



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
GUWAHATI

P R O U D L Y C E L E B R A T E S

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ONE YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL
HERALDING, AND MANY MORE
TO GO !



Students' Newsletter of Indian Institute of Information Technology Guwahati

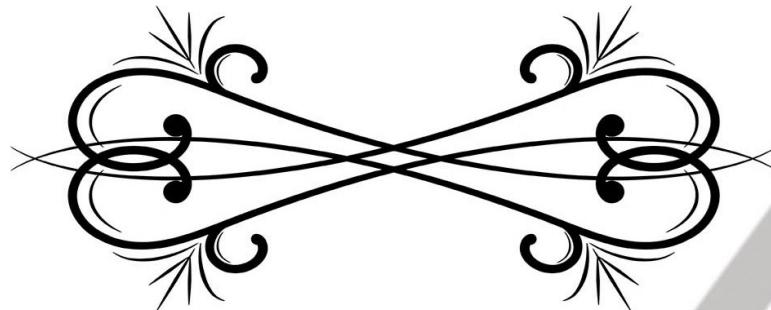
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2nd Students' Gymkhana Council Elections

-by Nilotpola Sarma + Shobhit Bhatnagar



Second Students' Gymkhana Council Elections



Right from the announcement of the Second IIIT Students' Gymkhana Elections on the 1st of September to the declaration of results on 8th September, 2017 (17:30 hours), IIITG saw enormous enthusiasm and nervous anticipation wherein contestants struggled to convince and voters struggled with a plethora of opinions and options. The whole event, spanning eight days, was ably managed by Returning Officers: Dr. Lawrence David Lal and Dr. Rusha Patra with other faculty members primarily: Dr. Surajit Panja (Chairperson Students' Gymkhana Council), Dr. Suranjana Barua, Dr. Hari K. Choudhury, Mr. Mansoor Khan, Dr. Soumyajit Poddar, Dr. Shovan Barma, Dr. Rakesh Matam, Dr. Rohit Tripathi and Dr. Suchetana Chakraborty, assisting them. The announcement of the election date was followed by the filing of nominations (4th September) and their withdrawal (5th September). This was followed by the declaration of the 'List of Candidates' on 5th September which led to the campaigning starting off from 6th. 'Know Your Candidate' event was organised for the benefit of the voters, to identify the candidates and know their agendas on 6th and 7th of September. After one whole day of campaigning on 6th of September which saw many ups and downs with allegations of personal slandering also being raised, followed by a no-campaigning day, came the big day. The Election Day this time saw good participation with almost all the students taking part in the voting. This kind of political participation is indeed seen as healthy and is a clear indicator of the students' trust in the Students' Gymkhana Council credit for which goes entirely to the last Students' Gymkhana Council.

The results were out by the evening and the winners were announced by Dr L. David Lal in the humble front yard of the institute which erupted with cries and shouts of victory.

Even though the elections were over in a hurry, eight days to be precise, it would be noteworthy that there was no chaos as such during the period. Everything went off with free and fair election procedures and no cases of rigging and with only a few cases of healthy rivalry, as some would suggest, producing minor distractions. As we congratulate all the new members of the Students' Gymkhana Council, let us not forget the effort of all the faculty members and students who cooperated to make these elections a success. Also we acknowledge the participation of all the candidates in the elections for providing a healthy opposition and indulging in fair competition which strengthens the democratic values of the Students' Gymkhana Council.

Meanwhile, the aftermath of the elections had seen quite a lot of activity with notices being circulated for the membership in Clubs and team leaders for Sports. We hope that the newly elected Students' Gymkhana Council keep up their good work and successfully cater to the needs of this growing institution and its students.



Statistics



Posts	Name	Total Scored	Votes	Winners
President	Devara Pavan Kumar	129		Devara Pavan Kumar
	Karnati Busi Reddy	122		
	NOTA	06		
	Invalid	01		
Vice President	Avinash Jain	137		Avinash Jain
	Palak Kapoor	107		
	NOTA	11		
	Invalid	03		
General Secretary Technical	Ish Kool	Elected Unopposed		Ish Kool
General Secretary Cultural	Dikshita Basumatary	135		Dikshita Basumatary
	Mridusmith Basumatary	120		
	NOTA	03		
General Secretary Sports	Ashish Keshari	160		Ashish Keshari
	Preveen Kumar	88		
	NOTA	04		
	Invalid	06		
Cultural Secretary Welfare Board	Shounak Chakraborty	Elected Unopposed		Shounak Chakraborty





