you will even consider. Then there are those who kind of have an idea about what they'd like to do and make their decisions accordingly. But for most of us, "we go with the flow". My story is no different. I took Civil, but in an NIT and not an IIT. People asked me: "Why civil? Are you happy with your decision? Don't you think you should have just stayed with RVCE, Bangalore having an option of EEE?"

Did I make the right choice? Well, I had no answer.

I had heard of something called a branch change at the end of 1st year, a chance to move up the geek ladder. So I decided to give it a shot and it worked! At the start of my third semester I was all ready to move into Mechanical Engineering, the branch I thought I'd get. When I stepped in and took a chair in the committee room on the first floor of MB, I had no idea that things would not go as I had imagined ...

Prof 1: You've performed really well and in your choice you've indicated that you'd like to take up Mechanical, right?

Me: Thank you sir. Yes, I'd like to take up Mechanical.

Prof 2: It is however our duty to inform you that we have seats vacant in CSE and EEE as well, so you could change your options if you wish to.

What?! This put me in a fix. Suddenly my parents' voice of taking EC/EEE echoed in my head. The temptation of high packages in CSE placements flashed before my eyes. It seemed more like I was playing Kaun Banega Crorepati rather than sitting in a branch change committee room. And so, I took Electrical and Electronics Engineering a.k.a Trical.

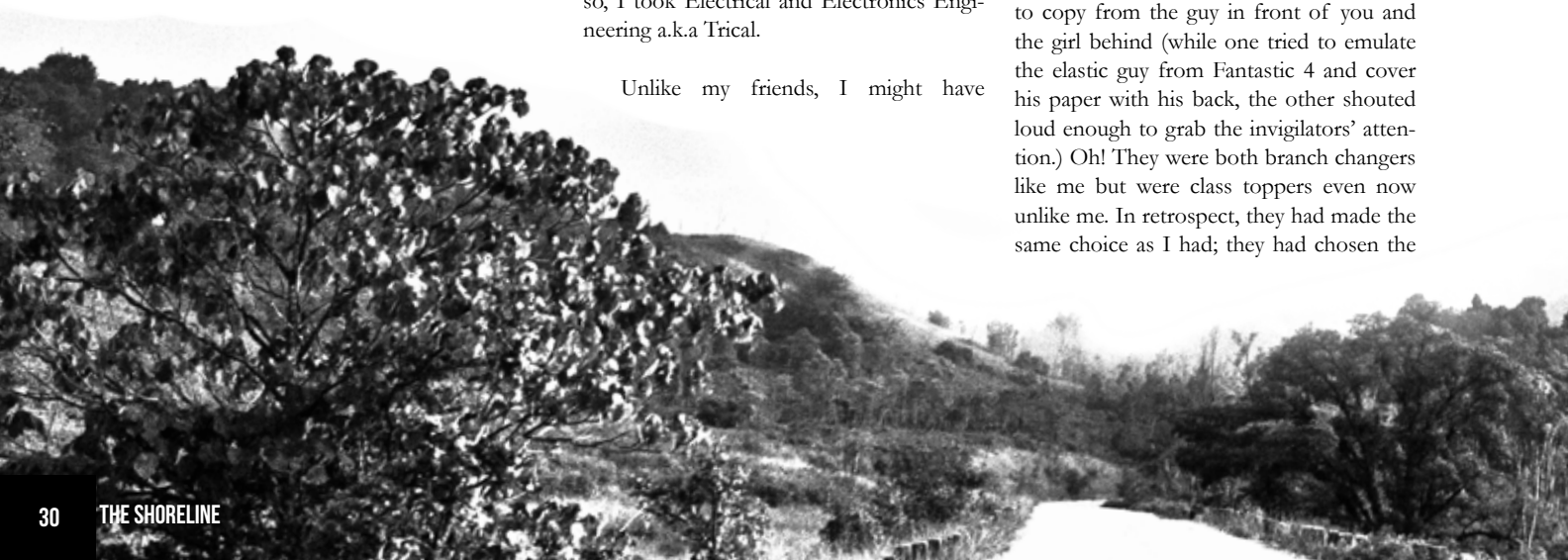
Unlike my friends, I might have missed out a little on scoring on the social front in the 1st year, but now it felt like it was all worth it. Or so I thought...

When I recounted the decision I had made to my friends, they were sceptical. A common response was "What?!....Trical? It's the hardest of all branches man." I knew EEE wouldn't be like a walk in the park, but how hard could it be?

Did I make the Right Choice? I had no answer .

The concept of two choices is a thought-provoking one. Whenever there are two choices, it renders one wrong and the other right. If not, one is considered superior to the other. At another level, one is considered default and natural; the other unnatural and deviant. The hard fact is that accepting a choice means declining another choice. For every path we take there's another path we don't take, and we will always wonder about the outcome of the roads that we chose not to try. And this was exactly what was happening at this stage.

I was flung into the gruelling 3rd semester. A day passed and then a week and things that should have made sense didn't. Some part of me kept gnawing inside me, "I should have stayed in civil". Doubt quickly changed into panic. I was no longer my cool and composed self. There were many first times: sitting for a one and a half hour mid sem exam and not knowing a thing, trying to copy from the guy in front of you and the girl behind (while one tried to emulate the elastic guy from Fantastic 4 and cover his paper with his back, the other shouted loud enough to grab the invigilators' attention.) Oh! They were both branch changers like me but were class toppers even now unlike me. In retrospect, they had made the same choice as I had; they had chosen the



NOT TAKEN

same road as I had. "What had they done differently?", I wondered, "They're just bigger nerds", I tried to assuage my perturbed soul. I guess that's the thing with change, you convince yourself that things will get better and sometimes they do, and you feel proud of the choices you made; but sometimes they don't. It didn't in my case. One month down the line things still hadn't gotten better. Frantically searching for some perspective, I started talking to seniors who had made it big, looking for reasons to convince myself that I had made the right choice. The soothing words of my seniors offered but a brief respite from the tempestuous doubts brewing in my mind. They all came flooding back at the end of 3rd semester when I was waiting to board a bus back to Bangalore at the bus-stop:

Friend: Dude you must be acing EEE! How much this sem?

Me: Not great man. 8.0 something

(not)Friend(anymore): What?! That's one hell of a drop, from 9.6 something to 8. You should have stayed with civil man or taken anything but EEE.

At the time of making a decision, of choosing a path, you can look at your choices and analyse it to your heart's content, but you get to know where it's going to lead only once you've embarked on that journey along one of the paths. The path that I had taken looked bleak ahead and there was no going back.

Had I made the right choice? I didn't want to know the answer.

By the end of 4th semester, the situation had turned even more dire. I was now touching the higher spectra of 7 SGPA. Back home there were those long conversations with my parents about why I was so consistently inconsistent. My mother even asked me if I had a girlfriend in college. I wished the answer to that was yes, because I had no other excuse for my performance going down and hence nothing to end the seemingly unceasing conversations.

Time flew at breakneck speed and I found myself stepping into third year. It had been a year in EEE and I had decided to live with the choice I had made. Even though nothing had gone right so far, I was still determined to make my decision count. There was still a 'trickle' of hope. And so, instead of dwelling in the past or worrying about the future, I decided to live in the present and looked at exploring every opportunity that presented itself. This gave me a new perspective on things. I realized that my way of judging the decision as right/wrong or good/bad was flawed. My judgment was limited to my ability or inability to get AAs and ABs. The pressure of scoring good grades is known to be an important driving factor for most of us to study. In the process we might end up studying, but not learning upto our full potential. But, it is the moment when you apply the knowledge to come up with an idea and build and create something on your own when you get the satisfaction of having learnt something. This is precisely what happened to me. A project that my friends and I were working on took off. We won prizes galore, were called to different places to present our idea, and eventually landed an amazing internship. Soon I was developing a scoreboard-cum-timer for SlamDunk, Incident '13. Everything began to fall in place slowly but steadily. I may not have scored very high grades in the courses that I took up, but that surely wasn't an indicator of my interest in the courses. I began to enjoy the challenges that came up, looking at each obstacle as a chance to jump higher and reach out to a new level.

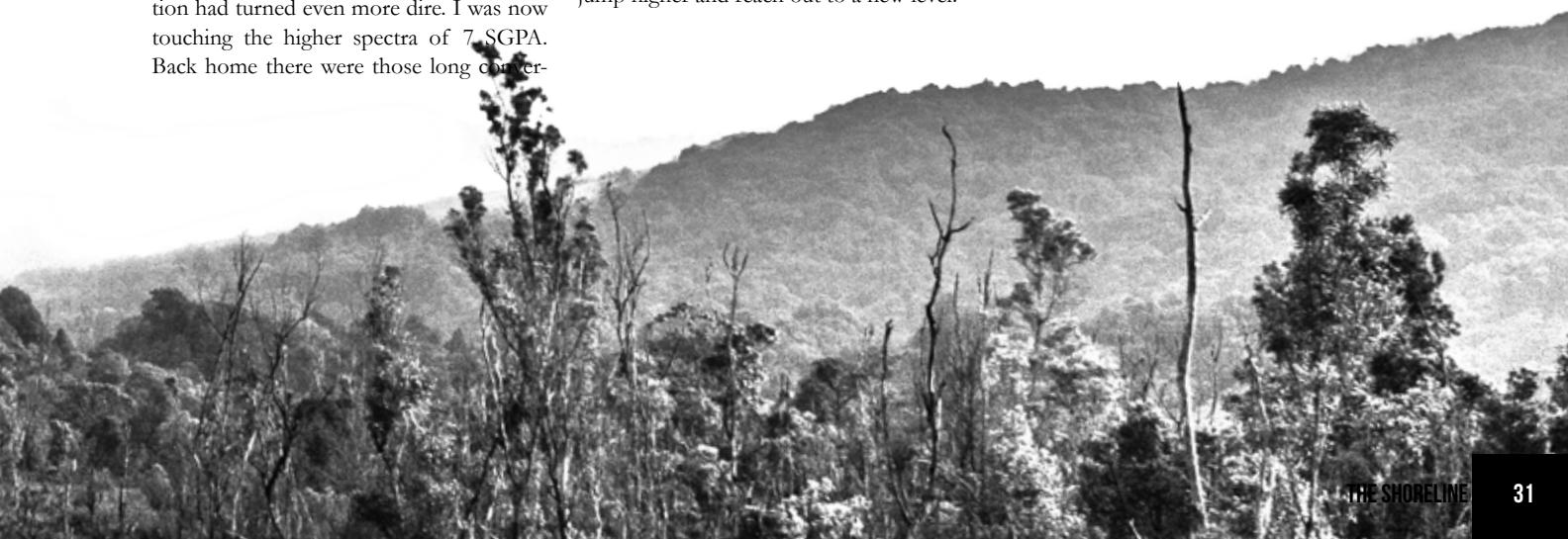
To sum up, my life in EEE had been more or less like a boxing match - I kept getting hit every time I tried to settle down. But I guess that's what set it apart from the rest. In life, it's not always about how hard you can punch but about how hard a punch you can take.

So here's the thing about decisions that we make: as long as everything is going smooth on the path you've taken, it seems to be the right decision. But as and when you face an obstacle, you look back at the time where you had a choice and wonder if the road not taken would've been the better one. Were the decisions that I've made so far, good or bad? I may not know now; maybe someday down the line I'll have an answer. But one thing's for sure, these 4 years of my life have been like a dirty cloth in a washing machine. I've been thrown up and down and round and round, but in the end - I've made it - "cleaner and brighter" than before ●

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

("The Road Not Taken", Robert Frost, 16-20)

Amrutash Nanda is a final year student of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. He loves taking part in competitions and has won many accolades in various national level innovation challenges. He spends his spare time trying out different food outlets, travelling and clicking abstract pictures.



THE BLOCK OF BASIC SCIENCES

By Aparna Bisht

Aparna is a final year student of MSc Physics. Her hobbies are reading and writing. She believes that without a literary temperament one cannot have good scientific creativity.

Welcome to the Basic Sciences Block at NITK! It comprises two units. The entrance to the Department of Physics is from the left door. The right door is the entry for the Department of Chemistry. Voila! Enter through any you reach the same spot. On your left is the pair of elevators that elevates one from the ground level to the top most chemical level (Chemistry Department). Pun intended. The first and second floors belong to the physicists. The building is canopied at the top and on the sides with glass panes. The soaring temperatures sometimes convert it into a huge cauldron. It is mostly peaceful since the science fraternity of scholars like to stay in its peaceful and snug niches.

However there are a few instances of students squeaking. We are a minority in the college. Everybody knows that. It doesn't take more than a month for a science fresher to realize this. When every other department in the college holds informal freshers or department trips, we brood in vain over our chances of holding any of it. When pangs of hunger hit us after futile discussions we head towards OP (Ocean Pearl). Yes we are the closest to it and we can boast about it to others. Another matter of pride for us is the good Wi-Fi connectivity in the department. We are often faced with emotional pleas from undergrad students for letting them know the Wi-Fi password (self satiated smirk).

The department does not offer an undergraduate science course. This is one reason why we are considered passé. Though technically speaking, the first year PG students are counterparts of the final year B.Tech students, we still abstain from all the fun and hide behind the façade of self imposed poise. This is the basic instinct of the basic science students. We never become part of the glitterati since PG studies demand higher level of perseverance. This stays with us forever. I can vouch for the fact that our academicians are the most subtle breed of men. The intellectual, intelligent, knowledgeable and classy folks of the society. You can never judge the material richness of a man of the basic sciences by his outward appeal. Hats off!

On a serious note, the major block of the progress in basic sciences in India is not that we do not get to party often but that the encore for pursuing a technical degree course reverberates exponentially in the society, and this makes our significance even less. Another major hurdle is the dearth of quality institutions that offer advanced courses and doctorate degrees. This results in draining of our talent to foreign lands. There is no technology without science. Hence it needs to be promoted right from the school level.

Our department conducted the INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) program for school students during the semester break in the month of December, 2013. It was aimed to motivate students to pursue basic science courses that may lead to quality research in the country. Being a volunteer I felt a sense of pride and satisfaction by being a part of it. More such programs need to be conducted regularly. When all the other departments in NITK had dispersed for the break, our department turned into a hub of meaningful activity.

Other incentives for students to get into Basic Sciences courses may be to receive a small stipend like the M.Sc students do. Yet another may be to get into several collaborations for research and funding from reputed institutes globally. This will surely be a positive step towards promoting science in our country.

Coming back to our department, you may enter through any door without any preference. Also you may approach the faculty members for 'real' discussions. We, the students, may not be of much use to you but the Wi-Fi password will not be given by any faculty member. So…. (smirk) ●

THE HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE

By Niwesh Koirala

Niwesh is a final year undergraduate student of Civil Engineering. Among his fond memories of NITK, being one of the 'unlucky seven' in his second year probably ranks highest. Niwesh enjoys a game of football and a nice read before bedtime.

It's been four years, and the experience in India has got quirkier every semester. What brought me to India is a hysterical account, but I guess that is a story for another piece. Nevertheless, I guess my quest to experience something new and different really made me travel 2400 miles away from home.

The journey between home and NITK is a story to tell because switching three different trains and riding a mountain road has never been an easy job. But, it's totally worth it if you are looking for some wild adventure over the summer. Pack your backpack and travel north to Nepal: it is listed among the top ten tourist destinations for adventure sports.

Nepal has much to showcase, with one of the longest mountain ranges where you will encounter the world's highest mountain peaks. You get to witness cities with varied cultures. The treks ranging from the plains of Terai, along hills, and ending at the 8848 metre high Mt. Everest to the extreme North, are some of the most beautiful and dangerous in the world. Climate variation is extreme, from 45 ^{o}C in the Terai to one of the coldest regions in the world. Nepal is also home to a range of flora and fauna that you will not encounter anywhere else.

Bungee jumping off a suspension bridge 160m in height and rafting along the most extreme rapids provides a real adrenaline rush! Within three hours of Kathmandu, on the top of a river gorge close to the Tibetan border, you can experience bungee, swing, high ropes and zip line.

Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautama Buddha, is a place of worship for millions of Buddhists. A number of pilgrims visit Nepal for the many places of worship and temples that are there in the country. Pashupatinath Temple is of particular importance to members of the Hindu faith. Interestingly for the past 300 years, the priest of the Pashupatinath Temple has been selected from the Udupi priest community.

If you plan to visit Nepal then the month of May and June would be ideal, unless you want to witness snowfall and experience chilly climate, in which case January-February would be great. Plan your travel well in advance!

Bidai!

From the land of Rivers

By Archis Banerjee

I still remember that queer afternoon when a personnel from the High Commission of India called me and my brother to inform us that we had been granted scholarships to the same institute - NIT Karnataka. I address the afternoon as queer because when I asked him about how long we had to reach the institute and report for admission, the answer that he came up with was - two days. Yes, in two days we had to leave our country, our culture and everything else that goes with it, if we were to accept the scholarship. After a lot of confusion, the decision was finally made - hola NITK! It was one of the top engineering colleges in India, and one of the very few colleges in the world with a beach.

Early Days

We landed at the Mangalore International Airport on the 21st of September, 2010. It was a bright sunny day, and no sooner had we got on the taxi than the driver started chatting happily with us. The funny part was that he was speaking in Kannada and we had absolutely no clue what he was talking about! Nonetheless, his enthusiasm and smiling face was very much appreciated by both of us and in that taxi, I guess for the first time we realized that we are in for quite a culture shock. My first meal on campus was in Samudra Darshini - South Indian thali served with an enchanting view of the Arabian Sea! My brother and I were accommodated in the 7th block - the one with the awesome terrace. We made some very good friends there, ones that we would cherish for the next four years.

Settling In

The first week was a total disaster for me. I did not have the slightest clue about what was going on. On the second day we had a quiz, and after the first week, the mid-semester exams began. "What the heck! I am doomed! I am finished!" were some of the phrases that kept popping up in my mind. I reckon the whole of the first semester was very challenging and difficult not only because I was in a new country, and the culture, weather and food were different, but also due to the major reason that I was two months late in joining the B.Tech program. Nonetheless, the terrace and the friends kept me going and I finished off the first semester and gave myself a huge pat on the back.

By the second semester, things started improving. I got used to the mess food and the teaching style and started appreciating how beautiful South India was. I guess the thing that amused and bamboozled me most in the first year was the cultural diversity of India, and it still continues to do so. People from different states were indeed very different even though they were all from the same country and this fact was really astonishing to me.

Archis is a final year undergraduate student of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. He is a huge fan of Manchester United, and can be found on most days curled up in his room reading a book

Bangladesh: My Home

As my friends and I started roaming around, I found out that this particular region of India is a lot like Bangladesh. Why? Because of the greenery! When one goes to places like Gokarna, Goa and Madikeri, one starts to really appreciate the natural beauty that this region has been gifted with. It's green, green, green and green all around, like Bangladesh! It's all about nature putting on the color green in Bangladesh. Located on the fertile Bengal delta, Bangladesh has an amazing rainy season and a not-so-intense winter. Being a small country with huge potential, Bangladesh has a culture that encompasses the elements of both new and old. With amazing food and great places to see, it has everything - the biggest mangrove forest in the world, a 120 km long beach, hill tracts and what not! Although the country is overpopulated, has a low literacy rate and has gone through phases of huge political tension, it does not stop its people from being cordial, good-hearted and hospitable.

Packing My Bags

Time passed by in a whirl. Soon I got used to the culture, food and weather to some extent. There have obviously been highs and lows during this time at NITK, and all of these experiences have been exciting and amazing. Living in India is an adventure in itself. The institute has great fests and Mangalore is a city that one can most certainly fall in love with.

Can four years of highs and lows be summarized in one article? No, but writing this article did make me remember all those eventful days. Not all of them were exciting and fun but those days were certainly well spent with the Indians, the Nepalese, the Maldivians, the Africans and so many others. And India, as a country, has undoubtedly been very kind to me, and these four years in NITK have been well spent ●

Maldives

To NITK

By Ibrahim Zaid

Maldives is an independent nation with a group of 1200 islands lying in the Indian Ocean south-west of India. It's the smallest Asian Country with a land area of 298 km^2. The population is around 3.2 lakhs and we speak Dhivehi. Those are the answers to the usual questions I have been asked over the past few years.

Now to tell you a little bit of history, the first people who inhabited Maldives arrived from Kalibanga in India. Next came tribes from Mahrast (present day Maharashtra and Gujrat) in India. Over the years we were ruled by Portuguese, the Dutch and the British. We became an independent country on 26th July 1965.

Maldives has been in the news lately, mainly because of environmental concerns. It is the country with the lowest natural highest point in the world (2.4m above sea level), so every time you talk about global warming, melting of polar ice-caps, sea level rising, "Maldives" is at the tip of your tongue. Once a cabinet meeting was held underwater, to show the world how important it is to tackle climate change.

Our economy is mainly dependent on tourism: it accounts for 28% of the GDP and more than 60% of Maldives' foreign exchange receipts. Last year more than 12 lakh tourists visited, which is nearly 4 times the population of Maldives. Tourists are mostly interested in the natural beauty of the country - it's famous for the crystal clear waters, white sandy beaches and also known around the world as one of the best scuba diving spots.

The Road to NITK Surathkal

After completing Edexcel GCE A/L exams (board exam after 12th standard), I was applying for scholarships abroad for higher studies. Later I applied for jobs, worked at Housing Development Corporation followed by Department of Immigration & Emigration. After 3 years I received a letter from the Indian Center for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to Study Civil Engineering at NITK.

To tell you about my experience at NITK, my first impression was good after staying at the guest house. I expected a room like that at the hostels, but later when I moved to my hostel room, everything changed. It was really tough, neither did I like the food, nor the hostel. The culture was totally new to me, the language was a problem and finally, it all happened to be in Surathkal. It was the most challenging year of my life!

Fun Times?

Friends were the best part of the NITK life. Long chats, card games, sports, hotel meals became part of daily activities. Trips to nearby places such as Kudremurk, Coorg, Wayanard, Saint Mary's Island, Dandeli are some of the most cherished memories. There were numerous new experiences along the way, namely dogs, elephants, mountains, railways, empty stretches of land, the concept of "seniority" and vegetarian food (even our dal contains tuna!).

Last few lines…

Truth being said, without companions the NITK experience would have been incomplete. The past 4 years have been a joyous experience, especially with the new acquaintances made. But as all good things come to an end, and we gear up for our "real" life, I can say with confidence that NITK will always count as a memorable journey for each and every Final Year.

Signing off in Maldivian style, *Kendy Ye.*

Ibrahim Zaid is a final year student of Civil Engineering. He is a member of the institute's swimming team and enjoys tuna with maggi.

THE AFRICAN SAFARI

From the Kingdom of Swaziland

By Siyabonga Menon

Siyabonga Menon is a third year student at NITK, who hails from the Kingdom of Swaziland in Southern Africa. He can adapt to any situation,and constantly transforms obstacles into stepping stones for achievement.

I first learnt about NITK after I received my letter of acceptance. I immediately googled the acronym, and there were thousands of search results - a private beach, five-star hostel facilities, an Olympic sized swimming pool, and the top NIT in India. What more could I have asked for? Having had little prior knowledge about India, let alone NITK, it was surreal for me at the time, and I had mixed feelings over how my new life would pan out. I tried my best to keep calm and not expect too much.

I first landed at Mangalore International Airport on the 26th of July 2011 on a rainy monsoon day. On arrival, an immigration officer at the gate stamped my passport and asked me what the purpose of my visit was. "Study", I said. He gave me another stern look and asked me where I would be studying. I pulled out a letter from the Indian Council of Cultural Relations that explained that I was a foreign student from the Kingdom Of Swaziland who would be studying on scholarship at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka. His face immediately lit up; he shook his head with a smile, and quickly stamped my passport. He was even nice enough to show me where I could take a taxi.

When I reached the taxi stand, it was raining heavily and I had no umbrella. So, the driver helped me quickly load my luggage into the trunk; he asked me where I would be studying. "NITK" I replied. He too shook his head and said "Super!" Throughout the journey to NITK, the driver would not stop talking about the college. At one point, I even remember asking myself how much NITK had paid him to market the college to his clients!

Upon arrival at NITK, I reported to the Dean of Academics, at the time a very stern and powerful looking man, who explained to me the registration procedure, and made it clear to me that I was no different from any other student in the college and I should follow all rules and instructions and not expect any special treatment. At the time, it really helped establish my perception of the reputation of the college as one which was impartial and unbiased when it came to academics and student welfare.

The first two weeks of the physics cycle passed by in a whirl, and I still hadn't come to terms with the new environment. I was totally culture shocked, depressed, and I complained about everything. Soon after, we were buried under mountains of work, tests, and mid semester exams. I had met so many new people, and made so many new friends, some of whom really gave me hope and showed me a different side to each situation I was faced with.

Of the many challenges that I had faced in my first year, perhaps the biggest was that of eating vegetarian food. Coming from a traditional Zulu background where any meal served to a guest without meat is an insult, I had only two choices - I either had to eat all my meals in restaurants outside the college, or I had to stop expecting to be treated like a guest. And as the saying goes "when in Rome, do as the Romans do", the obvious and more economically efficient choice was the latter, so I lived just like any other NITKian.

By the second semester, life had become much better. I stopped complaining so much, and started trying to understand why certain things in in India are done in a certain way. Feeling more comfortable in my new environment, I grew a sense of control over my thoughts and feelings, and it was life changing. I had learnt so much of the South Indian culture, and developed a mindset of tolerance and appreciation for the vast diversity in culture and religion and the way of life of the common Indian.

Three years down the line, now I'm in my sixth semester, and I am still overwhelmed by the positive and exciting experiences which continue to mould me, not to mention the immense hospitality and respect which is shown to me in a place so far from home. Why has India been so good to me? Maybe I'm just lucky, or maybe I've been looking at India differently to get a very different treatment for myself.

Do people stare at me a lot in India? Yes they do, and it doesn't really bother me. I'm sure they stare at other travelers with the same curiosity. After all, isn't it a natural reaction to stare at something which is considered exotic?

Can I generalize my overall experience of India? No, I most definitely cannot, and I don't think I'll ever be able to. No one's experience of India can be generalized. After all, India is home to a sixth of humanity, and thus every foreigner only gets to interact with a small fraction of people. All I can say is I've had some good experiences, and some bad experiences, but I can confidently say the good ones far outnumber the bad ●

QUANTUM GRAVITY FOR DUMMIES

By Dr. Deepak Vaid

Dr. Deepak Vaid is an assistant professor in the Physics department at NITK. He completed his PhD from Pennsylvania State University in 2012. Dr. Vaid tries to do research when not teaching B. Tech. students things that they don't care about and will never use in their lives. He enjoys long walks, ice-cream and long naps.

Abstract

I have been asked to write a brief, gentle introduction to the basic idea behind the field of "quantum gravity" in 1500 words or less. Doing so appears to be almost as great a challenge as coming up with a consistent theory of quantum gravity. However, I will try.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are my own and do not represent the consensus of the quantum gravity community.

Semantics

To get some idea of quantum gravity it is helpful to look at the meaning of those two words separately. The word "quantum" refers to the theory of quantum mechanics, which was developed in the 20th, century and which incorporates various seemingly paradoxical properties of light and matter such as wave-particle duality, the uncertainty principle, and the probabilistic nature of measurements into a coherent theoretical framework. Quantum Mechanics undergirds the basic technological framework of the world we live in. Without quantum mechanics we would not understand how semiconductors work and without semiconductors we would not be able to build the integrated circuits that power most modern electronic devices. Without QM we would not have NMR machines, CT scans, electron microscopes, superconductors or superfluids. Many of the theoretical implications of quantum mechanics have been realized outside the laboratory and are embedded in the numerous layers of technology that surround us. Many more of its implications - quantum computation and teleportation for example - are still in the laboratory, not yet mature enough to venture out into the real world.

The word "gravity" refers not to Newton's theory of gravitation, but to Einstein's theory of general relativity which superseded the Newtonian conception of gravity. In the Newtonian framework, gravity was thought of as a force which acted between any two massive bodies in a manner given by the well-known formula: $F=Gm_1m_2/r^2$. By 1905 the Newtonian concept of motion, grounded in the postulates of absolute time and absolute space, had dissolved to give way to the relativistic approach developed by Einstein. This new framework was called the theory of "Special Relativity". The word "Special" here stands for the fact that this theory is restricted to describing the behaviour of bodies in inertial frames of reference - i.e. those that are non-accelerating. Lifting this restriction, involves a generalization of the theoretical framework to allow a description of motion in both inertial (non-accelerating) and non-inertial (accelerating) frames of reference. This is the origin of the prefix "General" in the term "General Relativity". GR is, simply speaking, the extension of the special theory from inertial observers to arbitrary observers (or frames of reference).

Einstein's great insight was the realization that physics in a uniformly accelerating frame of reference is indistinguishable from physics in a constant gravitational field such as that experienced by observers close to the surface of the earth. This allowed him to construct a theory which described gravitation, not as a force acting between massive bodies, but as the manifestation of the geometry of the spacetime surrounding any given configuration of matter. Special Relativity had abolished the notion of an "absolute space" or "absolute time" in which all bodies executed their motions, in exchange for a framework where only the relative motion between two bodies was relevant. General Relativity went even further and proclaimed that the fabric of geometry in which all matter is embedded is distorted by the presence of matter and that this distortion is what is perceived by us to be the "force" of gravity. The implications of this new understanding are vast and were only gradually discovered. Two of the new phenomena that were possible in General Relativity (and of whose existence reliable observational evidence exists) were black holes - regions of spacetime where the concentration of matter is great enough that even light cannot escape (Stephen Hawking's recent sensational pronouncement notwithstanding), and the Big Bang - the primordial origin of the Universe itself.

Unifying Perspective

The primary guiding philosophy in the development of physics over the past two centuries has been the idea of unification. James Clerk Maxwell unified the theories of Faraday, Ampere and others about the electric and magnetic properties of matter into a single framework known as "Electromagnetism". Maxwell's theory, among other achievements, predicted the existence of oscillations of electromagnetic fields whose predicted speed matched the speed of light, leading to the identification of light with waves of the electromagnetic field. Einstein's theory of Special Relativity served to reconcile Maxwell's theory of the electromagnetic field with the motions of material bodies.

In its infancy Quantum Mechanics was a brand new science, born out of the failures of classical physics. The initial, crude identification of electromagnetic fields with quantum mechanical entities known as photons, led, in the decades between WWI and WWII, to the development of Quantum Electrodynamics (QED) which provides a unified description of electromagnetic fields in a fully

quantum setting. Following WWII, rapid discoveries of a whole zoo of new elementary particles led theorists to postulate the existence of two more forces of nature - in addition to the already known electromagnetic and gravitational forces - known as the "weak" and "strong" forces. Theoretical work by giants of 20th century physics, such as Feynman, Gell-Mann and Gerard 't Hooft among many others, led to a unified description of the weak force and electromagnetism in a framework known as the "electroweak" theory. This process culminated in the last quarter of the 20th century with the establishment of the Standard Model of particle physics which provides a unified - albeit, in some ways flawed - description of the weak, strong and electromagnetic forces as excitations of the quantum mechanical "vacuum". Gravity, however, remains outside the grasp of such unified frameworks. Consequently we are left in the awkward situation where the most complete formulation of physical law must be written in the form: Standard Model + Gravity.

Superpositions of Geometry

The challenge in unifying gravity with quantum mechanics can be understood in the following way. The central feature of quantum mechanics is the principle of superposition; that the wavefunctions which describe two different particles or systems can overlap. Consequently two systems described by two different wavefunctions $\Psi_1(x,t)$ and $\Psi_2(x,t)$ can instead be treated as a single composite system with wavefunction $\Psi(x,t) = \Psi_1(x,t) + \Psi_2(x,t)$ Wavefunctions are just that - functions - and must therefore be defined on some set. In quantum mechanics the set is taken to be the co-ordinates (x,t) of the spacetime our system is embedded in. So we can always write down what the wavefunction of a particle passing through two slits at the same time must look like. Similarly we can write down the superposition of two particles in terms of their momenta, rather than their position, by working in the (p,t) basis instead of the (x,t) basis with the momenta p being related to the position x by the usual fourier transform:

$$\Psi(p,t) \sim \int dx\, e^{ipx} \Psi(x,t)$$

Regardless of whether we work in the position basis or the momentum basis, there is an implicit assumption at work in this prescription - the assumption of a flat background geometry for which we can assign a set of co-ordinates (x,y,z,t) to each point of the spacetime.

Now, General Relativity teaches us that physics should be independent of the particular co-ordinates used to describe a system. Moreover, any theory which is consistent with GR must also be well-defined both on curved space as on flat space. It turns out that while we can perform quantum mechanical calculations to our heart's content with wavefunctions defined on flat space, the case of wavefunctions living on curved space becomes tricky. The complications associated with spacetime curvature can be dealt with by resorting to sufficiently sophisticated mathematical methods. The resulting framework is known as Quantum Field Theory on Curved Spacetime (QFT-CS) – not a terribly memorable phrase. It was by using the methods of QFT-CS that Stephen Hawking obtained his historic result that a black hole must emit thermal radiation at a rate inversely proportional to its mass. However, even QFT-CS does not qualify as a theory of "quantum gravity", as explained next.

Quantum Mechanics is about assigning various attributes to a system and then constructing states of the system corresponding to each attribute. These states can be superimposed and the resulting system will manifest all non-intuitive phenomena associated with quantum behaviour such as interference and entanglement. As mentioned previously, gravity in the modern conception arises from the non-trivial geometry of a region of spacetime induced by some distribution of matter. Some of the geometric attributes that one can assign to a given region of spacetime are length, area, volume, angles etc. A theory of quantum gravity should be able to tell us how to write down the wavefunction, not defined on a given region of spacetime, but a wavefunction of a given region of spacetime, allowing us to construct states which correspond to superpositions of different geometries. However, as mentioned previously traditional quantum mechanics tells us only how to write down the wavefunction on a given geometry rather than of a given geometry. The traditional language of quantum mechanics is thus insufficient to describe quantum states of geometry.

For the same reasons QFT-CS is also not a theory of "quantum gravity". There the curved spacetime merely serves as an arena on which quantum states can be defined, but there is no notion of states of the geometry itself, rather than of the matter which moves about on that geometry.

New Paradigms

At present there are several approaches towards tackling the open question of writing quantum states of geometry. These include String Theory, Loop Quantum Gravity and Causal Dynamical Triangulations among others. Most laypersons with an interest in science have heard of String Theory, simply because it is the oldest of these approaches and thus also the most widely taught and practiced. LQG was born about a decade after String Theory and has only recently reached a level of maturity and acceptability as a valid physical theory. It would take us far afield to go into details - even at a non-technical level - of these approaches and their similarities and differences. I will try to briefly summarize the two approaches and the basic idea behind each one.

The idea behind String Theory is that instead of a description of fundamental particles as point-like objects we should switch to a picture where the basic entities are extended one-dimensional objects called strings. These strings move and interact in some background spacetime. Requirements of physical and theoretical consistency restrict the number of dimensions of the spacetime in which strings can live to 26, 11 and 10 depending on the particular characteristics - fermionic, bosonic, open and closed - we choose to endow the strings with. The excitations of a string happen to include a part which can be identified with gravitons - which are excitations of the background geometry the string is propagating in. Though gravitons are often thought of as the quanta of the gravitational field, in the same way that photons are quanta of the electromagnetic field, this belief is only partially correct.
As mentioned in previous sections, the gravitational field is characterized by geometric attributes such as lengths, areas and volumes. Therefore, quanta of the gravitational field should correspond to quantized lengths, areas and volumes, in the same way that a quantum of the electromagnetic field corresponds to a quantized amount of energy given by Planck's relationship between the energy of a photon and its frequency, E=hv. However, the graviton picture does not predict any such relations - such as the area of a given region of spacetime and the frequency of a gravitational wave which passes through that region - between any fundamental geometric quantities and so cannot be said to provide a picture of quantum geometry. Moreover, gravitons are perturbations of the background spacetime which is, by default,

“ We cannot even begin to fathom what riches an understanding of the properties of geometry and matter, under the umbrella of a theory of quantum gravity, will bring to our society and to the world at large ”

presumed to be smooth and continuous. As such studying gravitons is analogous to studying the behaviour of perturbations of a body of fluid. Studying the perturbations of a fluid will give us the theory of waves but will not inform us of the nature of the molecules and atoms which constitute the fluid. Similarly a study of gravitons allows us to study perturbations of the gravitational field but does not give us any indication of the “molecules” and “atoms” from whose combinations the geometry - and therefore the gravitational field - arises.

LQG advocates a different perspective. From the very beginning[1] the notion of a smooth, continuous background geometry is abandoned in favour of a discrete geometry which is built out of elementary objects known as “simplices” - which is a complicated term for elementary geometric objects such as triangles and tetrahedra. In much the same way that Lego blocks can be glued together to build complicated structures, a collection of triangles or tetrahedra can be assembled to build a two-dimensional or three-dimensional geometry respectively. LQG allows us to calculate the quantized values of geometric attributes associated with these simplices. It provides us with a framework for studying quanta of geometry - in the true sense of the phrase - and to construct superpositions of different states of geometry. However, there remain many shortcomings in the LQG approach. Two significant obstacles are a) the lack of a grasp on how we can obtain an (approximately) smooth, continuous spacetime by gluing together our elementary simplices and b) a lack of understanding of how matter - particles such as electrons and neutrinos - should be described in terms of quanta of geometry.

In Search of A New Unification

String Theory and LQG each have their own strengths and weaknesses. String Theory provides us with a description of matter in terms of extended stringy objects but does not address the question of the smoothness, or lack thereof, of spacetime. LQG provides us with a description of spacetime as being built out of “atoms” or quanta of geometry but does not tackle the question of describing the degrees of freedom of matter. Whatever form the final theory of quantum gravity takes, it is my personal belief[2] that it will incorporate elements of both String Theory and LQG. Such a framework is not yet upon us, though we can see glimmerings of its final shape. Moreover, a complete understanding will certainly not be obtained by resorting only to those insights gained from research in high energy physics and ignoring the insights in other fields of physics such as the study of many body phenomena (known as “condensed matter physics”) or the field of quantum computation.

Whatever the form the final description does take, we are guaranteed a bonanza of new theoretical and experimental revelations in pursuit of the final theory. Apart from the sheer thrill of taking part in and completing the most recent stage of humanity’s continuing quest to understand the inner workings of the Universe, there are also huge practical advantages to be gained from a complete and self-consistent theory of quantum gravity. When Newton developed his Laws of Motion and Gravity, did anyone foresee the technological developments which those laws would undergird over the course of the next three centuries? When Einstein developed relativity, both Special and General, did anyone foresee the myriad uses his breakthroughs would have in products such as GPS, graphene transistors and optical communications; not to mention the understanding we gained of less earthly phenomena such as the Big Bang and black holes? Similarly, we cannot even begin to fathom what riches an understanding of the properties of geometry and matter, under the umbrella of a theory of quantum gravity, will bring to our society and to the world at large.

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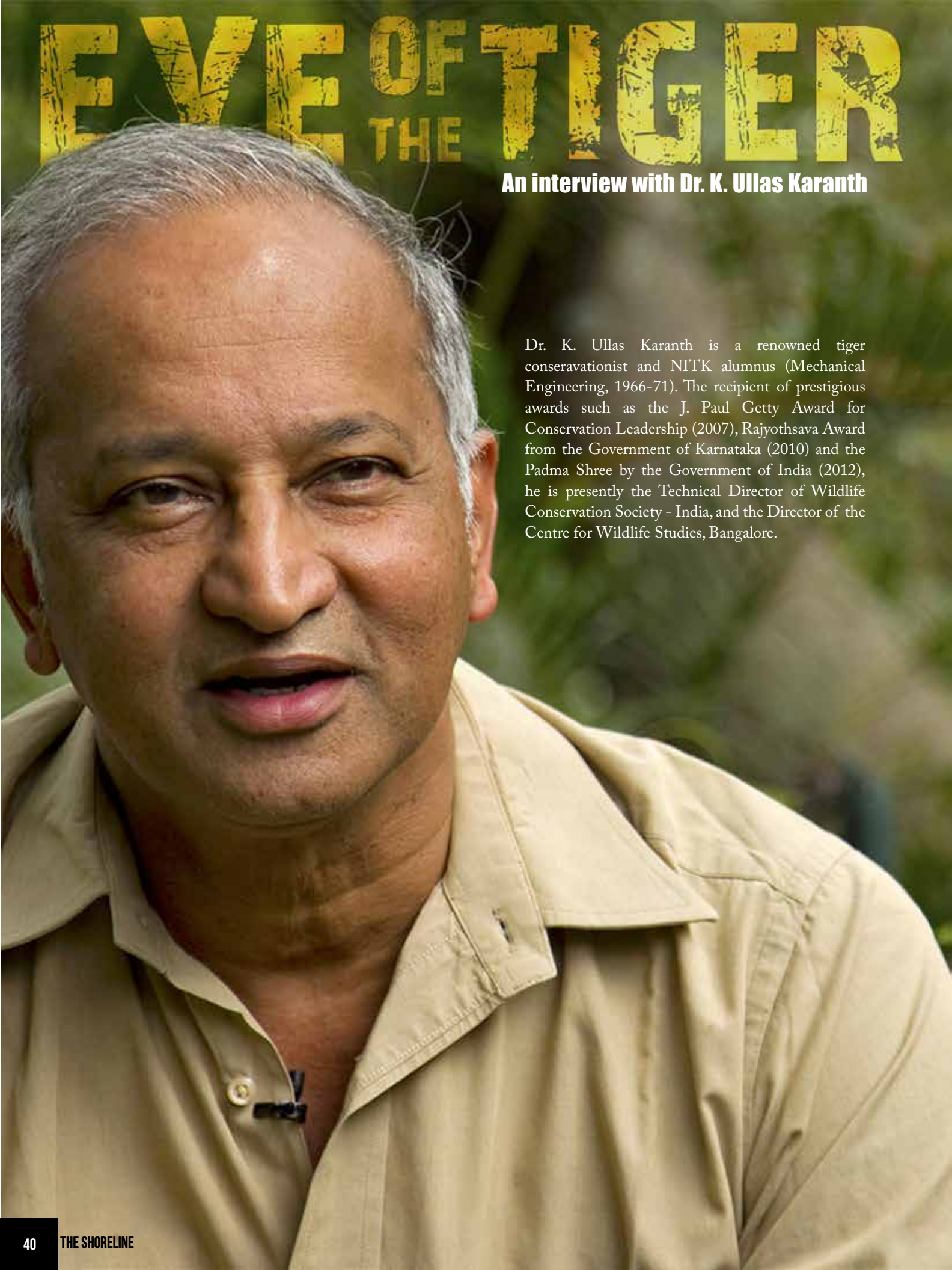
Humanity has only just begun to venture out of the dark ages. Laptops, MP3 players, fission, fusion and interplanetary (unmanned and soon enough, manned) missions only provide a glimpse of the wonders we are yet to uncover by harnessing those forces of Nature which as yet remain out of our grasp. The possibilities that lie ahead are truly ... limitless ●

[1] This statement is not quite accurate. A new avenue to approaching the problem of quantizing the gravitational field opened up after the introduction of the “new variables” by Abhay Ashtekar in 1987-88. It was only over the course of the next several years that work by Carlo Rovelli and Lee Smolin (among others) showed that following through with the quantization procedure in the new framework necessarily implied the existence of a discrete, quantized geometry at the Planck scale.

[2] And my personal belief is certainly not to be taken to be representative of what others in the research community might feel.

EYE OF THE TIGER

An interview with Dr. K. Ullas Karanth



Dr. K. Ullas Karanth is a renowned tiger conseravationist and NITK alumnus (Mechanical Engineering, 1966-71). The recipient of prestigious awards such as the J. Paul Getty Award for Conservation Leadership (2007), Rajyothsava Award from the Government of Karnataka (2010) and the Padma Shree by the Government of India (2012), he is presently the Technical Director of Wildlife Conservation Society - India, and the Director of the Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore.

"WILDLIFE WAS MY FIRST LOVE AND I NEVER LOST THAT FOCUS"

One of the most eminent alumni to be associated with this institute, Dr. Ullas Karanth's career stands testament to his dedication to and passion for the field of wildlife conservation. It is important to acknowledge the influence of such a personality on the bright young minds which will shape the course of this nation's future. In this interview, Dr. Karanth highlights the trajectory that his career followed since he graduated from KREC in '71, the achievements of wildlife conservation in India and the roadblocks faced by pioneers in this field.

Dr. Karanth, having obtained a degree in engineering, what inspired you to take up zoology? How was the transformation from engineering to wildlife conservation?

Although I joined Engineering in 1965 out of a compulsion of eventually finding a job, wildlife was my first love and I never lost that focus. I read a lot about nature, and visited Nagarahole, Kudremukh, Bandipur and other Western Ghat areas even back then. However, the transformation to being a professional wildlife biologist took its own time. For three years, I was a process planning engineer in Bosch (1971-73); the next two years, I worked as a sales engineer for farm equipment (1974-1976); then I took up farming and cultivated tobacco for eight years (1977-1985). Parallelly, I was studying natural history and targeting being formally trained as a wildlife biologist at the University of Florida. Finally at the age of 36, I made a complete career switch!

There are a lot of endangered animals in India. What made you specialize in tigers?

I was always fascinated by big cats. Tigers are wide ranging predators, and when you take steps to conserve their habitats and recover their populations, you end up saving all the other species that share the same habitats, including elephants, other predators such as dholes and leopards and thousands of other species of plants and animals. Tigers are therefore considered an umbrella species that shelter a lot of other endangered forms of biodiversity. Furthermore, the tiger's popularity and charisma make it a very useful icon to elicit concern for conservation from society, which may not respond as enthusiastically to less charismatic species.

What exactly does the dwindling tiger population mean to a particular ecosystem? Which species are affected and how?

Natural wild areas with their full complement of intact species assemblies were once thought to be a needless luxury and a hindrance to economic progress. Now we know better. Loss of biodiversity and species deprives us of potentially valuable unexplored future sources of energy, fibres, foods and medicines and 'engineering' designs. It also robs us of ecosystem services; the role of natural forests and wetlands in making the earth habitable to humans has become critical in the face of global warming. So the loss of apex predators such as tigers, and their species assemblies is a symptom of loss of intact wild nature (now restricted to less than 5% of land surface), and is a part of our wider struggle to save the remnants of wild nature. After all, tigers on their own can be saved in zoos. The challenge is to save their functioning wild populations that represent a lot more including the other animals and plants that share tiger habitats.

What ethical issues, if any, may be associated with the introduction of technology into wildlife conservation? In particular, has technology ever been slow to be implemented because it may aid poachers or miscreants?

I do not see technology as alien and contradictory to wildlife conservation. Yes, inventions such as steel, guns, and vehicles have increased our capacity to destroy wildlife; but the same technologies also have enabled us to defend and protect wildlife. Modern day wildlife research has benefited immensely from tools such as radio-telemetry, automated cameras, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), quantitative analytics, conservation genetics etc. It all depends on how wisely we use these technologies.

