

SPORTS COUNCIL INTERVIEW

DTU Times interviewed the newly-elected members of the Sports Council - Vivek Jangra (General Coordinator), Sushant Dev and Yashasvi Singh (Sports Secretaries), Dhananjay Singh (Treasurer), Rishabh Pandey (Joint Treasurer), Vivek Kumar and Muskaan Singla (Joint Sports Secretaries), Sarvagya Kumar and Anushree Mahur (Gym Coordinators), Ayush Garg and Mrigank Singh (Sports Advisors).

Since many sports are played in teams and involve contact between the players, how do you plan to ensure that these sports retain their essence without compromising on the safety precautions to be followed due to the pandemic?

We have already implemented a plan to ensure the same. We don't permit students to play in the event if they are sick or have had close contact with somebody with COVID-19 symptoms. We also ask all the students and employees to bring their own sports equipment. All participants are required to have a negative COVID test report close to the date of the game.

All the players are asked to wash their hands well and often, especially before and after touching shared equipment. Coaches, referees, umpires, and spectators are asked to wear masks consistently. The Sports Complex is cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals, and things that get touched a lot, like benches, are sanitized often. We additionally restricted the group size and limited games in which physical contact is in extensive amounts.

Students usually tend to opt for sports as their FEC due to the perception that it is easy to score well in, and not because they are interested. How do you intend to improve upon this situation?

To quash the aforementioned notion, we will make an honest effort to make FEC sports as fascinating as possible, and will attempt to make the Sports Complex a place where each student can get a chance to learn things that no class can teach.

We will make participation obligatory in FEC Sports, and will attempt to make an evaluating framework that will give greater support to students who have shown improvement in their fitness level. We will be coordinating events like cross-country race, yoga workshops, and numerous other intriguing occasions that will make Sports a fascinating FEC.

Are there any new sporting initiatives that have been planned for this year? In what way will they be different from the events that have been conducted previously?

We organized two major sports events within a month and presented DTU's first Annual Sports Meet for Faculty and Staff members, Paraakram 2021. As a team brimming with persevering, devoted, and constructive individuals, we plan to organize one of the greatest sports fests in North India when circumstances return to normal. The Sports Council will also be facilitating a tournament that encourages students from all over the country to participate. Special consideration will be given to women's sports.



CULTURAL COUNCIL INTERVIEW

DTU Times interviewed the newly-appointed members of the Cultural Council - Samarth Garg (Cultural Secretary), Divij Malik, Rashi Srivastava, Shwetang Bahadur (Joint Cultural Secretaries), Purshottam Kandhari (Treasurer), and Gautam Singh (Joint Treasurer).

What are the extra factors you will consider before organising an event since the events will be quite different this time?

This past year has been uphill and challenging for most of us and as the Cultural Council, we would like to bring the much-needed spark and rejuvenation that feels lost for ages by organising most of the events in an online seamless manner. However, if we get permission from the higher authorities, we would love to host an offline event and break the jinx of this dry spell of fest season. Nonetheless, if we get an opportunity, we would maintain social norms like social distancing, sanitization facilities throughout the campus area, and have stricter scrutiny to promote hygiene standards. Mandating contactless payment services at food stalls, seamless registration, and map guide via our extended digital platforms (app & website).



With all the work shifting online, how will you, as a team, adapt to this very different work environment? What are the major difficulties you think you are going to face during this?

In any situation, experience and teamwork are the two things that are instrumental for success. In the past year since the university was closed, we've attempted to foster these two attributes with various online events such as Engifest 2.0 — Quarantine Edition, Farewell '20, Orientation '20, and Freshers' Fiesta '21. Building on the

learnings and success of these events, we hope to once again successfully pull off all the planned events during these trying times.

The biggest challenges to address in this situation are to ensure that there is effective communication and coordination in the team and that the lack of the offline festive vibe does not hamper the enthusiasm. Also, while we may have pulled off a few online events in the past year, there are some cases where we are in uncharted waters and would have to learn to tackle these situations on the job.

How do you plan to foster engagement between the various cultural societies in the university and the new students joining us in this session?

We foresaw that this might be a hurdle somewhere back in October, and so we did our best to not let this situation arise in the first place. First off, we organised an orientation, introducing all the cultural societies to the newbies. Second, we created an official Discord server of the DTU Cultural Council and took the responsibility to increase the engagement and cater to the curiosity and doubts of the freshmen. The channel is predominantly used for the virtual Nescafe, OAT, Micmac meetups, and gaming nights by the new batch. Third, an official Instagram account was created to publicise information about various cultural societies and major happenings inside the university.