Statements

"I promise co-ordination, transparency, post of a minute, online portal, NCC, research forum, SC/ST stipend by MHRD, E cell, placement ambassadors among others.
President
IIITG Students' Gymkhana Council

"I propose to implement student support group, flexible time table, proper scheduling of bus, increasing the number of water coolers, increasing the number of dustbins, installing more benches, improving hygiene of food court, scholarship schemes, medical camps from time to time, among others. I shall also help the cultural, technical and sports secretaries in their missions. My target will be to ensure the best possible environment for the all-round development of the entire student community."
Vice-President
IIITG Students' Gymkhana Council

"First of all I would like to congratulate the IIITG student community for successful conduction of the second gymkhana elections this year. In addition I would like to thank the research scholars for nominating me solely for the post. Among the grassroot measures which are in my agenda, I have already started to address the complaints about the hostel facilities. In the last one month almost all the broken furniture has been repaired and the plumbing and electrification services are on progress. Moreover in the next phase, I have proposed a public addressing system in the first year classrooms where the batch population is quite large. On successful completion of the initial goals, I shall focus on more solutions contributing to the welfare of IIITG student community at large. I have also plans for improving the canteen and better wellbeing of the research scholars both in the Institute and the hostel."
General Secretary - Welfare Board
IIITG Students' Gymkhana Council

"I shall seek to promote extracurricular culture in the institute, as overall growth is as necessary along with academics which helps us in the long run. I shall also ensure better management in Yuvaan which includes early start of preparations. I shall also pay much attention to maintaining clubs will not only help our growth but also create a positive environment in the college."
General Secretary-Cultural Board
IIITG Students' Gymkhana Council

"My agenda includes setting up and developing a strong coding culture, setting up a digital library over intranet, building a resource library for the robotic society, strengthening contact with alumni and a platform 'SPOTLIGHT' for the benefit of the students."
General Secretary-Technical Board
IIITG Students' Gymkhana Council

"I shall ensure strong participation from our college in the next Inter-IIIT Sports meet. I shall also ensure good participation of women in sports. I shall try to arrange for proper grounds for our sportspersons to play since the same is not available to them at present. Also I shall encourage the active participation of research scholars and teachers in sports activities. I shall also work towards acquiring a dedicated physical trainer for the institute who shall act as a coach and motivator. I shall also encourage LAN-gaming during Yuvaan and make better arrangements for the same."
General Secretary-Sports Board
IIITG Students' Gymkhana Council

GLIMPSE OF ELECTION DAY





IIITG becomes an Institute of National Importance

-by Sourish Dhekane

The Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership bill, famously known as 'IIIT-PPP' bill 2017 was passed on 20th July, 2017, in Lok Sabha and on 27th July, 2017, in Rajya Sabha which seeks to allow 15 established IIITs on PPP model to grant degrees and get statutory status. The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 10th of April, 2017. Though, the selected IIITs had been established at a cost of over 128 Crores in Indian Rupees in partnership with the Central and State Government along with its respective Industrial Partners, contributing 50%, 35% and 15% of the total amount respectively, but they lacked the power to award degrees.

With the enforcement of IIIT-PPP bill, the status of 'Institute of National Importance' has been granted to all the selected IIITs which would enhance the prospects of the graduating students in the job market and will also enable IIITs to attract enough students required to develop a strong research base in the country in the field of Information Technology. The bill also states that the infrastructure (water, electricity and roads) and land (50 to 100 acres) would be provided by the state government free of cost. The industrial partners would have the liberty to co-create study programmes as per the industry requirements, actively participate in the institute's governing system and also to mentor and fund start-up programmes in the respective institutes. The government would also help to expand those IIITs which perform well in this scheme. It is hoped that IIITG would take the most out of this opportunity and become the global center for research and development in the near future.



AN EVENING WITH THE INSTITUTE'S ACADEMIC COORDINATOR **Dr. Surajit Panja**

-by Nilotpola Sarma



The herald team finally secured an interview with the institute's Academic Coordinator Dr. Surajit Panja for an interview session regarding the admissions and the future planning of the institute. Managing the academics of an institute is not an easy job. Problems emerge and have to be solved immediately.

Dr. Surajit Panja is also an assistant professor of Electronics and Communications in the institute.

Here is what he has to tell about his profession and his position at the institute.



