

X POST



Sanjidhya Special



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EDITORIAL

"What would happen if there were no past or future? There would also be no present for the present is the interaction of the two."

Sanidhya stands as the epitome of the interaction of the glorious past of XIMB and its promising future. It exemplifies the bond that exists between this great institute and its alumni. What could be better than Sanidhya to mark the first issue of X-Post for the academic year 2009-10? So we bring to you an exclusive coverage of Sanidhya '09 from across seven cities all over the country. These get-togethers saw people from all facets of life coming together and reliving the exuberant moments of togetherness they had shared long back in the safe haven of their Alma Mater. This issue covers the times that were spent, the memories that were cherished and the enthralling ambience which prospered and helped create newer bonds.

We are immensely thankful to the alumni for their enthusiastic participation without which organising an event of this scale in such difficult times when the economy has not fully recuperated, would have been a mere dream. We hope you relish going through the following pages and find your Alma Mater closer to you more than ever before.

**SANIDHYA - OF
ALUMNI & FRESHMAN**

Andre Gide once said, 'The most decisive actions of our life ... are most often unconsidered actions'. These actions lend a new meaning to our lives. As has been rightly remarked, the decisions we take are mostly instinctive. But the moments that follow, evaluating the outcomes, could tend to make anyone uneasy and restless.

Each of us might well have felt the butterflies in our stomachs after we committed to join XIMB earlier this year. Such are the times when one is on the lookout for reassurances. For me, it arrived in the form of an invitation to Sanidhya '09. Little did I know, on seeing the invite, that this very event would introduce me to the phenomenon called Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar. The phenomenon which was soon going to become, my way of life.

Sanidhya '09 gave me the golden opportunity of sharing space with the esteemed alumni of XIMB and also with my immediate seniors, the students of 2008-10 batch. In other words, I had the privilege of getting to know people who have lend their hands to shape XIMB, as we see it today. The one common thing that could not go unnoticed by a discerning eye was the passion that each of them shares for the institute. It might have been ages since most of them stepped out of the campus gates,



but each one has set aside a special corner in their hearts for the institute and its memories. The discipline, knowledge and culture that students imbibe during their stay at XIMB lasts much longer than the couple of years spent within the campus. .

It was right there at Sanidhya '09 that I discovered a sense of belonging and the feeling of acceptance. The anxiety had been replaced by humungous expectations. I was now eagerly looking forward to be a part of the magnificent legacy that awaited me.

**INTO A NEW
TOMORROW**

*“There I was, Standing at the gate,
The mighty institution, Beckoning my fate.
A packed academic schedule, And presentations galore,
Meetings for projects and assignments, There's barely time to snore!
Yes we party and how- JLTs are ultimate fun!
The unique culture here rocks, Parichay, and then Sambandh.
The XIM journey is on, And I am cruising along,
Each minute brings with it, Unknown challenges unfurled.”*

When I walked through those gates for the first time, fear and excitement ran through my heart. Anxiety ran through my nerves, unaware of the life I will be experiencing at this place. The first week aroused a lot of apprehensions and everything was very different from the picture I had painted in my mind.

Today, walking along the hallowed portals of XIMB, I feel at home- as if I belong here. The institution, within three weeks, has so easily entrenched itself within me that I, at times, feel awed! Truly, life here has no full-stop. Earlier, I had only heard about the rigorous schedule here. Three weeks in- and I have experienced it all! Quizzes, group activities, assignments, deadlines- all are sinking in. 24-hour days seem just not enough! The buzz of activities all around us all the time, keeps us charged and I do feel now that a 5-hour sleep here is actually a luxury!

The 3-day Orientation, first of all, set the right tone for us where we were told to 'unlearn' and learn, to survive and thrive here. As days pass, I realise how true the advice was! After that, there has been a whirlwind of events starting with Honourable Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri. Naveen Pattnaik inaugurating the New Academic Block to Shri. H.M.Nerurkar, **Executive Director (India & South East Asia)**



of Tata Steel, giving us valuable lecture to ArthaShastra-2009. Intra XIM events like Viva '09, Maxim's Brand Storm and Ximahr's Maze Mania have been a revelation- not to forget the ecstatic experiences of Parichay, Sambandh and the ever-rocking JLTs! The various student committee presentations continue to unravel the true flavour of XIMB, with brilliant flash presentations and the deeply committed and passionate leaders passing on the tradition of excellence to us.

