



# H e r a l d



Students' Newsletter of Indian Institute of Information Technology Guwahati

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# YUVAAAN



## SOURISH DHEKANE



AS THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR THE MOST AWAITED FESTIVAL OF IIITG, PREPARATIONS ARE ON THE PRIORITY LIST OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE. EVERYONE IS WORKING TIREDLESSLY TO MAKE THIS FESTIVAL A MEMORABLE ONE. ALL THE THREE SECTIONS I.E. TECHNICAL, CULTURAL, AND SPORTS ARE PLANNING BIG EVENTS TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM TO SHOWCASE THE TALENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ASHISH KESARI (GENERAL SECRETARY OF SPORTS, IIITG), SEVERAL SPORTS COORDINATORS ARE ORGANIZING VARIOUS SPORTS EVENTS. THE SPORTS EVENTS CONSIST OF BOTH THE INDOOR AS WELL AS THE OUTDOOR SPORTS. TOURNAMENTS FOR INDOOR GAMES LIKE CHESS, COUNTER-STRIKE ETC. HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED ALREADY WHEREAS TABLE TENNIS, CAROM, FIFA COMPETITIONS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETION. THIS YEAR INCLUDED SPECIAL TOURNAMENTS FOR GIRLS IN TABLE TENNIS AND CAROM. OUTDOOR SPORTS LIKE SOCCER, CRICKET, BADMINTON ETC. ARE GOING TO BE HELD SOON. IN ADDITION TO THESE TEAM GAMES, ATHLETICS EVENTS LIKE LONG JUMP, 100-METER SPRINT, JAVELIN THROW, SHOT PUT, TUG OF WAR ETC. ARE ALSO INCLUDED. THESE SPORTS EVENTS ARE MARKED WITH MASSIVE PARTICIPATION, NAIL-BITING MATCHES, AND DISPLAY OF EXTREME SKILLS AND PASSION.

THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CULTURAL SECTION CAN BE SEEN AS A COMBINED EFFORT OF DIFFERENT TEAMS TRYING TO MAKE THE "FESTIVAL BIGGER AND BETTER", SAYS DIKSHITA BASUMATARY (GENERAL SECRETARY - CULTURAL BOARD, IIITG). THE WORK HAS & BEEN SHARED BY VARIOUS TEAMS WHICH INCLUDE SPONSORSHIP TEAM, OUTREACH TEAM, MANAGEMENT TEAM, DESIGN TEAM, AND PR MARKETING TEAM. THE SPONSORSHIP TEAM IS EXPLORING VARIOUS SOURCES FOR FUNDS AND MANAGING THE BUDGET OF THE FESTIVAL. THE OUTREACH TEAM IS TRYING TO SPREAD THE NAME OF OUR INSTITUTE IN DIFFERENT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY CONDUCTING A SOCIAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN WHICH AIDS AT "MENSTRUAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT" THROUGH AWARENESS. THE MANAGEMENT TEAM IS SUBDIVIDED INTO EVENT MANAGEMENT TEAM, DECORATION TEAM, CATERING TEAM, BACKSTAGE TEAM AND OVERALL MANAGEMENT TEAM. THE DESIGN TEAM IS BEHIND MAKING THE POSTERS FOR THE FESTIVAL AND PROVIDING CREATIVE IDEAS FOR THE EVENTS. LASTLY THE PR & MARKETING TEAM IS SPREADING THE WORD OF OUR FESTIVAL FOR INTER-COLLEGE PARTICIPATION. MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GUESTS COMING FROM OUTSIDE THE INSTITUTE IS THE PRIMARY AIM OF THIS TEAM. CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THESE TEAMS ARE WORKING DAY AND NIGHT, A BIGGER AND A BETTER FESTIVAL IS EXPECTED BY EVERY MEMBER OF IIITG.

