

OCULUS 2022

Open Mic 2022:

There couldn't have been a better kick-off to the annual techno-cultural fest of SPIT. The Open Mic 2022, conducted on 24th March in the SPIT quadrangle was special in ways we're still processing. The event was held at a place other than its conventional spot at the amphitheater. The decor was magical with fairy lights hanging from the ceilings at the Sabhagraha during a beautiful night. It was an evening filled with music, dance, acting, standup comedy, and more. Students from colleges all over Mumbai got a platform to let their creativity flow and captivate the audience. The enthusiasm and energy of everyone in attendance lifted the performances to something far greater.





We were joined by our honorable principal Dr Bhalchandra Chaudhary who was actively encouraging and supporting not only the participants but hyping up the audience as well. The brilliant musicians stepped up and delivered stellar performances making everyone groove to the tunes and melodies. Phone lights came out during the musical performances by Kaisar Katchi sir's band which was met with screaming voices of all his students. Mihir Nikam and Sakshi Patil's mashup of classic Bollywood songs was one of the most awaited performances, was a huge hit and hyped up the crowd, and many more. Harish Balasubramanian's acoustic rendition of Sham by Amit Trivedi made the crowd want to get out their phones and wave them around with their flashlights on.



Shantanu Kadam's sentimental rap about women's safety issues touched the hearts of everyone and made the audience stand up and applaud. The standup comedians Amey Agarwal, Krishna Pandey, and others had the crowd laughing at their relatable jokes and amazing stage presence. Atman Ainapure made jokes relatable to the whole SPIT crowd and his friends. Their scripts had tons of jokes which tickled the audience's funny bone and hardly let them breathe.





Our alumnus Siddhesh's performance capped off a wonderful night. This was a performance made on the crowd's demand after a lot of cheering. The event was wrapped up with a final vote of thanks by the editor-in-chief, Sharli Kude. SPark, MUDRA, and Oculus did a wonderful job and made sure that the event was conducted smoothly.

"The event was a great success as the students were itching to attend an offline event. All the audience members and the participants were really enthralled and ecstatic by the end of the event. There is no greater feeling for an organizer to see smiles at the end of an event.", says Manan Savla, Managing Editor at SPark.



IPL AUCTION

The player is sold in 3..2... The IPL auction event took place on the 26th and 27th of March under the banner of Oculus. A blockbuster event with a thrilling atmosphere and a fusion of the game of cricket and the auction process. The event being held on college premises unlike the last year added to the excitement and helped in capturing the essence of a real-life auction. So the question arises, If someone had no prior experience of being in an auction atmosphere, could they have participated in the event? The answer is an absolute yes! So let's understand the rules and the overall aesthetics of the event.

Every participating team was given a fixed amount of 90 crores to buy a team from the pool of teams that have traditionally been part of the IPL and a set of 11 players for their respective teams. The participating teams were divided into slots over the two-day event. After all the auction proceedings, a total of 120 players went under the hammer. Each player was given a single overall score which was calculated based on the player's performance in three stages of the game-powerplay, middle overs and death overs. There were some legendary players such as Sachin Tendulkar, Jacques Kallis, Kapil Dev etc included in the pool, for teams to have them in their overall 11 and boost their team score. The Master Blaster, Sachin Tendulkar, for example, was the highest-the rated player in the pool with astonishing 96 points.





As we know, any good game played is incomplete without its twists and turns, and the organizers of the event keep this in mind with power-ups for the teams to grab: The POWER CARD, GODS EYE and the most exciting one-the YORKER card. For example, if a team had a Yorker card and was the second-highest bidder in the line, it could block the player from going to the highest bidding team and include the player in their team. Every slot came with a different story, In some cases, there was nail-biting competition with teams separated by single-digit points only, whereas in others a single squad dominated other teams with considerable differences in points.Throughout the event, the organizing committee played a crucial role in micromanaging different slots with the same enthusiasm while maintaining the decorum of the entire event. Rules were regularly shared with the participating teams through the course of the event to avoid confusion and last-minute hassles. Auctioneers were the heart of the auction process and worked in great capacity with the participating teams, boosting their morals and making the entire process easy-going and interesting to be part of.





