

SKEPTICS

SKEPTICS.....
BEREFT OF BLIND BELIEF



An insight

What makes a magazine? To some, it may be the language, to others the content. Some may even just pick it up for its artwork! Yet the working of a magazine is universal in its purpose-information dissemination. Ours is no different.

The next few pages encompass the thinking, observations and questions of an engineering college packaged for a discerning young minds of today. So, go ahead, whether for the contests, college and engineering know how, the student interview or the technical tips, do give it a chance!

Cheerio,

Skeptics



THE GULAG CALLED KURUKSHETRA

And you were merrily making north on the Grand Trunk road (also grandly called NH-1). You probably still had a chicken bone, from that meal at Savoy Green stuck in your food pipe. Farms, villages, some more farms, another village. And you realize that those milestones have stopped showing Kurukshetra. That's when you pull over to the side & a man in the heavy incomprehensible **Jat** accent explains you that the last village that 'whirred' was the Kurukshetra, the Mahabharata battleground. But then a battleground is supposed to be a mite larger than a 'school's playground'.

But hey! Kurukshetra ain't that small. It's like about **1/1000th of Delhi**. Compared to the adjoining hamlets it's a bustling metropolis. It even has a varied ethnic background:

Jats.....99.99%

Punjabis....0.01%

Humans....You & me (unless you're one of the above)

The place has a very bullish and giant economy which is big enough to support a full mall, without the shops, that is. There are even plans about setting up KSE : Kurukshetra Stock Exchange sometime in the 22nd century.

Medical facilities must be awesome as I haven't yet heard of anybody dying of the ultra-hygienic khokha food. But then I'm yet to spot a decent multi-storeyed building with a red 'plus' sign.

The place is fiercely guarded by the Haryana Police cheekily called the **'GI:Jats'**. In event of a Pakistani invasion the BSF might fail, the entire Air force might crash down, but GI:Jats with their 6 feet frame & modern weaponry (the lathis & freely cursing tongues) will hold back any Pakistani tank from passing without 'chalan'.

The city is also adorned by a University bearing its name. The dream of every Kurukshetra kid is to first pass his school (hopefully in 14 to 16 years), get a degree from Kurukshetra University & then teach at NIT Kurukshetra. Don't believe me? Go around asking your teachers what University are they from?

The place also has some tourist places to boast about. But boasting is all one can do. Every once in a while, on pretence of some special occasion (full moon, no moon, honeymoon) millions of 'men in orange' swarm the place to have a bath at the mighty Brahmsarovar, which, I suspect, is the only time they have bath. And then there are a myriad of temples, which your beloved author could've given a description of, had he not been a devout atheist.

Now if you're still wondering what a GULAG is, hold your breath. GULAGs were government sponsored labour camps for political dissenters of Soviet Union, bang in the middle of Siberia. Each year thousands used to die there of cholera, cannibalism, hunger or simply froze to death. But cheer up you won't at least die of freezing in Kurukshetra (unless its January). So go outside, take in a lungful of dung fragnated air and vomit to your heart's content.



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only

Sneha Das :The Mechie Millionaire Marvel



DOB: 25 Jan 1989
Hobbies: Reading ,Gossiping
Branch-Mechanical Engineering
Place:West Bengal
Training:At Tega Industries,Kolkata
Company:HPCL
Future Plan: MBA(not during the next 3 years)
Marriage: No plan For the next 5 years
Other: Knows Swimming, Dancing (Bharatnatyam and Rabindranatyam[#])

Skeptics: What has been your CGPA?

Sneha:8.9

Skeptics: Any back?

Sneha:Yes,One in the 6th sem in Mechanical Vibrations

Skeptics:You weren't the topper of your branch, but you got a handsome package.So what besides CGPA helped you get this?

Sneha:Only CGPA is not necessary.You got to be an avid reader of newspaper.Your involvement in extra-curricular activities and the way you showcase yourself in interview play pivotal role. Apart from that the training that you undergo in an industry is of paramount importance itself.

