

Remembering

AMBAR

Dear Uncle,

I can't imagine and compare your loss of Ambar to my and many of his friends feelings. However, I wanted to let you know that Ambar was much more than your son. He was a fun classmate, a teacher, a trend setter, a regular Mr. popular, a genius student and above all, a best friend.

To help myself grieve, and let his friends do so, I had setup a memorial page for him on Facebook. What took me by surprise was the enormous response I received from all sorts of individuals who I didn't know, or never knew that were touched by Ambar in some endearing way. I wanted to share with you the same.

Here is a select compilation of the many many responses and emails I received. It warmed my heart that beyond my friendship, Ambar had left an indelible mark on so many people.

- Bharat



LAKE TAHOE 2005



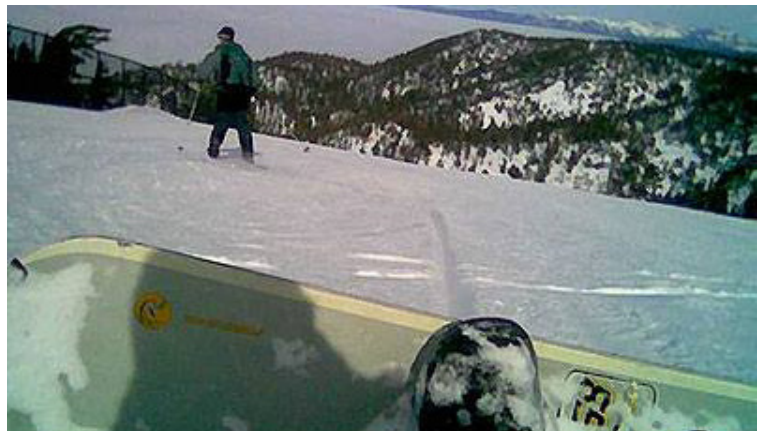
I shared a one bedroom apartment with him and Handa at ASU. It was right across the street from our department and we used to talk about going back, doing this, that; while working in the lab or walking across the street or smoking in the corridor outside our apartment.

I never really got to know him while at SPA but the time spent at ASU gave me a chance to learn from him and understand the power of simple smile.

The last meeting was in 2005 when we went to lake Tahoe with the west coast gang and me and Ambar took a day off from usual things to go snowboarding with me. I still remember that day vividly. I think the picture below was taken by him, I am pretty sure about that,

I will always remember him as a gentle, joyful, happy and a generous soul.

- **Akshay Sharma**, with Ambar at SPA and Arizona







BERKELEY 2005





OAKLAND 2005

Saw him last in 2001, so long but still remember most of his ways. I would remember him for friendly and relaxed manner and above all his faith in computers and complexity.

- **Rittick Hazarika**, with Ambar at SPA

I remember meeting Ambar for the first time, along with Anish in Prof. Arvind Krishan's office in SPA, where I used to do lot of my work. I immediately made a connection with both of them. He came across at the time as a smart, friendly and most of all a very honest person. So it didn't take much effort to reconnect with him, when he welcomed me in Arizona at ASU.

- **Autif Sayyed**, with Ambar at SPA and Arizona

Though I never had the courage to tell him earlier, I will use this forum to say (hopefully he will hear me) that I always had a crush on Ambar and was hoping that one day we would intersect, get talking and become friends..Even though I barely know Ambar, yet his intelligence, poise, personality and easy charm were always attractive to me. I wish I hadn't missed the opportunity, when it had been there, to get to know him better.

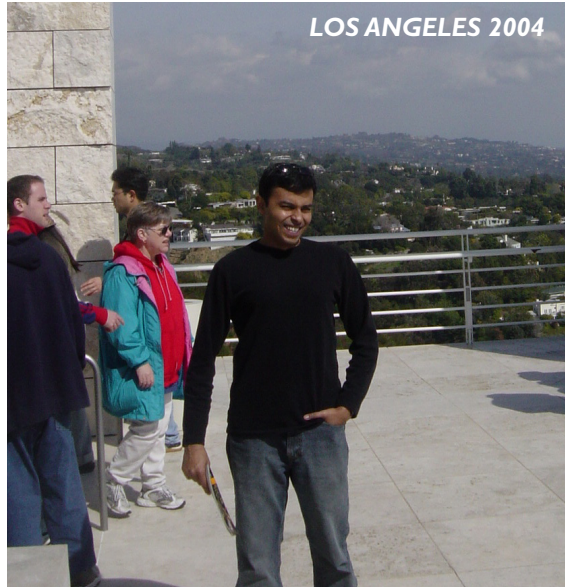
- **Romi Roy**, with Ambar at SPA

Some of us remember smiley face "Ambar Ambar, cool cucumber" only too well. Some of my most vivid memories are of him dancing and celebrating with some of us at our SPA graduation party, him with his guitar, at our Lahaul-Spiti trek, and yes, that ever smiling, impish face.

- **Anjali Mahendra**, with Ambar at SPA

His smile is unforgettable and it will light up any place.

- **Meetu Sharma**, with Ambar at SPA





YOSEMITE 2004



I hardly knew Ambar but I always liked him a lot. He had this brilliant smile that revealed a really honest soul.

- Fahria Qader, with Ambar at SPA and Los Angeles

I remember him distinctly, he had an almost animated face and twinkling eyes. It's like he was saying something with his smile

- Pooja Sharma, with Ambar at SPA

Ambar always seemed like such a sweet guy. I didn't know him personally but I always remember his naughty smile.

- Anjali Joseph, with Ambar at SPA

Remembering the always smiling Ambar.

