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THE STUDENT NEWSLETTER OF GCT

06

| Meet The River People
Of GCT

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STUDENT JOURNALIST COUNCIL

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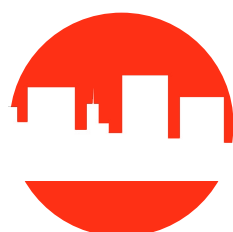


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From the Editorial Board

Hello all,

With the new academic year getting underway, its time for some transformation. Succeeding the incipient volume of Aperture, the second volume is here in its own pristine form. Be it the COE or the hostels with the loudest noise, we have it all covered. The Student Journalist Council apart from being the official media body of GCT also aims to buoy up the students towards their passion in photography, sketching, cartoons and writing their opinions on the exigent issues. One such initiative is the Photo Gallery set by SJC at our college premises on the World Photography Day, the day on which "ClickPick" had been launched in our Facebook page, a platform for the photographers to showcase their talents. As the pictures have the loudest voice, we are gearing up to let our characters from paper jump into the digital screen. These characters in the comic series will present the customary activities of GCT in the form of cartoons born from our cartoonists' ideas. The comic strips will be available in our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sjcgct). We thank all the students and staff who had taken part in our past surveys. Be it compliments or criticisms, mail it to us at sjcgct@gmail.com; we are always open to feedbacks.

TEAM APERTURE - 2.1

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Mr. Communication fails to **SPEAK!**



illustration by Pravin

One dream. One passion. One goal. Rooted in the freshmen, uniquely qualified in sophomore, bedazzled in prefinal and finally all dressed up for the white collar job. Talent, aspiration and skill may end up futile when one is not fully equipped with the prowess of communication. English, being the universal language has become indispensable for the entrepreneurs too.

The variety nullified

GCT has the uniqueness of being defined by its students. The colorful mixture of knowledge never conks out to trigger new ideas. But presently, the talk around town is on how effectively these smart minds can verbalize. Each student is technically effective in English as proved by the answer scripts in high school, after all, the saying goes “a good foundation implies half the work done”. So, where does the problem take its root? The absence of practicing it as a means of communication among the peer pulls them marginally below the line.

A sour apple

With the view of providing a helping hand, the course “communication in English” is provided in the freshmen year to cross the gap, but, being new to the environment it takes time to get their emotions settled;

much less express it. So, the topsy turvy of the nuances. Additionally, hours are spent on several activities to help build the fluency, but unfortunately the lack of involvement deludes the efforts. A raw fact is that trolls and fun are on the rise and this playful sport blurs the pursuit of many with the fear creeping up. At the end of the day they succumb to parody.

Tick tock

The major misapprehension going wild in GCT is the intellection of domineering the language with “time” in a cup. Often over confidence betrays us. The fluency can only be conquered over time and not a spell to be cast a month or two prior “the hot seat”.

Delusive assumptions

All and sundry have their interests and urge to fly high and become a pro in conversing. Of the several ways glaring, the most cliched “Continually listening to English conversations sure increases the flag in it” unfortunately is the magnet. Being in the late teens and early twenties the listen, practice and conquer cycle is altered and we fall victim to learn, memorize and reproduce. As an add on we are not as equal to an infant in terms of the grasping power and hence the stalemate.

The feary “fear”

Hearts racing, palms sweaty, heavy breathing and foggy mind? No, not a heart attack, it's stage fright! Fear is another major aspect in GCT that takes us deep down to tartarus. Mere thought of addressing a gathering gives few the jitters. In order to trick the “fear” quotient of human emotions the magic lies in understanding it. Appraising oneself and working to overcome with determination brings the success story.

The forgotten spell

Words in hard print are not an immediate attraction and are left for the dusty cobwebs. This forgotten leisure happens to be the good old way to improve vocabulary and to understand the context of speech. The more diverse the books are the more easier it becomes to get hold of the subtleness.

In a nutshell, it is high time to develop an attitude to converse in English at the drop of a hat and prove wrong the misconception running around. Additionally, rather than considering English as a broad way, it is mandatory to see it as an art and enjoy the beauty while silently taking measures to empower and give life to the foreign language. ■

NO FOOD WASTAGE

- where food meets hunger

Small intentions and deeds can bring about a huge difference. Such a spark in the mind of Padmanaban Gopalan, a production engineering graduate (2014 batch) from GCT, has not only made him a successful entrepreneur but also a socialist who has been aiding the people in need. Padmanaban talks about his past, present and future ventures in a talk with the Student Journalist Council.

