

Some of the best memories students have of their college days is of the hostel life. The curfew time, proxy signatures and midnight birthday parties speak of those carefree days of fun in the midst of study as several outstation students studying in Mysore discover.

#### BONDING WITH BUDDIES

New friendships often blossom on campus and if your friend also shares your hostel room, it's time to pledge friendship for life. Having hostel mates from all over the country means also sharing stories, things and cultural differences.

"It was the first time I stayed in a hostel and the experience was pleasant. Almost half my hostel mates are from north India and the rest from the south and we had a whale of a time learning languages and celebrating festivals," says Rohit Ramaswamy student of SDM Institute of Management Development. "I am from Bangalore and did not know Hindi. I am now fluent in the language."

Bharat Hanagodi from Hassan was worried about the infamous ragging in hostels and watched his senior hostel mates with suspicion and fear on his first day. "Some of the hostelites were from my school back home and in fact helped me to fit in easily," says this student of Mysore Medical College.

All festivals are celebrated with music and dance with students teaching one another the right moves. "During Onam, the guys from Kerala taught us the traditional harvest dance and at Navratri we mastered the Garba," laughs Rohit. Now that he has landed a job in the city, he is ruing the day he will have to move out of the hostel and miss out on the good times.

#### AFTER HOSTEL HOURS

Though Mysore seems like a laid-back city the hostelites have discovered that the city has lots more to offer in terms of recreation and entertainment. Hostel wardens are no more like battle tanks and are easy and affable as long as permission is sought and deadlines



Aparna Prakashkutti, Preethi Krishnamurthy, Shwetha Priya Satyam, Anekha Susan Matha and Annika Albuquerque enjoy their hostel life on campus.

## Hostel life and after hours

*Hostels are a home away from home for outstation students, says Leena Mudbidri*

are met. "Our college itself is situated at the base of the picturesque Chamundi Hills and we often walk up to the top when we want a breather from studies," says Rohit who finds Mysore a welcome break from the traffic and pollution of his hometown Bangalore.

"Since our MBA programme is quite hectic we usually spend our weekends in the library. But there are cool hang-outs on Devaraj Urs Road and Kalidasa Road where we like to unwind going window shopping at the branded show-rooms," says Annika Albuquerque from Mangalore. "Public transport is good

and we often travel around in the Volvo buses," she says, revelling in her independence.

Rohit and his friends hit the highway whenever the travel bug bites them. "We ride down to Shivanasamudra and Gopalswamy Betta whenever we find the time or Karanji Lake is the nearest unwind spot," he says.

Long bike rides are a respite from lengthy lab sessions for Bharat and his buddies. "After those hours of dissection and lectures we need to get away from it all and prefer going on rides in the countryside around," he says.