

# The IITG Monitor

## The Quarterly Newsletter

### INDO-GERMAN WORKSHOP ON THE ADVANCES IN MATERIALS, REACTIONS AND SEPERATION PROCESS



The Indo-German workshop on the “Advances in Materials, Reactions & Separation Processes” was jointly organized by the Department of Chemical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, India and the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems, Magdeburg, Germany, from February 23 – 26, 2016 at Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the event. The 1<sup>st</sup> workshop was held at IIT Madras from 18 – 20 February, 2008 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop was held at Bad Herrenalb, Germany from 20 – 22 February, 2012.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss on the latest development in the specified areas (materials, reactions and separations). In this workshop, experimental as well as theoretical (analytical and computational)

This workshop worked as a platform to strengthen collaborative research activities between Indian and German colleagues and introduce senior doctoral students to the current research in the specified areas.



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## Conference/ Seminar Abroad

### Chemical

Dr. Pankaj Tiwari, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual International Conference on Bioscience and Biotechnology – 2016 held at Colombo, Srilanka, from 12.01.16 to 14.01.16.

Dr. Anki Reddy Katha, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, attended the Research collaboration on The study of Drag and swimming in jammed sand held at Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University, Japan, from 10.03.16 to 13.02.16.

Dr. Subrata Kr Majumder, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, attended the International Conference on Environment, Agriculture and Civil Engineering (ICEACE- 2016) to be held at Hotel Holiday Inn Express London, London, UK, from 24.03.16 to 25.03.16..

### Chemistry

Dr. Parameswar K. Iyer, Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, delivered a Plenary lecture and Mr. Akhtar Hussain Malik a PhD student of the Department of Chemistry delivered an Invited talk at the Global Mind Seminar held at Kyushu Institute of Technology, Fukuoka, Japan, on 19.01.16.

### Computer Science

Dr. Aryabartta Sahu, Assistant Professor, Dept. of CSE,

attended the Design, Automation and Test in Europe (DATE 2016) held at Dresden, Germany, from 14.03.16 to 18.03.16.

### Humanities

Dr. Rohini Mokashi Punekar, Professor, Dept. of HSS, attended the 2016 Annual Meeting of American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) held at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, from 17.03.15 to 20.03.15.

### Mathematics

Dr. Partha Sarathi Mandal, Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics, attended the 10th International Workshop on Algorithms and Computation (WALCOM 2016) to be held at Khumaltar Heights from 29.03.16 to 31.03.16.

### Mechanical

Dr. Amaresh Dalal, Associate Professor, Dept. of ME, attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Micro/Nanoscale Heat & Mass Transfer International Conference (ASME 2015) held at Biopolis, Singapore, from 04.01.16 to 06.01.16.

### Physics

Dr. Kanhaiya Pandey, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics, Visited National University of Singapore, to discuss research opportunities and possibilities of scientific collaborations from 30.01.16 to 08.02.16.



**The 67th Republic Day** of India was celebrated on 26 January 2016 in the Institute campus. Prof. Gautam Biswas, the Director of the Institute, hoisted the tricolour and addressed the gathering. This was followed by colourful cultural programmes presented by the students of the Institute, Akshara School and children of the campus.



## ABHILASHA DESIGN EDUCATION AND CAREER GUIDANCE



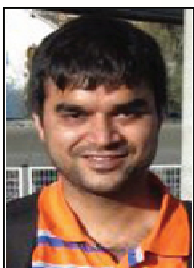
DoD under Design Innovation Centre (DIC) organized a one-day event on Design Education and Career Guidance called 'Abhilasha' for the school students of Assam on February 2, 2016.

Aim of the event was to nurture and foster the young minds into the field of design at an early stage. There is a wealth of design talent and creativity among the school children which unfortunately is untapped or guided in the right direction. This is due to the lack of awareness about various creative fields (other than engineering or medical science) such as design in pursuit of their educational career. There is indeed a pool of creative abilities that exists amidst the school children. However, these latent talents do not transform or aspire into an educational endeavor or professional development.

This event was organized to address such issues and expose students to the subject of design. The event was attended by 600 school children of class 9th to 10th from 12 different schools located in the North Guwahati and nearby areas.



