

THE DAILY EXHAUST

Issue Three



EDITORIAL

A booth is the heart of a fest press. Owing to heavy rain and storms, the booth was not functional for the better part of the day. Most writing and designing took place remotely. While work was following the same timeline as usual, there was something missing. To actually sit in the booth, surrounded by fellow club members, and edit and design is a feeling. That is what a fest press is about. It is not all sentimental, though. The fun part was Akshatha crying about fans falling and the booth being in shambles and how we could fix it (girl).

Tomorrow is the last day of our coverage. It feels surreal; how are we through it already? I will be allotting articles now—for the last time—because when I sit down to write this editorial tomorrow, I won't have an issue to allot articles for. Phew. It really is bittersweet.

And it is 3:48 AM, so no pretty number today.

In another editorial,
Harshita

TEAM

Aarjav, Adaa, Anurag, Anushka, Avi, Keshav, Mizaan, Nandinee, Riya, Sahaj, Shaz, Zehaan;

Aditi C, Aditi M, Aditya, Akshatha, Anantshree, Gowrav, Harshita, Iyer, Kavya, Krishnam, Navin, Samarth, Sury, Vedit, Yash;

Adhvaith, Aniruddha, Anshuman, Esha, Ishaan, Garvit, Gurekas, Harsh, Nandini, Nishit, Shreyas, Shivansh, Siddharth, Stuti, Tarun G, Tarun S, Vagisha, Vivegan;

Swimming

The swimming events in the fest are to take place over two days; Day 2 and Day 3 of BOSM 2023. The fixtures were held at a venue outside the campus; the 25-meter pool of the Rakesh Academy, divided into five lanes. All the competitors from the many competing teams gathered at Gym-G and were bussed to the venue early in the morning, with the competition kicking off at around half past eight.

Professional swimming events take place in one of four swimming styles- Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly Stroke. The first event in the morning was the 400-meter Freestyle Men. There were five participants in this event, with Ansh Rastogi the captain of the home team winning the Gold Medal, Aviral Jain from O.P. Jindal winning Silver, and Mridul Sharma from Bennett University winning Bronze. This event was followed by the 200-meter Breaststroke Men. There were only three competitors in this event, all from BITS Pilani, ensuring podium finishes for all participants. The standings were as follows; Swapnil Sen with the Gold Medal, Himanshu Sharma with the Silver Medal, and Aayush Gupta with the Bronze Medal. Then followed the 100-meter Backstroke Men. This event saw the participation of four swimmers, with Raghav Rane from Bennett University winning Gold, Aviral Jain from O.P. Jindal winning Silver and Aryan Saxena from BITS Pilani winning Bronze. The fourth event of the morning was the 100-meter Backstroke

Women. Only three swimmers competed in this event with Simran Badhwar from Shri Ram placing first and Muskan Sangwan & Swara Popat from O.P. Jindal placing second and third respectively.

The next event, the 100-meter Freestyle Men saw the participation of 12 competitors, which required the organization of multiple Heats, due to the fewer number of lanes. Ansh Rastogi from BITS Pilani, Atharv Agarwal from Shri Ram, and Raghav Rana from Bennett University got podium finishes, winning the gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively. The sixth event, the 100-meter

Freestyle Women too saw 12 participants, with Suhani Rungle from Shri Ram winning gold, Poorvajha Pratap from O.P. Jindal winning silver, and Isha Bhatia from BITS Pilani winning bronze. The 50-meter Butterfly Stroke Men saw an interesting result, with Divyansh Arora from Shri Ram winning the gold, Ishaan Nagarkatti from O.P. Jindal winning the silver and two competitors; Atharv Agrawal from Shri Ram and Swapnil Jain from BITS Pilani sharing the bronze. The 100-meter Breaststroke Women saw four participants with Ishita and Vranda Dhawan from O.P. Jindal winning Gold and Silver respectively and Dishita Nagi from Bennett University winning Bronze. The ninth event of the morning was the 50-meter Backstroke Men. There were a total of ten

competitors in this event, and the winners were Raghav Rana from Bennett University coming in first place, Divyansh Arora from Shri Ram placing



second, and Ishaan Nagarkatti from O.P. Jindal coming in third place. The final swimming events of the day were the 4 x 50-meter relay for both Men and Women. In the Women's competition, the team from O.P. Jindal won the gold, with Bennett University winning Silver, and BITS Pilani (A) winning Bronze. The Men's event saw only three teams compete, with O.P. Jindal winning gold, BITS Pilani (A) obtaining Silver and BITS Pilani (B) winning Bronze.