MUMBAI

The X- sentiments could be sensed in the air all over majestically on May 23, 2009. The special occasion was our very own Sanidhya '09 at JP Banquet Hall, Mumbai which saw the concourse of large number of alumni gathered to refresh the memories of their Alma Mater. The speciality of the evening was that members from each batch of XIMB since its inception, witnessed it and nothing could stop them from feeling just ecstatic when the most senior and the most junior XIMBians cut the cake together. Professor Saveeta Mohanty represented the faculty. The event started with a flash which left everybody spellbound. The spirit of XIMB turned alive and everybody was lost in the nostalgic memories of the life at the institute. Xpressions, Maxinations, JLT's, Birthdays, Game launch and the list goes on and on...



Thereafter everyone present shared their experiences of the life after XIM, with each other giving rise to an immense sense of belonging.



They could not stop themselves from smiling on remembering the special nicknames they had given to their friends and the popular incidents during their life at XIMB, the famous one-liners of various faculty members and the much feared assignments and deadlines. The true block spirit and the everlasting passion for it were simply mesmerizing. The delicious food served by Olive Bar and Kitchen made the evening more relishing. As any Sanidhya is incomplete without JLT, this one was definitely not an exception. Every member danced to the energizing music with enthusiasm. The hard work of the organizers really drew its true meaning and everybody took along newer memories to cherish and feel proud for in the years to come.

KOLKATA

On 23rd May, as the rest of Kolkata was drowned in their usual grind, Hotel Golden Park in Ho Chi Mihn Sarani wore a different look as ex-XIMBians poured in to celebrate Sanidhya '09 and relive the best two years of their life.

As has been the tradition of XIMB, the programme started with a flash showing a snapshot of life at XIMB followed by the cake cutting ceremony. The Director, Fr. P.T. Joseph S.J and the Faculty Alumni Coordinator, Prof. Latha Ravindran graced the occasion as spoke about how the infrastructure has evolved over



the years, the various initiatives that have been taken by the institute and the importance of the alumni to the Institute.

Though the alumni started speaking about their careers and work life, the talk soon moved to the many funny and lighter moments they had shared in XIMB. It was a great experience for the future members of the XIMB family as they got to interact with the alumni and got a first-hand account of what they would be experiencing soon.

The sumptuous dinner that followed and the conversations that paralleled gave way to the dance floor .With the DJ at his best; most of the alumni hit the dance floor reliving their JLT memories. And the newest members of XIMB got a flavour of JLT even before coming to XIMB.

The unspoken strong bond between the members of the XIMB family underlined the excitement and euphoria of the event. As Sanidhya came to an end, just one question lingered in everyone's minds- when will be the next Sanidhya?

CHENNAI

The superlatively sultry day of 23rd May 2009 turned out to be the day to celebrate togetherness and cherish memories. The euphoric aura of Sanidhya brought together the alumni of XIMB under an envelope of joy and pleasure. The Sanidhya marked its beginning with an address from Professor Sanjay Mohapatra of XIMB who also happens to be an alumnus of 93 batch. This was followed by a signature flash presentation which led the gathering in the lane of treasured memories of the glorious two years spent in XIMB.

The buzzing of multifarious news among the alumni made Sanidhya an arena of social linkage to XIMB. This day was further filled with enthusiasm when an IPL match (Chennai vs. Bangalore) was aired inside the banquet hall. Amongst all the cheering it instilled the feelings of togetherness and sportsmanship in the gathering. The Regional Coordinator, Mr.Venkatesh N. A. of the 2005 batch, donned the attire of Dhoni which reverberated everyone's passion for cricket.

People discussed about a lot of things from recession to their knotted bliss and many more which went on along with sumptuous dinner. Soon the dance floor was thrown open and everyone present was seen reliving the most memorable JLT experience. It's indeed very enthralling to have such an energetic and lively atmosphere among the alumni and we believe that this moment of togetherness however small it may be would leave enduring memories for a lifetime.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE !!!