- Anshul Puri, with Ambar at SPA and Los Angeles

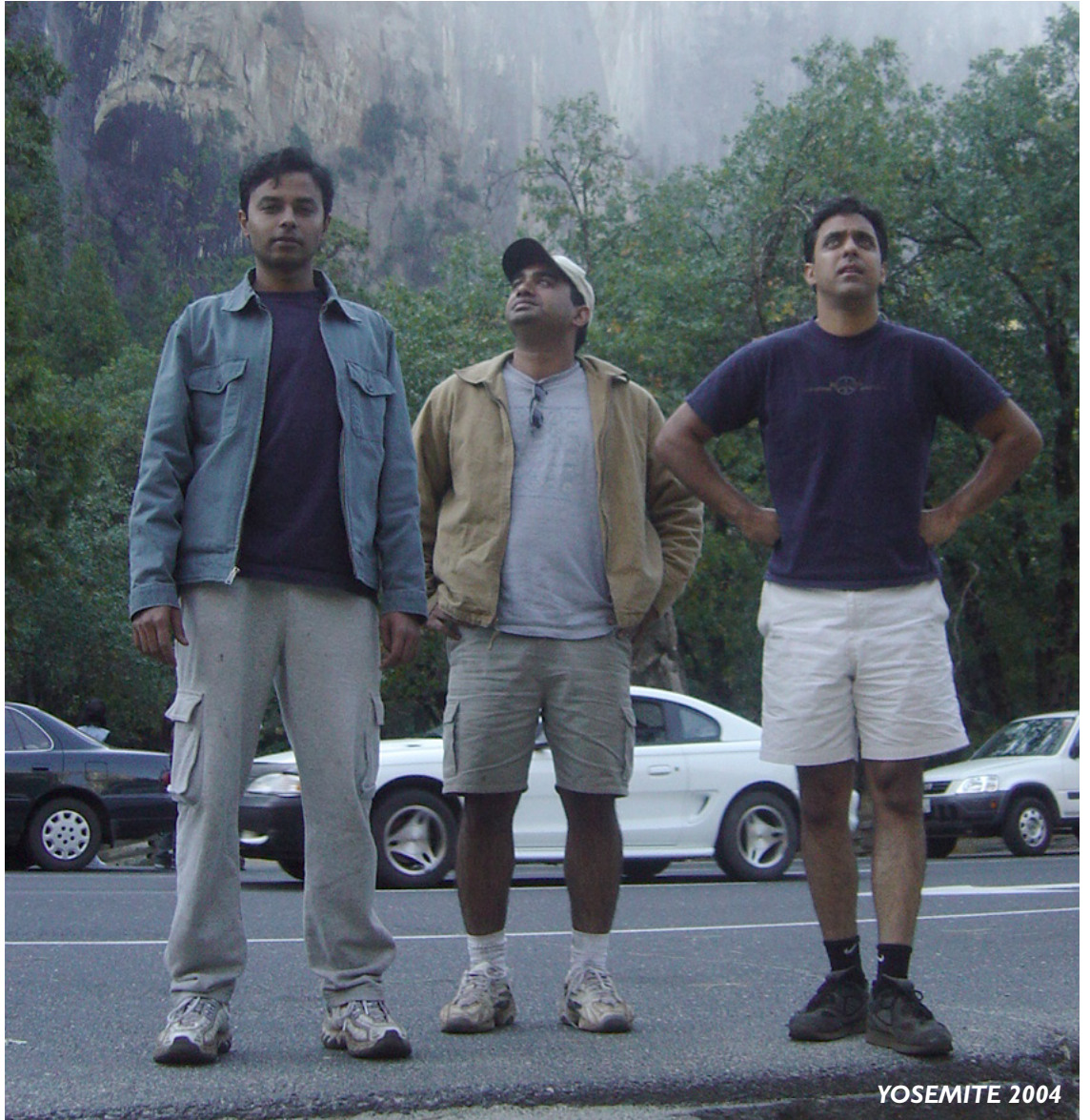
If I think of him, it's always someone smiling with a beautiful smile he had..

- Shivani Langer, with Ambar at SPA

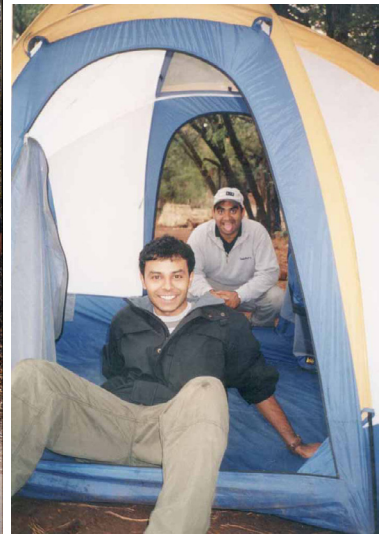
....So many shared adventures and memories in grad school (ASU). We always made fun of him that our graduate advisor was in love with him because he was so charming.

