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TFS POSTALE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE FLEET STREET,
STUDENT MEDIA BODY OF IIT PALAKKAD

Dr. UMA DIVAKARAN

Dr. Uma Divakaran shares her journey to IIT Pkd and her experiences

SHUTTERBUG Clicks of the month

Photos from shutterbug's collection

RIDDLE ME

Dr. Deepak Rajendraprasad presents a mind boggling question pitting intuition against a rigorous mathematical approach.

Ms. LIDHYAL SPEAKS

One of IIT Palakkad's first research scholar and staff shares her views of life and IIT Pkd.

WELCOME NOTE

Greetings!

Welcome to TFS POSTALE, the monthly newsletter of The Fleet Street. Conceptualized during the summer break of 2016 by the first batch of students under the mentorship of Prof. Valsa Kumar sir, The Fleet Street from being under the mentorship of a faculty member to becoming a truly independent media body, we have come a long way. We published our first article in the form of a special edition- The first inter branch sports meet in February 2017. The first issue of TFS Postale was released on the 19th of April, 2017. The journey has been smooth so far. We have released 12 issues of our monthly newsletter and numerous special editions.

We are collaborating with Shutterbug and a column featuring clicks of the month would start as a regular column in our newsletters henceforth. With immense pleasure, we would like to announce the introduction of another brand new column to our monthly newsletter for Knowledge sharing: a platform envisioned for the entire IIT Palakkad community to share knowledge and experiences.

Are you an aspiring journalist ? Or wanting to start a new venture into journalism and media reporting ? Here at TFS we help you achieve this dream and discover the talent you have in writing and organization. With constructive criticism from the editors there is no doubt that you will end up a much better writer than you were. Who knows someday you might find yourself as the editor of this organization !

We are looking forward to expand ourselves and would soon start our recruitment process. Here we give you the chance to become the best version of yourself. So, what are you waiting for?

A mail regarding the same will be sent following the release of this newsletter for recruitment for the post of correspondents.

Regards
The Editorial team

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THE FLEET STREET

The official student media body of IIT Palakkad

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019

instiinsights

by Vaisakh M

July 2019

- The 1st convocation of our Institute (Class of 2019) was held on 27th July 2019. Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO was to be present for the event as the Chief Guest for the day but due to unavoidable commitments, addressed the gathering through live webcast. Shri. R. Subrahmanyam, Chairman BoG and Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MHRD presided over the function.

August 2019

- Prof. Sethu Vijayakumar, Director, Edinburgh Centre for Robotics and Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh visited us on 1st August 2019. He delivered a talk on *Shared Autonomy: The Future of Interactive Robotics* at the Transit Campus.

- A lecture-demonstration on Kathakali, by eminent art critic Mr. V. Kaladharan (Former Public Relations Officer, Kerala Kalamandalam) and Kalamandalam Adithyan, was conducted on 6th August 2019 as part of the orientation program for B.Tech freshmen, followed by an enthralling Kathakali performance by renowned artists.

- IIT Palakkad successfully organised it's first Industry Academia Conclave (IAC) on 14th August 2019. The IAC was aimed at improving the cooperation and collaboration between Industry and Academia. A notable highlight was the Panel discussion with different company representatives arranged on '*How to improve the collaboration between Industry and IIT Palakkad'.*

- Prof. John Ipsen from the University of Southern Denmark is visiting us from 01st August 2019 to 1st October 2019. He gave a talk on 19th August 2019 titled '*Membrane geometry and interactions between proteins'.*

- A talk by Mr. Rathish Balakrishnan was organised for 3rd and 4th year students at IIT Palakkad on 21st August 2019. A proficient speaker on social impact of startup culture. Mr. Rathish, a BITS Pilani alumnus, is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner at Sattva Media and Consulting Pvt Ltd.

