



Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान गुवाहाटी
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ज्ञानद्विती

The Monthly Newsletter of IIT Guwahati

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IIT Guwahati Retains the 10th Position in QS Indian University Rankings 2020 for the Second Year in a Row

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has retained the 10th position second year in a row (2019 and 2020) in the recently released QS Indian University Rankings. The list is the second edition of the standalone rankings for India's higher education institutions. The announcement was made at the 2nd QS India Summit in Goa on 21st October 2019. IIT Guwahati which is celebrating its silver jubilee this year, is the only institute from Northeast region to be part of the top 10 institutes/universities consistently for the second year in a row primarily due to its high impact research output. In order to further improve in the rankings both Nationally and Internationally, it needs to improve in the perception (Academic and Employer reputation) and International Students and Faculty presence on its campus.

Union Human Resource Development Minister Hon'ble Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" presented the certificates of the QS rankings to the Institute Heads and representatives of the 31 institutes out of the top 100 who were present at the QS India Summit that was held at the Cidade de Goa Hotel, Goa.

Director, IIT Guwahati Prof. T. G. Sitharam, and Dean, Public Relations, Branding and Ranking (PRBR), Prof. Parameswar K. Iyer, received the certificate on behalf of the institute from the Hon'ble Union HRD minister at the QS summit.



(L-R) Prof. Parameswar K. Iyer, Dean, PRBR, IITG; Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal, Hon'ble Minister of HRD, IITG; Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IITG; Shri Jason Newman, Vice President, Quacquarelli Symonds

IIT Guwahati Director Emphasizes on Promoting the Culture of Research for Furtherance of Knowledge at QS Indian University Rankings 2020



Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has bagged the 10th position, for the second year in a row, in the recently released QS India University Rankings 2020. The list is the second edition of the standalone rankings for India's higher education institutions. The announcement was made at the 2nd QS India Summit in Goa on 21st October 2019. The award function was presided over by Hon'ble HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

Speaking at one of the panel discussions titled, 'Promoting a Culture of Research while Ensuring Excellence in Teaching: Building a Knowledge Society,' Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director IIT Guwahati emphasized, "Balancing teaching and research responsibilities" is the key to success for Professors of higher education institutes. To create impact, research should involve a multidisciplinary approach cutting across disciplines (cross-disciplinary research). IITs today are the 'towers of excellence' and they should evolve to become a 'network of excellence' coordinating with nearby institutes and research centers to make research much more collaborative, multi-disciplinary and relevant to society. The strength lies in group activities."

"For centuries we have organized and conducted research within disciplines and this has delivered extraordinary depths of knowledge. To translate this knowledge into outcomes and to convert them into partnerships with industry and end-users of research would play a major role in this process," he further added.

Prof. T. G. Sitharam also said that to promote research culture a larger group needs to be involved across India. We need trained manpower, funding facilities and Furtherance. Particularly in Furtherance, the Mobility of teachers and students, interaction and engagements play a key role at institutional, professional and individual levels. This should happen with short term and long term plans at the Institutional, national and global level.

Our institutions should move away from just infrastructure building i.e., housing for faculty, hostels buildings for students and instead put that investment on scientific facilities/instruments.

Joint degree programs shall be organized to attract students and faculty to collaborate between institutes and departments. The promotion of a culture of discovery and innovations has to be incorporated within the curriculum and encourage the exchange of knowledge between academia and public/private partners that are mutually beneficial. Work on projects of interest with industry and community must be prioritized. Sustainable thinking and solve problems that will meet the SDG goals of 2030 are other important goals. Work on clean energy, water, transportation and mobility in urban and rural areas, waste management and green buildings are at the forefront of research and practical problems.

To create a productive research environment: we need to build institution of reputation, faculty advancement, and leadership. The factors which affect world-class universities are: Recruiting faculty with a passion for research, providing them with formal mentoring programs and infrastructure/facility, facilitating networks and centers of excellence, providing time for faculty and students to do research, recognition for producing research performers; awards and prizes for performing researchers, research integrity - formal and informal ethics, standards, protocols, and policies.

