Everything is not perfect but you can try to make it perfect

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My name is **Nitin Agarwal; I currently, work as a Senior Member of the Technical Staff at Salesforce. I completed my Masters in Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Hyderabad in 2014**. My interests are in the fields of Big Data, Distributed Systems and Algorithms. In my free time, I like to play Badminton and Football.

I would say destiny made me join IIT Hyderabad. I come from a very lower-middle-class family, and I had no intention of doing an MTech. I just wanted a job and appearing for the GATE exam was a backup plan. In the last semester of my BTech, I got a job at NEC HCL Noida and secured 325 AIR in the GATE exam. I was in a dilemma of whether I should go for a job or go for a master's. Thanks to my mother, who suggested that I should go for masters irrespective of the financial condition of the family. During counselling, I applied for almost all old IITs and IIT Hyderabad. I was selected in a few, but I decided to join IIT Hyderabad because it had very young and dynamic faculties, and there was an edge for Computer Science because of its proximity to Software companies.

During my time at IIT Hyderabad, I enjoyed almost all subjects, particularly Network Engineering by Dr. Kotaro Kataoka and Advanced Data Structure and Algorithms by Dr. Naveen Sivadasan. Network Engineering gave me the opportunity to understand and improve the IITH networking infrastructure.

In extracurricular activities, I was involved with the PRANET (Practical Networking) group, responsible for research in network and improvement. This also gave me the opportunity to interact with more students and staff. I developed my research instinct at IIT Hyderabad.

IIT Hyderabad education and training helped me in learning the Fundamentals of Computer Science with hands-on labs. If you are good with basics, it always gives you an edge.

My journey at IIT Hyderabad was beautiful. I enjoyed each and every moment of my time there, played a lot of games and made friends for life. I still remember in my first assignment I got 20/20, it gave me the belief that I will not be lost in a crowd. Obviously, getting Academic excellence award in 2013, Institute Silver medal in 2014 would always be special for me.

A message that I would like to convey to the the existing student folk @ IIT Hyderabad is "Everything is not perfect but you can try to make it perfect. Don't focus just on academic life, also focus on extracurricular activities, take care of yourself, family and friends. Don't just do assignments, try to solve problems."

The best thing about IITH is it has a strong focus on research and innovations. We should keep doing the same, also having strong collaboration from corporates and alumni would help more.

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"Try to give something back to the society and institute. Your contributions be it time, money, guidance can have a multiplier effect."

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Vice President, IITH Alumni Association
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