Each participating team, irrespective of winning and losing came out of the room filled with adrenaline and a sense of happiness, supporting the testimony: this was an event not to be missed.



E-SPORTS

This year's Oculus eSports event was 3 days of fun and thrill, featuring adrenaline-fuelled games like Valorant, and FIFA along with the game of wit and wisdom: Chess to name a few. The event was well appreciated, with colossal participation in all the games.

The initial matches for Valorant were conducted online, with two moderators spectating each match to ensure fair play. A professional streamer was contacted to stream and moderate, the matches for the finals. There were a total of 18 teams who battled their squads to clinch victory. The winners, Team Shuriken, and the runners-up, Team Knoobs, bagged cash prizes of Rs 5000 and 3000, respectively. Along with this, Chess was conducted in online mode as well. It was a league-style tournament hosted over the popular online chess platform, Lichess. The games were all played in the Blitz format. It was indeed a battle of the brains between the 22 bright-minded participants. Finally, Samyak Patodi outsmarted his opponent Aditya Potdar to win the tournament in the finals. The winner and runners-up received exciting cash prizes.

Although the aforementioned games were both a thrill to watch, the event's spotlight was the fun gaming station set up in Room 305, with consoles and various games. Players could come and chill with their buddies for an hour at minimal costs and enjoy the console gaming experience. It featured fun games such as FIFA and WWE. This initiative got a great response from the crowd, and it was enjoyed a lot bythe participants. Moreover, the participants received vouchers worth Rs 1000 for NoEscape.



S.P.I.T MUN 2022

A MUN is an interactive educational activity in which students simulate the workings of the UN or one of its many organs, agencies or affiliated bodies. Students from colleges all over Mumbai researched their assigned member states, the UN body on which they would be seated, and the topics for their simulation, for the SPIT MUN 2022 conducted on the 5th and 6th of March.

The seventh edition of the annual Model United Nations Conference of SPIT was conducted as a pre-event to the official techno-cultural fest of SPIT- Oculus 2022. The experienced delegates got to brush up on their MUN skills and the first-timers garnered some valuable experience which will stay with them forever.





The committees this year included the All India Political Parties Meet(AIPPM) and the Disarmament and International Security Committee(DISEC).

The agenda for the AIPPM committee was the discussion of the laws of digital currency in India and the formation of legal digital currency in India. This committee was headed by Mithil Inamdar as its Chairperson. The portfolios of the delegates were politicians of the respective political party assigned to them. The quality and tone of the debate were at times dramatically different from the "real" AIPPM.





The agenda for the DISEC committee was the proposed Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, a longstanding proposal to prohibit the possession and use of nuclear weapons in the Middle East which has not been implemented yet.

The laborious day two was followed by a closing ceremony where the efforts of the delegates were highly admired through various new ideas and enjoyed the applause of their great victory. Mr Manav Singh along with Dharmil Doshi blessed the ceremony with their presence. The award for the best delegate was won by the delegates of Mexico, in addition to that several delegates were awarded special mention and verbal mention for their remarkable new thoughts on nuclear weapons free zone. This includes the USA, Egypt, Somalia, and Syria.





The day ended with a fun-filled motion for entertainment. The participants taking part in MUN for the first time garnered some valuable experiences which would help them build a good foundation for their future activities. The experienced delegates got to improve upon and make use of their existing MUN skills. This was the first offline MUN of SPIT in 3 years. The overall event was filled with great joy and happiness which led to great success in the end.



VIRTUAL STOCK MARKET

The virtual stock market, a flagship event of the annual techno-cultural Fest: Oculus, was a virtual stock market simulation held on the 26th and 27th of March 2022, at the main entrance hall of Sardar Patel Institute of Technology. Participants came from all over, from SPIT as well as from outside, eyeing the prizes and hampers worth Rs. 35000!

