When Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ushered in a new India at the stroke of midnight on the 15th of August, 1947, he dreamed of a nation that would break the shackles of another civilization that had been imposed on us for 200 years, and surge forward on the path to excellence. Sixty Five years down the line, while it can be said that we have done the former with some gusto, the jury is still out on whether we have accomplished the latter. Of course, it is the easiest thing in the world to ride an imaginary moral horse and express our displeasure at our forefathers for not having brought the country forward ably enough. They did the best they could with what they had at their disposal. However, the onus now falls on this generation – particularly us who have the privilege of being educated in one of the country’s premier institutes.

It is a common fallacy that the prosperity of a nation is noted by observing the status of the most affluent. It is actually the least well-off who can give an idea about the progress a country has achieved. And if one considers the plight and the sheer numbers of the citizens who are suffering in abject poverty, then it becomes clear just how much we have left to achieve. For the IITKGP family, NSS has tried to provide both information and inspiration for the student volunteers to do what they can to forward the cause of social and economic development of the underprivileged in and around the campus, and of the country at large. The final frontier, however, cannot be achieved without a significant desire on the part of each individual to perform at least some social service, and we hope that such a day comes soon.

Why? Why does it have to be us at the forefront of the social revolution? Well, quite frankly, we have the most scope and ability to alter the face of this country. Being technologically empowered, and with education and opportunities abounding in our future, we can bring the true winds of change and progress. We are the children of that destiny on whom Pandit Nehru held high hopes for during his landmark speech. It could be the smallest of kind deeds to start with, maybe nothing more than saving up old clothes and donating them, or taking a fraction of our time to impart some basic and vital learning to those around us. And who knows? Decades down the line we could have accomplished deeds for which the society feels proud of us.

That is our appeal to all of you, especially the new batch of students who have just come through the portals of this hallowed institute. And we hope the Independence Day celebrations serve as an appropriate stimulus to bring about even more achievement in the coming academic session as we try our best to bring about the improvement of the conditions of the villages we serve in. So much of our time as youths is spent in bemoaning the state of our country, as a sort of justification for indulging in inaction. Of course the criticism for things not in order will continue, but when given the scope for actually improving the ground realities, we, as the children of this nation and its glorious destiny, should not shirk our basic duties. With that we wish you a very happy Independence Day 2012.
**Featured Volunteers**

**Gyan Prakash**
We created a good relation among the students and they were very positive from being taught by us.-Gyan Prakash

**Saif Khan**
During my stay in NSS for past 2 years I have learnt a lot and I am happy to contribute on my behalf for the betterment of the society.-Ishan Garg

**Ishan Garg**
**My motto was to** contribute as much as I could as a part of the team and maintain team spirit among my fellow volunteers.-Abir Das

**Abir Das**
I would like to find out poor people and workers like rickshaw pullers and others in our campus and hostels who can't send their children to school due to economic hardships. I want to arrange for the education of these children in the nearby local schools - Abhishek Dutta

**Krishnakant Sijariya**
During the first year, I was part of the NSS Group under Prof. S.S. Das and for second year, I have been performing my duty of designing and editing the NSS, IIT Kharagpur Newsletter, "Anuraag".-Krishnakant Sijariya

**Ayan Acharya**
As an NSS volunteer, I have always tried to abide by the NSS motto ‘Not me but You’.-Ayan Acharya

**Manpreet Chaudhury**
**So, working for welfare of** these poor people actually generates a feeling of self satisfaction and so am I involved in these activities through NSS, IIT Kharagpur - Manpreet Chaudhury

**Abhishek Datta**
Being inspired by the work of NSS, I have been conducting educational workshops for school students in different cities of the country for the last 1 year with Saif and Gyan. This summer I am organizing an awareness drive in rural areas of Bihar and Jharkhand with the co-ordination of respective governments and my team mate Saif Khan-Imbesat Ahmad

**Shabahat Shakeel**
I will definitely visit the school where I worked whenever possible to learn more about their requirements and the progress in students.-Shabahat Shakeel

**Imbesat Ahmad**
I covered all the event as a NSS Photographer and collected the data from many villages, Soladhar, Talbagicha were few of them.-Gyan Prakash

**Shabahat Shakeel**
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**Sanket Sagar Dash**
After almost completing two years with the village and the primary school I feel nostalgic to leave them.-Sanket Sagar Dash

**Puja Gorai**
I have played major role in celebration of republic day, independence day and other days of national importance.-Viligatla Manaswi

**Rohit Saraf**
Being a part of NSS, I not only realized the urgent need to do something meaningful for our society but the experience also brought a better person out of me.-Rohit Saraf

**Viligatla Manaswi**
As, my time is going to be over being in NSS and my interest in doing social work in really increasing, so I have joined G.Y.W.S. to be connected with the people in need, and do help whatever I can from my side.-Shubham Kumar

**Shubham Kumar**
Also back home I have taught my maid's kids and plan to continue the same. Also if God permits, in future I plan to help an Orphanage with all my support.-Puja Gorai

