

ARCANUM ARCANORUM

ISSUE 2



Editorial

Hello!

It is hard to believe that Day Two was as eventful as it was, mostly because it did not really strike me how quickly time flew by. With so much to offer in so many different spheres, Day Two truly had something for everyone.

With the day coming to an end, I hope that we at the Oasis English Press are able to succinctly and sufficiently satisfy your FOMO-induced needs and provide you with a comprehensive rundown of a lot that went down today.

I hope that the fest has been a ride, or at least a trip, so far. In any case, do stay tuned for the next issue, with more events to cover for you and more places to be for me.

Godspeed,
Akshatha.

Team

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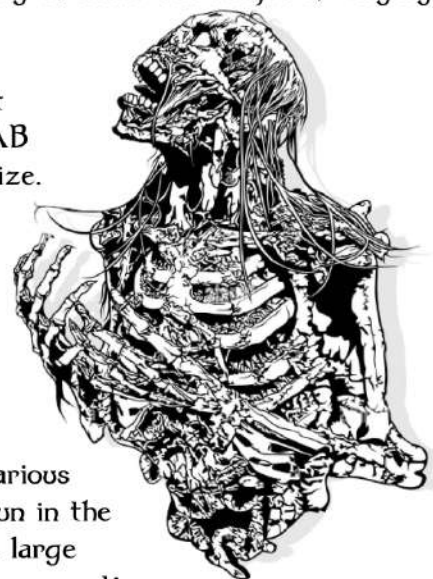
India Quiz

The "India Quiz", conducted by the English Language Activities Society (ELAS), was held on Day Two of Oasis '23. Beginning at midnight, the event lasted around five hours, during which, competitors formed teams of one or two and competed against each other over a prize pool of 7,000 rupees.

As suggested by the name of the event, the questions asked pertained to various aspects of our nation and culture. The questions tested the participants' knowledge and understanding of numerous subjects, ranging from Indian cinema and literature, to sport and history.

A member of ELAS later commented that this event received the highest participation of all quizzes held in recent times. In spite of the timing, NAB 6109 was filled to the brim with participants eager to win the coveted prize.

At the time of the event, Quizmaster Aryapriya Ganguly expressed his delight at seeing the participation for the quiz. This being the second quiz he had conducted for Oasis 2023, he was happy to see the same faces show up again, and was also pleased at everyone who showed up for the first time at India Quiz.



The preliminary round was written, consisting of 35 questions spanning various topics pertaining to India. They were required to write their answers down in the sheet provided and submit them at the end of the round for evaluation. A large majority of the initial crowd quit the competition after the first six or seven questions, which was less than a quarter of the set prepared.

Following this, the final rounds commenced. This was oral in nature, where the participants were asked questions, first in clockwise and then in anti-clockwise direction. Each set consisted of fifteen questions, which implied a grand total of 30 questions for the final round.

The atmosphere of the room considerably lightened up during these rounds, with the Quizmaster engaging the crowd, and them reciprocating his energy. The final eight teams made it through to the last round. However, one of the finalists decided to quit the competition halfway through.

Ultimately, BITSians Aditya Bhaskar and Anish Hatua came out on top as the winners of the competition. Having secured a significant lead in the earlier rounds itself, it was no surprise that the duo were the ones to grab the prize in the end.

Treasure Hunt

The Department of Informalz organised the Oasis Treasure Hunt, which witnessed a large turnout of participants this year. The Treasure Hunt had aspects that revolved around the BITS campus. The event kicked off with a substantial delay, finally starting at 1:00 AM.

The first clue started with a YouTube video with multiple words appearing one after the other. The participants had to solve a puzzle to understand that the Fibonacci sequence was to be used to cut down to eight words. To proceed, they had to find out a common theme for the words given, which gave them a clue to the crossword they had to solve. Finally, with the help of the crossword, they had to decode a sequence that was given.

The second clue involved making the groups run around campus, playing real-life "Geoguessr". The participants were given obscure pictures of locations on campus, and they had to recreate them in real life by finding the place.