Enhancing research culture is critical for any institute to become a world-class university. We need to establish a support system for the same. Research culture takes birth in discussions, hence, the environment should be created to find the time, space to meet people and share their ideas and experiences. SHIRU cafe in IITG and Indian coffee house at IISc are good examples to host and provide an environment for such discussions. One needs to embed the research culture at the institutional level to become successful. To build a knowledge society it is essential to develop research culture (i.e. behavior, values, expectations, attitudes, and norms of research communities are critical). Finally, student involvement at an early stage in research is key to success.

Learning in Tandem with the Tides of the Mighty Brahmaputra: The Vibrant Campus of IIT Guwahati Located in a Natural Setting

A bird's eye view of the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati would reveal the mesmerizing vast expanses of green, mountains and hilltops, and lakes flowing by. What may seem like the imagination of an artist, is the reality of an academic institute. IIT Guwahati, one of the newer IITs, established in 1994, is situated along the banks of the mighty Brahmaputra river, and is surrounded by hillocks that make for a scenic view for its inhabitants. The campus is frequented by wildlife and migratory birds alike, and benefits immensely from the lush green vegetation that is spread across the campus. It is this confluence of flora, fauna, lakes and hills that shines through the day and glows in the nights to keep the those at the Institute close to nature, and consequently, be inspired by it to address the dynamic issues faced by the region.

Almost 93 acres of the campus are covered by lakes and water bodies, while most open spaces have been turned into manicured lawns through the plantation of different kinds of trees such as cashew nut, Ashoka, Arjun, Eucalyptus, Areca Palm, Foxtail Palm, Bakul, and more. One would find oneself chancing upon different types of ornamental and medicinal plants, shrubs and hedges during a stroll through the campus, left with the rare, yet profound feeling of being in the tranquillity of nature.

The loss of natural systems to development has

caused numerous species of birds everywhere to lose their habitats, resulting in several birds becoming endangered or threatened. "The campus is home to several winter migratory, summer migratory and local birds, some of which are endangered or near threatened as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Some of the common sightings at the Institute are that of vulnerable birds including the Common Pochard, near threatened birds such as the Ferruginous Duck, Himalayan Griffon, Oriental Darter, and Red-Breasted Parakeet. One can also spot the endangered Greater Adjutant in the campus. Some of the other birds that visit the campus include the Oriental pied Hornbill, Purple Sunbird, Greater Flameback, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Eurasian Moorhen, and many more," says Rupam Bhaduri, Research Scholar from the Centre for Environment, IIT Guwahati.

Buildings occupy 31% of the campus, while 14% is occupied by water bodies. The rest of the campus is under green cover, allowing its residents to breathe in clean air. Covering over 285 hectares, the sprawling campus boasts of unmatched greenery and a pristine landscape that would make the Institute easily pass for a holiday destination. The Institute's focus on the development and implementation of green technologies has been a key catalyst for earning it the unique distinction of being a climate-sensitive campus, making it liveable and breathable.



One of the clubs, Prakriti, comprising of young environment enthusiasts has been playing an instrumental role in ensuring the harmony with nature. The members of the club devise technological solutions aimed at addressing environmental challenges of the day and conservation and monitoring. Several initiatives of the club seek to sensitize the people to adopt environment-friendly behaviour. These include inter alia plantation drives, eco walks, energy audits on campus, observing earth hour, interactive sessions with leading ecologists and conservationists, and more. The student activities largely stem from their sense of right to enjoy and moral responsibility to preserve the natural resources.

The bridge over one of the inland lakes at the campus is a popular spot for the students to unwind in the evenings, as the lights over the water offer a sense of calm and relaxation. Another hidden gem at the

campus is what is known as the 'viewpoint', which as the name suggests is where one goes for a panoramic view of the Institute and the Brahmaputra river.

The North East region of India is emblematic of relatively untouched biodiversity, with its biological hot-spot having the reputation of harbouring many a rare plant and animal species. IIT Guwahati, through conscious efforts, seeks to preserve the same while according the priority and respect to these species by committing to preserve their natural habitats. Such a campus has the potential to play a vital role in allowing the students an environment that is conducive to better learning outcomes and triggers for positive mental and physical health. After all, what could be better than reading and learning at the banks of rivers and foothills of mountains, with views of the most picturesque sunrises and sunsets!