- Swati Raju, with Ambar at SPA and Arizona



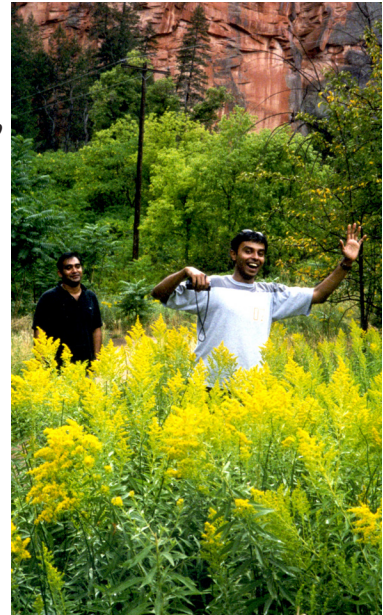


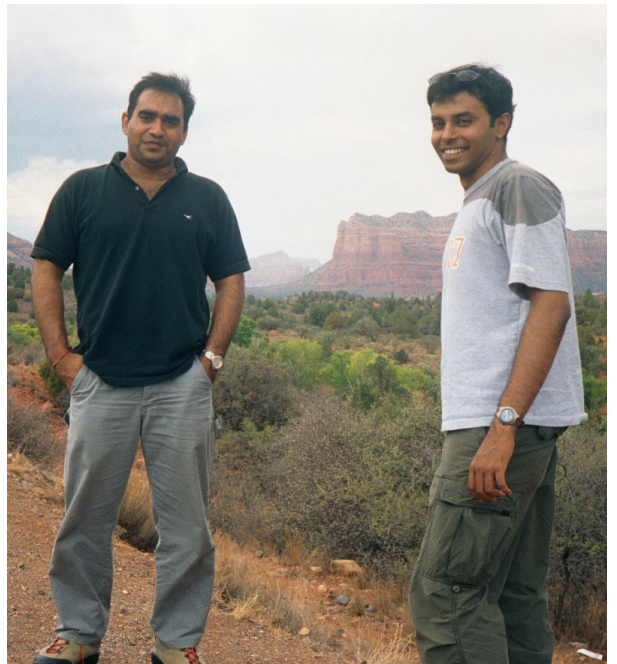
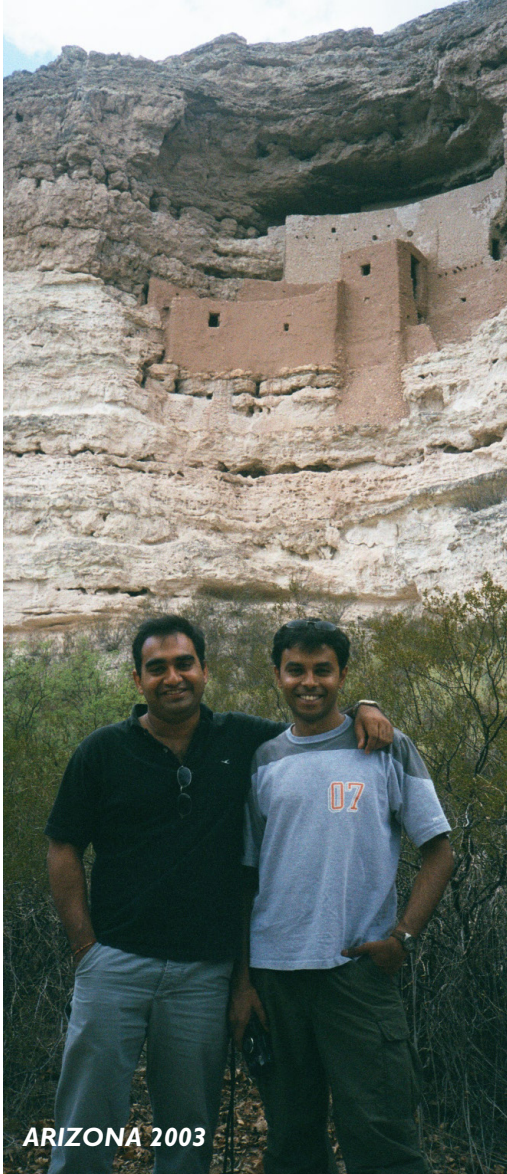
YOSEMITE 2004



Over the last few weeks I have found myself thinking about many of the great memories I have with him – his candid and even sometimes odd but always endearing manner, his ability to rationalize things in ways that only he could, his doodles of cars and faces on notes from every class we took together, the endless discussions we had on the philosophy of almost everything in life, his honesty and innocence, ...and the many many things that made him one of my closest friends through those wonderful years. Ambar was what I think a friend should be.

- Vishal Bhargava, with Ambar at SPA and Los Angeles





ARIZONA 2003



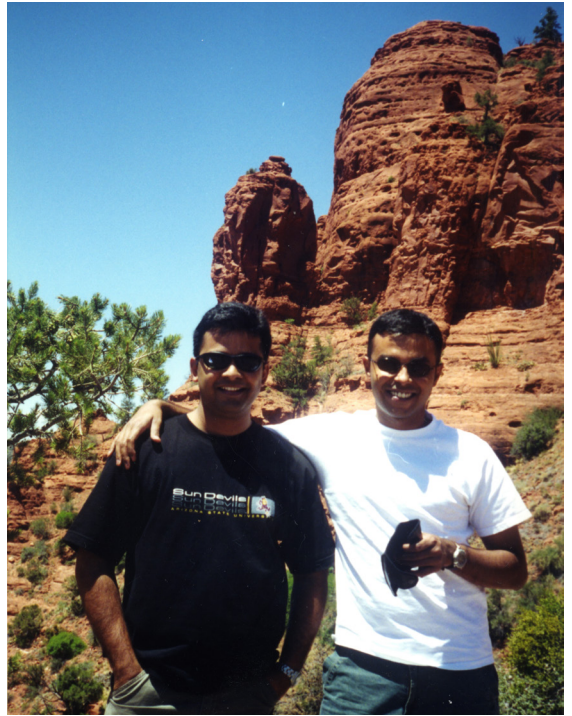
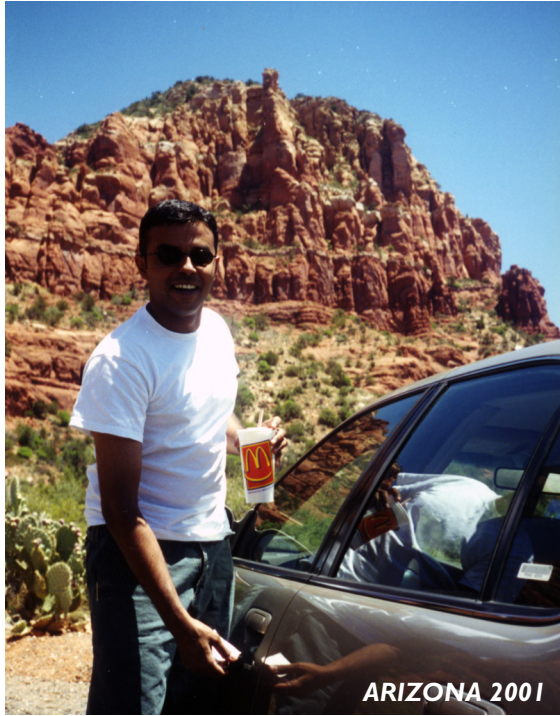


