Piyush Nahar

Short Bio:

I'm Piyush Nahar, an Electrical Engineering graduate from the 2013 Batch of IIT Ropar (a.k.a. the second batch). I worked at Cisco Systems as a Software Engineer for a couple of years after my graduation and currently, I'm working towards a Masters degree in Computer Science at University of California San Diego.

My four years of IIT Ropar were probably the most important time of my life. It is during this time that I was able to develop my knowledge, interpersonal skills and an analytical mind; all while having fun and enjoying the company of lifelong friends. In my opinion, it was the entire IIT Ropar experience and the grind that polished all facets of my personality.

For the most part, I was studying Electrical Engineering but the flexible curriculum at IIT Ropar allowed me to explore my interest in other areas as well. Thus, I ended up taking several Computer Science courses which kindled a passion for programming in me. During my internship at Samsung and later during my job at Cisco, I realized that even though I didn't know everything, the faculty at IIT Ropar had done a splendid job by inculcating the ability in me to learn and build atop the strong foundational knowledge provided by them. Since the base was strong, I could easily pivot to learning and working on Computer Security at Cisco and, now, specializing in Machine Learning at University of California San Diego.

Prior to joining IIT Ropar, I was what you could say an introvert nerd. Never cared about anything but my studies. But, IIT Ropar changed it all and made me into a person who can stand before a crowd and interact with them. IIT Ropar provided me with a plethora of opportunities and made me realize that there is much more to life beyond academics; I could do so much more! Over my 4 years, I went from strength to strength as I ended up representing Ropar at Inter IIT Sports Meet, helping setup our institute cultural fest, being the General Secretary of

the Student Council, being a Training and Placement student representative. And, it didn't end at that as I helped setup IIT Ropar Alumni Association and later served as its President as well. Now as alumni, we stand strong with the institute, mentoring students and helping the institute in whatever way we can.

IIT Ropar has had a profound impact on all aspects of my life bringing about a change in the way I approach my life and tackle problems. Being surrounded by so many genius people made me humble. It made me realize that no matter what I know there is always someone who knows it better. At the same time, it also provided me the assurance that no matter where I'm stuck, I could always count on a friend for valuable expert advice.

To all the people who think new IITs are not as good, I'd just like to say that it was much better to be at a 'new' IIT like Ropar because we got an opportunity to be trendsetters and not trend followers. We stumbled and fell and rose again to try something new and create our own identity. Given a chance to do over, I'd do it all over again the same way in a heartbeat.

I earnestly believe that it is the extraordinary people at an IIT who make it extraordinary and there is no dearth of extraordinary people at IIT Ropar, thus, making it destined for greatness!