



भूपेन्द्र सिंह हुड्डा  
BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA



सत्यमेव जयते

D.O. No. CMH-2010/55

मुख्य मन्त्री, हरियाणा,  
चण्डीगढ़।  
CHIEF MINISTER, HARYANA,  
CHANDIGARH

It is a matter of great pleasure to learn that a book about the success story of an IIT JEE & AIEEE topper, Nitin Jain is being published. This is for the first time in the history of India that such a book has been thought of, and which will be an inspiration for millions of students across India, who intend appearing in competitive examinations. Successful people show the route to success and Nitin Jain is one such example.

I am all the more happy to learn that Nitin Jain is from Faridabad, Haryana, my State. He not only topped two most prestigious competitive exams in one year, 2009 but also won Gold Medals and first position twice at the International Olympiads on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) in Indonesia (2008) and in Iran (2009) and Gold Medal at the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) in Mexico (2009), all in a span of two years; a stupendous feat by any standards. This performance has won him accolades from the entire scientific community in India and abroad. The Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh has also personally congratulated him.

It is but natural that the story of his incredible success has today raised curiosity in the minds of the common people, who are keen to know everything about the boy, and the preparation and efforts behind his unparalleled success. I am sure that this book will not only provide answers to all such questions, but also motivate them to follow in Nitin's footsteps.

I am sure that the book will be invaluable for students, who are looking to emulate the achievements of Nitin, for parents who are desirous of guiding their children to achieve excellence, and even for teachers who could take a leaf out of this book to learn from the experiences of Nitin's teachers.

I wish Nitin all success and more laurels in his future life. I hope that this book will continue to inspire its readers to achieve even greater successes in their academic life.

(Bhupinder Singh Hooda)



## **Prof. Vijay Singh**

Ph. D. degree from State  
University of New York (1978)

**National Co-ordinator of Science Olympiads**  
**Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education**  
**Tata Institute of Fundamental**  
**Research, Mumbai**

### **Worked with**

- Institute for the Study of Defects in Solids, Albany, USA
- Solar Energy Research Institute, Colorado, USA
- Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India
- Indian Institute of Technology - Kanpur, India
- General Electric Research Laboratories, Schenectady, USA
- A.T. & T. Bell Labs
- State University of New York at Albany, USA
- Chief Editor - Bulletin - Indian Association of Physics Teachers

My first encounter with Nitin Jain was not in person but via his responses to the very difficult questions that I had set for selection to the Olympiads. Nitin's response made it abundantly clear to me that he was an outstanding student who would win medals for India in the International Olympiads. My expectations were more than met and Nitin won Gold medals for us in Physics and Astronomy Olympiads.

Later on I did meet Nitin in person and had several long discussions on Physics with him. I found him to be extremely good and at the same time extraordinarily humble. I am sure he will continue to do India proud.

**Prof. Vijay Singh**

## PREFACE

This is a book about Nitin Jain, a young boy born to a middle class family in North India. There would have been nothing spectacular about the story of his life, but for the fact that Nitin has achieved academically, what none other has.

The Indian Institutes of Technology have now become well known the world over for their quality of education, and a degree from these prestigious institutions has today become a sure guarantee of a high paying job in the best of the industries and corporate sectors not only in India, but the world. Gaining entrance into an IIT is often considered the pinnacle of achievement for a student of the sciences, and they attract most of the brightest students of the nation.

A total of fifteen colleges use the Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination (popularly known as IIT-JEE or just JEE) for admission to their undergraduate programs. The toughness of these exams may be gauged from the fact that of the 3,84,977 candidates who appeared in the examination conducted on April 12, 2009, 10,035 candidates were declared qualified to seek admission, giving a selectivity of 1 in 59 for the IITs only. And Nitin Jain topped this exam.

The All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) is a national level competitive examination organized by the CBSE for admission to various under-graduate engineering and architecture courses in institutes accepting the AIEEE score, including 20 prestigious NITs. The AIEEE is reported to attract the largest number of candidates in the world sitting for a competitive exam in one single day. In 2009, around 9,62,000 candidates appeared for the AIEEE across 1460 centres across India and international centres at Dubai and Riyadh. And Nitin

Jain topped this exam too!

