When Youths had an Exciting 'Nightlife'

IITGn students set up mini Manek Chowk on campus; faculty and students bond over yummy street food

PICS: BHAVESH RAVAT

Around 9 pm, when *Mirror* reached Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, we just followed the aroma of street food that led us to the basketball court, abuzz with youngsters along with faculties and their families. Trying to recreate the same ambience, students of IITGn put up a Manek Chowk on campus — one of our favourite destinations (and also a must-visit spot on every tourist's list) in Khadia which 'magically' transforms into a foodie haven at night. From the chocolate sandwich to that *dosa* 'swimming' in butter, Manek Chowk is a place hundreds of *Amdavadis* vouch for!

With 10 stalls — comprising students' stalls and some off the roadside — placed on the court, the Manek Chowk garnered great response ("Although the vacations are on," said a student) and it has encouraged organisers to have another session soon.

"Professor Harish PM initiated the idea and along with Ajinkya, Shubham, Suman and I, put this up together. It took us a week," said Vishvendra, as Prof Harish smiled, enjoying a *barf ka gola*.

"Looking at the great response, we are thinking of doubling the number of stalls next time," added Vishvendra, as Prof Harish said, "More than that, we will up the quality of the event."

Besides the stalls of sandwiches, cool beverages like *kacha aam-pudi-na*, *chhaas*, *bhel puri*, omelette, *pani puri*, etc, what also caught our attention was a screen which was constantly updated with messages.

"This is our new app called Flutrr, which was launched on campus a week ago," said Rajesh Patidar, who along with fellow mates Shivam, Pankaj and Ujash created the app. Flutrr was also launched on the PDPU campus.

"With this app, one can post anonymous messages about anything," explained 22-year-old Rajesh. So, people can post anything? "If there are posts which aren't in good taste, the community (in this case, IITGn) can delete the posts," added the mechanical engineer graduate.

Twenty-one-year-old Aparajita, a summer intern from KIIT at the institute, was busy doling out *bhel puri* to customers. "I chose to dish out *bhel puri* because the theme was street food. And the response has been amazing. I've priced it at a modest Rs 15," said Aparajita, busy juggling serving her food and talking to us.

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