

A peep into the life of an Indian student in Russia

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Zero Percentile-Missed IIT Kissed Russia, a book authored by Neeraj Chhibba offers a reader to peep into the life of an Indian student studying engineering in Russia. Chibba in the book has included many incidences in his own life.

"A small part of this book reflects the author's life who spent many years in Russia. The book takes the reader two decades back to 1990's. It revolves around Pankaj, an Indian boy who couldn't crack the entrance of an IIT and ends up landing into Volgograd to complete his engineering.

In a candid talk with *Hindustan Times*, the author unfolds many aspects of his book.

He says, "In my inner conscious I had a writer inside. Although many books have been written taking the base of IIT, but this book deals with the world outside it and is a relief for those who regret not studying in IIT."

He said, "In '90s, Russia was a communist and English language was not encouraged. Besides all the lectures were in Russian language, which made

THE FIRST PART HAS PANKAJ PREPARING FOR THE IIT ENTRANCE, AND THE NEXT TWO PARTS TAKES US TO VOLGOGRAD

it compulsory for me to learn the language."

The book is divided into three parts; the first one deals with Pankaj preparing to clear an IIT entrance exam and the next two parts takes us to Volgograd.

The book has also taken up the issue of AIDS, a topic untouched by the Indian authors yet. Also we come across Pankaj's day-to-day difficulties in Russia. While reading, we get to see a Russia in an entirely new perspective.

Published by Rupa and Co. the book is all set to be reprinted for the third time, indicating its growing readers. Costing Rs 95, the book has all elements to bind youth and mature minds.

The story narration and easy language are its positive points. The book, teamed with a cup of coffee would take an avid reader a couple of days to get through it.