At the end of all fixtures, the Captain of the home team, Ansh Rastogi agreed to answer a few questions from the BOSM English Press. Of his expectations, the captain said that though it had been quite low as the outstation teams were expected to be very tough competition, he was glad that the team had ended day 1 with a haul of three golds, two silvers and six bronze. He stated his confidence that the team would perform to the best of its ability in the Day 3 events too.

Ultimate Frisbee

The Ultimate Frisbee final match was played between St. Stephen's College's "Hawabaaz" and Ashoka University's "Hammerheads" on Day 2 of BOSM on the football ground. The match saw a small audience, limited only to the home team's players and the substitute players from the competing teams.

A mixed-gender sport, with a male-female ratio of 5:2 players on the field at all times, the game does not require referees. Instead, the players are required to sort out fouls amongst themselves within a 30 second timeframe, keeping "the spirit of the game" in mind. The game began with Ashoka's "Hammerheads" playing defence. Multiple turnovers occurred, with no team scoring. Finally, St. Stephen's College scored the first goal. Eighteen minutes in, Ashoka scored their first goal as well bringing the score to 2—1. The match remained closely contested till half-time during which St. Stephen's was in the lead with a score of 5—4. The game continued with Ashoka levelling the playing field by bringing the score to 5—5. Although Ashoka put up a strong defence, a player from St. Stephens hucked the disc across the field, resulting in them taking the lead with a score of 7—5. With fifteen minutes left, the game got more intense as the teams were tied. However, the tides soon turned with Ashoka in the lead for the first time with a score of 8—7. Shortly after, two fouls occurred consecutively, both of which were resolved quickly.



The rare occurrence of a Callahan, resulted in a point for St. Stephens and thus a tie. With the score at 8—8 and just eight minutes left, both the teams were under high pressure. Although supporters of both teams were cheering fervently, neither team was able to score, with both putting up a tough defence. Ashoka changed the scoreboard, bringing it to 9—8, but St. Stephens put up a strong fight and evened out the score yet again. With 90 seconds left and neither team being able to score, the game had to be extended to determine the winner. Tensions ran high as the minutes ticked by and both the teams served to be tough competition to each other. The spectators were on their toes as they watched a player

from Ashoka launch the frisbee in the air, aiming to pass it to another player who was standing in the endzone, but she was unable to catch it. Then in a turn of events, a player ran from the other end and dove for the frisbee just as it was about to touch the ground, concluding the match with Ashoka winning by a score of 10—9.

Loud cheering erupted from the sidelines and from the team members as they celebrated their victory. Sanchita, Ashoka's captain, remarked, 'I'm really excited that we won this. It was a really intense tournament and we've played them multiple times before but we've always lost to them. So, it was really exciting that we won'.



Amalgam 2.0

Amalgam 2.0, organized by the Hindi Drama Club, kicked off on Day 2 of BOSM at 7:45 PM, after a delay of fifteen minutes. The event took place in the J C Chaudhry NAB Auditorium. The venue was filled to the brim with students and professors alike. The crowd cheered as the actors set up the stage for their plays. The event consisted of five acts in total.

The first act was called "Monkey Paw". This act explored the ominous background of a village in Assam called Mayong. The act was set in the house of a nuclear family with three members —

The
from

Keshav Nath, his wife Leela, and their son Prashant. supporting character — Mr Guha — had just returned a trip to Mayong to satiate his thirst for knowledge of black magic. The story unravelled with Mr Guha providing Keshav with a dead monkey's paw, which granted wishes, but came with deadly repercussions.

The end of the act was met with tremendous applause.

The event continued with the second act — a comedy called "I do, you die". It began with a husband and a wife sitting together and watching a documentary on serial killer Ted Bundy. This led them to wonder who would win if they fought each other to the death. As the actors dug into their roles, the comic relief provided by the arguments and timely puns prompted laughter and applause.

The act that followed was called "Beekeeping". Another comedy, the main characters of this act consisted of an interviewer and his guest Manjunath. Manjunath was a melittologist who had been invited on national television for an interview. The highlight of this act was the constant interruption of the interview due to the interviewer's hysterical eccentricities. The story moves on, with the interviewer interrupting Manjunath with several inappropriate sounds. The eventual irritation and funny response of a perturbed Manjunath invited applause and whistles. The fourth act, called "Inaayat", captivated the audience in an emotional story about an autistic girl with an abusive father. Her attachment to her grandfather is highlighted in the story. When her grandfather dies, her father tries to coerce her into transferring her inheritance to him. The story explores an emotional viewpoint and focuses on the fact that not all blood is family. This shift in genres greatly appealed to the audience, who responded with resounding applause.

