

Manipal Golden Memories

50th Mob Meet Kottayam 2023

Alex Zachariah

Shajan Mathew John

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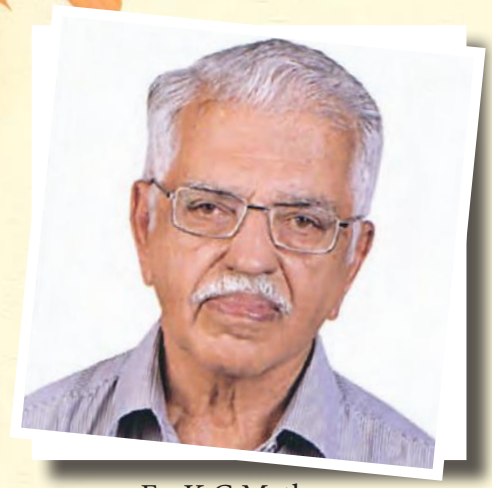
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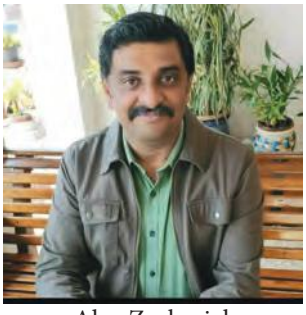
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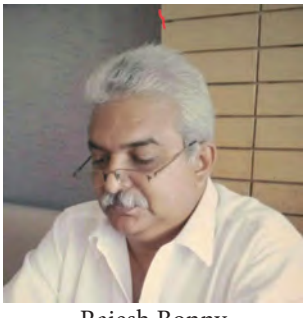
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Prologue



By Alex Zachariah

Manipal, once a quaint hamlet atop a hillock that hosted an educational village in the sixties, has now evolved into a modern township with all the opulent amenities of a bustling metropolis. My vivid memories of this place trace back to August 1985 when I began my engineering journey. That inaugural trip beyond Kozhikode remains etched in my mind for various compelling reasons. I was captivated by the landscape beyond Kozhikode, and we arrived in Manipal in the early hours of August 18, 1985.

Since then, Manipal has secured its place as one of my most cherished locations, offering a world of possibilities, adventure, and freedom. Manipal has imparted invaluable life lessons in patience and dealing with diverse situations. More than just academics, it is a microcosm of India's diverse cultures, with students from various regions seeking education in perfect harmony. Our time in Manipal marked a pivotal developmental phase, and today it stands as an esteemed hub for education in Asia. With thousands of Manipalites scattered across the globe, Manipal's reputation speaks for itself.

The MOB MEET is primarily an alumni event that has been a tradition in Kerala since 1973. It started as a casual gathering of old boys, initiated by a small group of alumni led by Late Mr. Hanibal Dominic, Mr. K C Mathew, and a few of their batchmates. Over the years, it has evolved into an annual event. Out of the fifty meets that have taken place, only the one in 2020 was conducted online due to the COVID pandemic. In other years, the hosting venues shifted among various cities and towns in Kerala. The most frequently chosen locations for MOB include Kottayam, Ernakulam, Kozhikode, and Thiruvananthapuram.

The tradition of MOB MEET has extended to other places, including Thrissur and Thiruvalla.

I was fortunate to be a part of this alumni association from 1990 to 2000, having attended several of these gatherings. I became actively involved again in 2021. These meets have provided a unique opportunity to meet old friends, both seniors and juniors, from different contemporary batches.

When entrusted with the responsibility of organizing the 50th MOB, I aimed for a distinctive commemoration of this significant event. In our core committee discussions, Shajan Mathew John proposed the idea of publishing a coffee table book that would capture the reminiscences of MOB and Manipal. We embraced this idea enthusiastically to create a cherished souvenir that I hope will be valued by all alumni.

My past experience in publishing magazines at college and a PG institute showed me that there wasn't much enthusiasm among alumni for sharing their MOB MEET experiences. Fortunately, I later discovered that there were interested individuals willing to share their vivid memories of Manipal and MIT. Though the initial response was lukewarm, many contributors came forward by August 2023, and we now have a "coffee table book" filled with photo essays and memories.

Great care has been taken to ensure that the book aligns with broader interests in terms of content, style, layout, and print quality.

I'd like to express my gratitude to the super seniors who provided me with invaluable insights into the history and evolution of MOB, especially Mr. K C Mathew, Mr. G Eapen, Mr. John C Neroth, and their contemporaries.

I want to thank all the authors who contributed to this venture and those who encouraged me to pursue this unique idea.

My heartfelt thanks go out to the core organizing committee members and the MOB event sponsors, including Shaju D Thattil, Jayaram Poti, Sabu Thomas, Georgy Sam, Joe Mathew, Sajith Sreedharan, David Koshy, Babu KR, Martin Paul, Jiji Kuriakose, and many well-wishers of this meet, for their wholehearted financial support and contributions to printing and publishing the coffee table book.

I must acknowledge the unwavering support of the MIT 1985 batch, which has been the cornerstone of all our efforts. Thanks to all MECians / MITians who supported and cooperated with the organizing committee.

Last but not least, I extend my appreciation to the printers of this book, Wild Thoughts, for their valuable contribution.

Alex Zachariah
Electronics & Telecommunication engineer (1985-89) of MIT and pursued PGDM from TAPMI, Manipal. Worked with various multinational companies in India and in the middle east for the last 30 years. Currently, a consultant with AZ Consultants, helping business organizations to set up their operations in Kerala. Married to Rekha,(D/o late Jacob Philip-MITian of 1962 batch) home maker has two daughters, Diya married to Jerry and younger, Deepthi pursuing her PGDM

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भारत सरकार

Dear Alex Zachariah,

I would like to thank you for inviting me to the 50th Anniversary of the Manipal Old Boys meet in Kottayam on 11th November 2023. Unfortunately, due to prior official commitments, I regret that I won't be able to attend.



However, it is heartening to witness a long standing tradition of Manipal Institute of Technology alumni gatherings in Kerala since 1973. Celebrating the Golden Jubilee this year is a source of great pride for all alumni.

I extend my best wishes for the success of the event, and my thoughts and prayers are with you for its smooth execution.

Thank you.

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Dr. Ranjan Pai
Chairman

September 28, 2023

It is of immense pleasure and honor for me to be invited to be a chief guest for the historic milestone MOBMEET planned on November 11, 2023 in Kottayam, Kerala. I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude and inform you of my great pride to be associated with the alumni of Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT),

MIT is a very important constituent institution of the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE). This unique institute has not only imparted knowledge and skills but has also nurtured a sense of community and a commitment to lifelong learning among its alumni. Over the years, MIT has produced exceptional graduates who have made their mark in various fields, both in India and across the globe. The institute's legacy of excellence and innovation continues to inspire generations of students and educators.



The 50th MOBMEET is a testament to the enduring spirit and the sense of community that defines the MIT family. I am confident that this event will be a resounding success, filled with nostalgia, camaraderie, and a shared vision for the future. As you come together to celebrate the achievements and memories of the past five decades, I encourage you to also focus on the possibilities that lie ahead. The MIT community with its rich history and diverse talents, is uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role in India's transformation into a leading global economy. By harnessing your collective expertise, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit, you can contribute significantly to India's growth and development, creating a brighter future for all.

Once again, thank you for the honor, please accept my best wishes for a memorable and successful 50th MOBMEET. May it be a joyous occasion filled with inspiring conversations and meaningful connections.

Dr. Ranjan Pai

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Felicitation



Heartiest Congratulations to all the members of "Manipal Old Boys" on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Anniversary of MOB. May this association grow stronger by the day and help enhance the bonding between MOB and MIT-Manipal further, so as to continuously improve our services to the present and past students of MIT.

Alumni of MIT have made immense contribution to the Institute, and it won't be an exaggeration to state that the envious position that MIT-Manipal finds itself today in the country and abroad, is all due to the significant impacts our alumni have made in every facet of their profession. Whether it is the corporate world, education, business, literature or finance, our alumni have contributed directly and indirectly to all the sections of the society through their sheer hard work, leadership, professionalism and work ethics. At MIT-Manipal we consider our alumni as our ambassadors who project the discipline and ethos of our mighty organization to the world.

Recently, the Institute has put a renewed thrust to improve our alumni support network further and towards this several new initiatives have been made such as launch of an exclusive and a very user-friendly Alumni connect platform called "Almashines" that is also available as a mobile app. Over 30000 alumni members have already registered on this new platform and students and faculty members are finding it extremely beneficial to connect with them through this platform. We have also launched an exclusive "Alumni Privilege" card that comes packed with many privilege features in a tastefully designed pack. We are at the verge of forming an Alumni Association at MIT, Manipal called MITMAA. The association will allow our alumni to significantly enhance their participation in Institute related activities and help them focus collectively on objectives that are dear to their hearts.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our esteemed alumni members for their selfless devotion to the cause of their Alma Mater. I wish the Golden Jubilee MOB meet an astounding success.

Jai Hind

Commander(Dr) Anil Rana
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Felicitation



I am pleased to note the MOB is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their association at Kottayam on 11th November 2023. I sincerely wish them a joyous and fruitful reunion.

I know most of the members look forward to this meet as you enjoy meeting your batchmates and the other seniors and juniors in the college and exchanging your rich experience gained after leaving the college in the profession you got into.

Wish you all happiness, good health and a bright future.

Prof. K Kamalaksha M.S.
Retired Professor and Head, Department of Mathematics, MIT, Manipal
Visiting Professor Canara Engineering College Benjanapadovu, Bantwal D.K.

Felicitation

September 2023

I was pleasantly surprised when I received an invitation from MOB this year. Was delighted to know that the invitation was to attend the Golden Jubilee meet of MOB. It is heartening to know that MOB has held the alumni meet for the past years without a single break.

Started in the year 1973/75 by a group of MEC alumni in state of Kerala, India, MOB has become one of the successful group of alumni for such super effort. I am given to understand that there was an attendance of at least 100 alumni who attended the meets each year, which in itself is a great achievement. MOB has the distinction of having an alumnus (Mr Eapen) from the very first batch of MEC/MIT to having some distinguished alumni like Mr George Muthoot from Muthoot finance(and many others from healthcare at MAHE, and of course alumni from the group of Malayala Manorama just to highlight a few.

I was associated with MOB in the year 2017 when the MOB met in Thrissur, and since then attended the meet each year. In 2020, MIT assisted in hosting a virtual meet during the pandemic. Each year there was always a warm welcome for the meet. Each year I was collecting a lot stories from the alumni during the meet from the alumni. Only goes to show the love for their alma mater. It was nice to see alumnae during the meet last year and I am told the ladies will also join the meets in the future

MIT will always cherish the association with MOB and will continue to support the efforts by MOB. Wishing MOB the very best in the years to come and hoping that one day it will the biggest MEC/MIT Alumni group.

Regards



Dr M.Vijaya Kini
Associate Director
(Alumni, Public and International Relations)
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Manipal. 576104

Alumni can reach out to MIT using the email adalumni.mit@manipal.edu or call +91 8202924027

Felicitation



I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. It is with great pride and gratitude that I write to you today as a distinguished alumnus of this remarkable institution. My journey through MIT was nothing short of transformative. The knowledge I gained, the friendships I forged, and the experiences I cherished have left an indelible mark on my life.

The guidance and mentorship of faculty members, the vibrant campus atmosphere, and the opportunities for personal and intellectual growth were invaluable. I have had the privilege of applying the skills and knowledge I acquired here to make meaningful contributions in my chosen field. I owe a significant portion of my success to the strong foundation laid during my time as a student. I am deeply appreciative of the continued progress and innovation that represents. It is heartening to witness the institution's unwavering commitment to excellence, and I am confident that it will continue to inspire and empower countless individuals in the years to come.

Thank you for shaping me into the person I am today. I carry the values and lessons I learned here with me in all my pursuits, and I am forever grateful for the privilege of being a part of this exceptional institution.

Faizal E. Kottikollon,
1987 Civil Engineering, PGDM, TAPMI, Manipal
Chairman, KEF Holdings, Dubai, UAE
Chairman, Faizal and Shabana Foundation



Beginings of MOB

Compiled by Alex Zachariah after the discussion with Er. K C Mathew



MOB, is synonymous to a vibrant disorderly crowd with an indent to cause trouble. Well, that has been the stature of Manipal alumni, right from its inception days. Still remember many of the people looked at us Manipalites, as hooligans who enjoyed their freedom to an unlimited extent. The choice of naming the alumni association as MOB is because it forms an abbreviation of Manipal Old Boys. When the college started in 1957, most of the students were boys and hence it became an association of Manipal Old Boys, today its MOB in short. (We call it these days as " Manipal Old Batchmates" to accommodate the fairer graduates of today)

As we celebrate the golden jubilee of this unique association, it's imperative to remember the "founders" of such a meet that started 50 years back at Kottayam. Well, it was started by four Manipal Engineering College graduates as a family get together for fun and for their reminiscence of Manipal days.

Er. K C Mathew, the only living member of that association along with late Hanibal Dominic, late M Mathew and late Joseph Mathew started this movement on the second Saturday of December 1973. They were



all in their prime youth then, with their wives met at Mr. V K Philip's home at Nattakom, near Kottayam. A total of 18 families had attended this meet according to Er. Mathew. His wife remembers of this meeting as the wives of MECians got together in the kitchen and cooked the food for all while their men folks organized the fish and meat from Kottayam market for the event. It was more of a family get together with children and it happened that way in the initial years of this alumni association.

According to Er. Mathew, for the first two years, it was conducted on the second Saturday of December, closer to Christmas season. Later when the families grew in participation, the date got changed to the second Saturday of November, predominantly to facilitate the children's Christmas exams. He remembers that the initial years of this association mostly happened in Kottayam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur. According to him, towards the latter half of eighties the meet gained popularity, as more alumni started to participate in this meet. This was more of an association of Kerala boys who studied at Manipal Engineering College / Manipal Institute of Technology for all these years and has now caught up the attention of alumni from other regions too. For the last few editions of MOB, there were a few other state's alumni too who started to attend the same.