1. What kind of activities do you like to indulge in when you are not teaching?

Ans.: Presently I am serving as the Academic Coordinator, TEQIP coordinator, and admissions coordinator of the Institute. Throughout the whole year I need to do several official works. Whenever I find some free time, I like to read good books and also I am fond of listening to good music.

2. What motivated you to join the teaching profession?

Ans.: To me every teacher is a permanent student and I believe that this profession provides a golden opportunity to learn forever. Moreover, I also would like to be associated with the young energetic minds full of dreams and possibilities.

3. How did you get interested in the field of Electronics and Communication Engineering?

Ans.: The progress of the modern society is largely dependent on the development in automation. For automation in any modern equipment, an embedded circuit is there to control the action. To share the information among different equipment a dedicated communication channel is there. Subjects in ECE are based on the physics of the equipment. My main intention is to know how it is happening so. To fulfill my curiosity, I opted for ECE.

4. As the academic coordinator what kind of challenges do you have to deal with? Please shed some light on the current academic environment in our institute?

Ans.: Different challenges emerge during the semester. Major challenge is to secure 100% attendance in the class of the final year students. IIITG promises to provide world class education to our students. Course curriculum and syllabus are also of global standard. From 6th Semester UG students started their project works on different advanced topics which enhance the project handling capacity of the students. Once the Institute is shifted to the permanent campus we can spend more time in research.

5. Apart from being the academic coordinator, you are also the chairperson of the IIITG Gymkhana council. We have almost come to the end of a year of Gymkhana leadership. How successful do you think the Gymkhana has been in voicing the student's concerns?

Ans.: At first I would like to congratulate the first Gymkhana council members of IIIT Guwahati for successful completion of one year. They raised different issues concerning students' welfare and they fulfilled most of the possible goals. We hope the next council will learn from the first council members and will implement innovative ideas for betterment of the Institute.

AN EVENING WITH THE INSTITUTE'S ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

Dr. Surajit Panja



6. What do you expect from your students? Do you have any word of advice for your current and prospective students?

Ans.: Hard work is the main mantra to get success. Students must work hard to realize their unfulfilled dreams. I sincerely believe that one day they will surely achieve good position in world class academic institutions and also in reputed industries.

Student should set a bigger goal and work for it. Maybe in days to come, we will be proud of our students for their breakthrough ideas which will eventually be conducive for the holistic development of mankind.

7. □ You have been an integral part of IIIT Guwahati and quite active as well. What future do you see for the Institute?

Ans.: We are dedicated to the Institute and to the Nation. In near future, IIITG will be one of the top research institutes in India.





A DAY WITH VICE PRESIDENT

-by Shobhit Bhatnagar

Former Vice President of IIITG Gymkhana Board was with the hereld team for a short Interview on his post and the things he has accomplished during his tenure. Ashish Singh, currently in his final year of engineering, contested elections for the post of Vice President last year and made a staggering win by just one more vote. Here's what he has to tell starting from that 'one vote' victory to his completion of his tenure earlier last month.

Q1. What was your reaction when you were elected the first ever Vice-President of IIITG's Student Gymkhana Council by the margin of just one vote?

Yes that was really a close cut. It has been a year but still that moment is like trapped in time. I was obviously happy, I am deliberately trying to avoid the word 'overwhelmed'. The reason is that I never really got a feeling of being victorious, those numbers 111/110 gave me a reason to move forward and work harder till I got like those '110' on my side.

Q2. How well do you feel have you been able to do justice to your post?

Well, I believe that each and every day of my tenure has been challenging in some way or the other, I am thankful to God that I was able to deliver as much as possible. On the note of justice, I would say "I have not done it all, but I have honestly done mine."

Q3. What was the biggest challenge that you faced, and how did you overcome it?

For some things the challenges could not be graded, I cannot remember any particular thing not being challenging for me as the Vice-President. Though I feel Yuvaan'17 got the best of me. It became a huge task - scaling and managing the event. I am so proud to have a great team of my batch mates and my juniors, who really got my back and I have to admit I do not know how they all put up with me, even I do not put up with myself sometimes, but they accompanied me in accomplishing this huge challenge.

Q4. In which aspects do you feel the institute has a lot of scope for improvement? What measures would you suggest in order to achieve that improvement?

