



Sanchit Khattar

Contesting for the post of
President
Student's Gymkhana

Proposed by:

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Mission and Vision

This is the 50th anniversary of the students' gymkhana and "we the students" have come a long way from humble beginnings in our search for excellence; but this journey is far from complete.

I envision an institution where we are free to choose what we want to do and are not constrained by resources; this can be only possible if we have a holistic environment where we work for a better future of this marvellous institution. The Gymkhana has been and will be instrumental in fulfilling this vision.

I want the Gymkhana to reach out to the people; I have seen many people talk about the flaws of the system. It's high time we stop talking and start working on the faux pas of the system whilst offering intelligent analyses and logical, realistic solutions like educated students ideally should.

It would be naive to believe that an individual can achieve this alone; I solicit your support in this pursuit for excellence. **"Excellence for ourselves and for our institute."**

Key Areas

Feedback mechanism:

We as an Institute can only progress if we work upon our wrongs; but to work upon our wrongs, we need an atmosphere where people are open to change and open to accepting their shortcomings. To achieve this, we need a feedback mechanism:

- In my tenure as Senator, I have felt that we lack a **channel to disseminate information about the proceedings of the Senate meetings**; which have a serious impact on our day to day life over here.
- Our **academic system lacks a forum where students can express their concerns regarding any course, TA or Professor**. We have a namesake **Students' Ombudsman**; if elected, I will ensure that the student's ombudsman is restored and has either retired faculty members, some student representation or some external personnel.

Gymkhana Calendar:

Gymkhana Calendar exists in the form of multiple council calendars. This leads to a clash in major events. I will ensure that a **single unified Gymkhana calendar is finalised in the beginning of the Gymkhana year** and is available to all of us.

Get involved Initiative:

Having been an active member of Students' Gymkhana and seen the various activities I am of the opinion that **most of the Gymkhana activities are freshmen centric**,

this not only ignores most of our campus junta but also confounds the newly inducted freshmen. If elected, I will start a “**Get involved**” initiative, which would involve the following:

- **Hall Activities:** I would discuss with the Halls to reduce the number of redundant activities throughout the institute which are only focused on the fresher’s, this can be done by having a better synergy between the HEC and the Gymkhana.
- **Proctor System:** While we do have a faculty Guardian system for our freshmen year, I feel that we need a different kind of system. A group of children can have a **mentor/guardian who is assigned by the Institute** and can oversee the student throughout his term.

International Relations Cell:

- Our Institute has a provision which allows **all student to acquire 25% credits from other universities**; unfortunately the academic system for Y10 and older batches was too restrictive and they couldn’t get waivers which led to a very dismal response to exchange programs.
- With the New ARC, the number of Open Electives have been significantly increased and the curriculum matches with that of major universities across the world. This is the best time for students to demand better exchanges.

Last year, I worked closely with the International Relations Cell and this year I intend to:

- Push for **more exchange programmes**.
- A better platform for the **dissemination of information** about possible international research opportunities and exchange programmes.
- Implementation of an **easier system to get exchanges**.

Unified Students’ Account:

Currently the DOSA, DOAA and respective halls have different information attached to a student. By a simple reorganization, all this data can be linked with the student ID of the student and can be accessed from a central database. This will **decrease the data redundancy**.

In addition to this, a student’s ID card can be tied up with his bank account allowing him to make **cashless transactions in canteens and food court**. This can be our move towards a cash free campus.

Setting up of a Corpus:

The Gymkhana is in the process of creating a Gymkhana corpus, which will help in pursuing different projects/activities. I shall work towards consolidation of all the

accounts linked with students' Gymkhana to create a single corpus. Ill also work towards increasing the corpus to support the need of the increased student body.

Gymkhana Tradition:

Willing members of the Executive body should start a **tradition of donating 1% of their annual salary to their respective councils**. While this amount is **insignificant on an individual level, it sums up to a huge amount**. I personally believe that an executive owes this donation to the council and I as a leader would start this tradition.

Synergy with the HEC:

The functioning of Students' Gymkhana and HECs (Hall Executive Committees) of all halls - the two units of student governance at IIT Kanpur, is completely autonomous. COSHA (Council of Students' Hall Affairs) is the only forum of interaction between the two. For a better coordination between Students' Gymkhana and HECs, the first step that needs to be taken is the integration of the functioning of various councils and the respective HEC members. Modelled on the COSHA, committees must be set up comprising of the core team of the council and the respective hall secretaries to collect feedback about the council activities and to avoid any clash among HECs or jurisdiction of rights of Gymkhana/HEC.