Skeptics:You emphasise your on training.Where did you undergo your training?

Sneha:I underwent a really thorough training at Tega industries,Kolkata..

Skeptics:What was your training about?

Sneha: I had to design a clamping design for the press shop and come up with new solutions to the problems they were facing. And now it is being implemented.

Skeptics:How long was your training period?

Sneha: It lasted for 6 weeks.I had to work for almost 10 hours everyday for 5 days a week.

Skeptics:Talking about your interview experience,What kind of questions were put to you?

Sneha:Besides testing your technical skills,A lot of puzzles and certain situational questions were put forth .

Skeptics:What kind of situational questions ?

Sneha: I was asked, "What would be your reaction, you being the Mess Manager, to the crisis of girls finding cockroach in their food and trying to report it the media?"

You have to be a little articulate and thoughtful..You can't say that I will protest because ultimately you are a responsible person of the college too..So you have to maintain the image and hence not let the media defame the institute..

Skeptics: Despite getting such exemplary academic results, you were known to be neck deep in extracurricular activities. Highlight a few.

Sneha:I love dancing and could manage to get an award too. I was secretary to English Lit 'N' Deb * and an active member of Helios^ and Roving Eye**.

Skeptics:Did you join NSS^^?

Sneha:No, but I was a member of LTS(Leadership Training Services)during my school days.However this does not mean that I am not inclined towards such activities.I was the Girls' Representative.

Skeptics:So What were the issues that you raised as the Girls' Representative ?

Sneha: Ill-equipped(Or I must confess not at all equipped) i-net centre of our hostel,Girls' Hostel timing were the two key issues that I raised but unfortunately i was not met with much success thanks to the sickening attitude of the authority.

Skeptics: You have been associated with Mech D(Mechanical Department) for 4 years.What are the things that the department displays weakness?

Sneha: Adhoc-culture and lack of funds(as if no the college has no crux with the activities in the campus) are the two main concerns ahead of us

Skeptics:Being the only girl in department,Were your challenges of slightly different nature?

Sneha:I don't want to be called a female student, a student is just a student.Quest for learning is not a function of gender.This way,No.....,my challenges were not of different nature.

Skeptics:There must have been the times when you would have felt frustrated.How did you manage to rise from such situations?What inspires you?

Sneha: The constant urge to become a better person and thinking that the world outside is worse helped me.

Skeptics:Any message for our magazine?

Sneha: Enjoy each and every moment in college..These days will never come back..Its cliché but so true..And yes, keep up the goodwork.All the best!!!!

Skeptics:Wish you a great luck ahead!!!!

#-A dance form of West Bengal. It is done on the poems of Rabindranath Tagore.

*English Lit 'n' Deb is one of the premier clubs that organises Quizzes and Literary events.

^Helios is the official magazine of the college

**Roving Eye is one of the magazines run by the students.

^^NSS-National Service Scheme

Did u noe dis ?

☺ This is what else u can do wid Ur new VLC player.

Convert Audio and Video formats: In VLC, you can convert video and audio files from one format to another. Several different formats are supported like MP4, WMV, AVI, OGG, MP3 etc. To access the converter:



- * Go to Media>Convert/Save.
- * Load the file you want to convert using the Add button and click Convert.
- * Now choose the output format and output file location.

Download YouTube and other online videos: First grab the URL of the YouTube video page. Now click on Media>Open Network stream. Paste the URL and click Play.

Once VLC starts streaming the video, click Tools>Codec Information and at the bottom of the window you will see a Location box. Copy the URL and paste it on your browser's address bar. The browser will now download the file

<http://www.tineye.com/>

TinEye is a reverse image search engine. Give it an image and it will tell you where the image appears. On the web.

which you can save it to your hard disk.

☺ Don` t u have a driver CD for ur printers.... don` t worry.

You have lost Ur printer driver or have an old printer with a compatibility of XP... Wat would u do? Throw the printer away. Would u? Naaa.....

