

A whale of a time

KRISHNASISH DASGUPTA WAS QUITE IMPRESSED BY THE MYRIAD EVENTS AT THE ANNUAL FEST OF JAMSHEDPUR'S NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Jharkhand's student community came out in huge numbers recently to attend Culfest 2016, the inter-college annual fest of the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur.

The English Policy Debate that began during the late morning session continued till the afternoon and kept the audience hooked onto all things literary. NIT-J student Palak Kumar spoke brilliantly on the topic, "Government intervention should not be allowed in private institutions" contending that a proper mechanism in the admission process was what India was lacking. NIT students, Komala Arun and Swapnil Singh spoke on, "E-books are killing the classical hardback culture" with the latter saying, "Hardbacks are a status symbol. Nobody cares what books your Kindle contains but once people see that you have Karl Marx's *Das Kapital* on your bookshelf, they tend to take you seriously". The duo clinched the first prize in the EPD section. Chetna Verma, a Jamshedpur Women's College lecturer and one of the judges of the EPD said, "The debate was held in the right spirit. It was difficult to judge them as each one was brilliant."

The Just A Minute section had interesting topics like "When a ghost is offered a blind-date, does it state who's who?" but honestly none of the participants left a real mark. In Poetry Slam, NIT student Abhishek Jha was declared the winner. The Ramdhari Singh Dinkar fan said, "We were allowed to recite in the language of our choice. I went for Hindi and I am happy I won it."

DBMS English School, Jamshedpur; stu-

dent Kumar Saurabh performed quite well in Shake On Beat (instant choreography event) while Praagya Sharan won the first prize in the Footloose section (solo dance). Sashi Preetam, another NIT-J student won the second prize in Footloose while Priti Kumari from NIT-J bagged the third prize. Sonal Mishra and Rolee Agarwal, both students of NIT-J put up a brilliant performance in Jashn-e-India (theme dance). Nameera Nazz and her group from the institute performed well, depicting the evils of terrorism on one hand while portraying how united the country could be in testing times.

However, a college fest is always incomplete without its share of music. And Nikhil Sahani, better known as DJ Nyk made sure that music lovers were in for a treat! As the evening crept in, the blue sky bade farewell and music dawned like never before through Distortion (battle of the bands). The band 3 Idiots seemed to be a creative lot and the members were full of infectious energy on stage, performing a medley of tracks in signature Chota Nagpuri style! Lead guitarist Ashwin Deogam, post their performance said, "It was wonderful performing here at Culfest, but you see, we lost some precious moments on stage owing to the technical snag in the power system, but we somehow managed."

Stand-up comedian Ahsaan Qureshi had the audience in splits, thanks to his witty one-liners and perfect comic timing. KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, student Shrey Anand and his group did put in a decent performance in Halla bol (nukkad/street play event) and won the second prize.



Team Bhaukaal Nukkad.