BSA
IITD

CONTENDER
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Dear Reader,

The online semester brought with it a wave of unconventional responsibilities, to conquer which we came up with equally unconventional and quirky out-of-the-box events to keep the Board for Sports Activities relevant, despite the lack of any actual sports activities.

To that end, we are proud to present the first BSA Magazine, Contender, which condenses all the sports happenings from around the world into an eccentric fun read. We also humbly showcase all that we've accomplished in the last semester and even include some humorously embarrassing inter-IIT stories that'll make you reminisce about the good ol' days. We hope you have as much fun reading it as we had making it!

Enjoy!

Best wishes,
Himanshu Thakur
General Secretary, BSA

INDEX

1 Is This Just Fantasy?
2 Yoga-T To Try This
3 Rook and Roll
4 Better Move Next Time
5 Valorant
6 Adieu
7 A SAC-xy New Look
8 The Hand of God
9 FOMO OF BCCI
10 Press F1 To Pay Respects
11 Kobe!
12 No Messi-ing Around
13 COVID-lympics
13 Rumour Has IIT
14 The “Indian” Cricket Council Awards
15 India Injured 11 vs. Australia Playing 11
16 Mahi Way
17 No-Ball, No Grade

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IS THIS JUST FANTASY?

With over 600+ participants and three weeks of fun filled teaming ups of desired teams and competing with batchmates, BSA Fantasy League came out as no less than a saviour in the ongoing academic stress. Also, the number of participants glued to the BSA website at the end of every match's midnight to know their leader boards was yet another achievements, BSA proudly brags about.

Carrying forward the enthusiasm IPL has, the league provided an opportunity to power one's own team selection based on numerous considerations giving a sense of ownership. From the constant performers to the surprising under dogs, from the known superstars of the pitch to the youngsters who made their names on the pitch, our participants evaluated everyone on their betting table. The league even witnessed mere luck transforming into ranks in the leader board as even non-cricket lovers tried their fate as there was nothing to lose. Although, the final score was directly related to a user's reading of the game; hence flaunting one's ability and knowledge for cricket among batchmates was truly witnessed as at the end of the day, it was more of a game of skill than a game of chance.

And as rightly said, every good thing comes to an end, the league ended with end of IPL and a wait for the next season is strongly felt on both sides, participants as well as organisers. While, a worthy brought up of the winners awaiting their goodies on their doorsteps (if their provided address was taken seriously) is yet another satire of the wait we all have for the next league.

600+
Registrations

YOGA-T TO TRY THIS

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1000+
Registerations

60+ Online
Yoga Sessions

30
Days

With staying indoors and having “ghar ka khana”, lockdown made most of us gain weight. In addition to that, the stress of the online semester and burden put on us by professors was unbearable. Seeing this the BSA realised the need of exercise and meditation, the board of sports activities decided to organise yoga sessions by Yogacharya Ankit Garg. Yogacharya Ankit Garg is a professionally qualified Hat- Yog Practioner from Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidhyalya, Shantikunj, Haridwar, India. He has been working painstakingly as a therapist providing psychological and physical therapy via Hat-Yog and has been successfully delivering Yog sessions in Corporates, Hospitality industry and specific therapeutic sessions too for over a decade now. With the people struggling in the start with how to do various asanas, transitioned smoothly and within the span of a week, they were doing good. The sessions were conducted in various time slots to cater to as many people as possible. Unlike campus where most of the yoga sessions were attended by PHD students and professors, The event saw equal participation and enthusiasm from the UG students. More than 1000 people registered for the event making it a huge success.

ROOK AND ROLL

In October, BSA along with IITD Chess Club initiated the 2 hours long monthly Blitz Arena which is a huge lookout tournament for chess players in IITD to have fun and compete it out with their fellow enthusiasts during the weekends.Time control was of 3 minutes per game with 2 second increment after each move on Lichess platform.It was the first time that BSA introduced such event.Till last year, we didn't have any regular chess tournament.So it was an appreciable step taken by BSA and a great opportunity for the Chess admirers to show their talent, love and enthusiasm for the game.

