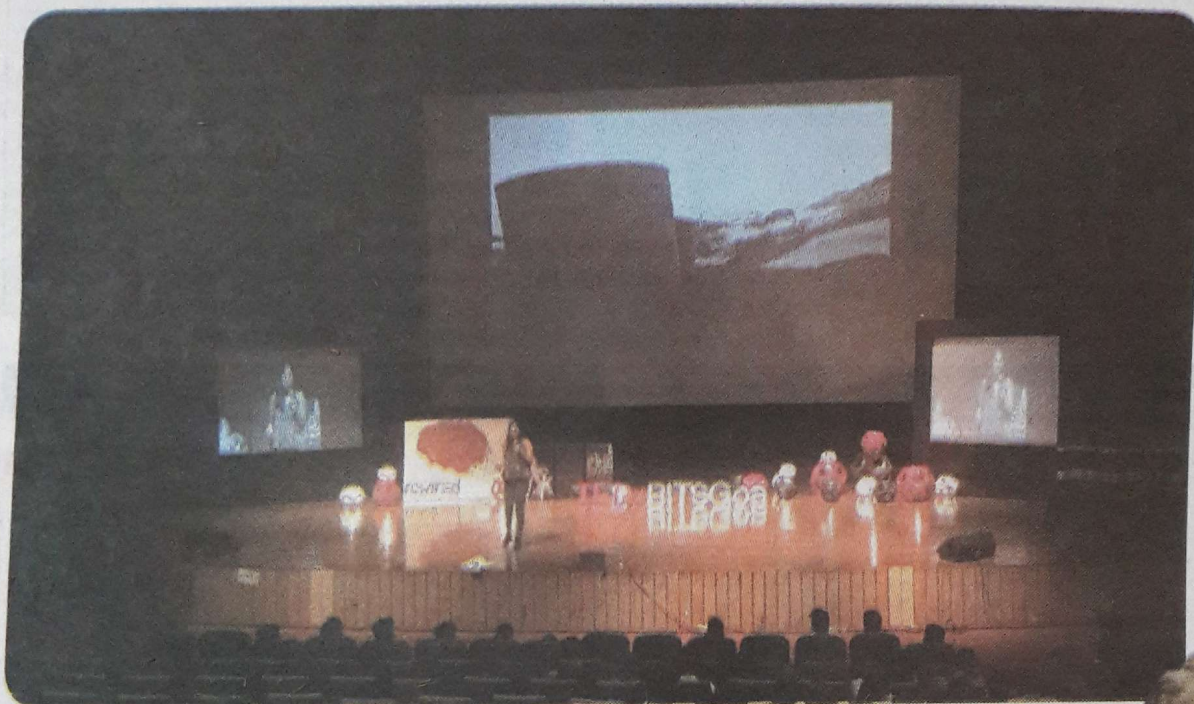


# INNOVATING IDEAS – ONE BITS AT A TIME



*The eighth edition of TEDx BITS Goa recently concluded at the campus of BITS Pilani K K Birla, Goa. Café does a recap*

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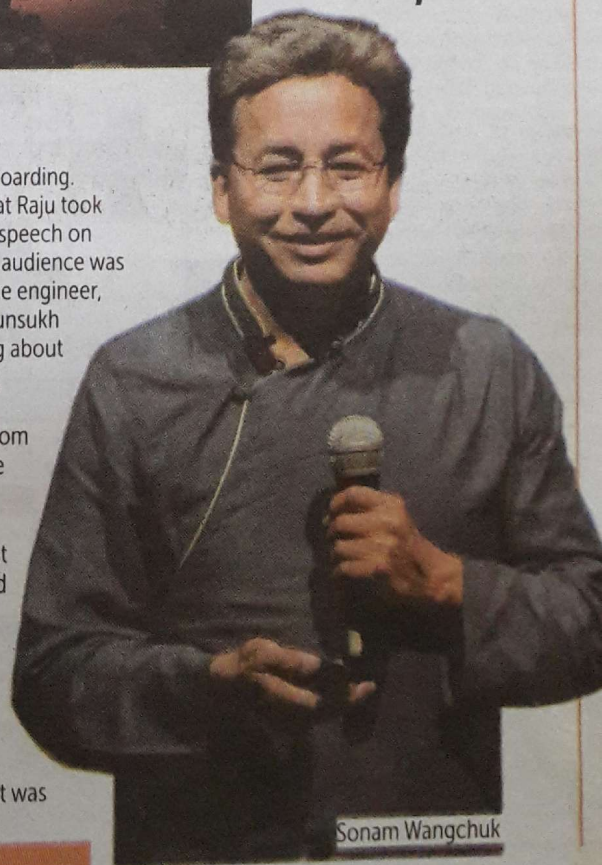
Not many would know that TEDx BITS Goa is now the oldest TEDx in India! Over the years, aimed at impressing upon a diverse audience the importance to innovate, the 'knowledge fest' has grown in stature and has featured people such as Kiran Bedi, Kalki Koechlin, Clinton Cerejo and many others. The eighth edition of India's longest running institutional TEDx event was recently held, on January 22, 2017, at the campus of BITS Pilani KK Birla, Goa, comprising of an enthralling line-up of speakers that included Piyush Mishra, Malaika Vaz and Sumeet Vyas.

The first speaker was Malaika Vaz, a 19-year-old Goan who is also the youngest woman to have gone on both the Arctic and Antarctic expedition. An explorer, filmmaker and social entrepreneur, Malaika went on to share her experiences and encounters with nature in her charismatic talk. Raul Rodriguez, a criminal intelligence officer at the Interpol, was the next, and engaged the audience in his talk about the art of deception. The third speaker, Pranav Lal, a cyber security analyst and a photographer, demonstrated how he manages to excel at his profession despite being visually impaired. Ulrike Reinhard, founder of the Janwaar Castle, spoke about how she managed to

reinvalidate a rural village through skateboarding.

Post lunch, theoretical physicist Suvrat Raju took over and charmed the audience with his speech on the Black Hole Information Paradox. The audience was then enraptured by Sonam Wangchuk, the engineer, innovator and the inspiration behind 'Phunsukh Wangdu' from the movie '3 Idiots'. Talking about SEMCOL, a movement which is changing the landscape of education in Ladakh, Wangchuk received a standing ovation from the captivated audience. The penultimate speaker, Sumeet Vyas, then reflected on the theme 'Rewired' in his talk. The final speaker was the well-known actor, lyricist and poet, Piyush Mishra who mesmerised the audience through his talk which was delivered with absolute ease.

Overall, through its wide range of compelling speakers, TEDx BITSGoa succeeded in its goal of spreading innovative entertaining ideas. Organised by an entirely student run team, the event was certainly one to remember.



Sonam Wangchuk

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