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# Welcome freshers!



*Here in the place of that Hijli Detention Camp stands the fine monument of India, representing India's urges, India's future in the making. This picture seems to me symbolical of the changes that are coming to India.*

When Jawaharlal Nehru spoke these words, capturing an immediate vision for a newborn nation rising from decades of colonial rule, he engraved the fundamental philosophy of what the IIT ecosystem laid out and how it should foster India's brightest engineering minds to help them strive forward. With that legacy in mind, Awaaz IIT Kharagpur wholeheartedly welcomes the new batch of freshers for the academic session 2026–2027.

Congratulations to everyone who conquered the ultimate paradox of Indian academia; you survived a rigorous, exhausting system only to step into its very depths. It is the same system that produces global leaders, yet it fuels a relentless, often crushing race for ranks. Through that chapter of exhausting grind, you have made it to the next stage of reinvention.

However, we must realise that being in an IIT is not an automatic trademark of success. True success is the combined effect of knowledge and network, grounded in unyielding first principles thinking, that ultimately defines the spirit animal you will grow into. The years to come are your arena, where it is a space to experiment, strive, and manifest the absolute ultimatum of your capabilities. This is where you will define the founding principles of your personality, your beliefs, and your ideologies.

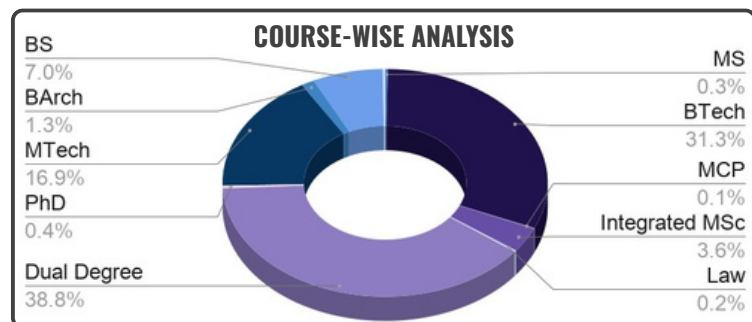
While this new map and the characters you've unlocked might seem performative, it is always healthy to remember to take care of yourself. Great outcomes flow from the sustainable, cautious use of your energy and mindspace. It is incredibly easy to get lost in the race and lose sight of your basic hierarchy of needs.

Consider this as your friendly neighbourhood reminder: at the end of the day, you are entering college, the absolute prime of your early adulthood. This is where you will build relationships that last a lifetime and learn the responsible use of your newfound freedom. And honestly? Having a good stash of cash in your pocket does really help, but not at the cost of who you are as an individual.

As an ending note, there are tons of incredible experiences piled up waiting for you, from making over a hundred new friends in a single week to spending your nights roaming around under the dazed night sky. "¡Bienvenidos a KGP, amigos!"



# PLACEMENT ANALYSIS

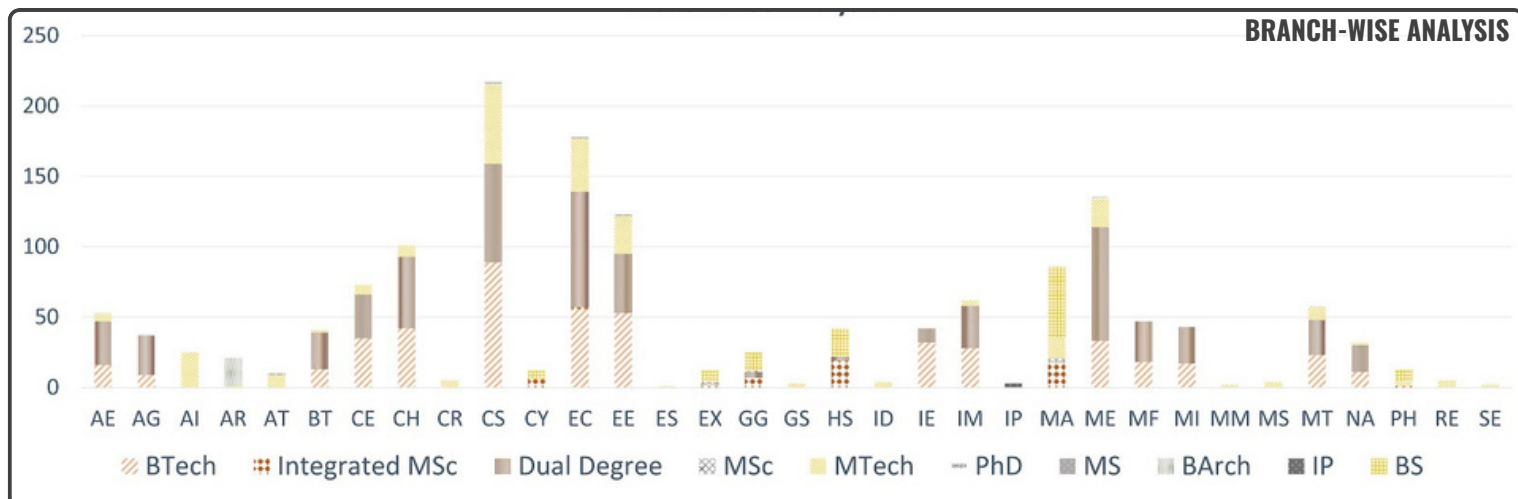
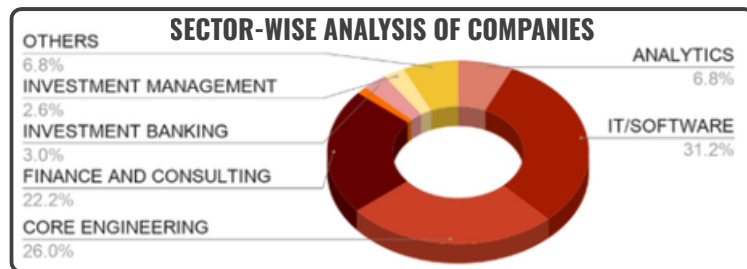


The IT/Software sector once again emerged as the primary recruiter, while core engineering, finance & consulting, healthcare, and analytics roles ensured a well-rounded spread of opportunities. The recruiter pool featured a blend of global leaders like Accenture, BlackRock, American Express, Amazon, Meesho Limited, and Texas Instruments, along with a growing presence of startups.