BETTER MOVE NEXT TIME

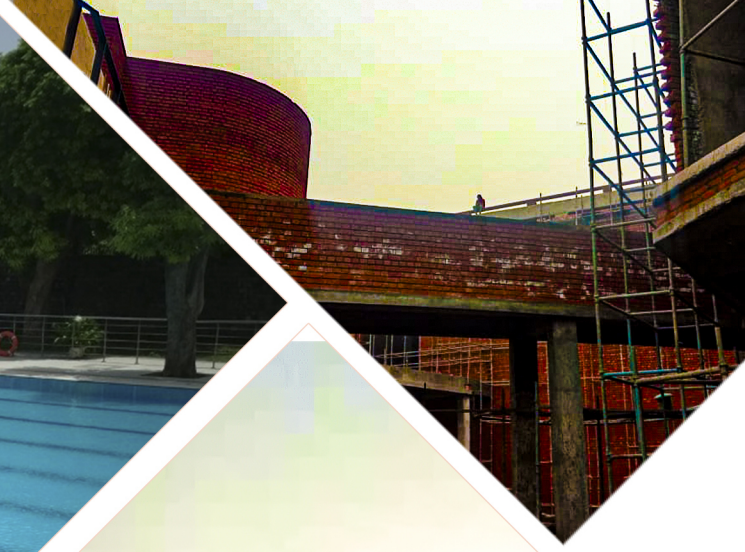
With over 300+ Chess Enthusiastic Freshie peeps of IITD participating during the intensely busy weekend of december,a week before their minor exams when almost every other club of IITD was approaching them and organizing a hell lot of orientations,meets ,sessions and what not .Freshers Online Chess Tournament was a huge success for BSA in terms of the participant turn-out.Tournament was in arena format held on Lichess platform in online mode with a time control of 3+2(3 min each player with 2 second increment after each move) where Berserk function was allowed.The tournament was set for 2 hours and participants were getting new games as soon as their games got over.We got to see many gruelling games with Dheekshith finally winning the tournament,outperforming everyone with a huge winning rate.

VALORANT

The weekend right after the mid sem break, BSA hosted its first-ever e-sports tournament with three days of intensive Valorant action. The tournament had been split into two parts: Singles Deathmatch and Team Custom. (to accommodate the lone-wolfs of e-gaming) With nearly 200 participants, BSA managed to bring a large participation number for PC games in their debut tournament. The finals of the championship for the Team Custom category were set in a best-of-one matchup between the two finalists where we saw one of the captains being gravely injured by the most fatal wound of the e-gaming arena: technical difficulties. In the Single DeathMatch category, we saw a new find dominate the competition and arise as the finest competitive shooters of IIT Delhi. Hopefully, this doesn't put a target on their back. The event was also covered live on YouTube and the BSA Facebook page by two commentators who kept the morale up and the audience on the edge of their seats. The winners received validation in the form of a feature on the leaderboard, which created disappointment among the more materialistic demographic. All in all, the violent gaming weekend was a refreshing break for many from their daily tedious online battle for grades.

Adieu

Each year, BSA welcomes hundreds of new members. However, at the same time, the entire BSA family also bids farewell to its graduating members. The past has been a challenging one especially for those who were to bid adieu to BSA and IIT Delhi. Hence, we expressed our gratitude to all our amazing seniors who not only brought laurels to our college by excelling in their respective sports at the Inter IIT sports meets and a multitude of other competitions throughout the past four years by dedicating a series of posts exclusively to them. Spread over six weeks, and featuring 13 teams, BSA shared the stories, memories, and experiences of x graduating players. In addition to this, BSA also interviewed its outgoing General Secretary, Sanidhya Tiwari, and Deputy General Secretary, Krishna Chaudhary, and published their stories as a part of the 2020 Farewell Blog.



A SAC-xy New Look

After the struggles that all of us went through during 2020, 2021 indeed feels like a year of new beginnings. As it turns out, our very own SAC (Student Activity Center) too, has a new look! With 4 new badminton courts, 2 table tennis halls, 2 squash courts, and a fully equipped gymnasium, the new SAC is certainly going to be our go-to place for all activities!