In the third clue, the participants were given four Instagram accounts, and they had to figure out the "secret" of the owner of that account. After a lot of time spent by the participants on Instagram, they got some patterns of chess games, which was the next clue.

For the fourth and final clue, the few remaining teams had to recreate chess game patterns on their phones. The participants had to use the pattern names to recreate music notes on a keyboard app on their phones, and report the answers to the organisers.



'Team HariOm' was the first to report the correct answers, and was thus declared as the winner of Oasis Treasure Hunt 2023. Overjoyed by the win, the team jumped around in excitement and finally gathered around for a photo. The winners shook hands with the last remaining team and acknowledged the hard work of the organisers. Overall, Treasure Hunt 2023 was a huge success for Informalz, and they were satisfied that their hard work had come to fruition.

Street Dance

Street Dance, as the name suggests, is a street-style dance competition that features performances by teams from colleges across the country. The event was sponsored by eightfold.ai and was held at Rotunda. The event was judged by Jasica Chadha, a hip-hop artist who placed among the top-4 at the Red Bull Dance Your Style 2022 India's North Zone Final and Rahul Singh Tomar, popularly known as Invoker, who reached the top-8 stage of the same competition. The event consisted of two rounds. While the first round featured street-style performances by the participating teams, the second round consisted of face-off challenges between pairs of teams. These pairs were allotted randomly.

The first performance of the night, by the students of Kirori Mal College, started the event with a bang, with them performing on a fusion of pop songs. The next performance by Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS) was full of energy and started with Punjabi songs, which were well received by the audience. Hansraj College, which performed next, was met with tremendous applause. BITS Pilani's performance involved multiple formations and the audience especially enjoyed the girls' sequence in the middle of their performance. The next performance was by Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College (ARSD) and was also a crowd favorite.



Kishinchand Chellaram College (KC College) had a fast-paced performance that had a number of Punjabi and pop songs. The group consisted of a majority of girls and their formations elicited an overwhelmingly positive reaction from the crowd. Ramjas College's performance included a background score that was majorly pop and had several well-executed steps. College of Vocational Studies (CVS) impressed the audience with their well-choreographed routine. The last performance was by Spardha of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College (SBSC), which involved a lot of popping. The impeccable synchronization of the last two performances ensured that the conclusion of the first round was enjoyable for the audience.

In the second round the duels were – VIPS vs Ramjas and KC College vs SBSC. KC College and VIPS won their respective duels. At last, a tiebreaker duel of two songs was held between the two groups. The tiebreaker was tightly contested with both the teams performing their best, but was eventually won by KC College.

Swaranjali

Swaranjali, a musical event, was organised by Ragamalika during Oasis on Day 2. It featured two segments – 'solo' and 'group', with the solo event being held in LTC 5102 and the group event being held in SAC Hall

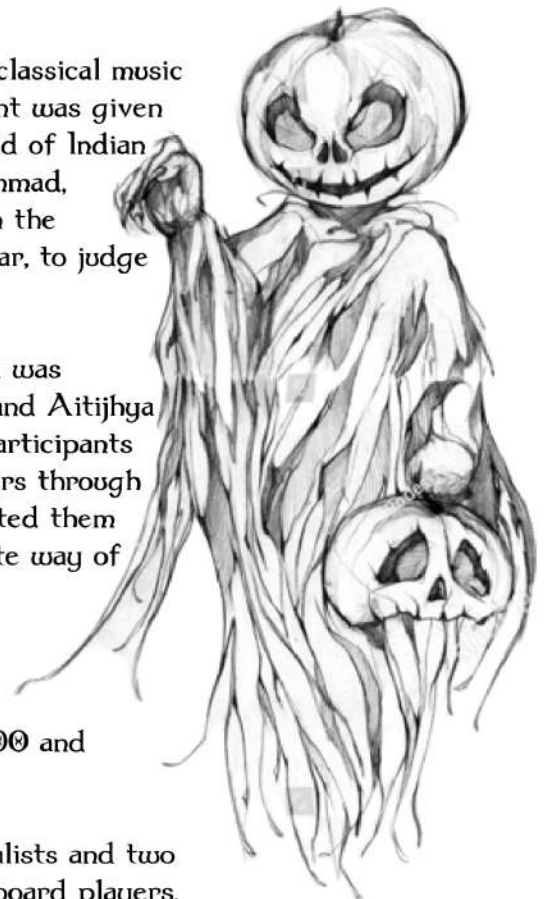
The solo event involved participants expressing their prowess in classical music through vocals, percussion and melody instruments. Every participant was given around 5 - 7 minutes to perform a piece of their choice in the field of Indian classical music only. The judge of the competition was Yar Mohammad, an adept sitarist who had also taken part in 'Spic Macay' earlier in the year. He expressed his delight on his second visit to Pilani this year, to judge the event.