- Dr. Srikanth S, Chief Knowledge Officer, Nanocell Networks, gave a talk on 21st August 2019. The seminar was on *4G/5G/WiFi and the link to digital communications.*

- IIT Palakkad's Petrichor hosted its first series of workshops on 24th and 25th August 2019 as part of Petrichor 2020. There were three workshops in the field of Cyber Security and Cyber Forensics, Blockchain and Auto Mechanics & Motor sport.

- The Institute Colloquium for the month was conducted on 28th August 2019. The speaker for the event was Prof. G. K. Ananthasuresh, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, IISc Bangalore and was titled *Grasping Cells,* seeking methods required to enable extracting cells carefully using current state-of-the-art advancements in the same.

- Prof. C. R. Subrahmanya of Raman Research Institute, Bangalore visited us on August 28, 2019 and gave a talk on *Ooty Wide Field Array and High Performance Computing.*

September 2019

- A Workshop was conducted by Gannet Engineering Solutions Pvt. Ltd. on 4th September 2019. Gannet Engineering is a control systems specialist, working across the Automotive and Industrial engineering domains.

- Dr. Arvind Balan, currently a postdoctoral scholar at the Computational Aerosciences Branch of NASA Langley Research Center, USA, visited us on 12th September. He presented a seminar on *Adjoint-based mesh adaptation for compressible flow simulations.*

freshiequips

by Ashawini Ganesh Hiwarale

The 2019 Freshmen express their views, fears and experiences after coming to IIT Palakkad.

What came to your mind when you got IIT Palakkad?

"Being in Kerala, I expected a beautiful green campus"

Neel Kabra

"I was worried as this was a new IIT. I thought there might be a lot of uncertainties."

Kunal Damame

"Where is Palakkad? I mean I hadn't heard of it. Later, I researched about it a bit, and got to know that it is in Kerala. (giggles)"

Purnendra Singh Rajput

"Well, I didn't get it. I choose it myself. I fixed it in the first round after a good research."

Sai Ganesh

"Well, I was very excited but the first thing that came to my mind was food."

Sai Prakesh Vorluvothu

What were your biggest fears while coming to IIT Palakkad?

"I heard that the campus was disconnected from the city. I was kind of scared."

Neel Kabra

"I thought there might be many restrictions or the professors might be harsh. But it was not as expected. The teachers were quite humble."

Boini Dheeraj Kumar

How was the first day?

"It was really good. All my work was done with the help of volunteers. They actually made me feel very comfortable."

Neel kabra

"The first day would have been really tough if our seniors wouldn't have been there. They took us from the bus and helped us find the way. They seemed very helpful."

Sai Ganesh

"First day was hectic and full of surprises. I was disappointed when I saw the academic block of Ahalia campus. During verification when we visited other IITs, they had lots of buildings, but here, we have only one academic block."

Kunal Damame

What was the most memorable part of the Orientation programme?

"I personally feel that the best part of Orientation programme was the out-bound training activity because it gave us a chance to form bonds with our batchmates. We were given a lot of challenges. It was pretty fun - getting muddy, climbing ropes and playing just paintball with friends."

Sughandhan S

"Two days session we had with Dr. Thomas. It was really fun. We got to do a lot of mental thinking"

Neel Kabra

Best part of hostel life here?

“Attached Bathrooms.”

Yerra Nitin Goud

“Doing projects with friends till late-night.”

Sai Ganesh

“Everything in hostel life is best since we have a good peer group here.”

Sai Prakesh Vorluvothu

Was there something at IIT Palakkad that went beyond your expectations?

“The Professors! I thought professors would be strict here but they are quite friendly”

Rishi Raj

“Hostel! The rooms are comparatively better than any other IIT.”

Kunal Damame

riddleme

#knowledgesharing

by Dr. Deepak Rajendraprasad

BlueEyesBlue

There is no dearth of extremely hard logic puzzles. But I wanted to share this one since it pits one's intuition against a rigorous mathematical argument. I found this puzzle first in Terence Tao’s blog.