The final act was called “Mind Games”, with a mind-boggling story and a strong sense of suspense. The act was set in the Fairfields Mental Asylum. The main characters of the story were a psychological doctor, and a writer who was interested in investigating the mind of a serial killer.

The plot unfolds when questions are asked, answers given, and memories explored. The sudden plot twists and identity crises of the writer did justice to the act and kept the audience on their toes throughout its duration. With the end of

the final act, the auditorium thundered with applause. The event ended on an emotional note with the juniors of the club bidding farewell to their seniors, Saumitra Thakur and Vedang Choudhary, who were delivering their final performances as members of the HDC.

Basketball (Boys): Sikh Freak matchup

In an extremely competitive match between the Basketball A Team of BITS Pilani and IIT Delhi, the host team emerged victorious by a narrow margin of two points.

BITS Pilani won the tip-off and started their attack from the get-go, drawing a foul on the first play of the game. However, both free throws were missed, setting a pattern for the quarter to come. Both teams got off to a rocky start, turning the ball over frequently till IIT Delhi finally capitalised on a fast break to even the scores. The first quarter saw both teams racking up numerous fouls. After calling for a strategic time-out, IIT Delhi started to find their rhythm by converting a couple of jumpers, however, BITS retaliated soon in the second quarter by forcing turnovers and tying the game again at six apiece. The pace of the game quickened as the home team staged a comeback effort, surging ahead with a 9–0 run to take the lead at 17–15, with player #34, Gobind Singh executing clean blocks.

Meanwhile, a spirited barrage of heckling in Hindi emanated from a particular BITSian spectator. Quotes such as ‘Basketball ke liye bhi coaching kar leni chahiye thi’ and ‘yahan pe quota nahi chalta’ were heard. The rest of the crowd was no less enthused, with prominent chants aimed at distracting the visiting team members from their free throws that could be heard loud and clear. On the other hand, the supporters of IIT Delhi were solely the benched members of the team itself.

The score came to be tied at 23 by half-time, however, the audience was left counting on their hands due to the absence of a scoreboard. The third quarter started off similar to the first with both teams missing shots till BITS hit a three-pointer off their own rebound from a missed free throw. IIT Delhi converted their free throws to even themselves yet again and started comfortably hitting all their shots, largely credited to their player #5, Sandhu. Being the tallest player in the match, Sandhu showed a nearly perfect conversion rate, remaining on the court for the entirety of the game.



The lead kept switching hands and the home team displayed some great passes. An impressive reverse layup was executed by player #24, Dharam.

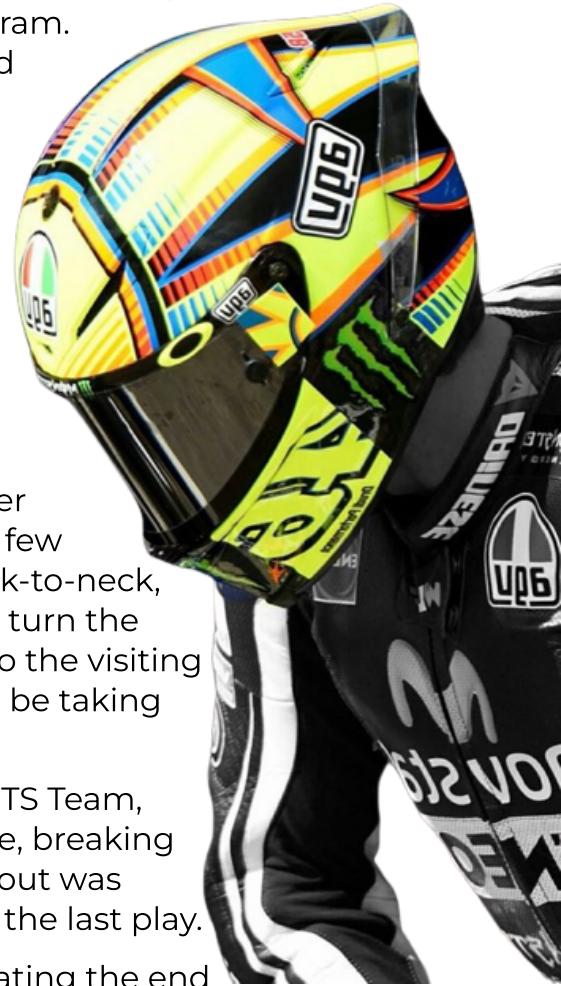
The only first-year on the team, player #30, Anish, executed several skillful fast breaks as well.