In a broader sense, with the earth's population set to reach 9 billion in a few years, and given the goal of improving health and living standards for all these people, the idea that you can save what remains of nature and natural areas by rejecting modern technological progress is absurd. Only the wise and increasing use of science and technology to meet human needs – and thus reduce the pressures they generate on natural areas – can help us save nature in the future. I am a technology optimist in this regard.

The cheetah reintroduction project and Asiatic lion relocation project are currently shelved. Do you think we can effectively implement these projects when we are struggling to save our national animal? In other words, do these projects compete for resources with tiger conservation?

These are two different projects. As far as creating a few more Asian lion populations in North and Central India by translocating some individuals from Gujarat is concerned, it is absolutely foolish not to do this considering the environmental catastrophes and disease that the Gir lion populations are potentially at risk from. It is sad that misguided public opinion and local pride stand in the way of hedging such risks by creating alternative populations for Asiatic lions from Gir (and Indian rhinos from Assam). Conservationists have failed to make their case and politicians are not helping either.

The cheetah case is different. The cheetah was a low density, fragile species at the edge of its range when it got wiped out in the 1950's. Unlike tigers and lions, which can attain densities of 15 animals or more per 100 sq km in good habitat with lots of prey, and reproduce prolifically, cheetahs live at densities that are a tenth of this, at the best of times. Of all cheetahs born in the best of habitats only 5% reach a reproductive stage. They are dominated by big cats, hyenas, large canids and domestic dogs. To really reintroduce cheetahs and

recover a viable wild population, we need thousands of square kilometres of habitat without human settlements, livestock and domestic dogs – as well as a high density of natural prey. It is not realistically feasible to establish this at this time. The current plans developed for the reintroduction of a handful of cheetahs are scientifically unsound and driven by the egos of a few individuals. I am glad that these plans have been shelved. On the last point, I do not believe tiger conservation should override the conservation of other umbrella species representing other ecosystems. This entire thing of tigers versus other species is a phony debate of the kind our shrill TV anchors like.

You once said you were disheartened by colleges and institutes starting Wildlife Studies departments just for the sake of doing so. But we've heard that your MSc course on Wildlife Biology and Conservation at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore is an exception. How has the course shaped up, since its inception? How has it been received by the students? Has it been living up to your expectations?

The course you mention is a joint effort of my organization Wildlife Conservation Society (www.wcsindia.org) and the National Centre for Biological Sciences at TIFR. It is open to bachelors degree holders in all disciplines, and has produced 60 students so far, many of whom are doing very well. Interestingly, about 25% of our students come from engineering and related backgrounds. When I see them, I think of myself 50 years ago!

Could you please elaborate on the scope of wildlife conservation, stressing on it being a long-term career?

"Only the wise and increasing use of science and technology to meet human needs can help us save nature in the future"

I would not advise it as a full time career unless you are passionately interested and enjoy it almost to the exclusion of all else. Compared to many other fields, career opportunities are limited and remuneration is lower. Although this is changing, I do not see a huge expansion of the kind that I see in fields like engineering, medicine etc. Typically one can become an academic researcher, join a conservation NGO, or join the Forest Service via the UPSC route. The last option I believe has not been used more widely, but I feel there will be a huge impact in the field if more trained wildlife biologists become wildlife managers.

How does India rank on a global scale when it comes to preservation of our bio-diversity?

A difficult question, as I am not familiar with the conservation details of all countries. Within the Asian region however, I would rate India at the top, as we have relatively better laws, government commitment and budgetary support, public support and active conservation advocacy including litigation, which are all essential elements of good wildlife conservation. We are far ahead of China, for example. I would rank Thailand next to India.

In one of your earlier interviews, you had stressed on retaining our qualified wildlife scientists and attracting them back into the country. What solution do you suggest for the same?

The key is to create sufficient well paid careers both as managers and researchers, remove the present oppressive control over research opportunities by the Forest Departments and create a lateral entry opportunity for highly trained wildlife scientists into government ministries at various levels as 'technocrats with real knowledge'. Today most 'wildlife experts' in India are retired officials, TV anchors, photographers and socially connected folks. While all their involvement is good for conservation, it is not a substitute for real technical knowledge of wildlife issues and solutions to problems.

More Indians know Steve Irwin than Mike Pandey. Why is awareness about the Indian conservation effort so low?

Mike is a good film maker, but in my opinion not a great conservationist on the ground – regardless of what you see on TV. Irwin, of course, symbolizes the horrible new TV format of grabbing eyeballs of channel surfers with all sorts of antics. This TV trend has nothing to do with conservation and has completely displaced real conservation issues from TV, leading to the serious problem you point out. How can an interested layperson assess who is doing

real conservation if there is room only for such silly stuff on mainstream TV? Please see the film Truth About Tigers by Shekar Dattatri (it is on the portal Conservation India - www.conservationindia.org - and on YouTube). These are the kinds of films we need to make if people are to be really educated as to what wildlife conservation is.

A lot of activists face the problem of their work being considered completely irrelevant by some ignorant people. What is your reaction to them?

One has to keep on struggling and not be discouraged. I faced this situation when a group of us fought a long legal case to shut down the disastrous iron ore mine in Kudremukh, and when I did the first ever telemetry study of tigers in India way back in 1990. Sometimes if the opposition is based on a genuine misunderstanding one can change attitudes, but often the opposition is rooted in strong economic interests and then nothing will induce change.

What can students like us do to help save tigers? We find it difficult to believe that sharing photos or Facebook statuses can help to save a real tiger.

In what way would you like the younger generation to resist the political interference on issues concerning conversion of forest into revenue lands?

I agree with you that posting stuff on the internet has limited value compared to writing for the print media in regional languages, which has some impact. However, influencing decision makers such as officials, elected representatives at various levels, industry leaders etc., can be done by anyone with sufficient knowledge, access and commitment of time. Filing court cases is a very good way if one has the time and energy. Right To Information law is a powerful new tool for such advocacy.

As engineers you will all have a tremendous influence on how this country's industry and commerce will be run in the future. The challenge for you is to maintain the conviction that nature needs to be saved, and practice it in your working lives. I am actually very sad that many of my NITK contemporaries who now hold high positions in society as engineers, businessmen, bankers etc have shown scarce interest in saving nature and have done very little that is useful or visible. I hope your generation of NITK engineers will have a broader vision, and look beyond wealth and status as the sole yardsticks of success in life.

We are extremely grateful to you for spending so much of your time for us and answering every question in such detail and depth. In conclusion, do you have anything to say to us, the students of NITK?

I hope you will first fully educate yourself about real challenges of nature conservation and about the new opportunities to promote conservation that are emerging. I believe economic development and technological progress pose not only major problems and challenges for conservation as is well-recognized, but they also provide huge opportunities for reducing pressures on wild nature, while improving human welfare. As engineers and technocrats you all have a huge role to play in reconciling development with conservation. The "engineering" you find in wild nature on earth is several million years old and very complex. Let us engineers not lose its precious blue-prints in our quest for the new tools we are inventing. Your engineering education provides you with clear, logical, rational paths to approach problems of any kind. I hope you will also apply them to save what remains of wild nature

ON A GLOBAL

Aravind Melligeri

Aravind Melligeri is co-founder and Board Member of QuEST Global. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Karnataka Regional Engineering College. He subsequently obtained a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University. Aravind has been conferred with the National Institute of Technology Karnataka Alumni Excellence award.

Dr. Ajay Prabhu

Dr. Ajay Prabhu is the COO of QuEST Global. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from the Karnataka Regional Engineering College. He went on to complete his MS & Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts in the USA. Ajay's research work on very high frequency amplifiers was recognized with an award from the IEEE Microwave Society Fellowship and he holds two US Patents.

QUEST

An Interview with Aravind Melligeri and Ajay Prabhu

Could you please take a walk down the KREC memory lane for us?

Ajay Prabhu: I almost did not make it to KREC. I was interested in being an E&C engineer (inspired by my uncle who was an E&C engineer). The few E&C seats were gone in seconds. I walked out of the admissions room and luckily for me, a 'senior' sitting outside the admissions room asked me, "Which branch did you get?" and added, "Take whatever branch, and after the first year you get a chance to switch the branch." I took Metallurgy and switched to E&C after the first year. I have fond memories of Dr. Subbanna Bhat, who was an excellent lecturer. I was one of the few (possibly the only one) students to love the Electromagnetics course! Dr. Govardhan Reddy went out of his way to offer the Microwave Engineering elective that I lobbied hard for. I had to gather a minimum of 10 students for the University to offer the elective. I succeeded. I went on to pursue my PhD in this esoteric field.

Aravind Melligeri: The four years at KREC were some of the best times of my life, beginning with hazing (aka ragging), which we considered a crucial part of building relationships with seniors and understanding the challenges that lay ahead in our journey. In today's business parlance, they were our advisors to succeed in the college (the first three months were essentially our fees that we would pay today for an advisor if we were entering a new business). If I remember correctly, I finished four years of engineering without spending a dime to buy books, as we built relationships with our seniors who would hand over books and notes, lock, stock and barrel to us.

In terms of faculty, Prof. Appukuttan was the friendliest, most devoted and knowledgeable teacher I have seen. He saw his students as friends and would go above and beyond to help them succeed in the goals they set out for.

AP: Aravind and I grew up together in Hubli in North Karnataka. We went to the same KBS-16 (Kannada Boys School) from 1st to 7th grade. Aravind is my best friend from childhood. At KREC, this friendship got a lot stronger. In the 2nd year of engineering, there was a revolution in campus where non-locos took over the student union. Aravind was my campaign manager. Throughout the four years, Aravind was my finance manager. He would remember how much money I owed and to whom! He is excellent with numbers. When we went to the US for MS in 1990, India

was in a desperate shortage of foreign exchange. I got a paltry $20 in my pocket before getting on the plane. Aravind had $500 waiting for me – amazing! I may have never thanked Aravind for it. It meant a lot to get started in the US.

AM: In the second year we were the first to challenge the day-scholars in the student body elections by fielding and supporting non-local candidates and taking control of the student body. Unfortunately it was painful for us to do fund-raising for any of our annual cultural events without local support and [we] ended up carrying out low key annual events. This change started providing an opportunity in the future years for a more balanced student body of local and outside students.
Some of my other fond memories of KREC include the ice-cream tasting trips to Shetty ice cream factory as Mess Manager. Butter chicken with Kerala parota at Hotel Sadanand (Sads) was our weekend treat and sometimes we used to walk back from Surathkal just for fun. Basheer's egg burjee and noodles (dabba shop across the road) were a strong motivation to stay up all night and study! We also used to visit the temple on the beach just to feel that we were not leaving any stone unturned before the exams! And of course, ending the year with the beach party.

Mr. Melligeri, you co-founded QuEST Global in April 1997 in New York.

What was the motivation behind setting up QuEST Global? What prompted you to set up in the USA?

AM: We knew that IT companies were leveraging offshore for creating value to customers and we didn't see anyone doing the same for high-end engineering activities. Looking at the market where we were working – Automotive and Power Generation – we felt if we could be working right across the street from the customer and also provide offshore support, we might have a good business model. We knew that we could do financially better than if we had continued in our previous jobs.

When you set-up in 1997, there must have been an element of uncertainty and risk. Please comment on some of the challenges that you faced in the initial stages of QuEST Global and how you overcame them.

AM: When we decided to start QuEST Global, (originally called Quality Engineering and Software Technologies), I had just got married 6 months earlier and didn't have a green card yet. However, we felt we could always get a job if we failed to succeed in this venture. But we made a commitment to leave the [earlier] job and get 100% behind what we were doing and in no way turn back. Ever since then, we have never looked back at making bold decisions such as expanding and bringing global talent on board, launching our manufacturing business, establishing an SEZ, going after acquisitions, and getting in and out of private equity. In every phase of the business there are challenges with respect to capital, scale, customers, and the market. We felt that if we can work on establishing systems to deal with the challenges instead of one individual taking on all these things, we would be successful. This is where we made the transition from entrepreneurs to people leading an organization to make decisions using processes.

Dr. Prabhu, you joined QuEST Global in 2002, and subsequently the organization witnessed rapid international growth. Could you illustrate how this was achieved?

AP: I can't take too much credit for the growth. Aravind and Ajit Prabhu started the company in 1997. Both were entrepreneurs and had very little work experience – three years and one year respectively. I had five years of solid work experience in the iconic Hewlett Packard. I had risen quickly in HP and had a very good understanding of how a large company works – Vision, Mission, Strategic and Annual Planning, Project Management, Human Resources management etc. I took on the back-end role from day one and started being the architect of the company's future. We were about 250 people when I joined.

Ajit Prabhu took on Sales and Technology, Aravind took Finance (no surprise!) and IT, and I took on everything else. Ajit was good at sales and had to be in the US [market]. Due to operational reasons he was stuck in Bangalore. The first important turning point was when Ajit could move back to the US within 2 weeks of me landing in Bangalore. We won our second strategic customer (United Technologies) and Ajit could grow business with them in the US. I continued to ensure Ajit could exclusively spend time on growing business through customer acquisitions while not having to worry about the organization's ability to execute the orders to customer satisfaction, managing costs and producing target profits year after year. It has been a fascinating journey!

While India is often viewed as a big player in the IT solutions sector, QuEST is largely a manufacturing and engineering solutions provider. Given that the industrial growth in the last few years has seen a major slowdown, what will be the strategy of organizations like QuEST which operate in the traditional engineering realm?

AM: We believe the global engineering and manufacturing space is large enough and the tradition in western countries of buying products or services within a few hundred miles will not succeed. Globalization has started and is here to stay and we have not seen any kind of slowdown in the sectors we operate. Our customers do not invest on their products based on current market scenario but invest on products based on predicting the scenario 5-10 years out (their products might last 20-30 years in the field) and hence we rarely see our customers cutting back their investment significantly apart from small slowdowns once in a while.

AP: Customers in our sectors are continuing to invest in new products. We have built a solid foundation for providing customers various engineering solutions where and when they need them. Cost, resource flexibility, global reach – one or the other of these parameters is important for customers each year. Markets are shifting east and we have a clear advantage in helping our customers with this shift.

A vast majority of Indian CEO's are equipped with an undergraduate degree in engineering and a subsequent MBA. Please comment on this trend that is prevalent in India. How important is it for an aspiring entrepreneur to obtain a postgraduate degree in management?

AM: What is required to be a CEO is the ability to look at things rationally & logically, a high level of curiosity, ability to learn and listen, and ultimately to make decisions. These are not taught in any business school. Good business schools provide a platform to network and learn from the people who have these abilities and to learn from case studies that show application of these skills in business scenarios. An engineering degree has helped me personally to look at things logically and to look at things in a quantifiable manner.
To succeed as an entrepreneur, you need an ability to sense the opportunities in the market and find a different way to fill a market need with speed of execution (no degree teaches you this). An MBA mindset could slow you down if you over-analyse an opportunity to eliminate risks, and in the process, the opportunity might pass you by. Sometimes you may be better off being ignorant, taking a chance, and jumping in with the commitment to swim, even when the tides are high.
At QuEST, we have many engineers and we have several MBAs. However, almost all of them have engineering backgrounds, it's just the nature of our business.

AP: Speaking like an engineer, MBA is 'neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition' to entrepreneurship. To be an entrepreneur, one needs to have an intense desire to do something on their own – a desire so intense, that it drives actions to achieve that goal. MBA does help in the journey mainly in terms of finding other like-minded people with whom one can collaborate. Most companies are started by a few friends. The era of lone-geniuses is over. It takes division of labour among trusted partners to push an idea to a reality. Most such partnerships are developed in colleges.
An engineering degree is a good starting point. Engineers are analytical, creative and problem solvers. These traits are very useful. Engineers start with a lack of interest in finance but can quickly master it due to a good mathematical foundation. But engineers are weak in marketing abilities and lack good social skills. A couple of years in a good MBA school could definitely help fill these gaps.
If you want to succeed in the corporate world of management, you would need an MBA from a good school which would help you pass through the filters set for hiring.

Have you ever drawn upon experiences from KREC in your decision making in the corporate world? If yes, could you please illustrate such an instance?

AM: Being frugal – we lived on a budget of Rs. 300 per month, equivalent of Rs. 3000 now (assuming inflation at 10% over last 25 years) which took care of everything. We had to be creative in managing our wants and needs with the limited budgets we had. You can never go wrong in business when you know how to manage your cash flow.
Everyone is treated equal as a human being – we ate similar food, slept in hostels, and wore *hawai* slippers and walked wherever we went. It didn't matter where we came from or what our personal wealth was. It is a must for everyone in an organization to show mutual respect irrespective of position or title.
Having a common goal – we all walked into the college with a single-minded goal of putting our best efforts to graduate. It is important to have a common mission/vision and values for the organization and make everyone eat, sleep, and breathe it.

AP: I received my early lessons in management and leadership in KREC. My name starting with 'A' meant I was 'Roll Number: 1' in the class. Whenever the class decided collectively to not do a home work assignment because there had been some earth shattering event the previous night (an interesting cricket game, for example), I would have to take the brunt of the anger of the professors!
I am an operations guy now. My job is a lot about managing costs and producing good profits. My real claim to fame in KREC came when I became the mess manager during the first month of our second year. I got quite a bit into details and reduced the mess bill by Rs. 50 (15% reduction)! People were ecstatic, they nominated me for Student Union and I became the Joint Secretary. I learnt a lot of leadership lessons that year; more from failures than successes.

The role of alumni in the future of any institution is of paramount importance. As distinguished alumni of KREC, how do you think the institute should network with its vast alumni base?

AP: One thing that I have learnt through my experience is, "If it is not someone's job, it will not get done". However small, a full-time job has to be created to build momentum around the Alumni Associa-

tion. It is nothing different than building a business. There will be an initial investment phase. After building momentum, things start rolling and it becomes self-sustaining. A lot could be done.

AM: Having a regular platform for forums and focused events to pull the alumni together is important. An event in May in the Bay Area is a good example of this. We need to have full-time dedicated staff to run the Alumni Association and co-ordinate these events across the globe, as well as get the word out to media to increase the profile of the college and its alumni.

Where is the journey heading to next, both personally and as an organization? What is the quest going to be in the near future?

AM: A few years back we launched our Manufacturing and SEZ. We have seen tremendous response from our customers who want us to scale faster. We will continue to invest and grow our global ecosystem for our customers in Aerospace, Oil & Gas and Automotive sectors. Personally, I believe we have a unique opportunity to make India a precision engineering hub and I will continue to drive initiatives to strengthen this as long as I am alive.

AP: We are having a lot of fun building the organization systematically, growing it by adding value to our customers. The market is quite large. I will pursue nothing, a 'zero', another one at the end!

The NITK family is very proud to have such distinguished alumni as yourselves. We are extremely grateful to you for taking time off and sharing your experiences with us. To round up this interview, please share with us your advice for the students of NITK and where you would like to see the institution move in the coming decade.

AM: You will be noticed if you are different. What is in it for you is in proportion to what you can bring to the table.
Get ready to make tough decisions about friends, family and community to build a successful organization.
To succeed, you need to wake up every day with ideas of how to do things better for your stakeholders (employees, customers, suppliers, shareholders and community).
In capitalism there is a simple measure of success: it is the value you create for your stakeholders; focus on it and you will succeed.

AP:
Value people around you more than things around you.
Don't hesitate to experiment. Risks of failure are small at the beginning. You can always get a job.
Take bold decisions. Environment and opportunities now are far greater than they ever have been.
Learn to 'get things done' through people.
Learn to learn from mistakes; your own and others' ●

THE SEEKER

By Ankit Deepak

As I talk to you my friend,
In a town at the world's end,
There is a boy living his dreams,
Rather than society's trend.

There is a treasure hidden in the place,
Men, searched for it, with different face,
The treasure, bestower of happiness beyond belief,
In the boy's dream had made a space.

The boy dreams to get the fortune,
He prepares himself to face any dune,
He reads only its story,
And hums only its tune.

Our seeker, for his dreams, left every other thing,
From his relatives to his friends' ring,
Even his night is full of this search,
And a new search, a new day would bring.

The search begets him pain,
From sweating in sun, to ventures in rain,
He also burns in fire of hunger,
But till now his searches have gone in vain.

That is a treasure seeker from world's end,
But our stories are hardly different my friend,
We all are in this world with something in our mind,
Something to make and something to mend.

Image Credits : Vinay Ravi

The True Temples of GOD

By Sidharth Shanon

Any amount of articulation on my part will not do justice to the feel one gets when involved in an adventure. The peace of mind away from the hullabaloo of city life, the proximity to nature, waking up to the calls of multitudes of birds in the morning, witnessing unreal sunrises and sunsets, being surrounded by lush green forests where the air and water sparkle alike with purity, the exhilaration of being amongst clouds, if not above them, the thrill that comes with being surrounded by wild animals, the vulnerability and the subsequent adrenaline rush, or ultimately, the view of the milky way and the thousands of stars in the night sky (something we can never witness in a city), these are all experiences that have to be felt to be understood. In this article, I illustrate some of the most exciting moments from the many treks which I embarked upon from college

Sidharth is a final year student of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering. He is an active trekker and adventure sports enthusiast. Ironically, he is also prolific at indoor board games.

BallalaRayana Durga | October 2012

I was a member of the Organizing committee for this trek, and it was special because I experienced my first snake bite. We were trekking along a narrow trail and someone came across a green slender snake, maybe 3 feet long, in the middle of the path. While people crowded around it and some of the first timers let out startled gasps, I put down my bag, and decided to give a small lesson on handling snakes. I carefully drew the snake's attention to an object in front, and while it was absorbed in studying the movement, I picked its tail up and in a second grabbed its head. Two things I would like to state here. Firstly, PLEASE don't try this anywhere. It really isn't as easy as I've made it sound. Secondly, the method is different for poisonous snakes.

The bunch of wonder struck 11th grade kids stared at me in disbelief, as I explained to them how to deal with snake encounters. Slowly, some of the more adventurous ones touched the reptile. One of the enthusiastic boys pulled the tail, which was in my left hand, and this caused me to lose grip on the snake's head, which was in my right hand. The snake promptly took this opportunity to turn around, and before I could react, it buried its fangs in my right palm. There was much consternation as people freaked out. Some resorted to shouting, like that would scare a deaf snake away. Some tried pulling it; others started checking my eyes and pulse to see if I was dying. Amidst all the drama, some of the more experienced campaigners held the snake, while I pushed its head forward with my left hand, to release its grasp on my hand. Unlike a conventional snake bite, this one lasted for almost 20 seconds. After I finally managed to pull it out and release it at a safe distance, I immediately ran to a nearby stream and washed the bite. I was sure it was only a mildly poisonous snake, but still sucked out any residual poison from the wound. It didn't unduly pain, and there was just a slight tingling in the arm for an hour or so. That day taught me a few valuable lessons though, about not letting anyone else touch a snake when I was handling it.

Kumaraparvata | March 2013

We were joined by a couple of highly enthusiastic cyclists from college, who had cycled from Mangalore to Kukke. After 7kms of intensive trekking uphill through ravines that radiated heat like a furnace, we reached 'Bhattara Mane', a farm nestled in the heart of the forest. We relished the sambar rice served as lunch, for a seemingly exuberant price of Rs. 80.

After a presumably sleepless night for the group, we woke up to the pleasant morning only a jungle can offer. We wasted no time in starting the second leg of our journey, and around 3 hours of walking brought us to the top. The panoramic view from the top, although not the best of its kind, served as a worthwhile destination after the arduous climb. What marred the serene landscape though, was the immense amount of garbage that other trekking groups had left behind. Plastic wrappers, paper plates and water bottles were strewn around in copious quantities. Far from being a peaceful and beautiful representation of nature, the place resembled a dump yard in a metro city. Being one of the most frequented trekking spots for groups from college, it is important that we appreciate the beauty of nature, and accord it the respect it deserves.

BallalaRayana Durga | October 2013

The bus from Mangalore to Kottigehara, arrived at 8:20 pm, and before we knew it, it was full. There were probably another 100 people waiting to board, and we were at the end of that ignominious queue. Slowly and painfully, we made our way into the bus, with barely any place to stand; and this is how one of the best journeys of my life began. It was hot, and it was sultry, and it was overcrowded, and in no time tempers flared. There were people squabbling all around us, in dialects we failed to understand. There were drunk aunties, who entertained us with their rambles. After much consternation and cursing, we were dropped off at 1:30 am at Kottigehara. At 4:00 am, the bus to the starting point of our trek arrived. Many acknowledged that they had had enough of the adventure already.

Much of the morning passed uneventfully, but by early afternoon, we were on our way. The weather was delightful, as clouds descended into the valley, enveloping us in a thick layer of fog. Not long into the trek though, we faced our first hurdle. We found elephant dung, not more than half an hour old. This was a herd with a calf, and running into it would be catastrophic.

The mood of the group changed remarkably, and suddenly everyone chose to trek in silence. The only sound was the tireless din of the wood crickets, as they voiced their alarm at our passing. Progress was necessarily slow, and every 400 metres or so, we burst firecrackers which made enough noise to alert any lingering lumbering giant of our presence. Each

turn in the path was carefully navigated, and everyone was given clear instructions as to what had to be done in the event of an attack. Elephants as a rule avoid confrontation with humans, unless encountered by surprise. And we were quite certain we didn't want to surprise any creature that day.

A simple trek amidst this heaven brought us to our destination, along the banks of the stream that forms the Bandaje Arabi waterfall. The isolation of the area was apparent as we found no signs of human presence whatsoever. We also found elephant dung in abundance. Additionally, there were signs of a panther, and we clearly found a spot where a bear had dug up the ground in its unending search for food. This was the definition of *wild*. An enjoyable bath in the stream was followed by a delicious meal of rice and sambar. I vividly remember the group gorging on the food like they hadn't eaten for a week. We were treated to alternating sessions of rain and fog, while we engaged in card games, photography and more story sessions.

I feel that that night was one of the most unforgettable for the group. Persistent requests for a bit of thrill from certain quarters led me to taking the guys out on a night walk. We started at 10:00 P.M. and the instructions were clear - nobody switched on a torch unless compelled to, and nobody made a sound. Any message that had to be passed on would be through actions. It was obvious that doing something of this sort would give us enough of a kick. Other than our group, there wasn't any human presence for at least 20kms in all directions. That was how isolated the place was.

I slowly made my way forward at the head of the group, intently listening for any signs of animals. There were many false alarms, with people confusing inoffensive rocks with moving bears, and fireflies with malevolent eyes. The fog only added to the macabre scene. The moment we lost sight of the campsite, we were plunged into inky darkness. Silence reigned supreme, and the smallest rustle of the scurrying bamboo mice registered on our hearing and wreaked havoc with our already strained nerves. We reached the top of a hill and looked around. There wasn't a light in sight. People conjured up images of all sorts of creatures. I wouldn't blame them: we were after all in the heart of the Western Ghats, in a forest where we had found signs of every animal except tigers. There were elephants, bears, panthers, wild bison, a multitude of varieties of deer, along with a prolific amount of bush life. For all we knew, these creatures were miles away from, or within metres of us. The fog coupled with the intense intertwining bushes and trees could even have hidden a whole herd of elephants from view. Slowly, everyone started suggesting it was time we returned. As we made our way back, we heard a sound to our left. There was a footfall of something formidable, followed by the faintest breaking of twigs. We all strained our eyes, but not a ray of light permeated the phalanx of trees in the ravine. All was deathly still, and the tension in the air was palpable. Even the light breeze seemed to stop, as if turned off by a magical switch. I went ahead alone, trying to draw some reaction from whatever creature it was that was stalking us. Not a leaf stirred. I had no choice but to do something more drastic. Filling my lungs to their capacity, I let out a loud scream, imitating the call of a 'barking deer'. The silence was suddenly shattered as the hills echoed the sound. Out of the corner of my eye, I could see some members of the group jump, flinch and gasp- startled by the sudden scream. But amidst the loud noise, I also managed to catch the sound of something, some animal, moving away. I hurried the group away as soon as possible. After walking about aimlessly for a while, we realized we were probably lost. Groups were sent out in either direction, to find any sign of a route. Not much came out of this exercise, though, as we just seemed to be walking in circles. I was witness to many exasperated and indignant glares. Traces of panic crept into the voices of a few who tried hard to find a path in the torch light, but to no avail. Everyone was of a different opinion. Some suggested we go left, some suggested we go right, some thought we must stay there and scream for help. To cut a long story short, it was well after 12:00 at night that we returned back to the campsite. The sigh of relief that everyone gave out was clearly discernible. Everyone returned to their tents and slept, for fear of indulging in any more adventures. The next day I was subjected to an avalanche of questions. How did we manage to get lost? Where were we moving around? I didn't know what had happened. Or did I? A cheeky smile was all I gave in return.

Narasimha Parvata | February 2014

The trek started from Kigga, about half-an-hour's journey from Sringeri. With the afternoon sun beating down mercilessly, we toiled up the average gradient making good time. Early evening found us on top, where we were promised a mind blowing view by the people who had already been there. Nature had conspired against us though, as no sooner had we reached, than a heavy blanket of clouds descended upon us.

Setting up camp, we embarked on an evening stroll, enthralled by the chorus of various birds. Jungle fowl screamed to each other from the ravines, and multitudes of bulbuls, sparrows and flowerpeckers flitted around voicing their joyous notes. In the distance, a malabar whistling thrush, a bird endemic to this region, voiced its call - eerily similar to a human whistling, which gives it its alternate name - schoolboy bird. Giant squirrels and Langurs gambolled high up in the trees - we could hear them, but it was impossible to see them, try as we did. The forest throbbed with activity, and I marvelled at how a group of uninitiated trekkers, oblivious to the wonders of nature, illiterate in the language of the forest, would passively neglect all that was happening around them, and complain that there was nothing to see. Every minute I spent there, every sound I heard, everything I saw, felt like the contents of an encyclopaedia being offloaded onto my mind. There was so much to learn, so much to wonder at. After all, scientists say that despite the innumerable discoveries made, probably 90% of the species in the Western Ghats haven't been found yet.

It took a while for the heat of the sun to warm the cold forest and our numbed bodies, and we relished each moment, because we knew that as the day got hotter, the clouds would rise higher and the view would vanish. An elaborate photo session followed, and before we knew it, it was time to head back. I will not labour the reader with further unnecessary details of the trek, but I have to say, my 46th trek gave me the most beautiful sunrise I have ever witnessed, and probably ever will.

And that is why I return to the forests at every opportunity I get. It always has something new to offer.

I have only narrated some of the exciting stories in this ramble of mine, and further, each story represents only a fraction of what I saw, what I heard, what I sensed, and what I felt. As I write now, I'm taken back to the majestic mountains that beckon one and all, to the life giving trees, to the rushing streams, to the deadly and dank ravines, to the stunning variety of birds and insects and butterflies with their extraordinary colours, to the amazing, intriguing, engaging and splendid animals, to places I deem to be stairways to heaven, and ultimately to the peace of mind I find in a place I call home: To the true temples of God

Behind the Scenes

Ubiquitous Learning Research Lab

Ubiquitous Learning Research Lab is a group focused on researching and developing educational technologies and experiences to meet the demands of an information driven 21st century society. Founded by a diverse group of enthusiastic students and incubated in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, ULRL strives to make an impact through its research projects and initiatives.

By Chandramouli Sharma

When the Frooti wouldn't come up...

I can trace back the roots to when I was a kid. I was on a trip with my family and we were waiting for our train at a railway station. My younger sister (around 5 years old then) was having trouble drinking Frooti using a straw. Well, it was understandable, since she had never used a straw before then. She kept trying, but the liquid would not come up. Now, being her elder brother, I had to rise to the occasion. But how was I to explain the mechanism of drawing out air from the straw which would create a low pressure inside and force the liquid to climb up due to the atmospheric pressure above the surface? It certainly wouldn't have worked at that age. I tried different ways of teaching her to do so. Nothing seemed to work. I asked her to imitate what I was doing. But she ended up just moving her cheeks inside, but not drawing out the air. No matter what I did to explain the method, it did not work. Then an idea struck me. I asked her to put the straw inside her mouth and do exactly what she would do in reaction to having eaten a raw spice. And, voila! The frooti came climbing up the straw. I still remember the excitement in her eyes, and the innocence of those childhood days amazes me.

As I prepare myself to take up a job as a Teach for India fellow, I find this incident as a reminder of something I love doing, that is to teach and to think of ways to create better educational experiences. In retrospect, the Frooti incident might seem like a trivial one, but without realizing it, I had tried something called Imitation Learning, which is how most species learn important life skills - by imitating their elders. Though it did not work in this particular case, what did work out was Learning by Analogy, a method through which we understand many of the complex things about our world. These along with many other methods form the fundamentals of the science of learning.

When the seed got planted...

The past four years in NITK have given me ample opportunities to work on some amazing projects which shaped the way I think and will probably be the foundations of everything I do for the rest of my life. As a second year, I worked on developing educational applications for the visually impaired students of Roman Catherine Lobo School for the Blind, Mangalore. This gave me a completely different perspective on what learning actually is and how to focus on the essentials. In my third year, I worked on an online education platform to teach school children about environmental science in an interactive way with real world data. In my final year, as I prepared to wrap up these amazing four years of college life, I realized that there was much that I could give back to college through the experiences that I gained and the partnerships I have fostered with some amazing people and organizations around the world. This is when I decided to start a research lab that would work on developing educational technologies for the future and create opportunities for my juniors to build up on the work that had already been done. I proposed this idea to the CS&E department and they were more than willing to promote such an initiative. I have been more than fortunate to have brought together a wonderful set of juniors who will carry forward our mission.

What is Ubiquitous Learning?

As the name suggests, ubiquitous learning means learning that happens everywhere. So how is it different from traditional methods of learning and why is it important to start thinking about its future?

To answer the first question, there is a growing consensus among experts and educators that the traditional classroom model is breaking. The world has changed so rapidly in the past 10 years that a model which was developed to serve the needs of the industrial revolution no longer fits. It is not to say that the system was badly designed. It was a wonderful system in the time when it was made, but as everything around us seems to be changing so rapidly in terms of technological innovation, this model doesn't seem to serve the needs of the information revolution. A ubiquitous learning environment is one where learning happens by the mere presence of the learner without any conscious effort being put into it. In the words of late Professor Randy Paucsh of CMU, learning by "head fake", where you learn something by actually wrapping it around another activity and obtain the desired results subconsciously. With the advent of mobile and web technologies we are getting closer to that environment.

The work we do..

At ULRL, our focus is to develop technologies that can lead to a better understanding of the world around us. We do so by not limiting ourselves to one particular technology or approach. Instead we focus on an iterative design approach where we keep making an idea better with constant feedback from researchers, students and teachers. We actively partner with schools to test our hypothesis and produce work that can change the way we think about learning and teaching. We work with web and mobile technologies, educational games and 3D printing. We employ several gamification elements into our research projects.

Project CurioCity

Currently, around 50% of urban dwellers live in cities with between 1,00,000 - 5,00,000 people, and fewer than 10% of these urban dwellers live in megacities. This percentage will reach 60% by 2030. When such a huge number of people live in cities, it makes sense to teach students about how their city works. But unfortunately, due to systemic issues and lack of a common platform, school children hardly get to learn about their cities. Quick test: Can you tell where all the sewage goes in your city and how it is treated? Can you tell the primary source of water in your city? What is the electricity consumption of your city

and what is the production source? Project CurioCity aims to develop a platform where students in a particular city can learn about key figures and systems within their city, but it does not stop here. Knowing facts about your city won't make it better. Can we do something about? Well, yes, if you have real data. Using data visualization techniques and support from government data sources, we aim to build a platform that keeps itself up to date with the latest statistics, and let students play with that data by visualizing it, extrapolating, and thus coming up with better ways to solve the city's problems. The platform will contain information regarding demographics, transport, energy, waste disposal, healthcare, crimes, pollution levels, forest cover/green spaces, economy, literacy, education etc. The project will be piloted in Mumbai and Bangalore before moving to major cities across the world. We plan to collaborate with several organizations such as IBM, Google and Mckinsey for this initiative in the longer run.

The future trends in educational technology

Education is in the middle of a disruption. There are several key areas which are being explored and I would like to touch upon the important ones. There is a whole lot of work going on in Intelligent Tutoring Systems, which employ Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science. CMU's LearnLab does some amazing work in this field. Work is going on in 3D fabrication and maker culture and its use to teach students important problem solving skills. Stanford's TLTL lab does significant work in this area. Interesting work is happening in educational games and how they can be used to make learning fun. Another key area coming up is Educational Data Mining and Learning Analytics to model students computationally.

Our Team

We have an awesome team that works together towards achieving our goals. The members include Dhruv Chand (Mechanical, Third Year), Vikas Yaligar (IT Third Year), Sreecharan Sankaranarayanan (CSE, Third Year), Nimisha Sarath (CSE, Second Year). Our faculty mentors include Dr Annappa B (HOD, CSE) and Dr Mohit Tahiliani (Assistant Professor, CSE). Our remote mentors include Dr. Jennifer Mankoff (HCII, CMU). We are supported by our aluminus Roshni Chandrashekhar (2011 batch) ●

Joining our team

We are always willing to take in more people who wish to change the future of education. Visit our website to get an updated list of projects. **Link: www. ulrl.nitk.ac.in**

Beachside Blogging

By Dr. Mohit Tahiliani

Mohit Tahiliani is an assistant professor in the CSE department. His research interests include active queue management mechanisms and TCP congestion control.

Blogging undoubtedly is an arduous job, but its benefits are innumerable. It was way back in 2009 that the quest for learning and sharing the knowledge on ns-2, a network simulator for research, landed me in the blogosphere. It was only during my time as a Research Scholar at NITK, Surathkal that my blog started to go viral.

An amazing idea is absolutely fascinating but utterly useless until we choose to use it. Therefore to experiment with my project ideas, I kickstarted my journey with ns-2. I started writing noddy programs and soon became well-versed with the tool. During this course, I came across several errors that left me clueless. These errors in ns-2 encourage you to stop coding and instead rely heavily upon the script generators. I started posting my queries on forums and was surprised to find the active involvement of people. Glancing through the questions posted by others solved many of my doubts, and I decided to start up with a blog wherein I could share my codes with the rest of the community. It was quite messy to keep continuing and I barely noticed the difference I was making. However, one fine day a mail landed up in my inbox. Here's a small excerpt of it.

"Hi Mohit, I would just like to thank you for replying to my problem posted on the ns-users site where I could not find an awk script that worked with DSDV for calculating all the relevant parameters. I downloaded your awk script and it worked with DSDV :) Thank you so much you have saved my life for my honours project as I could not find an awk script that worked with DSDV and had been searching for months!"

It is truly said that "the ultimate measure of our lives will be the people we have helped and the talents we have expressed". I was moved by the fact that a simple post had a tremendous impact on someone's project. I soon realized that the finest way to learn more was to deliver more, and so I started exploring the uncommon stuff in ns-2 and discovered the hidden simplicity in it. I picked up rapidly on my blog statistics, and had an astounding number of visits every month. The popularity of the blog added fuel to the fire. It became a routine for me to respond back to the queries posted on the blog.

A lot of appreciation and fascinating words of feedback started pouring in on an everyday basis, always making me wonder "How do I keep it going?". Soon, the number of page-views started crossing 16,000 per month, indicating that the expectation bar had been raised sharply. I realized soon enough that I needed a group of people to help me in answering the ns-2 queries on the blog. The best way, I believed, would be to motivate the "Questioners" to also become "Respondents". The idea just did not work. No "Questioner" ever responded to any other "Questioner" - making me a SPOR (Single-Point-Of-Response).

By now, there were two daunting challenges: "How to keep it going with new content" and "How to keep it going by answering queries", the latter one being the more crucial one. After a lot of brainstorming, I realized what people *LIKE*. The very next moment I launched a ns-2 Group and ns-2 Page on Facebook, both of which are presently the most widely used groups on Facebook for ns-2. "Questioners" were happy to become "Respondents" because others would *LIKE* their response, and guess what - nowadays, my role has changed from "SPOR" to "Manual Spam Filter". Initially, I believed the blog usage would go down because of the Facebook group initiative, but yet again I was proven wrong - the average number of visits per day increased to 605 from 530. And the saga continues . . .

mohittahiliani.blogspot.in is presently one of the most read blogs on ns-2 and is recommended by several researchers across the globe. Despite just 32 posts in five years, it has served 1,50,000+ downloads and received 100+ citations from a few International Conference and Journal papers. At the time of writing this article, a few of the blog stats stand as mentioned below:

1. Pageviews - 3,96,441
2. Maximum views from a country - 79,605
3. Average visit duration - 03:27

It is true that "all change is hard at first, messy in the middle and so gorgeous at the end". I never expected that learning a tool pertaining to my project would one day become an integral part of my life. Being an active contributor to ns-2 and a little bit of ns-3 led to an opportunity to be a Technical Program Committee Member for the Workshop on NS-3 (WNS3) at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA.

The blog also led to ceaseless invitations to deliver talks in some of the most prominent colleges of India. As I sign off from this article, I am on my way to another such talk on ns-2 in Kerala.

A million thanks to NITK, Surathkal for providing a beach that galvanized the blogger in me ●

Software Design Lessons from the Command Line

> by *Shashi Gowda* _

"The material object of observation, the bicycle [or any tool], can't be right or wrong. Molecules are molecules. They don't have any ethical codes to follow except those people give them. The test of the machine is the satisfaction it gives you. There isn't any other test. If the machine produces tranquility it's right. If it disturbs you it's wrong until either the machine or your mind is changed. The test of the machine is always your own mind. There isn't any other test."

— Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Robert M Pirsig

Programming, in essence, is the act of instructing a computer to do things. It is what all users of computers do, even if they don't want to call it programming. If all goes well, you and the computer are both successful, and thus attain peace of mind. User interfaces can be thought of as programming languages, because they give you a medium to instruct the computer. This idea is dear to Unix users.

Many "user friendly" software today come with a ton of features exposed through Graphical User Interfaces, curated in a myriad of menus and toolbars. And yet, these interfaces are rigid in most cases. Power users of such software often encounter repetitive tasks that involve performing the same steps over and over. Often, this involves using more than one program in a sequence. Lack of ways to automate these steps leaves us with no option but to do these routines manually, clearly defeating the purpose of a computer. Most of these interfaces (or languages) lack *composability*.

I met the Unix shell 5 years ago[1]. I was looking for ways to make myself a better programmer: faster at building things better. I had been following the free software movement to which Linux (a family of free Unix-like operating systems; also the name of the kernel they use) was central. Great programmers in the community were all of the opinion that an efficient programmer must be an excellent user of the Unix shell[2]. For good reason, this cannot be overstated. I decided to bite the bullet and try to use the shell for as much of my interaction with the computer as possible. What followed was a profound shift in the way I approached the computer as a user. I quickly learned to stop worrying and love the command line.

Talk of the *Unix philosophy* gets bounced around a lot. The authors of *The Unix Programming Environment*, Brian Kernaghan and Rob Pike, put it thus: "Although the [Unix] philosophy can't be written down in a single sentence, at its heart is the idea that the power of a system comes more from the relationships among programs than from the programs themselves. Many UNIX programs do quite trivial things in isolation, but, combined with other programs, become general and useful tools."

Doug McIllroy who played a key role in the conception of Unix pipes puts this more concretely: "This is the Unix philosophy: Write programs that do one thing and do it well. Write programs to work together. Write programs to handle text streams, because text is the universal interface."

During my first Engineer in college, my friend Mohak and I took part in a competition called *Contrive*. We were asked to build a search engine that would search a bunch of HTML files for a given search query. We were given 24 hours. The search engine was to manifest itself as an executable file, taking the search query as argument and printing at most 15 filenames in descending order of their relevance to the query. The team with the most relevant results would win. We worked our donkeys off. We were trying to use a Python library to index the files and perform the search. The library gave us all sorts of trouble which included segmentation faults to highly irrelevant results (after we got it to actually work). No sleep was had that night. In the last 30 minutes or so of the competition, we decided to give up. Not doing anything in those last several minutes made us uneasy, so we casually whipped out the old manual pages for some Unix programs. We submitted our engine in pretty much the last minute. It was 2 lines of Unix shell code. The first one was a comment and read `#phew`. The second was

```
grep "$*" -icr . | sort -rt ':' -k 2 -n
| head -15 | sed s/:.*$//
```

That single line of shell command was a decent search engine and also formatted the output according to the problem specification.

`grep` is a program used to search inside text files. It works just like the Find command in Windows explorer except it outputs plain text: file names and matches. The option `-i` makes the search case-insensitive, while `-r` recursively searches all the files in the directory. The `-c` option tells `grep` to output only the number of occurrences (count) of the search term instead of the matches themselves. Not like we had memorized any of that, we just read the manual page (`man grep`[3]). So with this `grep` command, we had the number of occurances of the search query against each file name. Something like

```
file1.html: 2
file2.html: 6
file3.html: 0
file4.html: 3
…
```

Next, we *piped* this output to the `sort` program, i.e. the above output now became the input to `sort`—this is the semantics of the| syntax[4]. `sort -rt ':' -k 2 -n` translates to, "sort the input in reverse order (`-r`) , using ':' as field separator (`-t ':'`), and sort by the second field (`-k 2`), treating them as numbers (`-n`)". This sorted `grep`'s output, ordering it from the file containing the most number of occurrence of the search term to those with least, giving output that looks something like this:

```
file12.html: 16
file7.html: 13
file6.html: 9
file2.html: 6
…
```

Piping this to `head -15` kept only the first 15 lines of the output and discarded the rest. Finally, `sed s/:.*//` removed everything after ':', including ':', leaving us with just the file names. We had reached our required output: a maximum of 15 file names:

```
file12.html
file7.html
file6.html
file2.html
…
```

The programs `grep`, `sort`, `head` and `sed` do very simple things in isolation. But what is still a thing of beauty to me is that it was possible for us to combine their functionality to obtain something that did what we wanted; something that these programs were not originally designed to do.

It probably doesn't say much about the competition, but we came in third! Not bad for a single line of code, I'd say! Now, imagine doing what the shell script above does using Windows Explorer, Notepad and Excel and whatnot in place of these apparently arcane and archaic Unix programs. Instead of telling the computer to do these tasks, you'd have to do most of it yourself, although in a click-and-drag interface. Down that path is no tranquility, only distress.

To top it off, pretty much everything in Unix is a file: terminals, standard input, standard error, standard output, random number generators, audio devices, and even power switches manifest as files[5]. Having composable programs that deal with contents of files puts the problem, the data, and the tools to realize solutions in the same dimension.

To build systems, programmers must first create modules and tools that they can themselves use with tranquility. I think the Unix philosophy can be generalized to apply to modules inside a program. It teaches us to

1) Design modules that do one thing and do it extremely well, in isolation. Modules that are simple, general, minimal, robust, and parsimonious with resources[6].