The Puzzle:

Somewhere deep inside the Amazon Jungle, there lived a tribe with 1000 people. Their favourite pastime was to invent and solve logic puzzles. With time, they got so good at it that every tribesperson would deduce any conclusion that could be logically deduced from the information and observations available to him or her. Evenmore, everyone knew that everyone else could also do the same. Despite this logical acumen, they all shared one terrible superstition. They believed that no tribesperson should know the colour of their own eyes. If a tribesperson ever discovers his or her own eye colour, then this superstition compels them to commit a ritual suicide at noon the following day in front of the whole tribe when they gather for their regular community lunch. Because of this superstition these people went to great odds not to look at any reflective surface, not to speak about anyone's eye colour (each person could see the eyes of all the other 999 people), and even not to invent any logic puzzles whose solution might reveal to some one their eye colour.

Of the 1000, it turns out that 3 of them have blue eyes and 997 of them have brown eyes. The tribespeople are unaware of these exact statistics since each of them knows the eye colour of only 999 people. One day, a blue-eyed foreigner visits the jungle and wins the complete trust of the tribe. One evening, he addresses the entire tribe to thank them for their hospitality. However, not knowing about their superstition, the foreigner makes the mistake of mentioning eye color in his address, remarking "how unusual it is to see another blue-eyed person like myself in this region of the world".

What effect, if anything, does the foreigner's remark have on the tribe?

Answer 1 (Intuition):

The foreigner has no effect, because his comments do not tell the tribe anything that they do not already know (everyone in the tribe can already see that there are blue-eyed people in their tribe).

Answer 2 (Induction):

Three days after the address, all the blue eyed people commit suicide. That sounds not just cruel, but even illogical. But here is the logic at least:

Let P(n) denote the statement "If the tribe had n blue-eyed people, then n days after the foreigner's address, all n blue-eyed people will commit suicide". Answer 2 is therefore P(3). But we will prove that whatever is the value of n (of course, n is between 1 and 1000), the statement P(n) is true. That is, if the tribe had only one blue-eyed person, then she or he will commit suicide 1 day after the foreigner's address, if the tribe had two blue-eyed people, then both of them will commit suicide 2 days after the foreigner's address, if the tribe had 100 blue- eyed people, then those 100 will commit suicide on the 100-th day after the foreigner's address and so on. We prove this using the principle of mathematical induction which all of us learned in school. That is the principle with which we were taught to prove

$$1 + 2 + \ldots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \text{ and } 1^2 + 2^2 + \ldots + n^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

Suppose n = 1. That is, there was exactly one blue-eyed person in the tribe. Then this person realizes that the foreigner is referring to him, and thus commits suicide on the next day. This forms the base case of the induction.

Now suppose n ≥ 2 and that P(n−1) is already true. (If this is getting a bit confusing, then first read the following after substituting 2 for n and then read it with 3 for n.) Each blue-eyed person will reason as follows: "I can already see n − 1 blue-eyed people in this tribe. If I am not blue-eyed, then there will only be n − 1 blue-eyed people in this tribe, and so they will all commit suicide n−1 days after the foreigner's address". But when n−1 days pass, none of the blue-eyed people do so (because at that stage they have no evidence that they themselves are blue-eyed). After nobody commits suicide on the $(n-1)^{st}$ day, each of the blue eyed people then realizes that they themselves must have blue eyes, and will then commit suicide on the n^{th} day. This is called the induction step. This tells you that if P(1) is true (which is indeed the case) then P(2) is true, and if P(2) is true then P(3) is true, and so on.