How and when did the idea of becoming an entrepreneur come to your mind? Do you have any inspiration?

I have been consistently involved in various social awareness and implementation projects from my college days. I am very passionate towards change making ideas and problem solving strategies to help the society. During my college days I have made some ideas like green engineer, zero paper events, etc. It was a matter of great pride to study in Coimbatore, the Manchester of South India, for its exceptional entrepreneurial spirit. The city has continuously motivated me to work on social entrepreneurship from my college days. I have always wanted to face and admire challenges in life. I started SPICE Foundation – A Social Venture Promoting Alternative Education and Utheta – a technology start up. For the year 2014-2015, I have taken up something that is very close to my heart, the no food waste drive. The thought came to me on October 16th, World Food Day, while taking a session in Carmel Garden matriculation school. I weighed the dustbins of the school and was shocked. I similarly weighed the dustbins of different schools for a sample study. I found a strange fact that annually about 9,45,000 kgs of food goes to landfills or to the corporation garbage from institutions in my city alone. I then thought of the quantity of food that would be thrown away from restaurants, parties and functions. This made me take up a mission to stop food waste in my city.

What were the challenges you faced and how were you able to overcome them?

The biggest challenge lies in managing the time to recover food. It is highly important to collect the excess food immediately (usually within half an hour) and deliver them to the needy before they get spoiled. Getting volunteers was tough initially. Also, I had to carry food in shopper bags using public transport buses; I kept on

doing the work. Slowly many people joined after experiencing the happiness of feeding the hungry by just serving as the bridge! *Stop speaking, get into action, feel the pain of failure, learn and move on to taste the success.* This is my mantra.

How big is your network/organization? Are you satisfied with the progress?

Yes, the team currently has ten members (including me!) who work full time. Hoping to grow, stay steady and positive. I am very much happy with the “SUPER 10”.

Are there any partners in your business? How big is their role?

Partners play a very great role. While I was starting my business my close friends were with me, but now I miss them, the journey of life will never make you work together with closed ones. There were a lot of hurdles in our families, I did not and will not give up my vision, no matter what! Now I have a great friend Sudhakar with me, who handles the waste management sector of the company and we have one more batchmate Sathish working with Sudhakar in the same sector. They take complete responsibility in making the waste management concern so great. My close friends Dinesh and Hari provide me with thoughts and positive energy, hope we will unite back more stronger soon. Waiting for them with more energy this time.

How do you manage the financial requirements?

We all manage to earn Rs.15,000/ month. I knew its going to be tough for 3 years, but its going good for now since I need to invest back on my start ups and ideas.

How did GCT help in molding or shaping your career?

I chose production engineering. The course taught me innovation, marketing, entrepreneurship and a little bit of management. We had taken a vow that every year we would develop something that would be of some use to the public or college. Maybe because of our enthusiasm, our college principal and teachers gave us permission to go out and explore things on our own. GCT gave me experience of being the founder of Green club, Students Research Foundation and the general secretary of production department. I love my college, my professors, my friends, my juniors for giving me the taste of success, failure, compassion, motivation, fear and strength.

Your message to your juniors and other youngsters?

“Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success.”

- Swami Vivekananda.

Follow this completely. Think global and act local, the world will watch you. Have a mission for your life. Everybody's finger print is unique, so be unique. You are born in the world for a reason and not just to pass by as clouds.



Your short term
and long term goals?

These are some of my missions for life:

- To come up with innovative solutions to solve the eminent social problems.
- To be ambitious and persistent, tackling major social issues and offering new ideas for wide-scale change.
- To find what is not working and solve the problem by changing the system, spreading the solution and persuading the entire society to move in different directions.
- To be a visionary but also a realist, and to be ultimately concerned about practical implementation of vision in the first place.
- To present user-friendly, understandable and ethical ideas that encourage maximum number of citizens to stand up, seize the idea, and implement it.
- To be mass recruiter of local change makers.

Being a young entrepreneur,
what was your greatest
recognition?

- Winning the California Pollination Project Visionary Award for my idea and project - No Food Waste - A Global Recognition among 130 Applications from different countries , only 4 got selected and in public voting we won the award.
- Presented in Regional Falling walls Conference, 2014 at IIT Madras.
- Received an award from Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries - 87 year old entrepreneurial association in India.
- Presented in Global Student Entrepreneur Awards, National Level at Anna University, Chennai. One of the top 16 start ups in finals.
- Received Seva Rathna Award from Dr. Ponraj , Scientific Advisor of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, from Nehru Group of Institutions.

