



# E - NEWS LETTER

## IITR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE  
ROORKEE - 247 667 (UTTARAKHAND) INDIA



2015

January

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*We wish our members a  
VERY HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR -2015*

### Alumni Day 2014



Director, IIT Roorkee Presenting citation to  
Shri Rajendra Bahuguna



Felicitation Function of Diamond- Golden Jubilee

On November 25, 2014 “The Alumni Day” was celebrated under the picturesque setting near the Institute Flag to commemorate the Founding of the Alma Mater. Prof. Pradipta Banerji and Prof. Prem Krishna addressed the gathering besides other eminent guests. Distinguished Alumnus Awards were presented to the following distinguished alumni.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Bahuguna (E&C 1980), Shri Shankar Aggarwal (E&C 1977), Shri Subodh Kumar Jain (E&C 1970), Dr. Sharad Chandra Sharma Metallurgy 1982, and Dr. Satyandra Kumar Gupta (Mechanical 1988).

As reported earlier in the November issue of the newsletter, the Golden & Diamond Jubilee function was celebrated on the 24th & 25th of November. The alumni from these two batches also graced the Alumni Day Function along with their family members.

### Coral Jubilee Function



A Group Photo of Coral Jubilee Participants

The newly introduced Coral Jubilee Meet of 1979 BE batch and 1980 Architecture batch was celebrated on January 24 & 25, 2015.



Coral Jubilee alumnus, Shri Mangu Singh, CMD, Delhi Metro addressing the IIT students at the interactive session

About 50 alumni with their families participated in the function. They enjoyed the various events held during their stay in Roorkee.



Students interacting with CJ Participants

A joint interaction session was also organized between the students of IIT Roorkee & Coral Jubilee participants, presently occupying very high positions in the profession. This received a good response from the students and will be motivating them in their future career plans.

## NEWS FROM CHAPTERS of IITRAA

### Ranchi Chapter

Annual picnic cum family get-together of IIT Roorkee Alumni Association Ranchi Chapter was organised at Sita Falls on January 25, 2015.

### Lucknow Chapter

### Haridwar Chapter

A get-together of the members of the Haridwar Local Chapter along with newly formed Roorkee Chapter is proposed to be organized on 15th February 2015 in LBS Stadium, IIT Roorkee.

## Our Alumni in Prestigious Positions

A number of our senior alumni are serving the country through commendable work in the public as well as private sector, and bringing pride to their alma mater. Given Below are the brief CVs of two highly accomplished alumni serving the Army Currently as Lieutenant Generals:

### Lieutenant General Rakesh Mittal (Civil, 1975)

is presently **Director General, Border Roads Organization**, placed at the Headquarters at New Delhi. After completing his engineering at **IIT Roorkee** and a short stint with **Tata consulting Engineers**, he joined Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He was commissioned in the **Army in 1977**. He is a graduate of the prestigious **Army Defence Services Staff College, Wellington**. He returned to the University of Roorkee (1984-1986) to obtain an ME degree and was awarded the **University Gold Medal for standing first**.



On promotion to Brigadier he was appointed as **Chief Engineer in Andaman Nicobar** for his commendable and exhaustive efforts over a period of one and half years, he was awarded **Sena Medal**. The Chief Engineer Andaman & Nicobar Zone under his command in the year 2006, was awarded 'Unit Citation', a first in the annals of Military Engineering Services for post Tsunami exceptional restoration and rehabilitation work under his leadership.

Rakesh Mittal took over as **Commandant, College of Military Engineering** in Aug 2013. For achieving excellence in the field of academics and bringing qualitative improvement in campus life under his

guidance, CME was awarded 'Unit Citation' in 2014. During his command, the Madras Engineering Group and Centre was also awarded the 'Unit Citation'. General Mittal was awarded **Vishisht Seva Medal** on Republic Day 2014 for his distinguished services in this appointment. On Republic Day 2015, He was awarded **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal** for his distinguished works at CME.

As mentioned above, Gen. Mittal is currently the **Director General, Border Roads Organization**, a prestigious road construction agency deployed in the far flung border areas of the Nation.

### Major General Vishwambhar Singh (Architecture, 1980)

has recently picked up the rank of Lieutenant General in the Indian Army. He is a graduate (B. Arch 1980) from IIT Roorkee and was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers, Indian Army, in March 1981. General Singh is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. Later, he attended the senior Command and Higher Command Courses at Army War College, Mhow. He is also an alumnus of prestigious National Defence College, New Delhi.