The BITS team started attacking the paint at the start of the fourth quarter to try to get back into the game. The opponent team provided them with good competition and a series of shots were continuously strung from both teams throughout the final quarter.

Tensions in the audience ran higher by the minute, with numbers spilling over the bleachers and the energy palpable. Chants of 'Reservation' also echoed for a minute from the agitated home crowd. The fast-paced final quarter also left the crowd inquiring about the score constantly. A few failed free throws from the home team kept the score neck-to-neck, but a clean lay-up by player #4, Akshay Shukla, seemed to turn the tide back in BITS's favor. A flagrant foul was also charged to the visiting team during the final quarter and the players appeared to be taking the pressure, turning over the ball unnecessarily.

As the match neared its conclusion, player #21 from the BITS Team, Deepan Roy, scored a floater with just ten seconds to spare, breaking the tie and winning the match for the home team. A timeout was called by IIT Delhi to strategise, but no points were won in the last play.

The home team celebrated as the final whistle blew, indicating the end of an intense match. Soon after, the home team called for the audience to chant out 'Sandhu' in a display of sportsmanship and to acknowledge the player's exceptional performance.



Chess

Nine teams are participating in the chess tournament at BOSM 2023. The tournament is being conducted in the Swiss style — a non-eliminating format that features a fixed number of rounds — significantly fewer in number than a round-robin. The third round concluded on Day 2 of BOSM, with two rounds left to be completed.



BITS-A secured victories in both their matches, beating BITS-C and IIT Roorkee. A member of the team commented, "[Aditya] SSV played amazingly well and his unbeaten streak continues." On the other hand, BITS-B had a tough day — losing to IIT Delhi and drawing against BITS-C. Meanwhile, BITS-C managed to defeat G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology. After the matches concluded, Kairav Parikh — the captain of the BITS chess team — expressed pleasure with BITS-A's performance, calling it 'great as expected.' He added that the C team had been performing decently well and while BITS-B had trouble with the first game of the day, they recovered well by the second one.



When asked how the team reflects and learns from their defeats, Kairav asserted that the team likes to 'take one game at a time'. He further mentioned that while the team analyses their games, they do not dwell on their losses, and instead concentrate on the next game.

Discussing the competition ahead, he mentioned that the pairings for the next round had not been determined yet. Nevertheless, the team had already played most strong teams such as IIT Delhi and IIT Roorkee, but not BITS-B. He remarked that the atmosphere in the team was 'chilled out' and that everyone was enjoying the game. 'Especially for Team A, the tournament is pretty much over,' he added.

After three rounds, BITS-A holds the top spot comfortably with nine match points. IIT Roorkee is in the second position with six points. IIT Delhi, BITS-C, O.P. Jindal, and G.B. Pant are tied with four points each. BITS-B and SRM reel further behind with two each, and JPIT with one point. On a concluding note, Kairav wished the best of luck to all the teams for the upcoming rounds.

Volleyball (Boys)

The volleyball match between Swami Keshvanand Institute of Technology (SKIT) and Pannalal Girdharlal Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College (PGDAV) kicked off under rainbows and orange-tinted skies.

Starting half an hour early due to rain concerns, the game saw PGDAV swiftly highlight the skill difference between the two teams. SKIT spent the initial few minutes attempting to catch up to PGDAV's lead. They gained a few points due to PGDAV sending the ball out of bounds, but soon lost their small lead. At a score of 16–13, SKIT called a timeout but was unable to seize the lead afterwards.

PGDAV continued to feint several shots throughout the remainder of the first set, to which SKIT had no response. In contrast, SKIT lost a lot of points due to the ball hitting the net during their possession. Presumably due to the pressure from the huge point disparity, SKIT started missing straight spikes as well. The set ended with a score of 25–16, in PGDAV's favour.

