

# E-NEWS LETTER



## IITR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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



2015

September & November

Vol.4

**We wish our members a very Happy & Prosperous New Year-2016**

### JUBILEE ALUMNI MEETS

IITR Alumni Association celebrated Jubilee functions of 1990 batch (Silver Jubilee), 1955 (Diamond Jubilee), and 1965 (Golden Jubilee) in the month of November 2015. The Coral & Ruby Jubilee Functions are due to be held from December 17 to 19, 2015



Night Vision of the James Thomason Building

### SILVER JUBILEE MEET-2015

Silver Jubilee Alumni Meet was celebrated with great enthusiasm during 6-8 November, 2015. This year 193 silver Jubilee Alumni attended the meet with their families. This was a record participation.



Silver Jubilee Alumni Cricket Teams

Some of the alumni had come for the first time after graduating from the erstwhile University of Roorkee. They

along with their families had met their batch mates with great zeal and enjoyed games at Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium with great gusto.

An interesting session for the accompanying spouses of Silver Jubilee Alumni and children was organized in the Khosla International House. In this session, an informal cultural function was arranged, where the spouses narrated interesting stories regarding their husbands and their emotional involvement with Roorkee. Accompanying children cherished this occasion with much enthusiasm.

The alumni visited Anushruti (formerly Roorkee School for the Deaf). A large number of student volunteers participated in the Jubilee function. Visiting alumni appreciated their enthusiasm and participation.

### 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting of the Association was held in the evening of 7th November, 2015 in O.P. Jain Auditorium and was attended by over 200 members.



Kulgeet Recitation during AGBM

The President of the Association welcomed the members of the association and the Jubilee Alumni who had graced the function. During the AGBM the Alumni of 1990 and 1991 (B. Arch) batches were felicitated for completing Silver Jubilee of their graduation.

### DIAMOND AND GOLDEN JUBILEE MEET

Diamond and Golden Jubilee Meet of 1955 and 1965 batch was celebrated on 24 & 25 November 2015. All the Jubilee Alumni along with their families had separately met their respective batch mates with great zeal and nostalgia.



Diamond & Golden Jubilee Alumni on the field



Prof. Prem Krishna presenting memento to Mr. S. K. Sinha an 1955 alumnus



Prof. Vinod Kumar presenting memento to Er. V. K. Sangal an 1965 alumnus

As many as 21 Diamond Jubilee Alumni participated in the meet, and, made a record. They enjoyed games on Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium with much enthusiasm.

In the evening the alumni were felicitated for completing Diamond and Golden Jubilee of their graduation, in the O.P. Jain Auditorium. Mementos were presented to them by Prof. Prem Krishna, President IITRAA and Prof. Vinod Kumar Deputy Director, IIT Roorkee during the felicitation programme.

Next day on November 25, 2015, the Jubilee Alumni visited Anushruti. After that they witnessed the Alumni Day celebrations at the lawns of James Thomason Building.



A performance by students of Anushruti

### ALUMNI DAY - 2015

On November 25, 2015 "The Alumni Day" was celebrated under the picturous setting near the Institute Flag to commemorate the Foundating of the Alma Mater. Prof. Pradipta Banerji and Shri K. K. Paul, Governor, Uttarakhand state addressed the gathering besides other eminent guests. Distinguished Alumnus Awards were presented to six distinguished alumni.



Alumni Day Celebration

## **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARDEES - 2015**

The IITR Alumni Association is proud of the manner in which these eminent professionals have brought laurels to the alma mater. Their brief CVs follow:

### **Er. Harish Chandra**

Shri Harish Chandra was born on July 4th 1931 and graduated in Civil Engineering from University of Roorkee and joined Central Engineering Service Group 'A' of CPWD as Assistant Executive Engineer in February 1954. He was Director General, CPWD, from 1986 to 1989, Member, UPSC, from 1990 to 1996, and has been an Arbitrator for almost two decades.



Shri Harish Chandra's career in the CPWD of nearly four decades is remarkable for the many critical, time bound, international projects that he was responsible for. Under his stewardship, the infrastructure facilities and building complexes for international events such as the UNCTAD II, the UNIDO Conference, the ASIAD, CHOGM and NAM conference, were completed in record time, meeting almost impossible targets. He set high standards in several international postings and projects also. He has been an advisor to UNDP Housing Projects in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

He has been remarkable for his innovative approach to Construction and Management. His vast experience and knowledge base has been called upon by various authorities.

### **Dr. Roopa Gir**

Dr. Roopa Gir, graduated with an M.Tech degree in Geophysics in 1974 with a gold medal, from University of Roorkee. She was the first female student in the department, setting the trend for other women to pursue a career in earth sciences. Besides excelling in studies, Roopa Ranganathan was popular amongst the University Community for her outstanding performances in Indian classical dancing. She obtained her Doctoratd'Etat (Ph.D) degree from L'Institut de Physique Du Globe (IPG) in 1979 with a distinction "très honorable". She was also a visiting fellow at LDEO, Columbia University and at IPG, Grenoble, France, and a post-doctoral fellow at the University of South Carolina.



