



NEWS BULLETIN

GCU TEZPUR HOSTS WORKSHOP ON COMPUTER-AIDED DRUG DESIGN



TEZPUR, November 23: The Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (SOPS), Girijananda Chowdhury University- Tezpur Campus (GCU-T) hosted an insightful one-day workshop on Computer-Aided Drug Design (CADD), drawing 36 enthusiastic participants, including students and faculty from prominent institutions across the region. Attendees hailed from Royal Global University, Regional College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The Assam Kaziranga University, Rangapara College, NEF College of Pharmacy-Guwahati, as well as from GCU-Tezpur. The event commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and innovation. Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Baquee Ahmed, Principal of SOPS, GCU-T, warmly welcomed the participants, emphasizing the growing importance of CADD in modern drug discovery and encouraging attendees to make the most of the day's learning opportunities.

The morning session featured two engaging lectures. Dr. Supriya Sahu, Associate Professor at SOPS, GCU-T, delivered the first lecture on "Tools and Techniques of Modern Drug Discovery," discussing recent advancements in the drug development process. Following her, Dr. Asish Bhaumik, also an Associate Professor at SOPS, introduced participants to free online tools for drug design, including Swiss ADME, Molinspiration, and OSIRIS, which are instrumental in evaluating drug properties and safety profiles.



Dr. Supriya Sahu and Dr. Asish Bhaumik while delivering their lectures during CADD workshop.

After a refreshing lunch break, participants engaged in hands-on training sessions. Divided into two groups, attendees explored virtual screening techniques with guidance from Assistant Professors Ms. Rubina Chowdhury along with Mr. Padmanath Pegu and practiced molecular docking under the supervision of Assistant Professor Mr. Farak Ali. The groups then rotated, ensuring all participants gained practical experience with both essential CADD methods.

The event concluded with a certificate ceremony and a heartfelt vote of thanks to the speakers, trainers, and organizers for their efforts in making the workshop an impactful success. A special acknowledgment was also extended to the participants for their active engagement. The day ended on a memorable note with a group photo capturing the participants, trainers, and organizers - a cherished memory of the workshop's success.



Mr. Farak Ali and Ms. Rubina Chowdhury guiding participants through hands-on technical sessions at the CADD workshop.





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GCU CELEBRATES WORLD DIABETES DAY



AZARA, November 23: On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, School of Allied Health Sciences organized a talk and an Inter College E-poster Competition around the theme of “Diabetes and Well Being” on 14th November. The program began with a welcome speech by Dr. Vidhya Srinivasan, Professor & Head, School Of Allied Health Sciences. Dr. Atul Kumar Agarwal, Lab Director, Marwari Hospital, was felicitated by President, SSA Society, Shri Jasoda Ranjan Das. Dr. Agarwal highlighted the theme of World Diabetes Day by briefing the audience about the disease, its classification, lab diagnosis as well as the risk factors, symptoms and complications of diabetes.

After the talk, an inter college e-poster competition was held. Undergraduate students from various colleges and universities across Guwahati participated in the competition. Around 18 posters were presented.

Students from Regional College of Paramedical Health Sciences bagged the first prize, while the second and third prizes went to Regional College of Health Sciences and Nilachal College of Allied Health Sciences respectively.

In addition, students of MLT formed a Human Blue Circle to signify the logo of World Diabetes Day. Celebrating World Diabetes Day helps to inculcate social responsibility in the student community as future healthcare professionals. The WDD program at GCU highlighted the need to spread greater awareness about diabetes, promoting healthy lifestyle, prevention and management of diabetes.



Shri Jasoda Ranjan Das felicitating Dr. Atul Kumar Agarwal, Lab Director, Marwari Hospital.



Dr. Atul Kumar Agarwal addressing the audience on World Diabetes Day



Dr. Vidhya Srinivasan & Mr. Prayash Borah welcoming and briefing the audience on the importance of celebrating World Diabetes Day.



The students of MLT forming a Human Blue Circle to signify the logo of World Diabetes Day.