Overall, around 62% of registered undergraduate students and 40% of all registered students secured job offers in Placement Phase I, highlighting a stable and encouraging hiring landscape. Awaaz, IIT Kharagpur, congratulates the CDC Team and all students on this remarkable placement season.

This year's placement season carried forward the momentum of the previous cycle, opening with a fast-paced and competitive Phase I in December. Recruiter participation remained strong, with companies extending over 1500+ offers, including 440+ PPOs. Notably, more than 1300 offers were made within the first six days, setting an energetic tone for the season.

In terms of branch-wise performance, Computer Science students secured the highest number of offers, followed by Electronics and Communication Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, indicating strong and consistent demand for technical expertise across these disciplines. Among the various programs, Dual Degree students secured the highest number of offers, followed by BTech students, with BS students also receiving a notable number of opportunities.



## The Weight Nobody Weighs

*On the cost of silence, the friction of asking for help, and why fixing that friction has to be a campus-wide effort.*

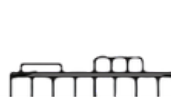
As cycles whirl past the gravel of the campus and the breeze sweeps through the corridors, there is an unmistakable hum of activity. The busy bees of KGP buzz around; a front-line arsenal of brilliant minds whose relentless pace has extracted a heavy toll on the collective mental health of our campus, which has become impossible to ignore.

Undoubtedly, the campus diaspora has been under huge stress that not only stems from the factor of being associated with the deep hustle culture that exists on campus, but also numerous academic and mental stresses. Exposure to constant stress has created havoc in our existing cortisol levels, leaving the campus community under extreme conditions of General Anxiety Disorder, High Functioning Depression, and Major Depressive Disorder, which are the major mental ailments faced by college students today.

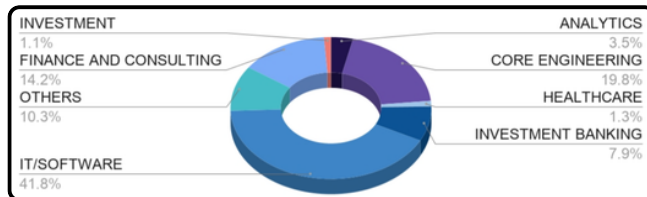
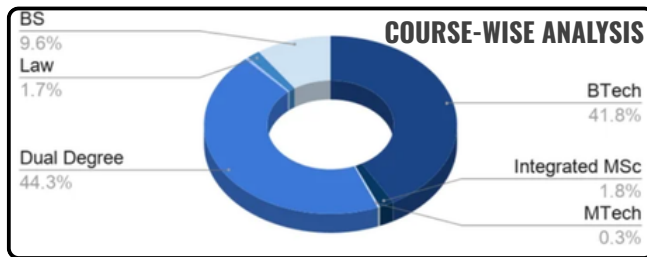
While the Institute has taken commendable steps in recent years to promote holistic student welfare, fundamental systemic issues remain unaddressed. Chief among these is the disproportionate student-to-counselor ratio, a gap that no amount of programming can paper over. This raises an uncomfortable question: does a well-designed support framework actually meet the scale of the demand, or does it simply look adequate on paper while remaining thin in practice? The distinction matters. Scaling resources to match the population is not a footnote to the greater effort; it is the precondition for the larger effort meaning anything at all. Without it, even the most well-intentioned initiatives risk becoming gestures we point to rather than solutions we can rely on.

Beyond just increasing the number of professionals, we must focus on reducing the friction of seeking professional help. This requires a proactive effort to provide fundamental education on the counseling process itself. By clarifying what an individual should objectively expect from a professional session, we can actively demystify the experience and empower the student community to approach these services without hesitation or misconceptions.

In conclusion, it is vital to remember that while we must not pressure ourselves to act as mental health professionals, we all play a role in addressing the collective anxiety and stress within our community. This effort must extend to the faculty and advisory level; active sessions where professors engage directly with the student experience can foster the much-needed empathy and familiarity. Ultimately, a mental health support framework is not the responsibility of a single collective but the overall collective efforts by every pillar of the campus community.