What was your mindset at
the time of placements?
Was your family supportive?

May 1 is the day I decided to choose entrepreneurship as career. May 2 - I had two options in hand i.e. to join in the company I got placed or to start my own. I sent an email to the HR about my vision and just signed an application to start my company and organisation. Getting placed was to me a small aim, which is called as crime. Lets move on with challenges, experience life and make success.

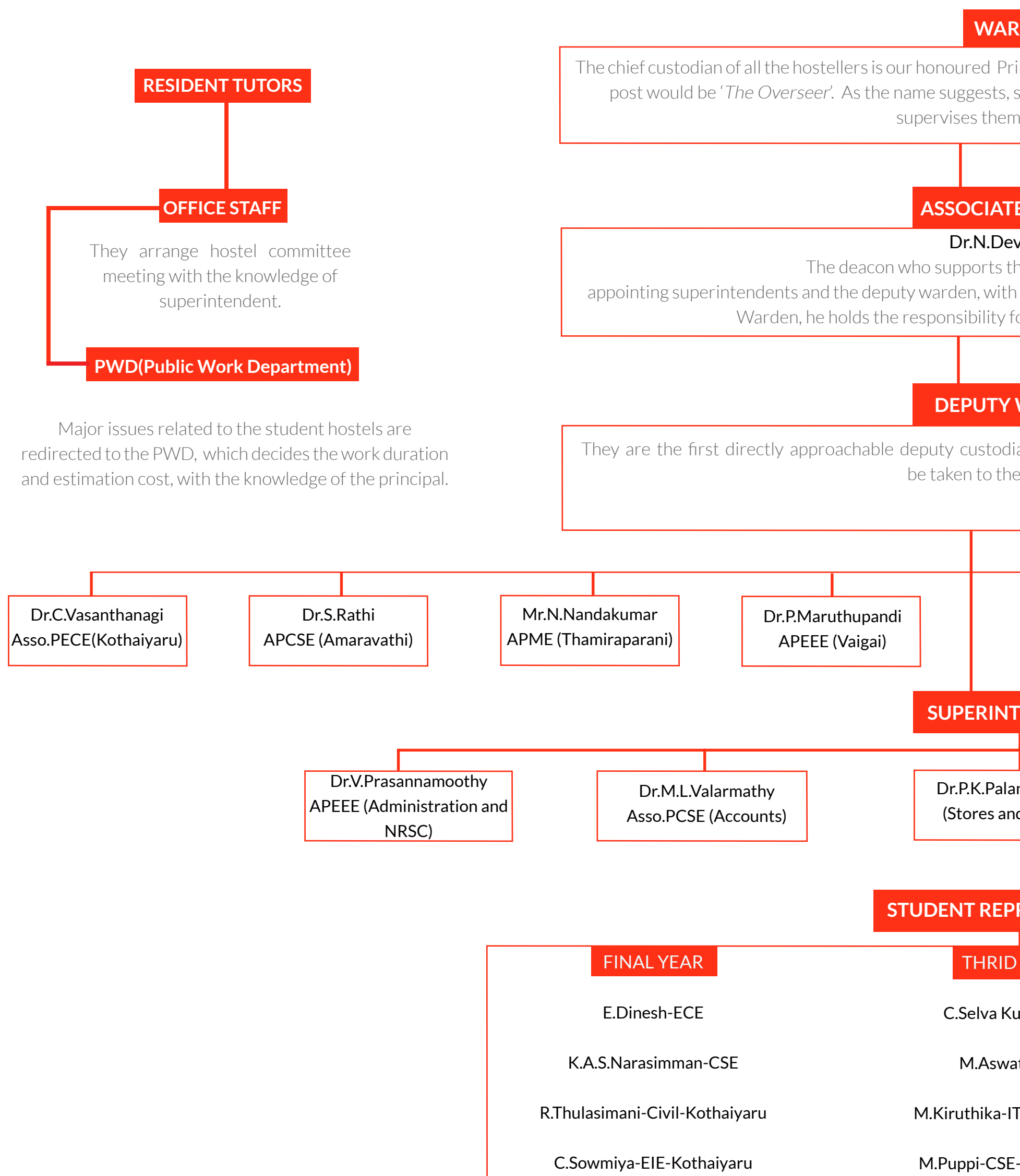
Means of contacting your
organization?