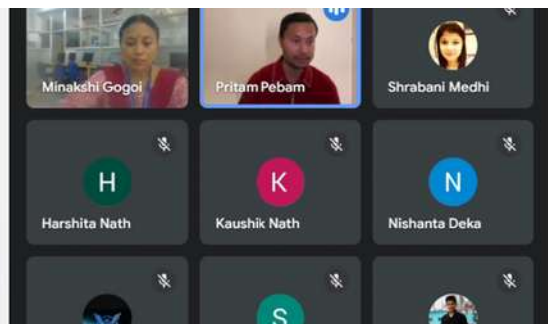
The august audience and winners of an Inter College E-poster Competition around the theme of “Diabetes and Well Being”.



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HUMANIZING TECHNOLOGY WITH IMMERSIVE COMPUTING

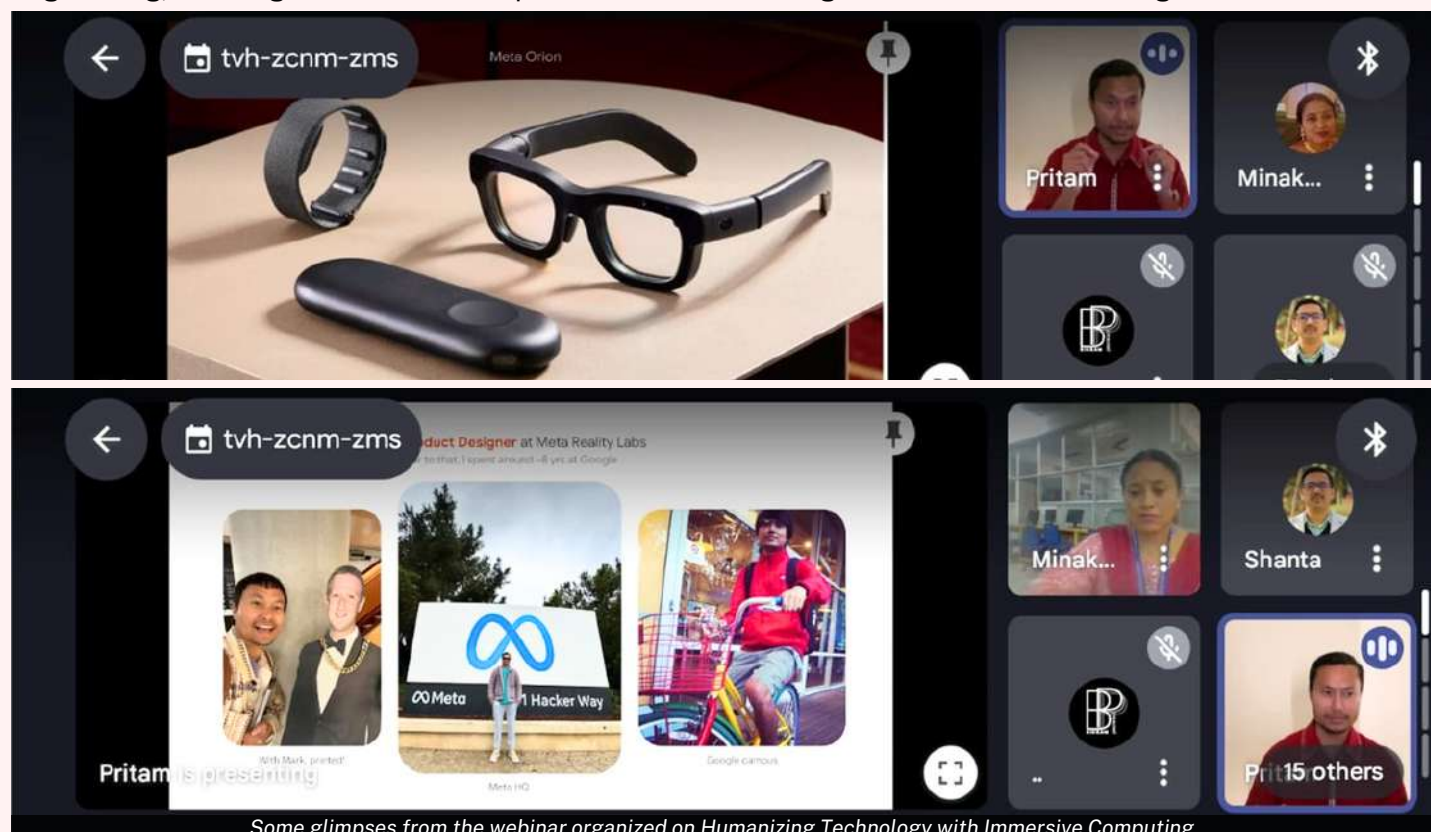
Humanizing technology
with immersive computing