# INTERNSHIP ANALYSIS

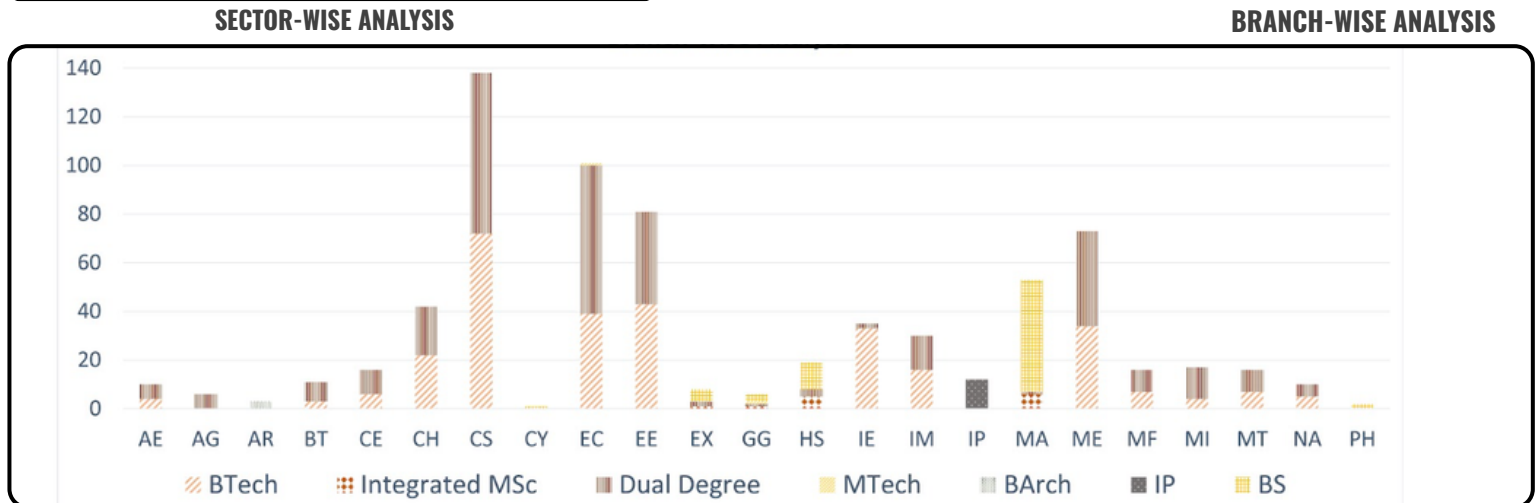


Internship season is always a defining chapter in the KGP journey, providing that first real bridge between the classroom and the industry. The CDC internship phase-1 process for 2025-26 reached its conclusion with a notable performance. A total of 700+ offers were secured across various programs, reflecting a resilient hiring sentiment despite the shifting global landscape.

The distribution across academic programs remains consistent with previous years. The Dual Degree cohort led the way, followed closely by BTech and BS students. Departmental trends followed a familiar pattern, with Computer Science (CS) students bagging the maximum number of offers. It was closely followed by the departments of ECE and EE, highlighting the sustained demand for electronics and electrical expertise.

In terms of sectors, IT/Software dominated the recruitment landscape. The Core Engineering sector also saw significant activity, while the Finance and Consulting sectors also had notable engagement. Prominent firms such as Goldman Sachs and SRI Bangalore were active participants, ensuring a diverse range of high-impact roles. Texas Instruments, Google, and BlackRock emerged as some of the top recruiters by volume.

Overall, around 33% of registered undergraduate students and 23% of all registered students secured internship offers in Phase 1 of the season. While the CDC internship is a prestigious milestone, it is important to remember that it is just one of many paths. Numerous opportunities exist beyond the formal process for those who continue to explore and seek them out.



## INTER IIT

The grand event of the year, the great unifier, where IITians swap late-night coding and campus adda for fierce competition, not amongst each other like in the GCs and illu, but stand together, chasing the glory of championship cups. In all 3 Inter-IIT Meets—Tech, Cultural, and Sports, our contingents, led by our top talents, fought hard across all events, bringing home victories and unforgettable memories.

Beginning with the 58th sports meet, IIT Kharagpur delivered a stellar performance by securing the **overall 3rd position**, showcasing excellence, determination, and team spirit at this year's Inter-IIT sports meet.

A special highlight was the 4×400m mixed relay team, which not only clinched gold but also set a new Inter-IIT record of 3:49 seconds. Adding to the glory, Sanjana Reddy delivered an extraordinary performance, setting a new Inter-IIT 100m record of 13.12 seconds and going on to win Gold in the 200m Women's race, creating yet another Inter-IIT record (27.47 seconds).

The 4×100m Men's Relay team—Indrajeet Kumar, Gnaneshwar Munoth, Rohan N, and Md Zaid, led by Janghila Poojitha (Contingent Captain) and Rohan N. (Contingent Vice Captain), also struck gold with a record-breaking time of 43.163 seconds.

KGP also secured silver medals in Table Tennis (Men) and Swimming (Women), along with Bronze Medals in Chess and Badminton (Men).

Coming next to the 14.0 Tech Meet: IIT Kharagpur has once again asserted its technical supremacy at the 14th Inter IIT Tech Meet (IIT Patna), clinching the Overall Championship with a massive point margin of 486.99. This **5th consecutive gold** cements KGP's status as the undisputed powerhouse of the IIT ecosystem. A half-decade of uninterrupted KGP rule (10.0 to 14.0).

Led by Contingent Leader Kritin Sharma and Deputy Contingent Leader Shashwat Singh Ranka, the KGP contingent delivered a masterclass in consistency, outclassing 22 other institutes through a blend of strategic depth and technical precision.

## आवाज़ परिवार

**मुख्य संपादक:** श्रेया मिश्रा, अंकुश कुमार, आशुतोष शंकर, स्पंदन के. पुनवटकर, परिधि चौरसिया, अग्रिम चौधरी, सुशांत तारापुरे, आस्था कुमारी, प्रतीक सोनुने

**संपादक:** अभिषेक लखेरा, अमीश भटनागर, असीम ए चौधरी, भावेश भदाणे, हर्षित पाठक, कनिष्क राज चौधरी, कशिश अग्रवाल, कुसुमिता दास, प्रत्यूष रंजन झा, सम्या साहा, ध्रुव राय

**उप संपादक:** अद्वय झा, आकाश कुमार, अनन्या मॉडल, अस्मिता कदम, मन्मथ मिश्रा, शौर्य राज, शिवाश अग्रवाल, सिद्धि दात्री, तुषार रंजन वर्मा, यश खोत

**वरिष्ठ पत्रकार:** आहिल जैन पुलाथ, आदर्श पाल, अनघा एस नायर, अनुभव पवार, अर्पण रॉय, हर्षित सिंह, जका ज्योत्सना रानी, ऑजल खतोड़, प्रणव लुहारका, प्रियांशु पाठक, रिद्धि भट्टाचार्य, संस्कार चौधरी, शौर्य प्रताप, श्रेष्ठा अग्रवाल, तनिष्क वर्मा, वैशाली चौहान, विजेता वी मेनन, विवेन शर्मा, यजुर्वेद सिंह चौहान