2) Allow for simple but powerful ways to combine these modules so that you can compose complex systems easily with your simple modules, i.e., strive for *composablility*. This involves creating uniform input and output formats, and making use of polymorphic functions[7,8].

Following these principles will let you build systems that you can easily modify, debug and maintain. It will take you one step closer to being at peace with what you are building.

Footnotes

[1] A shell is simply a program that lets you run other programs. This is done using a language that is specific to the shell. Think MS DOS.

[2] I would like to point the ardent reader to Eric S. Raymond's essay *How To Become A Hacker* (www.catb.org/esr/faqs/hacker-howto.html) and story *The Loginataka* (http://catb.org/~esr/faqs/loginataka.html).

[3] For me, `man` is the single most useful command in Unix. It provides accurate, to-the-point documentation about other installed programs in the form of manual pages. The command `apropos` is used to search inside manual pages and list those that match. These commands let you not fret about forgetting things.

[4] Other pipes are <, input from a file; >, output to a file; >>, append to a file; and `tee <filename>`, a T-joint (see `man tee`).

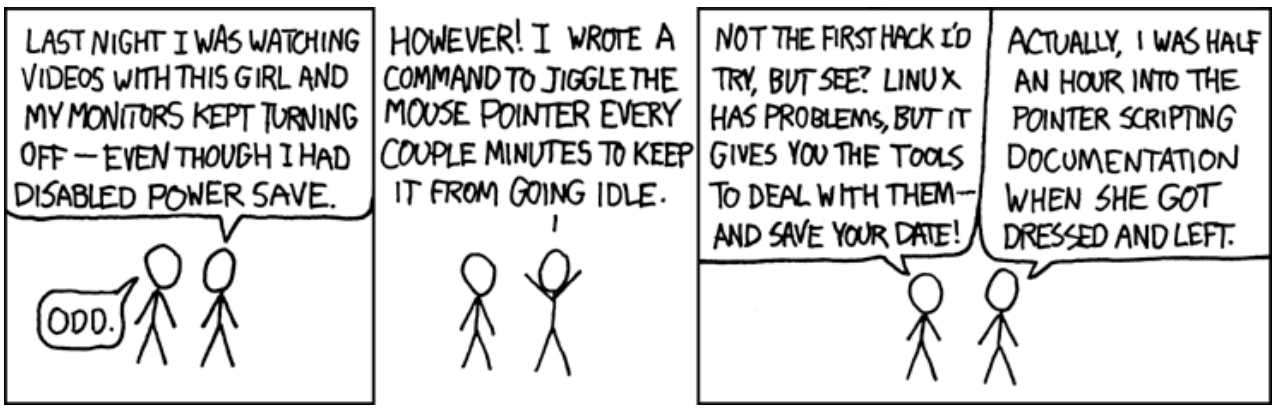
[5] Here is a fun article that shows you around the linux file system: *Take the linux filesystem tour* http://tuxradar.com/content/take-linux-filesystem-tour/

[6] In an email titled *why GNU grep is fast* to the FreeBSD mailing list, Mike Haertel, the original author of GNU grep, quips: "The key to making programs fast is to make them do practically nothing." Go figure! (http://bit.ly/1ecp8vu)

[7] Polymorphic functions are functions that operate on data of multiple types. All functions in a dynamic language like Python are polymorphic. Functional languages with principled type systems such as Haskell and Standard ML allow you to create polymorphic functions in very interesting and useful ways. These languages also treat functions themselves as data. Haskell's type system is closely related to a branch of mathematics called Category Theory which deals with the properties of objects as they are transformed by operators. Haskell even has concise syntax for function composition. Code ends up feeling like simple mathematical equations.

[8] Related reading: *On the Criteria To Be Used in Decomposing Systems into Modules* by Pranas D. L. Comm ACM, 1972

Shashi Gowda is a fourth year student of Information Technology. He likes to build things with code and is into programming language theory, science fiction, and Radiohead.



xkcd comic no. 196: Command Line Fu

Idea Junkies

by Vishnu Swaroop

"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I will defend to death your right to say it"
— Voltaire

There are two ways to look at debating: One, that it involves a bunch of loud and boisterous people needlessly squabbling with each other, nitpicking and over-analysing everything and trying to use unnecessarily complicated words all the time while trying to mock those around them; or Two, that it's a platform where the merits and de-merits of any idea can be discussed unreservedly, and the part where winners are declared is just to keep motivating people to get better at discussing. I guess it takes no deduction to know which view I would advocate.

For sure, I can't not acknowledge the existence of debaters who do fall squarely within first description. These are the Don Quixote's of the debating community. They come dressed in shining armour, looking for demons to slay and confusing windmills for monsters, detached from reality and making mountains out of molehills. They are fun to watch for a short while, but soon become exhausting. But they are at the fringes of debating. They never achieve anything significant because their approach is wrong.

The two views themselves, I think, are also analogous to the "Romantic" and "Classical" understandings, as those of you who've read Robert. M. Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* will realise.

The "Romantic" view looks at the surface. A group of speakers, coming one after the other, each trying, to the limits of his/her eloquence, to bring down their predecessor. Debaters who hold this view will not know what to prioritise in their speeches, will focus on trivialities and never realise where they are going wrong. Non-debaters with the same view will find watching debates incredibly tiring.

The "Classical" view of debating will look at the underlying principles. It looks upon the format of debating as a structure conducive to effective discussion. The 7 minute limit on speeches prevents rambling, the order of speakers encourages engagement between the two sides. You can also see, in good debates, the continuity and flow of thought between speakers on the same side. You can see that the speeches involves analysis of the "motion", where blind assertions don't help at all and backing up with clear reasoning is the only thing of value.

This does not mean that all the romantics are trolls, or that all the others are saints. Just that your approach determines how far you will go, or how much you gain from it, for your compass needs to be pointed in the right direction before you step out.

Let's take a step back for a historical perspective.

Ancient civilisations have a rich history of argumentation. India itself celebrated it with public debates between representatives of different religions being organised by emperors, from Ashoka to Akbar, over many centuries. Akbar's reign was a time where all religions were equally accepted and even atheism had an opportunity to speak. But even before that, we had our own version of "The Art of Rhetoric", the "Tarka Sastra". Written in Sanskrit, it details argumentation, the raising of points and criticising them, questioning and cross-questioning, following a structure of discourse guided by definitions and goals. We have stories of Ashtravakra, a young sage physically deformed in 8 ways, each resulting from him writhing in frustration in his mother's womb for each mistake that his father made when reciting the scriptures.

Ancient Greece laid a lot of emphasis on discussion and oratory too. Demosthenes, being their most famous orator (He is said to have conquered a severe stammer at a young age by placing stones in his mouth and trying to talk clearly over the sound of the ocean). Being the expounders of the earliest forms of democracy, where all male Greek citizens had right to opine on, among other things, policies governing the people, you can see why the Greeks at-

The 34th World Universities Debating Championships (WUDC) 2014, held for the first time in India at Chennai, is by far the grandest modern event of the ancient art of debating. And I can surely add that it is also the confluence of some of the most intellectual thinkers and orators from around the world, from Israel to Venezuela to Zimbabwe.

Our contingent comprised of six members, a speaking team, comprising of Karan Suresh and Abhinav Roy Burman, that finished at the 189th position on tabs out of about 350 teams and we can proudly say our boys outdid some of the top teams from India. Four adjudicators represented us, presiding over debates contested by teams including debating heavyweights like Monash University, Cambridge, and Harvard among others. They were Vivek Eluri, Aditi Chalisgaonkar, Kevin Mathew, and Dakshesh Thacker. The convenor of the society, Vishnu Swaroop, won himself a spot on the Organizing Committee of the event, enjoying king size buffets at the Taj Coromandel, much to the ire of the rest of us. Vishnu was heavily responsible for the smooth functioning of the event, earning him Facebook mentions from debating giants all over the world, from Ireland to Czechoslovakia to Pakistan.

We witnessed history being made when the first Indian team, IIT-B A, managed to qualify to the knock-out stages. We need to keep this in perspective: the debating culture in India is a few years old at best, whereas higher achieving countries have been debating for over 50-60 years. Their achievement represents the crossing of a threshold by India and heralds the breaking of many more ceilings.

The WUDC experience showed us that there is a youth population at all places around the world that strives to remain informed and conversant on a wide range of topics. We saw Americans studying at Harvard use Rahul Gandhi as an example in their speech. We witnessed the whole debating community choosing to wait it out and delay the schedule by more than two hours to accommodate participants held up due to passport issues. We saw an organiser pull 40 straight hours of working because she was the point of contact for most issues. We felt wonder and amazement, and a reinforced belief that no matter where you are from, at the end of the day what is going to make a difference is what is inside your head. — *Dakshesh Thacker, 2nd year EEE*

tached a greater value to making sense while talking.

The very first formal debating societies started in London in the 18th Century. They charged entrance fees to people who came to watch members debating of issues as a form of entertainment. The winner was decided by a show of hands in the audience. That women were treated as equals and competition was free of gender discrimination tells us that even in those overwhelmingly patriarchal of times, the power of reason could make headway.

It is upon this history that I say that the classical view trumps the romantic one. This is where the utility of discussion lies. It has the power to change minds. And the more you practise it, the better you become at communicating effectively. While as engineers we might think it unnecessary that we deal in numbers, physical dimensions and microchips - even to us it is of use. Even Tesla and Edison had to hash it out in public to advocate the best form of electrical transmission. The policies that govern our lives are debated by our politicians. It is necessary for us to be able to identify when a certain question hasn't been answered entirely. It is necessary for us to be make sensible opinions and defend them when required.

Competitive debating in India today is just taking off. There has been a mushrooming of societies all over the country. No matter where you are, good quality tournaments are not that far away. These tournaments call everything into question. We have debated motions based on international relations, motions that advocated policies relating to various aspects of governance and fun motions that first make you laugh, and then make you think ("This House believes that the state should actively investigate the supernatural"). The IITM Debate tournament held recently had as its round one motion "THBT women should throw tampons into temples to protest religions' contempt for menstruation ".

There's also the occasional hypothetical. One where a series of events is described leading to a fork. The decision to be taken next is the issue of the debate (in the X-Men universe, a permanent and irreversible cure has been found for the mutations, "This House will mandate the cure for all mutants"; and the Case of the Speluncean explorers).

The flip side, though, is that becoming good at debating takes as much time and effort as becoming good at any physical sport. The average person requires continuous and dedicated practise over 3-4 years to become good enough to be a part of a tournament winning team in India. Till you become good enough to enter into the money winning rounds, the expenditure for each tournament you go to is considerable accounting for registration fees, accommodation, food and travel. Then there's the issue of attendance for every Friday and/or Monday that you miss. These are issues most debaters face (at least the ones from engineering colleges). But despite these impediments, the numbers are only growing. Debating is becoming a part of the campus culture around the country and this only makes me happy.

I think debating instills in us a healthy sense of rationality and objectivity. To be a good debater, you need to be aware of current affairs, conversant in matters of politics and finance, among other things. It forces you to give better reasons for your decisions. It makes stronger that little part of you which speaks out against taking the easy way out, against accepting status quo without questioning it. It forces you to acknowledge that there is usually more than one side to an issue.

I think we're fulfilling Tagore's wish when he hoped his country was one "... where the clear stream of reason, has not lost its way, into the dreary desert sand of dead habit.." ■

Vishnu Swaroop is a final year student of Mechanical Engineering. He is the head of the Debating Society and has been an integral member since its inception in 2012. Vishnu is a voracious reader and enjoys an occasional game of chess.

THE ENGI'13 DIARIES

The story of Engineer 2013 begins in the early summer of '13. The transfer of power in the tech clubs and the Students' Council elections empowered a handful of NITKians to form the core team of South India's Second Biggest Technical Fest. Full of enthusiasm and with an over-the-top plan for the fest, the team went into the summer vacation after only one core meet hoping someone will get the work done.

Mid-summer, with almost no progress in marketing and with barely any interaction amongst the core members, the team went on a rather optimistic endeavor, to invite Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam as the chief guest for the inauguration of the fest. Acquiring sponsorships would have been a breeze if this had fallen into place but Dr Kalam was unfortunately too busy to accommodate the fest in his schedule. After a few mails were exchanged and a few calls were made to potential sponsors, summer came to an end; a new semester in NITK started and the core had no clue about the uphill climb that they faced.

All anyone could think of in the first few weeks of the semester was placements and the number of people working for the fest was reduced to a single digit. It was about now that the Con called on some expert advice from someone who later went on to be the chairman of the fest. Calm and composed, filled with experience from organizing the previous editions of the fest, the chairman kick started work, and activities were finally set into motion. Money started trickling in when the marketing head began stalking the HR executives of the companies which were on campus for recruitments.

Late September arrived and the various committees that made up the fest were charting out their month ahead and committees like Mech, Tronix and Technites were already working in full swing. With a limited budget, each committee had to do their best with what they had. More people were contributing to the fest and things were slowly falling into place. Workshops were being confirmed, new events were being planned and the fest was starting to take shape but there were a few major problems. Roping in a 'Main Sponsor' for the fest was one problem. Committees' lists were taking longer than it should have, thanks

to one conniving gray block inmate. The bigger problem was that the official website was not ready and without this, the fest would lose outstation participation. Time was running out, but the technical coordinator was in no hurry.

CHANGE THE PERSPECTIVE

By Karthik Bhaskara

2003

First edition held after amalgamation of fests conducted by student chapetrs of all the technical societies in college

It was only a couple of weeks before the fest, on the eve of the open meet, that the website finally went live. Armed with an innovative website, the publicity team started working in over drive, hoping to generate enough interest across the region. Engineer 2013 was one of the first fests in India to go one up from the flash mobs to a freeze mob for publicity. With just a week left for the fest, one could see that the whole college was gearing up for the fest. The Artists' Forum Engi logo in front of the civil department came up. Facebook was filled with posts of everything Engi with the '#engiiscoming' hashtag. Committee members were burning the midnight oil. Registrations for various workshops started. The core team was overwhelmed with work from general arrangements and food to scheduling the various events and satisfying the needs of every committee. The Tronix committee put up the Engi clock in the main building and the countdown began.

2007

2008

As the clock counted down, on the 23rd of October 2013, Engineer was finally here.

For the next few days, the college would become as lively as it would ever be in the odd semester and all of it was kicked off with the Inauguration. Along with the usual string of addresses by various dignitaries and an elaborate dance sequence, this edition's inauguration witnessed a math prodigy.

TRY THE IMPOSSIBLE

Day one of Engi kicked off with the ethical hacking workshop and perfect machine. Coordinating between various committees and catering to the various requirements of events was one hellish task and if it weren't for those hard working event coordinators the whole fest would have fallen apart. Gaming events started off as well and for the first time in India a DoTA 2 tournament was held. The day went on as planned and in the early evening Symphony, the musical fountain circuit design competition, was such a big hit that it was hosted again the next day. The night ended with the NTB hosting a small DJ night much to the fury of the Technites team.

Day two of engineer hosted Robo Wars – one of the fest's biggest events. The energy in the sports complex could literally be felt, with the place being a few degrees hotter than outside, and here took place the clash of machines. One of the largest crowd pullers, Robo Wars happened here throughout the day.

The day went on to host symphony again, which was followed by Meta Magic filled with music, lights, a dancing fountain, colorful flames and to top it all off a flaming hi5.

The highlight of day three was trailblazer, the line follower challenge, which attracts the highest participation in the fest. Day three was also the day of the main show. The Engi secretary had dedicated all his efforts into this event and over the past two days, a huge 3D screen had come up in the SAC. The main show started out with the SCE Sky Lanterns followed by the 3D mapping show and an entertaining fire dance.

On the last day, the workshops and office committee members had some much needed time off after the brilliant work they did throughout the fest. It all came to a close with the fest's flagship event, a remote controlled car race powered by tiny internal combustion engines – Velocity.

The whole experience was one which I will remember and cherish for my lifetime. The people I met, the discussions, the decisions, the sleepless nights, the running around, the entire journey made me a better individual and I learnt so much from this experience that I am forever changed after this. In the future whenever I hear the Saw theme, those three words will always run through my head ●

2009

Engineer shifted to odd-semester

Golden Jubilee Edition

2011

THINK. CREATE.

ENGINEER

VICTORY

By Kalyan S

As we sat in my room after Incident 2013, talking about the year we had, captain Abilash and I had the same questions in our heads – how was the basketball team going to fare next year? We were both very calm, but I had never felt such pressure in my life. Being captain put fear into me; fear of being disliked by my players, fear of indiscipline in the team, fear of being an inadequate player, fear of failure. The time had finally arrived. It was my time to deliver on all the promises that I had made to myself over the last three years. Just as he was leaving, he gave me a picture that used to hang on his wall – a picture of three of the best players in the world - Dwyane Wade, Kobe Bryant and LeBron James. Behind the picture was a message from him - 'Always remember the legacy…'. This is the story of how we continued a legacy passed on to us.

Every year we say goodbye to people who have been like family to the team. However, for this current set of players, no loss could compare to bidding adieu to our former captain, Abilash Krishnan(Abu) – a 6'3" 220 lb center who was invaluable to the team, and crucial to its style of play. With Abu leaving, the team suffered a dearth of giants to man the baseline and this was going to affect our tried and tested strategy. But starting the new year of ball, I was blessed with a few new additions to the team. They would turn out to be exactly what I needed to take our game to the next level.

One of the most important tenets that I wished to enforce was discipline. The first 20 days of practice included only running. We ran from the court to the beach and back, twice! The team responded with a lot of gusto and completed the stamina requirements that were set upon them. Several team members who had previously not even been on the squad, like Ankit Raj for instance, still adhered to the system most religiously. I was motivated by their enthusiasm. This spurred me on and convinced me that I was making the right decision.

My next task was to identify potential in the team and help cultivate that talent in my players. I also needed to understand the roles my players were capable of undertaking and push them in those respective directions. For instance, I believed that my game was better suited as a shooting guard rather than a ball handler. But at the same time I noticed that Tawfeeq Ahmed had extremely good court vision and I encouraged him to be the primary ball handler of the team. I believed in encouragement through praise and that's exactly what I did to guide my players ahead.

The strength of our team lies in defense, the defensive 2-3 zone to be precise. This defensive style was something we had worked on and imbibed from our previous captain. However I felt that there was still tremendous scope for improvement. We studied and explained our plays to each other on a whiteboard. These sessions were one of the most interesting and inquisitive times of practice, as we spent time poring over the board debating the merits of various maneuvers. For the first leg of most of the odd semester, we concentrated primarily on defensive drills and communication. "Talent wins games but teamwork wins championships" was my motto, and I aimed to ingrain this in the minds of all my players.

Though we all knew by now what we had to do, we also needed to be at our highest level of physical fitness to be able to execute our own plays. I put the team through one of the most grueling practice regimes they had ever experienced during their entire time in college. As much as the routines were well designed, I also had to contend with the fact that I had to keep my players interested and have them enjoying what they did.

Our first tournament of the season was the James Naismith tournament at Mangalore. We were able to win that tournament solely because of our defensive strength. I gauged that the team was skilled enough to be intuitive on offense and I trusted their offensive creativity. Several of the members of the team were still warming up to their positions on the court, resulting in the offense being a little shaky at times. This tournament made me realize the problems we were facing offensively. That's when I introduced our first offensive set play "Yoyo". It was a good counter, which worksed based on exploiting the weaknesses in the zone defense.

The win at Naismith was a monumental one for us. It was the first non-home tournament we had won in 2 years and this completely boosted our confidence. But we were far from the winning team we are today. The next few tournaments left us a little perturbed. Having come runners up, losing to home teams at the NITTE as well as Yenapoya tournaments, left me wondering about my methods and their effectiveness. We were not pushing or advancing the ball fast enough and the offensive plays were not implemented with the same speed and intensity as they were done in practice.

We were getting really confident with all the practice and were easing into each others' games. The team was built on a "next man

up" system where the responsibility to deliver did not solely lie with one person. Nobody was indispensable. We won our first home tournament of the year, The NITK Cup, beating most of the local competition. We were eager for more and were interested in taking on more challenging teams, and so we found ourselves in the quarterfinals against RVCE in the BMS tournament Bangalore.

It was one of the most shocking losses of the year. This was mainly due to the lack of production from my players and complete failure against a good man-to-man defense. The ball was not rotated and there was stagnation. The bad offense was a debacle that translated to our defense as well. But this loss was a good grounding force and opened our minds to new avenues along which we could improve.

After a gruelling and rocky start in the odd semester, we came back rejuvenated in January rearing to push ourselves even more. Our first challenge was during ZEST, College of Engineering Pune. We were aware that we were going to play the day we arrived, after a tiring 16 hour bus journey to play a knockout game. We were the enigmatic team that everyone had no idea about. Our first game was against the defending champions - Army College Pune. After a very physical game we closed them out leading by 4 points. The momentum of the start and excellent performance in the subsequent matches of the tournament gave us a new level of confidence. We were almost knocked out in the semifinals, but Karthik Kumar's turn around fade away jumper at the buzzer just won us that game, pushing us to the finals. We crushed our finalist opponents, MIT COE and brought home the trophy.

Armed with our new found chemistry and with confidence that was bursting through at the seams, we worked hard for Inter-NIT 2014. This is a tournament known (in)famously for the rivalry between us and NIT Trichy. The winner's trophy had eluded our grasp the last 2 years and we didn't want to let it go this year too. We worked hard for it and we performed admirably in the tournament. However, once again we let the trophy slip, losing to Trichy 29 to 27 in the finals. The loss was completely a consequence of a series of bad game-time decisions. Removing Tawfeeq during the last quarter affected the team the most as ball rotation died. The shame of the loss was smothering and humbling at the same time. It taught us not to take any team lightly. Basketball is a very funny game.

The day we returned with our heads hanging low, I made a decision to work harder still and correct the mistakes that we were making. I realized that to be the best, I needed a higher level of cooperation and commitment from my team.

So in the days following the loss, the team undertook a declaration to commit absolutely to the game and work to move past our mistakes together. The next 5 days were the most intense days of the entire year. Playing at both 5.40 am and 5.40 pm produced a phenomenal change in each player.

It was barely a week before we had our next tournament, 'The Association Cup'. With our new practice routine in place, we were able to destroy most other teams. The only competitive game was in the final against NITTE, whom we had faced several times this year. The game was close, and we managed to win the tournament by a whisker. We beat NITTE 67-65 with a buzzer beater put back by Chirag J.

This tournament was a good pick up, after the catastrophic performance at Trichy. It set us up to be in the optimum position to contend for the Slam Dunk title in Incident 2014. Inci is sacred to us - it is our home tournament. It is a tournament that has slipped through the grasp of several captains before me and the weight of putting up as good a show as last year weighed heavily on all our minds. Of the many outstation teams that were attending the tournament, we had our eyes set on St. Joseph's College of Commerce. They are one of the best teams in Karnataka, and it was a match we eagerly awaited. We reached the finals of the tournament without too much of a hassle. It was then that we had to bolster our minds to take on the behemoths. The SJCC team was known for their professionalism and clinical method of killing their opposition.

We were able to surprise the SJCC team with our lockdown zone defense, not allowing them to penetrate, while eliminating most of their inside strength. We went up early in the first 2 quarters but they were always gnawing at our lead. We played intense balance defense, always running back once the offensive play was over. We survived largely because of our zone defense. Entering the last quarter, we enjoyed a comfortable 9 point lead. However, seeing their inside offensive failing, they decided to rely on their shooting to make up the deficit. The range they were shooting from was phenomenal! Any attempts by us to contest those shots would have left us vulnerable in several other places. We gambled on their inability to shoot in our home court and we did not closely contest those shots. Vinay Venkatesh from SJCC made 4 continuous 3-pointers to put them back in the game. This killed our lead and gave them a lead of 3 points, allowing them to lead 53-50 for the first time in the entire game. But we had accommodated this in our game plan. We made some crucial plays in the next few rallies to scrape a lead of 2

Kalyan S is a final year undergraduate student of Computer Science Engineering. He is the captain and coach of the NITK Basketball Team, and led them through a very successful spell in 2013-14. Kalyan is also an explosive stage performer and is known for his unbridled enthusiasm.

points and finish the game 58-56. We had just won the hardest game of the entire year. We had lived up to our own expectations and everybody else's.

We had little rest (about a week) before embarking on our journey to NIT Calicut to play at Raagam 2014. Owing to academic constraints, only a limited squad was present on the first day of the tournament. We lost the first game by a small margin of 4 points. However we won the remaining games to keep ourselves in the tournament. By the second day, we were back to full strength and were taking on some of the best teams in Kerala. In our final game we were taking on Devagiri College of Arts and Science a highly reputed team in Kerala which is known to have produced four national players in the recent past. They were clearly the fastest team we had faced yet and we knew that our speed would not be an advantage in this game. With our rock solid defense, we were able to nullify our opponents' athleticism and played good fundamental basketball to give us the victory.

We were on a roll, but we were tired and fatigued from the wear of months of gruelling practice, travel and playing games in so many different venues. However we still held it together to play the last tournament of the semester - Revels 2014. We started off by playing NIT Trichy in the first round knockout game. This game, to us, was as important as winning the tournament itself. We wanted to avenge the loss we had suffered at Trichy as well as all the other losses in the last three years. We played them hard and beat them 52-32, knocking them out of the tournament in the very first round. The next match was another big one. We were playing RNSIT, a team that we had lost to in the previous edition of Revels. However, we pulled through in the end to beat them 51- 45. This put us in the league to contend for the title. We ended up finishing runners-up to VIT on head to head. We ended the year on a high as we beat MIT in a close encounter and I made a shot with 0.4 seconds left to give us a 40-38 victory.

The basketball team is so much more than a group of people good at playing the game. We are family. We give up our 5:30-8:00 social lives everyday for the game and for each other. We are each other's social lives. Invariably, a dinner plan will emerge after practice and a good bunch of us will go out to get some good food. Complaints from team members about assignments and tests the next day are ignored. Nothing gets higher priority than a Team Chemistry Session (TCS), except practice, of course.

We ended with a record of 46-7, won 6 tournaments and came runners-up in 4. We have established ourselves as the most successful team in NITK's rich basketball history. But this team is more than just the 17 players on the squad. Our basketball team alumni are our backbone and support. We report all our matches to them, and take their advice very seriously. Their encouragement keeps us moving forward.

We've seen the numbers. But we realize that there is only one number that really matters. Its not the number on your jersey, not the number of points you score, not the number of rebounds or assists you get, not the number of games or tournaments you play, and not even the number of tournaments you win. The number that really matters is one. We are one heart, one team. We are one.

> **"The basketball team is so much more than a group of people good at playing the game. We are family"**

By Pranav Ram



"It all started with an idea, an idea to showcase our culture along with entertainment! Today Incident is one of the biggest college cultural festivals in India. The glamour, the passion and all else about this festival has attained unimaginable heights!

We decided that it was time to look back, to reminisce and relive the past and thus Incident '14 – The Retro Edition was born."

The hardest part of organising Incident lies in choosing an able, level-headed and determined convenor who can take the team through all the highs and lows. But sometimes not everything goes according to plan and Team Incident had to make a really tough decision just four months before the fest. A decision that did have its fair share of controversy, but, as they say - 'The show must go on'.

Eventually, the post of the convenor had been replaced by an Organising Secretary(Shashank Alevoor) and a Cultural Secretary(Anmol Bhattad). As we had our leaders in place, we expected smooth sailing. But as it turned out, the actual task had just begun. Believe it or not, the Incident '14 Core team had its first proper meet only in the month of November. We all realised that time was of the essence and we had to get our act together to pull off a decent fest.

Cultural Fest 101 – Procure enough cash and sponsors and donations and you will end up with a super successful fest. We started our journey to approach, persuade and convince executives from different companies to help our cause. But marketing is not as simple as it sounds. After a hundred calls and mails, there may be one company who would be willing to hear the usual rehearsed recitation about Incident. Karthik NS roped in RIL and we had our first investment. Reliance Industries had always been one of the major sponsors of the fest. Eight months of constant persuasion, phone calls, mail exchanges and meetings with the VP and President finally wooed RIL as the Title Sponsor this year. Little did we know that the incredible seed amount RIL diverted towards our cause would demand a lot of PR work during the fest.

Meanwhile the marketing and publicity team were still carrying out basic ground work and forming a game plan for the winter vacations. We realised that although everyone had big ideas and concepts for the fest, when it came to raw execution and planning, most would just shy away from work. Motivating people to contribute was one of our biggest challenges in the early days of the fest prep. While the bosses of Honeywell, Maiyas, L&T were being approached in Bangalore, the team in Mangalore was determined to persuade the local banks and companies that investing in Inci was a wise option. We did strike gold when some of us decided to try our luck in Mood Indigo IIT-B. One of the leads from Mumbai went on to bag sponsorship for the Western Night and another was Roy Zaltsman.

Colleges outside generally judge a fest by its previous editions and the reputation it has built over the years. The website is an integral part of the whole package and a basic promo site was launched in December. The plan was to expand it to a killer website to be launched at least one month before the fest. While we web-developer noobs were busy with other work, DC, RT and team took over and dedicated most of their time to the site.

Although most of us did get back to college in December, a sincere meeting was convened only in the first week of January and the progress of the different aspects were discussed. With just 50 days to go we were in desperate need of some moolah.

A couple of confirmations other than RIL had opened the Inci account and we started looking for feasible alternatives for our main Pronite – Encore. Sometimes, this one night defines the whole fest and we didn't want to let down our college junta. Some of the options in mind were the evergreen Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, Mika Singh, Shreya Ghoshal, Farhan Akhtar and Salim-Sulaiman. But after much haggling over dates and budget we strongly felt that the Merchant brother duo fit the bill to perform for the Incident '14 Encore Night.

With the pricey Encore show eating up most of our budget, the struggle had just become harder. We got MTS to help out with the DJ Nite, and this was a big relief for a few days until we realised there was a lot more left. A round of false publicity and popular public demand made us book the DJs from Mumbai - The Electrovertz. They did definitely add to the glam factor of the fest.

Inci Core: The booking of DJ Anoop at the eleventh hour was a result of the time spent reading the lengthy MoU of a certain sponsor.

As we moved on to the month of February, panic was setting in and the Incident we had pictured looked like a far-fetched dream. But there was a phoenix who rose from the ashes and lifted all our spirits: Mr. GenSec (Shubham Agarwal) turned out to be the magic wand the Inci team needed. Airtel was swiftly roped in as the Co-Sponsor of the fest, MRPL was the Inauguration Sponsor, a couple of other firms pitching in a lakh each made the whole scene appear really rosy for some time. Everyone was just amazed at how all his contacts seemed to click perfectly. This gave us a chance to stretch our horizon and revamp the schedule according to the retro theme.

Inci Core: We love you Shubham, for every penny!





Meanwhile Online events and FreshFace kept Inci gunning in the online space and the web development team was slogging hard to put up a comprehensive website that would attract outstation crowd to the sands of Surathkal. TSM confirmed Family Cheese and The F16's for the Western Night, and we were making a bold move by booking independent artists instead of tribute bands. Some of us personally loved their music and F16 had been the background music for many marketing proposals and mailers.

The initial plan was to flood the schedule with events just to make the crowd feel that they were always missing something - an attempt to reach the heights of Mood-I - and we did manage to succeed to an extent. Miss India Earth 2013 did bring smiles to all faces and the Femina Miss Diva auditions were happening for the first time in NITK. Water sports on the beach, Laser tag and War of the DJs managed by professionals from Beatworx Bangalore brought the zing factor to the fest. The revenue sources - workshops and food stalls - had a different and eye-catching variety of things to offer.

Inci Core: We thoroughly enjoyed the backstage photographs with Sobhita Dhulipala and other celebrities!

The best and easily the most enjoyable part this Incident was organising the World Fest for the first time, where musicians, stage artists and street performers from around the world performed on every day of the fest. An idea that was born sometime over a GNPD parantha led to a trip to Goa where the artists were successfully scouted and all the acts were finalised in less than a day in the most economical fashion.

Inci Core: We sincerely hope you continue the World Fest in the future editions of Incident!

The last leg of publicity had to happen in different places around the state. Posters and fliers were shipped to Bangalore in all possible modes. With less than a week left for the fest to begin, focussed publicity for some of the events was our target. The idea was to get maximum registrations for the fashion show and Miss Diva auditions.

Less than seven days to go, and most of us started camping in the Inci-adda (committee room) that was made cosy with new air conditioners and high speed internet. Amidst all the GNPD paranthas and NC food we finalised printing orders for posters, selling tickets on BookymyShow and HRC Bangalore. While the days were spent in Mangalore collecting cheques, winding up the remaining contacts, and booking flight tickets, the nights would just pass by in the Inci-adda, reworking and allocating budget for the Inci events schedule.

The website got a swanky new look a week before the fest and the media and design team was having marathon sessions designing banners, backdrops and other print material for the fest. We kept a close watch on the number in bold on the last cell of the spreadsheet, the 'Total Budget' which was touching a massive 60 lakhs!

Even with record registrations and earnings we would still be short. A last minute saviour was the Myntra confirmation and finally, the day was here - March 5th - the much-awaited opening day of Incident '14.

Inci Core: Time to suit up boys!

Incident 2014 kicked off with much pomp and show. Day zero brought us some amazing performances at the Inauguration ceremony, especially the Dancing Dean and Turbans, which kept everyone going till the middle of the night. With an overwhelming turnout, this night was just a preview of what was to come. The streets of NITK were swarming with fascinated folks, going hither and thither, trying to make it to the many events happening around campus.

The party had officially started!

The experience as an organiser of the fest can't be explained in a single article. From almost missing the inauguration ceremony due to work in Mangalore to running to get food for the artists at 2 AM, from quick bike rides inside college to the long taxi drive to the airport at 7 in the morning and finally from trying to be omnipresent to having a ball dancing at the SAC - it was a roller coaster ride with an immense amount of enjoyment and fun. Every single day was a challenge, a challenge that brought with it a wonderful experience and we would always be elated at how the day had been. The final night of Incident was a special one, the last drop that filled the bucket up to the brim, and most of us were overwhelmed at what we had pulled off - a fest of such great magnitude and stature.

I would like to sign off by thanking every single person who made the fest a big success. The audience, guests, sponsors, volunteers, members of the organising team, Inci '14 Core team, the college administration, Prof Udaykumar Yaragatti, Dean Students' Welfare and everyone who supported the fest at all times

¡Mucho gracias!

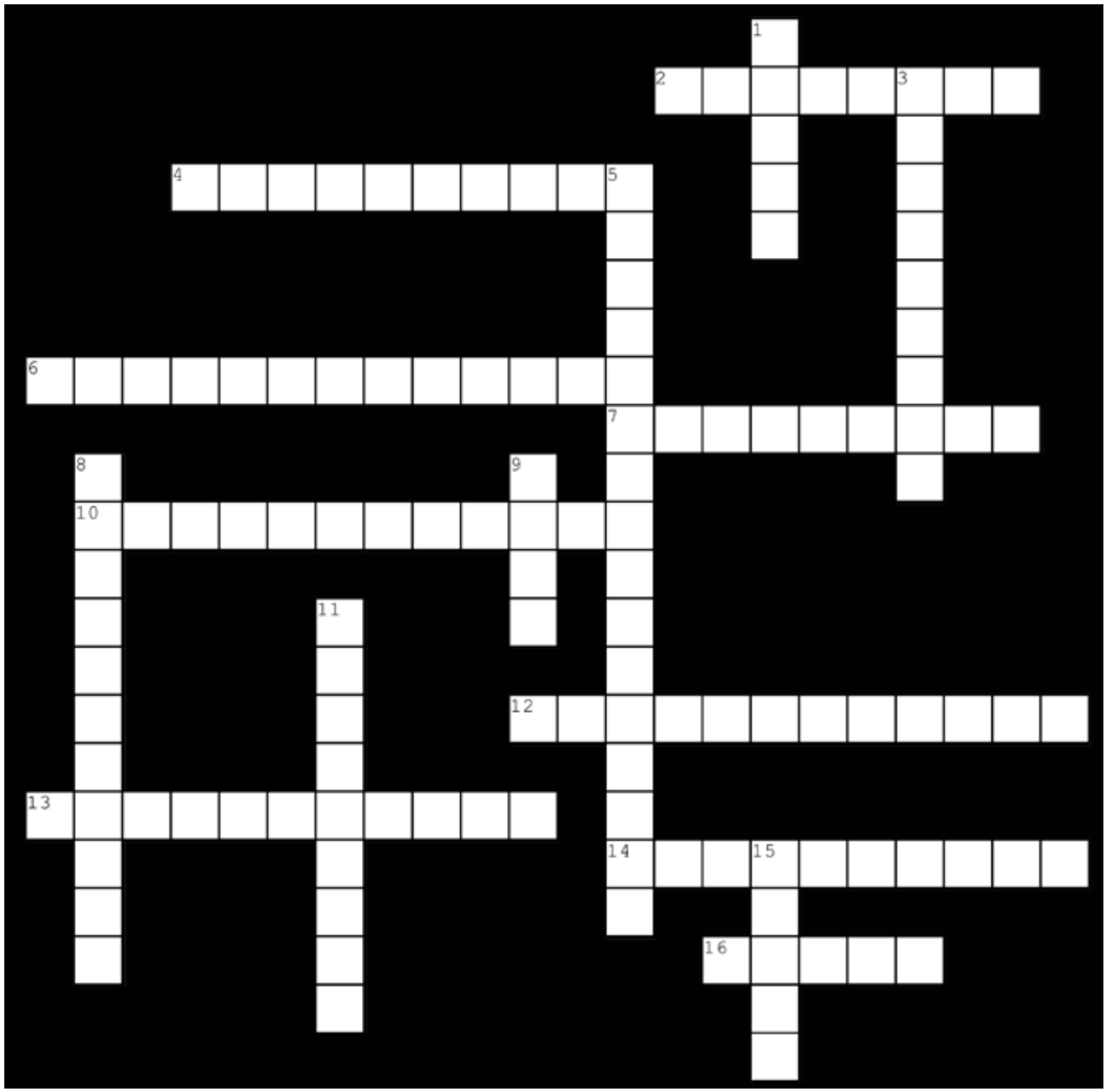
We wish the Incident '15 and the future Incident teams good luck and hope that they will be able to carry forward the fest in the right spirit. No matter where we are in the future, Incident will have a special place in all our hearts forever.

Remember, it's not just a festival, it's a LEGACY!



THE PAVILION

The Yen-Aai-Tee-Kay Crossword



Across

2. Juniors party at the expense of their seniors (8)
4. Saare years ka baap kaun? (5,4)
6. The motto 'Always be prepared' doesn't only apply to the Scouts and Guides (8,4)
7. Sports with our counterparts from all over the country (5,3)
10. The magic number, so close and yet, so far… (7,4)
12. The reason we look forward to going to the mess at least once a month (5,6)
13. Results written here bear little or no resemblance to those actually obtained in the lab (6,4)
14. Updates on current 'affairs' (4,5)
16. Signed attendance? No problem! (5)

Down

1. A feature of our college that gives us (much abused) bragging rights (5)
3. The time to make pacts, and break them, without affecting friendships (9)
5. This 'game' is fair in its unfairness (8,7)
8. Frantically copied and quickly forgotten, commonly perceived to be 'easy' marks (11)
9. The mortal enemy of code scammers and the most dreaded part of lab exams (4)
11. Aspired to by many a class, but rarely achieved (4,4)
15. From waking us up to signaling freedom, an indispensible part of NITK life (5)

Snake and ladder

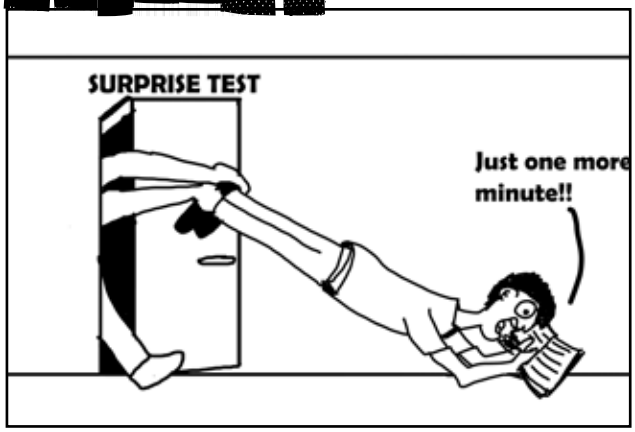
Answers to Crossword

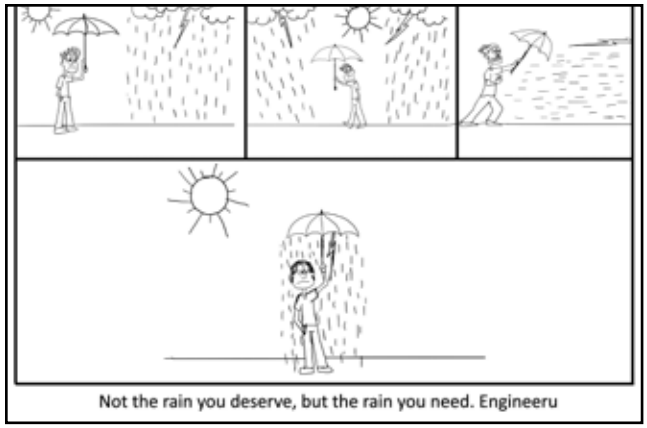
ACROSS
3 Record book
5 Mass bunk
9 Inter NIT
10 Proxy
11 Freshers
12 Grand Dinner
13 Surprise Test
14 Seventy Five

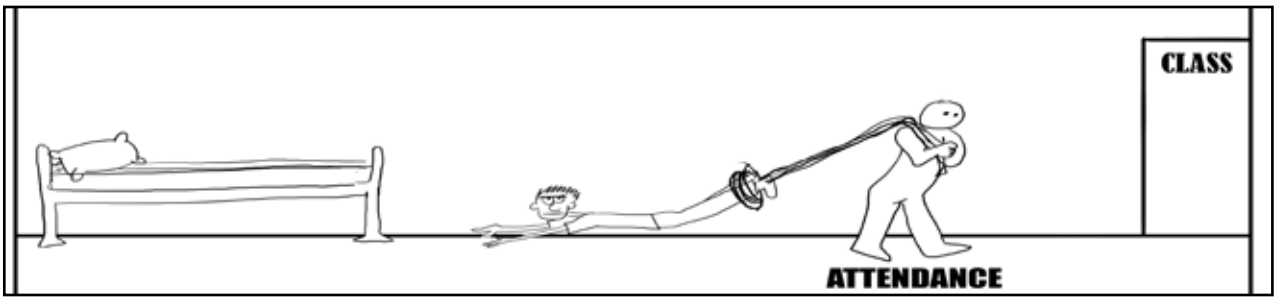
DOWN
1 News Wagon
2 Elections
3 Relative Grading
4 Final Year
6 Assignments
7 Siren
8 Beach
15 Viva

ARTOONS

By Abhishek Ravisundaram







The Gift Called Numbers

By Prof Arulalan Rajan

Invoking Kronecker, I write this small article on the gift from God - the Numbers - both, the Giver and Gift being Omnipresent! While we know common properties of many numbers, we look at some of them, integers and non integers, which are unique in unique sense! The facts mentioned below have been taken from various online resources.

5: x^5 has the same units place digit as x.

8, 9: The only consecutive integers that are perfect powers - Proved by Preda Mihailescu in 2002!

13: Smallest emirp number, a prime number whose reverse is also prime number. More interesting: $13^2 = 169$ and $31^2 = 961$.

16: Only number of the form $x^y = y^x$ with $x \neq y$

18: Only positive number that is twice the sum of its digits!

26: Only integer whose neighbours are perfect square and perfect cube. It is the only solution of the Diophantine equation $x^3 - y^2 = 2$. Diophantine equation is a polynomial equation in more unknowns such that only integer solutions are studied.

40: The only number, which when written in word (FORTY) has alphabets in lexical order.

144: Largest square in Fibonacci Sequence

Golden Ratio $\varphi = (1+\sqrt{5})/2$: symmetry and φ are synonymous.

– The only number of the form $x^2 = x+1$ and $x-1 = 1/x$.

– Any higher polynomial of φ turns out to be a linear polynomial of the form $a\varphi+b$.

– The values of a and b are again elements of classical Fibonacci sequence itself!

– Has a continued fraction expansion

Woah! The list above just gives a flavour of the subtle beauty that every number has; a subtlety that has not been paid much attention to! More so by engineers! With modern engineering, study of numbers has taken back seat, with exceptions being cryptography and coding theory. However, even in these areas, more emphasis had always been on the applications and never on the associated beauty of numbers. Engineers should take a while to stand back and look at numbers, just for the sake of sheer beauty. For, as the great philosopher Bertrand Russel says "Mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty - a beauty cold and austere, like that of sculpture, without appeal to any part of our weaker nature, without the gorgeous trappings of paintings or music, yet sublimely pure and capable of a stern perfection such as only the greatest art can show" ●

Dr. Arulalan Rajan is an Assistant professor at the Electronics and Communication Depart at NITK. He did his PhD from IISc on Integers, Sequences and Applications. Dr. Rajan is known to be one of the most friendly and approachable professors and is famous for his numerous treats and for hosting lunches at his home. He is immensely passionate about numbers and believes in learning by application.

THE END OR THE BEGINNING?

By Arun A

When she stepped out of the capsule, she couldn't believe her eyes. She had landed on nothing, or so it seemed to be. She looked up and the sky was glowing, like an Aurora Borealis on Earth. But there was something strange about it all. There were wisps of silver floating in the sky, and on the ground, like little strands of thread hovering everywhere. And there was complete silence for the first time in her life, except for the constant beat of her own heart.

She took one step forward. Her feet appeared to land on something as she did not fall through, but she could not feel any surface beneath her. With every step she took, those silvery wisps of nothing swirled around her shoes. And her feet didn't make a sound as she walked forward. The surrealism of it all disconcerted her.

And then she saw it.

Excerpts from a diary:

Dear Claire,

We spotted a new planet today!It was a thrilling experience. After years of searching and waiting, all the late nights, trying to keep the funds for the project flowing without losing our sponsors, we finally found a planet that may have life on it! Oh there has never been a bigger moment in my life when I wished you were here to share this with me.You didn't deserve to leave this world so soon. I could never have done this without you. You're as much a part of this as I am. We're trying to send out signals to see if we can obtain a response, something to tell us if life exists there or not, but we don't know how long that will take. But this is a start, and I cannot wait for the next part, however long it takes. I'll write to you again, really soon. Love you, as always.

After a year:

Dear Claire,

Oh my god, you are not going to believe this! This is a huge moment for the human race. We received a message back from the planet; we're still trying to decipher it. It's unbelievably complex; we don't know how it's been encrypted yet. But now the government is trying to butt in, seeing how we've proved them wrong and well, they just have to poke their stupid faces in anything that shows any promise. Not when we went to them and proposed our project in the hope of being funded by them, but now, when we've got solid proof that there is life that exists apart from that on Earth. They're trying to take over the show, but I'm not going to let that happen. This is my discovery. No, it's ours. Extraterrestrial life! This is a huge moment. There's so much we can learn now!