### New Joinings



Dr. Pankaj K. Mishra  
Assistant Professor  
Physics



Dr. Sovan Chakraborty  
Assistant Professor  
Physics



Dr. Meduri C. Kumar  
Assistant Professor  
Physics



Dr. K Srinivasan  
Visiting Professor  
Centre for Energy

## Awards and Honours

**Rohit P. James**, Dept. of BSBE, was awarded with the Best Poster for his MTP work 'Screening of fungal strains for chitosan production using paper and pulp mill wastewater as feedstock' in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chemical Engineering Symposium REFLUX2016, held at IIT Guwahati during 25-27 March, 2016.

Poster presented by **Ananya Barman**, **Manju Nagar**, and **Ajeet Kumar** were among the three best posters from the Dept. of BSBE, and finally won second runner-up, during the Research Conclave, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, India, 18-20 March, 2016.

**Bhuvan Dixit**, Dept. of BSBE, won "Best Poster Award" entitled "Characterization of one of core Cas protein of CRISPR Cas subtype I-B in *Leptospira interrogans* Copenhageni strain Fiocruz L1-130" in the International conference on "Innovative Research in Biotechnology, Biomedical Sciences, Bioinformatics and Stem Cell application" organized at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi in January, 2016.

**Moushume Das**, Dept. of BSBE, was awarded appreciation prize for poster presentation in XXIX annual convention of Indian association of veterinary microbiologists, immunologist and specialist in infectious diseases held in AAU Khanapara and NRCP Rani, Guwahati from 12-14 Feb., 2016.

**Vartika Srivastava**, Dept. of BSBE, won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Paper Award to for 'Establishment of *in vitro* callus cultures for the analysis of essential phytochemical constituents from *Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Miers ex Hook. F. Thoms against challenging diseases' at International Seminar on Prevention, Promotion and Pacification of Ayurvedic Landscape, 9-11 Feb., 2016, Science City Auditorium, Kolkata.

**Ganesan Padmavathi**, Dept. of BSBE, won the Best Poster Award for 'Prevention of Azoxymethane induced colon carcinogenesis by the spice *Carum copticum* (Ajwain)' at 6<sup>th</sup> International Translational Cancer

Research Conference "Prevention and Treatment of Cancer: Hypes and Hopes", 4-7 Feb., 2016, Hyatt Residency, Ahmedabad.

**Boga Madhulatha**, Dept. of Civil Engg., received the BEST PAPER AWARD on the work "Numerical investigation of failure of reinforced segmental retaining wall" jointly authored by Boga Madhulatha and Arindam Dey at the North-East Students Geo-Congress: NESGC 2016, Agartala held on 22.01.2016.

**Piyooosh P** and **Tushar Semwal**, Dept. of CSE, received TCS Ph.D Fellowship in January 2016

**Gone Rajender**, Dept. of Physics, won the BEST POSTER AWARD at the Fourth International Conference on Frontiers in Nanoscience and Technology (Cochin Nano-2016), 20-23 Feb., 2016, Cochin, India, for his paper entitled "Graphene Quantum Dots and TiO<sub>2</sub> Nanoparticle Hybrid: An Efficient Photocatalyst for Environmental Applications".

**Ramesh Ghosh**, Dept. of Physics, won the BEST POSTER AWARD at the National workshop on Advanced Probing Techniques in TEM (APTTEM-2016), IIT Guwahati, 15-16 Feb., 2016, for his poster entitled "Electron Microscopy and Spectroscopic Studies of Arbitrary Shaped Si Nanocrystals Decorated on Vertical Si Nanowires Array".

**Sk. Md. Obaidulla**, Dept. of Physics, won the BEST POSTER AWARD at the Research Conclave, IIT Guwahati, 18-20 March, 2016, for this poste entitled "Effect of Contact Metals on the Electrical Performances and the Bias Stress in SnCl<sub>2</sub>Pc Based n-channel Organic Field-effect Transistors".

**Biswajit Pathak**, Dept. of Physics, has won the Officer Travel Grant Award from SPIE to attend the SPIE Photonics West conference in USA in February 2016.



**Lalit Goswami** and **Jayakrishnan U**, Centre for Environment, received award as winners and 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up respectively in the poster competition in Research Conclave 2016 held on 17-20 March.

**Dr. Vimal Katiyar's** group, Dept. of Chemical Engg., research works on Biobased Adhesive have been awarded by Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Awards on Sunday, 13 March, 2016 at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, President's Estate, New Delhi.

**Dr. Vimal Katiyar**, Dept. of Chemical Engg., received 6th National Awards for Technology Innovation in Petrochemicals & Downstream Plastic Processing Industry (2015-16) for Innovation in Polymer Waste Management & Recycling Technology and Green Polymeric Materials and Products "Value Added Cellulose Nanocrystals Production from Waste

Resources and its High End Applications" from Gol.