**कनिष्ठ पत्रकार:** तन्मय खंडेलवाल, आशुतोष टंगुरिया, वरदान प्रधान, हिमांशु राज, सृष्टि जिंदल, वैभव अग्रवाल, लक्ष्य श्रीवास्तव, देवरती मुखर्जी, निश्चय रंगवानी, ऐशी लाहिरी, सुहान अनेजा, मानव दत्ता, गौराक्ष सिंघी, अनन्या जैन, पंखुडी मंधवानी, बिजिता सेठी, आर्या गुप्ता, शिवांश तोमर, गौतम गोयल, विनायक शर्मा, ऐशानी मल्लिक, देव्यांश अग्रवाल, सम्यक गजभिये, बिभुसुंदर नस्कर, संस्कृति शर्मा, प्रियांशी गुप्ता

## KNOW YOUR

# ENTREPRENEUR



**Reeju Dutta**  
Founder, Cashfree Payments

*We have with us Reeju Dutta, Founder of Cashfree Payments and an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur. From navigating structured corporate environments to building one of India's leading payments platforms, his journey is defined by experimentation empowered with perseverance.*

Reeju reflects on his early career as a period of exploration and learning. At ZS Associates, he witnessed firsthand how large organisations operate, deeply structured, process-oriented, and predictable, giving him a strong grounding in systems thinking. This perspective shifted when he moved to a Rocket Internet-backed venture, where he encountered the dynamic nature of internet businesses marked by rapid growth, constant iteration, and the urgency of scale.

His first entrepreneurial venture, however, was not Cashfree. Alongside friends and flatmates, he explored the real estate space. The venture did not succeed; it proved to be operationally demanding, and the team lacked both the conviction and financial bandwidth to pursue it fully. Yet, the experience left a lasting impact. It revealed to him a genuine inclination toward solving complex, unseen problems, giving him an insight that would later shape his entrepreneurial path.

The idea behind Cashfree did not arrive as a sudden breakthrough, but rather as a gradual realisation. At the time, nearly 70 to 80 per cent of online transactions in India were conducted through cash on delivery. While digital payments existed, adoption remained limited. This gap stood out. What began as an attempt to digitise cash on delivery slowly evolved, through experimentation and iteration, into a broader, better vision, which is building a full-stack payments solution for online businesses.

The early days were far from easy. As Reeju candidly notes, the payments industry is inherently challenging with threats to margins, high competition, and a strong dependence on scale. Initial efforts, such as onboarding restaurants for delivery payments, did not immediately succeed. However, these attempts proved invaluable. Some of these restaurants had their own websites. Through such interactions, the team uncovered a more pressing need, enabling businesses to accept online payments seamlessly. By continuously engaging with merchants and financial institutions, they began to understand the ecosystem more deeply, eventually building solutions that addressed real and persistent problems.

In navigating a competitive and highly regulated space, Reeju emphasises the importance of clarity. Rather than being consumed by competition, the focus remained on two simple questions: are they creating meaningful value, and is that value easily accessible to customers? He also offers a nuanced perspective on regulation, not as a barrier, but as an integral part of the product. In fintech, compliance is unavoidable; the true challenge lies in maintaining it without compromising user experience. Over time, a few guiding principles stood out: patience, hiring individuals who amplify impact, and building systems that compound in value over the long term.

Looking back at his time at IIT Kharagpur, Reeju acknowledges its enduring influence. His co-founder connection itself traces back to his KGP network, underscoring the strength of relationships built on campus. Beyond that, the institute instils a mindset of self-reliance and problem-solving qualities that continue to guide him.

His advice to students is simple yet profound: stay curious, and resist the urge to rush. Building something meaningful requires a deep understanding of the problem, which comes only with time, persistence, and repeated effort.

## KNOW YOUR

# PROFESSOR

An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, he went on to pursue his M.Tech and PhD at IIT Kharagpur between 2009 and 2013. This was a time when social media platforms were emerging, with a limited understanding of their long-term impact. What began as curiosity soon turned into a research direction.

He focused on analysing how people connect on social networks, tackling problems like spam detection and identifying experts on platforms like Twitter. His work extended beyond theory; during disasters such as the Chennai and Mumbai floods and the Amphan cyclone, he studied how social media could be used to coordinate relief efforts effectively.

He later pursued postdoctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems, further strengthening his work in data-driven systems.

After COVID-19, his team worked on analysing global attitudes toward vaccination using social media data, categorising trends into pro-vaccine and anti-vaccine sentiments. This marked a shift from network analysis to understanding large-scale human behaviour.

Around 2017–2018, he made a bold transition into legal analytics, a field with minimal presence in India. The motivation was simple yet powerful: the law is difficult for common people to understand, and AI had not yet been meaningfully applied in this space. Therefore, his team developed an AI model called InLegalBERT. This seemingly small venture soon garnered widespread recognition, with about 18 lakh downloads on HuggingFace. With this, Dr Ghosh single-handedly made the law more accessible for thousands.

However, this model is far from perfect. A key focus is translating complex legal English into various Indian languages. One of Dr Ghosh's struggles was compiling data from different languages. After much dedication and perseverance, the model can now translate legal documents into 8 different Indian languages.

Nonetheless, this model is not intended to replace actual practising lawyers. It is merely an assistive technology, built to optimise redundancies. According to him, any disruptive technology takes up entry-level jobs. At the same time, it creates new sources of employment.

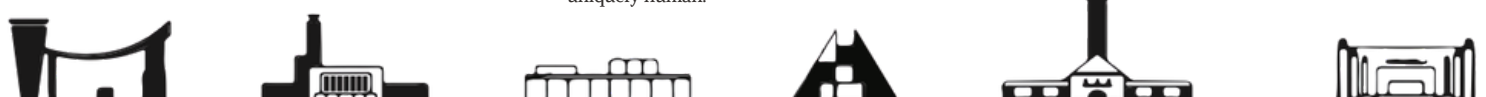
Dr Ghosh is strongly devoted to his research. He has recently been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious Springer General Artificial Intelligence, becoming one of the first from Asia to hold such a position. He acknowledges a common concern among students: research is not always financially rewarding in India. While he agrees, he also highlights the importance of maintaining a balance. He says, "If everyone only focuses on jobs, it becomes unhealthy for the ecosystem."

