

Antaragni (The Fire Within)

22nd - 25th October 2009

The theme for this year's annual cultural festival Antaragni was '**I am the change**'. Students from over 150 colleges across India participated, making the campus come alive with energy and enthusiasm for four days.

The festival encompassed a whole range of events from competitions and workshops to talks and professional shows. There were several events which focused on the issue of building social responsibility amongst youth. Two Fusion Bands Advaita and Sitar Funk performed on the Opening Night. The highlight of Synchronicity was the Irish rock sensation Jaded Sun, who have been heralded as "the new messiahs of rock n' roll".

The event India Haat presented a creative burst of cultures and religions, races and tongues. "India Inspired: A Dream for the Nation" saw more than 400 students join the panel discussion with Mr. Raj Kamal Jha (the Allahabad editor of Times of India), Ms. Sujatha Ramdorai (Professor of mathematics at TIFR), Mr. Vinit Joshi (CBSE chairman) and Ms. Amrita Das (career counselor). The theme 'The road not taken' explored why Indian youth sticks to only a few conventional career paths. Despite the large youth population, India excels only in a few fields and lags behind in many others. This is not due to the lack of talented youth but because the students in our country today are apprehensive of following an unconventional career even though actually it may be harmonious with their likes and interests. Moreover, parental and peer pressure also pushes them into conventional paths.

The festival ended with Blitzkrieg (the professional night) with a live performance by Faridkot, the upcoming band, and KK (Krishnakumar Kunnath), the renowned singer.

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has come a long way since its establishment in 1959 but the journey doesn't end here. Several milestones are waiting to be conquered.

We are reminded of the lines from the poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' by Robert Frost which aptly sum up the future course of Institute's journey.