Which answer will you pick? Whichever answer you pick, find the flaw in the other answer.

snapsept

#shutterbugiitpkd

Photo credits: Jufel D Almaida

Location: Transit Campus, IIT Palakkad

Shot on:

Camera Brand: Google

Camera Model: Pixel 2 XL

Exposure Time: 1/11 sec

Aperture Value: 1.70 EV (f/1.8)

ISO Speed Rating: 149

Flash: Flash did not fire

Focal length: 4.5 mm

Software: Lightroom

Photo credits: Jufel D Almaida

Location: Transit Campus, IIT Palakkad

Shot on:

Camera Brand: Sony

Camera Model: ILCE-7M3

Aperture Value: 4.00 EV(f/4.0)

ISO Speed Rating: 1000

Flash: Flash did not fire

Focal length: 24.00 mm

Software: Lightroom

Photo credits: Deepak Naik Desavath

Location: Transit Campus, IIT Palakkad

Shot on:

Camera Brand: NIKON CORPORATION

Camera Model: NIKON D5100

Exposure Time: 1/1250 sec

Aperture Value: 1.70 EV (f/1.8)

ISO Speed Rating: 160

Flash: Flash did not fire

Focal length: 50.0 mm

Software: Lightroom

Photo credits: Sasidhar

Location: IIT Palakkad, Ahalia Integrated Campus

Shot on:

Camera Brand: Samsung

Camera Model: M20

Aperture Value: 1.85 EV (f/1.9)

ISO Speed Rating: 40

Flash: Flash did not fire

Focal length: 3.6 mm

Software: Snapseed 2.0

Photo credits: Jufel D Almaida

Location: Transit Campus, IIT Palakkad

Shot on:

Camera Brand: Google

Camera Model: Pixel 2 XL

Exposure Time: 1/11800 sec

Aperture Value: 1.70 EV (f/1.8)

ISO Speed Rating: 66

Flash: Flash did not fire

Focal length: 4.5 mm

Software: Lightroom

humansofiitpkd

Miss. Lidhyal Leena A

by Teena Roy and Aswin Krishna B

OVERVIEW

"Enjoy the new colours of life and be grateful." This is what **Miss. Lidhyal Leena A**, a junior technician and research scholar in Physics at our institute has to say about herself. A person who finds happiness in little things and who is always passionate about what she does, here's an excerpt from our conversation with her.

INTERVIEW

Tell us a bit about yourself and your journey to IIT Palakkad

I am Lidhyal Leena A. I am currently doing my PhD here as well as working as a staff at the Physics lab. I am a native of Palakkad. My father is a retired employee and my mother is a homemaker. My brother is a sound engineer and my sister is pursuing her Masters now. I did my B.Sc. at Victoria College, Palakkad and M.Sc. at Hyderabad Central University, both in Physics. After my M.Sc., I wanted to advance into the research field. I applied at several places but none of them clicked. Finally I had two options, RRI Bangalore and IIT Palakkad. My motivation to take up IIT Palakkad was Prof. Kasiviswanathan, my PhD guide. During my interview here, I openly told him that I had an option at RRI too and he said I could still try here if I couldn't get into RRI. Since I didn't get into RRI, I joined IIT Palakkad.

You started out as a teaching assistant. What inspired you to take up part time PhD as well?

I started out as a teaching assistant here in July, 2016. In January, Kasi Sir told me about the upcoming PhD program. By then, staff recruitment had also begun. So in June 2017 I had my PhD interview. But I was confused on whether to focus on research or full time work. However Kasi Sir, Valsa Kumar Sir and Job Kurian Sir suggested the idea of doing a PhD while working at the same time. They were positive that I could manage both when I myself was not much confident about it. I was told by many that it wouldn't be a good idea but the three professors supported me in going forward. And so, I became the first student in our institute to take up both work and research and I am proud of it. Now, we have many more people doing so.

Do you regret joining a new IIT like IIT Palakkad?

I don't regret my decision. I have a lot of friends and really enjoy my life here. I even have a good relationship with the students. Being in a new IIT taught me a lot of new things. The experience of setting up a lab and guiding the students has really helped me. The environment here is entirely different from the institutions I have been before, viz. IISER Trivandrum and Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) Ahmedabad. The main difference is that everyone is treated equally here. At my previous institutes, the hierarchy between the students and the faculties were very much visible. When I joined here, we began as a very small family. Therefore, I have a very good and close relationship with almost all the faculty and students here.