Contingency grant:

The Students' Senate presented a proposal to the Academic Senate to review the contingency grant policy – which presently exists in a fragmented form. The Senate awaits the office order. I will follow up this policy so that it gets implemented as soon as possible.

Reorganization of the Presidents' Office:

The purview of the Presidential Council has grown over the years and the Presidential Council is in a dire need of reorganization for efficient discharge of its duties. Some of the salient points about the proposed reorganization are:

- **Addition of a Community Service and Women Empowerment Wing:**
Holistic development involves giving back to the society; and seeing the enthusiasm of our campus in doing their bit for the society. It only makes sense that the Gymkhana provides their full support to this noble cause. The Presidential Councils, Community service wing will work towards this honourable cause:
 - **Prayas** has been working very hard for a noble cause. The need of the hour for the group is to create awareness among the campus community to increase the number of volunteers.

- **SMILE** is an informal group, which was initiated here in IIT Kanpur and consists of students, engineers, doctors or businessmen; who organize their events during festive or celebration time. The group is autonomous and functions on its own and aids the underprivileged sections of the society. By including **SMILE in the Presidential council**, more people will come to know about this noble initiative which now has round about 750 members. Also **more funding to this initiative** could be provided from the Gymkhana funds.
 - **Avanti Fellows:** Avanti helps disadvantaged high-school students clear college entrance exams through mentoring and affordable, high quality afterschool programs. Bringing the IITK Chapter of Avanti under the Students' Gymkhana will give more students an opportunity to be a part of this cause.
 - **Women's Cell:** IITK already has a women's cell run by professors and some students. I intend to establish a **channel through which the women of the campus** can route their problems to this cell.
- **Addition of an Infrastructure Wing:**
The following are my plans for our Institute infrastructure.
 - I will push for the extension of new SAC by demolishing the road just behind it. The new SAC extension will house an indoor swimming pool and additional open space. This **open space can be really helpful in the conduction of festivals** in the future.
 - **New ShopC**, a new ShopC is proposed to be built near SBRA. I intend to propose to **outsource this to some shopping mart** which can provide us all facilities under one roof.
 - The proposal for the Students' Lounge is pending, I will work towards speeding up the proposal to get the proposal started as soon as possible.

Unless these projects are under the constant vigilance of someone, they might take a lot of time to get implemented. The Infrastructure Wing of the Presidential Council will be responsible for maintenance of existing and execution of new projects.

Food Outlets:

I have been overlooking the food court in the New SAC since a few months and in this brief spell there have been three trial runs.

- I believe that there are **very few good places** to eat in the campus (not

counting canteens). I am sure that I can coerce a few commercial food joints to open shop in our food court.

- **Talks are underway with SubWay, Baba biryani and Veggies.**
- In addition to this, I also intend to follow up the tabled proposal to get the area in front of **Hall 3 cleaned up. Running water, a proper shed can transform that area into a non-commercial yet hygienic place.**
- ShopC 2 and the students' lounge will be another place where food courts can be built.

Academic Review:

The Academic Review Committee gave us a new wonderful system in 2011 but has failed to deliver ever since.

- Considering that many proposals of new ARC have not been provided to the **Y11 and Y12 batches, I would recommend the institute not admit Y13 under this system.**
- **ENG112C needs to be reviewed;** students who pass this course do not attain a minimum level of proficiency in the language which leads to their poor performance in Academics. This could be tackled by **hiring professionals to take English classes once. These lectures can be recorded and made available for subsequent batches.**
- In addition to reviewing ENG112C, we could also have **lectures of MTH and PHY department in other languages in the first year.** This would help out students who are not fluent to cope up with these courses.
- There are a lot of issues with the Time Table of the students; the institute has a functioning Time tabling committee which is coming up with a **fixed time table.** I will strive to ensure that the committee finalizes its report as soon as possible so that **students can plan for their minors and electives.**
- There is a lot of confusion regarding minors, double majors, Engineering Science Optional etcetera which needs to be cleared by the institute.
- The **PG Review** is still underway, and still requires the nudge from the student body from time to time so that the Review is completed in time.

