

THE FLEET STREET POSTALE

The monthly newsletter by The Fleet Street, student media body of IIT Palakkad

.....

instiinsights

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP

by Ashutosh Upadhye

With the first batch of IIT Palakkad entering its third year of graduation, performing well in interviews is something we all strive to carve for. With regard to the same, IIT Palakkad conducted a three day workshop on Interview & Group Discussion Skills spanning 4th to 6th November, 2017. Divided into three sessions, the first part or the inaugural session, trained the students for public speeches. The second part focused on techniques of Group Discussion and the third mainly focused on interviews. Mr. Anthony Thomas, a celebrated Management and Communication Expert, was the resource person. He, with his unique blend of wisdom, practical sense and the awareness about the modern trend, guided the students on how to maximize their chances of success by mastering the communication techniques. The speeches of students were recorded and brushed up on day 1. The changes were noticeable and satisfactory. On day 2, the students performed mock group discussions through which, Mr. Anthony pointed their positive and negative points during their performance and gave suggestions on how to rectify the latter. He also conducted several mock interviews followed by feedback on the same. The day 3 was brushup of all the day 1 & day 2 proceedings. The students seemed very satisfied with the workshop in the end. They enjoyed the activities and interaction which created a highly effective learning.

.....

semquips

by Navaneeth M Nambiar

It was a very joyous moment to create a ping pong game as part of a group project for the Digital Systems laboratory. It reminded me of how these small things made me amazed back then and still do.

- Vismay Raj

The inter branch sports competition and adding to it, the games played by our insti teams against other colleges made for an interesting semester this time.

- Afroz Shaikh Sharief

The most satisfying moment was during the Arduino session when people started to play with electronics and doing things with the little experience they had. This put a smile on my face and satisfaction in my heart. Seeing people understand is what made me happy and seeing them apply their knowledge in their own way made me happier.

- Sachin Rustagi

One of the most enjoyable moments was that of the outbound Training session which was new to me, requiring a lot of hard work and group effort. This made for a great start to my life at IIT Palakkad.

- Gunjan Kataria

aroundtheworld

by Roshan P Mathews & Ankit Singh

INTERNATIONAL

- North Korea conducted yet another ICBM test calling itself a complete nuclear state on November 29. It claimed that the ICBM could target the whole of US mainland. [\[1\]](#)
- The US recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital on December 6th, facing blunt criticism at the UN and protests in the middle east. [\[2\]](#)
- Elon Musk successfully completed his \$50 million bet with the Australian government that Tesla could build the world's biggest battery in 100 days by installing the mega battery into the powered grid with 40 days to spare. [\[3\]](#)
- Indonesia's Mount Agung finally erupted on 27th of November, after 2 months of seismic rumbling. The spewing up of ash, dust and debris has caused a major air traffic shutdown. [\[4\]](#)
- Madagascar's dreaded plague finally under control, says the WHO. The timely action prevented a major catastrophe. [\[5\]](#)



DOMESTIC

- Ivanka Trump visited India on 28th November to attend Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) in Hyderabad, giving a boost to Indo-US ties. [\[6\]](#)
- Cyclone Ockhi wreaked havoc on the coastal regions of Kerala. Many fishermen were stranded in the sea without knowledge of approaching cyclone and many coastal areas were severely affected. Rescue operations have been pushed to the maximum with the navy being called into action. The intensity of the damage that took place was due to the lack of preventive measures that had to be taken. [\[7\]](#)
- Flipkart founders under scanner for cheating. The complainant has named the founders along with other officials for cheating him of Rs. 9.96 crores. [\[8\]](#)
- The BJP emerged victorious in the Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat legislative assembly elections, declared by the Election Commission on December 18th.
- A special CBI court acquitted all the accused including A Raja and K Kanimozhi in 2G spectrum allocation case, ranked as the world's second-biggest abuse of executive power by the Time magazine, on December 21st.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- NASA sensor to study space junk too small to be seen from earth. Owing to dangers posed by space junk to satellites and spacecrafts, NASA has developed new sensors to detect and manage space junk better. [\[9\]](#)
- Tesla unveils the world's fastest acceleration production car, the Tesla roadster, at end of the Tesla semi-truck launch event. The new Tesla Roadster is a full EV which boasts of speed of 250+ mph and some mind-boggling stats any car lover would surely drool over. [\[10\]](#)
- NASA announced the discovery of first solar system like ours. It said that it had discovered Kepler-90i, the eighth planet circling the sun-like star using its Kepler Space Telescope and Google's advanced computer analysis.
- The Gemini Meteor Shower was visible across the globe on December 12th and 13th, peaking in the Indian subcontinent on the evening of December 13th.



