

Dr. John C. Mather, Nobel Laureate, Astro-Physics, 2006 lecture at IITG



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Live Video Conference, first of its kind in the region attracted a huge crowd in excess of 1000 people. Held in the newly inaugurated auditorium of IIT Guwahati on occasion of TECHNICHE08'- an annual technology festival of IIT-G, the place was jam packed with enthusiastic students, participants, faculty members and even school kids, who were a part of the national level Olympiad 'Technothlon'. All in all the response to the first ever effort made by IITG to get a person as distinguished as a Nobel Laureate to address a gathering of technocrats received an awesome response.

Dr. Mather discussed The 'Big Bang' theory explicitly, from the scratch. He sent slides, which were being presented simultaneously as he was delivering his lecture.

It was the story of formation of the universe. How the small concentrated mass of a size of about 10 cm across exploded and expanded into the universe, as we know it today. Much of the world we know today comprises of matter, however 90 percent of the universe comprises of matter and energy, which does not interact with light. It is the presence of force fields of such matter which provides us with the evidence that it exists, scientists also used the term 'Dark' to classify this matter and

energy, however, not much is known about it till date.

The speaker then briefed the audience about his work with NASA on project of an observatory on a satellite station and plans of NASA to collaborate with ESA (European Space Agency) and send a New Telescope to be stationed in outer space which would be a much improved version of the Hubble Telescope which is already in space and has served valuable information of the universe.

The lecture concluded with Dr. Mather offering a live interaction with the students in a question-answer session in which interesting questions raised. One example of which was a question as simple as-"What is universe?" and the speakers closing statement went something like-"Sorry i could not answer all the questions properly but that is the beauty of science".

The crowd appreciated the effort put up by IIT Guwahati community and also Dr. Mather for a highly enjoyable and learning experience.

Nanda Kirati Dewan

Nanda Kumar Dewan is our Senior Journalist covering Community Development & International Relations. He is a Mass Communication & Journalism graduate from Sikkim Manipal University (SMU). He started his journalism career with UB Photos News agency in 2006 as News Photo Caption Editor and Photojournalist. He has been associated with Assam Times since it's inception and today is a part of our editorial team.

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