

## Alumni felicitated at IIT-K

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kanpur:** The 1971 batch of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) relived the days of their college life on the 35th reunion here on Monday. They would stay in the college for two days during which they would interact with students and faculty members.

As part of the ceremony, director, IIT-K, Sanjay Govind Dhande felicitated the alumni. Addressing the gathering, Dhande said that there are several universities in the country who witnessed great achievements during their initial stages. Naming a few renowned universities, he claimed that they developed with a very high rate during the first 40 years of their establishment. Then for the next 35 years these universities became stagnant and some of them faded away. "Institutions which fail to retain their quality fade away gradually", claimed Dhande, adding that IIT-K is developing very fast and the challenge is to maintain that excellence. "People believe that alumni are called for funds, but the reality is that they help in building affection. Our challenge is to be at par with the technological growth all across the globe," said Dhande.



IIT-K director SG Dhande inaugurating the 35th reunion of class of '71 on Monday.

He further added that India has got immense manpower but for gaining technological excellence in any institute, it is a must to have sound financial stability.

Dhande further highlighted the

achievements of IIT-K in the past several years. Besides, CDs containing old photographs of 1971 batch were also distributed among the alumni.

Prominent among those present

in the inauguration ceremony included senior professor, earthquake engineering department Sudhir K Jain, convener of alumni association, Professor Eshwaran and Ravi Shukla.

## Finances needed for academic growth

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kanpur:** The consistent growth of any academic institute is not possible without sound financial status, said SK Jain, senior professor of earthquake engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. He was explaining the need for collecting funds from the alumni and how this money should be properly utilised.

Jain explained that California Institute of Technology (Caltech) has got less students and faculty than IIT-K, still its annual budget is 500 million dollars, in stark contrast to the 30 million dollars at IIT-K. He further claimed that gaining technological excellence is the biggest challenge before IIT and that for this, there is a need to procure the latest and the best technology.

He said that technological excellence is very ex-

pensive and IIT-K could not solely depend on government funds, which come in a bonded form. "We need flexible money which we could obtain through our own resources", he said, and added: "Reunions are not meant for money but the number of alumni you get engaged with reflects the affection of the alumni to their alma mater".

He further informed that Rs 1.22 crore were generated in the year 2003-04 and Rs 1.97 crore in the year 2004-05. He further said that they have already received 100 donations worth Rs 8 lakh, besides several graduate and undergraduate scholarships. Jain said that in the recent months, they have started 16 undergraduate scholarships at Rs 2,000 per month and about five scholarships of Rs 2,000 per month are in the pipeline.

# Another reunion at IIT-K

## 35 Students Of Class Of '71 To Arrive On Monday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kanpur:** Celebrations at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) just refuse to end. The two-day-long silver jubilee reunion of 'class-of-81' just concluded at IIT-K on Saturday with over 80 former students and their family members revisiting the campus. And while they are still packing their bags, over 35 technology graduates of year 1971 have already started arriving at the institute for their reunion which starts from Monday.



These former IIT-K students have been invited to a gala dinner organised at a city-based club on Sunday. Earlier, there was a special programme at IIT campus on New Year eve.

These alumni will be felicitated by IIT-K authorities on the occasion of 35th anniversary of completion of their course. Regarding the weak turnout at this reunion, a senior official at IIT-K claimed that there were only a few students in that batch. "It is difficult to invite all of them, still a majority of alumni are coming," said the official.

# Alumni switch careers without any regret

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kanpur:** A large number of chemical engineering students of 1971 batch of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) have switched to different areas of working. While some of them have established information technology and software development units, the others have become entrepreneurs.

Owner of Key Note Systems at USA, Umang Gupta claimed that he opted for chemical engineering stream at IIT-K by mistake. At present, Gupta owns a multinational company which operates in 30 countries in five continents. "I was the first person to come to Silicon Valley in the year 1980," he said.

Another alumnus, Ajit Kumar was also a

chemical engineering graduate but has now runs a real estate business in USA. He started with civil engineering but later switched to chemical engineering. Kumar started his business in 1995 and at present is working on projects for senior citizen housing.



Ajit Kumar

Sunil Singhal is also a chemical engineering graduate and owns a sugar-manufacturing unit in America. Singhal wants the metallurgy department of IIT-K to develop a machine that could reduce the amount of sugar that gets wasted during its cleaning.



Sunil Singhal

Regarding the collaboration with other sugar research institutions in the country, Singhal replied, "I consider them incompetent, they have

not done any reasonable research that we could utilise".

However, managing director in a paint manufacturing company of India, Subir Bose choose to remain in the chemical field only. About what prompted him to come in the field of paint, Bose said, "I wanted to colour the dreams of people," he said adding, "nothing can be as valuable for a person as his house and my paints decorate houses".



Subir Bose

# Sports are must for IIT students

**Kanpur:** The demand for the simplification of IIT curriculum was once again raised by alumni of 1971 batch at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) on Monday. These alumni were attending their 35th reunion.



Bindra

Owner of a New Delhi based firm and alumni, Gurpreet Singh Bindra claimed that pressure on students has increased tremendously in last 35 years. "There is a severe lack of sports and games in IIT," he said.

While, authorities of IIT-K were highlighting their achievements, some alumni claimed that there should be a separate slot where they can discuss changes needed in the institution.

Supporting Bindra, another alumni and owner of a New Jersey based company, Rakesh Bhargava claimed, "I asked 25 students at IIT-K to name their favourite tennis player and none of them answered. That was pathetic."

Bhargava, himself a state champion of tennis and table-tennis, also played for the national level teams and remained the no 1 in the 'father-daughter tennis team' for three consecutive years at USA along with his daughter.

"Excess of academic burden is taking the toll of student's creativity turning them into machines," he said adding that owing to the laid back approach of government, changing IIT curriculum has become very difficult. TNN



Bhargava