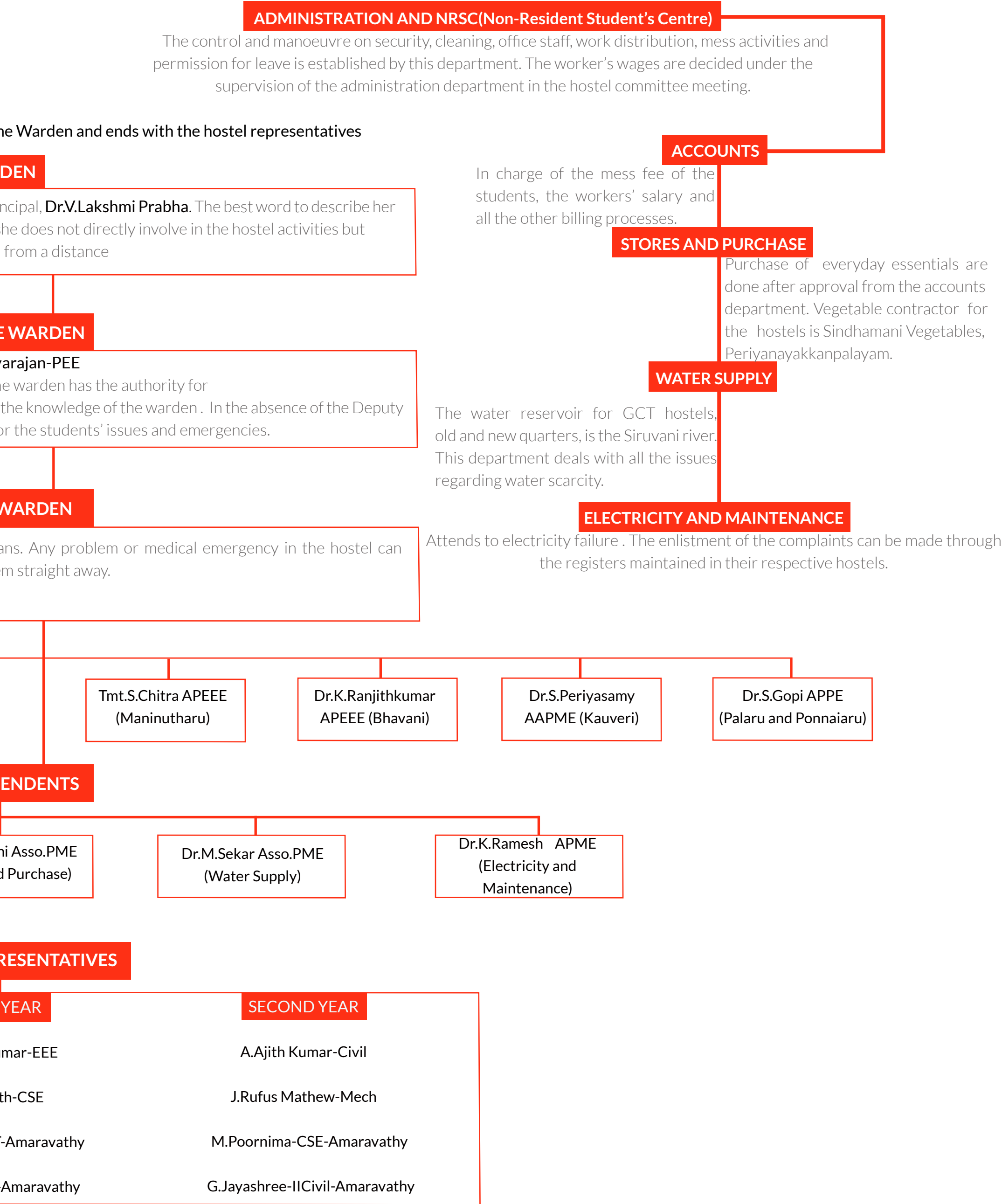
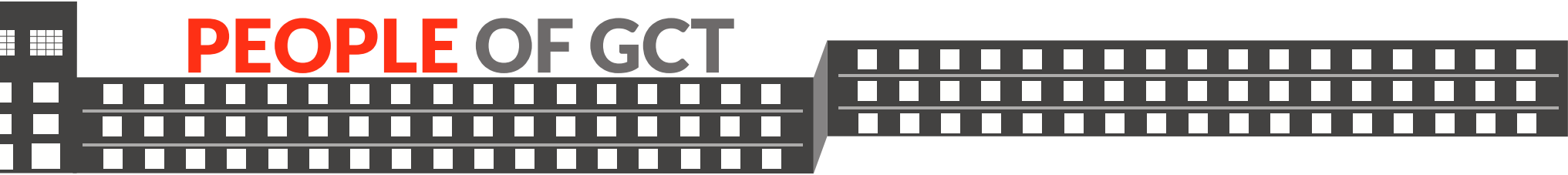
Connect with me at www.agpadmanaban.com facebook.com/agpadmanaban to know more about my start ups and initiatives.