Last year MOB was the first of its kind that happened on a Yacht as an "Arabian Sea cruise". It had an overall participation of over 150 alumni and was a memorable one. This year, we expect to have a participation of over 200 alumni to commemorate the golden jubilee, and is happening at the Windsor Castle Convention Centre, Kottayam.

The organizers of the Golden Jubilee meet would like to extend their gratitude to the originators of this unique association that had enabled us to maintain relationships and camaraderie between us, the Manipalites. We take this opportunity to pay homage to late M Mathew, Joseph Mathew and Hanibal Dominic on this occasion.

Manipal Diaries



By Aji Issaac Koikkarah

After leaving MIT in the year 1986, my first assignment was with, Microwave Products where we manufactured the first microwave ovens in India. The other milestones are my stints with various renowned companies such as Apollo Tyres, CEAT, SABIC and ARAMCO. Dolphin Energy Ltd, where I am presently employed for the last few years is based in Doha, Qatar. My family - Wife Dr. Annamma, Son Dr Amit and Daughter-in-law Dr Roshan
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How do I begin to tell the story of my love - for a place with a legacy and a grand tradition – called M.I.T.

The Golden Jubilee of MOB meet is indeed 'one moment in time' wherein we have gathered to bridge the chasm of decades when a trickle of memories becomes a river, immersing us all in a flood of recollections --- most of them pleasant. Time has mercifully erased the unpleasant ones.

During the last 50 years we have had chequered careers and personal graphs of fortunes and misfortunes, all of which have been imbibed gracefully in the stride of life.

This is also an opportunity to thank the people who shaped our lives --- our teachers—we owe them a great debt of gratitude, for the time they devoted, for the extra help given and most of all for the genuine concern and care they showed towards our development. They have had indelible positive impacts in our lives. It has indeed been a pleasure and privilege to have had the opportunity to study under them.

Reviewing my college years, some incidents stand out vividly because they were high or low experiences, while ordinary day to day details are buried in the unconscious and are much harder to recall.

The grandiose visions we had of college life when we secured admission were rapidly replaced by nervous trepidation as we entered the portals of this big campus. For most of us, the first year was not an easy time --- made all the more distressing by the exercise of ragging.

One's sense of self, one's core beliefs, one's sense of place and purpose --- all were fundamentally challenged and changed so much so, we were often tempted to retract homeward.

The first year also saw many of us approaching the semester exams with little understanding of the fundamentals. It was quite honestly a crucible and a

very difficult passage of time. But despite the angst and the very real traumas that often occurred, most of us tend to reflect back on our college years through an appreciative albeit somewhat sentimental lens. I confess I am one of them.

It's incredible just how quickly we transformed into a tightly knit community, united by common interests and aptitude. We had arrived by different ships, but we were all finally sailing in the same boat!

The following years we had gradually adapted and stabilised both academically and extra curriculum wise. It was a period of hard work but also fun and enjoyable and we cherish the memories of our time together.

Organising the cultural festival of Sampradaya, our community services in Brahmavar, volunteering as blood donors, standing up against the vices of society, were all the highs of our college life. It was a time when we showcased our potential and core values. I fondly remember the appreciation letter received from the then Chief Minister, Late Mr. Ramakrishna Hedge, for our efforts.

On the flip side we did have some unpleasant skirmishes in the campus—as gang wars, occasions of youthful defiance, smouldering emotions and reactions surrounding the college union President; but like every other college campus story, it was all part of the game.

May I now take you down the memory lane to think of all our favourite joints--- Shangri-La for sandwiches, Kamath for coffee and tea and boli where many a secret has been shared and many a conspiracy has been hatched, besides the ramblings of everyday. Not forgetting Hotel Diana – for the mouth-watering faloodas.

Our indoor entertainments in those days were limited to carroms and cards. The luxury of television had not reached us, though the ladies' hostel had that good fortune in the final year.

Reading was then a way of life. We could boast of an enviable collection in our library. Unlike today when information is available at the click of a mouse.

I remember the pride and excitement we felt when President of India Mr. Zail Singh's helicopter landed on our hockey grounds. It was a novel experience, in those days. He had come to inaugurate the CT scan at KMC.

In retrospect of many of the gifts that MIT gave us, perhaps the greatest was the gift of time. Four years of structure without being regimented. Four years of choices and opportunities that for the first time were truly our own.

Four years when we didn't have to worry about our next meal or making a credit card payment.
Four years that afforded us the time, the structure and the experience to transition from children in our parent's homes into increasingly self-sufficient, focused, purposeful and hopefully.... gainfully employed young adults.

As the four years drew to a close, MIT had become a comforting cocoon that many of us hoped we would never have to leave. We genuinely embodied a crucial outcome of this institution, a living testament to its rich history and a testament to its ongoing, relevant mission. We must never forget the backbone and forward-thinking vision of the late Mr. Ramesh Pai.

MIT also afforded us the opportunity to explore and immerse ourselves in diverse cultures, encouraging us to view the world from others' perspectives and, in the process, to develop a deep sense of respect for one another. What greater significance could this reunion hold than to strengthen and nurture our cherished relationships, ensuring we remain friends forever?

MIT also gave us the chance to understand and experience different cultures to try to see things through others' perspective and in doing so, learn to treat others with respect.



1957

Maiden Years of MEC Life

Written by Alex Zachariah

When we thought of coming out with a coffee table book for the golden Jubilee MOB meet, the first thing that came into our mind was that of Er. G Eapen, the patron and a member of the first graduating class of Manipal Engineering College (MEC) founded in 1957.
On a sunny Sunday morning, we headed to meet one of the most enthusiastic Manipal Alumnus, Er. G Eapen at his home in Kozhikode. We did keep our time and reached his home at sharp 10.30 AM. Eapen sir, an octogenarian who still keeps his daily routine in mint status with a pleasant smile on his face welcomed Regive and me to his drawing room. We were made comfortable by him and he first asked about the wellbeing of my father who was a contemporary to him at the Union Christian College, Aluva back in fifties. After exchanging a few pleasantries, we moved into our motto of getting an insight of MEC of the early years.
To avoid the formalities of a typical interview, I chose a narrative format for this meeting or rather interview. When we asked him about his Manipal memories, he shared the following with us. The following are the excerpts from our chat on his memories of Manipal days and Mob association.

He joined the college in 1957, when the college started and there was only a civil engineering course offered then. The total intake of students was 120, with a capitation of Rs. 1500 plus a tuition fee of Rs. 1000 per year. It was a great sum of money those days!
When he joined engineering, the college building was near the nurse's hostel of KMC. The course duration was 3 years and the college was under Karnataka University. The hostel then was in the Manipal press area and they didn't have a mess those days. La Shangri-La was from where they had their food and monthly, they paid for this. Of course, Eapen doesn't remember how much they used to spend for food and accommodation then, but when we probed further, he said according to his dad's accounts, a sum of Rs. 11,000 was spent in total for his entire three-year course.

According to his memory, Mr. Ramakrishna Rao was the first principal of Manipal Engineering College, who came from Roorkee Engineering College. Mr. M N Kamath was the administration officer then, who eventually became the head of the institution two years later. Going down the memory lane, Eapen said that the students mix were from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and from the rest of India until Kashmir. MEC has always claimed a cosmopolitan environment since its inception.

We asked him about their modes of travel to Manipal then and it was more interesting to us. From Ernakulam they took Link Express, which was the train that had three sets of boogies, one set going to Coimbatore, another to Madras and the last to Mangalore side. The coal engines of those days took 15-16 hours to reach Mangalore railway station and from there to Manipal



Er. G Eapen at his home during our interview



via Karkala that took around 3-4 hours by bus. These buses had to be reserved and depending on the time and seat availability they were sent to Manipal. According to Eapen, they almost took 18-20 hours from their homes to reach Manipal those times.

The college was then under the "Academy House "located near the TC (Tiger Circle). The college opened those days on 15th June, if it wasn't a Sunday and had a firm calendar that carried the schedule of the course including the examination dates. The financial transactions those days were mostly by cash and in money orders.

Further on our discussion with him about more memories of Manipal, he said that, there were not many buildings then, other than the Medical College building and most of the places had hard laterite stone which had high content of iron which was used for construction. The first batch of engineering college had around 48 Malayalee students out of a total of 120. He also cited some of his college experiences, which included the introduction of Arrack to the college days by their batch at price of Rs. 1.5 for a full bottle and there used to be arrack parties since then.

One of his most cherished memories about his academics is that he had a jaundice attack those days in December 1957 and after a week of treatment, the doctors had advised him complete rest and further Homeo treatment back in Kerala. This forced him to stay away from college for two months, January through February, 1958. He had missed a number of classes and when he came back after recovering, he was not having a grip on his studies. He prepared for his May exams by studying the selective topics and left most of the other portions, as he was not able to manage with the texts and notes. Somehow, he managed to crack the exam and thought he would pass the same. After the exams he went home, assigning one of his contemporaries at KMC to inform him, the results, as many who wrote exams with him were not hopeful of passing. The only communication mode those days was telegram. His friend has sent him a telegram mentioning two words, " Congratulations - A K Abraham. (Incidentally Dr. A K Abraham went to become one of the doyens in Cardiology medicine and a renowned practitioner at Kochi). He was happy then and started back to join for the second year after holidays. When he came to the railway station to notice that many from the Malayalee fraternity had failed the first-year exams. This gave a fear in Eapen's mind and his anxiety grew high. He says when he reached Manipal, jumped off the bus leaving all his luggage there to see his result at the college notice board. He was so happy to see his name in the promoted list. After narrating this, we could see the pride and happiness in his eyes even after 66 years.

He had also shared another unique happening from his Manipal days of his final viva voce examination, which happened a few days after the theory exams. There was an arrack party as some batch had finished theirs and he joined the party and drank arrack to land at the hospital at Udupi where he was put on saline. as he had severe vomiting a number of times and was dehydrated. He had to be there at the health centre for a day or two and he came straight from there to attend his viva voce examination. The external examiner who came for the viva was Prof. Vemban, who was surprised to know that he came from a health centre straight to attend it. Vemban was famous playback singer Madhuri's father.
Eapen still remembers one of the prime questions he posed for the viva was " How many Mangalore pattern roofing tiles required for 100 Sq. Feet roof tiling to which he answered and got himself passed for the same. After passing out from MEC, Eapen had short stints in Kundapura (4 months) and from there he joined on deputation at electricity board as a civil engineer in 1960 and then after that he came back to PWD and went up the ladder to become a chief engineer. He had a stint in Saudi Arabia of five years from 1982-87. After returing to Kerala, he joined the government service and retired in 1993.

Mr. Eapen has been a driving force to MOB meets and probably one who attended many editions of the same since 1975. He did not become a part of the so-called start of the MOB meet, and that was initiated by K C Mathew, Dominic Hanibal, M Mathew and Joseph Mathew.

Incidentally, Eapen Sir celebrated his 85th birthday a few days prior to our meeting with him and he fed us with his birthday cake. After an informative and interesting session, we parted and Sir came to see us off till our vehicle.

Manipal Memories from the 1970's



By Gopi Menon (Batch 1971-76)
BE, Electronics & Communication (MIT, Manipal).
MTech, Instrument Technology (IISc, Bengaluru).

Started my professional career with Premier Tyres, later moved to the Test & Measurement industry. In 1984 joined the Dept. of Instrumentation, CUSAT. Was involved in the design, fabrication & repair of instruments catering to the special needs of the research scholars. Retired in 2010 as senior Technical Officer. Post retirement was HoD, Dept. of Instrumentation & Control Engineering, SNMIMT, Maliankara till 2016. Currently busy with DIY activities involving Arduino Uno and PIC microcontrollers. My family consists of wife Indira, sons Raghu & Hari, Varsha & Malavika.

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Any reminiscence is history. The Manipal Engineering College (MEC), the first self-financed engineering college in the country was established By Dr. TMA Pai in 1957, affiliated to Karnataka University. In 1965 it was affiliated to University of Mysore and in 1974 renamed as Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT). Since 2000 MIT has been a constituent institution of Manipal Academy of Higher Institution (MAHE), a deemed university.

I joined MEC in 1971, an exclusively men's residential college then, after completing admission formalities at the Academy of General Education (AGE), rather late in the academic year. I was allotted a double room in the sixth block (last block then) right amongst the seniors. The neighboring rooms were occupied by super seniors (late Muthoot M George & Balan Nair amongst others) who graciously took me into their protective fold, helping to keep the seniors at bay, to a certain extent. Late Prof. CN Sreedharan was assigned my guardianship.

There were six major hostel blocks along with the D, Kennedy (K) and Viswa Bharati blocks. The last two being exclusive single room accommodation. Each of the six hostels had a mess sandwiched between them catering to South and North Indian (veg & non-veg) cuisine, with easy access from within the hostel, a boon during the monsoons. The South Indian non vegetarian mess was also known as 'Andhra Mess'. There was a 'Cosmo Mess' and a 'Mysore Mess', the names suggestive of their menu. There was a month end special dinner which we all looked forward to. Only chicken dishes were served, and they came from Kasaragod. Mr. Krishnankutty's mess on the Udupi-Agumbe Road, primarily serving Kerala cuisine, was a popular eating place.

The five-year Bachelor of Engineering (BE) course had ten semesters. The first & second semesters, common to all branches, had surveying practice, mechanical workshop and English language classes. The Electronics & Communications and Electrical Power streams go their own way after the fourth semester.

The Tiger Circle (TC) was the junction where all Manipal journeys started and ended. The landmarks in and around TC were Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Post Office, Nehru Memorial Library, Dr. TMA Pai's residence, AGE, Head Office of then Syndicate Bank and the KMC hostel for women. The adjoining road was the preferred route to the MIT hostels. The nationally renowned Manipal Power Press, Manipal Diary, Roman Catholic Church, Venugopala Temple and the Manipal Lake were the other places of interest.