**Dr. Vimal Katiyar**, Dept. of Chemical Engg., received 6th National Awards for Technology Innovation in Petrochemicals & Downstream Plastic Processing Industry (2015-16) on behalf of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati for Innovation in Polymeric Materials "Industry Production of Degradable Packaging Films for Stringent Food Packaging Applications" from Gol.

**Dr. Vimal Katiyar**, Dept. of Chemical Engg., received 6th National Awards for Technology Innovation in Petrochemicals & Downstream Plastic Processing Industry (2015-16) on behalf of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati for Innovation in Polymer Waste Management & Recycling Technology and Green Polymeric Materials and Products "Biobased Adhesive for Structural Applications" from Gol.

## NWNTD 2016



**2nd National Workshop on NEMS/MEMS and Theranostic Devices NWNTD-2016**, a workshop on NEMS/MEMS and Theranostic Devices from **March 21 to 22, 2016** organized by Centre for Excellence in Research and Development of Nanoelectronics Theranostic Devices under the aegis of Centre for Nanotechnology at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. The workshop was targeted to improve the academic awareness on the micro/nanoelectronic fabrication and characterization in the NE region of the country. The scientific program included invited talks, hands on training of COMSOL and MAPS followed by quiz competition.

## GIAN COURSE ON OPTIMIZATION METHODS TO GROUND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) course titled as “Optimization Methods to Groundwater Resources Management” was conducted during March 07- 11, 2016. Dr. Manish Kumar Goyal took the initiative to conduct first GIAN program at IIT Guwahati. Prof. Gutam Biswas, Director and JC Bose National Fellow, IIT Guwahati inaugurated the course. The course was attended by 50 participants including from IIT Mandi, Department of Land Resources Nagaland, NITK Surathkal, NIT Jamshedpur, NIT Silchar, NIT Meghalaya, NEHU Shillong, PASF-ANG TURA-Meghalaya, NERIST Arunachal Pradesh, IISER Kolkata, GEC Aurangabad, AEC Guwahati, Assam University, Silchar, Guwahati University, Tezpur University among others. Foreign expert Prof. K. Katsifarakis from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece along with course coordinator Dr. Manish Kumar Goyal have delivered a number of lectures on various topics related to the course. The response of the participants to the various events of the course was very enthusiastic and there was a close interaction with the experts from India as well as abroad.



**Dr. Rajiv I. Modi** assumed charge on February 8, 2016, as the Hon'ble Chairman, Board of Governors, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

Dr. Modi is the Managing Director, Cadila Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Modi is a member of The New York Academy of Sciences, USA; Genetic Society of America; American Society for Microbiology; Industrial Biotechnology Task Force, New Delhi; Technical Panel on Biotechnology, Gujarat; Indian Chemical Engineer, India and TIFAC. He has also been elected as Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi – an elite academy with prominent industry leaders, academicians and scientists amongst its Fellows.

A Ph.D. in Biological Science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. Dr. Modi also holds an M.Sc. in Biochemical Engineering from University College, London and a B. Tech. in Chemical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Mumbai.



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION: NCC 2016

The Twenty Second National Conference on Communications NCC 2016 held at IIT Guwahati from March 04-06, 2016 and was organized by the Department of EEE in

association with the Joint Telematics Group (JTG) of IITs and IISc. IEEE Kolkata section was the technical co-sponsor of the event. Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director, IIT Guwahati was the Patron of the conference. The General Chair and General Co-chair for the conference were Prof. Ratnajit Bhattacharjee and Prof. Rohit Sinha, Dr. K. R. Singh, Dr. A. Rajesh, Prof. S. K. Bose, Dr. T. Venkatesh, Prof. S. R. M. Prasanna and Prof. P. K. Bora served as the Technical Program Committee (TPC) Chairs. Prof. P. K. Bora, Dr. T. Jacob and Prof. S. Dandapat served as the Chairs for Plenary Talks and Tutorials. Prof. R. Sinha and Dr. S. K. Nayak were the Finance Chairs. Prof. Chitralekha Mahanta, Head EEE Department was the Chair for the Local Organizing Committee.