A few days later:

Dear Claire,

We deciphered the message. It is mind-boggling. They are much more advanced than us. The code was encrypted in layers and when we cracked it at first, it made no sense. That was because the message was split and stacked in layers one on top of the other. But we realized this, and when we finally unfolded it, the results were astounding. They've sent us plans to build a capsule that can take a single human to their planet. The technology is much more advanced than what we can comprehend. But we're trying to get it approved so we can send someone into space, to see this race that has existed all this time, living in the same universe as us, and yet, they are ahead of us by miles in every way possible! And if the mission is approved, this means that a human, one of us, will get the chance to do something that no one has ever done before!

The following day:

Dear Claire,

I have the most wonderful news! The committee chose me to be the one sent in the capsule! This is going to be so incredible. I was a little nervous at first, because there were other candidates who had more public appeal, or to put it simply, who were more religious. But you know me, I believe in science and facts, logic and truths. Thankfully the committee didn't let that weigh too much as a factor in their decision. This is going to be great! To be the one to represent all of us, it is the biggest day in my life yet! I will write to you again, as soon as I'm back. Love.

Official transcript of the debriefing session with Astronaut Amanda (A):
Interrogator: Detective Quentin (Q)
Subject: *Mission to Planet X*

Q: Could you tell us about the events leading up to Launch Day?

A: I don't really understand why I'm here, talking to you folks again. You guys already know everything that happened, why on earth am I sitting here?

Q: This is just a debriefing session ma'am. We've been talking to everyone involved in the mission so we don't get our facts wrong or miss out on any vital details. Please co-operate with us. Again, could you tell us about the events leading up to Launch Day, after you were chosen?

A: All right, I guess there's no harm in recounting the truth. As you know, I was the onechosen to be sent in the capsule. Now, designing the capsule was the hardest part. We, as humans, have never come close to creating or inventing such advanced technology. We didn't even know if it would work. But we had to try it, we had received the message from space after all, another planet, another life form. The government, Your government, approved the project after a lot of persuasion. It was the biggest moment in the history of mankind, and the biggest project anyone had ever undertaken.

So the work began. This was no ordinary space shuttle. According to the plans, we would have to construct the launch pad offshore, for safety reasons. As far as we could understand, we would have to drop the capsule through a high energy electromagnetic region and at the precise moment when the capsule entered it, a sort of time vortex or wormhole would open up, allowing the capsule (and therefore me) to travel through time. So according to the calculations, while I would spend 20 hours on their planet, the capsule would disappear only for 5 seconds and re-appear exactly after this period of time at the same spot where it disappeared and fall through into the sea. It took a year to constructthe whole set-up and there were plenty of set backs, but the end result was worth all the effort.

Q: What were the contents of the capsule?

A: We had to ensure that the capsule did not exceed the weight limit specified according to our calculations. To keep it minimal, the capsule only contained basic navigation controls, the flight seat and a voice recorder.

Her legs were suddenly wobbly. It was her childhood home, right in front of her, resting on those silvery wisps of nothing. And there, in front of it was…no…that couldn't be possible. Claire, her sister! She was right there, standing and smiling at her. She couldn't think anymore. Feeling very weak in her knees suddenly, she said, "Claire, is that really you?"

"I am not Claire, Amanda. I am a resident of this planet that you and your race have tried to seek out."

"But how can you look like her? And my house is here too! You speak in her voice!"

"We are capable of adjusting environments as we please. We felt that this particular environment, one similar to your home planet would make you feel more comfortable. I have also taken up a physical form that is different from ours for the very same reason."

"What…how…How long has your race existed?"

"Well before yours came into existence. We have been trying to understand your race ever since we received your broadcast message. Your race is…difficult to understand."

"Are there other planets with life on them as well?"

"Yes, there are. We have established contact with twelve other planets over the past one billion years. Your race is the most advanced one after ours."

"This is incredible. We have been trying for years to find life on other planets and here you are, right in front of me!"

"I think there is someone you should meet, Amanda. I will be right back."

She was astounded, confused and exhilarated all at the same time. Extraterrestrial life truly existed; human beings were not alone after all! She watched as Claire (the alien in her form) walked into the house and came back holding something in her hand. As the alien came closer, she saw what it was. Her radio! The one they used to play with as kids. Why had the alien brought this out?

Debriefing report (continued)

Q: Is this the voice recorder you speak of ma'am? (Holds up a recorder)

A: Yes, that's the one.

Q: Could you tell us what the purpose of the recorder was?

A: We needed proof to show that we had interacted with extra-terrestrial life. Also, like I said earlier, I would only have disappeared from Earth for about 5 seconds, while I would have actually spent 20 hours in space. The recorder would prove all this.

Q: Here's the problem ma'am. When you spoke to one of our colleagues during yesterday's questioning about what you experienced while in space, your description and details were vivid, no doubt. But we have absolutely no proof of that.

A: But I don't understand. How is that possible? I was there! I disappeared, didn't I?

Q: No ma'am, you did not. The capsule just fell through; you were here the whole time, on Earth.

A: I can't believe this. That's impossible!

Q: Here ma'am, let me show you the tape, we have it on video. (Plays the tape)

A: But…but…that can't be…Wait! There's the recorder! Check the bloody recorder! I spoke to them, they spoke to me, it's all there!

Q: We already checked the recorder. There's nothing on it.

A: I don't believe you! Play me the recording NOW!

Q: (Plays the recording. Only static is heard)

A: This…can't be…happening…How…I saw them…spoke to them…he told me so much…everything…

Q: I'm sorry ma'am, I'm sure this must be difficult for you. But we seriously think you require some care, and we're going to ensure you receive proper medical attention. The public will be kept out of this, for the sake of your reputation.

A: SCREW ALL OF YOU! I saw what I saw and everything that I said is the bloody truth! Like I can come up with an incredible story like this!

Q: Frank, take her away please!

(End of report)

"Why did you bring this out?"

"Do you believe in God, Amanda?"

"I do not believe in the concept of faith in an entity or a single being of divine nature. I am a woman who believes in science. Knowledge, facts, and the truth it implies."

"You are certain about this?"

"I believe so. Why?"

The alien didn't respond. Instead, it turned on the radio. The tuning knob started rotating wildly, but the frequency was stuck at 90 MegaHertz. As if that was a cue they had been waiting for, the sky darkened to a dim shade of violet, and the wisps of silver began to swirl everywhere in circles, like little soundless whirlpools. They swirled around the radio until they formed a huge mouth on top of it. And then the mouth opened wide. And a voice spoke.

It was a voice unlike one she had ever heard. It sounded like all the sounds she had heard in her entire life, compressed into one single note. It boomed and screeched at the same time. The honk of a car, the wail of a baby, the musical notes of a piano, the sound of a matchstick being struck, the timbre of all the people she had spoken to or heard in her entire life, it was all there in that voice.

"Hello Amanda."

"Who…what are you?"

"I am The Voice."

"How…how can you exist in this form?"

"I am just a voice, a mouth that can speak. These wisps of silver that you see all around you are my form of existence. They represent my thoughts and my emotions."

"How can you exist like this, here?"

"I do not merely exist here, Amanda. I am everywhere, on your planet, on this one, across the entire universe. I am omnipresent. This planet however, is one of the few where I can show myself to the people, and pass on the message."

"And what is this message?"

"That I am everything, and everything is I. There is no God, no higher being. There is just me. I was born with the universe, and I will die with it, just like everything else that is a part of it. But I do not exist in just this timeline. I am present in all of them."

"There's more than one timeline?"

"Yes. This is not the only universe. There are parallel ones right now, as we speak. Each parallel universe is at a different stage, a different time, with different events occurring at the same time. The one that we are in now is one where all the species are at their most advanced stage. There are other timelines where your species is still in its most primitive stage, ones where your species co-exists with other species from other planets and ones where no species exist. It is chaos and harmony, all laid out on one giant carpet."

"How is that possible?"

"That is a question we can never answer. We learn, and we accept."

"But what is the point of all this? Of our existence?"

"It is a futile one, at best. There is no purpose to your life, or even mine. I may be the only form that is aware of everything that is occurring everywhere simultaneously, but I cannot do anything with that knowledge. It is useless. Your existence has no meaning as well, nor does that of any other human. You live for some years, and you die. In that time you may achieve a set of accomplishments as laid out by your species as worthy of leading a meaningful life, but compared to the existence of everything else, it serves no purpose at all. This goes for every other species that has, does or will exist. You are a member of an ambitious race no doubt, but ambitions that lead to nothing, mean nothing, help nothing. Everything in the multiverse is born, exists, and then it vanishes back into the nothingness that it came from. Eventually it will all disappear, and then there will be nothing left. Nothing. This is the message from The Voice."

And then the radio switched off, the tuning knob came to a standstill, the whirlpools disappeared, the sky brightened, and there was silence again. Her heart was racing and her head was reeling from what she had just heard. She felt nauseous, like she was about to collapse.

"Is…is this true?"

"The Voice cannot lie. It always speaks the truth, Amanda."

"I…I don't know what to say."

"There isn't anything you need to say. You will be transported back to your planet, and you may pass on the message to your people. We will continue to exist, until we wither and disappear. All we can try to do is pass on the message from The Voice."

And those were the last words she remembered hearing. The next thing she knew, she was in a room full of crowded people, shouting her name out loud. Humans. She was back on Earth.

Note from a classified file, NOT revealed to the public: Although the capsule fell through without disappearing and the recorder attached in the capsule only played static, **20 hours of static was recorded** ●

Winning entry of Fiction Fortnight 11 on the NITK Amateur Writers Facebook Group.

NITK Awards

Welcome to the third annual NITK Awards, where we give appreciation where it's due, and "constructive" criticism where it's not.

Worst t-shirt: IEEE's "Keep Calm" tee. Why would anyone be in dire need of an IEEE member? Unless, of course, they are in the process of being electrocuted and need an electrical engineer to help them.

Best t-shirt: Inci core (the same cannot be said for the t-shirts they gave to the general public…)

Most viewed video: The Dancing Dean at Inci inaug.

Sport of the year: ~~Football~~ Pool at 9ball/Basketball for their 10 tournament placings.

Best makeover: Special Stage- The Pavilion.

Most trippy trip: IE at Dandeli.

Parantha of the year: All the ones at GB NC.

Best nerds of the year: And we have a tie! Between the third year GRE boys and the ECE "Nerds Gone Wild" at Razzmatazz.

(Return) Gift of the year: Inci prizes.

Best photojournalism: NITK's win at Inter-NIT football.

Most productive Goa trip: The one that resulted in Inci's WorldFest.

Biggest surprise of the year: The number of first year girls.

Best addition to Campus: Athithi Canteen.

Special award for most useful app feature: Whatsapp groups. (Special mention to Google Calendar events)

SMART DEFINITIONS

(brought to you by Bunty the Last Bencher)

Time dilation: Passage of time appears slower as the rate of information flow over your head reaches high values.

Resonance: Scientifically blowing things out of proportion.

Convergence: Mathematically justifies why grades after 6th sem do not matter.

Geometric series: Mathematical model for the spread of gossip (I'll tell just my two best friends…)

Diode: It won't cooperate if rubbed (connected?) the wrong way.

Phasor: Something you will never understand.

Parallax error: When people don't see eye to eye.

Redox reaction: Coalition politics amongst elements.

Boiler: High temperature, high pressure, like NITK during April.

Projections: What you'd see if you were a foot taller/shorter, or sideways.

Fuel cells: Devices that have the same longevity as your new smartphone.

Titration: A primitive way to test your hand-eye coordination. Less fun than Snake.

Mobility of charge carriers: The length of your laptop power cord.

Extrusion: Weight loss due to inhospitable conditions.

Biasing: Shifting the orientation of your netstick to get the best signal.

Typecasting: Stereotyping people.

किसी भी भाषा की धार उसके मुखर प्रयोग से पैनी होती है । कबीर के दोहों से लेकर बच्चन की 'मधुशाला' तक कवियों तथा लेखकों ने निरंतर इसी उन्मुक्त विचारधारा को समाज तथा आलोचकों के सामने रखा है । प्रबुद्ध प्रस्तुतियों की इसी श्रंखला को प्रोत्साहित करते हुए राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कर्णाटक की वार्षिक पुस्तिका के नए अवतरण 'द शोरलाइन' में प्रस्तुत है भिन्न – भिन्न दृष्टिकोणों को समेटे हुए हिन्दी अनुभाग ।

एक शहर और नया

-श्रेयस विजयवर्गीय

एक शहर और नया,एक और नयी भीड़
इस नयी भीड़ का पर वही पुराना अकेलापन…

इस भीड़ में हज़ारों हैं चेहरे,जाने कितने हैं हारे
हैं मगर खुश ये चेहरे देख अपने कोशिशों के खाँचे
सफलता की सुराही थोड़ा और भरने की ये मेरी कैसी प्यास है
नाकाम चेहरों के बीच ये कामयाबी का अकेलापन…

एक शहर और नया,ज़िंदगी की जैसे नयी डोर
ऊँची, नयी हसरतों को रोज़ इस धागे में पिरोना
आज की अनगिनत छोटी खुशियों पे भारी ख्वाबों की मंज़िल
खुली आँखों से इन सपनों को बुनने का अकेलापन...

एक शहर और नया,सीधी राह पे लुभाते कितने नये मोड़
माँझी के कई बदल बरसे नहीं थे,मुस्तक़्बिल, तेज़ बरसात हो
लहरों की तरह बहना और आग की लपटों की तरह दहकना है
ऐसी बेज़ान चीज़ों से मायने ढूँढ़ने का अकेलापन....

एक शहर और नया, एक और नयी भीड़
इस नयी भीड़ का पर वही पुराना अकेलापन

महान् संगीतकार

मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षितर

-दिव्यसानु पाण्डेयः

भारत में संगीत की एक प्राचीन परम्परा रही है। मुख्यतः भारत के संगीत को हिन्दुस्तानी और कर्णाटक श्रेणियों में बांटा जा सकता है। हिन्दुस्तानी संगीत उत्तर भारत में प्रचलित है ,वहीं कर्णाटक संगीत का दक्षिण भारत में प्रचार है। यद्यपि दोनों ही संस्करण लय-ताल और स्वर पर आधारित हैं, ऐसा देखा गया है कि हिन्दुस्तानी संगीत में संगीत के विस्तार का प्राधान्य है , वहीं कर्णाटक संगीत में भाषा, तत्त्व, दर्शन, कला और साहित्य पर बल दिया जाता है।

कर्णाटक संगीत के कुछ प्रारम्भिक आचार्यों में पुरन्दरदासजी का नाम सर्वोपरि है। उन्हें कर्णाटक-संगीत का पितामह भी कहते हैं। उनके पश्चात् अट्ठारहवीं सदी में महान् संगीतकारों की जिस त्रिमूर्ति ने कर्णाटक संगीत को व्यवस्थित किया, वह है- श्याम शास्त्री, त्यागराज और मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित। ये तीनों ही तिरुवरुर (तमिलनाडु) से थे।

इनमें से एक मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित ने अन्य दोनों से अलग अपनी अधिकांश कृतियां संस्कृत में लिखीं हैं। इनके पूर्वज तमिलनाडु राज्य के विरञ्चिपुर के निवासी थे। इनका जन्म चौबीस मार्च सन् सत्रह सौ पचहत्तर को हुआ। इनके पिता रामस्वामी दीक्षित संगीत के महान् विद्वान् थे। सोलह वर्ष की आयु में ही इन्होंने वेद, वेदान्त, पुराण, ज्योतिष, काव्यालंकार और वैद्यशास्त्र का अध्ययन कर लिया।

इन्होंने अपने जीवन कई तीर्थयात्राएं की। एक बार काशी में गंगानदी में स्नान करने के पश्चात् हस्तांजलि में इन्हें वीणा के दर्शन हुए, समय के साथ ये महान् वैणिक भी हुए और आगे चलकर वीणा से पंद्रह गमकों की रचना की। ये कार्तिकेय के भक्त थे और ऐसी जनश्रुति है कि भगवान् कार्तिकेय ने इन्हें दर्शन भी दिये थे। ऐसा भी कहते हैं कि इन पर प्रसन्नसुब्रह्मण्य की कृपा थी।

जहां तक श्रीमुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित जी की कृतियों का प्रश्न है वे सभी वास्तव में रत्न हैं। ऐसा कहा भी गया है कि-

" ***पृथिव्यां त्रीणि रत्नानि जलमन्नम् सुभाषितम्***।"- अर्थात् पृथ्वी पर तो तीन ही रत्न हैं, जल, अन्न और सुन्दर कही गयी बातें।

दिव्यसानु द्वितीय वर्ष जन्पद अभियन्त्रिकि के छात्र हैं। हिन्दी तथा संस्कृत में लेखन के अतिरिक्त दिव्यासानु की राजनीति तथा संगीत में भी विशेष रूचि है।

मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित की रचनायें तो सुन्दर बातों की ऐसी मणियां हैं जो कि उनके द्वारा सुमनोहर राग रूपी स्वर्ण में उपनिबद्ध होकर किसी हार जैसी सुशोभित होती हैं। उनमें गेयता है, निश्चित ताल और राग हैं तथा भाषा में अलंकारों से चमत्कार भी उत्पन्न किया गया है।

उदाहरण के लिये उनकी अधोलिखित कृति 'मामव पट्टाभिराम' जो कि मणिरंग राग में संगीतबद्ध है-

मामव पट्टाभिराम - राग मणिरङ्ग

मामव पट्टाभिराम
जय मारुति-सन्नुतनाम राम

कोमलतरपल्लवपद कोदण्डराम
घनश्यामलविग्रहाब्जनयन
संपूर्णकाम रघुराम कल्याणराम राम

छत्र-चामरकरधृत भरतलक्ष्मण -
शत्रुघ्नविभीषणसुग्रीवप्रमुखादिसेवित
अत्रिवसिष्ठाद्यनुग्रहपात्र दशरथपुत्र
मणिरङ्गवल्ल्यालङ्कृत -
नवरत्नमण्डपे
विचित्रमणिमयसिंहासने
सीतया सह संस्थित सुचरित्र
परमपवित्र गुरुगुह-मित्र
पङ्कज मित्रवंशसुधाम्बुधिचन्द्र
मेदिनीपाल रामचन्द्र

इस रचना की अन्तिम पंक्तियों में 'मित्र' यह शब्द दो बार आया है और दोनों ही स्थानों पर इसके अलग-अलग अर्थ हैं (पहले 'मित्र' का अर्थ दोस्त है, वहीं दूसरी जगह इसका मतलब सूर्य है), जो कि यमक अलंकार का सुन्दर उदाहरण है।

साथ ही, चूंकि यह कृति मणिरंग राग में निबद्ध है, इसमें 'मणिरंग' शब्द का चतुराई से ('मणिरंगवल्ल्यालंकृतनवरत्नमण्डपे'- इस स्थान पर) प्रयोग भी कर दिया गया है और रामचन्द्र जी के लिये "सूर्यवंश के अमृतसमुद्र में चमक रहे चन्द्र" इस सुन्दर बिम्ब का भी उपयोग किया गया है जो कि कवि की कल्पनाशीलता के विस्तृत आयाम का परिचायक है।

मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित ने अपनी प्रायः सभी कृतियों के समष्टिचरणादि के साथ राग निश्चित किये हैं। बड़ी ही चतुराई से उस राग का नाम भी रचना में सम्मिलित किया है जिसमें कि वह बद्ध है।

छंदस् में लिखना कठिन कार्य है, इसके लिये व्यक्ति में कवित्व प्रतिभा होनी चाहिये, तत्पश्चात् उस रचना का राग निर्धारित करना तो कठिनतर कार्य है, व्यक्ति के पास संगीत के क्षेत्र में हस्तलाघव होना चाहिये परन्तु रचना को राग में बांधना और साथ ही मात्राओं, स्वरों तथा ताल के मध्य कठिन सामंजस्य स्थापित करते हुए राग का नाम भी रचना में सम्मिलित कर लेना तो कठिनतम कार्य है जिसे अपूर्व प्रतिभासम्पन्न व्यक्ति द्वारा ही संपादित किया जा सकता है। मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित की रचनाएं उनकी प्रतिभा की उच्चता का बखान स्वतः ही मुक्तकंठ से करती हैं।

मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित ने अपनी रचनायें किसी-न-किसी देवता के लिये लिखी हैं। इनकी रचनाओं में जगह-जगह पुराणों की कथाओं के सन्दर्भ हैं जो इनके विस्तृत शास्त्र-अध्ययन को दर्शाते हैं। नवग्रहों पर लिखी इनकी कृति ज्योतिष्-शास्त्र पर इनकी पकड़ की द्योतक है। इनकी रचनाओं में ज्ञान, कर्म और भक्ति का अद्भुत समावेश है। दीक्षितजी के विचार में सांसारिक माया से छूटकर स्वयं को पा लेना ही सफलता है। उदाहरण के लिये नायकी राग में निबद्ध उनकी कृति 'रंगनायकम् भावये' जो कि इस प्रकार से है –

रङ्गनायकम् - रागं नायकि - तालम् आदि

पल्लवि
रङ्गनायकं भावये
रङ्गनायकी समेतं श्री

अनुपल्लवि
अङ्गजतातं अनन्तं अतीतं
अजेन्द्राद्यमरनुतं सततं
उत्तुङ्गविहङ्गतुरङ्गं
कृपापाङ्गंरमान्तरङ्गम्

चरणम्
प्रणवाकारदिव्यविमानं
प्रह्लादादिभक्ताभिमानं
गणपतिसमानविष्वक्सेनं
गजतुरगपदातिसेनम्
दिनमणिकुलभवराघवाराधनं
मामकविदेहमुक्तिसाधनं
मणिमयसदनं शशिवदनं
फणिपतिशयनं पद्मनयनम्
अगणितसुगुणगणनतविभीषणं
घन-तरकौस्तुभमणिविभूषणं
गुणिजनकृतवेदपारायणं
गुरुगुहमुदितनारायणम्

यहां पर प्रह्लादादि का पुराणों में आया अंश लिया गया है और कविता में 'नायकी' (जो कि राग का नाम भी है) इस शब्द का प्रयोग चतुराई से कर दिया गया है। 'अगणितसुगुणगणनतविभीषणम्'- इस स्थान पर अनुप्रास अलंकार है।

मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित ने रागों का भी बड़ा सुन्दर चयन किया है जो कि उदाहरणों से स्पष्ट है। मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित का जीवन भक्तिमय था, उनकी रचनाओं में विद्या का समावेश था, संगीत का रस था तो भक्ति की पराकाष्ठा थी। अन्य समकालीन कवियों और संगीतकारों से अलग दीक्षितजी ने प्रायः सभी देवताओं के लिये कृतियां लिखीं। देवी के विभिन्न रूपों के लिये विविध रागों में इनकी रचनायें हैं।

इक्कीस अक्टूबर अट्ठारह सौ पैंतीस इसवी को नरक चतुर्दशी के दिन दीक्षितजी अपने शिष्यों से पूर्वीकल्याणी राग में निबद्ध अपनी 'मीनाक्षि मे मुदम् देहि' इस रचना को गाने को कहा। इस रचना की पल्लवी पंक्ति '***मीनलोचनि पाशमोचनि***' (अर्थात् हे मीनसदृश सुन्दर आंखों वाली देवी, हे मृत्युपाश से मुक्ति प्रदान करने वाली देवी !) को बार बार सुनते हुए हाथ उठाकर 'शिवे पाहि' ऐसा कहकर उन्होंने इहलीला समाप्त की और कैवल्य प्राप्त किया।

मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित ने प्रायः जिन मन्दिरों की यात्राएं की उनके देवताओं के लिये रचनायें कीं। आज उनकी लगभग पांच सौ कृतियां ज्ञात हैं और लगभग सभी लोकप्रचलित हैं। सामान्यतः इनकी गति मन्द है। उनकी रचनाएं गम्भीर अर्थ वाली हैं और कर्णप्रिय भी। यद्यपि दीक्षितजी की रचनायें मन्दिर के देवताओं के लिये हैं, तथापि उन्होंने अद्वैत सिद्धान्त को अपनाया है, इस प्रकार, बहुदेववाद और अद्वैतवाद का अनूठा समावेश प्रस्तुत किया है।

मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित ने सभी बहत्तर मेलाकर्त रागों या थाटों पर कृतियां लिखीं और बहुत से भूले-बिसरे रागों को लोकप्रिय बनाकर नया जीवन दिया। उनका उद्देश्य था कि प्रत्येक राग पर कम से कम एक आदर्श कृति हो ,जिससे उस राग को नयी पीढ़ी द्वारा सीखने में आसानी रहे। निश्चय ही, जो अपने जीवन में ही अपने भविष्य की पीढ़ियों के उपकार के लिये सोचें, ऐसे महापुरुष विरले ही होते हैं।

मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित जी ने सभी आधारभूत तालों पर कृतियां लिखीं हैं और वे ऐसे एकमात्र संगीतकार हैं, उन्होंने सभी आठों कारकों में रचना करके संस्कृत को भी समृद्ध किया है।

निश्चय ही, मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षित का योगदान अतुलनीय है और इस प्रकार वे भारतीय संगीत परंपरा के महान् आचार्यों में से एक हैं।

हमारा प्यारा वतन

- मनोज कुमार सूठवाल

जिसके चरण धोता रत्नाकर, समुद्र में मिलते बहुमूल्य रत्न,
जहाँ किसान परिश्रम करके देखता उन्नति के स्वप्न,
वह कोई और नहीं, वह है हमारा प्यारा वतन !

हिमालय जिसका मुकुट है, उस पर खिलते सुन्दर चमन,
जहाँ रहते सब मिल-जुलकर, रहता चारों ओर अमन,
वह कोई और नहीं, वह है हमारा प्यारा वतन !

जहाँ सब करते जग भलाई, भौतिक सुख का करते दमन,
जहाँ प्रेमचन्द जैसे लेखक ने लिखा है ग्रन्थ सोज़े वतन,
वह कोई और नहीं, वह है हमारा प्यारा वतन !

जहाँ सभी धर्मों में भाईचारा हो, देश के प्रति हो लगन,
जहाँ लोकतंत्र का शासन हो तथा संसद के हो दो सदन,
वह कोई और नहीं, वह है हमारा प्यारा वतन !

जहाँ सैनिक सरहदों पर रक्षा के लिये बांधे रहता है कफ़न,
जहाँ मजदूर कठिन परिश्रम करके सहता सर्दी, वर्षा और तपन ,
वह कोई और नहीं, वह है हमारा प्यारा वतन !

ज़िद्द

-श्रेयस विजयवर्गीय

ये जाना गहरी सोच में डूबकर
कि मैं नहीं मेरी सोच है ज़िद्दी
सीली यादों के किताब में मेरे
कुछ चंद पन्ने ही ये फेरती रही

दिल की फरमाइश थी सो इससे कहा
बदलाव की गुंजाइश थी ये इससे कहा
ख्वाबों के बाग़ में तब भी
ये कलियाँ नयी तोड़ती रही

दिल को समझाऊं कैसे
मैं नहीं मेरी सोच है ज़िद्दी

जज़्बात मेरे मुझसे नाराज़ थे
दिन,महीने,बरसों से जो क़ैद थे
आज़ाद होने की माँग थी इनकी
और ये सोच, सलाखें बदलती रही

कहता हूँ यही बचाव में अपने
की मैं नहीं मेरी सोच है ज़िद्दी....

हमारा इतिहास और अस्तित्व

-चन्द्रकेतन साहू

इतिहास गवाह है की इतिहास ने उन्ही की सुनी है और उन्ही का जिक्र किया है जिन्होने समय की पुकार सुनी है और अपने को समयनुसार बदल कर खुद को लचीला बनाया है. अडिग और जिद्दी रहे सूरमाओं को इतिहास भी दीमक की भाँति निगल गया और लचीलेपन की ताप से सबसे मजबूत और टिकने वाले व्यक्तित्वओं का निर्माण हुआ जो आज भी हमारे दिल और दिमाग़ में एक स्थान बनाए हैं.

आज का भविष्य भी कल का इतिहास होगा। समय आ गया है की जब इस इतिहास को बनाने के लिए हम एक दूसरे से सामंजस्य बैठाए हुए दुनिया के उन विकसित मुल्कों से प्रतियोगिता करें जिन्होने खुद को समय से आगे रख कर बदलाव को स्वीकार किया और समय के साथ कुछ ऐसे निवेश किए, कुछ ऐसे कदम उठाए जिन्होने उन्हें समकालीन संसार के धरातल से उठाया और अपने लिए ही नहीं बल्कि दूसरों के लिए भी निर्णय लेने का अधिकार दिया.

आज अमेरिका, रशिया और इंग्लेंड जैसे देश विश्वा के राजनीतिक पटल पर एक ऐसी पहचान बना चुके हैं की वे किसी भी देश के आन्तरिक और बाह्य मामलों में अपना सकते हैं. और इनकी सबसे बड़ी विशेषता यह रही है की इन्होने अपनी आंतरिक कमज़ोरी को कभी भी विश्वा के सामने जगजाहिर नहीं होने दिया है . जब भी इन्हें किसी आंतरिक परेशानी या विद्रोह का सामना करना पड़ा है इन्होने अपने देश के दरवाजे बाकी मुल्कों के लिए बंद कर दिए हैं और स्वयं ही उन परेशानियों को झेला है. सीधे शब्दों में कहा जाए तो घर की बात घर से बाहर नहीं होने दी है. आत्मनिर्भरता विशेषतः कठिनाई के समय में और अपनी संस्कृति और सभ्यता को बरकरार रखते हुए सुधारवादी विचारों को अपने सभायता और समाज में शामिल करना इन देशों की मुख्य और बेहतरीन मजबूती रही है, जो की सीखने योग्य है.

आज हम अग्रसर बनने और आधुनिकता के अंधकार में अपनी मूल सभ्यायता और संस्कृति को ना सिर्फ़ भूल रहें हैं बल्कि दरकिनार भी कर रहें हैं. जो देश कभी ईमानदारी, सम्मान और संपन्नता का प्रतीक हुआ करता था आज पिच्छदेपन और भ्रष्टाचार के लिए प्रसिद्ध है और एक सवाल जो मैं अक्सर खुद से करता हूँ की इस देश में आख़िर बदला क्या है?

संसाधानो के मामले में आज भी हम संपन्न हैं, हमारे बुद्धिजीवी संसार के हर कोने में अपनी छाप छोड़ते हैं. गर्व और समर्पण की आज भी किसी भारतिय में कमी नहीं है. बदली है तो एक मात्र चीज़ और वो है हमारी मानसिकता ! हमें अपनी सभ्यता और संस्कृति के उन आदर्शों को भुला दिया है जो हमारे अस्तित्व का मूल आधार थे. हमने अपने इतिहास में गर्व करना बंद कर दिया है. जहाँ त्याग, समर्पण और बलिदान के नित नये गीत लिखे जाते थे आज वहाँ भ्रष्टाचार और अपराधों का रोज नया अध्याय खुलता है. हम वो सच भूल गये हैं जो हमें अपने आस पास के लोगों की सेवा और सहायता करने में प्राप्त होता है. हम केवल अपनी प्रसन्नता और संपन्नता को ध्यान में रखना चाहते हैं और इस कारण आज ज़िम्मेदारी लेने वाला व्यक्ति भी आलस के चक्कर में फँस जाता है.

मैं ये नहीं कहता की आधुनिकता और प्रौद्योगिकी को ना अपनायें परंतु ऐसा करते हुए हम अपने समाज और सभायता के मूल उदयशों को ना भूले. आज भी कुछ बिगाड़ा नहीं है और ना ही किसी बात की कमी है . हम आज भी अपने युवाओं के बल पर अपने संसाधानो और बुद्धिजीवियों का सही इस्तेमाल करके आसमान की उन बुलंदियों को छू सकते हैं जहाँ से हमारे देश का अस्तित्व रहा है. हमारा इतिहास रहा है सर्वोच्च रहने का और हम कल भी इतिहास बनाएँगे.

चन्द्रकेतन त्रितिय वर्ष संगड़क अभियन्त्रिकि के छात्र हैं तथा जनहित से जुड़े मुद्दों पर सक्रिय रूप से लेखन और वाद-विवाद के लिये जाने जाते हैं।

धिक् त्वाम् आधुनिकभारतपुत्रम् !

-दिव्यसानु पाण्डेयः

असंस्कृतं धर्मज्ञानविमुखम्
पाश्चात्यसंस्कृति-अनुगामिनम्।
स्वसंस्कृतिविषये प्रतिहतान्तःकरणम्
धिक् त्वाम् आधुनिकभारतपुत्रम् !॥

देशद्रोहिणामनुकारकम्
राष्ट्रसेविनाम् प्रतिकारकम्।
संस्कारात्संस्कृतेश्च पराङ्मुखम्
धिक् त्वाम् आधुनिकभारतपुत्रम् ! ॥

विवेकारविन्दयोः विषयेऽज्ञम्
असभ्याभिनेतृणाम् विषये सुविज्ञम्।
अकरणीयम् यस्मै करणीयम्
धिक् त्वाम् आधुनिकभारतपुत्रम् ! ॥

मानबिन्दुराष्ट्ररक्षाक्षेत्रेषु अरुचम्
चलचित्रमद्यनृत्यादिषु सुरुचम्।
अभक्ष्यभक्षकञ्च राष्ट्रसंपत्तिहन्तारम्
धिक् त्वाम् आधुनिकभारतपुत्रम् ! ॥
चार्वाकवादिनम् च नास्तिकम्
लाभप्राप्तये परञ्चास्तिकम्।
विषयलोलुपतया क्षितौ इतस्ततः भ्रमन्तम्
धिक् त्वाम् आधुनिकभारतपुत्रम्! ॥

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नाम तो सुना ही होगा ?

- पारुष्य 'न्युइन्डियन'

इस लेख का प्रथम प्रकाशन २ अक्टोबर, २०१३ को संस्थान की छात्र वेबसाइट बीचसाइड्ब्लुज़- डॉट-कॉम पर हुआ था।

22 वर्ष उम्र है मेरी और पिछले 21 वर्षों से एक प्रश्न मुझसे बार बार दोहराया जाता है - 'बेटा , तुम्हारा नाम क्या है ?' | मामूली सा प्रश्न है, सबसे पूछा जाता है और इसमें कुछ नया नहीं है। मेरा जवाब होता है 'जी, पारुष्य '। तुरंत ही तीर सामान दूसरा प्रश्न आता है 'बेटा , पूरा नाम ?' और मैं कहता हूँ 'जो है, यही है ' । कुछ महानुभाव यहीं हार मान जाते हैं और कुछ एक कदम और बढ़ाते हुए पूछते हैं 'बेटा , पापा का नाम ?' । इतना तो आप भी समझ गए होंगे की इनके इन प्रश्नों के वार का मुख्य आशय क्या है | जी एकदम सही पकड़ा, ये मेरी जाति जानना चाहते हैं |

जाति भारत में सबकुछ चलाती है ; शायद दुर्भाग्यवश ही पर इसकी यहाँ खूब चलती है | शिक्षा , नौकरी , प्यार मोहब्बत , शादी आदि में सब में खूब बोलबाला है , और राजनीति में तो इसका प्रकोप असाध्य हो चुका है | खैर , मैं जाति के इतिहास में नहीं घुसूंगा - वैसे भी इस इतिहास को रट कर हम कक्षा 9 -1 0 की परीक्षा में बहुत अंक बटोर चुके हैं | आज 2 अक्टूबर है तो मैं बस भारत के एक महान नेता की बात करूंगा | गाँधी जी की बात नहीं कर रहा मैं - जन्मदिन तो उनका भी है तो उन्हें भी बधाईयाँ ज़रूर देता हूँ | मैं बात कर रहा हूँ 'जय जवान , जय किसान ' के जनक लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी की | आप सोच रहे होंगे की भला जाति के वाद विवाद में शास्त्री जी क्या कर लेंगे अब ?

बहुत कम लोगों को ज्ञात होगा की श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री का कुलनाम यानि की सरनेम 'शास्त्री ' नहीं था | क्या था ? अब यह बता देने पर तो इस लेख और मेरे विचारों का कोई मतलब नहीं रह जायेगा | काफी कम उम्र में ही श्री लाल बहादुर ने अपना पैत्रक कुलनाम त्याग दिया था क्योंकि सैद्धान्तिक रूप से वे जाति व्यवस्था के खिलाफ थे | और क्योंकि उन्हें अपनी शिक्षा पर ज्यादा गर्व था , उन्होंने अपनी शैक्षिक उपाधि अर्थात डिग्री को ही अपने नाम में जोड़ लिया - 'शास्त्री' , अंग्रेज़ी में जिसका अर्थ होता है 'स्कॉलर' | अब ये मत समझियेग की मैं आपसे अपने नाम से सिंह, सिन्हा , शर्मा ,वर्मा , शुक्ला , मिश्रा आदि हटा कर ' बी . टेक ' या 'एम् . सी . ए ' लगाने कह रहा हूँ | मैं बस याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ एक बहुत ही सरल परन्तु ताकतवर तरीके की, जिससे 'जाति ' से हुए नुकसान का कुछ किया जा सके |

जाति के नुकसान क्या होते हैं ? ये जानने के लिए हमे बस एक बार इसकी बुराइयों और अच्छाइयों को देखना होगा | बुराइयां - कभी जाती के नाम पर लोगों को खाना नहीं मिलता था , और आज अच्छे अंक पाकर भी अच्छा कॉलेज नहीं मिलता है| लैला और मजनू की जाति नहीं मिलती तो रोमियो-लैला और जूलिएट-मजनू की शादी करा दी जाती है और पूरी कहानी से प्रेम विरक्त ही हो जाता है। अब आपके दिमाग में और भी बुराइयाँ ध्यान आएँगी ; इस सूची में जोड़ लीजियेगा | अच्छाइयां - जाति से हमे एक काल्पनिक गर्व की अनुभूति होती है की हम औरों से श्रेष्ठ हैं , हमे कम मेहनत से भी अच्छा कॉलेज या अच्छी नौकरी मिल जाएगी आदि आदि | शायद बड़े बड़े देशों में ऐसी छोटी छोटी खुशियों की ज़रूरत होती होगी | बहरहाल , मेरा मानना है कि गर्व हमे अपने कर्म और राष्ट्र पर होना चाहिए, और 'सिंह ' सी निडरता की ज्यादा ज़रूरत हमे अपने विचारों में है न की नाम मे.

और इन सब बातों के बाद एक बार सोचियेगा की इतना पढ़े लिखे होने के बाद भी कहीं किसी से पहली बार मिलने पर उसकी जो छवि हमारे मन में बनती है , कहीं वह भी उसके 'सरनेम' के पूर्वाग्रह से ग्रसित तो नहीं होती ?

मेरे माता पिता ने तो मुझ पर अपना कुलनाम नहीं डाला | शायद उन्हें आशा होगी की मैं अपना नाम खुद बना लूँगा - पापा कहते हैं न, की बेटा बड़ा नाम करेगा | अब बना पाउँगा या नहीं ये तो नहीं पता और इस बारे में कभी और बात करेंगे | कई लोग सरनेम को पारिवारिक गर्व और सम्पदा से जोड़ के देखते हैं , तो यार ठीक ठाक गर्व तो मुझे भी है अपने माँ बाप और परिवार पे, और रही बात सम्पदा की तो वो भी ठीक ही चल रही है | मुद्दे की बात ये है की सरनेम न होने से मुझे पिछले 2 दशक में कोई ख़ास दिक्कत नहीं हुई है| हाँ , इस लेख के शुरू में जिन प्रश्नों के बारे में बताया वे अक्सर पूछे जाते हैं, पर अब तो आदत है उनकी | फेसबुक पर अकाउंट बनाते समय ज़रूर थोडा ठगा हुआ महसूस किया था क्योंकि ज़ूकेर्बेर्ग भैया को आज तक लगता है की 'लास्ट नेम इज़ ए मैन्डट्री फील्ड' | उनको भी मेसेज किया की 'भैया, अमरीकी सरकार को पूरी दुनिया की खबर दे देते हो आप , मेरी इस छोटी सी दुविधा का समाधान तो कर ही दोगे ' | जवाब तो आया नहीं , व्यस्त होंगे शायद | तो मैंने भी लगा लिया अपने नाम में 'न्युइन्डियन ', सोचा की अगर कभी लोग जाति छोड़ेंगे तो शायद एक नया देश बनेगा।

साहित्य समाज का दर्पण है

-नितिन सामंता

कागज़ों को मोड़कर कहते थे दिल की बात,
बोतलों में बहकर आती थी, व्यापारियों की सौगात।
वीर रणबांकुरों का था वो ज़माना,
चाणक्य-नीति से था मुद्रा कमाना॥

विदेशी लुटेरों का था दबदबा बड़ा,
नालन्दा सोमनाथ को आधा करके छोड़ा।
ऊंच-नीच, जाति-धर्म पर हुए कई क्लेश,
जिस परिवार में जन्मे वैसा हुआ उनका वेष॥

इन वास्तविकताओं को संजोया कई महान् लेखों में,
निन्दा तो हुई पर मदद किया कई शौकीन शेखों ने।
आज हम उस संस्कृति को बड़ी बारीकी से जानते हैं,
तेनाली बीरबल के विद्वत्व का लोहा मानते हैं॥

पर ये विस्तृत सामाजिकताएं हमें सपने में नहीं दिखीं,
और न ही हम में से किसी ने कल्पना करके लिखी।
ये तो देन है उन मौलिक परिकल्पनाओं की, जो संजो दिये गये साहित्यों में,
गीत बने नाटक हुए और कई तो उतार दिये गये चलचित्रों में॥

आजकल की तो बात ही निराली है,
मोबाइल, कम्प्यूटर ने दुनिया संभाली है।
एक फोन कॉल में प्यार, दूसरे में इक़रार हो जाता है,
फिर एक एस.एम.एस. से इंकार और दूसरे से दीदार हो जाता है॥

इन व्यक्तिगत-सामाजिक अस्थिरताओं का विवरण भी मिलता है क़िताबों में,
ख़ूब कमाए चेतन भगत जैसे इन कहानियों के व्यापारियों ने।
लेखन-शैली में परिवर्तन भी साफ़ नज़र आती है,
शेक्सपीयर का नाम सुनते ही पहले डिक्शनरी याद आती है॥

ग्रामीण समाज कभी देखा नहीं, पर लिख सकते हैं उस पर निबन्ध,
गुरुदेव और प्रेमचन्द की कहानियों में बसी है गांवों की सुगन्ध।
ज्ञान के इस असीम भण्डार को हम सबका नमन अर्पण है,
भिन्नपूर्ण विश्वव्यापी समाज का साहित्य ही तो दर्पण है॥

नयी राहें, नया सफ़र

-श्रेयस विजयवर्गीय

आज बूँदों को खिड़की पर
जब नयी राहें बनाते देखा।
लगा मौसम ने अंगड़ाई लेकर
मुझे कुछ इशारा है किया॥

सोच का खिलौना जो थम गया था
चाबी उसमें ये झोंका भर रहा था।
मुझे इस ठंडी फुहार के ज़रिए
बदलाव की अहमियत बतला रहा था॥

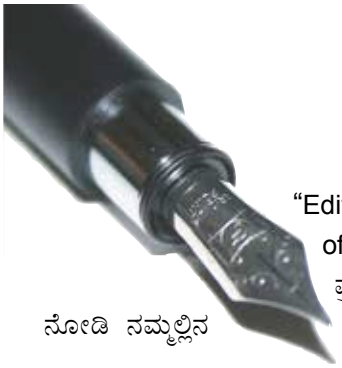
हर नया सफ़र, नया प्रयास
वो स्कूल का पहला दिन,पहली कविता।
शर्म का कत्ल कर किसी हसीन से
पहली मर्तबा जा कुछ कहना॥

ज़िंदगी के पुराने मर्तबान में ये
कुछ नये पकवान की तरह थे।
इन अनुभवों को महसूस किया, देखा
यादों के बरामदे मासूम बैठे थे॥

भूल रोज़मर्रा के तौर तरीकों को
बुझी ज़िंदगानी में चिंगारी लगा।
इस बदलते मौसम का बहाना कर
चाहतें है कहती तू भी बदल ज़रा॥

आज बूँदों को खिड़की पर
जब नयी राहें बनाते देखा।
लगा मौसम ने अंगड़ाई लेकर
मुझे कुछ इशारा है किया॥

ಸಂಪಾದಕರ ನುಡಿ



"Editors for Kannada section of Vitruvian required" ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಫೇಸ್ ಬುಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿನ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಕಂದ ಎಚ್ಚರಗೊಂಡ.

ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಮಿಂಚಂಚೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ನಾವು ತ್ರಿಮೂರ್ತಿಗಳು "ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಪಾದಕ"ರಾದೆವು. "ಸಂಪಾದಕ" ಎಂಬ ಪಟ್ಟ ಅಲಂಕರಿಸಲು ನಾವೇನು ಭಾಸ, ಕಾಳಿದಾಸ, ಬಸವಣ್ಣರಂತೆ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಂಡಿತ್ಯವೇನು ಹೊಂದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಆದರೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಪುಸ್ತಕ, ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಓದುವ ಹವ್ಯಾಸ ರೂಢಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೆವು. ಸಂಪಾದಕರ ಕೆಲಸವೆಂದರೆ ತೆಕ್ಕೆಗೆ ಬಂದ ನೂರಾರು ಬರಹಗಳನ್ನು ಓದಿ, ಕೊಂಚ ತಿದ್ದಿ, ಪುನರುಕ್ತಿ ಲೇಖನಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವುದು ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವಿದ್ದೆವು. ಆಂಗ್ಲದಲ್ಲಿ "Man proposes, God disposes" ಎಂದಂತೆ, ವಾಸ್ತವ ಬೇರೆಯೇ ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ಆಗಿನ್ನೂ ನಾವು ತೃತೀಯ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕದವರು. "ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಬರವಣಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ" ಎಂದು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ತುಂಬ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಹಚ್ಚಿದೆವು. ದಿನಗಳುರುಳಿ ವಾರಗಳಾದರು ಒಂದೂ ಬರಹ ಬರಲಿಲ್ಲ! ನಾವು ಕಂಗಾಲಾದೆವು. ಇರುಬರುವರನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ, "ಅಣ್ಣ, ಒಂದು ಕವಿತೆ ಬರೆದು ಕೊಡಿ, ಅಕ್ಕ, NITK ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಏನಾದರೂ ಬರೆಯಿರಿ" ಎಂದು ದರಖಾಸ್ತು ಮಾಡಿದೆವು. ಹೀಗೆ ಹತ್ತಾರು ಸಹೋದರ, ಸಹೋದರಿಯರನ್ನು ಬೇಡಿದ ನಂತರ, ಸರಿಸುಮಾರು 8 ಪುಟಗಳು ತುಂಬುವಷ್ಟು ಬರಹಗಳು ನಮ್ಮ ತೆಕ್ಕೆಗೆ ಬಂದವು. ಹಾಗೋ ಹೀಗೊ ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿಭಾಗವನ್ನು ಹೊರತಂದೆವು.