He encourages the younger generation, who might be inclined to his field, to explore LLMs and social media, considering the relevance they hold in today's generation. Research is definitely challenging. It is something an AI model is not capable of doing. He illustrates this by citing the example of cricketers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, who discovered reverse swing through experimentation, not by following existing data. This ability to explore the unknown, he believes, remains uniquely human.



**Dr Saptarshi Ghosh**  
Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Kharagpur

*From decoding human interactions on social media to making Indian law accessible through artificial intelligence, the journey of Professor Dr Saptarshi Ghosh reflects how research evolves with time and purpose.*



# KGP के असली गैंगस्टर: मच्छरों का साम्राज्य

FRESHERS' ISSUE

IIT KGP के विशाल कैम्पस में कई तरह के प्राणी पाये जाते हैं- मेहनती छात्र, सख्त प्रोफेसर, गुमशुदा साइकिलों के मालिक, और यहाँ के कुछ native species। लेकिन इन सबके बीच एक प्रजाति ऐसी है जिसने पूरे कैम्पस पर चुपचाप अपना राज कायम कर रखा है: मच्छर। ये छोटे-छोटे रक्तपिपासु प्राणी इस कैम्पस के असली गैंगस्टर हैं। न कोई ID कार्ड, न कोई attendance, फिर भी हर जगह मौजूद। मनुष्यों के विपरीत ये किसी से भेदभाव नहीं करते, single हो या couple, Patelian हो या Azadian ये सभी का समानता से खून पीते हैं।

इनकी कार्यशैली भी बड़ी पेशेवर है। दिन में वे हल्का-फुल्का reconnaissance करते हैं और रात होते ही पूरी टीम action में आ जाती है। जैसे ही छात्र पढ़ाई के लिए किताब खोलता है, एक हल्की “भू.....” की आवाज़ कान के पास गूँजती और एक घोषणा होती है-“तुम अकेले नहीं हो! दोस्त, प्रेमिका, societies सब तुम्हें अकेला छोड़ सकते हैं पर हम नहीं”। KGP में कई छात्रों को असली concentration मैडिटेशन से नहीं, बल्कि मच्छरों के बीच survive करके मिलता है।

हॉस्टल के कमरे तो इनके मुख्य playground हैं ही, लेकिन बाथरूम, टॉयलेट, कॉरिडोर, सीढ़ियाँ, कोई जगह सुरक्षित नहीं है। कई छात्रों ने यह अनुभव किया है कि टॉयलेट में बैठते ही मच्छर मानो emergency meeting बुला लेते हैं। शायद उन्हें लगता है कि यह उनका सबसे आसान target moment है। यह वह समय होता है जब छात्र को समझ आता है कि जीवन में privacy और peace दोनों एक साथ मिलना कितना मुश्किल है।

कैम्पस के कुछ इलाके तो जैसे इनके आधिकारिक breeding headquarters बन चुके हैं। हॉल में जगह-जगह बने हुए पानी के गड्ढे, Gymkhana Lake में जमा स्थिर पानी मच्छरों के लिए luxury maternity homes का काम करते हैं।

वहाँ नए recruits बड़ी संख्या में तैयार होते हैं और फिर पूरे कैम्पस में फैल जाते हैं, जैसे किसी बड़ी कंपनी का mass recruitment drive चल रहा हो। फर्क सिर्फ इतना है कि यहाँ कोई CV नहीं माँगी जाती - बस थोड़ा पानी और बहुत सारा खून चाहिए। छात्रों द्वारा अपने बचाव के लिए पूरी कोशिश की जाती है। जैसे

मच्छरदानी लगाई जाती है, coils जलाई जाती हैं, sprays का छिड़काव होता है, और कुछ बहादुर लोग इलेक्ट्रिक रैकेट लेकर रात में शिकार पर निकलते हैं। लेकिन मच्छरों का आत्मविश्वास इतना मजबूत है कि वे इन सबको केवल temporary obstacle मानते हैं। KGP में रहते-रहते एक सच्चाई स्पष्ट हो जाती है: यहाँ के असली residents ये मच्छर हैं, हम तो बस उनके लिए conveniently उपलब्ध blood donors हैं।

**KGP की मेस: स्वाद, संघर्ष, सर्वाइवल**

IIT KGP में मेस सिर्फ खाने की जगह नहीं है; यह एक ऐसा बुटकैम्प है जहाँ छात्रों को survival skills की practical training मिलती है। यहाँ स्वाद एक विकल्प है, ज़रूरत नहीं।

कभी-कभी मेस का खाना इतना बेस्वाद और फीका होता है कि लगता है जैसे मसालों को संस्थान में प्रवेश ही नहीं मिला। अनुभव कभी-कभी इतना कठोर लगता है कि लोग मज़ाक में इसे “प्रिजनर डाइट” तक कहने लगते हैं, बस फर्क इतना है कि कैदी शायद शिकायत कर सकते होंगे और छात्रों की शिकायत को ऐसे नज़र अंदाज़ किया जाता है, जैसे खाने में कंकड़ और कीड़े।

अगर थोड़ा सोच विचार किया जाये तो ये समझ आता है कि शायद “मेस” और “नाईट कैटीन्स” के बीच कोई गुप्त आर्थिक समझौता जरूर होगा। तर्क सरल है- दिन में मेस का खाना जितना छात्रों को निराश करता है, रात को उतनी ही तेजी से नाइट कैटीन की मैगी, रोल और ऑमलेट की बिक्री बढ़ जाती है। स्वाद से अगर किसी तरह समझौता भी कर लिया जाए, तो अगली चुनौती हाइजीन की होती है। मेस में रखे चम्मच, गिलास और थालियाँ अक्सर एक रहस्यमयी टब में तैरते हुए मिलते हैं, जो पानी से कम और इतिहास से ज़्यादा भरा हुआ लगता है। प्लेट हाथ में लेते ही एक अजीब-सी नमी का अनुभव होता है, जो यह याद दिलाती है कि यहाँ स्वच्छता सिर्फ एक काल्पनिक विचार है।

