# Students Gymkhana, IIT Kanpur Nominations: Core TeamAntaragni’14

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Post(s) applied for : Festival Coordinator/Head Comp

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1. **Discuss when you made a lasting impact on an event/activity you were engaged in.   
   (200 words)**

As the hospitality coordinator of Antaragni 2013, my co-coordinators and I brought in certain structural and organization changes in the way the cell conventionally functioned.

* 1. Traditionally, each college had a single point of contact – the contingent leader. This inadvertently led to a communication gap between the societies with which the leader was not involved with. So, in addition to being in constant contact with contingent leader, we contacted the various society heads and coordinated with them as well. This ensured even participation from all the societies of the college. We also revamped the database to reflect this new approach of contacting the society heads of each college.
  2. We chose electronic messages – whatsapp – to communicate all the pertinent information to the team leaders in real time.
  3. The secretaries were divided on the basis of their skillset into two factions. The first faction was responsible for participant interaction which involved front desk work and calling up the participants. The second lot was responsible for managerial work which involved managing accommodation and transportation. We also made sure that both these factions got a flavor of each other’s work.
  4. Certain structural changes were also brought in the manner how the Hospitality Cell handled accommodation of the participants. The allotted accommodations were divided into eight equal sections. Each section was handled by two secretaries each who had five volunteers working under them. These secretaries then handled all problems pertaining to their section.

1. **How do you envision conducting Antaragni? Your essay should include the basic principles on which you want to organize the festival and the changes you intend to bring about from the previous years? According to you, what are the major (at least 5) constrains/bottlenecks that might hinder your quest for your 'Dream Antaragni'?**

(400 words)

I believe that Antaragni should be organized around four important areas: events, competitions, pro-shows and the fun element (hence fourth referred to as Informals). These four, I believe are the four pillars of Antaragni.

Pro-shows are the face of the festival, they define how the entire nation perceives Antaragni; good pro-shows will always amount to great coverage and publicity for the festival. But more importantly, the campus yearns for good pro-shows. Over the years, the pro-shows have become the defining moment of the festival for our campus; and I believe that it is the onus of the Festival Coordinators to live up to this expectation. I intend to have a good headliner for synchronicity – a reputed band could do great good for this event in the long run.

Competition and events, on the other hand is what lures the best colleges and teams from across the country to flock to Kanpur in October. Antaragni in the past has set the benchmark for competitions across the country. I intend to continue with this trend. In this endeavor, I intend to focus more on the quality of competitions rather than quantity. Competitions like Spelling Bee, DumbC, quilling could be merged with Informal events and their prize money could be added to the other events of the same category.

Informals – an umbrella term for all the fun events – are the crowd pleaser. This is what gives the festival life. Compared to previous years, I would like to bring in more street performers in the festival by talking to various embassies. RJs and Vjs could host the stage shows which adds to the professionalism to the festival if needed.

The major constraints/bottlenecks for my ‘Dream Antaragni’ in opinion will be:

* 1. **Number of participants**: The restriction on the number of participants is in conflict with the idea of increasing the reach of the festival. In order to compensate for this, more number of national prelims will have to be conducted further adding to the budget constraint.
  2. **Design and Web Team**: I’m highly skeptical of the effectiveness of a unified design and web team. I’m of the strong opinion that if the Design and Web Head are a part of the core team, they have a greater drive to work.
  3. **Travel**: Major airliners don’t have flights connecting to Kanpur airport; money which has to be invested in travel of the performers could be invested in bringing in a better performer. This is also a deterrent for roping in international artists who are hesitant to perform non-metros.
  4. **Avenues of Publicity**: due to restrains of budget and our location, certain avenues of publicity like hoardings and banners in the city and on public transport cannot be exploited. Approaching major newspapers also become difficult because of our location.
  5. **New SAC:** Conducting Antaragni in the New SAC will bring in a plethora of difficulties like distance from the main gate, lesser area for stalls and events etc. The old SAC is undoubtedly better fitted to host a grand festival like Antaragni compared to the New SAC.

1. **Discuss what makes you suitable for the post(s) applied for. Also mention your contribution/involvement in domain of work in Antaragni till now.**

**(200-words)**

I believe that I am a competent candidate for becoming the Festival Coordinator, because I bring to the table: communication and presentation skills; persistence; an experience of working in a team setting and most importantly a vehement love for Antaragni.

I have involved with Antaragni since my first year and the love for the festival has only grown over the years. Last year, in my position as the Hospitality coordinator, I was very closely involved with the festival right from its planning in April to its execution in October. In this time span, I have been well exposed to the functioning of the festival and have had a firsthand experience of handling adverse situations that crop up every now and then.

As the Hospitality Coordinator, I was entrusted with responsibility of bringing in quality participation and the hospitality of the participating students. I believe that I effectively discharged my duties; my team not only ensured participation from the best colleges in India but also made sure that the accommodation, transportation and hospitality in general of the participants was handled with utmost care.

My previous experience in the Hospitality Cell gives me an advantage of having interacted with the participants in person; in addition to this, I have a fair know-how of the functioning of the different cells and an experience of working with a team of 80 volunteers, 40 secretaries and 4 co-coordinators. These reasons make me a deserving candidate for the post of Festival Coordinator.

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