Now, for some lighthearted narratives from the past. What comes foremost is the 'bucket party, usually organized in the K blocks before a month end dinner. A few bottles of government distilled 'Bison' arrack emptied into a bucket with appropriate amount of water added formed the main ingredient of the party. Then we have the 'ganja adda' in the K block with palm frond chillum doing the rounds amongst the participants.

The occasional festivals organized by the toddy/arrack shops replete with cock fights and coconut rolling competitions were a great crowd puller. The armed fighter cock is a sight to behold and treasured by the owners. The in-situ bird surgeons were much respected for their expertise. Liquor served in coconut shells to the lesser sections of society was a very disturbing practice.

Any trip to Udupi was incomplete without visiting 'Diana', well known for its gourmet experience. The two cinema halls Kalpana & Alankar, Malpe beach and Udupi Sri Krishna Temple famous for its Paryaya festival, celebrated biennially were other sights. Honestly, MIT life would be incomplete without a visit to the cabaret at Hotel Tourist, a transition from lad to man experience.

Manipal and MIT are truly a melting pot of cultures where you could have friends and acquaintances from all over India and the world. My five years at MIT were truly a rewarding and endearing experience which I shall cherish always, and MOB is one way to refurbish my memory. Most narrations within are from memory and any lapses may be excused. Dedicated to the wellbeing of MIT, teachers and the MIT alumni and finally to MOB.

Architecting A Timeless Future



-Ar. Tony Joseph

Compiled By Shajan Mathew John

Tony Joseph graduated from MIT Manipal and completed his masters in design from the University of Texas, Austin, in the Charles Moore program. Interactions and travels with Moore and his views on regional architecture had a strong influence in the direction of Tony's design. He returned to India and started Stapati in 1989, which has steadily grown into a multi-disciplinary practice emphasizing values of integrity, sustainability and innovation.

Stapati's architecture emerges from a sensitive understanding of the context; one where the evolution of design is firmly rooted in the region's traditional narratives, while interpreting the elements in a modern context. There is an underlying acuity in the design approach, which responds to the site uniquely, rendering it relevant and timeless.

ORO Editions, a San Francisco, USA based reputed international publisher of art and design books brought out a monograph on the hospitality projects designed by Stapati entitled 'Timeless Resorts'. The book examines the evolution of eleven captivating hospitality projects by Stapati.





Stapati, under Tony's able leadership has won numerous awards and recognitions over the years and has been selected as one of the Top 100 Most influential design firms in South Asia by Architectural Digest for ten years continuously, from 2014 to 2023. The Enchanted Island Resort designed by Stapati has been chosen as Seychelles' Leading Resort in 2017 and 2019 by the World Travel Awards.





Malabar Group Headquarters, designed by Stapati has been featured in INDIA TODAY-'The best of India'



The Postcard Mandalay Hall, Kochi, has been recognized as 'India's Leading Design Hotel' by the World Travel Awards 2022 . January 5, 2023



'Toya Toya' designed by Stapati, has been featured in Condé Nast Traveler.

MIT can boast of its school of architecture graduates for their success at home in India and globally. Kerala based MIT architects have been defining the future of architecture completing pioneering projects and developing future architects through their leadership in education and training.

Deeply concerned about the deteriorating state of architectural education in India and the quality of students they were seeing in their offices for internships, Ar. Tony Joseph founded the Avani Institute of Design, a not for profit institution which aims to promote a holistic approach to design education. Ar. Tony from his 34 years of practice as an architect realized an architect has to know about their society, about culture, about liberal arts etc, in addition to design and technical knowledge. Avani strives to develop well-rounded professionals equipped with the sensitivity, empathy, social and technical skills to address the ever evolving concerns of our built environment. Avani Institute of Design in Thamarassery has been conceived to be sustainable in all aspects.



Avani Institute of Design, Thamarassery, Kerala



Story of MobMeet Logo

Architect Joseph John, partner of J & I Architects is the designer of the MOBMEET logo that has been in use since 2009. MOB and the spirit of fun that MIT'ians are known to enjoy is the driving force behind the Paramount Picture 1972 movie Godfather moniker inspired logo. The MOBMEET logo transforms each year to mark the host city and the year of the meet. Interestingly during the Covid pandemic a virtual MOBMEET was arranged which had a logo based on Zoom. Every situation gets covered in his designs. The 2023 MOBMEET logo gets the 50th edition, city and year of the meet in its logo.

Architect Joseph John and his wife Architect Iby Sara John are AD 100 an Architectural Digest India magazine recognition of the top 100 architects. Joseph John graduated from MIT School of Architecture in 1986 and earned his M.Arch from University of Texas at Austin. He lives and practices in Kochi, Kerala.

We proudly showcase some of the Joseph John created creatives for event marketing and versions of logos from some of the years since 2009 to the present 2023.

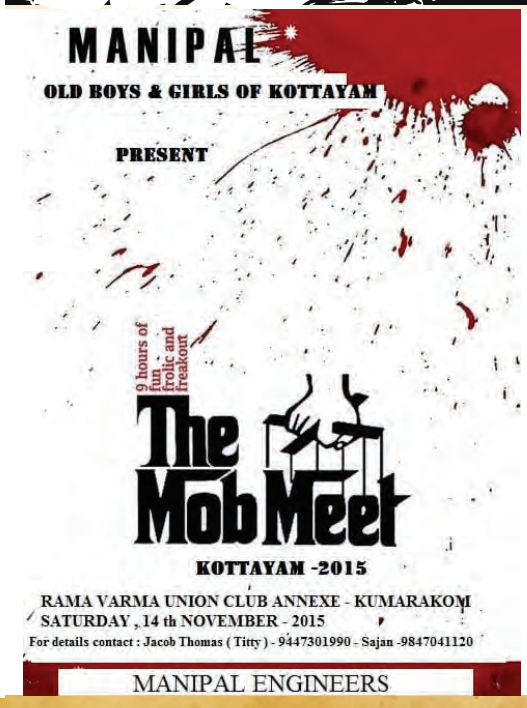
Joseph is known to his contemporaries as Kolapi by his MIT name because of his height and towering greatness of his art skills. The MOBMEET2023 Manipal Golden Memories front cover design is also credited to Ar. Joseph John.



50th MobMeet Kottayam 2023


The Mob Meet
KOCHI 2019
YOU'VE BEEN SUMMONED TO
The Mob Meet
KOCHI 2009


WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
A MOB which generally lies underground without much contact with each other resurfaces yearly on the second saturday of november. All of them were sighted in a place called Manipal in the past. Please do not approach these persons or attempt to detain them as some of the listed persons have a violent background and might be armed and dangerous. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of persons on the MOST WANTED list are asked to
call 9847051015
REWARD
12 hours of fun, frolic & freak-outs


MANIPAL
OLD BOYS & GIRLS OF KOTTAYAM
PRESENT
9 hours of fun frolic and freakout
The Mob Meet
KOTTAYAM -2015
RAMA VARMA UNION CLUB ANNEXE - KUMARAKOM
SATURDAY , 14 th NOVEMBER - 2015
For details contact : Jacob Thomas (Titty) - 9447301990 - Sajan -9847041120
MANIPAL ENGINEERS

The Mob Zoom 2020







A Legacy of Excellence: The Life and Impact of Prof. C N Sreedharan



By N S Sreekumar
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Professor C N Sreedharan, affectionately known as Prof CNS, stands as an eminent figure in the annals of Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), Manipal. His contributions, spanning over 35 years of dedicated service, left an indelible mark on the institution and its community. Born in Kerala, his journey from a young scholar to a revered educator is a testament to his unwavering commitment to knowledge dissemination, ethical values and institutional growth.

Formative Years and Educational Odyssey

Prof CNS embarked on his academic journey at the Board High School in Cherkala, Kannur Dist., Kerala, where he laid the foundation for his pursuit of knowledge. Later, he continued his educational journey at St. Aloysius College in Mangaluru, honing his intellect and passion for learning. These early experiences not only shaped his intellectual curiosity but also ignited the spark that would later fuel his educational career.

Founding Faculty Member at MIT Manipal

In 1959, Prof CNS joined the Manipal Institute of Technology (then known as MEC) as a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics. This marked the beginning of a transformative phase in the institution's history. As one of the founding faculty members, he played an instrumental role in shaping the ethos of MIT Manipal.

The Charismatic Educator

Prof CNS's reputation as an exceptional teacher spread far and wide. His charismatic teaching style, fueled by his voracious reading habits and exceptional oratory skills, made him a cherished figure among students. His classes were not mere lectures; they were immersive experiences that instilled a love for learning and critical thinking. His dedication to fostering holistic growth was evident in his approachability and friendliness towards both students and fellow faculty members.

Institute Building and Student Activities

Beyond the confines of the classroom, Prof CNS was deeply committed to nurturing the institute's growth. His visionary leadership was evident in his involvement in bringing vibrancy to the campus and enriching student activities. Prof CNS was a driving force behind the formation of the Manipal Institute of Technology Malayalee Association (MITMA), a cultural association that celebrated the rich heritage of Kerala. Under his guidance, MITMA flourished, organizing cultural events, festivals and discussions that not only promoted Kerala culture but also fostered a sense of unity among students.

Student Support and Cultural Enrichment

Prof CNS's dedication to student support extended beyond cultural associations. As the block warden

in the hostels, he prioritized the quality of living and dining facilities. His keen eye for detail ensured that students had a conducive environment for learning and personal development. His interactions with students went beyond academics, as he became a mentor and guide to many. His commitment to grooming students as well-rounded personalities was evident in his leadership of the Literary and Debate club, where he nurtured eloquence and critical thinking.

Pioneering Teacher Development and MOB Meetings

Recognizing the need for continual teacher growth, Prof CNS established and led the Continuing Education Department at MIT Manipal. He spearheaded the Faculty Development and Induction program, focusing on honing teaching skills, especially for newly joined faculty members. His dedication to fostering pedagogical excellence showcased his commitment to empowering educators to deliver quality education.

Later in his career, Prof CNS played a pivotal role in organizing MIT Old Boys (MOB) meetings. These gatherings brought together alumni of MIT Manipal, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared learning. Prof CNS's involvement in MOB meetings highlighted his dedication to maintaining strong connections between the institute and its graduates, ensuring a sense of continuity and mutual growth.

A Pillar of Integrity and Professionalism

Prof CNS's legacy was rooted in his unwavering integrity and professionalism. He led by example, imparting these values to everyone he interacted with. His emphasis on discipline and quality permeated through the institute, creating a culture of excellence that endures to this day.

Legacy and Continuing Impact

Even after his retirement in 1994, Prof CNS's influence and teachings, wisdom and guiding principles remain ingrained in the institution's thinking. Faculty members and students alike fondly remember his mentorship and cherish the memories of interactions with him.

The life of Professor C N Sreedharan, is a narrative of dedication, commitment and transformative impact. From his formative years in Kerala to his instrumental role in shaping early MEC/MIT Manipal, his journey stands as a beacon of inspiration for generations to come. His legacy of academic excellence, holistic mentorship and unwavering integrity continues to shape the institution's ethos, perpetuating his profound influence on education, character building and the fostering of cultural associations and alumni connections.



Prof. C N Sreedharan (second from left) with Dr. T M A Pai (Right) founder of Manipal Institutions on the stage during Malayalee Association meeting of the Manipal Engineering College



Prof. CNS can be seen in this Onam meal with the malayalee association at MEC along with Dr. TMA Pai.



Prof. CNS while participating at the Malabar MOB Meet in Calicut in conversation with Anto Dominic

From the close corner

By Prof Dr. Vinod V Thomas
Registrar -Evaluation
Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)
An alumnus of Manipal Institute of Technology 1978-83 batch and obtained M Tech and PhD from IIT, Madras in 1989 and 2003 respectively. After graduation, he joined MIT as a lecturer in Electrical & Electronics department and rose to the position of Director of MIT (2012 to 2015) and now serving as Registrar of Evaluation at MAHE overseeing all the academic programs of its campuses at Manipal, Mangalore, Bangalore, Jamshedpur and Dubai. Happily married to Dr. Sumam David, Head of Electronics & Telecommunication, NIT, Suratkal.
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45 years of MIT Manipal association… when the organizers suggested that I share some of my personal experience with Manipal, I didn't fully realize the challenge. But when I started to pen, it was more of confusion than clarity - where to start, what to highlight, how to do justice to the space given. Finally, I have decided to narrate a few incidents which highlight the ethos of Manipal.

An MEC/MIT alumni meet in Manipal around 2010 - Mr. Ashok Pai, the youngest son of late Dr. TMA Pai, reflecting on his college days. He started attending classes in Mechanical Engineering by securing an admission in MEC, Mechanical Engineering was his passion and choice. But after a few weeks, the then Principal summoned him and asked him to shift to Civil Engineering. Knowing fully well that asking for an explanation will not be appreciated, he obeyed the instructions. He didn't have the courage to report the incident with his father because it was obvious that the Principal had acted based on his instructions, However, he expressed his displeasure with his mother. She promptly shared the concerns of her son with Dr Pai and expressed that he is keen on doing BE Mechanical Engineering and not Civil Engineering. But the reply of Dr. TMA Pai surprises me even today. A parent from Kerala had approached him for an admission for his son and he was very particular about Mechanical Engineering. So, he had taken the decision to create a vacancy in Mechanical Engineering by shifting his own son to Civil Engineering. Mr. Ashok Pai graduated from MEC with BE in Civil Engineering in 1971.