AZARA, November 23: The Department of Computer Science & Engineering, GCU, organized a talk on 12th November by Mr. Pritam Pebam, a seasoned Staff Product Designer at Meta's Reality Labs with over a decade of expertise in human-computer interaction and immersive design. Having extensive experience at Google in augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and machine perception, he specializes in crafting intuitive, next-generation interfaces that bridge the gap between technology and human experience.

Mr. Pritam spoke of the combined forces of AR, VR and MR which can transform the way companies in every industry innovate, collaborate and train their people. He also referred to Orion, previously codenamed Project Nazare, which is believed to be the most advanced pair of AR glasses ever made. Orion combines the look and feel of a regular pair of glasses with the immersive capabilities of augmented reality – and it is the result of breakthrough inventions in virtually every field of modern computing.

About 40 B.Tech. students attended the webinar. Towards the end, Mr. Pebam answered the students' queries, such as how to pursue design in higher education and as a vocation as well as the challenges of working with virtual reality (VR) in the real world. The session ended with Prof. Minakshi Gogoi, HoD of Computer Science & Engineering, thanking Mr. Pebam for his precious time and sharing his concerns in interacting with the students.



Some glimpses from the webinar organized on Humanizing Technology with Immersive Computing.



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XOROTOR ADDA: WEAVING LITERARY MAGIC IN THE GOLDEN HUES OF AUTUMN



AZARA, November 23: The Literature Club of Girijananda Chowdhury University, Guwahati, organized a heartfelt literary gathering on November 12, 2024, under the theme, "Xorotor Adda: Celebrating the Tapestry of Literature in the Golden Hues of Autumn." The event aimed to bring together students and faculty in a shared celebration of literature, poetry, and music, allowing participants to showcase original compositions, recite poetry, and sing songs, all while honoring the works of renowned poets and lyricists.

The ambiance was vibrant, filled with the lyrical contributions of students and teachers from various departments, who shared their talents and passion for literature in an inspiring environment. Adding to the cultural significance of the gathering, a discussion was held on the importance of preserving original literature and native languages, highlighting the need to cherish and safeguard linguistic heritage.

The gathering was a soulful tribute to the art of literature, creating a memorable space for literary expression and collaboration. The program successfully brought together like-minded individuals under the autumn shade, celebrating the depth and beauty of literary culture in a shared tapestry of creativity.



Lyrical Minds Gather: Students and Faculty Engage in a Heartfelt Literary Exchange at GCU's 'Xorotor Adda'.

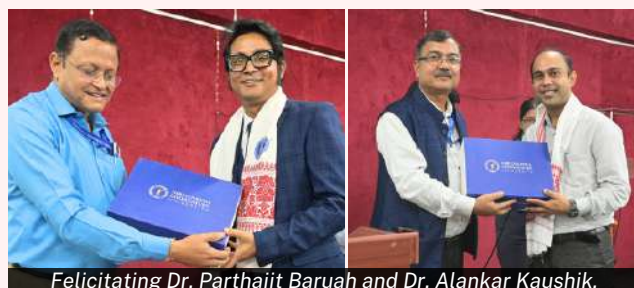


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GCU ORGANIZES A DISCUSSION WITH NOTED FILMMAKER PARTHAJIT BARUAH



AZARA, November 23: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of Girijananda Chowdhury University organized an interactive session on the topic "Depiction of Northeast in Bollywood: Myth & Reality" on 12th November. The programme began with welcoming the main speakers Dr. Parthajit Baruah, noted filmmaker and scholar, and Dr. Alankar Kaushik, who teaches at EFLU, Shillong, and has worked extensively in the field of communication and social change. Students and faculty members from Cotton University and Pragjyotish College were also present at the interactive session.