OURS BEING AN IT-ORIENTED INSTITUTE, WE ARE TRYING TO ENSURE THAT OUR TECH-FEST IS A CLASS APART. WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF EVENTS SUCH AS CODE THRILL THAT WILL DEFINITELY SEND A CHALLENGING TICKLE THROUGH THE PARTICIPANTS' GREY MATTER, TO SUPER-ENGAGING ROBOTICS COMPETITIONS THAT PROMISE TO KEEP THE PARTICIPANTS AS WELL AS THE AUDIENCE ON TENTERHOOKS TILL THE VERY LAST MINUTE, TO QUIZZATRON (QUIZ) THAT WILL SEND THE PARTICIPANTS INTO A LABYRINTHINE MAZE WHENCE THEY SHALL HAVE TO RIDDLE THEIR WAY OUT YUVAAN 2K18 IS THE TECHNO-ENTHUSIAST'S TICKET TO AN ABSOLUTE ROLLEROASTER RIDE. TO FURTHER THE SCALE OF YUVAAN, AS WELL AS THE DELIGHT OF ITS PARTICIPANTS, YUVAAN 2K18 IS ALSO GOING TO FEATURE A LECTURE SERIES BY HIGHLY EMINENT SPEAKERS. SO THIS TIME WHEN YUVAAN ROLLS OUT, IT IS GOING TO ROLL OUT BIG TIME.

BY LOOKING AT THE AMOUNT OF EFFORTS EVERYONE IS PUTTING IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING THE FESTIVAL BIG, IT SEEMS THAT YUVAAN 2K18 WILL DEFINITELY SET NEW RECORDS OF EXCELLENCE AND PERFECTION.

# IIITG PERSPECTIVE

## The Inspiring Song of a Musical Prodigy



### PALAK KAPOOR



ON THE 12TH OF JANUARY 2018, IIITG WELCOMED MR. WRITAM CHANGKAKOTI, TO A LECTURE-CUM-INTERACTIVE MUSICAL SESSION. THIS SPECIAL PERSPECTIVE SESSION WAS ORGANIZED KEEPING IN THE MIND THE SPIRIT OF THE CHRISTIAN NEW YEAR AND THE MAGH BIHU IN ASSAM. MR. WRITAM CHANGKAKOTI IS A VISUALLY IMPAIRED MUSICIAN FROM ASSAM WHO IS A KEYBOARD INSTRUCTOR AT THE SCHOOL OF ART AND MUSIC, GUWAHATI. AN ACCLAIMED MUSICIAN, HE IS A KEYBOARDIST FOR A FEW BANDS WHERE HE ALSO INDULGES IN RECORDING, MIXING AND MASTERING. HE ALSO OCCASIONALLY SERVES AS A MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST FOR THE BAND "WING OF FLAMES". PREVIOUSLY HE HAS WORKED WITH SEVERAL OTHER LOCAL BANDS, NAMELY "HAMSADHWANI", "REVOLUTION" AND "CHAMBER". HE HAS TWO MUSIC ALBUMS TO HIS CREDIT - "WRITAM'S JYOTI" AND "BLACK SHINING". HE HAS ALSO SCORED THE BACKGROUND MUSIC FOR A SHORT FEATURE FILM "ROSES MAY NOT BE RED", WHICH WAS AWARDED THE 2017 RAINBOW AWARD AT KOLKATA.

HIS STORY BEING SO INSPIRATIONAL, THE SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS. THE SESSION BEGAN WITH A SHORT INTRODUCTORY SPEECH BY DR. L. DAVID LAL WITH MR. CHANGKAKOTI AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS (WHICH ARE VERY AMAZING) AS ITS SUBJECT. MR. CHANGKAKOTI BEGAN HIS TALK BY NARRATING THE STORY OF HIS JOURNEY WHICH HAS BEEN FULL OF CHALLENGES, AND THE HARSHIPS BEHIND HIS SUCCESS. HE MOTIVATED THE STUDENTS TO NOT STEP BACK FROM PROBLEMS BUT RATHER FACE THEM BOLDLY. HE ALSO PERFORMED SOME OF HIS AMAZING CREATIONS AND ALSO SOME SONGS IN THE RENDITION OF WHICH THE AUDIENCE ALSO JOINED HIM. MR. CHANGKAKOTI CONCLUDED HIS LECTURE WITH AN INTERACTIVE SESSION IN WHICH HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE AUDIENCE.