DELHI

Sanidhya Delhi -An unforgettable evening - not only because it was on this evening that the XIMB Alumni came together to relive the memories of the two most fantastic years of their lives but because it was on this evening that the XIMB's past came together with its present to think about its future.

The event was organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi and was attended by the most eminent personalities who had once called XIMB their home - Mr. Partha Sarthi Jha Batch of 1994, Vice President, Pepsi (Consumer insights), Mr. Ankur Sridhar Batch of 2003, Vice President, HSBC (Corporate banking) and Mr. Sujesh P. Batch of 2006 from McKinsey were among the 80 odd alumni who had graced the occasion.

The event began with Prof. W.S.Williams, Dean (Academics) sharing his thoughts on the student life at XIMB and giving his deep insights on how the alumni can become an integral part of the process of growing the value of brand XIMB. This evening would not have been the same without the dedicated efforts of Mr. Sankalp Patnaik Batch of 2000, the Regional Coordinator for the Delhi alumni meet.

The event saw many new happenings where the alumni showed great concern for their Alma Mater. An intense discussion about the college placement scenario took place wherein many issues and suggestions came to the fore. The scope of improving the XIMB placement by throwing open the gates to new companies of entrepreneurial nature was discussed.

Mr. Raja Mohanty, an alumnus of the 1989 batch, spoke about the role that SMEs can play in extending diverse job profiles to the students. Suggestions regarding increasing the scope of the Mentorship program were also made. At the end of this fruitful discussion, an initiative was taken to form a committee consisting of the alumni who would work towards implementing these ideas.

After the discussion, the evening took a lighter tone. Many old bonds were revived and many new ones were formed. These relationships were then celebrated on the dance floor where many were reintroduced to the taste of our very dear JLTs.

The evening was in one word - Grand. It went to show that once we step into the XIMB campus, we are branded "FOR LIFE" and come what may, nothing can change the position that this place holds in our lives.



HYDERABAD



The luxurious Marriott Hotel Hyderabad was the place to be on the day of 30th May 2009. It was about to witness the unison of illustrious XIMBians residing in the beautiful city of Hyderabad. The picturesque location beside the pool added to the ambience of the party. The program began with an address by Fr George Joseph, the Dean Finance. This was followed by very innovative flash presentations which have become a trademark for 'X-Creativity'.

Conversations flowed along with the drinks and snacks. People bonded over their experiences both inside and outside XIMB. . A sumptuous dinner ensured that the guests enjoyed not just the ambience but the trademark XIMBian hospitality as well.

After the dance or more famous Just Like That, JLT, was in full swing till 2am. A good share of people hit the dance floor and the others cheered for their friends. Any number of thanks to Mr Bipin Pendyala EPGDM Batch of 2007 and Mr Debasis Pattnaik, Batch of 1989 would not be enough to justify their sincerity and dedication towards organising Sanidhya Hyderabad.

We XIMBians firmly believe that such great union comes through unison of hearts and minds and at Sanidhya we make that happen over and over again.

BANGALORE

Royal Arcade, Dickenson Road, Bangalore witnessed the fabulous congregation of incredible XIMBians. It was 30th May, 2009 when the people with an everlasting bond called XIMB united and reiterated "Sanidhya". The evening started with Fr. P.T Joseph S.J giving the welcome address and the signature flash presentation. This was led into an interesting and constructive discussion involving the infrastructural developments taking place in the institute. The alumni were delighted and glad to hear that their very own Alma Mater is scaling new heights. Then an introduction session took place where people shared their experiences at the institute. Those funny anecdotes enchanted the atmosphere with nostalgia.

The coordinators were in for surprise when more than the expected number of enthusiastic XIMBians turned out to refresh their memories.



The interesting part was that the people from the very first batch to the present marked their presence to celebrate the spirit of XIMB.

Mr. Mainak Das of batch 2009 was congratulated on being getting married and was wished happiness for the rest of his life. He was pleased to see the affection and eventually invited everyone to his marriage.