SPORTS

- Russia banned from winter olympics by I.O.C. This is the punishment for mass doping by athletes from the Russian contingent during the 2014 Sochi games. Over two dozen athletes were found positive for doping. [\[11\]](#)
- Ronaldo on top again with a fifth ballon d'or. In a stunning season guiding Real Madrid to Champions League and La liga titles, Ronaldo pipped his rivals to win the coveted prize. [\[12\]](#)
- India wins the test as well as the ODI cricket series against Sri Lanka. This is the ninth successive series win in the test and eighth successive ODI bilateral series win in the ODIs for India.
- India clinches bronze in the Hockey World League (HWL) from a depleted yet spirited Germany. While India sported a physically well balanced team, many German players missed out due to fever and injuries. [\[13\]](#)



onthehorizon

by Ankit Singh

Here are some events to watch out for in the upcoming month of January:

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

- Indian Science Congress Association, the premier scientific organisation of, India will have its annual meet in the first week of January.
- The world would witness the first blue moon total lunar eclipse in nearly 152 years on January 31st.
- Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the world's biggest tech show, will showcase the latest products and trends in technology between January 9th to 12th, Las Vegas, USA.



BUSINESS

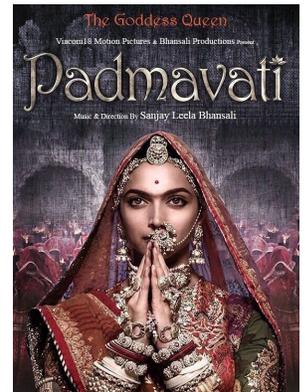
- After a banner year for cryptocurrencies due to the rise in bitcoin prices and the popularity of digital token sales, January is expected to see continued rise in the same. However, regulators are also expected to issue clearer guidelines for digital tokens.

SPORTS

- The India cricket team will tour South Africa to play three Tests, six ODIs and three T20I matches starting January 5th.
- The 2018 Under-19 Cricket World Cup to begin on January 13th. The twelfth edition of the tournament will be held in New Zealand.
- The World Rally Championship 2018, recognised as the highest class of international rallying, is scheduled to be kicked off on January 25th.

ENTERTAINMENT

- The 75th Golden Globe Awards and the 63rd Filmfare Awards will be held on January 7th and January 13th respectively.
- After being subject to a lot controversies right from its inception, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus is expected to be released sometime around the end of January. The film was cleared by CBFC last month.
- Pad Man, a biographical comedy-drama film inspired from the life of Arunachalam Muruganatham, a social activist from Tamil Nadu, will be released on January 26th.
- Insidious: The Last Key, the fourth installment in the supernatural horror film franchise, will be released on January 5th.



studentspeak

by Shruti Umat

THE UNSUNG HEROES

We are engrossed in our own lives – trying to crack competitive exams, aiming for a bright career, toiling hard to earn money or running a rat race that leads to nowhere. Seldom do we appreciate that there are thousands of lives working day in and day out for our protection. Neither do we seem to know, nor do we care that there are hundreds giving up their share of sleep each night for us to sleep peacefully. But who is the one, who eats only a meal a day, fights spine-chilling cold, carries heavy weights on shoulders, walks for miles, safeguards the nation, and yet carries a smile on the face, crying “Bharat mata ki jai”?