After switching sides, the SKIT team was determined not to lose the second set, and quickly scored a couple of points. A significant portion of the crowd huddled up towards SKIT's side and began to cheer, to boost their morale. Multiple feints and disorderly formations made SKIT's play more unpredictable, making it difficult for PGDAV to respond. Long rallies ensued, with SKIT committed to keeping the ball in play; frequently running out of bounds to send it back.

The PGDAV coach became visibly frustrated with his players and started to reprimand them. They regained the lead, and with the score at 13–10, SKIT was forced to call another timeout. Due to misread fouls and PGDAV sending the ball out of bounds, the score eventually tied at 15–15. Subsequently, many of PGDAV's aggressive spikes down the middle were successfully shut down by SKIT's middle blockers.



Unsurprisingly, the PGDAV coach eventually yelled at the referee and argued that he was unjustly giving them fouls. The set remained neck-and-neck, with no team ever gaining a lead of more than three points. PGDAV started to gradually apply pressure, and SKIT crumbled under it in the longer rallies. SKIT could be seen clawing their way back as they sent a spike down the right half of the court that swiped off PGDAV's middle blockers' palms and hit the other side of their court. As the rallies got longer, SKIT proceeded to make more errors and give PGDAV easy points. The set — and with it, the match — ended disappointingly for SKIT as PGDAV closed it at 25–21.

Tennis

BITS Team A was up against Ashoka for the qualifying match. In BOSM, a “best of three” system is followed, where a singles match and a doubles match are first played. If a team wins both, they are through to the semifinals.

The match was off to a rocky start for BITS A, evidently struggling to keep up. There were a lot of well-placed and powerful shots by Sarthak from Ashoka, and Yash from v BITS A was unable to respond well to them. Ashoka led the match at the beginning, and BITS A tried to shift the tides by tying the score to 3–3. But Ashoka went on to have a clean victory by scoring three more sets consecutively and winning the match 6–3.



The doubles match was played by Yash again, along with Aditya Sriram, the Sports Secretary. The duo dominated the match at the beginning, winning the first three sets consecutively. Aditya's clear command at the front of the court didn't allow a lot of room for feints, and Yash delivered by clearing up the long shots extremely well. But Ayaan and Pranav from Ashoka caught up to them later, matching their score with BITS'. BITS A regained their composure, and with the two players supporting each other throughout the match, the home team won the match 6–3 by scoring the remaining sets consecutively again.

The deciding game—the singles—was played by Joshua from BITS A and Siddhant from Ashoka. Joshua displayed the interplay of tactics and strategy and did not allow Ashoka to score that easily. He dominated the game and ended up winning with a score of 6–2, knocking Ashoka out of the qualifiers.

Snooker

The semi-final snooker matchup between the OP Jindal (B) and BITS Alumni teams, a game of precision and strategy, was a riveting contest. Each team displayed their prowess throughout the seven frames. They were engaged in a neck-to-neck competition with multiple lead changes and spectacular shots.

While most people may be familiar with the 8-ball pool, snooker provides a more intricate cue-sport experience. The objective is to rack up more points than the opponent by potting balls in a specific order. A typical game consists of 15 red and seven coloured balls with varying point values. The reds must be pocketed first, followed by the coloured balls. There are strict rules governing the scoring and order of points. Points are deducted for fouls such as potting the white ball or failing to strike the designated ball.

The first frame was a contest between Kartik Tyagi of OP Jindal (B) and Gourav Bansal of BITS Alumni (2012-2017), establishing the tone for the encounter. Kartik won the toss, and initially, Gourav took the lead, potting two red balls and the brown to secure a narrow 0–7 advantage. However, Kartik executed a strategic break with composure, pocketing a couple of reds, a brown, and a blue ball to pull the score to 13–7. Despite a momentary setback when he pocketed the white cue ball, Kartik maintained his lead and ultimately won the frame with a score of 51–33.

Other team members played the remaining frames. In the second frame, OP Jindal (B) continued to showcase their mastery, securing a 55–25 victory. The highlight was their opponent's unfortunate fouls, which handed 26 points to their team. Remarkably, OP Jindal (B) avoided committing any fouls throughout the frame. BITS Alumni came back in the third frame to win it 25–56. OP Jindal (B), however, bounced back to win the fourth frame 54–37.

With the contest tied at 3–1, OP Jindal B required one more victory to seal their spot in the final. After a series of nail-biting shots and misses, with multiple fouls committed by both teams, OP Jindal B emerged the winner by the narrowest of margins, winning the frame 51–53 and the match by 4–1.





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