THE LECTURE-CUM-INTERACTION CAME TO AN END WITH A MUSICAL TRIBUTE BY THE VERY TALENTED STUDENTS OF THE IIITG MUSIC CLUB. THE SESSION WAS AS FUN AS IT WAS MOTIVATIONAL.

# Dr. FERDOUS AHMED BARBUIYA

## INTERVIEW



NILOTPOLA SARMA



FOR THE CURRENT ISSUE OF IIITG HERALD WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SECURE AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. FERDOUS AHMED BARBUIYA, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, IIIT GUWAHATI. IN THE INSPIRING INTERVIEW HE TALKS ABOUT HOW HE WAS MOTIVATED TO PURSUE COMPUTER SCIENCE AS AN ENGINEER AND ALSO ABOUT HIS PASSION FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING. READ ON TO FIND OUT.

**TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES THAT YOU INDULGE YOURSELF IN APART FROM TEACHING AND RESEARCH.**  
I AM A VORACIOUS READER. I READ A LOT OF STUFF ON LITERATURE, HISTORY ETC. I AM ALSO VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE FINANCIAL MARKET, ECONOMICS ETC.

**WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO JOIN THE TEACHING PROFESSION?**

I HAD THE FORTUNE OF WORKING IN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH MANY RENOWNED ACADEMICIANS WHICH HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THE GOOD SIDE OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION. OF COURSE IN AN INSTITUTE LIKE IIITG, WE SPEND CONSIDERABLE TIME IN RESEARCH. ALSO, I LIKE THE FREEDOM ACADEMICIANS ENJOY IN RESEARCH. MOREOVER, I AM ALWAYS INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO YOUNG STUDENTS, CONTEMPLATING WITH THEM ON THEIR IDEAS. MY MOTTO IS TO GUIDE YOUNG STUDENTS AND HELP THEM BUILD THEIR CAREERS.

**HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING?**

I USED TO REGULARLY READ A MAGAZINE CALLED "JUNIOR SCIENCE REFRESHER" WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL. I THINK I WAS IN 9TH STANDARD WHEN THERE WAS AN ARTICLE ON IN OF THE ISSUES WHICH INTRODUCED ME TO THE WORLD OF DATABASE DBASE III PLUS, A LEGACY DATABASE SOFTWARE). IT GAVE INSTRUCTIONS AS TO HOW ONE CAN TRY THE SAME ON A COMPUTER). AT THAT TIME, GETTING YOUR HANDS ON A COMPUTER WAS A VERY BIG DEAL, BUT FORTUNATELY I COULD ACCESS A PC (OF COURSE IN UNAUTHORIZED WAY) WITH ONE OF MY FRIEND'S HELP. THAT WAS A MIND BLOWING EXPERIENCE AND I DECIDED I THAT I WILL STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE ONLY.

**TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH INTERESTS.**

WELL, I AM A VERY PASSIONATE SECURITY RESEARCHER. I ALSO LIKE NETWORKS, BUT THESE DAYS DUE TO STUDENTS' DEMAND, I AM DIVERSIFYING MY RESEARCH INTO MACHINE LEARNING, DATA SCIENCE ETC. ELSE I SHALL BE CONSIDERED OUTDATED VERY SOON

**WHAT IS IT LIKE TO TEACH THE STUDENTS OF IIITG?**

TO BE HONEST, IT IS CHALLENGING TO KEEP STUDENTS MOTIVATED IN ANY SUBJECT AND IIITG STUDENTS ARE NO EXCEPTION. THE GOOD PART IS THAT WHENEVER I AM ABLE TO CONVINCE STUDENTS ABOUT THE UTILITY OF A SUBJECT/TOPIC, THEY GET GENUINELY INTERESTED IN IT. IT IS A NICE EXPERIENCE TO TEACH AT IIITG AS THE STUDENTS ARE CAPABLE OF TAKING CHALLENGES.

**WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR STUDENTS? WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ADVICE TO THE STUDENTS OF IIITG?**

I WISH THE STUDENTS SPEND A LITTLE MORE TIME WITH ACADEMICS. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE CAPABLE. DO CONCENTRATE WELL AND WORK HARD. SUCCESS IS JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY.

**WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY?**

IN ACADEMICS (IN CS/IT), I ADMIRE PROF. GAUTAM BARUA AND CONSIDER HIM AS A ROLE MODEL. IN THE GLOBAL PICTURE, I CONSIDER RICHARD STALLMAN AS MY ROLE MODEL.

# Dr. FERDOUS AHMED BARBHUIYA INTERVIEW



**YOU HAVE BEEN IN THIS INSTITUTE SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING. WHAT FUTURE DO YOU SEE FOR THIS INSTITUTE AND ITS STUDENTS?**

YES, I JOINED VERY EARLY; RATHER I AM THE FIRST PERMANENT FACULTY TO JOIN THE INSTITUTE! I THINK I AM NOW EMOTIONALLY CONNECTED WITH THE INSTITUTE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IIITG STUDENTS FLOURISH IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY. I WOULD LOVE TO SEE THE RESEARCH CULTURE THAT HAS STARTED, FLOURISH, AND MORE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN RESEARCH. I AM REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MOVE TO OUR PERMANENT CAMPUS WHERE WE WILL EXPAND IN CAPACITY AND WILL HAVE BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE.

**ANY FAVOURITE QUOTE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HARD WORK. — THOMAS EDISON



# "DARE TO GET SCARED"

## A DETAILED REPORT



KAUSTAV GOSWAMI

AS AN INSTITUTE GROWS, THE VARIETY IN ITS EVENTS INCREASES. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN IIITG, A FILM WORKSHOP WAS ORGANISED BY DR. RAJARSHI MITRA OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT. THE WORKSHOP WAS HELD ON THE 19TH OF JANUARY. TITLED 'DARE TO GET SCARED?', THE WORKSHOP ASKED FOR POSITIONAL PAPERS FROM INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS. THE MOVIES IN FOCUS WERE MAINLY TAKEN FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD'S HORROR, OR IN OTHER WORDS, HORROR MOVIES FROM THE 70's, THUS JUSTIFYING THE TITLE OF THE WORKSHOP. WILLIAM FRIEDKIN'S THE EXORCIST AND STANLEY KUBRIK'S THE SHINING WERE THE FILMS THAT HAD THE ATTENTION OF THE CROWD.

THE WORKSHOP MAINLY FOCUSED ON THE PERSPECTIVE OF HOW ONE LOOKS INTO FILMS. THE WORKSHOP BEGAN WITH A PREVIEW OF ONE OF THE MOVIES IN FOCUS, AND LATER BEGAN WITH PARTICIPANTS PRESENTING POSITIONAL PAPERS ON EITHER OR BOTH OF THE FILMS. ATTENDANCE GREW ONCE WHEN THE EVENT COMMENCED. PRESENTERS COVERED A VARIETY OF TOPICS WITHIN A FILM. THESE TOPICS COVERED THEMES SHOWN IN THE FILM, THE SOCIETY OF THAT PERIOD, MUSIC AND CULTURE; WHEREVER REFERENCED, SOCIAL IMPACTS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY FILMING TECHNIQUES. THE PECULIARITY OF BOTH THE FILMS IS THAT THE FILMING TECHNIQUE AND REPRESENTATION OF THE CHARACTERS IS AT PAR WITH THE STORY SETTINGS (SOMETHING MENTIONED QUITE FREQUENTLY). THESE WERE ENTIRELY NEW CONCEPTS AT THAT TIME. COVERING DEEP SOCIAL MEANING AND ORIGINS OF PSYCHOTIC BEHAVIOUR OF AN INDIVIDUAL, UPON WHICH ONE OF THE FILMS IS BASED, THE PRESENTERS WERE KEEN ON FOCUSING THESE MEANINGS AS WELL AS BRINGING OUT THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE SAME.

