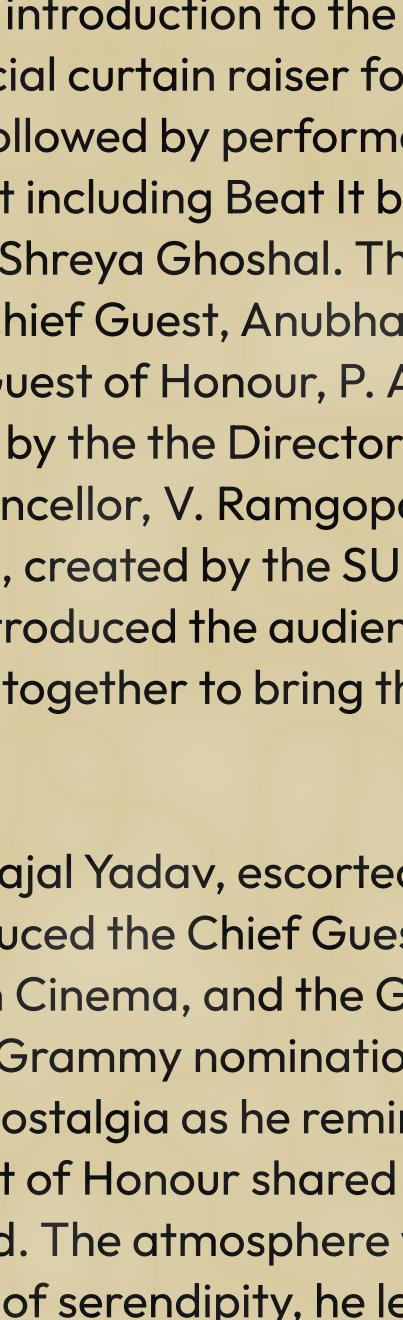




## JAPAN EXPO

The Japan Expo was an event held on Day One of Oasis '25, organised by Enactus. The said event took place at FD-III Lawns, better known as S-Lawns, from 6 PM.

The highlights for this event included Japan on Canvas, which showcased paintings and art inspired by East Asian aesthetics. Another highlight was the Yukata Wearing Booth where participants could try on the traditional kimono-style attire. The event also included a calligraphy stall where one could write their name in beautiful and elegant-looking Japanese script. The event boasted of a Traditional Games Stall where one could play classic Japanese games and a Wasabi Poison Challenge. Additionally, there was a Matcha Stall as well for the participants to sip on the authentic Japanese green tea.



The entire Expo did a magnificent job of capturing the essence of Japanese culture, art, and tradition effectively.

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## INAUGURATION

The 53rd edition of Oasis opened its doors with an Inauguration Ceremony, held within the stately confines of the Main Auditorium. Commencing after a highly predictable two-hour delay, the ceremony unfolded with an introduction to the fest theme before transitioning to the official curtain raiser for Oasis '25, produced by the DVM. This was followed by performances from the Music Club, featuring a setlist including Beat It by Michael Jackson and Mere Dholna by Shreya Ghoshal. These were interrupted by the entry of the Chief Guest, Anubhav Sinha and the two-time Grammy-winning Guest of Honour, P. A. Deepak. The event was also attended by the Director, Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai, and the Vice-Chancellor, V. Ramgopal Rao. A short video, 'The Ba\*\*\*rds of Oasis', created by the SUMT was also played, which humorously introduced the audience to the various departments that worked together to bring the fest to life.

After the Students' Union President, Sajal Yadav, escorted the guests to the stage, the anchor introduced the Chief Guest, highlighting his contributions to Indian Cinema, and the Guest of Honour, who was awaiting this year's Grammy nominations. The Chief Guest's speech was steeped in nostalgia as he reminisced about hearing Mere Dholna. The Guest of Honour shared several poignant memories from his childhood. The atmosphere was further electrified when, in a moment of serendipity, he learnt of his third Grammy nomination whilst on stage. Taking the podium, the Director addressed the attendees and unveiled the Kakatiya Rural Innovation, Technology and Implementation (KRITI) Centre, an entrepreneurial initiative funded by BITS alumni.

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## NIGHT'S WATCH

The Astro Club's Night's Watch was one of the first events of Oasis '25. Students were given the unique opportunity to see the enigmatic night sky through telescopes and binoculars during the event, a physical journey through the stars. Students could see the moon, Jupiter, the Orion Nebula, and shooting stars, among other celestial bodies this year.

Attendees reported that gazing at the stars in the chilly Pilani air from the FD-III terrace was a surreal experience, and they looked awestruck at the universe's vastness.

In addition, there was a Rick and Morty screening and a photo booth where attendees could take long-exposure pictures of themselves with the night sky behind them. They could also enjoy playing with glow-in-the-dark bands during the Night's Watch's storytelling session under the stars, when they discussed the marvels of the galaxy.