As if topping these 2 most prestigious competitive exams in 1 year was not enough, Nitin Jain won Gold Medals and First position twice at the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) in Indonesia(2008) and in Iran(2009) and gold medal at the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) in Mexico(2009), all in a span of two years. This mind boggling performance won him accolades from the entire scientific community in India, the Prime Minister of India and various other luminaries in India and abroad.

I am the proud mother of Nitin. Soon after the media splashed the story of his incredible success to the people of India, we were flooded with phone calls from boys and girls, students, teachers, educationists, parents and a host of other people who wanted to know all the details of how Nitin was able to achieve such heights. There were so many questions and it was physically impossible to share everything with every body. That is when the thought of writing this book came to my mind

In this book I have tried to tell the reader what made Nitin the achiever that he is? Is this some inborn talent, extreme passion or some supernatural energy that gets this boy going? How has his upbringing been? What is the secret of his unmatched intelligence? What has been his study schedule – his strategy for studying? Who are the people who supported him throughout his Herculean endeavours? What has been the role of his parents in his preparations? How did the parents support him in his efforts? Who, among his mentors rightly deserves credit for his success? Has he sacrificed a normal life to achieve all this? What undesired elements came along with his success?

This book will be invaluable for students who are looking to emulate the achievements of Nitin, for parents who are desirous of guiding their children to achieve excellence, and even for teachers who could take a leaf out of this book to learn from the experiences of Nitin's teachers. Nitin has become an inspiration for millions of students across India who appear in the many competitive examinations that are held in this country. Often the lives of successful people teach us useful things about the route to success. Nitin Jain is one such example.

I have also included in this book a chapter on information on the Science Olympiads. This chapter gives information which is not readily available to an average student or parent. I had to cull this from various sources and have compiled it for the benefit of students who wish to hone their skills in these subjects and compete with the very best in the world for laurels for themselves and for their country.

I would like to thank Cdr A.K. Mathur (Retd), without whose active support in drafting and proof-reading, this book would not have seen the light of the day. I have tried to stick to facts throughout this book. However, if its contents have hurt the feelings of any person, I sincerely apologize for the same.

**Kumkum Jain W/o Sh. N.C. Jain**

House # 589, Sector-21D  
Faridabad – 121 001 (Haryana) (INDIA)  
Mobile No. 09312977780, 09312977782  
Email id: jain.kumkum82@gmail.com  
Web-www.nitinjainittopper.com  
March, 2010

## **PROLOGUE**

Clear skies, usual traffic snarls, office-goers busy chasing time, and school kids receiving their normal lessons... the Wednesday of August 27, 2008, was just another regular working day for most people. However, for a 16-year-old, lean and shy lad, the date had something very special in reserve, something that will always glitter not only in his book of triumphs, but in the achievements of the country as a whole.

On that day, the boy, as part of a five-member Indian students team, was at Sasana Budaya Ganesha (Sabuga) ITB convention centre in Bandung City, Indonesia, where 89 of the best brains of the world from 24 countries were seated apart from a huge gathering of the global education fraternity. The past seven days had seen stiff competition among these 89 participants showcasing their performance in the theoretical, practical and observational rounds at the 2nd International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA).

The students were eagerly waiting for the routine speeches to end, so that all the winners were announced. There were 10 gold, 11 silver and 18 bronze medals to be won along with 30 honourable mentions and 20 commendation certificates. Special awards like 'the best team' and 'the most fun team' were also to be announced. None other than Dr. Taufiq Hidayat, as a President of Organizing Committee of The 2nd IOAA, of Indonesia was going to felicitate the winners.

When the golden moment came, an Indian boy emerged as the definitive winner. India had won the most coveted gold medal.

But alas! Nobody in the country was cheering; no news channel was covering the event. When a 16-year-old Indian boy climbed up to the podium, where an Indian rarely rests his footsteps, only the foreign hands could be heard applauding. The boy had done India proud, though India herself realized this quite late. The country had won two gold medals, two silver medals and a bronze medal, probably the highest medal tally that India has won in any international event.

The already overwhelming moment was followed by yet another astonishing surprise – the Indian boy’s name was called aloud again: “Nitin Jain is ‘The Absolute Winner’ of the 2nd International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics.” The announcement proclaimed that the Indian boy had won yet another gold medal, which is literally the best of all the medals announced on the day.