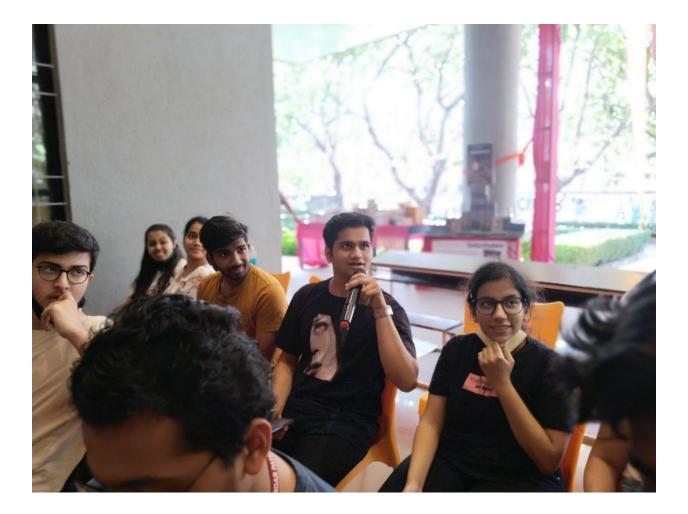


A mind gruelling and intense affair, the contestants were put through an imaginary simulation with the craziest of storylines and news with various characters, who through their dealings and businesses, affected an array of imaginary stocks like drugs, guns, gold, aviation, oil, and infrastructure.



Participants could use an imaginary currency (V\$M coins) of 1 Crore and trade these stocks according to their knowledge of how the dynamic market works depending on the news provided for each round.

At the end of each round a leaderboard was displayed based on the profits earned by each team and the one with maximum returns after all the 5 rounds, was declared the winner. There were also some hampers for people willing to perform on the spot while the tech team did the evaluation of the scores. The event was a huge success with participants having fun regardless of the results.





"The storyline was amazing and especially the memes in between, also the fact that it was beginner-friendly, made the event even better! From the results we concluded that to understand the market, you must first understand the people and their perceptions", says Arsh Raina, one of the participants in the event.



FE BOOTCAMP CODATRON

Codatron, arguably this year's most successful coding event held in our college, was an online coding competition held exclusively for the first-year students, giving them a platform to express their skills in the domains of critical reading and analytical thinking. It gave an opportunity for the students to use their newfound programming skills, and execute them in an official sense.

Codatron was a subset of the FE Bootcamp, which was an attempt at teaching Python, a programming language, to first-year students. The FE Bootcamp was a two-day event, consisting of online lectures held by the seniors of our college, namely, Aditya Kharote, Aaditya Meher, and Kartik Menon, who also conducted several assignments and doubt-solving sessions.

The event, with the participation of more than one hundred students, was beyond successful. It exposed the freshers to the real-world competitive programming scenario, making them ready for the same.

Omkar Rao stood first in the competition, Mann Bhanushali stood second and the third position was occupied by Suraj Iyer.



LOCKOUT AND KNOCKOUT

Lockout and Knockout was an online event conducted by the Oculus Coding League which was open to SEs and above. The event consisted of two rounds, namely, 'Lockout' and 'Knockout'.

Knockout was your standard coding competition which was held over a period of two hours, the top 8 coders made it to the next round, Lockout.

Now, Lockout was something unique and interesting. In Lockout, once a question got one correct submission, the points for that question would go to the respective participant and nobody else would be able to acquire those points. It was conducted on Hackerrank and the Lockout system was implemented by informing the participants if a problem had been solved or not. They were informed on a WhatsApp group and on the website itself.

Harshvardhan stood first in the competition, Tarun stood second and the third position was occupied by Omprakash.

"It was a fun experience, a lot of people participated and the questions were interesting, neither too easy nor too difficult. The competition was tough but friendly. Got to do competitive programming after a long time and realized it's still fun. A great event overall.", says Jai Patel, one of the participants of the event.