## ANDHOLIKA

The preliminaries for Andholika, a vocals competition were conducted by the Music Club on day 1 of Oasis '25. The auditions commenced at noon and ended at around 5:00 PM.

The contestants performed pieces of poetry covering a wide variety of topics—ranging from events like the Partition and the Kargil War to emotional topics such as love and loss. The event was judged by Ankush Srivastava and Jyoti Srivastava, both eminent poets. Towards the end of the event the judges presented their own pieces before the audience.

Taking the podium, the Director addressed the attendees and unveiled the Kakatiya Rural Innovation, Technology and Implementation (KRITI) Centre, an entrepreneurial initiative funded by BITS alumni.

## INTERVIEW: GUEST OF HONOUR

As the dust settled on the electrifying Oasis '25 inauguration, the Oasis English Press sat down with the Guest of Honour, double Grammy-winning sound engineer, Mr P.A. Deepak to discuss his career and thoughts on the time he had spent so far in BITS Pilani.

Mr Deepak cited an example from the pandemic where he had advised many artists to not release their music until after the lockdown, when people would resume listening to radios and students would start returning to colleges. He believed that if music stopped making money, artists would also stop creating.

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Pineapple Express performed all of their hit songs such as We're Not Done, Pineapple, Paralyse, Cloud 8.9, Color, and Uplift. They also performed covers of various songs such as Jiya Re, Chogada, Aunty Ji, DTN. After their commendable performance and infectious energy, they finished off their set with Punjabi Songs where the entire populace at South Park danced until their feet hurt.

Around midnight, right as Pineapple Express wrapped up their performance after a short break, Ritviz began his show with high, palpable energy with one of his most famous songs—Udd Gaye. Ritviz maintained the same energy throughout his performance by playing fusions of songs such as Fein, remixed with Punjabi backdrop. In the end, he played Liggi and Udd Gaye again for all of his fans who were mesmerized by his performance and seemed to have a blast. All in all, the first concert of Oasis '25 proved to be a big success.

## INTERVIEW: CHIEF GUEST

Q. How has your experience at BITS and Oasis been so far?

I think it has been a wonderful experience. It's almost as if the event has been professionally organised. The murals on the walls, which I was told were 'hand-painted', were absolutely gorgeous, and my trip to the terrace with the Astronomy Club was fantastic.

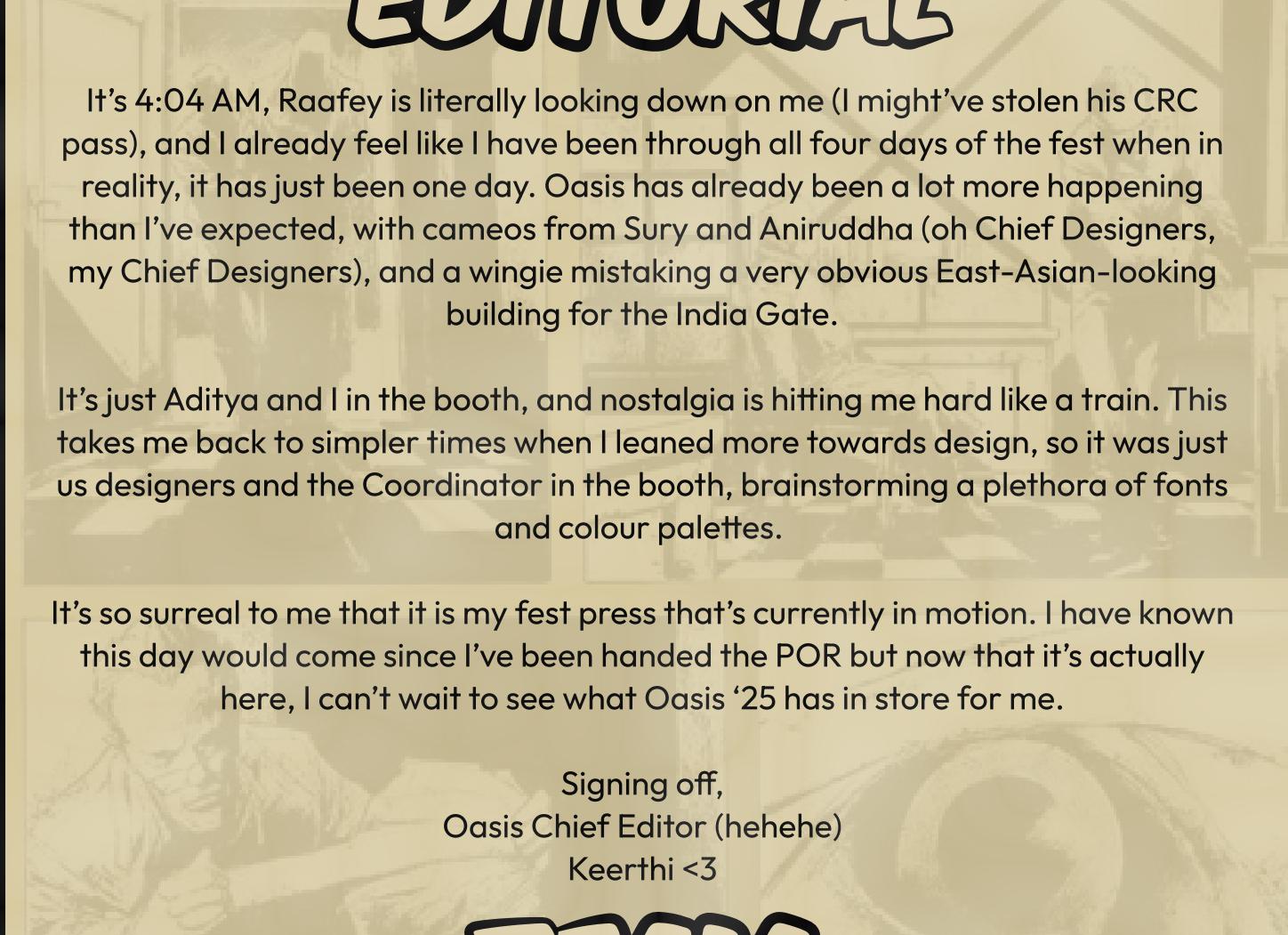
I saw glimpses of the Rotunda Rave from a distance, which looked very promising. I was wondering if you guys would go on with the party till the crack of dawn, and you did! Well done!