ಈ ವರ್ಷ ನಾವು ಪಾಠ ಕಲಿತಿದ್ದೆವು. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಕೊನೆಯ ಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೆಯಲು ಇದು "Surprise Test" ಅಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು ನಮಗೆ ಅರಿವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ತಿಂಗಳುಗಟ್ಟಲೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣೇತರ ವರ್ಗ, ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಹೀಗೆ NITKಯ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮನುಕುಲವನ್ನು ತಲುಪಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿದೆವು. ಹರೆಯದ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಹುಡುಗ, ಹುಡುಗಿಯರಿಗೆ ಬರೆಯಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಹೇಳಿದರೆ, ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ, ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಎಂದ ತಕ್ಷಣ "ಪ್ರೀತಿ–ಪ್ರೇಮ" ಉಕ್ಕಿ ಹರಿಯುತ್ತದೋ ಏನೋ, ಪ್ರಣಯ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹತ್ತು ಹಲವಾರು ಲೇಖನಗಳು ಬಂದವು. ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವರು ಪ್ರೇಯಸಿಯ ವಿರಹವನ್ನು ಖಾಯಿಲೆಯಂತೆ ಬಣ್ಣಿಸಿ ಬರೆದು ಕಳಿಸಿದರು. ಜೀವನಾನುಭವ ಉಳ್ಳವರು ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಹತ್ತಿರದಿಂದ ನೋಡಿ ಎಂಟು–ಹತ್ತು ಸಾಲು ಕವನ ಬರೆದು ಕಳಿಸಿದರು. NITK ಎಂಬ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಲೋಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷ ಕಳೆದ ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಕಳಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟ ಭಾವನಾತ್ಮಕ ಬರಹ ಓದಿ ನಮಗೂ ಕೊಂಚ ಭಾವೋದ್ವೇಗ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದ್ದು ಸುಳ್ಳಲ್ಲ. ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ತಮ್ಮ ಅನುಭವವನ್ನು ಸ್ವಾರಸ್ಯಕರವಾಗಿ ಬಣ್ಣಿಸಿ ಒಂದು ಲೇಖನ ಬರೆದರು. 2 ಪುಟಗಳು ಏನಾದರೂ ಬರೆದು ಕೊಡಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಲು ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭಟ್ಟರ ಹತ್ತಿರ ನಾವು ಹೋದರೆ, ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಲೇ ವಿಭಿನ್ನ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ ಲೇಖನ ಬರೆದು ನಮಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟರು.

ಅತ್ತ ಲೇಖನಗಳು ಸಣ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಆದರೆ ನಿಯತಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹರಿದು ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇತ್ತ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ನೀಲಿನಕ್ಷೆ ನಾವು ತಯಾರು ಮಾಡಿದೆವು. ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾಗಿ ಓದುಗರಿಗೆ ತರಹೇವಾರಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಲೇಖನಗಳ ರಸದೌತಣ ಬಡಿಸುವುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಉದ್ದೇಶ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಎಂದ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಕವಿತೆ, ಎರಡು ಚುಟುಕುಗಳು, ಇನ್ನೊಂದಿಷ್ಟು ಕಥೆ ಕಾದಂಬರಿ, ಇಂತಹುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗದೆ, ಸಂದರ್ಶನ, ವಿಮರ್ಶೆ, ಜಾಗತೀಕ ವಿದ್ಯಾಮಾನಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಅನಿಸಿಕೆ ಹೀಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಹಲವಾರು ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳ ಮಾದರಿಯನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆದಿಡುವ ಒಂದು ಸಣ್ಣ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ನಮ್ಮದು.

ಈ ವರ್ಷದ ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಗ, "ಶ್ರೀಗಂಧ" ಶುರುವಾಗುವುದು ಅರುಣ್ ಇಸ್ಲೂರ್‌ರವರ ಕೂದಲು ವ್ಯಾಪಾರದ ಸ್ವಾರಸ್ಯಕರ ಲೋಕದ ಇಣುಕು ನೋಟದಿಂದ. ಮುಂದೆ ಸಾಗುತ್ತ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಪ್ರಾಸ, ಮತ್ತೊಂದಿಷ್ಟು ವಿನೂತನ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯಿಂದ ಮೂಡಿದ ಕವನಗಳು. ಶಶಾಂಕ್‌ನು ಟ್ರಾವೆಲ್ ಗೈಡ್ ನಂತೆ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಸುತ್ತ ಹೋಗಬಹುದಾದ ವಿವಿಧ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳ ಒಂದು ಸಣ್ಣ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ನಿಖಿಲ್ ಪ್ರೇಮ–ಪ್ರಣಯ ಭರಿತ ರೋಚಕ ಕಥೆ ಹೇಳಿದರೆ, ಸಂದೀಪ ಬದುಕಿನ ಬಸ್ಸಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೊಸ ನೋಟ ಬೀರಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ತೀವ್ರ ಕುತೂಹಲ ಕೆರಳಿಸಿದ್ದ, ಹಲವು ಆಯಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಿನ್ನವಾಗಿ ಮೂಡಿಬಂದ ಲೂಸಿಯಾ ಚಿತ್ರದ ವಿಮರ್ಶೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ತರಗತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ವರ್ತನೆ, ಹದಗೆಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ–ಶಿಷ್ಯ ಸಂಬಂಧಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕರ ಚರ್ಚೆ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಹೊಮ್ಮಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಉತ್ತುಂಗಕ್ಕೇರಲು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು, ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಜೊತೆಗೆ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣೇತರ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯವರದು ಕೂಡ ಮಹತ್ತರವಾದ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಟ್ಲಾಪುರ್‌ರವರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನದಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ 25 ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಆದ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಹಾಗು ಅದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮಗಳನ್ನು, ಒಬ್ಬ ಹಿರಿತಲೆಯ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನದಿಂದ ನಿಮಗೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ತುಂಬಾ ಗಂಭೀರ ಲೇಖನಗಳ ಜೊತೆಜೊತೆಗೆ ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನು ನಗಿಸಿ ನಲಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲಿ ಚುಟುಕು, ಪದಬಂಧ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಕೂಡ ಊಟದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಉಪ್ಪಿನಕಾಯಿಯಂತೆ ಚಪ್ಪರಿಸಿ ಸವಿಯುತ್ತೀರಿ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಆಶಯ.

ಇಂದು ನಮಗೆ "ಶ್ರೀಗಂಧ" ಹೊರತರುವಲ್ಲಿ ಅತೀವ ಸಂತಸವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡದ ಘಮ ಆಘ್ರಾಣಿಸಿ ನೀವು ಕೂಡ ಇದನ್ನು ಇಷ್ಟಪಡುತ್ತೀರಿ ಎಂದು ನಾವು ಭಾವಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ. ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅನಿಸಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೀಕೆಗಳನ್ನು magazine.nitk@gmail.comಗೆ ಮಿಂಚಂಚೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಸುಂದರವಾಗಿ ಮೂಡಿಬರಲಿ ಎನ್ನುವುದೇ ಸಂಪಾದಕರ ಅಭಿಲಾಶೆ.

–ಸಂಪಾದಕರು

ಕೂದಲನ್ನು ಕಸವೆನ್ನಬೇಡಿ... ಇದಕ್ಕೂ ಬಂಗಾರದ ದರ!

ನಗೂ ನನ್ನ ಹಿರಿಯಣ್ಣ ಡಾ। ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣನಿಗೂ ಒಂಬತ್ತು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅಂತರ. ನಾನು ಚಿಕ್ಕವನಿದ್ದಾಗ ಆತನ ಸಿಟ್ಟು ಗಮನಿಸಿ ಹೆದರುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಈಗಲೂ ಆತನಿಗೆ ಮೂಗಿನ ತುದಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಸಿಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಮ್ಮ ತಯಾರಿಸಿದ ತಿಂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೆರಡು ಬಾರಿ ಕೂದಲಿನ ಎಳೆ ಬಂದಾಗ, ಊಟದ ತಟ್ಟೆಯನ್ನೇ ಎಸೆದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ರಂಪ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ನನಗೆ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ನೆನಪಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ನನ್ನಮ್ಮನಿಗೆ ಆತನಿಗೆ ಊಟ ಬಡಿಸುವುದೆಂದರೆ ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಅತಿಯಾದ ಭಯ! ಈ ಘಟನೆಗಳು ನಡೆದು ಇದೀಗ 30–32 ವರ್ಷಗಳೇ ಕಳೆದಿವೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿರುವ ಆತ, ಪಿಜ್ಜಾ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹಲವಾರು ಸಿದ್ಧ ಆಹಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ಸೇವಿಸುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಆದರೆ ಇಂತಹ ಹಲವಾರು ಸಿದ್ಧ ಆಹಾರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಕೂದಲಿನಿಂದ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕಿಸಿದ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಬೆರೆತಿರುವ ವಿಷಯ ಮಾತ್ರ ಇನ್ನೂ ಅವನಿಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ತಿಳಿದರೂ ಬಹುಶಃ ಹೋಟೆಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಮುಂದೆ ಎಸೆಯಲಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ...

ಇಂತಹ ಘಟನೆಗಳು ನೀವೂ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿರಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ನಾವು ಸೇವಿಸುವ ಹಲವಾರು ಸಿದ್ಧ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂದಲಿನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲಾರದ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಬೆರೆತಿದೆ ಎಂದರೆ ಬೆಚ್ಚಿ ಬೀಳುವಿರಿಲ್ಲವೇ? ಕೂದಲಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸೆಸ್ಟಿನ್ ಎಂಬ ಅಮೈನೊ ಆಮ್ಲವನ್ನು ಪಿಜ್ಜಾದಂತಹ ಹಲವಾರು ಸಿದ್ಧ ಆಹಾರ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 'ಆಹಾರ ಘಟಕವಾಗಿ' (Food additive) ಬಳಸುವುದು ಶೇಕಡಾ 98ರಷ್ಟು ಜನರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಂತೆಯೇ ಇದರ ಬಳಕೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹಿಟ್ಟಿನ ಮೆದುತನ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುವಿಕೆ, ಮಾಂಸಾಹಾರದಂತಹ ಸುವಾಸನೆಗೆ ಇದೇ ಮೂಲ ಕಾರಣ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಹಲವಾರು ಔಷಧಿ-ಟಾನಿಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲೂ, ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ಕೃತಕ ಸುಗಂಧಕಾರಕಗಳ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಇದು ಅತ್ಯಗತ್ಯ.

'ಸೆಸ್ಟಿನ್' ಎಂಬುದು ಮನುಷ್ಯನಿಗೆ ಅತ್ಯಗತ್ಯವಲ್ಲದ ಒಂದು ಅಮೈನೊ ಆಮ್ಲ. ಆದರೂ ಇದರ ಅತಿಯಾದ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲವರಲ್ಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು ಕಂಡು ಬರಬಹುದು. ಇದು ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ತಯಾರಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕೂದಲು ಉಗುರುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಪ್ರಾಣಿಗಳ ಕೊಂಬಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಈರುಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ, ಬ್ರೋಕ್ಕೊಲಿ, ಮೊಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಈ ಮೊದಲು ವಿವರಿಸಿದ ಇದರ ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ಧನಾತ್ಮಕ ಅಂಶಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ, ಸಿದ್ಧ ಆಹಾರ ತಯಾರಿಸುವಿಕೆ, ಔಷಧಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಮುಂತಾದುವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಗತ್ಯವೆನಿಸಿದೆ. ಒಂದೆರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಬಿ.ಬಿ.ಸಿ. ಚಾನೆಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿಯ ಒಂದು ವರದಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ 'ಸಿಸ್ಟಿನ್ ಅಮೈನೊ ಆಮ್ಲ'ದ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ಹಲವಾರು ಬಿಲಿಯನ್ ಡಾಲರ್‌ಗಳಷ್ಟು! ಇಂತಹ ಬಿಲಿಯನ್ ಡಾಲರ್‌ಗಳಷ್ಟು ವ್ಯವಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾದ ಮೂಲ ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ದೊರಕುವ ಹಾಗು ಅಗ್ಗದ ಕಚ್ಚಾವಸ್ತು ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ತಲೆಗೂದಲು! ಹೌದು. . . ಯಾವುದಕ್ಕೋ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದೇ ಭಾವಿಸಿ ಕಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ತಲೆಗೂದಲಿನಿಂದ ಈ ಕೋಟ್ಯಾಂತರ ಡಾಲರ್‌ಗಳ ಉದ್ದಿಮೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಜಾಗತೀಕ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ಅಮೈನೊ ಆಮ್ಲವನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಸಿಂಹಪಾಲು ಚೀನಾ ದೇಶದ್ದು. ಸರಿಸುಮಾರು ಶೇಕಡಾ 80ರಷ್ಟು ಜಾಗತೀಕ ಅಗತ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಚೀನಾ ದೇಶವೊಂದೇ ಪೂರೈಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುಪಾಲು ತಲೆಗೂದಲು ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂದಲಿನ ಅಭಾವದಿಂದ ಕೋಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾತುಕೋಳಿಗಳ ರೆಕ್ಕೆಯನ್ನು ಬಳಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದು ಕೂಡ ಯೋಗ್ಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಸಿಸ್ಟಿನ್' ಹೊಂದಿದೆ. ಈ ಅಮೈನೊ ಆಮ್ಲದ ಕೃತಕ ತಯಾರಿಸುವಿಕೆ,

ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲಿಯಂ ಮೂಲಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದ್ದು, ಇದು ತುಸು ದುಬಾರಿಯೆನಿಸಿದೆ. ಹಲವಾರು ಇಸ್ಲಾಂ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಿಜ್ಜಾದಂತಹ ಸಿದ್ಧ ಆಹಾರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯವಾಗಿ ನಿಷೇಧವಾಗಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮೂಲ ಕಾರಣ ಇದೇ ಅಮೈನೊ ಆಮ್ಲದ ಮೂಲ. ಅಂದರೆ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ತಲೆಗೂದಲಿನಿಂದ ಇದನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವುದರಿಂದ ಅದು 'ಹಲಾಲ್' ಆಹಾರವಲ್ಲ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ 'ಕೊಶರ್'ಅನ್ನು (ಯಹೂದಿಗಳು ಪಾಲಿಸುವ ಆಹಾರ ಕ್ರಮ) ಪಾಲಿಸುವ ಕಟ್ಟಾ ಯಹೂದಿಗಳೂ ಇಂತಹ ಆಹಾರವನ್ನು ಬಹಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅಮೇರಿಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯುವ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಸಿದ್ಧ ಆಹಾರ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುವ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಮೂಲವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನೂ ನಮೂದಿಸುವುದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಡಾ। ಮೇಯರ್. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲಿಯಂ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಿಂದ 'ಸಿಸ್ಟನ್' ಅನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದಿಮೆಗಳೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಬ್ರಿಟನ್‌ನ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಡಾ। ರಿಚರ್ಡ್ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳಿಂದ (HPLC) ಈ ಅಮೈನೊ ಆಮ್ಲದ ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಂ–ದರೆ ನಿಜವಾಗಿಯೂ ಕೃತ್ರಿಮವಾಗಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಿದ 'ಸಿಸ್ಟಿನ್' ಅಥವಾ ಕೂದಲಿನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲಾದ 'ಸಿಸ್ಟಿನ್' ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಪತ್ತೆಹಚ್ಚಬಹುದು.

ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷವೇ ಸುಮಾರು 15 ಮಿಲಿಯನ್ ಪೌಂಡ್‌ಗಳಷ್ಟು ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತಲೆಗೂದಲನ್ನು ಇಂಗ್ಲೆಂಡ್ ಆಮದು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಈ ರಫ್ತು ಮಾಡುವ ದೇಶಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಭಾರತ, ಚೀನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಐರೋಪ್ಯ ದೇಶಗಳಾಗಿವೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸುಮಾರು 10 ಮಿಲಿಯನ್ ಪೌಂಡ್‌ಗಳಷ್ಟು ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ತಲೆ ಟೋಪನ್ (wigs), ಕೃತ್ರಿಮ ಗಡ್ಡ – ಮೀಸೆಗಳು, ಕಣ್ಣು ರೆಪ್ಪೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಮದು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಬ್ರಿಟನ್‌ನ ತೆರಿಗೆ–ಸುಂಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಖಚಿತ ಅಂಕಿ–ಅಂಶಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೂ, ಇಂಗ್ಲೆಂಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲೆ ಕೂದಲಿನ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸುಮಾರು 60 ಮಿಲಿಯನ್ ಪೌಂಡ್‌ಗಳಷ್ಟು ಎಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಮೇರಿಕಾದಲ್ಲೂ ಸರಿಸುಮಾರು ಇದೇ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಬ್ರಾಡ್ ಫೋರ್ಡ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ಜೀವ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ , ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರ್ ದೇಸ್ ಟೂಬಿನ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಬಂಗಾರದ ರಂಗಿನ ಕೂದಲಿಗೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯಿದ್ದು ಕೇವಲ 100 ಗ್ರಾಂಗಳಿಗೆ ದರ 1000 ಪೌಂಡ್‌ಗಳಷ್ಟಿದೆ (ಸುಮಾರು ರೂಪಾಯಿ 80000)! ವಿಶ್ವದ ಶೇಕಡಾ 90ರಷ್ಟು ಜನರ ತಲೆಗೂದಲು ದಟ್ಟಕಂದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದರ ರಂಗಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಬೆಲೆ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲ್ಪಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಂತೆಯೇ ಉದ್ದನೆಯ ಕೂದಲಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ದರವಿದ್ದು, ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಚೂರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ ದರವಿದೆ. ಆದಾಗ್ಯೂ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಸಲೂನ್‌ಗೆ ಹೋದಾಗ, ತಲೆಗೂದಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲೂನ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಸಾಗುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಲೂನ್‌ನವರೇ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ದುಡ್ಡು ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಗಳು ದೂರವಿಲ್ಲ! ಅಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕಸವೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿರುವ ಕೂದಲಿಗಿರುವ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆ ನೀವೇ ಊಹಿಸಿ.

ಹಲವಾರು ಸಿದ್ಧ ಆಹಾರ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 'ಸಿಸ್ಟಿನ್' ಬಳಕೆ ಇದ್ದರೂ, ಬಹುತೇಕ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರು ಇದನ್ನ ನಮೂದಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಕೂಡ. ಆದರೆ ಅಮೆರಿಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹಾರ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರು ಇ290 ಎಂಬ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಪದ ಬಳಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಬಹುತೇಕರಿಗೆ ಇದರ ಪರಿಜ್ಞಾನವಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಅಮೈನೊ ಆಮ್ಲದಲ್ಲಿ L ಹಾಗೂ D ಎಂಬ ತದ್ರೂಪಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಕೂದಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ L ತದ್ರೂಪವಿದ್ದು, ಇದನ್ನು ಸಕ್ಕರೆಯೊಡನೆ ವರ್ತಿಸಿದಾಗ ಮಾಂಸದಂತಹ ಪರಿಮಳ ನೀಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಬೇಕರಿ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಬಳಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಹಿಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮೃದುತನವೂ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಈ ಅಮೈನೊ ಆಮ್ಲಕ್ಕೂ ಫ್ಯಾಷನ್ ಲೋಕಕ್ಕೂ ಗಾಢ ಸಂಬಂಧವಿದೆ. ತಲೆಗೂದಲನ್ನು ಗುಂಗುರಾಗಿಸುವ (perm ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ) ಕ್ರೀಮ್‌ನಲ್ಲೂ ಇದರ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ವಿನೂತನ ಫ್ಯಾಷನ್ ಎಂದರೆ, ಕೂದಲನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಉಡುಪುಗಳು ! ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಭಾರಿ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಉಡುಪಿನ ಬೆಲೆ ಸುಮಾರು 20000 ಪೌಂಡ್‌ಗಳಷ್ಟು! ಇಂತಹ ಕೂದಲಿನ ಉಡುಪುಗಳು ಭಾರತೀಯ ಫ್ಯಾಷನ್ ಲೋಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾಲಿಡುವ ದಿನಗಳು ದೂರವಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರ ಕುರಿತಾಗಿ ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಖ್ಯಾತ 'ವೋಗ್' ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಂಬಿತವಾಗಿವೆ. ಖ್ಯಾತ ಪಾಪ್ ಹಾಡುಗಾರ್ತಿ ಲೇಡಿ ಗಾಗಾಗೆ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಕೂದಲನ್ನು ಧರಿಸುವುದೆಂದರೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸುಂದರ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲಾಸದಾಯಕವಂತೆ.

ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ತಾಳಿ, ನಿಮಗೆ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕೌತುಕದ ವಿಷಯವಿದೆ. ಸಮುದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಡಗುಗಳು ಮುಳುಗಡೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ತೈಲ ಸೋರುವಿಕೆ ಜಗತ್ತಿನಾದ್ಯಂತ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ತಲೆನೋವಿನ ಸಂಗತಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ತೈಲ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯವನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಲು ಹಲವಾರು ವಿಧಾನಗಳಿದ್ದರೂ, ಅವು ವೆಚ್ಚದಾಯಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ನೀಡಲಾರವು. ತೈಲ ಸೋರುವಿಕೆಯ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವಿಕೆ ಕುರಿತಾಗಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಲೀಸಾ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ತಲೆಗೂದಲು ತೈಲ ಸೋರುವಿಕೆಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಲು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿ ವಿಧಾನ. ಕೂದಲಿನ ಎಳೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಗಿಯಾಗಿ ಸೇರಿಸಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಘನ ಆಕೃತಿಯನ್ನು ತೈಲ ಸೋರಿಕೆಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಕುವುದರಿಂದ, ಅದು ತೈಲವನ್ನು ಹೀರಿಕೊಂಡು, ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಬಲ್ಲದು. ಈ ವಿನೂತನ ಪ್ರಯೋಗದ ಕೀರ್ತಿ, ಅಮೇರಿಕಾದ ಕೇಶ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸಗಾರನಾದ 'ಪೆಲ್ ಮೆಕೊರಿಗೆ' ಸಲ್ಲಬೇಕು. 1989ರಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಟಾದ ಒಂದು ತೈಲ ಸೋರುವಿಕೆ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವ ತಂಡದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಅವರು ಧರಿಸುವ ಉಣ್ಣೆಯ ಕೋಟ್‌ಗೆ ಹಿಡಿದಿರುವ ತೈಲವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯಲು ಪಟ್ಟ ಶ್ರಮ ಅಷ್ಟಿಷ್ಟಲ್ಲ. ಇದನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದ ಆತ, ಕೂದಲಿನ ಮೇಲೂ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಿಸಿದಾಗ, ಅತ್ಯುತ್ತಮ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶವನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಇದೀಗ ಇದನ್ನು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ತಯಾರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಈ 'ಸಿಸ್ಟಿನ್' ಮೂಲ ಯಾವುದೇ ಇದ್ದರೂ, ಇದನ್ನು ಆಹಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಸುವುದರಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕೆಟ್ಟ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರದಿರುವುದು ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಮಾಧಾನದ ಸಂಗತಿ. ಇದೀಗ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಕೂದಲನ್ನು ಕೊಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಲ್ಲಾಳಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ದರ ಪೈಪೋಟಿಯೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಲಿದೆ. ■

ಡಾ। ಅರುಣ್ ಎಂ ಇಸ್ಲೂರ್
ಸಂಯೋಜಕ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು
ರಸಾಯನ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗ

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವಸತಿ ಬೋಧನೆ

ಟಾಯ್ಲೆಟ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯನಿಟ್ಟರೆ
ಸಿಗುವುದು ನಿನಗೆರಡೇಟು
ಅಂದೇನಾದರು ನೀ ಹುಟ್ಟಿದರೆ
ಕೊಡುವರು ನಿನಗೆ ಧರ್ಮದೇಟು
ಹುಡುಗಿಯರ ಹಿಂದೆ ಹೋದರೆ
ಸಿಗುವುದು ನಿನಗೊಂದು ಚಿಪ್ಪು
easy easy ಎಂದು *EC* ಸೇರಿದರೆ
ಲಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವುದು ದಿನಕ್ಕೊಂದು ಚಿಪ್ಪು

ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಬಂದರೆ
ಜನರು ಮಾಡುವುದು *RGG*
ಏನು ಓದುತ್ತಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ
ಹೇಳುವರು *"Kya Bhi Nahi Ji"*

ದಿನವೂ ಸ್ನಾನವಗೈದರೆ
ತಿಳಿಯದು ಅದರ ಮಹತ್ವ
ನಿತ್ಯವೂ ಮೆಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಹೋದರೆ
ತೀರಿಹೋಗುವುದು ನಾಲಗೆಯ ಸತ್ವ
ಇದೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವಸತಿಯ ತತ್ವ!!

ಶ್ರೀವತ್ಸ ನಾಡಿಗ್
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ಪಲ್ಲವಿ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಚರಣ

ಶಶಿ ಮೇಘಗಳ ಕಣ್ಣಾ ಮುಚ್ಚಾಲೆ ಆಟದ ದರ್ಶನ
ಸೂರ್ಯಕಿರಣಗಳ ಪ್ರೀತಿಗೆ ಸೋಲುವ ಹೂಬನ
ಚಂದ್ರಕಿರಣಗಳ ಕಂಡು ನೈದಿಲೆ ಮಾಡುವ ನರ್ತನ
ನದಿ ಸಾಗರಗಳ ಅಪೂರ್ವ ಮಿಲನ
ವಹ್ನಿ–ಧೂಮಗಳ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಬಂಧನ
ತಂಗಾಳಿಯ ಹಾಡಿಗೆ ಚಿಗುರೆಲೆಗಳ ನರ್ತನ
ಸಮಸ್ತ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಪ್ರೀತಿ–ಸ್ನೇಹಗಳ ಕಂಡು ಸೋತೆ ನಾ!

ಆದರೆ ಮನುಕುಲವು ದ್ರೋಹ–ವಂಚನೆಗಳೆಡೆಗೆ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ ಪಯಣ
ದ್ವೇಷ–ದ್ರೋಹಗಳ ಜಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿನಗೆ ನೆಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲ ಸಜ್ಜನ!
ದುರ್ಗುಣಗಳ ಧ್ವಜವ ಹಾರಿಸುವ ದುರ್ಜನ
ಅಪಶ್ರುತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯನ್ನಾಗಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಪಲ್ಲವಿ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಚರಣ !

ವೈಷ್ಣವಿ ಬಿ. ಎಂ.
ಪ್ರಥಮ ವರ್ಷ
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ಕಣ
ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ನಿನ್ನೊಲವು

ಮನಸಿನ ಮಾತನ್ನು ನಾ ಹೇಗೆ ಹೇಳಲಿ ?
ನನ್ನಯ ವೇದನೆ ಯಾರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಲಿ ?
ನೀನಿಲ್ಲದ ಈ ಬಾಳು
ನೀರಿಲ್ಲದ ಮೀನಿನಂತೆ
ನಾನಿನ್ನ ಮರೆತರದು
ಮರುಭೂಮಿಯ ಬಿಸಿಲಿನಂತೆ
ದಿನಗಳುರುಳುತ್ತದೆ
ಮರೆಯಲೆತ್ನಿಸಿದರು ಮರೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ
ಅದೇ ನಿನ್ನೊಲವು !!

ಬಾಳೆಂಬ ನೌಕೆಗೆ ನಾವಿಕ ನೀನಾದೆ
ಮನವೆಂಬ ಹಕ್ಕಿಯ ಗೂಡು ನೀನಾದೆ
ಅಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹೃದಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಂತ್ವನ ನೀನು
ಹಾಡಿನ ಪಲ್ಲವಿಗೆ ಚರಣ ನೀನು
ಬರಡಾದ ಬದುಕಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲವ ತಂದೆ
ಹೊಸಜೀವ ನಾನು ನಿನ್ನಿಂದ ಕಂಡೆ
ಈಗೆಲ್ಲಿ ಮರೆಯಾದೆ ಓ ನನ್ನ ಗೆಳೆಯ?
ನಿನ್ನಯ ಬರುವಿಕೆಗೆ ಕಾದಿದೆ ಈ ಹೃದಯ.

ಗೆಳೆಯ,
ಕಂಡೆ ನಿನ್ನ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿ
ಬಿಟ್ಟು ನನ್ನ ಹೃದಯ ಜಾರಿ
ನೀ ಇಳಿದೆ ನನ್ನೆದೆಯಾಳಕ್ಕೆ
ಮನ ಹಾರುತ್ತಿದೆ ಬಾನಂಗಳಕ್ಕೆ
ಬಚ್ಚಿಟ್ಟೆ ನಿನ್ನ ನನ್ನೆದೆ ಗೂಡಲ್ಲಿ
ಜೊತೆಗಿರುವೆ ಕೊನೆತನಕ ನಿನ್ನ ನೋವು–ನಲಿವಿನಲ್ಲಿ
ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಡಿತೇಕೋ ಹೊಸಭಾವ
ನೀನಿತ್ತೆ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಸ ಜೀವ . . .

ಈ ಜೀವನವಿರುವುದು ಬಾಳಲು
ಮುಂದೆ ಸಾಗಲು
ನಮ್ಮ ಗುರಿ ಸೇರಲು
ಮನವೆಂಬ ಕನ್ನಡಿಯು
ಒಡೆದು ಚೂರಾಗಲು
ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಮಗದೊಮ್ಮೆ ಮೂಡಲಿ ಭರವಸೆ
ಚಿಗುರೊಡೆಯಲಿ ಹೊಸದಾದ ಆಸೆ.

ಪಲ್ಲವಿ ಎಂ. ಎಚ್.
ಪ್ರಥಮ ವರ್ಷ
ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ

ದಣಿವರಿಯದ ಸಾಧನೆಯೇ ನಿಜವಾದ ಸಾಧನೆ

ತೇಜಸ್ ವಿ. ವಾಟ್ಟೆ
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ರಸಾಯನಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ

ಹುಟ್ಟಿದ ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ಅಂಬೆಗಾಲಿಕ್ಕುವುದೇ ಮೊದಲ ಸಾಧನೆ, ಎದ್ದು ನಿಲ್ಲಲು ಕಲಿತದ್ದು ಮುಂದಿನ ಸಾಧನೆ. ನಡೆಯಲು ಆರಂಭಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಸಾಧನೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಆರಂಭವಾಗುವ ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಬದುಕಿನ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಸರಮಾಲೆ ಅವನ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೂ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಮಾಲೆ ಕೆಲವರದು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಉದ್ದವಿದ್ದರೆ, ಕೆಲವರದು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಉದ್ದವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಕೆಲವರ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಮಾಲೆ ಅತ್ಯಾಕರ್ಷಕ ಹೂಗಳಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದ್ದರೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವರದು ಅತ್ಯಾಕರ್ಷಕ ಹೂಗಳಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಯಾರೊಬ್ಬರ ಬದುಕೂ ನಿರರ್ಥಕವಲ್ಲ. ಒಬ್ಬ ರೈತ ತನ್ನ ಅನ್ನ ಸಂಪಾದಿಸುವ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಇತರರಿಗೂ ಅನ್ನವಿಕ್ಕುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಅವನ ಬದುಕು ಸಾಧನೆ ರಹಿತವೆಂದು ಹೇಗೆ ಹೇಳಲಾದೀತು? ಒಬ್ಬ ಗೌಂಡಿ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಮನೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ, ಒಬ್ಬ ದರ್ಜಿ ಜನರ ಮೈ ಮುಚ್ಚುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಒಬ್ಬ ಜಡಮಾರಿ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛವಾಗಿಡಲು ನೆರವಾದರೆ, ಒಬ್ಬ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಿವನ್ನು ತುಂಬುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ನಮ್ಮ ವೈದ್ಯರು, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ಗಳು, ಐ.ಎ.ಎಸ್./ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮಂತ್ರಿ ಮಹೋದಯರೆಲ್ಲ ತಮ್ಮದೇ ಆದ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಮಾಲೆಯನ್ನು ಹೆಣೆಯುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಒಂದು ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇವರಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರೂ ಮೇಲಲ್ಲ ಯಾರೂ ಕೀಳಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಮೇಲು ಕೀಳು ಅಥವಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನದು ಕಡಿಮೆಯದು ಸಾಧನೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಆಯಾ ಕಾಲದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಗ್ರಹಿಕೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಒಂದು ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋಟಿ ವಿದ್ಯೆಗಿಂತ ಮೇಟಿ ವಿದ್ಯೆ ಮೇಲು ಎಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಕೃಷಿ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ, ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ಮಧ್ಯಮ, ನೌಕರಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಎಂಬುದು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ನಂಬಿಕೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ ಕಾಲ ಬದಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ, ಸಮಾಜದ ಗ್ರಹಿಕೆಯು ಅದಲು ಬದಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂದು ಬಹುತೇಕರಿಗೆ ನೌಕರಿ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠವಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಸಾಧನೆ ಕುರಿತಾದ ವ್ಯಾಖ್ಯೆ, ಗ್ರಹಿಕೆಗಳೂ ಬದಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂದು ಸಾಧಕರು ಎಂದ ತಕ್ಷಣ ನಾವು ಮುಖ ತಿರುಗಿಸುವುದು, ತೆಂಡೂಲ್ಕರ್, ಧೋನಿ, ಸೈನಾ, ಶಾರೂಖ್ ಖಾನ್, ಅಮೀರ್ ಖಾನ್ ರಂತವರ ಕಡೆಗೆ. ಬುದ್ಧಿವಂತರು ಎಂದ ತಕ್ಷಣ ನಾವು ನೋಡುವುದು ವೈದ್ಯರು, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ಗಳು, ಐ.ಎ.ಎಸ್/ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಯುವ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳು, ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳತ್ತ. ಹಾಗೆಂದ ಮಾತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಇತರರು ನಿರುಪಯುಕ್ತ ಜೀವಗಳೇ? ೧೨೦ ಕೋಟಿಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನಕ್ಕೆ ತಿಂದುಳಿಯುವಷ್ಟು ಅನ್ನ ಬೆಳೆದು ಕೊಡುವ ಅನಾಮಧೇಯ ರೈತರದು ಸಾಧನೆಯೇ ಅಲ್ಲವೇ? ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಹೇಳಿರುವಂತೆ ಯಾವುದು ಸಾಧನೆ, ಯಾರು ಸಾಧಕರು ಎಂಬುದು ಆಯಾ ಕಾಲದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಗ್ರಹಿಕೆಗೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ವಿಚಾರ, ಅದನ್ನು ನಾವು ಬದಲಿಸಲು ಆಗಲಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ... ಆದರೆ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯ ಸಾಧನೆ ಸಹಜ, ನೈಜವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆಯೋ, ಯಾವ ಸಾಧನೆ ನಮಗೆ ದಣಿವಿಲ್ಲದೆಯೇ ಪ್ರಾಪ್ತವಾಗುತ್ತದೆಯೋ ಅಂತಹ ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಶಂಸನಾರ್ಹವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮತ್ತು ಆತ್ಮ ಸಂತೋಷವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ.

ಒಂದಿಷ್ಟು ಜೇನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲು ಜೇನ್ನೊಣ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಹೂವುಗಳಿಂದ ಮಕರಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಂದು ಪುಟ್ಟ ಗೂಡು ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಗುಬ್ಬಚ್ಚಿ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಕಡೆಗಳಿಂದ ಕಸಕಡ್ಡಿ ಆಯ್ದು ತರುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಂದು ಬಲೆ ಹೆಣೆಯಲು ಜೇಡ ಹುಳು ನೂರಾರು ಮೀಟರ್ ಉದ್ದದ ಎಳೆಯನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸುತ್ತ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಮಾಡುವಾಗ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಜೀವಿಗಳಿಗೂ ದೈಹಿಕ ಶ್ರಮವಾಗುವುದು ಸಹಜ. ಆದರೆ ಅದರಿಂದ ಅವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಯಸವಿಲ್ಲ, ನೋವಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಇತರರು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಿ ಎಂಬ ಅಪೇಕ್ಷೆಯೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಜೀವಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಿನ್ನ. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಅವನಿಗೆ ಆಲೋಚನಾ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಿದೆ, ಈ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಿಂದಲೇ ಅವನ ಸಾಧನಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ಹರಿವು ಅಸಂಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದೆ. ಇದು ಅಪೇಕ್ಷಿತವೂ ಕೂಡ.

ಆದರೆ ತೆಂಡೂಲ್ಕರ್, ಧೋನಿಯಂತೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಮಗ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟಿಗನಾದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಮಗ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅವನನ್ನು ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ತರಬೇತಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸುವುದು ಅಸಮಂಜಸ, ಅನಪೇಕ್ಷಿತ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ದುಡ್ಡು, ಅಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿಯೇ ನಾವು ವೈದ್ಯ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ, ಐ.ಎ.ಎಸ್/ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುವುದು ಅಸಮಂಜಸ. ಆಟದ ಮೇಲಿನ ಒಂದು ಸಹಜ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಿಂದಾಗಿಯೇ ತೆಂಡೂಲ್ಕರ್, ಧೋನಿ ಆ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಳೆದರೆ ಹೊರತು ದುಡ್ಡು ಮಾಡುವ ಅಥವಾ ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ನಾವು ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯುತ ಹುದ್ದೆ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು ಒಂದು ಸಹಜ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಬೇಕೇ ಹೊರತು ಪ್ರಯಾಸಪಟ್ಟು ಪಡೆಯುವುದಲ್ಲ. ತೆಂಡೂಲ್ಕರ್ ಒಂದು ಇಡೀ ಇನ್ನಿಂಗ್ಸ್‌ನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುವಾಗ ಅವರಿಗೆ ದೈಹಿಕ ಶ್ರಮವಾಗುವುದು, ಬೆವರು ಸುರಿಸುವುದು ಸಹಜ. ಆದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಿಂದಲೇ, ನಗುನಗುತ್ತಲೇ ಅನುಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೇ ಹೊರತು ಆ ಕೆಲಸ ಪ್ರಯಾಸದಾಯಕವೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ, ಒಬ್ಬ ವೈದ್ಯ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ, ಐ.ಎ.ಎಸ್/ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಾಗಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಅಥವಾ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಿತನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸಬೇಕಾದರೆ ವಿಶೇಷ ಶ್ರಮವಹಿಸಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದುದು ಅವಶ್ಯಕ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಶ್ರಮ ಆನಂದದಾಯಕವಾಗಿರಬೇಕೆ ಹೊರತು ಪ್ರಯಾಸದಾಯಕವಲ್ಲ. ನಮ್ಮ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಅದು ಹೂವೊಂದು ಸಹಜವಾಗಿ ಅರಳುವಂತಿರಬೇಕೆ ಯಾರೋ ಒತ್ತಾಯಪೂರ್ವಕವಾಗಿ ಅರಳಿಸಿದಂತಿರಬಾರದು. ■

ಝೇಂಕಾರ

ನವೆಂಬರ್ 8, 2013, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 3.00

ಧಕ್! ಎಂದು ಬ್ರೇಕ್‌ನ ಸದ್ದಿನಿಂದ ದೀರ್ಘ ನಿದ್ದೆಗೆ ಜಾರಿದ್ದ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಎದ್ದ. ಗೇಟಿನ ಒಳಗೆ ಸಾಗಿ ಮೊದಲ ತಿರುವಿನಲ್ಲೇ ನಮ್ಮ ವಸತಿಶಾಲೆ. ಜೀ.ಬಿ. ಎಂದೇ ಇಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಚಿರಪರಿಚಿತ. ಕಪ್ಪು ಹೋಗೆ ಹಾಗು ಧೂಳಿನಿಂದ ಆವೃತ್ತವಾಗಿದ್ದ ನನ್ನ ಶಿರಸ್ತ್ರಾಣವನ್ನು ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ತೆಗೆದೆ. ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಪುರುಷರಿಗೆ ಹೊಂದುವಂತೆ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಇರುವ ಇಂತಹ ಶಿರಸ್ತ್ರಾಣಗಳು ನಮ್ಮಂತಹ ಉದ್ದ ಕೂದಲಿರುವ ಹುಡುಗಿಯರಿಗೆ ಬಹಳ ತ್ರಾಸು ಕೊಡುತ್ತವೆ. "ಹೇಗಿದ್ದೀರ ಅಕ್ಕೊರೇ? ನಾನು ಮಾಳವಿಕಾ. ವರ್ಷದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇಲ್ಲೇ ಇದ್ದೆ", ಅಂತ ಹರಟೆಗೆ ಶುರುಕೊಟ್ಟೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂಭಾಷಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ತಡೆ ಹಾಕುವ ಹಾಗೆ ಉತ್ತರ ಬಂತು, "ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 5 ಘಂಟೆ ಮೇಲೆಯೇ ಒಳಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ". ಬಂದ ದಾರಿಗೆ ಸುಂಕವಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತ ಪುನಃ ಗಾಡಿ ಹತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸಣ್ಣಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಾಗಿನಿಂದಲೂ ನಾ ಹಾಗೆ. ಒದ್ದೆ ಕಾಲ್ಗಳು ಎಂದರೆ ಏನೋ ಒಂಥರಾ ಅಸಹ್ಯ. ಹಾಗೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿದು ಕಾಲೇಜು ಸೇರಿದಾಗ ಕಡಲತೀರ ಕೂಡ ಅಷ್ಟಕಷ್ಟೆ. ಗೆಳೆಯರು ಎಳೆದು ಜೊತೆ ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ 2 ಘಂಟೆಗಳು ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆಯಲಿ ಎಂದು ಯೋಚಿಸುವಾಗಲೇ ತಡಂಬೈಲಿನ ತಿಂಡಿ ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ನೆನಪಾಯಿತು. ಬಿಸಿ ಬಿಸಿ ಬನ್ಸ್ ಹಾಗು ಪೂರಿ ನೆನೆದು ನನ್ನ ಬಾಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜೊಲ್ಲು!

ದಪ್ಪ ದೇಹ, ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕನ್ನಡಕ ಹಾಕಿ, ಗುಲಾಬಿ ಶರ್ಟ್ ತೊಟ್ಟು ವಾಯುವಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಟು ನಿಂತ ಮೇಷ್ಟ್ರು, ತನ್ನ ಪ್ರೇಯಸಿಯ ನಿದ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಬೈಕಿನ ಶಬ್ದ ಕೆಡಿಸಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ಕೋಪಗೊಂಡು ನನ್ನ ಅಟ್ಟಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುತಿದ್ದ ನಾಯಿ, ಮೆಗಾ ಟವರ್ ವಸತಿಶಾಲೆಯ ರೂಮ್ ಒಂದರಿಂದ ಕೇಳಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಪಾಪ್ ಹಾಡುಗಳು, ಇವೆಲ್ಲವೂ ಹಳೆಯ ನೆನಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೆ ಕಣ್ಮುಂದೆ ತರಿಸಿತು.

ಅಗಸ್ಟ 5, 2013, ಸಂಜೆ 9.00

"ಏನು? ಪೋಲೀಸ್ ? ಅವರು ಯಾಕೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ನಿನಗೆ? ದುಡಿಯಲು ಏನು ದಾರಿ ಹಿಡಿದಿದೆಯ ನೀನು?" ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳ ಸುರಿಮಳೆಗೈದಳು ಮಾಳವಿಕಾ. "ಇದ್ದಾಳಲ್ಲ, ನಿನ್ನ ತಲೆಹರಟೆ ಗೆಳತಿ ಪ್ರಣತಿ. ಅವಳೇ ಮಾಡಿರೋದು ಈ ಕೆಲಸ. ತನ್ನ ಗಾಡಿಯನ್ನು ಪಾನ್ ಅಂಗಡಿ ಪಕ್ಕ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾಳಂತೆ. ಸಂಶಯ ಬಂದ ಪೋಲೀಸರು ನೋಡಿದಾಗ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ್ದು ನನ್ನ ನಂಬರ್! ಎಂಥ ಕರ್ಮ!" ಎಂದು ರವಿ ಉದ್ಗರಿಸಿದ. "ಜಪ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ, ಹಾಳಾಗ್ ಹೋಗ್ಲಿ ಅದು ಅಂತ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೀನಿ". ಸುಸ್ತಿನಿಂದ ರವಿ ಧೊಪ್ಪೆಂದು ಮಂಚದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಿದ್ದ. ಸರಸ ಸಲ್ಲಾಪದಲ್ಲಿ 30 ನಿಮಿಷ ಕಳೆದಿದ್ದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ರವಿ ಹೊರಡುವ ಮುಂಚೆ ಅವನ ಕಣ್ಣು ತಪ್ಪಿಸಿ ಕರೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ಫೋನ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಕೈ ಮೇಲೆ ಬರೆದುಕೊಂಡೆ.

ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 20, 2012, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 3.00

'ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್'ಗೆ ಕೇವಲ 2 ದಿನಗಳು ಬಾಕಿ ಇದ್ದವು. ಕಳೆದ 3 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಹೆಚ್ಚೆಂದರೆ 12 ಘಂಟೆ ನಿದ್ದೆ ತೆಗೆದಿದ್ದೆವು. ಎರಡು ನಿಮಿಷ ವಿರಾಮ ಅಂತ ಕಾಲುಚಾಚಿದ್ದ ನಾನು ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲದೇ ರವಿಯ ತೊಡೆ ಮೇಲೆ ತಲೆ ಇಟ್ಟು ನಿದ್ದೆಗೆ ಜಾರಿದ್ದೆ. ಕೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ಅದ್ದಿ ತೆಗೆದಂತೆ ಇದ್ದ ಅವನ ಪ್ಯಾಂಟುಗಳು, ಮೇಣದ ಮುದ್ದೆಯಂತೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದ ನನ್ನ ಕೂದಲು, ಮೈತುಂಬ ಮಸಿ ಇದ್ದ ಟೈರ್‌ಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೂತಿದ್ದ ನಾನು; ಇದರ ಯಾವ ಪರಿವೆಯೂ ನಮಗೆ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರಣತಿ ಮಾನವಾಕಾರದ ವಿಚಿತ್ರ ಯಂತ್ರವನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ರವಿ ಮಲ್ಟಿಮೀಟರ್ ಹಿಡಿದು ಬಲ್ಬ್, ವೈರ್‌ಗಳ ಜೊತೆ ಕೆಲಸಮಾಡುತ್ತ. ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ನನ್ನ ರಕ್ತ ಹೀರಲು ಬರುವ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆಗಳನ್ನು 'ಫೈಡ್!' ಎಂದು ಹೊಡೆದು ಸಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ. 'ಘರ್ರ್..' ಎಂದು ಮೋಟೊರ್ ತಿರುಗಿದಾಗ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಚಹರೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಅಪಾರ ಹರ್ಷ. ತಂಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದ ಏನ್.ಸಿ ವಡಾ–ಪಾವ್ ತಿಂದು ಆ ಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಭ್ರಮಿಸಿದೆವು. ರವಿ ಹಾಗು ಪ್ರಣತಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ವಿರಾಮ ಎಂದು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಭವನದವರೆಗೂ ಹೋಗಿ ಬರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ನನಗೆ ಸಣ್ಣಗೆ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆಕಿಚ್ಚು. ಅವನ ಕಂಡರೆ ನನಗೆ ಇರುವ ಭಾವನೆಗಳ ಸಣ್ಣ ಸುಳಿವು ಕೂಡ ನಾನು ಎಂದೂ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರಿಬ್ಬರೂ ಕೂಡ ಅವರ ಸಂಬಂಧವನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಮೂವರ ಗೆಳೆತನದ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಎಂದೂ ತಂದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಂತಹ ಅನ್ಯೋನ್ಯ ಗೆಳೆತನ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೂವರದು. ನನ್ನ ಭಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಶತಯುಗತಾಯ ಹತ್ತಿಕ್ಕಲು ನಾನು ಸನ್ನದ್ಧನಾಗಿದ್ದೆ. ಪ್ರಾಯಶಃ ಆ 3 ಘಂಟೆ ಮುಂಜಾವಿನ ನೀರವ ಮೌನ ಮತ್ತು ರವಿ ಎದ್ದ ಕಾರಣ ಮೆದು ತಲೆದಿಂಬು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಂತೆ ಭಾಸವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಮತ್ತೆ ಭಾವನೆಗಳು ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ಏಳಲು ಕಾರಣವಿರಬಹುದು. "ಥತ್! ಹಾಳಾದ ಪಾಪಿ ಮನಸ್ಸು!" ಎಂದು ಉದ್ಗರಿಸಿ ಮೂಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಳೆ ಪೇಪರ್ ಹಾಗು ರೊಟ್ಟು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಮಲಗಿದೆ.

ಎಪ್ರಿಲ್ 15, 2013, ಸಂಜೆ 5.00

ಶಾಂಭವಿ ನದಿ, ಅರಬ್ಬೀ ಸಮುದ್ರದ ಸಂಗಮ ಅತಿ ಮನಮೋಹಕ ಸ್ಥಳ. ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಸರಳವಿದ್ದರೂ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕ್ಲಿಷ್ಟಕರ. ವಿಷಯ ಇಷ್ಟೆ. ಮುಂದೇನು ನಮ್ಮ ಕಥೆ ಎಂದು ಇವನು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದ. ಪ್ರಣತಿ ಬಳಿ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಉತ್ತರವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಪೂರ್ಣ ಸತ್ಯವೆಂದರೆ ಅವಳ ಬಳಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಇತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಕಹಿ ಸತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹೇಳಲು ಧೈರ್ಯವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. "ನೀನೆ ಹೇಳೇ ಮಾಳವಿಕಾ, ಎಲ್ಲದಕ್ಕೂ ಒಂದು ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ಅಂತ ಇರಲೇಬೇಕಾ? ಅವನಿಗೆ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಓಡಾಡಲಿಕ್ಕೆ, ಎದೆ ತಟ್ಟಿ ತನಗೆ ಸಂಗಾತಿ ಇದ್ದಾಳೆ ಅಂತ ಹೇಳಲು ನಾನು ಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದೆ. ನನಗೂ ಒಬ್ಬ ಪ್ರಭಾವಿ ಹುಡುಗನಿಂದ 4 ವರ್ಷ ಹಲವು ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವಾಗಿದೆ. ಎನಗೆ ಇದು ಭಾವನಾತ್ಮಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಆಗಿತ್ತು" ಎಂದು ಅವಳು ನನ್ನ ಬಳಿ ವ್ಯಥೆ ತೋಡಿಕೊಂಡಳು. ನನ್ನ ವಯುಕ್ತಿಕ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳನ್ನು ಬದಿಗಿಟ್ಟು ಗೆಳತಿಗೆ ತಾನು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ಸರಿ ಎಂದು ಸಾಂತ್ವಾನ ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ಅಂದು ನನ್ನ ಜೀವನದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾಠ ಕಲಿಯುವ ಸರದಿ ನನ್ನದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸ್ವತಃ ನಾವು ತಪ್ಪೆಂದು ತಿಳಿದ ತತ್ವವನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬರ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೇರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಭಗೀರಥ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವೇ ಬೇಕು!

ಹರಸುವುದದೇನ ನೀಂ? ವರವದೇನೆಂದರಿವೆ? ।
ಸರಿಯಿಂದು ತೋರುವುದು ನಾಳೆ ಸರಿಯಿಹುದೆ? ॥
ನಿರುಕಿಸುವುದೆಂತು ಚಿರಕಾಲದೊಳ್ಳಿತನಿಂದು? ।
ಅರಿವ ದೈವವೆ ಪೊರೆಗೆ, ಮಂಕುತಿಮ್ಮ ॥942॥

"ದೇವರಲ್ಲಿ ಏನೆಂದು ಮೊರೆ ಹೋಗುವುದು? ಇಂದು ಸರಿ ಇದ್ದದ್ದು ನಾಳೆಯು ಸರಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ–ಯೇ? ಮುಂದಿನ ಚಿಂತೆ ಬದಿಗೊತ್ತಿ ದೈವಕ್ಕೆ ಶರಣಾಗಿ." ಗುಂಡಪ್ಪನವರ ಈ ಸುಂದರ ಮಂಕುತಿಮ್ಮನ ಕಗ್ಗ ನಾನು ವಾಚಿಸಿ, ಇನ್ನು ಹೊರಡುವುದು ಲೇಸು ಎಂದು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿದೆವು.

ಅಗಸ್ಟ 5, 2013, ಸಂಜೆ 6.00

100 ದಿನಗಳು ಕಳೆದಿದ್ದೆ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಟ್ ಜೀವನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಗ್ಗಿ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದ ನಾನು, ಹಳೆಯ ಮಾಳವಿಕಾಗೂ ಇಂದಿನ ಮಾಳವಿಕಾಗೂ ಅಜಗಜಾಂತರವಿತ್ತು. ಪ್ರಣತಿ ವಿದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಉನ್ನತ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡಲು ಹೊರಟು ನಿಂತಿದ್ದಳು. ರವಿ ಟಾಟಾ ಇನ್ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ ಎಂದು ಮುಳುಗಿಹೋಗಿದ್ದ. "ಏನಯ್ಯ ನಿನ್ನ ಅವಸ್ಥೆ?" ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ, "ದುಡಿಯಲು ಹೇರಳವಾಗಿ ಸಮಯ ಇದೆ. ನನಗೆ ಅಂತರಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಹತ್ತಿರವಾದ ವಿಷಯ ಹುಡುಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ" ಎಂಬ ಹಾರಿಕೆಯ ಉತ್ತರ. ಶುದ್ಧ ಸೋಂಬೇರಿತನಕ್ಕೆ ನಯವಾದ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳಿಂದ ತನ್ನ ಸಮಜ್ಜಾಯಿಷಿಯನ್ನು ಲೇಪಿಸುವುದು ಅವನ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು!

ರಸ್ತೆ ಪಕ್ಕದ ಪಾನಿಪೂರಿ ಅಂಗಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂವರು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದೆವು. "2 ಡಿಸ್ಕೋ, 1 ಹೊಂಗ್ ಕೊಂಗ್" ಎಂದು ಅರ್ಡರ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾಯಿತು. ವಿಚಿತ್ರ ಹೆಸರಿನ ರುಚಿಯಾದ ಚಾಟ್ಸ್ ಈ ಅಂಗಡಿಯ ವಿಶೇಷ. ಒಂದು ಕಾಲು ಆಗಲೇ ವಿದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರಣತಿಯ ಉತ್ಸಾಹಕ್ಕೆ ಎಲ್ಲೆ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. "ಹ್ಞೂ. ಹ್ಞೂ, ಹೌದಾ? ಓಹೋ!" ಎನ್ನುತ್ತ ನಾನು ರವಿ ಅರ್ಧ ಘಂಟೆ ಅವಳ ವರಾತ ಕೇಳಿ ಸುಸ್ತು ಹೊಡೆದೆವು. ಕೊನೆಗೂ ಪ್ರಣತಿ ಹೊರಟು ನಿಂತಾಗ ನೈಜ್ಯ, ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕ ಭಾವೋದ್ವೇಗ ಅವಳ ಕಣ್ಣುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗೋಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಒದ್ದೆ ಕಣ್ಣುಗಳಿಂದಲೇ ನಾನು ಬೀಳ್ಕೊಟ್ಟೆ.

ಗಂಡಸಾಗಿ ಅಳಬಾರದು ಎಂಬ (ನನ್ನ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ವಿಚಿತ್ರ, ಕ್ರೂರ) ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ತನ್ನನ್ನು ತಾನು ಅವನು ಸಂಭಾಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ. ಮೌನವೇ ಆಗ ಆ ನೋವಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಕ ಮದ್ದು ಅನ್ನಿಸಿತು. ಮೆಲ್ಲನೆ ಬೆನ್ನ ಮೇಲೆ ತಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಹೊತ್ತು ಕಳೆದಿದ್ದು ಗೊತ್ತೇ ಆಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ತುಂತುರು ಸೋನೆ ಮಳೆ ಲೋಟ–ಕ್ಕೆ ತೊಟ್, ತೊಟ್ ಎಂದು ಬಿದ್ದು ಸದ್ದಾದಾಗ ಇಬ್ಬರಿಗೂ ಎನೋ ರೋಮಾಂಚನ. ರವಿ ನಿರ್ಭಾವುಕ ಮುಖ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ. ಇತ್ತ ನನ್ನ ಕಣ್ಣೀರಿನ ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಒಡೆದಿತ್ತು. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಭಾವನಾತ್ಮಕ ಗಳಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸ್ಥಿಮಿತೆ ಹಾಗು ಸಂಯಮ ಇರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನನಗೆ, ನನ್ನ ಕಣ್ಣೀರು ತುಟಿಯಂಚಿಗೆ ಹರಿದಾಗ ನನಗೆ ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯ! "ಪ್ರೇಮಿಗಳ ದಿನ ಮುದ್ದಾದ ಕಾಣಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಾನು ಕೊಡಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರತಿ ಹತ್ತು ನಿಮಿಷಕ್ಕೆ ಪೋನಾಯಿಸಿ ಹುಚ್ಚು ಹಿಡಿಸಲ್ಲ. ಒಬ್ಬರಿಗೊಬ್ಬರು ಆಧಾರಸ್ತಂಭವಾಗಿ ಇರೋಣ". ಫಿಲ್ಮಿ ಶೈಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದು ಯಾಕೆ ಈ ಮಾತುಗಳು ಬಂದವೋ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂದೊ ನೆನಪಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಾಗ ನಗು ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. "ರಾಯರದು ಏನು ಮಾತೆ ಇಲ್ಲವಲ್ಲ?" ಅಂತ 5 ನಿಮಿಷ ಮೌನದ ನಂತರ ಮಗದೊಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಒಡ್ಡಿದ್ದೆ. ದೊಡ್ಡ ಘನಂದಾರಿ ವಿದ್ವಾಂಸನಂತೆ ಹೇಳಿದ, "ಮೌನಂ ಸಮ್ಮತಿ ಲಕ್ಷಣಂ"!

ನವೆಂಬರ್ 8, 2013, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 3.30

ಡಿಗ್ರಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇನ್ನು 6 ಘಂಟೆ ಕಾಯಬೇಕಿತ್ತು. ಒಂದು ದಿವಸ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಗೆಳೆಯರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ಪುಣ್ಯಾತ್ಮನಿಗೆ ಎಣ್ಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಭಾವ ಇಳಿದಿಯೋ ಅಥವಾ ಇನ್ನು ತೇಲಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾನೊ ತಿಳಿಯಲು ಕರೆಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಎಂ.ಸಿ ಕೋಣೆಗೆ ಬಾ ಎಂದ. ಶ್ರವಣೇಂದ್ರಿಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಡಿದ ಡ್ರಮ್ಸ್‌ನ ಕರ್ಕಶ ಶಬ್ದದಿಂದ ಇದು ಖರೇನೆ ರವಿ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಯಿತು. ಎಂ.ಸಿ ಸೇರಲು ನಡೆದ ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷದ ಆಡಿಶನ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅವನ ಪಕ್ಕದ ಕೋಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ನಾನು ಸಹಿತ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಕಿವಿ ಮುಚ್ಚಿದ್ದು ಇನ್ನೊ ನನಗೆ ನೆನಪಿದೆ. "ಈ ಬೈಕ್ ನಿನ್ನ ಹತ್ತಿರ? ಇದಕ್ಕೇ ನಾ ನೀ ಒಬ್ಬಾಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದು?" ಕೋಪದಿಂದ ಕೆಂಡಮಂಡಲವಾಗಿ ಕೂಗಿದ ರವಿ. ವಿಪರ್ಯಾಸ ಏನೆಂದರೆ ಆ ಕೋಪೋದ್ರಿಕ್ತ ಮುಗ್ಧ ಮುಖ ನನಗೆ ಚೆಂದ ಕಾಣಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು ! "ಬಂದರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಂದೇ ಹೋಗುವ. ಕೇವಲ 30 ನಿಮಿಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಬಿಡಿ ಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಮಾಡಿ ಅಲ್ಪ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಹಣ ಕೂಡ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸಾಕು ಇದರ ಸಹವಾಸ ನಿನಗೆ", ಖಡಾಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿಬಿಟ್ಟ. "ಇಲ್ಲ!", ನಾನೂ ಕೂಡ ಧ್ವನಿ ಏರಿಸಿದೆ. "ಆಕೆ ನನ್ನ ತುಂಬಾ ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಗೆಳತಿ. ನನಗೆ 4 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಜೊತೆ ಇದ್ದವಳು. ಈಗಲೂ ನನ್ನ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಹಾಗು ನಮ್ಮ ಗೆಳೆತನಕ್ಕೆ ಅಪಾರ ಗೌರವ, ಅಭಿಮಾನ ಅವಳಿಗಿದೆ. ಅಂದಿನ ರಾತ್ರೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಪೋಲೀಸ್‌ನ ನಾನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದೆ. ಅವಳು ನಿನಗೆ ಬರೆದಿಟ್ಟ ಚೀಟಿ ತೋರಿಸಿದರು. ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ನಿನ್ನ ನಂಬರ್ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ್ದು ಆ ಪತ್ರದಿಂದಲೇ ಆ ಬೈಕನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಬ್ಬದಂದು ನನಗೆ ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಉಡುಗೊರೆಯಾಗಿ ಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಅವಳು ಅಪ್ಪಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಳು. ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿ ನಾನು ಅಂದು ಬೈಕು ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದೆ. ನನ್ನ ವಯಕ್ತಿಕ ನಿರ್ಧಾರಗಳು ನಿನ್ನ ಭಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾಕೆ ಅವಲಂಬಿಸಬೇಕು?" ನಾನು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದೆ. ಅವನ ಬಳಿ ಉತ್ತರವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. "ಒಡೆದ ನಂಬಿಕೆ, ವಿಶ್ವಾಸದ ಪ್ರತೀಕ ಈ ಬೈಕ್; ಇದನ್ನ ನೋಡಿದಾಗಲೆಲ್ಲ ನನ್ನ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಮುಳ್ಳು ಚುಚ್ಚಿದಂತೆ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ!". ಮಂಡೆ ಬಿಸಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಯೋಚಿಸದೆ ಮಾತಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ರವಿ ಕ್ರಮೇಣ ನನ್ನ ನಿಲುವು ಅರ್ಥವಾದಂತೆ ಮೌನಕ್ಕೆ ಶರಣಾದ.

ಇಬ್ಬರಿಗೂ ಸಮಾಧಾನ ಇರಲಿ ಎಂದು, ಕಗ್ಗಂಟಾಗಿದ್ದ ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ರವಿ ಒಂದು ವಿನೂತನ ಉಪಾಯ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದನು. ಜೇಬಿನಿಂದ ನಾಣ್ಯ ತೆಗೆಯುತ್ತ, "ಟಾಸ್ ಮಾಡ್ಲ?" ಎಂದ. ನನ್ನ ಹರಡಿದ ಕೂದಲನ್ನು ಒಟ್ಟುಗೂಡಿಸಿ ಕ್ಲಿಪ್ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಲೇ "ಹ್ಞೂ! " ಎಂದೆ. "ಟೈಲ್ಸ್!" ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಕೂಗಿದಾಕ್ಷಣ ನಾಣ್ಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಚಿಮ್ಮಿತು. 'ಥಳ್!' ಎಂದು ಪಕ್ಕದ ಕಸದ ಡಬ್ಬಿಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದು ಅನುರಣಿಸಿ, ಡಬ್ಬದಿಂದ ಜನ್ಯ ಝೇಂಕಾರ ಮುಂಜಾವಿನ ಮಂಜಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಧ್ವನಿಸಿತು. ಒಬ್ಬರನ್ನೊಬ್ಬರು ಮೊನಚು ನೋಟದಿಂದ ನೋಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಸಣ್ಣ ಮುಗುಳ್ನಗೆ ಇಬ್ಬರ ಕೆಂಪು ತುಟಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ನರ್ತಿಸಿತ್ತು. ■

ನಿಖಿಲ್ ಸೊರಬ
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ಕಣ
ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ಉತ್ತಮ ಮಾತುಗಾರಿಕೆ

ಭಾಷೆ ಒಂದು ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ. ಅದು ಮಾತು ಮತ್ತು ಬರವಣಿಗೆಯ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದು ಜಗತ್ತಿನಾದ್ಯಂತ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿದೆ. ಜಗತ್ತಿನ ಎಲ್ಲ ಬದುಕು ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ಸುಸೂತ್ರವಾಗಿ ನಡೆದು ಬರುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಮಾತಿನ ಅನುಗ್ರಹದಿಂದ. ಮಾನವ ಮಾತನಾಡಬಲ್ಲ, ಯೋಚಿಸಬಲ್ಲ, ತನ್ನ ಮಾತಿನ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮದಿಂದ ಭಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು, ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನು, ಸುಖ–ದುಃಖಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಲ್ಲ. ನಮ್ಮ ಮಾತಿನಿಂದ ಬೇರೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಹಿತವಾಗಬಲ್ಲದೆಂದು ತಿಳಿದು ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದೇ ಜಾಣತನ. ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞನ ಮಾತಿನಂತೆ :

ರಸಿಕನಾಡುವ ಮಾತು ಶಶಿಯುದಿರಿಸಿ ಬಂದಂತೆ
ರಸಿಕದಲ್ಲದವನ ಬರಿಮಾತು ಕಿವಿಗೆ ಕೂದರ್ಸಿಯು ಬಡಿದಂತೆ –
ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞ

ಎಂಬ ಮಾತು ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾರ್ವಕಾಲಿಕ ಸತ್ಯ.
"ಮಾತು ಆಡಿದರೆ ಹೋಯಿತು, ಮುತ್ತು ಒಡೆದರೆ ಹೋಯಿತು" ಎಂಬ ಗಾದೆ ಮಾತು ಜನಜನಿತವಾದದ್ದು. ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಬಾಣವನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಹಿಂತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲವೊ, ಹಾಗೆ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಬಾಯಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಬಂದ ಮಾತು ಜಗಜ್ಜಾಹೀರು. ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಮಾತಿನ ಚಾತುರ್ಯ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಸಿದ್ಧಿಸುವಂತಹುದಲ್ಲ, ಅಪಾರ ಪರಿಶ್ರಮದ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ, ಲೋಕಾನುಭವ ಹಾಗೂ ಹತ್ತು ಹಲವು ವಾಚಾಳಿ ಮಿತ್ರರ ಕೊಡುವಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾತುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಪರಿಪಕ್ವವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಒಂದರೊಡನೆ ಒಂದನ್ನು ಪೋಣಿಸಿದ ಮಣಿಸಮೂಹವು ಹೇಗೆ ಆಕರ್ಷಕವಾಗಿರುವುದೋ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಆ ಮಾತಿನ ಸರಣಿ, ಶೈಲಿ ಕೇಳುಗರ ಮನಸ್ಸನ್ನ ನಾಟುವಂತಿರಬೇಕು. ಮಾತು ಅಮೂಲ್ಯವಾದ್ದರಿಂದ ಮಾಣಿಕ್ಯದಂತೆ ಬಹು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಬಳಸಬೇಕು. ಹೀಗೆ ಬಳಸಿದರೆ 'ಮಾತು ಬಲ್ಲವನಿಗೆ ಜಗಳವಿಲ್ಲ, ಊಟ ಬಲ್ಲವನಿಗೆ ರೋಗವಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂಬ ಗಾದೆಮಾತು ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣವೆನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಾಗಲೀ ಯೋಚಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದು ಸೂಕ್ತ. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತಿನ ಅನುಚಿತ ಪ್ರಯೋಗದಿಂದ ಅನರ್ಥಕ್ಕೆಡೆಯಾಗಿ ಹಾನಿಯಾಗುವ ಸಂಭವವೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು. ಒಡೆದ ಮುತ್ತನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಸರಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲವೋ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಯೋಚನೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಅನರ್ಥವನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದು. ಮಾತಿಗೊಂದು ಮಿತಿ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಹೇಳಬೇಕಾದುದನ್ನು ಖಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಕೆಲವೇ ಮಾತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಳವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿದರೆ ಹಿತವೆನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಾತು ಅತಿಯಾದಾಗ ಬೇಸರವಾಗುವುದಲ್ಲದೆ ಮೂಲ ಆಶಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕುಂದುಂಟಾಗಿ ಮಾತು ವ್ಯರ್ಥ ಎನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಜಿ. ಪಿ. ರಾಜರತ್ನಂರವರು ಹೇಳುವಂತೆ 'ಮಾತಿರಬೇಕು' ಮಿಂಚು ಹೊಳ್ದಂಗೆ, ಕೇಳವ್ವ ಹಾ! ಅನ್ಬೇಕು ಅದು ಮಾತು.
'ಮಾತಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಮನೆ ಕಟ್ಟುವವರು' ಎಂದು ಕೆಲವರಿಗೆ ಹೇಳುವುದುಂಟು. ಈ ಮಾತು ನಿಜ. ಈ ವರ್ಗದ ಜನರು ಮಾತಿನ ಮೋಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಎಂತಹವರನ್ನೂ ತಮ್ಮೆಡೆಗೆ ಸೆಳೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಪ್ರತ್ಯಕ್ಷ – ಪರೋಕ್ಷವಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವವರಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ತಮ್ಮ ಅಸಂಬದ್ಧ ಮಾತಿನ ಭರಾಟೆಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿಕೂಲ ವಾತಾವರಣ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅಡಚಣೆ ತಂದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವವರೂ ಕೆಲವರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಒಂದು ಮಾತು ಹತ್ತಾರು ಅರ್ಥವನ್ನು ಕೊಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಂದರ್ಭೋಚಿತವಾಗಿ, ಅಣಿಯಾಗಿ, ಸುಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿಸಿ – ದ್ವಂದ್ವಾರ್ಥಕ್ಕೆಡೆ ಮಾಡದೆ ನಾಗರೀಕ ಶೈಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರೆ ಎಂತಹ ಅರಸಿಕರಿಗೂ ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆಯಾಗಿ ಗೆಳೆತನದ ಕೀಲು ಸದೃಢವಾಗುವುದೂ ಉಂಟು ತನ್ಮೂಲಕ ಮನೆ ಕಟ್ಟುವುದೂ ಉಂಟು.

ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದು ಒಂದು ಸುಂದರವಾದ ಕಲೆ. ಸಮಯೋಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದು ಒಂದು ಜಾಣತನ. ವಾಗ್ಮಿಯು ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವಾಗ, ವಿಷಯ, ಸ್ಥಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಔಚಿತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಮನನ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಅದಕ್ಕನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ತನ್ನ ಮಾತಿನ ಕಲೆಗಾರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಶ್ರೋತೃವೃಂದವನ್ನು ತಣಿಸಿದರೆ ಆಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ಹೇಳುಗ–ಕೇಳುಗರ ನಡುವೆ ಸಾಮ್ಯ ಏರ್ಪಡುವುದಲ್ಲದೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ನಾವು ಯಾರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆಯೋ ಅವರ ಪೂರ್ವಾಪರವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿದು ಅವರ ನಾಡಿಮಿಡಿತ, ಹಿಡಿದು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಮಾತಿನ ಶೈಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರೆ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಹಿತ, ಜ್ಞಾನಪೀಠ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ವಿಜೇತ ವರಕವಿ ಡಾ॥ ದ. ರಾ. ಬೇಂದ್ರೆ ಮಾತಿನ ಕುರಿತಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಕವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ "ಮಾತು ಮಾತು ಮಥಿಸಿ ಬಂತು ನಾದದ ನವನೀತ" ಎಂದು ನಾವಾಡುವ ಮಾತು ಬಹು ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿರಬೇಕು, ಕೇಳುಗನ ಮನ ತಣಿಸುವಂತಿರಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.
"ಮಾತು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿ ಮೌನ ಬಂಗಾರ" ಎಂಬ ಮಾತಿನಂತೆ ಮಾತು ಅತಿಯಾಗಲೂಬಾರದು. ಅತಿಯಾದ ಮಾತು ಸಹಿತ ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಅನರ್ಥಕ್ಕೆ ದಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ನಾವು ಸಮಯ, ಸಂದರ್ಭಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಕಲೆಯನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಮಾತು ಹೇಗಿರಬೇಕೆಂದು ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರು ತಮ್ಮ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

"ನುಡಿದರೆ ಮುತ್ತಿನ ಹಾರದಂತಿರಬೇಕು"

ಉಲ್ಲಾಸ್ ನಾವಡ
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ಕಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಹವನ ಅಭಿಯಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ಹೃದಯದ ಮಾತು

ಕಿಶೋರ್ ಕ್ಷೀರಸಾಗರ (ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ)

ಬಂದೆ ನಾನು ಬಿರುಗಾಳಿಯಂತೆ ಎನ್.ಐ.ಟಿ.ಕೆ.ಗೆ
ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲೇ ಒಳಗಾದೆ ಸೀನಿಯರ್ಸ್ ಇಂದ ಟೀಕೆಗೆ
ಆದರು ಕೊರತೆಯಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ ನನ್ನ ಮೋಜಿಗೆ
ಇನ್ನೆಂದೂ ಬಾರದ ಈ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳು
ಬೀಳ್ಕೊಡುವೆ ನಾನು ಕಣ್ಣೀರಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ

ಸ್ನೇಹಾನ ? ಪ್ರೀತಿನಾ ?

ನಿನ್ನ ಕಂಡಾಗ ಮಾರು ಹೋದೆ ನಿನಗೆ ನಾ
ಹಂಬಲಿಸಿದೆ ನಿನ್ನ ಪ್ರೀತಿಗಾಗಿ ನಾ
ನೀ ಕಟ್ಟಿದೆ ಸ್ನೇಹದ ಜೋಳಿಗೆನಾ
ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ ಇದು ಸ್ನೇಹಾನಾ? ಪ್ರೀತಿನಾ?

"ನುಡಿದರೆ ಸ್ಫಟಿಕದ ಸಲಾಕೆಯಂತಿರಬೇಕು"

ಬೆಳಗಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡು

ಅಭಯ್ ಚೆನ್ನಗಿರಿ
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ಮಾಹಿತಿ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ
ಅಭಿಯಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ನಾನು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಸುರತ್ಕಲ್‌ಗೆ ಕಾಲಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು ಇಸವಿ 2010. ಹದಿನೆಂಟು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಕಾಲ ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡಮಾತನಾಡಿದ್ದರೂ ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತಹ ಅಭಿಮಾನ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದೊಡನೆಯೇ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಮೇಲೆ ಇದ್ದಂತಹ ನನ್ನ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನವೇ ಬದಲಾಯಿತು. ಈಗ ನಾನು ಒಬ್ಬ ಅಪ್ಪಟ ಕನ್ನಡಾಭಿಮಾನಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಹೆಮ್ಮೆ ಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಕಳೆದ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು ಘಟನೆಗಳು ನನ್ನ ಈ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಹುಶಃ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡು ಮತ್ತು ಕನ್ನಡ ನುಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವಂತಹ ಅನನ್ಯ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯತೆಯ ಅರಿವು ಮೂಡಿಸಿದ ಘಟನೆಗಳೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು. ಈ ಕುರಿತು ನಾನು ಎರಡು ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಳಲು ಇಷ್ಟಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿರಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೇಕಡಾ 50ರಷ್ಟು ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ವಿವಿಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬರುವುದು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ, ಬಿಜಾಪುರ ಹುಡುಗರ್ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾತಾಡೊ ಶೈಲಿ ಒಂದ್ ಕಡೆ ಅದ್ರ (ಒರಟು ಖರೆ ಭಾರಿ ಮಸ್ತ್ ಇರ್ತದ) ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಡೆ (ಮೆತ್ತ ಆದರೆ ಭಾರಿ ಚೆಂದ ಉಂಟು ಮಾರಾಯ್ರೆ) ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಶೈಲಿಯ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಹವ್ಯಕ, ಕೊಡುವ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹಲವಾರು ಉಪಭಾಷೆಗಳನ್ನ ಕೇಳುವ, ಈ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷಾವೈಖರಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುವ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಬೇರೊಂದು ಕಡೆ ಸಿಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೇನೋ ? ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಉದ್ದಗಲಕ್ಕೂ ಕಾಣಸಿಗುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನೆಹರುವಿಗೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇದ್ದಿದ್ದರೆ, ಕೇವಲ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿಯೇ 'ಮೆಲ್ಟಿಂಗ್ ಪಾಟ್' ಎಂದು ಉದ್ಗರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆನೋ?

ಈ ಲೇಖನದಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ಕೆಲವು ಅಮೂಲ್ಯವಾದಂತಹ, ಮರೆಯಲಾಗದಂತಹ ನೆನಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಹ ನಿಮ್ಮೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಇನ್ಸಿಡೆಂಟ್ 2011ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸುನಿಧಿ ಚೌಹನಳು ಜೋಗಿ ಚಿತ್ರದ ಚುಕು ಬುಕು ರೈಲು ಹಾಡಿದಾಗ ಹುಚ್ಚನಂತೆ ಕುಣಿದ ಘಟನೆ. ಇನ್ಸಿಡೆಂಟ್ 2013ರಲ್ಲಿ 'ಸ್ವರಾತ್ಮ' ತಂಡ ಕನ್ನಡ ಹಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಡಿದಾಗ ಕನ್ನಡ ತಿಳಿಯದವರೂ ಸಹ ಅದನ್ನು ಮೆಚ್ಚಿದಾಗ ಆದ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂತಸ, ಕಳೆದ ಬಾರಿ ನಡೆದಂತಹ ಭಾರತ್ ದರ್ಶನ್ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಮೊದಲ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದಾಗ ಆದ ಸಂತೋಷ, ಹೀಗೆ ಹಲವಾರು ಸಂಗತಿಗಳು ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕನ್ನಡ ಪ್ರೇಮವನ್ನು ಬೀರಿಸುತ್ತಲೂ, ವರ್ಧಿಸುತ್ತಲೂ ಬಂದಿದೆ.

ಬೆಳಗಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡು
ನುಡಿಯಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ನುಡಿಯು
ಹಾರಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಧ್ವಜವು
ಮೊಳಗಲಿ ಕೀರ್ತಿಯ ಕಹಳೆಯು
ಜೈ ಭುವನೇಶ್ವರಿ ಮಾತೆ
ಜೈ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮಾತೆ

ಎಂದು ಯಾರೊಬ್ಬ ಮಹಾನ್ ಕವಿಯನ್ನು ಮನಸಾರೆ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಈ ಸಣ್ಣ ಲೇಖನವನ್ನು ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ.

।ಸಿರಿಗನ್ನಡಂ ಗೆಲ್ಗೆ, ಸಿರಿಗನ್ನಡಂ ಬಾಳ್ಗೆ।

ಪ್ರೇಮ ನಿವೇದನೆ

ಗುರುರಾಜ್ ಎಂ. ವಿ.
ಪ್ರಥಮ ವರ್ಷ, ಪವರ್ & ಎನರ್ಜಿ ಸಿಸ್ಟಮ್ಸ್

ಖುಷಿಯಾಗಿದೆಯೊ ಇಂದು ನನಗೆ
ಹಗಲು ಇರುಳು ಎರಡು ಒಂದೇ ಒಳಗೆ
ಕನಿನ್ನಾ ಹೃದಯದೊಳಗೆ

ನಿನ್ನ ನಗುವ ಕಂಡ ಈ ಕ್ಷಣದಿ
ಹೃದಯದ ಮೊಗ್ಗು ಬಿರಿದು ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆಯಾಗಿದೆ
ಸೊಂಪಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆದ ಕನಸು, ತಂಗಾಳಿಯ ಬೀಸುತಿದೆ

ಅನುಕ್ಷಣವು ಅನುದಿನವು ತನುಮನದಿ ಬೆರೆತಿರುವ
ನಿನ್ನ ನನ್ನಿಂದ ಬೇರ್ಪಡಿಸಲು ಯಃಕಶ್ಚಿತ್ ಆ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮನ್ನಾರೆ
ಚಿರಕಾಲ ಬಾಳುವ ಹೃದಯಕೆ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಮದ್ದು ನೀಡಿ
ಬಲೆಗೆ ಬೀಳುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಆ ನಿಪುಣ ಬೇಡಗಾರನಾರ

ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕೆ ಪ್ರೇಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಲಿ ತೆಗೆಯದೆ ನಿದ್ದೆ ಮಾಡದ
ಈ ಪ್ರೇಮ ದೇವತೆ ಆ ಮಾರಮ್ಮನ ತಂಗಿಯೇನೆ

ನಿತ್ರಾಣವಾಗಿ ಬಾಯಿ ಬಾಯಿ ಬಡಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈ ಹೃದಯಕ್ಕೆ
ಕ್ಷಣಕಾಲ ಸ್ಥಬ್ಧವಾಗಿರುವಂತೆ ಹೇಳಲು ಈ ಹಿಂಜರಿಕೆಯೇಕೆ
ಒಮ್ಮೆ ನೀನು ಬೇರೊಬ್ಬನ ಕಡೆ ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಆ
ಸ್ಥಬ್ಧಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಹೃದಯವೆ ನಿನಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಪ್ರೇಮದ ಕಾಣಿಕೆ

ಉಸಿರಿನ ಲಹರಿಗೆ ಅರೆಕ್ಷಣ ತಡೆ ನೀಡಿ
ತನ್ನತ್ತ ತಿರುಗಿ ನೋಡುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವ್ ಅವಳ್ಯಾರು
ನೋಡಿಯು ನೋಡದಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನಾಜೂಕಾಗಿ
ನೋಟ ಬದಲಾಯಿಸುವ ಈ ಕಲೆಯನ್ನು ನಿನಗೆ ಕಲಿಸಿದವರ್ಯಾರು
ಕಂಡರೆ ಕಣ್ಣು ಮಿಟುಕಿಸುತ ಹೋದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂಬಾಲಿಸುವ
ನೀಚ ಪ್ರೇಮಿ ಇವನಲ್ಲ ನಿನಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತೆ ನಾನ್ಯಾರು
ಬಾಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರಳಾಗಿ ಇರುಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಕಾಗಿ
ಕೊನೆವರೆಗು ಕಾಯುವೆ ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರು

– ರಾಜಗುರು

ಪ್ರವಾಸ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ

ಪಾವಂಜೆ

ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ತಾಣವೆಂದೊಡನೆ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ನೆನಪಾಗುವುದು ಬೀಚ್ (ಕಡಲತೀರ) ಆದರೆ ಮೂಡಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹಲವಾರು ಸುಂದರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿವೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು 'ಪಾವಂಜೆ ಸೇತುವೆ'. ಸುಮಾರು 4 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಈ ತಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಗುವ ದಾರಿಯು ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಸುಂದರ. ಮುಂಜಾನೆಯ ಮಂಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾವಂಜೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಅನುಭವವೇ ರೋಮಾಂಚನಕಾರಿ.

ಹೋಗುವ ದಾರಿ:
ಪಿ.ಜಿ. ಮೈದಾನದ ದ್ವಾರದಿಂದ ಎಡಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರಳಿದರೆ, ಸುಮಾರು 500 ಮೀಟರ್ ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈಲು ಮೇಲು ಸೇತುವೆ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸೇತುವೆಯ ಪಕ್ಕದ ಕಾಲ್ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಗಿದರೆ, ರೈಲು ಹಳಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ. ಪಾವಂಜೆ ತಲುಪಲು, ಹಳಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಸುಮಾರು 3 ಕಿ.ಮಿ. ತೆರಳಬೇಕು. ಉತ್ತರ ದಿಕ್ಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರಳುವಾಗ ರೈಲುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಗಮನವಿರಲಿ. ಮಳೆಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನದಿಯು ತುಂಬಿ ಹರಿಯುವುದರಿಂದ, ನೀರಿಗೆ ಇಳಿಯುವುದು ಉಚಿತವಲ್ಲ. ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಸೇತುವೆ ಇದ್ದು, ಶಿಥಿಲವಾದ ಸೇತುವೆ ಮೇಲೆ ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಎಚ್ಚರ ಸೇತುವೆ. ಎಡ ಭಾಗದ ಕಾಲ್ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದರೆ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಂತಮೇರಿ ದ್ವೀಪ ಮತ್ತು ಮಲ್ಪೆ ಕಡಲತೀರ

ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಿಂದ ಸುಮಾರು 60 ಕಿ.ಮಿ. ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಸುಂದರ ಕಡಲತೀರ ಮಲ್ಪೆ. ಉಡುಪಿಯಿಂದ 5 ಕಿ.ಮಿ. ದೂರದ ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಜಲಕ್ರೀಡೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧ. ಇದರ ಸಮೀಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂತ ಮೇರಿ ದ್ವೀಪವಿದೆ. ಉಲ್ಕಶಿಲೆಯಿಂದ ತುಂಬಿರುವ ಈ ದ್ವೀಪದಲ್ಲಿ, ತರಹೇವಾರಿ ಕಪ್ಪೆ ಚಿಪ್ಪು, ಶಂಖಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಣಬಹುದು.

ಹೋಗುವ ದಾರಿ:
ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಿಂದ ಉಡುಪಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಿ, ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ನಗರ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಲ್ಪೆಗೆ ತೆರಳಬಹುದು. ಸಂತಮೇರೆ ದ್ವೀಪಕ್ಕೆ, ಮಲ್ಪೆ ಬಂದರಿನಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ದೋಣಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಹೋಗಬಹುದು.

ಸಸಿಹಿತ್ಲು

ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಸುಮಧುರ ತಾಣವೆಂದರೆ, ಸಸಿಹಿತ್ಲು. ಈ ಜಾಗವು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಿಂದ ಸುಮಾರು 6 ಕಿ.ಮಿ. ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಂಭವಿ, ನಂದಿನಿ ಹಾಗು ಅರಬ್ಬೀ ಸಮುದ್ರ ಸಮಾಗಮವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ನದಿಮುಖ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂರ್ಯಾಸ್ತದ ರಮಣೀಯ ದೃಶ್ಯ ನೋಡುವುದು ಒಂದು ಅದೃಷ್ಟವೇ ಸರಿ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆದ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಛಾಯಾಚಿತ್ರಗಳು ನಿಮ್ಮ 'ಪ್ರೊಫೈಲ್‌ಪಿಕ್' ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿಯಾಗಳಿವೆ.

ಹೋಗುವ ದಾರಿ:
ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಿಂದ ಬಸ್ ನಂ.2 'ಸಸಿಹಿತ್ಲು'ಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಲು ಸಸಿಹಿತ್ತಲಿನಿಂದ ಕೊನೆಯ ಬಸ್ ಸಂಜೆ 7.30ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮುರುಡೇಶ್ವರ ಮತ್ತು ನೇತ್ರಾಣಿ ದ್ವೀಪ

ವಾರಾಂತ್ಯದ ಪ್ರವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸೂಕ್ತವಾದ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಮುರುಡೇಶ್ವರ. ವಿಶ್ವದ ಅತಿ ಎತ್ತರವಾದ ವಿಮಾನ ಗೋಪುರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಈ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ ಅರಬ್ಬೀ ಸಮುದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಲು ಸಮೀಪದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಈ ಸ್ಥಳದಿಂದ ನಾವು ನೇತ್ರಾಣಿ ದ್ವೀಪಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಬಹುದು. ನೇತ್ರಾಣಿ ದ್ವೀಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಕೂಬಾ ಡೈವಿಂಗ್, ಸ್ನಾರ್ಕೆಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಮತ್ತು ಜೆಟ್ ಸ್ಕೀಯಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಹೋಗುವ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರವಂತೆ ಕಡಲತೀರ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಯ ಒಂದು ಕಡೆ ಅರಬ್ಬಿ ಸಮುದ್ರ, ಮತ್ತೊಂಡದೆ ಸೌಪರ್ಣಿಕ ನದಿಯ ದೃಶ್ಯ ನೋಡಲು ಎರಡು ಕಣ್ಣು ಸಾಲದು.

ಹೋಗುವ ದಾರಿ:
ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಿಂದ ಮುಂಬೈ ಕಡೆಗೆ ತೆರಳುವ ರೈಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಮುರುಡೇಶ್ವರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಬಹುದು. ನೇತ್ರಾಣಿ ದ್ವೀಪಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಲು ಡ್ರೀಮ್ಸ್ ಡೈವಿಂಗ್ (www.dremzdiving.com) ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ. ಮುರುಡೇಶ್ವರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೋಗುವಾಗ ಮರವಂತೆ ತೀರ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ■

ಬೇಕಲ್ ಕೋಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಲಿಯಪರಂಬ

ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ದಿಕ್ಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಈ ಕೋಟೆ, ಕೇರಳದ ಕಾಸರಗೋಡು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಈ ಕೋಟೆಯು ಅರಬ್ಬೀ ಸಮುದ್ರದ ತೀರದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ಒಂದು ದಿನದ ಪಯಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸೂಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸ್ಥಳದಿಂದ ಸುಮಾರು 40 ಕಿ.ಮಿ. ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಪ್ರೇಕ್ಷಣೀಯ ಸ್ಥಳ ವಲಿಯಪರಂಬ. ಉತ್ತರ ಕೇರಳದ ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾದ ಹಿನ್ನೀರಿನ ಸ್ಥಳ ಇದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೋಗುವ ದಾರಿ:
ಮಂಗಳೂರಿನಿಂದ ಕಣ್ಣೂರಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರೈಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಯಣ್ಣೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿದು, ಸಮೀಪದ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿ ಜೆಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಲಿಯಪರಂಬಗೆ ದೋಣ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ದೋಣ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿ ಜೆಟ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ದೋಣಿ ಸಂಜೆ 3 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರಳುತ್ತದೆ.
ಬೇಕಲ್ ಕೋಟೆಗೆ ಕಾಸರಗೋಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿದು, ನಗರ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ಸಿನ ಮೂಲಕ ಹೋಗಬೇಕು. ಕೋಟೆಯೂ ಕಾಸರಗೋಡಿನಿಂದ ಸುಮಾರು 11 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ಶಶಾಂಕ್ ಎಸ್. ಎನ್.
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ

ಆ ದಿನ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅದೇತಾನೆ ನನ್ನ ರಾಸಾಯನ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಉತ್ತರ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡುತ್ತಾ ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದೆ. ಈ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಹೀಗೆ ದಿಢೀರೆಂದು ದಿನದ ಮೊದಲ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಅದೆಷ್ಟು ಬೈದುಕೊಂಡಿರಬಹುದು ? ಎಂಬುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಮನದ ಮೂಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಚನೆಯೂ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ತರಗತಿಯ ಆರಂಭದ ಮೊದಲ ಮೂವತ್ತು ನಿಮಿಷಗಳು ಪಾಠ ಮಾಡಿ, ಅನಂತರ "ಇದೀಗ ನಾನು ಕೊಡಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿ" ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಉಕ್ತಲೇಖಿಸಿದಾಗ ನೋಡಬೇಕಿತ್ತು, ನನ್ನ ಶಿಷ್ಯೋತ್ತಮರುಗಳ ಮುಖಾರವಿಂದಗಳು ಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕೂ ಬದಲಾಗುವ ಪರಿಯನ್ನು ! ವೀರ, ರೌದ್ರ, ಭಯಾನಕ, ಭೀಭತ್ಸ, ಕರುಣರಸಗಳಲ್ಲದೆ, ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲದಂತಹ ಕೆಲವು ಬಗೆಯ ರಸಾಭಿವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳ ಲಾಸ್ಯ, ಆ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮೊಗದಲ್ಲಿ. ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದ್ದರೆ ಸಿಗಿದು, ಕೊಂದು ಹತ್ತಡಿ ಆಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಗಿದು ಬಿಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೇನೋ! ಅಥವಾ ಅಷ್ಟು ಕಷ್ಟವೇಕೆಂದು ಹತ್ತಿರವೇ ಸುಮ್ಮನೆ ಮಲಗಿರುವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಸಮುದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ (ನಮ್ಮದೇ ಸಮುದ್ರವನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲರು 'ಅರಬ್ಬೀ ಸಮುದ್ರ' ಎನ್ನುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ನನ್ನ ಕಡು ವಿರೋಧವಿದೆ) ಮುಗುಮ್ಮಾಗಿ ಎಸೆದು ನಿರುಮ್ಮಳವಾಗಿಬಿಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೇನೋ ! ಆದರೇನು ಮಾಡೋಣ? ಇದೆಲ್ಲ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ನೋಡಿ, ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಬಹುಶಃ ಇರಲಿ, 'ಬಂದಿತೆನಗು ಒಂದು ಕಾಲ' ಎಂದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೈಯನ್ನು, ತಲೆಯನ್ನು ಹಿಸುಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಲೋ, ಕೆದರಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಲೋ, ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ತೋಚಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಗೀಚಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ಇಷ್ಟೆಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಗತಿಗಳು ಮನದಲ್ಲೇ ಮಥನಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತಹ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲೇ 'ಸಾರ್' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾ ರೂಮಿನೊಳಗೆ ದಾಳಿಯಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು ನಮ್ಮ ಕನ್ನಡ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಉತ್ಸಾಹಿ ತರುಣ ಧುರೀಣರಿಬ್ಬರು. 'ಸಾರ್' ಈ ಸಲದ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮ್ಯಾಗಜಿನ್‌ಗೆ ನೀವೊಂದು ಆರ್ಟಿಕಲ್ ಕೊಡ್ಬೇಕು ಸಾರ್, ಏನಿಲ್ಲ ವೀಕೆಂಡ್‌ಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ರು ಸಾಕು ಸಾರ್, ಹ್ಯಾಂಡ್ರೈಟಿಂಗಲ್ಲಾದ್ರು ಪರವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ (ಟೈಪ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೊಟ್ರೆ ಒಳ್ಳೇದಿತ್ತು!) ನಾವು ಅಡ್ಜಸ್ಟ್ ಮಾಡ್ಕೋತೀವಿ ಸಾರ್' ಅಂತ ಫರ್ಮಾನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದನೊಬ್ಬ.