THE WORKSHOP WITNESSED ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AS THE THEME WAS INTERESTING. SPEAKERS RANGED FROM FIRST YEAR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, TO PROFESSORS; WHO ALSO PRESENTED A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE WESTERN HORROR FILMOGRAPHY AND HOW FILM MAKING WAS TURNED INTO A FORM OF ART BY PUTTING FORWARD EXAMPLES OF FILMS LIKE ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S THE PSYCHO, OR EVEN BROUGHT IN A SPIN-OFF GENRE OF HORROR; THAT IS THE SLASHER GENRE, BY CITING EXAMPLES LIKE 1974's THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE. SOON AFTER, PRESENTERS BEGAN PRESENTING THEIR OWN POSITIONAL PAPERS. THE EVENT CONTINUED TILL DUSK. WITH POSITIVE FEEDBACK AND A DEMAND FOR ANOTHER SUCH FILM WORKSHOP BY THE ATTENDEES, THIS EVENT CLEARLY SPARKED INTEREST FOR FILMS IN THE INSTITUTE.



# REPUBLIC DAY



SHOBHIT BHATNAGAR



26TH JANUARY 2018 WAS CELEBRATED AS THE 69TH REPUBLIC DAY IN IIITG'S TEMPORARY COLLEGE CAMPUS. THE DAY BEGAN WITH THE TRADITIONAL FLAG HOISTING IN THE COMPOUND OUTSIDE THE CAMPUS BUILDING. THE GUARDS' SALUTE AND SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM WERE FOLLOWED BY A SPEECH BY THE RESPECTED DIRECTOR OF IIITG, PROF. GAUTAM BARUA. IN HIS SPEECH PROF. BARUA COMMEMORATED THE MARTYRS TO WHOM WE OWE OUR REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS. HE TALKED ABOUT THEIR UTMOST DEVOTION TOWARDS, AND SHEER LOVE FOR THEIR MOTHERLAND. HE THEN TALKED ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA AND THE PREAMBLE TO IT. HE EVEN INSISTED THAT ALL GATHERED IN THE ASSEMBLY READ AND UNDERSTAND THE PREAMBLE. LASTLY, HE TALKED ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF THE PERMANENT COLLEGE CAMPUS. DIRECTOR SIR WAS QUITE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF THE NEXT FLAG-HOISTING BEING HELD IN THE PERMANENT CAMPUS - AN OPTIMISM WE SHARE AS WELL.

FOLLOWING WERE TWO PERFORMANCES BY IIITG'S MUSIC CLUB. THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FRESHER BATCH WAS DEEPLY ACKNOWLEDGED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED. IT WAS DELIGHTFUL TO SEE THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE IIITG FAMILY TREE PARTICIPATE WITH SUCH ZEST AND GUSTO. THE HEART-TOUCHING RENDITION OF THE PATRIOTIC SONGS FILLED THE AMBIENCE WITH A NATIONALISTIC VIBE.

LATER, BRUNCH WAS SERVED IN THE CAMPUS MESS. THE FOOD WAS GENUINELY SCRUMPTIOUS, AND WAS AS APPRECIATED BY THE STUDENTS AS IF IT WERE A RARITY. THE DAY CONCLUDED ON A POSITIVE NOTE, AND THE COLLEGE BUSES FERRIED THE STUDENTS BACK TO THE HOSTEL.





# TEAM Herald



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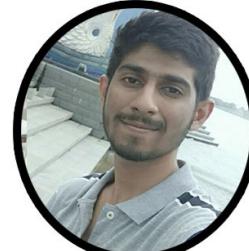
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