



This Independence Day will be remembered for ever...



There was an unruly mob of 700 odd people in a land isolated from the main city, near the labor camp of the construction site of FLAME. They had gathered around the school for the children of these laborers who were learning, working on computers and getting their mid day meals for the last 6 months. People had supposedly gathered on an announcement of the gentleman in charge that there would be a flag hoisting ceremony on the Independence Day. The 700 odd men and women consisted of

people from different regions of the country, with little hope for a better life. They were mostly unskilled laborers, earning their daily living, working in the harshest of conditions...Rain, sunshine and severe cold.

The gentleman in charge emerged from the small shack that can hardly be called his home. Used to living in the plush Army Quarters, here was this man romanticizing his existence even in



the worst of living conditions. Suffering from Typhoid, he refused to move to a hospital. Even his elder brothers scolding and his boss's orders did not convince him to get hospitalized at a time when his speech was slurring and he was having fainting fits. Because he felt FLAME had to start on 9th of September 2007. He walked up, in his full Army Uniform with all the medals proudly on his chest, to the flag post, and many memories of his army days went past. The



images of an Army Flag hoisting and complete protocol, totally contrasted with this ceremony. And he spoke after the flag hoisting. And what followed was spontaneous and something very few people can even imagine. The entire incidence was completely spontaneous and extremely emotional.

The 700 men and women raised their hands and said a quiet prayer and vowed that they would get the FLAME campus up and ready by the 9th of September 2007 without any compromise and complete dedication. When the oath was taken, the General was moved and he announced that he would like to see that all their children don't end up becoming laborers like them. He said he would want that all their children become educated and officers and in positions of honor. A frail woman stood in one corner. She was better dressed than most people in the gathering. She quietly walked up to the General and told him that she vows that she will make her son a bigger officer than him one day. The claps were loud and everyone there was almost in tears.

And then a Carpenter from Rajasthan raised his hands and took out a Rs 100 note and asked the General if he can donate half his daily earning to the School. And more followed. Workers, Engineers, Contractors all donated. At the end of the day, the school had gathered Rs 40,000 by way of donations.

Could FLAME have had better dedication than this? Could FLAME have had a better leader of men and women? Could there have been a better instance of complete passion?

And Flag Hoisting at the Baner office....



Birthdays

Achyut Vaze 16th August

Indira Parikh 29th August

**Wish you all a
very happy birthday**