Vishwambhar Singh has held varied staff and instructional appointments during his career in the army that include College of Military Engineering, Pune and Army War College, Mhow. On promotion to the rank of Brigadier, he commanded an Engineer Brigade. As Major General, he was appointed as Chief Engineer of a Command on Western front, and he is presently serving as Director General, Combat Engineers, at E in C's Branch in Army Headquarters. Vishwambhar Singh is a keen and accomplished sportsman. He has represented India in many International level events which include Asian Games at Delhi in 1982 and at Seoul in 1986. His achievement in sports while at University of Roorkee, from 1975-1979 have been; best sportsman of the University in 1979; winner of Prestigious Lion's Trophy (Best Athlete) and prestigious All India Inter University rowing Championship In 1979. For his overall contribution in sports he was awarded University Blue during the Annual Convocation day in 1979.

## INVOLVEMENT OF OUR ALUMNI IN RAILWAYS

3 out of 5 Engineering positions in Railway Board are held by our alumni currently and thus they are contributing significantly to the growth and functioning of the Indian Railway from the highest level.

Mr A K Mital, (E&C, 1975), is chairman Railway Board, Mr Naveen Tandan, (Electrical 1976), is Member Electrical and Mr Pradeep Kumar (Civil 1977), is now Member Staff In addition there is also an impressive list of alumni in prestigious positions in the Railway system.

Mr. Mangu Singh (1979 Civil) MD Delhi Metro, [Mr. RK Bahuguna \(1980 E&C\)](#), [CMD RailTel UOR](#), Mr. Satish Agnihotri (1982 Civil), CMD Rail Vikas Nigam, Mr. PK Srivastava (1977 E&C), DG/ RDSO, Mr. R K Gupta (1977 Civil), GM/Eastern Rly, Mr. Radhey Shyam (Civil 1976), GM/SE Railway.

## YOUNG ACHIEVERS

We are attempting to identify our outstanding younger achievers (1986 batch onwards) in order to recognise a few of them in this feature of the newsletter. The exercise was initiated in June/July 2014. We seek the help of our readers to identify and suggest names from amongst the 1986-1990 pass out batches. A few of our alumni are included below:

[Prof. E. Saibaba Reddy](#) (ME Civil, 1986) is Vice-Chancellor, Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Burla, Odisha from 30th Nov. 2014. He also served in many administrative capacities such as Head of the Department, Vice-Principal, Director Academic and Planning, Director Academic Audit Cell, Officer on Special Duty to Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and Rector (Pro-Vice Chancellor), JNT University Hyderabad. Prof. Reddy has been awarded several prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships. He is a recipient of a number of National and International Awards, besides being a



member of expert committees constituted by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

**Mr. Sanjay Bhasin (E&C, 1986)** is

Vice President Networks Business India, Samsung India since 2013 to Present. He is Head of newly established 4G LTE Network Equipment Business for India. After graduating from IIT Roorkee, he completed M. B. A. with special emphasis on international business and marketing of high technology products (Dec 1992) from Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, USA. Prior to his position in Samsung India, he was CEO Asia Pacific & Business Head, Energy Services & Solutions Innovis Telecom Services, Gurgaon, India based in Jakarta, Indonesia; President & CEO, Telecom Services & Solutions, Intarvo Technologies, New Delhi, India, Besides these he held various positions in Nokia Networks, HCL Ltd. (Computer Division), Essel Propack, Tata Unisys Ltd., Intel Corp. He has rich and diverse experience in general management & P&L responsibility of large global B2B businesses and direct experience in executing solutions oriented businesses that include IT/telecom products together with significant services component.



**Mr. Ram Gopal Saini (1986, Civil)**

Presently working as Project Director (Nov'2012 onwards) for L&T-SUCG JV CC-27 which is one of the biggest and most challenging projects under DMRC Phase III. This comprises five Underground Metro Stations namely Vasant Vihar, Munirka , R K Puram , IIT and Hauz Khas and twin Tunnel of 5.08 Km connecting Vasant Vihar to Shankar Vihar ramp. He Executed **Phase I and**



**Phase II of DMRC** for more than 11 km length of tunneling, involving 12 underground stations with project values of 2050 crore and 530 crores respectively, working in perfect coordination with other multinational companies from Europe. He also worked as Project Director for **Metro Tunneling Chennai L&T-SUCG JV** comprising of 3.341 Km twin tunnel between Egmore to Shenoy Nagar and 3 stations namely Nehru Park, Kilpauk Medical College & Pachaiappa's College.

**Mr. Aditya Singhal (CST, 1987)** is

working as Associate Director - Solutions for IBM's Global Technology services business, which offers clients a continuum of information technology services, from individual technology-related service products through to and including comprehensive IT strategic outsourcing. In this role he is responsible for understanding the client's business pains and solving them through use of technology products and services. He has been involved in designing, developing and building solutions for various projects within Public Sector and Corporates which are critical for smooth running of Nations economy. In his responsibility area, he is responsible for embracing and executing the changes which are impacting the industry including consumerization of IT, adoption of Cloud, Analytics, Mobility, Social and Security.



In his 20 years stint with in IBM, Aditya has held various leadership positions driving strategy, marketing, product development and managing business. Outside of IBM, he has worked for UPTRON, Modi Olivetti, WIPRO and Reliance Communications.