The Soldier - he/she has no religion, one who puts aside the fear of death and devotes one's life for the nation's integrity, a brave heart who is only scared by one thought, of our country's land being conquered, of India's flag lowered, of her dignity degraded. How much courage would it take to bid adieu to one's family and loved ones and embark on a journey, in which uncertainty of returning alive looms large! That is the intensity of a soldier's love and respect for the nation, which makes him/her push limits to the maximum.



Now, where do we come into picture? Are we mere spectators of the sacrifices that our brothers and sisters on the border make? Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji gave the call, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisaan". But do we follow it? Do the soldiers and martyrs of India get the respect they deserve, for performing the highest order of sacrifice possible- devoting their mind, body and soul for the nation's service? Can they head for the battlefield resting assured that the countrymen will take care of their family after they are gone? Will they be remembered for bravery, will their martyrdom be acknowledged? Are the politicians, bureaucrats and civilians conscious of their duties towards India and her courageous sons and daughters?

If so, why do our soldiers posted in Kashmir have to face stone pelters? Why does the government not take strict action against the Kashmiri youngsters, who engage themselves in stone pelting against the soldiers of a nation which has nurtured them? They reap the benefits which our country offers them but abide by what Pakistani terrorists preach across border. [\[1\]](#) Or why do CRPF soldiers have to give away their lives fighting Naxalites in Chhattisgarh? Why does a *jawan* have to upload a video on social media raising his voice against the quality of the meals being served to him? Why do politicians go to the martyrs' families to mourn, but take no measures for their welfare? Why it is so that an MP or MLA can get revenue hikes anytime, but a martyr's child only gets Rs. 10,000 a month for his/her tuition fees? [\[2\]](#)

India sits in silence. She has accepted the death of her children. She does not resist. She mourns but does not save them. She fails in taking care of the families of the martyrs but celebrates Armed Forces Flag Day on the 7th December every year. Her people watch the news of killing, stone pelting, and deaths in encounters every night and digest it without reacting, without opposing and forget all about it the very next day. Her people seem to have forgotten to stop, ponder and thank the forces for their service. If this

continues, there will be a day when no valiant child would want to join the Forces; no mother would send her daughter or son to the border.

It's high time that we start respecting our soldiers and the armed forces. India cannot become a superpower until she recognizes the worth of her soldiers and gives them due respect which they deserve. Let us promise our brothers and sisters that their contribution to the country will be remembered with high regard. Let us accept their kith and kin as ours. Let us be proud and responsible citizens of our motherland.

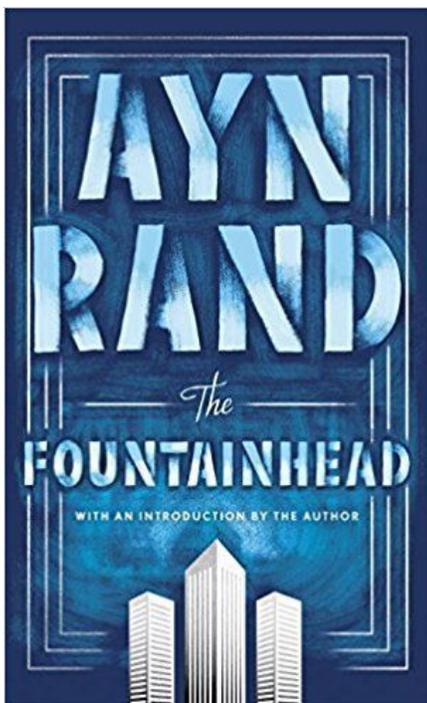
thecollector'spiece

by Piyush Choudhary

THE FOUNTAINHEAD

Couple of years back, by way of pure serendipity, I'd stumbled upon 'The Fountainhead', and was left in awe of the writing prowess that goes by the name of Ayn Rand. So, even before I began with Atlas Shrugged, her magnum opus, all my past impressions of hers morphed into expectations which I hoped she'd stand up to this time as well.

As The Fountainhead, this book is about objectivism- an altogether different school of philosophy (proposed by Rand herself) which evolves the idea of rational thinking into one with utter disregard to any moral value that normally would prevent one from following their mind.