ಏನ್ಸಾರ್ ನಾವು 50% ಸ್ಟೂಡೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಕನ್ನಡದವರೇ ಇದ್ದೀವಿ ಸಾರ್, ಆದ್ರೆ ನಮ್ ಮ್ಯಾಗಜೀನ್‌ಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಆರ್ಟಿಕಲ್ಸೇ ಬರೋದಿಲ್ಲ ನೋಡಿ ಸಾರ್ ಅಂತ ಅಲವತ್ತುಕೊಂಡನೊಬ್ಬ. 'ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಸಲ ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರ್ಸ್, ರಿಸರ್ಚ್, ಸ್ಕಾಲರ್ಸ್, ನಾನ್ ಟೀಚಿಂಗ್ ಸ್ಟಾಫ್ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಂದಲೂ ಆರ್ಟಿಕಲ್ಸ್ ರಿಕ್ವೆಸ್ಟ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೀವಿ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಸ್ಟೂಡೆಂಟ್ಸಿಗು ಎನ್ಕರೇಜ್ ಮಾಡ್ತಿದೀವಿ ಸಾ' ಅಂತ ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬ ವರದಿಯೊಪ್ಪಿಸಿದ. 'ನೋಡಿಸಾರ್ ಈ ಸಲ ಹೆಂಗೆ ಡಿಫರೆಂಟಾಗಿ ಮಾಡ್ತಿವಿ ಅಂತ!' ಒಂದಿಪತ್ತು ಮೂವತ್ತು ಪೇಜುಗಳಾದ್ರು ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಡ್ಬೇಕಂತಿದೀವಿ ಅಂತ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯಿಂದ ತಮ್ಮ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ನೀಲನಕಾಶೆಯನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಮುಂದೆ ಹರಡಿ ಸಂಭ್ರಮಿಸಿದರು. ಆ ತರುಣ ಅಭಿಯಂತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಉತ್ಸಾಹ, ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆಯಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಏನಾದರು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು, ಹೊಸತು ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಆಸೆ ನೋಡಿ ನನಗು ಯಾ–ಕೋ ಸಿಕ್ಕಾಪಟ್ಟೆ ಖುಷಿಯಾಗಿಬಿಟ್ಟಿತು. 'ಆಗ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡೋಣಂತೆ, ಅದಕ್ಕೇನು? ಆದಷ್ಟು ಬೇಗನೆ ಒಂದು ಆರ್ಟಿಕಲ್ ಬರ್ಕೊಡ್ತಿನಿ, ನೀವುಗಳು ಮಾಡ್ತಿರೋ ಕೆಲಸ ಬಹಳ ಒಳ್ಳೇದಿದೆ, ನನಗೆ ಸಕ್ಕತ್ ಖುಷಿಯಾಗಿದೆ, ಮುಂದುವರೆಸಿ, ಗುಡ್ ಲಕ್" ಅಂತ ಅವರನ್ನ ಹುರಿದುಂಬಿಸಿದಲ್ಲದೆ ಒಂದಿಷ್ಟು ಇತರ ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಬರಹಗಾರ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರುಗಳ ಹೆಸರುಗಳನ್ನು ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೆ.

ನಾನೇನು ಅಂಥಾ ಬರಹಗಾರನಲ್ಲ. ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷ 'ಕನ್ನಡ ವೇದಿಕೆ'ಯ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ ಸಲಹೆಗಾರನಾಗಿದ್ದೆ ಅಷ್ಟೇ, ಅದೇ ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕನ್ನಡ ಯೋಧರು ನನಗೆ ಮುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದರಷ್ಟೇ, ಈ ಬರವಣಿಗೆಯ ಅಥವಾ ಬರಹಗಾರನಾಗುವ ಹಂಬಲ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಅಥವಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನವರಿಗೆ ಒಂದಲ್ಲ ಒಂದು ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದೆ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ನನ್ನ ಅನಿಸಿಕೆ. ಬಹುಶಃ ಈ ತುಡಿತ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿದೆಸೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ಅದೇ ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುವವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆಯೇ ಎನ್ನಬಹುದು. ಅದೇನೇ ಇರಲಿ ಲೇಖನವೋ, ಕಥೆಯೂ, ನಮ್ಮ ಕವಿತೆಯೋ, ಕಾದಂಬರಿಯನ್ನೋ ಬರೆಯುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಂತರ ಅದನ್ನು ಓದಿದ (ಅಥವ ಓದದ!) ಯಾರಾದರೋ "ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದಿದೆ!" (ಸೌಜನ್ಯಕ್ಕೂ, ಕಾಟಾಚಾರಕ್ಕೂ!) ಎಂದಾಗ ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು ಖುಷಿಯಾಗುವುದು ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ನಿಯಮವೇ ಇರಬೇಕು.

"ನಾನೇಕೆ ಬರಹಗಾರನಾಗಬಾರದು?" ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಹಿಂದೊಮ್ಮೆ ಥಿಂಕಿಸಿ, ಅದ್ಯಾವುದೋ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ನಿಯತಕಾಲಿಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ಹೊಸ ಸುದ್ದಿಯೊಂದನ್ನಾಧರಿಸಿ, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಒಂದಷ್ಟು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ಅದಕ್ಕೊಂದಿಷ್ಟು ಉಪ್ಪು, ಹುಳಿ, ಖಾರ ಸೇರಿಸಿ, ಬಣ್ಣ ಹಚ್ಚಿ, "ಬರಲಿದೆ ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ತೂಕದ ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್" ಎಂಬ ಆಕರ್ಷಕ ಶೀಷಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟು "ತರಂಗ" ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದೆ. ಅದು ಪ್ರಕಟವೂ ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ಅನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೇ ಹವ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನು ಅದ್ಯಾಕೋ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಲಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲವು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ನಂತರ, (ನಾನಾಗ NITKಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕನಾಗಿ ಸೇರಿಯೇ ಕೆಲವು ವರ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದವು) ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ನನ್ನ ಬಳಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ಸರ್ 'ತರಂಗ'ದಲ್ಲಿ ಲೈಟ್ ವೈಟ್ ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆರ್ಟಿಕಲ್ ಬರೆದವರು ನೀವೇ ಅಲ್ವ ಸಾರ್ ? ಎಂದು ತನಿಖೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ. 'ಇದೇನಪ್ಪ ಕಥೆ? ಏನಾದರೂ ಅನಾಹುತ ಕಾದಿದೆಯೋ ಹೇಗೆ ? ಎಂಬ ತಳಮಳ ನನ್ನೊಳಗೆ. 'ಹೌದು ಮಾರಾಯ, ಏನಾಯ್ತು?' ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಆತ ಕೂಲಾಗಿ, 'ಅಲ್ಲ ಸಾರ್, ನೀವದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ರಿಸರ್ಚ್ ಏನಾದರೂ ಮಾಡಿದೀರ ಸಾರ್, ನನಗೆ ಅದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರಾಜೆಕ್ಟ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಂತಿದೆ, ನೀವು ನನಗೆ ಗೈಡ್ ಮಾಡ್ಬಹುದ ಸಾರ್?" ಅಂತೆಲ್ಲ ಕೇಳಿ ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ, ಅನಿರ್ವಚನೀಯ ಆನಂದವನ್ನುಂಟು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ, ಆ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮರೆತೇ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಂತಹ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ನೆನಪಿಸಿ ಅವನು ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದು ಮಾಡಿದ ಪುಳಕ ಅವಿಸ್ಮರಣೀಯ. ಹಾಗೆಂದು ಪುನಃ ಬರವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಹಚ್ಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ನನ್ನಲ್ಯಾಕೋ ಮತ್ತೆ ಕುದುರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಇದೀಗ ನಮ್ಮ ಕನ್ನಡ ಯೋಧರ ಕೋರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಹಾಗೆ ಬದಿಗಿರಿಸಲೆಂತು? ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಶಿಷ್ಯೋತ್ತಮರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಕೆಲವು ಲಘು ಪ್ರಸಂಗಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸುವ ಇರಾದೆ ನನ್ನದು.

ದೇವೋ ಭವ

– ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭಟ್

ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ಬುದ್ಧಿವಂತರೇ ಇರುತ್ತಾರೆ (ಅಥವಾ ಬಹಳ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ AIEEE/JEE ರಾಂಕಿಂಗ್ ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ) ಎಂಬುದು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಒಪ್ಪಿದ ವಿಷಯ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಠ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಬಲು ಸುಲಭ ಎಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವು ಕೆಲವು ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರುಗಳದ್ದು. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೋ ಪಾಠ ಕೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ ಅಥವಾ ಇಷ್ಟವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದರೆ ತಮ್ಮಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಏನಾದರೋ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಗೇಮೋ, ಮೆಸೇಜಿಂಗೋ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರತರಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹೊರತು ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಗೋಜಿಗೆ ಇವರು ಹೋಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಸಮಯದ ಸದು (ದುರು)ಪಯೋಗ ಮಾಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಇವರು ನಿಸ್ಸೀಮರು. ಬೇರೆಲ್ಲೋ ಕಾಣದಂತಹ (ಅಥವಾ ಇದ್ದರೂ ತಿಳಿದಿಲ್ಲದ) ಒಂದು ರೀತಿಯ ವರ್ತನೆ NITKಯ ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು ಮಂದಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಡುಬರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ನನ್ನ ಅನಿಸಿಕೆ. ಅದೇನೆಂದರೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರುಗಳ ಬಗೆಗಿನ ದಿವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ. ಸೆಮಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಮುಗಿದಿದ್ದರೂ ಇವರಿಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಹೆಸರೇ ತಿಳಿದಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ನಿಮ್ಮ ವಿಷಯದ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾರೆಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ, ಆ ಉದ್ದಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಾರಲ್ಲ, ಆ ಕುಳ್ಳಗೆ ದಪ್ಪಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಾರಲ್ಲ, ತಲೆಗೆ ಡೈ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಾರಲ್ಲ, ಒಂದೇ ಡ್ರೆಸ್ ಇಡೀ ವಾರ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಾರಲ್ಲ ಅವರು . . ., ಹೀಗೆ ಹೆಸರೊಂದು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಇನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ರೀತಿಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸೆಮಿಸ್ಟರ್ ನಡೆಯತ್ತಿರುವ ತನಕ 'ವಿಶ್' ಮಾಡುವ (ಬಹುಶಃ ಇಷ್ಟವಿಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೂ) ಔದಾರ್ಯ ತೋರುವ ಈ ಮಹನೀಯರುಗಳು 'ರಿಸಲ್ಟ್'ನಂತರ ಮುಖನೋಡುವುದಕ್ಕೂ ಇಷ್ಟ ಪಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಥವಾ ನೋಡಿದರೂ ಅಪಚಿತರಂತೆಯೋ, ಸುಟ್ಟುಬಿಡುವಂತೆಯೋ, ಕ್ರಿಮಿಯನ್ನು ನೋಡುವಂತೆಯೂ ವರ್ತಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹಾಗೆಂದು ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಹೀಗೆಂದೇನಲ್ಲ. ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು ಜನ ಎಲ್ಲ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲೋ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೂ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ಡಿಗ್ರಿ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ಎಷ್ಟೋ ವರ್ಷಗಳ ನಂತರ ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲೋ ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ ತಾವೇ ಗುರುತುಹಿಡಿದು ಬಂದು, 'ಸಾರ್, ನೀವು ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಆ ಸಬ್ಜೆಕ್ಟಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಟೀಚರ್ ಆಗಿದ್ರಿ' ಎಂದು ಖುಷಿಯಿಂದ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡಂತಹ ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಪ್ರಸಂಗಗಳಿವೆ.

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ, ಟೀಚಿಂಗ್ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳ ಕಾರಿಡಾರುಗಳಲ್ಲ ಈ ನಮ್ಮ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಜೆಗಳು ಗುಂಪಾಗಿ, ಚರ್ಚೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾ, ನಗುತ್ತ, ನಲಿಯುತ್ತ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅವರೆಡೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾರಿಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಬೇಕೆಂದರೆ ಹರಸಾಹಸ ಪಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. 'ಎಕ್ಸ್ ಕ್ಯೂಸ್ ಮಿ' ಎಂದು ಅರಚಿ, ಅರಚಿ, ಸುಸ್ತಾಗಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕ್ಯಾಂಪಸ್‌ನ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಇವರ 'ಸ್ಟೈಲ್' ಹೀಗೆಯೇ. 'ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಧ್ಯೆಯೇ ನಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು' ಎಂದು ಬಹುಷಃ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಪ್ಪಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೇನೋ ಎಂದೆನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು 'ಹಾರ್ನ್' ಮಾಡಿದ ಮೇಲಷ್ಟೆ ನಿಧಾನವಾಗಿ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಜಾಗ ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಡುವ ದಯೆ ತೋರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ತರಗತಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವಾಗ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುವುದೆಂದರೊಂದು ಕೆಟ್ಟ ಖುಷಿ ಅಥವಾ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯ ಭಾವನೆ ಇವರುಗಳಿಗೆ. ಮೊಬೈಲ್‌ನ ದುರುಪಯೋಗ ತರಗತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಾಗುವಷ್ಟು ಬಹುಶಃ ಬೇರೆಲ್ಲೂ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೇನೋ. ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಪಾಠ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಬಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಮುಟ್ಟುಗೋಲು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡರೆ, 'ಸಾರಿ ಸಾರ್, ಇನ್ನು ಹೀಗೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಮರುಕ್ಷಣ, 'ಎಕ್ಸ್ ಕ್ಯೂಸ್ ಮಿ ಸಾರ್, ಇನ್ನೊಂದೇ ಒಂದು ಮೆಸೇಜ್ ಮಾಡಿಬಿಡುತ್ತೇನೆ ಪ್ಲೀಸ್ ಸಾರ್!' ಎನ್ನುವ ಭೂಪರಿಗೂ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಲ್ಲ. ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಕರಾರೆತ್ತುವ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರೆಂದರೆ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಹಿಡಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 'ವರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಆವರ್ಸ್'ಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಶಾರ್ಟ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಓಡಾಡುವುದೆಂದರೆ ಇನ್ನು ಕೆಲವರಿಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಹಿಗ್ಗು. ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರೇನಾದರೂ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಬುದ್ಧಿ ಹೇಳಿದರೆ ಇವರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಇಷ್ಟವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಸಿಟ್ಟು, ಬೇಸರ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಬಂದು ಬಿಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಸರ್‌ಪ್ರೈಸ್ ಟೆಸ್ಟ್‌ಗಳೆಂದರೆ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಅಲರ್ಜಿ. "ಸಾರ್, ನಿಮಗೆ ಸರ್‌ಪ್ರೈಸ್ ಟೆಸ್ಟ್ ಮಾಡ್ಬೇಕಂತಿದ್ರೆ ನೆಕ್ಸ್ಟ್ ಮಂಡೇ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಾರ್' ಅಂತ ಪುಕ್ಕಟ್ಟೆ ಆದರೆ ಸೀರಿಯಸ್ಸಾಗಿ ಸಲಹೆ ಕೊಡುವವರೂ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರುಗಳು ಕೊಡುವ ಅಸೈನ್‌ಮೆಂಟುಗಳನ್ನು ತಾನೇ ಸ್ವತಹವಾಗಿ ಮುತುವರ್ಜಿ ವಹಿಸಿ ಮಾಡುವುದೆಂದರೆ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಬೋರು! 'ಯಾವನು ಮಾಡ್ತಾನೆ ಅದೆಲ್ಲ' ಎಂಬ ಸಬೂಬು. ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗುವ ಪುಟಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಕಿಂಚಿತ್ತೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡದೇ ಪ್ರಿಂಟ್ ತೆಗೆದು ತಂದೊಪ್ಪಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸೆಮಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಕೊನೆಯ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಂತೂ ತರಗತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗುವವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಬಹಳ ಕಡಿಮೆ. ಹಾಜರಾದರೆ ಆತ ದಡ್ಡ ಅಥವಾ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಎಂಬ ಟೀಕೆ ಎದುರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೇನೋ ಎಂಬ ಗುಮಾನಿ ನನ್ನದು. ತಮಗಿರುವ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆಯನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಬೆಂಚು, ಡೆಸ್ಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ, ಚಿತ್ರ ರಚನೆ ಮಾಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ತೋರಿಸುವ, ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಮಾಡಬಾರದ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುವ 'ಅಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರು' ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಆದರ್ಶಪ್ರಾಯರಾಗಿರುವಂತಹ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೂ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಸಮೂಹವೊಂದು ಬೇವು ಬೆಲ್ಲಗಳ ಸಮ್ಮಿಶ್ರಣವೇ ಸರಿ. ಇಂತಿಪ್ಪ ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೆ, "ಮಾತೃದೇವೋಭವ, ಪಿತೃದೇವೋಭವ, ಆಚಾರ್ಯದೇವೋ ಭವ ಮತ್ತು ಅತಿಥಿ ದೇವೋ ಭವ'ಗಳ ಜೊತೆಗೆ 'ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿದೇವೋ ಭವ'ವೂ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧಿ ಪಡೆಯಲಿದೆ ಎಂದೆನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾಲನ ನಡೆಯ ಬಲ್ಲವರಾರು ? ಕಾಲಾಯ ತಸ್ಮೈ ನಮಃ ! ಅದೇನೇ ಇರಲಿ, ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಸಜ್ಜನರಾಗಲಿ, ಭವ್ಯ ಭವಿಷ್ಯವು ಅವರಿಗೊಲಿದುಬರಲಿ, ತಮಗೂ ತಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೂ ಕೀರ್ತಿ ತರುವಂತಾಗಲಿ ಎಂಬ ಹಾರೈಕೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಿರಮಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಸರ್ವೇ ಜನಾಃ ಸುಖಿನೋ ಭವಂತು ! ■

ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭಟ್ ದೇಂತಾಜೆ
ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು
ರಸಾಯನಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗ

'ಗುರುಯೇನ್ ಮಹಾ'. . . ಅಲ್ಲ, 'ಗುರುವೇ ನಮಃ'

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಪರಂಪರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರು–ಶಿಷ್ಯೆಯರ ಸಂಬಂಧಕ್ಕೆ ಮಹತ್ವಪೂರ್ಣ ಬೆಲೆಯಿದೆ, 'ಮಾತೃ ದೇವೋಭವ, ಪಿತೃದೇವೋ ಭವ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಚಾರ್ಯ ದೇವೋಭವ' ಎಂಬ ತತ್ವವನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರೆಸಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಾದ ಡಾ। ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭಟ್ ದೇತಾಂಜೆ ಯವರು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸ್ವಾರಸ್ಯಕರವಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ದೇವೋ ಭವ ಎಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಗಳುತ್ತಾ ಟೀಕಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಹಾಗೂ ತಿಳಿ ಹಾಸ್ಯ ಪರಿಹಾಸ್ಯ ಮಿಶ್ರಿತ ಒಂದು ಬರಹವನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದರು. ಅದನ್ನೋದಿದ ನಾನು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಬರಹವನ್ನು ಬರೆಯಲು ಮಾಡಿದ ಒಂದು ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವಿದು. ಇಂದಿನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಬುದ್ಧಿವಂತರಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ, ಗುರುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಸಡ್ಡೆ ಹಾಗು ಪಾಠದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ ಎಂಬುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ. ಖಡಾಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿ ಇದು ಸತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ದೂರವಾದ ಮಾತು ಎಂದು ನಾನನ್ನುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ನಾವು ಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿ 'ಗುರುಯೇನ್ ಮಹಾ' ಎಂಬ ಮನಸ್ಥಿತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರಲ್ಲ. ಯುಗಾಂತರ ಗಳಿಂದ ಇದ್ದಂತೆಯ 'ಗುರುವೆ ನಮಃ' ಎಂಬ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಯು ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಖಂಡವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ನನ್ನ ಸ್ವಂತ ಅಭಿಮತವೆ ಹೊರತು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವನ್ನು ವಿರೋಧಿಸುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಿಲ್ಲ.

NITK ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಹಾಗು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ, ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಪರಂಪರೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ. ಪ್ರಾಯಶಃ ಈ ಪರಂಪರೆಯೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಓಖಖಿ' ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯುನ್ನತ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ನನ್ನ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ. ಕ್ಲಬ್ಸ್, ಸೊಸೈಟೀಸ, ಕಮಿಟ್ಟೀಸ್, ಟೀಮ್ಸ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ 'ದಿ ಲಿಸ್ಟ್ ಇಸ್ ಎಂಡ್‌ಲೆಸ್'.

ಮೂಲತಹ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿದರೂ, ಇದೆಲ್ಲಾ ಆಕರ್ಷಣೀಯವಾಗಿದೆ 'ದೀಸ್ ಆರ್ ಆಲ್ ಎಕ್ಸೈಟಿಂಗ್'. ಯೌವನ ಯುವಕರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಜೋಶ್‌ನ್ನು ತಟ್ಟಿ, ಅವಿಸ್ಮರಣೀಯ ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್‌ಸಿಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂತಹ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಉತ್ಸವಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೆ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿ, ನಿರೂಪಿಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಯೋಜಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಈ ನಾಲ್ಕು ದಿನಗಳ ಉತ್ಸವಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ನಾಲ್ಕಾರು ತಿಂಗರಳು ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. 'ವೇರ್ ಆರ್ ಎ ಲಾಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಎಕ್ಟಿವಿಟೀಸ್'. ಇದೆಲ್ಲದರ ನಡುವೆ ಪ್ರಯಶಃ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸದ ಕಡೆ ಕೊಂಚ ಗಮನ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದೇ ಹೊರತು, ವಿಷಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯಾಗಲಿ ಅಥವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯಾಗಲಿ ಅಲಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲ. ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಒಂದೆರಡು ದಿನಗಳ ಮುನ್ನ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲಿಯುವ ತವಕವೇ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಕ್ಷಿ. ಇವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳು ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲು ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗುತ್ತವೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದೇಹವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಈ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವದ ದಕ್ಷತೆಯೇ ಕೆಲಸ ಸಿಗುವ ಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹತ್ತರವಾದ ಭೂಮಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ನಿಭಾಯಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿಯುವುದು ಹಾಗು ಬೆಳೆಯುವುದು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಪ್ರತಿ ದಿನ 8.50 ರಿಂದ 10.05ರ ವರೆಗೆ ವಿರಾಮ ಸಮಯವೆಂದು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಗುಂಪು ಗುಂಪಲ್ಲಿನಿಂತು ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಾ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಅಡಿಗಲ್ಲಾಗಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತಾ–ರೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಸರ್ವೇ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರ ದೂರು. ಇದು ಸರಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟ, ತಪ್ಪು ಎಂದು ತಳ್ಳಿಹಾಕುವುದೂ ಕಷ್ಟ. ಹರೆಯದ ಹುಡುಗರು ಹಾಗು ಹುಡುಗಿಯರು ಸೇರಿದರೆ ಸಮಯ ಹಾಗು ಸ್ಥಳದ ಅರಿವೇ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಆಲ್ಬರ್ಟ್ ಐನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿನ್‌ರು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 'ಬ್ಯೂಸಿ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್'ನ ಮಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಂಚ ವಿರಾಮ ಸಿಕ್ಕರೆ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರೆಲ್ಲರು ಸೇರಿ ಯಾವ ಅಮೂಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲೋ, ನಂದಿನಿಯಲ್ಲೋ ಅಥವಾ ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್‌ನಲ್ಲೋ ಕೇಕೆ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಾ ಸಲ್ಲಾಪಿಸುವುದು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ. ಇದು ಸರಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದು ತಪ್ಪಲ್ಲ. ತಪ್ಪು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಂದಾನೊಂದು ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದಾನೊಂದು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ತರಹದ ಗೋಷ್ಠಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರು. ಇವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ನೆನಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. 'ದೀಸ್ ಆರ್ ದ ಮೆಮೋರೇಬಲ್ ಮೊಮೆಂಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಲೈಫ್' ಪ್ರಾಯಶಃ ಈ ಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ನಮ್ಮ ಪೂರ್ವಜರಿಂದ ಹಿಡಿದು ಪೀಳಿಗೆ ಪರ್ಯಂತ ಸಿನಿಮಾ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಚರಿಸಿ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ತಲುಪಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಸಲ್ಲಾಪ ಗೋಷ್ಠಿಗಳು ಇತಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರಬೇಕು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಶಿಸ್ತಿಗೆ ಅಪಕೀರ್ತಿ ತರಬಾರದೆಂದು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ, ವಾದವನ್ನು ನಾನು ಒಪ್ಪುತ್ತೇನೆ ಹಾಗು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ವಿಕಿಪೀಡಿಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ NITK Surathkal ಎಂದು ಹುಡುಕಿದರೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಇತಿಹಾಸ, ಧ್ಯೇಯವಾಕ್ಯ ಇನ್ನು ಇತರೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳ ನಂತರ 'ನೋಟೆಬಲ್ ಅಲುಮನೈ' ಎಂದು ಒಂದು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸ್ಥಳವಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಹೆಸರುಗಳು ವಿಶ್ವ ವಿಖ್ಯಾತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳ ಚೇರ್‌ಮೆನ್‌ಗಳು, ಜಗತ್‌ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಡೈರೆಕ್ಟರ್ಸ್, ವೈಸ್ ಪ್ರೆಸಿಡೆಂಟ್ ಅಥವಾ ಸಿ.ಇ.ಓ.ಗಳು ಆಗಿರುವರು. ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ ಉಲ್ಲಾಸ್ ಕಾರಂತ್ ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧ ವನ್ಯಜೀವ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀಧರ ರಂಗಾಯಣ ಎಂಬ ಚಿತ್ರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಇದೆ. ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯದ ಸಂಗತಿಯೆಂದರೆ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯುನ್ನತದ ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಹೆಸರು ಕಂಡು ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಬಹುಶಃ ಈ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಹೆಸರುಗಳು ಅನನ್ಯವಿರಬಹುದು. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಒಂದೆರಡು ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಅದೃಷ್ಟ. ಇದರಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಗೊಂದಲ ಉಂಟಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. 'ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್' ಮತ್ತು 'ಆಂತ್ರಪ್ರೇನರ್‌ಶಿಪ್' ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಇತರೆ ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲಿಯುವ ಹಂಬಲ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವೃತ್ತಿಪರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕೊಂಚ ಗಮನ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುವುದೇ ಹೊರತು. ಗುರುಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಅಗೌರವದಿಂದಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು ನನ್ನ ಭಾವನೆ.

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮಾಡುವುದು ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಸರಿ ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಭಾವಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕ್ಲಾಸಿಗೆ ತಡವಾಗಿ ಬರುವುದು, ಕ್ಲಾಸಿನ ಮಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ

> ಗುರು ಶಿಷ್ಯರ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸ್ವಾರಸ್ಯಕರವಾದದ್ದು. ಒಪ್ಪುಗೆ ಹಾಗು ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆ, ನಾಣ್ಯದ ಒಂದು ಮುಖವಾದರೆ ಭಿನ್ನಾಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಹಾಗು ತಿದ್ದುವಿಕೆ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು. ಈ ಎರಡು ಬರಹಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಜೀವನ ಶೈಲಿ ಹಾಗು ಮನೋಧರ್ಮದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಂದು ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ಚರ್ಚೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದೆಡೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇನ್ನೊಂದೆಡೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯಾಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವಿದೆ. ಕೆ. ಎಸ್. ನರಸಿಂಹಸ್ವಾಮಿಗಳು ಹೇಳುವಂತೆ 'ಚರ್ಚೆ OK, ವಾಗ್ವಾದ ಬೇಡ'.
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> – ಸಂಪಾದಕರು

ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುವುದು ಅಥವಾ ಕ್ಲಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತಾಡುವುದನ್ನು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಖಂಡಿಸುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಶಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ಅಕ್ಷರಶಃ ತಪ್ಪು ಹಾಗೂ ಖಂಡನೀಯ ಆದರೆ ಈ ಬರಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ನೋಡಿದರೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣೇತರ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳು ಆಕರ್ಷಣೀಯವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅನುಭವ ಅವಿಸ್ಮರಣೀಯ. ಆದರೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯಾಗಲಿ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯಾಗಲಿ ನಿರಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಗೌರವವಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು ನನ್ನ ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದನೆ, 'ಗುರುಯೇನ್ ಮಹಾ'. . . ಅಲ್ಲ 'ಗುರುವೇ ನಮಃ' ಎಂಬುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಶಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ■

ಸಂದೀಪ ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆ
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ಬದುಕು ಬಸ್‌ಸ್ಟಾಂಡ್ ಆದಾಗ

– ಸಂ ದೇಶ

ಬದುಕಿನ ಅವ್ಯೋಘವಾದ ಯಾನ
ಬಸ್ಸಿನ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮಾನ.

ಸುಖವು ಕಂಡಕ್ಟರ್‌ನ ಸೀಟಿಯಂತೆ,
ಆಗಾಗ ಬರುವುದು ಅತಿಥಿಯಂತೆ,
ದುಃಖವು ಜೀವನದ ಸಂಗಾತಿಯಂತೆ,
ಪ್ರಯಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಗಾಳಿಯ ಶಬ್ದದಂತೆ

ಇದೆಲ್ಲದರ ನಡುವೆ ಬದುಕು ಬಸ್ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡ್ ಆಗುತ್ತೆ.
ನೀರವ ಮೌನ, ಸ್ಥಗಿತಥೆ ಆವರಿಸುತ್ತೆ!
ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಮುಂದುವರೆಸಲು ಜೀವ ಹಾತೊರೆಯುತ್ತೆ
ಬದುಕು ತಾಳ್ಮೆಯ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗುತ್ತೆ.

ಬಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲು ಹಾಕುವುದು 'ಸುಪ್ರಭಾತ' by ಸುಬ್ಬಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ
ಅದನ್ನು ಹಾಡಲು ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ಗೆ ಹೋಗಲು ಅವರಲ್ಲಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ
ಧನಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ!
1970 ಅಲ್ಲಿ BTS 10A ಬಸ್ಸಿನ ಕಂಡಕ್ಟರ್,
ಅವರಿಗ ಏಕೈಕ ರಜನಿಕಾಂತ್ – ದಿ ಸೂಪರ್‌ಸ್ಟಾರ್ !

ಬಸ್ಸಿನ ಪ್ರಯಾಣದಿಂದ ಇವರ ಜೀವನ ಬದಲಾಯ್ತು
ಯಶಸ್ಸಿನ ಹಾದಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ಸೇ ನಾಂದಿ ಆಯ್ತು !
ಬದುಕು ಬಸ್–ಸ್ಟಾಂಡ್ ಆದಾಗ
just wait... ಜೀವನದ route ಚೇಂಜ್ ಆಗುತ್ತೆ.

ಎತ್ತ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನ

ನನಗೆ ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ಯೋಚನೆ ಬಂದಿತ್ತು. ಮೊದಲೆಲ್ಲ ರಸ್ತೆ ದಾಟುವಾಗ ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರಿಗೂ ಪಾದಾಚಾರಿಗಳಿಗೂ ಒಂದು ರೀತಿಯ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಇರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ ಹಾಗಲ್ಲ, ಪಾದಾಚಾರಿಗಳು ರಸ್ತೆ ದಾಟಬೇಕೆಂದು ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆಲ್ಲ ಸಿಗ್ನಲ್ ಲೈಟೆ ಬೇಕು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಅಯೋಮಯ. ನಮಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಹಿರಿಯರ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಭಕ್ತಿ, ಗೌರವವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ನಮ್ಮ ತಂದೆ–ತಾಯಿಯಂದಿರು ಅವರ ಹಿರಿಯರು ಒಂದೊಂದಾಗಿ ಬಿಡುತ್ತ ಬಂದುದರ ಫಲವೇನೂ ಅನ್ನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದು ಎಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ತಲುಪುತ್ತದೋ ಎಂದೇ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಮನುಷ್ಯನು ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಗೌರವಿಸುವ ಗುಣ ಇಂದು ಉಳಿದಿಲ್ಲ. ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥಮಯ ಎಂದೆನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಕ್ರಮೇಣವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಗುಣ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡು ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿದುರುಉದು ಒಂದೇ ಗುಣವೆಂದರೆ ದುರಾಸೆ. ಹಿಂದಿನವರು ಇದ್ದಿದ್ದರಲ್ಲೇ ತೃಪ್ತಿಪಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಜೀವನಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಸ್ತು ಸಿಕ್ಕರೇ ಸಾಕು ಎನ್ನುವ ಸ್ವಭಾವದರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ ಈಗ ನಮಗೆಲ್ಲ ಬಿಲ್ ಗೇಟ್ಸ್ ಆಗಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಹಂಬಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮೌಲ್ಯವನ್ನು ಗಾಳಿಗೆ ತೂರಿ ನೆಮ್ಮದಿ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಮನೆಗೆ ಅತಿಥಿ ಬಂದರೆ ಹಿಂದಿನವರು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಕರೆದು ಪರಿಚಯ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಈಗಿನ ನಮ್ಮ ತಂದೆ ತಾಯಿಯರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಚಯ ಮಾಡಿಸುವ ತಾಳ್ಮೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ನಮಗೂ ಅದು ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ನಮಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಅನಾಮಿಕರಾಗಿಯೇ ಉಳಿಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹಿಂದೆ ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಕುಳಿತು ಊಟಮಾಡುವುದು, ಆಟವಾಡುವುದು, ಕಷ್ಟ–ಸುಖ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ರೂಢಿಯಲ್ಲಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಷ್ಟ ಹಿರಿಯರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಿರಿಯರ ನೋವು ನಮಗೆ ಅರಿವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ನಾವು ಶಾಪಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ಕಳೆದು ಬಿಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ನಮಗೆ ಸಿಗುವುದು ಬರೀ ಹುಡುಕಾಟ ವಿನಃ ನೆಮ್ಮದಿ ಅಲ್ಲ. ಈಗ ಫೇಸ್ ಬುಕ್ ಮುಂತಾದುವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂತೋಷವನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಂಡು ಒಬ್ಬೊಬ್ಬರು ನೂರರಿಂದ ಇನ್ನೂರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಗೆಳೆಯ–ಗೆಳತಿಯರನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಅದೇ ನಾವು ಹತ್ತಿರದ ಗೆಳೆಯ–ಗೆಳತಿಯರನ್ನು ಮಾತನಾಡಿಸುವ, ಕಷ್ಟ–ಸುಖವನ್ನ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಗೊಡವೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಡೆಯಿಂದಲೂ ಬರೀ ಒಂಟಿತನದ ಅನುಭವ. ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ಹೋದರೆ ಬೇಕಾದಷ್ಟು ಇದೆ. ಇದನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ನೋಡಿದ–ರೆ ಭಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಉಳಿಯುವುದು ಒಂದೇ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ "ಎತ್ತ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನ"? ■

ಶಶಾಂಕ್ ಅಲೆವೂರ್
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ಕಣ
ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ಆ ದಿನಗಳು...

ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಶುಕ್ರವಾರದಂತೆ ಕಡಲ ತೀರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಲು ಸಿದ್ಧನಾದ ನಾನು, ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಗ್ನರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಗೆಳೆಯರು ಯಾರು ಜೊತೆಯಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಸರಿ, ಹೇಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಹೊರಡಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಹೋಗುವ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರಾದರು ಸಿಗಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಅಂದುಕೊಂಡು ಲಿಫ್ಟು ಇಳಿದು ಹೊರಗೆ ಬಂದು ಕಡಲೆಡೆಗೆ ನಡೆದೆ. ಆಗಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಂಪು, ಹಳದಿಯನ್ನು ಹರಡಿ, ಯುವಪ್ರೇಮಿಗಳ ಬಹುಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಕೆಂಗುಲಾಬಿಯಂತೆ ಕಂಗೊಳಿಸುತಿದ್ದ ಭಾನುವು ದಿನಗೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ಹೊರಡಲು ಕಾಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ದೃಶ್ಯವು ಮುನ್ನೀರ ಒಡಲಿನಿಂದ ಬೀಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಹಿತವಾದ ಗಾಳಿಯು ನನ್ನ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವನ್ನು ಸಮರ್ಥಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು.

ಆ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯ ಸೊಬಗನ್ನು ಮನದಲ್ಲೇ ಆಸ್ವಾಧಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನನಗೆ, ಥಟ್ ಅಂತ 'ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮುಗಿಯಲು ಕೇವಲ 14 ದಿನ' ಎಂಬ ಯೋಚನೆ ಮರುಕಳಿಸಿದಾಗ ನಾನು ಆ ಕಡಲ ತೀರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂಟಿಯಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ನೆನಪುಗಳ ಕಂತೆಯೇ ನನ್ನ ಎದುರು ಕುಳಿತಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಕಂತೆಯನ್ನು ಸೀಳಿ ಒಳನೋಡಿದಾಗ, ಹತ್ತಾರು ಗೆಳೆಯರು, ನೂರಾರು ಘಟನೆಗಳು, ಸಹಸ್ರಾರು ನೋವು ನಲಿವಿನ ನೆನಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಂಡು, "ಅಬ್ಬಾ! ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ನೆನಪುಗಳೇ?' ಎಂದು ಅಚ್ಚರಿಯಾದೆ. ಆ ಎಲ್ಲ ನೆನಪುಗಳು ಕಿರುಚಿತ್ರದಂತೆ ಒಮ್ಮೆಯೇ ಕಣ್ಮುಂದೆ ಹಾಯ್ದು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದದನ್ನು ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನನಗೆ ಸಮಯದ ಪರಿವೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಮೊದಲ ದಿನ, ನನ್ನ ಬಿಡಲು ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ಅಮ್ಮ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗುವಾಗ ಆಕೆಯನ್ನು ತಬ್ಬಿ ಅತ್ತಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ಕಣ್ಣೊದ್ದೆಯಾಯಿತು. ಪಾಯಿಂಟರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮೊದಲ ಕ್ಲಾಸಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಭಯಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮತ್ ಮೇಷ್ಟ್ರು, 'ಡೆವಿಲ್ಸ್ ವರ್ಕ್‌ಶಾಪ್' ಎಂದೇ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಂಬಲಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದ ಕಥೆಗಳು, ಪಿ.ಸಿ. ಕ್ಲಾಸಿಗಾಗಿ ಬರೆದ ಭಾಷಣವು, ಸಿನಿಮಾ ನೋಡಲು ಮಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರ್‌ಗಳ ಕೈಲಿ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಬಿದ್ದಿ ಘಟನೆ, ಮೆಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಂದ ಮೊದಲ ಜಿ.ಡಿ. ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರ ಅನ್ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಗೋಬಿ ಘಟನೆ ತುಟಿ ಅಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿರುನಗೆಯನ್ನು ಮೂಡಿಸಿತು. ಕೃಷ್ಣನ ಭಜನೆಗಳು, ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 6 ಮೊದಲು ಮನೆಗೆ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿದ ಸಂತಸ ಇನ್ನು ಹೊಸದಂತಿತ್ತು. ಹೊರಡಲು ನಡೆಸಿದ ತಯಾರಿಯು ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿದ ಹಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆಗ ನನ್ನ ಗೆಳೆಯ ಕೇಳಿದ್ದ, 'ಏನೋ, ಮನೆಗೆ ಟ್ರಿಪ್ ಹೋಗೋದಕ್ಕೆ ರೆಡಿನಾ ?' ಆಗ ನಾನು "ಇದು ಟ್ರಿಪ್, ಅದು ಮನೆ, ಅಲ್ಲಿದೆ ನಮ್ಮನೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದೆ ಸುಮ್ಮನೆ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೆ.

ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷದ ಇಂಜಿ, ಇನ್ಸಿ, ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಕನ ಚೀಟಿ ಕುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಇನ್ಸಿ ಕಾನ್ ನಂತೆ ತಿರುಗಾಡಿದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಸುನಿಧಿ ಚವಾಣ್‌ರ ಶೀಲಾ ಕಿ ಜವಾನಿ ಹುಚ್ಚು ಹಿಡಿಸಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಜನಪ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಗೀತೆ, ನಿದ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆಡಿಸಿದ ಕಾಲೇಜು ರಾಜಕೀಯ, ಮತದಾನ ಹಿಂದಿನ ದಿನದ ವೋಟುಗಳ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ, ದೈತ್ಯನಂತೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು. ನನ್ನ ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷ ಅವಿಸ್ಮರಣೀಯವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಇನ್ನು ಎರಡನೇ ವರ್ಷದ ರೂಂ ಅಲ್ಲೋಟ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕಿತ್ತಾಟಗಳು, 3ನೇ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಕಿತ್ತಾಟ, ಕೊನೆಗೂ ಬ್ರಾಂಚ್‌ಗೆ ಹೋದ ಸಂತೋಷ, ಫ್ರೆಷರ್ಸ್‌ಗೆ ತೊಟ್ಟ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಉಡುಗೆ, ಮೆಸ್ಸ್ ಬದಲಾದ ಖುಷಿ, ಕೋಣೆಯ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲೇ ಇದ್ದ ಎನ್.ಸಿ., ಕ್ಲಬ್ ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ ನಡೆದ ತಯ್ಯಾರಿ, ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ ಹೋದ ಕೆಲವು ಚಾರಣಗಳು, ಹೇಳದೆ ಹೊಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಜಿ.ಪಿ.ಎಲ್., ಚುನಾವಣೆಯ ನಂತರ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ಪಾರ್ಟಿ, ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಬ್ಬದಂದು ತರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕೇಕ್ ಕೆಲವು ಸಿಹಿ ನೆನಪುಗಳಾದರೆ, ಸೋತ ಸೋನು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವು ಕಹಿ ಘಟನೆ ಆಯಿತು.

ಇಂಟರ್ನ್‌ಶಿಪ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ ಕಳಿಸಿದ್ದು ಹಾಗು ಉತ್ತರ ಬಂದಾಗ ಕುಣಿದು ಕುಪ್ಪಳಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿಟ್ರುವಿಯನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಚಿತಿಮ ವರ್ಷದ ಹುಡುಗರ ನೆನಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಓದಿದ್ದು ಅಚ್ಚ ಅಳಿಯದ ಸವಿನೆನಪುಗಳು.

ಇನ್ನು ಕೊನೆಯ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ನೆನಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ತಿ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಬರೆದರೂ ಸಾಲದು. ಕುಮಾರ ಪರ್ವತ, ತಡಿಯಂಡಮೊಲ್, ಕೊಡಚಾದ್ರಿಗೆ ಹೋದ ಚಾರಣಗಳು, ವಾರಾಂತ್ಯದ ಮೆಸ್ ಆದ ಹೊಮಿಂಗ್, ಸೊರಜ್, ಅಮುಲ್, ನಂದಿನಿ, ಬೇಕರಿ, ಕ್ರುಂಬ್ಸ್‌ನ ರುಚಿಗಳು ನಯನಕ್ಕು ನಾಲಿಗೆಗೂ ರುಚಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿತು.