## James Thomason: The Founder of Roorkee College



Bust of James Thomason in  
Central Dome of Thomason Building



James Thomason Building (Administrative Block of  
IIT Roorkee)

**James Thomason**, the great visionary and founder of our alma mater was born on 3 May 1804 at Shelford in Cambridgeshire, England. He was the son of a British clergyman Thomas Truebody Thomason who was stationed in Bengal and his wife nee Elizabeth Jane Fawcett. Thomason died on 27 September 1853 at Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh) the day the Queen Victoria appointed him Governor of Madras.

Thomason had his education in England, and returned to India in 1822. He held numerous positions in various parts of the country, including magistrate-collector and settlement officer in Azamgarh district, a position he held for nearly five years between 1832 and 1837. He was appointed the foreign secretary to the government of India in 1842 and later appointed the Lieutenant-Governor of the North Western Provinces in 1843. In his tenure as the Lieutenant-Governor of the North Western Provinces for nearly 10 years he improved the communications, police protection and social services in the area. As Lt. Governor he established a system of 897 locally supported elementary schools in centrally located villages that provided a vernacular education for children throughout the region.

Throughout his life James Thomason held strong religious belief in the highest Christian principles, but he carefully avoided taking any measures which might interfere with the religious feelings or prejudices of the people. It will be of interest to know that Thomason offered the famous Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib a position of Urdu lecturer in a college in Delhi in the times when the poet had hardly any work to survive. However, he did not accept the offer as Mr.

Thomason on the day of the interview made him wait for a while outside his office due to some unfinished work he was doing. Ghalib took this as an insult to his stature and did not bend even after Mr. Thomason's insistence for taking the job.

It was James Thomason, who proposed the establishment of a College of Civil Engineering at Roorkee to train engineering personnel at various levels for public works of the country particularly for the construction work of the Ganges Canal which started in 1842. The aqueduct on the proposed Ganges Canal, which was an engineering challenge, was to be situated at Roorkee. In his proposal submitted to the government, Lt. Governor James Thomason had justified the location on the basis that the establishment of a college for instructing Civil Engineers at Roorkee near the Solani Aqueduct on the Ganga canal would afford facilities for practical training.

The Roorkee College was started in 1847 when the concept of a college to train civil engineers as against military engineers, was a unique and pioneering experiment. The mere thought of a college of training civilians for becoming engineers in those days was not entertained even in England. This is a clear proof of his great vision and a will to develop the region which came under his jurisdiction. A civilian in those days in England started his career as an apprentice working with a practicing civil engineer and later passing the prescribed examinations of the Royal Institution of Civil Engineers and being granted a license to practice.

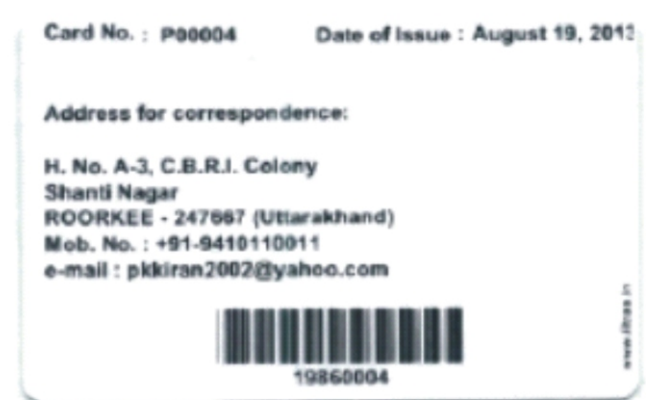
After the death of James Thomason in 1853, the College was very deservedly named as Thomason College of Civil Engineering in 1854. It was elevated to the First Technical University of India in 1949 as University of Roorkee and finally converted to an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in 2001 by an act of the Parliament after being recognized as an institute of national importance by the Government of India. The road in front of the historic main building of IIT Roorkee is named after him as Thomason Marg. The main building of IIT Roorkee was renamed as James Thomason Building in his honor by an act of the Board of Governors of the institute in December 2013.

## MEMBERSHIP CARD

I.I.T. Roorkee Alumni Association has made arrangements to issue Wallet size PVC Membership Cards to all its members. The members, who do not already have the card, and are interested in getting the card made, are requested to fill the attached application form (Annexure-1). Filled Application form may please be sent through e-mail or by post to the Honorary Secretary, IIT Roorkee Alumni Association, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee- 247667, Distt: Haridwar, State: Uttarakhand, E-mail: [membershipcard.iitraa@gmail.com](mailto:membershipcard.iitraa@gmail.com). Card will be prepared and sent through post / courier.

### OBITUARY

Yogendra Yadav Electrical 2000 batch expired fighting Cancer. May God Give peace to his soul and strength to his family to bear tragic loss.



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