कभी-कभी मेस के इस अनुभव को और “रोमांचक” बनाने के लिए भोजन में कुछ wildcard entries भी आ जाती हैं। हर दो-तीन दिन में किसी न किसी टेबल से यह खबर उठती है कि किसी को अपनी दाल में मक्खी मिली, किसी को सब्जी में कीड़ा, तो किसी को दादा के सिर का बाल, जो कि उनके protein intake को पूरा करने में मदद करता है। रोटियों का मामला भी कम दिलचस्प नहीं है। अधिकतर रोटियाँ अधपकी होती हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर रोटी मेकर मशीन, जो इस पूरे सिस्टम की तकनीकी उम्मीद है, हर दो-तीन हफ्तों में किसी न किसी कारण से प्राण त्याग देती है। अगर किसी तरह पहली सर्वाइंग खत्म कर ली जाए, तो अगली परीक्षा शुरू होती है- refill की। लाइन, बहस और छोटे-मोटे वाद-विवाद के बाद प्लेट फिर से भर तो जाती है, पर उसमें स्वाद से ज़्यादा संघर्ष रोसा जाता है।

अंततः KGP मेस छात्रों को सिर्फ खाना नहीं देती; यह उन्हें सहनशीलता, हास्य और सामूहिक शिकायत की कला सिखाती है। चार साल बाद जब छात्र यहाँ से निकलते हैं, तो वे सिर्फ इंजीनियर नहीं होते, वे ऐसे सिपाही होते हैं जिन्होंने हर तरह की दाल, हर तरह की रोटी और हर तरह का खाना खाकर जीवित रहना सीख लिया होता है।

## भाट

[BH-AAT] | NOUN

Chat Sessions. A group of (often inebriated) people talking (typically late into the night) about random things when there is nothing better to do.



# OFFBEAT CAREERS



## Pratik Patra

Filmmaker/Creative Storyteller

*We have with us Pratik Patra, a creative storyteller and former student of IIT Kharagpur. From transitioning out of a conventional academic path to carving out a versatile career in film, digital growth, and art, his journey is defined by the freedom of experimentation and the courage to follow his own direction.*

Most people who make it to IIT Kharagpur don't leave early by choice. Pratik Patra did.

He came in like most students do, carrying decent grades and a vague sense that things would fall into place. They didn't. The pressure mounted, the comparisons were relentless, and somewhere between semesters, he began to drift away from the routine. "I had reached IIT. I had done what was expected... and I was completely clueless," he says.

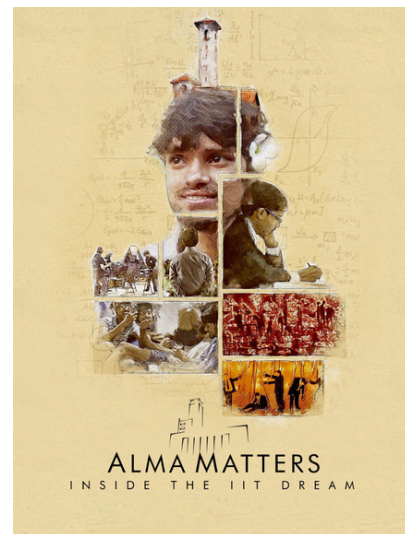
The one place he didn't feel lost was outside the classroom. He designed posters, taught himself Photoshop, and got involved in film societies. At the time, it looked like a distraction. In hindsight, it was direction.

After dropping out, he moved to Mumbai with no job lined up and no real plan. He joined a small production outfit called Camera & Shots and did whatever was needed, making tea, shooting, editing, writing. "I was eager to take on any opportunity. I just needed a chance," he says. The pay was poor, and the apartment was cramped. But he was learning something.

The bigger break came with **Alma Matters**, a documentary about life at IIT Kharagpur. Pratik helped shape the narrative from early drafts, and the film ended up touching something real, particularly on the mental health struggles that often go unspoken on campus. It found an audience. It mattered.

Since then, he hasn't stayed in one lane. He's worked in growth for a dating app, taken commissioned art projects, and kept experimenting. "I don't want to be defined as just a filmmaker or anything else. I want to stay free."

For students who feel stuck, his advice is simple: talk to seniors, alumni, professionals.



Try things without treating failure as the end of the story. And if you're struggling mentally, don't wait it out alone.

**"Do not give in. Talk to someone. You don't have to figure it out alone."**

In the end, Pratik Patra's journey is less about leaving IIT and more about finding his own way of making sense of the world. It is a reminder that not all paths need to be planned; some just need the courage to be followed.

# Facchon!

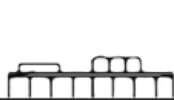
*Know your campus before you're thrown into it. A crossword for the incoming batch, because Kharagpur has its own language and you'll be tested on it whether you like it or not!*

## Across

- 1 - Asia's largest techno-fest, hosted right here at KGP (7)
- 4 - Home ground for KGP's athletics and sports (two words) (9)
- 6 - To spoil a job; to do something insincerely (7)
- 7 - A C.G.P.A. between 6 and 7 (6)
- 9 - A historic area with a detention-camp past (5)
- 10 - The basic knowledge of anything (5)
- 11 - The girls' hostel with the most B.Tech accommodation (4)

## Down

- 2 - Enthusiasm and vigour (5)
- 3 - Any M.Tech male student (5)
- 5 - Slang for Hall President (5)
- 6 - Student who mugs; also where you go to study when your room fails you (5)
- 7 - Where every self-respecting chai lover ends up (6)
- 8 - Diwali illumination + rangoli competition between the Halls (4)



# JEWELS OF KGP



**Abhrijit Saha**  
Chief of Staff to the Director

*We have with us Mr. Abhrijit Saha, a visionary leader and former student of IIT Kharagpur. From serving as the General Secretary, Students' Welfare to becoming the Chief of Staff to the Director, his journey is defined by a deep-seated dedication to student mental well-being and a commitment to fostering institutional growth through innovation.*

From an inquisitive freshman to becoming an integral part of the administration, the life of this KGPIan has gone hand in hand with the development of the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. The initial step involved doing all possible things, including joining different societies, taking up positions and making new acquaintances. At some point, the campus changed its character from simply a place of learning to more like a second home. This connection eventually turned into the responsibility of giving back and contributing to the same system that made him who he is now.

