

1st Departmental Retreat (Biotech Express)

Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati December 21, 2019 (Saturday)

December 21st, 2019, on a cold winter day, commenced the First Department Retreat, christened as Biotech express. An event aimed to bring a change from daily lab culture, culminated intellect, joy and prospered harmony among students, staff, and faculties. The event was marked by a welcome address by the head of the department, followed by a talk on the history of department establishment "The wonderful journey that began at IITG", by the former and first HOD of the department. The faculties enlightened the occasion with their intellect and talks on "finding passion and purpose in research", "the art of writing scientific papers" and "the industrial integration of biotech research". Further followed an inspiring and motivating alumni talk by one of the pioneers of the department. The students actively took part in the scientific culture of the program with Oral and Poster presentations which was highly informative, providing insights to their respective lab modules and domains.

Post lunch, the session embraced music, art, and leisure. An online Mobile-based Quiz was highly enthralling where not only intelligence but the speed and cognitive ability were tested, the fastest person who answered correctly wins it all. This was followed by "The Secret Journey of DNA" a skit depicting the hidden story behind the DNA structure prediction elegantly played by the collaboration of Faculties, staff, and students. 2nd and final round of the quiz was a brainstorm and a test of intelligence and memory. The top 10 contestants sorted out from round one was called up on stage and the top 3 winners were rewarded with prizes. The students showcased their talents in the form of self-composed Hindi and English poems which were a real delight for the audience, the harmony of guitar and flute took us over to a mesmerizing journey of soulfulness.

The short crisp event came to a close with a token of appreciation for various events (prize distribution) and closing remarks by the convener. The smiles and cheers bestowed were the key highlights of the event which were reflected on the whiteboard. This light and happy event truly ended with connections and bonding among students, staff and faculties and scripts a humble beginning