Hand of God

Diego Maradona, the Argentine who became a national hero as one of soccer's greatest players left us all behind on Nov 25, at 60; which led to the Argentine government declaring three days of national mourning. At Maradona's feet, the ball seemed to obey his command like a pet. He was said to do with an orange what others could only do with a ball, playing with a kind of brilliant camouflage, seeming to be somnolent for long stretches before asserting himself at urgent moments with a mesmerising dribble, astounding pass or stabbing shot. Ending his career with 259 goals in 491 appearances, He earned 91 caps for Argentina and scored 34 goals, and became the coach of the national team in November 2008.

From, Lionel Messi's personal tribute to the late Diego Maradona after scoring in Barcelona's resounding 4-0 win over Osasuna to Maradona's closest competitor as the greatest footballer of all time, Pele, saying: "One day, I hope we can play football together in the sky", it is no wrong in stating Maradona as the recipient of one of the greatest tributes received so far by any sportsmen

"... a little with the Hand of God"

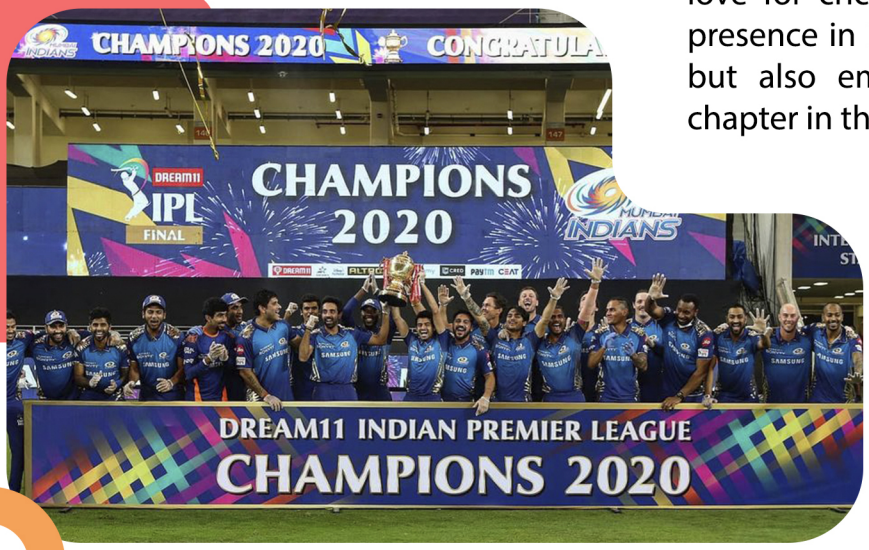
It describes the goal that Maradona scored during the Argentina v England quarter finals match of the 1986 FIFA World Cup. Maradona went up for a header in the 51st minute of that match, as the ball went off his arm and into England's goal. However, the umpires on the field missed the clear violation and the goal stood. It is during this time that Maradona famously said: "A little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God."

FOMO OF BCCI

As critics raised eyebrows and questioned the need to host the league at a time when the world was still coming to grips with the horrors of the pandemic, IPL proved to be the silver lining in the dark clouds that had gathered us. One could sense how eagerly the country needed this dose of optimism as viewership records broke with 20 crore people tuned in for the most awaited tournament.

Be it the twin Super Over matches, or the Rajasthan Royals' Rahul Tewatia smashing five sixes off one over, or Chennai Super Kings' shocking below-par run -- the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League was no less than a Christopher Nolan film. Besides the entertainment factor, at the onset of IPL, Indian fans were also reeling from MS Dhoni's departure from international cricket, returning to the cricket field after 437 days. Mumbai Indians winning the title for the fifth time is also no less than icing on the cake for majority of cricket fans.

India, time and again, has showcased its profound love for cricket. For IPL to not only register its presence in Indian households amid a pandemic but also emerge victorious will be a golden chapter in the league's chequered history.