GIFU JOINT DEGREE SYMPOSIUM

IIT Guwahati, India and Gifu University, Japan had signed agreements in February 2019 to establish International Joint Master's Degree Program in Food Science and Technology, International Joint PhD Program in Food Science and Technology and International Joint PhD Program in Integrated Mechanical Engineering. With this MoU, IIT Guwahati begun its first International degree from this academic year 2019 with formal registration of students from Gifu University, Japan at IIT Guwahati, India. Overall, program is planned to support at least 14 undergraduate/post-graduate students by bilateral mobility across the three above international programs.



In light of the above, a Joint Degree Symposium was organized at the Nagaragawa Convention Center, Gifu City, Japan on 7-8 October 2019. The theme of the symposium was "Joint-Degree Programs for Sustainable Development of the Regions: Challenge of Gifu-U, IITG and UKM". As part of the Symposium, the Joint Degree program launching ceremony was held on 7 October 2019 and was inaugurated by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director of IITG and Prof. Hisataka Morikawa, President of Gifu University. The program was attended by Dr. Fumiaki Suzuki, Vice President from Gifu University, Shri Ram Muivah, IAS, Secretary North Eastern Council, India, Prof. Aditya N. Panda, Associate Dean, Alumni and External Relations and delegates from IIT Guwahati, overseas partner universities, various industries, Gifu Chamber of Commerce and Industry and students. Prof. Sitharam elaborated that the primary focus of the program will help to develop new technologies through interdisciplinary research which will have an enormous impact in the society. The program will further promote industrial and Academic interactions between the Japan and India which will result in the overall development of the northeastern region of India. Prof. Aditya Panda made presentation about IIT Guwahati and expressed expectations from JD program with active participation of students and faculty members.

On 8 October 2019, academic brainstorming sessions under the platform of "Gifu International Symposium for Sustainable Development 2019" was held at Nagaragawa Convention Center in Gifu, Japan, to discuss about future academic-government-industrial collaborations between Japan, Malaysia and India. Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director IIT Guwahati along with other faculty members of the Institute had attended this brainstorming session.



Following the JD symposium, a meeting between the administrators of Gifu University, Japan and Prof. Rakhi Chaturvedi, Dean, Alumni & External Relations, IIT Guwahati, was organized on 10-11 October 2019, to discuss strategic planning and mobility of students and faculty members under the Joint Degree programs, and also Spring School program scheduled at IIT Guwahati in March 2020. It is also pertinent to mention that to encourage bilateral mobility of students between IIT Guwahati, India and Gifu University, Japan, IIT Guwahati hosts the Spring School Program for Gifu University students at IIT Guwahati in the month of March, every year.





Meeting between Prof. Sitharam, Director of IITG and Mr. Yoshihiko Narihara, Deputy Mayor of Hashima to discuss about the development of tourism, city planning, social advancement and growth of the state of Assam



Meeting with Mr. Takanori Kawai, Vice Governor of the Gifu Prefecture and the delegation led by Prof. Sitharam to discuss about possible future collaborations for technical advancement of the countries of India and Japan, with special emphasis on the Northeast states of India

Participation of IIT Guwahati in BioJapan Trade Fair 2019

Prof. Vimal Katiyar of Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Polymers, IIT Guwahati displayed IIT Guwahati developed biodegradable products from bioplastics. During BioJapan, Dr. Katiyar's meeting with Mr. Hiroshi Sano, Advisor to President, Mitsubishi Chemicals, Japan concluded with their visit to IITG in near future to engage for possible development of biodegradable plastics for the benefit of both the society and the environment. Mitsubishi Chemicals, Japan is the pioneer in plastic resins commercialization. Such visits will enhance the economic development of Assam and other Northeastern Indian states and lead to future collaborations between academia and industry, benefitting both the parties.