"A lot of room for this one", I reckon. The institute, despite having limited means, due to obvious reasons has been quite supportive. But, students expect institute to do a lot more than this. I do not intend to say that institute has not done anything, because that would be unjustified. But it is time we realize that proactive involvement of both institute and student community can really eradicate a lot of issues. I hope that a better communication is established between the two parties and that they understand the situation. This way, things will turn out good, naturally. This being said, I believe that it is the responsibility of the Council to become that channel.





A DAY WITH VICE PRESIDENT

Q5. How has holding the position of Vice-President of IIITG Student Gymkhana Council transformed you?

This position is not as creamy as it looks like; it has so much of potential to bringing about drastic changes in an individual. I have been through this process and I know what it means. You will be condemned, shouted upon, mocked at but your stand will matter a lot. I am not saying you will not get something good out of it, there are some package deals: confidence, eloquence, rationality, management skills, a lion's share of patience and to be able to address on national holidays, last one is optional. It teaches a lot about life, primarily, you get to know who your real 'friends' are, you will be shocked to see some real faces and surprised to see new ones. This position gives you a chance to interact with many people and learn more. More than a position, it is an opportunity.

Q6. What message would you like to give to the IIITG family?

Your question points to the answer itself, "family". Really the message is something a family should do - "Stay together". I see a great potential of improvement if this family sticks together. A lot has been achieved over the years this way and I believe a lot more success is yet to come.



Q7. What legacy do you think are you leaving behind for your successors, and how would you guide them to carry it forward?

I really do not have a very specific answer to this one, Perhaps like I have said before: patience and a calm mind are two best friends at such a position. Challenges can come in any form: situation, event, friends, and even some Council members, in the worst case. You cannot be prepared for all of them so only way to overcome is by being patient and trying to work around the problem, rather than getting tangled in these issues. I am sure the next Council will be more than capable of doing this and taking the institute ahead.



Talk By -

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

-by Palak Kapoor

A delegation team from DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service, New Delhi visited our institute on 8th of September 2017 for an interaction session with the final and pre-final year students where they talked about various funding opportunities, scholarships, internships and higher education programmes in Germany.

Talking about it, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the largest funding organization in the world supporting the international exchange of students and scholars. Since its foundation in 1925, more than 1.5 million scholars in Germany and abroad have received DAAD funding.

With German institutions of higher education and student bodies, its activities go far beyond awarding grants and scholarships. The DAAD supports the internationalization of German universities, promotes German studies and the German language abroad, runs initiatives for universities in developing countries and advises decision makers on matters of cultural, education and development policy.

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

The DAAD's programmes have the following five strategic goals:

1. To encourage outstanding young students and academics from abroad to come to Germany for study and research visits and to maintain contact with them as partners.
2. To qualify young German researchers and professionals at the very best institutions around the world in a spirit of tolerance and openness.
3. To promote the internationality and appeal of Germany's institutions of higher education.
4. To support German language, literature and cultural studies at foreign universities.
5. To assist developing countries in the southern hemisphere and reforming countries in the former Eastern Bloc in the establishment of effective higher education.

The talk was attended by large number of students including the PhD students. At last, an interactive doubt clearing session in which various questions posed by the students were answered.

A separate session with the faculty members was also held after the interaction with the students.

PERSPECTIVE LECTURE

'BIO-INFORMATICS A BLEND OF INFORMATICS AND MEDICINE'

-by Palak Kapoor



On the 11th of August, IIITG welcomed Dr. Shanta Bhar, to deliver the IIITG Perspective Lecture for that month titled 'Bioinformatics - a blend of informatics and medicine'. Being a trending research and talked-about topic, the lecture was attended by a large number of students and faculty members.

Dr. Bhar began the talk by briefing her audience about the fundamentals of Bioinformatics and its various applications. She further added that Bioinformatics encompasses the entire journey from Target Identification to Drug Discovery & Development. It plays a vital role for the *in silico* methods of gene prediction from genome sequence followed by the prediction of 3D structure of protein, and subsequently, identifying potential drug binding sites within the protein. It essentially begins by mapping and analyzing DNA sequences, and eventually protein sequences, aligning the two sequences for their comparison leading to creation of 3-D models of protein structures, assigning function to them and finally designing drugs for the target protein/enzyme.

She then added that Bioinformatics comprises design of new algorithms and statistical/mathematical formulae to analyze relationships within the members of large data set, to locate a gene within a sequence, to predict protein structure and/or function, and to classify/cluster protein sequences into families having related sequences. Bioinformatics has enabled us to procure enough sequence data in order to map the genes of complex diseases like diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, etc. by identifying the mutations responsible for these diseases is not really a change in technology, it is rather a sort of integration happening at a global level.