STACKED SQUAD

Stacked Squad, an online technical event of the annual techno-cultural fest OCULUS was a tournament-style team event. The event consisted of two rounds, Round one taking place on the 20th of March and Round 2 taking place on the 27th of March.

It was especially mind-gruelling as the competition was intense among the different teams that took part in the event. These teams competed with each other to qualify for the next round with a twist of a bidding round.

The rules were elaborately laid out for each round. Among the many teams that took part in the event, only ten were to be selected for Round 2.

The first round consisted of 6 questions with varying levels of difficulty but was equally met with sheer enthusiasm and intelligence displayed by all participants. The second and final round consisted of teams bidding on premium test cases and problem statements. Their performance in the first round consisted of points that became the currency with which they bid.

The event went very well as a whole and was carried out very smoothly thanks to the OCULUS committee and subcommittee who did an amazing job at handling the event, making people more excited to join in next year as well.



WAR OF BRANCHES

Dance is the hidden language of the soul. It's a poem in which each movement is a word, a way to express and enjoy the human spirit. During the evening of the 26th of march, SPIT witnessed one of the most awaited dance competitions of the year – the War Of Branches. With passionate and expert judges such as Sawan sir and Vrushaali ma'am, the event kicked off. The swarming crowd that had gathered in the quadrangle of SPIT displayed the excitement and enthusiasm of the audience towards the dancers of their branch and were eagerly waiting for their branches to put their best talent forward. The students from all the five departments were prepared and at their best.





The first to perform was the branch of ETRX. Their dance set the stage on fire with their powerful performance. The participants left everyone awe-struck with their moves on the melodious beats of the songs to which they danced so effortlessly.

The second was the team of MCA. They captured the crowd's attention with their amazing moves while being adorned in colourful costumes which attracted the entire audience.

Following MCA, the next team to perform was COMPS. Their performance was spectacular. They had the crowd paying rapt attention to their dances. The eye-catching performances of Siddesh Sonawane and his company were mesmerising. Their vigour resonated with the audience, leaving the crowd speechless.





Next in line was EXTC, the most energetic team of all putting forth their best performance to get a shot at winning the WOB. The audience's excitement went high as soon as they started dancing in sync with the tune of the instruments being played in the music.

The final branch to perform was IT. Nikhil Motwani won everyone's hearts with his outstanding moves and flexible steps. With a little bit of drama, a little romance, and a lot of enthusiasm, the dancers concluded their vibrant performance. The cheers of the crowd echoed the energy of their performance.

War of Branches has been established as a legacy in SPIT. It is always great to see the zeal in the participants and the large crowd that lightens the lamps in the evening. The event was a fusion of talent, imagination, creativity, and alertness. Once the performances were over, the judges declared COMPS the winner of the War of Branches.



ZAEDEN CONCERT

What better way to wind down the flagship event of our prestigious college than having a world-famous artist come and perform on our very own campus! Oculus S.P.I.T., in collaboration with Zaeden, hosted one of the grandest musical serenades on the night of 27th March 2022. The S.P.I.T. quadrangle was filled with young, enthusiastic students who gathered in big numbers since early in the evening to catch a glimpse of the newest upcoming talent in India.



Entry was given around 8 PM post-security checks. Within no time, the quad was packed with the audience. Zaeden came out to a nearly deafening roar! From "Tere Bina" to"Socha na tha" and from "Kya Karoon" to covers of songs by foreign artists like Lauv and Justin Bieber, the crowd hummed and repeated all the songs after him! A lucky superfan wearing Zaeden's exclusive merchandise even got a chance to



share the stage with him, and she was enthralled. Aashna Hegde further escalated the mood by making a short appearance in one of Zaeden's songs. The event went smoothly, thanks to the core and subcommittee members handling the barricade and the very excited crowd.



DJ NIGHT-KRYSO

26th March 2022 – the night of which became one of the most colourful and vibrant memories of the degree college life of more than 700 students with an enthralling atmosphere created by harmonious song remixes by Kryso, a blooming music producer and DJ.