Mumbai Indians to Others:
"Tum BSA fantasy league pai team bana lo, hum IPL jeet lete hai".

Press F1 To Pay Respects

All hail Jehan Daruvala, who made us proud by becoming the first Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the Sakhir Grand Prix. The 22 year old Indian emerged on top in the support race of the season-1 ending formula 1 Grand Prix, 2020.
Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes entered the season as the reigning World Drivers' and World Constructors' champions. Hamilton equaled Michael Schumacher's record of seven World Drivers' Championship at the Turkish Grand Prix. He also broke Schumacher's record of 91 career wins at the Portuguese Grand Prix. At the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix, Mercedes secured their seventh consecutive Constructors' Championship. They became the only team to win seven straight titles

It seems 2020 brought good luck and achievements to some, at least! F for most of us, though :/

Kobe!

In what was a fitting tribute to Kobe, Los Angeles Lakers clinched the 2020 NBA finals championship defeating Miami heat 4-2. The Lakers won their first NBA championship in ten years. It is their 17th title and the team is now tied with the Boston Celtics for the most wins in the league history. LeBron James was crowned the MVP, making it his 4th finals MVP title. RIP Kobe, you were deeply missed.

No Messi-ing Around

The year 2020 ended with a bang for football fanatics when Lionel Messi created a new world record in December as he scored his 644th goal for Barcelona in their La Liga clash against Valladolid. In doing so, he broke Pele's all-time record of most goals with a single club that he'd held since 1974.

The real fun started when Budweiser decided to jump on the trend and designed limited-edition bottles numbered 1-644. They gifted these to the goalkeepers who had decided to step aside and let Messi achieve his goal (literally), some receiving as many as 19 bottles! The goalkeepers, however, decided to join in on the joke and took to Twitter to post pictures posing with their bottle(s) and congratulate Messi.

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COVID-lympics

2021 is looking like 2020 with a bitter twist, is it only for us, staying at home and the online semester or the entire world?

Given the importance of the games to Japan, and the amount it's spending—the one-year delay sent costs soaring by nearly $3 billion to $15.4 billion—it might seem unthinkable that the International Olympics Committee and Japan would even consider more changes—let alone an outright cancellation. In fact, as vaccines raced toward the finish line and were approved in several countries in December, and some areas with low case counts experimented with holding in-person sporting events, optimism about the chance of holding a large in-person event like the Olympics was growing.

But 2021 has started with some wild cards, namely coronavirus mutations that appear to make the virus more transmissible. That has resulted in a fresh wave of lockdowns, travel restrictions, and uncertainty. Suddenly, the new year is starting to feel a lot like the early months of 2020

Several sources inside the International Olympic Committee and British Olympic Association insist that the Tokyo Olympics will take place in some form in 2021, despite the challenges of 11,000 athletes from across the globe congregating in one place. There is simply too much money at stake for it not to happen. But the event is likely to be pared back and stripped of many of the peripheral joys that make major sporting events such fun to attend.

RUMOUR HAS IIT

The last day of Inter-IIT 2018 brought with it the GC-deciding 4x400 relay. The high-pressure situation just made the gold medal at the end a sweeter victory. In true Delhi fashion, with the humblest intentions, the seniors blasted "Teri Keh Ke Lunga" through the speakers and danced in the faces of the poor bereaved. Real classy move, we must say.

Ah, the infamous Inter-IIT Kharagpur. After a clearly competent and unbiased decision by the referee during the Girls Basketball Finals, the Boys team decided to don the Avengers suit and beat Kharagpur in the finals, on their home field. I guess at the end of the day, talent trumps tacky antics.

Tensions were high on the day of the hockey quarter-final match against IIT Roorkee. Exactly a year ago, they had beaten us 1-0 but Delhi was out to settle the score.
"Double or Nothing."
We drew first blood and from there it was a hop, skip and a jump to a 2-0 victory. The highlight of the night? The coach dancing with the team.

BSA always stays under budget by never hiring a photographer for Inter-IIT. Instead, we hand a camera to our lawn tennis player cum stud photographer and wing it.