During the conference three Plenary Talks were presented by very eminent experts in the field: Prof. A. J. Paulraj (Stanford University), Prof. B. Mukherjee (UC Davis) and Prof. P. Vijay Kumar (IISc Bangalore). In addition two Invited Talks were also delivered by well-known experts: Prof. R. K. Mallik (IIT Delhi) and Prof. S. Chaudhuri (IIT Bombay). The pre-conference tutorial sessions were conducted by Prof. B. SundarRajan (IISc Bangalore), Dr. Chandra Sekhar Seelamantula (IISc Bangalore) and Dr. Samar Shailendra and group (TCS Bangalore).

The NCC 2016 received an initial submission of 371 manuscripts in three tracks: communications, networks and signal processing. These manuscripts were put through a rigorous process of review by an expert panel of reviewers. Conference submissions and review process were handled through the EDAS. After review and plagiarism check, based on the decision of the TPC, a total of 140 manuscripts were



accepted. Finally, 134 papers were presented at NCC 2016 over 9 oral presentation and 7 poster presentation sessions. The conference was attended by 250 delegates from various prestigious academic institutions and universities from all over the country as well as from industry and different R&D laboratories.

A total of seven industrial sessions were organized which included Tutorial talks and Hands on sessions covering the topics of software defined radio, antenna design and video processing. A Round Table session on 5G Communication Networks was organized with support from National Instruments and this event was attended by the experts from academia and industry.

The conference also featured a cultural evening primarily consisting of mesmerizing musical performances from in-campus artistes along with an enchanting performance on violin by an invited artiste.



## New Research Projects

### BSBE

**Title:** Design principles in the Molecular Network of an Oncofetal Protein .

**Funding Agency:** DBT.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Biplab Bose.

**Title:** Fundamental Molecular Investigations in Bio-technology.

**Funding Agency:** DBT.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. S. S. Ghosh.

**Title:** Development of Abiotic Stress Resilient Tropical Pulses Through Tailoring of ABA Receptor genes.

**Funding Agency:** DBT.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. L. Sahoo.

**Title:** Studies and application of redox enzymes for bioelectronics devices.

**Funding Agency:** DBT.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. P. Goswami.

**Title:** Investigations on the molecular mechanism of Nanomaterial-cellular interactions to develop Potential Therapeutics.

**Funding Agency:** DBT.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. S. S. Ghosh.

**Title:** North East Silk Biomaterial Based Injectable Hydrogels for Drug Delivery and Tissue Engineering.

**Funding Agency:** DBT.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. B. B. Mandal.

**Title:** Investigation to understand cell signaling in Noisy Environment.

**Funding Agency:** ICMR.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Biplab Bose.

**Title:** Production of bio oil hydrous of microalgae *Chlorella* sp.

**Funding Agency:** SERB.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Gargi Goswami (Mentor: Dr. Debasish Das).

### CHEMICAL

**Title:** Studies on shear thickening suspensions for liquid body armor-applications.

**Funding Agency:** DRDO.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Anugrah Singh.

**Title:** Assessment of corrosion of the steel liner of the water conductor system of Kopili H.E. Plant and suggestion for selection of corrosion resistance system for the steel liner including a model study.

**Funding Agency:** NEEPCO.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Chandan Das.

**Title:** Carbohydrates (Cellulose, Glucose and Fructose) conversion to 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural using ionic liquid encapsulated mesoporous zeolite catalysts.

**Funding Agency:** SERB.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Nageswara Rao Peela.

### CHEMISTRY

**Title:** 2-(Hydroxymethyl) benzonitrile: A novel participating protecting group for the synthesis of a-sialic acid glycosides.

**Funding Agency:** IITG.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Pavan K. Kancharla.

### CIVIL

**Title:** Using Field and modelling studies to investigate noise propagation in Urban traffic corridor.

**Funding Agency:** MOES, GOI.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Sharad B. Gokhale.

**Title:** Assessment of arsenic, iron and fluoride concentration in the surface/underground water of five highly populated & effected districts of Assam and development of low cost material for their removal.

**Funding Agency:** SERB.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Ruhul Amin Reza (Mentor: Dr. Mohammed Jawed).

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**CSE**

**Title:** Design and Development of opinion mining and sentiment analysis of Social Media Content to assess security threats.

**Funding Agency:** DeitY.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. S. Ranbir Singh.

**Title:** Power Efficient fault tolerant techniques for deflection routers in large Mesh-on-Chips interconnection networks.