Felicitating Dr. Parthajit Baruah and Dr. Alankar Kaushik.



Dr. Baruah sharing an account of his personal experiences of making cinema in Northeast India and its representation in Hindi cinema.

Dr. Parthajit Baruah has directed 13 documentaries and one feature film, The Nellie Story, which documents one of the darkest episodes in the post-independence history of Assam. A major highlight of the event was a pre-launch of Dr. Baruah's latest book 'A History of India's Northeastern Cinema: Deconstructing the Stereotypes', published by Bloomsbury. The book was pre-launched by Chancellor, GCU, Prof. Jayanta Deka and Vice Chancellor Prof. Kandarpa Das. Following the prelaunch, Dr. Parthajit Baruah thanked GCU profusely for providing him with the opportunity to showcase his new book and present to this audience a few of its central insights. Prodded by incisive questions from Dr. Kaushik, Dr. Baruah combined an account of his personal experiences of making cinema in the Northeast with a wide-ranging discussion of the various Hindi films which stereotype the Northeast and the Northeastern people in different ways. The discussion covered an impressive range of Hindi cinema, beginning from Khwaja Ahmed Abbas's Rahi (1952), starring Dev Anand, to Anubhav Sinha's recent film Anek (2022) with Ayushmann Khurrana.

Dr. Baruah argued that the lack of fidelity to realism when it comes to the Northeast is driven by powerful profit motives that govern Bollywood, which lead Hindi filmmakers to exploit certain well-worn stereotypes in order to maximize audiences. For instance, the Northeast is frequently depicted in Hindi cinema as a homogeneous land ridden with insurgency, and hardly any attention is paid to the vast internal diversity of this long-neglected region. For Dr. Baruah, the role of filmmakers, whether they be insiders who live and work in the Northeast or outsiders, is crucial since, in his words, "cinema is a powerful medium that can create a society or destroy a society". The discussion ended with a lively question-answer session with the audience, consisting of students and faculty members of GCU, Cotton University and Pragjyotish College.



The intrigued minds interacting with Dr. Parthajit Baruah, noted filmmaker and scholar.



Pre-launch of Dr. Baruah's latest book 'A History of India's Northeastern Cinema: Deconstructing the Stereotypes', published by Bloomsbury.



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GCU MARKS NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY WITH TRIP TO REHAB FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED



AZARA, November 23: The Department of Education, Girijananda Chowdhury University, visited Ashadeep Day Rehabilitation Centre on 11th November to celebrate National Education Day. A total of 55 students from different disciplines and faculty members from Education Department - Dr. Barsha Chhetri and Dr. Nandita Chitrakar, and Department of Psychology- Dr. Palakshi Sarmah and Dr. Tejoswita Gogoi - visited the rehabilitation centre. The National Education Day marks the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister.



The faculties of GCU with the members of Ashadeep Day Rehabilitation Centre.

The Ashadeep Day Rehabilitation Centre caters to individuals with intellectual disabilities and persons recovering from mental illness. Dr. Anjana Goswami (Director) and Priyanka Goswami (Coordinator) along with the staff and students of Ashadeep cordially welcomed the students and the faculty members of GCU. The purpose of the visit was to promote understanding and empathy through social connection. The visit began with the GCU students initiating friendly conversations with the children of Ashadeep. They introduced themselves and engaged the children in casual discussion which helped in building rapport between them.

