



## **Time capsule *circa* March 2010**

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Institute, a time capsule is being deposited at a location close to the auditorium. The accompanying plaque carries the following message:

**TIME CAPSULE OF IIT KANPUR  
BURIED HERE ON 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010**

**by**

**HER EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA,  
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVSINGH PATIL**

**What is a *time capsule*?** Organizations see tumultuous progress and tidings over decades and centuries. The participants in, what is nothing short of drama, indulge in intense debates and discussions, in classrooms and research laboratories, and possibly at street corners! The growth of the organization is sporadic but definitive. Can these milestones be singled out and recorded for posterity? The time capsule captures these trends quite subtly as nonlinear growth of an Institute, the recurring themes and values, and newer concerns that prepare a society for the future. Decades (indeed, generations) later, future societies would reflect on what we stood for as well as our ideals, goals, and aspirations.



Photograph of the time capsule



Photograph of the crane that will lower the time capsule

**The marble rock** placed alongside the site of the time capsule symbolizes solidity, integrity and permanence – attributes we identify with in our Institute.



**Marble rock transported from Banswada, Rajasthan**

**The contents** of the time capsule were finalized by a **committee** comprising of Professors S P Mehrotra, Ashwini Kumar, Ashok Mittal, Rajat Moona, Avinash Kumar Agarwal, Manindra Agarwal, Rajat Moona and Mr. Phool Chand Gond. The time capsule is very much impersonal and contains the following information.

- a. Aerial map of the Institute.
- b. Institute seal, silver jubilee logo, golden jubilee logo, engraved on silver.
- c. Copy of Statutes, Ordinances and Acts.
- d. Minutes of first and hundredth senate meeting and the Board meeting.
- e. Annual reports 1961-62, 1984-85, 2008-09.
- f. DRPG Annual Report
- g. Photographs collected over 50 years in digital form.
- h. R&D chapter from the Institute history book.
- i. List of R&D projects undertaken by the institute.
- j. R&D Publications (PDF)
- k. Information on birds spotted in the campus.
- l. Students Gymkhana, typical weekly menu of a student hostel mess.
- m. Copy of **courses of study** booklet in microfilm
- n. Academic program chapter (UG and PG) from the Institute history book.
- o. Information regarding non-academic activities of the student life.
- p. Copy of BTech/ MTech/ PhD, and all other degree certificates including printouts.
- q. Replica of the President's Gold medal.
- r. DVD of "Sharing A Dream – Indian Institute of Technology – The First Fifty Years".
- s. Oral record of the interviews conducted by Mr. Sunil Shanbag and the IITK movie of 2009.
- t. Institute blazer crest.
- u. Replica of the scroll signed by Mr. Narayana Murthy during the golden jubilee inauguration

It was decided that the above information to be kept in the time capsule would be in distinct media – CDs, pen-drives, and hard disks for softcopies as well as microfilms for certain essential documents. A few photographs as well as degree certificates are being included as paper printouts. The contents of the time capsule represent all sections of students, faculty, and

staff. The material in the time capsule has been encapsulated in special polythene and filled with nitrogen. Most softcopies are in .bmp format while some are in .pdf. An acrobat reader has been included. CDs have validated by a checksum procedure before sealing.

**The site**, when fully developed, will possibly have the following appearance.



**The time capsule event** is unique in the academic context and has created a buzz all over. Yet, it embodies our commitment to creating a future on our terms of vision and idealism.

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**For more details on time capsule contact:** *Office of R&D, IIT Kanpur*