What inspired you to pursue a career oriented towards research?

From my childhood I wanted to become an astronaut. It was in my fifth standard that Mrs. Kalpana Chawla met with the tragedy of Space Shuttle Columbia disaster and that's how I came to know about the area of astronautics (space science). Since then, I started dreaming about going to space. I was also amazed by the "Destination Moon" series of The Adventures of Tintin. So I wanted to study aerospace engineering but due to financial constraints, I had to drop it. Back then, I didn't know we could pursue aerospace within mechanical engineering. So the next best choice for me to attain my dream was Physics. Thus, I did a B.Sc. in Physics. For MSc, some of my friends and myself attempted the Joint Admission Test for M.Sc. Programmes (JAM) for getting into an IIT. We couldn't get

admission in an IIT but we could study at other central universities. After that I tried different options and now I am here.

What is your current research area? Can you briefly explain about your research

I am currently doing my research in 'Whispering gallery modes'. It is mainly about enhancing the light trapping capacity of a substance at the nano level. It is very useful in various fields like solar cells and cancer treatment. The topic mainly comes under cavity electrodynamics, nano science etc. Presently, I am just in the initial stage of finalising my research problem. And as I can deviate to different areas from this point, I haven't fixed my topic yet.

Have there been any major changes or progress in our institute when you compare it with the time you joined? Tell us your view on that through the eyes of a research scholar

When I joined this institute back in 2016, we only had 2 faculty for each department and only a few research equipment and a lab. But now we have over 8 faculty members in each department and the facilities in the labs have really increased. Currently, we have a lot of highly efficient and compact lab instruments which are really useful for the students. According to me, the institute is expanding its horizons in research and I will surely suggest IIT Palakkad to those who are interested.

Can you give us a glimpse of research life?

Initially, we start reading broadly, mainly on the areas of our guide and then we narrow it down to a particular problem to work on. It might be hard at first and there is no compulsion that we should fix our problem statement within a year or two. We may keep on trying different areas of interest until we feel certain about it ourselves. A research life is not an easy path because, things may not go as planned. We may get discouraged; especially in a new institute like ours, it would take time to set up everything and start our work. But if we have a passion for the field, we would enjoy it a lot.

How has your experience at lab been and how has it helped you in your research?

It is a bit difficult to manage both lab and research at times but its adventurous and keeps me occupied. At times, we put in a lot of effort for the lab and when we see students not returning that effort or being careless citing reasons that they don't major in Physics, it's a bit disheartening. Nevertheless, I enjoy my time in the lab and will surely continue to encourage my students.

What are your future plans?

To be frank, I really don't have any future plans right now. I want to continue my research and my work for now.

You are a well known photographer in our college. Several of your photos has been used as a cover page for TFS articles as well. What draws you to photography?

I think it's the little things that fascinate me. The world around us is so complex and yet even the most simple things are so beautiful and mesmerising. So when I see them, I wish to capture them in a frame. My evening walks around the campus provide ample opportunities for the same.

How do you relax? What are your hobbies other than photography?

I love evening walks because it refreshes me. I started learning violin together with some of us from the institute but unfortunately our violin teacher dropped in between, so I couldn't continue it. Cooking is also something I enjoy and I love to experiment with a lot of things in cooking. My next love are plants. Gardening is something in which I find a lot of pleasure. In my home and in the lab, I have a few plants and I am very curious about witnessing even a small growth in them. These are my main hobbies or something which I really love to do.

Who are your biggest supporters?