MEET THE RIVER

Hostel can be called no lesser than a second home for the students who come to stay away from their native environment. A number of responsibilities are assigned to duty-bound people to ensure the safety and surety of the students. Unlike other institutions, GCT hostellers enjoy the freedom and privilege of electing their peers as their leaders. Here, the nine rivers of GCT and their approachable heads are presented for the students to find it easy to deal with their problems during their four year stay.

The hierarchy of administration starts with the





“GCT - Avenue de la recherches”

“Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.”

-Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

Research can be anything ranging from an endeavour to unveil the hidden secrets of nature, to the invention of artificial systems that challenge it. An engineer must train himself to implement the scientific and mathematical theories onto practical use, and this explains the concept of research. The research in our college has been supported by a variety of organizations like TEQIP (Technical Educational Quality Improvement Programme), SRF (Student Research Foundation), DST (Department of Science and Technology) and AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education). Research in GCT has never looked this promising with various opportunities available at student disposal. Student Research Foundation (SRF), Centre of Excellence labs set up in Civil and Electrical and Electronics Department, e-Yantra Robotics Lab has brought the much needed fresh lease of life that the college needed. Student Journalist Council - GCT takes a peek into the

current scenario. This article will be an insight on the various research opportunities available in our college.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The departments of Civil engineering and Electrical and Electronics Engineering have been chosen for the establishment of the “Centre of Excellence” for the environmental studies and alternative energy research respectively. Both the projects have been granted a sum of Rs.5 crore under the TEQIP Phase II programme by the NPIU, Noida.

The COE in civil engineering department with Dr. M. Isaac Solomon Jebamani as the co-ordinator and Dr. Jayanthi as the novel officer and principal investigator has set some objectives such as the development of a conducive centre for R & D activities and the enhancement of the revenue generation through better Industry-Institute interaction for solving industrial or practical problems using the emerging technologies in the field of

Environmental Engineering. Their short term goals also include the betterment of the higher studies in the Departments of Chemistry, Physics and Biotechnology.

The department of Electricals and Electronics Engineering has Dr. N. Devarajan as the co-ordinator and principal investigator. Their mission includes mutually-beneficial collaboration of the faculty, students and industry, providing a national and international centre for the innovations in their chief areas of research i.e. harnessing solar energy and wind power.

Although the researchers have been submitting impressive results, the research students do face some hindrances which slows down the projects' progress. Some of the difficulties include the transfer of research materials from one lab to the other across various departments, and some experiments demand the constant monitoring of the samples for which the students will have to stay extra hours in the laboratories (the time of closure of the labs makes it tough for them).

THE LUCKY VILLAGE!

The COE has planned to move a step further in implementing the research works outside the laboratories by adopting a village named ‘Pachnampathi’ near Iruttupallam. A team of faculty from GCT had visited the village and here are some excerpts from an interview with one of the team members:

What kind of a place is Pachnampathi?

Pachnampathi is a village with a population of around 20 families and it lacks the basic needs of the current generation human life such as electricity, education, toilets, water, etc. The natives have farming and breeding goats as their chief occupations. The people there show scarce interest in education and one of the reasons for this is that the children have to travel a long distance to reach their schools. Open defecation has been a major problem causing various diseases in the village. Thanks to the researchers in the Env. Engg. sector of GCT, for the village will soon get to use the 12 biotoilets (i.e. toilets where the human wastes can be used to produce electricity) and a borewell. It was tough convincing some people of the village for the construction of toilets as they did not want to change their practise! We take the help of the NSS and the NGOs for spreading awareness among the locals about the impacts of open defecation. (The above mentioned plans are waiting for approval from NPIU).