The nostalgic and fun filled atmosphere continued till 12 at night with dinner and dance, JLT as it is popularly known in XIMB. The evening renewed the long lasting 'X-bonds' and the feeling of belonging amongst the proud alumni. "Sanidhya-09" thus engraved a new chapter in the wonderful memories of being an XIMBian.

BHUBANESWAR

On Saturday the July 18, 2009, Pal Heights witnessed people from all walks of life, coming together, uniting and rediscovering the magic of XIMB-experience through 'Sanidhya' the XIMB annual alumni meet.

Even the heavy monsoon shower could not dampen the enthusiasm of the XIMBians and they turned out in large numbers with their families to relive the precious moments spent in their Alma Mater. The meet saw the confluence of past and present as representatives of the oldest as well as the current batch were present.

The program commenced with a flash which captured the snapshots of the life in XIMB- enlivening, exalting and exquisite. The air got filled with a common feeling of nostalgia as every alumnus



present there relived the moments he had spent in this great institute. This was followed by an address by Fr. P.T. Joseph who stressed on the importance of alumni to the institute. Professor Banikant Mishra was also present at the occasion.

The exhilarating music and the exotic ambience soon transcended the atmosphere and the hall was abuzz with the alumni sharing their experiences with each other over drinks and snacks. The gathering got the chance to relive the 'just like that' experience or JLT as it is popularly called in XIMB when the dance floors were thrown open. As all good things come to an end so did 'Sanidhya Bhubaneswar-09'. But Sanidhya will return next year with more vigour and will help bond many more of the disciples of this temple of learning.

IN MEMORIAM

***“Those we love are never really lost to us—
For everywhere their special love lives on.”***



Siddharth Poduval (PGDM '04) melted off into the sun, as death embraced him on 13th July 2009, after a short battle with cancer. A very active and exceedingly helpful alumnus, Siddharth leaves behind a rich legacy of initiatives that have since become traditions at XIMB, be it Skill City, X-Stage and Onam Dinners. Tributes to this wonderful person have been flying in and we thought it appropriate to phrase our sorrows using the words of his dear and near friends and XIMBians.

“To capture the blessing that was Siddharth Poduval in a few lines would be doing him a disservice. This multi-faceted bundle of energy had his finger in every pie, and touched deeply every life that he came across...Founder member of X-Stage, his charm and natural good humour made him a star....He conceived Skill City the HR Strategy game, but he was not an HR major. He was a Marketing specialist who recognized a gap, and proceeded to drive his HR resources (meaning his friends!), to help him fill this gap.

His skill as an Organizer remains vivid post the first Onam celebration at XIMB. The taste of the best rasam and payasam, combined with the authenticity of banana leaf plates, and his traditional appearance in a Mund, will define Onam forever.

It took a special talent to be the last dancer to leave the JLT floor, and yet continue with his early morning jogging routine around the field; to never utter a discourteous word, and yet never forego on an argument, moral, spiritual or academic; to be a proud Keralite and yet cut across all divisive efforts of regional groupism and befriend everyone.

As a friend wrote to me last week, "Siddharth was just too special to be here for too long". I do wish this good thing could have lasted. He has left behind memories that stand as an example for us to follow --- in even temper, good humour, hard work and perseverance. He remains "one of the nicest people ever".

– Aastha Khandelwal (PGDM, 2004)

"... one of those guys in the senior batch who would go out of the way to help us. His endearing smile & down to earth attitude will always live in our memory.... His smile will always remain with us."

– Venkatesh N. A (PGDM, 2005)

...Siddharth Poduval aka Poduval 'maashe' aka Sid Pod aka Podu You are alive in my memories. Never will I forget that sparkling smile of yours."

– Narayan S (PGDM, 2005)

"...He was with his impish smile serving food, resplendent in the "mundu". When he gave me extra dessert, I joked that he would get a job on Day 1 because of this gesture. And sure enough, when he got into Tata Motors, he remembered that incident and joked "Sir, the payasam really worked"...We will miss him."

– Prof. S. Govindrajan

Truly, we will all miss him but the traditions that he has engendered will serve as a fitting memory of Siddharth Poduval for many future batches of XIMBians."