

FILIX Hopework

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STUDENT NEWSLETTER OF FILIX SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



Filix Turns Motion into Meaning, Infosys Applauds the Vision



At the Infosys Springboard Summit 2025 in Mysuru, Filix School of Education received Special Recognition for its outstanding role in the Maker's Lab on Wheels, a visionary collaboration between the Infosys Foundation and Nanritam's Education For All (EFA). The award, presented to Ms. Priyanka Ghosh (Academic Director) embodying Nanritam's vision, celebrates more than innovation, it celebrates a journey of learning, discovery, and empowerment that has touched thousands of young lives. The Maker's Lab on Wheels was launched in February 2025 with a bold, simple idea: if children in rural schools cannot easily access advanced STEM facilities, why not take the lab to them? A van was transformed into a moving makerspace, equipped with microcontrollers, sensors, automation kits, and digital tools. This unique lab traveled across the districts of Purulia, stopping at 18 government and private schools and engaging more than 2,800 students within just six months.

Every stop was an explosion of curiosity. Students who had only seen circuits in diagrams were suddenly holding breadboards and LEDs in their hands. They coded blinking lights, created traffic light systems, tested sensors, and moved from small projects to ambitious ones like app-controlled vehicles, smart irrigation models, and energy-efficient devices.

Textbook science leapt into life, and classrooms turned into workshops buzzing with ideas and laughter.

The initiative had a particularly strong impact in girls' schools, where many students tried coding for the first time. The sessions did not just teach technical know-how, they built confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Teachers also discovered new ways to connect STEM concepts to everyday life, linking experiments directly to lessons in physics and mathematics. The energy was in full bloom, students began to see technology not as distant or intimidating but as a tool they could master, adapt, and even imagine as part of their future careers. The recognition at the Springboard Summit is more than an award for Filix, it is a proud acknowledgment of how education can travel beyond walls and boundaries. The Makers Lab on Wheels embodies the belief that curiosity belongs everywhere, not just in city schools with high-tech labs. It carries opportunity to the doorstep of every eager learner, ensuring no child is left behind.

This recognition honours the purpose and the promise to bridge the digital divide, to carry curiosity on wheels, and to continue shaping young dreamers into tomorrow's innovators, learning truly beyond boundaries.

Maestro of the Month



Illustration by Ayush Kumar Bauri, VII

Richard Feynman

Richard Feynman was not just a Nobel-winning physicist; he was an amazing teacher and a curious explorer of everything, from atoms to art. You could find him solving physics problems on napkins in restaurants or sketching whatever caught his eye.

In a BBC interview, he once said he was "just an ordinary person who studied hard." There are no miracle people, he explained, only those who get deeply interested in something and keep learning about it. Anyone, he believed, could understand even the most complex ideas with enough time, practice, and curiosity.

That was Feynman's magic: he did not chase brilliance; he chased understanding. And in doing so, he made generations fall in love with learning itself.

"Study hard what interests you the most in the most undisciplined, irreverent and original manner possible"

Did You Know?

While working at the Los Alamos lab during World War II, Feynman figured out how to crack safes, just for fun!

Feynman appeared in the short film "Anti-Clock", playing the role of a professor

His younger sister, Joan Feynman, was also a physicist who made important discoveries about space and the Earth's atmosphere.

Feynman was a passionate artist and often signed his paintings under the pseudonym "Ofey."

Source : NobelPrize.org



Think Like Feynman!



The person who makes it, sells it. The person who buys it, never uses it. The person who uses it, never knows they are using it. What is it?



You are in a room with three light switches. In another room, there are three light bulbs (one bulb corresponds to each switch). You can only enter the bulb room once. How do you figure out which switch controls which bulb?



Two children are born on the same day, same month, same year, at the same time, to the same parents, yet they are not twins. How is this possible?

Answers in the next issue! And no, don't Google them. Feynman certainly wouldn't have.

The Filix Flash

Quick bites of brilliance from across the month

Code, Courage, and Curiosity: Filix at the Hackathon Heights



Three young tech dreamers, Zeeshan Hussain (Class XI), Aritra Dhang (Class X), and Subhranil Paramanik (Class X), carried Filix to the top 80 at the “I Build for Bharat” Hackathon, where imagination met innovation and ideas found their wings at the Microsoft Campus, Gurgaon.

Cosmic Triumph for Young Creators



The national stage was set, and young minds brought their ideas to life in the Space Kalpana Competition 2025. Guided by innovation, imagination, and a spark of stardust, three Filix students soared to the top in their categories:

Essay: Surabhi Chakraborty (Grade X)

Video: Subhradip Dutta (Grade VIII)

Poster: Abhishek Garai (Grade VI)

In the Language of Love and Legacy: Filix Celebrates Hindi Diwas



Filix resonated with melody and meaning on Hindi Diwas, as students brought the language to life through verse, rhythm, and expression, celebrating Hindi as the heartbeat that unites a diverse nation.