**Funding Agency:** IITG.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. John Jose.

**EEE**

**Title:** MicrogridsPart-I:Optimal Planning of smart-grid under uncertainty.

**Funding Agency:** IITG.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Sanjib Ganguly.

**HSS**

**Title:** Social and Political Imaginaries in the Vernacular:Notions of Desha and Samaj in Early Twentieth Century Mithila (1905-1940).

**Funding Agency:** IITG.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr.Mithilesh Kumar Jha.

**MECHANICAL**

**Title:** Numeric Methods for dynamic analysis of adhesive contact problems.

**Funding Agency:** SERB.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Sachin Singh Gautam.

**PHYSICS**

**Title:** Exploring the Higgs Sector of Inert Doublet Model in the Presence of Scalar Triplets.

**Funding Agency:** SERB.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Poulouse Poulouse.

**ENERGY**

**Title:** Design and development of a Fluidized Bed paddy dryer with waste heat recovery suitable for North-eastern of India.

**Funding Agency:** ASTEC.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Pankaj Kalita.

**Title:** Microalgae for sustainable fuel and food technology: coupling photovoltaic airlift photobioreactor (PAPB) and energy efficient electrochemical harvesting (EECH) technology.

**Funding Agency:** BCIL.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Debasish Das.

**Title:** Performance improvement and thermodynamic management of a combined solar photovoltaic and thermal system.

**Funding Agency:** IITG.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Pankaj Kalita.

**IITG**

**Title:** Make-in India Week.

**Funding Agency:** GOI.

**Principal Investigator:** Dean, R&D.



*The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi being welcomed at IIT Guwahati at the foundation stone laying ceremony of new campus of IIT Guwahati on January 19, 2016.*

## Visitors/Invited Lectures/Seminars

### BSBE

Dr. Junpei Takano, Lab. Molecular Biology, Research Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University; 'Boron Transport in Plants - Alleviating Boron Deficiency in Crops'; January 25, 2016.

### CHEMISTRY

Dr. Michel Wong Chi Man, Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Montpellier, France; 'New stimuli-responsive mesoporous hybrid silica as drug carriers and drug delivery'; February 16, 2016.

Professor Y. D. Vankar, IIT Kanpur, 'Chemistry of C-2 Functionalised Glycols: Synthesis of Some Biologically Important Molecules and A New Method of O-Glycosylation'; March 22, 16.

### CIVIL

Dr. Tribikram Kundu, University of Arizona; 'Ultrasonic & electromagnetic waves for nondestructive evaluation and structural health monitoring'; February 2, 2016.

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Parasara Sridhar Duggirala, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA; 'Dynamic Analysis of Cyber-Physical Systems'; January 5, 2016.

Dr. Akshat Kumar, Singapore Management University; 'Automated Planning and Decision Making Using Probabilistic Inference'; January 5, 2016.

### DESIGN

Prof. Pramod Khambete, Design consultant and Adjunct Faculty, IIT Bpmby; 'What is experience design?'; March 21, 2016.

### HUMANITIES

Prof. Stephen Stich, Rutgers University, USA; 'The Geography of Philosophy: Exploring Cultural Differences; and Cultural Universals in Philosophical Intuitions & Concepts'; February 11, 2016.

Prof. M. Asaduddin, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New

Delhi; 'Conjectures on World Literature and Comparative Literature'; February 26, 2016.

Indranil Das Gupta, Software programmer and activist, founder-member of the Ankur Bangla Group; 'Free/Libre Software - The story of the wandering minstrel, turned pariah, turned the ultimate come-back rockstar of the history of computing'; March 21, 2016.

### MATHEMATICS

Prof. Mario Ahues, Université Jean Monnet de Saint-Etienne, France; 'An Extension of the Product Integration Method to L1 with an Application to Astrophysics'; January 7, 2016.

Prof. Lorenzo Robbiano, Department of Mathematics, University of Genova; 'Solving Systems of Polynomial Equations'; February 15, 2016.

Prof. Rajendra Bhatia, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi centre; 'Perturbation Bounds for Eigenvalues'; February 18, 2016.

Dr. Diganta Borah, IISER, Pune; 'Hartogs' extension phenomenon'; March 15, 2016.

### PHYSICS

Dr. Subhasish Mandal, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Applied Physics, Yale University; 'From high temperature superconductivity to nanoscale electronics: A first principles investigation'; January 5, 2016.