Cooliris 1.11.6

FIREFOX ADDON: The Cooliris 3D Wall -- Simply the fastest and most stunning way to browse photos and videos from the Web or your desktop. Effortlessly scroll an infinite "3D Wall" of your content from Facebook, Google Images, YouTube, Flickr, and hundreds more.



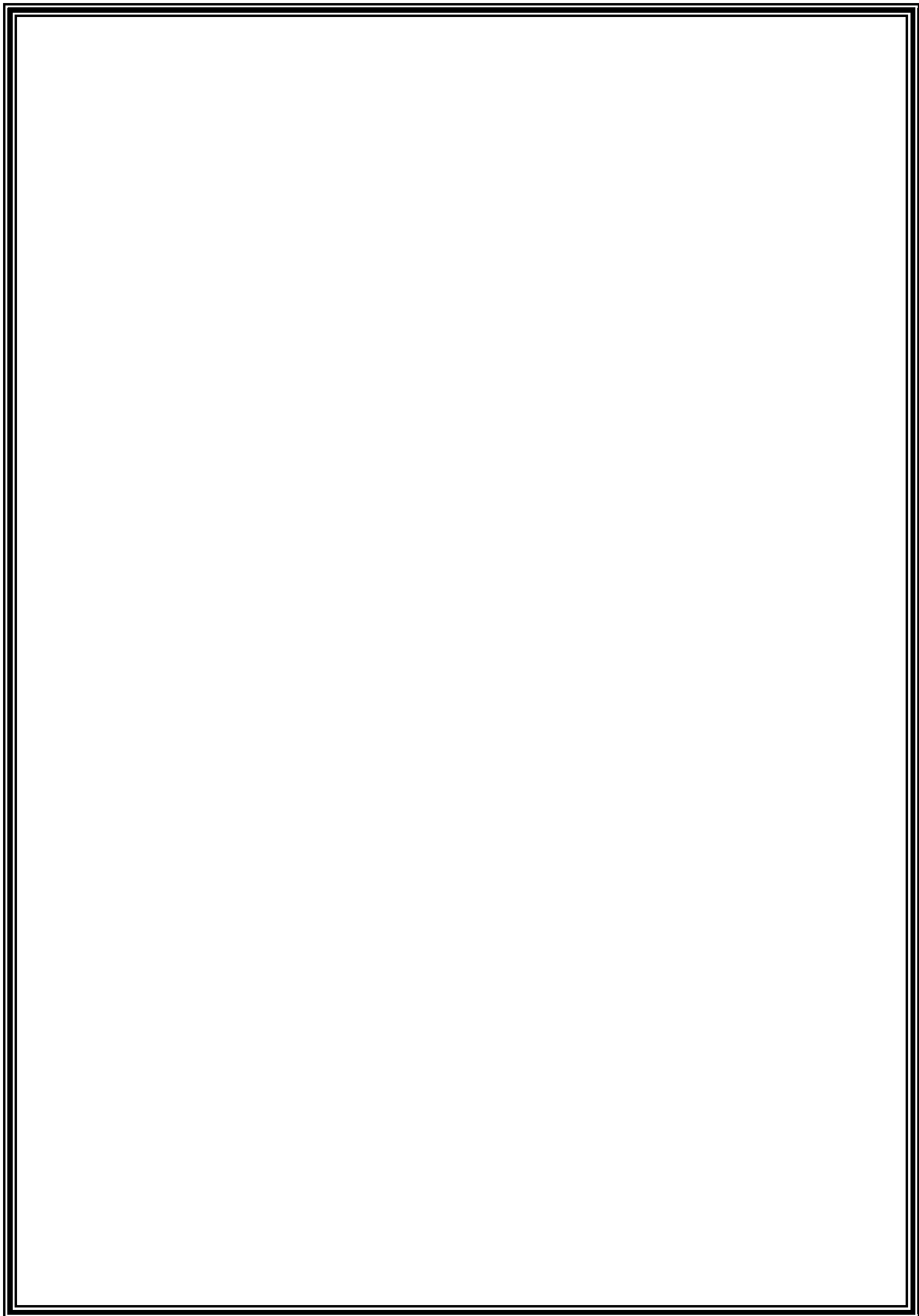
Here is a method u can try in your windows vista:

1. Open the control panel>> printers.
2. Add a printer>> add a local printer.
3. use the existing port LTP1(printer port) and click next
4. Next you check the company made it and model of the computer and click next... for instance hp3230 which comes under the 3500 DeskJet series has a XP compatibility.
5. Type a printer name.... "hp3230".
6. The printer is installed.
7. Now connect the printer to the computer..... Click on cancel when the option to install the driver comes up.
8. Go to the printers >> right click installed printer >> printer properties.
9. Ports>> change the given port from LTP1 to USB and apply it.
10. Your printer is now ready to be used.

<http://proximize.me/>

Proximize.Me is a free SSL proxy server that allows you to connect securely to your favourite websites from places where internet access may be restricted. Our anonymous SSL

data you transmit and receive through our



Get notified when your facebook account gets hacked



These days hackers and some other are so smart that may steal your account passwords and you never get to know about it, as they keep on logging to your account from other computers without your knowledge and peek into your account without your permission

In order to get rid of this worry that whether someone else is using your Facebook account, you should better enable the security option in Facebook which allows you to register your computers and mobile phone from where you access your Facebook account.

50 GB Online storage

<http://adrive.com/>

Adrive uploads all type of files. It's an online storage site where your account won't get expired and your files will remain secured.

The uploading speed depends upon your internet speed and traffic.

At the moment you can upload files up to 2GB at a time.

So, if anyone else login to your account from some other computer other than the registered one or the some other mobile phone other than your registered mobile phone you will get notified via email.

Follow the procedure below which shows how to enable this security feature in Facebook

- 1. Login to Facebook in any Internet browser**
- 2. Go to Facebook Account Settings**
- 3. Locate Account Security under Settings – check yes to enable this feature and click submit button.**
- 4. Next time you login to Facebook it will ask you register your computer, you will need to enter your PC name.**

Note: Now when someone else login to your account, you will get notified via email and via SMS also if you are subscribed for it.

EA Sports' 2010 FIFA World Cup:South Africa

The World cup may come around only once in every four years, but when it does the spirit of the game lives up to its name. Millions around the globe stick to their telly for the glimpse of this marvellous game. Can the gaming world be far behind from this phenomenon?

But when it comes to associated videogames there is a sense of over-familiarity. EA Sports have seized the gamers' minds when it comes to soccer. With Fifa 2010 WC you truly get a virtual plane ticket to South Africa. Everything is there- from the stadiums to the atmosphere to the crowds... Just great stuff! From the music that sets the tone, to the redone arenas and World Cup website navigation to the facts and figures about all the teams out there, everything is perfect. Few new modes like 'story of qualifying' and 'caption of your country' are the one you will love to try so will play this one for a while. The gameplay is a 'ball' with an addition to the penalty kick engine.

Yup! Buy this one. If you play videogames and are watching the world cup this time, this game is the one to score. With the world cup fever high on, it's a must have for every soccer fan.



MIND B [t] OGGLE



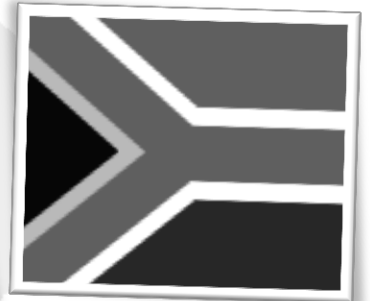
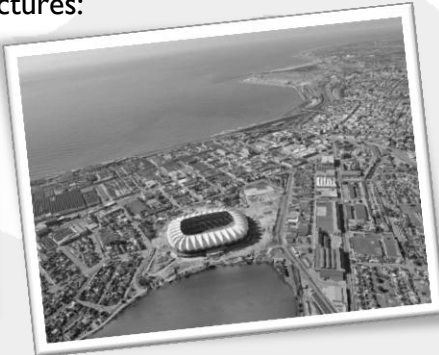
(Rs 1000 to be won)