KGP culture is something that students usually talk about, but can only be experienced personally. For many people, this may be the first time leaving home and getting the chance to live on their own. What you make out of this experience is what makes the path that leads towards your future. In addition, one should remember that this campus unites people from all over the country and therefore compels them to adapt and develop.

"Becoming the General Secretary, Students' Welfare has been one of the biggest milestones in my journey at KGP. Taking up a challenge that I saw fit in an attempt to address gaps made me extremely happy. One of the most notable achievements of this period includes the creation of the Institute Wellness Group. Forming such a group and giving it a shape to make it able to serve students in terms of their mental well-being has been an incredibly valuable experience."

"Transitioning from the student domain to that of professionals has brought about another significant experience. While in the former sphere it has been easier to focus on coming up with brilliant ideas, in the latter it was necessary to produce tangible results. Being responsible for implementing changes and addressing challenges on a large scale, having deep insight into problem-solving rather than just providing temporary solutions, have also been skills acquired during this period.

Above all, KGP teaches us the importance of putting people first in everything we do. As a leader or when we undertake initiatives, our success will depend on how well we engage with others. As we move towards becoming decision makers, we must realise that issues are far more complex than we may have previously imagined.

In terms of a vision of the future for KGP, the dream is simple: to see innovations from academia, well-being and industry come together naturally. The key is in finding ways to turn this idea into reality and inspiring our students to participate."

# HUMANS OF KGP

If you walk by the LBS Hall cycle shed in the morning, you might hear the soft sound of metal against metal. It's a steady rhythm, almost like a heartbeat beneath the busy campus life. That's Sanjay da, bent over a bicycle with a spanner in one hand and determination in the other. For years, he has been the quiet force behind the countless bicycles carrying students to their classes, dreams, and futures.

Sanjay da once owned a small cycle repair shop near the Puri Gate of IIT Kharagpur. Business was steady until the construction of a flyover diverted people away from his shop, bringing work almost to a halt. Around that time, he heard that LBS Hall needed a cycle shed worker. Out of 58 applicants, he cleared the practical skill test conducted in front of the warden and secured the job, beginning his long association with LBS Hall.

As the sole breadwinner of his family, Sanjay da balances work with caring for his two school-going daughters. He often drops them off at school before coming to campus, yet ensures the cycle shed opens on time every day. Though his official schedule runs from 8:00 AM–1:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, he usually works through the afternoon because of the heavy workload. During hall shifting periods, he recalls servicing nearly 500 cycles with only about 10 workers.

Initially, his salary was only ₹5,000 a month, making repair work his primary source of income. Over the years, he became known for repairing not only bicycles but also motorbikes and other mechanical equipment, all through skills he learned on his own.

Despite personal hardships, including supporting his father's prostate cancer treatment from 2018 to 2023, Sanjay da continued working tirelessly. Beyond repairs, he also contributed to innovative projects, including an automatic GPS-enabled cycle that won recognition at IIT Kharagpur and Pune. He takes particular pride in designing six specially modified cycles for differently-abled students. Smiling softly, he says, "I like the way I helped them, and that was one of the proudest moments of my life."

His story is not just about repairing cycles but about helping people keep moving forward, no matter how difficult the road becomes.



**Sanjay Sarkar**  
Bicycle Mechanic

*We have with us Mr. Sanjay Sarkar, the heart of the LBS Cycle Shed and a self-taught innovator. From ensuring the student community stays mobile through his tireless maintenance to designing life-changing, specially modified cycles for differently-abled students, his journey is defined by deep-seated resilience and a commitment to helping everyone keep moving forward, no matter how difficult the road becomes.*



# नमस्कार यात्री!

संपादकीय

नमस्कार यात्री, मैं हूँ नेहरू संग्रहालय उर्फ हिजुली डिटेंशन कैप। एक समय पर मैं अंग्रेजी हुकूमत के अत्याचारों का मूक साक्षी था और आज मैं निरंतर विस्तार करता हुआ 2100 ऐकर में फैला एशिया का 77वीं शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालय IIT Kharagpur बन चुका हूँ। 75 वर्ष के इस खूबसूरत सफर का सफरनामा सौझा करता हूँ, आज मेरा कण-कण अपनी कहानी कहता है, मेरे अंदर एक छोटा सा शहर रहता है।

18 अगस्त 1951 को औपचारिक उद्घाटन से पहले ही मुझे "इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी" का नाम मिल चुका था—एक नई पहचान, एक नया वादा। अगस्त 1951 में जब मेरा पहला सत्र शुरू हुआ, तो 224 सपनों और 42 मार्गदर्शकों ने मेरे अस्तित्व को आकार देना शुरू किया। क्लास रूम, लेब और मेन बिल्डिंग सब मुझ में यानि हिजुली डिटेंशन कैप में थे। मैंने अपने शैक्षणिक सफर की शुरुआत केवल दस विभागों के साथ की थी—साधन सीमित थे, लेकिन आँखों में वैज्ञानिक सोच से परिपूर्ण भारत गढ़ने का सपना था।