IIT GUWAHATI ALUMNI MEET HELD IN GIFU, JAPAN

An Interactive session was held at Gifu City, Japan, between IIT Guwahati Alumni based in Japan and the delegates from IIT Guwahati on 9 October 2019. The meet was presided over by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director and also attended by Prof. Gautam Biswas, Former Director IIT Guwahati and Shri Ram Muivah, IAS, Secretary, North Eastern Council, India. Among the Alumni present were, Dr. Pradyut Dhar, Dr. Amit Pandey, Dr. Himangshu Jha and Dr Devendra Marawi.

In the above meeting, Prof. Rakhi Chaturvedi, Dean of Alumni and External Relations welcomed all the alumni and dignitaries present there, and updated them on various Alumni activities undertaken by IIT Guwahati to connect Alumni with the alma mater, such as enriching the alumni database, formation of Alumni Chapters in various cities in India and abroad. Prof. Aditya N. Panda, Associate Dean, Alumni and External Relations mentioned the need of Alumni support in the development of any institute and urged them to remain connected with IIT Guwahati through their services at various level.

Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati, addressed the gathering and stressed on the role of Alumni as Ambassadors of IIT Guwahati and the role and impact of Alumni in Institution Building. He welcomed the initiative of the AER office and encouraged all to contribute in strengthening the alumni-institute bonding. The meeting concluded successfully with an idea to be connected to the Alma Mater and to participate actively on Alumni Connect Campaign in order to establish strong and robust Institute-Alumni relationship. All the alumni present congratulated and welcome the initiative of IIT Guwahati to connect and establish a strong alumni linkage. They reckoned that such initiatives will result into mutually beneficial linkage between alumni and institute.



Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director IIT Guwahati, Shri. Ram Muivah, Secretary NEC, Prof. Gautam Biswas, former Director, IIT Guwahati along with Dean and Associate Dean AER, IIT Guwahati, faculty of IIT Guwahati and IIT Guwahati alumni based in Japan.

Visit of Dr. R Lalthangliana, Minister of Higher & Technical Education, Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Mizoram

Minister of Higher & Technical Education, Health & Family Welfare Department, Dr. R Lalthangliana, Govt. of Mizoram, visited IIT Guwahati on 23 October 2019 and had a meeting with Prof. P. S. Robi, Dy. Director, IIT Guwahati. The Dy. Director, briefed the honourable minister regarding the activities of IIT Guwahati, viz. Academics, Research, contributions to the rural sector in the North-East. It was highlighted how the state of Mizoram can be benefitted by some of the flagship programme of IIT Guwahati, viz. Teachers Training Programme, Entrepreneur Development Programme and IIT Guwahati's expertise in mentoring establishment of new Institutions. Dy. Director took the opportunity to inform the honourable minister about the New Director, Prof. T. G. Sitharam's, vision of opening extension centres of IIT Guwahati across all the North-Eastern states. The minister was enthusiastic in the idea and assured extending all possible help in setting up such an extension centres in the state of Mizoram. The minister extended invitation to the Director and a few delegates from IIT Guwahati to visit Mizoram to have further deliberations regarding future course of action.



IIT Guwahati team develops Artificial Intelligence-powered 'Smart-Engineer' in collaboration with IBM

To advance greater penetration of Electric Vehicles (EVs) on the nation's roads, Indian Institute of

Technology Guwahati today announced the development of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) - assisted engineering system design tool: Smart-Engineer. The tool is built by its team comprising of Ph.D. and Masters Students - Mr. Rajendra Kumar, Mr. Bikash Sah, Mr. Ankit Vishway, and Mr. Rajendra Kumar - by leveraging IBM Watson AI Platform and IBM Cloud.

The 'Smart-Engineer,' built by the e-mobility lab (EML) at IIT Guwahati seeks to address one of the primary hurdles in indigenizing the EV technology, which is the lack of trained human resources in engineering design and system integration. A key challenge posed by EV technology is, "how can a pool of trained human resources with the technical know-how be created in the shortest possible time?" IIT Guwahati's EML has been working towards addressing this critical challenge using AI.