I think it would be my parents. Because they have given me the freedom to chase my dreams. They would give me their suggestions but ultimately let me choose what I want to. I am someone who likes to try new things. I was able to get an exposure by studying and

working outside my home state and that helped me become more independent. I am blessed to have such a supportive family.

meetthefaculty

Dr. UMA DIVAKARAN

by Irene Casmir and Gregory Paul T

OVERVIEW

Dr. Uma Divakaran got her PhD. from IIT Kanpur in 2010. She was an Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Postdoctoral fellow at Saarland University, Germany (2010). She joined IIT Kanpur in 2013 as an INSPIRE faculty (Physics). She was also an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences, Mumbai for a year. Since June 2016, she has been working as an Assistant Professor at IIT Palakkad in the department of Physics. Her research areas include Non-equilibrium dynamics, Quantum phase transitions and Quantum Information. She has many publications to her credit which include Sudden quenches in a quasiperiodic Ising model, Effect of double local quenches on Loschmidt echo and entanglement entropy of a one-dimensional quantum system and many more.

INTERVIEW

You had been working at CBS Mumbai and IIT Kanpur before joining IIT Palakkad. What inspired you to choose IIT Palakkad ?

There are several advantages of being in a new institute, although there might be some disadvantages as well. The advantage of being in a new, growing institute, right from its beginning is that you can help in building up the future of that institute. I could be one of the founding members of IIT Palakkad, which is a great honour. These were the advantages

that IIT Palakkad had offered me. Kerala, being my native place, was another reason to choose IIT Palakkad.

Your research areas include Non-equilibrium dynamics, Quantum phase transitions and Quantum Information. What made you develop an interest towards those areas in particular ?

Basically, Quantum Physics is my main area of work, where I study non-equilibrium dynamics that occur in systems which behave quantum mechanically. The reason why I chose this area was because it fascinated me and had a lot of interesting developments when I was at a stage of choosing my research interest. Also, it had many developments happening along the line of quantum computation and quantum information. These areas interested me.

You have worked at IIT Kanpur and now you are working here at IIT Palakkad. What do you feel are some of the differences between them and how can IIT Palakkad work to resolve those differences?

I did my PhD from IIT Kanpur and I worked there as an INSPIRE fellow. I did not hold a regular faculty position there. I did take some classes for B.Tech students. So the kind of job I am doing here cannot be compared to the one I did there. There are differences because IIT Kanpur is an old and more developed institute with many facilities. I would say that IIT Palakkad is coming up really well. The rate of growth of various departments and facilities here is amazing. If this pace continues, it has the potential of being one of the best IITs.

What is your opinion on the trend of growth of pure sciences in premiere engineering institutes like IITs?

What I feel is that there is no longer a specific division between pure sciences and engineering subjects. There are some researchers who work on fundamentals of pure sciences. At the same time, there are new research areas where you cannot explicitly say that it belongs to physics alone. Now there is so much overlap with, for example, electrical or mechanical engineering. These days, a physicist can interact with a mechanical engineer,

an electrical engineer or a computer scientist. We have many faculties here who are mechanical engineers and are collaborating with physicists.

In IITs, you see a lot of students working in the field of research. So what advice would you give to students who are pursuing research or are interested in doing so based on your experience ?

First of all, you should have an interest to do research. Secondly, you should choose your research area based on your interest and not because it's a hot topic of research. You can develop this interest during your Bachelor's. During this time, explore all the possible areas that are available in that stream. By the time you complete your Bachelor's, you will be able to find the area that interests you and then you will have to get to a good institute for research.

What do you feel is your philosophy in life - personal and professional? How do you maintain a balance between them?

My way is, when I am in my office, I don't think anything about what is happening at home. At home, I don't think of what happened at my office. I think this way you can do well in both.

What do you think should be changed about IIT Palakkad, be it about the students or facilities ?

One, we should have our permanent campus set up fully, and the second is, improvement in all the facilities. Apart from these, I also wish to have stronger research facilities and more research collaborations among faculties. On a general note, I am happy with the students.

We have seen you judging music competitions in the institute. So apart from your profession, what are your hobbies and interests?

I like music. So I go for violin classes which are held in the institute. I never had any lessons in music other than those I am having now. But I've always been interested in music.