**Vinodhini C**
I will definitely visit the school where I worked whenever possible to learn more about their requirements and the progress in students.-Vinodhini C

**Saif Khan**
As an NSS volunteer, I have always tried to abide by the NSS motto ‘Not me but You’.-Ayan Acharya

**M Vivek Reddy**
In my second year I have mainly updated the NSS website, covered MGNREGA awareness camp at Soladahar village etc.-M Vivek Reddy

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Advisory Committee Meeting

NSS activities at IIT Kharagpur are aligned with academic session. We had our Advisory Committee Meeting at Board Room on July 18, 2012 chaired by our Director. We had in the meeting among others, the Regional Head of NSS from Kolkata; Secretary of Midnapur Welfare Society; Dean, Undergraduate Studies; Dean, Student Affairs; Assistant Registrar, Accounts; Coordinator, Extra Academic Activity; NSS student members and Program Officers.

Program Coordinator, NSS, IIT Kharagpur presented a visual walk-through of the activities carried out in academic session 2011-2012. Support of institute administration, local administration (S.D.O., B.D.O., Panchayet) and larger IIT Kharagpur community was thankfully acknowledged. The Advisory Committee sympathetically considered the difficulty faced due to non-receipt of entitled fund (Forty percent of the fund of FY 2011-2012 still pending) due to certain issues between centre and state. All appreciated the effort of young IITians. Regional Head of NSS was very pleased and advised a report submission procedure that would enable quicker dissemination of our work experience to NSS at national level.

Director, IIT Kharagpur encouraged NSS volunteers to take up solar lighting based initiative and pledged personal contribution towards that effort. Dean, Alumni Affairs & International Relations is helping us to get connected with one of our alumnus, an Magsaysay Award winner, who did pioneering work on this. Regional Head of NSS inspired NSS team by stating that two exploits of NSS, IIT Kharagpur were reported to Prime Minister. We are humbled. It increases our responsibility. He also wondered if there can be some technology focus. Since the NSS volunteers come from 1st and 2nd year UG students, we are communicating with faculty members and discussing the feasibility of adoption of the technology developed here for neighbourhood village / slum population. Two Program Officers have already started working on two leads. Secretary, Midnapur Welfare Association proposed workshop on child labour and their full support where they are implementing a Central Government program on eradication of child labour. The child labour issue had been a major discussion point among NSS volunteers. We look forward to some concrete work in this session. The Advisory Committee encouraged us to continue with the initiatives already undertaken and the team will certainly work on these suggestions.

The meeting ended with a 'Vote of Thanks'.
A Tribute

Chittaranjan Das is regarded as national hero for his immense contribution to India’s freedom struggle. He became the mayor of Calcutta Corporation after it was formed and also supervised the Gaya round of the Indian National Congress. Though a lawyer by profession, Chittaranjan went on to play a very important role in Indian struggle for independence from the British. He was born on 5th November, 1870. His career in law started in the year 1909. He successfully defended Aurobindo Ghosh when the latter was involved in the Alipore bomb blast case. He was most known, however, for his philanthropic and patriotic nature and was therefore called Deshbandhu.

Chittaranjan was also an important personality in Bengal during the time of the non-cooperation movement from 1919 to 1922. It was he who started the boycott of British or western dresses. He set an example for others to follow by burning his own western clothes and in its stead, adopting the handmade desi khadi garments. He later set up the Swaraj Party to propagate his non-moderate views with Motilal Nehru. He also launched a newspaper named Forward to spread his message to the public and fight the British raj, but later rechristened it as Liberty. Deshbandhu was continuously ill throughout his political life. But despite this, he showed spunk and unwavering determination in opposing the foreign rule.

In our neighbouring country, Bangladesh, to commemorate his birth anniversary, the national flag is flown at half-mast at midnight. Although he was not associated with the formation of Bangladesh, the homage is on account of him being born in present-day Bangladesh. Chittaranjan Das will always be remembered for his struggle in the Indian war of independence.

Blood Donation Camp

The Blood Donation camp took place on 8th April, 2012, started at 10:15 AM and continued up to 1:30 PM. There were many who donated blood for the first time in their life in this camp. The doctors and staffs of B C Roy Hospital, IIT Kharagpur helped the Blood Bank team from Sub Division Hospital all possible way. The doctors were very strict on having all qualifying medical parameters met. Thus about ten were unfortunately turned back, that included a senior faculty who arrived before others and had sequence no. 1. On the positive side, we had students who could not qualify last year but was in all smile to be able to become a proud donor this time. We also had mother donating blood with small kid patiently waiting outside. The camp was also a meeting place of old timers. Many ex-NSS students came to camp and we discussed how we are trying to reinvent ourselves. Our sincere thanks to the donors to come forward for such a noble cause. This year we had a very good response from larger IIT KGP community as this was the 4th such camp in the campus (previous three held by Maharashtra Mandal, Kalinga Samaj and N.C.C.). The 5th one was organized by IIT staff members on May Day.