The room was suspended in the melody of participants; the crowd was clapping their feet. The event, coordinated by Achintya Hebbar and Aitijhya Mondal, carried on with a very supportive environment from all participants and seniors in the room. Mr. Mohammad engaged with the members through inquisitive and personal methods of constructive criticism. He treated them as if they were his own students, and demonstrated the appropriate way of singing the students' versions..

Forty participants had registered online to showcase their talents, one of whom would go on to win the cash prize of INR 12,000. The second and third positions would receive awards of INR 7,000 and INR 5,000 respectively.

The group event consisted of groups of twelve, including ten vocalists and two accompanists. The accompanists could be tabla, harmonium or keyboard players. With six teams going head-on, the winner of this tournament would win an amount of Rs. 25,000. The judge for this event was Mr. K.K. Surothiya, who is the music teacher at Birla Public School, Pilani.

The group event concluded in the afternoon. The entire event concluded with the audience applauding the musical eloquence of the artists, with an announcement regarding the declaration of the results later.



Movie Screening

A screening event for the web series *Kaala Paani* was organised by Filmmaking Club (FMaC) in the NAB Auditorium. Originally scheduled for Day One, it however got cancelled and was shifted to Day Two.

The writer-producer of the series, Biswapati Sarkar, graced the auditorium with his presence and commenced the event at 10:30 AM. Even though the club could not screen the whole series, they did manage to provide a glimpse of the show. The series followed the story of a tribe in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands who have been struck with a mysterious illness. The plot progressed as the inhabitants found themselves in a desperate fight for survival, racing to find a cure. The show was described to have 'amazing cinematography' and 'compelling acting' by the audience.



After the screening, the audience was given a chance to interact with Mr Sarkar. The ensemble of film enthusiasts from various colleges asked a plethora of questions, hoping to gain insight from his valuable experience. The question-answer session kicked off with one of the students asking him how he cast for roles in his films. The producer replied by stating that no matter how experienced an actor was, he made them all audition for the role. Some of the actors who were great but did not fit the role were kept under his radar to cast in his next projects. Another student asked him how the producer prevented caricaturing certain ethnicities or languages, something that is so prevalent in the film industry.

Mr Sarkar answered by saying that the best way to avoid such situations was to understand their culture and include them in the film. If he found himself unfamiliar with certain aspects of their culture, he felt that YouTube was a great way to research.

One of the students asked the guest how his experience differed from working for TVF as opposed to Netflix. He shared his experience as almost the same, saying, 'My writing process for Netflix has not changed. I still write the same way as I did in my early days in TVF.'

The influx of questions continued for a while, after which the event drew to an end with FMaC presenting a memento to the guest.

Filmy Muqabla

The Hindi Activities Society (HAS) organized 'Filmy Muqabla', a quiz based on Bollywood movies, on day 2 of Oasis.

After a 30 minute delay, the event commenced at 3:30 PM. 59 teams of two registered for the quiz. There was a lot of chatter amongst participants throughout the event.