In the first phase, the EML has developed an AI-based electric motor designer that helps a novice design engineer to design a motor for EV application, without the need for much intervention from experts. In Smart-Engineer, the knowledge base of expert motors designers is captured and programmed using IBM Watson's AI platform hosted on IBM Public Cloud. Eventually, the Smart-Engineer enables the fresh engineer to learn from the collective knowledge and wisdom of the experts without necessarily having to interact with them. Whenever the design engineer has to seek an answer to their questions, they can consult the Smart-Engineer and get the answers.

The significant advantage of Smart-Engineer is that it helps the engineer to climb the steep learning curve of motor design in the shortest possible time, and it is scalable. Eventually, the capabilities of Smart-Engineer will be enhanced to address the other domains of EV such as power electronics, control systems, battery management systems, among others.

Smart-Engineer will enable companies to store and maintain the collective knowledge of expert engineers, which in turn can preserve and promote further theoretical and practical advancements in design thinking/ philosophy. Eventually, the collective knowledge and wisdom will be used and further enriched by the next generation of engineers. We hope that in the coming years, AI technology will go a long way to retrain the working professionals and fresh engineers in the area of e-mobility.

IIT Guwahati signs Terms of Reference (ToR) with Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan



Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati signed a Terms of Reference (ToR) with Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan during a visit by a six-member delegation from Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan, led by their President, Mr. Tshering Wangdi on 28 - 29 October 2019. The ToR will promote international academic cooperation and promote exchange of teaching and research experiences between the Institutions.

The visiting delegation also met various others faculty and officials of IIT Guwahati which included a meeting with the Chairman of the Joint Entrance Examination Cell on the issue of setting up a JEE test centre in Bhutan.

On 29 October, 2019 the delegation visited the Centre for Environment, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Centre for Education technology, and the centre for Energy. The various departmental and centre heads introduced their respective centres and organised lab visits for the visiting delegation. The delegation expressed a keen desire to send their faculty for higher studies in IIT Guwahati which all the departmental heads and centres heads welcomed.

5th International symposium on Advances in Sustainable Polymers (ASP-19)

5th International Symposium on Advances in Sustainable Polymers (ASP-19) was held at Kyoto, Japan during 14-18 October 2019 in association with Kyoto Institute of Technology, Kyoto, Japan. ASP-19 provided ample opportunities towards discussion on the role of sustainable polymers towards minimizing

global environmental pollution caused by conventional synthetic plastics and unite the academia and industrial experts for effective utilization of sustainable polymers. Eminent scientists working in the field of biodegradable plastics worldwide delivered their plenary keynote addresses on the recent advancements in the fields of biodegradable plastics and related areas. Apart from IIT Guwahati and KIT, the symposium was supported by Kansai Branch, the Society of Fiber Science and Technology, Japan, Mille-Feuille Structure Materials, Unitika Shusei-kai, the Society of Polymer Science, Japan, and Research Committee on Fundamental Fiber Science, the Society of Fiber Science and Technology Japan.

The plenary speakers of the event included Prof Gert-Jan Gruter of Avantium CTO/the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Prof Ramani Narayan of Michigan State University, USA, Prof Amar Mohanty from the University of Guelph, Canada, Prof Swaminathan Sivaram, Honorary Professor and INSA Senior Scientist IISER, India, and Prof Katja Loos of the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. Various other symposia were also held as the part of ASP-19 including 1st Industrial Forum ~ Biobased Materials Developed by World-wide Industries, 2nd India-Nepal-Japan Trilateral Joint Symposium and 3rd IITG-KIT Joint Symposium.

ASP-20 will be held at IIT Guwahati during 18-21 December 2020. Subsequently, ASP 21 is proposed to be held in Nepal during October 2021.

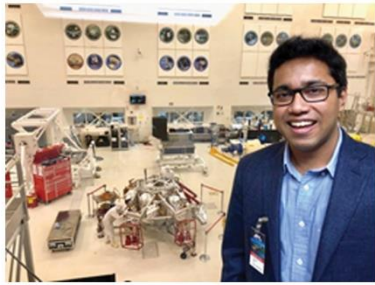
Aside of ASP 19, more than twelve countries have emerged to establish International Industry -Academia Consortium as Association of Sustainable Polymers (ASP) as one of the milestone from this symposium.