She began her professional career with Schlumberger in 1981 as a senior development engineer. Over 25 years, she held technical, operations and managerial positions, and became the company's first female Scientific Advisor. Finally, Dr. Roopa Gir worked as Director, Technology Watch at corporate headquarters. Schlumberger chairman Andrew Gould quoted her example as one of the successful

women in science and technology at his keynote speech "Women in Industrial Research" in 2003. In 2013, She built the iEducateUSA, a non-profit organization that has had phenomenal success in STEM education at Houston elementary schools. She also advises AICAPD (All India Citizens' Alliance for Progress & Development), an organization that provides education to children of migrant workers through innovative mobile schools. She is also the managing partner of ARG Global Technologies, providing consulting services to the oil & gas industry. Dr. Roopa has also served as president of IIT Alumni of Greater Houston and vice president of PANIIT USA.

### **Dr. J. K. Hakku**

Dr. Jai Krishan Hakku was born in Srinagar, Kashmir, India. He received master's degree in solid state engineering from University of Roorkee in 1974. He later attended University of California, Irvine (UCI) where he earned his Ph.D. in electrical engineering.



Currently, he is Executive Corporate Officer of HORIBA Ltd.; Chairman, President & CEO of HORIBA International Corporation (HIC); and President of Horiba Europe Limited, Medical France, and India. Additionally, he is Senior Advisor to Golden Gate Capital, USA and President & CEO of R.C. International, LLC.

His previous positions include Corporate Vice President of (VP) Intel Corporation, VP of Varian Semiconductors, VP of Rockwell International. He and his teams have made significant contributions and impact to scientific and environmental fields across the globe including computer, mobile technology, GPS, healthcare, and automotive. Teaching has always been his passion.

### **Er. Pramod Saxena**

Shri Pramod Saxena graduated in Chemical Engineering from University of Roorkee in 1975. He had an entrepreneurial management career throughout culminating in setting up of his own business with international partners of repute



During his career he worked with DCM, Essar Group, Motorola Inc.. As one of the CEO's of Essar Group, he managed setting up of green field business in Telecom (Mobile) as Joint Venture with Swiss Telecom & Hutchinson in North India. He also helped Essar in setting up of India's largest Iron Ore Pelletization project at Vizag, Andhra Pradesh; acquisition of BPL Mobile, consolidation of Pan India mobile business which was later sold to Vodafone. As President (Continental India) for Motorola Inc., he led Motorola to be the leading cellular (GSM & CDMA) infrastructure provider in the region with 40% share of the market and manifold growth in the revenue.

He founded Oxigen in 2004 and presently serves as its Chairman and Managing Director. His main entrepreneurial venture, Oxigen, pioneered the digital micro payments industry in India. His network and services portfolio has now grown to become the largest service aggregator and distributor for micro-payments which is unique as it is India's first company that digitized cash and distributed micropayments. He also has Oxigen Inc. USA - an online business to tap into the Non-Resident Indian community. Apart from Oxigen, he has successfully promoted many business ventures, besides Oxigen Services like: Chorus Call Conferencing Services India Pvt. Ltd. & Mpower Softcomm Pvt. Ltd.

### Lt. Gen. Vishwambhar Singh

Lt Gen Vishwambhar Singh, Vishisht Seva Medal, was born on 05 Jun 1958 in Aligarh District (UP). He graduated in 1979 from University of Roorkee in the field of Architecture and town planning with specialization in structural design and building construction. His illustrious career in the Indian Army has earned him many awards and commendations. Besides, he is a vivid sport person and represented India in two Asian Games, Delhi in 1982 and Seoul in South Korea in 1986 in the Rowing discipline. He also participated in World Rowing Championship in Germany in 1983 and Asian Championship in Hong Kong in 1985. Retained the title of National Champion for successive five year in single scull event in Rowing. A postal stamp by Govt of India to commemorate the 1982 Asiad Games contains the motif of young Captain Vishwambhar Singh. His achievement in sports while at University of Roorkee, from 1975-1979 have been, best Sportsmen 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. (Also see the earlier issue of this e-newsletter : Vol-1, January 2015)

### Mr. M. P. Goel

Mr Manoj Goel was born in the year 1961 in Roorkee, and graduated in Mechanical Engineering with Gold Medal from University of Roorkee in 1981. He was awarded the Sarojini Naidu cup in 1981 for being the "Best Students in Sports and Studies". He was Captain, Swimming team, and represented U.P. State Junior team at National Rowing Championships.



He earned dual Masters in Computer Science from Syracuse University in New York and MBA from University of California at Berkeley. After graduating, he switched career from Mechanical Engineering to Product Marketing, working at Intel, Novell, Apple, Cisco, and Prysm.

An entrepreneur at heart. He co-founded two startups and has served on advisory board of several companies. Manoj has extreme passion for his alma mater. He co-founded IIT Roorkee Heritage Foundation USA (IITRHF) in 2007, served as President of IITRHF during 2010-11, and has been an active IITRHF Board Member since 2007.

### OBITUARY

IITRAA informs with regret about the sad demise of the following Alumni

1. Mr. Vijay Arora, Mech. 1990
2. Mr. Dev Verma, Civil 1961
3. Mr. Amrish Goel, Civil 1991
4. Mr J.M. Mahajan, Mech. 1961

May God give peace to their souls and strength to their families to bear this tragic loss.

*Published by :*

**Dr. Achal Mittal**

Honorary Secretary

IIT Roorkee Alumni Association

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