Gear up folks for this is just a trailer for all you quizzing enthusiasts who're going to face an array of mind numbing quizzes from trivial trivias to the prodigious PRODIGY. Also a **1000 bucks are up for grabs on solving ALL the questions with proper explanation.**

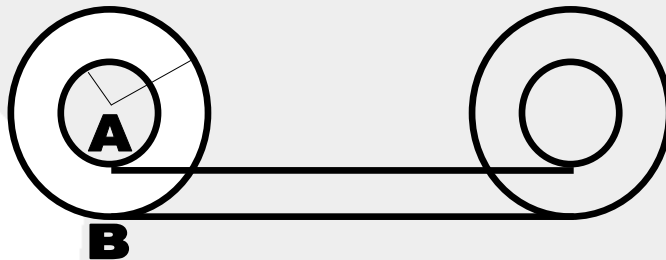
Question 1: Fill in the blanks

.....(1)..... is a derisive label for an improbable legal defence. It is not an actual legal defence in jurisprudence but a catchall term coined by reporters during their coverage of the trial of defendant. The expression derives from the 1979 trial of(2)....., a former San Francisco Supervisor

Question 2: Can you connect the following pictures:



Question 3: A Mathematical PARADOX!!



Suppose we have a disc with radius R. Initially disc is in position as shown. Point B touches the ground, point A is exactly above point B & is at a distance of "r" from the centre. Now disc starts pure rolling, after 1 revolution point B has rotated through an angle of 2π & hence travels a distance of $2\pi R$ while point A also rotates by 2π hence travelling a distance of $2\pi r$. But both points have travelled same distance. How is this possible???????

Question 4: The Unsolved Mystery:

$$x^2 = x + x + x + x + x + x + x + \dots \times \text{times}$$

Differentiating both sides

$$2x = 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + \dots \times \text{times}$$

$$2x = x$$

Assuming x not equals to zero

=> 2=1

(Obviously, This is not true)

So, What do you say ???????????

Question 5: Connect:

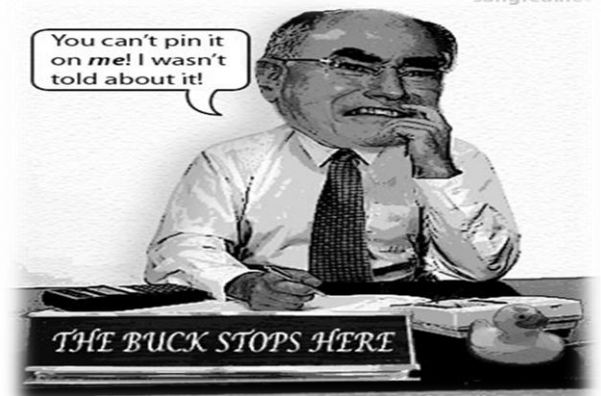


Question 6: A triangle has two of its angle bisectors equal in length. Prove that the triangle is isosceles. ☺

Rules & regulations:-

- 1) All answers must be sent to theskeptics2010@gmail.com or the answers can be written on A4 size sheet and following no. can be used to contact us to submit the answers.
- 2) Phone No. 8950281064.
- 3) The last date of submission of answers is 25th august 2010 for the first yearites and 17 august for all others.
- 4) The Cash can be claimed if and only if ALL answers are correct.
- 5) The cash prize for first yearites is 1000 bucks while it is 500 for second and 300 for all others.
- 6) In case of many students getting the answers correct, only first three can claim reward.
- 7) Only those who have bought the magazine shall be considered for the reward and you must mention the code no. written on the cover page along with the answers.

The Buck Stops Here.....



Bharat Bandh

The opposition-sponsored Bharat bandh caused India a staggering loss of Rs 13000 crore! Is this not a big loss to the government? How and when the government is going to recover this amount? By way of another hike - height of stupidity indeed. Everyone wants to protest for the sudden hike of petroleum products but not by way of blocking the roads and closing shutters causing financial loss to self and also to the country but could not find ways to lodge their protest.

