

ISHAN BHARDWAJ PHD RESEARCH SCHOLAR OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING PARTICIPATED IN SECOND NITS SCHOLARS IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME AT RASHTRAPATI BHAWAN FROM 16-22nd MAY 2015.

Nineteen scholars including three Ph. D. students had been selected from NITs across the country to stay at Rashtrapati Bhavan for a period of seven days from May 16 to May 22, 2015 as part of an 'In Residence' programme. Ishan Bhardwaj, Ph. D. scholar from NIT, Raipur was one of those three research scholar.

The NIT scholars, during their stay, interacted with Ministers and officials of various Union Ministries including Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad (U. Minister Communications and Information Technology), Dr. Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Science and Technology), Secretary to MHRD. They visited industries like Honda's car manufacturing unit and also got a chance to visit and understand the working of Income Tax Central Processing Centre, Financial Intelligence Unit etc as well as had an interactive workshop at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on a chosen theme. They were taken for a city tour too where they experienced the heritage of Delhi. They had a visit to Parliament of India where they witnessed the working of Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and the Lok Sabha (House of the people) and interacted with personnel from Bureau Of Parliamentary Studies And Training (BPST). They had chance to attend various programs with Honourable President of India and other Dignitaries, including a concert of 'Classical Music', 50th anniversary of India's first Everest expedition (1965), organized by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) and Inauguration of Wi-Fi Facility in Rashtrapati Bhavan campus.

They had an introductory meet with the Honourable President of India very first day followed by another interaction a couple of days later. Where Ishan Bhardwaj and his counterparts shared their views with the president. During the meeting, President said that the common thread he noticed among the NIT scholars was that they want to be agents of change in whatever capacity they were placed in to serve the country. He pronounced 'Technology is power'. The President said that NITs are front-ranking institutions in our country for imparting quality scientific and technical education. He added that the growth of NITs, as a class of institution, is diverse and is truly commendable being primarily the result of indigenous efforts, without help from foreign institutions. By inter-mingling of students from different parts of India in one institute, each NIT portrays a national character by design, making its campus a 'mini-India'. The President said that they, the students of NIT are an asset to this nation. There will therefore be hopes and expectations from them. They must understand and appreciate their responsibilities. He urged them to go ahead and make a difference to the society in which they lived in. In whatever they did, they should always perform with the singular motivation of doing good for the society. He wished them a happy and prosperous career ahead.

Followed by their meeting with the president scholars had a media interaction, where they were interviewed by personnel from print as well as electronic media.

Speaking to 'The Hitavada', Ishan Bhardwaj from NIT Raipur said this programme has helped breaking all stereotype perceptions about political class in his mind. Praising President Mukherjee, he added that he found President very liberal and independent minded, contrary to his perception of Mukherjee as member of a particular political party. Terming his visit to be like living in a dream, Bhardwaj said the programme enabled him with an opportunity to see functioning of the Government very closely

Redif.com published article stating:

Ishan Bharadwaj, electrical engineering PhD scholar from NIT Raipur, describes his experience as "living a dream." He adds that meeting the President was memorable, and meeting Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was also "an eyeopener" as he was "knowledgeable and informed about various issues." "I work in the field of biometrics and have two products which are pending patent. I want to continue my work on a research into speech recognition based on regional languages of India. We have realised that the government is using technological advancements for delivering governance and we can contribute to it," says Ishan. He adds, "Technology will play a big role in ensuring semiliterate people also access computers and web more easily."