The Pronite had the audience waiting in long queues before entering the S.P.I.T. quadrangle at 8:00 PM. The DJ adorned the stage at 8:25 PM set to light the night



up with his sharp DJing skills. His remixes of songs from both Bollywood and the Western Music Industry had the crowd dancing, grooving, and singing whole-heartedly. The light effects added to the spectacular night!

One of the students, Shreyas, was quoted as saying, "The songs were chosen and mixed by him aptly. The organizing committee of Oculus was fantastic and very cooperative and organized the event in a great way for everyone."



DJ Night 2022 was like a full-on party with your most fun friends with energetic strangers joining your dance circle only to add to the enjoyment.



CARNIVAL

Who doesn't love a good fashion or beauty pageant? They're highly engaging and bring out the best in people in terms of creativity. The Carnival was nothing short of a high-end fashion show.





Various college students participating in the Carnival gathered at the quadrangle, along with the highly-talented judges on a not-so-regular Sunday. The event started with the students of R.G.I.T. dressed as infamous characters from Bollywood movies. Our college, SPIT, was the next to showcase themselves as popular musicians from the Hollywood industry. This was followed by the students of VIT giving a breathtaking performance whilst being dressed as various animal avatars. All of these performances were a breath of fresh air and to add more, the students of Thakur College showcased patriotism and feminism through their performances. This social message performance received constant applause from the crowd. "Wakanda forever" is what was on everyone's mind when the students of St. Andrews College presented themselves. And at the end, the students from the S.M.T. University came dressed as renowned pop-culture female characters.



With every performance being more thrilling than the previous, the students of V.I.T. were declared winners. And thus, this magical event came to an end.



SARGAM

The event Sargam was everything a person with a knack for music could ask for. There was a plethora of talented musicians, who performed not only with their vocals or instruments but straight from their hearts.

The show marked its beginning with performances from the instrumental category. We got to see bone-chilling beatboxing, amazing flute-playing, and a fusion of musical antipodes as Tirth Phatak played an English song on the tabla. After that, the performances in the vocals category began which blessed everyone's ears with melodious renditions of old as well as new Hindi songs. From singing "Phir le aaya dil" to "Tujhse naraaz Nahi Zindagi" and from "Buleya" to "Lag jaa gale", everyone in the audience was taken aback by how heavenly it all sounded.

Finally, the moment came when the results were to be announced. "It's always the underdog", said the judges while announcing Tirth Phatak as the winner of the instrumental category. The winners of the vocal category were Siddhi Jadhav, who secured second place, and Rishabh Giri, who was amazing at crowd work during his "Buleya" performance bagging the first prize.



AELAN-E-JUNG

"Why walk when you can dance?" One of the great events of Oculus 22' was Aelan-e-Jung, the intercollege dance competition which took place at the Quadrangle of SPIT college on the 25th and 26th of March.

On the first day of the event, several solo dance participants had arrived. The event was graced by the presence of the renowned judges Vrushika Dalal and Chaitali Gada. All the participants showcased amazing potential, talent and determination to win the competition. The audience hooted for each and every performance, supporting them. A bonus round was also organized in order to have a tough and fair competition. The first day officially came to an end with the felicitation of the judges followed by the announcement of the winners. The winners were Tanvi and Naresh as runners-up with a tie and Kundan as the winner.





The second day observed twice the fun and excitement of the previous day. The event kicked off with the host welcoming the participants, the audience and judges. The judges for the second day were Vrushali Chavan, Sagar Rana and Akash Gurav. Total 8 teams participated in the event. After a fierce competition among the dance troupes, the winners were finalized and were felicitated with exciting cash prizes and crazy gift hampers. We again had a tie at the runner-up position with Gyration and TPoly taking the stand and Footloose as the winner.

Smit Meghani, the Creative Head of the Aelan-E-Jung Committee quoted, "AEJ was not just a college event to me, a lot of emotion has been attached to it, and the team and people involved have become a family."

-Report by Team Spark.