Gymkhana Golden Jubilee:

When the executives take over, the Gymkhana Golden Jubilee will be nearing its end. This period would require a proactive President who can work in consultation with the finance committee for **dynamic reallocations** and taking last minute decisions.

I would also push for a proposal where the **unused funds of the Golden Jubilee can be transferred to the Gymkhana account** if any are left out.

Health Center:

In my three years at IITK, I have learnt one fact that the Health Center is the last place one will go to get treated; and I intend to change that notion.

- Last year, the students' gymkhana started many new initiatives to improve health care services provided to the students by starting small clinics in Hall 10. Seeing the success of this initiative, **it is proposed to have more such clinics in centrally available areas.**
- I would push for the **outsourcing of HC; provided the small clinics kick off.**
- A proposal for increasing the variety, quality and quantity of the medicines available in the HC has been forwarded to the concerned authorities. I would follow up this proposal.

Presidential Council

E-cell

The E-cell has come a long way this year. With the **backing of PRIME**, E-cell is very well an unstoppable force. The only constraint for the club is the lack of general awareness about entrepreneurship in our campus. My specific plans for E-cell include:

- What E-cell lacks is not the resources but awareness. **I believe that better planning this time round will ensure awareness.**
- **DPP:** The Deferred Placement Program, one of the major reasons why entrepreneurial culture has not taken off in our campus is job insecurity. A DPP will ensure that students are not afraid to take risks and join the entrepreneurial bandwagon. But unfortunately, this proposal was turned down by the authorities. I will follow up this proposal and push for its acceptance.

GLDC:

The GLDC has been active in conducting lectures by eminent people but its discussion part has been relatively dormant.

- I will work on **increasing the activities under GLDC club by facilitating lectures through video conferencing or with eminent personalities** all over the world including **famous professors.**
- More GDs will also be organized so that students are better prepared for placements.

GE3:

The GE3 is doing its bit to save the environment and but I believe that its not enough. There are myriad activities which can be taken by GE3 to promote sustainable development in our campus.

- The Recent **Solar Powered Tree project** will be a cornerstone of GE3's achievements; GE3 has been allocated the budget but now it needs good execution to see this project through.
- I would push for **more weightage for Green Opus in the General Championship** because of its noble motives;
- I think that a scheme of "**carbon credits**" could be introduced, similar to its global analogue to promote energy conservation. Also I would like to push for solar powered lamps across the campus.

CDSS:

I have worked in close association with the previous President Abhay Jain, and I share his view on CDSS.

- By **outsourcing CDSS activities** to special organizations, the idea will be made more effective. The current plan is to have beginner level and advanced level tracks for students in our campus.
- Students can sign up for the same from their second year and the workshops/ lectures can be held over the weekends for table manners, work etiquettes, presentation skills and the like.

Other Plans:

- Currently, the **route that the institute bus follows does not pass through Halls 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11**. For easier transportation for the residents of these halls, these routes need to be modified accordingly.
- **Takneek** should be modelled on Techkriti. It should be envisioned as an **Inter Hall Technological and Entrepreneurial festival** rather than just as an Inter Hall Technological festival. This would also help promote MBA culture among the campus community.
- I would try to increase the coordination with the Alumni Association to increase the level of their interaction with their students during their reunions.
- In order to increase the awareness level among the campus community, **FAQ's and manuals for every institute facility** should be created and made easily available.

Students Gymkhana (2010-2013)

Y 10 UG Senator, 2011-2012, 2012-2013
Head, New Sac. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed and successfully executed the trial initiation of four New Stalls.
Acting Convener, Student Gymkhana, Summer 2012
Acting President, Student Gymkhana, December 2012
Acting Finance Convener, Student Gymkhana, December 2012 (for a week)
Handled Student Gymkhana History Project
Actively worked with the International Relations Office.

Positions Held (Under the Student Senate)

Member, Committee- Travel Grant for PG Students
Member, Committee- (Mandate) To suggest ways to monitor festivals
Member, Committee- (Mandate) To Convey Functions of the Students Senate
Member, Committee- (Mandate) Look into infrastructural requirement for boys during Hall Allocation

Other Positions of Responsibilities:

Student Guide, Counselling Service (2011-2012)
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Pool Captain, Hall 5, Spectrum (2011-2012)
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Hospitality Secretary, Antaragni 2011