Back home in India, the boy has created history by topping IIT-JEE 2009 and AIEEE 2009. For sure, more such accolades and more such medallions are waiting for this ‘absolutely’ amazing brain to lay his hands on.

There was no looking back for Nitin. He went to Mexico in 2009 and clinched another gold medal at the 40th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO), where 400 students from 74 countries participated. The unstoppable one bagged another gold medal at the 3rd International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics in Tehran. There, too, this master brain of India was declared ‘the absolute winner’ among the 100 students from 20 countries.

What remains amazing still is the fact that the subjects – astronomy and astrophysics – that this boy has mastered are not part of the Indian academic curriculum and nor has he got any formal coaching for the same.

□ *Is this inborn talent, extreme passion, or some supernatural energy that gets this boy going?*

□ *What is the secret of his unmatched intelligence?*

□ *What has been his study schedule – his reading and learning strategy?*

□ *Who are the people who have supported him throughout?*

*Who among his mentors rightly deserves credit for his success?*

□ *Has he sacrificed a normal life to achieve all this?*

□ *What undesired elements came along with his success?*

Nitin does not spend infinite hours studying. He does not read hundreds of books before taking an exam. He does not worry about walking into the examination room. He does not sleep only four hours a day, but unfailingly enjoys a proper night's sleep. He has time to play and meet friends when he wishes to. For all that, though, he has been a very, very consistent performer throughout his life.

Presently a student of IIT-Delhi, Nitin is studying B.Tech in computer engineering. Throughout his schooling at G.B.N. Public School, Faridabad, from Nursery to Xth, as well as during his class XI and XII stints at M.V.N. Public School, Faridabad, he has been at the top of his class. The proof of his excellence can also be seen in the numerous scholarships he received throughout his schooling. Besides the scholarships awarded to him by his schools, he won the National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) scholarship and was selected for the Junior Olympiad as well. The latest feather in his cap is the Aditya Birla Scholarship, which he has recently received after a rigorous round of interview by specialists.

Nitin has become an inspiration for millions of students today who take the many competitive exams that are held in the country. His story is what any of us would want to emulate

in our own life.

*What made him the achiever that he is?*

While the competitive exams earlier were focused on testing the students for comprehensive and extensive understanding of the subject, now they test the students for the right aptitude, sharp application/analytical skills, and the ability to adapt to new and difficult circumstances. In such a scenario, success has taken on a new meaning. We often wonder why despite hard work, reading a lot of books, spending 10 to 11 hours of study every day, and giving up all activities of distraction, we are not able to crack the formula of success. Perhaps the story that follows will be relevant in this context.

Many years ago in the region of Munuka, an annual race was held. Champions from all nearby villages would participate in the race. They had to start from the hill of Karioka and travel across two forests, seven villages, three rivers and five hills to reach the city of Itabarra. The winning point of the race was that the participants had to reach Itabarra in twenty-one days. For many years, champions from various villages participated in the race but none could cover the distance in time – until a young boy of eighteen finished the race in twenty days and eight hours. He suddenly shot to fame and the richest lord of Itabarra invited him to his palace to reward him. A feast was thrown in his honour and all the great and rich were invited. During the celebration, an old man who had participated in the race many years ago but could not win asked the young boy, “How did you win this race? Men much older, far stronger, with rigorous training have failed to do so.” The young boy replied, “I just walked in the right direction.”

Success is a universal fantasy. Individuals of all ages, fields, professions want to attain success in life. Whether in a race, an

exam, a competition, or a project, all of us want to succeed. But success comes only to few – to those who know the right direction to success.

For a student, success is even more important. Student life is the foundation on which the rest of one's life is built. It is very important to understand success as well as the right path that leads to it. The character of an achiever is built during the student years of one's life. Students face many examinations and competitions where they can assess their abilities and learn the real meaning and importance of success. Along the way, they must also find the right path to success – in fact, their own unique path to success. Often, the lives and ways of successful people teach us useful things about the ways to success. Nitin is one such example.

The most important part about his story is that he has performed as an achiever right from the beginning and even in the face of adverse circumstances. His proud parents, Mr Nem Chand Jain and Mrs Kumkum Jain, fondly recall that even as a child, Nitin enjoyed studying more than anything else, and that he always wanted to know more and more about everything.

More and more about everything... perhaps there lies a vital clue to the magic of this particular success!