

# It's Star Wars at tech institute's online festival

In the second year of its annual technology event online, city's Don Bosco Institute of Technology has received an overwhelming response

RAJU SHELAR



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Don Bosco Institute of Technology's annual tech festival begins today, but if you are planning to visit the institute hoping for the usual posters, stalls, theme decorations and students cheering for the participants, then you are going to the wrong place. The right place, in fact, would be online.

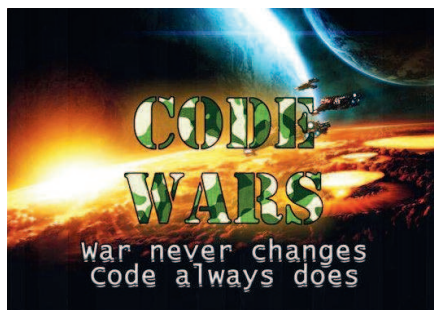
This is the second year of the institute opening the online two-day festival – Teknack – to students from other colleges. And Teknack 2013 has already seen more than 300 registrations, including about 10 participants from Boston, US.

With the theme for this year's fest being 'Race to Space', the participants need to compete virtually in space, with scenarios ranging from inter-stellar war games, space ship logo making, and space economics and space diplomacy (typing your way out of trouble).

Some other interesting events include hacking a galactic stock market, a space quiz, a Google puzzle, and a treasure hunt that would take you to the edge of the web space.

The idea of taking the tech fest online is the brain child of professor Amiya Kumar Tripathy, dating way back in 2005.

"For the first few years, this was just an intra-college festival. We weren't sure how the idea of a tech fest without individual presence was going to be received by other colleges. But last year, we made it inter-college and the response of overwhelming," said Tripathy, an associate professor with the institute's Computer Science department.

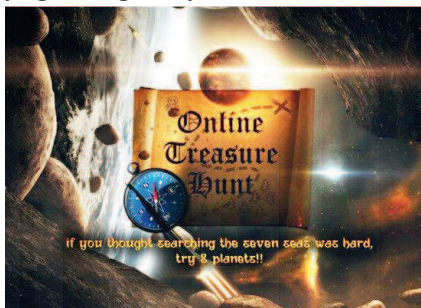


The theme for this year's fest is 'Race to Space', and participants can compete virtually in space, in scenarios like inter-stellar war games, space ship logo making, and space economics



## HOW TO REGISTER

Volunteers from the institute have already approached various colleges to get the registration done. The willing participants have been given a unique registration code. Once a code is generated, the participant can go online, log in to www.teknack.in and participate," said Sujeet Sinha, the chairman of the festival. For those who haven't registered, you can still play games in the informals section of the website. The organisers have



even set up multiple servers with back-ups to avoid any server crash.

"Last year the server had crashed due to heavy traffic. Next year, we are planning to make this a tech festival on a national level," said Mirza Ali Imran, head of computer engineering department.

"Since it's online, people from any part of the world can participate," he added.

The festival goes live from Friday midnight and will end on Sunday midnight. The winners will get a free stay in Goa.

**BHAVIN JANKHARIA**



AN INSULAR MIRROR INTO A FORTY-SOMETHING'S LIFE

Liked/hated his column? Write to Bhavin Jankharia at bhavin.mm@gmail.com

## Something about nothing (...and a little for all)

I thought only actors were typecast! After last week's piece "The Namoral Dilemma" 1, I received emails, SMSes and blog comments asking why I had written a political piece and deviated from my usual focus on day-to-day life in Matunga and Mumbai. Seriously!

There is a top 5 list of "reasons to hate marathon runners" making the rounds 2. It basically hits out at those who constantly brag and talk about running as if nothing else matters in this world. It reminded me of a conversation I had recently with a colleague who runs. She had come to the office and we immediately got into the usual patter about running times, training schedules and injuries. Then she mentioned that her husband (who doesn't run) refuses to go with her to any party or function where there are other runners from her running group. He thinks they are big bores and talk only about running, to the exclusion of all those who don't and are not interested. It's like when doctors meet and gossip about other doctors and medical issues as if others around didn't exist!

Each time I write about running, I now get comments saying "one more piece on running? Isn't there anything else you can write about?" The same happens when I write about Matunga. There are actually people living in Mumbai who don't give a damn about this suburb.

So let me tell you a modern story of the times we live in!

On Thursday, I took a taxi from the airport to the new Park Hyatt in Chennai. The driver was a wizened, old Chennaiite. As is my practice these days, I set up Google Maps to show the route map. About a km from the hotel, the driver took a left turn instead of a right. When I questioned him, he said that the Hyatt was two kms down that road. I told him that we had left it behind. He didn't agree because he had only heard of the Hyatt Regency, which was further ahead. When I insisted, he very reluctantly turned the car around. He kept asking for nearby landmarks, but I told him to trust me. We followed the voice instructions given by Maps and reached the hotel easily. He then smugly turned around and accused, "Why didn't you tell me it is opposite Lemon Tree?"

Google Maps has made travel really easy in India and works almost everywhere. The problem is that most people living in those cities and drivers in particular, refuse to accept that maps can be more accurate than their own knowledge, even though they may have never visited that building, hotel or area, ever in their life. You have to really bulldoze them into following the maps' instructions and even then they will stop and ask for landmarks and directions.

And maps helps plan running routes. There...back to running! This month, I have already done runs in Delhi, Kolkata, Coimbatore and Chennai and have managed to find great running routes just by studying maps in advance. From the wide roads around Lodi Estate, to the 2.8 km loop around Salt Lake Stadium and the Kolkata Hyatt, to the Pudur lake area in Coimbatore and the deer roaming freely in IIT Madras, I would never have been able to find any of these by just asking the hotel staff or locals.

Being typecast, non-runners' woes, disinterested Matunga readers, Google Maps and running routes! Echoing Seinfeld's, "something about nothing" 3, here's a little of something for everyone. Ha!