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## EDITORIAL

It's 4:04 AM, Raafey is literally looking down on me (I might've stolen his CRC pass), and I already feel like I have been through all four days of the fest when in reality, it has just been one day. Oasis has already been a lot more happening than I expected, with cameos from Sury and Aniruddha (our Chief Designers, my Chief Designers), and a wingie mistaking a very obvious East-Asian-looking building for the India Gate.

It's just Aditya and I in the booth, and nostalgia is hitting me hard like a train. This takes me back to simpler times when I leaned more towards design, so it was just us designers and the Coordinator in the booth, brainstorming a plethora of fonts and colour palettes.

It's so surreal to me that it is my fest press that's currently in motion. I have known this day would come since I've been handed the POR but now that it's actually here, I can't wait to see what Oasis '25 has in store for me.

Signing off,  
Oasis Chief Editor (hehehe)  
Keerthi <3

## TEAM

Adhvaith KS, Anshuman Dash, Esha Jain, Garvit Singhal, Harsh Panwar, Siddharth Garg, Shivansh Dwivedi, Shreyas Mishra, Stuti Sinha, Tarun S, Aniruddha Deshpande, Ishaan Sharma, Vivegan S

Aditya Gawade, Chandrasmita Mohanty, Ishita Sethi, Kalyani Naik, Keerthi Saripella, Kuhoo Sathe, Kunal Verma, Laavanya Datta, Moshajjar Hussain, Shreya Karnwal, Vamsi Addepalli, Kedar Athrey, Laxman Patel

Abhirup Tapadar, Aditi Baral, Aditya, Harivansh Mehta, Jayant Gupta, Latika Anand, Parasmay Acharya, Pranet Raj Lingamallu, Raafey Aziz, Saumya Goyal, Shreya Banerjee Kar, Soham Saxena, Tanvi Gangakhedkar, Anika Tyagi, Darsh Patel, Tamay Arora

Aditi Maheshwari, Adwiti Kartik, Ameya Agarwal, Anugraha A, Jagannath Pisharody, Khushi Mehta, Parth Ashwleyan, Pratyush Kathuria, Pulak Bagaria, Spanda Kulkarni, Vagisha Khanna, Varalika Goenka, Vihaan Goenka, Yash Murumkar, Adya Kochgaway, Reyansh Nangia

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The preliminaries entailed an audition for solo vocalists, who, based on their music, were assigned to either the Eastern or the Western category. The best 4 vocalists from each category—2 female and 2 male—were selected for the competition's final round.

After singing their initial song and being assigned a category, contestants were asked to sing a few songs as demonstrated by the club members. Then, based on their performance, contestants were rated on various aspects.

The mood in the room of the Music Club, where auditions were being held, became visibly excited when it was announced that the Guest of Honor, Mr. P. A. Deepak, would be visiting the room between auditions.