Set in the hustle and bustle of the industrial sweep of the USA, the book paints a picture of war waged between the belligerents: an objectivist man and all those who stand up against him in his course to uproot the entire collectivist philosophy which the book posits as the reason for mediocrity. The protagonist, John Galt, an engineer, organizes a strike by the most creative of professionals that includes inventors, builders and businessmen with an aim to bring down the prevalent bureaucracy and economic structure. The strike ends with the impending collapse of the government, and the strikers all set to turn themselves into a capitalist society- to be guided by the principles of objectivism.

For me, the most appealing bit is the way she runs the plot- cutting across rungs of altruistic philosophy (and their apparent failure) in the first half before slowly developing and consolidating the idea of objectivism in the second. The only thing that may put someone off is its wordy nature and length. But if you are an admirer of words this will keep you hooked- from hard hitting epithets describing a mere

sunset to Galt's snaring last speech to the strikers, the book's full of amazingly threaded paragraphs that did more than to just justify my expectations.

Ayn Rand had once written that her writing goals are summed in the word "longevity". No wonder that her magnum opus has endured, and will forever be one for the ages.

adventurousaccounts

by [Shwetank Verma](#)

On 14th October 2017, the adventure and trek club of IIT Palakkad organised it's first ever trekking trip to Wayanad. Around 50 students participated in the trek. It was my very first trek with all of my batchmates and my seniors. Our long journey to Wayanad in a bus filled with people from across the country was studded with wonderful chit-chats and discussions. Free from the stress-filled environment on campus, the bus was bustling with joy. Soon, some of my enthusiastic batchmates cued up some music on the bus speakers and people started to sing along or dance. But given all these circumstances, I was sure not to miss the beautiful scenery that greeted us at every step of the journey. It was so good and peaceful to see the mountains in the distance capped by enormous curtains of clouds. It was something that I had never seen before, so pure and perfect, it seemed as though time stood still at those places. This gives me an incentive to travel. By the time we arrived at the campsite, it was nearly dark. But, we went for a dip in the nearby river. It was relaxing, after a long journey to have a splash in the cold water, that was absolutely untouched and pure. A bonfire was lit at the campsite. Soon after dinner I went out for some night time exploring with my friends, and that was another memorable experience, seeing the forest at night. There were a lot of things to see. Abandoned houses, darker trails, it all made for a beautiful scene. The sound of the river flowing in the distance and the occasional howls in the distance made the exploration even better and exciting.



The next morning, it was time for the trek. We all packed our lunch and set off. The mountain trail was amazing. As a mountain biking enthusiast, I wished I had my mountain bike with me during the trek. By the time we reached our first "checkpoint", a watch tower located four kilometers from the base, all of us were exhausted and nearly hobbling! There were leeches on the trail and most of us (including me) didn't have sufficient protection. After we had gotten our leeches out of our shoes, we set off for the second

and final leg. This was shorter than the first but steeper and thankfully, not infested by leeches. But there was a danger, way larger than the leeches lurking around: wild elephants. We made it to the top in about forty minutes and in one piece. Waiting for us on the top was a view that was something I had never seen before. There were clouds all around us and it was freezing cold. We could see the boundary of Kerala with Karnataka in the distance, flanked by dozen other peaks and wild elephants in the distance. A city was also visible in the horizon. We sat down speechless in admiration of the sheer beauty of the world. Soon, we all climbed down to the “checkpoint”, had our lunch and set off back for the campsite. The place there was so different, so special, I could not bear to leave the place so soon. I felt I needed more time to harmonise myself with my surroundings. For a change, I had a sense of belongingness. That is the magic of these places: *time stands still there*. It gives everyone a chance to see how good nature is and can be. Overall, it was a wonderful experience with my friends, an opportunity I had never got before.

.....

[VISIT US ON FACEBOOK](#)

Editors: [Prasanna Venkatesan R](#) | + 91 949 720 4503 & [Ankit Singh](#) | +91 889 660 3146

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are not to be construed in any manner as the official views of IIT Palakkad.

For Permissions to reuse any content herein, you can reach us out at tfs.iitpkd@gmail.com