Late 1990's - Felicitation meeting of Late Prof Yaji, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Workshop Superintendent. The speaker was Mr. Sudhakar Pai, son of Late Ramesh U Pai. From

the beginning Prof. Yaji insisted that all the students and instructors must be in blue cotton workshop dress. However, Mr. Sudhakar Pai decided to wear a dress of the same color but of softer material. Prof. Yaji noticed it and sent him out of the class without any explanation. Offended by the act of an employee, Mr. Sudhakar Pai decided to skip the workshop classes. End of the academic year he was denied academic progression because of the lack of attendance. The matter was brought to the notice of Dr. TMA Pai and his nephew Mr. Ramesh U. Pai. The elders discussed and decided to detain him for a year. Mr. Sudhakar Pai later graduated from MEC with BE in Mechanical Engineering in 1974.

The last incident is my own experience when I was the Director of MIT. It was 2014 and we were doing a faculty recruitment drive for MIT Manipal. Annually, we used to select about 100 faculty in various departments during my tenure as Director. While in the office, I received a phone call, the first lady of Manipal was on the call. She rarely calls me and I politely asked her the matter of the call; she said "Vinod, one of our close relatives, a girl, has applied for a faculty position in Biomedical Engineering and she is a post graduate in the discipline. I request you to shortlist her for the interview, else they will come home and drag us to interfere. However, whether to select or not I will leave it to the Committee and because of this call you need not deviate from your policies." I promised her that I will definitely send her the call letter and concluded the call. During the interview I told the matter to the Registrar, who was in the selection panel and sought his advice. He replied that any deviation in the order of merit will not be appreciated.

Dear friends, I hope through the above accounts you could get a feel of how MEC/MIT is governed by the first (founding) family. I don't know how many of you may appreciate the decisions, but from close quarters, I can vouch that this is how MEC/MIT was built as a Mighty Institute as we see today and I am proud to have been a part of Manipal for the last 45 years.



A Manipal - Milwaukee Alumni story



By Shajan Mathew John, former Director, Milwaukee School of Engineering,
MIT Mechanical 1989, MSOE MS Engineering Management 1994.

This is about how I "connected the dots" and became a fellow alumni with Padma Bushan Dr. Ramdas M Pai, Chancellor, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE). Dr. Pai was conferred his first honorary doctorate from the USA in 1996 from the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. Pai is a living legend that took the reins of Manipal Medical and Educational Institutions that his father Dr. TMA Pai founded to one of global stature and glory with many prestigious international collaborations and campuses established in several foreign countries.

MSOE founded 120 years ago is a small private university based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. The uniqueness of MSOE is its applications-oriented teaching and its close relationship with industry that train highly sought after graduates. Following my mechanical engineering degree from MIT, Manipal in 1989 and working in machine tool manufacturing for nearly two years I got admitted to MSOE for my MS in Engineering Management and joined the program in March 1991. My previous work experience in fluid power opened an opportunity for me to be a graduate research assistant with full tuition scholarship working at the prestigious Fluid Power Institute of MSOE that operated under the Applied Technology Center (ATC). ATC facilitated all industry university collaboration and applied research engagements.

This opportunity allowed me to directly interact closely with Thomas W. Davis, then vice president of academic affairs and director of the ATC. My decision to go to study at MSOE was to build management acumen in the engineering field to potentially build an engineering oriented own new business venture. Recognizing my interest in making professional connections, Tom as a "king maker" leader got me involved in a variety of external engagements over and beyond my research assistantship projects. Among them was taking me along to discussions with Wisconsin Technical College System deans to establish a path for two year technical college graduates of the system to transfer their credits to MSOE paving a way for completing a four year bachelor degree in engineering technology. This exposure triggered an idea in my mind for our MIT and India's then highly in demand engineering education scenario.

The idea was a similar opportunity for a 2+2 degree completion pathway for Indian students. For background I had knowledge of my MIT batchmates that had transferred to US universities on their own effort to complete their bachelor's degree. I had a keen sense that an MSOE type university with strong industry ties and applications-oriented teaching philosophy will be attractive among MIT students (and families, many were from industrial business background) if the transfer process can be formalized

and streamlined. With this realization I proposed the idea to the MSOE leadership and to Dr. Ramdas Pai of MAHE. My ease of connection to Dr. Pai was through his daughter Dr. Rekha Pai who at the time was living in Milwaukee with her husband Dr. Narendra Kini.

Dr. Ramdas Pai and MAHE were in 1993 facing an Indian court decision that forced changes to college admission criteria altering the revenue model that existed until that time. So, my proposal to MAHE to consider starting a two year program based on the MSOE curriculum that could streamline students from India completing two years of credits based in Manipal and then transferring their credits to MSOE to complete a bachelor degree awarded from MSOE was immediately accepted. This is the foundation of what is now a 30-year-old institution at MIT campus known as the International Center for Applied Science (ICAS). MSOE took interest in the proposal as well and supported me to create this program and installed me as the first director of international programs for the university in their 90-year history at that time.

To recognize the exemplary leadership of Dr. Ramdas Pai demonstrated by implementing these new to India ideas that led to MSOE awarding the honorary degree in 1996. I graduated with my MS in Engineering Management in 1994 from MSOE. This made both of us fellow alumni of MSOE joining the ranks of 16,000 strong globally today.

The purpose of sharing this story is to encourage senior leaders in industry to be receptive to young talent like I was only 25 years of age when Tom Davis invested in developing me and empowering me to establish the joint international program. This resulted in something that has benefited many thousands of students and families over the past thirty years and many more will be in future years. The model of the 2+2 program we introduced in India at that time has spread like wildfire in India at many institutions. For the young and experienced talent my advice is to always observe situations and when you identify a problem, store that in your mind for later connecting them to opportunities that can solve the problem in a win-win-win fashion.

I am proud to have created the first international university linkage and exchange program at our beloved MIT that has now become a world-renowned institution that celebrates many big names among its global alumni from the corporate world, highly successful entrepreneurs and even a Central Minister in the present government of India. Names such as Satya Nadella, Rajeev Suri, Faizal Kottikollon, Rajeev Chandrashekar, Sandeep Maini, the list is too long to list them all. Here on MOBMEET Golden Jubilee edition I wish all MITians everywhere the best of success and impact in their spheres of interest.



Left to Right
Dr. Ranjan Pai, Dr. Rekha Pai, Dr. Ramdas Pai, Mrs. Vasanti Pai, Dr. Narendra Kini. Picture of Ramdas Pai holding his honorary doctorate degree certificate 1996, Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Shajan John receiving his degree from MSOE President Dr. Hermann Viets, Milwaukee 1994.



Shajan John with 2023 MSOE Software Engineering graduate daughter Miriam S. John



Milwaukee School of Engineering Campus in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



A Prank Holiday tale at Manipal

By Samson Varghese
1978-83 Electrical Engineering
Retired Deputy Chief Engineer, Kerala State Electricity Board and former Technical Consultant with EnergoProjekt, Muscat, Oman. Presently living in Thiruvalla and travels frequently to Malaka, Malaysia where his daughter and son-in-law lives and both of them are Dental College Professors at the Manipal University College. His wife Dr. Shirly Samson is a Professor at Pushpagiri Medical College, Thiruvalla.

Forty years ago, a memorable prank was orchestrated within the confines of the MIT Viswabharathi hostel. It's worth mentioning that this hostel exclusively housed South Indian male students. The backdrop to this escapade was the recent news of the passing of Mr. Malpe Madhwaraj, a well-known local entrepreneur and the husband of Manorama Madhwaraj, an MLA. This somber event unwittingly presented an opportunity for some mischievous fun!

One of our friends managed to smuggle out a few sheets of the official MIT letterhead and office seal from the principal's office. We quickly prepared a notice in conventional wordings, announcing a holiday for the college on account of the untimely demise of our local dignitary. Another friend, who is good at reproducing the principal's signature so well, had authenticated it. We then sneaked the forged document onto the college notice boards and hostel blocks.

The next day, the entire campus was deserted. Students, teachers, and office staff alike had all stayed away, thinking it was a day off. Remember, a good Hindi movie morning show was running in Udupi Alankar theatre then! The only one who was flabbergasted and found it mysterious was none other than Dr. K. V. Kamath, the principal himself. Furious as well as clueless, he started running around trying to track down the originator of that fake notice, but to no avail.

Eventually, he gave up the pursuit and ordered his office assistant to remove the mischievous notice and replace it with another one saying that classes would begin after lunch time.

To this day, the plotters and collaborators remain at large. The Principal must still be curious and searching, although it was just a harmless prank!

Looking back, we do feel a little bad for Kamath sir, but it was all good fun.

DYED Romance



By Alex Zachariah (1985-89 E&C)
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(The characters of this "real story" are made into fictitious ones for obvious reasons. Of course, as usual to avoid any legal hassles, we took the oath that it does not have any resemblance to anyone living or dead, if felt it is purely coincidence)

We were basking in being almost seniors in our third year at MIT, when my friend (let's call him Ravi) took a serious liking to a smart pretty girl (Aakansha) in our batch. Right from his pre degree days Ravi had a "thing" for vivacious Aakansha whom all the guys would swoon over and admire, who was probably the cause of Ravi's distraction that caused him to flunk his entrance exams for Engineering. Ravi was an extremely studious and responsible gent of our times who had great leadership skills and created synergy amongst his friends.

Ravi was never that outgoing or witty, but he complimented his mannerisms with a good style sense



and was always proper. His language was average then and had inhibitions in spoken English. So, he was shy those days to open conversation with the opposite sex. Ravi had an ego that was as tall as him. Luckily, he wasn't that tall, and with a heart of gold; his ego melted with time. Ravi's roommate was an "urban upmarket dude" who used a naval background to tout for his "fox trotting" skills. A total extrovert with a fake American accent, he was proud of his bulging biceps that grew whenever he interacted with the pretty ladies of our college. Honestly, the urban dude used to transform into a Boeing 747 in the presence of the womenfolk and it all fell off when he was with us guys-- a good old single engine Fokker airplane. The truth is, in spite of the obvious differences, they became best buddies and stayed as roommates sharing their dreams, aspirations, sorrows, worries and above all mischiefs.

So, Mr Boeing 747 found out his roommate's crush on Aakansha who happened to be a family friend and he promoted it wholeheartedly. He arranged the "first meeting" for them in front of the lady's hostel. My friend was timid in his approach and action so being the intrepid ladies' man, he coached timid Ravi on what to say and do. But Ravi could not muster up enough courage and could only talk about power electronics and digital signal processing. Most of the time he missed achieving his goal of proposing his love for the lady mixing up with the academic topics of Analog and digital communications.

Time went by and fifth semester results were declared. In celebration of Ravi's and Aakansha's excellent grades, Mr Boeing 747 jumped on the opportunity and booked a "dinner date" at Star hotel in Udupi those times, a little away from the city area on the NH17 which was the usual haunt of couples of our times.

By now Ravi was a bit more social and smarter, and concentrated on his looks and dress. Moreover Mr Boeing 747 had inculcated some style statements from his side like possessing good shoes and some attractive branded perfumes which were as expensive as a month's mess bill of those times.

Ravi chose a pair of white pants to wear for the "dinner date" but it was vetoed by his roommate as the combination of dark shirt and lighter colour pants made him dull as his complexion was "wheatish". So, our hero decided to "dye" his white pants to black colour at a dying shop at Udupi those days, got it well pressed and a light-coloured beige shirt, new belt and a borrowed watch. He looked like a bridegroom the night he was to take his lady love for dinner. He had a

motorbike stripped of its back side hold and support, an idea by his urban roommate to force the girl to hold the hero on his shoulder or waist as a support.

The scene was all set and D Day came, all set to take off for his first "dinner date" ever. Armed with witty dialogues that he had rehearsed so many times in front of the mirror, he was set for the date. After thoroughly dousing himself with 'Christian Dior's Poison" he climbed his worthy steed and zoomed to the ladies' hostel, his scent preceding him miles ahead.

His lady love Aakansha, dressed in a "white churidar" looking gorgeous like an angel waiting outside the gate with a gleaming smile, had appreciated his punctuality. Without wasting any time outside their hostel, they took off on their dream journey. Our hero ensured that he never missed any pothole on the road and made his bike jump through each of them. The heroine was first holding on his shoulder and had to resort to putting her arms around his waist for a safer ride. The journey took longer than usual and finally they reached the restaurant, which had a perfect romantic ambience with a small flower vase with two red roses... everything seemed to be going like clockwork.

They were seated and began chatting away when the waiter came and asked for the order. Now was Ravi's chance to impress this beautiful girl and to acquire some guts ordered a vodka and fixed a cocktail for his lady love, to which she took his promise to be kept within them. (Sorry, this was told to me by him later in life).

Over the first few minutes of their meeting his eyes were glued to her eyes, and he felt that he could see an ocean in her eyes.

Aakansha was a chatter box and kept on talking about herself and her family. Ravi listened to her patiently even though he got bored with her narration of family. Time ticked by and the second peg was ordered, as the first one didn't give him the strength to say what he had on his mind. He thought a cigarette would make him more courageous to speak up his mind. He asked her permission and lit a cigarette and smoked like a professional. She then said to him that she hated people who smoked, and her dad too was a smoker and her mom pushed him to chuck that addiction. The night grew dark, more drinks followed and on the fourth one, he became very conscious of what he was to say. All rehearsed dialogues evaporated into thin air, and it was 9.15 PM and then she reminded him of her hostel curfew time.

Finally, a much dreamt and closely held "dinner date" came to an end without the desired outcome. Perhaps my hero never felt so bad like that again in his life, as he couldn't divulge the truth that he had in his mind. They rode back together, and he dropped her at the ladies' hostel and agreed to keep the "dinner date" between themselves. Those days these were all considered "taboo" and a moral issue if known to the society.