Upon his arrival, the Music Club performed for Mr. Deepak, playing the song they had planned for Tarang, a fusion competition that the club was participating in on Monday. It was received with applause and a few suggestions from Mr. Deepak, who then took a picture with the members of the club and signed one of the switchboards of the room. This was, according to club members, a tradition they followed whenever they got a special visitor in the room.

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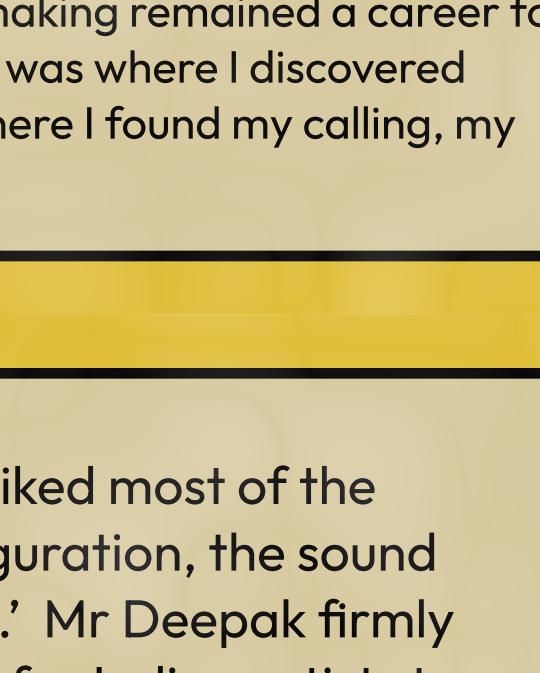
He then proceeded to talk about the newly formed Social Impact Club. Subsequently, the SU President addressed the audience and was followed by a short video produced by the SUMT.

DVM also presented a teaser for APOGEE '26, unveiling the theme—Under Steel Skies—in a short video. Next came the Stuccan writeups, featuring the customary good-natured roasts penned by their wingies. A curtain raiser prepared by FMAC was then played to inaugurate FMAC's Film Festival.

Afterwards, the Mime Club took the stage with a satirical piece on BITS Pilani's decline, structured in three acts punctuated by riveting Dance Club performances. The evening was interrupted by a momentary power cut before reaching its conclusion.

## PURPLE PROSE

On Day One of Oasis '25, the Poetry Club conducted Purple Prose, a slam poetry competition at 4:00 PM at NAB 6152. It featured ten contestants from across the country, including students from BITS Pilani, who were selected after nationwide preliminary rounds.



The audience also enjoyed original poems recited by the members of the club between rounds.

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Q. You completed your bachelor's in engineering before becoming a filmmaker. What inspired you to do so?

We're talking about the early nineteen-eighties here, and at the time, it was mostly your parents who decided your career, or at least nudged you into doing something of their choice. In their eyes, Engineering seems like a natural choice because it gives you a pathway to get settled sooner than later. But it is only after you're twenty-one or twenty-two, when you're finishing up your degree, that your own life kicks in. Your own choices kick in. I now believe it should be such that kids start making these 'choices' regarding their careers at an early age, say sixteen or seventeen, which is happening in bigger cities now. You'll excel only if you're doing what you love.

Q. So what inspired you to become a filmmaker?

Nothing, actually! So, I worked as an engineer for a year. You'd be surprised if I told you that I did not have a single degree of inclination towards making films. However, I was not really enjoying my job as an engineer. So, I quit my job. In the following year, I tried my hand at a slew of things, trying to look for what I'd enjoy most to have a career in. I tried out print and advertising ad-films, among other things, but largely nothing related to filmmaking. Eventually, I ran into an opportunity to assist on a documentary film. As a means to make some money for my monthly expenses, I took it up. On the completion of the documentary, I figured this is what I wanted to do. Then, I moved to Bombay and started my career in films. For the first decade, until 'Ra-One', filmmaking remained a career for me. Then came 'Mulk' in 2017-2018. That was where I discovered filmmaking as an art form. And that is where I found my calling, my passion, at the age of fifty-two.

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Mr Deepak said that although he liked most of the musical performances in the Inauguration, the sound system in the auditorium was 'odd.' Mr Deepak firmly believed that it was not necessary for Indian artists to create globally appealing music. He elaborated that the only thing needed to create an award-winning hit was knowledge of the target audience. He said that unnecessarily overcomplicating music may lead to a messy piece.

From a young age, Mr Deepak had an interest in pursuing a career in music. His father also supported this choice after thorough research on the financial aspects of his chosen field. He believed that now, the path to a career in music could be paved, with education of all kinds available at our fingertips.

## INDIE NITE



The first concert of the 53rd edition of Oasis—Indie Nite, commenced after a very much expected delay of 3 hours. The students of BITS Pilani, as well as other colleges, were thrilled for the concert, hooting and cheering even before the main acts took to the stage.

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