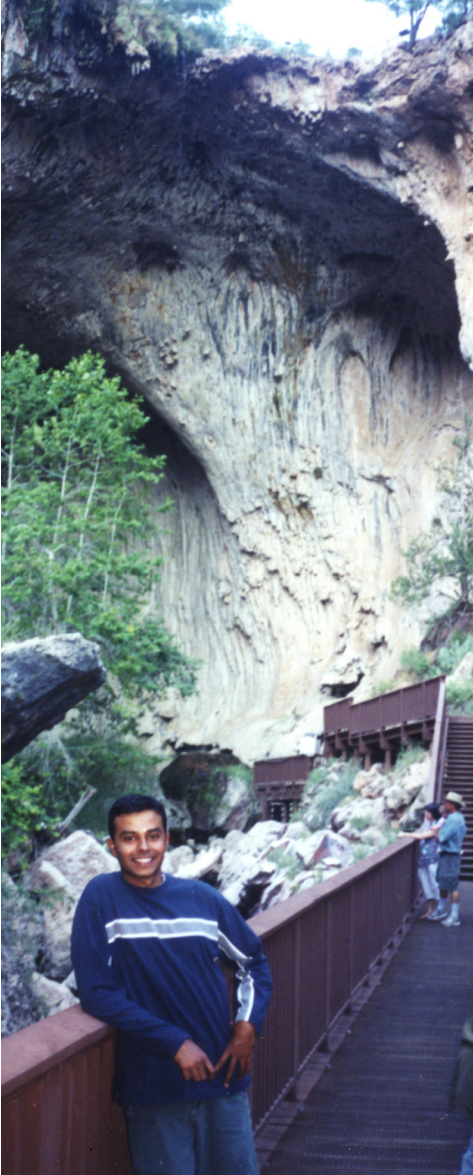
*T*ogether we played, a while ago
Only yesterday it appears though
Under one roof, we were a band
Stitching wings to our dreams grand

*Then time to run, the whistle blew
Helter-skelter each one flew
If we looked back once, indeed
Would've seen a friend in need*

*Unseen, you strapped on wings new
And soared before anyone knew
While the night was still dragging on
You were on your way to dawn*

- **Atul Handa**, with Ambar at SPA and Arizona





Celebrating my genius friend Ambar Da. I can never forget the jolly good days of having his company, listening to his humorous travel adventures and theories about big and small matters of life with his command of facts but the calm and witty tone in delivering it which instantly convinced even the toughest of the nay sayers. His stories of high school days in Chennai gave me a new perspective of my home town. His broken Tamil had a greater flavor of the British accent. Can't forget his first Chennai bus experience when he sat on the other side not knowing it was designated for women and that landed him in trouble and was thrown off the bus with "Rassscalsss casting yourrrr eyesss on our ladiessss!" His choice to quit IIT to pursue architecture puzzled me in the beginning, but it was evident that his creative spirit and artistic skill was far higher than his mensa tuned technical brain. When he took a web designer job, we anticipated fireworks and sure enough he delivered and his web page got selected as the best in ASU. I recall the California, Disneyland and Grand Canyon trips, marathon movie nights, when we studied for the car license exams, and thankful to him for teaching me Photoshop so I could get the web designer job I so desperately needed. When he met my fiance, he introduced himself as the guy living with Joy and Sorrow (Joy Nandi and Saravanan). He was a true genius, a perfect gentleman and his presence and charisma will always linger in our minds.

- Arun VT, with Ambar in Arizona

ARIZONA 2001





I remember meeting Ambar in SPA in 1993, on the first day of school, in the back row of the class. There was a rumour going around that he had topped the entrance exam (he had). He was coy, even a bit embarrassed about that. He was a nerdy boy at heart, and I think that nerdiness and humour endeared many of us to him. And his sports shoes, and his far-ahead-of-all-of-us love of autocad, and his intelligence, and and and. We were friends for many years, and then we grew up, maybe. Or something like that happened, we drifted and drifted in different countries, lives.

Ambar was a light in the room or in the bus, as so many of us remember him. I remember learning many things from and with him, from perspective drawing to birdy dancing to rum drinking to 3dstudio and philosophical debate about Ayn rand and computers. In all of the people I knew and met in college, there was no one like him.