Filix Wordsmiths Spell Success



At the India Spelling Bee Regional Finale 2024-25 (Eastern Region), Manishita Dutta (Grade X) and Surjadeep Dutta (Grade VII) spelled their way to glory with Rank 8 and Rank 23, a sparkling testament to talent, dedication, and the Filix ethos.

Checkmate! Filix Minds Rule the Chessboard



Team Filix made an impressive debut at the Kulshara Chess Tournament organised by the Purulia Chess Association. Among 119 participants, Manswita Kundu (Class III) secured 1st position in U9 Girls', while Shreya Biswas (Class VIII) earned 2nd position in U17 Girls'.

Filix Stars Bring Heritage to Life



Sharodiya 2025 at Filix came alive with music, dance, and skits, as the little stars celebrated the colours of autumn and honoured the great reformer Pt. Iswarchandra Vidyasagar. Each performance reflected his timeless values of knowledge, kindness, and learning, turning the day into a vibrant symphony of heritage, creativity, and togetherness.

Creative Corner

My CHILDHOOD

The echoes fade, like grains of sand.
I miss those moments, soft and sweet
The simple life, the heart's heartbeat.

I long for that place where time stood still,
When the world felt happy and dreams could fill.

Though those days are distant, far away,
Their light will guide me through today.

Today, I miss those days a lot.
There was a time, so pure and bright,
When days were endless, full of light.
The laughter through the trees,
A melody carried on the breeze.

The streets were home, the park was mine,
In every corner, a secret shrine.
I ran with joy, I climbed with grace,
No worries chased me, no time to waste.

The warmth of summer on my skin,
The taste of ice cream, wind beneath my chin.
The endless games, the whispered dreams,
The world was smaller or so it seemed.

But now I stand, with time in hand.

Nisha Mandal, VII

LATE

Water came late.
If it had arrived earlier,
ashes would not be there.
Bodies and bodies,
half-burnt and parts left.
If it arrived earlier,
it could be better
colder, nicer.
But it came late,
and everything was messed,
ashed, and evaporated.
No moisture,
just despair and silence
was there.

Rishu Raj, VI

If I Could Go To Space...



Illustration by Abhishek Garai, VI

Space would teach me lessons no classroom could. From up there, I would see that Earth is not endless—it is fragile, a small island in an infinite ocean. If I could go to space, it wouldn't be a journey faraway but a journey to the stars. I would be stepping into the greatest mystery of human existence. The sky has always fascinated me. From my childhood, I have looked up at the moon and the stars, imagining what it would be like to fly among them. The thought of being a bird and flying among them stirred me. Leaving the roaring vehicles for knowing the silence of the cosmos would be my dream. My heart would race on the day of my departure, while wearing the spacesuit, I would shed tears of joy. The vibration of the engines would move my nerves and my body-shaking. Sunrises and sunsets would happen according to the way we circled Earth. At night, clusters of golden lights would mark where cities breathed with life. Each time I looked at the earth, my brain would strike with the memories I had made on this ball. Though beyond our mother Earth, I would still be alive. For the first time ever I would float just like a mermaid drifting blissfully. Earth, which would seem endless, would look merely like a blue ball from space. Sitting all alone, the earth would enjoy solitude with its closest friend, the moon. Though with craters outside but is pure soul. I would plant our national flag on it symbolising the bravery and the deep connection that India has with their Chanda Mama. I would collect samples from all the planets and click beautiful photos. The dust would cling to my boots as if the space didn't want me to return back. After a long journey and after making history I would return back to my place rather the only place which sustains human existence that is mother earth. I would return with a renewed sense of responsibility to protect our environment, to reduce pollution and to care for the fragile balance of life. Coming back to Earth would be emotional, parachutes would deploy and we would land safely back on our planet. I will feel the weight of the gravity calling me down towards the ground as if a mother is calling a child into her lap.

Surabhi Chakraborty, X

Beyond Black Holes and Baul: Prof. Soumya Chakravarti in Conversation



Beyond the galaxies he so patiently unravels as an astrophysicist, Professor Soumya Chakravarti carries yet another universe close to his heart, the world of folk music. His journeys have taken him far and wide, yet some invisible string keeps drawing him back, to us, to our campus.

Throughout the interview, we sat in utter stillness, almost afraid to draw a breath lest the spell break.

Only later, long after the conversation had ended, did curiosity tug at us once more. Over WhatsApp, we finally slipped in the question we had been holding back: “Why do you always wear a compass around your neck?”

The reply came at once, with that familiar blend of wit and warmth:

“That’s my wristwatch. The strap rotted away in one monsoon and I decided not to buy a strap again. So that is my eccentric and innovative wristwatch-on-a-strap!”