What are the other alternatives, then??

E-Waste-The Dark Side of Digital Age

These days, it's often cheaper and more convenient to buy a new PC than to upgrade an old one. But what happens to those old computers once they've been abandoned for newer models? The fruits of our high-tech revolution are pure poison if these products are improperly disposed of at the end of their useful life. According to the National Waste Policy, 16.8 million televisions and computer equipment reached their "end of life" in 2007/08.

So, How do you think should this problem be tackled?

India: Vision 2020

Economic growth the world over is driven by energy, whether in the form of finite resources like coal, gas, oil or in the form of renewable resources like the hydroelectric, wind, Geothermal, tidal and biomass, or its converted form, electricity. This electricity powers the soul of a nation. India presently has an installed capacity of 1,62,366 MW. Still half of India plunges into darkness moment the sun sets! To lighten this part of India, surely we cannot be completely dependent on coal, gas and oil.

So, Then, What do our young minds propose to tackle this gigantic problem?

Can Indians fulfil their dream of Empowered India by 2020 or we do not believe in dreams?

Express your views freely on any of the above issues. You may **submit your articles** (there is no word limit) to theskeptics2010@gmail.com. The best ones get published in the next issue. So Gear UP!!!!!!!

W(H)INE AND DINE

Hardly anyone on the first day of college notices the most important feature of the campus, which surprisingly, is off it. Caught up in the bedazzlement and awe of entering the 'hallowed' gates of NIT, one small detail is missed right near those very same gates- **THE KHOKHA**.

'Small in size, large in taste' would be their tagline if they ever decided to advertise. In some ways, when you have the training wheels of college on, the khokas are more than the perfect eatery- they're practically the closest to a perfect family you could ever have. Need proof? Let's start:

1. They take care of you when you're hungry even in the middle of the night (remember mummy?)
2. Help in cheering you up during your exams, or let's say, stop you from falling into depression (Gold f****)
3. Are around in times of achievement and happiness (yeah, friends tend to ask for treats even if you almost swat a fly!)
4. Introduce you to new tastes and people (read seniors). No comments on the manner of interaction though!!
5. Provide an escape in times of need. (Food that's an alternative to the smorgasbord that the mess parades as food!)
6. Act as motivation to aim higher and achieve more in life. (Read: to get the hell out of the current 'mess' that you're in 😊)
7. Slowly introduces you to the dangers of life so that you may be aware of them in the first place
(yeah, I'm talking about the PCR van at midnight)

And most importantly, they teach you the value of money, that is, of cause and consequence and that money doesn't grow on trees. ("**o! parantha lena hai ya maggi? Chhod jaar, dew aur gold flake lete hain!**").

If only our degrees taught us this much..sigh..**Jai Khokha!**

Once Upon A time at NITK

Pranav Visits NITK:

When the clock struck three in the afternoon of 20th March 2010, it was time for Union Finance Minister's helicopter (amidst a small army of security personnel) to land in the ground of NIT Kurukshetra to grace the occasion of its convocation with his benign presence. Mr. Pranav gabbled the role of education in combating the challenges ahead of our democracy expatiatly. Our college conferred D.Litt to Mukherjee.

A major theft

Theft has been a most prolific problem amongst the multi-seater hostels of 1st year, but what happened on that barmy morning of May, 2010 would be gossiped for years. Laptops, mobiles, cash, t-shirts, underwears, anything that bought some bottles of alcoholic pleasure were stolen from H-2 by an unidentified group of residents. Men in khaki were summoned as the worth of loot ran into lakhs of rupees.

Ragging—What's this?????

Now you have entered a new but different world, away from those nagging calls of your mother or marathons of your father's lectures. But eclipsed by the clouds of a phenomenon that we all are familiar with -ragging. But here you can rest yourself at peace with a smug-ostrich like complacency as the authorities have made sufficient arrangements to curb this menace. Not to worry ya' rookies! Your interaction with seniors shall be ex-gratia and your own hostel shall be rendezvous point for it.