- Ashok Sukumaran, with Ambar at SPA



CHAKRATA 1998

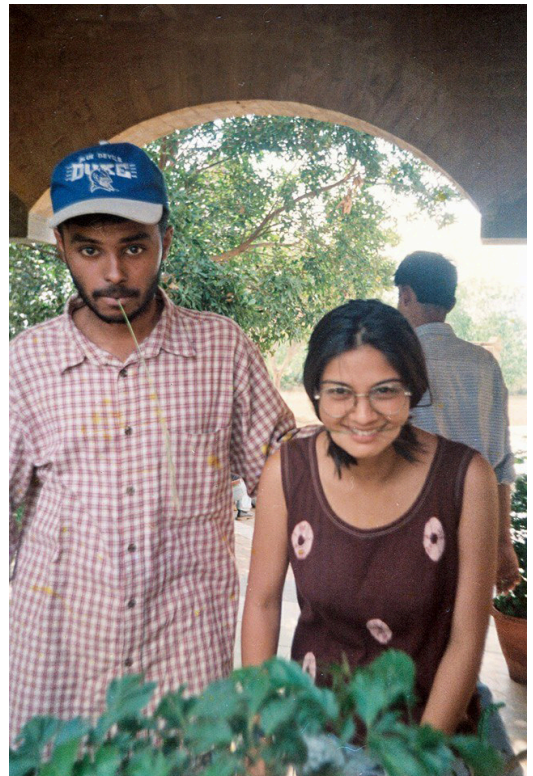


RAMESHWARAM 1995

I'm trying to go about everyday chores like everyone else and at the back of my mind there's a constant film running...Ambar's smile, his giggle, his shiny eyes, Ambar drunk, Ambar stoned, Ambar after a night out, Ambar late for submission, Ambar high on khainee, Ambar and his sceptical mind, Ambar and his brilliant logic, Ambar head-banging to megadeath, Ambar strumming his guitar, Ambar driving his white fiat, Ambar rolling out abuses in hindi with his unique American-British accent, Ambar smoking, Ambar laughing, Ambar bursting out in a mock fight, Ambar's blue jeans and white t-shirt, Ambar's lynx-alaska deo, Ambar's super-size sneakers in first year, Ambar and I lying on a haystack in khatua-para with a hangover, Ambar singing strawberry fields, Ambar calling me in the middle of the night over a trivial question indicating that he has just started the submission which he should have 4 hours ago, Ambar just after a sleep, Ambar sitting next to me in a lecture and doodling, Ambar's smile, Ambar's million dollar smile (as he joked!), Ambar....in a life span we may not have spent so much time together but the time we did spend together was very very special(to me at least). just like Ambar. his brilliant mind, boyish manners and a pure childlike soul made him so very special. This is how I remember him best and will cherish in my heart forever.

I told my four year old daughter sometime ago that people go back to being stars after they die and leave this world. I want to believe this the most right now and go outside to find Ambar out there and tell him that everyone loved him so much and they still do.

- Nisha Kaley, with Ambar at SPA



I shall cherish the memories of your smile which could brighten the darkest of days!

- Gulzar Malhotra, with Ambar at SPA

Remembering the always smiling Ambar

- Anshul Puri, with Ambar at SPA and Los Angeles

My saving grace during training. Would bunk our training and end up at his house in near Nehru Place. My first ever smoke was with him in that time.

- Koushik Datta, with Ambar at SPA

It will be the little things, the quiet moments, the smiles, the laughter that we will remember you by.

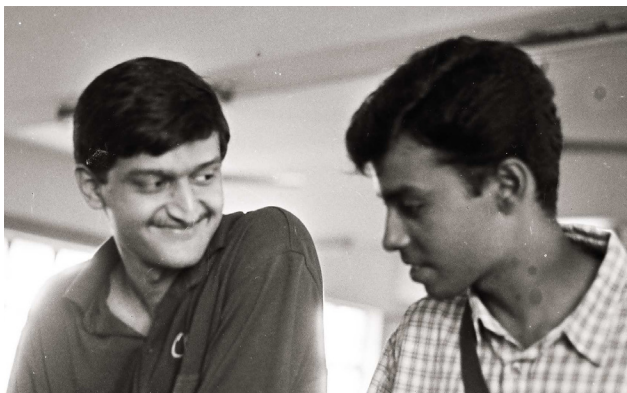
- Amit Agarwal, with Ambar at SPA

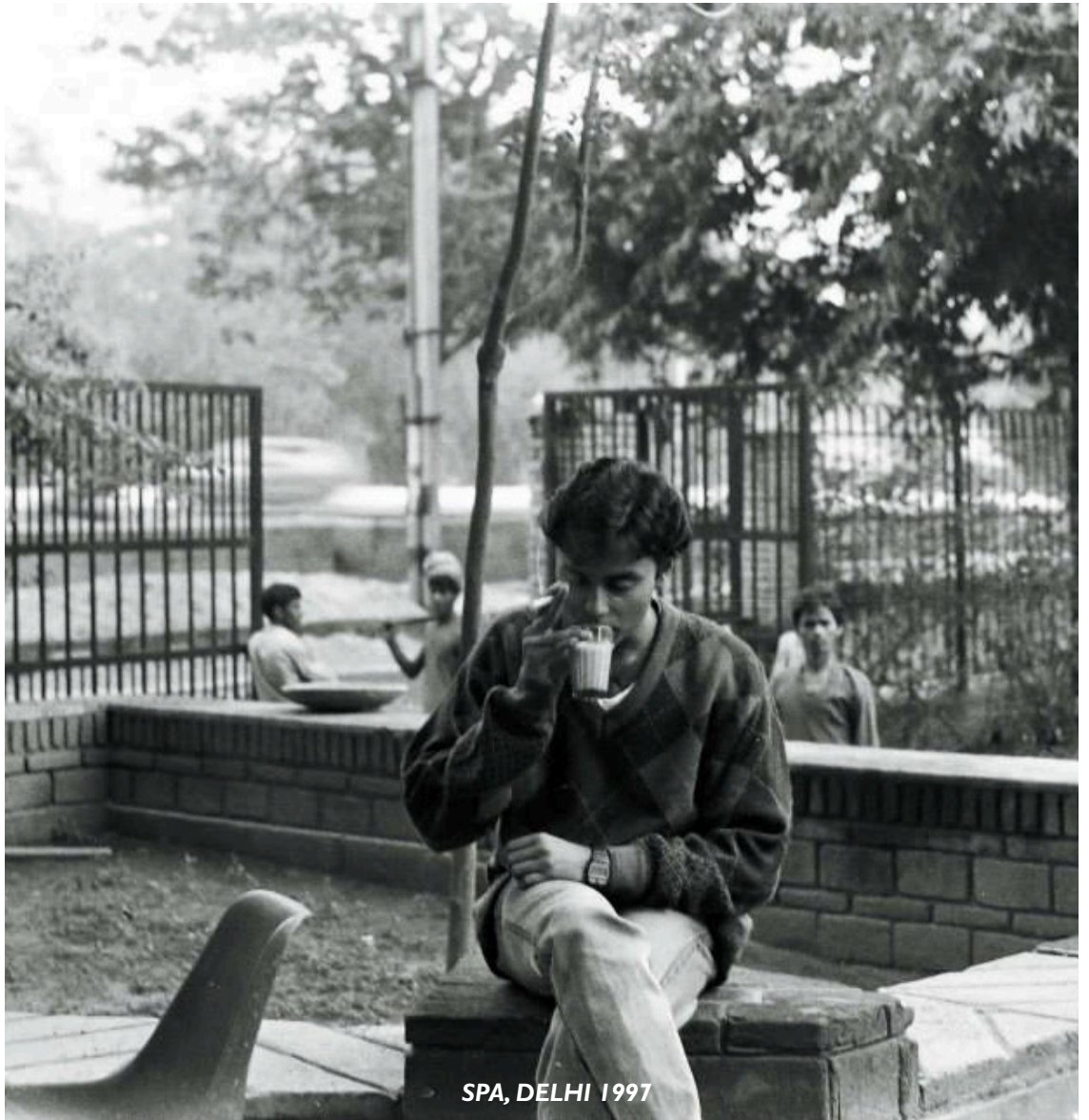
Didn't know Ambar very well, but always thought of him as the one with the twinkle in his eyes.