The tail end of the story is where the suspense was. The very next day our hero went to his class, which also had female students and one of them was talking about his Aakansha's churidar getting smudged with a black colour from someone's bike's seat the previous night. Since it was his bike being the culprit, he quietly went to his bike and started rubbing his hand on the seat, to see whether the colour was coming out. To his surprise nothing happened. He was really puzzled as he couldn't face his crush from then onwards for some time. He hid all this from his roommate, and he started to lose interest in everything including his appetite for food. Seeing all this, his roommate asked him about the happenings of that " dinner date" including the mishap of his bike's seat dirtying her newly bought white churidar. With a sigh of relief, the story was heard by his roommate, and he too was puzzled by this unique phenomenon of bike seats dirtying someone's dress. In fact, the day when the dinner date happened both of them ensured the neatness of the same fully.

Both of them were engrossed in deep thinking of what would have happened. Suddenly there was a loud knock in their room. Our hero got up and it was Dhobi who came to deliver the washed clothes. The dhobi's bill was huge and much more than the estimate. Furiously our hero questioned Dhobi's overcharging. With a calm smile the dhobi said that the black pants colour ran out while washing and stained and spread to other clothes and vests. Dhobi ended up replacing those expensive vests of the North Indian boys and charged Ravi for the damages incurred!

They understood what had happened on D Day then. Ravi quietly paid the Dhobi and closed the doors!



An MIT Ragging incident



By Varghese Abraham
Electronics and Telecommunication (1976 -81)
Started his professional career with BPL Limited and has a wide experience in professional electronics, Office automation, Televisions, Medical Electronics and worked at various capacities at Kochi, Hyderabad, Bangalore until 2003. From then onwards, Varghese is an entrepreneur of a Private Limited company at Coimbatore trading in consumer durables, small appliances and computer peripherals and sold the entity to Chettiar group in 2011. Moved to Kochi and doing own small business from thereon. Spouse, Sarah is a home maker and has a daughter, Mariam Varghese married to Praveen George and his only son, Abraham Varghese is married to Reshma Thomas and settled in Bangalore. Abraham has three grandchildren, Serene, Shaun & Aiden
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Ragging on the campus during our first year (1976) at MIT was more fun and the process was instrumental in molding us to mature, bold and challenging personalities. Many of us were brought up in the strict control of our parents with little opportunity in schools to have large friend circles. Moreover, there were a lot of restrictions and screening in our external activities which made us truly introverts. Joining MIT hostels was a sudden open up to freedom and at the same time a fear inside of managing ourselves. Though I have heard about ragging in schools / colleges, never before have there been occasions of somebody blocking your way and entering your personal space nagging you physically and mentally. Few of us who were in school boardings had few exposures from senior students, but those encounters never exceeded limits. Right from getting into the train from Kerala, the Malabar express, at each station we could see MIT seniors walking through the compartments or peeping through windows at platforms to confirm the count of freshers travelling in the train. The staring looks and facial expression gave some indications and enroute journey to Manipal from Mangalore station was a tension filled journey. At hostels, the first two blocks where the freshers were lodged, wardens frequently took rounds and by night the shutters locked. By midnight seniors used to come and knock on the window panes. Once they caught hold of one Malayalee fresher, then he had to go and call rest in other rooms and assemble in front of the windows where they were lined up. Appointments were given to batches to be present at senior's rooms in other blocks or some outdoor locations beyond KMC, firing range, hockey grounds etc. and the ragging happened for almost 3 to 4 months. Later they become good friends and helpful like big brothers. Many of us had a large number of close friends across the 5 years of contemporary batches, just because of the bond created through a good ragging process and intimacy generated from good mutual understanding.

When we moved to 2nd year it was our turn and very religiously, we followed what our seniors taught us.A bit more reformed ragging was done and some of us were tough guys! However, most of our immediate juniors enjoyed the process and we quickly became



friends in a couple of months. But when we moved into third year, the second year juniors changed the style and it went to very unpleasant physical ragging, which hurt many of the freshers. A few of the freshers came to us and showed us the bruises and explained about the physical harassment done by the second year seniors and we smelled trouble. Involving a few more super seniors we had a serious round of meeting with the second year students and warned them of the consequences they have to face if continued with this physical harassment to freshers. One of the freshers a tall bulky chap who was in the group came to us and was complaining about the torture he was facing. But then speaking to him in detail, we understood that he was very homesick and was often talking about his sick mother and her cancer treatments. By this way, he was unnecessarily trying to escalate the ragging issue. By next day it was reported that the boy went missing and wardens by then sprang into action. Many second year guys were questioned and wanted to know whether he was abducted and kept in custody of seniors. By the next day college authorities called his home and could understand that he had reached home with luggage and had appraised his family of the ragging he suffered on the campus.

Both his hands were cut with a blade or sharp object and the shirt had blood stains. Family members were shocked and terrified as the boy was refusing to return back and did not want to continue engineering. Also threatened with dire consequences, if the capitation and the semester fees remitted are not returned. Wardens by this time came to know about the physical

ragging issues happening in the hostels and collected info from freshers and the names of those second year students involved in ragging and issued show cause notices. They in turn reported about the warnings given by the seniors and reported names of a few of us. Next day I and two others were summoned to the warden's chamber at the electrical machine lab in the college and were questioned by a panel. I said the boy was terribly homesick and was telling about his mother's illness and we were only trying to console him and protect him from second year students. Wardens decided to keep five of us on suspension till the boy is returned back to college. The warden gave the address of the boy and asked us to proceed the very next day to his home with the mission of bringing the boy back to the college.

One of our batchmate's cousins was a lecturer in a college at Shornur and we thought we could get his advice before going to the boy's residence located at Pattambi. As planned, five of us reached Shornur and the lecturer cousin of our friend was in the railway station to receive us. He took us to his residence, and we briefed him of the situation. He volunteered to accompany us to the boy's house at Pattambi and all of us proceeded in a taxi car hired from Shornur. It was a village area almost 7 kms away from Pattambi at the banks of Bharathapuzha. A large Namboodiri "mana" situated in a huge property with a lot of workers engaged in farming and household works. Bit scared of seeing the background, we decided to park the vehicle at a distance on the road and discussed how to approach the home. By this time few people had noticed us and information passed around that some outsiders had come to the premises, and they were observing our movements.

After a discussion we decided that only three of us would walk down to the mana, the rest including the driver would wait in the car. As there were no mobile phones at that time, I briefed the group about the signals we would make in the event of anything turning against us. We walked through the narrow muddy lane and reached the mana. There was an old man, typically a Namboothiri Karnavar (Karnavar – Chief of the Brahmin family) on an easy chair in the big portico and few people around him. Seeing us, the "Karyasthan" (A home manager who managed the day today affairs of affluent Brahmin families) at home showed actions to move towards the outhouse situated in a corner. We waited for a few minutes on the veranda of the outhouse and Kariyastan came to us asking for the reason for our visit. The moment we, informed that we were from MIT Manipal, he got very annoyed and was talking about the family's concern about the events that happened and the return of the boy home. He informed us that the boy was not at home at the moment and has gone to Coimbatore to see his mother who is on a check-up. We informed that the boy was terribly homesick and was telling us about the mother's illness and did not want to continue the course. Also, he escalated the ragging incident on the campus and used it as an excuse to return home. We informed that wardens and senior students have thoroughly investigated the incident and did not find any evidence of physical harassment. By the time the boy's uncle came and showed the blood-stained shirt and was explaining to us that the boy had said about the harassment he faced at MIT hostels. On examining the shirt, it was observed that the cuts on the hand had a peculiar pattern upwards as if someone used a blade and self-harm his arms. I put the shirt on my body and showed them the peculiar pattern of cuts in an array. I explained to them that if somebody had hurt him with a blade from outside it would have been in an irregular pattern and that too not upwards. Also, the uncle casually mentioned that the boy did not want to take the engineering course and he was pushed to it by his father. Taking up further from these points we came to a conclusion that the boy has created false evidence and has hurt himself with a blade to get sympathy from his relatives for not returning back to Manipal. We insisted that the boy should be returned to MIT and our mission is to take him back to campus. As the boy was with family in Coimbatore and could not be contacted by telephone for clarifications or explanation, a dramatic situation was avoided. That too was favourable to us in convincing the uncle and Karyasthan. We requested them to handover the torn shirt with blood stains and also to give us a letter that five of us visited the home and they are convinced that it was an act by the boy to return home as he did not want to do engineering course. Uncle went and discussed with the Karnavar and others at home and agreed to give such a letter and the shirt to me to show it to the wardens.

Quickly after getting the letter and shirt we returned to Shornur and caught the next train to Mangalore and reached Manipal. Met the wardens briefed them on our findings and conclusions. Handed over the letter and shirt given by the boy's uncle. Chief Warden was convinced of our finding and our suspension was lifted. Five of us were able to return to classes.

MOB Cruise to the Arabian Sea





By JP Premlal 1976 batch
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Yes indeed! The MOB MEET of the old boys & girls of Manipal Engineering College and Manipal Institute of Technology that has continued every year on the second Saturday of November since 1974 happened on 12, 2022 in a distinctive manner organized by the MIT Batch of 1976. MOB sailed off into the Arabian Sea on the exclusive luxury cruise NEFERTITI at 12 nautical miles to discover the exotic beauty of the sea cradling the Kerala shores with its scenic splendour. A long shore line with serene beaches, tranquil stretches of emerald backwaters, top hill stations and exotic wildlife were a few of the wonders that awaited the participants from other states and abroad in Kerala.

It was appositely named as THE MOB MEET ARABIAN SEA 2022 and it turned into a splendid Yacht Party of the Manipal Old Boys and Girls.

The MOB Meet Arabian Sea 2022 was conducted on the Luxury Cruise NEFERTITI of Kerala Shipping and



JP Premlal Awarding Plaque to Mr. George Jacob Muthoot



Inland Navigation Corporation Ltd (A Government of Kerala Undertaking). Being a cruise, the challenges were innumerable and to enable smooth operation of the event everyone had to board the ship one hour before the cruise time. Once the vessel was cast off, entry to the vessel was not possible under any circumstances. Added to this the government had many guidelines to be strictly followed without faill. KSINC does not entertain any kind of drug use and if found out strict legal action was imminent. Outside alcohol or any beverages, narcotics even chewing tobacco was strictly prohibited. On top of it smoking was strictly prohibited inside the ship. All the events were followed by SOP issued by the Government.

The Luxury Cruise NEFERTITI, a vessel by The Kerala State Inland Navigation Corporation offered, A Banquet Hall that can easily accommodate 200 guests in comfort, Entertainment Room for the Spouses & Games Room for the Kids, Restaurant serving delicious Gourmet Food, fully equipped Lounge Bar, Open Sun deck to enjoy the many shades of the enchanting Arabian Sea and Music & Entertainment by select Artistes. It was an exciting and memorable journey, tied by a passenger booking contract that was strictly adhered to by all. It was a game changer.

The Check in started at 13:30 hrs at the grand canopy that was arranged at the wharf where the engineers and their families rested over fresh tender coconut juice and collected their boarding passes. Once the boarding was done at 14:30 hrs everyone got settled and the meeting started with a prayer. The MOB MEET ARABIAN SEA 2022 was introduced to the gathering by the MC and it was followed by the remembrances of the MITians who left for the heavenly abode during the year. The welcome address was done by JP Premlal, general convener of the meet. The meeting was inaugurated by cutting of the cake by Dr. M. Vijaya Kini, Associate Director MIT Alumni who delivered the inaugural address. The keynote speaker was none other than Mr. Chendil Kumar, Leading International Toastmaster. Lot of super seniors like Abraham Thomas, Jacob Thomas, Abraham Joseph (1961 Batch) George Moolayil, Rajan K Abraham (1962 Batch) John C Neroth, Jose Kuruvila (1964 Batch) and PV Thomas (1965 Batch) were on the cruise and honoured by the faculty by adorning the Ponnadas. Kudos to our seniors who were with us for the yacht party truly demonstrating the spirit of MOB! That was the drive of MEC. Probably the juniors need to catch up as a motivation that would drive them to keep the spirit of MOB going year after year. The Vote of Thanks was rendered by Natarajan T.

The sunset break turned into a Rendezvous with DJ Vineeth on the open deck. The men were lounging at the ATHENA Bar while the 'Beyond Gravity' Band was playing the blues and rock anthems of yesteryears. The ladies and children were entertained with dance and songs by the MC and the artistes from the ship. After the dinner at the A/C Restaurant all were seated for the Indian Bingo followed by the pleasantries. The distribution of gifts was done superbly by Mrs. Shoba Varghese, Mrs. Shanti Suresh and Mrs. Priya Premlal. The cruise docked at 11.00 PM at the Bolgatty Jetty.

The concept of a 3-tier entertainment was visualized after seeing the facilities of the cruise with a vision to bring in a lot of camaraderie and fellowship. The flow of events had kept everyone on their toes, be it tapping to the music, dancing to the DJ or the heart beating when the numbers were called out by the Housie. Even the songs were listed out in advance to keep the mob audience rocking. Five hours of rocking and rolling on the ship went smoothly with a lot of companionship quite unlike the normal meetings that used to be the coterie of individual batches of the college years. Overall, the numerous reviews that kept pouring in even before disembarking from the cruise highlighted the event as "tremendous, never seen or experienced a MOB Meet of this stature" so far. It was indeed a rocking Cruise Meet.

While taking over as the General Convener it was announced that the meet in 2022 would be international. MOB MEET Arabian Sea 2022 was heard worldwide and the response was overwhelming. The excitement of the cruise made it truly global with 150 prior registrations. We reached the targeted number that included 25 Ladies and participation of 3 generations including grandchildren. Over 20 spouses were also equally enthralled by the quality and professional approach of the entire event.

Thanks to the faculty Assistant Directors - Dr. M. Vijay Kini, Dr. Vinod Kamath and Dr. Krishna Prakasha from Alumni Relations MIT Manipal for their presence and support, to the sponsors –KEF Holdings Main Sponsor, Cosponsors - Taiton, Dorfen Global, Elektratek Sales, Delinut, George Muthoot and Prashant Nair who stood by us and supported the event.