Every word tells a story ! ! !

Ever wondered where the word "gossip" comes from?

Or How a simple techno-head evolved into a nerd?

WONDER NO MORE---

but the meaning of some weird words lie in unexpected places

Indian Summer:

A period of unusually dry, warm weather in late autumn, **the phrase Indian summer, refers to North America** rather than India. The phenomenon is first mentioned towards the end of the 18th century in the USA, and was not adopted in Britain until the late Victorian period.

Laconic:

The Spartans or the Laconics of ancient Greece were known for their austere lifestyle and pithy speech. When Philip of Macedon threatened to invade Laconia in the 4th century BC, he wrote to its governors in an attempt to frighten them into submission, saying that if he entered Laconia he would raze it the ground. They are reported to have sent a one word reply "IF". Since the 16th century **Laconic has meant "using few words"**.

Nerd:

Originally an American term, nerd in the sense of "boring, unfashionable person" was first recorded in 1951. The word appeared the previous year in *If Ran the Zoo* by Dr Seuss, who seems to have invented it:

I'll sail to Ka-Tro And Bring Back an It-Kutch, a preep and a Proo
A nerkle, a Nerd, and a Seersucker too!

Dr. Seuss used the word in nonsense verse as the name of a kind of animal, and there is no connection with the obsessive computer fan we are familiar with. Another theory links the word Mortimer snerd, a dummy used by the ventriloquist Edgar Bergen in the 1930s.

Gossip:

In old English "godsibb" or gossip was the word for godparent. It literally meant "a person related to one in god (God) and sib (relative), the latter word surviving in sibling." "Gossip" came to be applied to a close friend, especially a female friend invited to be present at birth. From this development the idea of a person who enjoys indulging in idle talk and by the 19th century idle talk or tittle-tattle itself.

G-spot:

The term "G-Spot" was **coined by Addiego et al. in 1981**, after the German gynecologist Ernst Grafenberg. The concept entered popular culture after the publication of *The G Spot and Other Recent Discoveries About Human Sexuality* by Ladas et al. in 1982. An anonymous questionnaire was distributed to 2350 professional women in the United States and Canada with a subsequent 55% return rate. Of these respondents, 40% reported having a fluid release (ejaculation) at the moment of orgasm. Further, 82% of the women who reported the sensitive area (Gräfenberg spot) also reported ejaculation with their orgasms.



*In the Ashes, Humanity
Burnt, TERRORISM Raised Its Face Out
Of Human Blood*

When peace bruised into pieces
And life ran from its doom,
I still had a trust, I still had a wish...
I watched in a lull, lifeless,
Soul dying, still wishing...
Peace will hold on, lives be preserved.
Smoke darkened, haziness engulfed,
Senses passed the unknown,
Fear grew to limits beyond,
Trust declining, Hopes burying..
Recalling it to be the end,
I wanted to sleep, Sleep , long dreams
A dull voice heard,
I woke from the death,
And a tumult uproar was all...
I realized the grave panic,

How in a moment lives shattered,
How in a moment dreams died,
How in a moment the place blazed in the fire of
inhumanity??
Shaken, Wounded , I howled,
Dying bodies, blood flowing,
Cried, wept in loud pains, In bits trust declined....
Hopes buried..... Somehow,
Gathered some faith, Ran around on death beds,
To see my people struggling,
Fighting for every breath, Encountering deep
hurts.
An anguish caused hatred, disgust filled,
Helpless I stood thinking...
Why, Why and why??

SWARATHMA

A **100 bucks** seemed nothing.
Though the name a little weird,
Strange Southies with strange beard.
Yet resounding was the rumour,
Defeated the mighties they had;
So we gulped the delay with honour,
Angst filled jovial comrade.
What followed was plain misery:
The unruly cursed,
Then the civilised cursed,
Yet the drunkards in their saga immersed.
Heavens! those 100 bucks not quite seem a tad
So was the prayer of each comrade



Multicoloured ,Multilingual ,Multi-cultural,
A multitude of curses they earned.
Dasvidaniya , Sayonara , Adieus,
Legend holds , never to north they returned.

