

Missed IIT, yet a champ

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Some 200 pages, priced less than Rs 100, and a well designed website, and we have another campus novel ready. Of course, it can't be possible without a smart young author with a success story to his credit.

However, it is not about IIT. "It is story of those who missed IIT," says Neeraj Chhibba, a Delhi-based author of *Zero Percentile*, a novel recently published by Rupa. A full-time IT professional, he was in City on Saturday for promotion of his debut novel.

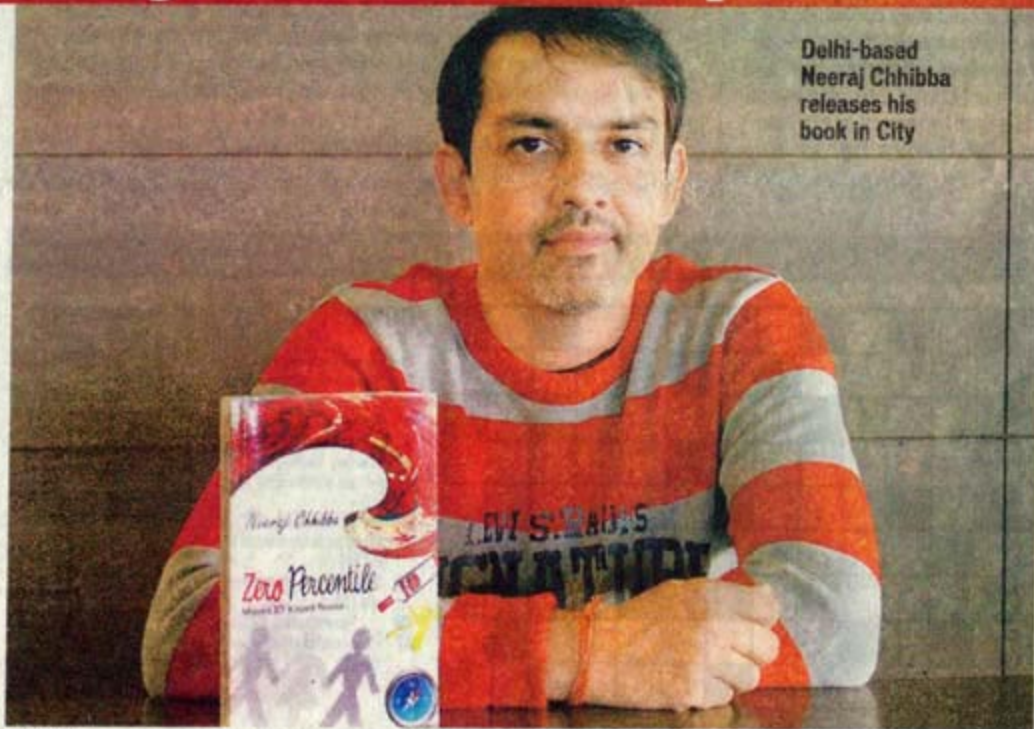
Already, so much has been written about IIT, says he, but there are hundreds and thousands of youngsters who fail to get into IIT every year.

What kind of life these people lead? Their desperation. Through the journey of Pankaj—the protagonist – I have tried to explore one such story. Having always dreamt of going to IIT, a cruel accident makes Pankaj end up in Russia.

It is a story of a broken dream, which refuses to die. It gathers strength and reaches unheard Volgograd – a Russian 'City of Heroes', so-called for halting Hitler's march on Russia during World War II.

"A new chapter of tough times unfolds in Russia, a highly expensive, newly capitalist Russia throws difficult challenges in his away," says Neeraj. After his father's death, he struggles to sustain himself. But finally the protagonist emerges victorious.

Delhi-based
Neeraj Chhibba
releases his
book in City



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