Prof. Yoshiharu Kimura from Japan was elected as the President of the Association and Prof. Vimal Katiyar from IIT Guwahati was elected as the Vice-President of the Association among the members of twelve countries. This association will connect the experts in the field of sustainable polymers to cater to the need of industries across the participating countries.



Professor Vimal Katiyar and Prof. Bishnupada Mandal with Vice President of Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan

ALUMNI NEWS



IIT Guwahati Alumnus, Samarjit Das, B.Tech. 2006 of Electronics & Communication Engineering, currently Principal Scientist, Senior Research Manager at Bosch Corporate

Research, USA, led a team of scientists who are using sound to check equipment on the International Space Station.



Akshat Jain, B. Des., 2017 of Department of Design, IIT Guwahati has secured an All India Rank 2 in the UPSC Civil Services Examination, 2018.



Prem Kumar Vislawath's start-up has developed an intelligent, autonomous spraying drone targeted at agriculture.

Using drones that can cover 40 km in an hour

in low altitudes, the start-up gathers data and takes a few hours to analyse and map the crops for pesticide and/or fertiliser sprays. Another drone, taking the payload with it, does the spraying, using a predefined route.

Prem Kumar Vislawath is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Marut Drontech and an alumni of IIT Guwahati.

The start-up used similar techniques to help the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation identify larvae population in lakes and helped reduce spraying instances, saving time and money.

With RGB (red, green blue), hyper, multi-spectral cameras and powerful sensors tucked under its belly, the drone gathers huge amounts of data, analyses it to map nutrition deficiencies and diseases in a particular

field. It then makes a guided sortie with the required payload and sprays the required amounts in targeted areas.

The drone can make a low-altitude (as low as 5-6 ft) flight to make targeted spray in a particular area. The start-up is presently working with input manufacturers and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to provide services.

Preparatory Course On Cyber Security



To create capacities at various levels and to strengthen various initiatives undertaken for addressing the challenges posed by Cyber Security in the country, a training programme for the Senior Government Officers of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and its organizations namely NIC, CERT-IN, STQC, C-DAC, NIELIT and ERNET will be organized at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA as a part of master trainers programme under the ambit of Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project Phase II of MeitY.

As a precursor to the above programme, a six day preparatory course (orientation programme from 14th October 2019 to 19th October 2019) had been organized at Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati to provide an overview of TCP/IP in depth for Cyber Security, Tactical Analysis, Cyber Terrorism, Importance of Cyber Forensics, Tools and Technologies of Cyber Forensics, Honeypot Technologies, Threat Intelligence, Cyber Security Operations, the Emerging Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, etc. and its import on various areas of Information Security viz. network security, IoT, language technology, etc. Besides this, other areas such as social network analysis would also be covered as a part of the course. In addition, the participants would also deliberate on creating a blueprint for future cyber security activities from a national perspective.

Prof. Sukumar Nandi of Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering coordinated overall sessions of Master's Orientation Training programme.

'SWACHHTA HI SEWA'

To commemorate 150th birth anniversary of the father of the nation, cleanliness drive and various other awareness programme were organised in and around the Institute. Led by Hon'ble Director and the Dy. Director, various functionaries and students actively took part in these events



Cleanliness drive led by the Director and other functionaries, faculty, student & staff of the institute



Distribution of bags made of used clothes to nearby market and village community and creating awareness about avoiding single use plastic



CoE-SusPol showcasing degradable bioplastics products developed for the eco-friendly society

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Prof. Vimal Katiyar, Dept. of Chemical Engineering has been

- Elected as the Vice-President of 'Association of Sustainable Polymers' in the meeting in Japan
- Honoured as NRL-Chair-Professor by Numaligarh Refinery Limited
- Honoured as Chair Professor by Hindustan Gums & Chemicals Limited, M P Birla Groups
- Honoured as Visiting Professor at Gifu University, Japan



Prof. Lingaraj Sahoo, Dept. of BSBE has been Honoured as Visiting Professor at Gifu University, Japan