Following this, the students of GCU organized a session of Antakshari, a spoken parlor game in which each contestant sings the first verse of a song that begins with the consonant of Hindi alphabet on which the previous contestant's song ended. Students of both GCU and Ashadeep participated in the game with great enthusiasm and energy. After Antakshari, the students of Ashadeep were also engaged in dancing with GCU students. They danced together and created an atmosphere of joy and unity. The dance movement was not only a source of entertainment but also helped in breaking down barriers and bringing them closer through shared movement and expression. The children of Ashadeep NGO seemed uplifted by the visit with many expressing their happiness through smiles and laughter. The students of GCU in turn gained valuable insights into the lives of children who may not have the same access to resources but still possess immense potential and talent. Through these interactive games and engagement with students, the event emphasized the importance of education, community building, social responsibility and contributed to an inclusive and supportive society.

The visit provided an opportunity to increase awareness, broaden knowledge and encourage greater inclusion by emphasizing the value of understanding and support in building an inclusive society. At the end, the students of GCU also shared their experiences after completing all the sessions. The students of GCU celebrated National Education Day in a meaningful way and it is hoped that this interaction will inspire future initiatives focused on social service and educational outreach.



The children of Ashadeep NGO uplifted by the visit with many expressing their happiness through smiles and laughter.



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GCU ORGANIZES MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN) CONFERENCE



AZARA, November 23: Girijananda Chowdhury University successfully organized the Model United Nations (MUN) conference on 9th and 10th November at the university's Guwahati campus. The two-day event aims to engage students in meaningful discussions about global issues, enhancing their understanding of international relations while developing critical skills in diplomacy, negotiation, and public speaking.

The theme for the conference is 'Gender and Environmental Justice', highlighting the pressing need for gender equality and environmental protection and motivating students and young scholars to work towards that goal. The GCUMUN 2024 promises to be a remarkable success, with around eighty students from various schools and colleges in Assam registering for the conference.



The dignitaries lighting the auspicious lamp.

Model United Nations is an educational simulation where students take on the roles of diplomats representing various countries. Participants engage in debates and discussions on pressing global issues, including climate change, human rights, international security, and economic development. This immersive experience allows students to explore complex topics, collaborate with peers, and propose solutions in a structured environment that mirrors the actual working of the United Nations. In this regard, four committees were formed to conduct critical discussions - UN General Assembly, UN Convention on Status of Women, All India Political Parties Meet and International Press Photography and Journalism). The conference saw lively debates between the members of these committees on a host of national and international issues.



Some glimpses from lively debates between the members of different committees.



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Earlier, Shri Jasoda Ranjan Das, President, SSA Society, kickstarted the inaugural session of GCUMUN 2024 with a welcome address, where he emphasized the importance of Model UN conferences, which represent the next generation of international dialogue exchange. Prof. Jayanta Deka, Chancellor, GCU, observed that GCUMUN aims to realise the idea of mutual understanding between countries and promote sustainable development. Prof. Kandarpa Das, Vice Chancellor, GCU, noted that the central role of organising GCUMUN'24 is to promote the idea of debate and uphold the values of the United Nations, including inclusion and humanity.

Subsequently, the Guests of Honour - Shri Ritupon Gogoi, Executive Director, Foundation for Social Transformation, and Prof. Akhil Ranjan Dutta of Gauhati University, addressed the audience. Prof. Akhil Ranjan Dutta, HoD, Political Science, Gauhati University argued that the Model UN conferences do not only mirror the actual working of the UN but can provide an alternative to such global systems. Shri Ritupon Gogoi, on the other hand, reflected on the central theme of the conference 'Gender and Environmental Justice'. He noted that feminism, though often confused in the popular imagination with being against men as such, is a movement against patriarchy and the patriarchal violence unleashed on men and women alike, albeit to different extents.

The second day of the GCU-MUN conference (10th Nov) proceeded smoothly with student delegates participating enthusiastically in the designated activities. While the delegates at the General Assembly debated around the theme 'Conflict in the Middle East', the Political Parties' Meet focused on the various challenges faced by India's tribal communities. On the other hand, discussions at the UN Convention on Status of Women revolved around the role of women in peace-building. The day ended with prizes being distributed among the delegates. Prof. Surajit Mazumdar, professor of economics at JNU, gave an inspiring speech and participated in the prize distribution.