ಮೂರನೇ ವರ್ಷ ಇಂಟರ್ನ್‌ಶಿಪ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ಲೇಸ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಪಾಯಿಂಟರ್ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಚಿಂತೆ ಒಮ್ಮೆಯೇ ಹೆಬ್ಬುಲಿಯಂತೆ ಎರಗಿತು. ಮೂರನೇ ವರ್ಷದ ಚಿಂತೆಗಳು ಮರೆಯಾಗಿದಂತೆ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸಿದ್ದು ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷವು. ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗಿಂತ ಹಿರಿಯರಾದ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯಿಂದ ಬೀಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನಮಗೆ ಅದು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಿಂದ ಶಾಶ್ವತವಾಗಿ ಮರೆಯಾಗಲು ಇಟ್ಟ ಕೊನೆಯ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದಾಗ ಉತ್ಸಾಹ ಕುಸಿಯಿತು. ಈಗ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಭಯವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮನೆಯ ಚಿಂತೆ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ಲೇಸ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಯೋಚನೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಪಾಯಿಂಟರ್‌ಗಳ ಚಿಂತೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಇದರ ಲಾಭ ಪಡೆದು ಮಜಾಮಾಡಲು ಸಮಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ! ಕಣ್ಣೂರಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಆಕಾಶ ನೋಡಿದಾಗ ಸೂರ್ಯ ಕಾಣಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಂಡದ್ದು ಚಂದ್ರ. ಸಮಯ 7 ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಭಾರವಾದ ಕಂತೆಯನ್ನು ತಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಹಿಂತಿರುಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಎನಗೆ ಅನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ನಿಜವಾಗಿಯೂ ಯಾವುದು ನಮ್ಮನೆ ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದೆ ಸುಮ್ಮನೆ ? ■

ಪವನ್ ಕೆ. ವೈ.
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ಗಣಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು
ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ.

ಕಾಮನಬಿಲ್ಲಿನಷ್ಟೇ ಸುಂದರ ಆ ಹಳೆಯ ನೆನಪುಗಳು

ಪೂರ್ಣಚಂದ್ರ
ಸತ್ಯಂಪೇಟೆ
ಪ್ರಥಮ ವರ್ಷ
ಎಂ.ಟೆಕ್.
ಮಟೇರಿಯಲ್ಸ ವಿಭಾಗ

ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ನಾವು ಎಂದಿಗೂ ಮರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆ ಹಳೆಯ ನೆನಪುಗಳು ಆಕಾಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಡುವ ಕಾಮನಬಿಲ್ಲಿನಷ್ಟೇ ಚೆಂದ. ಅವು ನಮ್ಮ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸದಾ ಹಚ್ಚಹಸಿರಾಗಿ ಉಳಿದು ಬಿಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಕೆಲವು ನೆನಪು ಕಪ್ಪಿನಂತೆ ಕಂಡರೂ ಅವುಗಳಿಂದ ಆದ ಅನುಭವ ಮಾತ್ರ ನಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಳುಪನ್ನು ನೀಡಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಘಟನೆಗಳು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ (ಕೆಂಪು) ಗಂಟೆಗಳಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಮಿಸಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವು ಬೂದಿ ಮುಚ್ಚಿದ ಕೆಂಡದಂತೆ ಸದಾ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಆದರೂ ನಾವು ನಮ್ಮ ಮನಸ್ಸೆಂಬ ಬಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ನೀಲಿ ಬಣ್ಣ ತೊಡಿಸಿ ಶುಭ್ರಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಮುನ್ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಾನು ಬಿ.ಇ. ಮುಗಿಸಿದ್ದು(ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರಿಯಲ್ ಅಂಡ ಪ್ರೊಡಕ್ಷನ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಪೂಜ್ಯ ದೊಡ್ಡಪ್ಪ ಅಪ್ಪ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಗುಲಬರ್ಗಾದಲ್ಲಿ. ಬಿ.ಇ. ಮುಗಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಎಮ್. ಟೆಕ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಮೊದಲೇ ನಿಶ್ಚಯಿಸಿದ್ದೆ. ಐ.ಐ.ಟಿ. ಎನ್.ಐ.ಟಿ ಯಂತಹ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡ್ಮಿಷನ್ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಗೇಟ ಎಗ್ಸಾಮ್ ಪಾಸಾಗಬೇಕೇಂದು ತಿಳಿದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಗೇಟ್ ಎಗ್ಸಾಮ ಬರೆದು ಪಾಸಾಗಿ ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಎನ್.ಐ.ಟಿ. ಸುರತ್ಕಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆಟಲರ್ಜಿಕಲ್ ಅಂಡ ಮಟೇರಿಯಲ್ಸ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ ಡಿಪಾರ್ಟಮೆಂಟನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂ.ಟೆಕ್‌ಗೆ ಸೇರಿಕಂಡೆ. ನನ್ನ ಎಂ.ಟೆಕ್ ಕಾಲೇಜು ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಕೆಲವು ಸಿಹಿ ಕ್ಷಣಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಿಮ್ಮೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಒಂದು ಲಕ್ಷಣ ಎಂದರೆ ರಾತ್ರಿ ವೇಳೆ ಎದ್ದಿರುವುದು. ನಾನೂ ಕೂಡ ಒಬ್ಬ ನೈಟ್ ರೀಡರ. ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಜನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಹಗಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ನಿದ್ರೆ ಮೂಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ರಾತ್ರಿ ವೇಳೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಫುಲ್ ಜೋಶ್ ಮೋಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಗೆಳೆಯರ ಜೊತೆ ಕೂತು ಟೈಮ್‌ಪಾಸ್ ಮಾಡೋದು, ಲ್ಯಾಪ್‌ಟಾಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಣ್ಣು ಪಿಕಳಿಸದೇ ಫಿಲ್ಮ ನೋಡೋದು, ರೂಮೇಟ್‌ಗೂ ಕೇಳದಂತೆ ಮೊಬೈಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾತ್ರಿಯಿಡೀ ಗೆಳೆಯ ಗೆಳತಿಯರ ಜೊತೆ ಮಾತಾಡೋದು, ಫೇಸ್‌ಬುಕ್, ವಾಟ್ಸಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಚಾಟಿಂಗ ಮಾಡೋದು, ಎಕ್ಸಾಂ ಟೈಮಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸೀರಿಯಸ್ಸಾಗಿ ಓದೋದು, ಇವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕೆಲವು ಕಾಮನ್ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆಗಳು. ಹೀಗೆ ಒಂದು ದಿನ ನಾನು ಸಂಜೆ ಹೊತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೈಮ ಪಾಸ ಮಾಡಿ ರಾತ್ರಿ 10 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕುಳಿತು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 4 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಅಸೈನ್‌ಮೆಂಟನ್ನು ಬರೆದು ಮಲಗಿದ್ದೆ. ರಾತ್ರಿ ಲೇಟಾಗಿ ಮಲಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಸಹಜವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ಬೇಗ ಏಳುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾರಣ ಅಂದು ಕ್ಲಾಸಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಧ ಗಂಟೆ ಇರುವಾಗ ಎದ್ದು ಬೇಗನೆ ಫ್ರೆಶ ಆಗಿ ಕ್ಲಾಸಿಗೆ ಹೊರಟೆ. ನಾನು ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ತಲಪುವಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು ಹತ್ತು ನಿಮಿಷ ತಡವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಕಾಯಕವೇ ಕೈಲಾಸ ಎಂಬ ಧ್ಯೇಯವಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರುಗಳು ಎಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಕಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಎಂದರೆ ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಕ್ಲಾಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ಕ್ಲಾಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಿಸ್ ಮಾಡದೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಅಂದು ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರರು ನಾನು ಹೋಗುವಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ಪಾಠ ಶುರು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ನಾನು ಕ್ಲಾಸಿನ ಒಳಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವಾಗ ಅವರು ನನ್ನನ್ನು ತಡೆದು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಯಾಕೆ ತಡವಾಗಿ ಬಂದದ್ದು ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರು. ಆಗ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಏನಾದರೊಂದು ಸುಳ್ಳು ಹೇಳಿದರಾಯಿತು ಎಂದು ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಅಂದುಕೊಂಡೆ. ಆದರೆ ಆವರಿಗೆ ಸುಳ್ಳು ಹೇಳುವುದು ಬೇಡ ಎಂದುಕೊಂಡು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಅಸೈನ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಬರೆದು ತಡವಾಗಿ ಮಲಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ತಡವಾಗಿ ಎದ್ದೆ ಸರ್ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ಆಗ ಅವರು ಸಿಟ್ಟಿನಿಂದ ನಿನ್ನ ಇತರೇ ಕ್ಲಾಸಮೇಟಗಳೂ ಅಸೈನಮೆಂಟ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬೇಗ ಬರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿರುವುದು ನಿನಗೇಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ !? ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರು. ನಾನು ಏನನ್ನು ಉತ್ತರಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದಾಗ ಯುವಕರಾಗಿರುವ ನೀವು ಆಲಸ್ಯತನವನ್ನು ಬಿಡಬೇಕು. ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ ಎದ್ದು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಹೊತ್ತು ವಾಕಿಂಗ ಮಾಡಿ ಆಮೇಲೆ ಓದುವುದನ್ನು ರೂಢಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ನೋಡಿ ಹೇಗೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಇಡೀ ದಿನ ಉತ್ಸಾಹಕವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಮಝಾಯಿಸಿ ಬುದ್ಧಿಮಾತು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಇಂದಿನ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಯುಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಓದುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಮಹತ್ವ ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆಯೋ ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕಾಳಜಿಯು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಈ ದರಿದ್ರ ಆಲಸ್ಯತನವನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಜಾಗ್ರರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಹೇಳಿದರು. ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಆಲಸಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದ ನಾನು ಅವರು ಬಯ್ದದ್ದನ್ನು ಪೊಸಿಟಿವ್ ಆಗಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಆವೊತ್ತಿನಿಂದ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ಏಳುವುದನ್ನು ರೂಢಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದು ಅಕ್ಷರಶಃ ನಿಜ ಅನ್ನುವುದು ಈಗ ನನ್ನ ಅನುಭವಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಓದುವ ನಿಮಗೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಇದೇನು ದೊಡ್ಡ ವಿಷ್ಯ ಅನ್ನಿಸಬಹುದು. ಅದನ್ನು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ನಿರೂಪಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಸೋತಿರಬಹುದು ಆದರೆ ಆ ದಿನ ನಡೆದ ಘಟನೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಜವಾಗಿಯೂ ಕೆಲವು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾಗಲು ಕಾರಣವಾಯಿತು.

ನಾನು ಹಾಸ್ಟೇಲನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರೋದರಿಂದ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಸೇರಿದ ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳೊಳಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಬ್ರಾಂಚನ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ಇತರ ಬ್ರಾಂಚಗಳ ಹಲವು ಗೆಳೆಯರ ಪರಿಚಯವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆರ್‌ಟಿ(ರಾಮತಿಲಕ, ನಮ್ಮ ಟೀಮಿನ ನಾಯಕ) ಫ್ಯಾನ್ಸ ಕ್ಲಬ ಅಂಥ ನಮ್ಮದೊಂದು ಗೆಳೆಯರ ಗುಂಪಿತ್ತು. ಅದೊಂದು ದಿನ ರಾತ್ರಿ 10 ಗಂಟೆ ಸುಮಾರಿಗೆ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲ ಗೆಳೆಯರು ಸೇರಿ ಹರಟೆ ಹೊಡೆಯುತ್ತಾ ಕುಳಿತಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ನನ್ನೊಬ್ಬ ಗೆಳೆಯ ಅಭಿಜಿತ ಎನ್ನುವವ ಹೇಳಿದ– ಲೋ ಹೆಂಗು ನಾಳೆ ನಾಡಿದ್ದು ಕಾಲೇಜು ರಜಾ ಇದೆ (ಶನಿವಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾನುವಾರ), ಎಲ್ರೂ ಸೇರಿ ಇಲ್ಲೇ ಹತ್ರ ಇರೋ ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಪ್ಲೇಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಿಕ್‌ನಿಕಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಮಜಾ ಮಾಡಿ ಬರೋಣ ಕಣೊ ಅಂದ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಪಂಜಾಬ್‌ನ ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬ ಮಿತ್ರ ಪಾಜೀ ಹೇಳಿದ– ಹಾಂ ಭಾಯ ಮೈ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮೆ ಪೆಹಲಿ ಬಾರ ಆಯಾ ಹೂಂ, ಮುಝೆ ಯಹಾಂ ಕೆ ಅಚ್ಚಿ ಜಗಹ ದೇಖನಾ ಹೈ, ಯೇ ಜಿಂದಗಿ ದೋಬಾರ ನಹಿ ಮಿಲೆಗಾ. ಜ್ಯಾದಾ ಮತ ಸೋಚೊ, ತೈಯಾರ ಹೋ ಜಾಓ ಅಂತ ಹೇಳಿದ. ಅದರಂತೆ ಒಂದು ಮಿನಿ ವ್ಯಾನ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ಸುಮಾರು ಹದಿನೈದು ಜನ ಹೊರಡಲು ತಯಾರಾದೆವು. ನಿಮಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ತಿಳಿದಿರೋ ಹಾಗೆ ಮಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರೋದು ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಮತ್ತು ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಕಾಲ ಮಾತ್ರ. ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ತಿಂಗಳ ದಿನವಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಅಂದು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪವೂ ಚಳಿಯೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 4 ಗಂಟೆಗೇನೆ ಎದ್ದು ರೆಡಿಯಾಗಿ ಹೊರಟೆವು. ಏನೂ ಅವಘಡಗಳಾಗದಿರಲಿ ಎಂದು ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವಾಸ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವುದು ಮೊದಲು ದೇವರ ದರ್ಶನದಿಂದ. ಅದರಂತೆಯೇ ನಾವು ಮೊದಲು ಹೊರಟದ್ದು ಸಮೀಪದ ಹೊರನಾಡು ಅನ್ನಪೂರ್ಣೇಶ್ವರಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವರ ದರ್ಶನ ಮುಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೊರಟದ್ದು ನಿಸರ್ಗ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯದ ಕೊಡಚಾದ್ರಿಗೆ. ಚುಮು ಚುಮು ಸುರಿವ ಮಳೆಯ ನಡುವೆ, ಮಂಜಿನ ಮುಸುಕಿನಿಂದ ತುಂಬಿದ್ದ ಹಚ್ಚಹಸಿರಿನ ಪರ್ವತದ ಕಡೆಗೆ ನೋಡಿ– ದಾಗ ನಮಗೆಲ್ಲ ನಿಜವಾಗಿಯೂ ಅಚ್ಚರಿ. ಪರ್ವತ ಎಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಮನೋಹರವಾಗಿತ್ತೆಂದರೆ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲ ಒಂದು ಕ್ಷಣ ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನು ಮರೆತು ತದೇಕಚಿತ್ತದಿಂದ ಸುಮ್ಮನೆ ನೋಡುತ್ತಾ ನಿಂತುಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೆವು. ಪರ್ವತದ ತುದಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಸವಿಯಲೇಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆವು. ಪರ್ವತದ ಬಹಳ ಎತ್ತರವಿದ್ದುದರಿಂದ,

ಪರ್ವತದ ತುದಿಗೆ ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ವಾಹನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು ಸವಾರಿ ಹೊರಟೆವು. ಹೋಗುವ ದಾರಿ ಹೇಗಿತ್ತೆಂದರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಮೇಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬರಿಯ ಕಲ್ಲುಗಳೇ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಮಳೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ವಾಹನದ ಗಾಲಿಗಳು ಸ್ಲಿಪ್ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಎಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಇಕ್ಕಟ್ಟಾದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಇತ್ತೆಂದರೆ ಒಮ್ಮೊಮ್ಮೆ ನಮ್ಮ ವಾಹನ ಮೇಲಿಂದ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದುಬಿಡುತ್ತೆನೋ ಅಂಥ ಭಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಪರ್ವತದ ತುದಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿದಾಗ ಜೀವ ಹೋಗಿ ಬಂದಂತಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಮೇಲೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಎತ್ತ ನೋಡಿದರೂ ಹಚ್ಚ ಹಸಿರಿನ ಹಾಸಿಗೆ. ತಣ್ಣನೇ ಗಾಳಿ ಬೀಸಿದಾಗ, ಹನಿ ಹನಿಯಾಗಿ ಸುರಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಮಳೆ ಮೈಮೇಲೆ ಬಿದ್ದಾಗ ಅದೆಂಥದೋ ಖುಷಿ. ಸಂಜೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಎಂಜಾಯ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಆಮೇಲೆ ಮುರುಡೇಶ್ವರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಟೆವು. ರಾತ್ರಿ ವೇಳೆ ಪಾರ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಿ, ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಹೊತ್ತು ಹರಟೆ ಹೊಡೆದು ಮಲಗಿದೆವು. ಮರುದಿನ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ ಬೇಗನೆ ಎದ್ದು ಶಿವನ ದರ್ಶನ ಮುಗಿಸಿ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಭಾರತದ ಎರಡನೇ ಅತೀ ಎತ್ತರದ ಜೋಗ ಜಲಪಾತಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದೆವು. ಸುಮಾರು 253 ಮೀಟರ ಎತ್ತರದಿಂದ ಭೋರ್ಗರೆಯುತ್ತಾ ಕೆಳಕ್ಕೆ ಬೀಳುವ ನೀರ ಝರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಲು ಎರಡು ಕಣ್ಣುಗಳೂ ಸಾಲದು. ಸುಮಾರು ಹನ್ನೆರಡು ನೂರು ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಇಳಿದು ಜಲಪಾತದ ಕೆಳಗಡೆಗೆ ಹೋದೆವು. ರಾಕೇಟ್‌ನಂತೆ ಬೀಳುವ ರಾಜ, ರಾಣ , ರೋರರ್ ಝರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬರಿಯ ಫಿಲ್ಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ನೋಡಿದ್ದ ನಮಗೆ ಕಣ್ತುಂಬಿ ನೋಡಿ ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಸಂತೋಷವಾಯಿತು. ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿವ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಚಿರಾಪುಂಜಿಯೆಂದೇ ಕರೆವ 'ಆಗುಂಬೆ' ಕಡೆಗೆ ಹೊರಟೆವು. ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಬೆಟ್ಟದ ಮೇಲಿಂದ ನಿಂತು ನೋಡಿದರೆ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ಕಾಣುವ ಸೂರ್ಯ ಅಸ್ತವಾಗುವ ದೃಶ್ಯವಂತೂ ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ತುಂಬಾ ಮನೋಹರವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸೂರ್ಯನೇನು ಭೂಮಿಯ ಗರ್ಭದೊಳಗೆ ಮುಳುಗುತ್ತಿರುವನೆಂಬಂತೆ ಭಾಸವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ

ಹೀಗೆ ನಾವು ಪ್ರವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದ ಆ ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳು ಹೇಗೆ ಕಳೆಯಿತೋ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರವಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೆಳೆಯರು ಆಡಿದ ಪೋಲಿ ಮಾತು, ಗೇಲಿ ಆಟ, ನಾವು ನೋಡಿದ ಸೂರಿನ ದೃಶ್ಯಗಳು ಇಂದಿಗೂ ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸೆಂಬ ಹಾರ್ಡಡ್ರೈವ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವ್ ಆಗಿ ಉಳಿದುಬಿಟ್ಟಿವೆ. ಬೇಜಾರಾದಾಗಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಓಪನ್ ಮಾಡಿ ನೋಡಿ ಸಂತೋಷಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಕಹಿ ನೆನಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಮರೆತು ಸಂಭ್ರಮದ ಕ್ಷಣಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದೊಮ್ಮೆ ನೆನೆಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ಸಾಕು ನಮಗೆ ಅದೆಷ್ಟೇ ದೊಡ್ಡ ದುಃಖಗಳಿದ್ದರೂ ಮರೆಯಾಗಿ ಬಿಡುತ್ತವೆ.

ಮರುಳು

– ವಿಕಾಸ
ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ವರ್ಷ
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ಕಣ ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ಸರಿವ ಕಂಬಿಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ
ಓಡುವ ಜಗದ ಮರುಳು

ಗೋಳಾದ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ
ಅಂತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಓಡುವ ಕಂಬಿಗಳ ಮರುಳು

ಕಪ್ಪು ಬಿಳುಪಿನ ಈ ಜಗದೊಳು
ಬೆಳಕು ಬಣ್ಣಗಳ ಮರುಳು

ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಚರ್ಯದ ಮಾರ್ಗದೊಳು
ಬಳುಕು–ವಯ್ಯಾರದ ಮರುಳು

ಮರುಳು ಮರುಳೆಂಬ ಈ ಮೂಢನಿಗೆ
ಮರುಳೆಲ್ಲವೂ ಈ ಜಗದೊಳು, ಮರುಳಯ್ಯಾ

ನಾವಿಂದು?

ಸುಶ್ಮಿತಾ ದಿನ್ ಕೆ.
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ಕಣ ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ನಾಗರೀಕತೆಯ ಬೆಳಕು ಹಬ್ಬಿದೆ ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲೂ
ಮೂರ್ಖರಾಗುತ್ತಾ ಹೋದೆವು ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ
ಚಂದ್ರ, ಮಂಗಳನತ್ತ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಹೊರಟ
ಭೂಮಿಯ ತೊರೆವ ದುರಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳಾದೆವು
'ನಮ್ಮ ನಾಡು' ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆ ಕಿತ್ತಿಟ್ಟ
ಉತ್ತುಂಗಕ್ಕೇರಲು ಹೊರಟೆವು ನಾವು
ಕುವೆಂಪು ಬೇಂದ್ರೆಯ ಮರುಜನ್ಮವಾದರೂ
ನುಂಗಿದೆ ಅವರನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಈ ನಾಗರೀಕತೆಯ ಪರಿಸರ
'ಕನ್ನಡ' ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆ ಕರಗಿ
ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವ ಬರಿಯ ತೋರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಇಂದು
'ಮೂರ್ಖಿತನ' ಎಂಬ ಕಂಬಳಿಯನ್ನು ಕಿತ್ತೆಸೆದು
ಮುಂದಾಗೋಣ ನಾಡನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಲು ನಾವಿಂದು
ಯಾರಿಗೇನೂ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಿಲ್ಲ ನಾವೆಂದೂ
ಕನ್ನಡ ತಾಯಿಯ ಆಶೀರ್ವಾದ ನಮಗೆಂದೂ
ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಂದಾಗೋಣ
ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಬದುಕಿ ಸಾರೋಣ.

ನಾ ಕಂಡ ಬದುಕು

ಪ್ರಿಯಾ ಡಿ.
ಎಂ ಎಸ್ಸಿ, ಪ್ರಥಮ ವರ್ಷ

ಮುಸ್ಸಂಜೆಯ ಸೂರ್ಯನ ಬೆಳಕು
ಕಣ್ಮರೆಯ ಅಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿ
ತೇಲುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕನಸಿನ ತುಳುಕು
ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಬದಲಾದ ಬದುಕು

ಸಾಧಿಸುವ ಛಲದ ಬೆನ್ನೇರಿ
ಕಂಡ ಕನಸೆಂಬ ಕುಡುರೆಯೇರಿ
ಕಾಲವೆಂಬ ತಾಳದ ಅಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿ
ಮೀರುತಿರುವ ಘಳಿಗೆಯ ಸಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿ

ಉದಯಿಸಿತ್ತು ಸಣ್ಣದೊಂದು ದೀಪ
ತೋರಿತ್ತು ನೀರಾಸೆಯ ರೂಪ
ಕುಸಿದ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನ ತಾಪ
ತೋರಿತ್ತು ಬದುಕಿನ ಸ್ವರೂಪ

ಸಾವಿರ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳ ಸಾಗರ
ಜಿಜ್ಞಾಸೆಯ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಗಳ ಆಗರ
ಭಗವಂತನ ಚದುರಂಗದ ಆಟ
ನನ್ನ ಕಣ್ಣೀರಿನ ನೋಟ.

ಕಷ್ಟದ ಕತ್ತಲೆಯ ನಡುವೆ
ತಲೆಎತ್ತಿ ಬದುಕುವ ನಿಲುವು
ತೋರಿತ್ತು ಸಂಬಂಧಗಳ ಒಲವು
ನಾ ಕಂಡ ಬದುಕಿನ ತಿರುವು.

ನೀ ಬಾನು ನಾ ಭೂಮಿ

– ಐಶ್ವರ್ಯ ಎಂ. (ತೃತೀಯ ವರ್ಷ)

ನೀ ಆಗಸದಂತೆ
ಅಪರಿಮಿತ, ಅನಂತ, ಅಗಾಧ
ನಿನ್ನನರಿಯುವ ಹುಚ್ಚು, ಬಯಕೆ ಮನಕ್ಕೆ
ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಲಿ ಹೇಗೆ? ಎಲ್ಲವನು ಬೀ
ಆವರಿಸಿರುವಾಗ ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಹಾಕಲಿ ಹೇಗೆ?
ಸದಾ ನಿನ್ನೆಡೆಗೆ ಹಾರಬಯಸುವ ಅಂತರಂಗಕ್ಕೆ,
ಹಗಲು ಇರುಳಾಗಿ, ಬಿಸಿಲು ತಂಪಾದಂತೆ
ಎದೆಯನ್ನಪ್ಪಳಿಸಿವೆ ಅಲೆಗಳು ಬಿರುಸಾಗಿ
ತಾಂಡವವಾಡಿದ ಭಾವನೆಗಳು ನನ್ನೊಳಗೆ
ನೀ ಬೀರಿಹೆ ಸದಾ ನಿರ್ಲಿಪ್ತ ನಗೆ
ಕೊಚ್ಚಿ ಹೋಗುತಿಹೆ ನಾ ತವಕದಿ
ನಿನ್ನ ಸೆರುವೆನೆಂದು ದಿಗಂತದಿ!!

ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಹಾದಿಯಲಿ

– ವಿನಯ್ ಡಿ ಎಚ್
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ, ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ಬರಿದಾದ ಬಣ್ಣದು ಈ ಲೋಕ
ನೀ ನನ್ನ ಮರೆತಾಗ
ಮಂಕಾಯಿತು ಈ ಮನಸು
ನೀ ಕಾಣದೇ ಹೋದಾಗ ॥ಪ॥

ಪ್ರೇಮ ಸಾಗರ ವಿಷವಾಯಿತು
ಉಸಿರಿಲ್ಲದೇ – ನನಗೆ
ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಲಿ ಕಾದೆ
ಕಾದು ಮುಳುಗಿ ಹೋದೆ ॥1॥

ಹೃದಯದಲಿ ಓಡುತಿದೆ
ಸವಿ–ನೆನಪುಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಮೋಡ
ಕತ್ತಲಾಯಿತು ಸಾಗರ
ಆ ನೆನಪುಗಳ ಹಾದಿಯಲಿ ॥2॥

ಹುಡುಕಿದೆ ಆ ಪ್ರೇಮ
ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಹಾದಿಯಲಿ
ಕೊನೆಯಾಯಿತು ಕಾಳಜಿ
ಸಾಗರದ ಅಂಚಿನಲಿ ॥3॥

ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಸುಳ್ಳಲ್ಲಾ
ನಂಬಿಕೆ ಸುಳ್ಳಾಯ್ತು
ಆ ನಿನ್ನ ಪ್ರೇಮ ವಿಷ
ಮನಸಿನಲಿ ಬರಡಾಯ್ತು ॥4॥

ಜ್ಞಾನದಾತೆ

–ಚೇತನ್ ಎಂ. (ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ)

ನಮ್ಮೊಡತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾದಾಯಿನಿ,
ಜ್ಞಾನ ದೇವತೆ ನಮೋ ನಮಃ,

ಸಕಲರಿಗೂ ಜ್ಞಾನಸುಧೆಯಾಗಿ,
ಸಲಹೆಮ್ಮ ಮನಗಳನ್ನು ದಯೆಮಾಡಿ.

ಜ್ಞಾನಾಮೃತವ ಹರಿಸು ತಾಯ,
ಕುಡಿವ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು, ಹರಸು ತಾಯೆ.

ಅಜ್ಞಾನದ ಕತ್ತಲೆಯ ಅಳಿಸು ಬಾರೆ,
ಸುಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬೆಳಕನ್ನು ಸುರಿಸು ಬಾರೆ.

ಎಲ್ಲ ದುರ್ಬುದ್ಧಿಯ ತಿದ್ದಿ ಹೋಗು ಬಾ,
ಸಿದ್ಧಿ ಬುದ್ಧಿಯ ನಮಗೆ ನೀಡು ಬಾ.

ಕೈ ಮುಗಿದು ನಮಿಸುವೆವು ನಿತ್ಯ,
ಕಲೆಸೆಮ್ಮ ನಾಲಿಗೆಗೆ ಬರಿ ಸತ್ಯ.

ಸರ್ವರೆದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಸದ ಜ್ಞಾನಮುದ್ರೆಯೊತ್ತಿ.
ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಸುಖ ನೀಡು, ಕಷ್ಟಗಳ ಕಡೆಗೊತ್ತಿ.

ನಿನ್ನ ಚರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಣೆಯಿಟ್ಟು ನಮಿಸುತಲಿ,
ಸರ್ವಸ್ವಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಡಿಪಿಡುವೆ ನಿನ್ನ ಆರಾಧನೆಗಾಗಿ,

ಶಾಂತರೂಪಿಣ ವೀಣಾದಾರಿಣ
ಭಾವಭೂಷಿತೆ ನಮೋಸ್ತುತೆ.

ಸಂಬಂಧ

–ಚೇತನ್ ಎಂ. (ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ)

ಬಂಧನದೊಳಗೊಂದು ಅನುಬಂಧ
ನಂದನವಾಗಿರಲಿ ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ

ಕಡಲ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪ್ಪಿನ ಬಂಧ
ಮುಪ್ಪಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಊರುಗೋಲಿನ ಬಂಧ
ಬಾಲ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಟಿಕೆಗಳ ಅನುಬಂಧ
ಬಂಧನಗಳಲೋಳಗೊಂದಾಗಿ ಬಾಳಬೇಕು

ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ಸೂರ್ಯನ ಸಂಬಂಧ
ಸನ್ಯಾಸಿಗೆ ಧ್ಯಾನದ ಸಂಬಂಧ
ಆತ್ಮಕ್ಕೆ ದೇವರಾ ಸಂಬಂಧ
ಸಂಬಂಧಗಳು ದೃಡವಾಗಿರಬೇಕು
ಬಂಧವೇ ಬಾಳಿಗೆ ಗಂಧ.

ಲೂಸಿಯಾ

ಸಂದೀಪ ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆ
ಅಂತಿಮ ವರ್ಷ
ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಭಿಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕೆ

ಕನಸಿನ ಜಗತ್ತು ಒಂದು ಅನನ್ವೇಶಿತ ಹಾಗು ಅಪರಿಮಿತ ಸಾಗರ. ಅದೊಂದು, ಘಟನೆ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ ಮನುಜಕುಲದ ಪ್ರೇರಕಶಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಕನಸಿನ ನಿಲುವು ಅಪರಿಮಿತ. ಅದು ಒಂದು ಚಿಕ್ಕ ವಿನೋದಮಯ ಸನ್ನಿವೇಶವಾಗಿರಬಹುದು. ಅಥವಾ ವಾಸ್ತವ ಜೀವನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರತಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ಕಾಲ್ಪನಿಕ ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಬಹುದು. ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಕ್ರಾಂತಿ, ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿ, ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಕೇವಲ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನುಂಟು ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಲೂಸಿಯಾ ಒಂದು ಹೊಸತನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಹಾಗೂ ಗಣನೀಯ ಚಿತ್ರವನ್ನು ನೋಡುವ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರ ಕನಸ್ಸನ್ನು ನನಸು ಮಾಡುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ಪವನ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿತ ಲೂಸಿಯ, ಒಂದು ಜನ ನಿರ್ಮಿತ ರೋಮಾಂಚನಕಾರಿ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ. ಸತೀಶ್ ನೀನಾಸಂ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರುತಿ ಹರಿಹರನ್ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪಾತ್ರಧಾರಿಗಳು. ನಟ ನಟಿಯರ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠೆಯ ಮೇಲಲ್ಲದೆ 'ಲೂಸಿಯ' ಸಿನಿಮಾ ಪ್ರಬಲ ಕಥೆ, ಆನಂದದಾಯಕ ಸಂಗೀತ ಹಾಗೂ ಪರಿಪೂರ್ಣ ಕಲಾವಿದರ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಅವಲಂಬಿಸಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಚಿತ್ರ ನಿಂಬೆ ಪಾನಕದ ಹಾಗೆ ತಾಜಾತನವನ್ನು ಬೀರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಚಿತ್ರಕಥೆಯ ಈ ಸಿನೆಮಾದ ಮೂಲ 'ಹೀರೊ'. ಪವನ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಮಾತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳುವುದಾದರೆ 'ಲೂಸಿಯಾ' ದೇವರು ನನ್ನ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೆಸಿದ ಒಂದು ಅದ್ಭುತ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸುಮಾರು ಒಂದೂವರೆ ವರ್ಷ ನಿರ್ಮಾಪಕರ ಹುಡುಕಾಟದ ನಂತರ ಪವನ್ ಸ್ವಮೇಕ್ ಚಿತ್ರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಬಲ ಬ್ಲಾಗ್ ಬರೆದರು. ಇದನ್ನು ಓದಿದ ಜನರು 'ಭಲೇ . . ಭೇಷ್. . ' ಎಂದು ಬೆನ್ನುತಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸಿ, ಈ ಚಿತ್ರವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಒಪ್ಪಿದರು. 'ದಾಟ್ ಇಸ್ ದ ಕ್ರೌಡ್ ಫ್ಲಂಡಿಂಗ್' ಸ್ಪೆಷಾಲಿಟಿ. ಚಿತ್ರದ ಕಥೆಯನ್ನು ಪವನ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಅಪ್ರಮತ್ತವಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೂಲಂಕುಷವಾಗಿ ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಜ ಜೀವನ ಹಾಗು ಕನಸು ಏಕಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆ.

ಒಂದು ಸ್ಥಾಯಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಯಕ 'ಟಾಕೀಸ್'ನಲ್ಲಿ 'ಬ್ಯಾಟರೀ' ಬಿಡೋ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿನಿಮಾ ಸುಪರ್‌ಸ್ಟಾರ್ ಜೀವನ ಊಹಿಸುತ್ತಾನೆ. ನಿಜ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಕಲರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗು ಕನಸ್ಸನ್ನು 'ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ಅಂಡ್ ವೈಟ್'ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ವರ್ಣರಂಜಿತವಾಗಿ ಚಿತ್ರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕನಸು ಹೇಗೆ ದಿನದಿಂದ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದುವರಯುತ್ತೆ ಎಂದು ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಸಂಶಯ ಉಂಟಾಗುತ್ತದೆ! ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಉತ್ತರವೇ ಡ್ರೀಮ್ ಪಿಲ್ 'ಲೂಸಿಯಾ' ಎಂದು ಚಿತ್ರದ ಮೊದಲ ದೃಶ್ಯದಲ್ಲೇ ತಿಳಿಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಕರ್ಶಿತ ಸಂಗೀತದ ಸಂಗಾತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಚಿತ್ರ ದರ್ಶಕರನ್ನು ಮಂತ್ರಮುಗ್ಧರನ್ನಾಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಚಿತ್ರವು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸ್ವಾರಸ್ಯಕರವಾದ ತಿರುವುಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದುತ್ತಾ ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತವಾಗಿ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಥಿಯೇಟರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿದರೆ ಇದರ ಅನುಭವ ಅವಿಸ್ಮರಣೀಯ.

ಕನ್ನಡ ಚಿತ್ರರಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ ದಶಕದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಮೇಕ್ ಸಂಚಲನ ಚಲಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ತೆಲುಗು ಅಥವಾ ತಮಿಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ಸು ಕಂಡ ಚಿತ್ರದ ಕಥೆಯನ್ನು ಕೋಟ್ಯಾಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಮೇಕ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಲೂಸಿಯಾ' ಒಂದು ಹೊಸ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹನೀಯ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ. ಕೆಲವರು ಈ ಚಿತ್ರವನ್ನು ಹಾಲಿವುಡ್‌ನ 'ಇನ್‌ಸೆಪ್‌ಶನ್'ಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಚಿತ್ರದ ಚಿತ್ರಕಥೆ 'ಇನ್‌ಸೆಪ್‌ಶನ್" ನಿಂದ ಪ್ರೇರಿತವಾಗಿರುವುದೇ ಹೊರತು ಅದನ್ನು ಭಟ್ಟಿ ಇಳಿಸಲಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯನ್ನು ಗಮನದಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ವಾಸ್ತವಕ್ಕೆ ಸನಿಹವಾದ ಚಿತ್ರವೆಂಬುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಶಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. 'ದೇರ್ ಇಸ್ ಎನ್ ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಫ್ಲೆವರ್ ಟು ಇಟ್' ಉತ್ತಮ ಸಂಗೀತ, ಅದ್ಭುತ ಅಭಿನಯ, ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನದ ಜೊತೆ ಈ ಚಿತ್ರ ಒಂದು ಪರಿಪೂರ್ಣವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಬಹುದು. ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿ ಈ ವಿಮರ್ಶ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ನಾನು ಹೇಳುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ 'ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಸಿನಿಮಾಗೆ ಬೆಂಬಲ ನೀಡಿ ಹಾಗು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸಿ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಚಿತ್ರರಂಗದ ದಿಸೆಯನ್ನು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸುವಂತಹ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮರ್ಥಿಸಿ. ಈ ಆಶಯವನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಹರಡಿ ಹಾಗು ಉತ್ತಮ ಸಿನಿಮಾವನ್ನು ಆನಂದಿಸಿ' ಲೂಸಿಯಾ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಅರ್ಥವುಳ್ಳ ಅಂತ್ಯವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರ ಸ್ವಾರಸ್ಯ 'ನಿಮ್ಮ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಬದುಕು ಯಾರದೊ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕನಸು".

■

– ಸಂದೇಶ

ಮಾತು-ಕಥೆ

ಡಿ. ವಿ. ಗುಂಡಪ್ಪನವರು ಹೇಳುವಂತೆ 'ಹೊಸ ಚಿಗುರು, ಹಳೆ ಬೇರು ಕೂಡಿರಲು ಮರ ಸೊಬಗು'. NITK ಎಂಬುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಇಂದು ಒಂದು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಹಾಗು ಬಲಿಷ್ಟವಾದ ಮರವಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಬರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ವರ್ಷಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಸ್ವಾರ್ಥತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣೇತರ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯ ಇದರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಭಾಗಗಳು.

ಅಂತಹ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣೇತರ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 33 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಸ್ವಾರ್ಥ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಠಲಾಪುರ್ ಅವರ ಯೋಗದಾನ ಅದ್ವಿತೀಯ. NITK ವಸತಿಗೃಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದು ಅವರ ಕಡೆಯ ವರ್ಷವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅವರಿಗೆ ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಶನದ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಿರುನಮನವನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ.

– ಸಂಪಾದಕರು

ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ : ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯೊಡನೆ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅನುಬಂಧ ಹೇಗೆ ಶುರುವಾಯಿತು?

ಉತ್ತರ : ನನ್ನನ್ನು 1981ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಪರಿಚಯಸ್ತರೊಬ್ಬರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಕೊಡಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ಕರೆತಂದರು. ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಇಳಕಲ್ ನಮ್ಮೂರು. ಮಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡೆ. ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷದ ತರುವಾಯ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಅತಿಥಿಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ವರ್ಗಯಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ: ಈ ನಿಮ್ಮ 33 ವರ್ಷದ ಸೇವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಹಲವಾರು ಅತಿಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸತ್ಕರಿಸಿದ್ದಿರಿ. ಅತಿಥಿ ಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅನುಭವ ಹೇಗಿತ್ತು?

ಉತ್ತರ : ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿ ; ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆಯಿಂದ–ಸಂಜೆಯವರೆಗೂ ಬಿಡುವಿಲ್ಲದ ಕೆಲಸವಿರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೇ, ಅತಿಥಿಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೆಲಸ ದಿನದ 24 ಗಂಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಮಿಸುವ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸತ್ಕರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಬಂದವರೆಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಒಂದೇ ರೀತಿ ಉಪಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ನಮ್ಮವರಂತೆ, ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳಂತೆ, ಯಾವ ದೂರುಗಳಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಕೆಲಸಗಳನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯವರೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು. ಅತಿಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಊಟದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲೆ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದೆವು. ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳು, ಗಾಯಕರು, ಹೆಸರಾಂತ ಕಲಾವಿದರು, ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಗಳು, ವಿದೇಶಿ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು, ಹಳೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಪೋಷಕರು, ನೌಕರಿ ಸಂದರ್ಶಕರು, ಹೀಗೆ ಹಲವಾರು ಗಣ್ಯರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ನಮ್ಮ ಆತಿಥ್ಯವನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ : ಹಳೆಯ KRECಗೂ ಈಗಿನ NITKಗೂ ನಿಮಗೆ ಏನೇನು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಕಾಣಿಸುತ್ತವೆ?

ಉತ್ತರ : ಅಂದಿಗೂ, ಇಂದಿಗೂ, ಹಲವಾರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಿಂದೆ ಅತಿಥಿಗೃಹದ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇವಲ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಮಂದಿ ಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರು. ಈಗ ಹತ್ತಕ್ಕು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವ್ಯಂದಿ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಿಂದೆ ಬಹಳ ಮಂದಿ ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಗಳು ಆಗಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಯಾಕೆಂದರೆ ಅಂದು ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆಡಳಿತಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು. ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಸಭೆಗಳಿಗೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಗಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವರೆಲ್ಲ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಬಂದು ತಂಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಹಿಂದೆಲ್ಲ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಹಣದ ಅಭಾವವಿರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬದಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಹಿಂದೆಲ್ಲ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಜನೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಈಗ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಇತರೆ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊಡ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹಿಂದೆಲ್ಲ, ಹೊರಗೆ ಭೋಜನಾಲಯಗಳು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಿದ್ದವು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳಿಲ್ಲದ ಕಾರಣ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ವಸತಿ ಭೋಜನಾಲಯಗಳಿಗೇ ಅವಲಂಬಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಉತ್ತಮ ಆಹಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹಾತೊರೆಯುತ್ತ, ತಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ : ಅತಿಥಿಗೃಹ, ಭೋಜನಾಲಯ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಗಳು ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಖಾಸಗೀಕೃತಗೊಂಡಿರುವುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವೇನು?

ಉತ್ತರ : ಸೇವೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ನೌಕರರು ತಮಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೆಲಸಗಳನ್ನು ಅಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದರೆ ಖಾಸಗಿಕರಣದ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯೇ ಉದ್ಭವಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅತಿಥಿಗೃಹದ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಿಂದ ನಾನು ನಿವೃತ್ತಿಹೊಂದುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಉತ್ತಮ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಖಾಸಗಿಕರಣದತ್ತ ಮುಖ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ : 30 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಇದೇ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಕರ್ಮಭೂಮಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನಿವೃತ್ತಿ ನಂತರದ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿ.

ಉತ್ತರ : ಮೊದಲಿಗೆ ನಾನು ನಿವೃತ್ತಿಯ ನಂತರ ಹುಟ್ಟೂರಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದ್ದೆ. ಆದರೆ 30 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲೇ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಹುಟ್ಟೂರಿನೊಡನೆಯ ಸಂಬಂಧದ ಕೊಂಡಿ ಸಡಿಲಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬದೊಡನೆ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಇಲ್ಲೆ ನೆಲೆಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಯೋಚಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ■

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•Zaid Ibrahim, Jean, Pratish Modi, Geedhika, Ashwin H S

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BALL BADMINTON BOYS' TEAM

•Chaitanya, Vikas, Sudheer, Sunil
•Mr. Prakash, Sriram, Mr Shivram, Rahul, Rashid

HANDBALL TEAM

•Shubham, Kristhapher, Praveen Kotre, Shaakir, Jammu Yadav, Basavraj, Praveen S, Karthik
•Mr. Prakash, Janga Vishnu, Mr. Shivaram A, Vaibhav Raj, Punit Yadav

BALL BADMINTON GIRLS' TEAM

•Kavya Shree, Deepthi M Hegde, Shreya Singh
•Aarti Prabhu, Sparsha C Raj, Mr. Shivram, Divya Venugopalan, Shristi A K

VOLLEYBALL GIRLS' TEAM

•Shristi A K, Shreya Singh, Shruthi , Aishwarya Devadiga, Divya Venugopalan, Rogena , Sahana C , Sumashini P S, Deepthi M Hegde, Krishnapriya
•Jyothi , Pragathi N, Mr Shivram, Sparsha C Raj, Meghamandara

THROWBALL TEAM

•Deepthi M Hegde, Sparsha C Raj, Swathi R, Shruthi A G, Almas Parveen, Kavyasree Bhagavatula, Srishti Chowdhury, Shweta Katte
•Aarti Prabhu, Divya Venugopalan, Mr. Shivram, Namratha S, Meghamandara

VOLLEYBALL BOYS' TEAM

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•Vikas, Puneeth, Mr Shivram, Kilaparthi Ramesh, Karan

KHO-KHO TEAM

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•Neeraj Kulkarni, Rajiv Veera, Aaryaman Patel, Roshni Ahirrao, Shivani Parikh
•Poorna Chandra, Ashish Jethani, Mr. Shivaram, Subhashree Chandrashekar, Manasij Venkatesh

BASKETBALL GIRLS' TEAM

•Jade Pereira, Aparna Velampudi, Sameera Lanka, Elisha George, Namrata Kogalur, Harshita Patidar, Amal Mansoor
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•Prashant S, Shriya Nair, Shriddha Chaitanya, Rohit Joseph
•Nikhil Vashishta, Sneha Divakaran, Mr. Shivaram, Aamodh Suresh, Priyanka Koppula.

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•Sooraj Kapur, Jaipal Pai, Bharath, Aashish Mane, Rohit Raj, Abhinav Roy, Rohan Tirumale, Bennet Praveen Doss, Aayush Agrawal, Jashan Shetty, Aditya Sundaram
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PEOPLE
















Passing By




































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A great carpenter isn't going to use lousy wood for the back of a cabinet, even though nobody's going to see it.
-Steve Jobs