Dr. Bhar concluded her lecture with an interactive doubt clearing session in which she answered questions posed by her audience. The session was as fun without doubt and also was informative.



Talk by Prof. Sharat Chandran

-by Sourish Dhekane

Arranging talks on technical topics by resourceful persons has been a tradition in IIITG and sticking to that tradition, a talk on 'IIT-NIT Joint Seat Allocation' was arranged on 1st of September 2017. The talk was delivered by Prof. Sharat Chandran, currently designated as institute chair professor at IIT Bombay. He holds an undergraduate degree and a doctorate from IIT Bombay and University of Maryland respectively and has a keen interest in the fields of computer graphics, computer vision and high performance computing.

The talk mainly focused on the revolutionary admission process implemented for highly competitive undergraduate engineering courses offered by over 80 institutes of India. It consists of about 600 engineering programs for 13 lakh qualified candidates among 3 different merit lists for IIT-Advance, IIT-Main and Joint Architecture Entrance Examination. In addition to it, for the first time in the history of admission procedure in India, 3 options of FREEZE, FLOAT and SLIDE were given in each round. Then he discussed about the algorithm invented by him and his team to tackle this challenge, which is able to handle seat guarantee in each round, reservation & de-reservation rules and last-minute modifications in marks of board exams. He motivated the audience and gave them confidence to deal with such massive challenges.

In short, the talk was indeed a fruitful one and it is expected that the students of IIITG would learn to solve such real-life problems in future and take most out of this finest talk.



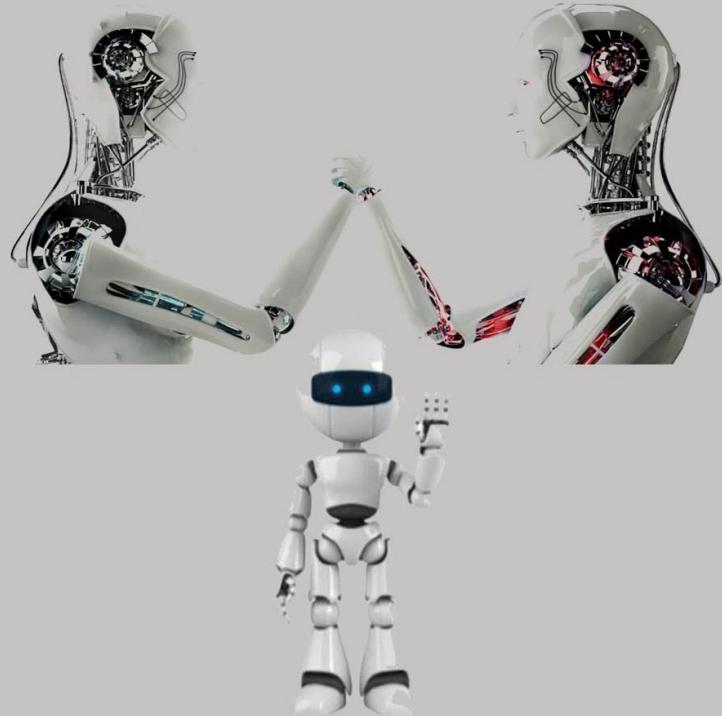
A TALK BY TECHNOMATE EDUBOTICS

-by Palak Kapoor

Robotics has been the driving force in the education system of USA, Europe and Japan; the same is not available in India except for few international schools, the reason being the prohibitive cost of required kits and lack of trainers and training materials.

The issue of lack of exposure is been gradually picked up by new companies and organisations. Exposure to the world of robotics at a tender age develops an engineering thinking in the mind of a child. Technomate Edubotic is an organisation which offers training on embedded system and robotics where one can get hands-on experience with the latest embedded products available in the market and familiarize with their architecture. They have conducted various workshops in schools throughout the country.

Mr. Achintya Saha, Founder & CEO of Technomate Edubotics conducted a demonstration in our institute on 25th of August for the enthusiastic new batch of first year that helped them in exploring the dimensions of the new academic era here at IIITG. It was really beneficial for the students to get to know about the implementation of Electronics and Embedded Systems in Industrial Fields. The workshop was as fun as it was informative and beneficial for all the attendees.





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