<u>ELECTRICALS AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING</u>	<u>CIVIL ENGINEERING</u>
Coordinator Dr.N. Devarajan	Coordinator Dr. M. Issac Solomon Jebamani
Financial Nodal Officer Dr. P. MaruthaPandi	Financial Nodal Officer Dr. S. Jayanthi Dr. T. Meenambal
Goals <div>Increase social use of produced engineering R&D through technology transfer and commercialization.</div> <div>Increase research output through publications.</div> <div>Increase in joint programmes / projects with international research organizations.</div>	Goals <div>Develop a centre which is conducive for R & D activities in thrust areas of environmental engineering.</div> <div>Enhanced revenue generation through better Industry-Institute Interaction.</div> <div>Interaction with industries in the area of new technologies to solve industrial/practical problems in the fields of Environmental Engineering.</div>
Research Areas Off grid solar module Grid tied solar module Wind and solar hybrid module Wind power systems	Research Areas Microbial unit Process engineering unit Technology transfer team
Collaborative Institutions Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. National Institute of Technology, Trichy. National Institute of Technology, Calicut. Center for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai.	Collaborative Institutions Michigan State University, USA. University of Texas, Arlington, USA, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA. INRA, Narbonne, France. University of Sydney, Australia.

Excerpts from an interview with Dr.V.Prasanna Moorthy

- 1.Sir, how did you get the opportunity for this project?

Every year, the Phoenix Contact launches its International Xplore New Automation Award competition. My Project was selected as one among the 100 projects from across the world. My project on automation components is sponsored by the company, and so, the college decided to sponsor it majorly.
- 2.Please tell us more about your project

A novel design of mechanical structure with effective controller of dual axis tracking is proposed for 6.25 kW solar systems for agricultural irrigation pump. The dual axis solar tracking system was developed based on sun position predicted by panel trajectory calculation. According to the database detail of sun position, the panel movement is controlled by PLC controller. The hourly movement which is horizontal is based on azimuth angle and the seasonal movement which is vertical is based on the elevation angle.
- 3.Which stage is your project currently at?

Mechanical design has been done. We are waiting for the location selection.
- 4.We would like to know about the funding of this project.

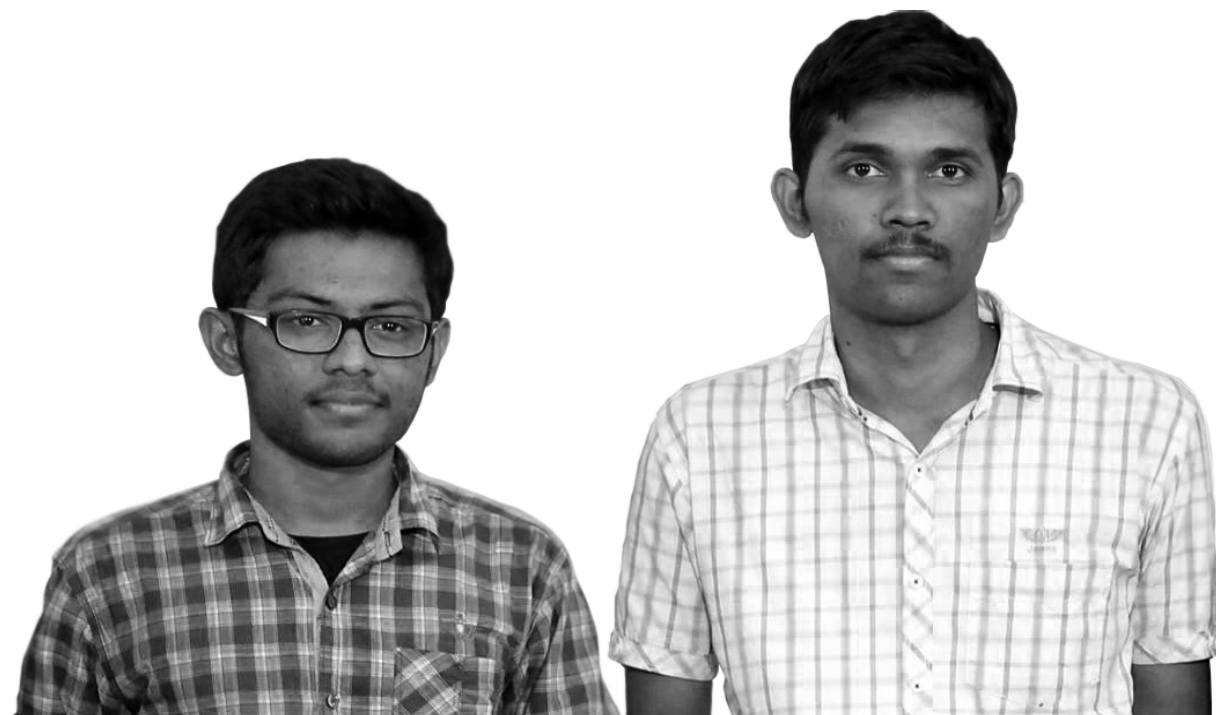
Phoenix contact German sponsored by nearly 3000 Euro-control components, GCT sponsored by nearly Rs900000/- under Technical Education Quality Improvement (TEQIP-II) Center of Excellence for Alternate Energy Sources (COE-AES).
- 5.Are students involved in this project? In what way they are likely to assisting you?