Last but not the least, I profusely thank the 'Year of 76' with 35 registrations and my batch mates Varghese Abraham, Suresh E, Natarajan T, James George, Srinath M and Sabu Jose for their dedicated support as the core team, their positivity and untiring work which contributed to the great success that got fully endorsed by the reviews of the much-elated passengers of THE MOB MEET Arabian Sea 2022 Kochi, in the 49th year this wonderful meet that happened in the Cruise Ship. The coming year is going to be the Golden 50th Year and as I look forward to it, I hope it will truly be an International Meet of grandeur and at least 300 people attending. I assure all the support and best wishes to Alex Zachariah who was selected as the General Convener for the 50th MOB MEET Kottayam 2023 and his Team, the batch of 1985.



Late Senthil Kumar Delivering a Touching and Memorable Speech

Me & MOB



By Martin GP
E&E, 1986-90 married to Saru Martin,
Computer Engg, 1988-92
Founder & CEO of CCZ International, a Garment Manufacturing & Export House.
Children:
John - Data Scientist, Ford Motor Company, Michigan.
Linda - MSM, Notre Dame University.
Noel - UG University of Arizona.

Why do I make it a point to go for the MOB meet year after year since 1990, is it for the spirits at MOB, to spend time with MITians or for the Flying experience or just to Relive MIT?

My involvement with MOBs began in 1990, shortly after graduating from MIT. One of my earliest and most vivid memories is from 1993 when a meticulously organized and well-attended MOB took place at a private beach in Kovalam, Trivandrum. With the full support of the Trichur based MITians, we organised (snap on top) it at an amphitheatre on the Vilangan Kunnu. A major change brought about that year was that the MOB was newly rephrased as MEC/MIT Old Boys/Girls, Ladies Hostel (LH) inclusion being the colourful part of the change. We had 167 MEC/MITians who attended the MOB that year, which still stands as the highest attendance. 12 MIT girls attended the Trichur MOB, the record which stands tall till this date. 3 caparisoned elephants welcomed the guests, some say a record for wild animal attendance, which the land of Pooram still proudly boasts off. The live Rock band enthralled the Flying attendees and the evening ended with a loud & colourful Firework display.

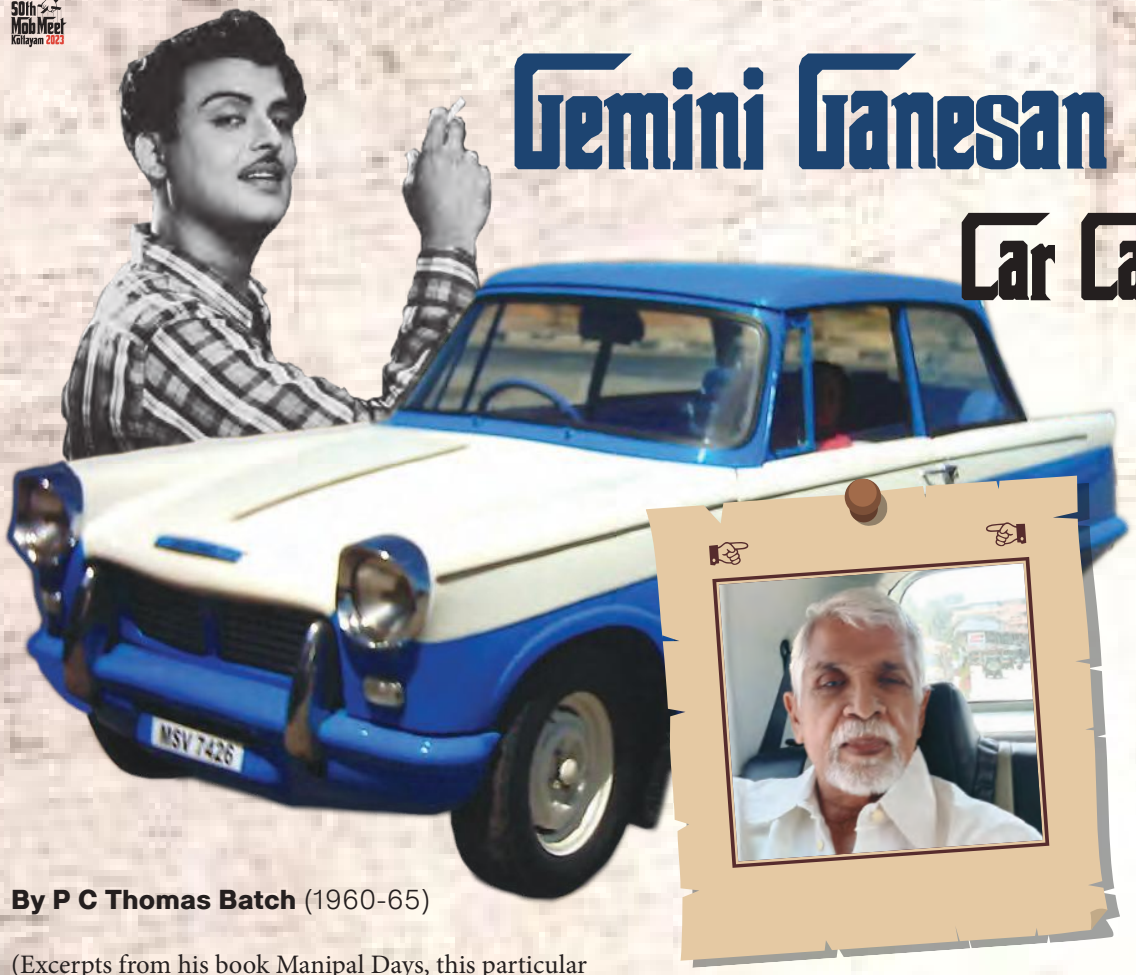
I was happily associated with a few more MOBs, supporting the organising, designing and also supplying MOB Tees in Calicut, Kochi and Thrissur. And of course, enjoying the spirit and flying experience on these Second Saturdays of the Novembers ever since.

After 22 years we brought MOB again back to the Cultural Capital. This time we wanted to do something exclusive. We recreated Manipal and Campus at the venue, at Chimney dam near Thrissur. All arrived at the Tiger circle (TC), the programs were held at a venue, named the Quadrangle. Manipal Patta shop was opened at the Venue and CARTs served the Original Manipal recipe - Sadhu's BUN Masala, but Kannan Bullseye could not be recreated. The Lucky 7 of Revels Stalls made up for the fund shortage and the Boys stayed overnight in the 4th Block and Girls in the LH.

The third MOB which I organised, was the most satisfying one and was out of this world, literally. The MOB Zoom 2020, because of which each one of us can proudly boast of a 50-year MOB legacy, without a Break. The Virtual MOB 2020, was hosted on MAHE servers, promoted on the MAHE website and event controlled by the MAHE alumni department headed by Kini. The MIT director was the Chief Guest and did a live keynote. MAHE registrar & MIT Alumni Director were in attendance and the peak live attendance touched 376 from all over the world. The event started with a Cheers, to up the Spirits. A live rock show by Eric Clapton singing the MOB anthem Cocaine, along with edited clippings of MOB rock show scenes over the years brought back memories of the Revels Rock Show night in the Quadrangle. The virtual mob ended in 45 minutes with colourful Fireworks on the Screens. The departing screen flashed "Mighty Mighty MIT" and edited out LL KMC.

During the 1991 Calicut MOB, our cherished Professor CN Sreedharan remarked in his speech, "MITians are remarkably resourceful." Let's all maintain this resourcefulness and carry the spirit of MOB to the generations of MIT, ensuring that the memories and camaraderie continue to flourish in our hearts year after year. Let's keep reliving life as it was in Manipal. Enjoy every moment.

Gemini Ganesan Car Case



By P C Thomas Batch (1960-65)

(Excerpts from his book Manipal Days, this particular tale was chosen to reproduce with editing)

Earlier days at Manipal were thrilling, happy, adventurous and at times dangerous. Ramaswami Ganeshan (1920-2005) better known by film name, Gemini Ganeshan acted in over 200 Tamil cinemas and was a well-known personality all over India and abroad. He was also honored with "Padmashree" award in 1971. He was fondly called "Kaadhal Mannan" which meant "the king of romance" by his fans and cinema audience.

The celebrated film artist Rekha is his daughter and his eldest daughter, Revathi got admission for MBBS at KMC, Manipal. Gemini Ganeshan personally accompanied her to Manipal, arranged a palatial rented bungalow for her stay at Manipal and also left a beautiful "Standard Herald" car for personal use.

Mr. K V Abraham aka Manthan as he was known among friends and three others devised a plan to lift the car from the open garage of the house where Gemini Ganeshan's daughter stayed. The plan was to drive the car for a while and then abandon it conveniently on the roadside. Those days, Standard Herald was the most stylish car in the market for its modern and sporty looks. The others in the group included G S E Prasad, Thomas Sebastian Karippaparambil, Rajasekharan Poti, son of a renowned lawyer Advocate S Narayanan Poti.

On the planned day night all four reached the house of Revathy, Manthan and Prasad managed to start the vehicle without ignition key. The petrol tank of the car was full, and Poti wanted to drive the car first and he sneaked into the driver's seat and the rest of the group got into the other seats. They all did this exercise without making even the slightest noise and finally got it out of the owner's house. The car's owner was none other than Gemini Ganeshan.

Everything went well as planned for about half an hour and then Poti was curious and pressed the acceleration pedal to increase the speed. It suddenly happened at a sharp curve and the car hit a big tree. This crash had

damaged the car completely and all the four involved in the episode escaped with minor injuries. Of the four, one had to be hospitalized but immediately discharged after first aid. Prasad, as usual, attended the next day's classes and the rest three stayed at the hostel. All four didn't want to get admitted in the hospital as they feared this could get them booked red handed.

Mr. Gemini Ganeshan's ego was hurt when he came to understand what had happened. He used all his might to get the culprits booked and wanted stringent criminal proceedings against the people who were responsible for such an act. Police could not ignore the case as the pressure mounted on them for an investigation.

All the four culprits were booked by the police after a criminal investigation under the supervision of Superintendent of Police. All efforts to appease Gemini Ganeshan was proved futile, as he was adamant to pursue the case and not willing for any compromises. The college authorities were also on the side of Gemini Ganeshan and bent on booking the culprits.

This made things turn from bad to worse for the accused as they did not have any option left for them, but to face the consequences. The most distinguished senior lawyer, Adv. Narayanan Poti had to personally visit Udupi a few times on this account as his son was one of the accused. Parents of the other accused also had to undergo a lot of mental traumas and worried about the final outcome of the same.

After long years of grueling trial, the order of acquittal was pronounced as follows: -

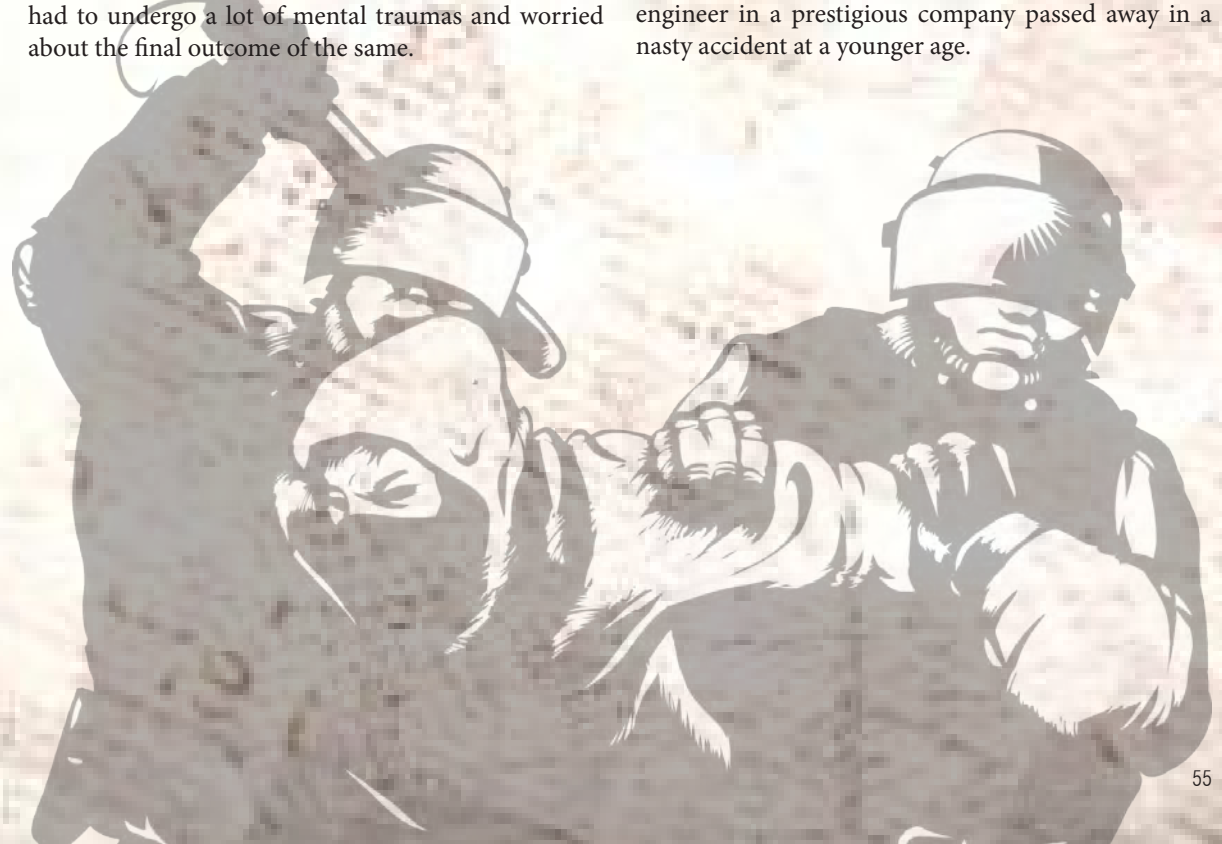
For the following reasons, I hold that the prosecution has failed to make out any case against the accused A1 to A4. Accordingly, I find them not guilty of offenses with which they stand charged and acquit them of the same under section 251-A(II) Code of criminal procedure.