Prof. Parameswar K Iyer, Dept. of Chemistry, has been selected to receive the MRSI Medal for 2020 at the Annual General Meeting of Material Research Society of India to be held at Kolkata, during 11-14 February 2020



Prof. Pravat Kumar Giri, Dept. of Physics, has been selected to receive the MRSI Medal for 2020 at the Annual General Meeting of Material Research Society of India to be held at Kolkata, during 11-14 February 2020

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Prof. Mohammad Qureshi, Dept. of Chemistry, has been awarded Sakura Science Fellowship to visit Kyushu Institute of Technology Japan from 1-10 December 2019



Dr. Pranjal Chandra, Dept. of Bioscience & Bioengineering, has been appointed as the Associate Editor of the Journal "Sensors International", published by the joint venture of ELSEVIER and CSPM China (Publishing arm of Chinese Academy of Sciences)



Mr. Rabindranath Garai, PhD Scholar, Dept. of Chemistry, has been awarded Sakura Science Fellowship to visit Kyushu Institute of Technology Japan from 1-10 December 2019

Visit of NITI Aayog Team

On 30 October 2019 Shri Anil Srivastava IAS and presently Mission Director on Transformative Mobility & Battery Storage at NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, visited Guwahati to attend the Electric Vehicle (EV) Workshop organized by the WRI India & Electric Mobility Forum. On the sidelines, he and his team made a short visit to IIT Guwahati campus and met with faculty members involved in EV related research. The visiting team was first felicitated by Prof. T. G. Sithram, Director, IIT Guwahati and then briefed about the EV related

research being carried out by the assembled faculty members. In his address, Mr. Srivastava elaborated on the initiatives undertaken by the NITI Aayog and emphasized on the need for conducting more translational research. He also sensitised the gathering to take the initiative on starting a post-graduate programme on EV.

National Seminar on Guwahati Through Different Times

A two-day National Seminar 'Guwahati through different times' was organised from 25-26 October by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Manav Sangaralay (IGRMS), Bhopal.

The two-day seminar was inaugurated on the 25 October with a keynote address by the esteemed Assamese scholar, Prof. Ranjit Kr Deb Goswami. Prof. Goswami recounted the histories of prominent Assamese individuals, different businesses and human settlements in Guwahati. The inaugural session was followed by a panel discussion on Guwahati's history and heritage, with talks by academics, archaeologists and architects. They provided insights on the rich archaeological sites and architectural forms in Guwahati, and why taking strong steps are the need of the hour to preserve this rich heritage, which under constant pressures of the rapid urbanization. Consisting of a geographer, an environmental scholar, and an archaeologist, the second panel focused on the issues of spatial politics. The papers detailed out the need to rethink the urban planning and conservation processes in order to deal with the growing risks of water-related issues and developmental expansion.

The second day began with a session on urban natures. The three speakers spoke of the different aspects of urban ecologies in Guwahati; how the expansion of Guwahati outwards has affected the spatial distributions of different flora and fauna; how the urbanisation process of Guwahati needs to take into account its rich biodiversity, which is slowly depleting; and how urban forests, agricultural lands, and grasslands, located inside the realm of the urbanizing city are sites for constellations between different state bodies as well as ethnic communities. The second panel for the day was on urban governance in Guwahati. The three speakers, including a government officer and two academics, detailed out Guwahati's governance history, the perils of making democratic governance systems work, and how the governance of



common resources is contested over by conflicts between different groups. The last session of the seminar focused on Guwahati's food culture. The speakers detailed out the changing nature of the ethnic food culture in Guwahati and how it is intertwined with the North East region's historical processes. The two-day seminar concluded with a valedictory

address by the eminent historian Professor Mahesh Rangarajan.

The conference was organised by Prof. Arupjyoti Saikia and Dr. Prasad Khanolkar of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati.

INTEGRITY PLEDGE



As part of Vigilance Awareness Week from 28 October to 2 November 2019, 'Integrity Pledge' was taken by the employees IIT Guwahati on 28 October 2019 at the foyer of the Administrative Building.



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