A table tennis match at the Inter-IIT 2019 took a bizarre turn when Karan faced Karan. But even this did not dissuade the anti cheering crowd, who continued with their relentlessly brutal personal attacks. A by-stander Karan was reported as feeling confused, a feeling shared by the two players.

Urvashi Dhar was reportedly seen at the local pharmacy buying medicine for back pain at 2 AM. Sources claim that the ache has been gradually building up over the years, as she bears the burden of carrying the insti team all by herself, having been the captain for 3 years now.

In Inter-IIT 2018, when a member of the Athy team, after a long day, decided to treat herself with a night out with a friend, she inadvertently caused the largest manhunt the IITD contingent had ever seen. The entire 30 member team was out looking for her for nearly 5 hours. The prime suspect of their investigation: the IIT Guwahati leopards

You might say that chess is for nerds, but the members of the IITD chess team would disagree. There's nothing in the world they love more than chess; except televised India team cricket matches. The team is rumoured to have stayed up many a night, deciding on a strategy for the next day: which 2 players get to stay back and watch the match, and which 4 go out to play.

Trying out a new rule, Inter-IIT started admitting toddlers into the tournament. However, their scheme backfired when a student from another IIT who expected to win the Best Player trophy, but got bested by one of our own, proceeded to take the trophy and refused to give it back. Sources claim that she was eventually pacified by reading her a lullaby about sportsman spirit

The basky and volley team coaches are notoriously known for depriving their players of their cellphones for the duration of the tournament. However, the jugaadu kids still manage to have late-night pillow talks with their significant others by employing the help of third-wheeling friends from other teams.

The "Indian" Cricket Council Awards

International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced its most coveted “Awards of the decade” where Virat Kohli successfully bagged the prestigious “ICC Cricketer Of the Decade” award. While team India is dominating in all three formats ,no single Pakistani player made it to the list of Teams Of The Decade for which Pakistani media is blaming BCCI and ICC for commercialising sports. Shoaib Akhtar went on calling it as “IPL Teams” rather than ICC Teams.

Coming to Women’s Cricket , Australian All-Rounder Ellyse Perry swept Player of the Decade Awards in both ODI and T20I formats to be crowned as “ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade”.Here, major fun fact is that Ellyse has also represented Australia at the 2011 Women’s FIFA World Cup ,helped Australia reaching to the Quarter Finals too.

Not to forget the iconic ICC TikToker of the Decade Award bestowed upon David Warner by David Warner!

INDIA INJURED 11 VS AUSTRALIA PLAYING 11

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The Adelaide Nightmare
The Melbourne Miracle
The Great Sydney Escape
The Seige of the Gabba

Hazelwood's full delivery to off stump Pant smacks it to the long-off boundary for a winning four!, What a shot!.!

The series which started with a nightmare at Adelaide for India finished with The Siege of the Gabba. 36 and all out. The score which broke the heart of billions of fans and brought criticism from almost everyone. That was the high time when team India decided to focus on character and attitude without worrying about the results, and the rest is history.

There are matches, tournaments, trophies, and there are series like this. The Melbourne miracle would be remembered for ages. The zeal to fight, the euphoria, Adelaide's wounds, the absence of key players, and the Indian cricket team's character made it special for ages. India won this test match by 8 wickets and was on cloud nine, sky-high on confidence and ready to face the hurt, really hurt, Australian team, returning with their guns blazing. With the debutants like Siraj and Gill, India was in-it to win-it. The TV rooms' atmosphere was electrifying in India as our team has already won our hearts with their magnificent Melbourne magic through balls and bats. The whole series has never been easy for the Indian team, and chasing 400 in Sydney was challenging. The nail-biting and brilliant batting by Vihari and Ashwin at the end honestly reminded us of 'The wall - Rahul Dravid'. It was a 'blockathon' which lasted for 259 balls. The match was drawn, and India has indeed proved their character and left the Aussie players dumbstruck.