- Mukta Naik, with Ambar at SPA

To my fellow concept car and metal guitar nut, you will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have made memories with you.

- Aniket Vardhan, with Ambar at SPA





SPA, DELHI 1997

Ambar...

*The first in the exam for entrance
To have his name called for attendance
The first to have his drawings on a floppy
To print out and look for a pencil to copy*

*The first bong
Not born to tell others : you are wrong
The first to admit his love for a bit of 'khaini'
To mock-fight and bring smiles to many*

*The first to leave us in laughter and tears
To bring us all together, after years
Wish we knew it here
What is to be started with God, up there
As he got called... first again, to give it a try
Ambar...the pioneer, back in the sky*

- Hemang Madhukar, with Ambar at SPA



The scene which first comes to my mind is the 2 of us sitting in the Archi Block Lobby discussing “Zen & the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance”- a book he had recommended and which I ploughed through only enjoying the idea of a bike trip across the US!! He was trying to convince me of the thesis about “Quality” around which the book was written. Just then an “aesthetically challenged” lady walked in, and I made a disparaging comment which I immediately regretted- “I shouldn’t have said that”. “Why ever not?”. “Who am I to comment on someone’s looks?”. “You had better have an opinion on aesthetics now!! And that’s what the book is about!”- with the trademark twinkle in his eye!

And another- (again for some reason the Archi Lobby is the backdrop)!- Ambar strolling in late for a lecture-(I was strolling out!)- and him coming up to me in mock anger and saying “You can have anything you want, but you’d better not take it from me!!” and walking away. At first I was “What did I do?” And then it dawned on me “Ah- Welcome to the Jungle”!!.

-Nikhil Kumar Sen, with Ambar at SPA



“Ambar, just where do you think you’re going?” My first memory is hollering at him. I was paired with him at that ridiculous fashion show being put for freshers' night at SPA and here he was running away just before getting (pelted) on stage. “I can’t!” the dude says, still running. “And why not?” I hissed back, still chasing him. Ambar stops, turns around, looks me in the eye, and then says, “Because there’s a damn anda in my undie!!!” I can never remember my reaction to that but I will never ever forget that smile that followed. That typical, typical Ambar smile.

It was impossible not to be in love with that smile. It was different things at different times. Or at once many things. Mischievous, gleeful, sweet, childlike, warm, kind, absolutely goofy, partly impish, simply beautiful. And more often than once, likely to make you forget just what you were talking to him about.

There are many memories and many moments. And in each, that smile. Doodled borders on the freshly-put backing of my drafting table. I look across to Ambar. And then, that smile. Getting thrown out of Kuldeep Chander’s class for being a minute late. Canteen, chai, a smoke, satisfaction. And then, that smile. Ambar rolling his r’s and enunciating names the way only he could. And then, that smile. Inane discussions about the factors of Bengali-ness. An Ambar quip. And then, that smile. Meeting Ambar after years at mocha. Searching for him, suddenly spotting him. And then, that smile.

So when, I close my eyes and think of Ambar. I see him. And then, that smile. Always that smile.

- Suparna Rajguru, with Ambar at SPA



Ambar for me was like Sondesh in a Fridge - Really Sweet and Really Cool ! His love of music was known to us all. He drummed beats to perfection with his knuckles on the drafting board , while working in the studio. Those beats still ring in my ears. So in true Ambar style ... to celebrate the Cool Ambar Style ...an Ambar Rap...

“ there were so many moments of our lives that revolved around Ambar ...

And so many memories that evolved because of Ambar !

While he topped the batch,

He had many ,many schemes to hatch!!

So , some time in 94,,,

He made us laugh & wonder,

When he told us that he was with the ferocious Kuldeep Chander,

All was fine ,

Till they jostled in line,

KC took a bitter pill,

When Ambar overtook him to pay the Electricity Bill!

And, in Art Class in 96,

while I took a while,

To make my mobile,

He instantly made his,

With a cork & a fork !!!