1. Could you share some of the early experiences that first sparked your love for learning and discovery?

Prof. Chakravarti : I went to school in Kolkata, where we had a family friend who was a physicist. He would visit our home a couple of times a week, and I would make him tea while we talked about physics. He introduced me to a set of undergraduate books by the famous physicist Richard Feynman, written while he was teaching at Caltech, which a whole generation of students learned from. He also guided me for the NSTSE, and I was fortunate to be selected.

Scoring high marks in high secondary led me to study physics at Presidency College, where I found excellent professors and bright friends who shared my passion. Later, I did my MSc in Delhi and then pursued a PhD in the U.S. That’s how my journey in learning began. As for the discovery part... I can’t really explain (laughs).

2. Looking back, was there a turning point in your student life that you now consider truly foundational?

Prof. Chakravarti : I think the turning point in my student life was going to that college (Presidency college, kolkata) and meeting my exceptionally bright classmates. People often learn more from their friends than from their teachers.

3. Many students find science intimidating. Did you ever struggle as a learner, and how did you navigate those challenges?

Prof. Chakravarti : I remember struggling with mathematics back in class VI or VII.

Fortunately, one of my uncles had a friend who was a very patient and skilled teacher. He tutored me once or twice a week and encouraged me to practice, practice, and practice. Gradually, my confidence grew, and I was no longer afraid of mathematics. After that, physics became relatively easier, since I could use mathematics as a tool to solve physics problems.

4. You carry both science and folk music within you. How do these two seemingly different worlds come together in your life?

Prof. Chakravarti : That’s a very good question. Perhaps my temperament naturally leans toward the humanities, I love literature and read poetry. My journey led me to physics, yet my other interests stayed alive. I was fortunate to grow up around exceptional family friends who were nationally renowned artists and stage designers. One of them introduced me to folk music; I would accompany them into villages, carrying a tape recorder, documenting songs, and later transcribing them. This continued through classes 8 to 11, and along the way, I also learned to play folk instruments.

5. How important do you think it is for students to pursue a creative hobby, such as music, art, or writing, alongside their academic journey?

Prof. Chakravarti : Absolutely essential. I can’t overemphasise it. If you study all the time, you won’t necessarily become a better student. You need something that relaxes you, takes your mind off academics. In this school, students play a lot of football, which is wonderful;

take that away, and their performance will actually go down. Everyone should have something they truly enjoy outside their regular studies.

6. With technology reshaping education so rapidly, what role do you think teachers continue to play at the heart of learning?

Prof. Chakravarti : I once heard a colleague in America say, "If a computer can replace a teacher, it should." A true teacher can never be replaced by a machine. A good teacher sparks something in you, a curiosity that no technology can replicate. Of course, technology has its place, but it should remain a tool. Everyone talks about ChatGPT these days, but it often makes mistakes. Learning, at its heart, must begin with natural intelligence. Once that foundation is built, technology can support it, never replace it.

7. Having interacted with learners across the world, what is it about Filix children that makes you feel hopeful for the future?

Prof. Chakravarti : Filix is a very unusual school. It has the right balance of academics, relaxation, and a wealth of activities. When we were students, we didn't have that opportunity; it was mostly studying, studying, and studying, with a bit of cricket on weekends. Filix has the infrastructure, the support system, and, most importantly, teachers who are empathetic toward their students. Children here are more motivated to learn than in many other schools.

8. What qualities, apart from academic achievement, do you believe are essential for success in life?

Prof. Chakravarti : I believe the most important quality is to be honest with yourself. You might tell little white lies to friends for fun, but never deceive others in ways that could harm them or give you an unfair advantage. Strive to be sincere and straightforward, both with yourself and with those around you.

9. Many young learners face challenges of limited resources or difficult circumstances. What message would you share with them?

Prof. Chakravarti : If you don't get much support at home, school becomes even more important. You spend five to six hours there every day, so make the most of the opportunities available: teachers, library, smart classrooms. Home can provide comfort, food, and care, but learning happens at school. If you are lucky to be at a school like Filix, focus on what is offered and make the most of it.

10. As someone who has travelled widely, what draws you back again and again to this campus, this rural corner of India?

Prof. Chakravarti : I think it's mostly the people: the students, the teachers, those who work in the kitchen, those who work in the hospital. I haven't seen so many genuinely nice people anywhere else I have been. They always look out for you and for each other. They are polite, they don't take advantage; all the good qualities you rarely find if you walk through the streets of many cities in India.

11. Looking back at your journey, what lesson do you wish every young learner could carry with them?

Prof. Chakravarti : Your questions are really tough! (laughs) I would say, enjoy life. Enjoy learning, enjoy playing, enjoy your friends, enjoy your family. Try to stay as happy as possible, because these days so many young people are stressed or sad, and you often read about their unfortunate endings in newspapers. There is too much pressure to score higher and do better all the time, and I think that really destroys life. Young people don't deserve that.



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