For Australia, it was their first choice, whereas India had their last eleven men standing. They have not only retained the trophy, but they've also won the series and the hearts of millions of cricket fans across the globe. What a series! This Test Series Indian cricket team has genuinely proved that it burns the brightest when the candle is on the verge of blowing out. India won the incredible series and retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. These are the Pujaras and the Pants of the world we live for- the euphoria, the heartbreak, the bruises that hurt more if you lose but won't hurt if you win. Kudos! This is what Team India is.

MAHI WAY

"Thanks a lot for ur love and support throughout from 1929 hrs consider me as Retired."

The words that resulted in happy tears of billions of people and to the end of an era. His charisma on ground and off-ground has given him a permanent reservation in the souls of our body. We still remember when he was a newbie with long hair and brought a 'style' to the Indian Cricket team. If Dhoni used to be on the crease and it's the last ball of the match, we knew it would be a helicopter shot! Our captain cool will finish it off with a 'style'! When we are talking about Dhoni, we just can't ignore his miraculous wicket-keeping skills. He used to catch our eyes while he catches the ball behind the wickets! His passion, patience, hard work, leadership skills, and numerous other qualities have made him a legend for what we will always remember him for because Mahendra Singh Dhoni is not a name, it's an emotion.

"It was nothing but lovely playing with you. With my heart full of pride, I choose to join you in your journey."

Along with M.S.Dhoni, Suresh Raina also retired from International Cricket formats on 15 Aug 2020. In an interview, he revealed that he and his captain decided to hang up their boots on Independence Day as the combination of their jersey numbers (no.7 for Dhoni; no.3 for Raina) made 73. India completed 73 years of independence on August 15, 2020. Thank you Raina and Dhoni for the great cricket you showed us. We'll miss you, Dhoni and Raina.

No-Ball, No Grade

The morning of January 26, 2021, saw the first cricket match between the students of IIT Delhi and the professors. The all-inclusive student team consisted of a diverse group of people from within the BSA family. The 12-over match began with the toss, with the Vice President of BSA Prof. Pushparaj representing the academics, and the BSA GSec Himanshu Thakur standing in for the students. The students won the toss, choosing to bat first.

It seemed to be looking bleak for the students when they lost 5 wickets within the first 4 overs garnering a meagre score of 19. Then stepped onto the field the renowned inter-IIT player Narender Reddy and alongside Himanshu Thakur, they managed to pull the score up to 48 by the eighth over. Their partnership ended when the seventh wicket fell and Himanshu walked off the field. Narender followed suit in the ninth over when he got caught out, but not before he scored a 4 and a 6 for the team. Having lost 8 wickets and with only 3 overs left, the Tailenders managed to score a few stray runs, bringing the total up to 60 for all out.

Now it was the professors' turn to bat. They were off to a very strong start with the Director Prof. Ramgopal Rao and the Deputy Director scoring 23 runs within the first 3 overs. It seemed they were close to a sure win already and that the match wouldn't last past the seventh or eighth over. However, things took a turn when Bishnoi and Himanshu took over, considerably slowing down the run rate. At the end of the eighth over, the professors needed 23 runs in 24 balls, with 7 wickets still left to spare. It almost seemed like too easy a win. Almost. The student team had the other Narender, Narender Meena come to their rescue, handing the opposition only 2 runs in an over. With 3 overs left, the profs still needed 22 runs to win. After Sunil's over, it reduced to 16 and Narender Reddy let slip only 3 runs and 2 major wickets, bringing the number of runs needed to win down to 13.

The last over brought with it it's own twists and turns. Himanshu himself bowled the last over. With the first ball being a no-ball, the opposition gained one run and a free hit. After another wide ball, the profs needed 10 runs in 6 balls - still an achievable goal. But after two singles, one run-out at the non-striker end by the bowler himself and 2 dot balls after that, the profs stood 8 runs short of a win and with just a single ball left. With one last sixer and a score of 59 runs, the professors conceded their victory to the students, who won the match by a single run!

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BSA ON LINKEDIN

Board for Sports Activities recently made its social media presence even more protuberant by joining LinkedIn. All updates about events, competitions, webinars, and fests will be posted on our LinkedIn page regularly. Follow us there!

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