Finding: A1 to A4 not guilty under section 379 and 279 r/w section of 34 of IPC.

It was an infamous act of those years, which had tarnished the image of Manipal Engineering College to a great extent and parents had a negative opinion of the place itself.

K V Abraham aka Manthan – is described as a smart youngster who had a good command of the English language, used to sleep through the day and kept himself awake at night which earned him the epic name, "Manthan". He is also remembered for his organizational abilities and leadership qualities, which people appreciated and at times came up with strange ideas like the one described above. He is no more, and he must be happy reading his comrades' memoirs of him.

Er. Vijay Poti as mentioned the elder son of Adv. Narayan Poti after graduating worked as a senior engineer in a prestigious company passed away in a nasty accident at a younger age.





DAY OF INFAMY

THE POLICE FIRING AT MIT CAMPUS
December - 1979



By Philip Morley Abraham
1974 Chemical Engineering. Now a planter by profession, residing at Ranni and managing Rubber and cardamom plantations.
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Blood shed everywhere, smell of fresh blood, a gruesome sight which is still a nightmare to me.

"SIR -PLEASE HELP…..(pleading cries from everywhere)
Many students have been shot - some are dying- PLEASE HELP - take the injured to the hospital." (Crowd begging for help)
"Bastard ……..Mother ___er (in Kannada) - GO BACK or I will SHOOT YOU" The arrogant policeman shouted at the students. He uttered all sorts of unparliamentary words from Kannada.
"SIR - PLEASE - They are DYING - Please take them to the Hospital" The student mob still pleaded with the cops for medical help
"Bastard -Tell your friends to retreat into the hostel and lock the shutter" Police started to order the student mob to go back to their hostels.
Sir – Please, You are irritating the students - They are violent - There will be more bloodshed - More lives will be lost"
Deputy Superintendent R.C. (Name "withheld") raised his revolver and pointed it directly at NARAYAN DAS.

Narayan Das stood defiantly, barely twenty feet away from the "blood thirsty" cop who had moments before ordered his men to fire directly at MIT students who had staged a peaceful demonstration before the residence of Principal V. Chandrasekhar -V C, as he was popularly known.

Ignoring the threat from the infamous cop - Das stood his ground waving a blood splattered shirt expecting to be shot at point blank range.

Then the stone pelting started. Stones, brickbats. hockey sticks, anything that could be used as a projectile was hurled at the cops by furious MITians who had gathered outside the fifth and sixth blocks.

The Deputy Superintendent of Police ordered a quick retreat and the police jeep reversed at full speed. It stopped at Kamath's junction and tear gas shells were fired at random against the students. Out of nowhere valiant MITians brought wet jute sacks and covered the tear gas shells, defusing and making it ineffective.

Shouting war cries in different Indian languages, the students fearlessly charged at the cops, who in turn had no option but to quickly speed away from the campus.

It all started a few hours before when the Final year students of MIT spontaneously marched to the residence of the principal demanding a relaxation of

the internal exams schedule.

Earlier a group of students had gathered between fifth and sixth blocks debating about the lack of time to complete the last internal exams, final year projects. lab reports etc. The final year exams were just two weeks away and so much had to be done in so little time.

Most of the other engineering colleges under Mysore University conducted only two written internal exams and grace marks were awarded for the remaining two. Our students were requesting the principal to grant grace marks for the last internal exam considering the fact of lack of time.

This discussion generated a lot of interest among final year students and thus started the spontaneous march to the principal's residence to plead with him to grant them some relief. I wish to emphasize again that the protest was spontaneous and not pre-planned.

About three hundred students eventually gathered on the road outside the principal's residence in the staff quarters. Everyone was in a festival mood. As usual Malayalee's were in the forefront singing bawdy Malayalam songs interspersed with the traditional Malayalee clarion call "UNDA PAKKIDA MALA PAKKIDA HOI HOI HOI."

There were no slogans personally attacking anybody. It was something like the "SHOUTING DAY" holiday which was part of the MIT tradition. Shouting day was an age-old practice at MIT wherein the students would shout - "We want Holiday - We want holiday" at the end of the college annual day celebration. At first the principal would decline to declare a holiday. The shouting would increase in volume and intensity until the principal - with a grin on his face - gave in to the students' demands and declare the next day a holiday.

This was the general atmosphere on that fateful day. We were confident that VC would listen to our grievances and give us the much-needed relief.

VC arrived shortly from a Rotary club meeting in an intoxicated state. He had just returned from a tour of the US and was naturally in a gung-ho mood.

Gopinath Pai Kasturi, the President of the MIT student's union and a few of the influential seniors went inside the principal's house to appraise him of the situation. VC was arrogantly adamant and refused to even give the students a patient listening.

Instead, he called the Cops.

Within a few minutes a battalion of Karnataka Armed Reserve Police arrived in a van followed by the Deputy Superintendent of Police and his armed team in a Police jeep.

This individual was a notorious law enforcement officer. A few weeks ago, he fatally shot a female student while dispersing a political protest in the nearby Ujiri. A police officer seemingly devoid of conscience.

The DySp came out of the principal's house and ordered the students to disperse. No one budged, instead, the slogan shouting reached a frenzy level, and the top-cop ordered his men out of the police van.

They assumed positions on the road with the front-line kneeling and the second line standing with rifles aimed at the students. It was a formation reminiscent of the Jallianwala massacre.

Tear gas shells were launched into the air. Many of us had never witnessed such a sight, and we initially mistook them for rockets, thinking that someone was celebrating Christmas. Seeing the cops taking firing positions, some of the students started running back to the hostels. The leaders shouted and told the students not to panic. They implored everyone to sit on the road peacefully. About five hundred students were squatting on the road peacefully when, without a warning, the Police opened fire.

The students ran a shelter. Looking back, I do not think anyone was injured at the staff quarters. The cops had probably shot into the sky to create fear amongst the protestors. The cops had achieved their objective and chased the students away. Mission accomplished.

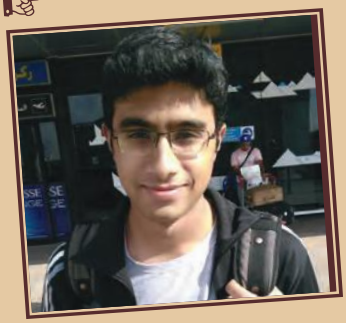
It was after this that the infamous incident happened.

The Deputy Superintendent of Police, chased the students in his jeep and somewhere near Kamath's he ordered his team to open fire at the retreating students. The firing was indiscriminate and a dozen or so students fell to his bullets, all of them cowardly shot in the back.

Amarnath Shetty was shot in the neck and died on the spot in the arms of his Malayalee classmate on the road towards the fifth and sixth blocks. An Andhra student was shot in the back and till today remains paralyzed with the bullet destroying his spine. More than a dozen MIT students were shot and lying in pools of blood in the fifth block entrance.

That was when Narayan Das approached the cops waving a blood splattered white shirt.

GRANDPA, DAD AND ME ARE FROM MIT



By Jerry Elengical
2015 B Arch MIT

Grandpa, David George V



David George V
1962 Civil Engineering

I joined Manipal Engineering College in 1962. In the pre-engineering course, I started classes around 2 months late, and as a result, I avoided the initial interaction sessions with my seniors. Quite a few of the students had a hard time clearing the pre-engineering course back in those days, and as expected, I was no different. After eventually passing, I started my first year, and there was an agitation which shut down the institution for around 20 days. At the time, the environment was quite politically charged, and there were even clashes between students each year when tensions rose up. I graduated in 1967 and got my Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Mysore University, as the college was affiliated with the university at the time. I have a lot of fond memories of frequenting Tiger Circle and the nearby Shangri-La Hotel during my days on campus, and am glad to see they are both still at the heart of Manipal's now bustling township. At night, it was not uncommon to spot hyenas in and around Tiger Circle, but times have now changed as the area is developing faster than ever. My biggest takeaway from my time in Manipal was to face every endeavour in my life boldly and without fear.



Joe Cherian
1985 Mechanical

Dad, Joe Cherian

Manipal has helped me shape my career, in the sense that it was the first place where I could meet people from all over India and build lifelong friendships. Even after leaving the campus environment, it is still very easy to connect with other MITians. It's not just the engineering students, but also those from other courses and institutions under the university. There's something unique about the campus, at least for me. Meeting other MITians always takes me back to things as they were 30 years ago. In those days, it would have been difficult to find another campus where you had students from so many different fields within a radius of five kilometres. Now there are more such institutions in India following similar models because of the diversity of thought and experiences that can be fostered in such environments. Being in this sort of space gave me a lot of confidence to approach and embrace whatever life threw at me. More than the engineering degree, Manipal gave me the confidence to take on challenges with a positive outlook, in a way that no other place could have.

Me, Jerry Elengical

Having two people in my life who had spent their college days in Manipal made me feel as if I was in familiar territory, as leaving my parents' home after spending so much of my life there was quite daunting at first. The initial months were far from easy, considering I had to get accustomed to living on my own while managing my studies and other commitments. That being said, there is a sense of freedom in Manipal that most students will attest to experiencing, which would be hard to find anywhere else in the country, as students from all walks of life and all academic inclinations are united in this unique bubble of a township. Diversity is an innate facet of Manipal's student ecosystem, to facilitate cross disciplinary collaborations and engagement between individuals with drastically different perspectives. In this environment, I made massive strides in my development as both an individual as well as a budding professional, and built friendships that will endure for years to come, even if life takes us all on different paths.



Jerry Elengical
2015 B Arch

Leaving positive impact for future generations



By Faizal E. Kottikollon, 1987 Civil Engineering, PGDM, TAPMI, Manipal
Chairman, KEF Holdings, Dubai, UAE
Chairman, Faizal and Shabana Foundation

As we come together to mark Manipal Institute of Technology's 50th MOB MEET, I write this letter reflecting as an alumnus from the 1987 batch in Civil Engineering. The memories of those days, the knowledge gained, the friendships made, and the invaluable lessons learned, all laid the foundations for which I, and many others, have built their futures.

In today's world, we find ourselves at a crossroads of opportunity and responsibility. The true measure of human progress lies not in our greatest discoveries, but in how those discoveries are practically used to reduce inequity. I firmly believe that technology can be a powerful force for good, particularly when it serves those who are in need. Whether it is through accessible education, quality healthcare, food security, infrastructure development or broader economic opportunity, technology is the key to scaling these services to reach those who need them most.

At KEF Holdings, we've made strides in this very direction. I started my journey by manufacturing specialized valve castings for the Oil and Gas Industry in the Middle East. Utilizing integrated technology at ETC - Emirates Techno Casting, Sharjah, we pioneered a thriving Green Foundry, minimizing our environmental footprint and creating employee-friendly work environments. The Green Foundry marked a groundbreaking departure from the traditional global foundry industry, known for its unsafe and hazardous operations. It achieved recognition as one of the top three foundries worldwide.



In 1997 Faizal established Emirates Techno Casting (ETC), Sharjah, UAE.

Following the success of ETC, we went onto harnessing technology to accelerate infrastructure development through KEF Infra's prefab construction business that used off-site manufacturing technology for manufacturing buildings. This helped to revolutionize infrastructure development in some of the most complex markets. By automating processes and using robotics, KEF Infra has manufactured over 32 million sq. feet projects of hospitals, schools, and won massive public and private infrastructure projects.

With time, however, my true passions strongly shifted towards Education and Healthcare. Education, with its immense transformative potential, has the power to change the world. Through the Faizal and Shabana Foundation, in 2013 we transformed a 120-year-old government school with modern off-site technology, vocational training, and teacher programs to create a holistic learning environment. The school has consistently ranked as the best government school in the country for the last 5 years. The Government of Kerala recognized the success of this model, replicating it in 1000 other schools. We are now furthering benchmarks for educational excellence through technology-driven interventions in schools in Shivaji Nagar School, Bangalore and Kothibagh School regionally, Srinagar, and we have also expanded our efforts internationally to Uganda in 3 schools reaching out to 1600 students.



Faizal and Shabana with their team and students at the Nadakkavu School, Kerala

Similarly with Healthcare, it was founded on the vision of creating the best health delivery system in India. Through world-class infrastructure and the best clinical expertise, the focus has always been on creating an ethical and transparent practice that can uplift the perception of healthcare in the country. And that's what we've been consistently doing with Meitra Hospital for the last 6 years.



Presently, my focus lies in preventive healthcare. I strongly believe in shifting our mindset from thinking of healthcare only when we are sick and start caring about health when we have it. This transition from "Illness to Wellness" encapsulates my vision for the future of healthcare, which is represented by my upcoming project, Tulah.

Thinking about what truly matters and leaving a positive mark for the future generations has guided my life. My philosophy has always revolved around giving my best, upholding integrity,



Faizal With HH Sultan bin Mohamed Al- Qasimi Sharjah, Ruler UAE.

humility, and most importantly, remembering those who are less fortunate. The opportunities to reduce inequality, even in challenging times, are well within our grasp. Success may take time, but it starts with the actions we take today.

MoB Photo Memories



MANIPAL ENGINEERING COLLEGE MANIPAL S.K FIRST BATCH B.E (Hons) STUDENTS 1960
Standing L to R:GEORGE THOMAS, K.KAITHAL, M.M.KAMATH, G.EAPEN, B.S.BHATHAUA, KOSHY.PMATHEWSitting L to R: K.V.KOSHY, RAGHAVENDRA RAO, NAGESWARA RAO, K.K.PHILIP, JAIN, SRINIVASA RAO, ADITHIYAN APPAN



Thrissur MoB 2018 organised by Martin GP & Thrissur MITMA recreating the Tiger Circle.