Yes the interested students of M.E (Power System Engineering) II year and final year EEE students are being involved.
- 6.In your point of view, how is the research opportunity in GCT and the interest of students towards it?

There is a lot of opportunity at present in GCT with the interested students pursuing research in different fields. The Student Research Foundation (SRF) is helping the students with innovative ideas and projects in any area, under TEQIP –II. In our college, two Centers of Excellence has been established in Civil and Electrical & Electronics Engineering departments. Our college has a lot of qualified research supervisors from Anna University, Chennai and its research centre has nearly 100 Ph.D. scholars doing their research. The research interested P.G and U.G students with innovative ideas can approach the research supervisor or research scholar for guidance.

An Interview with the **QUIZ MASTERS**

Ashwin Kumar & Vishnu Prasad



1. Tell us about you and your teammate.

Hi!

I am Ashwin from final year mechanical department. My quizzing partner is Vishnu from IBT. Basically, we both have similar interests as in pursuing a career in management. We also have this quirk of getting intrigued by all the strange and interesting stuff happening around us. I love literature and philosophy and of late have taken quite a liking to sitcoms and Hollywood movies (Thanks to Deepak Krishna for being the indefatigable source!). As far as I know, Vishnu is more into politics, history and geography with added interest in THE mentalist!

2. What inspired you to pursue this path?

Passion would be the chief ingredient. Rarely can you see anyone with genuine passion these days. Vishnu was extremely passionate about quizzing and that rubbed on to me. We did not win a single event in the first 5 to 7 outings we took. And in most of them we paid to enter into those contests. But everytime we would be off by just one point below the cut-off. That really drove us mad. We realised it would just be a matter of time before we closed in on the gap. And we were quite right in our estimation!

3. When did all start for the both of you?

I started quizzing only after I came to college. Vishnu had started long back having won many competitions in school level. We were amateur quizzers here but in third year we were allotted adjacent rooms in the hostel. We planned to go to a business quiz initially to see how we would fare. So, yeah, the business quiz at KPR business school kick-started our quizzing journey!

4. What's your ambition in life?

My aim is to achieve a position where I would be interested every second of my life. I know it sounds pretty vague but what college has taught me is this- if you are not interested in what you do, you can never become the best (basically it is just a summary of Steve Jobs Stanford address, but that guy sure knew a thing or two about ambition).

5. In what ways did you train yourself for these competitions?

As Rangarajan Sir of Coimbatore Quiz Circle says the best way to win a quiz is to attend more and more quizzes. It eventually boils down to how many ideas and question formulations you have

been exposed. Slideshare is a great resource. Also facebook quiz pages help you keep updated. But these are just secondary sources. Primary source is books. The more robust and diversified your reading the better your chances.

6. How did you feel when facing other professional contestants?

Intimidated, obviously. But that is the fun in quizzing. When you try to beat better people than you, you will not realize how much you have grown yourself. Still it would be foolish to assume we have entered into professional leagues of quizzing. We are still amateur college quizzers with a reasonable amount of success in college circuits.

7. What do you expect from your juniors?

It's great to see many juniors entering into the quizzing arena. Santosh and Vimal both from 3rd year mechanical have shown remarkable interest in quizzing, accompanying us quite frequently. It will not be long before they get cracking. Gnanasudhan from 2nd year civil is another budding quizzier with loads of enthusiasm. So I would say the future of quizzing in GCT looks bright.