ALL IS WELL MOM !

BY:- Corporal Tom Stewart

Preface: Its about a brit soldier stuck in trenches during WW-I ,writing a letter to his Mother.

I'm lying in a trench with a frozen spine,
Waiting that someday we'll reach the rhine.
Lice instead of Germans are a bigger worry,
As in my pants they've caused a flurry.
So says your son corporal tom,
All is well mom.



Rats have eaten most of the supplies,
Rest is covered by swarms of flies.
Steak is harder than army boot,
Lungs and promotion orders are buried in soot.
Shooting pesky rats gives a temporary high,
Exploding shells have replaced stars in the sky.
Though it's like living in hell's dorm,
All is well mom.



We kicked a football to the German side,
But of bullet punctures it prematurely died.
Exploding bombs are better than soldiers' rhyme,
Stealing turnips from kitchen is a serious crime.
While the queen is snoozing on velvet couch,
That wound still hurts OUCH!!
As says every doughboy ,Anzac, or Pom.
All is just fine mom.

Mat Karo Jyada Ka Irada !

Superpower in the makingEconomic powerhouse.....These titles mean nothing in a country where the 40 % of youth population smoke their lives out in ashes. Before entering the college life, I never

anticipated such a scene at NIT,K. But I was wrong!!! Utterly wrong!!!! Not only I am surrounded by chunks of smokers but even my friends who hated smoking now enjoy the taste of nicotine.

I heard that *nicotine takes away the individual's ability to choose* but I hope same is not the case with you, my dear friend. Leave smoking before the world leaves you way behind in ashes. Quit smoking now.....

Within 20 minutes after you smoke last cigarette, Your body begins a series of changes that continue for years.

20 minutes after quitting:
heart beat drops.

12 hours after quitting:
Carbon Monoxide level in blood drops to normal.

2 weeks to 3 months after quitting:
Your heart attack risk begins to drop. Your lung function begins to improve.

3 to 9 months after quitting:
Your cough and shortness of breath decreases.

1 year after quitting:

Your added risk of coronary heart diseases is half to that of smoker's.

5 years after quitting:

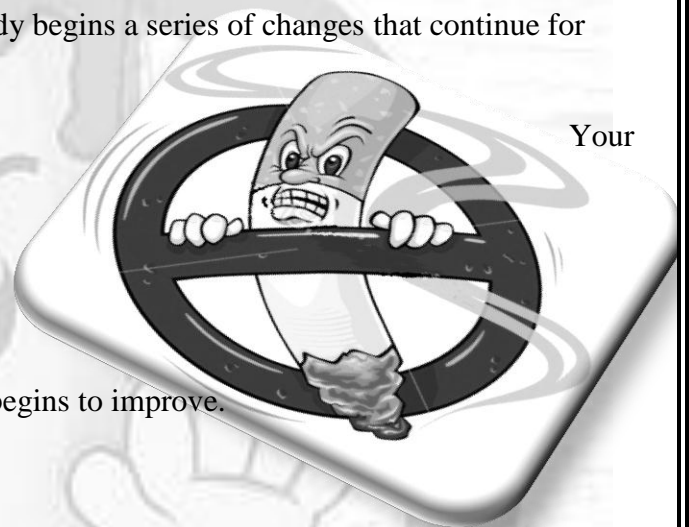
Your stroke risk is reduced to that of a non-smoker after 5- 15 years.

10 years after quitting:

Your lung cancer death rate is half of smoker's. Your risk of cancer of mouth, throat, oesophagus, bladder, kidney and pancreas decreases.

15 years after quitting:

risk of coronary heart diseases is back to that of non smoker's.



Don't turn a deaf ear to this advice. Choice lies with you,

What should I wish you :-

Success is in life

Or

Get well soon

(As cancer is curable !!)