मार्च 1952 का वह दिन आज भी मेरी स्मृतियों में जीवित है, जब पंडित जी ने मेरी नई इमारत की नींव रखी थी। वह केवल एक शिलान्यास नहीं था—वह उस विश्वास की स्थापना थी कि विज्ञान आधुनिक भारत की सबसे बड़ी शक्ति बनेगा। वर्तमान परिसर की रूपरेखा और मेरी इमारतों का डिजाइन अनेक इंजीनियरों और वास्तुकारों द्वारा, प्रसिद्ध स्विस् वास्तुकार Dr. Werner M. Moser के मार्गदर्शन में तैयार किया गया था। मैं भाग्यशाली था कि मुझे जाने-माने वैज्ञानिक Dr. J.C. Ghosh का सान्निध्य मिला। संस्थान के प्रारंभिक दिनों में गठित पहला बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के अध्यक्ष थे Dr. B.C. Roy, और उनके साथ थे दूरदर्शी व्यक्तित्व — Mr. N.R.Sarkar, Sir Jehangir J. Gandhi, Dr. Tarachand, Mr. K.R.K. Menon, Mr. T. Sivasankar, Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar, Mr. H. Kabir और Dr. J.C. Ghosh—जो इस नवजात संस्थान को अपनी दूरदर्शिता और संकल्प से आकार दे रहे थे।

इन्हीं प्रारंभिक वर्षों में, जब मैं अपनी पहचान गढ़ रहा था, तब यूरोप से आए कुछ प्रतिष्ठित विद्वानों ने भी इसमें अपनी प्रतिभा और अनुभव का योगदान दिया। उनमें से पहले दो थे Prof. R.A. Kraus और Prof. H. Tischer जो आगे जाकर ECE विभाग के पहले HOD बने।

IIT खड़गपुर के शुरुआती हॉल—पटेल, नेहरू और आज़ाद—सिर्फ रहने की जगहें नहीं थीं, बल्कि पहचान का एक लूप था, जो एक नए आज़ाद देश के दिल में एकता, दूरदर्शिता और शिक्षा की निशानी था। 2 मार्च, 1956 को पहले दीक्षांत भाषण में पंडितजी ने कहा था: "Here in the place of that Hijli detention camp stands this fine monument of India today representing India's urges, India's future in the making. This picture seems to me symbolical of the changes that are coming to India. India's first IIT took the responsibility of educating young generation with 'the dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity.'"

15 सितंबर, 1956 को भारत की संसद ने इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (खड़गपुर) एक्ट पास किया, जिसमें मुझे राष्ट्रीय महत्व का इंस्टीट्यूट घोषित किया गया। मेरी पहली लाइब्रेरी इंस्टीट्यूट की पुरानी बिल्डिंग (शहीद भवन) के एक छोटे से कमरे में थी। 1951 में खुलने के समय, लाइब्रेरी में 2,500 किताबों का कलेक्शन था। अब इंस्टीट्यूट की मेन बिल्डिंग में मौजूद सेंट्रल लाइब्रेरी अपनी तरह की सबसे बड़ी लाइब्रेरी में से एक है। इसके कलेक्शन में 350,000 से ज़्यादा किताबें और डॉक्यूमेंट्स हैं, और यह 1,600 से ज़्यादा प्रिंटेड और ऑनलाइन जर्नल्स और कॉन्फ्रेंस की कार्यवाही को संभाला करता है।

समय के साथ मैं बढ़ता गया विश्व मैं अपनी पहचान कायम करता गया। आज मुझमें 19 एकेडमिक डिपार्टमेंट, आठ मल्टी-डिसिप्लिनरी सेंटर, और 13 स्कूल ऑफ एक्सीलेंस के अलावा 25 से ज़्यादा सेंट्रल रिसर्च और डेवलपमेंट यूनिट हैं इसके अतिरिक्त श्रीनिवास रामानुजन कॉम्प्लेक्स जिसे मेरे एक और एकेडमिक कॉम्प्लेक्स के तौर पर शामिल किया गया था, जिसमें तैक्षशिला 2002 में, विक्रमशिला 2003 में बना। 2012 में इस सूची में नालंदा क्लासरूम कॉम्प्लेक्स शामिल हुआ।

आज 2100 एकड़ में फैला हुआ हूँ, मुझमें लगभग 10,000 सपने बसते हैं। आज मुझमें 21 हॉल ऑफ रेजिडेंस (16 लड़कों के लिए, 5 लड़कियों के लिए), एक घंटाघर, टेक मार्केट, अड्डा आदि जगहें हैं, यह सिर्फ ईंट-पत्थरों का ढांचा नहीं, बल्कि हजारों सपनों, अनगिनत यादों की मूरत है। देश के लिए की गई सेवा के सम्मान में मुझे 2019 में भारत सरकार ने इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ एमिनेंस का प्रतिष्ठित दर्जा दिया। यह सम्मान न केवल मेरे अब तक के प्रयासों की पहचान है, बल्कि भविष्य में और अधिक जिम्मेदारी के साथ आगे बढ़ने की प्रेरणा भी देता है। आगे भी मैं भारत और उसके नागरिकों की प्रगति, समृद्धि और कल्याण और मानवता के बड़े उद्देश्य के प्रति समर्पित रहूँगा।

आवाज़  
IIT KHARAGPUR

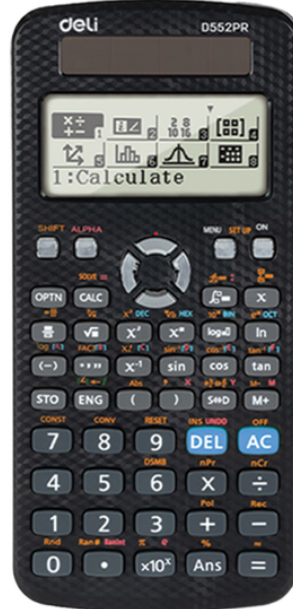


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- ✓ Function Table
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