The first round had six sub-rounds with multiple Bollywood movie references and the contestants had to guess the name of the movies. The first sub-round, "Gen Bollywood" consisted of questions on facts about a Bollywood celebrity or a movie. "Dialogues" was the second sub-round, wherein contestants were given a famous movie dialogue and had to guess the movie.



In round three, "Connect", contestants were given four different movies and had to find the common link between them. "Chronological" was the fourth sub-round. In this round, a group of four scenes from a movie was shown and contestants had to put the scenes in the right order. In "Characters", the fifth sub-round, names of three characters and the year of the movie were given, and contestants had to guess the movie. In the final sub-round, "4 Connect", four images related to a single movie were given and contestants were asked to guess the movie.

After the first round, there was a break of 30 minutes. Contestants watched the cricket match while listening to music. Fifteen teams qualified for the second round, Rapid Fire, which commenced at 4:45 PM. Contestants were shown four scenes from various movies and had to answer five questions each. The room roared with excitement when Chatur's Teacher's Day speech from 3 Idiots was shown.

The winners of the event are yet to be determined. The first place winner will receive an award of INR 2,500. The first and second runner-ups will receive a cash prize of INR 1,500 and INR 1,000 respectively.

BLAB

The BITS Language Aptitude Battle (BLAB) was organized by the Department of Stage Controls after a hiatus of five years, with a prize pool of INR 8,000.

Originally conceptualized and introduced in 2005, BLAB showcases the best of speaking talent among the participants, with greater emphasis on their wit, sense of humor, and presence of mind. The competition is based on a hit BBC show, Just A Minute (JAM) and involves the participants speaking without hesitations, deviations, and repetition continuously for one minute. They have to do so without getting interrupted by the other participants, who have to point out errors in the speech as soon as they occur, according to the rules of BLAB.

The competition was judged by Mr. Karthik Ramaswami, who has been judging the event for the past 15 years. With his sharp wit and intelligent jokes, Karthik would prevent anyone in the audience from losing interest.

The preliminary round for the competition was held on Day One and the finale was held the next day. Of all the participants in the preliminary round, the best eight went on to the finale.

The event started getting competitive as it moved forward, with the participants trying to speak for as much time as they could get. Each round had a wacky rule that the participants had to follow before speaking. In one of the rounds, the participants had to make an animal sound before speaking. In another round, the participants had to talk about a meme depicting Shashi Tharoor courting a lady friend. The event concluded with Aditya H. Iyer bagging the first place.

Talking about the event, the coordinator of the Department of Stage Controls, Vaibhav Uttam, said that he was nervous prior to the event as BLAB had not been held for a while. Therefore, he had talked to his seniors who had conducted BLAB successfully during their time on campus. Overall, the event turned out to be an enriching and fun experience for each participant and attendee.



Classical Prof Show

The Classical Prof Show was organised by Raagmalika in the main auditorium. The show was a Hindustani classical flute concert and featured the renowned musicians Pt Rupak Kulkarni on the flute, Pt Aditya Kalyanpur on the Tabla, and Shri Jaykishan Hingu on flute support.

The event began with Ragamalika introducing the musicians on stage and listing their various accomplishments in the field of classical music. The Director was called onto the stage after that, to accompany the musicians for the lamp-lighting ceremony. Once lit, the Director presented each of the musicians with a token of thanks and mementos for their presence. Following this, the musicians made a few changes to the stage setup and finally began the concert. Pt Kulkarni began the concert with a flute piece in Raag Yaman. This was eventually accompanied by Pt Kalyanpur, in a well-received medley.

After the first Raag ended, Pt Kulkarni picked up the Hamsadhwani Raag. The music continued to impress the audience, and the passion of the musicians manifested itself in the concert. As the Raag ended, the auditorium resonated with the sound of applause.