You talked about students working for their overall development. In that respect, how do you think IIT Palakkad can change ?

IITs help students in their overall development. The facilities needed for the overall development of a student are being planned, and in the future, we will have those established here. It depends more on how you utilise the opportunities available. The clubs becoming more active and students becoming actively involved in those activities would help. For instance, I am the faculty in charge of SPIC MACAY. We don't have enough student volunteers. I don't know why. In every batch, there will be students who are interested in such activities. But we lack volunteers.

What general advice would you give to the students of IIT Palakkad ?

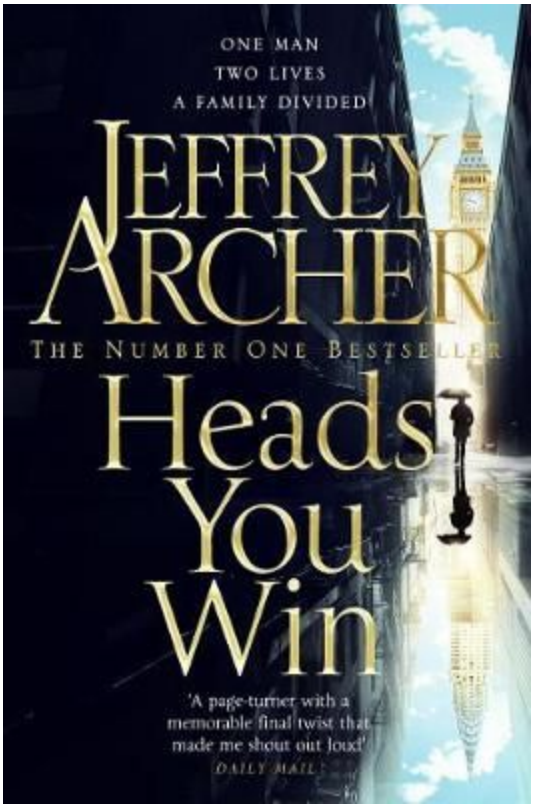
What I have seen is, when a student enters an IIT, academics, of course, is a part of the student's life, but students in IIT also get opportunities to develop themselves in other areas. But what I find these days is that the balance between the two is not being achieved. Academics is lagging behind other activities. There should be a proper balance between academic and non-academic activities.
One should develop as an individual when he/she comes to an IIT. That is the purpose of IITs.
Students should carry out their academic activities parallelly with their extracurricular activities.

thecollector'spiece

by Piyush Choudhary

Heads You Win by Jeffery Archer

From Kane and Abel to Clifton Chronicles, every time that Archer has wielded his pen, the Nobel of a parallel world acknowledging storytelling in its purest form had found its place in his cabinet. Heads You Win , the latest addition to his towering set of works is no exception.



Based in Russia, the United States and the UK, the novel follows the ups and downs of a Russian family as they escape from the communist regime of Russia and start their life anew after the head of the family is murdered by the KGB. The land where they eventually end up journeying to, the States or the UK, is decided by the flip of a coin.

The protagonist here is Alexander Karpenko who comes across as an intelligent and well-meaning individual. Having fled away from Russia with his mother, he crafts his way to become a man of significance and eventually gains popularity. Riding on his popularity, he decides to return to his country in the hope of undoing the injustices of the communist regime despite knowing the power that the KGB continues to wield after all those years. What happens thereafter is a climax best written in Archer's words.

Although the narration reeks of Archer's brilliance, he has experimented with the plot in a way that it accommodates parallel stories. The chain of events is beautifully crafted and shall keep you hooked throughout the plot. But, someone new to his flair of writing may find the climax as one that betrays its build-up for it unveils a truth that leaves readers in a rut of possibilities at the end. Nevertheless, if you are a book snob who devours the opportunity to interpret the plot in your singular terms, Heads You Win is a worthwhile read.

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are not to be construed in any manner as the official views of IIT Palakkad.