The student delegates participating enthusiastically in the GCU MUN conference.



Prize distribution to the student delegates.



Some highlights from the cultural program with students showcasing diverse culture and unity across nations.



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GCU ORGANIZES JAPAN CARNIVAL



AZARA, November 23: Girijananda Chowdhury University successfully organized Japan Carnival 2024 in collaboration with Japan Foundation, New Delhi, at the Guwahati campus on the 8th and 9th of November, 2024. The one-of-its-kind festival was endeavoured by the Department of English and Foreign Languages, Girijananda Chowdhury University to celebrate the rich tapestry of Japanese cultural heritage while fostering deeper ties between the two great nations, India and Japan, through art, costumes, and traditional performances.



Mr. Koji Sato, Director General, Japan Foundation sharing the rich Japanese culture and heritage and felicitating of Mr. Takashi Kobayashi of the Embassy of Japan.



Shri Jasoda Ranjan Das delivering the inaugural address.

The Japan Carnival celebrated various facets of Japanese life and culture, including traditional games, Yukata (a traditional Japanese dress), movie screenings and Cosplay (a portmanteau of 'costume' and 'play'). The term refers to a performance art which consists of people dressing up as colourful characters and acting out scenes from popular culture, including anime, manga, TV series, music performances and video games. In addition, mini-lessons in Japanese were offered on stage by GCU students, including lessons in Hiragana script and numbers, as well as exercises in naming family members and performing basic classroom expressions in Japanese. An interactive quiz on Japanese history, geography and culture was also held during the event.

The Carnival kickstarted on 8th November with Shri Jasoda Ranjan Das, President, SSA Society, delivering a warm welcome address in which he noted a remarkable aspect of Japanese society. While Japan has made great advancements in science and technology, it remains famous all over the world for its arts, culture and traditions, a double achievement that can serve as a model for other nations.



Prof. Kandarpa Das and Ms. Nozomi Tokoma highlighted the efforts of GCU to learn and celebrate Japanese language and culture.



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Prof. Kandarpa Das, Vice Chancellor, GCU, subsequently spoke about the long and robust friendship which India and Japan have shared over the years and decades. Prof. Das noted that GCU has keenly strived to bridge the information scarcity in India about Japan by giving students the opportunity to learn and celebrate Japanese language and culture, particularly through significant efforts undertaken by Nozomi Tokuma (Assistant Professor, ENFL). Moreover, the University also aims to start a full-fledged BA and MA course in Japanese in the near future.



The event featured addresses by two honoured guests - Mr. Takashi Kobayashi of the Embassy of Japan and Mr. Koji Sato, Director General, Japan Foundation. The guests from the Land of the Rising Sun in turn commended GCU's efforts in sharing and celebrating Japan's rich language and culture with the wider world through unique efforts such as the Japan Carnival and the introduction of full-fledged Japanese courses. In addition, Mr. Kobayashi, First Secretary, PR & Culture, Embassy of Japan, gave an insightful presentation on the various scholarship and exchange programmes available for students from India, including the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) programme and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology scholarship programme (MEXT).



The Japan Carnival celebrated various facets of Japanese life and culture, including traditional games, Yukata (a traditional Japanese dress), movie screenings and Cosplay.



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL TOUR



AZARA, November 23: Department of Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT), School of Allied Health Sciences, GCU had organized an Environmental Educational Tour for the students on 12th November, 2024 to Chandubi, Assam. A Total of 30 students of BMLT 3rd Semester along with 2 faculties Ms. Chayanika Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Physiotherapy and Mr. Prayash Borah, Assistant Professor, Department of MLT, School of Allied Health Sciences visited the Chandubi as a part of the curriculum of Environmental Science. The main aim of the field trip was to enhance their knowledge regarding the surrounding environment and deep forests and their interactions towards them.



Some glimpses from an Environmental Educational Tour for the students to Chandubi.