Alleppey MoB Philip Morley, Gerorge Jacob Muthoot, Paulson Varkey, Joby John



Finalising the 50th MOBMEET2023 during the Arabian Cruise 2022… Shaju D Thattil, J P Premlal and Alex Zachariah



Ajith Mathew in High Spirits @ Kumarakom MOBMEET



John C Neroth in a Conversation at MOB



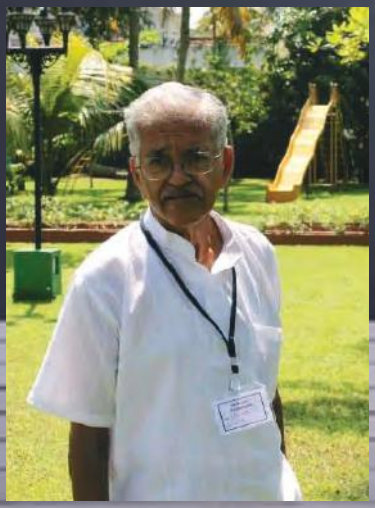
Kumarakom MOBMEET 2010



Kumarakom MOBMEET 2010 Beno Varghese, Koshy Karinjappally



On stage Dr. Vinod Thomas, Mr. G Eapen, Dr. M V Kini
Alleppey MOB 2016 – Business Session



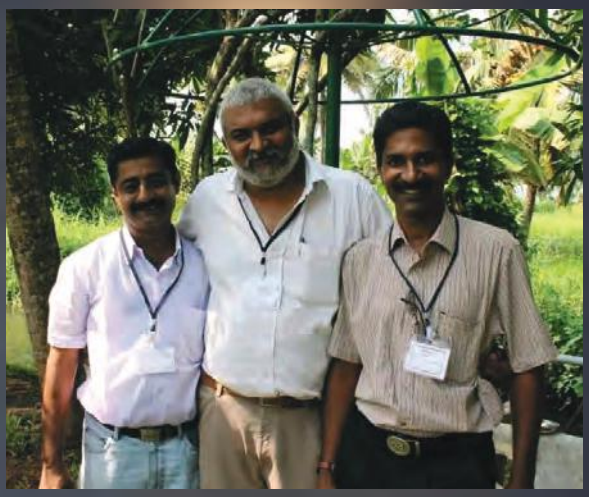
K C Mathew
one of the originators of MOBMEET



Audience at Alleppey MOB 2016



KOZHIKODE – M@lb@R MOB MEET



Organisers of Kumarakom MOB 2012 seen are late Girish P, Rajesh Bonny and Georgey Mathew



Elon M.C 1974 batch dancing away



Kottaym MOB 2015 Jacob Thomas giving Award to Guest



Political discussions during one of the MOB MEET with Cherian Thampu



Kumarkom MOB seen here Jose Joseph, Paulus Eapen and K J Jacob



1982 batch get together at Munnar



Arabian Crusie MOB 2022 @ KOCHI – on the deck of Nefrittitti Luxury Ship



Glimpses from Arabian Cruise MOB MEET 2022



Arabian Cruise 2022 MOBMEET – Pardeep Narayan, Ninu D, Biju D and Rajeev Varma from 1984 Batch



Shibu Meeran, Shajan John, Sunil Oberoi,Sabu Thomas and Alex Zachariah of 1985 batch in Milwaukee



Philip Morley with Late Senthil – MOBMEET 2022 Arabian Cruise



1985 batch at Mob Meet Alleppey 2016



Audience at the Arabian Cruise MOB 2022



Brothers in Arms - Sunil Thomas & Kurian Thomas @ MOB MEET 2021 at Changanacherry Contour



George Sam & Kiron LP @ MOBMEET 2021 @ Changanacherry



Alex Zachariah & Antu Dominic at MOBMEET 2021 @ Changanacherry



Georgey Mathew, Abraham Joseph & Anthey Godfrey at MOBMEET 2021 – Changanacherry





Changanacherry MOBMEET 2021



Changanacherry MOBMEET 2021 – Georgey, Santhosh & Regive Manuel



MOBMEET 2021 Changanacherry - 1985 batch



MOBMEET 2021 Changanacherry – 1985 Batch (Highest participated batch of the year)



Families from a MOB MEET



2022 Arabian Cruise MOBMEET



MOBMEET 2019 – Ernakulam



Arabian Cruise MOBMEET 2022 – Santhosh Nayak, Pradeep Narayanan & Shajan Mathew John



Sunil Edward, G Eapen and Georgyi Ernakulam MOBMEET 2019



Standing from left: Ajit Mathew (‘73),Balagopalan Nair (‘73), Natarajan Venkatraman (‘76), Alex Thomas (‘76)Thomas Cherian (‘73), Mohan AS (‘75), Cherian George Thampu (‘73), Biji Punnoose (‘71), Ranjit Mathew (‘75)Jacob Joseph (Sahodaran) (‘81), Ephraim George (‘77)
Back Row from Left: Thomas Nicholas (‘74), Philip Abraham (‘74), Muraleedharan Nair (‘73), Jose K Jose (‘71) Gopi Menon (‘71)



MOBMEET 2019 – Ernakulam Business Meeting



MOBMEET 2019 Kochi – 1960's Batch Members



Georgie Abraham , Jeeju Narikkalathil, Koshy karinjapally, and Rajesh Gopinath 2019 Mob Meet Kochi



MOBMEET 2019 @ Ernakulam



Group photo from MOBMEET 2019 – Ernakulam at Olive Hotel



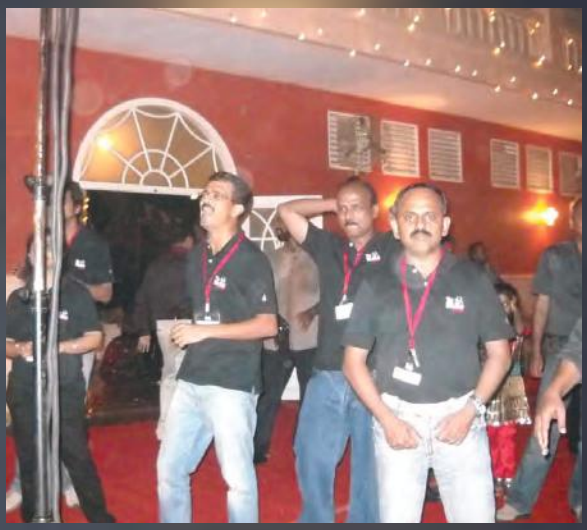
Three Musketeers – Rajesh VB, Shabir Ahamed & Martin G Puthokaren from 1986 batch



Thrissur MOBMEET – Saru Martin , Vipin Ramachandern & Arun Prasad



Thrissur MOBMEET - 2019



MITians in action at a MOBMEET



Glimpses from 2013 MOBMEET



MOBMEET 2013



MOBMEET 2013



MOBMEET 2013



Kottayam MOBMEET 2015 – Arun Prasad & Martin G P



MOBMEET 2016 Alleppey



MOBMEET 2016 Alleppey



MOBMEET conducted at night



From another MOBMEET



Koshy Cherian 1961 Civil Engineering Association President



Kumarakom MOBMEET celebrating Alamkalam Zachariah's birthday



MOBMEET held at Kumarakom



MOBMEET 2019 Ernakulam – Business Session – Cherian Thampu, Santhosh Nayak, Prof. M V Kini, Mr. G Eapen, Mr. John C Neroth & Prof Vinod Kamath



MOBMEET 2019 Ernakulam @ Hotel Olive – Organizers 1986 batch



1987 batch @ MOBMEET Ernakulam 2019



Reception committee from MOBMEET - 2019



MOBMEET 2019 Ernakulam



MOBMEET 2019 Ernakulam



MOBMEET 2019 Ernakulam – Participants from 1985 batch



MOBMEET 2019 Ernakulam



Women Power from MOBMEET 2019 Ernakulam



Arabian Cruise MOBMEET 2022



Arabian Cruise MOBMEET 2022



Ninan Jacob @ MOBMEET



1980 batch Get together at Kuttikanam



Another MOBMEET Memory



Mal@bar MOB meet – Tony Joseph, Joseph John & Philip Morley



Thrissur MOBMEET



Super Seniors MEET @ 2018 hosted by Muthoot Group

Sitting left to right:-1.Subhash Mittal,2.Anupam Rai,3.Mattomal Aggarwal,4.Ashok Pai,5.MG George Muttoot, 6.AnandMenon, 8.JM Kini,9.Dinesh Voraha. Middle(L to R):-1Rama Kamath2. Muralidhar Hegde, 3.Ananthanarayanan MR, 4.R.Singh,5.Markose CT, 6.Reddy, 7.AL Voraha, 8.Janardan Kini, 9.Mayooranathan,10.Srinivas Bhat.
Top row:-1.Unknown 2.Janardhan Shetty, 3.Chandramohan, 4.Khattar, 5.PV Thomas, 6.Ranga Pai,7.Jagdeesh Bhat.



Kumarakom GTG of MEC batches



Ms. Suguna the first female student of MEC



At Thrissur Mob 2018 - Martin GP, Vinod Manjilla, Leon Ittiachen, Rafeal



1986 batch Thrissur Mob



Pradeep Raj at MIT



1985 batch Silver Jubilee at Manipal in 2014



1985 batch 2018 GTG at Poovar



1984 batch 2023 GTG at Kovalam

Our Mighty MIT Campus Today



Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), Manipal, was founded in 1957 as one of the pioneering self-financing engineering colleges in India. In the year 2000, it became a part of the Deemed University, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE). Fourteen undergraduate programs at MIT hold accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation (NBA).

To foster innovation, incubation, and entrepreneurship, the institute is well-equipped with facilities like the Idea Cafe, Innovation Center, Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF), Manipal Universal Technology Business Incubator (MUTBI), and a standalone Bio Incubator.

Moreover, the institute actively engages in sponsored research programs, generously supported by funding agencies including DST, CSIR, AICTE, and the Ministry of Environmental Sciences.





Significant Milestones

2000 - MIT became an integral part of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE).
2003 - Implementation of a 10-point credit system.
2007 - Celebrations marking the MIT Golden Jubilee.
2017 - Celebrations marking the Diamond Jubilee.
Yearly publications surged from 4 to 1,269 (spanning from 1993 to 2022), marking a remarkable 300-fold increase in the last three decades.
Over 13 crores in external research grants have been secured over the last five years.
Since 2004, 300 PhDs have been successfully conferred.
The institute introduced a 3+2 integrated master's program for undergraduate students.
Additionally, a double degree program for students in the PC stream was initiated.



Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics, Manipal





HPLC Setup Laser Induced Fluorescence (LIF) Lab



In a move that will work towards providing a cutting edge research & development facility to upcoming civil engineering and architecture students, MAHE a global player in education and health care, has tied up with KEF Holdings, a multinational holding company that specializes in innovative offsite construction technology, to set up a state of the art R&D Center. MIT-KEF R&D Center is built on the premises of the Manipal Institute of Technology. Manipal with a total investment of Rs 16 crores, with an equal contribution from both partners.

The facility covers a sprawling area of about 32000 square feet. comprising several design studios, well equipped casting and testing laboratories for precast joints, beams and slabs, modelling and simulation laboratories, a conference hall, and a museum.



HPLC-L/F Lab



Femtosecond Laser Lab

Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) Lab



Surface Wettability Tailoring Laboratory for practical applications



Advanced Nanomaterials and Processing Laboratory



Central Library



Innovation Centre (IC)

Innovation Centre at MAHE was established to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of MIT in the year 2007. The aim of the Centre is to nurture Innovation, and encourage entrepreneurial talents among students, faculty and people of the region. It facilitates inter-disciplinary research and provides Incubation facilities to start ups and budding entrepreneurs. These provide facilities, resources and services to the student startups. They encourage innovation and entrepreneurial skills amongst the faculty, students and people of the region.

Central Instrumentation Facility

It houses the state of-the-art and sophisticated equipment like NMR, Scanning Electron Microscope, X-ray Diffractometer, Ion Chromatography and NIR-UV-VIS Spectro-photometer

MIT, Manipal

Over the years, MIT Manipal has witnessed substantial developments in its infrastructure. Nestled within a vast 188-acre campus, the institution has made remarkable progress in enhancing its facilities.

Some of the key features are as follows:

Academic and Administrative Blocks (88727 sq.m.)
Innovation Center
Central Library
Industry-sponsored Advanced Facilities
Technology Business Incubator
Tech Shop
Food Courts (10108 sq.m.)
Student Hostel Blocks (129077 sq.m.)
Faculty Residential Quarters (39197 sq.m.)
Additional Infrastructure Implemented Since 2000:

New Academic Blocks (Academic Blocks 3, 4, and 5), with a total build-up area of 38785 sq.m.

Redesign of the First-Year Workshop into Mechanical, Electrical, and Civil modules with modern equipment.

Construction of Ten Hostels (Blocks 13-23).

Establishment of Two Food Courts.

Development of New Sports Facilities.

Creation of a Student Activity Center (Student Plaza).

Construction of New Faculty Quarters.

Establishment of the NCC Office.

Modernization of the Children's Park.

Renovation of the Sri Venugopal Krishna Temple.

Complete Wi-Fi coverage across the academic area.

Academic Infrastructure Enhancements, including Virtual Classrooms, Lecture Capture Facilities, and Academic Management Support.

These developments underscore the commitment to academic excellence and the comprehensive growth of the institution.













Marketing Creatives of 2023 Mob Meet







Disclaimer

This Souvenir is produced to commemorate the 50th year anniversary of MOB (Manipal Old Batchmates) and has articles, reminiscences of individual writers with photo essays published as a collector's album. Most of these are real experiences, stories and articles from the authors and others fictious to conceal identities.

There is no effort to malign anyone specifically of their beliefs or cultures. The individual authors, who penned their memories and experiences are solely responsible to the contents written by themselves.

The managing committee or editorial board of this venture, do not subscribe or authorize to the views of any of the individual author's views or experience shared here.


50th
Mob Meet
Kottayam 2023