Pitch Perfect

It was Day Two of Oasis '23, and the Department of Theatre (DoT) was in full swing as they organised their last event for the day, "Pitch Perfect". The event was strictly a cappella with the rules laying out that use of any instrument would lead to immediate disqualification. Six teams participated – Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Miranda House, Lady Shri Ram, Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Shraddhanand, and Kamla Nehru College. The judge for the event was Ms Shambhavi Mishra, a music teacher and opera singer from Delhi who works at The Neemrana Music Foundation.

While the event was supposed to start at 5 PM, it actually started at 6 PM due to delays in production setup after "Purple Prose" ended later than planned. The first to go on stage was Shaheed Bhagat Singh's music society "Audiophile". They performed two songs - "Breathe You In My Dreams" and "Billie Jean", which got the crowd's interest early on. The next performance was "Orpheus", by the Western Music Society of Miranda House. They performed a medley of songs ranging from church music to rap, all mixed with the song "Teeth" by 5 Seconds of Summer. The group received a great response from the crowd with everyone in attendance clapping along to the music. This was followed by a performance by the Western Music Society of Lady Shri Ram, who faced some difficulties during the soundcheck, taking up about half of their allocated time. The group began with slow, romantic tunes and quickly picked up the pace to perform songs from pop and rap genres. The audience was enthralled by the group's stage presence and cheered them on. However, since they were a minute over time, the group was penalised 5% of their total score at the end.



In the second half of performances, Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology took to the stage for a soulful rendition of the song "Hallelujah". Majority of the crowd left the NAB Audi after this segment. The penultimate team was Shraddhanand with "Somebody I Used To Know". Kamla Nehru College was the last to perform. The group had some issues with the soundcheck but were able to stay within the time limit.



They started with a pitch pipe declaring that they would perform in B flat major, following a rule that all other teams had ignored. They then went on to captivate the audience with three pieces - a classical hymn, Ave Generosa, Hozier's "Eat Your Young", and "The Greatest Show" from the soundtrack of the film 'The Greatest Showman'.

After a swift calculation of scores, the judge was ready to announce the winners. The event was won by Lady Shri Ram, and the runner-up was Miranda House with Kamla Nehru coming in third place by a small margin.

Bollywood Nite

Bollywood Nite was organised on Day Two of Oasis. The event featured the artists Vishal Dadlani and Shekhar Ravjiani, and was held at South Park. Since the artists were extremely popular among the fest attendees, the entrances to the venue were teeming with people trying to get in long after the concert had started at 8:30 PM.

Vishal made his initial appearance at 8:50 PM, beginning the main event with the song 'Om Shanti Om'. The song was accompanied by firework displays, to the visible excitement of the audience. He followed up with the song 'Bachna Ae Maseeno', and introduced Shekhar Ravjiani.

Shekhar took the stage and performed past hits such as 'Zehnaseeb' and 'Khuda Jaane'. He requested the crowd to switch on their phone's torches and wave them to the beat. With the enthusiasm evidently running high, Shekhar revealed that he would be singing two new songs released by his own label, 'Garvudaa Musiic'. He then made the audience 'rehearse' for these by teaching them the chorus. The songs were accompanied by an animated video, ending with fireworks and confetti cannons. He ended his set by promoting Garvudaa on various platforms, performing one last song, and welcoming Vishal back on stage.

Vishal followed by playing song remixes. He later sang upbeat, energetic songs such as 'Malhari' and 'Dhan Te Nan'. These were well received, greeted with loud hoots and dancing. Near the end of Vishal's set, the environment in South Park had become hazy due to the amount of dust kicked up by the dancing crowd.

Following this, Vishal invited Shekhar back onstage which was met with vigorous roaring from the audience. They performed their joint hits, including 'Jhoom Jo Pathaan', 'Chammak Challo' and 'Ghungroo'. They brought their performance to a close with these songs.

To conclude the event, singer-composer Anish Chhabra was invited onstage. He covered songs from the 2010s and 1990s while strumming the guitar. Anish praised BITS for being 'the best audience he'd performed for', claiming that it 'did not stop, only went onwards and upwards', to which the audience responded by cheering.





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