And then , sometime in 97,

After a lot of fun at Vishal's Party,

Ambar was driving,

And few of us were striving,

To hold on to the seats of his car,

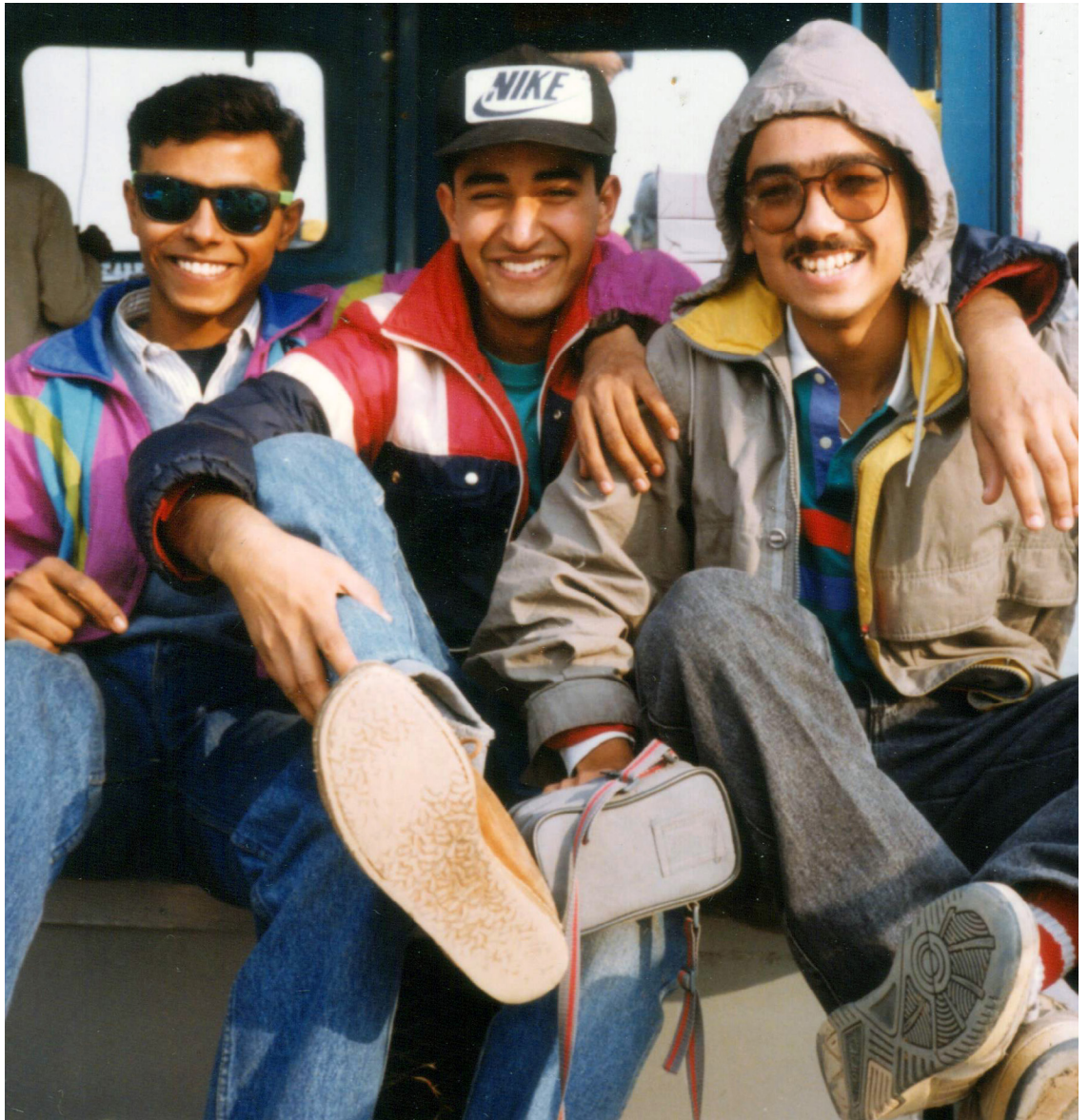
When he took the responsibility , of dropping us home and afar !

Way ahead of his time,

Ambar was Our Beloved Partner in crime !!!! ”

Thank you Ambar , for giving us so many wonderful memories.

- **Rahul Backliwal**, with Ambar at SPA





*It's hard to express what I feel,
I can't find the right words to say,
It saddens me to think of his death,
his untimely passing away,
My eyes brim over, thinking of his pain,
I wish things had been different,
though I know it is in vain,
I feel robbed and cheated,
for I knew not what I know now,
I feel angry and guilty,
thinking I should have helped somehow,
I grieve that I was not there,
to comfort him at the end,
But I think myself, a million times blessed,
for he was my friend.*

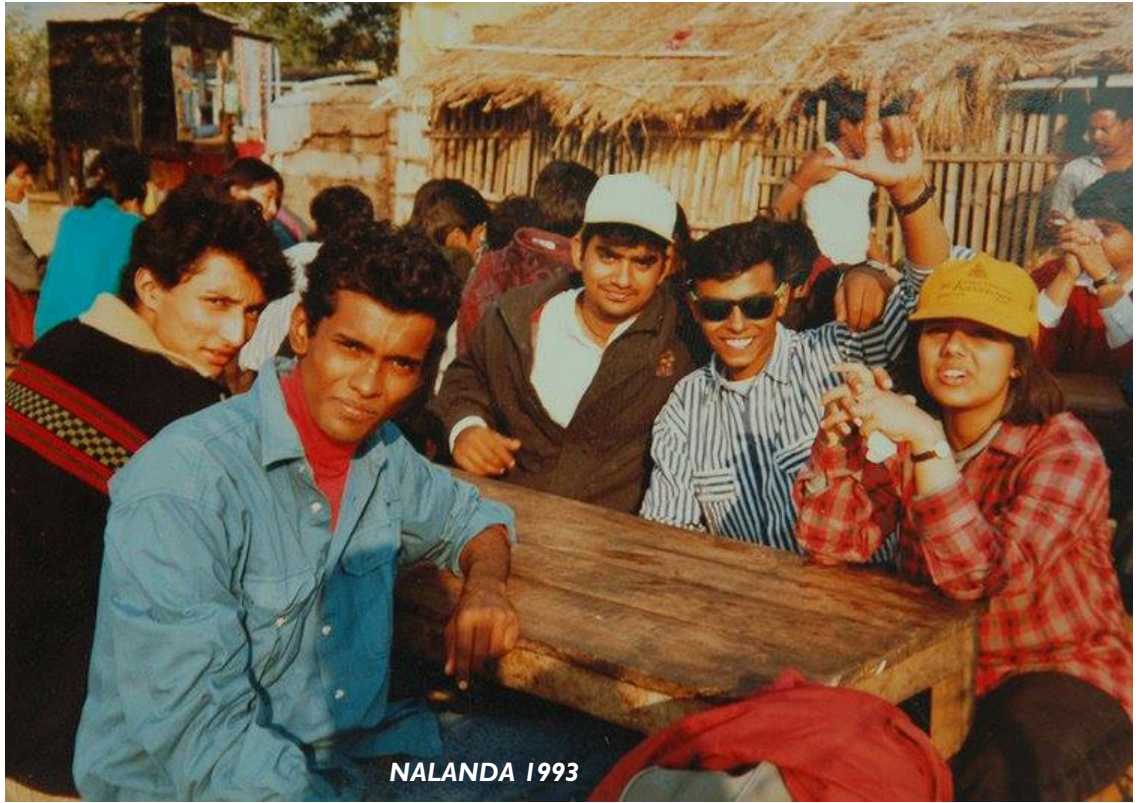
- **Sailesh Sundram**, with Ambar at SPA