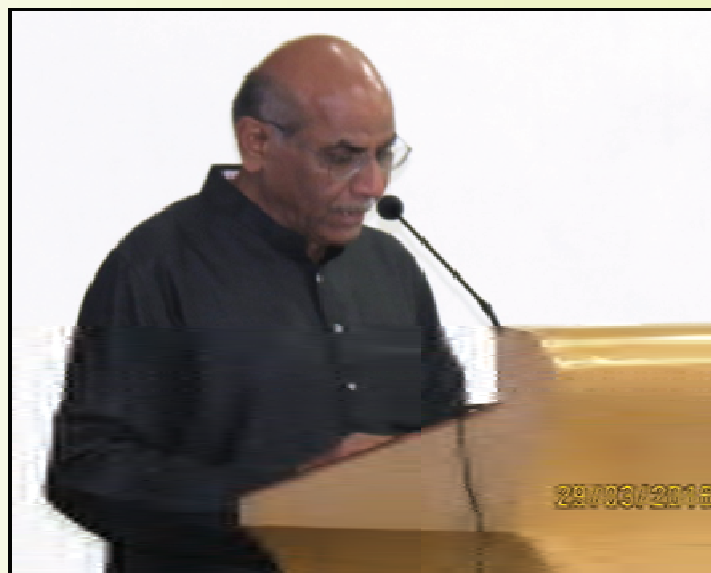
Dr. Sudipta Kanungo, Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute For Chemical Physics of Solids, Dresden, Germany; 'Interplay of spin, lattice and orbitals in the 5d oxides: microscopic insight from first principles approach'; January 12, 2016.

Dr. Gauhar Abbas, Postdoctoral fellow at IFIC, Universitat de València – CSIC, Apt. Correus 22085, E-46071 València, Spain; 'Top FCNC decays in the aligned two-Higgs doublet model'; March 8, 2016.

Dr. Ashok Mohapatra, Reader F, NISER Bhubaneswar; 'Study of Rydberg blockade in thermal vapor'; March 24, 2016.



## DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GOVT. OF INDIA



Mr. Dilip Sinha was India's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva from 2012 to 2014, and a delegate based there from 1995 to 1999. Mr. Sinha provided a detailed account of the Human Rights movement and current developments in the area. The Q&A session and the comprehensive interaction that followed testified to the keen interest that the lecture generated.

Mr. Shyam Saran, a highly acclaimed career diplomat spoke on the role of border-states in foreign relations. A former Ambassador and Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, Mr. Saran's lecture was well received by the large gathering consisting of Director of IITG, Prof. Gautam Biswas, faculty members, students, staff and others.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY MARCH 18, 2016



All the foreign students at Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati actively participated in the annual event of the International Students' Day. International Students' Day 2016 showcased cultural performances and presentations from students belonging to different parts of the world studying at this Institute such as Portugal, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Syria, etc

*Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director IITG, Prof. Rakhi Chaturvedi ADOAER, Mr. U.C. Das, Registrar and others including Foreign students during the International Students' Day.*

One of the largest cultural festivals was back for its mammoth 20th Edition, Alcheringa 2016.



The four-day extravaganza began on the 28th of January 2016. On the opening night of Saaz, the Classical Night, Sarod Masters Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan put the audience in a trance with their strings. Later that night, Youtube sensation and Fusion band, The Indian Jam Project amazed the crowd with their renditions of classic pieces like Yiruma's 'River Flows in You' and Requiem for a Dream's 'Lux Aeterna'.

The first day saw a multitude of participants lining up for events like Rock-o-phonix - the Rock Band competition, Electric Heels - the Group Dance competition and Voice of Alcheringa - the Solo Singing competition. This edition saw over 4000 participants from 400 colleges across the nation.

That afternoon, Irish band Fasta gave Guwahati a taste of Irish Folk music. The Second night, Blitzkreig, the EDM night began with a mind-numbing performance by Ouzo Bazooka the Psychedelic Rock Band from Israel. They then paved the way for artists Dualist Inquiry and Sandunes who made the crowd go berserk with their unique mix of Electronica, Rock and Dubstep.



Then came the most awaited spectacle of Alcheringa 2016, Bollywood Singer, Songwriter and Composer King Mika Singh.

On the final day, all the competitions came to a close. The World Record for the Largest Human Formation of a Currency Symbol was broken by the revellers. Later in the night, Meta-Stasis, an Extreme Technical Metal band from the UK, warmed up the stage for the arrival of Korpiklaani. Korpiklaani, the Folk Metal Band from Finland were one of the most

awaited acts of Alcheringa 2016. They made the crowd swoon to their classic hits like 'Vodka' and 'Ievan Polka'.



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