Lasting friendships are made when strangers, in a twist of fate, come together to experience a significant journey in time. The bond is strong because you grow with the other. You give, and get, a shoulder to steady yourselves. You share joys and sorrows together. You back each other through good and bad.

When the journey ends, you go separate ways. You know in your heart that when you meet again, you will start up as if time stood still while you were away.

Alas, time doesn't stand still. I will forever miss, the familiarity of your embrace; the wagging of your finger; the nonsensical banter, calling you "dada"; seeing your beaming smile, and; leaning on your shoulder. Goodbye, dear friend. I hope to catch up with you where space and time become irrelevant. We will exchange old stories, and new, till eternity.

- **Bharat Singh**, with Ambar at SPA and in California



NALANDA 1993



ROORKEE 1992

Ambar had this amazing skill of getting everyone to do what he wanted...he never got into trouble...but he always liked to push you to come out of your comfort zone. A man of so many skills and knowledge...and so free with his help and advice...very few teachers taught us as much as Ambar did just walking around... calligraphy, sketching, cars, doing your laundry, grooming, maintaining equipment, good music, running, basketball, physical fitness...he would have a theory and practical demonstration on any topic. All the girls had a crush on him...and all the guys wanted to be his friend...a smiling confident and focused guy who always was in control... god took you too early my friend Ambar...the unassuming genius. We missed him so much when he left for SPA after a year to be in Delhi as his mother was living alone. We drifted out of touch..but whenever I drew or painted something...I remembered how you taught me how to hold a pencil, calligraphy pen, rotring when I saw someone sketch or draw something...I always remembered you and thought...how well Ambar would have done this...A king among men...with raw talent...a gentle soul and a true friend...knew how to light up a room or catch the eye...a larger than life character....and a true soul..... a diamond... pure and shining.

- Akash Agarwal, with Ambar at Roorkee





We are all of 16. Summer vacations Reno and I were lounging like we had always done. Listening to Nirvana. Wondered if we couldn't be like them. Reno instantly stated with all this rap stuff I didn't get. We talked about it and started our own band - Osmium Kelas. Osmium for what I liked. Kelas because we thought we would be losers. We went back to his house and coded on his little computer he had. And played music. I remember we were in Yemen. Town called Yarim. We spent all the time roaming mountains. Reno for me was a refresher. In life. In daily moments.

- **Arun Biswas**, with Ambar since Childhood



A remembrance event for Ambar was held at SPA on the 26th of April. It was fondly attended by friends, classmates and faculty.









Friends of Ambar in California met to commemorate his friendship on
May 10th

Abhay Bhargava
Adina Bisek
Aditi Raychoudhury
Aditya Dhawan
Aditya Nath Mubayi
Ajay Vohra
Akaash Agarwal
Akshay Sharma
Amit Agarwal
Amit Whig
Aniket Vardhan
Anirudh Mukerji
Anish & Neha Tripathi
Anjali Joseph
Anjali Mahendra
Anjula Negi
Anshul Puri
Aradhana Bhuria Jajodia
Arindam Mitra
Arjun Malakar
Arun Biswas
Arun Kapur
Arun Kumar Mukherjee
Arun VT
Ashok Sukumaran
Atul Handa
Autif Sayyed
Bharat Singh & Preeti Bhardwaj
Bhavna Chauhan
Bravish Rau
Deepak Kumar
Dhaniram
Fahria Qader
Frank Amrit
Gulzar Malhotra
H.B. Singh & Neera Singh

Harbinder & Sukhleen Singh
Hemang Madhukar
Hemant Suri
Indranil Hira
Kakoli Sikder Arya
Kanchan Kanwal
Kishen Bora
Koushik Datta
Mandeep Singh
Manish Udar
Manoj Mathur
Medha Chandra
Meenal Singh

Perna Bhaskar-Jebens
Perna Sood
Puneet Monga
Pusheela Devi Sungker
Rahul & Garima Backliwal
Rahul Nahar
Rajeev Raheja
Rajnish Tyagi
Raka Choudhury
Rewant Abhijat
Rittick Hazarika
Romi Roy
S.K. Aditya
Sailesh Sundram
Samir Khanna
Sanjay Surya
Sanjit Roy
Sarika Narayan
Sathyan Panneerselvam
Sharat Kumar
Shivani Langer
Shounak Ray
Shweta Manchanda
Siddharth Joshi
Siddhartha Jajodia
Smita Singh
Sourojit Dhar
Suparna Rajguru
Swati Raju & Tim Kuruvilla
Tushar Agrawal
Venugopal Maddipatti
Vikas Tanwar
Vikram Lall
Vishal Bhargava
Yuthika Sharma

Friends & Colleagues

Remembering **AMBAR**

Meetu Sharma Saxena
Minali Singh Bose
Mishraji
Mitali Ganguly
Monolita Chatterjee
Mukta Naik
Nikhil Kumar Sen
Nisha Woiwode
Nishant Lall
Parthasarathi Chakrabarti
Pavani Rao
Pooja Sharma
Prateek Mohan

